NewsBytes: Spring 2012

With winter classes over and summer courses yet to begin, SCARP students have scattered themselves to the breezes like so many seeds. They’re in China, Costa Rica, Bella Bella, Mexico and other intriguing corners of the world enjoying new work experiences and learning opportunities, and, in some cases, just taking a break from the classroom. Some have gone ‘back home’ for the summer, while others will spend the warm months here on the West Coast discovering why residents tolerate the long rainy winters.

This issue of NewsBytes will bring you up to speed on all that’s happened in SCARPland over the past few months, from new developments on the introduction of an Indigenous Community Planning specialization, to cool class projects that have come to fruition. Enjoy the sunshine and we’ll see you in the fall for another edition of SCARP NewsBytes.

Somewhere in this photo of SCARP students on their reading break trip to Portland lies a metaphor about how good urban planning is a lot like playing chess. Now, track down one of the students that was there and ask them to explain the connection. See page 3 for more on the great Portland adventure.

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Indigenous Planning Specialization Gains Momentum

by Leonie Sandercock

SCARP faculty began to work on an Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) curriculum initiative in 2010, in recognition of a number of important changes in the planning landscape in B.C. and beyond: from the Treaty process, to the federally mandated duty to consult with First Nations, to the growing demand from First Nations themselves for a comprehensive or holistic approach to community planning.

One of our first principles was the need to work collaboratively with First Nations in the design, development and delivery of any such curriculum. Thus, in the spring of 2011 Leonie Sandercock, representing SCARP, started a conversation with Leona Sparrow, Dianne Sparrow, Larissa Grant and Mary Point, of the Musqueam First Nation’s Treaty, Lands and Resources Department, about the possibility of collaboration on a curriculum initiative in Indigenous Community Planning within SCARP’s Masters degree in Planning.

An advisory committee was assembled soon after, comprising Leona Sparrow, Dianne Sparrow and Larissa Grant, Patrick Stewart (Nisga’a), Kamala Todd (Cree-Metis), Lyana Patrick (Carrier), Michael Anhorn, Jeff Cook, Will Trousdale, Nathan Edelson, Juliet van Vliet, Aftab Erfan, and Leonie Sandercock as Chair. The Musqueam team agreed to work on the committee in the co-design of the curriculum, but emphasized that their involvement needed to go before the UBC-Musqueam Development Committee, as per the MOA between the Musqueam Nation and UBC, and then before Chief and Council for Band approval. Professor Linc Kesler, senior advisor to the President of UBC for Aboriginal strategy, has supported this initiative from the outset, and he briefed the UBC-Musqueam Development Committee, which is supportive of the initiative as developed thus far.

The advisory committee worked through the summer of 2011 and designed a five-course core curriculum, building on three existing SCARP courses (Cross-cultural Planning; Strategic Planning for Sustainable Community Economic Development; and Sustainability, Planning, and Governance Approaches to Whole Region Change) and creating two new courses (Aboriginal Law and Governance; and Indigenous Community Planning: Ways of Being, Knowing, and Doing). In addition, we designed a practicum in which students will work with and in a First Nation community for half of the second year of their program to engage in land-based and community-based learning.

We successfully applied to the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. for five years funding for the new curriculum, specifically to hire a practitioner to teach the practicum component of the program ($316,582 over five years). In applying for this grant, we secured 19 letters of support for the curriculum, including letters from federal and provincial ministries, the Canadian Institute of Planners, various municipalities across B.C. and the Yukon, half-a-dozen B.C. First Nations and one from the Yukon, not to mention past and present SCARP students.

We are delighted that Jeff Cook, principal of Beringia Community Planning, has accepted appointment as the practitioner that will lead the practicum component. Jeff, a former SCARP graduate, has worked for 20 years with/in First Nations communities in B.C., the Yukon and Northwest Territories and was also recently appointed as Chair of the CIP’s Indigenous Planning Committee.

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Over the February reading break, 16 first-year SCARPies headed south to Oregon for the third annual UBC planning students trip to Portland. The group set up shop in an old Victorian, located in the heart of the inner-city between the long-established Northwest neighborhood and the widely-lauded Pearl District, a former industrial and railyard area that has become the poster child for successful urban redevelopment in America.

