

The Urban Planet

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James F. Jones, Jr., President and Trinity College Professor in the Humanities

It is with great pride that I help introduce this issue of *The Urban Planet* in the final semester of my presidency. When we launched the Center for Urban and Global Studies six and a half years ago, we set out with high expectations for this innovative center, and I am very pleased by what has been accomplished in that short time at Trinity, in our home city, and around the globe. The Urban Studies major is now available among our offerings at Trinity, and already it has been well-received by students. The Center's second book *Confronting Urban Legacy*, a collaborative effort of Trinity faculty, alumni, and local leaders and scholars, elevates the study of Hartford and small cities in a way that has not been done before. Our successful partnership with Fudan University in China has led to Trinity's receipt of a generous, four-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to expand our programs and opportunities for Trinity students and international scholars. These are but a few recent highlights, and I encourage you to follow the future activities of the Center through this newsletter and other channels as we seek to advance urban and global education—a key distinction of the Trinity experience.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dean Xiangming Chen

The seventh issue of our Newsletter bookends its inaugural issue in October 2010, which was launched with an introduction by President James F. Jones, Jr. We are grateful to him for writing a few opening remarks for the last time as he will retire from Trinity on June 30. We would like to acknowledge his critical vision and role for the 2007 launch of CUGS, which originated from the Cornerstones planning that he led after becoming the 21st President of Trinity College in 2004. We also want to express our collective thanks to President Jones for his steadfast support for CUGS over the last several years.

For an essay that has led this Newsletter, we turned to Tom Condon, the deputy editorial page editor for *The Hartford Courant*. Tom's piece draws from his recent editorial about the Center's book on Hartford to which he also contributed a chapter. Tom has made two key points of historical importance. The first is that Hartford's challenges today were rooted in a dominant manufacturing economy formed roughly during 1870-1930 that has since disappeared completely. The second is that Hartford, which comprised several neighboring towns historically, is too small or geographically constrained today to tackle its problems. The rest of the Newsletter contains items that reflect the Center's happenings and activities with both local and global connections. If you have any comments and suggestions for our newsletter, please email them to cugs@trincoll.edu.



The Urban Planet

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ON HARTFORD

Tom Condon, Deputy Editorial Page Editor, *The Hartford Courant*

Trinity College launched the school's Center for Urban and Global Studies in 2007. The Center's founding director Xiangming Chen discovered that there wasn't much available research on Hartford and other mid-sized cities in New England. He and City University of New York graduate student Nick Bacon who graduated from Trinity in 2010 recruited a dozen writers, most but not all academics (evidenced by the fact that I was among them) and produced a book about Hartford, referencing some other of New England's second-tier cities. "Confronting Urban Legacy – Rediscovering Hartford and New England's Forgotten Cities" (Lexington Books) is just out. If you would like to become better versed about the place where you live, this would be a place to start.

The book covers commerce, education, immigration and sprawl (bad!). It looks at Hartford's rise and fall, the factors that made it one of the richest cities in America in the late 19th century and then one of the poorest in the late 20th century. Two of those factors were its manufacturing base and its size. Hartford was the first major inland settlement in the colonial U.S. and comprised about 87 square miles including what today are the towns of West Hartford, East Hartford and Manchester. Trinity historian Andrew Walsh notes — in a really first-rate chapter — that "just about every significant event or trend in the nation's history has left its mark here." Not least among them was the U.S. Industrial Revolution. Hartford became an industrial powerhouse. Its factories, along with its banks and insurance companies, made it one of the richest cities on the continent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The city we see today, minus the unfortunate highway incursions, "was largely built from 1870 to 1930 as a manufacturing city where factory workers lived in tight-packed neighborhoods within walking distance of their jobs."

In 1950 there were still 30,000 manufacturing jobs within the city limits, workers making everything from guns, brushes, and typewriters to tools, saddles and church organs. But the rapid erosion of manufacturing jobs over the next 30 years would spell doom. It's hard to know what might have prevented the loss of these jobs; typewriter factories, once a Hartford staple, were going to close whether they were in Hartford, Boston or San Francisco. In any event, as the factories emptied, the surrounding neighborhoods "slipped further and further into poverty," a problem the city had to deal with largely by itself.

