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## RAPPS Welcome Week + Remembered

by Katie Brennan, MCRP 2012

We arrived bright-eyed and bushy tailed, ready to take on GIS, TODs and other acronyms—the class of 2012. And what an arrival it was. The RAPPS board of 2011 spoiled us rotten with a week of activities to distract us newbies from the fact that we did indeed come to grad school and not to a summer camp with the occasional class thrown in. On Friday night Game Night, those more entrepreneurial among us played Monopoly while the rest of us determined that the scoring system of Catchphrase is decidedly illogical and encourages tomfoolery in the passing of the electronic device from team A to B. At the Saturday in the park (Bucleuch- the pronunciation of which remains a mystery) I'm sure I would have had a lovely day frolicking in the sun had I been there. According to my roommate Betsy, "it was hot," they played kickball, passed around a football and mostly, "it was hot." Sunday we were off to the Delaware Water Gap, which as it turns out, is not actually in Delaware. A beautiful day with a beautiful view was



Photo by Betsy Harvey

## Planning for Change at Bloustein

by David Stanek, MCRP 2011

Each time I go home to visit my parents, I walk through every room in the house and take a mental inventory of everything that has changed since I was last there. I picked up the habit after returning home from a week's work at a summer camp when I was 14 to find that my mother had rearranged the entire house. Naturally, when I returned to Bloustein this semester a week before classes started, I walked through the building to see what had changed.

Here are a few things I noticed: a giant red wall in the foyer, a new studio room on the 4th floor, new microwaves, Windows 7 on the computers, four new computers on the 5th floor, new chairs everywhere, and new tables in all of the downstairs classrooms but 113. The lounge got a make-over with a new flat screen TV, a new vending machine, a coffee machine and the old study corrals were re-

# Cheers to Scholarship!

by Julia Friedman, MCRP 2011

A great time was had by all who attended the RAPPS fundraiser at Harvest Moon on November 11th. The event was marked by a great turnout and hours of fist-pump worthy live-band karaoke. At the end of the night it was decided that a musicology course on the commonalities between Bruce Springsteen and Sir Mix A Lot would be introduced to the course curriculum and that Bloustein students should not quit their day jobs.

Students, alumni, faculty and staff participated in the fundraiser, which raised over \$300 for the RAPPS Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to the winner of an essay competition judged by Bloustein faculty members.

A special thanks goes out to Harvest Moon for hosting this successful event. If you had an amazing time or feel bad about missing out, be on the lookout for another fundraiser in the spring. ✧



Garrett Hincken is The Boss.

Photo by Betsy Harvey

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moved and replaced by the lockers from the studio room. Indeed, someone was hard at work preparing for our arrival.

But what really got my attention were the mailboxes by the vending machines in the lounge—264 of them, not including the 144 by the door. To be fair, 81 are without owners, but what are the implications of so many mailboxes?

This year's class is Bloustein's largest ever, following on the heels of my class, the second largest. Collectively, we are a remarkably talented and diverse group of students and we're lucky to be here with one another. The course offerings have multiplied to our advantage and we have some of the finest facilities

at Rutgers. If the mailboxes are any indication, next year's class will match this year's, and these benefits will grow.

But there are challenges. My sympathy goes out to our professors, who design courses and hold office hours for 15 students but take on 25 or 30; who are masterful at engaging a classroom of students in a seminar setting but must resort to lecturing; and who heroically refuse to lessen their course standards despite the burden it places on them for grading. To our advisors who patiently listen to each of our concerns and the staff who deal with our issues with the Internet, registration, financial aid, scheduling, the HVAC system, jobs, fellowships, resumes...we are an endlessly needy lot.

The success of this program is no accident. It is a clear testament to the talent and vision of the administration, faculty and staff. I do not envy those who have had to make difficult choices over the past year and likely will have more to make during this time of change. Though I admit, I am looking forward to returning as an alumnus, to walk around and see the fruits of their efforts. (Perhaps a classroom with windows is somewhere in the future.)

I am not an expert on planning schools, but I imagine what sets Bloustein apart from others are the full time professors. The time they devote to the student body and their dedication to our success is remarkable. It is my sincerest hope that every student that graduates from this program will be able to say the same in the years ahead. ✧

# Use Your Planning Skills in Real Life!

## Pulling an All-Nighter at Bloustein

by Kaitie Davis, MCRP 2012

You've probably been there before: you've got a due date looming and a computer in Bloustein with your name on it—especially if your name happens to be a foreign country. True, it might be a lapse in your planning that pushed you to this point, but you'll need your planning skills to ultimately pull you through the night. Take it from someone who's been there practically every night (and think twice before taking two lab courses in one semester).

For the uninitiated, here are the planning strategies you might utilize during a typical Bloustein graveyard shift:

**Sustainability:** Though you're not expending physical energy, mentally taxing activities will exhaust your reserves in the blink of an eye. There are a number of options for self-sustainability, including the Dunkin Donuts, the 7-11, the coffee machine on the 2nd floor, and dousing your face with cold water in any of the bathroom sinks.

**Zoning:** An optimal study situation is when you are 'in the zone,' but unless you have made use of the abovementioned sustainable



© James Kim

energy, your activity in this category will be limited to 'zoning out' after about 2 am.

**Networking with your peers:** The student lounge is an ideal spot to meet and evaluate current programs. The flat screen television set provides several quality broadcasting networks that you can rely on as you pursue your work goals at some point in the future... whenever it is you decide to get back to your work...

