

Year End Report 2006

Gary W. McDonogh, June 2006

This has been a busy and productive year all around. With two faculty members on leave, we were joined by a wonderful replacement and affiliated faculty, and also hired in a new spanning position with Sociology and Environmental Studies that really integrates these programs. And there seems to be a great deal of news from students and alums as well to share. So, let's start with the program, then update faculty, and end with news from reunions and alums. Stay tuned to the end, because we will want Citiesfriends assistance in terms of Jeff Cohen's review in the fall and Juan Arbona's tenure review next summer. And in 2007-8 we will undergo a self study and outside review that should mean serious, and we hope celebratory, reflection and conversation with alums, students, faculty and friends after 35+ years.

THE PROGRAM:

The major addition to the program this year was the appointment of Dr. Ellen Stroud, who will come to us in fall 2006 from Oberlin College after an international search. Ellen did her Ph.D. at Columbia and specializes in American Environmental History. She is currently putting the finishing touches on her monograph on regenerating forests for Cambridge University Press, and has also begun a research project on the environmental issues surrounding dead bodies. She will teach a social science introduction to Environmental Studies and the Senior Seminar, and will also teach the Senior Seminar in Cities. Next spring, she will also offer U.S. Environmental History and a seminar on Environmental Injustice. With other Cities courses in E.S. as well as discussions of sustainability and green architecture in studio, this makes Cities a real pillar in that growing concentration. Ellen is a native Philadelphian and graduate of Girls' High; her sister graduated from Bryn Mawr (and was a great advocate in recruiting Ellen).

We have also agreed to work with the Concentration in Iberian and Latin American Studies at Haverford, strengthening this focus in our work for the future and linking to their 3/2 program at Georgetown to complement our successful 3/2 program with Penn (which we hope to extend to Haverford next year).

In classes and majors, we are up in numbers, after BMC graduated its smallest class and one of our smallest senior classes (11 students with 3 HC) in recent memory. We have 25 majors in junior class (7 HC) and the same in sophomore class (11 HC), with eight already committed from first year students. Cities is also part of Bi-Co recruitment: we even met with two or three prospective students coming to HC for Cities/architecture as well as prospective Bryn Mawr students whom you will be hearing about in the future.

Urban Culture and Society had 60 students this past fall— most of them voluble majors and minors, while Form of the City had 70. There were strong and enthusiastic enrollments in all intermediate courses as well as real support from faculty in other departments. Old courses have changed: Urban Culture and Society, in its 14th year for those of you who may remember its initial MWF 3-4 time slot, this year included a new range of issues in Project 3 (including eminent domain) as well as discussions of Hurricane Katrina. Project 2 has also now become a comparative study of hometown issues and course issues, which means we know about hometown concerns before the

senior thesis. It was good to have visitors from past years in this and other classes, including Jen Roberts from the School Board and Peilin Chin from the 3/2 program. Other alums spoke at a Careers panel in the fall, including Rebecca Rabin at U Penn Medical, Caroline Horstmann, now at Project Home, Anne Marie Baldonado, WHYY, and Joe Oglesby at Toll Brothers. Graduates shared great advice (including the need to write and proofread constantly), which carried over in Term 2 when Jennifer Hurley and Brad Rogers spoke as Bolton Fellows (a pilot to bring in nearby alums as speakers).

In the spring, City 360 was a new class on the city and the middle class that raised some interesting points about life as well as planning, while Comparative Urbanism focused on global suburbs, dealing with Philadelphia, LA, Paris, Hong Kong, and Buenos Aires as primary case studies. Jeff taught Philadelphia Architecture (with lots of time in the city) and Places in Time, while Daniela Sandler, whom we had hired as leave replacement, contributed a class on Latin American Modernism.

Teaching demands support. Graduate T.A. Jennifer Webb has completed her Ph.D. in Art History and will be going on to University of Minnesota Duluth to teach; Michael Pfeiffer from the Graduate School of Social Work helped out in 185. We also had great undergraduate T.A.s this year, including Rheanna Bensel (Urban Culture and Society), Anna Blinn (Comparative Urbanism), Ben Koski (Urban Culture and Society), Vanessa Poggioli (Form of the City), Athena Tan (Comparative Urbanism) and Jordan Teel (Modern Architecture).

And of course, we rely on strong administrative support: Pam Cohen and Selene Platt, whom many of you know and continue to interact with on the citiesfriends listserv or by correspondence, keep the program functioning very well. Selene continues to keep the Cities website up-to-date, recently adding more images and senior theses.

