

# SCARP Newsbytes Fall 2003

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## Introduction

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It's fall again - the leaves are falling fast, the rain is here and SCARPIes have returned to WMAX. For many of us, this marks the beginning of a new part of our lives, and for the rest, it's business as usual as theses and project ideas come to fruition.

For many of us, it's hard to believe that the semester is getting close to its end. Group presentations are just around the corner, papers are due soon and students in studio seem to be seeing less and less of the outside world. And outside the classroom, this fall has been a great opportunity for learning.



**Another fall brings SCARPIes back to UBC.**

**Photo: D. Welch**

I thought that a nice way to organize the newsletter this year would be by providing a focus in each one. With that in mind, this fall I have brought together resources and ideas on [University Town Planning](#) and the January newsletter will provide space for staff and students to share their thoughts on the planning opportunities that the 2010 Olympic Games present for Vancouver.

As the new editor of the SCARP newsletter I have made a few changes to the format. Check out the left hand navigation bar for this edition's contents and please feel free to [e-mail](#) any thoughts or comments about this or future editions. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter and encourage everyone to start thinking about what they can add to the January edition.

## Accreditation Process

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This January, the five-year review of SCARP's masters program will be undertaken by the U.S. Planning Accreditation Board (PAB), followed by the Canadian Institute of Planners' review in the fall of 2004. The PAB review is accomplished through a self-study report, which SCARP prepares, and a site visit by an accreditation team. The team will include Lewis Hopkins, Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois; Karen Polenske, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Uri Avin, Associate Vice President with Land Design Research/Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff (a large, planning, architecture and engineering firm).

According to the Planning Accreditation Board accreditation is a "system for recognizing education institutions and professional programs affiliated with those institutions for a level of performance, integrity, and quality which entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public they serve."



**Class projects at SCARP are one of the many ways students are prepared for professional practice.**

**Above: map of concert heights by Chris Atkins. Below: a bioregional map prepared for the Winalagalis Treaty Group. Photos: D. Welch**

As such, the review process examines the quality of education provided by SCARP by looking at such factors as the number of graduates, students, faculty, curriculum, and program history. In the self-study, SCARP has the opportunity to stress the values and guiding principles, which influence their educational practice. With its primary focus on "preparing students to become practitioners in the planning profession," SCARP stresses the importance of ecologically sustainable social and economic development, exploring both local and global dimensions.



According to the self-study, this substantive focus on sustainability, coupled with a procedural focus on the democratization of planning, is how SCARP prepares students to develop and maintain a professional skill set. Of particular importance to SCARP is helping students to develop:

- Sound professional judgment
- A sense of social responsibility
- Technical knowledge
- Analytic skills
- Communication ability
- Participatory leadership
- Sensitivity to others
- Professional ethics

When asked about the importance of the review process, Tony Dorcey had the following to say:

"In the five years since the last Accreditation Review the School has made remarkable progress in attracting new faculty, strengthening its curriculum, and greatly improving its space and computing facilities. The School and University can be proud of all that has been achieved. I am hopeful that the review team will recognize this and assist us in identifying the priorities for the next step in pursuing our goal of becoming the foremost sustainability planning school in North America."

## Brahm Wiesman - In Memoriam

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In July of this year Brahm Wiesman passed away. Many students and faculty had the privilege to work with Brahm while he was at SCARP. The following, an excerpt of the announcement which ran in the Vancouver Sun, was written by Peter Boothroyd:

*Born on June 13, 1926, Brahm lived his rich life with the greatest consideration and care for others. He studied architecture and community planning at McGill University in preparation for what was to become a distinguished career in the field of city planning. After taking on senior management positions in the Cities of Edmonton, Victoria, and Vancouver, he was asked to join the faculty of UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning in 1967. He went on to serve as Director of the School for 12 years. In that position, he was much loved as a colleague and teacher, and provided internationally admired leadership to the planning profession. In retirement, Brahm continued to actively promote good planning by advising universities in Asia on planning curricula, consulting to cities in China, and speaking out forcefully as a citizen on Vancouver area issues.*



**Brahm Wiesman.**

The Globe & Mail and the Vancouver Sun both ran articles on Brahm's life. Peter Oberlander, who recruited Brahm to join UBC's faculty, stated, "He was a soft-spoken, gentle, courageous, inclusive, and a very sensible, practical guy who taught instinctively, because he knew what he was talking about."

Brahm had tremendous academic and planning influence internationally. As a tribute to the passion for his career as a planner and avid traveler, Peter Boothroyd shared this story:

*Once, after a hard trip in the dusty plains of northeast Thailand, we were given the news that our accommodation would have to be in the form of some rather crowded space on the temple floor. To the surprise and delight of our somewhat anxious hosts, Brahm simply replied "Wonderful!"*

## Centre for Human Settlements

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In mid October, UBC hosted a number of guests from two universities in Vietnam. As part of a follow up to the [Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam](#) program that UBC helped to facilitate, many faculty members and students, across numerous disciplines, had the chance to share learning tools and insights with the Vietnamese visitors. As part of PLAN 5480 (Development Practicum) a number of planning students had the chance to meet and learn from these guests.

The visitors from Vietnam included:

- Dr. Nguyen Dinh Huan, Rector, Vinh University
- Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Hoi, Vice-Rector, Vinh University
- Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Hai, International Relations Officer, Vinh University
- Dr. Nguyen Tuan Tai, Dean, Department of Social Work and Community Development, Dalat University
- Mr. Nguyen Huu Tan, Assistant Dean of School of Social Work and Community Development, Dalat University



**Vietnamese guests meet UBC staff and students at the downtown eastside Learning Exchange. Photo: D. Welch.**

UBC's Trek 2000 Mission Statement commits UBC to "global citizenship": both contributing to the global commons and considering the global implications of all of its academic endeavors. A partnership with Vinh and Dalat Universities was seen as a reciprocal relationship in which UBC could learn a great deal as well as contribute relevant experience and expertise. With this understanding the two Vietnamese universities have worked with UBC for the past five years, particularly on the Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam program, funded by [CIDA](#). The meetings in Canada this fall were one step of many toward fostering a partnership and, more importantly, a commitment to global citizenship.