**Measuring occupancy rates:** In the computer lab, this typically becomes an easier task as the night progresses, seeing as 'Me + Nobody else=1'

**Sprawl:** Should you start to feel run down, you might want to consider restorative activities. The couch in the student lounge provides ample space to extend and spread out, so long as it does not interfere with others. If the couch is occupied, however, it may then become an "overlay zone."

**Being a visionary:** Looking ahead is an imperative skill for planners, but if your contacts dry out at 4 am and you have not prepared with contact solution, you will have little to look forward to but a few hours of irritation and regret

**Lot averaging:** I have a lot of work on an average night. Enough said. ✨

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### Welcome Week Continued from page 1

had by all. On Tuesday we had Pecha Kucha, short Japanese-style presentations, which reminded us that we are in school. Second years presented on their summer work and inspired us lowly first years to believe that

we too could someday do something great. The Monday night potluck began the first, of what was to be many, events with food. Dr. Jagannathan's Methods I class enjoyed the feast during break without having to bring a dish themselves. Last, but certainly not least,

we went to Doll's place and had our initiation to the Thursday night carousing.

All in all it was a great week (plus a few extra days) of welcoming. I hope that Bloustein 2012 can keep the tradition going when it's our turn to welcome. ✨

# International Development Interest Group (IDIG)

## Bloustein Roots, Global Reach

By *Brittany Bendix, MCRP 2011*

This semester has been exciting for the International Development Interest Group (IDIG for short). The group nearly tripled in terms of active participation and was recognized as an official Graduate Student Organization (GSO). For those of you unfamiliar with IDIG, we are a group of students, faculty, and alumni that meet monthly to discuss topics pertaining to international planning, policy and development. This fall we kicked off discussion with the recently released Global Cities Index published in Foreign Policy magazine where we debated what makes a city global and whether the city or the state plays a bigger role in the global economy. We carried the conversation to Douglass campus where we heard Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute and Professor at Columbia University, speak on globally driven sustainable development. The theme for our November discussion focused on food planning and policy. Accordingly, we participated in the World Town Planning Day's international on-line conference which featured multiple

sessions on food system and agricultural planning issues in the U.S. and abroad. Copies of these sessions will be posted on our Sakai site for those interested.

We are excited for the opportunities that formal recognition as a GSO brings especially the chance to make our presence more widely known to the Rutgers community. We are working to partner with other GSOs to host future events, such as one with the Plant Biology department on cocoa production and its role as a primary export in developing economies. (Samples will be a component.) A similar event pertaining to coffee is also in the works.

If you'd like to become involved or have some discussion/event ideas that you would like to see in the future, please contact me ([britbendix@gmail.com](mailto:britbendix@gmail.com)) to receive e-mail updates.

*projectmanagersclub.fi*

Have a great break. We hope to see you next semester. ✧




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## Your 2011 RAPPS Board

**Jorge Santos:** President

**Brian Stromberg:** VP PhD

**David Nelson:** VP Planning

**Rob Houston:** VP Policy

**Betsy Harvey:** Secretary

**Katie Nosker:** Treasurer

**Jarrod Grim:** Activities/Social Chair

**Ena Kumar:** Service Chair

**Susannah Dyen:** Social Justice Chair

**Marley Bice:** Editor

**Tiffany Pryce:** University Senator

**Lauren McKim:** APA Representative

**Katie Brennan:** University Senator

# Done and Done

## Fall 2010 Semester in Review

By Tiffany Sims, MCRP 2011

My time at Bloustein may be three-quarters of the way complete but my tenure as RAPPS President has come to a close. With it, we finish the fall semester, which has been an especially good one for RAPPS.

There were two event series offered: the professional development workshops and the Bloustein speaker series. The professional development series, initiated by Julia Freidman and Erika Hill, was a new addition this semester and offered workshops on site plan evaluation, budgeting and Microsoft Access. The speaker series, organized by Brian Stromberg and Nick Klein, included speakers like Carla Yanni who discussed the architecture of dorms and residence halls on college campuses, Nina Martin who talked

about the effects of immigration on suburban areas, and Zhan Guo, who presented his work on subway maps and passengers' route choice. Look out for more from each series next semester.

We also had a few lunch-time presentations on floodplain management and expert testimony that served to expose students to potential career areas.

Our Thursday socials were a smash thanks to Chris "Email Boy" Dochney who somehow leveraged food subsidies from Dr. Burchell (Thanks Dr. Burchell!).

We held our first annual RAPPS Welcome Week+, coordinated by Julie Krause and David Stanek, continued the tradition of RAPPS' participation in Truck or Treat, and

held a Thanksgiving potluck that brought out an impressive number of students and faculty. (Snowball is coming next semester on February 18th. Watch for tickets when they go on sale in January!)

I've only mentioned the names of those who coordinated these events but they would not have been a success without those who helped out or those who attended. A special thank you to the rest of the Board for your work this semester and good luck to the incoming folks who I know will bring just as much enthusiasm, if not more, and continue to bring a diversity of events to the student body.

Remember: RAPPS is here to serve the students. If there's something you think is missing and would be a valuable addition to student life at Bloustein let your new RAPPS board know!

Well, that's all for me. Thanks for a great year!



Trunk or Treat (Photos by Marley Bice)



Thanksgiving Potluck (Photos by Pat Jensen)



# Good Planning or Bad Planning? You Decide...

Ah, New Brunswick. Our home. What comes to mind when you think of the city? Is it defined by place or people? Is it best suited for people or cars? Below are a few locations around New Brunswick chosen to start a discussion of good planning vs. bad planning. Think about aesthetics, land use, accessibility, bike/ped issues, landscaping, etc.

Have something to share? Log-on to the RAPPS Sakai page to continue the discussion.