Daniela and Sam add for the studio program that “The highlights for the year in the architecture studio have to begin with the new furniture and equipment provided to us by the College. We are now blessed with a twelve foot by four foot cutting table with flat files, lockers and vertical storage underneath. The studio is now fully connected to the internet and we have the capacity to augment our teaching with that connectivity, DVD imagery, presentations from my laptop, etc. These images are displayed on a five foot wide plasma screen. Both of these new teaching tools have greatly enhanced the studio experience. Sam Olshin and I had the largest class that we have ever taught last fall - 14 students which carried over this spring to a full complement of 11 students taking the second semester course. In addition I had a design thesis student who did outstanding work on the design of a sustainable lower school building. Highlights from the studio continue to be the cardboard chair problem and drawing exercises in the first semester and more complex problems in the spring. This spring we asked the students to design a bowling alley and a halfway house for Christ Church. The students’ responses were creative, inventive and inspiring.”

CLASS OF 2006: In terms of the capstone experience, Daniela Sandler and I had a small but dedicated and interesting group of senior theses/graduates this year: Pankhuri Agrawal (HC) wrote on Penn’s Landing; Rheanna Bensel, on the contradictions of Chilean middle-class environmentalism; Anna Blinn (BMC) on the log cabin and Appalachian vernacular architecture; Jeremy Berke (HC) on tourism and eco-tourism in Guatemala; Erin George (BMC) on community health care in Hawai’i and Philadelphia;

Melissa Hope (BMC, double with Economics) on the development of Bala Cynwyd; Ben Koski (HC) on why industry stays in Philadelphia; Denette Lienau (BMC) on Chinese in Indonesia; Claire Mahler (BMC) on hospice care; Athena Tan (BMC) on Tagalog cinema beyond the screen; and Jordan Teel (BMC), a design thesis on a green middle school for Moravian Academy.

Rheanna, Anna and Athena graduated magna cum laude and Jordan cum laude (I still need a report from HC since I couldn't snag a program). Rheanna was also student rep on the Cities/Soc/Environmental Studies search committee.

In addition, for the first time that Barbara and I can remember, the M. Carey Thomas Prize for best-written senior thesis went to a Cities major, in this case as a tie to Anna and Athena, who received fulsome praise from our colleagues in English. Rheanna and Jordan also shared Bolton Prizes for examination of eco-tourism in Costa Rica and work with Habitat for Humanity in Houston.

These graduates are also planning ahead, ranging from Pankuri in Haverford House (working with mural arts project) to Melissa, Erin and Ben in DC (and Jeremy nearby in Reston – we need a Cities alumni group in the area). Jordan is working for Sam Olshin and Rheanna is working in Seattle. Athena is waiting for graduate school notices from England (critical and cinema studies), Claire will be trying to break into children's publishing in NYC, and Denette may be in NYC as well, amplifying our huge alum group there. And Anna will be hiking the Appalachian Trail!

CLASS OF 2007: The rising seniors continued a BMC strong tradition in pursuing the selective Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowships, which support advanced research among undergraduate students in humanities and humanistic social sciences, working closely with advisors. Athena Tan, Anna Blinn and Vanessa Poggioli ('07) held such fellowships last summer (out of 12, college-wide). This year, three Cities rising seniors were again awarded fellowships:

Sarah Lynch, for work on banlieues in Paris

Jess Pastore, for a study of media and knowledge in rural Virginia

Jennifer Wagner, for work on patterns and change in New Jersey towns

Internships are also important for students. Among those I know of we have:

Hannah Shulman (HC '07) will be working with the Edith Stephens Wetland Park in Capetown, South Africa. She has received support from the Bolton Junior Internship of the Cities Program.

Elizabeth Daligga (BMC '07) has an internship with the Women's Neighborhood Revitalization Project in Philadelphia. She is supported by the Edith Walker Fellowship from Bryn Mawr.

Michael Grant (HC '07) Mayor's office in Haverhill, MA.

Sarah Hartman (HC '07 minor) research and work with resettled women in Morocco. Supported by HC Center for Peace and Global Citizenship

Parker Hoar (HC '07) Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership.

Alexis Leventhal (HC '07) working for a Philadelphia mayoral reform campaign.

FACULTY

In a brief but crowded and active year we said hello and goodbye to Daniela Sandler, who came to us from the University of Rochester and the program on Visual Culture to replace both Juan and Carola. Daniela brought not only her expertise in Berlin (finishing and defending her dissertation during the year), but also offered a class on Modernism in Latin America drawing on her training in Brazil. She successfully taught Modern Architecture and Form of the City (with Jeff Cohen) and also co-taught Senior Seminar. We will all miss her next year but celebrate her new position at Rhode Island School of Design, where she may see some of our future graduates. And will not lose touch.

