

## Greetings

Dr. Misun Hur, Director

First, I want to thank the following groups for their amazing support over the past year: alums, sponsors, THCAS Dean Allison Danell, DGPE Chair Dr. Jeff Popke, students, families, and friends. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on the successes over the last year and to highlight exciting plans for the 2023-24 school year. Our BS degree remains productive, graduating 14 students last year. The graduate program also launched with a good number of students cohort. The promise of the Planning Program resulted in hiring two new tenure-track assistant professors, two planners-in-residence, and an adjunct faculty to maintain two degree programs.

The Planning Program has continuously offered numerous community-engaged projects that have shown positive regional transformation for communities. A success story includes the Town of Maysville's Downtown Revitalization, contributed to the town securing a \$850K grant. Our passion and pride bear fruit! When you flip the pages of this newsletter, you will understand what I mean. Enjoy!



■ Memories of Emeritus Professor, Wes Hankins Page No. 3

## Highlight

### Planning Distinguished Alumni Awards

Two Planning Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were announced. ...

Page No. 2

### 4+1 Accelerated Degree

Highly motivated undergraduate Planning students can now graduate with BS and MS degrees in five years...

Page No. 5

### New Planning Faculty

Four new faculty joined the Planning Program ..

Page No. 7

### Student Scholarships and Awards

Student scholarship recipients and award nominations were announced ...

Page No. 9

### Study Abroad

Page No. 12

## ECU Planning Alumni Advisory Board

The Planning Alumni Advisory Board been instrumental to the Planning Program in many ways. As in the previous years, board members advised the program, provided professional networking opportunities at the APA-NC conference and served as judges/sponsors for senior capstone projects in the 2022-2023 academic year. The Planning Program worked closely with the Board in planning for the annual banquet, degree/course development, and supporting our Planner-in-Residence (PiR) program.

We would like to thank, Lee Padrick, the 2022-2023 Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board, for his support of the program.

### Board Members

#### Elected Officers:

Catherine Grimm, AICP, Chair  
Ben Williams, Vice-Chair  
Michelle Nance, AICP, Secretary

#### Members:

Merrill Flood  
Dwane Jones, PhD  
Seth Laughlin  
Mark Locklear  
Lee Padrick  
James Rhodes, AICP  
Chad Sary, AICP\*\*  
Durk Tyson, PE

\*\* New member starting 2023

We welcome news from alums: promotion, certification, family, retirement, etc.

Please stay connected!  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ecu-planning>



# Planning Distinguished Alumni Awards

The ECU Planning Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of graduates from the ECU Community and Regional Planning Program. It recognizes alumni for their outstanding achievements to the planning profession, service to society, or the ECU Planning Program.

The 2022-2023 Committee consisted of five--Michelle Nance, AICP (chair), Dr. Misun Hur (Director), Dr. Anuradha Mukherji (faculty), Ethan Flower (student), and Catherine Grimm (Alum). The committee reviewed the nomination and application packages of Holly White and Julie Metz. The Planning Alumni Board made the decision on the finalists. During the 2023 Spring Banquet, they received the awards in front of alums, students, families, and friends.

For more information regarding the award criteria and the process, please visit our website at <https://planning.ecu.edu/distinguished-alumni-award/>.

### Holly White, AICP

Holly B. White, AICP, is a Resilience Planner at the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR).

She graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from ECU. She received the Carolinas Regional Adaptation Leadership Award issued by the American Society of Adaptation Professionals in 2018 and held leadership positions at the ECU Planning Alumni Society (2008-2012). She also volunteered for several disaster and humanitarian agencies and organizations between 2010 and 2015. She is passionate about helping people, communities, and the environment. Her work on Sea Grant and partnerships highly acknowledged by colleagues.



<< Holly White (left) with Michelle Nance (the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee Chair, right)

### Julie Metz, AICP

Julie Metz, AICP, is the Business & Membership Development Assistant Director/ARP Member Services Specialist at the North Carolina League of Municipalities. She graduated in 1991 with B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from ECU. Before her current position, she was the Downtown Development Director of the City of Goldsboro, led the impressive downtown transformation, numerous awards locally and nationally.

"Downtown Goldsboro is now a thriving section of the Goldsboro community. It went from a vacancy rate of nearly 80% upon my hire to roughly 15% with a 5-to-1 return on the city's investment. But it is not the statistics that matter most in reflection. It is the overall feeling one gets when being in that place and how that place stirs them. Beyond my daughter, downtown Goldsboro will likely be my most recognized legacy. The legacy people see today is what inspired a current ECU honors student to claim planning as her degree ambition. That is the best feeling in the world," Julie says.



>> Julie Metz (far left) with two best friends and their daughters (Planning students) at the banquet after receiving the award.

