



News from the School of Planning Summer, 2017

Patricia Manuel, Director

The School of Planning had a busy 2016/17 academic year with many successes to celebrate, including re-accreditation for both professional degree programs, field trips regionally and abroad, an exciting first year

for new faculty members and staff, hiring a new colleague, national awards and recognition for excellence and, of course, the success of our newly graduated students.

School of Planning programs re-accredited for another five years

2017 was our five-year intensive review year for our professional degree programs: the Bachelor of Community Design, Honours with Majors in Environmental Planning, Urban Design and Planning, or combined majors with Sustainability, and the Master of Planning. Following intensive preparations over the fall and early winter, the School welcomed the Professional Standards Board Site Visit Team at the end of January. The team included Mr. Bruce Curtis, MCIP, RPP (OPPI), Mr. Doug Foster MCIP, LPP (API) and Dr. Lisa Bornstein MCRP (ACUPP). The team spent three days reviewing the documentation and examples of student work, touring the facilities,

meeting with faculty members, University, Faculty, and School administrators and staff, alumni, employers, and students. We received unconditional re-accreditation for both professional programs for another five years, taking us to August 2022. The outcome recognizes the excellence of our programs and the hard work contributed by many throughout the process. Thank you to all who participated and to the Site Visit Team for their thorough review and the valuable feedback that will help us maintain our excellence and respond to the emerging needs of professional planning education.

A new faculty member in the School of Planning

Following a search this winter for a new faculty member, the School of Planning is delighted to welcome Dr. David Guyadeen, who joined the School on July 1st as Assistant Professor in Planning. Dr. Guyadeen recently completed his PhD in Planning at the University of Waterloo. He also holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours) from Ryerson University. Before starting his doctoral studies, Dave worked as a planner with the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Town of Milton.

Dave specializes in policy planning, in particular plan quality evaluation. He has taught lecture-based courses on policy planning and policy analysis and program evaluation, and a studio course focused on neighbourhood analysis. He will be teaching in both the graduate and undergraduate programs in areas of planning history and theory and community planning and design. Dave intends to develop his research program around plan development, implementation and evaluation, building on his recent doctoral research.

Their first year in the School of Planning

Two new School members have just completed their first full year with us: our secretary, Ms. Tamara

Adlain, and faculty member, Dr. Ren Thomas. Ms. Joanne Firth, our new Faculty Director of Career

Services has also just completed one year in the position. Mr. Matthew Timmons is the new Finance Officer in the Faculty, having joined us in January.

While no year is ever ‘quiet’, arriving in an accreditation year ensures there is plenty of extra work

Retirements

New appointments mean that people are also leaving. Some of you reading this news will undoubtedly ask yourself, “Where has the time gone?!” Dr. Jill Grant retires on August 31, 2017. Jill began her teaching career in 1979 as an Assistant Professor in Environmental Planning at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. She joined Dalhousie University in 2001 with the Dalhousie and NSCAD planning programs merger. Jill has had a very successful career as a planning educator and scholar. She has influenced the professional development of countless students. She is among Canada’s best-recognized and respected planning scholars. Jill has published more than 120 articles in scholarly (75+) and professional (45+) journals, authored two books and edited three, contributed many book chapters and worked tirelessly for scholarship in the profession with her editorial leadership and reviewer contributions to over 60 journals.

While at NSCAD, Jill was Department Head of Environmental Planning three times between 1980 and 1995, Chair of the Design Division in 2000-2001, and

to do, in addition to becoming oriented to the ‘regular’ requirements of the position and bringing one’s own special skills and innovations to the role.

Congratulations to each of our newest colleagues on a very successful first year.

Vice President (Academic Dean) from 1995 to 1998. She was the Director of the School of Planning at Dalhousie for seven years from 2002 to 2008 and in 2013, and led the School in the development of the programs that define it today.

Students in the School recognized Jill and showed their appreciation for her teaching and mentorship at this year’s Plan out Loud in April. Jill spoke at the event on the theme of “What I learned from teaching planning”. We were also honoured to have Jill speak at our convocation ceremony on May 29th where she delivered the convocation address. We are making plans for a reception for Jill in September.

We would also like to acknowledge the many years of service and contributions to our School from two of our Faculty colleagues who also retired this year, Ms. Anita Regan our Faculty Resource and Visual Collections Librarian (and Fire Marshall, as some of you will recall) and Mr. Eric Guile, our Faculty Financial Officer. Both Anita and Eric enjoyed long careers with Dalhousie University and TUNS.

