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SCARP Director’s Message – November 2017

By Penny Gurstein

SCARP continues to grow and prosper. This September we admitted 40 students into our Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) program, two students in our new Research Masters program and 5 students in our PhD program. We anticipate admitting close to 30 students in the Master of Engineering Leadership (MEL) in Urban Systems program in January 2018. We also have launched four new undergraduate courses, Plan 211 - City-Making: A Global Perspective; Plan 221 - City Visuals; Plan 321 - Indigeneity and the City; and Plan 331 - The Just City in a Divided World; and will be offering another course, Plan 341 - Smart Cities: Concepts, Tools and Design in 2018-19. Plans to consider an undergraduate program in Urban Technology, Environment and Culture are underway.

We had a major loss in our faculty with the passing in June 2017 of Dr. John Friedmann, who was an Honourary Professor in our school. Besides being an internationally lauded planning theorist, John contributed to our school enormously through his teaching, supervising and mentoring in the PhD program, and his active participation in all aspects of our school.

Most notably, he and Leonie Sandercock initiated the PhD Jamboree which brought PhD students from all over the globe for a week of intensive learning; and his ongoing engagement with Chinese planning academics has culminated in a partnership with the Tongji College of Architecture and Urban Planning, in Shanghai. John kept us honest and focused on our core mission, and he will be enormously missed. There will be a celebration of his life on November 24 and a scholarship has been set up in his name.

For details see: https://memorial.support.ubc.ca/john-friedmann/.
Dr. Tim McDaniels will be retiring December 31, 2017 and he will be a major loss for our faculty. Tim started his UBC career as a joint appointment with the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) and in 2013 he came into our faculty full-time. He has taught and done research on decision sciences and policy analysis, particularly in managing environmental and technology-related societal risks, most recently on climate change adaptation in linked human/ ecological systems and building regional resilience in infrastructure systems. He has been internationally recognized for his research. There will be a reception honouring Tim on November 27 where he will give a short talk.

Our accreditation reviews from both the Canadian Professional Standards Board (PSB) and the American Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) were highly successful and we have been reaccredited for another five years from both. Their comments reflect how successful SCARP has been in meeting both accreditation requirements and being an innovator in planning pedagogy.

We have hired two new lecturers that have started in the 2017-18 academic year. Dr. Wayne Beggs has been appointed a full-time lecturer in the Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) concentration through funding received from the Real Estate Foundation and Indigenous Affairs and Northern Canada (INAC) to grow this concentration. Erick Villagomez has been appointed as a half-time lecturer to teach in the urban design concentration, and the community studio.

We have a number of public events coming up. On Friday March 16 our annual student-organized symposium will be held. Look for details on how to register. There will also be presentations from our second year community studio on Wednesday March 28. The caliber of the output of these students was outstanding last year. I encourage you to attend both of these events next year.

Finally, the Faculty of Applied Science Dean’s Office has formed a search committee for a new Director for SCARP as my second term will end on June 30, 2018. Shortlisted candidates are visiting UBC in November.

As we consolidate our programs and contemplate new programs we very much seek input from all of the SCARP community locally, nationally and internationally.
On behalf of the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), SCARP would like to thank Tim McDaniels for his many years of hard work and commitment to students, faculty members, and the school. Congratulations Tim on your retirement from truly successful careers in academia and consulting. We wish Tim all the best.

Tim has worked at SCARP for twenty-five and a half years as a professor in Decision Sciences and Policy Analysis – starting his career July 1st, 1991. He has been recognized as a specialist in Decision Sciences and Policy Analysis, particularly in managing environmental and technology-related societal risks. At the time of finishing his Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh he was the only person in the world to hold a Ph.D. in Decision Sciences.

Tim started out as a consultant for provincial and federal agencies where he worked for over 10 years before taking a position as professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. He then moved to SCARP at UBC in Vancouver.

Some of his accomplishments include: having published over 70 articles in leading interdisciplinary science journals, along with three books and over 50 technical reports. Serving on expert panels for the US National Academy of Sciences, NOAA, the US EPA, Health Canada, and conducting practical research in forestry, fisheries, renewable energy, aquaculture, water management and infrastructure systems. His work has involved partners ranging from BC Hydro, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, regional governments and provincial agencies in British Columbia.
Tim served as the Director of the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. He has published over 25 journal articles with students and former students. His research has included aspects of planning and policy analysis for a whole array of issues, including climate change adaptation in linked human/ecological systems and building regional resilience in infrastructure systems.

I was able to interview Tim, before his departure from UBC about some of his favorite moments during his long career:

What were some of your most memorable moments while at SCARP?

