On April 16, 2015 the Great Hall at Hart House was home to a great party: the 19th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. Over 300 planning students, alumni, faculty, and professionals came out to enjoy great food, live jazz, and one another's company. As usual, it was an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old friends and reach out to colleagues from across the industry.

The keynote was delivered by Ken Tanenbaum, Vice Chairman of the Kilmer Group. Mr. Tanenbaum's presentation, titled 'The Pan Am Village: A Sneak Peak Beyond the Fence', provided a behind the scenes look at the West Don Lands which was home to 10,000 athletes over the Pan-Am and Para Pan-Am Games this past summer. The West Don Lands is now becoming Toronto's latest community as residents and businesses move in. Mr. Tanenbaum provided insight into the opportunities and challenges faced as the West Don Lands was developed. A variety of lessons learned were provided to the gathered group.

The University of Toronto's Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) would like to thank the many individual Friends of Planning donors whose contributions directly support student success in graduate planning programs at U of T. As well, PAC wishes to recognize the substantial long-term contribution of the event promotional sponsor, NRU Publishing Inc., as well as ongoing support from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and BILD. Finally, the generosity of the Social's many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated.

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Odan Detech Group; Hemson Consulting; Bousfields; Aird & Berlis LLP

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Welcome to the 2015 edition of GeoPlan. You may have noticed a small but very important change in the banner for the first page of this newsletter. It says ‘Department of Geography & Planning’ rather than ‘Department of Geography and Program in Planning’. That is because we changed the undergraduate St. George and graduate tri-campus departments’ names this year. To our surprise, we discovered early in the year that the department names had never been changed officially – meaning with approval from the University’s Governing Council - from ‘Department of Geography’ to ‘Department of Geography and Program in Planning’. That news made us reflect on how we wanted to be known and lead to the idea of a slightly different name.

Let me give you a little history. Both the St. George and graduate tri-Campus units have been known unofficially as the ‘Department of Geography and Program in Planning’ since the 1980s when the Planning graduate program became a part of the Department of Geography. At that time, faculty members teaching in the Master’s degree in Planning moved to the department from the School of Graduate Studies, where the program had been housed since its former home, the Faculty of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture, was dissolved in 1975 (and later reconstituted as the School of Architecture in 1976).

Since the 1980s, Planning has become fully integrated into the department at the undergraduate (St. George) and graduate levels. The St. George undergraduate curriculum offers a course cluster in Planning within the Human Geography Major and Specialist programs of study. About one-third of the faculty members at the St. George campus have appointments in Planning, meaning that most of the courses that they teach are in the graduate program in Planning. The tri-campus graduate program has two distinct degree paths: one in Geography (PhD, MA, MSc) and one in Planning (MScPl, PhD). Approximately 120 graduate students are enrolled in the Geography program and about 80 in the Planning program.

We consulted widely about the name change, including consultation with UTAGA and PAC. We presented three possible names for the department: ‘Department of Geography’, ‘Department of Geography and Program in Planning’, and ‘Department of Geography & Planning’. Everyone felt that Planning should be in the department’s name and virtually all agreed that the simpler ‘Department of Geography & Planning’ was best. From the perspective of our graduate students, since the graduate student association has been known as the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society (GGAPSS) since Planning joined Geography in the 1980s, the choice of ‘Department of Geography & Planning’ clearly made sense.

The addition of another discipline to a Geography department and to its name is quite common and a growing trend. In the US, Canada and the UK, just under half of the 280 Geography departments are Geography ‘Plus’ departments, with Environment being the most common addition to a department’s name. Notable Geography ‘Plus’ units outside Canada include the School of Geography & Environment at Oxford University and the Department of Geography & Environment at the London School of Economics. In Canada, there are 42 Departments of Geography of which 16 are Geography ‘Plus’ departments. Among those, 13 are Geography & Environment, two are Geography & Planning (Saskatchewan, Queen’s), and one is Geography, Planning & Environment (Concordia).

Another notable new name this year, also found on the first page banner, is the ‘Planning Alumni Community’. This new organization is the equivalent of UTAGA for Geographers and includes all Planning alumni. The Planning Alumni Committee continues its role as the management committee for all Planning alumni affairs.
I am pleased to report that 2015 was a great year for the University of Toronto's Planning Alumni Committee. This past year, we hosted a fabulous Spring Social attended by over 300 professionals, and featured Ken Tanenbaum as our speaker.

With the funds raised through the Social, and the time and effort of alumni volunteers, PAC was also able to enrich the learning experience of current graduate students and strengthen bonds with alumni in the Planning Program by organizing and subsidizing many events and initiatives, outlined in the sidebar on this page.

The commitment of our volunteers and the interest from planning students in PAC activities is a testament to the strength of the program and the enjoyment that we all receive from spending time with each other and contributing to the student experience.

I hope you will join us on April 14, 2016, when the Planning Alumni Committee will host the 20th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. The sidebar to the right announces this year’s distinguished speaker, Jesse Hirsh.

I encourage you to join us in connecting with students and reconnecting with alumni through any of PAC’s many activities - join the Committee, become a mentor, lead a module – there are many ways to get involved! Email us at: committee@uoftpac.ca.

See you at the Social!

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### Fall 2015 at a Glance

#### Mentorship, Networking and Career Development

- PAC held the Fall Planning Mixer at the beginning of the school year, providing the opportunity to strengthen the bonds between current and former students.

- PAC held the Mentoring Meet and Greet in the Fall, which kicked off another year of our annual Mentorship program, pairing students with alumni volunteers.

- PAC has worked with the faculty to prepare a jobs database for recent grads and students looking for summer placements.