Awards and recognitions

CIP National Awards



Iyad Al-Halis, of the CEU, accepting the Award for Planning Excellence on behalf of the team. Presenting is CIP president Eleanor Mohammed. Image contributed by Ren Thomas.

Our School of Planning community was very well-represented in receiving CIP National Awards and recognition this year.

Prof Frank Palermo and his team at the Cites and Environment Unit received the CIP 2017 Award for Planning Excellence in the category of Urban Design for their project, “A Plan for the Ferry Docks Areas, a Digby Neck and Island Collaboration”. The team included Frank Palermo, Iyad Al-Halis (MPlan, urban designer), Eliza Jackson (MPlan, community planner, now at EAC), Mark Nenner (MPlan community planner, now at HRM), Uytaye Lee (BCD Hons, community planner), and MPlan work-term students and new graduates Friederike Rischmann, Stirling Scory and Aditi Mane. They worked with the Advisor

Group of the Freeport Community Development Association.

Dr. Ren Thomas received the CIP award of merit in the planning publications category for her book, *Planning Canada: A Case Study Approach*, published by Oxford University Press. For more information about Ren's book go to

<http://www.renthomas.ca/publications/books>



Ren Thomas (centre) accepting the award for her edited collection, *Planning Canada: A Case Study Approach*, along with authors Tim Shaw, Penny Gurstein, and Silvia Vilches (far right). Presenting is CIP President Eleanor Mohammed (far left). Image contributed by Ren Thomas.

Recent Bachelor of Community Design Honours graduate Kara Martin received the 2017 CIP Fellows Travel Scholarship. Kara travelled to Copenhagen to participate in the intensive bicycling Master Class put on by the Copenhagenize Design Company. The course focusses on best practices for urban bicycling and includes lectures, workshops, and bike tours.

Alumnus Koroush Rad, BCD (2011), MCIP, LPP, received the CIP President's Award for Young Planners. Koroush is VP of Research and Development with Compass Commercial in Halifax. Before joining Compass Commercial he was the Senior Urban Planner with WSP. He completed a CIDA/CIP program internship as a community development planner at the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs in Guyana and also interned with the online journal World Streets in Paris working on urban transportation issues. Koroush was the chair of the Halifax Design Review Committee – HRM by Design (2014-16). You can read the full profile at <https://alumni.dal.ca/class-notes/dalhousie-alumnus-wins-national-young-planner-award/>

Congratulations to our CIP National Award recipients!

Celebrating 2016/17 and the Class of 2017

SHIFT

In late winter, the School hosted the annual SHIFT conference. This year's theme was SHIFT in Transit. Key-note speakers and guest workshop leaders included Carmichael Lecture speaker Andreas Rohl, Associate with Gehl – Copenhagen (co-hosted with the Downtown Halifax Business Commission); Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Executive Director of 128 Business Council, Boston; Kurt Luhrsen, VP Planning, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Harris Co, Houston Texas; and David Bragdon, Executive Director, TransitCentre, New York. There were many conference highlights, including the conference political panel of six municipal councillors, one provincial MLA and one of our metro MPs, moderated by Mayor Mike Savage, all talking about transit. Congratulations to the student conference organizers and Frank Palermo for a very successful SHIFT.

Plan Out Loud

The School of Planning hosted the annual Plan out Loud event on April 13. 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. As already mentioned, Jill Grant retires this August. In keeping with the theme of Plan out Loud -- celebrating our students -- Jill spoke about the lessons she has learned while teaching planning. She reminded us that teaching is an exchange and teacher and student learn and develop together through the teaching and learning experiences.

Thank you to WSP for generously contributing to our reception following the event. It was great to welcome Jeff Haggett (BCD Hons, 2009) back to Halifax from Calgary. Jeff has returned to WSP following several years with the city of Calgary.

Class of 2017

On May 29th we celebrated the graduation and achievements of 20 MPlan, one MPS, and 32 BCD students. Family, friends, faculty, and staff gathered for our annual Convocation Tea to wish everyone good luck as they move on to careers, travel, further study and other adventures. The Tea is also the time when we present academic awards and service prizes.

Following, is our Class of 2017, including citations for honours, academic and service prizes.

Undergraduate



BCD graduates left to right, AJ Taylor, Guillaume Bernier, Carson O'Connor, Mona Al-Sharari and returning student Katie Sonier. Image contributed by Guillaume Bernier.

