

Class of  
**2015**

## **Urban Studies Certificate Graduates**

**James “Cody” Kitchen, Architecture**

**Todd Kranenburg, Civil and Environmental Engineering**

**Brian Perlmutter, Sociology**

**Marya Rusak, Architecture**

**Kathryn Scott, Woodrow Wilson**

**Misha Semenov, Architecture**

**Aleksandra Taranov, Anthropology**

**Daphnée A. Warren, Sociology**

**Jiayan Yu, Woodrow Wilson School**

***Congratulations!***

**James “Cody” Kitchen**, a senior, Class of 2015. Cody is also a senior in the Urban Studies certificate program. Since entering Princeton, Kitchen was committed to the School of Architecture and spent the spring of his junior year at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. He spent the summer after his sophomore year working at the Plant, a former meat-packing factory turned urban vertical farm in Chicago, a type of innovative urban intervention strategy he hopes to mirror in his future. On campus, he spent three years working for the Student Design Agency and serves on the Outdoor Action Leader Trainer Committee. In his educational future, Kitchen plans to pursue both an M.Arch and an MBA.  
Advisor: Alejandro Zaera-Polo.

**Todd Kranenburg** is a senior in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department and certificate program in Urban Studies originally from Bronxville, NY. The focus of his studies has ranged from structural engineering and architecture to urban studies and disaster preparedness. Kranenburg’s independent work focuses on the topic of community resilience in the context of natural disasters, and particularly in the combination of physical and human approaches to understanding that resilience. A love for cycling and the outdoors led Kranenburg to spend his summers serving as a trip leader for Overland Summers, leading high school students on trips in the Canadian Rockies and across the United States. He is an active member and leader of Princeton’s Shere Khan A Cappella group and is very involved in intramural sports on campus.  
Advisor: Maria Garlock

**Brian Perlmutter** is a senior in the Sociology department from Montclair, NJ receiving a certificate in Urban Studies. After studying International Relations at the London School of Economics, Brian became involved in Urban Studies at Princeton through his participation in The Trenton Project, a Community-Based Learning Initiative in which students produced short films about housing and health services for the chronically homeless in Trenton. Since then, Brian has been involved in a wide range of CBLI opportunities: he has analyzed demographic data for Princeton Future; organized client interviews for Princeton’s Human Services Commission; designed a modular green roof for disaster relief housing; evaluated the costs and benefits of a student-designed, solar-powered refrigerator; and developed an after-school curriculum to spark children’s interest in computer science and engineering. While at Princeton, Brian has worked for the Pace Center for Civic Engagement, the Office of Information Technology, and Savory Spice Shop. Brian is a Peer Academic Advisor, Outdoor Action Leader, and CBLI Student Advisory Board Member. Most recently, Brian spoke on the “Cities as Neighborhoods” panel for the 100th Alumni Day.  
Advisor: Matthew Salganik

**Maryia Rusak** is a senior from Minsk, Belarus pursuing a degree at Princeton School of Architecture and certificates in Italian Language and Urban Studies. Maryia’s interest in architecture and urban environment developed early: theme of cities and complexities of cities’ representation was central to her final International Baccalaureate art exhibition during her studies at one of the United World Colleges in Norway. Fascinated with complexities of urban environments across the globe, Maryia continued her international endeavors. With a deep passion for Italian language and culture, in the summer of her freshman year Maryia studied at the University of Macerata situated in a medieval Italian town. She interned at CAMPO architecture office in Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil during the summer 2014, while conducting her independent interest research about urban protests and protesters’ interaction with built environment. She was also a participant of the summer Shanghai Seminar on Public History organized by Princeton University. During the summer of 2015 Maryia will be teaching a course for high-school students at the University of Hong-Kong on built environment and globalization. As a recipient of the Swedish Institute Scholarship, Rusak will be entering the Sustainable Urban Planning and Design program at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm this coming fall. Advisor: Christine M. Boyer.

**Kathryn Scott** is a senior in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, receiving a certificate in Urban Studies. Two summers ago, she worked with homeless youth in Los Angeles, which inspired the topic for her thesis. Last summer, she worked for an NGO in Singapore that helps foreign migrant workers attain financial independence and entrepreneurial knowledge. Her academic focus has been on housing policy, with her previous Junior Papers addressing public housing options for ex-offenders, and promoting low-income rental housing through foreclosure investment.  
Advisor: David Kinsey.

**Misha Semenov**, valedictorian of Princeton's Class of 2015 is a concentrator in Architecture obtaining certificates in Urban Studies and Translation & Intercultural Communication. Val Originally from San Francisco, Misha has long searched for a way to combine his passions for environmental action and social justice with his interest in architecture and urban planning. At Princeton, he has attempted to bridge these interests through his academic work—in research projects on urban agriculture, public space design, and sustainable architecture, as well as in socially-minded design studio work. On an extracurricular level, throughout his undergraduate career, he has engaged with campus sustainability initiatives, serving as co-president of Greening Princeton, chair of the Greening Dining Committee and member of the GreenLeaders forum. He has also taken advantage of Princeton’s many travel opportunities, spending a summer at Princeton in Beijing and doing thesis research in

Latin America with a fellowship from the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He is a recipient of the George B. Wood Legacy Sophomore Prize and the Class of 1939 Princeton Scholar Award, and twice received the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence. Next year, Misha is planning to begin a four-year, dual Master's program in Architecture and Environmental Management at Yale University. Advisor: Stan Allen.

**Aleksandra Taranov** has a diverse set of interests, ranging from food policy to dance scholarship. While at Princeton, she explored these through a major in Anthropology and certificates in Environmental Studies, Urban Studies, and Russian Literature. She received grants to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Eugene, Oregon on ecovillages and in Australia and New Zealand on public perceptions of genetically modified food. A winner of the Martin A. Dale '53 Summer Award, she spent the summer of 2013 studying traditional fiddle music across the country. In her free time, she loves playing the fiddle, blues dancing, and cooking veggies at her vegetarian co-op, 2D, with her fellow artichokes. She is a 2015 recipient of the High Meadows Fellowship and will work for a food justice non-profit in Cambridge, MA for the following two years. Advisor: Carol Greenhouse.

**Daphnée A. Warren** is a senior in the Sociology Department receiving an Urban Studies certificate. Outside of the classroom, she has spent most of her time dancing in one of Princeton's top dance companies on campus, B.A.C., having served as the Assistant Artistic Director of the group for one year and also filling roles such as Gear Chair, Choreographer and assisting the Costume Committee. For the summer of 2013, she spent six weeks in Ghana learning about African cities; she also studied abroad at the University of Cape Town in the spring of 2014, conducting the research for her Junior Paper, an update on the state of race relations in South Africa, while abroad. She is excited to be working in Goldman Sachs' Human Capital Management division post-graduation. Advisor: Kim L. Scheppele.

**Jiayan Yu**, is a senior in the Woodrow Wilson School pursuing a certificate in the Program in Urban Studies. Her research interests include rural-urban migration and international development, and she is particularly interested in exploring the intersection between migration policy and economic development. This year, she completed her senior thesis, *The Enclave Economy and Trajectories of Economic Mobility among Mexican Immigrants*, under advisor Professor Douglas S. Massey. After graduating this spring, she hopes to travel Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia before returning to New York City, where she will pursue public and social sector consulting. Advisor: Douglas S. Massey.