Welcome to the Fall 2012 Edition of NewsBytes!

Longhouse Introduction at Musqueam
Sandy Miller, MScP Candidate, ICP specialization

Friendly introductions, wind-dried salmon, important history lessons, and USB-drive time capsules.

These are just a few of the gifts that greeted the School of Community and Regional Planning’s incoming 2014 class at the Musqueam First Nation reserve during orientation week this September. Our class and members of the school’s faculty were invited on behalf of the Musqueam community for a welcoming feast and an introduction to their members, history, and culture. As a particularly special and rare experience (at least for UBC students), we were honoured to sit in their Longhouse and listen to stories and experiences of Musqueam community leader Howard Grant.

This reception marked the foundation and fostering of a new relationship between SCARP and Musqueam, with the development of the new Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) specialization. The specialization, under the guidance of Dr. Leonie Sandercock, welcomed its first cohort of new students this year - students who

Table of Contents
Longhouse Introduction at Musqueam . . . . . . . . . . . . 1
PSA Orientation Week . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2
Real Estate Foundation of BC Funding . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
About the ICP Specialization . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
PhD Student Approaches Aboriginal Health . . . . . . . . . . 4
Riverview - The Perfect Planning Case Study? . . . . . . . . 5
Beyond Downtown - Save the Date! . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7
Update on M.Plan. Proposal . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8
Social Purpose Real Estate . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 9
Vancouver’s CityPlan + 20 Years . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10
Awards & Recognition . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10
Lunchtime Lectures . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 11
Fall 2012 Graduates . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 11
PIBC Student Social . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 14
Public Transit: Lessons from Great Cities . . . . . . . . . . . 14

Photo: Lyana Patrick
First-year ICP students Dakota Brant, Spencer Lindsay, Stephen McGlenn (back row), Sandy Miller, Melanie Harding, and Wilson Mendes (front row).
will have a chance to learn from and work alongside Musqueam community leaders Wade Grant, Larissa Grant, Leona Sparrow, and Dianne Sparrow, among others.

As UBC students here in Vancouver, we have an opportunity to enjoy a range of beautiful locations, not limited to Stanley Park, Whistler, Granville Island, and Gastown; however, it’s important that we recognize and appreciate the value of the traditional Musqueam territory upon which our university is established. The Musqueam First Nation has a history of generosity towards UBC, and each of us who had the chance to attend this very special event expressed our sincerest gratitude in return. To cap off the evening, each student was given a gift in the form of a USB flash drive containing a documentary, images, and the official Musqueam, a Living Culture e-book which was created by the Musqueam people as a reference guide to interpreting and representing Musqueam culture.

The ICP and other SCARP students wish to thank the Musqueam community for their hospitality and we look forward to the continued learning and friendship from Musqueam as we embark on this new journey together, here in British Columbia and beyond.

was the time spent together in Whistler! We took full advantage of the hot and sunny weather, spending hours at Alta Lake, enjoying a delicious BBQ dinner, and dancing the night away in Whistler Village. Fun and games aside, SCARP students also had the pleasure of learning from Marla Zucht, General Manager for the Whistler Housing Authority, who gave us an informative presentation on the variety of successful housing plans and affordability strategies implemented in Whistler.

The Orientation Coordinators would like to thank the second year SCARPies who came up to Whistler to lend a hand, and the new SCARP class for making this week a memorable one.

Photos: Megan Ahearn (left), Robert White (right)
SCARP Receives Real Estate Foundation of BC Funding
Karen Zeller, Acting Administrator

SCARP has been fortunate to receive funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, a non-profit corporation regulated by the Real Estate Services Act, for two proposals:

• In the fall of 2011, the Foundation awarded up to $316,723 for SCARP to hire a part-time instructor for its new Indigenous Planning Program from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017. Jeff Cook was hired in July as the Real Estate Foundation of BC Practitioner Instructor in Indigenous Community Planning.
• On October 2, 2012, up to $11,060 was awarded for activities related to a two-week youth media project titled “Housing Dialogues and Culture Jam: Connecting community and academy through digital storytelling.” This project brings together youth, established community-engaged artists, and academic experts to collectively consider the issues of housing affordability, adequacy, and accessibility in the City of Vancouver. The focus is the artistic and substantive engagement of youth media producers with critical housing issues in Vancouver.