During the trip, students spent a day meeting with Mia Birk, a principal and founder at Alta Planning and a key player in Portland’s charge to the top of many North American bicycling indexes through her previous work for the city. Students were treated to an hour-long presentation in Alta’s restored turn-of-the-century office on the east side of the Willamette River, which tracked the evolution of the bicycling movement in Portland and the growing momentum of cyclists nationwide.

Following the presentation, the SCARPies gorged themselves with a hearty Lebanese meal at Nicholas’, an old standby of the Inner Eastside, before making their way over to the Eastbank Esplanade, an innovative public space carved out along the riverside between the Willamette and the I-5 freeway. From the floating gangway the group headed into the Eastside neighborhoods of Belmont and Hawthorne, walking through the streets before setting up shop at the Baghdad Theater, one of the city’s many theaterpubs, to sample some local beers.

The next day was filled with activities with the City of Portland’s planning department, beginning in the morning with an overview of Portland’s planning background and evolution through the modernist era of the ‘60s and ‘70s up to the present. SCARP students were treated to a walking tour of the downtown core, traveling through the various layers of planning history in the city while being guided past Pioneer Courthouse Square, the city’s main plaza, to Waterfront Park, a former freeway, and into Chinatown before finishing in the Pearl District. Lunch was taken at one of the many food cart pods that occupy parking lot space in downtown Portland, followed by a quick run to Voodoo Donuts before returning to the City offices to hear presentations on food systems, neighborhood infill efforts, and industrial lands policy. The final activity of the day was a tour with city planners of the newly-created South Waterfront district, a brownfield site being redeveloped using sustainable principles and the point-tower model of Vancouver. With rain starting to break up the good weather, SCARPies departed Portland to head back north to Canada after a successful and informative trip.

“The highlight of our trip was the opportunity to hear firsthand from city leaders how Portland has sought to address some of its biggest planning issues, from containing sprawl and supporting strategic urban growth to the development of extensive bike-friendly infrastructure to the revitalization of the formerly-industrial Pearl District,” said SCARP student Autumn Lotze. “Our meetings with the Portland planners gave us plenty of food for thought on the journey back, not the least of which is how to get Portland-style food trucks out to UBC’s campus and how to get ourselves back to Portland again next year.”
SCARP PhD student Lyana Patrick recently won a coveted Vanier Scholarship for her research around addictions and mental health, specifically how to create cultural safety for indigenous peoples in health care planning. Vanier Scholarships are awarded to scholars whose “ideas spark the creation of new products, services and policies that support Canada’s economic competitiveness, strengthen social foundations, sustain the environment and improve our quality of life,” according to the Government of Canada.

Valued at $50,000 a year for three years, competition for the Vaniers is understandably stiff. “Lyana Patrick’s winning of a Vanier Scholarship is a testament to the excellence of her research proposal and the confidence of the adjudicating committee that her work will lead to important outcomes,” said SCARP Director Penny Gurstein. “We should all be proud of Lyana’s accomplishment and how it reflects on the caliber of SCARP’s students.”

Of her Vanier victory, Patrick had this to say: “It’s a tremendous honour to win a Vanier Scholarship and I’m humbled by this recognition. It inspires me to do my best, gives me the freedom to pursue my research and lifts a financial weight from my mind, which is incredibly helpful as I have a young child. SCARP is a great place to pursue this research as planning allows for a holistic perspective on healing from addictions which is extremely important for Indigenous peoples and communities.”

Meanwhile, SCARP’s resident urban design professor Maged Senbel was recently honoured with a UBC Killam Graduate Teaching Prize for 2011/12 for “excellent graduate-level teaching.” In a message of thanks, Senbel wrote, “It is my students, whose outstanding work and dedication has rippled outside the classroom, who deserve this award. They inspire me daily and make it an absolute pleasure to teach.” “Thank you to everyone who contributed to my nomination and a special thank you to Sarah Church, James White and Devon Miller for the many hours spent on my nomination submission,” he continued. “I am deeply, deeply honoured.”

Adding to his already lengthy list of honours, recently-retired SCARP professor emeritus Bill Rees received an honorary doctorate from Laval University. (see page 8 for photo).