Bachelor of Community Design

Aya El-Megharbel; Boston Ghosn; Leanna Letterio (*BCD Graduating Student Achievement Award*); Alex Liu; Emily Quinton; Patrick Speers; Jack Stowbridge; Arielle Zamdvaiz

Bachelor of Community Design, Double Major in Community Design and Sustainability

Julia Million

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours, Environmental Planning

Jeremy Banks (*Community Design Prize*); Florian Goetz (*Distinction*); Megan Taylor (*Distinction*); Tessa Williams (*Sexton Scholar, CIP Award for Excellence*)



Bachelor of Community Design soon-to-be graduates celebrating the end of the thesis! Dartmouth Commons, April 12th. Image contributed by Ardalan Sharegi-Boroujeni.

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours, Environmental Planning and Sustainability

Joanna Burris (*Sexton Scholar; University Medal for Community Design; BCD Thesis Prize-Environmental Planning*); Stephen Collyer; Kara Martin (*Distinction, CIP Fellows Travel Scholarship*) Tyler Searls (*Distinction*)

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours, Urban Design and Planning

Mona Al-Sharari; Guillaume Bernier; Daniel de Moissac; Justin Gosse (*Distinction*); Amy Greenberg (*Sexton Scholar*); Brenna Mowbray (*Sexton Scholar*); Wala Musleh; Peter Nightingale (*Distinction*); Christopher Rennehan; Leen Romaneh (*Distinction; BCD Thesis Prize-Transportation*); Ardalan Sharegi-Boroujeni; AJ Taylor; Nick Willwerth (*Distinction*); Yuedi Zhan; Qianqio Zhu (*Sexton Scholar; BCD Thesis Prize-Urban Design and Planning*)

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

Ben Abbott; Sam Dellapinna; Carson O'Connor.

Graduate

Master of Planning Studies

Shaila Jamal (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar, School of Planning Prize*)

Master of Planning

Melissa Barker; Sarah Bercu (*Honour Roll-Sexton Scholar; Wallace and Marie Dykeman Prize in Rural Planning*); Jonathon Bray (*Team Project Prize*); Sarah Craig; Meaghan Dalton (*Honour Roll-Sexton Distinction*); Janelle Derksen (*Honour Roll-Sexton Distinction, Team Project Prize*); Joseph Gnemmi; Genise Grant (*Honour Roll*); Penelope Kuhn (*Honour*)

Roll-Sexton Distinction, Independent Project Prize; Team Project Prize); Scott Low (*Team Project Prize*); Sandy MacKay (*Honour Roll-Sexton Distinction; School of Planning Director's Award*); Aditi Mane; Elizabeth Nicoll; Nicholas O'Dette; Friederike Rischmann; Andrew Scanlan Dickie (*Honour Roll-Sexton Distinction; Master of Planning Prize; CIP Award of Excellence; Team Project Prize*); Stirling Scory; Saira Shah; Cameron Thompson; Jordan Zukowski (*Honour Roll*).



MPlan graduates Friederike Rischmann (far left) Meghan Dalton, Janelle Derksen, Sarah Bercu (far right) with Jill Grant (centre). Image contributed by Scott Low.

The Convocation Tea is also the time to present various other awards and prizes as well as scholarships for returning students.

Academic Achievement Awards for returning BCD students went to Kelci Warren (BCD Year 1), Claire Tusz (BCD Transfer Year), Emilie Pothier (BCD Year 2), and Malinda Parker (BCD Year 3).

Returning BCD Hons student, Brendan Lamb, received the *School of Planning Service Prize*; Christopher Markides, MPlan 1, received the *Dorothy Leslie Prize*. David Espeseth, MPlan 1, received the *George Lawen-Dexel Development Scholarship* and Craig Dedels, MPlan 1, received the *Brant Wishart Memorial Scholarship (NSPDA)*. Stephen McCarthy, Craig Dedels, and Michael Gerroir received *Rossetti Scholarships* for academic travel.

School of Planning students also earned recognition in the university Student Impact Awards this spring. Byung Jun Kang (BCD, 2015) and MPS student received the Entrepreneur Impact Award for his work with Planifax and Sarah Bercu (MPlan) received the Faculty Impact Award.

Andrew Scanlon Dickie was the School of Planning recipient of the Faculty of Architecture & Planning named Top Co-op Students of the Year.