From 1988 to 2011, the Real Estate Foundation approved more than 1600 grants totaling over $60 million in communities throughout BC. In 2011 the Foundation Governors approved 59 grants totalling $2.7 million.

About the Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) Specialization
Dr. Leonie Sandercock, Professor

This fall, SCARP introduced and welcomed seven students into the new ICP specialization, which is designed to attract Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who want to work with/in Indigenous communities to empower those communities with the necessary skills, capacity and knowledge to achieve their own aspirations for land stewardship, cultural revitalization, strong governance, health and wellbeing.

After joining SCARP in July, Jeff Cook immediately began to work one-on-one with the four first years transitioning into the ICP program in their 2nd year. As of October, Jeff’s discussions and negotiations with over 20 First Nations throughout BC to inquire about their willingness to accept our students in a mutual learning Practicum situation has resulted in agreements with the Gitxsan and Haida Gwaii Nations to accept two students each, over a period of 9 months.

We also were able to hire Gerry Oleman as our Elder in Residence, and Crystal Reeves to teach the new course ‘Indigenous Law and Governance’, thanks to funding from the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund. Gerry is a former Chief, now Elder, of the Statliam Nation, and former Community Workshop Coordinator for

Continued on page 4
PhD Student Approaches Aboriginal Health from Community Planning Perspective
Faculty of Applied Science Spotlight

Lyana Patrick thought she wanted to be a doctor so she could help people with health issues. However, that was prior to meeting Dr. Leonie Sandercock, a UBC School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) professor, who encouraged her to pursue a Ph.D. in community planning.

Seeing the connections

A member of the Stellat’en First Nation, Patrick has an undergraduate degree in history and creative writing and a master’s in Indigenous Governance, but hadn’t considered community planning as a way to influence health care – until she realised it offered a unique approach to solving issues important to her.

“I have often struggled to see how things are not connected,” she says. “I felt like [community planning] might be a welcome home for the many different strands of research that interest me. For example the intergenerational impact of residential schools on Aboriginal communities is a huge health concern. Understanding why requires understanding where we have come from. Planning encourages [a deeper understanding] because it integrates so many aspects of living.”

Patrick’s PhD focuses on the intricate and interrelated nature of social problems such as addictions and mental health in Aboriginal communities.

For her dissertation, Patrick will be conducting interviews with residents, as well as health care, policy and front line workers of the Downtown Eastside and greater Vancouver area, to better understand the conditions for Indigenous peoples living with addictions and mental health problems. While still in the early stages of her research, she hopes to contribute to a model for better-informed urban planning, as well as more effective delivery of health care in regards to addictions and mental health in Indigenous communities.

Planning for change

“Planning, some people argue is about land use, infrastructure, transit, all sorts of things,” says Patrick. “But in First Nation’s communities, you can change the entire infrastructure, but unless you deal with health inequities, unless you look at the historical experiences of trauma, the Indian residential school system, and all subsequent things like disconnection from culture and each other, unless those issues are addressed, it will be difficult to create long-lasting change in communities.”

Creating health and healing services for people of a wide variety of cultures and Indigenous backgrounds and experiences is problematic, Patrick admits. In terms of mental health and addiction, she finds treatment is often given for an individual illness. Although mental health and addiction often go hand in hand, rarely are the two treated together.

Continued on page 12
Riverview - The Perfect Planning Case Study?
Torill Gillespie, MSc Planning Candidate

"You have to see Riverview to really understand it".

When SCARP grad Theresa Fresco and I met this summer to ‘talk about Riverview’ this is what we decided. The future of this remarkable site – special to both of us since childhood – has been hanging in the balance for decades, but with the closure of the last remaining mental health care beds on the site this August, the threat of the sale of all or part of the Riverview Lands (the Lands) for development purposes has intensified. Although this possibility is alarming to us on personal levels, the implications are even greater. As a planner and a future planner, we’re disappointed that the Lands, with their enormous historical, social, and ecological significance could fall to this fate rather than serving what we think could be its highest and best purpose – a sanctuary in a busy world; a place of healing for the mentally ill, a site for relaxation for all visitors to the publically-owned and open site, a refuge and link in a green chain for local flora and fauna, and a place to remember our history (both the positive and negative parts).

