

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
Alumni, Faculty, Student News, March 2001

EP ALUMNI NEWS

The Alumni Association has had a busy year trying to re-establish itself after a seven-year hiatus. At last year's Annual General Meeting, we set out a number of goals which we are proud to report have been achieved. Among these goals was planning the 30-year reunion, which will be held on April 14, 2001 at the Faculty Lounge in the College.

Over 250 students have graduated from the Environmental Planning program since it began in 1971, so we are hoping for a good turnout. This reunion will be a great opportunity for these students to reconnect with old classmates, faculty and instructors. For more recent graduates like myself, it will be the first organized event since graduation and the first opportunity to see old friends we've lost track of over time.

I always tell people that one of the best decisions I've made in my life was going to NSCAD to study Environmental Planning. I know many others feel the same way. There we had a unique learning experience that changed our lives in one way or another. Though the program has changed over the years, I think the feelings that people associate with their time there have remained much the same. Our lives have each taken their own path, but we are connected by our shared admiration for the program, the faculty, the school, and our fond memories of our time spent there.

It is the fondness of these memories that inspires us to celebrate 30 years of Environmental Planning at NSCAD. We hope all alumni can join us on April 14th in reminiscing about those days of all-nighters, co-ed bathrooms, Split Crow free food Fridays, and everyone's favorite: final presentations!

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Susan Beazley
President, EP Alumni Association

epalumni@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/nscadepalumni/

Environmental Planning Program News

Reviews and Changes

Last April 2000, Environmental Planning underwent its mandatory five year intensive review by the Canadian Institute of Planners. We are happy to report that the review committee recommends that CIP continue program recognition for another five years. The review committee, which included

Mr. Jim Baird (Chair), Dr. Jeanne Wolfe and Mr. Roger Sturtevant visited NSCAD and met with faculty, students and senior administration, toured the facilities, reviewed reams of written material (a self-study, course outlines, student projects, faculty professional reports and research papers), participated in the April 2000 year-end presentations and otherwise enjoyed NSCAD-EP hospitality. It was a pleasure to work with the committee and we very much appreciate the time committee members gave to the review and the comments and observations offered.

Among the items we intend to address over the coming year is the matter of computerization (more hardware/software and better access) and GIS training - both of which we will consider in the context of yet another review, this time a Design-wide internal self study) - and greater sharing of resources and faculty with the 'MURP' (the Dalhousie, nee TUNS, graduate planning program). More directly, the committee observes that 'The program [EP] has limited resources. Serious consideration should be given to sharing faculty with DalTech as well as more formal integration of the two planning programs (offering both an undergraduate and graduate degree).'

For several years now, EP and DalTech-MURP faculty have been discussing various ways of enhancing cooperation between the two planning programs. Faculty recognize the numerous benefits to planning education in the Atlantic region that can come from sharing courses and resources. For several years, DalTech students have participated in the EP site planning and landscape design courses. We are also looking at other course-sharing opportunities such as GIS, planning theory and planning law. As of this academic year, we have recommended to our administration reciprocal adjunct appointments of faculty between our two programs.

As many of you are likely already aware, NSCAD has a new president, Mr. Paul Greenhalgh. Mr. Greenhalgh has been reviewing NSCAD programs, considering their level of excellence, their contribution to the College, their internal complementarity and their contribution to the world outside of the institution. Mr. Greenhalgh is looking for opportunities for growth and opportunities for doing things new and different. Environmental Planning is part of this review and may anticipate some changes as a result.

See the EP website for program information and late-breaking news:

www.nscad.ns.ca/nscadep/

Students and Studio Projects

We currently have 14 students enrolled in either the Environmental Design or Environmental Planning degree programs. We also have a number of students participating in the foundation level 'Design' studio who intend to move into EP this fall. Program inquiries have been rising steadily in the last few years. To date, EP faculty have responded to over thirty requests for program information and have already reviewed a number of applications for advanced standing for Fall 2001 admission. Our promotion campaign - combining a widely distributed brochure and poster, along with the EP website, appears to be having the desired results.

Our studio projects this year have the students in EP Studios 1, 2, 3 and 4 working in the Dartmouth and Cow Bay areas. Students have spent the year studying the environment and communities located within the Cow Bay Lake drainage area, which extends from Cow Bay north to Woodlawn and includes the Topsail-Russel-Morris Lakes system and the Bisset Lake drainage. Students have been working with the Portland Estates Residents Association as the community client group. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Habitat Management Branch - has been helping to finance some of the work. The Halifax Regional Municipality provided maps and digital map data. Students will be presenting their work at the EP year-end presentations on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 (see the announcement on the back cover and plan to attend).

Last month, four EP students attended the Canadian Association of Planning Students Conference hosted by the York Department of Environmental Studies at York University. The insightful conference started with an interesting look into collaborative planning by Cornell Professor, John Forestor. Throughout the four-day conference, the NSCAD students attended peer lectures, presentations and discussions pertaining to radical planning concepts across Canada. George, Jaime, Joseph, and Jason would like to thank API and NSCAD for their generous support and hope other students can join them at next year's conference in Montreal.

EP students also participated at the CIP conference in Charlottetown this past summer. Students helped as conference volunteers and presented poster sessions on independent projects and on our integrated studio project: Environmental Planning for the Cornwallis River Watershed.

New Alumni

We had four students graduate from the program in April 2000: Jena Bruin, David Moore, Michael Royle and Kim Williams. Jena has landed a job in California, David and Michael are both applying to graduate school. We look forward to hearing from Kim. Congratulations everyone!