We didn't see this coming in the 1970s. The city was still confident and optimistic. The bright young people on the city council partnered with committed corporate leaders to build the Hartford Civic Center, among other structures, and bring The Hartford Whalers to play in the arena. At least as defined in the sports world, Hartford was a major league town. But in the 1980s, the momentum slowed and the confidence wanted. People who'd grown up in the city moved to the suburbs, if they could afford to, leaving the very poor in the city. Unemployment increased and so did crime; by the mid-1980s Hartford police were making more than 20,000 arrests a year, many related to illegal drugs. And yet, white collar jobs increased, though most of those workers were moving out of the city. So in the late 20th century, Walsh writes, Hartford presented a double face to the world — an increasingly poor core city in a fundamentally prosperous metropolitan region."

The poverty in the core city is pronounced. When compared to the peer cities of New Haven, Bridgeport, Springfield, Worcester and Providence, Hartford has the highest poverty rate for individuals, lowest median household income, smallest percentage of married couple households, highest percentage of female-headed families with no

husband present, and the highest percent of adults 25 and older who have not completed high school. This comes from the city's own planning staff in 2010 for the draft of a planning document titled "One City, One Plan." Hartford also has the highest rate of unemployment in Connecticut. Part of the problem is that the core city is tiny.

For all of its remarkable achievement in the last two centuries, Hartford missed a step that might have made a huge difference — it never had the power to annex adjoining land. The colonial city of 87 square miles became a city of 18 square miles as surrounding communities broke off and incorporated as separate towns. In 1950, as Jason Rojas and Lyle Wray observe, Hartford was comparable in size to Nashville, Tenn. (22 square miles), and Raleigh, N.C. (11 square miles). By 2000, Nashville was 69 square miles and Raleigh had grown to 473 square miles. Hartford's boundaries hadn't budged and now define the smallest core city in any major metropolitan area in the country, Bacon reports.

The New York architect and planner John Carrere, who authored Hartford's 1912 city plan, assumed Hartford would expand to include the new growth outside its boundaries. A golden opportunity presented itself when the Metropolitan District Commission was created in 1929. The legislature granted the MDC a charter enabling it to perform planning and zoning functions as well as providing water and sewer services. But the planning part never took hold because of opposition from suburban towns. No one counted on the intense localism, perhaps reflective of the region's Puritan founders, in Connecticut towns. So Greater Hartford, Rojas and Wray conclude, is a "combination of its core city's extreme smallness and the anarchic subdivision of the rest of the region into an absurdly large number of tiny, but politically separate, municipalities."

Many urban problems are inherently regional. Greater Hartford is not structured to deal with much of anything beyond water and sewer on a regional basis. Here's a current example of why this is a problem. Farmington Avenue runs from Hartford through West Hartford to Farmington. It's being redesigned and rebuilt as part of a sewer replacement project. But it's not being done as a single project; West Hartford is doing its part of the avenue, Hartford its part. The result is that there will be a bike lane on the avenue in Hartford, but not in West Hartford. This is — there is no other word for it — stupid.

As former Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut once observed, you can't be a suburb of no place. The health of the core city is important to the health of the region. If Hartford becomes untenable for major employers, the region will suffer. Indeed, as Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institution has observed, it is the metropolitan region that is the real driver of the national economy. But a region has to act and interact like a region, and Greater Hartford doesn't do that very well. How to do better?

How about trying a little harder. What if we were to bring in an entity such as The New England Public Policy Center and ask its researchers to evaluate possible ways to restructure the delivery of government services in Greater Hartford. It's easy to conceptualize change, and Wray and Rojas do. If we determined what services — such as transportation planning — were best delivered on a regional basis, we could empower the 30-member Capital Region Council of Governments to do the work. Each mayor or first selectman would vote on measures, so the towns would have a say in regional policy. The key is to start thinking about this — and to try harder.

A version of this piece appeared recently in The Courant. Tom can be reached at tcondon@courant.com.

The Urban Planet

**Hartford
Youth
Scholars
Foundation**



TRINITY AND THE HARTFORD YOUTH SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

Jason Rojas
Director, Community Relations

HARTFORD IN TRINITY

Trinity College has played a critical role in the development of the Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation (HYSF) which has its offices located on our campus. Founded in 2005 HYSF is dedicated to strengthening the City of Hartford by developing and implementing academic programs that increase college access for Hartford schoolchildren. HYSF's first initiative, The Steppingstone Academy Hartford, prepares highly motivated students for admission to and success at Connecticut's top independent high schools or school of their choice. By increasing educational opportunities, HYSF supports the development of a vibrant and productive community, making Hartford a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

HYSF is a rigorous preparatory program for middle school students that have clear expectations for what it will take to be successful in high school and in college. It includes on campus summer sessions that provide study and time management skills classes, enrichment activities and approximately 2-3 hours of homework a night. During the fall and spring sessions scholars attend their regular 7th/8th grade schools and then come to the Academy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Saturday coursework focuses on SSAT test preparation and study skills. During the spring session they add character development activities and higher level math and literature courses for scholars in the 8th grade.

