



image courtesy Travel Salem

SCI formalizes SCY 2010-2011 partnership with City of Salem (page 1)



image courtesy Jacki Dougan

City of Gresham “passes the torch” to Salem City Manager (page 2)



SCY panel presents at student-run HOPES Conference (page 3)



Awards and nominations bring international attention (page 6)

The New York Times

SCI in the New York Times

In August, the New York Times profiled SCI's Sustainable City Year program, calling it **“perhaps the most comprehensive effort by a US university to infuse sustainability into its curricula and community outreach.”** Author Michael Burnham, of Greenwire, interviewed SCI Co-Directors Nico Larco, Marc Schlossberg, and Robert Young, along with Salem City Manager Linda Norris, project lead Courtney Knox, and other Salem Stakeholders. The syndicated article, titled “In Oregon, Students Seek Key to a Sustainable City” has appeared in more than a dozen additional media outlets.

Salem, Oregon announced as 2010- 2011 SCY partner city

Salem's City Council voted to approve a partnership with SCI on Tuesday, May 25th, meaning that over 500 students will be working on sustainability projects across Salem during the 2010-11 academic year. Salem will be the second city to participate in the Sustainable City Year (SCY) program, which was first implemented in Gresham, Oregon during the 2009-10 school year. Salem was selected from a pool of five cities across Oregon that submitted applications to be the next SCY partner city.

“Since Salem first approached us about being the 2010-11 partner city, they demonstrated buy-in from across departments, and strong enthusiasm from the city manager's office. SCI is extremely excited to begin work on the many projects waiting for us,” Co-Director Nico Larco said. Salem City Manager Linda Norris shares Larco's enthusiasm. “We are honored that the University of Oregon selected Salem to participate in this unique program that matches professors and students in a number of disciplines with real-world community projects,” said Salem City Manager Linda Norris. “The City's participation in the program allows us to address several City Council goals and leverage existing limited resources to move projects forward much faster than would otherwise be possible. As a result of this work, we will have well-researched designs and plans to present to the community and the City Council. We think this program is a great model for encouraging additional future collaboration between Oregon universities and Oregon cities.”

The projects will officially begin with the Fall term of 2010, though preparation work will be going on during the summer, including an outreach “mixer” event geared toward professionals and practitioners in the Salem community.



Sustainable City Year



Torch passed from Gresham to Salem at SCY end-of-year celebration

The “torch” at the SCY End-of-Year Celebration took the form of a native Oregon fern, which was passed from Gresham City Manager Erik Kvarsten to Salem City Manager Linda Norris.

The event, held at the UO Portland White Stag Building, opened with remarks from SCI Co-Director Robert Young, who highlighted the significance of the partnership between the UO, representatives from the public sector, and private consultants; all working in a coordinated effort toward making Oregon cities more livable, vibrant, and sustainable places. Students and faculty from Eugene and Portland were on hand to celebrate the inaugural year of SCY. City staff from both Gresham and Salem were also present at the event. Private sector representatives in attendance included ZGF Architects, MCM Architects, Michael Willis Architects, and the Portland Sustainability Institute. Representatives from Congressman Earl Blumenauer’s office, Portland Metro, and OTREC also came out to show support.

Student renderings for the City of Gresham lined the perimeter of the room, indicative of the sheer quantity of student work that has been accomplished since the SCY kick-off event just seven months earlier. As the SCY year with Gresham comes to a close, SCI is proud of the 80,000 hours of student and faculty work we have contributed to the City of Gresham, and we also look forward to a new year of projects in Salem come fall.



Salem professionals’ briefing attended by range of stakeholders

Convened jointly by City of Salem Project Manager Courtney Knox and SCI Program Manager Nick Fleury, the Salem professionals’ briefing held at the Salem Public Library on June 9 attracted a diverse group of interested parties, including representatives from local firms, nonprofit and professional organizations, City of Salem staff, and SCY faculty.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin developing a dialogue with the professional community of practitioners in Salem by conveying the scope of SCY projects, identifying potential local partners for project reviews, identifying milestones, receiving initial opinions of projects and identifying any key issues, and meeting face-to-face to facilitate future communications around projects.

SCY Salem kickoff event to be held October 1 in Eugene

On October 1, SCI will officially “kick off” our partnership with the City of Salem with a public event on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. Students and members of the University community are invited to attend to learn about the SCY program, projects, and key staff and faculty perspectives. Details will be posted on the SCI Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/sustainablecities>.

Michigan Professor Jonathan Levine visits UO campus as SCI Expert in Residence

SCI was pleased to bring Professor Jonathan Levine to the Willamette Valley for a whirlwind tour including lectures, round tables, and site visits, cementing the University of Oregon's role as a central hub of livability expertise. SCI's Expert in Residence Program is helping to add new perspectives to the education of tomorrow's practitioners.