Faculty

John Zuck

John is on sabbatical this year. His sabbatical has given him some 'extra' time to focus on his professional work. John has been involved in a number of planning and design projects, including participation as a member of the consultant team for the *Herring Cove Area Settlement and Servicing Strategy* (recommendations for amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy were adopted by Council in February 2001). John continues his involvement as a director of the Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects.

Contact John at
NSCAD 902-494 8204 jzuck@nscad.ns.ca

Jill Grant

Jill is as busy as ever. This year, she took over the role of chair of Design Studies here at NSCAD (on the promise that John would take it back when he returns from sabbatical this summer!). She has ushered through a number of program changes in the course configuration of the Environmental Design major degree and the Environmental Design minor option. She also set up a new 3-credit EP internship course which allows students the opportunity to work 8 hours a week for one semester in a professional environmental management and/or planning office or with a community organization.

Jill's current research projects include: a SSHRC-funded study of the way that theories of new urbanism and sustainable development are affecting Canadian planning practice; and a study (with colleagues at Dalhousie) funded by the Climate Change Action Fund to consider how to manage Debert Industrial Park to control greenhouse gas emissions. At the 2000 Canadian Institute of Planners conference in Charlottetown, Jill received an award for the best feature article in *Plan Canada*, and in January 2001 CIP appointed Jill as Chair of the Editorial Board of *Plan Canada*.

Contact Jill at
NSCAD 902-494-8156 grant@nscad.ns.ca

Patricia Manuel

Patricia continues this year in her role as EP program 'head', which means keeping the EP offerings running smoothly, responding to student matters, publicizing and promoting the program, and working with the myriad planning associations on behalf of the program.

Patricia participated in several conferences over the past year, presenting papers at the CIP conference in Charlottetown and the Millennium Wetlands Congress in Quebec City, and giving invited talks to the annual meeting of the Atlantic chapter of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Halifax and at the Halifax Harbour Solutions Workshop, also in Halifax.

The community and environmental planning voluntary sector continue to keep Patricia busy. This fall saw the 'completion' of a two-year community-based environmental planning project for a 25-hectare tract of municipal land situated between Williams Lake and Fleming Park in Halifax. Patricia continues her involvement in local watershed groups, is a member of the McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park Advisory Committee and participates in the Urban Development Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre.

Contact Patricia at
NSCAD 902 494-8157 pmanuel@nscad.ns.ca

Part Time Faculty

It would be very hard (in fact, it would be impossible) to run the EP program without the support of our part-time faculty. We rely on them every year for the high quality of teaching and professional experience they bring to our students. This year, with John on sabbatical and only Jill and Patricia on regular staff, their contribution has been essential.

Peter Klynstra (consulting in landscape architecture and planning) continues his very long association with the EP program. This year Peter taught site infrastructure, landscape design, dimensional drawing and teaches in the Foundation 'Design' studio.

Marcelle Belliveau (consulting in community-based planning) has once again been teaching across the Design Division. This year she has been teaching in the Foundation Design studio and leading Community Research Methods.

Lloyd Robbins (of Quackenbush, Thomson and Robbins) is back again this year teaching Planning Law.

Curt Speight (NS Geomatics Centre in Amherst) returned this past fall to lead students in the annual air photo interpretation week, offered through EP Studio 1.

Paula Dykstra (consulting in planning GIS) returned for her second year as an EP instructor, once again teaching Environmental Planning Methods and Foundation Computer.

Darrell Joudrey (BDEP '91), joined our part-time teaching staff this year. Darrell stepped in for John Zuck, teaching the Site Planning Studio (EP 3). Darrell is putting the finishing touches on his graduate thesis for a Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph.

Valerie Spencer (late of 'the County', 'Dartmouth', 'HRM') has brought her wealth of municipal planning knowledge and experience to this year's Policy and Plan Making Studio (EP Studio 4).

EP Turns 30

Yes, 30! We have 250 plus graduates of Environmental Planning. That means we should have a lot of people at the 30th anniversary celebration on April 14th, here at NSCAD. See the special inserted invitation for details and check out the EP alumni website at www.geocities.com/nscadepalumni/. Hope to see you there!

A small contribution of \$5 or \$10 helps support the production and mailing of this and subsequent newsletters. It can also help support a small fund in recognition of achievements of Environmental Planning Students. Help support your Environmental Planning Alumni Association. Let us know where you are and what you are doing. Let us know what we can do for you.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$5 _____ \$10 _____ other _____ in support of the EP Alumni Association

Name:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail:

Please mail to: Environmental Planning Alumni Association
 c/o Environmental Planning
 Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
 5163 Duke Street
 Halifax, NS
 B3J 3J6

NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
YEAR-END PRESENTATIONS**

EP STUDIO

4th Floor, 1895 Granville Street, Halifax

WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL, 2001

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



1:00 *Guest Speaker and Visiting Critic*

**Dr. Mark Seasons, University of Waterloo
President, Canadian Institute of Planners**

"Indicators and Planning Practice - The Last Frontier"



Cow Bay Lake Watershed Integrated Studio Project

2:00 EP 1 - Environmental Inventory

2:15 EP 2 - Community Information Program

2:45 Nutrition Break

3:00 EP 4 - Policy Options



Senior and Independent Projects

3:45 Don Awalt - Managing abandoned cemeteries

4:15 Jaime Orser - Visioning in contemporary planning practice



5:00 Reception in the Merkin Gallery

Our thanks to the Portland Estates Residents Association, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Halifax Regional Municipality, Home Depot and SSHRC for assistance in sponsoring studio and research projects this semester