Of particular interest was the time the guests spent at UBC's [Learning Exchange](#). Over the course of a morning, Learning Exchange staff shared their experiences with a focus on the [TREK student volunteer program](#) and the 101 classes that the Learning Exchange offers for low-income residents of the downtown eastside. Through a process of interpreted questions and answers, the guests worked their way through the Learning Exchange's programs and services. Of particular interest to the Vietnamese group was a 101 class on advocacy, which aims to help people learn their rights in the social net and become more confident in negotiating it.

Following this, the Vietnamese told UBC staff and students about some of their approaches to poverty. Largely focused on their 'green summer' program, the guests detailed how they have

successfully mobilized students from across disciplines to devote their spring and summer to development projects throughout Vietnam. Focusing on poverty issues, this program has been able to match the skills of university students to the needs of diverse communities to provide support and resources to communities in need.

Throughout the week, the group from Vietnam met with a variety of faculty members and students and explored collaborative possibilities in medicine, agriculture, planning and social work. With continued dialogue and visits, both UBC and the Vietnamese universities will be able to share ideas and experiences and, hopefully, help each other to grow as institutions.

## Coming Events

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**The SCARP beach party was one of the first of the many activities that SCARPIes will be planning this year.**

**Photo: Marcela de la Pena**

All over campus, and throughout Vancouver, events which highlight planning issues are being organized. So get out there and take advantage of the many offerings Vancouver has for SCARP students and faculty.

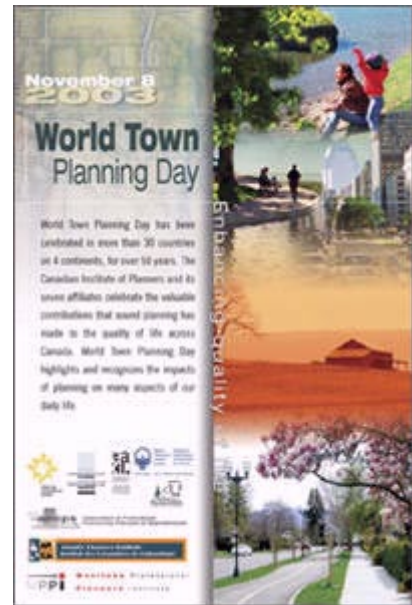
**On-going - [Graduate Student Workshop Series](#)**, sponsored by UBC Library, UBC Writing Centre, Arts ISIT, the Office of Learning Technology, and Student Development and Services, features workshops on research, writing and presentations skills.

**Ongoing** - Each and every Tuesdays in the SUB you have the chance to support organic, fair trade producers. Brought to you by the [UBC Natural Food Co-op](#)- an AMS Club. 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**November 8 - World Town Planning Day.** Did you know the international organization for World Town Planning Day was founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires to advance public and professional interest in planning, both locally and overseas.

To learn more about the event, and activities taking place around the world, check out [CIP's World Town Planning Day](#) site.

PIBC will also be hosting an event for World Planning Day through their Plan Talk series. The details are not yet available, so keep an eye on the [PIBC website](#) or e-mail [Joanna Brownell](#).



**November 19 - Sustainability: The Way Forward? Lecture Series** presents Murray Journey: Alternative Futures: Shared Understanding through Knowledge Integration. Murray Journey is a field-based research geologist and geoinformatics specialist with the Earth Science Sector of Natural Resources Canada, focused on interdisciplinary aspects of geological hazards, groundwater resources, and sustainable development. 7:30-9pm at [UBC Robson Square campus](#).

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**November 19 - Ethics in Action Research Public Seminar.** Presented by The Partners in Community Health Research Strategic Training Program and The Ethics of Health Research and Policy Strategic Training Program. 1:30 to 2:30 at The Institute of Health Promotion Research - Library Processing Centre, in room #424

**November 26 - Sustainability: The Way Forward? Lecture Series** presents a Panel Discussion to wrap up their six week lecture series. 7:30-9pm at [UBC Robson Square campus](#).

**November 26 - Building Community Capacity for Research Public Seminar.** Presented by The Partners in Community Health Research Strategic Training Program and The Ethics of Health Research and Policy Strategic Training Program. 1:30 to 2:30 at The Institute of Health Promotion Research - Library Processing Centre, in room #424

**November 26 - Mutual Dependence, Mutual Vulnerability: Examples from Mountain Environments and their Peoples.** Olav Slaymaker. Presented by the Department of Geography. Geography Room 212, 3:30 p.m. For more information call 604 822-2663.

**November 26 - Research Ethics for Graduate Students.** Shirley Thompson, manager at UBC's Behavioural Research Ethics Board and Dr. Lori d'Agincourt-Canning, Ethics Consultant for the BC Cancer Agency, will be speaking. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the [Liu Institute for Global Issues](#). This is a free event and no registration is required.

Any research or study conducted at UBC facilities involving human subjects, animals or bio-hazardous materials must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Research Ethics Board or Committee. Graduate students who attend this workshop will learn how to apply to UBC's Behavioural Research Ethics Board.

**November 28-29 - Local Development and the Global Economy.** Ron Trepanier and Melanie Conn are co-instructors of this course which examines the features of globalization and its significance for practitioners. Participants will explore the pros and cons of globalization and free trade, its impact on local economies and the components of successful community-based responses. The registration deadline is November 7, 2003. To register please contact [Patricia Gustafson](#). For more information about the program or the courses, please check out the [SFU website](#) or contact [Melanie Conn](#).

