Nearly 200 people filled the GSS Ballroom on February 8th for the fifth annual SCARP Student Symposium. The theme of this year’s symposium was ‘Beyond Downtown & Outside the Box’. With the overwhelming majority of population growth taking place in suburban areas the need for a modern take on suburban design has become critical. Innovative planning and design ideas are needed to move towards sustainability across British Columbia and beyond. At the UBC SCARP Student Symposium, we wanted to explore fresh new ideas to guide and revitalize our urban, rural, and First Nations communities in the years to come.

The event kicked off with breakfast and a keynote by Ellen Dunham-Jones, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at Georgia Tech School of Architecture, with James L. McIntyre, Jean Lamontagne, Brian Jackson, and Lisa Spitale (left to right).

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and co-author of Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs. Dunham-Jones shared with us a number of lessons for what’s possible in suburbs, highlighting 3 strategies: Re-inhabiting existing structures with more community uses, Re-development, and Re-greening. She then showed quite a number of case studies throughout Canada and the US, including Bing Thom Architects’ Central City right here in Surrey City Centre before leaving us ready to run out and work with our suburban communities to redesign some neighbourhoods.

The first panel sessions included presentations on “Food Systems Planning”, “Embrace the Cul-de-Sac: Challenging Assumptions about the Suburbs”, “Housing Affordability”, and “CityPlan and Beyond: Effective Inclusive Participation in the Municipal Context”. One of the points highlighted by a number of attendees was from former Co-Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver, Ann McAfee, who said, “There’s only one letter difference between engaged and enraged,” when speaking to Vancouver’s CityPlan process.

The second session of panels included talks on “Alternative Transportation Visions for the Lower Mainland”, “Genesis Project: Giving Suburban Malls New Life”, “Role of Neighbourhood Associations & Groups in the Planning Process” and “Planning for Equitable & Sustainable Economies”. These sessions led into a chance to grab a coffee and share notes with friends and prospective students/employers before jumping right into the third panel sessions: “Active Transportation in Suburban to Rural Communities”, “Reimagining Downtown Surrey”, “Innovative Communication Tools for Public Engagement”, and a campus walking tour led by Campus & Community Planning.

Throughout the day, I ran around live-tweeting the event through #beyondDT on @UBCscarp. Click here to view the coverage and conversations on Storify.

To finish packing in new knowledge and posing questions to pursue further, we enjoyed the final Chief Planner Panel consisting of Brian Jackson (Vancouver), Jean Lamontagne (Surrey), James L. McIntyre (Coquitlam), and Lisa Spitale (New Westminster) with Robert Barrs acting as moderator. The panel tackled topics around regional growth in the Lower Mainland, which revealed common challenges around managing redevelopment in mature neighbourhoods, funding challenges, and transportation choice.

Overall it was an incredible day full of thoughtful presentations, engaging dialogue, and new, stronger connections between students, planners, and the greater community. We didn’t only look Beyond Downtown - we jumped right out of the box and explored what the future of planning might have in store for us. 🌍
By Maged Senbel, Assistant Professor

The world lost a passionate and powerful voice in the global environmental movement last year. Becky was a SCARP graduate who embodied much of what we hold dear. She fought for social and environmental justice with a rare blend of knowledge, warmth, resolve and incisive leadership.

Becky set out to change the world and she did. She tamed powerful corporations and led teams of people in reaching agreements with international publishers to ban the use of paper from endangered rainforests in all of their supply chains.

This quote by Bill McKibben from a Forbes tribute is just a hint of the inspiring legacy she leaves behind, “she was, among other things, one of the most spirited of environmentalists — no long-faced doomsayer, and no too-careful D.C. tactician, but a fighter with a spring in her step and a bit of fire in her eye. A true heir to giants like David Brower.”

The Rainforest Action Network has created a memorial page through which to honour and remember Becky’s legacy. It can be found at http://www.ran.org/becky.

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**PSA Leadership for 2013**
By Jim Beaudreau, MScP Candidate

When the clocks rolled over to 2013, leadership of the SCARP Planning Students’ Association (PSA) transitioned from the second-year to first-year students. It’s my pleasure to announce the new executive officers of the PSA for 2013:

President: Jim Beaudreau
Vice President: Christa Brown
Treasurer: Sarah Thomas
Administrator: Robert White
Orientation Coordinators: Peer Krause & Wilson Mendes

On behalf of all the first-year students, I’d like to offer our sincere thanks to all the second-year students who have provided such great leadership on the PSA in 2012. From student-led educational programming, to social and networking events, to orientation activities for first-year students, our predecessors provided outstanding service to the school and provided a great model for us to follow.

