

SCARP NEWSBYTES

March 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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BIOREGIONAL ATLAS

Last fall, a group of students traveled to Sechelt to present the community with a Bioregional Atlas and an Annotated Bibliography of the Sunshine Coast.

The atlas was created as a group project in Doug Aberley's 2000 Bioregional Mapping Class. Starting with a base map that used a watershed boundary to roughly identify the Sunshine Coast, each student was assigned two topics to map, including a biophysical feature as well as a social or cultural feature of the Coast. Throughout the winter semester, the students researched and traveled to the Coast to speak with local residents and organizations on a number of topics, ranging from water supply issues to First Nations history. The goal of the maps was not only to document significant physical and cultural features on the Sunshine Coast, but to tell a story and tie these features to issues facing the community. Using a combination of text and pictures, the maps are meant to provoke discussion and contribute towards community development.

In addition to the atlas of almost sixty maps, the class created an annotated bibliography that would serve as a resource and reference for various groups on the Coast. Most topics pertained to physical and cultural features depicted on the maps, including Salmonids, Natural Vegetation, and Youth Issues. The end product was a sourcebook full of organizations, books and websites relevant to the Sunshine Coast.

The full Atlas and annotated bibliography were presented to the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Sechelt First Nation, and the Sechelt Public Library. The district planners were fascinated by the maps, and poured over them for over an hour while asking questions from the students. They were all very interested in the process, and plan to use Bioregional Mapping techniques in their next safety audit. The Sechelt Band were also thankful to the students for the significant resource, and were particularly interested in using the process with their youth to document knowledge and provoke discussion. The Library has included the atlas and bibliography in their collection, where it is now accessible to anyone on the Coast. Hopefully, the atlas will inspire other community members to make additions and changes to the students' work, where the maps can become living tools for shaping social change.

Through this experience, the students all learned a great deal about the power of bioregional mapping as a planning tool. They also got to know the stories behind the history, the people, and the landscape that make the Sunshine Coast a special place!

Contributed by Heather Shay

PLAN TALK

Planning for Diversity

When? Monday April 2, 2001 at 6:30-8:30 pm

Who? Speakers: Prof. David Ley, UBC Geography and Susan Anderson, City of Vancouver

Where? Vancouver Public Library, Peter Kaye Room

How much? \$10 students, \$20 professionals

RSVP to dgrinn@hotmail.com by Monday March 26.

Refreshments will be provided. There will be a small cost for drinks including soda, juice, beer and wine.

The mandate of the Plan Talk series is to provide an event at which planning professionals and students can meet each other and share knowledge and experience around issues in planning. The goal is to provide a means for provocative discussion and offer some education and skill-building to everyone attending. This talk has been planned around the regional issue of diversity in order to attract a broad group. Future Plan Talk sessions will highlight issues brought to us by participants.

What will students get out of it?

It is a great opportunity for students to network, get to know the professionals in the field and what kind of work they are doing. It is also a time for students to inject the discussion with new ideas, new theory, and the strong ethical questions that are a part of our experience at SCARP.

What will the faculty and other planning professionals get out of it?

We hope you regard this event as an opportunity to broaden your involvement in the community and share your ideas with students and planners in a casual setting. Hopefully this will contribute to SCARP's goal to strengthen the links between the school and the community.

Professionals are interested in hearing about what students do, just as students are interested in hearing about what planners do! Ideally, more and stronger internship and mentorship opportunities may arise out of this discussion series. It is up to us to make it a success so mark the date on your calendars and come out!!

Contributed by Deana Grinnell

PIBC UPDATE

What goes on at the Planning Institute of BC, anyway? You'd know if you had a membership! PIBC student memberships have been reduced this year to a bargain \$50, a great deal considering you get a subscription to both the PIBC Newsletter and Plan Canada, the CIP publication. Both are filled with loads of information relating to the planning profession both here in British Columbia and in the rest of Canada. Becoming a member is a great way to get connected to the profession we will be calling home when we graduate.