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 four months. Here is some of what we have been doing.

Jill Grant is busy sorting out 38 years of materials accumulated in her home and school office as she gets ready for retirement. (Jill reflects: “Who could have imagined how much one accumulates over a career!!”) Some of her books will go to the Dalhousie Archives, some will go to the Dal Library, and later in the summer Jill will have a book sale to raise funds for a scholarship fund, one that the university is creating to mark Jill’s contributions to planning education.

Jill is also working on a book project, *Changing neighbourhoods: social and spatial polarization in*

Canada’s cities, with co-editors Alan Walks and Howard Ramos. It will be published by UBC Press next year. She is also the lead editor on the forthcoming issue, 18(3), of the journal *Planning Theory and Practice*.

Patricia Manuel taught her annual coastal planning course at the University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland, in April. Patricia attended the NSPDA-LPPANS conference in May, along with other School faculty and students, and then traveled to Calgary for the CIP conference in June. Patricia is the Nova Scotia lead in a multi-partner research project called The Maritime Natural Infrastructure Collaborative, led by Nature NB. The project aim is the integration of ecosystem services into land use planning. BCD student Katie Sonier is working as a research assistant

with Patricia. She has been engaging watershed groups in the province to pilot test the integration model. Similar work is going on in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Ren Thomas is working with School of Nursing colleague Ingrid Waldron on a symposium being held in Halifax on October 27 ("Over the Line: A Conversation about Race, Place, and the Environment"). She is also working on a research project on barriers to rental housing implementation and protection. Ren attended the CIP conference in Calgary, and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education conference in Halifax. Ren recently published two reviews, both in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, one reviewing the book *The Urban Transport Crises in Emerging Economies* (DOI: 10.1177/0739456X17707812); and the other reviewing the book *Town and Crown: An Illustrated History of Canada's Capital* (DOI 10.1177/0739456X16688769).

Mikiko Terashima has been awarded a three-year Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF) Establishment Grant to investigate relationships between the built environment and health. Ahsan Habib and health profession colleagues will be working with her on this grant. Mikiko is continuing her work with accessibility in HRM. One of her honours students, recent BCD graduate Ardalan Sharegi-Boroujeni will present the findings of his thesis research to the HRM Accessibility Advisory Committee this summer.

Mikiko and Ren Thomas are co-authoring a short paper for Plan Canada, *Aging Atlantic cities: Challenges and potential solutions for planners*.

Student news

Student travel and conferences

Our students have been traveling to conferences. During the winter semester, BCD honours student, Kara Martin, attended the Winter Cycling Summit in early February in Montreal. A group of BCD 2nd and 3rd year students traveled to Edmonton for the Winter Cities Conference over the February break. They received travel support funding from the Society of Undergraduate Planners.

Also over the winter break, eight MPlan students travelled to Savannah, Georgia for the international

Eric Rapaport, in conjunction with the Halifax Cycling Coalition launched a new geospatial tool using Esri Software crowdsourcing app, call Cyclesnaps. Its intent is to warehouse cycling issues such as bike lane parking violation, broke infrastructure and other issues cyclist face on their daily commute. Try it out. It will be useful for the protected bike lane on University Ave <http://arcg.is/2qWWwAI>

Eric and Patricia are working together on another multi-partner, collaborative project, managed by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, to explore land suitability for wine grape growing in the context of climate change. This work will see fuller development in the fall and winter.

Ahsan Habib returned from his year-long sabbatical on July 1st, during which time he was busy furthering his research work and collaborations. His collaborative work on a mass evacuation of the Halifax peninsula received funding and gained national attention in March. Read more about this project at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/emergency-evacuation-video-game-dalhousie-disaster-flood-1.4030663>.

In May, Ahsan presented two research papers in Portugal at the 8th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies, and went to Los Angeles as a member on the Transportation standing committee for the Transportation Research Board (TRB). In June, Ahsan attended the International Conference on Transport and Health in Barcelona, Spain and in July, the World Symposium on Transport and Land Use research in Brisbane, Australia.

field trip. In the late fall, the Maritime field trip became the Atlantic field trip and traveled to St. John's and the Northeastern Avalon. This fall, the Maritime Field Trip is traveling to Charlottetown at the end of September. The field trip is incorporating the API conference as well as other activities.

Current students and new graduates of our program participated in the CIP conference in Calgary. MPlan student Michael Gerroir attended the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Cartagena,

Columbia in July, funded through a Rossetti Scholarship.



