



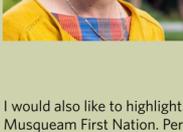
SCARP

Your Alumni Connection



DIRECTOR'S SUMMER UPDATE

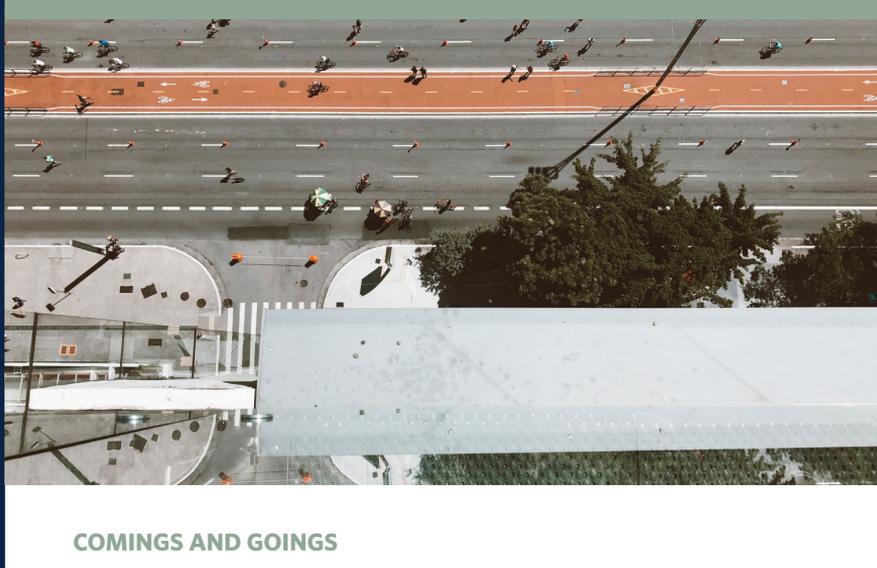
It isn't yet a year since I arrived in Vancouver, and the last few months have sped by quickly. I'm very grateful to my colleagues and the wider SCARP community for your support and patience. My learning curve is far from complete, but at least I'll start this September with more than two suitcases to my name and a better knowledge of the product range of Canadian supermarkets!



More pertinently, it has been a busy and eventful year for the School, and now seems a good moment to up-date you on developments, including new appointments, notable achievements, future initiatives, and also ways I am keen to engage with the whole SCARP community. I apologise for the length of this up-date, but it emphasises that it is a busy time.

It is clear to me that the next few years represent a moment of huge opportunity for the School. I have been struck by the support and advocacy the School receives from the Dean and his colleagues in the Faculty of Applied Science. (Applied Science is the School's administrative home within UBC.) The Dean's Office recognises the contemporary pertinence of the concerns that motivate us as planning scholars, students and practitioners, and are keen to see the School thrive and succeed.

I would also like to highlight the value and insight that the School gains from our partnership with the Musqueam First Nation. Personally, I have found the learning to be gained from our partnership both humbling and inspiring.



COMINGS AND GOINGS

A highly significant way in which the Faculty is demonstrating its commitment to SCARP is through support for our ambitious hiring strategy.

The first tangible result of this strategy sees **Dr. Maggie Low** joining the School as a tenure track Assistant Professor in Indigenous Community Planning in September. Maggie joins us from being a Project Manager at the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) in Toronto, Canada's first and only First Nations led research NGO. Prior to that she completed a PhD in the Institute of Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. Maggie is very much a community-engaged scholar and has worked with First Nations in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. Her doctoral research examined practices of Indigenous sovereignty expressed through strategic planning, more especially, the negotiation and implementation of reconciliation agreements between the Heiltsuk Nation and the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada. It is very exciting to have Maggie joining the School.

The School's work in Indigenous community planning has also been reinforced by the appointment of **Jessie Hemphill** as a half-time instructor. I know Jessie's work as an Indigenous community planning practitioner, through her consulting firm, Alderhill, will be well known to many of you, and we are delighted that the School and our students will have access to her great insights and talents. Jessie received the Governor General's Gold Medal in 2018.

Most recently, **Dr. Su-Jan Yeo** has been appointed to a one year Lecturer position. Su-Jan held a Post-

doctoral Fellowship in the School until May, previously having worked and studied in Canada, Australia and Singapore. In recent years Su-Jan has found a particular passion for teaching, and her insights on innovations and developments in educational practices will bring a very welcome new dimension to the School.

We are fortunate to be able to welcome such talented individuals to SCARP. Excitingly, I expect in the next few months they will be joined by further appointments. We have just advertised two new positions: an **Assistant Professor** and an **Associate/ Full Professor**. I have also in the last few days had confirmation that we will be able to advertise for a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2). This position is open to candidates awarded their PhD within the last ten years and provides successful applicants with additional resources and time to support their research. Please circulate the information about these positions within your networks.

The coming year will also see a couple of major departures from SCARP, with **Professor Tom Hutton's** retirement in December and **Dr. Michael Leaf** stepping down for health reasons. I know that generations of SCARP graduates and colleagues are indebted to both Tom and Michael for their vibrant intellects, dedication and good nature. I will be writing to you in due course about our plans to celebrate their considerable contributions.