## Scholarship

# The Walter G. Fields III Scholarship Endowment

Thanks to the Walter G. Fields III Scholarship Endowment, scholarship support will be provided to undergraduate students majoring in Community and Regional Planning. The funds are specifically dedicated to supporting student access to profes-

sional internships. The pledge in the amount of \$250,000 will generate a \$10,000 scholarship annually.

The donor, Walter G. Fields, III, graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography a concentration in City

and Regional Planning. He is the President of the Walter Fields Group, Inc., one of the Charlotte region's most well-known consulting companies that offers planning, zoning, and

land development services to development, real estate, legal and government clients. Mr. Fields devoted 25 years to the practice of planning for local governments.



Mr. Walter Fields, III, (right) with Michelle Nance (left, PiR) at the 2023 Planning Spring Banquet

### Inside index

Alum News	2
Featured News	3
Program News	5
Faculty News	7
Scholarship+ Award	9
Student News	11
SPAN	12
Program Contributors	13



## Featured News

From Archives

# Wes Hankins, FAICP



In a career spanning almost four decades, Wes Hankins, FAICP, has held a wide variety of both academic and professional roles—planner, professor, administrator, leader, mentor, researcher, board member, and head tennis coach for the East Carolina University (ECU) men’s team. It is in his capacity as professor of planning, however, that Mr. Hankins has most deeply shaped the state of North Carolina.

In 1968, Mr. Hankins moved to North Carolina from Florida to fill a faculty position in the Department of Geography and Planning at ECU, a position he held until his retirement in 2005. Currently, Mr. Hankins serves as Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at ECU. Throughout his career, in addition to teaching countless geography and planning courses, he was also involved in many aspects of campus and community life and has authored and co-authored many articles and documents, mostly relating to planning education. Additionally, Mr. Hankins has received many awards, including recent recognition as an Outstanding Planning Faculty Member in the spring of 2004.

Perhaps his most important achievement involves his work in developing the Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning at ECU—a program that has trained dozens of the state’s planning professionals. Additionally, he has served as an effective advocate for undergraduate planning education at the state and national level through the use of his numerous leadership positions in local, state, and national planning organizations. He has served NCAPA continuously for over 30 years in many capacities—as Vice President in 1978, President in 1979, Co-Chair of the Awards Committee, and as Chapter Historian since 1986. Moreover, he has been instrumental in hosting the NCAPA Summer Planning Institute—an event that has been held at ECU eight times over his career—and has taught a component of the AICP Review Course for the past ten years. In honor of his accomplishments and commitment to the field, Mr. Hankins was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2004.

While Mr. Hankins has consistently placed a high priority on developing and maintaining relationships with national planning associations, his greatest influence is ultimately best measured by the success of the approximately 1,000 ECU planning alumni currently hard at work shaping the future of North Carolina.

Reprint from: Boswell, D. & Nance, M. E. (2007). 50 Years of Influential North Carolina Planners. *Carolina Planning*, 32 (2), 7-8.

### Dr. Mulatu Wubneh Professor Emeritus

“I heard of Wes Hankin’s passing away with profound sadness. Wes was the foundation and the anchor of the Planning Program. He was a very compassionate and dedicated person who gave his energy and drive to the success of his students and the Planning Program. On a personal level, Wes was more than a close friend and colleague to me; he was a brother. We miss him, but we are comforted by the great legacy he left behind as expressed in the success of many of the planning alumni in the State and other parts of the country.”

## Memories

### Jerry Cox

Class of 1976

“I remember how much Wes loved his Volkswagen Beetle back in the day. I helped him push start it one afternoon. I didn’t get any extra credit though!”

### Shelley Lane Cox

Class of 1998

“My favorite memory of Professor Wes Hankins does not involve planning, but was an entertaining story about Lady Godiva. He and his wife had been caring for his mother, who was suffering from dementia, which could be challenging at times. His mother’s favorite activity was to strip off her clothes and roam around their home at night. One evening he brought home a box of student’s papers and files to grade. He was very shocked that night to discover “Lady Godiva” had chosen to use his box as her throne instead of a toilet. I will never forget his laughter and the sound of his voice telling that story to our class. I am sure the students whose papers were ruined in that event were very understanding given

the situation. Professor Hankins was entertaining, kind, and was one of the best instructors I had during my years at East Carolina.”

### Bo Duncan

Class of 1975

“Mostly I’d like to thank Wes for his efforts to establish the planning major. I was thinking of majoring in geography but wasn’t sure about finding a geography related job. Then I heard about planning and that it was a typical function of government, so I started thinking of minoring in planning should I major in geography. Toward my senior year planning became a major so I majored in that and minored in geography. The planning major provided me with the basic background and knowledge about topics that I would deal with in my planning career. Wes kept in touch over the years and was always focused on improving the program. Thanks Wes, and Rest in Peace. You are the father of ECU planning.”

