Along College Hill’s Keene Street, identical teal blue signs placed in nearly every yard point to a street united. Unlike other neighborhoods in Providence, this group of residents rally not against natural gas terminals, Immigrant and Customs Enforcement, or the threat of eminent domain. Their concern, touted by the signs that read “Save Neighborhoods: Enforce Zoning Laws,” is overcrowded student apartments.

“This neighborhood is pretty much under assault right now,” Deborah Simmons told the College Hill Independent, standing in front of her Keene Street home. A block to the south, Simmons’ neighbor on Lloyd Avenue echoed her concerns.

“We’re always fighting this battle of more people stuffed in smaller places. It becomes an Animal House situation,” he told the Independent, pointing towards the pile of trash sitting outside of a student house—a smelly blemish on the otherwise dignified block. On Keene Street, the epicenters of neighborhood concern are numbers 77 and 85, two elegant clapboard houses owned by Walter Bronhard, a landlord who made Providence headlines when he bought, neglected, and threatened to demolish the Welcome Arnold House, a historic property off of Benefit Street. Keene Street’s anxieties, though, are only in part due to the question of historic preservation. “We’d like the character of the neighborhood to be preserved,” another resident told the Indy.

That vague notion of “neighborhood character” accounts for many of the Keene Street neighbors’ ruffled feathers. On this block, houses that proudly adorn Providence Preservation Society placards above Munroe Dairy boxes consistently sell for $500,000-800,000. And although residents are clear that the proximity of their homes to Brown University draws them to the neighborhood, the proposition of a known problem-spinner setting up shop on their block was too close for comfort.

Exiting concerns about noise, trash, parking, and public safety only intensified when neighbors obtained a copy of the 77 Keene Street lease and learned that Bronhard planned to rent the six-bedroom property out to thirteen students. To justify their concerns, many Keene Street residents referenced one night in particular when a student house on their street threw a raucous party. People spilled into the street, Simmons told the Independent, rolling kegs down the street and partying well past midnight: “It was the worst party ever.” This moment has since integrated itself in the cultural memory of Keene Street, now known simply as “the hockey party.”

With that sleepless night fresh in their memory, the neighbors began their crusade in December of 2017, and by the spring of this year, they had organized neighborhood meetings, printed yard signs, testified in front of the city council, pooled their money for a private lawyer, and started an online petition in the name of restricting excessive student housing. The petition, which has garnered 141 signatures at the time of writing, invokes a slippery slope: “If Bronhard...”
I’ve found it easy to dismiss the importance of academia against an everyday backdrop of political violence on a local, national, and international scale. We are living in an era of acute and widespread suffering, universities can feel like a bubble that removes us from the realities facing the rest of the world. But Brown students are a part of Urban Studies is, for me, paradoxically a problem, the part of the program. The Department’s interdisciplinary curriculum, its grounding in local case studies, and its focus on Providence all contribute to a heightened awareness of the political, economic, and environmental challenges in New England (and beyond), and in the context of critical urban theory when confronted with the everyday toll of life in an unjust city. It is the interplay between local focus and multifaceted approach makes me feel prepared to apply a wide-ranging and socially-conscious base of knowledge to urban issues that range from the practical to the abstract.

In that context, it is a unique and meaningful opportunity to be engaged and critical Urban Studies student in Providence, the United States, and beyond. From the moment I stepped foot on the fabric of the Jewelry District, Brown’s continued expansion into College Hill, and activism and protests around the country, the experience of South Providence has highlighted the intersections of urban planning, architecture, environmentalism, history, and politics. While these topics could be superficially divided by neighborhood, a more thorough investigation reveals how Brown’s modern investments into the surrounding neighborhood mirrors the garish tower proposed for Keene Street. The only large-scale development in South Providence is in the polluted, toxic white neighborhood. Other events in Providence mirror trends in cities across the country. The arrival of Bird and Lime scooters and electric bikes, the recent inclusion of the innovation of the influence of technology and start-ups on city design and governance. As Providence makes an effort to brand itself as a creative, tech-friendly, and innovative city, it is an effort to make itself as a creative, tech-friendly, and innovating city. But as a part of this problem and part of its trajectory, and economic development.