We decided that Riverview, with all its complexity and potential, might just be the perfect planning case study, so we decided to do our best to share it with our colleagues at SCARP. The best way to do this was to go there.

On September 15th, 2012 about a dozen SCARP students made their way out to the Riverview Lands in Coquitlam. The 19th annual Treefest community celebration also took place this day, so we joined in the fun and then convened afterwards for a special panel discussion on the past, present, and future of the Riverview lands from the perspectives of five experts on different aspects on the Lands.

The group started this sunny, warm day by traipsing across the core of the lands in a tour led by botanist (and Associate Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden) Douglas Justice. Along with about 130 other tour participants, we checked out examples of the extensive collection of temperate climate

Continued on page 6
tree specimens. We admired giant Ginkgos, gazed up at towering Silver Lindens, stood under the enveloping branches of a massive Weeping Beech, and learned about the history these trees – part of the first botanical garden in Western Canada, designed in the early 1900’s to resemble an old country estate when mature. The deep, naturally irrigated soils on the southeast-facing slope help the trees planted here over the past 100 years to grow quickly, reaching heights and health not seen in other locations.

We next joined conservation consultant Donald Luxton (Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.) on a tour of the heritage buildings on the Lands. For decades, the buildings on the Lands supported a self-sufficient mental health care community. Large, brick, neo-classical institutional buildings, newer institutional buildings, small residences, a community centre, a fire hall and more, dot the Lands, giving it a campus feel and serving as reminders of the complete community that once called Riverview home.

We stood outside West Lawn (originally the Male Chronic Building) and considered the effects that nearly 30 years of abandonment have had on this grand building, opened in 1913. Despite its current state, with roof tiles missing and ferns and moss lining the balconies and windows, Donald Luxton thinks that it’s not past hope. West Lawn and the buildings like it at Riverview would be expensive to restore, modernize, and seismically upgrade, but this cost would likely be less than starting over, especially given the finishing detail and architectural quality of the buildings. Not all of the structures on the Lands have declined to the state of West Lawn – some are only a few decades old, others have been recently renovated, and some of the approximately 1.5 million square feet of useable space in the remaining buildings is currently leased out.

After our tours, we wandered up to Finnie’s Garden, my favourite place at Riverview. Originally a therapeutic garden for patients, Finnie’s went through a period of decline in the second half of the 20th century, but for the past 20 years has been lovingly restored by dedicated volunteers. At Finnie’s, five speakers shared with us their knowledge of different aspects of Riverview and their hopes for the future of the Lands. Sue Haberger and Norma Gillespie from the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society told us about their two decade-long struggle to see the Lands preserved for the future; local environmentalist, activist, and writer Dr. Elaine Golds shared with us some of the ecological importance of the Lands; SCARP

Continued on page 7
grad and City of Coquitlam planner Andrew Merrill provided us with a planning perspective and filled us in on the City’s goals for the Lands; and Beata Zaleska, Program Director at Coast Mental Health, reflected on mental health treatment of the past, current trends, and the role she sees for Riverview as the ideal setting for providing 21st century treatments and approaches to mental health and addiction.

It was during this informative and interactive panel that everything began to come together. The importance of the Riverview Lands is not in the trees, the heritage buildings, the role it plays as an important link in a green chain connecting Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, and Port Moody, or in its history and future potential as a mental health facility – it’s all of these things. As Elaine Golds told us, Riverview is a place where “environmentalists become mental health care advocates”. It’s a place where mental health care providers see the possibility for progressive and healing treatment in a beautiful environment; a place where planners can dream of economically viable ways to preserve the Lands in service to local people. It’s a place that is so much more than the sum of its parts. It’s the perfect planning case study and I hope that if you’re intrigued, you’ll take some time to learn about the Lands (start with http://www.rhcs.org/ & http://www.coquitlam.ca/planning-and-development/resources/heritage/riverview.aspx); better yet, head out to Coquitlam and see this amazing place first-hand. Theresa and I hope that you’ll be as inspired and motivated to protect the Riverview Lands for the future as we are – Riverview is a truly a special place, a sanctuary in a busy world that should be protected as a remembrance of the past and for its unlimited potential in the future.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to everyone who took the time to speak with us. You made our day at Riverview last month such a memorable one.