### Mark Garner

Class of 1977

“Wes Hankins was my favorite professor and

a great mentor to me while I was in school. He reinforced in me the desire to pursue a career in site design, which I did through a 46-year career as a planning and civil engineering consultant to municipal and county government clients throughout eastern North Carolina. Wes humored our joking with him in class and was very quick to return the favor! I am very sorry to learn of the passing. The world has lost another good one.”

### Dr. Greg Kearney

Class of 1987

“Professor Hankins first introduced me to planning and SPAN in 1985 when I first enrolled at ECU. As one of his students, I will always remember him as being an outstanding professor. He was always prepared for class, kind to everyone, knowledgeable, professional and he always wore a necktie, too! It always amazed everyone how he could give full lectures and know when an hour had passed without even looking at the clock! He was a great person, a big influence on my early career and I will always have kind memories of him. May he rest in peace.”

### Michelle Nance

Class of 1993

“Professor Hankins introduced me to planning and taught me the value of service to the profession. After taking his historic preservation planning class, I became very interested in the topic and wanted to

do an internship at the State Historic Preservation Office. Through his connections, and even though the paid internship position was already filled, he helped me secure an unpaid summer internship at SHiPO by setting up an interview opportunity for me to meet with SHiPO planner Melinda Wall on campus. He also set up my internship with Lenior County Planning while I was an undergraduate (with Lynne James). These experiences would not have happened without his connections!

Wes was very active with the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association and served as the Chapter historian for decades. He and I served on the board together for many years and as the first Chapter web master, we reviewed loads of historic documents and Chapter history and had key files scanned and uploaded onto the website. As a young planner, he taught me the value of volunteer work and the importance of documenting history! Wes also led the APA-NC Summer Planning Institute program development and delivery every three years when hosted by ECU. These conferences were a heavy lift and Wes put in his time over the summer to make sure that ECU showed well and that professional development opportunities were available to planners in the east. I was honored to be selected by Wes to speak at his retirement gathering, representing the

former student perspective and, as the APA-NC Chapter president at the time, the ability to speak to his amazing service to the professional association.

As a first generation college student, I needed direction and guidance. Professor Hankins was so kind and approachable and offered his perspective without ego or judgement. He positively impacted me as a person and now as a professional. I will always be deeply grateful.”

### Brian Ragan

Class of 1996

“Dr Hankins was someone I looked to for guidance in the curriculum and as a trusted advisor related to my college experience in the 90s. His affable yet firm style helped me graduate from the program on time with the right mix of internships and classroom instruction. I really enjoyed getting to know Dr Hankins and am a better person for it. I know I am but one of many Dr. Hankins had a positive impact on during my time at ECU.”

### Craig Ralph

Class of 1983

“The planning profession is less one of the stars and forerunners to our industry. Wes was a true believer in the planning field and one of the most dedicated and true supporters of planning and ECU’s planning department. I will miss him but never forget memories of him and our time together. God bless the Hankins family.”



### James F Rhodes

Class of 1983

“A tremendous thank you to Wes for his tireless efforts in helping to establish ECU’s Planning Program, as well as the Hankins Scholarship Fund.”

### Grace Daughtry Smith “Missy”

Class of 1994

“I have so many fond memories of Wes Hankins. I had heard a lot about him through my mother, she was a colleague and friend with Wes back when the Urban and Regional Planning Program was first established. My mother was Dr. Cramer’s (Geography Dept. Chair) secretary so I had heard stories about West Hankins, Pia Leahy, and Dr. Dick Stephenson. I had not met these people, as my mother left her job right before I was born. She spoke fondly of all of them and had kept in touch with them over the years. Fast forward, I’m in school at East Carolina in the early 90s and struggling to find a major that I really liked. I ended up majoring in Geography, first meeting Pia, who took me under her wings. I had to pick a minor, so I decided I would try Planning. The first time I formally met Wes Hankins was in the classroom, I had seen him buzzing

around the halls, he moved very quickly. In class, we were doing introductions, he said “ah, I heard you were here”. My classmates did not really know what to think so I had to explain that quickly. It was like a reunion with a person I had never met, but I felt like I knew him. Wes moved just as quickly in the classroom as he did in the hallways, he paced back-and-forth constantly while lecturing. Anyone that I’ve talked to over the years that had a class with him... they always said, he never stopped moving! I fell in love with Planning and changed my major from Geography to Planning. Pia had a few funny words about that but she agreed that if that’s what I wanted, that’s what I should do. So that’s how I got into planning! I have to credit Wes. I was hooked after the first class with him. I have had a great career, thanks to East Carolina University but mostly West Hankins. I can safely say that all the other Pirate planners I have met over the years feel the same way, if they knew Wes, they all hold him in the highest regard. Wes might not be here with us but his legacy will live on for years, I am convinced of that. Thank you Wes for all that you taught us.”

