

# THE SPAN REVIEW

## Student Planners Action Network

Volume 1

Department of Geography, Planning & Environment, East Carolina University

Fall 2017

### GREETINGS

Since Dr. Mulatu Wubneh's retirement, I have served as the interim director of the Urban & Regional Planning program at ECU. I am thrilled with this opportunity to lead the program to prosper and our students to succeed.

My goals for this year include: promoting the Planning program inside and outside ECU, recruiting majors through active outreach, and maintaining and improving the network of Planning alumni and students. I hope to achieve these goals with the support of the GPE Department, our College, proactive Planning faculty, tremendous Alumni help, and dauntless Planning students.

The first sign of progress is the rebirth of this SPAN Review newsletter. We will continue publishing the newsletter in the future to reach out to our wonderful Planning community. Please stay connected!

Misun Hur, Ph.D., Interim Director



<https://www.facebook.com/ECUGeography/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12064451>

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS -----	1
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREENVILLE -----	2
LETTERS FROM ALUMNI -----	3
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS -----	4-6
ECU PLANNING NEWS -----	7
2017 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS -----	8

### THE PROGRAM'S ACCREDITATION HAS EXTENDED THROUGH 2021

The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) reviewed the ECU Progress Report in Spring 2017. The PAB has extended the accreditation period through December 31, 2021.

### DR. WUBNEH RETIRES

This past August Dr. Mulatu Wubneh retired after 30+ years of service as a faculty member and director of the Planning Program. He departs the program as an internationally recognized scholar. As a core faculty member, he taught a wide-range of planning classes over his career. Professor Wubneh was an ardent supporter and mentor to many students passing through the program. The Planning Program would like to thank him for his dedication and to state that we will miss him immensely!



### ECU'S URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM RANKED #1

College Values Online has ranked ECU's Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning #1 among the country's planning programs in 2017. The ranking is based on available experiences, tuition, content, and the range of concentrations. We are proud to highlight this recognition!



### DRS. MISUN HUR AND ANURADHA MUKHERJI TENURED AND PROMOTED

Both Dr. Misun Hur and Dr. Anuradha Mukherji joined ECU Planning program in Fall 2010. After seven years of dedicated work, both professors have received tenure and were promoted to Associate Professors. Congratulations!

## Advancements at ECU

By Kyle A. DeGroot, Junior Planning Student

As we all know, ECU is our home away from home. This is especially true to those who reside in the newly completed Gateway dormitory. The completion of this project now allows ECU to house more students eager to learn. Atop of “The Hill,” it is a shining beacon of where ECU is heading in the future.

**The university has made progress** in introducing more environmentally conscious decisions in its transit fleet. The fleet already has multiple biodiesels and hybrid electric-diesel buses. This semester the students, and the environment, received a gift; the university introduced two CNG (compressed natural gas) buses to the fleet. The whole “Pirates Go Green” idea is coming true. These buses resemble what my friends and I affectionately call spaceships because they are so quiet. In a way, they’re almost too quiet. Nonetheless, they are an eco-friendly alternative to the loud diesel-powered buses.

**Another campus expansion is also underway at ECU.** The new student center and parking deck on campus. This parking deck will help solve the most notorious problem on campus... parking! Parking on campus at the moment is a little bit of a hassle due to the demolition of the existing parking on campus, but nothing Pirates can’t handle. Another parking solution happens to be the new ParkMobile app introduction on campus. Visitors can now pay and add time to their visitor parking meter tickets via an app. The user simply sets up an account and links it to a credit or debit card of their choice, selects the amount of time they want, what parking zone they’re located in, and enters the spot number. Confirm payment, and they’re all set. No fussing with lines or change at the pay station. This is especially useful for when it rains. And we all know the weather in Greenville. The spinoff acronym for ECU equates to “Everyone Carries Umbrellas.”



Rendering of ECU’s planned Student Center, expected to come online in 2018.

**In the realm of education,** ECU’s Urban & Regional Planning Program was just rated number 1 out of the nation for having the best planning program. This is only one of a few academic accomplishments that have happened in the past few years. As of Fall 17, we have 29 students majoring and five minoring in the BS in Urban & Regional Planning program. I would still like to see more than this, but it’s a start. Slowly but surely we will get there as the club gains exposure and we as a whole promote the great things this major can offer to not just our fellow Pirates, but to the community as well.