‘I would say my most memorable moments at SCARP have been to see my students becoming successful. I have seen a lot of students that have become very successful and seeing them do things that we have done in my classes has brought me the most satisfaction so far.’

What has been the most memorable project in your career?

‘Well it would be the one that I am doing right now. The project in Costa Rica. It has lasted for four years. It has been in a different country, it has a lot of countries involved. All the control has been desegregated into four different countries.

All the work involved in the leading up to publishing of my book Structured Decision Making.

And all the work that I was able to do with Stephanie Chang, she is a wonderful faculty member to work with and is a great mentor to students.’

Where are your favourite places to travel for work?

‘Working in Japan has always been a great experience. I have been a visiting scientist there several times. Costa Rica has been very interesting. And working on Metis communities in Alberta has been very fun.’

What are you looking forward to most in your retirement?

‘Getting fit and playing my guitar. My wife plays ukulele and I want to be able to play with her.’

Thank you Tim for all your hard work and for always leading your classes with such enthusiasm and energy. Your class was always a pleasure to come to and your commitment to your students is truly inspirational.
A Celebration of Life

Written by: Cody Kenny

At the age of 91, John Friedmann passed away on June 11th, 2017. He is survived by his loving family—his wife of 32 years, Leonie Sandercock, his daughter Manuela, and brother, Martin Friedmann. The passing of John is a significant loss. His life’s accomplishments include: founding the Program for Urban Planning at the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning at UCLA, receiving numerous distinguished international awards, receiving three Honorary Doctorates, publishing 16 books, 11 co-edited books, and more than 150 chapters, articles and reviews.

As an Honorary Professor at SCARP, he contributed significantly to the school through teaching, supervising and mentoring in the PhD program. John and Leonie initiated the biennial PhD Jamboree which brought PhD students together from all over the globe for a week of intensive learning and building relationships with each other.

I was able to speak with Leonie Sandercock to learn more about John. Here are some excerpts of our interview:

What brought him the most joy and happiness?

John had an unhappy first marriage and thought he would never marry again. I managed to persuade him otherwise, and the fact that we had 32 amazing years together, that gave him a second chance at love, that was what was most important to him.
What was he like personally? What was his most important qualities?

He was a very private person. He saw himself as an outsider. He was Jewish and had to flee from Nazis in 1940s. Arrived in America not speaking English. To many people he seemed distant. He was so intellectually tough, that he could be quite dismissive.

He was really generous with serious students. He was incredibly generous one on one with PhD students. He was best as a teacher when he was mentoring students one on one. He cared very little about money. He gave away lots of money, to organizations like the Quakers for the their work in developing countries, he thought they were the best organization helping in developing countries. He was very generous as a father to his daughter. As long as he thought you were serious he was very generous.

He loved classical music and poetry. We would host poetry parties for our closest friends every year for his birthday. John wrote his own poetry. He was really good at translating poems from famous poets, translating from Portuguese or from German to English. He had a real talent for that.

He loved music. Playing cello and classical music. He grew up doing that. His brother was a professional violinist with the Seattle Symphony. I would say his soul was expressed through poetry and music.

He also had a really infectious laugh. He loved magic and magicians. He loved little kids, he was really good at playing with little kids.

He was a very serious person. He was always thinking. When I was walking in the forest, I was totally in the moment; listening to the ravens wings, to the squirrels, the wind. John was thinking some big thoughts about… planning, about philosophy, about ethical issues. He probably read about 10 or 12 hours a day until the day he died.

When he died he was examining a PhD Thesis. He was writing a reference for a PhD student, and he was co-editing a special issue for a Planning journal on complexity in cities and urbanization in the 21st century. His work in the last few years was on complexity and planning.

After he finished his PhD in 1955, he worked from then until 1969 as a Planner in international development and regional planning. He worked in Brazil for four years and then Korea for two years. Then he had an academic job at MIT while also working on development planning in Venezuela and other parts of Latin America. Then he had a full time job in Chile for four years in national and regional planning. He was then invited to start the first Urban Planning program at UCLA in 1969. That is when his real academic career really started, after 14 years of practice. He was at UCLA for 27 years.

I came into his life in 1985. We were both in LA for 11 years. He retired at 70. We went to Australia. He became a honorary professor and that is when his interest in the cities of the Asia Pacific and the Pacific Rim began.

We moved to Vancouver in 2001 and have been here ever since.

John became involved in SCARP and he taught a couple of master’s courses over 15 years. Mostly about Asian cities. But the most important work he did here was his work with the PhD students.