Degree Programs

# Master of Science in Planning and Development

In Fall 2022, the first cohort of 15 students began their journey in the MS Planning and Development program. As of Fall 2023, there are 30 students in the program. Most of them are professional planners seeking advanced education in Planning for career.

Experiences during our first year guided us to strengthen the degree requirements, satisfy the course curriculum needs, and maximize student learning outcomes. The degree assessment requirement has been updated for the new catalog. Students must complete a comprehensive assessment, a curated portfolio submitted by students their work throughout their degree program. In addition to the regular semester-long

courses, the program offered summer courses, including six hours of credit for a faculty-led summer study abroad in South Korea. Although the classes are offered asynchronously, the program is dedicated to maximizing engagement among students and student-faculty.

**MSPD info**  
<https://planning.ecu.edu/academic-programs/masters-in-planning/>

**G-Certificate info**  
<https://planning.ecu.edu/academic-programs/g-cert/>

**Plan 4+1 info**  
<https://planning.ecu.edu/academic-programs/plan-41/>

More questions? Please contact  
**Dr. Anuradha Mukherji**  
 Graduate Director  
 252-328-5357  
[mukherjia@ecu.edu](mailto:mukherjia@ecu.edu)

## Online + On Campus Development and Environmental Planning Certificate

With the new online MS degree program, the Community and Regional Planning Program has added an "online" graduate certificate in Development and Environmental Planning starting in Fall 2023. Students in other graduate programs such as Master's in public administration, Master's in business administration, or Master's in geography could enroll in this certificate program. The certificate requires successfully completing four planning classes and submitting a curated portfolio of their work.

# Accelerated Degree Program (4+1) Launched

## BS Community and Regional Planning/ MS Planning and Development

Highly motivated undergraduate Planning students can now graduate with BS and MS degrees in five years. The accelerated Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Planning/ Master of Science in Planning and Development ("Plan 4+1") is initiated while undergraduates are completing the bachelor's degree. Students admitted to the accelerated program may count up to 12 semester hours of graduate courses towards the completion of both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree.

With this Plan 4+1 program, the program will retain strong Community and Regional Planning undergraduates with the opportunity to streamline their progress into the Master of Planning and Development.

Two undergraduate students (Bella Sardina and William Lowery) have been accepted to this new accelerated degree program starting in Fall 2023.

Banquet

# 2023 Spring Banquet

The 2023 Spring Banquet was on Friday, April 14, 2023, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM, at ECU Main Campus Student Center, Room #249. Over eighty alums, students and guests, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the graduating seniors, scholarship/award recipients, and the program's achievements.

The event began with remarks by Dean Allison Danell (THCAS), Dr. Jeff Popke (Chair, DGPE), and Ms. Catherine Grimm (Chair, Planning Alumni Advisory Board, Planning Director of the Town of Tarboro, NC). Mr. Joe Durham--Principal of the Joe Durham Associates--was the keynote speaker.

During the banquet this year, we held two special moments. First, a special video was made to remember Wes Hankins, FAICP, Professor Emeritus, who passed away recently. A collection of alums' stories about Prof. Hankins were narrated by planning students (watch [the video](#)). The second special event recognized the Pitt County Planning Department's internship support (watch [the video](#)). For 28 years, Pitt County has trained and sponsored 98 planning students. Tremendous dedication to the Pirate Planning Program!

In addition, three new planning faculty starting Fall 2023 were announced; twelve graduating seniors and the current and newly elected SPAN officers were recognized; student scholarships and award recipients and Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were announced. All program contributors were also recognized.

We want to thank all Banquet sponsors who donated funds to support students attending the banquet. We also want to thank Dean Allison Danell and Dr. Jeff Popke for the college and departmental support to make this special moment even more memorable. A special thanks to Ms. Debby Duffenbaugh at the Dean's Office for helping organize the 2023 Spring Banquet.

# PROGRAM DONORS

2022-2023

We appreciate your generous donations. Without your support, we cannot function the way we do.



- Mr. Walter Geddie Fields III
- Mr. James Douglas Heizer
- Mr. Andrew Thomas Holland
- Mr. Roger Andrew Russell and
- Mrs. Nicole R Russell

## GIVE



The ECU Foundation has several accounts that benefit the Planning Program. All donations will benefit the ECU Planning Program and students directly.

Scan or click the QR code to get to the donation page.