Rees’ name also appeared recently on the Post-Growth Institute’s EnRich List of important sustainability thinkers along with SCARP PhD alum Mathis Wackernagel.

Two SCARP professors will bid farewell to the world of faculty meetings and pesky students for the coming year, with Dr. Nora Angeles scheduled for study leave from

### Congratulations to SCARP’s 2012 Spring Graduates

**Masters**

- Ellen Bird
- Zsuzsanna Fodor
- Yazmin Hernandez Banuelas
- Chani Joseph
- Jane Koh
- Alisha Mody

**PhD**

- Sam Mohamad-Khany
- Jessica Shoubridge
- Julie Tran
- Wendy Tse
- Sylvia Vilches

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A class project in last semester’s PLAN 548R class with Jon Frantz underscored the growing role of multimedia in community planning initiatives. This assignment saw students work in partnership with stakeholders from the South Vancouver Seniors Hub, a virtual information system that helps connect seniors in South Vancouver to the activities they want to do and the services they want to access. Students worked with the Hub to prepare for its March 29 launch, an event with two objectives, according to Seniors Hub Coordinator Joan Wright. The first goal was to link the resources of the five participating organizations to promote a common philosophy of respect and mutual learning. The second goal was to educate participants on cultural differences and practices, with the expectation that participants would gain a broader perspective on the cultural mosaic that makes up their communities. SCARP students’ role in this process was to develop a series of digital stories and videos to help the Hub reach out to its member organizations, clients and the broader community. The content of the digital projects was determined through meetings with Hub staff, the Vancouver Parks Board, community centres, and with seniors in South Vancouver. Then, taking a collaborative approach with Hub staff and the participating seniors, the class set out to create eight digital stories and four digital videos. The digital stories and videos will soon be posted to the South Van Seniors Hub website (www.theseniorshub.org) to inform seniors and other citizens about the needs of their neighbours and how the Hub can help meet those needs. “It was an honour to work with each project. To have their video launched into the blogosphere by Spacing Vancouver is a great compliment and an exciting way of bringing SCARP work to wider urbanist circles. Congratulations to Yazmín, Daniel and Kevin!”

Larry Beasley’s 548P class on the practice of planning. Groups were each assigned a different public space across the city and set out to take the pulse of our various spaces, ponder what works and what doesn’t work, and present an analysis to the class. As a graduating student I am really going to miss these ‘presentation days,’ when groups arrive with amazing creative interpretations that help push our understandings further.

Seniors Hub Taps SCARP Media Savvy

Is Park Place a missed opportunity in the realm of Vancouver’s public spaces? Several SCARP students think so.
The support of SCARP faculty was secured in October to integrate this into our Masters program as a new specialization, starting Fall 2012. Together with Musqueam, SCARP organised and co-hosted a one-day ‘teach-in’ titled “Revitalizing Planning: The Indigenous Challenge” at the UBC Longhouse. The November event was attended by 45 professionals and community members and 70 students. Musqueam planners gave one of the two keynote addresses that day, discussing their own award-winning comprehensive community planning process. Other presenters included Andrew Bak from Tsawwassen First Nation, Chris Derickson from Westbank First Nation, and Darlene Johnston, a UBC law professor and member of the Anishinabe Nation. Wade Grant from Musqueam Band Council welcomed everyone at the beginning of the day, and brought along his small son to help him with the closing ceremony. Musqueam storyteller Hen-}

**PLAN 548V Takes it Downtown for Urbanpalooza 2.0!**

by Jacopo Miro

S CARP students enrolled in a class exploring Vancouver as an urban planning laboratory recently took to the podium at downtown’s W2 Media Cafe to share the ideas they’d been developing. Some of the themes up for discussion that evening included heritage and housing, creative economies, the fate of industrial lands in the City of Vancouver, housing affordability and immigrant families, sustainability, and gentrification. The public event was held courtesy of the W2 Media Cafe, an outstanding media arts lab located in the atrium of the refurbished Woodward’s building. These presentations were the culmina- tion of the very successful Planning 548V: Vancouver Laboratory, taught under the supervision of Dr. Tom Hutton and Eileen Keenan

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School of Community and Regional Planning UBC

have met with the B.C. regional office of the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to explain our curriculum and discuss collaboration in connecting with First Nations communities who are interested in beginning comprehensive community planning processes. As spreads about our initiative we are being approached by B.C. First Nations for assistance, as well as by the Capital Regional District in Victoria, which, in reviewing its Strategic Plan, wants to develop a new community engagement process with First Nations.

