Delegates to the fourth annual SCARP Student Symposium ponder planning during one of the day’s breakout sessions. The popular annual event drew more than 170 people. See page 2 for more photos and information.

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On February 10 SCARP hosted its fourth annual Student Symposium, this year titled “Rethink: Planning for an Uncertain Future.” The symposium honoured the work of retiring SCARP professors Tony Dorcey and Dr. Bill Rees, who gave a joint keynote address reflecting on their careers at SCARP and offering inspiration for the future of the school and the planning profession. The day’s other keynote speakers were Richard Heinberg of the Post-Carbon Institute and the Honourable Mike Harcourt. Musqueam Elder Larry Grant opened the conference, welcoming us and speaking on the relevance of Indigenous land use planning. Twelve well-attended panels filled the day, with topics ranging from OCP development to youth engagement to local food networks.

The 2012 Symposium was a great success, selling out with more than 170 registered participants. Attendees included SCARP students and faculty members, students from UBC and other academic institutions, as well as professional planners and community members, some of whom traveled from as far as Revelstoke, Washington State, and California. According to SCARP director Dr. Penny Gurstein, “The Symposium was outstanding and has clearly become one of the highlights of the SCARP school year.”

Professor Emeritus Tony Dorcey had high praise for the student organizers, saying that, “The sessions I was able to attend were thoughtful and provoked lively exchanges, a great credit to the careful preparation and skillful facilitation of their conveners and the focused remarks from very well chosen panelists.” He listed some personal highlights, which included hearing from SCARP alumnus Senator Pat Carney, attending the SCARP alumni panel on professional development, and meeting with several prospective SCARP students who were in attendance.

SCARP Masters student Ruth Legg felt that “The Symposium hosted a range of articulate speakers, inspiring innovative ideas, and stimulating engaging conversations.”

The Symposium was capped with a wine and cheese event and speech from the Honourable Mike Harcourt, former premier of B.C., which was organized by Adam Cooper and the SCARP Alumni Association.

The Symposium organizing committee—Yazmin Her...
SCARP in Renewal

Since last fall a number of events have transpired that will be shaping SCARP in the future. After careful consideration of our options, SCARP is in the process of relocating its institutional home to the Faculty of Applied Science at UBC. This faculty houses the department of Engineering, as well as the Schools of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Nursing. We have been very well received by the Dean and unit heads in this faculty and look forward to close working relationships with the various units. We already have a joint appointment in Civil Engineering and are in the process of developing a Masters of Urban Design with SALA that will create another joint appointment.

The Indigenous Community Planning specialization at SCARP will be admitting students starting in September 2012. We are in the process of hiring an Indigenous Community Planning Practice Instructor who will teach the practicum course that will provide students with experience working in First Nation communities. This important new addition to our faculty will help to position SCARP as a leader in this emerging planning area.

Due to the end of mandatory retirement for university faculty there is no longer any certainty in anticipating when faculty renewal will occur. This has affected budget planning for units and because of this the university has had to develop a new budget model that gives each unit an envelope of funding that constitutes its budget and strong encouragement to develop programs that can create revenue. After reviewing our budget with the Dean of Applied Science and working through various scenarios, it has become evident that SCARP has to make choices between hiring an External Director and renewing our faculty with the retirement of Bill Rees and Tony Dorsey. We are in the process of reviewing our options and a decision on this will be made shortly.

As part of this scrutiny of our program we are doing a curriculum review and re- visioning in order to articulate a vision for our planning curriculum looking ten years forward. SCARP students in the qualitative and quantitative methods courses will be gathering much needed valuable information from our various stakeholders.

I want to congratulate the students who organized the symposium this year. The fourth annual symposium, “Rethink: Planning for an Uncertain Future” on February 10, 2012 was outstanding and has clearly become one of the highlights of the SCARP school year. This year we had the added support of MITACS, which funded the symposium as an opportunity for students to connect with practitioners. This event was attended by a wide variety of public, private and non-profit planners, as well as students and faculty from a number of universities within B.C. and beyond.

SCARP, I believe, is stronger than ever and is poised to become even stronger as we develop new initiatives and contemplate growing our enrollment. I look forward to working with the SCARP community on this.

CAPS Conference Offers a Dose of Planning Inspiration

In early February, I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Association of Planning Students conference in Vancouver. The conference was organized by SFU’s School of Resource and Environmental Management (REM) program. It was attended by a number of SCARP students, along with students from planning programs around the country including the University of Waterloo, the University of Saskatchewan and SFU’s REM program, to name a few.