**Planning and Development, MS**

- Fully online
- Gain skills and experience for your career

GRE (or other entrance exam) not required

New Faculty

# More Faculty, More Opportunities



**A.J. Jacobs**  
Professor in Sociology,  
ECU + Adjunct Faculty  
in Planning  
Starting Fall 23

Dr. A.J. Jacobs has a PhD in Sociology and Urban Studies from Michigan State University and a Masters in Regional Planning from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Prior to coming to ECU in 2005, he taught land use, economic development, transportation, and housing courses full-time at the U. of Cincinnati, Michigan State, and Hosei University in Tokyo (1999-2005), and worked as an community economic development, transportation, and land use planner in North Carolina, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Florida (1985-1994). He has authored six books, 23 peer reviewed articles, and more than 60 book chapters, grant/fellowship reports, and conference papers on development issues in America, Canada, Japan, Korea, and Europe.



**Dr. Kaylyn Levine**  
Assistant Professor  
Starting Fall 23

Dr. Levine's research draws from transportation planning, mobility justice, geographic information science, and critical disability studies. Her dissertation analyzed first and last mile access to public transit for disabled people in Austin, TX and Seattle, WA. This work suggests that perceptions of access and mobility stretch beyond what planners traditionally consider, especially for marginalized communities. Dr. Levine received her PhD in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has an MS in Applied Urban Science and Informatics from New York University and a BS in Environmental Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She was a Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellow in 2020. She enjoys participating in agility and dock diving events with her dogs.



**Michelle Nance**  
Planner-in-Residence  
Starting Fall 22

Michelle E. Nance, AICP is the Deputy Executive Director at Centralina Regional Council, leading regional planning, community economic development, and member services for nine counties in the Charlotte region. Her portfolio includes land use and transportation, economic and community resilience, healthy communities, grants management and public administration. Her work is focused on helping communities address local needs through planning, capacity building and peer networks while tackling shared, long-term opportunities through collaboration and partnerships.

Michelle received her Master of Public Administration and BS in Urban from ECU and has a certificate in Design Thinking from UNC Charlotte.



**Lee Padrick**  
Planner-in-Residence  
Starting Fall 23

Lee has worked at the NC Department of Commerce for the past 26 years and currently serves as the Chief Economic Development Planner. Lee's genuine passion lies in helping communities discover their uniqueness, recognizing what makes their area special, and transforming it into a sustainable economic development strategy.

A known data enthusiast, Lee finds joy in conducting market analyses for client communities and exploring the intricate local flow of money. As a proud alumnus of East Carolina University, Lee holds three degrees, a BS in Criminal Justice/Pre-Law, MPA in Public Administration, and MA in Geography.

In his spare time, Lee finds relaxation while surfing and fishing, and holds a Certified Personal Trainer (CPT) credential from the American Council on Exercise.



**Dr. Steven Richter**  
Assistant Professor  
Starting Fall 22

Dr. Richter's work encompasses many aspects of human-environmental systems, with a particular focus on metropolitan regions across the United States. His quantitative research leverages the abundant and multi-faceted National Land Cover Database to understand how the quantity and quality of developed lands in the United States have evolved since 2000.

This work seeks to inform planning and policy related to growth management, urban peripheries, disaster resilience, and urban ecology. This work revolves around the use of land-use scenarios that help communities better understand how different patterns of growth intersect with environmental risk.

Dr. Richter has a PhD and Masters in Community and Regional Planning from University of Texas at Austin.

Faculty Research

# Dr. Mukherji Leads Climate Change Adaptation Planning Research

Dr. Mukherji is currently leading a study funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Climate Program Office's [Adaptation Sciences \(AdSci\)](#) Program and composed of a diverse team of faculty and student researchers. This work is a partnership with local communities and looks at the intended and unintended consequences of buyout programs as an adaptive response to compound coastal water events (CCWEs). CCWEs are defined as a sequential or combined occurrence of extreme weather events. The research focuses on two rural, flood-prone, underserved, low-income communities in the Carolinas. The research will apply mixed methods to capture the benefits and costs of buyouts while addressing their fiscal and equity challenges. Dr. Mukherji is working with co-PIs [Dr. Meghan Millea](#) and [Dr. Jamie Kruse](#) at ECU, [Dr. Scott Curtis](#) at The Citadel, and [Katie Finegan](#) at South Carolina Sea Grant.

Student researchers on the team are [Nelson Adeniji](#) (MS Geography) and [Bella Sardina](#) (BS Planning to MS Planning Accelerated Program).

This study is a follow-on to a previous research project, also funded by NOAA, that assessed the perceived risks and needs of the hazard management and planning community in response to compound water hazards in rural coastal estuarine environments in eastern North Carolina. The result of this research work has been published in the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, *Progress in Disaster Science*, and *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*.

A summary report is also available [online \(pdf\)](#).