**December - PIBC Christmas event.** Details TBA. Check out their [website](#) for details.

**February 13 -15, 2004 - Culturepoles: City Spaces, Urban Politics & Metropolitan Theory.** Organized by the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies, this conference of the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies seeks to critically engage with questions of the location of culture and cultural studies through a conscious revisiting of the city as a site for the production of theory, dominant/resistant cultural practices, and as the location of radical politics. The conference will be held in conjunction with the opening events of "Future Cities," a major international art exhibit and speakers series organized by the [Art Gallery of Hamilton](#). Both events in Hamilton, Ontario.

**May 12 – 14, 2004 - BC Land Summit: Working Together for Better Results.** [The Planning Institute of British Columbia](#) is proud to announce that it will be combining its 2004 annual conference with those of other affiliated land use professional organizations, as the BC Land Summit, at UBC in Vancouver. For more information check out the [BC land summit website](#).

## **Faculty Applause & Awards**

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**Penny Gurstein** has received two awards from SSHRC for her work at UBC. Her first project, [Canadian EMERGENCE](#), "investigates forces propelling outsourcing trends internationally and directs its research results to Canadian policy makers, industry bodies and other organizations interested in the economic and social implications of the new global economy." The goal of this

project is to document e-work practices in every region in Canada to determine how they reshape employment and industrial patterns in both at home and internationally. Working with Penny on this project are Masters Students Jon Tinney and Marisol Petersen, and Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Deborah MacNamara.

Secondly Penny is working with the [Consortium for Health, Intervention, Learning and Development](#) (CHILD). This project involves a team of researchers and professionals throughout BC. The project aims to document government responses to poverty and income inequality and their effects on children and families. PhD Student Silvia Vilches and a Masters Students Suzy Blown are working on this project with Penny.



**Bill Rees** was spreading the good word of sustainability down under in September. While Bill was at the International Sustainability Conference in Perth the Western Australian government announced its plan for [regional sustainability](#). The Western Australia plan was partially inspired by [ecological footprint analysis](#), a quantitative tool for measuring progress toward sustainability that Bill developed here at SCARP with a number of his students. The Parliament of Wales in the UK has also adopted eco-footprint analysis as a sustainability indicator.



In 2003-04, **Tony Dorcey** plans to go on leave from the Directorship during December and then again in May and June, 2004. **Leonie Sandercock** generously volunteered to serve as the first Associate Director in 2003-04 and will be Acting Director during Tony's leaves. In addition to being Associate Director she will continue to Chair the School's Doctoral Program.

## New Faculty

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This September, SCARP has been fortunate to welcome three new faculty members. Bringing diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences these new members are sure to contribute new energy and talent to the school. Many students have had the chance to meet Larry Frank and Michael Larice in classes this semester, and we will have the chance to meet Stephanie Chang when she joins SCARP in January. Included below is a short summary on each of the new faculty members.

**Dr. Larry Frank** is the Bombardier Chairholder in Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems, jointly appointed as Associate Professor in SCARP and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. Specializing in the interaction between land use, travel behavior, air quality, and public health, Dr. Frank brings his diverse background, including his current work as the principal investigator of research program based in Atlanta known as [SMARTRAQ](#) - or Strategies for Metropolitan Atlanta's Regional Transportation and Air Quality, to his transportation planning classes.

When asked what skill he thought was important, but not common in planning schools, he replied, "Communication skills - oral, written, and graphic - and how they go together."

Be sure to check out Larry's presentation [Linking Health, Transport and Land-Use](#) November 13 at UBC Robson Square, 7-9 p.m.

**Michael Larice** joined SCARP this semester as an Assistant Professor of Urban Design. Michael comes to SCARP from the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught city planning and housing for the past seven years. His background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Design and a Master of Architecture degree from UCLA, as well as graduate work in architectural history at the Art Institute of Chicago. His dissertation, entitled *The Morphology of High-Density Livable Neighborhoods*, compares the factors that contribute to livability in both high-density traditional and modern neighborhoods of the United States and Canada.

**Stephanie E. Chang** will be joining SCARP in January 2004. Currently she is a research assistant professor with the Department of Geography at the University of Washington. With a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering and Operations Research from Princeton, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Regional Science from Cornell, as well as working as a consultant, Stephanie brings to SCARP a specialization in the economic impact of natural disasters, particularly earthquakes. Her current research focuses on loss-estimation models for urban lifeline systems, economic evaluation of mitigation strategies, and urban disaster recovery. Dr. Chang is also an active worker in the earthquake field, with work on the 2001 Nisqually, 1999 Chi-Chi (Taiwan), and 1995 Kobe (Japan) earthquakes. Stephanie focused on GIS as the skill she uses most as a planner, and recalls that the planning program at Cornell didn't offer GIS when she was a graduate student.



**Dr. Stephanie Chang.**  
**Photo: S. Chang.**

## **Planning Students Association**

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I had the chance to meet up with PSA President Kamala Rao to discuss the key items for this year's [Planning Student Association](#). Kamala spoke to the role of the PSA: linking the needs of

students to the administrative functioning of the school, as well as delivering a student voice directly to the on-going decision-making at SCARP. Below are some of the specifics:

**Participating in SCARP Management** - The PSA executive now attends SCARP's School Management Committee meetings. Attributing this to Tony Dorcey's belief in participation, Kamala spoke to these meetings as an opportunity for the PSA to bring the needs and ideas of SCARP students to the administration and faculty.

**Providing Good Ol' Fashioned Fun** - The PSA, largely through its Social Committee, works to keep the fun in the planning school. In September, they did a marvelous job welcoming the new SCARPIes at the Whistler retreat. By the end of the month they had provided an opportunity for students and faculty to meet PIBC members as well as "Good Times" with the architecture and landscape architecture students.