Why was he so interested in Asian city Planning?

This is what happened when we moved to Australia. Relationships with universities in Southeast Asia were a big issue for Australian universities. He wanted to build on that in terms of research and thinking through what the challenges of rapid urbanization in contemporary Asian cities were, particularly Chinese cities.
What the familiar challenges were and to what extent they were completely different. It was a really big intellectual challenge to him. He had said by about the year 2000, “if I was coming in as PhD student now, there is no doubt what I would study. It would be Chinese cities. Because of the scale of urbanization and the pace… how are you supposed to manage that?”

The very last paper he wrote before he died will be published next year. It is around complexity and seeing through the lens of these megacities in China. He coined this phrase, ‘the urban superorganisms’. To him, what’s going on in the coastal cities of China is that there is no longer just Shanghai, there is a region of 100 million people that make up one big organism.

How do you think about the governance for that region? The planning for that?

Where were some his favorite places to travel?

We used to love going to Switzerland. Because he grew up in Vienna, and his family holidays were in the Alps.

(Back when we were in Los Angeles. And I was deeply immersed in what we call identity politics. In the 80s and 90s students were polarized in identity groups: Latino activist groups, gay and lesbian groups, African American planning group. John was very skeptical about these groups. He, at one point, jokingly said, "I am Alpine Semitic". )

When we lived in Los Angeles we loved to go to out into the San Gabriel Mountains. He loved going into the mountains to go hiking and skiing. He loved to be out on the seawall in Vancouver. The public space. The joy of the public. He would sit in his chair looking right out on the seawall. All the people going by.

He loved our place, our cabin in the forest on Orcas Island. He was hiking up until his early 80s. In his 60s and 70s we were doing really strenuous hikes. 3000 foot climbs.

What do you think his favorite personal achievements were?

Probably creating the Urban Planning program at UCLA. I suppose he would think Planning in the Public Domain was a major achievement. It’s his version of Peter Hall’s Intellectual History. It’s not about city planning. It’s about a bigger conception of planning. Planning in the Public Domain. And the Good Society, which is one of my favorite one of his books. In terms of achievement that is not of writing, it would be setting up a really critical planning program. A planning program based on critical thinking. He was really proud of the PhD jamboree. This workshop that we did every 2 years. He was really proud of his PhD students that he supervised. There must be somewhere between 30 and 40 PhD students that he has supervised. Many of whom are distinguished professors all over the world now.

What do you think his message to students would be?

There is a video of a lecture that he gave at the university of Hawaii to PhD students. (YouTube: John Friedmann Ph.D. - Thinking About Complexity in Planning - February 16, 2017). He is talking about this theme of complexity and how difficult all of these challenges of planning in an age of radical uncertainty and complexity are. He goes through all of these things, and then he says that my wife tells me that every story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end. But I don’t have an ending. The ending is up for you to write. So it’s kind of like it’s up to you. To interpret the world that you’re in. To choose for yourself, how and when to intervene to make the world a better place.

For him, the two foundational principles of planning are the life of dialogue and the right to human flourishing. That’s his final message.
In the summer of 2018, June 1st to June 16th, SCARP is offering its students the opportunity to take a 10 day field design studio in Barcelona. The course offers students an in-depth look at Barcelona, historically and morphologically – across scales. By immersing themselves in the life of the city and partaking in a series of site visits, students will gain an understanding of the rich history of the city and its relationship to local culture and social circumstances. Larger challenges and opportunities related to other cities globally will also come to the fore. For SCARP this is the first time that students and faculty will be conducting research and field studio work in Barcelona.

The course is facilitated by Erick Villagomez and Jordi Honey-Rosés. Villagomez is a professor in architecture and design at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and at the UBC, he is the founding principal of Metis Design-Build – a practice that works on diverse projects ranging from small-scale architecture to urban design consulting – and the Editor-in-Chief of Spacing Vancouver. Honey-Rosés is an Assistant Professor at SCARP specializing in ecological planning, ecosystem services and natural resource management. Jordi received his PhD in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I had the opportunity to speak with Erick Villagomez about the upcoming trip and what students should expect. Here are some excerpts from our interview:

How did this course come to life?

‘I have done previous trips to Barcelona with the KPU Design School. A lot of the stuff that I do is focused on cities and settlements. This trip became a sharp focus on cities and urban design. My last trip with KPU was in May of 2016. I wanted to plan a trip for SCARP and I had designed this program to be specifically for SCARP. As well, students had always asked me when this trip would be available for SCARP students... So I went to Penny (Gurstein, Director of SCARP) and pitched this idea. Penny replied back that Jordi (Honey-Rosés) had pitched this idea and she had asked that we see if we could do this together. The program came alive in June of this year (2017).
Because of my previous trips to Barcelona I am coming with a background of up-to-date information on Barcelona and Jordi has the knowledge and experience with Barcelona, because he is from there.