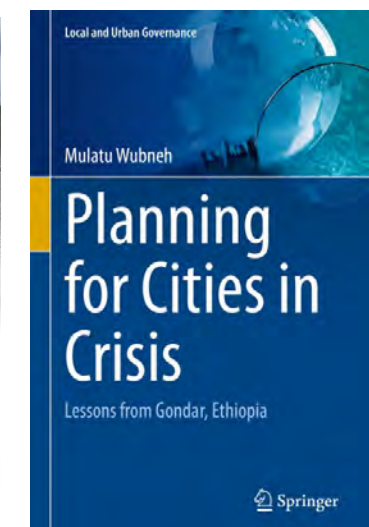
Faculty Publication

# Dr. Mulatu Wubneh Publishes Book Planning for Cities in Crisis: Lessons from Gondar, Ethiopia

Emeritus Professor Mulatu Wubneh recently published a book summarizing his experiences from Gondar, Ethiopia--a city he has been helping after his retirement.



"This book analyzes ancient cities that are facing crisis, and their coping mechanism to maintain resiliency and sustainability to remain economically viable and historically relevant. The book takes a fresh look at the underlying causes of the crises and recommends good governance and strategic planning options that the city could use to develop a robust economy using surveys and other materials, including geez (old Ethiopian language) church sources. This book illustrates the usage of the concepts of resilience and sustainability to critically assess the historical and cultural transformation of cities and the role of local government in maintaining a sustainable community." - Reprinted from the [publisher's page](#).



© 2022

ISBN:  
978-3-031-18415-4 (hardcover)  
978-3-031-18416-1 (eBook)  
978-3-031-18418-5 (soft-cover)

Scholarship

# Planning Scholarship Recipients



**S.M. Hankins Scholarship**  
**William D Lowery, III**

William D. Lowery, III, received the S.M. Hankins Scholarship, a competitive award for a student with a good scholarship and an exhibited dedication to the profession of urban and regional planning. As a non-traditional undergraduate student, William is a full-time Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Greenville. He holds a leadership position for SPAN as the Secretary and is actively engaged in various capacities in community services, the speaker series, and program recruitment activities. William is admitted to the accelerated program starting in Fall 2023 and will begin taking a graduate course as a 4+1 student.



**Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship**  
**Isabella Sardina**

The 2023 Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Isabella Sardina. This scholarship is competitively awarded to one student during an academic year for outstanding scholarship and dedication to the planning profession. Isabella is an ECU's Global Fellow at the Office of Global Affairs and holds the Social Media Coordinator role for the SPAN. She received multiple scholarships, including ECU Thomas W. Rivers Study Abroad Scholarship, The C. Ray Pruette Scholarship, Discovery Scholarship, and Geography Scholarship. Isabella attended the 2023 Summer Study Abroad in South Korea and will join the Planning Accelerated Degree program in Fall 2023.

Award

# Outstanding Student Award Nominees



**APA Outstanding Student Award**  
**Mason Mattox**

Mason Mattox, class of 2023, was nominated for the APA Outstanding Student Award by the ECU Planning faculty. In addition to his outstanding academic achievements finishing double majors in BS Community and Regional Planning/Political Science, Mason served as the president of SPAN during his senior year. As a pirate, he conquered the world--three timer of study abroad programs in Italy, South Korea, and France. He currently works as a planner with the Pitt County Planning Department.



**APA-NC Outstanding Student Award**  
**Blake Privette**

The Planning Program faculty nominated Blake Privette for the APA-NC Outstanding Student Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of planning and commitment to the profession. Blake served the SPAN as the Treasurer, organizing the Spring Banquet's finance. He also received the ECU's Truist Leadership Center Excellence in Student Leadership Award in 2023. During his undergraduate study, he interned at the City of Greenville Planning and Development Services Department, which led to his permanent job upon graduation.

APA

# Outstanding Student Project Award

2022 Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award  
**Downtown Washington Parking Study**

*The Downtown Washington Parking Study for the City of Washington, North Carolina*, (instructor Dr. Misun Hur) received the American Planning Association North Carolina Chapter's Marvin Collins Student Project Award. The award recognizes high-quality student work that increases the understanding of the value of planning. Three students attended the APA-NC Conference in Winston-Salem on September 14, 2022, and received the award on behalf of the class.

Partnered with Keith Hudson, the Director of the Pamlico Business Resource Center, the project was completed in the Spring semester of 2022 by students in Transportation Planning class (Instructor: Misun Hur). The Community and Regional Planning Program actively engages student-centered, project-based learning in its curriculum. Most upper-level undergraduate coursework offer hands-on projects for students like this project.

