This issue of Newsbytes reaches out near and far to draw in stories about **people and place**. The journey begins close to home with a remembrance of Peter Oberlander and the sharing of one of his last requests to the School. We then travel with youth from Vancouver to meet youth from Brazil and hear about the work of building community through mapping. China is the next stop with the work of John Friedmann & Tom Campanella and a summary of WUF 4. Finally, you will find updates regarding SCARP Faculty, Staff, and courses for the upcoming semester. (scarpnews@gmail.com). Thank you & enjoy!

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**School Information**

**Summer courses** in May, June and August. The summer courses will be offered as follows:

- **Participatory Planning Methods**  
  Peter Boothroyd May 12-22 (tentative dates)
- **Urban Food Systems Policy and Planning**  
  Wendy Mendes June 9-27
- **Housing Policy**  
  Michael Gordon (August - dates not set)

New staff hire- SCARP IT Systems Administrator: **Kam Tsui**. He will work with all the faculty, staff and students on computer related problems and computer plans at SCARP.

**Tim McDaniels** on administrative leave  
**Larry Frank** on sabbatical til June 30, 2009
**Michael Leaf** on sabbatical July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010
H. PETER OBERLANDER, OC

In Memoriam

Professor H. Peter Oberlander, founder of the School of Community & Regional Planning and Centre for Human Settlements at the University of British Columbia, passed away ---. Just a month before his passing, Peter and his life partner Cornelia had been recognized in the Council Chambers of the City of Vancouver for their many contributions to enhancing the City’s public realm over a period spanning half a century.

Peter Oberlander’s many friends, colleagues and admirers, including those here at UBC, would like to remember him as an inspiring figure in the progressive planning of cities and urban communities, not only in Vancouver and across the Dominion he dearly loved, but also in the larger international community. Over his long working life Peter assumed important, indeed often decisive, leadership roles in advancing the cause of human settlements planning, notably in his work for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), the progenitor of CHS at UBC; within federal agencies; and, very often, more informally through a diversity of NGOs and ad hoc groups, where his ceaseless advocacy was often transmitted into positive action. Peter had a particular passion for public and social housing, and was a great contributor to a succession of housing programs which in large part have defined the quality of postwar public policy in Canada at the level of the state as well as local government. He maintained his engagement in urban planning during his last years, including involvement in the World Urban Forum (2006), the Habitat forums of 1976 (Vancouver) and 1996 (Istanbul), and, most recently, the establishment of the Habitat Exchange here at UBC, an interactive legacy of what we’ve collectively learned about planning for human settlements.

What many of us at SCARP/CHS will cherish most of all about Peter, aside from his innumerable tangible accomplishments, is the memory of his irrepressible optimism, energy and commitment. The irreducible essence of planning, after all, is a powerful commitment to working for a better future, and Peter’s life and works captured the spirit of this vocation to a very high degree indeed.

AN EXCHANGE WITH PETER OBERLANDER

Dear Penny,

By now you will have received my most recent e-mail from Dr. Cherukapalle - SCARP’s first female Professor - in the late 60s early 70s. As you can see she has led an adventurous life and is still at it. Is there some way we could invite her as a significant former member of Faculty to share her planning ideas and ideals with the students?? Perhaps during the next term. She is a determined character with strong views, an able communicator and an early Harvard Planning PhD.

Cheers, Peter
On Mon, 10/27/08, H.Peter Oberlander wrote:

From: H.Peter Oberlander
Subject: Great surprise!

Dear Nirmala:

It was a thrill to hear from you again, and reconnect with one of our most exciting periods in developing the School. I have always been very proud of selecting you for our School and to establish a variety of precedents.

The School is doing very well under Dr. Penny Gurstein who has been with us for a dozen years - a Canadian who came from Berkeley.
My own involvement has varied in many different ways, starting with the 4-year stint in Ottawa. Now I am Emeritus and have maintained and expanded the School connection with the UN HABITAT which was founded at UBC in 1976 during the first UN Conference on Human Settlements.

