



## Memorandum

To: **Deborah Buszard, Principal, UBC, Okanagan Campus**

Copy: **Adam Schubel, Communications and International Resources Officer**

From: **Lawrence Berg, Professor of Geography, UBC, Okanagan Campus**

Date: **24 March 2014**

Subject: **Summary Report on 2014 Invited International Distinguished Visitors**

---

Initially, the Invited International Distinguished Visitors fund was awarded to bring in three visitors. With further support from other UBC sources (Okanagan Sustainability Institute, IKBSAS Units 1 and 6, as well as the City of Kelowna) we were able to fund the visit of a fourth distinguished visitor as well. Accordingly, these four Invited International Distinguished Visitors were in residence at UBC's Okanagan Campus at various times between 8 and 24 February 2014:

- Dr. Anders Lund Hansen, Lund University, Sweden;
- Dr. Edward Huijbens, Icelandic Tourism Research Centre, Akureyri, Iceland;
- Dr. Henrik Gutzon Larsen, Lund University, Sweden and Aalborg University, Denmark; and,
- Dr. Malene Freudendal-Pedersen, Roskilde University, Denmark.

During their stay at UBC, the four visitors were involved in a number of activities. Each of them, for example, presented individual guest lectures at the UBC Campus:

- Hansen: "Christiania and the Urban Revolution";
- Huijbens: "Sustaining a Community's Social Fabric" (presented to a Geography 128 class);
- Larsen: "Geopolitics on trial: Politics and Science in Danish Wartime Geography" (presented as part of the History Lecture Series); and,
- Freudendal-Pedersen: "Copenhagen and its Cyclists: As good as it gets?"

The four Distinguished Visitors also participated in a major public forum: "Alternative Urban Futures", held at the Mary Irwin Theatre in downtown Kelowna, and attended by approximately 180 guests.

Finally, the Distinguished Visitors engaged with faculty and graduate students in a number of informal settings. As a result of all of these events, we have started to develop very strong

linkages with the visitors. Here are a few examples of some of the type of relationships that are being developed as a result of the visit:

- We already have one formal research relationship: Edward Huijbens and I are co-Pis on a research grant from Iceland, we wrote part of the grant whilst we were organizing the Urban Forum, and we received news that we were successful in obtaining funding a few weeks ago.
- A number of our graduate students in CCGS, Sociology and Urban Studies have made strong connections with colleagues at Lund University, and one of them (Elise Hahn) will be visiting Lund in April/May. Another one (Levi Gahman) may apply for a post-doc position that the guests from Lund University are hoping to post in the next month or so.
- Dr. Carlos Teixeira has already approached Edward Huijbens to do some comparative research on second-home ownership in Iceland and Canada, and I will also be joining that research program if we are able to get further funding to support it.
- Dr. Donna Senese will be corresponding with Dr. Huijbens about developing tourism-related comparative research in the Nordic regions and Southern Europe (Dr. Senese does work in Italy).
- We are exploring development of faculty and student exchanges between UBC and Lund University (Sweden) and between UBC and Akureyri University (Iceland).
- Finally, the Alternative Urban Futures event resulted in an approach to our Urban Studies program coordinators to develop closer partnerships between UBC and the City of Kelowna around research and policy development on critical urban studies issues in Kelowna.

My general sense is that the visit of the Invited International Distinguished Visitors has been a great success, and that it will lead to a number of long-term research and teaching relationships between UBC and the respective institutions of our visitors.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions about this brief summary report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'E.H.' or similar, written in a cursive style.