\* Students involved in this project were (alphabetic order by last name): Star Brantley, Ty Clark, Shannon Clough, Leila Coe, Ricky Cypher, Kendall Daniels, Ethan Hageman, Tanner Hayslette, Ian Jethro, Madeline Lipscomb, Brenden Lucas, Chris Medina, Christopher Normile, Love Ott, Millicent Ott, Blake Privette, Jackson Van Ness, and Terry Worley.  
\*\* Graduate students in Transportation Planning Policy contributed to the case studies as an assignment. Students were (alphabetic order by last name): Blair Carrington, Gilbert Combs, Margaret Peth, Gianna Venero, and Brandon Wrenn.



Photo: Star Brantley (left), Christopher Normile (center), and Shannon Clough (right)



FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, REGION 2

# Cameron Brown

Greetings, ECU Pirate Planners!

My name is Cameron Brown, a senior planning student at East Carolina University, and I am running for the position of the Student Representative Council Representative for Region 2.

Our region has witnessed remarkable growth, attracting new residents, businesses, and talent. As planners, we play a crucial role in addressing the diverse challenges faced by our communities due to this growth and preexisting issues.

Equipped with a comprehensive planning education, we possess the tools to navigate the complexities of the 21st century with an emphasis on understanding and inclusivity.

I am dedicated to advocating for the needs of planning students and fostering an environment that supports the success of both current and future planners. Together, let's shape sustainable and prosperous communities we can all be proud of.

I kindly seek your support in this endeavor. To learn more about my vision, please refer to my complete statement below. Join me on this journey towards a brighter future—I would love to represent you, NC, and Pirate Nation!

Sincerely,

Cameron K. Brown  
Senior Community and Regional Planning Student  
East Carolina University  
2nd American Planning Association Electoral District Student Representative Council Candidate

**READ STATEMENT**

## Did you know?

- 1963, ECU began to offer Urban and Regional Planning courses.
- 1966, an undergraduate pre-planning minor was established.
- 1974, the BS degree in Urban and Regional Planning was approved, making ECU the first higher education institution in North Carolina to offer an undergraduate Planning degree.

APPROACHING...

**50** YEARS



# SPAN Review of the Year

By Mason Mattox  
2022-2023 SPAN President

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the Student Planners' Action Network (SPAN) participated in a variety of activities which were categorized as being: Academic-Based, Service-Based, or Social-Based.

Academic-Based activities predominantly centered around SPAN's tradition of hosting 'Table Talks.' These talks were informal discussions, featuring one guest speaker at a time and highlighting their specific contributions and interests as relating to the Planning field. Students were given a small, relaxed environment in which they could ask questions and learn about various perspectives that are best provided by those with experience in their careers. Students were also able to attend a private Resume Building Workshop in partnership

with ECU Career Services. This workshop focused on creating a resume ideal to those interested in a Planning career.

Service-Based activities presented the opportunity for students to give back to our shared Greenville community. SPAN assisted The East Group, a local architecture, engineering, and surveying business, in the planning of 'Parking Day.' This activity was centered around transforming several parking spaces along East Fifth Street into a 'pop-up-park' that could be enjoyed by pedestrians. SPAN also participated in The City of Greenville's Adopt-A-Street program, routinely picking up trash along Brownlea Drive. SPAN has also routinely volunteered at the Alice F. Keene District Park's Community Garden.

Social-based activities offered time to network outside of the traditional classroom. Activities and events were often coordinated around entertainment and fellowship,

reminding students that success requires taking pauses and stepping away. SPAN routinely participated in (and routinely won) trivia contests, hosted by local organizations in Downtown Greenville. SPAN has also routinely participated in various social events organized by the University such as 'Get A Clue' or 'Barefoot Loud,' with the intention of raising awareness about the Planning Major in an effort to educate and recruit interested students.

## SPAN OFFICERS

### 2022-2023

- President: Mason Mattox
- Vice President: Ian Jethro
- Secretary: Janet Moreno
- Treasurer: Blake Privette
- Social Media Coordinator: Ethan Flower

### 2023-2024

- President: Cooper Hilbert
- Vice President: Jordan Kearney
- Secretary: William Lowery
- Treasurer: Cameron Brown
- Social Media Coordinator: Bella Sardina



Study Abroad

## Pirates in South Korea

### 2023 Summer Study Abroad

The Planning Program offers a faculty-led summer study abroad program in South Korea. Nine students spent two intensive weeks in South Korea, visiting the sites with planners, landscape architects, citizen leaders, and Korean students seeking solutions for "Sustainable Urbanism." The student cohort this year included five Planning major students (four undergraduate and one graduate) and four other majors with interests in architecture, art, ecology, and K-culture.

[Bella Sardina's \(BS\)](#) and [Lauren Russell's \(MS\)](#) stories and video/poster productions are available to view.