But I really want to know what has happened to you. It is a joy to reconnect with you. What have you done since 1969 and what are you doing now? And many of your students are guiding the future of British Columbia!

Cornelia joins me in warm regards and best wishes. Meanwhile - let’s hear from you soon.

Peter
H.Peter Oberlander, O.C.

Date: October 28, 2008 4:36:08 AM PDT (CA)
To: “H.Peter Oberlander”
Subject: Nothing Like summing up your life in One page or less!

Dear Peter (and Cornelia)

Heading for Alaska via BC this summer and as fate would have it, I took advantage of an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join Harvard Alumni on a trip to the Great Silk Road. Am I glad! Dinner conversation drifted to skiing and waterfront acres on Mayne Island and how I had to give up all those when I left B.C. At that point, Lo and behold - your names came up. I was then determined to contact you (nay, even come to B.C.), but a month passed before I decided to at least send an email to the School’s administrator at the University of British Columbia, to contact you there. I am so glad I did!

As for me, chronologically, when I left UBC in 1972, I was headed to teach at Harvard on a 5 year contract, but it was the year of the Nicaraguan earthquake. The Harvard contract did not come through on time - so, we moved to Toronto with a tiny baby and just a short-term job for my husband Howard Boughey at U of T.

I taught at Queens as a Visiting Prof, I consulted for the Roberts Commission as Chief Demographer and worked with the Government of Ontario. Sadly, our house Toronto was fire-bombed by skinheads; so, we were on the move again. Thanks to my Harvard connections, we left for the USA, via assignments in Indonesia, Argentina and after leading a team of 28+ economists in Lagos! (The Master Plan for that state - I was the Chief Economist).

Many of my students from my days at UBC are now in high positions all over Canada - the best reward for a teacher; Ken Cameron, Gerry Ross, Roda Contractor, Kathy Bladen, Ling Chan, How Yin Leung - to name a few that come to mind.

After settling in Reston Virginia, I consulted for the IBRD (realized that the Bank was not yet ready to hire women professionals) and by happenstance, switched to the computer software industry in the early 80’s. I now teach economics and engineering project management off and on at George Mason University and George Washington University, travel for pleasure around the world, write fiction on the internet to keep busy and teach adult literacy. I live in D.C. 15 minutes from the Mall, on the SW waterfront and spend winters in my Mountain home in Ooty in the southern Blue Mountains of India.

Nothing like trying to encapsulate your 35+ years in a couple of pages. But, it is a good exercise. I hope you are better and my best to you, Cornelia and your children. I am planning to come to BC next spring.

Nirmala
N.d.CHERUKUPALLE Ph.D.(Harvard)
YOUTH MAPPING AND COMMUNITY EQUITY IN URBAN REGIONS OF BRAZIL
New Public Consortia for Metropolitan Governance (NPC) Project

Andrew Lawrence
Communications Manager, NPC Project

“I don’t have a good relationship with my father because he also drinks a ton and thinks he’s the man. If it wasn’t for me and my older brother being at home stopping him, or at least, stopping him from doing that, he would have tried [to beat my mother]. The only reason he doesn’t beat my mother is because she’s a little bossy lady who doesn’t let things go for cheap.”

This was one of many stories that came out of a series of workshops that brought together youth from four municipalities and facilitators from municipal institutions to explore themes such as gender, community, race and identity, and youth protagonism.

“… a lot of times we don’t know how to understand each other. When a person does something, we only have our opinion, our way of thinking to evaluate it, and we don’t stop to think about why they did that.”

The workshops were part of a pilot project called Juventude Fazendo Gênero (literal translation: Youth Doing Gender) created to help understand emerging concepts of regional citizenship among Brazil’s young urban poor living in precarious, and often, informal communities on the edges of Brazilian metropolitan regions.

