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All Work and No Play Makes Bloustein Students Go to DC for a Research Conference

by Nakeefa Bernard, MPP 2010

On December 5th, 2009, about ten MPP students traveled to Washington to attend the 31st annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) conference. Every year, hundreds of practitioners and academics attend the APPAM conference to present applied public policy research papers to an audience of their peers. This year's conference, "Evidence Based Policy Making in the Post-Bush/Clinton Era" included research sessions that ranged from "Climate Policy After Kyoto" to "The Mechanisms and Consequences of Gentrification." While I would be the first to admit that some of the research was above my head, and sitting in a room with dozens of PhD's was slightly intimidating, I am extremely grateful that Bloustein gave us the opportunity to attend this conference.

Having had some community development workforce experience combined with my current (and former) Bloustein coursework, I spent the conference feeling a bit



Welcome to Blouville – A Stranger Comes to Bloustein.

by Matthias Mayr, MCRP 2010

Coming to Bloustein never felt like just another trip to School. The first days here felt rather like being welcomed into a community with people that seem to share a common interest, and told you to come see them if you need help or to come to their open offices if you have questions. Dean Hughes said in his welcome address, "You are now at Bloustein". What I realized after some weeks was that I was in Bloustein, and becoming a part of it more everyday.

That has continued until today, when all faculty members, administrators, and student colleagues seem to just cooperatively help one another.

The integration into the social networks of Bloustein was a smooth ride as well. Meeting a different group of people every Thursday, at the Social Event or playing soccer in the teams EJB or KaBlou – if you are in, you are all in.

My ID is my T-Shirt. The universal form of identification at US colleges seems to be the name

Snowball 2010!

by Mark Bolen, MCRP 2010

On Saturday evening, February 6, RAPPS and the Bloustein School will hold the annual Snowball semi-formal. The dinner dance will take place at the New Brunswick Elks Lodge. Snowball is an opportunity for the students, faculty, and staff to get together to celebrate the 2009/10 academic year and mark the induction of the new 2010 RAPPS Executive Board.

The event includes a silent auction with prizes donated generously from local businesses. Proceeds from the fundraiser will fund the 2010 RAPPS Scholarship, which also will be awarded at the event.

Tickets will be available for purchase in advance of the event. Also, details concerning the RAPPS Scholarship essay requirements, including the essay topic and deadlines, will be announced during the winter break.

If you would like to help plan and organize the event please contact Mark Bolen at: markjbolen@gmail.com.

IDIG Update

by Justin Tirsun, MCRP 2010

IDIG, the International Development Interest Group is currently preparing for the second half of the school year. This last semester involved continuing work in Mozambique and the Philippines. Both locations still have open opportunities for students who are interested in international development. In the Philippines, we are currently communicating with LifeBank about micro-financing and its impact on both the formal and informal economy. In Bangladesh, Architects Without Borders had us review their theory and data on new legislative steps to allow and promote informal commercial establishment. In addition to informal commercial establishments they work to address informal residential living situations. IDIG took on the RwandaAid project of developing a new earthquake resistant house design for the island of Nkombe. The competition required a full semester worth of work by IDIG members which culminated in a design workbook that focused on both better design guidelines and teaching locals new economic skills. The application will be judged, along with applications from groups around the world, in mid January 2010.

For the Spring of 2010, IDIG will seek out international organizations whom we can partner with, continue international projects that are ongoing within Rutgers University, and work

with PhD students and masters level students in creating new international projects.

IDIG is a forum for discussion about international development. With that in mind, lectures and film series will start next semester delving into the current situations around the world in developing nations. We are continuing our working relationship on projects in many fields of planning and connecting students to international organizations. There are internships or working opportunity in Cambodia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Philippines, and Myanmar.

If you have any desire in international development please contact Justin Tirsun at: jtirsun@eden.rutgers.edu.

...*"Bouville"* continued from page 1

you wear on your chest. Whether it is Rutgers Football or the saxophone band, everybody knows where you belong. I don't wear 'Rutgers,' I wear Bloustein.

The administration is the 'backbone of the community'. This seems definitely true for Bloustein. Weeks before arriving, I already knew who I could be confident to call and ask for help. At Bloustein, there is always an open door with quick and competent help. However, most importantly, this guidance was always accompanied by a smile. Bureaucracy at its best.

In class the feeling prevailed that there are competent professors who are eager to share their knowledge, rather than tell you what they know and what is right. The elders share their insights and are eager to learn from the students, it's a true process of mutual benefit in so many ways. A sense of community is present in every element at Bloustein.

The fireplace of Bloustein, at least for students, is the lounge, where you always find someone to eat with, talk to or watch TV during a break. It is where you can just sit down and someone will come around to hang out and chat.

Individuals can make a huge difference in how one perceives a certain situation, but the beautiful part of being welcomed in Bloustein, is that you are embraced by a wonderful group of people, a community, where each and everyone plays her or his role to the best of their abilities.