Once scholars are placed the Foundation provides critically needed support services recognizing that getting into a good school is a crucial first step, but long-term success requires sustained commitment. The services include academic monitoring which includes an assigned advisor who provides guidance on transitioning to new schools, academic progress and social adjustment. Advisors also visit scholars throughout the school year. The Foundation also provides ongoing college readiness workshops and academic tutoring as they succeed at their schools. They offer scholars and families with individualized college assistance including SAT prep, college research and tours, writing recommendations, essay assistance, scholarships and financial aid research.

The program has grown from serving 26 scholars in their first year to now serving 139. 100% of scholars are on track to graduate from high school. In 2012 the Foundation and partner schools sent their first cohort of scholars to college. 95% were accepted at a four-year college, and are now enrolled and on track to graduate in four years. Over 82% of students who begin the program matriculate, and 92% of those students who matriculate are retained by support services. They serve a population that is 58% African American and 29% Latino. The scholars have accessed \$2.4M in financial aid dollars at over 16 different independent schools, including: Taft, Avon Old Farms, Loomis Chaffee, Suffield Academy, Watkinson, Westminster, Miss Porter's, Peddie, Renbrook, Salisbury, Ethel Walker, Kent, Northwest Catholic, Pomfret, and Westover. Other partner schools include Berkshire School, East Catholic High School, Hotchkiss School, Kingswood-Oxford School, Loomis Chaffee and the Watkinson School

FIRST TRINITY EXCHANGE PROFESSOR IN SHANGHAI MICHAEL LESTZ TO TEACH AT FUDAN UNIVERSITY



During this spring term, Michael Lestz, Director of the O'Neill Asia Cum Laude Endowment and Associate Professor of History, is the first Trinity Exchange Professor in residence within the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Fudan University. Lestz is teaching a course, titled *Shanghai Through Western Eyes: Documents of the Treaty Port Era*, which is designed to introduce the array of sources used by historians to reconstruct the record of the Shanghai concessions and the era of imperialism in China (1842-1941). This course is available to the ten Trinity College students who are studying at Fudan beginning this spring. This first semester-long teaching effort at Fudan strengthens Trinity College's partnership with Fudan, which was launched with the new study-away program there in fall 2012. Lestz' teaching is also tied to the series of courses focused on the Cities of the Yangtze River in a traveling summer program that Lestz, together with CUGS' director Dean Xiangming Chen and Biology Professor Joan Morrison launched for the first time in 2009. In 2012, this program was honored by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that is also supporting Trinity's new initiatives in environmental and sustainability initiatives in China and Asia.

After the conclusion of Fudan's spring term, Lestz will remain in Shanghai as Trinity's pioneering interdisciplinary investigation linking Asian and environmental studies takes a new form. Chen, Lestz, and Morrison will guide students as they seek to understand Shanghai's formative role as driver of development in the Yangtze delta region. As in the previous five years, this programming will derive invaluable support from the China Urban Studies Summer Endowment Fund, the O'Neill Endowment, and Charlotte Riggs Fund.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A CHINA FOCUS JING GAN, LUCE VISITING SCHOLAR

Having worked and lived in the megacity of Shanghai with its 24 million people for many years, I am still adjusting to the much smaller city of Hartford with only about 120,000 residents. Teaching at Trinity College as the first Luce Visiting Scholar at CUGS makes my journey across the Pacific and between two strikingly different cities much easier than otherwise would be. I had actually worked with Trinity before setting my feet on campus by giving two presentations to the faculty and students who visited my home institution Tongji University in Shanghai with the River Cities of Asia program in 2012 and 2013.

Thanks to the support from a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to Trinity, I am here teaching Sustainable Urban Development (URST 210) with a China focus. As the largest developing country, China is becoming one of the important engines of global urbanization. Rapid urbanization and economic growth in China over the past 30 years have brought enormous change, raising living standards and reducing poverty, but at considerable social and environmental costs. Presently China is searching for a new path of sustainable urbanization for the next 30 years. As a visiting professor from China, I try to provide Trinity students with a broad view of urban sustainability from a global perspective with a focus on China given the major challenges the latter faces in making rapid urban growth more sustainable.

