Round two...

Welcome back everyone to a new year at the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Now that we are settling down for our second semester at SCARP, we are mindfully preparing for June 2006. June will be busy with the Planners for Tomorrow Forum, the World Planners Conference and the United Nations World Urban Forum that together will position Vancouver, UBC, SCARP and the Government of Canada onto the world stage.

This online newsletter highlights interesting SCARP student experiences, showcases the upcoming SCARP colloquium speaker series and identifies how SCARP is preparing for the World Urban Forum to be held in Vancouver June 2006.

Happy reading everyone. Your comments and suggestions for the next issue (March 2006) are always welcome. Feel free to contact me directly at katesun@interchange.ubc.ca at any time.

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**SCARP visitors**

The School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) and the Centre for Human Settlements (CHS) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) are excited to welcome two special individuals to our school this year.

Ms. Jirapa Sophon is UBC's official guest from Ubon Ratchathanee University in Thailand. She is a visiting scholar who is sponsored by CHS and the UBC Go Global program (http://students.ubc.ca/global/). Ms. Sophon is a lecturer at Ubon Ratchathane University and specializes in eco-tourism. She was selected to come to UBC by the Dean of Management.
Science at Ubon Ratchathani University, who sees her as playing a future leadership role in helping their university to contribute to community and regional economic development in Northeast Thailand. Ms. Sophon will be attending Peter Boothroyd's and Nora Angeles' classes during this term.

Megan Hall is participating in SCARP classes for the 2005 – 2006 academic year thanks to the merits of her Fulbright Scholarship. With advice from one of her professors’ years ago, it was suggested to Megan that if she wanted to study urban planning then it was best to do so in Vancouver!

I was fortunate to catch up with Megan in between her many classes and below is her story discussing the Fulbright Scholarship and her experience in Vancouver.

The Fulbright Scholarship is predominantly known as a grant that pays students, researchers or professors to study in another country. The Fulbright Scholarship was created by US Senator Fulbright after World War II. Senator Fulbright thought he could help prevent such future events by encouraging an educational exchange program that would allow US students to study in other countries and to have students from other countries study in the US. Through this exchange of the world's future leaders, he was hopeful for creating a greater sense of understanding and cooperation in generations to come.

Although this scholarship has been around for nearly 60 years, the Canada Fulbright program was inaugurated only 15 years ago. The Canada Fulbright program stipulates that students have to conduct research that considers the relationship between Canada and the US or use Canadian research to deepen the understanding of work in relation to US policy and law.

For Megan, this stipulation was an easy task as she is interested in exploring how studying Vancouver’s city planning could enlighten city planning in the United States. Megan is curious regarding the Vancouver municipal planning department’s work with low income housing communities but more specifically, how the Vancouver city council’s new single room accommodation (SRA) by-law could aid in the development of new low income housing policy in the US. Megan is working along side one of SCARP’s esteemed faculty members, Dr. Penny Gurstein (http://www.scarp.ubc.ca/faculty%20profiles/gurstein.htm) for this research.
Megan would like to present her respective research in the form of a radio documentary that both complements her extensive background in public radio broadcasting, while offering this research information as a more accessible story for the public. This radio program will be aired on an American co-op radio station in May 2006.

“I love Vancouver and SCARP has been an especially friendly place to learn. I'm thankful for the opportunity to take classes here as I conduct my research.”

**Planning Students Association**

A new committee for SCARP’s Planning Students Association (PSA) was elected in December 2005. This new committee consists of first year SCARP students who will collaborate with Tony Dorcye, SCARP’s Director, in guiding the PSA into another successful year at SCARP and UBC.

By means of a collaborative approach, the role of the PSA is to ‘support the well-being and interests of SCARP students.’ This participatory approach echoes the equitable foundations upon which SCARP’s mission is formulated: “…to advance the transition to sustainability through excellence in integrated policy and planning research, professional education and community service.” (taken from SCARP’s website).

