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This fall, the American Planning Association selected MS UP’13 candidate Jinny Khanduja as the recipient of the Charles Abrams Scholarship. Jinny was selected from a competitive pool of applicants because of her academic accomplishment and commitment to the profession of planning. At Columbia, Jinny is the student representative for the APA and a teaching assistant for studio. Congratulations, Jinny!

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This fall, a group of twenty Urban Planning students suited up in boots and hard hats for a tour of the #7 Line Extension Site. Students were guided by representatives of Skanska, the development and construction group leading the $513 million project for the Finishing and Systems Project of the subway extension. Along the tour, students saw the progress of the new 34th street station, which will be first state of the art subway station built for NYCT in the last twenty-five years. Once completed, the extended #7 line will provide long awaited passenger train service to the west side of Manhattan.

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This August, Professor Clara Irazábal was a lecturer, visiting reviewer, and consultant at many institutions in Colombia, including Bogotá: Secretary of Habitat, Universidad Piloto, Taller Urbano del Hábitat, Metrovivienda, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidad Nacional de Colombia en Bogotá, Universidad de Los Andes, and Universidad del Rosario. In September, she delivered a keynote talk on “Smart Cities: State of the Art and Challenges” at a Smart Cities Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. There, she met with local universities, planning/urban design programs, NGOs involved in sustainable community development, and municipal authorities to discuss collaborative projects.

In early summer Professor Robert Beauregard lectured on “The City as Assemblage” at the University of Naples and the University of Venice and on “Planning Will Always be Modern” at the “Modernità nelle Americhe” conference ... research workshop at the Centre for Metropolitan Studies (Technical University) in Berlin. More recently, he spoke on “Distributed Morality: The Storm Most of Us Have Fears” in the Critical Social and Environmental Psychology Program at the CUNY: Graduate Center (NYC) and was a discussant at the Van Alen Institute (NYC) with Brent Ryan (MIT) and Toni Griffin (CCNY) on the topic of urban design, planning and shrinking cities. In November, he will be speaking at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning (University of Michigan). The title of the talk is “Detroit: From Laboratory to Lens.”

This fall, the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded Assistant Adjunct Professor Ethel Sheffer the Andrew Haswell Green Award for individuals who have made outstanding contributions in planning for over 15 years. Green was a New York City planner involved in such seminal projects as Riverside Park, Morningside Park, and Central Park. In her career, Sheffer has made significant contributions as a Principal of Insight Associates, member of the planning committee for the Municipal Arts Society, and former president of the APA’s NY Metro Chapter. This year at GSAPP, she was the instructor for the spring studio, Disaster Response and Recovery in New York: Planning for Debris Management, and the fall course, Disasters, Recovery & Resilience. Ethel was recognized for this accomplishment at the APA New York Metro Chapter Fall Conference awards ceremony on October 19th.

On Saturday, November 10th, professors, alumni, students, and friends of GSAPP celebrated the 100th birthday of Avery Hall. Designed by McKim, Mead, and White, the building has been the beloved home to the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation and Avery Library since its completion in 1912. The celebration included an afternoon of talks by noteworthy figures in the history of Avery Hall, including Barry Bergdoll, Andrew Dolkart, Carole Ann Fabian, Kenneth Frampton, Mary McLeod, Bernard Tschumi, Sam White, and Mark Wigley. A student-curated exhibit on the history of the building was unveiled, and will be on display through the end of the semester. A portion of the exhibit in the basement hallway, seen above, includes a timeline of significant events in Avery’s history and a cross section of the building as seen with present day images. The evening concluded in appropriate birthday party fashion with cake and a champagne toast to the next 100 years of Avery Hall.

On Friday, September 21st, UP students took part in PARK(ing) Day, an annual worldwide event for citizens to transform parking spots for alternative uses. Since its conception in 2005, PARK(ing) Day aims to join the public in providing temporary open space in cities worldwide. Organized by the Planning Student Organization, GSAPP students claimed a parking space on Broadway and 115th street and transformed it into a space for learning throughout the day. Activities included an internship roundtable lunch, performances and lessons from the Capoeira club, and a yoga session. UP students fulfilled the mission of PARK(ing) Day by calling attention to the need for more urban open space. The Planning Student Organization is led by MSUP’13 students Cassie Ballew and Lucy Robson. Additionally, they organized a city wide scavenger hunt for students last month.

Do you have news to be featured in the Winter edition? Email us at up@arch.columbia.edu!
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This fall, Brooklyn Connect studio will provide recommendations to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership (DBP) to achieve their goal of improving connectivity between a “Tech Triangle” consisting of Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, and the Navy Yard in order to increase pedestrian activity and economic development in the area. The studio, led by Adjunct Professor Howard Kozloff of Agora Partners, works closely with the DBP to understand current interventions and identify new areas of focus, in hopes of creating a vibrant, connected, and cohesive destination. The studio works to tackle this goal from three overlapping areas of opportunity—enhancing the pedestrian experience, attracting businesses, and developing an overall brand for Downtown Brooklyn/Tech Triangle. We look forward to helping fulfill the incredible potential in Downtown Brooklyn.

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