

SCARP NEWSBYTES 2001

Welcome!

This newsletter will tell you a bit about what is going on and what is coming up in the School of Community and Regional Planning. There is something here for just about everybody, whether you are a current or prospective student, faculty, staff, or alumni.

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Feedback...tell us what you like, don't like, would like to see, ideas you have, etc.

GIBSONS URBAN DESIGN STUDIO



Contributed by Deana

Grinnell

For the first time in recent years, SCARP students partnered with students of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in a joint studio working for a real client, the Town of Gibsons. The course was an intense seven-week effort in which students benefited from the knowledge and skills brought by the mixed disciplines and professors Penny Gurstein, Patrick Condon and Ron Walkey.

Over the first half of the semester students worked in groups on a number of smaller projects (gee, not small in scope or time, why am I calling them small?!). These included transect analyses, investigations into the natural environment, built form and social systems within the community (lots of visits to Gibsons!). This information was used by teams to foster a design manifesto, which created the philosophical base for next steps in the design process. Then, in charrette-style groups, multi-disciplinary teams created their design principles and overall vision for Gibsons over the next few decades. Once the team work was complete, the three disciplines separated into our own groups to pursue topics of individual interest over the final weeks of the course.

The class was a lot of work and a rewarding experience for all students involved, who feel they definitely earned the six credits. The planners had plenty to offer in the joint studio environment - the ability to take the broad perspective needed when studying a community, appreciating the systems nature of communities and their environment, the ability to work in teams and shape a process. The results of our efforts were well received by the community of Gibsons.

For those interested, the results of this effort are available on the WEB in a great document full of nice graphics at www.agsci.ubc.ca/urbanstudio.

Some thoughts on the course:

"Working with the other disciplines in the community setting allowed us to apply the shared skills and knowledge in a setting that challenged us to move beyond the role of graduate students to that of planning and design professionals working together to contribute to the future of a real community – a very rewarding experience." Jennifer Kay

"It was a great experience, working in an interdisciplinary context, investigating a broad spectrum of design and planning issues in different scales, and communicating the ideas to the people in the community. I enjoyed working hard in a meaningful way to make some connections between theory and practice." Behrouz Monadizadeh

"Having the opportunity to contribute to the planning debate in Gibsons and advance the community's thought on today's planning ideals was wonderful. Also a nice addition to the portfolio." Deana Grinnell

"For planning students with limited design experience, the studio environment is an intensive and exciting introduction to understanding some of the physical implications of planning intention on the ground. The positive feedback from the local residents and decision makers was an inspiration and a reward for hard work done on the project." Guy Patterson

Additional comments:

"The Gibsons work is a nice development out of the design with nature work I began years ago." Ian McHarg

"I really wanted to see more work done on the waterfront" Relic

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THE HAVANA PROJECT EXHIBITION

December 8 -17, 2000

On December 8, 2000, an exhibition featuring works from the "2000 Studies Abroad" trip to Cuba opened at the Havana Café Gallery on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. Approximately two hundred people attended the reception and enjoyed *cuba libres* served up by friendly SCARP bartenders. The show was a visual delight and included group transect projects, photographs, writings and other creative works by the students and staff who participated in the course. The combination of planning, landscape architecture and architecture students working together produced a rich melange of perspectives and images.



During the opening, guests were treated (?) to a repeat performance of "Ode to Gervasio", a poem written by the "La Rampa" group describing their experience on Gervasio Street in Centro Habana.

"Oh, the dogshit, the diesel, the sun. Ah, the brisa, the shade, Where you from?"



For many of us, the show brought back good memories of our experiences with the people, the places, the salsa, and of course, the *ron* of Cuba. We hope that the exhibition inspired some of this year's Havana-bound students. We wish you all a wonderful trip!

Thanks to all our family, friends, and SCARP staff who came out to see the show. We had a fantastic time and received positive feedback both in our "guest book" as well as from the staff and owners of the Havana Café Gallery. We'd like to thank the Gallery as well as the show's sponsors - TR Trades, Havana Club and Ekistics Town Planning for their generous support!

Gracias!

Contributed by Tina Atva

CUBA EXCURSION 2001 UPDATE

SCARP Students Fundraising for the "Studies Abroad in Havana" course

What better way to squeeze in some extra credits while seeing another part of the world than to participate in the "Studies Abroad in Havana" course offered by Paul Rosenau through SCARP. That's what approximately 15 UBC students from planning, architecture and landscape architecture will be doing for the month of May this year.