## Walkability in Greenville

By Zachary A. Pate, Senior Planning Student

As part of a community and stakeholder-based group of proponents of walkability, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure, an effort has begun to plan, identify and secure funding, and implement a comprehensive walkability project in the Uptown area of Greenville, NC.



Zach Pate, senior Planning student, presents to community stakeholders on the benefits of walkability and the “Emerald Loop” concept for Uptown Greenville.

The purpose of this effort is to address several issues. First and foremost, identifying a landmark project that provides increased access, walkability, and engagement of different sectors of Center City to start as a basis to expand upon with future endeavors. In conjunction with Don Edwards and Bianca Shoneman, we have a great idea as to where to begin with this work. This project has been named the “Emerald Loop” and it will transform the overall nature of the Reade Circle and Pitt/Greene Street corridors in the Uptown district.

Another issue that will be confronted with this work is to utilize this project as a way to connect several different neighborhoods and demographics to each other and the Uptown district. This will be addressed through programming via Service Learning programs at the University as well as the Neighborhood Advisory Board with the City of Greenville. The intention is to address the lack of interaction with West Greenville neighborhoods and University neighborhoods with the Uptown area.

Finally, we are addressing the overwhelming health related issues facing our region including obesity, diabetes, and a host of other problems that stem from a lack of physical activity by our citizens. Through encouraging a walkable, bike friendly environment, as well as promoting programs to encourage people to use our existing and future/planned bike and pedestrian infrastructure, the hope is that it will improve the idea of living a more active lifestyle in our region.

As we begin this process, the hope is not only to create a beautiful pedestrian and bike friendly corridor encircling the Uptown area, but also to raise awareness and increase the engagement of neighborhoods, workers, visitors, and the University community with each other and the Uptown district.

**“Let’s build an environment that brings dignity to those who use the infrastructure daily to fulfill their transportation needs. The rest of us? We will use it as well to exercise, socialize, and to get around when it is convenient.”**

- Tony Parker, Greenville Bike and Pedestrian Commission

## INTERNSHIP

**Eric Vitale**

Planner, Fayetteville MPO

2014 Graduate



**H**i, my name is Eric Vitale. I am a 25-year-old planner working for the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. I graduated from East Carolina University in December of 2014 with my Bachelors of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. Earning a Bachelor's degree is an amazing accomplish-

ment in itself; however, it can still be extremely tough to land a job these days without a master's degree. This is why I am going to talk to you about the importance of an internship.

As the number of planning jobs is on the rise, so is the number of planners competing for them. With all this competition, one needs to be able to distinguish themselves from the masses. An internship is one of the best ways to do this. It shows potential employers that you can operate in a professional setting and that you can apply what you learned in school to real life. I started looking for an internship around the middle of my junior year and landed one around the beginning of my senior year.

The internship with Pitt County allowed me to gain experience while building upon the skills and knowledge I had learned in school. I learned and mastered the software program Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and applied it to real-life situations to help professionals and residents of Pitt County. From the skills I learned, I contributed to creating evacuation route maps, maps that represent the locations of health patients, maps that show automobile fatality locations, and much more. The internship was a fantastic way for me to increase my skills and knowledge but it also taught me so much more. I learned how to work on a team, how to work independently and initiate the work on my own, and most importantly that it is not okay to settle for just mediocrity, but you should strive to put your best effort into everything you do.

Although it still took me around nine months to land a professional job, the internship went a long way in showing that I was a top candidate for any position, ready to get out in the real world and prove myself. Today, I love what I do in helping to advance walking, biking, and physical activity and I couldn't have gotten to where I am without an internship. So my advice to you is to go out there and find an internship. Don't take the easy, lazy route through school. It's never too early to start, and soon you can be in the same position as me, doing what you love to do.

## WHY PLANNING

**Chris Lawson**

Planner, Pitt County Planning Department

2012 Graduate



**I** was raised in Camden County, NC and growing up near the coast led me to be interested in Environmental/Coastal Planning. This resulted in a concentration in Coastal Planning with an emphasis in Environmental Planning. Choosing to focus on Environmental/Coastal Planning was a surprise to friends and family because I had never had any interest in protecting the natural environment, but I soon realized that it was a passion of mine. Laws protecting natural resources and the coastal zones of North Carolina fascinated me. It was this early interest in Environmental Planning that reaffirmed my choice as a major.