The PSA meets biweekly on Tuesdays from 12:15 – 1:45pm. This year’s PSA director, Jason Smart, presents an optimistic future:

Happy new year! As the PSA director for 2006, I'm looking forward to what promises to be an eventful year for the organization and for SCARP. The three major conferences in Vancouver this June - Planners for Tomorrow (P4T) June 14 – 16. the World Planners Congress June 18 – 20 and the World Urban Forum June 19 – 23 - will be big opportunities for SCARP students to meet planners and planning students from around the world and will generate high visibility for the school. After all, SCARP students won the bid for P4T and are now organizing it. The PSA is supporting these efforts, and we should do everything we can to help make it a success.

As always, the PSA will represent SCARPies through its connections to other school organizations and to professional planning organizations, support student projects, and organize fun social events! I encourage everyone to approach me with any issues PSA should address or ideas we should pursue. Also, as always, the PSA will encounter challenges and opportunities that we can't even predict yet! As planning students, we must plan for the unexpected. Hmm, sounds like a P4T recommendation in the making, doesn't it?

The Planning Students Association Events Coordinator (Ren “Party Girl” Thomas) has already taken charge with her new responsibility by organizing pub nights at the Fringe Café – a favourite locale for SCARPies. Last year’s social events coordinator, Sam Beresky, with first year SCARP student Diana Leung, organized the SCARP Ugly Sweater Curling Championship held at the end of January. Photos from these events and others can be found in the photo gallery as part of this newsletter.
The 2006 Planning Students Association Members include:

PSA Director, Jason Smart
Treasurer, Sarah Wilmot
Administrator, Michelle Babiuk
General Board Member, Kate Sunderland
General Board Member, Jason Blackman
General Board Member, Kristi Tatebe
Events Coordinator, Ren “Party Girl” Thomas
Facilities & Craig Davis Room Coordinator, Eric Grant
First Year Orientation Coordinator
Communications Coordinator/ Web Page Editor, Adam Hunt
Transportation Coordinator, Eric Doherty
Alma Mater Society Rep, Ben Campbell
Grad Student Society Rep 1, Pete Giles
Grad Student Society Rep 2
Planning Institute of BC Rep, Diana Leung
Canadian Institute of Planners Rep, Andre Vallillee
Canadian Association of Planning Students Rep
American Planning Association Rep, Allison Jones
PlanTalk Liaison

There is still room on the 2006 PSA committee so any SCARP student past or present are welcome to join! Please contact Jason Smart for more information on the vacant positions listed above: jesmart@interchange.ubc.ca

SCARP REUNION - SAVE THE DATE!

The first all-time School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) reunion will be held this June coinciding with a number of exciting planning events taking place in Vancouver.

Scheduled for Sunday, June 18th at the Westin Bayshore, the SCARP reunion event will take place following the Canadian Association of Planning Students conference and during the 2006 Canadian Institute of Planners / Planning Institute of British Columbia World Planners Congress. Immediately following the World Planners Congress will be UN Habitat's World Urban Forum.

Indeed, June 2006 will be an exciting time for SCARP alumni to reconvene in Vancouver!

All interested SCARP alumni and friends are encouraged to visit the alumni website for updates at www.scarpalumni.ca. Please be sure to save the date and pass on the reunion invitation to your fellow SCARP colleagues and friends.
The event will be open to all SCARP community members including current and former students, alumni, faculty and staff. It will provide an opportunity to connect with old friends and colleagues, mix, and mingle.

For more information on the reunion, please contact Gary Holisko: Gary.Holisko@bchydro.com or Tanis Knowles: knowles@ekistics.ca

**Spotlight: Second year SCARP student Dan Freeman describes his internship with Translink**

I was having such a great time at SCARP that the thought of taking a term off from my Master's degree had never crossed my mind… but things have a funny way of playing themselves out in an unexpected way.

Last August, my fun (if somewhat academically unproductive) summer was drawing to a close. I had just begun to think about my course selections for the fall term of my second year when one of the myriad listserv emails happened to catch my attention. On a whim I applied to a TransLink job posting for a four-month student internship and somehow tricked TransLink into hiring me. Suddenly, my student life was interrupted by a short stint in the ‘nine-to-five’ world.