The course entails conducting intensive investigations of three different neighbourhoods in Havana, giving students the opportunity to exercise their cognitive skills and allowing them to uncover critical social, economic and political issues buried within the physical environment of Havana. Course participants will have extensive opportunities to interact with Cuban planners, architects and historians and to visit museums and other places of cultural and historic interest. In addition, students will participate in a variety of meetings with the City of Havana Physical Planning Department, community organizations, local government organizations and NGO's.

As is often the case in courses abroad, enthusiasm is very high but funds are low. In anticipation of the costs of the course, some participating students have organized a fundraising group in order to raise money for the trip. The first fundraising event will be held February 1st at Fred's Uptown Tavern in Downtown Vancouver. Tickets are \$5 each and will get you a free drink if you arrive before 9pm. There are lots of other fun events planned for the near future, so keep your eyes peeled for their announcement!

Contributed by Lee Nichol

UPDATE ON FACULTY HIRING

Great news for SCARP! Elizabeth MacDonald has accepted the Urban Design position with SCARP. Many thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make this possible. We expect Elizabeth to join the School July 1 2001, and to begin offering courses in January 2002. Present plans are for Lasserre 207 to become a dedicated Design Studio equipped with appropriate drafting tables and computers.

Ananya Roy and Leonie Sandercock have recently been interviewed for the 'Urban Planning and Social Policy' position. Stay tuned for more information on these impressive candidates!

ALUMNI

We love to hear from alumni! Where are you, what are you doing? Send us your story, or just your address so we can keep in touch. Email eanderso@interchange.ubc.ca

PLANNING STUDENT ASSOCIATION (aka PSA)

Visit the PSA website at <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/psa/> for information on how to nominate the best professors for teaching awards, and for updates on what planning students are planning!

PSA SOCIAL CO-ORDINATORS UPDATE

PSA Holiday Bash 2000

With the fall term ending, both students and faculty were ready to let loose and celebrate some much-needed holiday cheer at the 2000 PSA Holiday Cocktail Party. The cozy atmosphere of the GSS penthouse and a great turnout made the party a huge success...okay, the wine and beer also helped! Dancing to Latin beats, drinking vino, and devouring some delectable eats undoubtedly called for a good time had by all!



Upcoming PSA socials include:

- PSA Office Crawl - sometime in late January or early February (We'll keep you posted)
- Pub Night – coming soon (every second day!!!! Just kidding)
- Movie Nights-Tuesdays at Famous Playa's or Cineplex; or Artsy Fartsy Films at the Ridge
- International Card Night-playing card games-or board games-with some soda, brews and chips in the WMAX lounge- a good way to get everybody involved!!

Check the PSA website for more details <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/psa/>



Contributed by Carole Jolly and Carl Johannsen

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY AND SCARP

Earlier this year I attended a SCARP student meeting to discuss what we could do as a school to make a positive mark on this campus. One of the students exclaimed "I want to change people" and the room cheered and applauded with enthusiastic agreement. It is an interesting concept...changing people, changing behaviour and changing the way things happen where we live. Even more interesting is studying change and what makes people change - a popular topic for many graduate student projects at SCARP. What does it take to make people change? Can you think of a time when you changed? Self-reflection and critical thinking are two skills that I am learning as a graduate student here at SCARP. I have recognized that change needs to start within ourselves and with the recognition that changing your own perceptions, biases and actions can be a difficult process.

Let's take a minute and reflect on what is happening here at UBC. Change on campus is happening and the Sustainability Office is helping to implement sustainable ideas. In 1997, UBC adopted a Sustainable Development Policy (# 5) that states that "As part of its responsibility as an educational and research institution ...UBC provides leadership by demonstrating the means to a sustainable community on campus. UBC recognizes that just as the university contributes to a healthy society and economy through education to build up social capital, we also need to invest in maintaining the ecological services and resources, our natural capital, upon which society depends" (www.policy.ubc.ca/policy5.htm). Policy is only the first step - it will take many years of committed volunteers to make UBC a sustainable campus. What is a sustainable campus? What does campus sustainability mean to you? If you were to imagine a truly sustainable campus what would you envision? We are all familiar at SCARP with the concept of sustainability and it is time to start shifting this knowledge into action.

So what can we do and what is being done?

The Sustainability Office has a vision to make UBC the leading Canadian University in demonstrating the means to a fair, wise and efficient use of economic, social and ecological resources (www.sustain.ubc.ca). Since 1998 the office has spent time and energy retrofitting buildings, eliminating leaky toilets, making sure lighting and heating systems are working efficiently as well as creating the SEEDS program and the Sustainability Coordinator program. These programs are designed to get staff, faculty and students working together to create a more sustainable campus.