During the senior year of my undergraduate career, I began focusing on rural economic development. I grew up in Northeastern North Carolina and thought I might move home and have a job helping develop the local economy. My senior practicum project was on how to use planning techniques to redevelop the waterfront of Elizabeth City, NC. While deciding on my next step I worked an internship at the Pitt County Planning Department. This was an invaluable experience that I recommend to any planning student. During this time I was deciding between several options, I almost went to law school, I even took the LSAT, but it didn't feel like the right path for me. With guidance from Dr. Burrell Montz, head of the Geography Department at East Carolina, I decided to pursue a Master's of Arts in Geography, focused in Economic Development.

Staying at East Carolina for graduate school was a great decision. I was able to receive funds as a Research Assistant for several studies Dr. Misun Hur conducted. These studies, and working as an intern for Uptown Greenville (Greenville's downtown development agency), I was able to meet professionals, politicians and members of the community. It was an exciting dual experience as I was learning the theories of the Geography discipline while at the same time gaining practical time working with different groups of people. I wrote an Internship Report about communication between East Carolina and the City of Greenville regarding downtown development. I was able to ask City Council members and a former Mayor questions about their philosophies on local government. This experience has helped advanced my professional career.

After graduating, I worked in the Zoning Division of the Planning Department in City of Virginia Beach, VA. Working for a city the size of Virginia Beach was an incredible experience. I was exposed to different kinds of zoning,

>>> *To be continued page 7*



## DR. MUKHERJI COMPLETES FIELD RESEARCH IN JAPAN

### DR. ANURADHA MUKHERJI

Dr. Mukherji completed field research in Japan during Summer 2017. Her work examines land use change as a short- and long-term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategy in Sendai and Ishinomaki, cities in the Tohoku region of northeast Japan impacted by the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. In addition to the tremendous loss of life and destruction, the powerful 9.0 magnitude earthquake caused permanent land subsidence in the Tohoku region. The subsidence in the three hardest hit prefectures ranged from 0.20m to 0.84m, causing large areas of the coastline to flood twice a day during high tide. Affected coastal communities along the Tohoku Pacific coastline faced extensive rebuilding and recovery from the disaster, and adaptation to sudden sea-level change. Through multiple trips to Japan over the past five years, Dr. Mukherji has travelled extensively in Tohoku to examine how the cities of Sendai and Ishinomaki planned and implemented land-use change adaptation strategies to cope with coastal land subsidence and tsunami risk. In 2012, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) provided research funding to Dr. Mukherji through a Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) short-term fellowship. Hosted by the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) at Kyoto University, the 4-months long JSPS fellowship provided the seed grant for extended field visits to the disaster impacted Tohoku region and initial data collection. In 2014, Dr. Mukherji's research was awarded the highly competitive Abe Fellowship. Twelve awardees were selected out of a pool of 90+ academic applicants from all ranks in the United States and Japan for this CGP funded fellowship. The Abe Fellowship enabled multiple visits to the Tohoku region for the purpose of data collection. Two trips were completed, one in 2015 (May–June) hosted by DPRI at Kyoto University and the second in 2017 (May–August) hosted by the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University.

Catastrophic events (e.g., wars, economic crises, disasters) such as the 2011 Japan quake can sometimes trigger reorganization in land use systems and modify long-term land use



Increasing the height of sea wall in Sendai, Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami