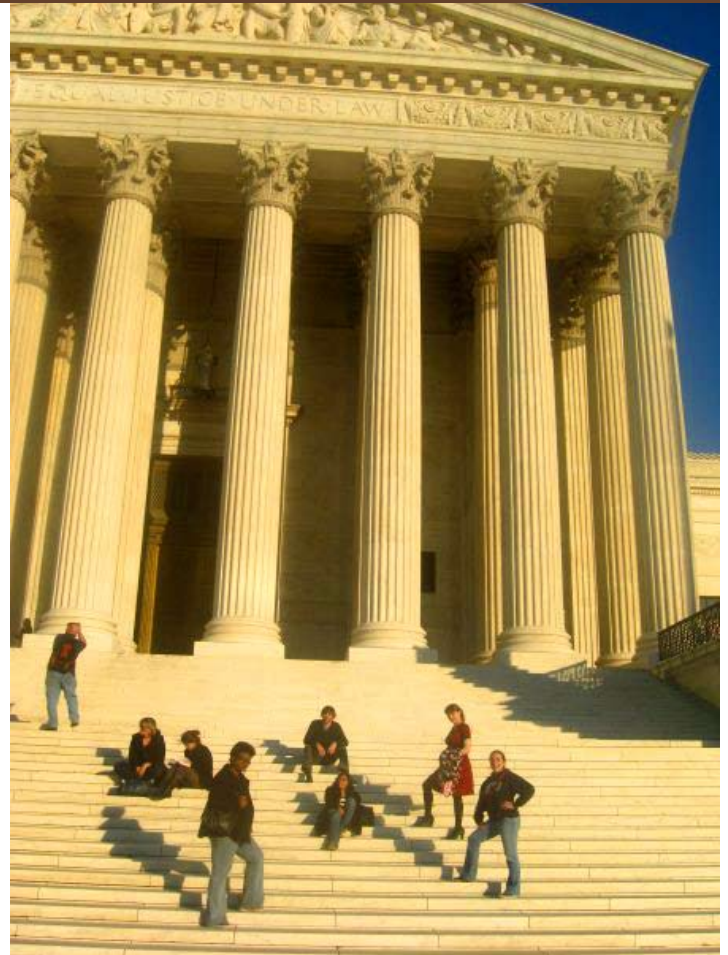
If life at Bloustein is any indication of the vision for the future communities and neighborhoods, these policy makers and planners have in mind to design and implement - I'll come back! No question about that. (If not, it was at least a great time being part of it now.)

RAPPS Hosts First Diversity Symposium!

by Vanessa M. Kennedy, RAPPS GSA Rep, MCRP 2010

The 1st annual RAPPS Diversity Symposium; Planning and Diversity in Perspective: Environmental Sustainability in Low Income and Minority Neighborhoods, will be held on February 19, 2009 at 9:00 AM in the Special Events Forum. The event was designed to tackle the complexities of sustainability specifically around food systems, transportation, and green building and to work toward the Bloustein School's mission of promoting social justice. Our guests will include Leonardo Vasquez of Arts Build Communities and the Professional Development Institute here at the Bloustein School, Meredith Taylor, Senior Program Manager of Environment and Community Health at Isles Inc; Sheila Someshekhar, Greenways and Green building Coordinator of Sustainable South Bronx, and others. We are expecting students and professionals throughout the region to join us for this ground-breaking event.

If you are interested in helping organize the event, volunteering, or just want more information feel free to contact Vanessa Kennedy at: vmkenn@eden.rutgers.edu.



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RAPPS Board 2010

Tiffany Sims - President

Brian Stromberg - VP PhD

Julia Friedman - VP Planning

Dan Kravetz - VP Policy

Julie Townsend - Secretary

Daya Bill - Treasurer

Chris Dochney - Activities/Social Chair

Emily Hill - Service Chair

Samantha Swerdloff - Social Justice Chair

David Stanek - Editor

Brittany Bendix - GSA Representative

Garrett Hincken - APA Representative

Erika Hill - University Senator

conflicted. Some sessions left me with a feeling of defeat that solidified my concerns within the community development field. I walked out of other sessions filled with passion, high aspirations and an eagerness to continue to make progress. At the very least, it helped me understand the strong role research can play in assessing and implementing public policy.

All in all, it was an invaluable experience. I would encourage anyone who was interested in policy research to attend. Even if research isn't your thing, I would highly recommend attending any professional research conference because if anything, it confirms or rejects your notions regarding your future role in the research realm.

You might be asking yourself, "I wonder what the policy students did in DC after their conference sessions were over?" Well I'm glad you asked. We did what every DC tourist does... SIGHTSEEING! For those of you that are new to the better of the two US coasts, I would also recommend attending next year's conference to take advantage of sightseeing in our nation's capital! Luckily for us, DC had beautiful weather that weekend, and we managed to walk ten miles around the capital. Enlightening research presentations, good company, and warm memories were all a result of our three-day trip to DC.