In October, Transportation Coordinator, Sarah McMillan, encouraged a group of staff and students to not only bike in the rain but to enjoy it. Rumors of balloons, spandex and West End bike gangs fueled the event, which culminated in a number of SCARPIes supporting Bike to School days.

**Doesn't everyone love ice breaker games? SCARP Student Retreat, Whistler. Photo: Marcela de la Pena.**

**Supporting Change** - Recognizing that the PSA's Constitution was less representative of the students now than when it was drafted, a number of SCARPIes, notably Kira Gerwing, Norman Sippert, Sarah McMillan and Aleksandra Brzozowski, have been devoting their energy to rewriting the document. After much discussion and a vote the new Constitution was adopted at the end of November 2003.

**Challenging U-Town Planning** - Many SCARP students and faculty have been actively engaged in U-Town Planning. Within the PSA, the question was raised as to what extent the PSA should be endorsing the opinions and action of SCARP students working collectively on this issue. According to Kamala, after much discussion at PSA meetings, the decision has been reached that the SCARP U-Town Group has the endorsement of the PSA when speaking at public meetings or in other consultations related to the planning of UBC.

[Click here](#) to for more on University Town Planning.

## Planning Institute of BC

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On September 25, SCARP students and faculty had the opportunity to share drinks and stories with professional planners from across British Columbia at the annual [Planners Institute of BC Social](#). Organized jointly by the [Planning Students Association](#) and PIBC, the night offered great opportunities to meet with practicing planners and to get a sense of the wide variety of jobs that planners are engaged in. PIBC Board Chair, Deborah Sargent, updated everyone on the current affairs of PIBC, including their upcoming Land Summit, to be held at UBC this May.



*The PIBC Social gave students a great chance to meet planners. Photo: D. Welch.*

Additionally students and planners alike were encouraged to continue to share their ideas, stories and experiences by joining the PIBC [Mentorship Program](#). The program, which matches prodigies with professional planners according to similar interests, has allowed many new planners to develop lasting professional friendships and to make connections in the planning community. To join the mentorship program, you need to be a [member](#) of PIBC.

The PIBC is "an association of professional planners in British Columbia and the Yukon. Members work in the public service and the private sector, in a wide variety of fields including land-use planning, environmental resource management, land development, heritage conservation, social planning, transportation planning and economic development." Planners work with a variety of other professionals including members of:

- [BC Association of the Appraisal Institute of Canada](#)
- [BC Institute of Agrologists](#)
- [BC Society of Landscape Architects](#)
- [Real Estate Institute of BC](#)

Combining PIBC's annual meeting with those of other land-use professional organizations, the [BC Land Summit](#) will provide an opportunity to build partnerships among the professions. Examining governance, the value of land, changing land use patterns and information and understanding, the Summit will be an exciting venue for planners and planning students. More details will be available early in 2004.



**The hallways and classrooms at WMAX were full of planners, students and faculty for the PIBC Social. Photo: D. Welch.**

## **On-Line Resources**

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Don't have time to read every e-mail that comes through the SCARP offices? Never fear; below are the very best on-line resources compiled by students and faculty so far this semester:

- Looking to use communications tools to get your community active? Check out [Promoting Active Living Communities](#)
- Check out this guide to [Sustainable Communities](#)
- Interested in New Urbanism? Join a new listserv and start discussing "how the student educator deals with, and within, academia the concept of 'good' urbanism, both new and old." E-mail [borich@uiuc.edu](mailto:borich@uiuc.edu) to get on board
- [Canada 25](#) is looking for participants for a series of national roundtables which will provide a venue for people aged 20-35 to have their political views raised with members of Cabinet, the Prime Minister and Privy Council Offices. The focus last year was on cities and Cities and Innovation remain a centre of focus this year.
- [UBC Sustainability Pledge](#): electronically sign the pledge today!
- The Canadian Institute of Planners has a student e-newsletter, Plan 2 Plan, that gives students with an opportunity to share research and planning program information, voice planning concerns or interests, and get the latest information on CIP student services. To subscribe send an [e-mail message](#) with the word SUBSCRIBE P2P in the subject line. The body of the e-mail should include your province or state of residence.
- Check out the [CIP's Student Zone](#) for great information and links of interest to student planners.
- Looking for a job? Check out the on-line [local government postings](#).
- The [Planners Network](#) has a new e-newsletter. The first issue was complimentary, but future issues will be sent only to paid members. [Student members](#) can become part of a broad student network and learn about jobs and other resources in progressive planning. To find out more about joining, [click here](#).

- [Urbanicity](#) is the "largest resource in the world for Internet links concerning cities, urban and sustainable development." As a UN Habitat partnership initiative they work to increase the flow of information to individuals involved in urban areas around the world. Check out their [Education Resources](#) and [On-line Urban Resources](#). If you are interested in subscribing to any of their free e-bulletins, simply send an [e-mail](#).

## SCARP Students

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**SCARP Summers** - In the spirit of a two year Masters Program, many SCARP students spent their summers on planning issues around the world. While many students spent their summers working at planning related jobs, a brave few went out in the world to put their skills to the test.

From Cuba to Kenya, community design to sustainable food, SCARP students made great use of the summer:



**Second Year SCARPIes reunite at the annual SCARP Beach Party held in September. Photo: Marcela de la Pena**

**Studying in Cuba** - In April a number of SCARPIes joined Architecture and Landscape Architecture students and headed off to Havana for four weeks of urban design work under the leadership of SCARP Adjunct Professor Paul Rosenau. A brave few shared some of their thoughts on the experience:

"A frenzied immersion into the setting sun of Socialist Cuba" - Darren Enns

"Don't expect to come back better informed about anything except mojitos, leery men, and some cool architecture. It's a superb experience, nonetheless..." - Kira Gerwing

"Cuba was inspiring and alive. I had the great experience of becoming a planner in action." - Marcela de la Pena

**Working in Africa** - Last summer Liz Cooper traveled deep into the desert of northeastern Kenya to volunteer her research efforts with [CARE Kenya](#) at the Dadaab refugee camps. Her research focused on the experiences and perspectives of young Somali refugees who have lived in the camps for over ten years. Specifically, she was talking to refugee students, school leaders, and their families about opportunities and challenges for education and capacity-building initiatives. As a first scoping exercise for her thesis research, this experience was invaluable. Important friendships and working relationships, insights and lessons, helped Liz identify a more specific research focus and methodology. CARE Canada is funding Liz's return to Kenya next spring to continue and complete her thesis research.