Carla Shedd also began to work with Cities and Sociology as a Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellow while completing her Ph.D. in Sociology at Northwestern (this spring). She taught a class on Race and Place in America that she will offer again in 2006-7, as a Post-Doctoral Fellow, along with a new cross-listed class on Crime.

Other news from continuing faculty: Juan Arbona has been in Bolivia this year as a Fulbright scholar, teaching, lecturing around Latin America and writing. He writes “As part of the Fulbright Scholarship, I taught a course under the auspices of the *Programa para la Investigación Estratégica en Bolivia* (PIEB). The courses geared for a group of researchers (21) from El Alto, were on Research Design and Urban Theory....As a result of these activities I am directing a master’s thesis (Hip Hip movement in El Alto) [and] have been named adjunct professor in this master’s degree program. Another teaching activity has been with the Centro de la Promoción de la Mujer – Gregoria Apaza...

My research activities have been showing concrete results in terms of publications, including:

- *Los Límites de los Márgenes: Organizaciones Sociales Locales y Jornadas de Octubre 2003 en El Alto, Bolivia*. Nueva Sociedad. No 197. May-June 2005.
- *Reading the city as (social) movement: El Alto, Bolivia - October 2003*. Delaware Review of Latin American Studies. Vol. 6, No 1. June 2005.
- *La Paz-El Alto, Bolivia: Implications of Neoliberalism for the Built Environment*. (with Linda Farthing and Benjamin Kohl). Harvard International Review. June 2006.
- *Fracasos y Rupturas Neo-Liberales: El Alto – Octubre 2003*. Forthcoming.

During my time in Bolivia, I received several invitations to participate in conferences and give keynote speeches. Because of my activities and responsibilities in Bolivia, I accepted two international invitations. The first one was a series of keynote speeches in several universities in Mexico and the other was a presentation as part of a workshop hosted by the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO) in Colombia.”

Jeff Cohen writes that “2005-06 was filled with a range of research and writing projects, both long and short term. On one of the long-term ones, focused on 19th-century street views (eye-level, whole blocks, usually lithographs or woodcuts), I'm closing in on a final draft, and the topic has become more European than it was, meaning I need to try to do more research from afar, esp. of Paris (1820s-60s).... Such

commercial streetscapes will also be a subject of a paper, "Downtown Sideways," that I'm meant to give in mid-June at the annual conference of the Vernacular Architecture Forum. This is a conference I've been actively helping organize during this past year, with lots of day-trips on the Chinatown bus. It will center on the Lower East Side and downtown, but will also venture outward to Queens and Harlem. This will be the first time this organization really leaves the rural folk countryside and mostly distant past to explore the developers' vernaculars of the city and landscapes of successive occupation by different ethnicities and classes into the 20th century.

Various advisory boards and planning conversations regarding digital projects had lots of meetings, discussions, and venues, including a workshop at the April SAH meeting in Savannah on "Cities in Time on the Web," and an upcoming Scholarly Communications Institute at U. Va this summer, the latter focused on the digital realm and its prospects for architectural history. ... Meanwhile, I've been continuing to try to help develop image-rich teaching resources on-line for both world and U.S. architectural history surveys, and for vernacular architecture based on VAF field trips. I taught in the master's program in Historic Preservation at Penn's School of Design again last fall, and in a course on historical research worked with a Penn archaeology student probing a great trove of documentation for 19th c. development called "Briefs of Title" -- over a thousand dispersed pamphlets typically published just prior to development. We subsequently used these this spring in our Cities 207 class on Philadelphia architecture, when we used them to explore the evidence, forms, and processes of rowhousing and developers.

The research and writing on another longer-term project, on 150 great Victorian suburban Philadelphia houses depicted in a portfolio from about 1889, is nearing the two-thirds mark, and I hope to press on toward closure this summer. It too had a spin off: Last fall, Cities major Jordan Teel, '06, pulled together some of the work of George T. Pearson (1847-1920) one of the most spirited architects represented in this collection, also responsible for Cartref and Arnecliffe at BMC. The imminence of another college's plans to tear down their old student center, in fact one of Pearson's earliest and greatest houses, spurred more action in mid May, including a website, tour, and presentation last week, in hope of raising awareness of his work and preventing the demolition."