I started the class by introducing Western and Chinese sustainability philosophies and then by discussing ideal city models as well as the concept and background of urban sustainability. Then I discuss eight dimensions of urban sustainability--Energy, Water, Resource, Climate, Land Use, Biodiversity, Transportation and Green Building--to provide the students with basic knowledge of the related issues, analytical approaches, and possible solutions. More than half of the students told me on the first day of class that they chose this course to learn more about China. This makes me feel assured that I am bringing an authentic perspective that will benefit the students' global learning at Trinity.



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PARTNERSHIPS AND SPACE: TRINFO.CAFE SUPPORT FOR FACULTY, STUDENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Carlos Espinosa, Director, Trinfo.Cafe



The Spring 2014 semester is sizing up to be one of Trinfo's busiest in years. For more than a year, Trinfo staff have been building relationships with key faculty, students, and community organizations in and around the campus in preparation for the CUGS strategic planning process that is currently underway.

Strengthening key community partnerships in and around the campus, a central goal, is already materializing activity. A group of faculty were successful in securing a Mellon grant to link their coursework and students to Trinfo's community garden project. Their Fresh Food Project links their students, along with the TREE House student group, and

neighborhood families to the garden. The grant also provides resources for a Trinity student to act as liaison during the summer, filling a critical role of linking the two academic semesters, as well as providing support to the families working the land. Students from the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (HMTCA) will also be participating during the summer and into the fall through Trinfo's partnership with COMPASS Youth Collaborative, the community organization that runs the after-school and summer programs at HMTCA. That partnership, along with the Trinity College Boys & Girls Club, the Montessori School, and Organized Parents Make A Difference (OPMAD) round out the community partners.

This semester Trinfo student trainers are providing technology-based programming to youth ranging from 4-16 at Trinfo and at the Environmental Magnet at Mary Hooker School in the Behind the Rocks neighborhood. Trinfo's student teachers are developing teaching units and lesson plans around the themes identified by our community partners, and for the Boys & Girls Club, Trinfo is providing computer lab space for their own programming.

These activities are the foundation for building long term relationships necessary for successful community engagements and meeting institutional strategic goals.

NEW STUDENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND GLOBAL STUDIES

Rashana Lord is the new Student Program Coordinator at the Center for Urban and Global Studies. She will be the main contact for the Peace Project, Levy, Technos, and Tanaka Grants, the Technos Tour, as well as the China Summer Program. She graduated from the Ohio State University with a B.A. in International Studies and Spanish and a minor in Portuguese. While at Ohio State, Rashana was a member of the Varsity Track and Field team and also studied abroad in Spain. Upon graduation she traveled extensively throughout Europe and Latin America before moving to South Korea and then to France to teach English. She is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and French and has experience in education as well as a strong background and passion for foreign languages and other cultures. In addition to Rashana's work at Trinity, she is a youth mentor at the YMCA and an active member on the Committee for the Future of the New York Women's Foundation. Her interests include but are not limited to international education, philanthropy and international politics. She is excited to be at Trinity and looks forward to working with students and faculty.



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RUZHE “IVAN” SU, ‘16

My experience with the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) started with The Cities Program. My initial decision to join the Cities Program was triggered by curiosity, but the courses in the program turned out to be very thought-provoking as I became more engaged in topics surrounding Urban Studies. I later began working at the Center as a freshman, and spent several months working closely with the Center on different themes. In the fall of 2013, I took part in researching for “China and Africa: The Crucial Urban Connection,” co-authored by Professors Xiangming Chen and Garth Myers. The experience of researching on such a topic phenomenon I personally witnessed and feel connected to is very rewarding. I am currently working with Professor Chen on a paper looking at China’s strong influence on the global South. I’m grateful for the opportunities CUGS has provided me, and look forward to the future projects that I will be working on.

JULIA I. MARDEUSZ, ‘16

My involvement with CUGS began in my first semester at Trinity as a student in the Cities Program, which I have recently completed. I have been lucky enough to spend the past 3 semesters learning about every aspect of cities—architectural, historical, and sociological—from talented and dedicated professors, including some who are affiliated with CUGS. The curriculum of the Cities Program made me think critically about the integral role of cities in shaping society, and I found that I really liked the interdisciplinary nature of urban studies and the wide variety of topics that can be examined in an urban context. I declared my Public Policy and Law major this past semester but plan on declaring either a double major or a minor in Urban Studies.