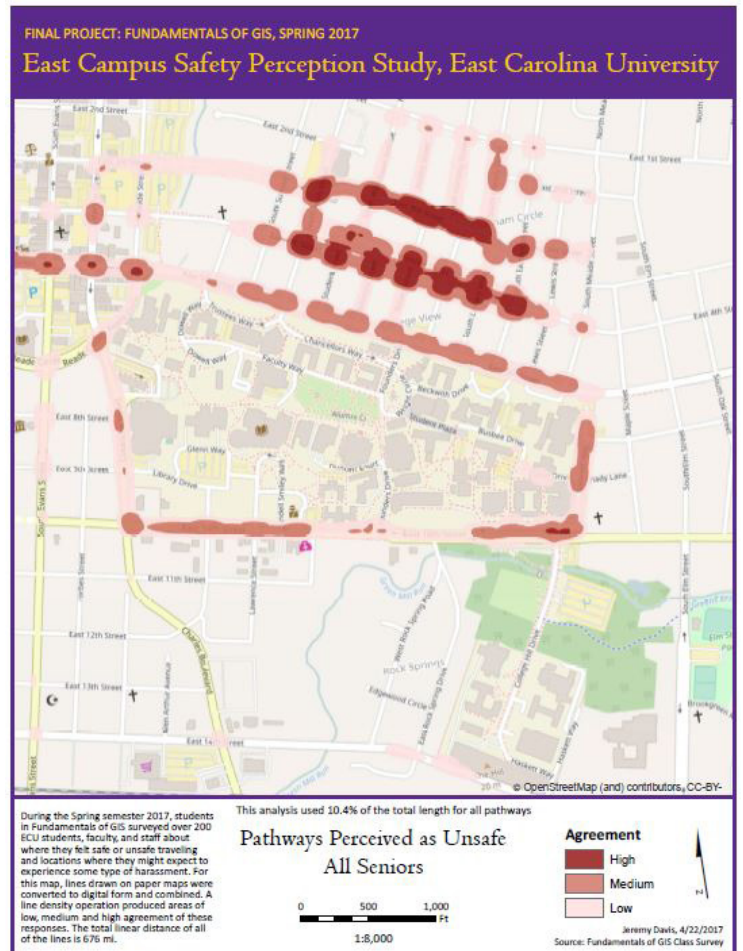
trajectories. Yet, the effects of fast drivers such as disasters on land use transitions are not well understood, limiting our ability to anticipate future land use change. Dr. Mukherji's work aims to fill this gap. Preliminary findings from her fieldwork trips indicate that the land development trajectory that existed prior to the disaster has accelerated in the post-tsunami period, and that the land use changes proposed after the tsunami have directly or indirectly helped to accelerate the pre-tsunami development trends suggesting an increase in risk of future damage due to tsunamis, hurricanes and sea-level rise.

## DR. KAREN MULCAHY'S SERVICE LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN GIS & GPS

### DR. KAREN MULCAHY

#### Fundamentals of GIS

For several semesters, students in the Fundamentals of GIS course have mapped perceived safety on and near main campus. As a group, most of the class collects raw data by having students, staff, and faculty indicate areas of above average safe routes or unsafe routes. This past Spring semester interviewees also indicated points where they felt at risk of harassment of any kind. Next, they convert the analog, anonymous information into digital data that includes the gender and status at



Pathways Perceived as Unsafe by ECU Seniors

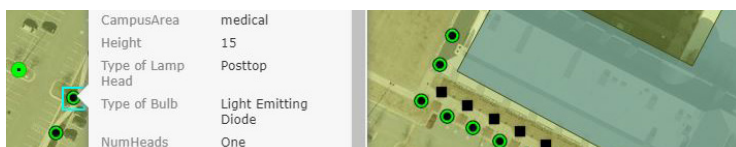
school attribute information. The information developed by each student is combined so that there are over 200 interview responses represented on average. Each student is assigned specific combinations of gender and level at school information. The data is selected based on those criteria, interpolated to a density surface and then mapped. The project serves as a review of the entire course while serving the ECU community. The results have been shared with the ECU Police Department, the Committee on the Status of Women, the Office for Equity and Diversity, and representatives from ECU Facilities. During this Fall semester, students will expand the research to the Medical Campus.

The overall patterns matched what the ECU Police and others perceived regarding safety while the breakdown by gender and status at school revealed a number of insights less well known. For example, female students expanded unsafe campus areas throughout the grid of streets north of campus and overall, freshmen students expanded their perception of unsafe areas greatly by the time they are seniors. The addition of points where harassment may occur showed the area surrounding bars uptown, but also showed a cluster that turned out to be near the Sheetz station south of 10<sup>th</sup> ST.

### Introduction to the Global Positioning System

In GPS class, the students learn about the global navigation satellite systems around the world, including our own NAVSTAR GPS system as well as field data collection of feature information. During the Spring semester, the class contributed to the current GIS data collection effort underway by ECU. Features to be collected initially were things like steam lines, water and waste water distribution systems among others, yet to several staff members in the Facilities area, there was a desire to collect information about lighting on campus. Specifically, light poles belonging to ECU to be a part of an energy audit. Many of the lights are being converted to lower power LED bulbs. The students designed the data dictionary to collect the information in consultation with Facilities and developed an Esri Collector app for data collection.