Carola Hein was on leave in 2005-2006. She used this time to finalize two edited books and publish several articles. *Bruxelles l'Européenne/European Brussels*, published by La Lettre volée in the series of the Cahiers de la Cambre, builds on her 2004 research and has come out in May 2006. *Cities, Autonomy and Decentralization in Japan*, published by Routledge, is scheduled to come out in June 2006.

Among her book chapters and refereed articles published during this period are a text on Brussels in an edited volume on 20th century capital cities, an article on icons for a united Europe in CITY and another one on polycentric EU capital and eastern enlargement in the magazine *Comparative European Policy*. The last is an outcome of the award from the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy that she held through 2005.

Carola gave several lectures on Brussels and questions of the polycentric European capital in Brussels, at the LILP in Boston, and at the City Seminar at Columbia University. She also presented new aspects of her work on Maurice Rotival at the

American Historical Association meeting in Philadelphia, and gave a radio interview on rebuilding issues in Japan at the John Batchelor Radio Show.

Having finished her earlier projects, for the remainder of her sabbatical Carola is initiating new projects. During her sabbatical, Carola also participated in an International Faculty group sponsored by Mellon, which she co-initiated.

Barbara Lane has completed her anthology on Housing and Dwelling, which is now in the hands of Routledge. This is a long-awaited text for many of you who worked with the project in seminars and papers and have contributed to it in so many ways.

In addition, she and Jonathan have been working hard on various projects dealing with suburbs, including her study of American tract housing of the 1950s and 1960s, which has received support from the coveted Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowship, among other sources.

Gary McDonogh. I completed my 13th year as Director of the Program this year. This has meant “completing” older research while moving on with new topics as well. *Global Hong Kong*, co-authored with Cindy Wong, came out in the Routledge series on rethinking Global regions in September after we corrected final proofs in Peru over the summer. This text not only brought together our work on place, history and media in Hong Kong but allowed us to explore links of Hong Kong to its region, to competing East Asian cities and to overseas Chinese, including Philadelphia Chinatown. I am hard at work on a companion volume called *Iberian Worlds* which should be out next year, and deals with issues of global systems as they have come home in the nations of the Iberian Peninsula, covering topics ranging from expansion in the New World and Asia to Sephardic Jews as alternative histories. In addition, Cindy and I have signed to edit the second and on-line edition of the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Culture* for 2008, to which many Cities alums have contributed – Bianca Siegl, Brad Rogers, Isabel Kriegel, Lorelei Vargas, Arati Clarry, etc. – as well as Bi-Co colleagues.

In other research, I presented papers on Barcelona and the Mediterranean at the American Anthropological Association and a conference on City and Nature at the German Historical Institute in DC, which will publish “Mediterranean Reflections” in a volume this summer. I will continue this topic in a lecture in November on “Mediterranean Modernities” at the Cleveland Museum of Art (don’t we have alums out there) to accompany their fabulous retrospective on Gaudí, Dalí, Picasso and Miró. These will also ease me back into Barcelona and environmental issues for future work.

I presented my ongoing work on global suburbs at the North American Anthropology meetings and will continue research on banlieue films in Paris this summer, before taking the project to Hong Kong next year working on suburbanization and colonialism (Cindy has a Fulbright and the girls will be in school). I will also teach one class on globalization and culture in Comp Lit HKU and co-teach with Cindy the CUNY Honors class on Pearl River Delta development that we offered for the first time in 2005-6. And I continue work on global Chinatowns as well as a new project on the imaginary geography of Hong Kong in the Western imagination, so far called “Junk Geography,” which allows me to read many really bad books.

Sam Olshin writes: “I led our firm’s restoration/renovation project of the interior of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue. Work included acoustical, mechanical, lighting improvements, a new balcony, decorative painting, etc., in anticipation of a new Reiger organ, delivered from Austria last fall. This project won a Philadelphia Chapter AIA honor award and a “Faith & Form” Merit award.

We also recently hired Jordon Teel BMC ’06, who joined us full time yesterday. She will serve as a staff architect on a variety of projects including renovations to Arch Street Methodist Church and Mother Bethel AME Church.

Daniela Voith adds: “Voith & Mactavish Architects started working with Yale University last July on the restoration of the University's second oldest building, Dwight Hall. Ground is about to be broken to begin the construction of another sustainable project: the new Math & Sciences Building for Millbrook School. This building will be LEED gold certified. Another project, a house in Center City Philadelphia, was given a Palladio Award last summer.