**Semester:** Summer Session 1  
**Academic credits:** Six toward Planning Electives  
**Travel dates:** May 23, 2023 - June 7, 2023

**Sample sites and activities:** Global Knowledge Exchange and Development Center, Mural Village, Jane's Walk in Seoul, Cheonggyecheon Park, KwangWhaMun Plaza, CA Landscape Architect (firm), N Tower, DMZ, Seoul TOPIS, Seoullo7017, Design Dongdaemun Plaza, Seoul Sky, University of Seoul, World Cup Park, Junju Hanok Village, KTX (bullet train) to Junju, many Palaces, and other cultural excursions.

Are you interested in joining? We welcome enthusiastic planning students, alums, and faculty!

For more information, visit our website at [https://planning.ecu.edu/study\\_abroad/](https://planning.ecu.edu/study_abroad/).

# Program Contributors, 2022-2023

The Community and Regional Planning Program is fortunate having so many individuals to contribute their time and support. The excellence in education we proudly offer is only possible because of them. Thank you!

## Individuals

Below is a list of individuals who came to our classroom and speaker series to share their professional knowledge with our students (In alphabetic order by last name).

- **Emily Barrett**, Environment & Resilience Program Manager, Triangle J Council of Governments
- **Chip Bartlett**, Insight Planning and Development, Wilmington, NC
- **Dr. Beth Bee**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, ECU
- **Dr. Rachelle Berry**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, ECU
- **Jeff Cabaniss**, Division 2 Engineer, NC Department of Transportation
- **Travis Crane**, Assistant Planning Director, City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department
- **Tristyn Daughtry**, RISE29 Program Manager, ECU
- **Erin Fleckenstein**, NC Oyster Blueprint Plan, NC Coastal Federation
- **Mark Garner**, AICP, Vice President (Retired), Rivers & Associates, Inc.
- **Chris Hilbert**, Insight Planning and Development, Wilmington, NC
- **Jonas Hill**, Assistant Director, Pitt County Planning & Development
- **Ricky Hines**, US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development & Mayor of the Town of Winterville
- **Keith Hudson**, Pamlico Business Resource Center, Washington, NC
- **Samuel Hunter**, Choice Neighborhood Initiative Project Manager, City of Winston-Salem
- **Eli Johnson**, Senior Planner Pitt County Planning
- **Rachel Love-Adrick**, Overview of DCM Planning and Policy Work; District Planner with NC's Division of Coastal Management
- **Jorge Luna**, South Atlantic Area Transit Lead, HDR
- **Eliza Monroe**, Planner II, WithersRavenel, Raleigh, NC
- **William Moore**, Senior Constituent Case Manager, US Congressman Greg Murphy's Greenville Office
- **Rebecca Mountz**, Planner, Stewart Consulting
- **Ramon Muckle**, City Traffic Engineer, City of Rocky Mount
- **Nick Musarra**, Graduate student, NC State University
- **Christopher Normile**, Bicycle + Pedestrian Planner at McAdams
- **Kyle Parker**, Director of Event, Uptown Greenville, Greenville, NC
- **Jordan Reedy**, Principal Transportation Planner, Rocky Mount MPO
- **Chad Sary**, Vice President of Growth & Strategy, Stewart Consulting
- **Jordan Smith**, County Attorney, Pitt County
- **Korin Tangtrakul**, Environmental Justice and Coastal Hazard Risk, Program Strategist for Place-Based Initiatives with the City of Philadelphia
- **Mckenzie Todd**, NC DCM's Resilience and Adaptation Program; Coastal Resilience Specialist with NC DCM.
- **Holly White**, Municipal Planning on the Coast; NCORR
- **Anna Willis**, Land Planner, Womble Bond Dickinson, LLP
- **Dr. Emily Yeager**, Assistant Professor ECU Department of Recreational Sciences

## Organizations

Many organizations and government offices offered student internships and/or sponsored a capstone student project. We are thankful for their support (In alphabetic order by the title).

- City of Asheboro, NC
- City of Greenville, NC
- City of Kinston, NC
- City of Raleigh, NC
- Cumberland County/City of Fayetteville, NC
- ECU Office of Engaged Research for the SECU Public Fellow Internship Program
- ECU RISE29
- Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, NC
- Insight Planning and Development, Wilmington, NC
- Pitt County, NC
- Town of Aurora, NC
- Town of Bethel, NC
- Town of Vanceboro, NC

## Program Contributors

## In the News!



East Carolina University

163,783 followers

4mo · 🌐

#ICYMI: The town of Maysville, N.C., is celebrating an \$850K grant thanks to the help of an [ECU Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment](#) project 🌟

The student-led team analyzed funding sources, renovation recommendations and more 🏡

Learn more ↴



**ECU student planning project helps town revitalization**

news.ecu.edu · 5 min read

We are proud to be Pirate Planners!

# GO, PIRATES! GO, PLANNING!

Published on August 1, 2023

Copyright 2023 Community and Regional Planning