Students quickly and accurately recorded the location of over 1400 light fixtures with several attribute values such as the type of bulb or type of head lamp. In addition, many of the fixtures have a photo attached. The information informed the energy survey as well as serving maintenance personnel responsible for the fixtures. Going forward, the data can easily be maintained using a cell phone or web browser for updates. Next Spring students will collect additional lighting fixtures that are attached to buildings with a goal of eventually being able to model lighting at night on and near the ECU campuses.

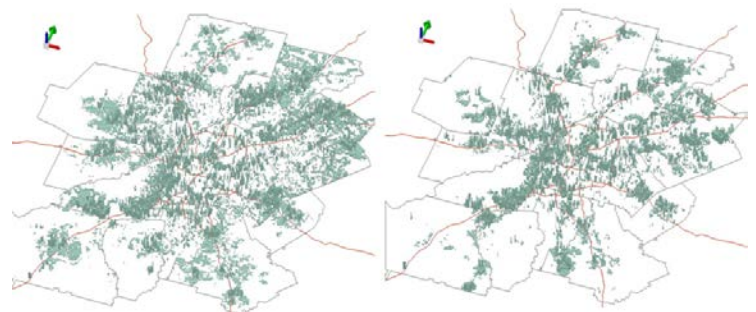
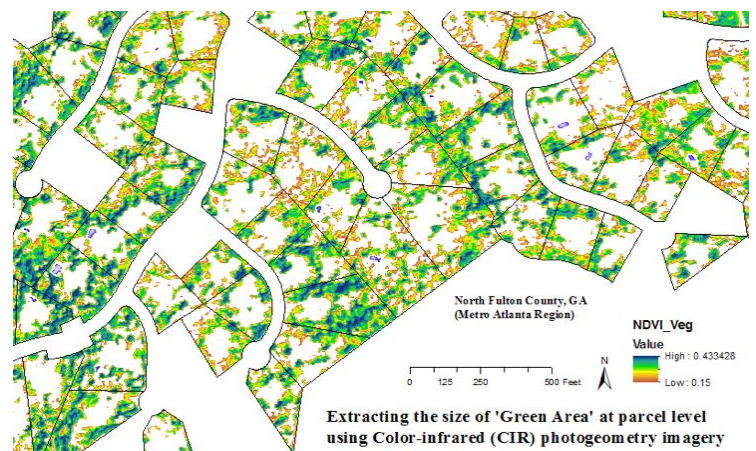


## SUSTAINABLE WATER USE MANAGEMENT

### DR. SANGWOO “MARTY” SUNG

Dr. Sung’s research has found a correlation between a series of urban form variables associated with sprawl and low-density development (population density, percent of single-family housing, lot size) and water use rates. He projected that the total daily water use in 13 metro Atlanta counties would increase from 585 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2010 to 997 mgd in 2040. Implementation of sustainable policies could reduce the daily urban water demand to 771 mgd, a 15.7% savings. These results support the proposition that a compact growth policy that promotes high density and a mixture of residential types would reduce per capita urban water use in the long run. The primary contribution of this research is to connect land-use to water resource planning and to demonstrate that changes in urban form can result in more sustainable water use.

The study demonstrates the use of GIS data, remote sensing imagery, and scripts to automatically extract the size of outdoor lawns, pools, and roofing areas for spatial error regression modeling and rainwater harvesting potential calculations. He emphasizes that adopting GIS technology and satellite imagery is critical. The figure below shows the map of ‘vegetated area’ in residential parcels extracted from 1-meter-resolution photo geometry imagery and contributes to determining whether a larger residential lot with vegetated outdoor lawn and pool would consume more water.



Projected Spatial Pattern of Urban Water Demand in the BAU (left) and the SD (right)



## EVIDENCE FOR ACTION: MIGRANT FARM WORKERS' LABOR CAMP LOCATIONS AND THE RE- LATIONSHIP WITH HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

DR. MISUN HUR

In 2013, the United States employed up to 12 million workers in the agricultural industry, most of whom were Mexican migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Many migrant farmworkers come to the US with H-2A visas (i.e., agricultural worker visas) with North Carolina participating in this program more than any other state. About 60% of migrant farmworkers live below the poverty line. Due to the migratory and seasonal characteristics of farmworkers, growers often provide housing/labor camps for workers as part of their compensation.