My specific job was to produce a background report for TransLink's South of Fraser Area Transit Plan that will determine priorities for improving transit in Delta, Surrey, White Rock, and Langley over the next five years. That meant poring over Official Community Plans (OCP), population projections and flexing my puny GIS mapping muscles. All things told, I added substantially to my inventory of planning jargon and awkward acronyms - fortunately, SCARP prepared me well for those things.

The experience was overwhelmingly positive. First and foremost, it gave me a chance to see what it's like to work within a true planning department. Transportation planning is something I've considered as a potential career path, so ‘test’ driving the experience for four months was a great way to see what the career might entail. I also had the excellent fortune of having outstanding supervisors who provided me great support and mentorship. In addition, they gave me the opportunity to dabble in projects other than the one for which I was hired.

In truth, the most valuable part of my short internship at TransLink was not that it allowed me a glimpse into the working world of regional transportation planning, but that it gave me a chance to reflect on the direction of my SCARP education mid-stream; to step back from my studies and refocus. Though initially hesitant about taking a break from academia (fearing it would be hard to get back into my coursework and professional project after time away), the opposite proved true.

I'm now back at SCARP and back on track, and know that I will continue to benefit from my internship during the rest of my time here. If any other SCARPies happens upon an equally fortuitous opportunity, I say go for it!
School of Community & Regional Planning Scholarships

Four scholarships totalling $1,000 each are awarded to students entering the second year of their Master’s degree at SCARP and are awarded for academic excellence. The Scholarships were established in 1990 from interest received on major grants the School received in the 1960’s from the Richard King Mellon Charitable Trust Grant and the Donnor Canadian Foundation Grant.

This year’s awards were given to:

Elise Finnigan
Daniel Freeman
Mark Riesmeyer
Beverly Suderman

Canadian Institute of Planners Past President Thomas Adams Scholarship

Colleen Brown, a SCARP Masters student, is the recipient of the 2006 Canadian Institute of Planners Past President Thomas Adams Scholarship worth $2,000. She received the scholarship for her outstanding research proposal: “Powering the City: Planning for the Future”.

FACULTY

Applause

Congratulations to Dr. Penny Gurstein. UBC’s President, Dr. Martha C. Piper, has approved Dr. Gurstein's promotion to the rank of Professor.

As quoted by Anthony H. J. (Tony) Dorsey, Director of the School of Community and Regional Planning: “This is outstandingly good news. Please join me in congratulating Penny on this highly merited and magnificent achievement.”

Taken from the Faculty of Graduate Studies home page:

Dr. Gurstein specializes in the socio-cultural aspects of community planning, with particular emphasis on populations marginalized in planning processes. Recent research focused on youth engagement and the hard to house. Current research includes two major studies funded by SSHRC: investigating the impact of e-work on companies and communities in Canada and internationally, and the impact of government reduction of social services on single parent families on income assistance. Dr. Gurstein has also worked extensively on Third World projects focusing on gender and youth development issues.
SCARP Colloquium Series Winter – Spring 2006

Since 2001, SCARP and The Centre for Human Settlements (CHS) have initiated a noon hour colloquium series that features biweekly interactive presentations by members of the faculty. The purpose of the colloquium series is to promote dialogue and discussion among faculty, staff, and students as well as other members of the UBC community about issues that are relevant to SCARP’s mission: to advance the transition to sustainability through excellence in integrated policy and planning research, professional education and community service.

The bimonthly presentations are organized this year by Professor Yossi Berechman. All sessions are held on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:45 in WMAX 150. Upcoming and past speakers include:

February 1 - Stephanie Chang: "Coastal Ecosystems & Communications in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami"
February 22 - Peter Boothroyd: “Universities in the Global North, Participatory Development in the South: Prospects for Enhancing the Linkage"

March 1 - John Friedman: “Revisiting Empowerment: Principles of a Human Development"
March 15 - Michael Larice: - To Be Determined

March 29 - Bill Rees: -To Be Determined

**EVENTS**

**PLANNERS FOR TOMORROW**

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Planners for Tomorrow (P4T)**
In preparation for the World Urban Forum, SCARP will be hosting the Planners for Tomorrow (P4T) Forum June 14 – 16 in Vancouver. This Forum is the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS) that, on this unique occasion, will invite participation from planning students from North America and around the world.