**The Dadaab Refugee camp in Kenya.  
Photo: Liz Cooper**

This past summer, Jamil Bundalli tried his hand at participatory rural energy planning - combining his interests in rural energy and the concepts he had learnt during his first year at SCARP. After attending training sessions on participatory communication and participatory development tools in Ottawa, he left for Kenya to work with two community groups in Meru-North (North-East of Mount Kenya). The central concept of his work was to assist these community groups to recognize and develop a joint proposal to leverage what they have (the land and all it provides as well as each other) to improve their lives. After completing workshops with these groups, a basic framework for a proposal was developed and is being prepared to submit to donors.



**A small group in Antubetwe-Kiongo working outside discussing community priorities and values. Photo: Jamil Bundalli.**

**Imaging a Community Design Centre** - Over the summer, Kamala Rao and architecture student Bryn Davidson wrote a report for the school of Architecture on setting up a Community Design Centre at UBC. In short, the proposal is to open a centre where students of architecture, planning and landscape architecture would be able to do free or low-cost work in their fields for low-income communities.

**Building Food Sustainability** - Kristina Bouris spent her summer working with the [UBC Sustainability Office](#) to help develop a more sustainable food system at UBC. You can check out

her good work on the Sustainability Office's [Reports Page](#).

## **SCARP Student Projects & Contributions**

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### **Developing Community Gardens - Don Buchanan**

Saturday September 20th marked the opening of the Stanley Park Community Gardens, a joint project of the [West End Residents Association](#) (WERA) and the Stanley Park Ecology Society. SCARP Masters student and WERA Director Don Buchanan acted as project manager, and will be writing about the process for his final paper.

Vancouver's first community garden in Stanley Park is located at the foot of Robson Street and features a teaching garden on native plants as well as individual plots limited to flowers. "It was a wonderful opportunity to literally get my hands dirty in a real project that involved applying what I'd learned at SCARP about partnerships and community building," says Don. "The Park Board were very happy with the outcome and are looking to expand the concept to other neighbourhood parks."

Don also added a special thank you to the financial partners the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, and the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation.



**Don at the opening of the new Community Garden in Stanley Park. Photo courtesy of WERA website.**

## Education and Citizenship Forum

In September a number of SCARP students were instrumental in staging the Education and Citizenship forum. SCARP students and friends, including Siobhan Murphy, Kira Gerwing, Ginnie Holden, Ian Scott, Marcela de la Pena, Kristina Bouris, Cynthia Mackenzie, Steven Dang, Chris Atkins, and Sarah Macmillan, acted as mapping facilitators at the event. Fifteen unique maps were created to represent the values and visions of the participants.

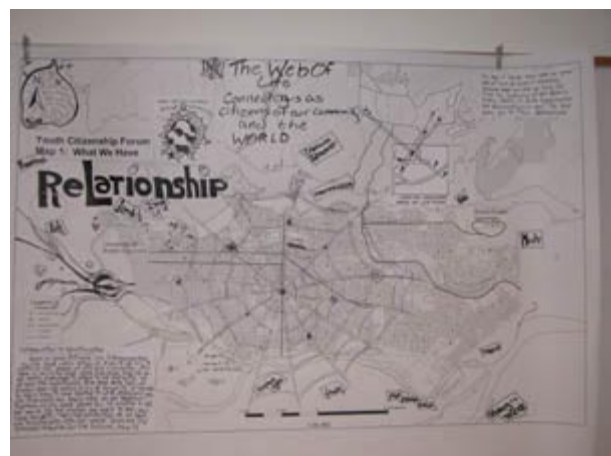
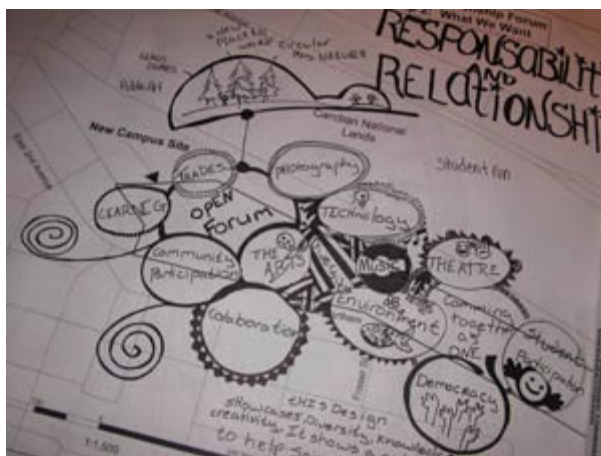
In an e-mail to SCARP students shortly after the event, Ginnie Holden said:

*The facilitated dialogue on Thursday evening matched university presidents, high school students, university students and education professionals in an informative discussion on the university's role in nurturing citizenship.*

*A full day on Friday saw 50 high school students use community mapping to envision what kind of community and campus they would like to have to facilitate good learning, citizenship and responsibility in its students and faculty. At the event, ten superstar SCARP mapping facilitators rose to the challenge by guiding a day of mapping, discussion and learning.*



**Kira Gerwing and Steven Dang work with youth to create maps. Photo: Brian Smith.**



**Two of the fifteen maps created at the Education and Citizenship Forum. Photos: Brian Smith**

In the next edition of the newsletter, sometime near the end of January 2004, I would like to include more students projects and contributions. Whether it's classwork, thesis or project preparation or community events like the ones above, please feel free to share your work and take some applause for your efforts! E-mail [Danyta](mailto:Danyta) with your submissions.