The conference’s timing could not have come at a better time. For students finishing up their master’s like me, it provided a dose of optimism and a reassurance that this profession is indeed an important one. For students finishing up their bachelors, and for those in their first year of their master’s program, the conference was a real opportunity to introduce a number of different topics that planning researchers and practitioners engage in, including housing policy, public transportation, and sustainability education.

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While there were several fascinating panels, keynote addresses and student presentations, the highlight of the conference for me was to hear directly from Brent Toderian. Toderian, who only a few days earlier received news that he was losing his post as City of Vancouver Planning Director, displayed a sense of integrity and confidence in his presentation. Toderian is known for saying that “good planning is not a popularity contest,” an approach he openly followed as director. He opened up his speech by reassuring planning students that this is a critical profession and one that will shape the coming century.

Naturally, he spoke of Vancouver’s major initiatives and accomplishments during his tenure as director, such as housing 7,000 children in the downtown, the construction of laneway housing and reducing car trips into the downtown while concomitantly increasing pedestrian, cycling and transit trips.

Toderian spoke with honesty and realism about the challenges of planning in a city like Vancouver and the multiple competing interests at play, including those of developers, preservationists and citizens. Ostensibly, it was Toderian’s general ambivalence about his vision for the city that bothered some developers and architects, and may have contributed to his termination as Planning Director. He shared a number of insights and planning mantras to capture his vision of planning and how we can make our cities more livable, interesting and exciting, one being architectural diversity through designing buildings that are green, dense and different in detail.

On transportation he exclaimed, “Walkability needs the power of nearness,” meaning that a lot of the trips we make in our urban environments can be walked, insofar as our communities are compact and dense enough.

Beyond his speech at the CAPS conference, and the termination of his position as Planning Director, he was admirable for his honesty about change, and what needs to happen. While perhaps minor, Toderian contributed to the popular planning aggregator “Planetizen,” writing about planning education and topics we ought to think about more seriously. His most recent article featured a discussion of congestion charging and its potential role in making our cities more manageable, efficient and environmentally friendly. Considering the controversial nature of congestion charging, it is encouraging to see progressive planners, like Toderian, recognize its value. While I do not know the full details of his job as Planning Director, I am more comfortable acknowledging his honesty concerning the planning profession and the politics that shape it. In the past Toderian has said that we as planners and urbanists are well suited to be a significant part of the solution to various challenges in society, including air pollution and environmental degradation. He has said that in our best moments we are effective, but in our worst, we are apologists or standing in the way of progress.

Wherever Toderian takes himself next, one can hope that he continues to contribute to the planning field, through online writing, public presentations and other venues. Sharing his wisdom about the achievements under his leadership, and the bitter realities of the political process, are equally as important to convey to the young generation of planners to better prepare us for what lies ahead as we travel the path of planning education and practice.

UBC Presentations at CAPS

Tamara White: The Story of Slums
Adam Kebede: Planning Through Play: The Street Transformation Board Game
Colleen Hardwick (Nystedt): PlaceSpeak: 21st Century Innovation in Public Participation
Ruth Legg: Economic Adaptation to Climate Change
Tim Shah: Spatial Analysis of Health Data and a Cooperative Approach Towards Healthy Communities in the Southern Interior of British Columbia
Karen Fung: Twitter for Planning Engagement and Community
Jonathan Walker: Planning for the Post-Modern City: Cognitive Mapping as Participatory Design Methodology
Tamara White, Josh Taylor, Rupert Campbell: Occupy Planning
Occupy Planning was initiated by SCARP students interested in exploring, from a planning perspective, the issues brought forth by the global Occupy Movement. The newly formed group has focused its efforts on activating dialogue about 1) How planners interact with structural inequality and other substantial Occupy concerns, 2) What we as planners can learn from the Occupy Movement in terms of process, and 3) How the planning profession can engage with the Occupy Movement.

We were inspired to form Occupy Planning in November 2011 when Tony Dorcey hosted an Open Space Technology (OST) event for all students taking his classes that semester. Open Space is a facilitation style in which participants set the agenda, facilitate their own sessions, and can move freely through discussions. In Tony’s Open Space event, the Occupy Movement became a major point of discussion, with many SCARP students asking, “What does this mean for planning?” and, “Why aren’t we more involved with this?”

After that event, SCARP students began meeting to discuss Occupy’s impact on planning, eventually creating Occupy Planning. Wanting to know what other planning students and practising planners thought about these questions, we hosted Open Space discussions at the CAPS (Canadian Association of Planning Students) Conference and the SCARP Symposium in February 2012. Both sessions were well attended, garnering input from over 40 students and practitioners from a spectrum of schools and institutions.

Much like the experiences of Occupy assemblies elsewhere, our open dialogue sessions brought forth a wide breadth of issues, as well as proposed solutions. Participants then voted on the issues or solutions that resonated most with them.

