

News from the School of Planning

August 2016

Patricia Manuel, Director

It is already August and the last month of the summer 'break'. Given the many and diverse activities of our School community, 'break' hardly describes the season! No matter what is keeping you busy or occupied, I hope everyone is enjoying wonderful summer weather.

Our summer newsletter is later than usual because we have been waiting for some changes to settle before sending it out. A lot has been happening in our School and also in our Faculty this spring and summer, even up to the last two weeks. But it is now time for an update.



*Celebrating Carol Madden's contributions to the School of Planning on the occasion of her retirement, June 29, 2016
Photo by Ken Kam*

Faculty and Staff Changes

Carol Madden Retires

Our School secretary, Carol Madden, retired on June 30, 2016. Carol was our administrative secretary for 11 years, and worked in the School of Architecture and other departments at Dalhousie before joining us. We all know Carol's wonderful contributions to our School. For most of our students since 2005, Carol was their first contact with the School, and often Dalhousie, and many students have said it was because of Carol and her warm and encouraging responses to their early questions that they choose to come to Dalhousie's School of Planning.

We hosted a reception for Carol on June 29th to thank her for all she has done for us over the years. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and co-workers from other parts of the university gathered to wish Carol all-the-best. It was a bitter-sweet day: wonderful to see someone so greatly appreciated and looking forward to new adventures; sad to see her leave. But . . . Carol has not left entirely, yet. She is helping to train our new secretary, Tamara Adlain, and will be in and out over the next months as Tamara learns the many aspects of being the administrative centre of the School.

New Secretary for the School of Planning

Which brings me to our next announcement: the School of Planning has a new administrative secretary. We are delighted to welcome Tamara Adlain to the School. Tamara joined us on July 13th and has been rapidly absorbing the many tasks and protocols that go with the role. Tamara has degrees in business administration from Saint Mary's University (BBA and MBA), and has worked in administration in the provincial government, and at Saint Mary's and Dalhousie Universities. She has also worked in human resources administration in the hotel and tourism industry. Prior to working in administration, Tamara was a school teacher in St. Lucia. Tamara has been meeting faculty and students as they arrive at the School office. If you are around the School or nearby over the summer, please stop in and say hello to Tamara and welcome her to the School.

New Faculty Member in the School of Planning

You may know from an earlier announcement that we have a new faculty member in the School of Planning. We are very pleased that Dr. Ren Thomas has joined us. Ren began her appointment on July 1st. Adding a new faculty member, in contrast to replacing an outgoing faculty member, is a rare event these days in academia. Our School is growing! Ren has degrees in landscape architecture (BLArch, Toronto) and planning (MA and PhD, SCARP-UBC). She completed a post-doc at the University of Amsterdam on transit-oriented development. Prior to joining us, Ren spent a year as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Oregon-Eugene in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management. Ren's research and teaching expertise spans housing, immigration, transportation, growth management and governance. Ren has recently completed a book, *Planning Canada: A Case Study Approach*, published by Oxford University Press. The book launch is this fall.

New Career Services Director in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning

And, there are more staff changes to announce: the Faculty of Architecture and Planning has a new Director of Career Services. Joanne Firth joined the Faculty on June 1st. Joanne brings 15 years of experience in co-op education to the position. She holds a BA and MBA from SMU and worked at SMU as an Employment Development Officer with the co-op programs. Joanne has extensive experience with placing students in a wide range of employment settings. She is very active in her professional group, the Canadian Association for Cooperative Education, Atlantic, and served as Chair in 2014-15. Joanne has already been working with our MPlan work-term students and their employers since she arrived last month, conducting site visits and check-ins. If you are getting ready for a BCD internship or an MPlan work-term this coming year, you will be working with Joanne. Welcome to our Faculty Joanne!

Paula Costello Retires

Joanne replaced Paula Costello who retired earlier in the spring. Paula supported the professional education of countless students in Architecture and Planning over a long career that began with the Faculty in 1991, although Paula's association with Dalhousie/TUNS goes back further than that: she graduated from TUNS with her BEDS in 1975 and BArch in 1977. She was a practicing architect from 1977 to 1992. Paula built the Faculty co-op program and contributed extensively to the professional practice curriculum in the School of Architecture. We celebrated Paula's retirement with a luncheon attended by a very large group from across the Faculty. I know you will join me in wishing Paula all the best in her new endeavours.

Celebrating 2015/16 and the Class of 2016

Plan Out Loud

The School of Planning hosted the annual Plan out Loud event on April 11. We had excellent attendance by students, faculty, alumni, professional practice colleagues and the public throughout the day for this celebration of student work from across the School and throughout the year.