As Professor and Chair of the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University of Michigan, Levine's area of expertise is the integration of land use and transportation. His work shows that in many cases the market in American cities actually demands higher density than zoning code allows, which has major implications for combatting urban sprawl. His student lecture described the findings in his book, *Zoned Out: Regulation, Markets, and Choices in Land Use*. He also guest-taught a course in which he discussed his work on zoning code in greater depth.

Levine also gave a lecture targeted to UO faculty and practitioners in the Southern Willamette Valley, presenting his latest research comparing metropolitan accessibility in cities across America. His findings indicated that compact urban development has a greater influence on access to essential destinations in cities than traditional concepts of mobility. Since compact urban form is a key component of a sustainable city, this research has very important implications for planners around the country.

Levine's residency finished in Gresham with a series of site visits and a round table discussion on the Sustainable City Year courses and overall transportation issues faced by citizens. This final leg of the program was attended by Gresham staff, SCI students and staff, and practitioners from the Portland Metro area. Levine's visit was supported this year by Imagining America, the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, LiveMove, and individual donors.

SCI convenes panel at HOPES Conference

In April, a panel of students, along with Architecture Professor Erin Moore and SCI's Program Manager, Nick Fleury, described the inaugural SCY partnership between SCI and the City of Gresham. With designs for a new Gresham City Hall displayed in the background, students discussed the impact of working with a community in their course projects.



Stephanie Moore, an Arts and Administration student, discussed her work in creating a cultural inventory for the City. "Sustainability includes not only the environment, but also equity, economy, and culture. Our work helped to capture the unique cultural qualities of the Rockwood neighborhood so that in a rush to reduce carbon footprint, the human footprint is not also removed," said Moore. The discussion was followed by a Q & A session and then a period where audience members examined the proposed designs and spoke directly with the student designers.

Spring 2010 Faculty & Staff Presentations

Equity in Green Jobs Conference

Sustainable Cities Initiative Program Manager Nick Fleury spoke on a panel on April 17th to a group of labor representatives, union officials, and other practitioners from across the state. The subject of the panel, Coalitions for Sustainability at Universities, highlighted the success of the Sustainable Cities Initiative at reaching across academic silos to embrace a fuller picture of sustainability.

Public Interest and Environmental Law Conference

SCI Co-Directors Robert Young and Nico Larco presented on two panels at the 2010 Public Interest and Environmental Law Conference. Young presented on the panel “Beyond Pavement: Collaborative Partnerships for Livable and Sustainable Communities,” and Larco discussed his work on the panel “Rethinking the Suburban City.” The PIELC is an annually-recurring conference organized by the University of Oregon Law School, attended by students, academics, and practitioners from across the country.

UO Graduate Research Forum

Graduate Research Fellow Amanda Morgan and Graduate Assistant Claire Otwell presented the work of the Sustainable Cities Initiative at the Graduate Research Forum on Monday, May 24. Morgan and Otwell presented at the well-attended poster session, giving a general overview of SCI with specific emphasis on the Rockwood Triangle project in which Otwell participated. The presentation was attended by students and faculty from across disciplines at the University.

The Oregon Sustainability Experience

In July, SCI staffers Amanda Morgan and Claire Otwell represented SCI at the Sustainable Urban Built Environments track of the week-long Oregon Sustainability Experience, where they examined leading-edge sustainable design principles at work in a mix of commercial, industrial, residential, and infrastructure projects throughout the Portland Metro Area. SCI Co-Director Robert Young gave an afternoon presentation on SCY Gresham.

SCI abroad

SCI Co-Director Marc Schlossberg spent the last year as a Fulbright Scholar in the United Kingdom, where he promoted SCI's work in Gresham. Co-Director Nico Larco joined him in March to present “From the Ivory Tower to Tilling the Soil: Universities as Catalysts for the Sustainable City” to audiences in both London and Sheffield. Schlossberg subsequently presented the SCI program at the University of Manchester in May. These three presentations have generated interest from academics in Britain, some of whom will visit Oregon next year to learn more and discuss opportunities for replicating the SCY program abroad.



Upcoming Events and Presentations

The Sustainable Cities Initiative will present at a number of local, regional, and national conferences in the fall. Please visit our Facebook page for further updates about SCI events and presentations: <http://www.facebook.com/sustainablecities>.

September 22-25

SCI Co-Director Marc Schlossberg will deliver the keynote address at the **Interdisciplinary Environmental Association Conference** in Tucson, Arizona. Schlossberg's address is entitled "From Ivory Tower to Tilling the Soil: Universities as Catalysts for Sustainable City Design."