Questions that arose in both events included: How does inequality affect planning practice on a daily level? How does planning education address the reality of working within these inequalities? How can we keep the possible alive? How can planners be advocates as well as facilitators? Can the lessons from Occupy be better incorporated into university curricula? What is the role of technology in Occupy? And, if a global economic collapse happened this afternoon, where is the first place you would go, and why does this matter to planners?

Answers/Suggestions that emerged from the Open Spaces focused on the role of co-operatives, localization and bottom-up planning, as well as building social capital, equity of access to public space, and community connections. A more macro approach included the need for electoral reform and addressing the impact of money on politics. The ability of Occupy to be accessible to all members of the 99% was discussed, and in terms of planning education, the need for strong, engaged and practical internships was stressed.

To get involved or find out more about Occupy Planning and our next steps, please visit: http://www.occupyplanning.com.

SFU Resource and Environmental Management student Marena Brinkhurst makes her mark at Occupy Planning’s workshop during the annual CAPS conference at SFU’s downtown campus.
You Worked Hard, So Celebrate It!

Four years ago I graduated from the SCARP Master’s program. It was a cold, wet November day. When the ceremony at the Chan Centre ended at 4:30 p.m., the graduates and their families made their way to a couple of white tents where there may have been an assortment of treats for us—it was impossible to tell since it was completely dark by then and the tents were unlit! After a beautiful graduation ceremony, this was a sad display. Luckily, SCARP Director Penny Gurstein agreed that we needed our own reception for graduates and alumni. With the support of CFIS, we held our very first SCARP Graduation Reception at the C.K. Choi Centre in May 2008. Over the years, notable alumni and donors such as Cornelia Oberlander and Clive Justice have made appearances at this important event.

On a sunny November 25, 2011, my family and I attended the reception along with a handful of Master’s graduates, their families, SCARP faculty and staff. Oh, and UBC has also made improvements to its graduation reception in the recently completed Buchanan Courtyard . . . the tents are even heated!

PSA Kicks Off 2012 With New Faces and New Ideas

The PSA and its new Executive started its term and the new year by trying to find creative ways to vision what fellow SCARPies want in the year to come. This process was helped along through a visioning activity/house party at student Josh Taylor’s house that focused on community building and contributed to SCARP’s on-going visioning (not to mention generating ideas for more social events). The PSA is also considering fundraising projects, which could include T-Shirt/SCARP Apparel sales. Any ideas on this front are welcome, just contact Niall with your suggestions. The PSA also contributed to the CAPS conference this year (Feb. 2 to 4) through two student led tours from Rosa Shih and Niall McGarvey and lent a hand to making the SCARP Student Symposium the success it was.

The PSA is working hard to create meaningful opportunities to engage and connect within and outside of our SCARP community. It looks like it’s going to be a great 2012, PSA!

SCARP PSA Executive (2012)

President: Krystie Babalos
Vice-President: Rupert Campbell
Treasurer: Tim Baird
Administrator: Annie Merritt
Orientation Coordinators: Katie O’Callaghan and Rosa Shih

In addition to the above individuals, SCARPies have volunteered for PSA posts across a host of issue areas to make sure students get the most out of their time in the program.
Recently, I volunteered with three SCARP students and two students from the Justice Institute to help facilitate a gathering hosted by the Squamish First Nation called the “Bright New Day” workshop. Under the guidance and supervision of John McCandless and Chief Robert Joseph, who together run a reconciliation firm called Chief Robert and Associates, I served as a note-taker in a bridge-building workshop unlike anything I had experienced before.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring a variety of Squamish community organizations and members together with a wide range of government workers and businesses that have a stake in building and strengthening relationships with Canada’s First Nations communities. However, it was much more than a networking opportunity, and the two day intensive workshop beautifully wove together three main goals: Telling All Our Stories, Imagining A Future Together, and Taking Action on Reconciliation.

As the participants spent time getting to know one another through sharing personal stories about residential schools, racism, abuse, and other hardships, I witnessed the walls of isolation start to come down amongst the participants. It was a profound experience to see both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people come together to work towards a shared vision for the future and a path forward that I can neither put into words nor simplify. Although my assigned task was to take notes and help with registration, I walked away with a deeper understanding of the difficulties faced by Aboriginal communities and a stronger appreciation for their culture and history. All I can say is that I strongly urge all SCARP students, regardless of whether you are interested in Indigenous planning, to participate in a reconciliation circle/workshop. It is first and foremost our responsibility as Canadians to hear about the true history of Canada, from an Aboriginal perspective, which has largely been invisible in our school systems and institutions. Understanding is a two-way street, and for Aboriginal communities to achieve true reconciliation, non-Aboriginal Canadians must be part of their healing process.