It’s been a pleasure getting to know all of the first-year students during the first term, as well as other students and faculty members. SCARP is a very special place, and it’s been moving to get to know so many people.

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that are committed to making the world a better place. It’s an honour to be a part of such a special community, and we look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

Best regards,
Jim Beaudreau, PSA President

Planning for Growth in First Nations Communities
Mitacs-Accelerate Success Story

Mitacs-Accelerate intern partners with EcoPlan International to assist aboriginal communities.

For many of the First Nations peoples of Canada, community planning decisions are grounded in the heritage of the past. Leaders must take into account the unique cultural histories which have shaped whole communities and given them a sense of identity. Community planning in this way is particularly important for local bands when they negotiate with external companies and stakeholders for access to resources on First Nations land, such as transcontinental pipelines or hydroelectricity projects.

Recognizing this challenge, EcoPlan International set out to develop communications tools that would assist First Nations leaders as they move forward on key community planning decisions. They did so by partnering with University of British Columbia School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) Masters student, Juliet Van Vliet through Mitacs-Accelerate to develop a custom Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map database for several Métis communities in Alberta.

The research process for the project was complex and had many stages in its execution. First, Juliet undertook a comprehensive literature review to analyze and determine the communication needs of the two communities which EcoPlan had selected. From there, a plan to develop two digital communication tools was created. As families of the communities were interviewed by EcoPlan representatives, video software which displays transcripts of their oral accounts on-screen was developed to better catalogue, search and analyze the oral histories being told. This built on the work of her supervisor Dr. Leonie Sandercock in digital ethnography, by modifying software developed by the First Nations Studies Program at UBC. Furthermore, Juliet honed her skill in database management as she pinned the historical accounts of the families to specific points on a map through GIS technology.

Through this project, these First Nations families can begin to share the common histories of their traditional territories in ways that deeply enrich their understanding of their cultural identity. Furthermore, band leaders will be able to use the interview transcripts and GIS database to determine the needs and desires of the communities they are planning for. EcoPlan also benefitted from the opportunity to explore new tools that would otherwise have been difficult to access or understand.

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2013 CAPS-ACÉAU Conference

By Karla Kloepper, MAP Candidate

The 29th annual Canadian Association of Planning Students’ conference took place from February 1st – 3rd 2013 in Montreal. Coordinated by a team of planning students from McGill University, the Université du Québec a Montréal, Concordia University, and the Université de Montréal, the “IdenCités/IdenCities” conference explored the links between urban planning and a sense of place and reflected on innovative, equitable and participatory planning practices.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Norma Rantisi from Concordia’s Department of Geography, who spoke about the evolution of Montréal as a cultural metropolis. Jaques Besner, MCIP, shared his experiences with the City of Montréal and discussed the fields of urban planning in Canada and abroad. Dr. Mitchell Kosny from Ryerson’s School of Urban and Regional Planning reminded students of the importance of developing a strong sense of personal and professional identity as we embark on our planning careers, while Dinu Bumbaru, Policy Director of Héritage Montréal, discussed some of the policy initiatives in place that protect Montréal’s architectural and cultural heritage.

Additional conference highlights included tours of the historic Griffintown neighbourhood, the Angus Project, and Montréal’s underground. SCARP Adjunct Professor and Canadian Institute of Planners Vice-President Michael Gordon led workshops on nurturing spontaneity in the playful city and planning and the new media. Undergraduate and graduate students spanning the planning disciplines presented research and class projects, inspiring debate and sharing case studies from across Canada. Students, special guests, and planning professionals celebrated Quebecois culture at the Quebec-themed social evening, replete with a maple syrup snow candy station.

Preparing for the ADUQ Workshop

The location of next year’s CAPS conference will be announced in May 2013. For more information about the Canadian Association of Planning Students, visit their website at www.caps-aceau.org/en/ or connect with them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/capsaceau.

Emery Barnes Park in Yaletown (far left), Heritage integration at City Square Mall (left), A snowy ride on the 10th ave greenway (right), A Vancouver winter on English Bay (far right).
Travel and Quality of Life Study of Residential Movers
By Anastasia Frank, MPH Candidate

The UBC Health and Community Design Lab, led by SCARP’s Dr. Larry Frank and located in the School of Population and Public Health conducts interdisciplinary research on links between land use, travel behaviour, air quality, and health. The lab’s many collaborations include research conducted with municipal governments and transportation authorities across Canada and the US.