So while the problems facing Providence may often feel insurmountable, Urban Studies students can help on various scales: we can contribute as advocates for interdisciplinary and locally-grounded analysis, while simultaneously contributing to Providence as knowledgeable and willing activists.

One of my favorite parts of being a director of urban studies is the monthly meeting with the honors students. We gather together for dinner and discuss the progress of the year’s projects as everyone reports on their progress. Honors theses are yearlong affairs and sometimes difficult to manage. As we sit around a table, I tell the students that topics were quite global, while US-based topics dominate this year, in particular housing. Rachel, for example, is looking at inequality in New Orleans, Daniel is concerned with rising rents in San Francisco, Nora examines the potential of co-op housing models, (he found an interesting take on housing, homelessness and indigenous culture in Hawaii, Jenna analyzes the interdependence of the housing and stock markets, Ryan uncover spins implications and artistic potential of 1960s Urban Renewal projects in Manhattan, and Garrett measures the impact of new stadia on their urban environment. Each student presents a few PowerPoint slides and brings us up to date, followed by questions, suggestions about resources, arguments from blogs and books of the group – and we don’t always agree. It occurs to me that what we are doing those Tuesday nights over dinner continues the oldest tradition of the discipline, the dissertation (Latin: disputatio), reaching back all the way to antiquity. I always come away with some new idea, a book I am determined to read, and with a sense of gratitude for the good work, sensibilities and sense of social justice among our students.

In any event, the Urban Studies Program continues to be one of the strengths of the department, continuously attracting new students and faculty. Prof. MariJoan Bull is making a significant contribution to the field, having published "The In-laws and Outlaws: An Urban Ethnography in Harare" (URBN 1260) this fall, and is the faculty liaison (together with former US Prof. Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz), for the current Independent Study Project with 20 enrolled students about Mapping the Housing Crisis in Providence. Under the leadership of Jenna Gosciak ’19 and Oscar d’Angeac ’17 the group works closely with local housing services and advocacy groups in order to identify potential opportunities for and residential displacement.

Even more broadly, the recent IPCC report once again underscored the global complexity of climate change. Given that cities are the source of many of the most visible effects of this process, and its growth as well as potential solutions, urban environments and their interdisciplinary students will be critical to addressing these changes needed to stop climate change.

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On the West side of Brook Street, across from the Brown Design Workshop, the Gingko leaves are yellow this time of year. Native to China, the Gingko tree has no close living relatives. It is neither deciduous nor conifer, and it reproduces like a fern, moss, or alga. Famously, six Gingko koes 1-2 kilometers from the 1945 atom bombing of Hiroshima, Japan were almost the only plant to survive the blast; they still remain.

Around the corner, on Macmillan Quad, is a Japanese Maple. Although technically a deciduous shrub typically reaching six to ten meters tall, this magnificent, purple-leaved gem catches the eye of any passerby. Its myriad branches emanate from the trunk just feet from the ground, making it a perfect tree for climbing. Of course, Ruth J. Simmons stands one of the idiosyncratic trees around me is deeply rooted in my memory.

U.’s Large Flora Diverse, Overlooked

By Jesse Barber

Author’s Note: According to the 2007 Urban Tree Canopy study, College hill has a canopy cover of 30% – 7% more than Providence at large. The East Side, Mt. Hope (22.6), Hope (27.9), College Hill (30.0), Blackstone (40.1), Wayland (31.7), and Fox Point (10.6) have some of the largest canopies, while Downtown (6.6), Upper South Providence (10.9), Lower South Providence (9.2), and Washington Park (5.9) have some of the lowest. According to an article published in CityLab, canopy cover is positively correlated with higher property values, better health outcomes, and, as is reflected in the canopy distribution in Providence, higher income. As this short article indulges my favorite trees on Brown’s campus, it is important to acknowledge that any ability to enjoy the variety of trees stands the most deeply class.