And let’s not forget the new marquee on the Bryn Mawr Film Institute.”

For 2006-7, we add **New Part-Time Faculty: Ingrid Steffenson** (Ph.D. U. Delaware) will be coming to us to teach Modern Architecture in the fall; Carola will be teaching a graduate course with Jim Wright. **John Keene**, who has just retired from Penn Planning, will be teaching an exciting 300-level class on law and planning as well.

Research Associates: We will also have three Research Associates this coming year – scholars in the area whom we expect will enrich our lives. These include John Keene (above), **Trecia Pottinger** (BMC 2001), who will be doing doctoral research in the area and teaching a C-Sem, and **Matthew Hill** (Ph.D. Chicago), an anthropologist who works on Havana, whose wife will be teaching in Peace and Conflict Studies at BMC.

ALUMNI NEWS:

We will have quite a cluster of graduates at University of Michigan planning next year, with Nupur Chaudhury (BMC ’05) returning from IndiaCorps, Sarah Ross (BMC ’05) beginning there as well as Tim Cunningham (HC ’00). And then news in no particular order:

Allison Hayes-Conroy (BMC ’03) has published her first book: SOUTH JERSEY UNDER THE STARS: ESSAYS ON CULTURE, AGRICULTURE AND PLACE (Farleigh Dickinson Press, 2005). It develops themes from her thesis and that of her sister Jessica (BMC ’03). Allison is in the Ph.D. Program in Geography at Clark and Jess is in the Ph.D. program in Geography at Penn State.

Marla Tseng (BMC ’01) will be going to law school at University of Houston, specializing in immigration law.

Mason Austin (HC ’05) will attend UC Berkeley Planning.

Andrea Betancourt (BMC ’05) worked as a consultant in East Timor and has now enrolled in a graduate program in Estudios de la Ciudad at FLACSO in Quito.

Rachel Anderson (BMC ’01) has been accepted at Drexel Public Health.

Peilin Chin graduated from the 3/2 program at Penn, where Maude Baggetto, Sarah Lynch, Rachel Zack and Megan Grehl have enrolled. This cooperative arrangement remains a very successful alliance with Penn that we hope to extend to HC soon.

Trecia Pottinger (BMC '03) passed her comps and will be returning to the Philadelphia area to do dissertation research on African American suburbanization.

Chris Kingsley (HC '05) has been circling the globe on his Watson. In HK now, he should be in Philadelphia in July.

Misa Fujimara-Fanselow (BMC '05) is working with the Posse project in NYC.

Nick D'Avella (HC '01) is off to Buenos Aires to hone dissertation research on decentralization and its meanings.

Gabrielle Bendiner-Viani (BMC '98) is writing up her CUNY dissertation in Oakland.

Yasmin Jones (BMC '00) has graduated from NYU with her MA in public policy.

Asa Hopkins (HC '01) is working on his Ph.D. in Physics at Cal Tech and actively involved in local politics.

Maria Taylor (BMC '02) has just written that she has completed her M.A. in Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford and is on her way to a summer planning seminar in St. Petersburg. She will start the M.Arch at the University of Washington (Seattle) in the fall.

And Catherine Murdock (BMC '88), who has been both alum and teacher in the program, also published her first children's book DAIRY QUEEN. Barbara and Larissa recommend it. Check out her website at <http://www.catherinemurdock.com>.

Finally, Barbara and I were thrilled to see many Class of 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, McBride and other alums at reunion. I seemed to find many lawyers (Jen Evert, Nancy Schmucker, Elissa Underwood, Eric Goldberg) but missed our rabbi (Dena Bodian) and Elissa Klinger from public health. I will not be around for reunion next year, so I will trust alums will keep in touch with me and with the citiesfriends listserv.

AND SOME PARTING NOTES FOR 2006-7:

In the fall, we will be soliciting letters for Jeff's regular reappointment as Senior Lecturer. Alumni/ae letters are an important part of the process, and the timeframe is fairly tight (October-December) so we will need your cooperation.

IN SPRING 2007, we will also begin the tenure process for Juan Manuel Arbona. Letters will go out to alums in June.

AND FINALLY, in 2007-8 we will reexamine the program as a whole, with an outside review scheduled for the spring. This will be a good time to chat with you about strengths and weaknesses as well as ideas for the future. We have added and changed a great deal through alumni input over time, expanding offerings, clarifying programs and keeping ideas that work (and yes, we do teach GIS!!). But we hope these can be rich conversations about planning for the next decade(s) of the program as well

Have a great summer,

Gary