Through mapping the resources in their communities, the youth worked to understand the influences and factors that frame their lives and how they could take an active part in challenging assumptions and pushing for change. Young people can be agents of change when it comes to recognizing their networks within their environment and communicating their expectations through maps and mapping that act as channels for the dissemination of social and technical knowledge. And their energetic and enthusiastic participation can help generate data for better planning of institutionally promoted activities at the local and regional level.

Map-making is a form of communication that allows people to identify those aspects of their society and environment they think are important, and to represent the spatial relationships between those aspects. Historically, map-makers have been members of the scientific community, governments or international agencies. Participatory community mapping, however, tries to give voice to community members in the language of maps, teaching them about relationships through public (and private) spaces and empowering them in the collection and use of spatial data.

The Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) and the NPC Project have used community mapping involving young people in Brazil as a tool in foster better understanding the notion of regional citizenship among children and youth living in poverty. It is founded on the idea that the process of collecting information and displaying it in a user-friendly way by participants can generate awareness and build a sense of responsibility toward their community. Workshops in each of the municipalities developed differently, but generally in each session,
youth identified assets or resources in their community that they categorized under different headings such as social services and community institutions, education, the environment, or potential employment opportunities. They took part in data collection, gathering information in the form of interviews, community visits and exploring the local knowledge and experience that they themselves held; producing hand-drawn maps to collect, display and manage data; and becoming decision-makers regarding the collection, use or representation of that data. The data from the various workshops were then synthesized into the Youth Asset Atlas that became a summary of their unique perspectives about their communities and regional citizenship.

Youth engagement and mapping activities gave the youth an opportunity to critically evaluate the resources and facilities in their community and reflect on how they could improve them or motivate others to improve them. Ideally, the maps and the analyses will become part of a repository of information on which planning decisions in their urban areas could be based. The impact of this kind of community action was exemplified in how youth activities were integrated into the development of a public consortium by the four municipalities in the Belo Horizonte region that have formed a regional consortium to fight violence against women and promote equity.

In the past, ‘regional consortia’ have been seen as a mechanism to solve the hard infrastructural challenges in a metropolitan region, rather than a tool to promote social equity. The challenge facing the Regional Consortium: Mulheres das Gerais was how to build awareness within the public administration that a regional consortium can in fact promote social equity. The Juventude Fazendo Gênero (JFG) activity, by joining with the Regional Consortium, become an important component of the Consortium’s prevention and awareness-raising strategy, raising gender awareness, building youth advocacy and implementing local community development initiatives. Thus, through a partnership, JFG gained visibility and legitimacy and opened up opportunities to longer term public and private funding. The Regional Consortium gains an active grassroots initiative to advocate for protection of women from violence and an alliance with a segment of the population that will, in the future, play a more significant role in the communities and their development.

The youth engagement portion of the NPC Project has been coordinated by the EYA in cooperation with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Centre for Human Settlements at UBC. The Youth Asset Atlas, an output from two years of participatory youth engagement in five metropolitan regions of Brazil, was finalized in the fall of 2008. The Atlas, as well as other information, videos and publications on youth engagement and mapping in the NPC Project, can be downloaded the Project website at: http://www.chs.ubc.ca/consortia/events/eventsE-20081113.html.

“Today there exists a Health Council, an Education Council, a Social Assistance Council, a Seniors Council – what are these? They are spaces where the population can tell the people at the top, who are making the laws, what it really needs.”

“Olinda, Recife, Jay O’Hara (Mar. 2007)

“The whole time we’re dealing with trafficking points, drug dealers, thieves… and we know them, we know these roles, they repeat themselves around us all the time. So this is part of our reality…. But now I’m going to exclude the guy because he’s a thief, because he’s a drug dealer? I can’t. I live in the same situation as him and I am subject tomorrow, or later, to fall into the same life pattern as him.”
CATCHING UP WITH JOHN FRIEDMANN

Interviewer: John, you’ve been at SCARP since 2001, and yet few of us know very much about your current work.