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

It is part of my Scottish Presbyterian DNA that I tend to steer away from listing achievements, as the 'notable' often overshadows mention of less visible, but possibly more vital contributions. As many of you have emphasized to me, SCARP succeeds as a community, not merely as a collection of individual achievers. That said there are a few achievements I will highlight.

Let me start with our students. I have been hugely impressed by the quality of work produced by our **doctoral and masters students**. I can illustrate this through a couple of comments I have received: firstly, an experienced external examiner of a PhD stated that the dissertation was "the best they'd ever read"; and secondly, a commissioner of a studio project acclaimed the quality to surpass that of a report they had recently received, at considerable expense I might add, from an experienced consultant. The commitment of our student body and wish to push boundaries was also fully on display at this year's annual Student Symposium; a date I know many professional colleagues reserve in your calendars. The challenge now is that this has become the benchmark of my expectations!

I could name check all faculty members, but there are three rather different achievements I want to mention. Firstly, **Dr. Jordi Honey Rosés** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. This is richly deserved recognition of the excellence of his teaching and research and also more general commitment to School. Secondly, **Professor Leonie Sandercock** was awarded the Dean's Medal of Distinction as a mark of the significance of her intellectual and educational contributions, most especially in the field of Indigenous community planning. Furthermore, there can be few, if any, planning schools in the world that are listed in the credits of a multiple award winning feature film. I encourage you to look out for screenings of *Edge of Knife* (*Sgaawaay K'uuna*), which Leonie co-wrote as part of a research project with the Haida Nation.

Thirdly, **Dr. Nora Angeles** was honoured with a City of Vancouver Civic Merit Award. Her citation notes: "...

her individual and collaborative efforts around the world in research, education, and capacity-building in community and international development, participatory governance and planning with an emphasis on gender analysis. ...She has also inspired a generation of youth to consider planning and development within the context of diversity and inclusion...She is regarded as a change maker and leader who approaches issues with empathy, persistence and enthusiasm." What valuable planning qualities Nora embodies, and change making is a theme I return to making is a theme I return to later.



FUTURE INITIATIVES

As a result of your input and discussions within the School we are currently progressing work on the plan on three fronts:

- (1) reconsideration of the way we articulate our vision of a Planning School;
- (2) a review of our program offering, including opportunities for new programs and activities, and a detailed review of the accredited Masters of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP); and
- (3) an appraisal of how the School is organized and administered, and hence a series of linked strategies covering issues such as finance, governance, research, and marketing and communications.

This is an ambitious program of work and I am grateful to all my colleagues for their commitment and hard work. This certainly has not been a quiet summer for the administrative staff team, very ably led by **Dolores Martin**. I am also appreciative of **Dr. Mark Stevens** agreeing to lead the review of the MCRP.

As a faculty we have had some excellent discussions about our collective sense of what we value and wish SCARP to represent as a Planning School. Planning as a discipline and profession is made up of many sub-fields, but when I met colleagues last autumn it was clear that we all share a passion for seeking ways that

through our teaching and research knowledge and ideas can more effectively make a difference in the world. It was also understood that such positive change can only be achieved if, as academics, practitioners and communities, we work together. We have therefore agreed to summarize our shared motivation and vision for SCARP as follows:

Knowledge in Action – Planning in Partnership. We will over the coming months look to articulate this vision further and look forward to wider discussion within the SCARP community.

Alongside these more visionary considerations, we have also started to explore how best to secure the long term vitality and sustainability of the School. To this end we are reviewing both our existing offering and also considering the potential to extend and develop our programs and activities. We look forward to having the opportunity to share our analysis with the SCARP community, so as to ensure that the foundations of the strategic plan are robust and have longevity.



ENGAGING THE SCARP COMMUNITY

Over the past year the School has hosted a number of events, which have enabled me to meet with many of you individually and collectively. However, a key disappointment to me is that I have not so far had the time to get to know the wider Vancouver region rather better and learn more about current planning issues and practices. I hope to correct this over the coming year.

I am also aware that we could benefit more from the insights and intelligence within the SCARP community, including from our alumni, adjuncts and practitioner colleagues. It is therefore my intention that we (re-) form a School Advisory Board. However, given the range of activities linked to the strategic plan, an initial first step I would like to take is to form an 'Advisory Panel' of practitioners, alumni and adjuncts linked to the review of the MCRP.

If you are interested in contributing to the School in any way, or participating in such the advisory panel or joining the Board, please email us.

I would also like to develop a more formalized annual program of SCARP events, which provides opportunities for us to come together. We will endeavour, where possible, to link events so your visits to our outpost on Campus serve more than one purpose.

As they say, however, Rome wasn't built in a day, and I hope that you'll understand that some things will

take a little longer to achieve than we would wish. I am hopeful that we will be able to increase our communications capacity in the coming year, and hence be able to engage with you more consistently and frequently, and at less length!

Finally, I want to reiterate my thanks to you all, at a personal-level for your welcome, but also for your commitment to SCARP and your desire to see the School flourish and succeed. This is an important moment for the School, and I appreciate that SCARP benefits from not just your insights, but also your candour. If you have any thoughts, queries or ideas, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

I hope that your summer proved enjoyable and rewarding, and that the spirit of those sunny days extend into the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Heather Campbell
Director, SCARP