New UPCD/Africana Hire

The Urban Planning and Community Development Program and the Department of Africana Studies are pleased to announce the joint appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Sweet as Assistant Professor of Equitable and Sustainable Development.

A graduate of the Ph.D. Program in Urban Policy and Planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor Sweet is an internationally recognized scholar on issues related to Black/Latino community development, migration and immigrant communities, and violence against women.

UPCD Planning Studio conducts Chelsea Community Food Assessment

More than fifty community leaders representing two dozen food security organizations in Chelsea attended the Chelsea Healthy and Affordable Food (CHAF) Summit in December. The CHAF Summit was organized by the Chelsea Hunger Network and the Healthy Chelsea Coalition in partnership with the UPCD Program.

Students from our Planning Studio presented findings from their recently completed food security assessment supervised by Professor Raciti. The CHAF event offered Chelsea residents the opportunity to reflect on the current status of food security in their community and to discuss possible strategies for promoting greater access to healthy foods in the future.

The Studio will spend the spring semester exploring cost effective food security solutions as outlined during the CHAF Summit. This work is being supported through the UMass Public Service Award (PI: Antonio Raciti).
UPCD’s Spring Planning Lecture will feature Cornell’s Pierre Clavel and George Washington University’s Xolela Mangcu who will address “The Future of the Progressive City.” This event will take place on Friday, April 19th at 3 pm at the UMass Club located at 1 Beacon Street. The year’s lecture is being co-sponsored by MIT’s Special Program in Urban and Regional Studies and is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, RSVP us at: kenneth.reardon@umb.edu.

UPCD’s Finding Director, Jack Wiggin, was awarded The Massachusetts Chapter of the APA’s Service Award for his four decades of public service to the people of Massachusetts and Connecticut and our profession. Jack was recognized for his leadership in the areas of land use planning, coastal area management, community development and planning education.

UPCD Shines at National Conference

UPCD students and faculty responsible for the creation of the recently launched Paul Davidoff Tapes Project Website (www.paul-davidoff.com) celebrating the life and work of this legendary Civil Rights planner presented their preliminary research findings at a well-attended session at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning in Buffalo in November. Among the presenters were Ken Reardon, Antonio Raciti, Sajani Kandel, and Carlos Velasquez.

UPCD Hosts Sicilian Summer School

UPCD will be hosting, along with the University of Catania and the University of Memphis, its fourth CoPED Summer School in Sicily’s Simeto River Valley from June 8-17. The program involves students in resident-led planning designed to promote community development. The Summer Program is open to all students as well as planning professionals who have a strong interest in sustainable approaches to regional development. For more information, please contact Professor Raciti at: antonio.raciti@umb.edu

Congratulations to Aoife!

Aoife Delaney who devoted her 2017 Fulbright Fellowship to studying Boston’s disaster preparedness system under the guidance of Professor Alan Wiig successfully defended her PhD dissertation at Maynooth University, Ireland in December. She subsequently accepted a postdoctoral research position at University College Dublin to research sustainable approaches to port regeneration.