Included in the PIBC Newsletter is a summary of the Council meeting, the most recent one having taken place on Friday, March 16th at the new Richmond City Hall. For those of you who do not yet receive the newsletter, here's a summary of some of the items discussed:

1. The Energy Aware Committee (EAC) is seeking PIBC sponsorship. They are not yet incorporated and are therefore ineligible for many sources of provincial government funding. PIBC sponsorship is non-financial – we would simply be the up-front organization through which the EAC could receive this funding.
2. The CIP Membership Committee has been discussing what guidelines should be followed regarding membership of individuals who are working as planners, but who do not have an academic background. Not all CIP affiliates agree on the amount of experience needed before being eligible for full membership. The PIBC will bring this up at the AGM in Prince George in June. The CIP is also looking at introducing an associate member category for those who have a degree in a related field. The PIBC already has this category in its membership.
3. The PIBC finances are healthy and strong!
4. A draft of the Mandatory and Volunteer Certification of Continuing Education for PIBC Members was circulated. The document is in a very preliminary stage at the moment.
5. Nominations for the upcoming Council elections will soon be solicited. Elections will take place at the AGM in Prince George.
6. Members who send in their late membership fees after the end of March will receive a \$25 fine. Get yours in soon!
7. Organization of the PIBC Conference is proceeding smoothly. Check out the conference web site by linking from the PIBC web site.
8. The 2002 CIP Conference will be held at the Metrotown Hilton in Burnaby. Preparations are already well underway.

That's it for now. Remember that the Prince George conference will take place from June 12th until the 15th. The PIBC Annual General Meeting will also be held during that time. See you there!

UPDATE ON FACULTY HIRING

As mentioned in the previous Newsbytes, Elizabeth MacDonald has accepted the Urban Design position with SCARP. Elizabeth will be offering some charettes this fall, and will begin teaching classes in January 2002.

SCARP is also very excited to announce that Leonie Sandercock has accepted the 'Urban Planning and Social Policy' position. Leonie will be offering two courses in the fall. John Friedmann will also be joining SCARP as an Adjunct Professor. He will be offering up to two courses each year as well as working with graduate students and conducting research.

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 wynn@interchange.ubc.ca

PLANNING STUDENT ASSOCIATION (aka PSA)

Office crawl

On Friday March 2, 2001 a bunch of planning students decorated their offices in various themes, ranging from an earthquake zone, to a border crossing, an ode to Bruce Springsteen, Bob and Doug McKenzie-eh, Scott Baio, the 70s, Egypt, ... and more! It was a great opportunity for the students to mingle and socialize in rather unusual settings. Great work everyone!

SCARP wrap-up potluck-fest!

All SCARP students and faculty are invited to a term potluck wrap-up celebration on March 29th, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm at Thea's Lounge.

Urban Chaos

The first season for Urban Chaos, the SCARP Ball Hockey team playing in the UBC co-ed recreational intramurals, is coming to a close. 12 of the 14 regular players are SCARP students with the female gender emphasized - not the norm for any of our opponents. Winning is not the emphasis, 'chaos' is our cheer, and mixing physical activity into the mental focus of a Masters program is the goal!

Urban Sprawlers

The SCARP Ultimate Frisbee team, the Urban Sprawlers, had a great season burning off calories on the green (and brown) fields of UBC. Who knew a small plastic disc could bring so much fun?!

Student project

SCARP students are currently brainstorming over a school project that will reflect positively on SCARP, and provide some kind of benefit to the community. Visit the PSA website at <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/psa/> for more information on this and other planning student initiatives!

SPRING COURSE

Title? Ecological Risk Assessment: an overview

When? May 1-4, and May 14, 2001

How many credits? 3.0

Who's teaching it? Tim McDaniels (SCARP and IRE), and Anne Sergeant (US EPA)

What's it about? This class provides an overview of ecological risk assessment. It will be taught using the basic approach and guidelines of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's training programs, which are used to educate its employees and contractors about ecological risk assessment.

How do I get in? Contact Tim McDaniels **ASAP** at: timmcd@interchange.ubc.ca

FEEDBACK

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