## University Town Planning

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Talk of University Town Planning has filled the hallways and classrooms of WMAX since SCARP first learned of the planning process, which is quickly changing the campus. Much learning and action have taken place in the last year, and many students and faculty members have become involved in providing constructive criticism and alternative ways of thinking about U-Town planning.

Concerns about U-Town planning have ranged from design specifics to issues of safety and community identity. More importantly however, the campus community, including SCARP, has raised significant concerns over the planning process itself, with many calling for a more inclusive model.



**University Boulevard: one of eight neighbourhood plans at UBC. Photo: D. Welch**

This is not to say that student interest in university planning issues is new or focused on SCARP students. In fact, the proposed endorsement of the Official Community Plan in 1996 was a source of student concern and action. The AMS at the time was concerned about the consultation process which had been employed in developing the OCP, and asked the Board of Governors to table the motion to ratify the OCP until a process was developed to address campus concerns. And while this did not happen, the Board did resolve to hold campus-wide information sessions "for the benefit of the students and the University community regarding the Official Community Plan." (*Source: Board of Governor Meeting Minutes for July 1996*).

For this newsletter I wanted to capture some of the most salient points regarding this planning process and SCARP's involvement. Firstly, I take a step back from the specific neighbourhoods and look at the larger planning mechanisms at UBC, including the OCP and CCP. Secondly, I provide some details on one neighbourhood plan - University Boulevard. Finally, I summarize the many and various roles SCARP has played in this planning process to date.

- **Planning at UBC**
- **University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan**
- **SCARP's contribution to U-Town Planning**

## Planning at UBC

In the process of talking to SCARP students and faculty, and reviewing websites and planning documents, it occurred to me that planning individual neighbourhoods is perhaps not the only important focus in this process. UBC's planning is guided by a number of documents including the University Act, the Official Community Plan, and the Comprehensive Community Plan. Under the vision and direction of each of these, the eight Neighbourhood Plans are being developed.

With this in mind, the following is a very abbreviated look at the planning tools behind University Town planning.



**UBC's unique location: a main focus of planning.**  
**Photo: D. Welch**

### University Act

[The University Act](#) is what guides the administration of the university. It sets the guidelines for granting degrees and determines how convocations will take place. But more importantly, the University Act sets out the governing structure of UBC. It is in this act that the roles and responsibilities of the Chancellor, Senate and Board of Governors are laid out, including details on their election, extent of power and duties. In this respect the University Act can be considered a significant influence on planning at UBC.

*(Source: [UBC's University Act](#))*



**The centre of campus: Main Mall.**  
**Photo: D. Welch**

### Official Community Plan

UBC has a planning strategy which guides each and every campus planning decision - its [Official Community Plan](#). Adopted in 1997, after a consultative process, the OCP is a "municipal style" document which "guides all development, land use, and transportation activities on the UBC Campus."

The main themes of the OCP are protecting the green zone, building complete communities, achieving a compact metropolitan area, and increasing transportation choice. Specific issues are examined through the three lenses of sustainability, which UBC characterizes as ecology, economy and community.

Of importance to students and any campus member interested in university planning is the OCP review process. In April 2003 UBC and the [GVRD](#) held an open house to begin this review process. Highlights of this event included:

- Nearly 20 people voiced concerns about the OCP and the UBC planning process, including some comments directed at the proposed University Boulevard area plan.
- The inclusion of market housing and commercial development in the proposed University Town was challenged by the belief that plans should reflect the needs of the students and the academic community first.
- The planning process itself was called into question. Specifically speakers felt that the neighbourhood plans would not create a complete university community; that there needs to be a stronger consultative process with UBC residents, students, staff, faculty and neighbours; that there needs to be more people involved in the planning process; and that the Advisory Committees should be more representative. In short it was felt that "UBC should do more to encourage participation."

After the Open House, many people continued to share their concerns with UBC. It was at this time that SCARP students submitted a concept of working with the University and the GVRD to develop a review of the OCP and neighbourhood plans. The results from the open house, and further inputs, were reviewed over the summer by the UBC-GVRD Joint Committee. It appeared to them that two key issues were being raised by the public: the fundamental vision of the OCP and the implementation process. But because the feedback was not largely aimed at the content of the OCP, the Joint Committee approved the staff recommendation that amendment of the OCP was not warranted, but also requested a report on the Memorandum of Understanding between GVRD and UBC to address concerns regarding public involvement and OCP implementation, as well a second public meeting in the Fall to report to the community on the OCP review and to discuss implementation issues. To date, this fall meeting has not been held.

*(Source: [Greater Vancouver Regional District Policy and Planning Department Memo](#) to Small Communities Committee re: Review of the Official Community Plan for the University of British Columbia. September 26, 2003)*

## Comprehensive Community Plan

The [Comprehensive Community Plan](#) (CCP) is a planning tool mandated by the OCP to provide a strategy for developing the neighbourhood units at UBC. The CCP website lists five major themes of this device: Circulation, Public Open Space, Urban Form, Timing of Development and Housing Tenure, each of which correspond to the planning priorities laid out in the OCP. Of particular significance to SCARP students is the CCP's sustainability strategy, which provides a foundation for the plan as a whole. As such, the CCP sustainability focus is on reducing commuting, emphasizing alternative travel modes to campus and facilitating efficient development patterns.

*(Source: [UBC CCP website](#))*

## **Eight Specific Neighbourhood Plans**

To date, neighbourhood plans have been approved for four neighbourhoods. The first two plans, for the Theological Neighbourhood and Mid-Campus Neighbourhood, were adopted in 2001 by the Board of Governors and the GVRD. The University Boulevard Neighbourhood and East Campus Neighbourhood plans were recently approved in principle by the UBC Board of Governors in October, 2003 and were forwarded for review by the GVRD. North Campus, South Campus, Thunderbird and Gage South are the remaining neighbourhoods.