Rhode Island is the moments in climates and therefore they should not have been evicted if they had an attorney. Moreover, Mills helped give depth to the discussion by pointing out that ‘affordability’ is a relative term. Turning to the problem of eviction, Jennifer Wood from the Rhode Island Center for Justice explained that “the right to council is part of local opposition to the proposal. According to a Brown press release and University architect Colette Creppell, Brown currently owns more than 130 historic houses and buildings that are 75 years old or older, dating back to 1770. The University revitalizes these buildings with creative adaptations for modern-day use, with “investments of more than $500 million in the last 12 years alone.” Despite that investment, Brown has had a significant impact on the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Aerial photographs show that the University decided to forgo a controversial Performing Arts Center, and therefore they will be able to admire the construction of Brown's newest building from the comfort of a historic home.

UEL Saved

By Colin Kent-Daggett

Following nearly two months of controversy, Brown University officials revised their plans to demolish or move several historic homes, including the Environmental Studies Urban Environmental Lab on Angell St, in order to make room for a new performing arts center. The revision, which was released in late February, will require only one building to be moved and no demolitions. The original plan, released in December 2017, proposed a new performance space between Angell and Waterman. The initial design would have required the demolition of four structures and the movement of one building.

The University’s continued alteration of neighbor-Brown had a significant impact on the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Aerial photographs show that the University decided to forgo a controversial Performing Arts Center, and therefore they will be able to admire the construction of Brown’s newest building from the comfort of a historic home. On campus. It has a wide trunk as if it is destined to reach into the sky, but stops after only a few meters. It’s leaves vary in size and its asymmetrical branches unsettle observers. Among the giant, exotic species scattered across Brown’s campus, this charming, unusual tree stands proud. The foremost attraction of the Main Green is the mammoth Chinese Elm in front of University Hall. One of its primary branches extends about 30 horizontal feet, dominating the area with its immense canopy. Looking at its trunk from the West, the gnarled muzzle of a lion looks right back at you.

A relative of the tallest tree on earth is rooted on the South side of Metcalf Hall. The Metasequoia, or Dawn Redwood, is one of three living species in the redwood subfamily. The other two species, the Sequoia and Giant Sequoia—the tallest known tree on earth at 95 meters tall—are native to California and Oregon, while the Dawn Redwood is native to China and is deciduous, setting it apart from its cousins.

The Gingko tree has no close living relatives. It is neither deciduous nor conifer, and it reproduces like a fern, moss, or alga. Famously, six Gingko koes 1-2 kilometers from the 1945 atom bombing of Hiroshima, Japan served an eviction notice regardless if they were able to win in court, and therefore they should not have been evicted if they had an attorney. Moreover, Mills helped give depth to the discussion by pointing out that ‘affordability’ is a relative term. Turning to the problem of eviction, Jennifer Wood from the Rhode Island Center for Justice explained that “the right to council is part of local opposition to the proposal. According to a Brown press release and University architect Colette Creppell, Brown currently owns more than 130 historic houses and buildings that are 75 years old or older, dating back to 1770. The University revitalizes these buildings with creative adaptations for modern-day use, with “investments of more than $500 million in the last 12 years alone.” Despite that investment, Brown has had a significant impact on the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Aerial photographs show that the University decided to forgo a controversial Performing Arts Center, and therefore they will be able to admire the construction of Brown’s newest building from the comfort of a historic home.
Urban Studies perspective is relevant in Bozeman, and Lance enjoys the challenge of applying his knowledge to new terrain. Lance understands that the Urban Studies Program as a discipline concerned with geography, planning, and public policy has its own version: a housing crisis, a growing population, an increase in property values, and the need to maintain neighborhood character; and we want to have some level of evidence that didn’t require a Masters degree, which is unique, especially for a government planning office.