We are still ironing out the details, but we have a lot of it pinned down and especially the overarching goals of the trip.

There is no previous relationship with Barcelona and SCARP?

‘This is completely from scratch... Jordi has a whole bunch of contacts there and is from there, plus my experience taking KPU students on trips I’ve done myself, so we have a lot of it in place already.

There will be similarities between the KPU Design Studio and the SCARP Studio but there will be very distinct differences. It will be run as a studio, KPU is not a studio based course. KPU is more about field school, understanding it and visiting places. SCARP will be about engaging the issues and trying to decipher the potential there.

The course will be 6 credits, there will be a bunch of classes before the trip; this has been tested out with KPU programs. We want students going to Barcelona with a deep understanding of what is happening there, and then actually experiencing the city.

There will not be much lecturing about the city before; but there will be assignments to do before. We want the students to understand why the city is what it is.

Barcelona is reaching a golden age. If we play our cards right, students will be able to relate the issues happening in Barcelona to things happening around Vancouver: like tourism, housing and affordability. In many respects Barcelona is almost an advanced version of what Vancouver is now. It is reaching many extreme points in things like tourism, and how it is pushing people out.’

What can students expect on the trip?

‘We are going to have fun. We want it to be hard-working and intensive, but we don’t want to take the fun out the trip. We are going to have designated times each day for study, and the rest will be more self-directed. We want to give more time to students to reflect, not so much go-go-go. There will be a lot of walking, a lot of learning. In the past I have taken students salsa dancing, night-sketching, out walking to 2 or 3 in the morning...it will be very rigorous and exhausting.’

Is there any potential for something happening with the trip in regards to the recent news in Catelonia?

‘We believe there are going to be no major hiccups. Jordi is staying up with the news minute-to-minute. I am staying up to date with it. If anything does happen, go-global has agreed that money will be refunded.’

What is the price going to look like for students?

‘Go global has been really great in facilitating some of these things. There is $1000 honorarium they provide to students for going there which knocks price down for students. The $2700-3000 that we first estimated is a really conservative figure; it looks like we will be able to go below that with the honorarium, we are hoping for around $1000-1500 (with the honorarium). Students should bring 30-50 euros spending money per day to be safe.’

How important is it to know Spanish for the trip?

‘We would like some people to know Spanish ideally. But Barcelona is a very English friendly speaking place; knowing Spanish will come in handy, but me and Jordi will be there to help facilitate conversations.’
Written by: Simon Erlich

Hello, my name is Simon Erlich and I am the new Student Development Coordinator at SCARP. What follows is some top secret information about me:

I am a recent graduate from the Human Geography Masters program at the University of Toronto. Within this program my research interests were twofold:

1. analyzing retail food cooperatives and their ability to contribute to an alternative food system;

2. the potential for collaboration between academia and non-profits to drive food system change, specifically seen through Community Service Learning courses.

My undergraduate degree is also in Geography from the University of Toronto. During this time I was predominantly interested in the negative environmental and health-related externalities of meat consumption.

While I am by no means an expert in planning, I have taken a few planning courses and am keenly interested in all of the wonderful research and projects that SCARP students are undertaking.

Concurrent with my education I have worked in Student Services for six years, with positions in various fields ranging from student governance and residence life to orientation week planning and leadership workshops.

Work and academic life aside, I am originally from a small beach town in Ontario called Kincardine (I’ll be impressed if you know it). I have a wide array of interests and hobbies, including: swimming, playing squash, hiking, snowboarding, reading, discussing geopolitics, playing guitar, cooking, and travelling.
Travelling has especially always been a passion of mine as I’ve spent a year and a half of my life traveling different countries out of my backpack. Some of my favourite places include: Norway, Nepal, and Vietnam. If there are any Spanish speakers in the SCARP community, I’ve been trying (and largely failing) to learn Spanish recently and would appreciate any help!

My current position at UBC is as a Graduate Student Development Coordinator. The nature of my position is student oriented and strives to provide program coordination and professional development opportunities to graduate students in the applied sciences. Specifically, I spend approximately 50% of my time within the SCARP community (in WMAX 127) and 50% of my time within the engineering community (Fred Kaiser 1120C).