Everyday when I ride my bike to school I have time to notice what is happening on campus. I see social sustainability when students protest in front of the SUB, I see ecological sustainability when Commuter Challenge gives out free cinnamon buns to transit users and economic sustainability with the densification happening behind University Blvd. As students, we spend a lot of time on campus and we learn a lot in our classrooms but we also learn by what is going on outside of the classroom. I notice large corporate advertisements in the Graduate Student Centre and I see RoundUp signs on the grass, I see trucks parked in the bike lanes and students not being able to find a place to sit down for coffee. Last fall, I complained that the project I was working with was still using styrofoam cups. A few days later I became the Sustainability Coordinator. We no longer have styrofoam cups and both SDRI and SCARP are beginning to make small changes to the way we go about things. We have a long way to go -- but we have to start somewhere. If you are interested in sustainability, have ideas about campus sustainability or just want to "change people" then start doing it...by getting involved. UBC has the policy in place...perhaps SCARP can help shift these ideas from policy to action.

For more information on how to help make our campus sustainable...please contact Janet Moore 822-0945. Janetmoo@interchange.ubc.ca and visit www.sustain.ubc.ca

contributed by Janet Moore

UBC SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

On **Saturday February 3rd, 2001**, at the Ponderosa Centre, UBC, the first student organised UBC Sustainability Conference will be held, providing a forum for the sharing of information and ideas on the concept of sustainable development. This conference seeks to provide a catalyst for escalating thought and action within both UBC and the local community. There will be talks by renowned local speakers covering all facets of sustainability.

Some specifics: This day-long conference is divided into two main parts:

1. A morning speakers' panel discussing the three main aspects of sustainability: economic, social and environmental issues. Our panelists are:

- Alldyen Donnelly (economics) of the Greenhouse Emissions Management Company (GEMCo)
- Fiona Crofton (social issues) of ORCAD Consulting Group and UBC Civil Engineering
- Freda Pagani (environment) of the UBC Sustainability Office

2. In the afternoon, there will be a series of short workshops discussing:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Consumption
- Sustainable Urban Planning and Design
- Sustainable Transportation
- Plus there will be an array of displays by groups involved with sustainability
- There will also be an organic lunch and afternoon tea provided to all attendees
- Registration fee is \$5
- For more information and registration contact:
<http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/conference>

SMART GROWTH SALON

On **Thursday February 8 2001**, Dr. Patrick Condon, James Taylor Chair for Landscapes and Livable Environments (Landscape Architecture, UBC) will speak on the differences between US and Canadian land use and growth management policies as they pertain to smart growth. He will also discuss the benefits of using a design charette as a tool for public participation. An informal discussion will follow.

Smart Growth BC is a non-profit organization assisting community associations, businesses, municipalities, and the public, to create more livable communities through the promotion of compact urban centres and viable resource lands to ensure efficient land use, adequate affordable housing, sustainable transportation, and environmental integrity.

Contact Joy Schellenberg at Smart Growth BC (ph. 915-5234) by February 6, 2001 to reserve a seat.

PLAN TALK

What is it? *A series of idea workshops for planning practitioners and students*

Why? *Linking planning professionals and students to discuss the challenging and provocative issues of planning theory and practice (The real goal is to have some fun!!)*

Details:

On a monthly basis practitioners and students will be invited to get together to talk about current planning issues. (Yes, there will be food and drink!) Topics will be chosen out of participant interest and also around interesting speakers who may be available. We'll choose topics in advance, circulate a reading or provocative piece and have a casual and facilitated discussion while we get to know each other. This event will be sponsored by the PIBC Lower Mainland chapter and the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning with a welcome to all planners, students, community or land development types and other interested folks.

We're planning the first event for an evening in March in the Vancouver area. Look for upcoming notices and tell all your friends!

The Plan Talk Mission:

1. To increase enthusiasm for planning and the quality of practice and learning through thought provoking discussion.
2. To expose students to the real issues, challenges and problems encountered by practitioners and the profession as a whole.
3. To expose professionals to the idealism, new theory, and enthusiasm students can bring to the discussion.
4. To raise the caliber of discussion and debate within the planning profession.
5. To strengthen the relationships between planners and students.

Let this be the beginning of a great tradition!

Look for upcoming notices through the PIBC fax-out or

contact Deana Grinnell at dgrinn@hotmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Rhoda Thow, SCARP Administrator, who welcomed a healthy 7 lb 10 oz baby boy named Jamie into the world on November 30, 2000!

FEEDBACK

Send your ideas, questions, comments to wynn@interchange.ubc.ca

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