*(Source: University Town: An Overview of Sustainable Housing, Ommibus group project, 2003 and the UBC OCP Fact Sheet, June 2003)*

Want to learn more about planning at UBC? Check out:

- [Trek 2000](#)
- [UBC OCP Physical Planning Principles](#)
- [University Neighbourhoods Association](#)
- [UBC Properties Trust](#)
- [UBC Campus & Community Planning](#)
- [Office of the University Architect](#)
- [UBC Sustainability Office](#)
- [UBC Development Watch](#)

## **University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan**

### **New Developments**

The plans for University Boulevard are moving along. On October 7th Dennis Pavlich, Vice-President of External and Legal Affairs at UBC, announced a national architectural design competition to define UBC's main campus gateway. In the news release Pavlich stated "the University Boulevard Neighbourhood will be a place where academic, student, resident and visitor activities will combine to create a vibrant entrance to a more complete community that is part of the emerging University Town at UBC.



**University Boulevard will be the first neighbourhood to developed at UBC. Photo: D. Welch.**

### **University Boulevard Background**

The University Board of Governors endorsed the [University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan](#) (UBNP) on October 2, following several revisions in which higher density development (including highrise buildings), through traffic to Marine Drive, and market housing were removed due to feedback from the campus community. The endorsed UBNP, based on commitments to sustainable growth in the [GVRD Livable Region Strategy](#) (and set out the UBC [Official Community Plan](#) approved by the GVRD in 1997) will combine institutional, transit, housing, social, retail and recreational uses within the University Boulevard area. With an endorsed plan the University can now move forward and submit development plans to the GVRD.



**The bus loop will be moved underground to make way for a new University Square. Photo: D. Welch.**

“On campus, the plan means a redesign of the main entrance to UBC we have all come to know. The bus loop will become subterranean and a new University Square will emerge in its place. Perhaps one of the more controversial aspects of the plan, the underground bus loop is intended to accommodate the increase in transit traffic. Dennis Pavlich commented on this situation in the recent news release: "U-Pass is a tremendous boost in reducing single-occupancy-vehicle trips to campus, but we're having to cope with the extra transit vehicles by using the main UBC entrance on University Boulevard as a bus parking lot."

## Consultation Process

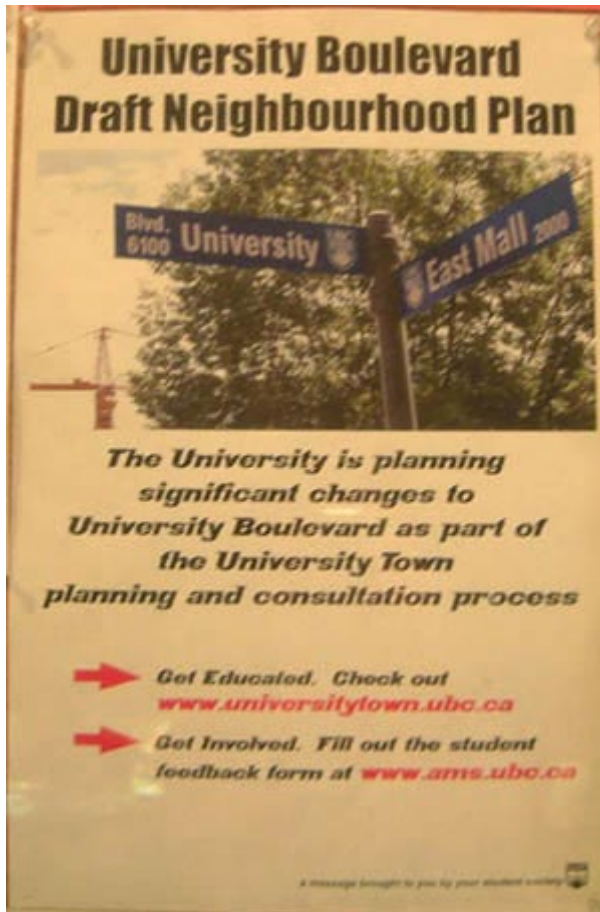
In UBC's [Official Community Plan](#), the eighth principal of physical planning is 'open and integral participation.' As such, the university's administration committed to provide opportunities for the campus community to become involved in the planning of University Boulevard.

Through newspaper advertisements, posters (such as the one seen on the right), and media releases, the local community was informed of the Open Houses and Special Meetings held "with stakeholder groups such as the AMS, the President's Advisory Committee, the Committee of Deans, the Faculty Association, the VP Students' Directors, and SCARP." According to UBC:

- More than 1,000 people attended public meetings
- 481 feedback forms were collected in the spring of 2003.
- More than 6,900 people explored the [University Town website](#)

Through these mechanisms stakeholders were able to ask questions, add comments and raise issues; information that was then incorporated as part of the overall summary of feedback on the proposal.

*(Source: Campus and Community Consultation: University Boulevard DRAFT Neighbourhood Plan (May 2003). Section 1.0: Executive Summary)*



Advertisement for the consultation process for University Boulevard (posted in the SUB). Photo: D. Welch.

## Student (Re)actions

In response to the concerns regarding the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan, UBC amended the plan in various ways including a proposal to form a multi-stakeholder committee, which will oversee and implement a design competition for this neighbourhood. However, some students I have spoken with have a number of questions about this new phase of University Boulevard planning. These include: What does UBC mean by a competition? Who will be on the committee? What will their scope and powers be?

### SCARP's contribution to University Town Planning

As planning students and professionals, many students and staff at SCARP were eager to be involved in the planning of University Town, and in many ways, SCARP has become a significant force in the process. The following is a quick look at this involvement, both past and present.