I began working at CUGS in Fall 2013, helping with some research for an ongoing book project with the tentative title *Connecting to the City*. The book has an interdisciplinary focus and a wide scope in the cities studied and the approaches used to study them. It has been a very valuable and rewarding experience for me to contribute to this project in some way. It allows me to connect what I have learned in the urban classes to a faculty research project. I am looking forward to my continued work at the Center—I have learned so much and feel lucky to be able to explore such a dynamic and interesting field.



GLOBAL VANTAGE POINT LECTURE SERIES CENTER FOR URBAN AND GLOBAL STUDIES

EVENTS PAGE

Feb 18	<p>Global Dimension of Human-Wildlife Conflict in Northern Pakistan Shafqat Hussain, Assistant Professor of Anthropology Prof. Hussain looks at the issue of scale in conservation and argues that policies made at the global scale dominate and dictate conservation at the local scale.</p>
Mar 11	<p>Cape Town, Rome, and Hartford: Trauma and Art in Urban Spaces Annie Arnzen' 14, Zach Haines' 14, and Stephanie Clemente' 14, Student Researchers Annie: "Carrot, Egg, or Coffee?" – Studies narrative as a healing method for trauma victims in South Africa. Zach: "Art in the Age of Augustus" – Explores the state of art under Roman Emperor Augustus. Stephanie: "Fragmented Community" – Researches war and injury-related trauma among Iraqi refugees in CT.</p>
Mar 13	<p>Voices of Taraz: Urban Legacies of Soviet Multiculturalism in Kazakhstan Zhanara Nauruzbayeva, Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies Prof. Nauruzbayeva presents the collaborative, dialogical, and site-based art project by the Artpologist Collection in Taraz. The project explores questions of belonging by inviting local residents to recollect childhood memories of the city to create a narrative to an ethnically diverse Kazakhstan.</p>
Apr 1	<p>Vietnamese "Outsiders" and Chinese "Insiders" Tram Luong' 14 and Gaurav Toor' 14, Tanaka Grant Recipients Tram: This project explores the subjects of immigration, poverty, and development in Cambodia where war legacies and ethnic conflicts continue to wreak havoc on the lives of the Vietnamese "outsiders." Gaurav: The talk will present a picture of Chongqing residents, "insiders," in rural Chongqing immediately after Bo Xilai's purge from power in 2012.</p>
Apr 3	<p>Imposing Authority: Colonial Taiwan, Philippines, and the Paradox of State-Building Reo Matsuzaki, Assistant Professor of Political Science Through a comparative historical analysis of two "similar" cases, the Prof. Matsuzaki explores how factors commonly regarded as aiding foreign led state-building missions, such as committed institutional reformers and democratic accountability, hinder the formation of a modern state.</p>
Apr 22	<p>Ideological Spaces and Walking Policy in Tehran Abbas Kazemi, Visiting Scholar of Sociology Prof. Kazemi shows contradictory images of secularization and Islamization in the streets of Tehran. He explores the meaning of space in Tehran and the lived experiences of people.</p>
Apr 24	<p>What is the Value of a University? Isaac Kamola, Assistant Professor of Political Science Prof. Kamola explores the underlying tensions between the growing treatment of higher education as a market and the fact that there does not exist any satisfying metrics for determining the actual value of this "commodity."</p>

**COMMON HOUR (12.15-1.30PM) LECTURES
FIRST FLOOR AT 70 VERNON STREET
PIZZA LUNCH SERVED AND ALL ARE WELCOME**

For Students!!

Fellowships and Grants Deadlines

March

1 Junior Year Nomination: [Beinecke Scholarship](#)

April

Check Trinity Today
Via CUGS: [Levy Fund for Urban Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize](#)
Via CUGS: [Tanaka Student Research Grant](#)
Via CUGS: [Fudan University Summer Program](#)

- ◆ For information on **Fellowships**, contact [Anne Lundberg](#), Director, Fellowships and Special Projects
- ◆ For information on **CUGS Grants and Prizes**, contact [Rashana Lord](#), Student Program Coordinator, Center for Urban and Global Studies

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We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to everyone who contributed to this issue.

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