



## UAA News & Announcements

### Contents:

- [2013 Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award](#)
- [2013 Award for Best Article in the Journal of Urban Affairs \(articles in 2012 volume\)](#)
- [2013 Best Conference Paper Award \(for a paper presented at 2012 UAA Conference\)](#)
- [2013 Best Book Award](#)

### 2013 Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award

May 05, 2013 10:36 pm



Desiree Fields (Graduate Center-City Univ. of New York) accepts the 2013 Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award from Tom Vicino (Northeastern Univ.)

## Award recipient:

Desiree Fields (Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York)

## Award committee assessment:

Ms. Fields is a doctoral candidate in the Ph.D. Program in Environmental Psychology, and she is completing a dissertation entitled “Crisis Tectonics: How Housing Market Crises Reshape the Urban Landscape” (under Susan Saegert, David Harvey, and Kathe Newman). Since 2010, Ms. Fields has been a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Place Culture and Politics. She holds an M.Phil. in Environmental Psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York as well as a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Committee members note that Ms. Fields’ scholarly record demonstrates a “notable publication record and clearly defined research agenda for the ABD stage.” Likewise, “she has developed a high degree of expertise on the housing foreclosure crisis. Her research and collaborative work (particularly the publication record) is relatively extensive ... [and] she provides a macro perspective on the many facets of her research topics and will continue to be a productive scholar in this area.” Her work is theoretically strong, conceptions are robust, and her methods are novel and sophisticated. Specifically, the record includes 6 peer-reviewed articles, a book review, two book chapters, 3 white papers, and numerous conferences presentations. Even more impressive, the Committee notes that Ms. Fields is the recipient of the Best Article Award in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* in 2009 as well as the recipient of a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in the Geography and Spatial Science Program of the National Science Foundation. These are important—and rare—distinctions of excellence in the urban affairs field for any scholar, and it is especially noteworthy for a graduate student. In short, her scholarly contributions stand out above all other nominees.

Moreover, her nominator, Prof. Susan Saegert, notes that, “her activist credentials are equally strong. She has worked with the *Urban Homesteading Assistance Board* to provide materials for their anti-predatory lending campaign. She has participated in some of the *Occupy Foreclosure* actions in New York. She developed effective written, visual, and oral presentations for the New York State Legislature on the problem of predatory equity stripping and clarified for specific legislators how their districts were affected.” The Committee also notes Ms. Fields’ passion for social justice in cities and her record of community engagement. She serves the neighborhoods of East Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and South Bronx in advocating for community land trusts with the group *Picture the Homeless*.

The Committee agrees with her nominator that, “In my over 25 years of teaching and advising PhD students, Desiree stands out not only because of her obvious brilliance and productivity

but also because despite her youth she has attained a breadth of knowledge, research skills, habits of mind, discipline, and direction that are exceedingly rare among recent PhDs.” The Committee has no doubt that Alma Young would be proud of this emerging scholar. Her work not only honors the legacy of Alma Young, but it also establishes a new standard for what a commitment to urban affairs means.

Award committee:

Chair, Thomas J. Vicino, Northeastern University, Robin Boyle (Wayne State Univ.), Robert Collins (Dillard Univ.), Robert Silverman (Univ. at Buffalo), Adrienne Smith (Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville)

[Read More](#)

[Tweet](#)

[Like](#)

---

## 2013 Award for Best Article in the Journal of Urban Affairs (articles in 2012 volume)

May 05, 2013 10:23 pm



Alex Schwartz (New School Univ.)-on the left, presents 2013 Best Published Paper in the Journal of Urban Affairs Award to Paul Schumaker (Univ. of Kansas)

**Award recipients:**

"Ethics Matter: The Morality and Justice Principles of Elected City Officials & Impact of Urban Issues," by Paul Schumacher (Univ. of Kansas) and Marisa Kelly (Ithaca College), Volume 34, Issue 3.

### **Honorable Mention:**

"Listening Through White Ears: Cross-racial Dialogues as a Strategy to Address the Racial Effects of Gentrification," by Emily Drew (Williamette Univ.), Volume 34, Issue 1.

