

XUEZHU “GILLIAN” ZHAO

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Master of City Planning Candidate, Concentration in Smart Cities

Philadelphia PA, U.S.A.
Expected: Sep 2020 - May 2022

- Weitzman Departmental Scholarship, 2020-2022

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning

Urbana IL, U.S.A.
Sep 2016 - May 2020

- Minor in Informatics; Certification in Leadership
- GPA: 3.98/4.00; top 3% of graduating class
- Outstanding Junior Award (Top 1% with outstanding academic performance and extracurricular involvement)
- James Scholar Program (Recognition for those who developed independent knowledge for their future career)

Relevant Coursework

- Learned real estate finance, appraisal, investment, law, brokerage, management, development, and economics in a Fundamentals of Real Estate course
- Assembled a Development Plan which won first place in a Land Development Process course
- Proposed a strategic plan prioritizing business viability and urban design to prepare a regional commercial center for possible downturn of big-box retail in a Land Use Planning Workshop
- Developed an R program to efficiently identify an urban area that best matches one's socioeconomic background in an R Programming for GIS course
- Learning advanced spatial analysis to understand how to allocate limited resource in a Public Policy Analytics course

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

Planning Intern

Urbana IL, U.S.A.
Jan 2010 – April 2020

- Assisted with planning projects including the Champaign County Transportation Plan and Census Outreach events
- Created location maps, land use maps, and traffic crashes maps for all townships within the County
- Visualized demographic data and produced accessible factsheets through InDesign
- Informed and educated residents about the 2020 Census and assisted them in completing the Census questionnaire

Data Collection Intern

Oct 2019 – Dec 2019

- Collected and analyzed field data on their compliance of sidewalk network features with Americans with Disabilities Act
- Recorded traffic usage for the Urbana Kickapoo Rail Trail Extension Study
- Examined agency's website development and made corrections for accuracy on WordPress

Safe Routes Program/Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

Safe Routes to Parks Program Intern

Urbana IL, U.S.A.
May 2019 – Jul 2019

- Piloted the program to improve health conditions and the well-being of the community
- Conducted audits for community residents to walk to 2 neighborhood parks in collaboration with 11 volunteers
- Collected and analyzed data to generate reports documenting areas of improvement such as overgrown landscapes, cracked sidewalks, and inappropriate driving behavior
- Produced interactive Google MyMaps to document conditions and infrastructure of walking routes
- Presented updated results to boards and commissions including Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, Urbana Park District, and the Healthy Champaign County Board

China Daily

Journalism Intern, Economics and Business Department

Beijing, China
Jun 2018 – Jul 2018

- Researched topics related to planning and development in China
- Investigated current impact of economic reforms in Beijing's Economic and Technical Development Area at a two-day press conference
- Edited information collected from China Gold Expo and drafted articles regarding industries' social responsibility towards sustainability
- Interviewed the Chief Information Officer of China Energy Net Consulting, on Chinese-African renewable energy cooperation

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Software: Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS, QGIS, Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, R, python, SketchUp
- Language: Native Mandarin Chinese speaker with fluent English