My role within SCARP is to administer the mentorship program, internship Program, Masters of Engineering Leadership program (MEL), Vancouver Summer Program (VSP), Imagine Day (orientation), Design and Innovation Day, as well as ongoing professional development opportunities.

With regards to ongoing professional development opportunities, I encourage any student, staff, or faculty to reach out to me with recommendations. Further, I can help students with job seeking skills (e.g. resumes, cover letters, interviewing, and networking) as well as the development of other soft skills.

A few goals I have within my role are to acquire and integrate student feedback on the successes and limitations of the mentorship and internship program. As well as develop and incorporate new professional development opportunities based on students needs.

As I’m new to British Columbia, I’m looking to get involved with local social justice issues, specifically those with a focus on promoting food justice, and would encourage any recommendations regarding community organizations doing this kind of work or how to better integrate myself into local networks.

Lastly, I wanted to close by saying how excited I am to be working with such a dynamic, intellectually motivated, and progressive community of students and faculty. I encourage all students to drop-by and chat anytime I’m in my office or to reach out via email, simon.erlich@ubc.ca, to set up a time to meet and discuss SCARP related concerns. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Simon Erlich
The Lunchtime Dialogues Series (LDS) is a long-held tradition at SCARP to connect students with fascinating and experienced professionals in planning. The LDS are typically held twice a month at West Mall Annex (WMAX) and include speakers that are varied in terms of specialization and interest, which includes speakers who are not planners in the traditional sense. The LDS Committee seeks out student input on session themes, speakers, and timing to maximize student interest and attendance. This year the LDS held two of their six sessions off campus, through walking and biking tours.

This fall we’ve heard from four speakers so far. In September, three planners with the City of Vancouver hosted three LDS sessions. On September 18th, Thomas Daley guided students on a walking tour of downtown Vancouver to discuss public life and public space; On September 20th, Holly Sovdi joined us at WMAX to explore the past, present and future of Northeast False Creek; and on September 27th, Cory Dobson took students on a bike tour of the False Creek Flats. On October 11th, Ouri Scott with Urban Arts Architecture joined us at WMAX to speak about Indigenous Architecture and the Britannia Renewal Project.

In November, three more speakers will be joining us at WMAX for two LDS sessions: On November 8th, Lesley Campbell and Ginger Gosnell Myers, both working for the City of Vancouver, will discuss what it means to be a City of Reconciliation. Lesley and Ginger hosted a panel at the 2017 SCARP Student Symposium and drew a full house in the AMS Performance Theatre. The final LDS for this term will be held on November 22nd, with Karen Hemmingson, Chief Research Officer at BC Housing, speaking to planning at the provincial level.
The topics in the LDS are constantly changing and offer something for all students. This year we've also received a small budget to provide light refreshments and food for students when LDS sessions are held at WMAX. This is Brittany and Katie's final term as LDS Coordinators. We look forward to what the future LDS coordinators have in store for SCARP! If you have any questions about LDS, feedback, or speakers in mind, we encourage you to contact us at:

lunchtimedialogues@gmail.com.

Katie Stewart is a second-year graduate student at the School of Community and Regional Planning, studying in the Indigenous Community Planning stream. She is working with Siska Indian Band for her practicum, focusing on Phase 3 of their Comprehensive Community Plan. Outside of SCARP, Katie is working part time as a Policy Analyst at Natural Resources Canada. Before coming to Vancouver, Katelyn worked in Gatineau at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and studied at the University of Ottawa, graduating in 2014 with a Baccalaureate in International Development and Globalization, and a minor in history. Katie loves to bike and has recently joined the Vancouver/UBC HUB Committee. She also loves hanging out with her cat and petting other people's dogs.

Brittany Morris' interest in how design and engagement can foster an inclusive approach to planning led her to the Master of Community & Regional Planning program at SCARP. She has experience in engagement, participatory planning and sustainable development projects in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. She currently works for EcoPlan International and MODUS Planning, Design and Engagement. Some of her favourite things: exploring BC's mountains and coast, riding her bike, and cheesy jokes.
NewsBytes is SCARP’s tri-annual newsletter highlighting current announcements, recent accomplishments, events, research, and broader planning movements of interest to staff, faculty, students, alumni, prospective students and members of the community.

Opinions expressed in NewsBytes are not necessarily those of UBC, SCARP, or the NewsBytes Editor. If you have questions or comments, or would like to make a submission to a future edition of NewsBytes, please contact NewsBytes Editor and Outreach Coordinator, Cody Kenny, directly at Codykenny35@gmail.com or contact the School of Community And Regional Planning at the address provided below.