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SCARP

School of Community
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Director's Last Message

SCARP Director's Message – April 2018

By Penny Gurstein

This is my last message to you as my term as Director ends on August 31, 2018. It has been a privilege to serve as Director for ten years at a pivotal time in SCARP's evolution.

During my time as Director we have had to weather a lot of changes. We have renewed our faculty with new hires, cross appointments with other faculties, and the hiring of lecturers and adjunct faculty. I had the unusual task to be mandated by the Provost to interview Deans to find a good fit for SCARP when it became evident that the College for Interdisciplinary Studies, our previous home, was no longer tenable. The Faculty of Applied Science, which we decided on, has been an excellent academic home, and provided SCARP much needed support and resources.

During my tenure, SCARP has developed the professional Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) and the Master of Engineering Leadership in Urban Systems (MEL URSY), co-hosted by Civil Engineering; revamped the research masters degree (MAP/MScP); developed a suite of undergraduate service courses; and began the process of thinking through a potential undergraduate program. This summer SCARP is participating in the Vancouver Summer Program by offering courses to international undergraduate students. Also, this summer, for the third time, SCARP will be hosting a Summer Institute: The Vancouver Lab, a two-week



workshop intended for practicing professionals.

I have guided the School through two professional accreditations for both the American and Canadian planning accreditation boards, which required us to carefully analyze our curriculum and pedagogical approaches.

At UBC since 1991, and Director of SCARP since 2007, I have long recognized the importance of providing leadership in community-university partnerships with the public, private and non-profit sectors, and in bringing the resources and capacities of the university to bear on addressing critical planning issues.

An initiative that I am particularly proud of is the Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) concentration in the MCRP program, ably led by Leonie Sandercock, that started 6 years ago. This concentration seeks to train a new generation of community planners to work in respectful partnership with Indigenous communities. I am pleased that

this initiative has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally for its pedagogical approach. Another initiative, ably led by Maged Senbel, is the planning studio, which provides MCRP students with real world experience on planning projects identified by community partners. The work produced by students has been exemplary. And, yet another initiative, is the annual student-led symposium, which has been held for the last 10 years, and truly represents the best of SCARP.

While I have been a strong advocate for a consolidation of SCARP space into one location for students, faculty, and staff, this has eluded us. However, the renewal of West Mall Annex by renovations, new furnishings and an expansion of our space has allowed for our growth, and has provided a much more amenable space for students, faculty and staff.

I want to particularly thank the SCARP staff for their dedication to our school. Cate Palmer, SCARP Administrator, who will be retiring on July 1, has done an outstanding job of creating administrative order, renewing our facilities, and managing our finances. Penny Mullen, our Financial Officer, and website manager, is truly dedicated to ensuring that our accounts are in order but goes the extra mile to understand our sometimes unique needs. Laura Keith, Graduate Support, has shown amazing initiative in proposing improvements to our handling of student records, and true compassion in addressing student needs. Sherli Mah, Administrative Support, efficiently organizes SCARP events and handles administrative matters. Finally, Simon Erlich, Student Development Coordinator, our newest staff member, has done an amazing job in understanding SCARP's student development needs and addressing them.

A big thank you to all!

I also want to give a big thank you to Maged Senbel, who was the SCARP Associate Director, in the last five years. He was my sounding board and took real leadership in the renewal of our facilities, and in the Planning Studio, besides many other initiatives. He also is the Chair of the PhD Program. Maged is warm, funny, compassionate and caring, besides being an excellent teacher and researcher. All the things you want in a colleague.

As I leave my term as director, I am humbled for being recognized as the 2016 recipient of the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Education, Training and Development, and the 2018 Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Medal of Distinction. These awards are particularly meaningful to me because they also reflect the regard that SCARP is shown in the community and at UBC.

I am confident that under the new Director, Dr. Heather Campbell, SCARP will continue to prosper, and I look forward to working with her. Thank you to everyone for all of the contributions you have made to SCARP over the years.



Congratulations 2018 SCARP Graduates

Robert Catherall (MCRP)

Stephen Clark (MCRP)

Cristyn Edwards (MCRP)

Brett Freake (MCRP)

Filippos Gkekas (MCRP)

Stuart Hamre (MCRP)

Kathleen Heggie (MCRP)

Jessica Lee (MCRP)

Mengying Li (MCRP)

Christopher Mah (MCRP)

Carmut Me (MAAMAP)

Katelyn Stewart (MCRP)

Alexander Taciuk (MCRP)

Lara Therrien Boulos (MCRP)

Cyril Tomlinson (MCRP)

Meagan Twissel (MCRP)

Emma Watson (MCRP)

Lillian Wilson (MCRP)

Amitai Zand (MCRP)



ICP Practicum Presentations

ICP Presentations

By: Cody Kenny

On April 13th, 2018 the 2nd year ICP students gave their practicum presentations to a crowd of over 100 guests at the UBC Longhouse, including SCARP Faculty, alumni and current students, family and friends, and members of the First Nations communities where the practicums took place.

The Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) Practicum is an intensive planning practicum with a BC First Nation. This year, teams of two worked in Haida Gwaii with the Old Masset Village Council (Hudson Mclellan & Mallory Blondeau), Siska Indian Band (Meagan Twissel & Katelyn Stewart), and one student worked alone with Musqueam Indian Band (Oliver Dann).

Students contributed up to 8 weeks (about 700 hours of combined time) towards the planning needs of each community. This includes making 5 - 8 trips to the community over the 8 month period.

Mallory and Hudson worked on Phase Two of the Old Masset community plan which is led by Old Masset planning team Victoria Grosse and Freda Davis.

Meagan and Katie worked on Phase Three of Siska Indian Band's Comprehensive Community Plan and their community profile. They worked closely with the Siska planning team: Alice Munro, Regina Pierre, Merika Sam, and Sam Gush.

Oliver was the only SCARP ICP student to work alone. He worked with Musqueam Indian Band on the revision of Musqueam's Comprehensive Community Plan. The planning team included Jessica Carson and Sasha Wiley-Shaw.

The presentations were well received by everyone in attendance. A panel discussion and lunch followed.

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.



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