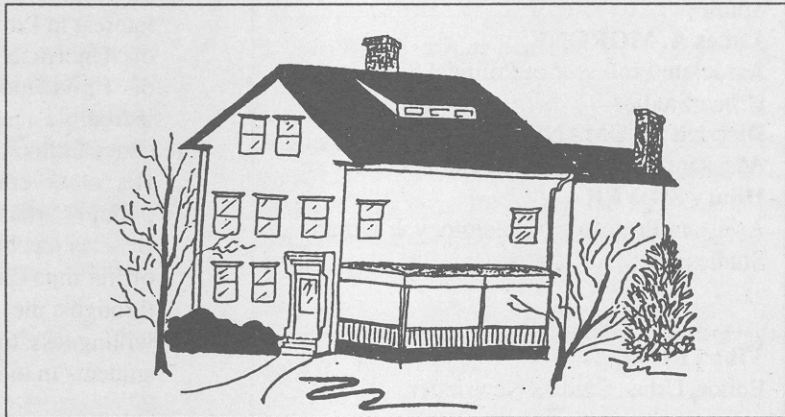


URBAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 1992
Brown University
Vol. 1, No. 1

Starting this fall, the Urban Studies Program will publish a newsletter once or twice a year; this is the first issue. The newsletter seeks to inform members of the larger Urban Studies community about the current activities of the Program.

This year the Program has moved to its own small building at 15 Manning Walkway. The new building offers a lot more space for both undergraduate concentrators and faculty. We have a small library in the building and plans are underway to set up a computer room open to concentrators, with PC and mainframe facilities. This issue of the Urban Studies Newsletter reviews the recent additions to the Program. The Faculty Profile section focuses on Professor Henderson (Chair, Urban Studies Program). The newsletter also includes a list of faculty affiliated with the Urban Studies Program.



of guiding the various Urban Studies projects and the program overall.

Personnel Changes

Over the last fifteen years the Program has hired a number of exciting new faculty. In the coming issues we will profile a number of these faculty. With the passage of time a few of our senior faculty have retired. During the 1980s Professors William Jordy, and Basil Zimmer retired. Professor Mel Feldman retired this past year.

William Jordy

Professor Jordy of the Department of Art and Architecture was a member of the faculty committee on Urban Studies. An architectural historian, Professor Jordy taught courses on architecture in the nineteenth and twentieth century. His publications include more than a half dozen books, many articles and book reviews. He was also involved in the activities

Changes in the Program -- Advisory Committee

A key addition to the Program this past year was the formation of the Urban Studies Advisory Committee which met for the first time last year. A second meeting is planned for the 26th of February 1993. The Advisory Committee members are leaders in the field of real estate and finance, and also are former Brown graduates, parents of Brown undergraduates and former Urban Studies concentrators at Brown. The seven member committee has been formed with the explicit aim

Urban Studies Faculty

J. Vernon HENDERSON

Chair, Urban Studies Program
Professor of Economics & Urban Studies

Howard CHUDACOFF

Professor of History

Louise JEZIERSKI

Assistant Professor of Sociology & Urban Studies

David MEYER

Associate Professor of Sociology & Urban Studies

James A. MORONE

Associate Professor of Political Science & Urban Studies

Dietrich NEUMANN

Assistant Professor of Art and Architecture

Hilary SILVER

Assistant Professor of Sociology & Urban Studies

Vibha PINGLE

Editor, Urban Studies Newsletter

Adjunct Faculty

Stanley BERNSTEIN

Arthur MARKOS

Nick RETSINAS

Daniel VARIN

of the Rhode Island and Providence Historical Societies.

Basil Zimmer

Professor of Sociology Basil Zimmer was the first chair of the Program and is regarded as the founder. Professor Zimmer retired in 1985 and has passed away since. His work has left a profound impact on the field of urban sociology and on the Urban Studies Program at Brown. His areas of interest included: changing transportation patterns, metropolitan development, and the changing structure of city and suburban areas.

Mel Feldman

Professor Mel Feldman retired this year after twenty years of valuable service. Professor Feldman '47 joined the Urban Studies Program in 1968. During his years at Brown Professor Feldman taught three courses, including a core fieldwork course. The fieldwork course has an interesting pedagogy: it requires that students work during the semester in public agencies, non-profit organizations, or private corporations. With his in-depth knowledge of urban development in Providence and his genuine interest in Providence (he has been given the title of "Unofficial Waterfront Promoter for the City of Providence") Professor Feldman was an incredible resource to individual undergraduate concentrators and to the program as a whole. His other courses focused on: national urban policy, urban housing, and urban renewal. Besides teaching, Professor Feldman spent a lot of his time guiding undergraduate concentrators through the program. His patience and willingness to help will be remembered by all students in the program.

Since his retirement, Professor Feldman has been working on setting up an Urban Studies library in honor of Professor Basil Zimmer -- the founder and first chair of the program. The library which will be located in the Urban Studies House will include in its collection a large number of government documents and reports with a special focus on Providence and Rhode Island. The library will be open to all members of the Brown community.

Appointments

Nick Retsinas joined the program as an Adjunct Professor this year. Professor Retsinas is teaching the Urban Studies Fieldwork seminar this fall. He is arguably the foremost civil servant in Rhode Island and is currently the Director of Rhode Island Housing. He is also the executive director of the Providence Plan Housing Project.

Hiring

The Urban Studies Program is advertising a position opening July 1993 at the tenure track rank of Assistant Professor. The position (which will replace Mel Feldman) is a joint appointment between the Urban Studies program and either the American Civilization Department or the History of Art and Architecture Department.