One of the lab’s current projects is CHANGE (Changes in Health, Activity, and Nutrition Across Geographic Environments), the first longitudinal Canadian study of the travel, physical activity, and eating habits of individuals before and after they move to a new neighbourhood. This study seeks to evaluate the presence of a causal relationship between physical features of community design, travel, physical activity, and food choice as predictors of obesity and other health outcomes such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, and respiratory function. The study also evaluates exposure to air and noise pollution. Led by Dr. Frank (PI), the research team includes Dr. Michael Brauer, Dr. Hugh Davies, and Dr. Jennifer Black. The study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

CHANGE is joined by a study of the construction of the Comox-Helmcken Greenway. The City of Vancouver funded study is evaluating the impact of walkable infrastructure on health, activity, and social connectedness by surveying residents of the area before and after greenway construction. Longitudinal studies on links between the built environment and health have been rare up to this point. But they are absolutely necessary for establishing a causal relationship between built environment planning decisions and health impacts. These pioneering studies aim to do just that.

CHANGE is currently recruiting participants who intend to move within Metro Vancouver in 6 weeks to 6 months.

For more information on the study, you can visit health-design.spph.ubc.ca/research/change.

To learn about participating, please fill out our quick form at bit.ly/changestudy.
Finding Community

By Eliana Chia, MAP Candidate

There’s been significant media attention recently about how difficult it is to connect with other people in Vancouver. Many have argued that finding community is a struggle.

Until recently I would have agreed as I’ve shared the same experience. I made it a point to speak with strangers on the street who had recently moved to the city. They all confessed a similar story with me - their heavy sense of disconnection from their fellow Vancouverites. Many expressed that a chance conversation with strangers in a park or on a skytrain was a rare occurrence.

The realization that there was an absence of community bonds in the city that I grew up in and loved deeply troubled me, and I wondered if Vancouver would be able to overcome this pervasive feeling of isolation. I became aware of groups who were trying to foster more neighbourhood relationships through events such as the SFU public square as well as celebrations held by the Vancouver Public Space Network.

While many were looking towards how community and connectedness could be encouraged in the future, my attention was directed to what existed in the past.

As a result of an assignment for my program at UBC, I became involved with the struggles at Little Mountain. My time collaborating with the remaining Little Mountain tenants as well as their community partners was an incredible learning process. What resonated with me during that period were the stories that I heard about that community was like before the mass relocations began in 2007. I learned about what that community was like before the mass relocations began in 2007. I learned about neighbours who cared for each other, who supported each other, who looked out for each other’s families, and who, at the most basic level, knew each other.

One of the remaining tenants, Ingrid Steenhuisen, told me about a time when her mother fell ill. Ingrid was away from her home when she received a phone call from her mother, expressing a feeling of unease. Ingrid noticed immediately that she was slurring her speech. Since she was a 45-minute bus ride away, Ingrid reached out to a

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neighbour for help. That neighbour came to check on her mother, called the emergency line, and stayed with her until the paramedics arrived. When Ingrid’s mother was brought to the hospital, the doctors discovered that a small blood vessel had burst behind her ear. Thankfully, she received medical attention as quickly as possible.

What a remarkable difference between Ingrid’s story and the stories of disconnection that I had been hearing on the streets! Ingrid had once pointed out to me, “What they keep looking for out there, we had here, at Little Mountain.” This comment became embedded within my memory because of its simple truth.

My own deep-rooted longing, along with countless other Vancouverites, for a sense of belonging and connection to the people living around us, was something that Little Mountain already had. But this community was tragically fragmented through unnecessary relocation and dislocation.

In our hot pursuit to build stronger communities for the future, we forgot to protect existing communities. Buildings can easily be replaced or redeveloped, but social connections and networks take many years to form and they cannot be easily re-established in another setting.

As a planning student, there were two important lessons that I took away from my time at Little Mountain. First of all, being focused on a
Portlandians
By Robert White, MScP Candidate

Over the reading break a number of SCARPies loaded up for a road-trip down to Portland for a few days to check out the sights, and determine whether or not the dream of the nineties really is still alive in Portland.

Following in the footsteps of our experienced SCARPies, we coordinated a visit to the City of Portland’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, where we heard from a number of planners including Denver Igarta, who shared a bit of Portland’s transportation history and future goals, and Steve Cohen, who provided an overview of Portland’s food policy, including The Diggable City project. We also enjoyed presentations from Vinh Mason on some of the sustainability and equity initiatives in the City, and finally Shannon Buono and Roberta Jortner shared the story of the River Plan, for Oregon’s Willamette River.

We also met up with Mike Tresidder at ALTA Planning + Design for a great discussion on active transportation in Portland and other cities across North America.

For the remainder of the trip, we put on our flâneur shoes and ventured out to experience the city, taking breaks to enjoying the company of fellow SCARPies and PSU students we found along the way.