Semester in Review

by Eric Tuvel, RAPPS Editor 2009, MCRP/MPP 2011

As we come to a close on the fall semester of 2009, I feel it is my responsibility to recap on some of the highlights of the semester...so here we go!

Trunk or Treat

Again, this year Bloustein students volunteered to hand out candy on Halloween to children from the New Brunswick community. The event is run by Catholic Charities and offers children in cities a safe way to show off their cool costumes and get some candy. Students from the entire Bloustein community donated candy in the weeks leading up to Halloween and seven students volunteered to hand out candy at the event. This has become an annual tradition at Bloustein and we hope it continues next year.

Homecoming BBQ/Tailgate

This year Bloustein students organized a Rutgers Homecoming Tailgate BBQ. Both 1st and 2nd year students got the chance to hang out before the game and then watch Rutgers win in the Homecoming football game against Texas Southern.

Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner

Once again this year the Bloustein family gathered together to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a Pot Luck dinner in the student lounge. It was a great turnout with over 30 students showing up and bringing foods that they have grown up eating. People were able to taste dishes they never had before and some exchange students and a baby got to celebrate their first Thanksgiving ever! This year after dinner, students got caught up in arm wrestling, conversation, and a bustling game of Apples-to-Apples where we got to get a taste for everyone's, for lack of a better word, *unique* sense of humor. The Pot Luck Dinner has become a favorite tradition amongst Bloustein students and we hope it remains a staple in Bloustein social events.

Rutgers Big Chill

This year for the first time Bloustein students formed a team, the Waddling Penguins and ran in the Rutgers Big Chill 5k run. The event provides gifts for children during the holidays. It was a great event with over 4,500 participants and tons of donated toys for the kids.



RUTGERS BIG CHILL

Lunch Time Speaker Series

Students continued the Lunch Time Speaker Series this year and brought in four professionals to come for food and conversation. The four speakers came from different fields and the topics included: Green Collar Jobs, Improving Local Transit Options, Careers in Transportation Planning, and Legislative Experience. This program allows students to interact with practicing professionals and to hear about opportunities for jobs in the planning and policy fields.

Intramural Sports

Who said Planning and Policy students aren't athletic? This semester Bloustein took on students from the rest of Rutgers in Men's Soccer, Coed Soccer, and Coed Volleyball. Students got to spend time with each other outside the walls of EJB and take in some fresh air. If students are interested in playing Men's Basketball or Coed Basketball next semester feel free to contact

Eric Tuvel at eric.tuvel@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining the defending Champion Inner Tube Water Polo team, the EJB Sea Monkeys, next semester contact Mark Bolen at markjbolen@gmail.com. Also feel free to look at the other intramural sports offered and feel free to create a team.

NYC-area Planning Networking Social

This semester students from Bloustein arranged a large networking event with the Executive Boards of the student organizations at four New York City-area planning school. Those in attendance included students from Hunter College, Pratt Institute, Columbia University, and NYU. The purpose of this evening was threefold: (1) to establish long-term relationships with these organizations; (2) to increase Rutgers' presence in the New York metro region; and (3) to understand what other student organizations are doing and how we can learn from their accomplishments and failures.



YUMMY FOOD!



ARM WRESTLING

...*"Semester in Review"* continued from page 4

The event was a success and RAPPS hopes to continue to reach out to these schools and hold additional networking events next semester.

Planning in the Classroom

"Planning in the Classroom" was created through RAPPS in the fall of 2009. Our hope is to use community mapping as a tool to engage students and teach them about their community through the use of technology. By using a mapping interface created by VERTICES, students are able to create and maintain GIS-based maps of their community quickly and simply. In doing so, they will learn about and be able to positively impact their community. "Planning in the Classroom" was started as the result of significant student interest in engaging youth in planning and policy projects. On Saturday, February 27th, we will be mapping with a group of high school students at Newark Collegiate Academy. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions related to this initiative please contact Lisa Dewey-Mattia at: lisadeweymattia@gmail.com.

This was an eventful semester and we hope to keep it up. Remember that all Bloustein students are members of RAPPS (not only the board) and everyone is welcome to participate. If you have any ideas for events or would like to get involved more feel free to contact current students reps by going to the RAPPS tab on your Sakai page. If you don't currently have access to the RAPPS Sakai page, please contact Eric Tuvel at: eric.tuvel@gmail.com.



HOMECOMING TAILGATE



TRUNK OR TREAT



GO BLOUSTEIN!

RAPPS would like to thank the following guest speakers for taking part in the Lunch Time Speaker Series:

Anthony Gude

Jay DiDomenico

David Stein

Joseph Doria

In addition we would like to thank all the RAPPS 2009 Board members who made the past year a success!

Thank You!