MPlan students in Savannah, GA, February 2017. Left to right, Hannah Shirliff, Melissa Barker, Cam Thompson, Jordan Zukowski, Ben Lemphers, Sandy MacKay, Craig Dedels, Andrew Scanlan-Dickie. (Top centre is the 'Slow Ride' guide). Photo contributed by Ben Lemphers.

Work-term and summer jobs

Seventeen MPlan students are on work-term this summer, locally, in the region, and nationally, employed in municipal planning departments, consulting planning and design firms and working with NGOs and business associations. Work-term employers include, among others, The Halifax Regional Municipality (six students this summer in transportation, urban design, housing, public consultation and engagement, heritage), Municipality of East Hants, Energize Bridgewater, Halifax Northend Business Association, TEAL Architects, Dalhousie University GIS Centre and Facilities Management, DalTrac and Community Planning at the city of Hamilton.

Our undergraduates are also working in planning positions including planning departments at the Municipality of the District of Chester, and the Municipality of the County of Kings, in community initiatives such as the Saint Patrick's Church 100th Anniversary of Halifax Explosion commemorative exhibit, and as research assistants on planning projects.

Fall 2017 and new students' orientation

The School will welcome 14 new MPlan students in the fall. Seventeen students are continuing in their second year of the MPlan. We are still admitting new students to the BCD program and expect a full class. Twenty BCD Honours students will complete the professional degree this year and several other students will complete the four-year non-honours BCD double major in community design and sustainability.

Orientation in the School of Planning takes place during the first week of the semester. The Master of Planning academic program orientation will be on **Tuesday, September 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** in the Medjuck Building. The first year Bachelor of Community Design program orientation is later in the day on **Tuesday, September 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30**

p.m. There will be a School of Planning barbeque following the BCD orientation. The School is organizing additional events for the new students. The two planning student societies are organizing social activities for their respective groups as well. There will be a Faculty of Architecture and Planning breakfast and welcome for new students in BEDS, BCD, MPlan and MPS on **Wednesday, September 6, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.** in the Medjuck Building.

Incoming students will receive more information about orientation separately.

LLPANS is making plans for its annual Meet and Greet to welcome new and returning students. The event will take place later in September. Watch for an announcement coming soon.

Alumni events

School Director Patricia Manuel welcomed 25 NSCAD-TUNS-DAL alumni who joined the large crowd that gathered for the ACUPP alumni reception at the Canadian Institute of Planners conference in

Calgary in June. The School also hosted an alumni reception late in the fall while on the field trip in St. Johns, NL. The School will host a reception at the API conference in Charlottetown in September.

Other news

Sexton campus construction and renovations

The Sexton Campus is under construction. The work began last fall with ground breaking for the Innovation and IDEA buildings. This spring, work began on the MacDonald Building, best known to our MPlan and BCD students for “D410”. The D-Building is undergoing a facelift – with new cladding and windows. There are various other projects around the Engineering buildings as well. There is also work in the Medjuck Building. “HA19” is being fully renovated. The space will be reversed: in the renovated auditorium, one will enter at the back instead of trying to sneak in late, at the front. There will be new seating, a brighter interior and improved acoustics and ventilation.

These activities around campus mean that many classes are being moved to other locations. Those normally held in the auditorium will be in one of the Park Lane Theatres this year. Engineering students have used the Park Lane Theaters for lecture space for several years, but it will be a new, albeit temporary, experience for Planning and Architecture students. Lectures normally held in D410 will be in other rooms in the Engineering building complex. Students and faculty will need to pay close attention to the on-line time table and watch for room updates as some room allocations are still being determined.

Seeking projects

Each year the School of Planning seeks project opportunities for students doing senior independent and team projects and for studios in both the Honours BCD and the MPlan programs. The graduate team projects take place in the winter semester and there is still time to send project ideas for consideration; project allocation takes place in the fall. Any time is a good time to submit project ideas suitable for the

studios and for individual work. The Honours BCD students will develop project proposals in the fall and execute the project in the winter. The first year Master of Planning students work on proposals in the winter semester for projects they work on in the following year. If you have a project that could benefit from student exploration under faculty guidance, please send your ideas to patricia.manuel@dal.ca.



Sunrise at Cape Spear, NL. Atlantic Field Trip, 2016. Image contributed by a fellow early-morning riser.