The P4T initiative originated during the summer of 2004 when SCARP students brainstormed how they might best contribute to the 2006 World Urban Forum. The brainstorming sessions produced the idea that P4T should focus on how to implement what has been learned over the last three decades about the knowledge, skills and attitudes that “planners for tomorrow” will need if they are to meet the challenges of urban sustainability. Furthermore, it was decided that information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the world wide web, should be utilized as communication mediums so that an exchange of ideas can be developed at a global scale. This way students, practitioners and members of the public can equally engage in the development of the P4T Forum. As a result, the P4T committee organized an on-line dialogue that will help generate ideas and actionable deliverables and recommendations that will be highlighted at the World Urban Forum and associated forums in Vancouver come June 2006.

The P4T team is being led by a working group of SCARP students under the general direction of the Director of the School, Tony Dorcey. In addition, assistance from Emeritus Professor H. Peter Oberlander, the founding Director of SCARP and its Centre for Human Settlements (a legacy of the first UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver in 1976) is an important contribution to P4T and WUF.

The Planners for Tomorrow team includes:

SCARP Student P4T Responsibilities, Samara Brock

Coordinating Committee, James O’Neill

Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Moffat

Forum Logistics Coordinator, Yvonne Hii

Salons Coordinator, Luke Sales

Technical Coordinator, Sam Beresky

Final Product Assistant, Aleksandra Brzozowski

Forum Assistant, Terra Kaethler

Forum Assistant, Stephen Bentley

Outreach Assistant,
The P4T team is currently accepting topic-based on-line salon proposals that will be integral additions to the P4T interactive website. The on-line salons hope to provoke interest and debate. Some topics include: the role of ICTs in planning, universities and planning, energy security, food security and youth in planning. All salons will have associated online dialogue sessions to further develop ideas and recommendations regarding the P4T Forum.

Based on these salons and other key dialogue sessions, the P4T team will host an event during UBC’s ‘Celebrate Research Week’ so that initial feedback from other planning students and practitioners regarding draft recommendations can be shared. In addition, the P4T team will be participating at the American Planning Association conference in San Antonio in April 2006. Similar to UBC’s ‘Celebrate Research Week’, this event will be used to present and hear feedback regarding the draft recommendations produced by the P4T team. This opportunity provides people the chance to offer different and diverse perspectives about the planners for tomorrow.

Please visit the P4T website www.plannersfortomorrow.ca for more details about its initiatives and progress made in preparation for the World Urban Forum.

**Ongoing**

There are many events happening on the UBC campus throughout the year. Check out this webpage that provides a direct link to the Graduate Student Workshop Series.  
http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/instruct/

Also, check out the Planning Institute of British Columbia website that highlights upcoming PIBC Chapter Events: http://www.pibc.bc.ca/chapters/index.php

**Mark your calendars for this spring!**

June 18 - 20: **World Planners Congress** (hosted by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia), Vancouver. [www.wpc2006.com](http://www.wpc2006.com)


**National Conferences**

**Sustainable Communities National Conference – Ottawa ON**  
February 2 – February 4, 2006  
Chateau Laurier and Government Conference Centre  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Upwind Downwind Conference: Cities, Air and Health – Hamilton ON**  
February 27 - February 28, 2006
Hamilton Convention Centre
Hamilton, Ontario

Globe 2006 Sustainable Construction Showcase – Vancouver BC
March 29 – March 31, 2006
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia

Safe Streets, Safe Cities: Seeking Solutions – Calgary AB
April 4- April 6, 2006
Round Up Centre, Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta

PHOTO GALLERY