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**Beyond Downtown – Save the Date!**
Robert White, MSc Planning Student

Planning for the 2013 SCARP Student Symposium is well underway, with students working diligently to ensure the symposium legacy continues for another year. On **February 8, 2013**, the PSA will present “Beyond Downtown & Outside the Box”, with panels covering a range of topics relevant to regional and rural locations including Community Health & Mobility, Design, Equity, and Engagement. Keynote speakers will include Ellen Dunham-Jones, award-winning architect and co-author of ‘Retrofitting Suburbia’, and Patrick Stewart, the first architect of First Nations ancestry in BC to own and operate an architectural firm in BC, and the chair of Vancouver’s Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee. For details, visit ScarpSymposium.ca.
Update on SCARP’s Proposal for a Master of Planning Degree Program
Stephanie E. Chang, Interim Director

Dear SCARP community,

I’d like to take this opportunity to provide an update on SCARP’s proposal to offer a new professional Master of Planning (M.Plan.) degree program. Sincere thanks to everyone who has provided input to this process so far, whether through our alumni survey, community consultations, or other channels.

Last week, the SCARP faculty voted unanimously to submit a proposal to UBC for the new M.Plan. program. If approved, the program will begin in September 2014; from then on, the vast majority of our students will be enrolled in the M.Plan. program. We anticipate that the current research master’s degree will continue with a small enrolment after September 2014; however, its structure and accreditation status will be re-assessed following successful implementation of the M.Plan. program. Until September 2014, course offerings at SCARP will be unaffected.

How does M.Plan. differ from the current master’s program? Our current M.A./M.Sc. in Planning is categorized as a research degree, a designation consistent with the program’s historic requirement for a research-based thesis as the “capstone” to the program. However, in 2001, the professional project was introduced as a non-thesis alternative and is now the preferred option for completing the M.A./M.Sc. program. In a sense, then, a significant proportion of the current SCARP master’s program has effectively ceased to be a research degree. The M.Plan. will further enhance the professional orientation of SCARP’s master's-level teaching through a revised and expanded core curriculum, an internship requirement, and studio courses. The M.Plan. will be structured as a 48-credit program and will not have a thesis option. Tuition for the M.Plan. program will also be higher than for the M.A./M.Sc. program, and will be in line with comparable professional programs across North America. Given UBC’s recently revised budgetary processes, this will be important for SCARP’s long-term financial health. SCARP will ensure that the M.Plan. is accredited in both Canada and the U.S. by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB), respectively.

On behalf of the SCARP faculty, thank you for your continuing support as we improve our programs for training the next generation of planning professionals. If you would like to share any comments or be more closely involved as we develop the M.Plan. further, please contact Rebecca Bateman, the M.Plan. Program Manager (rbelle@mail.ubc.ca).

Best regards,
Stephanie Chang
Social Purpose Real Estate: Solving the Space Problem of Not-for-Profits.
Thomas Bevan, MA Planning Candidate

Social capital is what makes Vancouver spectacular. Specifically, it is the diversity of people, neighbourhoods, and entertainment that provide some of the reasons for why real estate costs have been driven so high. Consequently, these price increases also affect the financial viability of not-for-profit organizations that provide essential services in the community.

These groups often rent space for their operations in lower income areas of the city, assisting individuals who are in the largest need. However, as rental rates for space in these areas increase in sync with market demand and new development, these groups may be forced to relocate to more distant locations, away from the organization’s client base.

There is an alternative. Not-for-profits can convert their leases into mortgage payments, which can help ensure the financial sustainability of the organization. By owning a real estate asset in the community, the space that these groups occupy is secure from redevelopment that is not in line with the mission of the organization.