Class of 2016

On May 30th we celebrated the graduation and achievements of 17 MPlan students, 1 MPS student, 6 BCD students and 24 BCD Honours students. Family, friends, faculty, staff gathered for our annual Convocation Tea to wish our graduates good luck as they move on to careers, travel, or future study.

The Tea is also the time when we present academic awards and service prizes. Below is our class of 2016, including citations for academic prizes and honours.



Bachelor of Community Design, Class of 2016

Bachelor of Community Design

Akram Hamdan; Shuya Li; Liguao Shen; Yiwen Sun
Jillian Vardy; Kareem Wallace.

Jillian Vardy received the *BCD Graduating Student Achievement Award*.

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours

Environmental Planning

Emily Edwards

*Bachelor of Community Design, Honours
Environmental Planning and Sustainability*

Hillary deWildt (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Jenna Gabriel; Cole Grabinsky (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Rachael Groat (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar; University Medal for Community Design*); Derik Sauve.

Cole Grabinsky and Rachael Groat also jointly received the *BCD Thesis Prize-Environmental Planning*.

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours

Urban Design and Planning

Scott Borden; Zixin Sing Chen; Mariam Fahmy; Chuyan Feng; Rhiannon Gilbert (*Honour Roll*); Shannon Junor; Alexander Leung (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Jiahuan (Joyce) Liu (*Honour Roll*); Erin MacKenzie; Courtney Taylor; Kyle Whynot.

Alex Leung also received the *BCD Thesis Prize-Transportation*.

*Bachelor of Community Design, Honours
Urban Design and Planning and Sustainability*

Uytay Lee (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Christina Martin; Myra Pennington (*Honour Roll*); Kieran Stepan; Emma Stucke (*Honour Roll*); Alix Tier (*Honour Roll*).

Uytay Lee also received the *BCD Thesis Prize-Urban Design and Planning, and the Community Design Service Prize*.

Master of Planning

Angele Clarke; Timothy Davidson; Mengling (Mia) Feng; Yanan Gou; Ross Grant (*Honour Roll*); Ian Harper (*Honour Roll*); Caitlin Hinton; Eliza Jackson Sara Jellicoe (*Honour Roll*); Samira Khayambashi; Tara Maguire; Spencer Matheson (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Jake Papineau (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*); Colin Simic; Dylan Smith; Kaitlyn Walker (*Honour Roll*); Christina Wheeler (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar*).

In addition, Spencer Matheson received the *Master of Planning Independent Project Prize*; Ross Grant, Mina Seddigh, Colin Simic and Samira Khayambashi received the *Master of Planning Team Project Prize*; Christina Wheeler received the *Master of Planning Prize*.

Master of Planning Studies

Caroline King, *Honour Roll*



Sara Jellicoe, MPlan and Eric Rapaport at the Convocation Tea.

The Convocation Tea is also the time to present various other award and prizes, including those from our professional associations and prizes and scholarships provided by supporters of our School and Faculty:

Academic Achievement Awards for returning BCD students went to Sophia Baker, Emilie Pothier, Owen Siefert, Taylor MacIntosh, and Tessa Williams.

Julia Million, returning Hons BCD student, received the *School of Planning Service Prize*; Sarah Bercu, MPlan 1, received the *Dorothy Leslie Prize*.

Jake Papineau, graduating MPlan, received the *Wallace and Marie Dykeman Award for Rural*

Planning; Andrew Scanlan Dickie, MPlan 1, received the *George Lawen-Dexel Development Scholarship*; Sandy MacKay, MPlan 1, received the *Brant Wishart Memorial Scholarship (NSPDA)*.

Canadian Institute of Planners Awards (Academic Excellence) went to graduating students Uytæ Lee, BCD Hons, and Spencer Matheson, MPlan. Scott

Borden received the *2016 CIP Travel Scholarship*. MPlan students Penny Kuhn, Allyson Myggland, Cameron Thompson and Jordan Zukowski received *Rosetti Scholarships*.

Colin Simic, MPlan and Myra Pennington, BCD Hons, received the *Dalhousie ESRI Award for excellence in GIS*.

Architect and Urban Designer, Prof Jan Gehl Dalhousie University Honorary Degree Recipient

This year's graduation was especially memorable because architect and urban designer Jan Gehl was the Honorary Degree recipient for our Faculty convocation. Our Faculty had the honour of hosting Prof Gehl while he was at Dalhousie. Prof Gehl participated in all our graduation events and contributed his vast knowledge and experience in various other ways as well, including a walk along Spring Garden Road with members of the Planning and Design Centre and others working on SGR improvements; a workshop for colleagues in professional practice; and a standing (on-top-of-one-another) room only public lecture on May 31st in the Medjuck Building. The Faculty partnered with HRM, WDCL, and the Halifax Business District Commission to support these events. Thank you especially to SoP's Dr. Eric Rapaport for helping to coordinate Prof Gehl's itinerary, and to TJ Maguire (WDCL and SoP alumnus) for also helping to host Prof Gehl and taking time to show him around the South Shore.