JF: It’s true that for the last several years I’ve been working mostly with doctoral students at SCARP. At the beginning, though, I was also teaching Master’s students. In any event, I now teach both Advanced Planning Theory (PLAN 602) and the Ph.D. Colloquium (PLAN 603). The former is a required seminar which is taught by both Leonie (in the Fall) and myself (in the Winter). This year, I am focusing discussion around the question of politics in planning. I also serve on several doctoral committees, especially for students specializing on China.

I.: Yes, we’ve heard that you have a strong interest in China. What sort of research do you do?

JF: It’s been a gradual process. I was fascinated by what I perceived to be an historical process of change in China, a process that began in the mid-19th century during the late Qing Dynasty but then accelerated in our times, beginning in the 1980s. Today China is headed towards becoming a major global power economically as well as politically. I wanted to tell this story to non-specialists, including planners, and wrote a short history, which I called China’s Urban Transition, published in 2005. The book was well received and has since been translated into both Japanese and Chinese. It also brought my work to the attention of Chinese planners, and several of my articles have since been published in translation in various Chinese journals. In 2007, I was made Honorary Adviser to the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design at the Ministry of Construction in Beijing.

I.: Does that mean you are actually advising the Chinese Government?

JF: Well, if you mean formally advising, the answer is no. But the appointment has made it possible for me to make at least one trip a year to participate in planning conferences in China, and to give seminars and lectures at various universities. Lately, I’ve become interested in the Chinese community development movement, if I can call it that, though the language here is not very precise. In any event, throughout urban China today you will find thousands of neighborhood organizations funded by the government. They are the closest you come in China to something resembling organized civil society here in Canada. Their job is to take care of social welfare issues at the local level, such as caring for the elderly, or helping unemployed workers find jobs. They are also engaged in conflict resolution and making neighborhood improvements of various kinds.

A Chinese colleague and I wrote a paper about these organizations in the coastal city of Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, and how they might be empowered to broaden their mandate to include community planning. This paper, which we presented last Fall at a conference in Xiamen, is now being published in a Chinese journal.

I.: We heard that you were away during the Fall…

JF: Yes, but not in China. I was invited as the Harvey S. Perloff Visiting Professor in the Department of Urban Planning at UCLA, the school I started in 1969 and of which I was the chair for a total of 12 years. I gave a seminar/workshop which I called “Development in Question,” for 21 students at both the Master’s and PhD level. It was a learning experience for me as well, as I tried to think through the question of how “sustainability” issues such as global warming and peak oil might affect developments at different scales of planning and in very different environments.

I.: Thank you, John. Is there anything else you’d like to share with us?

JF: Some readers of this newsletter might want to know that I’ve recently published a long essay on “The Uses of Planning Theory” in the Journal of Planning Education and Research. Also, next April, I will be giving a keynote address at the 30th anniversary conference of the International Development Planning Review in Liverpool (“Encounters with Development Planning”) and, returning to the UK the following month, give an invited lecture at the University College London. As you see, I try to stay busy…
Harmonious Urbanization

Jason Owen

Following the first United Nations 1976 Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, the U.N. Centre for Human Settlement (UN-HABITAT) was established in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2002 UN-HABITAT launched the first World Urban Forum (WUF 1) in Kenya as a congregation of people interested in issues of urbanization and sustainability. Attended by non-governmental and community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics and governments subsequently in Barcelona in 2004 and in Vancouver in 2006, WUF has drastically increased in attendance from a mere 1,200 people in Nairobi to near 15,000 in Nanjing in 2008.

From the 3rd to the 6th of November, I had the good fortune of attending WUF 4 in Nanjing, China. The theme of this conference was Harmonious Urbanization, a particularly relevant concept in a country that experienced an increase in its share of the total population residing in urban centres from 9% in 1980 to 30% in 1997. This trend of extremely rapid urbanization has continued and is very evident in the sprawling city of Nanjing. Among the partially preserved walls of the Ancient Chinese capital, nearly six million people fight their way through heavy traffic towards the city’s centre with its countless modern high-rise office buildings. Clusters of 50 or so story mega-housing projects, each consisting of up to ten identical towers, are littered around the outskirts of the city in what appears to be recently converted agricultural lands.