Additionally, mortgage payments are less likely to fluctuate compared to rents in a gentrifying area, making financial planning more certain. Lastly, owning a real estate asset enables a not-for-profit to accumulate equity that can be used to leverage additional financial resources, or buy more real estate in the future.

Through this model, as real estate prices increase, the organization’s asset base and rental income potential also grows. A traditional private landowner or developer would take these financial gains and use them for remuneration or to finance other projects that do not necessarily benefit the local area. Conversely, a not-for-profit is able to use the surplus to improve or expand the services it provides directly to the local community.

This is the foundation of Social Purpose Real Estate, which aims to balance social and economic impacts to find the most appropriate use of land, rather than maximizing the profit potential through the highest and best use.

The problem is that buying and managing real estate is complicated. It requires many new responsibilities that organizations new to the real estate industry may be unfamiliar with. As part of my final project with Vancity Credit Union, I worked with students from the Vancouver Film school to put together a video that interviews local real estate professionals and takes the viewer through three fundamental lessons of social purpose real estate.

Watch the video here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wlwTz6wnLxc

In Search of Space: a Guide to Social Purpose Real Estate.
Vancouver’s CityPlan + 20 years
Jacopo Miro, PhD Student

In the early 1990s, Vancouver faced the daunting task of updating the city’s master plan. The Bartholomew Plan, the most current plan at the time, dated back to 1929 and was beginning to collect cobwebs. The city undertook an impressive effort to undertake a large-scale community engagement effort to involve Vancouver’s residents in the process of designing a new plan to be based on a collective vision for the future.

On October 12th, 2012, planning students and professionals squeezed into WMAX 150 for a mini-Symposium on what we’ve learned from CityPlan, and how these lessons can be applied to other cities across the globe. The event featured a keynote on the CityPlan process from Dr Ann McAfee, former SCARP director and City of Vancouver Planner, to which Dr Wendy Sarkissian, Australian planning and public engagement consultant and author of Kitchen Table Sustainability, responded, outlining the current situation in her home state of New South Wales, where the government recently announced that they would be adopting Vancouver’s CityPlan approach in their own planning process.

A panel discussion followed, with reflections from Peter Burch, former Planner for the City of Vancouver, Frances Bula, journalist and blogger focusing on urban issues, Ned Jacobs, participant in the CityPlan public process and son of Jane Jacobs, Paula Carr, from the Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Joyce Uyesugi, Planner for the City of Vancouver, and Angela Ko, Multicultural Planner for the City of Vancouver.

While it seems CityPlan was fairly successful for Vancouver, a number of lessons and lingering questions surfaced during the presentations and discussion. Were there any mechanisms in place to assess the success of the project once it has been implemented? What are some of the tools available to planners but also the community to ensure that the vision actually fits the reality on the ground? How can conversation and dialogue between residents and officials continue as a way of building and improving the implemented vision? How do you sustain meaningful community involvement through the implementation process, but also after the implementation process? 🌍

Awards & Recognition

Please join us in congratulating Bill Rees, SCARP Professor Emeritus, and Mathis Wackernagel, SCARP PhD graduate, for winning the prestigious Blue Planet Award for Sustainability AND the Kenneth E. Boulding Award from the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) for the development of the Ecological Footprint!

Congratulations also to SCARP PhD student Aftab Erfan, who has been awarded the 2012 Donald Schön Award for Excellence in Learning from Practice by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Aftab presented her award-winning paper, titled “I, Reflective Practitioner: in Conversation with Don Schön,” at the ACSP conference earlier this month. 🌍
Lunchtime Lectures

During our Lunchtime Lecture series every other Wednesday, the SCARP community has been enriched by talks from Brian Jackson (Vancouver’s newest General Manager of Planning), Colleen Hardwick (Founder and CEO of geo-based consultation platform, PlaceSpeak), and Nathan Edelson (Former City of Vancouver Planner and SCARP Adjunct Professor), with a special Bonus lecture from Ray Robb (Metro Vancouver Environmental Regulation and Enforcement) and Sandra Bicego (PacificBlue Consulting).