One other note-worthy point about Prof Gehl's visit: PLANiFax developed a promotional video for his public lecture and recorded his visit. If you have not seen the video, you can view it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2Zr5Q0Xi4>

JAN GEHL 2016 Honorary Degree Recipient
Livable Cities for the 21st Century

FREE PUBLIC TALK
JAN GEHL

May 31 @ 12:30 pm - 1:50 pm
Medjuck Building, 5410 Spring Garden Rd Theater Hall - HA19

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Architecture and Planning

World-renowned architect and urban design expert Jan Gehl once said, "A good city is like a good party. People don't want to leave early." Since the early 1960s, Mr. Gehl has been studying how we use public spaces, and working to re-establish human beings as the centre of city life.

An important change of paradigm occurred around 1960. City planning took off towards planning in a really huge scale in response to the challenge of fast growing cities. At the same point in time traffic planning took over the planning at eye level to address the rapid influx of cars.

In this commotion the care for the people using cities – looked after for centuries by tradition and experience – was completely left behind. Cities for People became an overlooked and forgotten dimension.

DOWNTOWN HALIFAX **HALIFAX** **Waterfront Development**

School of Planning Faculty – Research, Practice, Conferences, and Other News

Summer is a busy time in the School as faculty members fit course and program development, research and practice into 4 short months. Here is some of what we have been doing.

Jill Grant gave a keynote address at the Planning Institute of British Columbia's annual conference in Kelowna in May. Her research team on Neighbourhood Change – including Uytæ Lee and

Janelle Derksen – gave papers at the Research Partnership's annual meeting in Toronto, at a community meeting Gottingen Street, and at the Canadian Association of Geographer's conference in Halifax. Jill also led a field trip on historic suburbs of Halifax at the CAG.

Patricia Manuel taught her annual coastal planning course at the University Centre of the Westfjords,

Iceland in April. Patricia attended and presented a paper at the Adaptation Canada conference in Ottawa also in April. The conference was also the launch of a major report entitled *Canada's Marine Coasts in a Changing Climate* to which Patricia contributed a chapter on 'The Coastal Challenge' with Colleen Mercer-Clarke and Fiona Warren. Patricia attended the Coastal Zone Canada Conference in June and was joined by BCD Hons graduate Emma Stucke who presented her honours research thesis project on land use planning and coastal flooding in Windsor and West Hants municipalities.

Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University co-hosted the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) conference May 31 to June 4. Patricia co-chaired the conference with Ryan Gibson from SMU. Patricia, Jill and Eric each presented at this conference and ran field trips. Students from the School of Planning also participated by volunteering and giving presentations and posters, including Florian Goetz, Emma Stucke, Kieran Stepan, and Uytay Lee.

The School was also very engaged with the NSPDA-API-LPPANS conference in May in Halifax, especially our students who attended and volunteered. The School co-hosted the conference reception.

Eric Rapaport presented work from the research project on aging communities and climate change at the Our Future is Aging Conference in Halifax, in June. This work by Eric, Patricia Manuel and Janice Keefe received an award for excellence from API the previous year. Earlier in the spring Eric traveled to Toronto as part of the HRM contingent to the Livable Cities Forum. Eric recently finished a chapter, "Assessment of Climate Risks and Adaptation Practices for the Canadian Transportation Sector: Atlantic Canada" for Transport Canada and Natural Resource Canada.

Ahsan Habib began his sabbatical July 1st. Ahsan received an NSERC Discovery grant for 2017-18 (PI) and is a co-applicant on a NCE with colleagues at U of T (PI) and across Canada. He presented three papers at the World Conference on Transportation Research in Shanghai, China in July. He was also an invited speaker at an ICT/travel workshop in Nanjing, China. In September, Ahsan is presenting a paper in TU Delft, Netherlands.

Mikiko Terahsima has been working on publications from her research around planning and health, including planning and food security, and measurements of spatial accessibility and health opportunity structures. Her paper "The future of population health research using postal code to link data to geography" with George Kephart (Community Health and Epidemiology) was recently accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Public Health. Mikiko has also been working with incoming Interdisciplinary PhD student Beau Ahrens on a project with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness and the Nova Scotia Health Authority, developing "community cluster" area units for primary healthcare service planning. She has also been developing a community food security assessment toolkit, funded by the Thrive! program and partnering with HRM Cultural Planner Leticia Smillie.