In thinking through how to offer this new curriculum in the most culturally appropriate ways, we want to involve Elders in the classroom, as well as Musqueam planners and members of other Lower Mainland First Nations (such as the Tsawwassen, Tsleil Waututh, and Squamish). Since we needed to raise extra funds to pay honoraria to all of these folks as guest lecturers and mentors, as well as offering honoraria to First Nations for hosting internships in their band offices, we put in an application to UBC’s Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) for funding, to assist with the implementation of the new curriculum. In this endeavour we were successful at getting $47,000. Some of this funding will also be used to offset the cost of student travel for their practicums.

In the meantime, in February 2012, Musqueam Chief and Council officially approved Musqueam’s participation as formal partners in the design, recruiting and delivery of the new curriculum. And SCARP faculty passed an identical motion of support.

Gerry Oldman has accepted the invitation to be our Elder in Residence, co-teaching Indigenous Community Planning with Leonie, and being a mentor for students in the ICP program. Gerry is a former Chief of the Statliam Nation and community workshop organizer/healer for the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society.

The final piece of this long planning process is the actual recruitment of students. Now that we have ‘built it,’ will they come? We had very little time to get word out about the new specialization in the Fall for the December 1 student application deadline, but our advisory committee members were really helpful in using their connections to spread the word. Ultimately, we received 19 applications and offered admission to seven students (four of whom are

Summer Courses 2012

- PLAN 503 (3 credits): Strategic Planning for Sustainable Community Economic Development with EcoPlan Canada president William Trousdale
- PLAN 545 (3 credits): Field Study Course in Costa Rica on Land Use Planning with SCARP professor Dr. Tim McDaniels.
- PLAN 548Z (1 credit): Food Systems Policy and Planning with City of Vancouver Food Systems Planner Wendy Mendes.
- PLAN 583 (3 credits): Housing Policy with City of Vancouver senior planner Michael Gordon.

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SCARP professor emeritus Bill Rees, left, and Universite Laval Rector Denis Briere ponder the comforts of a good robe as Rees is presented with his honourary doctorate.

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, and Dr. Penny Gurstein is heading off on administrative leave, also from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

For those students graduating this Spring, or for those who just want to wish their friends well as they say adieu to SCARP, the school’s Spring graduation reception is scheduled for May 29 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at our beloved WMAX 150.

Money Raised, Pinatas Smashed at St. Patrick’s Day Bash

SCARP professor emeritus Bill Rees, left, and Universite Laval Rector Denis Briere ponder the comforts of a good robe as Rees is presented with his honourary doctorate. Back in March, SCARP’s Planning Students Association hosted a St. Patrick’s Day fund-raising party. As these pictures demonstrate, it was awesome. Top left: Tamara White, Rosa Shih and Katie O’Callaghan take a moment out from sling-ing drinks. Top right: Things got a little testy when Josh Taylor, Tamara White and Zak Bennett started debating development cost charges (or maybe this is just when the whiskey ran out). Bottom left: As George Poulos knows, it just wouldn’t be St. Patrick’s Day without smashing the traditional Irish pinata. George 1, Pinata O.

Indigenous). In what is a first for SCARP’s admissions process, all seven students accepted the offer within a week. Four current first-years have also decided to transition into the program in their second year, so we will have 11 students building our ICP community.

No doubt there will be many challenges in the years ahead, but all involved remain truly excited about what this new specialization means for SCARP and for Indigenous Community Planning in British Columbia and beyond.

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with SCARP on the Hub Launch digital recordings,” said the Hub’s Joan Wright. “The seniors who participated in the digital stories were delighted with the experience of sharing their stories as well as with the outcome of the stories. One senior, Esther, remarked that she had sent her digital story to all of her relatives and they were so excited to see her so involved in her community. It was certainly a boost to the Seniors Hub. On behalf of the Seniors Council and the Seniors Hub partners, we are so grateful for Jon’s students’ thoughtful and creative work.”

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