Lance worked on a long-term project underfunded on the Yellowstone National Park with only 16,000 residents but significant in Park County, a county adjacent to Yellowstone National Park with over 160,000 residents but more than 1 million visitors each year. Lance’s work has been on related to the zoning ordinance, specifically the dispute on the East Side around the airport. Lance is trying to figure out how to regulate and how to regulate short term rentals or AirBnB. Both have led to really fascinating public processes where we’ve heard from a lot of residents. It’s been great to be in the middle of that and prepare research for both.

CKD: What’s happening with AirBnB in Providence? I know other cities have wanted to get a bite out of AirBnB.
JB: Well even if it’s not out of control yet in Providence, it’s unregulated, and we want to have some level of oversight. At the same time, we want to maintain neighborhood character; people don’t expect to be living next to AirBnB hotels in hotels in a single family residential zone. That was a lot of the concern, so we were thinking of ways we could intervene that will satisfy people while also acknowledging there’s no proven way to deal with AirBnB -- everyone is figuring it out on the fly. Boston’s legislation for example won’t go into effect until next year.

CKD: What is Boston doing?
JB: It’s very different, but they are basically tackling investment properties, basically locations that people aren’t allowing out. But it will never inhabit, in order to address affordability. They are also limiting the amount of time people can rent out their property as an AirBnB and putting into place a registration protocol for example.

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Mapping the Providence Housing Crisis

By Jennah Giossick

This fall, Urban Studies as an interdisciplinary program at Brown took the lead to combine academic approaches with real-world data in order to understand the Providence housing crisis. This effort started last year with a critical shortage of Rhode Islanders who are rent-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Or that in fact, the only city in Rhode Island affordable to someone making under $50,000 a year is the 1.3 square miles of the Central Falls.

While these statistics from the HousingWorks factbook are a powerful source, it soon became apparent to us that there were more questions than answers. For instance when Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) tried to place its for rent-eviction notices on the eviction process for tenants facing eviction, they faced resistance from elected officials, many of whom wanted to know: is this legislation necessary? Who is rent-burdened and who would it affect?

As heads of the media collective Sign of Providence, Oscar d’Angeac ’17 and Elyse Perlman ’17 saw the potential for collaboration—Brown students, who have the time and resources to explore these issues while in partnership with community organizations, who have a wealth of local knowledge and a vision for policy change. This past summer, with the support of the Urban Studies Department, we proposed forming a Departmental Independent Study Project (DISP) course devoted to research on Providence housing. An enthusiastic and talented group of twenty students signed up for the course.

These students came from varied backgrounds, including Economics, Modern Culture and Media, Computer Science, and Sociology, among other concentrations, with Professor Bull, a visiting professor of urban and regional planning who is teaching ‘Housing in America’ at Brown, as well as outside advisors and guest speakers, including Professor Sung-Erylinmaz from Boston University, Kris Brown at HousingWorks RI, Patrick Rasheigh, the Visualizations Coordinator with the Center for Digital Scholarship, and Bruce Bouchek, Brown’s Social Sciences librarian. We created a list of five questions to answer (see pull quote).

One team is focusing on the criminalization of the Providence municipal code concentrated? Where is criminalization of the Providence municipal code concentrated? Where is criminalization of the Providence municipal code concentrated? Where is criminalization of the Providence municipal code concentrated?

In the Department

Thesis Looks at LA Sports

By Garrett Robinson

MY SENIOR thesis is focused on the current wave of development occurring in the city of Inglewood, CA. Located in the South Bay region of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, Inglewood is a predominantly black and brown community, with a median household income that is lower than many other surrounding cities. In early 2016, it was announced that two NFL teams—the St. Louis Rams and the San Diego Chargers—would be relocating to Los Angeles. A new stadium was proposed to house the two franchises, and Inglewood was chosen as its site.