September 23-25

SCI Co-Director Nico Larco, SCI Associate Robert Young, Courtney Knox (City of Salem) and Mike Abbate (City of Gresham) will present "Public Universities and the Public: Renewing the Social Contract" at the **Imagining America** conference from September 23 – 25 in Seattle, Washington.

September 23-25

Erik Kvarsten (City of Gresham), along with key SCI and City of Gresham staff, will co-present on the SCY Gresham partnership at the **League of Oregon Cities Conference** in Eugene, Oregon.

October 1

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October 10-12

Marc Schlossberg (SCI Co-Director), Courtney Knox (City of Salem), and Roussa Cassell (SCY student) will be presenting at the **AASHE** (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) Conference, to be held in Denver, Colorado from October 10-12.

October 18-19

Marc Schlossberg, Nico Larco and seven UO students will represent SCI at the **Transportation Systems for Livable Communities Conference** in Washington, DC from October 18-19.

October 18-21

SCI will have a presence on the Gresham "mobile workshop" tour at the **RailVolution** conference in Portland, slated for October 18-21. RailVolution is "a conference for passionate practitioners—people from all perspectives who believe strongly in the role of land use and transit as equal partners in the quest for greater livability and greater communities." SCI faculty will be on hand to provide context alongside presenters from the City of Gresham.

Awards & Accolades

Partners for Livable Communities - Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award

The three SCI Co-Directors, Nico Larco, Marc Schlossberg, and Robert Young, have been nominated for the Partnership for Livable Communities - Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award in recognition of their work in founding SCI. An award ceremony is scheduled to be held in Washington, DC later this year. The award acknowledges civic capacity building, commitment, vision, and entrepreneurial spirit. Those honored with this award are real “doers” that accomplish change for the betterment of our communities, and past awardees include Dr. BarbaraLee Diamondstein-Spielvogel, John McKnight and Jody Kretzmann, and Laurie Beckelman.



SCI Named as Finalist for International Sustainability Award - Stockholm, Sweden

The Sustainable Cities Initiative was one of five international nominees for the Globe Award for Sustainable Research. The Globe Award, given out annually on April 29th in Stockholm, Sweden, is a prestigious international award that seeks to recognize exceptional innovation in sustainability efforts. It is an honor for SCI to have been nominated for such an award less than a year after its official recognition by the University of Oregon.



OAPA Special Achievement Award Goes to SCI

The success of the work done in Gresham has been recognized in Oregon and abroad for the way in which the academic and community spheres are united in the Sustainable City Year Program. The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association recently presented SCI with the Special Achievement in Planning Award, citing the outstanding engagement of students and innovation of the program. The award was accepted on May 13th during the Oregon Goes for Green 2010 Planning Conference.



Learn and Serve America Grant

Learn and Serve America has given a grant to SCI to enhance our “innovative and community-based service learning programs.” Funding from the grant will be applied toward SCY Salem courses and broadening SCY’s student service learning programs.





Left, UO students take a break from their Rockwood site visit to enjoy a cup of coffee in Gresham. Below, Rockwood students engage in a design charrette.



Below left, an enthusiastic crowd applauds at the SCY Gresham kickoff event. Below right, Congressman Earl Blumenauer reviews an SCY design proposal, while a student looks on. Bottom left, Expert In Residence Jonathan Levine takes transit to SCY Gresham sites. Bottom right, Plaza del Sol in Gresham, Oregon.



A Note from the Co-Directors



Each issue of The Hub will feature a personal message from one of the SCI Co-Directors or staff. This installment of the Co-Directors' message comes from Nico Larco, Assistant Professor in Architecture, University of Oregon.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Sustainable Cities Initiative's quarterly newsletter, *The Hub*. This issue comes at the successful close of the first Sustainable Cities Year, and at a moment of reflection and anticipation for all of us at SCI. It's an exciting time of growth at the Sustainable Cities Initiative, and we are pleased to introduce two new Program Managers, Amy Hause and Chris Jones. In addition, we are in the process of hiring an Executive Director. With these staff members in place, we look forward to scaling up SCI's impact and influence. We would also like to thank outgoing Program Manager Nick Fleury for his fantastic work over the past year, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

The past year has seen the growth of SCI from an idea, to a "Big Idea,"— a financial and ideological endorsement from the University of Oregon Provost's office, placing the full weight of the University of Oregon's commitment to sustainability and innovation behind the work of SCI— to nothing less than a comprehensive vision that seeks to potentially change the role of higher education in this country.

As we move forward with our exciting partnership with the City of Salem, and continue to reach out to policymakers at the local, state, regional, and federal levels, we expect 2010-2011 to bring even bigger movement to SCI in the region and beyond.

Sustainable Cities Initiative

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Assistant Professor Roxi Thoren — Associate
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