If you are interested in getting involved you can contact John McCandless who is currently looking for volunteers for an upcoming workshop this February 28 to March 1 with the Lytton First Nations. He can be reached at: westra@portal.ca

SCARP students Jessa Williams (back centre), Jeet Chand (back second-from-right), Annie Merritt (front right) and Katie O’Callaghan (front centre) helped make sure the recent “Bright New Day” workshop was a success.

Lunctime Lectures Provide Ideas to Chew On

SCARP’s 2012 Lunctime Lecture Series is in full swing. Every second Wednesday, WMAX 150 turns into a grand lecture hall where all are welcome to attend a free learning event featuring local leaders in the planning field and beyond.

Participants at our first three events were treated to great lectures from Bob Williams, director of Vancouver Credit Union, Jeff Cook, a candidate for SCARP’s Indigenous Planning instructor position, and Gordon Harris, president and CEO of SFU’s UniverCity. Mr. Williams entertained the crowd with anecdotes from his term as an MLA in B.C., and spoke of the urgency with which the province needs to revamp its policies concerning the logging industry and rural development. Mr. Cook lectured on his approach to Indigenous planning, based on his considerable experience in the field. Mr. Harris, meanwhile, talked about bringing UniverCity to life.

If you’ve missed the first three lectures, be sure to check out the remaining talks we have lined up:

**Feb 29:** Tara Mahoney and Fiona Rayher (GenWhy Media Project)

**March 14:** Matt Hern (Activist and author; “Common Ground in a Liquid City”)

**March 28:** Zarina Mulla: City of Vancouver Drug Policy Planner
Rees Retires, Party Ensues: Correlation Probed

On November 19, friends, colleagues, as well as students past and present gathered at Vancouver’s Sage Bistro to celebrate the myriad academic and teaching accomplishments of Dr. Bill Rees as his 40 years at UBC came to an end. Many of those years were spent making sure that SCARP students entered the professional world knowing that there can be no good planning without an understanding of ecology and how earthly life is sustained.

Rees leaves SCARP having attained a measure of academic stardom, with his Ecological Footprint Analysis a widely used tool to assess the physical space required to support our consumption habits as individuals, cities and as a planet.

To read a full interview with Rees on the future of SCARP, the future of planning and his own future plans, please visit www.scarp.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/Scarp_Newsletter_2011-02.pdf.

Above: The evening’s revelry left Rees’ research in tatters with the revelation that there is, in fact, more than One Earth. Right: Stephen Sheppard, Joyce Shen, and Dr. Bill Rees take a moment out from contemplating the planet’s carrying capacity to smile for the camera.

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nandez Banuelas and Juliet Van Vliet—did a tremendous job and were assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers, panel organizers, and presenters. Thanks are due also to sponsors MITACS, the SCARP Alumni Association, the UBC Alumni Association, and William Rees.

“I was really pleased with the event,” said co-organizer Yazmin Hernandez Banuelas. “Our volunteers helped out and made it run smoothly.”

For Juliet Van Vliet, it was an opportunity to “bring the wider SCARP community together to share food and stimulating discussion.”

Stay tuned for information about the 2013 Student Symposium.

SCARP professors emeriti Tony Dorcée, left, and Dr. Bill Rees kicked off the day with a discussion about the future of planning.

Photos: Justin Ritchie

Photos: Maysa Phares
SCARP Notes

The 2011 recipients of the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning Scholarship for academic excellence in their first year in the Master’s program are: **Ruth Legg, Debra Rolfe, and Tim Shah**.

The scholarship was established in 1990 from interest received on major grants the School received in the 1960s from the Richard King Mellon Trust grant and the Donor Canadian Foundation grant.

On January 26, SCARP students were treated to presentations from potential planning employers across the Lower Mainland who shared information on internship opportunities. It was a full house in WMAX 150 as students pondered how to spend their summers. Thanks are in order to the following individuals and their employers for generously offering their time:

- Laurence Meadows: MITACS
- Justin Ho: UBC Community Learning Initiative
- Eric Brown: Sustainable Cities International
- Kari Marken: Go Global
- Tatiana Lam and Vanessa Kay: City of Vancouver
- Rebecca Siggner: BC Housing
- Margaret Wittgens: Translink
- Nicholas Lai: City of Surrey
- Laura Tate: Community Action Initiative

A group of young Vancouver residents take part in a game developed by SCARP master’s student Adam Kebede to help citizens envision what their neighbourhoods could look like under the City of Vancouver’s Neighbourhood Greenways program.