The $5 billion project caused immediate buzz, with some wondering about how such an expensive and large-scale development would affect the neighborhood and its residents. I chose to write about this topic because I feel like my personal identities—Los Angeles resident, football player and fan, and Urban Studies student—to interact with one another in an academic setting. Recently, I re-discovered that this is something that I have held an interest in for quite some time, as I wrote about the Idaho project in my senior thesis, where I spoke with the team that was not the primary driver of change in Inglewood. While it was described to me as “the icing on the cake” by numerous people who I spoke with, it is not seen as the lone project that will bring an expansion of LA’s Metro system, which will bring two new stations to Inglewood, is predicted to bring more foot traffic into the city, and, therefore, more economic activity. In addition, the Los Angeles Sparks, who currently play basketball at the Staples Center in downtown LA, are looking to build a new arena in Inglewood. This proposed venue would be located across the street from the NFL stadium, and has already produced conflict between the city and both residents and the Madison Square Garden Company, who owns the Forum and sees the new arena as a threat to their business. As a result of my findings, my paper will now focus on these three projects, bringing them together to discuss the sweeping changes in Inglewood. It seems that some of these projects are an attempt to recapture Inglewood’s identity as LA’s premier sports town, as was the case when the Lakers and Kings thirty years ago. These developments will also be discussed from the context of the Rio health of the city.

Marijoan Bull

As I am nearing the end of my time at Brown and grappling with possible career paths, I've decided to reflect on the work of people lots of questions. Visiting Urban Studies Professor MJ Bull gave me even more to think about. Dr. Marijoan Bull is teaching Housing in America this semester and co-authored a textbook of the same name with her husband, Robert Swan. Long before her career in academia, Bull attended Brown as an aspiring engineering concentrator. In her second semester, she took an Urban Studies course and her interest was piqued. During a leave of absence from Brown, she discovered urban planning and working for a now defunct housing organization in Federal Hill pushing back on recent Route 6 and re-development to regain some of the neighborhood.

Her work with the organization, New Homes for Federal Hill, fore-shadowed what she would spend the rest of her career working on. Passionate about housing planning, Bull emphasizes the importance of access to housing in creating safe neighborhoods for all. A huge part of achieving this is encouraging meaningful and engaged public participation.
Fane Tower Debates Continues in Summer

By Colin Kent-Daggett

More than two years after Urban Studies Director Dietrich Neumann and Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation Representative Daniel Muhly, a Jewelry District resident who has welcomed the renewed attention that the development has received, proposed three towers for Parcel 42 in the Jewelry District with a spot zoning regulation that he and other members support, the walk along Dyer Street from the JDA’s September meeting at South Street Landing showcased the incredible transformation taking place in the Jewelry District. The I-195 Redevelopment Commission, responsible for the “sale, marketing, and oversight” of the new land, boasts about the variety of current projects, as a neighborhood that was recently a moonscape of surface parking lots is brimming with construction projects: South Street Landing, a 270,000 square foot office and academic center; the 120,000 square foot Innovation Center, which will house Brown’s School of Professional Studies and the Cambridges Innovation Center; the Johnson & Wales Science and Innovation Center; Chestnut Commons, a mixed-use development with 91 “upscale, urban residential units;” River House, the 174-unit luxury housing development marketed to students; and, of course, Fane Tower.

Notably, Fane Tower is the only one of these projects not encouraged by the Jewelry District Association. Olin Thompson, a member of the JDA and a Jewelry District resident since 2007, said that he and other members support large investments “for the right reasons.” Thompson asserts that “Fane Tower is out of step with this community and the rest of the city.” In general, Jewelry District residents have welcomed the renewed attention to their neighborhood. Frank Muhly, a Jewelry District resident since 2011, described his community as “more retail and how his neighbors “despereate for a Whole Foods.” Whether Fane Tower will become the centerpiece of a new Jewelry District remains to be seen. Regardless, the redevelopment of the I-95 land will remain contested as residents, local activists, and developers seek to remake the city’s newest neighborhood in their image.

The promise of Westminster Street as a place of pace. If you’d like to see Providence through the eyes of faculty from one of the university’s most interdisciplinary programs, contact Meredith Paine (meredith.paine@brown.edu). All tours begin and end at 108 George St. near the entrance to Brown’s Main Green, starting at 3pm and ending with light refreshments in Maxcy Hall room 109.