Kate Thompson will begin doctoral studies this fall through the IDPhD program at Dal. Her co-supervisors are Kate Sherren and Peter Duinker with Resource and Environmental Studies, and committee members are Mikiko Terashima, School of Planning and Anders Hayden, Political Science. Kate will research the integration of ecosystem services into land use and community planning. She received a NS Graduate Scholarship in support of her work.

Frank Palermo has been managing a move of the CEU and PDC this past month, in the midst of doing the many and varied community planning activities of the units. The buildings that have been the offices of the CEU and PDC for the past five years are being torn down to make way for the new Design Building that is part of the IDEA building complex. The move came up rather suddenly, as tends to happen around here from time to time. The offices have relocated to O'Brien Hall at the corner of Barrington and Morris Streets.

Both CEU and PDC have seen staff changes over and above the planning assistants who join them in the summer. Sarah Ravlic left the PDC in the spring to return to BC, and Eliza Jackson has taken over Sarah's role of PDC operations management. In the CEU, Mark Nenner has left after many years with the unit and has joined the AT program at HRM.

Student and Alumni News

New Students and Orientation

The School will welcome 20 new MPlan students in the fall. We are still admitting new students to the BCD program. 25 Honours BCD students will complete the professional degree this year.

We are making plans for the orientation events in the first week of the semester. The new academic calendar has necessitated changes to our familiar orientation schedule. The Master of Planning academic program orientation will be on Tuesday, September 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Medjuck Building (room TBD). The first year Bachelor of Community Design program orientation will follow, also on Tuesday, September 6, from 4:30 to 6:30. There will also be Faculty-wide events, for all new students in the Faculty and the two School of Planning student societies are organizing social activities. Incoming students will receive more information about orientation shortly.

The biggest change around orientation for the incoming MPlan students is the date of the Maritime Field Trip. That trip has been moved to the new mid-November break. Instead, for orientation, the new MPlan students will have a weekend of discovering HRM beyond the peninsula – the roads less travelled.

Regarding the Maritime Field Trip, this year it is the Atlantic Field Trip as we are travelling to St. John's, NL. This will be our third trip to Newfoundland and Labrador since our fall field trip began in 2003, and our second visit to St. John's. Planning is now in-gear for this trip and the local planning community is already stepping forward with generous offers to work with us when we are there.

Alumni

Over 35 alumni were among the guests attending the NSPDA-API-LPPANS reception on May 18th. A smaller, but no less enthusiastic group attended the NSCAD-TUNS-DAL alumni reception at the Canadian Institute of Planners in Quebec City in July, hosted by Patricia Manuel.

Please send us your news; it is wonderful to hear from our alumni and learn about your lives! Here is some news from recent grads: Kieran Stepan, BCD Hons 2016 is doing a planning internship in Durban, South Africa; Ezra Lipton, BCD Hons 2015, has traveled to Los Cabos, Mexico working with the Municipal Institute of Planning (IMPLAN) as an Urban

Development Research Assistant. The internship is through Simon Fraser's Centre for Sustainability and Sustainable Cities International. Odessa Cohen, BCD Hons 2015, began a municipal planning internship in Wheatland County, Alberta as part of the Government of Alberta municipal internship program. Our graduates have had very good success in landing internship positions with this program.

PLANifax

Pretty well everyone in our School community knows PLANifax and their special way of promoting and explaining planning to the public. This year, PLANifax evolved from being a series of projects to becoming an incorporated non-profit organization. PLANifax comprises mostly students, now recent graduates, of the BCD program. This spring, PLANifax submitted an unsolicited proposal to HRM to document and promote the Centre Plan. They were awarded the contract! They submitted applications for student employment funding. They got their money! PLANifax has hired three planning students for the summer and continues to grow. The group is working out of the BCD Hons studio for the summer and will move in with PDC in O'Brien Hall this fall. Visit their website <http://www.planifax.ca>, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and just about everywhere else, lately.

Other News

Seeking projects

Each year the School of Planning seeks project opportunities for students doing senior independent and team projects and studios in both the Honours undergraduate BCD and the graduate MPlan programs. If you have a project that could benefit from student exploration under faculty guidance, please send your ideas to patricia.manuel@dal.ca.

It's Accreditation Year!

This is accreditation year for our professional programs in the School of Planning with a site visit expected early in 2017. We will be calling on alumni, employers of our graduates, and clients of our student projects to take part in this very important process. We are asking alumni to respond to our calls for information: Where are you now? A program's success is measured by the success of its graduates, so we will be looking forward to hearing from you and about your successes. More on accreditation in the months ahead.