Upcoming talks will feature Andrew Ramlo (Urban Futures) and Scott Bernstein (Pivot Legal Society).

Fall 2012 Master’s Graduates

Ms. Kerri Arthurs, MAP
Thesis: Creative Cities, Creative Spaces and Urban Policy: The Impacts of Regulations on Artist-Run Centres and Independent Arts Spaces in Vancouver, British Columbia
Committee: Thomas Hutton, Trevor Barnes (UBC, Geography), Catherine Murray (SFU, School of Communication)

Mr. Erik Blair, MAP
Project: Mobilizing Digital Voices: Integrating Social Media into the Public Engagement Toolkit
Committee: Maged Senbel, Jon Frantz (Ear to the Ground Planning)

Ms. Sarah Cullingham, MAP
Project: Learning from Practice: Lessons from the Creation of the Britannia Strategic Master Plan (2011)
Committee: Leonora Angeles, Cynthia Low (Britannia Community Services Centre Society)

Ms. Maria Curro, MAP
Thesis: Seniors’ Perceptions Around Driving Cessation: A Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Cultural Perspective
Committee: Jinhua Zhao, Leonora Angeles, Clive Rock (Silex Consulting Inc.)

Mr. Michael DeMarco, MAP
Project: From Periphery to Priority: The Strategic Progress of Northeast 42nd Avenue in Portland, Oregon
Committee: Thomas Hutton, Evans Martin (Red Squirrel Co.)

Ms. Theresa Fresco, MAP
Committee: Leonora Angeles, Arlene Pascual (Bulacan Prov. Planning & Development Office)

Ms. Lauren Klose, MAP
Project: Agricultural Adaptation Planning: A Proposed Guide for Climate Change Adaptation Planning In British Columbia Agricultural Sectors
Committee: Mark Stevens, Timothy McDaniels

Continued on page 12
“The western, individual model doesn’t work for native people, to solve many interrelated issues,” says Patrick. “That makes it difficult to execute changes within the system, or to support another perspective.”

Through her research she hopes to better understand the likelihood of creating a “continuum of care” model, which would address interrelated issues, such as addictions and mental health, while taking into consideration the community’s collective traumatic and historical identity.

How Patrick will make a difference

“What I hope to contribute is to bring together all of the evidence, to hopefully make a persuasive and powerful argument as to why the continuum-care model is so necessary and so important.”

Patrick hopes that her research will contribute to a growing body of literature on Indigenous planning and that it will help give planners tools they can use in working with diverse communities. She notes that in the past community planning hasn’t responded to Indigenous needs or their vision for their own communities. She hopes that her model will help planners work more effectively in partnership with Indigenous communities, and will allow them to take into consideration “therapeutic planning” as a powerful strategy for meeting community needs.

“This isn’t a revolutionary idea,” she says of a continuum of care model. “But, what I bring is a broader perspective, and the results will potentially impact more people than might have been possible in medicine, and will hopefully address a broader range of issues than has traditionally been the case in the western health care system.”

Patrick recently received a Vanier Scholarship, one of Canada’s most prestigious scholarships, awarded to world-class doctoral students. The award recognizes exceptional leadership and scholarly achievement at Canadian universities and provides recipients with $50,000 a year, for up to three years.

“It’s a tremendous honour to win a Vanier scholarship,” Patrick says. “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.”

School of Community and Regional Planning UBC

‘Aboriginal Health’ from page 4

Mr. Simon L’Allier, MAP
Committee: Lawrence Frank, William Rees, Gordon Price (SFU)

Mr. Jason Lee, MAP
Project: Parking at Vancouver International Airport: Before and After the Canada Line
Committee: Thomas Hutton, Michael Brown (Vancouver Airport Authority)

Ms. Ruth Legg, MAP
Project: Economic Adaptation to Climate Change: An Evaluation of Sustainability Plans in British Columbia
Committee: Mark Stevens, Mark Holland (New Monaco Enterprise Corporation)

Mr. Daniel Martin, MAP
Project: Projecting Rental Housing Demand and Core Housing Need in British Columbia and Regional Districts to 2036
Committee: Stephanie Chang, Jill Atkey (BC Non-Profit Housing Association)