Current Activities -- Providence Plan

The Urban studies Program is involved in a university-wide, year-long workshop: the Providence Plan Project. The plan -- a bold and innovative proposal to attack poverty in the City -- is based on recent social research and the experiences of other cities. Its central premise, drawing on research in sociology and public policy, is that fragmented, piece-meal solutions to urban poverty do not and cannot work. Poverty is viewed as the result not just of a low income, but also as a condition which is concomitantly affected by poor housing, inadequate education, crime, drug abuse, poor health, decayed environment, etc. Hence, solutions must address all these issues simultaneously. Towards this end, the Providence Plan lays out a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy to attack poverty. Further, the Providence Plan also intends to identify the various sources of revenue required to fund such comprehensive action.

The State and Local Government, and community leaders are partners in the project. The Urban Studies Program is one of the key participants in the workshop. The other participants include faculty from the departments of Education, Public Policy, Race and Ethnicity, Community Health, American Civilization, and Environmental Studies. The year-end goals are to help establish a set of priorities for Providence and to forge a Brown partnership with the local community.

Senior Seminar

The Urban Studies Program is planning a seminar-workshop for seniors and juniors on

South Providence on "Inner-City Poverty and Community Relations: The South Providence Partnership". The project is to start next semester and continues with internships through the summer. This work will be the basis for a longer term effort in South Providence continuing on into the next year. South Providence is Providence's large low-income minority neighborhood. This effort will be integrated with community organizations. The project will help in creating a dialogue between students and faculty at Brown, community organizations and the local government.

Brown Bag Seminar Series

The Program has started a Brown Bag Seminar Series aimed at introducing undergraduates to current faculty research. The first speaker was Professor Dietrich Neumann (Department of Art & Architecture). Speakers from outside Brown will also be invited.

Aim of the Program

These current and future projects form an integral part of the Urban Studies Program and in various ways help further the objective of the program. In an attempt to promote a liberal arts education the program encourages students to focus on specific issues and problems with regard to the urban environment. While the program does not provide professional training, it seeks to sensitize the student to the kinds of skills required for productive work on various problems and to help a student develop an interdisciplinary social science background for examining social issues and problems.

The origins of the Urban Studies Program at Brown can be traced to 1827, when Brown's fourth President -- Francis Wayland emphasized integrative learning. This emphasis together with the focus in the early part of the twentieth century on using the social sciences to reconstruct society by Professor of Sociology Lester Ward has shaped the approach of the Urban Studies Program at Brown.

The reaction to the War on Poverty of the early 1950s, the Model Cities experiences of the 1960s, and the urban riots of that era

constituted a national current which, reinforced by the reforms in Brown's curriculum and the intellectual and social concerns of the institution's faculty and student body, led to the development in the mid-1970s of the Urban Studies Program.

Faculty Profile: Professor John V. Henderson

In 1985 Vernon Henderson, Professor of Economics and Urban Studies, was appointed chair of the Urban Studies Program at Brown. Professor Henderson had joined the Brown faculty in 1974. Prior to his appointment at Brown, Professor Henderson taught at Queen's University in Canada for two years. He received his Ph.D. in the (then) relatively new field of urban economics from the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago in 1972. Urban economics emerged as a field of graduate study towards the end of the sixties, and its development was influenced by the extant social, economic and political environment.

Professor Henderson's interest in urban economics grew out of his initial interest in the fields of architecture, engineering, and economics. The new field of urban economics allowed him to bring together his various intellectual interests. In his Ph.D. dissertation, Henderson developed a model for understanding the underlying structure of the economic organization of systems of cities in the United States. His research interests in the past twenty odd years has been influenced by the theoretical model explicated in his dissertation.

Besides working on the empirical issues emerging from his theoretical model, Professor Henderson has worked on a variety of urban economic issues such as: transportation, public finance, and urban housing. His work has also taken him to Brazil, China and India. Professor Henderson's work on China was part of a World Bank Mission in the early eighties. The aim of the mission was to understand the process of economic transition in China. Professor Henderson wrote a report for the mission on Urbanization and the process of Economic Transition.

In the mid-eighties, Vernon Henderson returned to China -- this time with his family.

He spent five months in Tibet and afterwards a year in India. While in India he began work on a project on small Indian businesses. Professor Henderson traced the developmental pattern over a 15 year period of 1500 firms in five towns in India. During his visit to India, Professor Henderson also developed a strong intellectual interest in Calcutta. On returning to Brown he organized a university-wide seminar on Calcutta and also taught an undergraduate course on Calcutta.

The fundamental issue underlying most urban/social problems in the United States maybe understood according to Vernon Henderson as a conflict between individual freedom and the collective good. He believes that the primary urban issues in the United States is the process of suburbanization, the edge city phenomenon, the concomitant decay in inner cities, and the spatial separation of the population along economic and racial lines.

Living in Providence for the past two decades as well as living abroad in India and China has influenced his understanding of urban economics and has also encouraged him, as Director, to develop the Urban Studies Program at Brown as a multi-disciplinary program with a particular emphasis on practical training and experience. This emphasis has clearly built on the earlier vision of Francis Wayland and Lester Ward on the role of the social sciences in improving the quality of human life and thus has helped continue the tradition established at Brown while structuring the program in a manner that is suitable to the current urban environment.

* * *

For further information please contact:

Urban Studies Newsletter
Box 1833
15 Manning Walkway
Brown University
Providence, RI -- 01912
(401) 863-2090