### **Award committee:**

Chair Alex Schwartz (New School Univ.), Bill Holt (Birmingham Southern College ), Stan Hyland (Univ. of Memphis ), Susan Saegert (Graduate Center, CUNY), and Anna Santiago (Case Western Reserve Univ.)

[Read More](#)



---

**2013 Best Conference Paper Award (for a paper presented at 2012 UAA Conference)**

May 05, 2013 10:20 pm



Jonathan Davies (DeMontfort Univ.-UK)-on the left, presents 2013 Best Conference Paper Award to Michael Leo Owens (Emory Univ.)

**Award recipient(s):**

Michael Leo Owens (Emory Univ.) and Jacob Robert Brown (London School of Economics and Political Science)

**Award committee assessment:**

In “Weakening Strong Black Political Empowerment: Implications from Atlanta’s 2009 Mayoral Election”, Owens and Brown have made a powerful and nuanced contribution to our understandings of black empowerment and the factors potentially eroding the basis of black political leadership in Atlanta, and indeed other cities in America. This topical paper casts a light on the relationship between citizen participation and voting trends, while digging into the political impacts of gentrification, mass incarceration, outward migration and planning policy. The paper conveys a complex story with a lightness of touch, which is sure to see it read widely in the urban studies, planning and political science communities, as well as by activists and practitioners concerned with the political economies of racial exclusion and justice.

### **Award committee:**

Chair Jonathan S. Davies (DeMontfort Univ.-UK) Kimberly Nelson (Northern Illinois Univ.),  
Julia Nevarez (Kean Univ.), Jessica Varner, Gerard Wellman (California State Univ.-  
Stanislaus)

[Read More](#)



---

## 2013 Best Book Award

May 05, 2013 10:13 pm



Katrin Anacker (George Mason University) presents 2013 Best Book Award to Rachel Woldoff (West Virginia Univ.)

### **Award recipient(s):**

Rachel Woldoff (West Virginia Univ.)

### **Award committee assessment:**

Rachael Woldoff's *White Flight/Black Flight* makes an important contribution to the field's understanding of neighborhood transformation. Her ethnographic approach, with more than 90

expansive personal interviews conducted over three years, gives voice to neighborhood residents—elderly whites, pioneer blacks, and second-wave black arrivals. The result is a nuanced portrait of a neighborhood suffering a downward trajectory that differs in important ways from more conventional analyses that have focused on black-white hostilities. Woldoff recognizes the role played by prejudice and white flight. But her research reveals previously overlooked elements of health in transition neighborhoods, including patterns of respect, neighborliness, mutual assistance, and friendships across racial and generational lines.

Woldoff also documents intragroup tensions, tensions, for instance, between the elderly white stayers and their adult children who beg them to leave. She further describes the tensions that result from cross-cutting class and racial identities, observing how the social distance between black pioneers and second-wave black arrivals has increased the pressures underlying black flight. Her work reveals a continuing clash in perspectives between African-Americans who value living in a racially integrated community and those who have come to accept the realities of class as well as racial segregation.

Woldoff weaves a story that moves fluently between broader theoretical concerns and the specifics of people's lives. She also raises important questions of public policy, especially regarding the detrimental impact that seemingly beneficent school and housing policies have had on neighborhoods experiencing class and racial transformation.

Rachael Woldoff has written a highly readable book that also meets academic standards and yields new insights into the process of neighborhood transition.

### **Award committee:**

Chair Cynthia Horan (Yale Univ.), Katrin Anacker (George Mason Univ.), Tia Gaynor-Rouse (Marist College), Myron Levine (Wright State Univ.), Kathe Newman (Rutgers Univ.), and Annette Steinacker (Loyola Univ. Chicago)

[Read More](#)



---

### **Recent Posts**

[Governing Board Nominations Sought / Election Schedule Set](#)

[Best Book in Urban Affairs Award Nominations Due November 1, 2012](#)

[Emerging Scholar Award Nominations Due November 15, 2012](#)

[44th Conference will be held in San Antonio](#)

[43rd Conference will be held in San Francisco](#)

*Copyright © 2013 Urban Affairs Association, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email, because you opted to receive email content alerts via the Urban Affairs Association web site.

**Phone number:**

Urban Affairs Association  
(414) 229-3025

**Mailing address:**

Urban Affairs Association  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413