A full schedule of the bus tours can be found on the back cover.

Beware ‘38

By Ella Comberg

When the Pawtucket Red Sox considered relocating to Downtown Providence, the project invoked one of the sickest burns in Rhode Island history: they called the project “38 Stadium.” The comparison between the PawSox stadium and 38 Studios—a video game company owned by former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling that opened offices in downtown Providence in 2011—has less to do with the common Red Sox affiliation and more to do with the fact that, like 38 Studios, the stadium would put Rhode Island in crippling debt. Indeed, as the Providence Journal reported, “Less than two years after the state sold $75 million in bonds to raise cash for Schilling’s untest ed company, 38 Studios collapsed into bankruptcy, ultimately saddling taxpayers with about $38 million in debt.”

For those of you who don’t pay taxes in Rhode Island, the 38 Stu dios debacle is laughable if not pitiful—the state, so desperate for economic development, shelled out millions of dollars to a company whose only product was a game called Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning to come to Providence. The promise of Westminster Street as a Silicon Valley, buzzing with coders eating Haven Bros chili dogs, was too good to pass up. But in reality, it was a risky and ultimately devastating investment for the state—one that we might do well to keep in mind as City Council considers paving the way for Jason Fane’s Hope Point Tower in the Jewelry District with a spot zoning change that would allow the 600-foot tower to go up on a 30-foot site. If built, the project will likely rely on some $80 million over a 20-year tax stabilization agreement with the City. And like Schilling, Fane is working out of his wheelhouse: the developer who promises to erect the tallest building in Rhode Island has only built one building from scratch before. Instead, he mostly leases to “chau Yorkville” which, as one resident wrote on Yelp, “encourages every owner to have a dog, because they consider the dog washing room on the main level.”

“Beware 38 Studios” is a portent we hear often in the Ocean State, but it’s a good one: let’s think carefully before handing over cash to a developer whose website looks like the photo above.

Azar Leads Bus Tour For Students and Locals

By Ruth Bamuwamye

ON A crisp Friday afternoon in October, there is one place I know that Brown University students and their neighbors are coexisting pleasantly, even congenially. That place is on the charter bus that takes 50 passengers on a free, themed tour of Providence. I have come to believe that the bus is a sacred space when I helped out on the first of a series of Urban Studies Bus Tours.

The same spirit that attracts curious underclassmen to shopping period class-cruising seemed alive on the October bus tour of Providence’s new constructions. Professor Azar is the Deputy Director of the Department of Planning & Development and an Affiliate Professor of Practice for Urban Studies. To the tour participants, he was an engaging guide on the many projects that line some of Providence’s most developing neighborhoods: College Hill, West Broadway, the Valley, and Olneyville.

Supported by the fantastic maneuvering of our jovial bus driver, Azar gave voice to the seemingly endless drone of construction work that I have become accustomed to hearing all over the city. Questions were asked about population growth in the city, how to solve the housing crisis in the future of highway infrastructure, and other pressing issues. As a loyal Urban Studies student, I found it refreshing to be in a space where questions that I might write pages and pages about we answered not only with words but also by experiencing movement through the city. It was the kind of space that the conversation continue after the tour over autumnal refreshments— courtesy of Meredith Paine, Urban Studies Pro gram Manager and a person who has become a hero. The relaxed, grounded energy in the Maxcy Hall seminar room was a pleasant break from the frenetic academic world flying past the windows.

If you haven’t been on one of these tours—I recommend you grab a ticket for the next one. Getting off the hill is hard and the bubble we live in together is familiar but smothering.

The warm bus and warm company made it a little easier to get away. Just don’t wait too long to save your spot! There’s no better way to start your weekend at Brown than with a change of pace.

The following tour schedule is a portent we hear often in the Ocean State, but it’s a good one: let’s think carefully before handing over cash to a developer whose website looks like the photo above.