The site for WUF 4, which was reportedly completed from farmland in the 8 months leading up to the conference, consisted of an enormous conference and exhibition centre with several nearby residential towers centred around a new subway station. A seemingly infinite number of student volunteers were strategically placed around the city to usher visitors in and out of subway stations and towards the conference venue.

Inside the conference centre, issues of universal relevance ranging from energy efficient building practices to the social issues faced by urban aboriginal peoples around the globe are discussed. WUF offers an informal environment where participants of all nationalities and rank can share their ideas in a collaborative fashion. To hold such an event in a country that is run using exclusive, top down management practices in governance and planning presents an interesting dichotomy. Can the liberalizing voices from the ground in China be heard without compromising its authoritarian structure? Will criticism of its governance be tolerated in the name of sustainability? Or, will capitalist nationalism supplant democracy as the choice of the emerging middle class? And, in which case, is the western definition of sustainability flexible enough to embrace other forms of governance? These are some of the questions that arise when a gathering of this nature is held in a place like China. I suppose the very existence of WUF 4 in Nanjing suggests the beginning of efforts to reconcile this dichotomy.

People making their way through downtown Nanjing
SCARP WELCOMES SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE THOMAS J. CAMPANELLA

March 9-13th, 2009

Thomas J. Campanella is associate professor of urban planning and design at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His books include The Concrete Dragon: China’s Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008); Republic of Shade: New England and the American Elm (Yale University Press, 2003); and Cities From the Sky: An Aerial Portrait of America (Princeton Architectural Press, 2001). He is also co-editor, with Lawrence Vale, of The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster (Oxford University Press, 2005). Campanella holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MLA from Cornell University. He has taught at MIT, Nanjing University, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and was a Fulbright fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The following is an excerpt of a review written in Metropolis Magazine. For the full article please visit: www.metropolismag.com/story/20080917/the-chinese-century

“The fierce, feverish modernization there is a work in progress. Thomas J. Campanella’s new book, The Concrete Dragon: China’s Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World (Princeton Architectural Press), does a masterful job of synthesizing what might otherwise have been a gargantuan tome (each of its 11 chapters could be a book unto itself).

Is what we’re seeing in China unprecedented?

Very much so. We’ve never seen anything like this in terms of the sheer amount of stuff being built. But we’ve also never seen so much destroyed in order to build. You know the old maxim “You can’t make an omelet without breaking eggs”? Robert Moses was very fond of that saying. Well, China has busted a lot of eggs to make this great big omelet. The amount of urban fabric that’s been razed to make way for all this new construction is unprecedented in the peacetime history of world cities. In fact, the only comparable thing we have—and I don’t want to make too much of this because in China it’s reconstruction—is the wartime bombings of cities like Dresden and Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

CAMPANELLA WILL BE SPEAKING:

Wednesday March 11th - 12:00 - 1:30 WMAX UBC
Thursday March 12th - 7pm SFU Harbour Centre
Friday March 13th - SCARP Symposium GSS
A Two Day Symposium Exploring the Meaning and Implementation of Sustainable Ideas

Thursday March 12th to Saturday March 14th, 2009

Topics Include

Affordable Housing, Resilience of Government Institutions in Climate Change Planning, Intercultural Communications and Multi-cultural Planning, Collaborative and Participatory Design, Regional Water Governance and More

Speakers Include

Dr. Tom Campenella: Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Karen Stone: Executive Director, BC Not-for-Profit Housing
Brent Toderian: Director, City of Vancouver Planning Department

Check out the website for the latest information

www.cfis.ubc.ca/sustainahOW.html

scarpsymposium@gmail.com