Mr. Devon Miller, MScP
Project: Regenerative Design - An Exploration of Practice, Process, and the Role of Planners
Committee: Maged Senbel, Robert Barrs (HB Lanarc-Golden)

Continued on page 13
Mr. Evan Peterson, MAP  
Thesis: Using Pilot Projects to Reclaim Public Space for Pedestrians: Lessons from New York City & San Francisco  
Committee: Maged Senbel, Meg Holden (SFU, Urban Studies & Geography), Jinhua Zhao

Ms. Jennifer Pinette, MAP  
Thesis: Fostering Social Capital and Building Community Resilience Using a Neighbour-to-Neighbour Approach  
Committee: Timothy McDaniels, Stephanie Chang, Mark Stevens

Ms. Debra Rolfe, MAP  
Project: Could Park-and-Ride Become Bike-and-Ride? Assessing the Potential for Bike Cages at Metro Vancouver’s Park and Ride Lots  
Committee: Lawrence Frank, Kamala Rao (Translink)

Ms. Meredith Seeton, MScP  
Project: Tracking the Impacts of Municipal Housing Policy Changes  
Committee: Penny Gurstein, Janet Kreda (Metro Vancouver)

Mr. Timothy Shah, MAP  
Project: An Evaluation of Climate Adaptation Planning in Practice: A Case Study of the District of Elkford, British Columbia  
Committee: McDaniels, Corien Speaker (District of Squamish)

Mrs. Olga Shcherbyna, MScP  
Committee: Leonora Angeles, Dan Hiebert (UBC, Geography), Penny Gurstein

Mr. Tsz Kit (Jack) Tse, MScP  
Project: What’s Possible? Ground-Oriented Infill Housing in Vancouver’s Single-Family Neighbourhoods  
Committee: Thomas Hutton, Jay Wollenberg (Coriolis)

Ms. Juliet Van Vliet, MAP  
Project: The Language of Planning: Conversations on Communication Approaches in Indigenous Community Planning  
Committee: Leonie Sandercock, Robyn Spencer (EcoPlan)

Ms. Sandra Vigil Fonseca, MAP  
Project: Re-Imagining Whalley: Exploring the Potential of Multimedia Tools in Post Representational Community Planning  
Committee: Leonie Sandercock, Aileen Murphy (City of Surrey)

Ms. Christine Wenman, MScP  
Thesis: Water Source, Use and Cost in a Context of Poverty: A Case Study of Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, Mexico  
Committee: Anthony Dorcay, Leonora Angeles, Hans Scheier (UBC, RMES, Retired)

Mr. Andrew Yu, MAP  
Project: Corridor of Public Spaces: A Framework for Public Space Design Along the Oakridge Town Centre of the Cambie Corridor  
Committee: Maged Senbel, Scot Hein (City of Vancouver)

Mr. Kevin Zhang, MAP  
Project: Urban Design for Transit: Enhancing Bus Stops and Neighbourhoods  
Committee: Maged Senbel, Scot Hein (City of Vancouver)

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**Fall 2012 PhD Graduate**

**Dr. Cornelia Sussmann**  
Thesis: Toward the Sustainable City: Vancouver’s Southeast False Creek Model Sustainable Community

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**Graduation Reception**

Join us in congratulating these graduates at the Graduation Reception on **November 23, 2012** from 11:00am to 1:00pm, in room WMAX 240.
PIBC Student Social
Rosa Shih, MA Planning Candidate

On September 27, SCARP teamed up with SFU’s School of Resource and Environmental Management to hold the annual PIBC Student Social.

This year’s social began with an engaging and informative discussion from panelists Joan Chess, PIBC President and Sustainability Facilitator at Fraser Basin Council, Deana Grinnell, Manager of Land Development at ParkLane Homes, Michael Gordon, Senior Central Area Planner at the City of Vancouver, and Christine Callihoo, Senior Community and Land Use Planner at Counterflow Community Planning Inc. Each panelist gave a short description of their experiences in planning along with an “elevator speech” describing the planning profession from their perspectives.