Above: Fane website
Left: Muhly, a Jewelry District resident since 2011, described his community as “more retail and how his neighbors “despereate for a Whole Foods.”

Source: East Side Monthly

A full schedule of the bus tours can be found on the back cover.
NYC Cont.

zens. To achieve this, the city received input from hundreds of cybersecurity experts and community stakeholders. Although the initiative also yielded a startup accelerator, a cybersecurity hub, an international competition, and a matchmaking program for researchers and entrepreneurs, the initiative’s talent and workforce development programs are especially innovative. Already, the cybersecurity industry is facing a critical shortage of qualified talent. Technologically, the specific cyber threats and defense mechanisms relevant to employers are ever-shifting. This necessitates a creative approach to cyber education. The city-funded programs include a case-study course taught at City University of New York (CUNY) campuses by a cyber professional, a virtual internship program, and an Inclusive Tech Scholarship with Columbia’s graduate school to diversify the pool of cybersecurity executives. Most inventive, perhaps, is the stackable credentials program, developed by NYU and administered across several universities, that will allow students to complete short-term modules on an as-needed basis, or as career, personal, and financial circumstances allow. If a student eventually completes the required modules, they can be “stacked” into a master’s degree, even if the student has completed them over the course of several years.

Equally essential is the Cyber Boot Camp, a three-month crash-course in cyber security that’s projected to place more than 90% graduates in entry-level cybersecurity jobs, which pay an average starting salary of approximately $60,000 per year. Students without the necessary prior knowledge can take a free preparatory course through La Guardia Community College. Enrollees will also have access to transportation subsidies, child care, financial literacy training, interview and resume-writing tips, and career counseling services.

These programs showcase the potential efficacy of strategic economic planning, especially when it takes an innovative and equity-driven approach. Though expensive, such initiatives are best executed by local governments that are familiar with the specific characteristics of a city’s population, educational infrastructure, and job market. Targeted initiatives to widen the talent pipeline not only encourages growth and diversification, but also ensures the benefits of urban economic prosperity are shared with those who are too often excluded.

And in February, as we return for the spring semester, we will revise our findings in order to present to members of the Providence community and our partner organizations, including DARE, Southeast Coast Fair Housing, the Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project (RIHAP), HousingWorks, House of Hope, the RI Interfaith Coalition, the Center for Justice, and Signs of Providence. We’re excited to share our work, and we hope that this course is only the beginning of more sustained collaboration and academic engagement between the Urban Studies Department and the city.

Bull Cont.

participation in land use decision making. M projection plans. As a member of the APA, she has participated in two Community Planning Assistance Teams (CPAT). The CPAT program provides marginalized communities lacking the depth of resources to do a planning project with expertise offered by APA members. For example, a community may want to build a park and submits an application with base-level research to the APA, and if they are selected, the APA puts together a team of volunteer members whose expertise matches that needed by the community. The team reviews the resources provided by the community and gathers more information before going to the community for about a week to conduct more in-depth research and meet with stakeholders. After this the CPAT team goes home and spends typically several months writing a report with recommendations for the community.

Bull was a member of the first all-female CPAT, assisting a female planner in South Carolina struggling with neighborhood revitalization in a community that had long suffered from the effects of segregation. Bull and her team went to the South Carolina neighborhood and were led on a walking tour by about 60 community members, who were able to help the CPAT understand their needs and concerns. Many people in the local community hadn’t felt safe walking in the area, and for Bull it was a strong statement to say “we are going to walk through this neighborhood and engage with the ladies.”

Understanding sense of place requires understanding its history, and that’s what Bull’s South Carolina CPAT team focused on, especially highlighting the history of segregation and racism in the locale. One city councilor who was a part of the walking tour had become a crusader for an abandoned cemetery in the neighborhood that, now overgrown and unkempt, had once been a major cemetery for black folks in the region and was home to the burial site of an important community leader and minister. When people were not allowed to be buried in the municipal white cemetery, they had to turn to the local, privately-owned burial grounds, given little choice about where to bury their loved ones.