In 2016-2017, Dr. Misun Hur and Dr. Katharine W. Didericksen in the Department of Human Development and Family Science, College of Health and Human Performance, received an ECU Interdisciplinary Research Award from the Division of Research, Economic Development, and Engagement. The study focused on migrant farm workers' isolated labor camp locations and the impacts related to workers' mental health and social well-being. In the research, researchers applied a community-based participatory action approach by partnering with the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN). AMEXCAN served as a gatekeeper of the community by providing language support and facilitating cultural sensitivity as well as providing promotoras/es—identified leaders in Latino community who are trained to serve as surveyors. Dr. Hur's research team identified over 270 labor camp/housing locations, visited 28 labor camps and completed data collections with 301 farm workers (all were adult males with H-2A visas) who stayed in Lenoir, Pitt, Edgecombe, Greene, and Wilson Counties during 2016-17 growing seasons.

Currently, Drs. Hur and Didericksen are performing data analysis in various directions—not only in planning but also in human performance and outreach/engaging research perspectives. The preliminary analysis showed that the perceived isolation from the society rather than actual distances to the resources turned out to be a substantial negative impact on both Depression and Anxiety. We plan to distribute the research findings via various outlets—professional journal articles, professional conference and public presentations, and policy briefs—and contribute to proposing further research studies.

This summer, Dr. Hur and her research partner have established an additional community partner, East Coast Might Head Start Program, which serves the domestic migrant farm working families who travel between eastern states throughout the year. Newly proposed research will expand its scope to families, to environmental factors, to larger geographic locations, and to qualitative research analysis.



*Dr. Hur during a field work with migrant farm workers, Summer 2016*

### PLANNING AMBASSADORS

**DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?  
CAN YOU GIVE A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME?  
IF THE ANSWER IS YES...  
YOU CAN BE AN ECU PLANNING AMBASSADOR!**

A Planning Ambassador would carry out at least **THREE** engagement activities.

#### WHAT ARE THE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

- ✦ Give a talk on 'Planning & Planners' at your local Community College
- ✦ Attend a 'Student Planners Action Network' (SPAN) meeting at ECU
- ✦ Carry out NC-APA's 'PlanIt Kids!' activity at a local school in your community
- ✦ Attend an ECU Open House with planning faculty and students
- ✦ Provide internship opportunity to ECU Planning students

Our Planning Ambassadors will be recognized through our annual newsletter, on our departmental Facebook page and during the SPAN banquet. If you would like to be a Planning Ambassador, please contact Dr. Anuradha Mukherji (MUKHERJIA@ECU.EDU, 252-328-5357).

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ECU PLANNING IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.**

#### 2017-2018 SPAN OFFICERS

- **President:** Nicholas A. Musarra
- **Vice President:** Samuel P. Hunter
- **Secretary:** Kellen P. Long
- **Treasurer:** Randall Allen Mills
- **Social Media:** Chloe J. Pearson



**WELCOME A NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. THAD WASKLEWICZ**

Dr. Thad Wasklewicz, Professor of Geography, with research interests in Geomatics and Geomorphology and a deep commitment to student success, stepped into his new role as department chair effective Aug. 1, succeeding Dr. Burrell Montz, who has served as chair since coming to ECU in 2009.

**CPTED PRESENTATION DURING THE CITY OF GREENVILLE'S DISTRICT 5 EVENT**

Students in PLAN4025: Housing and Neighborhood Planning had poster exhibits during a joint meeting with Greenville Police Department, Police Community Relations Committee, and Neighborhood Advisory Board on April 20, 2017, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Taking the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as a theme, students worked with a neighborhood of his/her choice (a crime hotspot in Greenville) and conducted a series of research/ observations throughout the semester.



**ECU RCAW POSTER PRESENTATION**

Zach Dickerson, Marla Thompson, and Nolan Wiltshire in PLAN6029: Research in Environmental Planning presented a poster about the community response during Hurricanes Floyd and Matthew at the ECU Research and Creative Achievement Week (RCAW) 2017 conference on April 3, 2017.



**A TIME FOR SCIENCE EXPO**

Our faculty and students participated in the 'A Time For Science Science Expo' at GO-Science in Greenville on March 11, 2017. Hundreds of adults and kids enjoyed hands-on STEM activities provided by more than 40 exhibitors from academic, industrial, and educational organizations of eastern North Carolina. Great outreach!

**SPAN EVENTS**

**Fall 2017 Kick-Off Get-Together**  
August 24, 2017

Over 20 Planning major/minor undergraduate and graduate students (concentrations and certificate) got together to celebrate a new exciting academic year of 2017-2018. Go Pirates!