Overall, the discussion was lively, varied, and encouraging for the students. The social continued on into the night with delicious hors d’oeuvres and a prize draw. This social event is a great reminder of the collaboration that can occur between SCARP and REM students.

A special thank you goes out to PIBC for providing not only the funding to this event but also support in the planning of the social. The event would not have been possible without the hard work from our peers at SFU REM.

Public transit: lessons from the great cities of the world
Lorraine Chan, UBC Public Affairs

Jinhua Zhao has worked with New York, Hong Kong, Chicago, London and Boston to improve their transit systems.

The world’s largest cities are resorting to tough love to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, according to UBC urban planning and transportation expert Jinhua Zhao.

Jinhua Zhao points to Shanghai which auctions off only about 10,000 car registrations each month. To get on the road, residents in China’s largest city of 23 million people must bid on vehicle license plates. Depending on the number of bidders, each license can cost as much as 60,000 yuan ($10,000 CDN).

And while residents complain about the cost, they have accepted the policy and are more concerned about the fairness and transparency of revenue use, says Zhao.

“Not only do these auctions help to reduce congestion, they provide a financing tool. Shanghai generates up to $5 billion yuan ($0.8 billion CDN) annually in revenue,” says Zhao, who serves as a commissioner for the China Planning Network, a think tank focused on China’s urbanization. He will discuss these and other strategies at next month’s annual conference for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Continued on page 15
If you look at any of the great cities in the world, people have asked themselves ‘where do we want to be in 20 years’ and then found a way forward,” says Jinhua Zhao, an assistant professor jointly appointed in the Dept. of Civil Engineering and at the School of Community and Regional Planning.

In Beijing, for example, residents must enter a lottery to obtain a license plate. And in the U.K., drivers have to pay the equivalent of $13 CDN during week day work hours to enter central London—the world's largest congestion zone.

“While these approaches may not offer Vancouver direct solutions, it helps to bring transportation and urban development options to the table that otherwise would not even be discussed,” says Zhao, whose research areas include public transportation, transportation economics and policy and information technology.

After all, hot button issues of public transit funding, congestion and neighbourhood density are only going to intensify, he says.

“Vancouver wants to grow by one million, so how does the city want to distribute that population? Is it possible for Translink to achieve their goal by 2040 that most trips are by transit, walking and cycling?”

Since joining UBC in 2010, Zhao has been helping Translink explore the use of an automatic data collection (ADC) system to improve public transit. ADC refers to sophisticated systems that gather, merge and analyze data from passenger-use patterns and GPS-equipped buses and trains.

“ADC provides a spatial and temporal picture of how people are using transit and where it needs to improve,” says Zhao, who over the past decade has worked with New York, Hong Kong, Chicago, London and Boston to hone their ADC systems.

While public transport agencies in the past were limited to less reliable and costly data collection methods such as manual surveys, today’s planners can apply robust ADC tools to monitor, diagnose, and ultimately, design a better transportation system.

A case in point is the City of London, he says. “My team and I developed methods that have been used to refine public transit’s scheduling process and service quality measures. London was able to improve forecasts for customer demand and the provision of customer information.”

At Translink, Zhao is focusing on ADC data that will give users and planners a sharper picture of bus service reliability. “For example, customer information will report more than just the average travel time. It will also inform users the variation of the travel time, and the probability of bus arriving and getting to the destination on time.”

‘Public Transit’ from page 14

Photos: Megan Ahearn (far left), Robert White (left, right, far right)

Students with Surrey City Centre urban design model (far left), Where the sidewalk ends in Cloverdale (left), Autumn on Main Mall (right), Robson Square from #Block51 (far right).
NewsBytes is SCARP’s tri-annual newsletter highlighting current announcements, recent accomplishments, events, research, and broader planning movements of interest to staff, faculty, students, and alumni, as well as prospective students and members of the community.

If you have questions or comments, or an article you would like to see included in a future edition of NewsBytes, please contact NewsBytes Editor Robert White directly at rwhite@alumni.ubc.ca or @UBCscarp, or contact the School of Community And Regional Planning at the address provided above.