When the grounds were abandoned by the family that owned them, the city was uncomfortable doing anything with the private institution. The CPAT report and the work of engaged community activists convinced the municipality that they had an obligation to take care of this cemetery. Today, funds have been directed to it, it has been upgraded, and people know that it is there. It is a memorial not only to individuals, but a recognition of the richness of our community and a grounding of our land in our past, present and future.

If you weren’t able to take her class this semester and want to learn more, you can read her book (she will also be teaching the course again next year). The book, Housing in America: Past and Present, is designed for planners, urbanists, and residents alike to engage with their communities. Dr. Bull wants everyone to be educated, the gatekeeping of city planning to be countered by regular folks understanding the tools that planners use. For young urbanists looking to professional planning, Bull recommends working throughout the sector first. It’s useful, she says, to understand the municipal use of planning, but just as useful to have experience in the nonprofit world, when young people can develop a lot of creativity. In the long run, combining both technical and creative work will make you the most effective advocate for neighborhood, able to think better and harder.
CLASSIFIEDS

Courses of Interest
Spring 2019

ARCH 1125
Building an Empire:
The Sacred and Civic Arch.
of Ancient Rome
K. Schorle
MWF 11-11:50

ENVS 1555
Urban Agriculture:
The Importance of Localized
Food Systems
D. King
TTh 1-2:20

HIAA 0090
The Other History of
Modern Architecture
I. Osayimwese
MWF 1-1:50

SOC 1340
Principles and Methods of
GIS
K. Mwenda
MWF 1-1:50

URBN News
Dec., 2018

URBN Seminars
Spring 2019

URBN 1870J
The Politics of
Community Organizing
M. Orr

URBN 1870Q
Cities In Mind: Modern Urban
Thought and Theory
S. Zipp

URBN 1870T
Transportation: An Urban
Planning Perspective
R. Azar

CLASSIFIEDS

Providence
Restaurant Weeks
January 13-26
Fixed prices at over
100 restaurants!

Urban Studies
Bus Tours
March 1st
April 15th
April 24th

Meet @ 3:00 on George St,
in front of the Main Green

Register on EventBrite!

“Street Smart”

By Colin Kent-Daggett & Harry August

ACROSS
1. dibbles 8. Score a point in squash
2. Intel 9. Opposite of all
3. street smart 10. Canopy
4. Opposite 11. A child
5. $7.00 or more
6. Sad
7. Opposite of all

DOWN
1. Diva 2. Always
3. Street smart from 1 4. Richmonde Square to Rain
5. Pea 6. October birthday

7. “Avenue stretching
from Broadview to
Main”
8. Unit of pressure: Abbr.
9. “... student”
10. Jiffy
11. Lumps in figure skating
12. 2016 Summer Olympics host
13. Rock climbing role
14. Salt
15. Fishing tool
16. Cold, for sure
17. Skim
18. “Street smart from
Acheson to Airport”
19. “35-year-old in your section,
say, Abbr.”
20. “... arete”
21. Tomato
22. “Street smart from
Acheson to
Moneypenny”
23. Pub. financing methods
24. Street appearance
25. Sixth Zodiac sign
26. APM’s uncertainties, e.g.
27. Multihull sailboat
28. Restaurant on Brook and
Benedict
29. ... of thousands
30. Current cause
31. Jammed to Newton
32. Snowman
33. With a penology

34. 50 Years and years
35. Present participle suffix
36. Crowdnoise
37. Tortilla ingredient
38. Quito distant wrenman
with a famous dish
39. Worry
40. Snowman
41. Jammed to Newton
42. Snowman
43. With a penology
44. Snowman
45. Jammed to Newton
46. Snowman

S J W M O A D P G E S
F L I E R C I L A R I A N
A H R U B D J Y R G I D C
R B U S I L E R
H V O L C A M N R U E
O R A L E R S T H E L T O N D O N A L C O L Y V I A
S C Y P E L I O N O L E H P E R D E R
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