Photos: Robert White

The Hawthorne Bridge (top left), Lanes on the I5 (top right), Tom McCall Waterfront Park (middle)
Pedestrianized street outside Voodoo Donuts (bottom left), Hawthorne District (bottom center), Mill Ends City Park (bottom right)
North Van Design Jam  
By Amanda Grochowich, MScP Candidate

Last term, the North Van Urban Forum ran a Design Jam for the Historic Shipyard Precinct District in North Vancouver. The North Van Urban Forum is a group of concerned citizens, ranging from residents, business-owners, and community-minded individuals, who are interested in the transparency and public participation of the development of the public realm in North Vancouver. The Forum meets once a week, at the Café for Contemporary Art, to discuss projects and present information.

The Project Waterfront: North Van Design Jam focused on ‘Lot 5’ of the North Vancouver waterfront – historically, the North Van Shipyards. The area is under development by Pinnacle Hotel, but is awaiting direction for its design from the City of North Vancouver. The North Van Urban Forum is hoping that this land will remain a community asset, as it is public land. They held three events during the three-month design competition, to encourage community participation and interest.

Awards were given out on December 6th, at an awards showcase event, with Gordon Price as the keynote.

To view the winning entries, visit [http://www.nvuf.org/designjam/](http://www.nvuf.org/designjam/)

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Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to Tim McDaniels, Tamsin Mills, Robin Gregory and Dan Ohlson who recently won an award for “Best paper of 2012” in the journal Risk Analysis, for the ecological risk area, for their paper titled “Exploring Robust Alternatives for Climate Adaptation in Forest Land Management”. Their winning paper, selected by the area editors, appeared in the journal’s December issue.

Some of the work discussed in the paper comprises part of Tamsin Mills’ master’s project from 2009. She is a SCARP graduate who now is a climate adaptation planner with the City of Vancouver. Dan Ohlson is another SCARP graduate, who is a Principal of Compass Resource Management in Vancouver. McDaniels is a Professor in SCARP, and Gregory is an Adjunct Professor in IRES.

Congratulations as well to Rebecca Bateman, Brendan Hurley, and former SCARP Adjunct Wendy Sarkissian, along with Clare Cooper Marcus and several Australian colleagues, who received a Commendation in “Planning Ideas Award, Large Regional or Urban Project Category” from the Planning Institute of Australia, Queensland Branch, 2012 State Awards for Excellence for their work on the “Liveable Compact Cities Project” for the South East Queensland Council of Mayors.

Rebecca Bateman is a SCARP graduate and current Program Manager at SCARP, Brendan Hurley is a SCARP graduate, and Wendy Sarkissian is a former SCARP Adjunct Professor.
Lunchtime Lectures

With the semester well underway, we’ve already heard from a number of engaging speakers as part of the PSA’s ongoing Lunchtime Lecture series. Before wrapping up the fall term, we had the pleasure of hearing from Andrew Ramlo, Director of Urban Futures, who shared a presentation on “Changing People, Changing Places: Why Demographics Matter!” and Scott Bernstein, Lawyer & Community Advocate with the Pivot Legal Society who shared his thoughts on “Zoning for Harm Reduction Services”.

So far this term we’ve welcomed Norma-Jean McLaren, followed by the City of Vancouver’s Kirsten Robinson and Devan Fitch, who presented a thorough review of “Vancouver’s Viaducts: Exploring a New Direction” and most recently Dr. Bill Rees shared a lecture entitled “Is H. Sapiens inherently unsustainable?”. We’re excited to hear from the upcoming speakers this term. Please join us! 🎉

“Mitacs-Accelerate has allowed EcoPlan to conduct Research and Development projects that we would not have been able to otherwise. Internships like these have kept us competitive and are a great way to give students an opportunity to get work experience.” says William Trousdale, President of EcoPlan International.

Juliet also found many benefits to the internship, saying: “Mitacs-Accelerate allowed me to learn and grow as an individual and as a researcher. The synergy between academia and business through the internship gave me an invaluable opportunity to practice my skills and to break into my field for the first time.”

Dr. Leonie Sandercock praised Mitacs-Accelerate for affording Juliet an once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity which also led her to a permanent planning position with the District of Tofino, in coastal British Columbia:

“Mitacs-Accelerate provided an invaluable hands-on learning experience for Juliet in terms of real-time planning in the field with an internationally renowned planning consultancy firm. The partnership between EcoPlan International and Juliet through Mitacs-Accelerate was a match made in heaven.”

Mitacs acknowledges the Networks of Centres of Excellence’s IRDI Program, Western Economic Diversification and the Government of British Columbia for their support of Mitacs-Accelerate in B.C. 🤝
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 Outreach Coordinator Robert White directly at scarp@rbritwhite.ca or @UBCscarp, or contact the School of Community And Regional Planning at the address provided above.