## U-Town Class (Spring 2003)

In the 2002 Omnibus class, one group project was focused on the issue of University Town planning. As a result of their interest in pursuing the issue further, Tony Dorcey agreed to run a directed study on the topic. The group quickly focused on University Boulevard, as a neighbourhood plan was being presented to the public that spring. The plan and process were controversial because the University had prepared the plan internally and was asking the public for feedback just before it was to be approved. There was a lot of concern on campus that the process was not a legitimate attempt to involve the public and, in response to this, SCARP students brought their new skills and knowledge to bear in a constructive way on the issues.



**Darren Enns interviews Dennis Pavlich.**

**Source: The University Boulevard Neighbourhood planning challenge.**

The class developed a [proposal](#) to the University for how to improve the process, based on a set of multi-stakeholder processes. On the substance side, Peter Whitelaw, a SCARP student, and others, in collaboration with Landscape Architecture, ran a design charrette on the area, hoping to illustrate other options and possibilities, and to raise student consciousness of the issues. The charrette materials were presented publicly in the SUB in March. The students' multistakeholder proposal was put to the Board of Governors in a presentation in April. Key to the proposal was the suggestion to slow down the process and to allow time for consultation and participation; a theme captured in the following quote:

*If UBC rushes into a decision on how to develop our campus, without running a proper process, it will end up with a mediocre product. But, if you take a step back and truly engage both the surrounding and academic communities, you will end up with a town that will be as incredible as the land it was built upon, a University endowment that will be the envy of other universities, and an innovative project that others will look to for guidance and inspiration.*

Overall, this SCARP class helped the [Alma Mater Society](#) (AMS) and others respond effectively to deficiencies in the University's planning process, at the same time as offering constructive criticism and advice to the University. Their goal was to enhance the planning process for the benefit of the University as a whole, and, so far, some of the advice has been received and incorporated.

## SCARP & the AMS

Following his involvement in the U-Town class, SCARP student Norman Sippert continued to work on university planning through the Alma Mater Society. As the AMS representative for the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan, Norman sat on the Advisory Planning Committee.

In March, 2003, the AMS formed an Official Community Plan Working Group. This group came together to look at planning issues at UBC. They had concerns about the process of consultation which had been employed to date. In particular, the group identified that the majority of the consultation for University Boulevard had happened during the summer-term. Overall, the group expressed concerns about the extent of student inclusion in the process. In response, they decided to model a participatory process and organized the Student Summit in September.

## Student Summit

On September 22, the AMS Official Community Plan Working Group held the first Student Summit in the SUB:

- To educate UBC students on campus development, and allow interested students the opportunity to participate in ongoing consultation where they are able to voice their ideas
- To empower students and ensure meaningful participation of students regarding campus development, specifically University Boulevard
- To create a model for student consultation and hopefully influence University processes moving forward, both for University Boulevard implementation processes and South Campus consultation process



**The view from WMAX: Scarp's slice of the campus. Photo: D. Welch**

The Summit included four focus groups which explored respectively the consultation and participation process, the transit station, housing, and University Square. To follow up from this event, the Working Group has prepared a report which has been sent to various planning committees, planning administration, students and the public (through the AMS website). Incorporating student feedback and expert opinions, the report presents recommendations for future University Town planning. *(Source: Final Report:AMS Student Summit on Campus Development. 2003)*

A number of SCARP students were active in organizing and facilitating the Summit, including Norman Sippert and Michael Anhorn. Colleen Brown, an aspiring soon-to-be SCARPie, contributed the following thoughts:

*Is it possible to create a new model for student consultation at UBC that can positively influence University development processes going forward? That such a model be both developed and implemented is the hope of students who have been involved in the process to date. Since the Summit in September, the ranks of the OCP Working Group have swollen, and new initiatives are being organized.*

*On a vibrant campus, especially one gifted with exceptional resources such as those found at UBC, development (in all of its forms) will necessarily be ongoing. The visionary nature of the Summit, and those who will be involved in the creation of a new consultative process at UBC, is that - for perhaps the first time - student involvement, instead of being discouraged or minimized, is recognized for what it is: an invaluable resource to be courted and cultivated.*

The AMS followed-up by working on a proposal to the Board of Governors which provides recommendations on consultation processes. In order to prepare this, the group met with community experts in this field. The first such meeting was with Jim Moodie who has been hired by UBC to consult on the process of planning South Campus. The next meeting was with SCARP Director Tony Dorsey, who provided his thoughts on the principles which underlie fair and productive consultation processes.

The next step is to run the draft proposal by students and others at UBC. To do so, the AMS is working with another group of SCARP students in PLAN 500 to plan the second Student Summit.

### **Student Consultation Workshop - PLAN 500 & the AMS**

Earlier in the semester the PLAN 500 class was looking for a project to which they could apply their growing skills. A number of students in the class demonstrated an interest in University Town planning and the group decided to find a role within this process. A natural connection was found with the AMS OCP Working Group and the 500 class partnered with the working group to plan and facilitate the second student Summit - a workshop focused on campus consultation processes. Scheduled for November 17, the workshop explored alternative methods of consultation, focusing on student consultation at UBC. The results will form a report on Campus Governance and Consultation, which will be given to the University Administration to consider when planning upcoming University Town processes.

## Omnibus (Fall 2003)

This semester SCARP's entering students have again taken on U-Town planning in the classroom with an Omnibus group focusing on the role of sustainable housing in the planning of University Town. To date the group has compiled an inventory of the background and the key stakeholders involved and by the end of the semester they will have critically reviewed the process. Asking questions such as: Who is involved with the planning of new housing for University Town? Who has a stake in the development of housing on campus? What types of housing are being planned? How are the principles of sustainability being incorporated into planning for housing? The group is furthering SCARP's understanding of the complexity of the planning process as well as the need for participatory planning models.

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