

## FUN FACT

Did you know that PN had a newsletter before? In the Fall of 2013, DURP students made one - the first and only - newsletter issue in the history of UIUC Chapter.

# Planners Network UIUC Chapter

## Reflecting about our future...

The first Saturday of February marked the Planners Network retreat. The day started at the president's house, with a leadership meeting to discuss the expectations for the year ahead and to facilitate the transition from PN's previous presidents. PN's leading members went over the organization's history on campus and resources - databases as well as people that have been previously involved with PN's work - that could aid the organization moving forward. The team was excited and motivated to start the new year.

In the afternoon, the meeting continued at Pizza M in Urbana. PN had the entire backroom of Pizza M reserved, thanks to the support and effort from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning staff. The afternoon meeting was open to all students and community members interested in working with, becoming a part of, or learning more about PN. The member had a rich conversation on possibilities for the various work groups, while enjoying delicious pizza and drinks. Importantly, the presence of a member of the Keep Central Central movement, from Champaign, led to the creation of a new working group to cooperate advocating in opposition to the relocation of Central High School to the city's outskirts. Overall it was a fun, productive, and relaxing afternoon that ended with a beautiful poem authored and read by one of our members, Efadul Huq, on the feminine perspective in an urban context.

Congratulations to our president, members and DURP for making this awesome event!



PN's leadership members discussed expectations for the year ahead.

Newsletter produced by Mayara Lima and Alexandre Pereira.  
Photographs by Efadul Huq

Join one of our  
working groups!

### Gender Equity

Hosts activities to get people thinking about gender inequity and its intersection with planning. We organize discussions and action events to work toward gender equity. *Annie - tractor@illinois.edu, Evan - ekalvar2@illinois.edu, Liz - ebastia2@illinois.edu*

### PN Readers

Monthly reading events where members contribute articles, experiment with reading/discussion formats, and invite friends from other departments to make this an interdisciplinary activity. *Efad - efahuq@gmail.com, Raha - behnams2@illinois.edu*

### Bristol Place

Works to assist residents and community member affected by the Bristol Place Master Plan. Involvement includes awareness-raising, interviews and data gathering. *Natalie - prochask@illinois.edu, Alex - gomespe2@illinois.edu*

### Immigration Forum

Regularly participates in community outreach events, runs social justice workshop series on immigration and is organizing panels in immigration related discussions. *Efad - efahuq@gmail.com, Mayara - mblima2@illinois.edu*

### Anti-Jail Campaign

Works with CU Citizens for Peace and Justice (CUCPJ) on their Build Programs, Not Jails campaign. PN does research and data analysis to support this community effort to prevent another jail from being built in Champaign County. *Erica - ehorton2@illinois.edu, Alex - gomespe2@illinois.edu*

### GIS

Meeting bi-weekly (Thursdays at 5:30p) to help students with their GIS skills. GIS Working Group is for everyone, regardless of skill level.

*Miles - msthoms2@illinois.edu*

### Keep Central Central

Fight the construction of a new Central High School on the outskirts of town. Meetings are held every week on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Robeson offices located at 201 S. State St. in Champaign. *Erica - ehorton2@illinois.edu*

# Our first General Meeting

On Wednesday, February 18th, PN had its first General Meeting. Departing from the usual setting, the meeting took the shape of a potluck held in the TBH atrium. The meeting had a great turn out, and it was great to see some new faces joining in! With an informal structure, the potluck served as a joyful way to introduce PN to the newcomers, and share some truly exquisite food (the prize going to Karen's slow-cooked pork). Following introductions, there was a discussion on the role of gender in planning, an unstructured period of group conversations about PN's various projects, and later some exciting new ideas for possible working groups. We look forward to seeing even more folks in our next meetings!



PN's first General Meeting was held in the TBH atrium.



The informal structure was a joyful way to introduce PN.

## Letter from the President

When I came to visit U of I last March for the DURP Open House, I knew that Planners Network was something in which I wanted to be involved. The values of PN spoke to me, reminding me why I was seeking a degree in Urban Planning in the first place. From Planners Network's Statement of Principles:

"We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo."

I am absolutely thrilled to be working with such a great team of caring, committed, and passionate individuals. We are continuing partnerships with community groups, such as CU Citizens for Peace & Justice and the CU Immigration Forum, and providing a forum for new projects, such as the Reading Group and Gender Equity and GIS Working Groups. We have many goals for the rest of the year and the upcoming fall semester, some of which are worthy of mention here. Planners Network is for EVERYONE. While based in DURP, one need not be an Urban Planning student to be involved. Our one requirement is that you are interested in building healthy communities. More specifically, the PN leadership team is particularly interested in reaching out to undergraduate students and getting those involved who will be around longer than most of us will. Additionally, we are always looking for feedback. I will be holding office hours in the PN/SPO office (TBH 232) on Thursdays from 11am-12pm. Always feel free to stop by.

Thank you for your interest and know you are always welcome.

*Erica Horton*

*Need to be added to our listserv? Contact Mayara at [mblima2@illinois.edu](mailto:mblima2@illinois.edu)*

## Upcoming events

### Ending Sweatshop Labor - Bangladeshi Garment Worker Speakout

*Monday, March 2, 7pm, University YMCA*  
Survivor of Rana Plaza collapse will be speaking on campus. Join us to learn how together we can make UIUC sweatshop-free!

### Freedom Sings: Speech, Civility and the University of Illinois

*Tuesday, March 3, 8pm, Spurlock Museum*  
Story of free speech in America told through rock, pop, hip-hop and country music.

### New American Initiative meeting

*Wednesday, March 4, 4pm, University YMCA*

Meetings happen every Wednesday. This week we will talk about the Social Justice Workshop at Boys & Girls Club.

### GIS working group

*Thursday, March 5, 5:30pm, TBH 227*

### Contemporary Art in a Changing Cuban System

*Tuesday, March 10, 12-1:00pm, La Casa Cultural Latina*

Through paintings and collages, we will discuss the economic and political systems in Cuba and their impacts on the Cuban people.

### Extended Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

#### Workshop

*Tuesday, March 17, 5-8pm, Garden Hills Elementary Schools*

Help individuals through their initial or renewal requests for DACA.

### N-400 Training

*Wednesday, March 18, 4-6pm, University YMCA*

Come receive training about completing the application for naturalization.

### GIS working group

*Thursday, March 19, 5:30pm, TBH 227*

### Citizenship Workshop

*Saturday, March 21, 9:30am-3:30pm, Urbana Free Library*

Assist individuals throughout the entire citizenship process including, fee waivers, citizenship test preparation, and completion of their application.

### Gender Equity Wikipedia Editing

*Wednesday, April 1, 6pm*

Second editing session focused around a particular topic. Open to all, especially women and transgender contributors.