**Barefoot on the Mall**  
April 20, 2017

This involvement fair held on the campus mall gives student organizations the opportunity to recruit interest and talk to students. SPAN made sure to represent the Geography Department, alongside GeoClub and AMS (American Meteorological Society).



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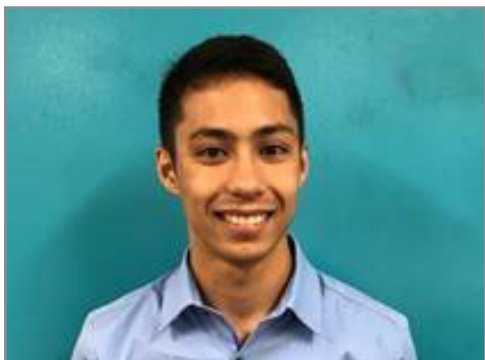
including Euclidian and form-based code, and I was able to be a part of large-scale projects. During my time with Virginia Beach, I was immersed in implementing and enforcing the zoning ordinance. While I enjoyed working for the City, I knew I wanted to get back to North Carolina.

I am now working at the Pitt County Planning Department as the Subdivision Administrator. In addition to subdivisions, I also help administer the Community Development programs. I've been happy with the way my career has unfolded so far. I've worked in a few different branches of planning and have had a variety of experiences. Established planning philosophies are changing as large-scale subdivisions are losing favor. I'm excited for my role in the future of planning.



Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship

### Nicholas A. Musarra



The 2017 Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Nicholas Musarra. This scholarship is competitively awarded to one student during an academic year for outstanding scholarship and dedication to the profession of planning. Nick worked as an intern for Uptown Greenville in Spring 2017, where he gained experience with community development efforts as well as aiding in improvements to the uptown parking strategy. Nick completed an internship with Kimley-Horn & Associates in Charlotte during Summer 2017 where he worked with the planning team on numerous city and community transportation plans. His interests include transportation and mobility planning and sustainable design. Nick plans to graduate in Spring 2018 and pursue a career in planning.

AICP Outstanding Student Award  
S.M. Hankins Scholarship

### Kellen P. Long



The Planning Program faculty at ECU unanimously nominated Kellen Long for the 2017 AICP Outstanding Student Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of planning and commitment to the profession. Kellen is also the recipient of the S.M. Hankins and the John C. Ralph Scholarships. Kellen plans to graduate in December 2017. She worked as a planning intern in both Elizabeth City and Southern Shores during Summer 2017. In her internship with Southern Shores, Kellen helped establish the first historic district of the town, showcasing flat top roof houses inspired by Frank Stick. She is currently completing an internship with Albemarle Regional Health Services as the Active Living Intervention Lead for Region 9.

NC-APA Outstanding Student Award

### Damiere Powell



The Planning Program nominated Damiere Powell for the 2017 NC-APA Outstanding Student Award. The award recognizes exceptional academic studies and initiative in planning. Damiere graduated from the ECU planning program in May 2017. He has since joined the Master of Urban Design program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

## NEW LOGO NEW DEPARTMENT



*Do you have news to share with your fellow Planning alumni? A new job or a cool project? Email your story to Misun at [hurmi@ecu.edu](mailto:hurmi@ecu.edu). We love to hear from you, Really!!!*


SECU Fellowship

### Kenneth E. Staton



Kenneth Staton was a SECU Public Service Fellow during Summer 2017. As a SECU Fellow, Kenneth participated in a short documentary in partnership with Education NC, detailing the impact the SECU program has on rural communities as well as the opportunities it provides for students seeking real world work experience. He completed his fellowship with the Chamber of Commerce in Windsor, North Carolina, and was involved in revitalization efforts in Windsor working with private businesses and city officials. Kenneth also completed an internship with Pitt County Planning during Summer 2017, where he gained

experience working in city government alongside professional planners. Kenneth is highly interested in issues of social justice and advocacy in minority communities. His dream is to bridge the gaps between city and regional planners and low income and at-risk members of communities.

*Image caption: Kenneth is standing next to a mature industrial hemp plant. He wrote an article during his SECU PFI in Windsor, NC for the Bertie Ledger newspaper, which made front page. He wrote on the possibilities of this new cash crop making its way back to Bertie County *