#### Skills Development and Planning Workshop

- PAC hosted two skills modules in the Fall of 2015, which provided students an opportunity to interact with practicing planners and hear real life experience to enrich the classroom curriculum: ‘Planning 101’ in October and ‘Planning for Public Spaces’ in December. At least two more skills modules are being planned for early 2016.

- PAC continued to support the Planning Workshop course by helping to co-ordinate topics and clients. Six presentations were made by the students at Croft Chapter House in November.

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### Scholarships and Student Funding

- Through the Friends of Planning Fund, PAC raises money for scholarships. We have established four over the years: The Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning, The Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto Planning Alumni OGS Award, and most recently The Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation. These four awards were presented at the UTAGA Awards Night in November.

- In September, second-year students travelled to Denver to learn about planning in this American city, utilizing PAC’s financial contribution to subsidize the trip and lower costs for students.

- With PAC support, students were able to attend conferences like OPPI, CIP and others to present their work, attend presentations and learn from a broad range of students and professionals.
In April 2015, the second year planning class organized the first-ever Planners Unplugged event to present their Current Issues Papers to the broader community. The event was held off-campus at the Centre for Social Innovation Annex on Bathurst St. from 5:30-8:30 pm. Each participant was given a few minutes to present key findings. This was followed by a moderated panel discussion to explore overlapping themes, issues, and implications of the presentations. The evening was a huge success, with excellent attendance.
The Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning brings accomplished planning academics and practitioners into the department every year. It is continuing to play an important role in enriching our intellectual culture and adding exciting teaching content to the planning program. We are fortunate to have Dr. Aseem Inam, Director of TRULAB: Laboratory for Designing Urban Transformation, as this year’s Bousfield Visiting Professor and Rob Dowler, former Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, in the Ontario Cabinet Office as this year’s Bousfield Visiting Professional.

While in residence, Dr. Inam has made a significant contribution to teaching in the program by offering the following courses: Urban Design Research Methods, Introductory Studio, Advanced Studio, and Las Vegas: the Prismatic City. Dr. Inam’s research focuses on theories, strategies and practices of urban transformation. Previously, he was the founding Director of the highly innovative MA Theories of Urban Practice program and Associate Professor of Urbanism at Parsons School of Design / The New School in New York City. He has been an award-winning professor at MIT, UCLA, and the University of Southern California.

Dr. Inam is the author of two books, *Designing Urban Transformation* and *Planning for the Unplanned*. He has contributed chapters to several other books, including *The Emerging Asian City*, *Companion to Urban Design*, and *Writing Urbanism*. His essay, *Meaningful Urban Design: Teleological / Catalytic / Relevant*, received an award from the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation and was published in the *Journal of Urban Design*. His research has also been published in the *Journal of Urbanism, Cities*, and *Planning Practice and Research*.

Dr. Inam has practiced as an architect, urban designer, and planner in Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Haiti, India and the United States. As the Director of TRULAB, he trained mayors in Brazil to design creative strategies for transforming their cities. He has led or collaborated on a wide range of projects: a rebuilding strategy after the earthquake in Haiti, a new city on the U.S.-Mexico border, revitalizing a historic core in Los Angeles, designing an ecological campus in Delhi, and starting a brand new and highly successful habitat development program in India.

Rob Dowler has 33 years of experience as a planner with the City of Ottawa, a housing planner with a Federal NGO and as a Policy ADM in several ministries of the Ontario Government. He has led a wide variety of planning and development initiatives and has been a member of several Boards, including the Ring of Fire Infrastructure Development Corporation, the Tarion New Home Warranty Corporation and the Technical Safety Standards Authority. He is a Registered Professional Planner, Professional Land Economist and a past Chair of the OPPI Planning Award Jury. Rob attended the Program in Planning in 1981-82 on a CMHC Scholarship and was an early recipient of the Ian MacPherson Award. More recently Rob completed a Strategic Management program at Harvard and obtained the ICD.D designation from Rotman. Rob is delighted to return to his alma mater to teach *The Planner’s Role in Supporting Public Decision-Making: Case Studies in Professional Practice*.
Giving Back

W e would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all of our alumni who have made donations this year to the department. As noted on the last page of this newsletter, donations help support several award funds that enrich the lives of our undergraduate and graduate students. Another way that alumni enrich the student experience is through donating their time to interact with students. The department offers numerous opportunities to contribute in this way. Alumni participation last year included presenting guest lectures in courses, presenting at planning workshops, mentoring planning students, participating in undergraduate geography alumni-student dinners, and participating on alumni panels at undergraduate career events. If you would like to participate in future in any of the above activities, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Lindsay White, Event Coordinator, Advancement Events: la.white@utoronto.ca.

To all who are on the list below, and any who may have been missed, your contribution has helped better the student experience, and for this we thank you.

Emily Anderson, Alyssa Bird, Rick Clow, Tija Dirks, Meirav Even-Har, Maureen Fair, Ricardo Gomez-Insauti, Justin Holmes, Graham Macdonald, David McKay, Brian Ridgway, Dawn Seetaram, Kari Vierimaa, Emily Wall.

Alumni & Students at the Fall Career Dinner

Emily Anderson, Director, Client Advocacy, Environics Analytics, (HBA 2005)

Rick Clow, General Manager, Quinte Waste Solutions, (BSc 1974)

Dawn Seetaram, Senior Associate, Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Province of Ontario, (HBA 2002 / MScP 2004)

Kari Vierimaa, Assignment Editor, Global News Toronto, (HBA 2012)
The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA) and the Geography & Planning Department’s 21st annual Awards Presentation Night on November 19th, 2015, was a well-attended success with a record number of attendees. Awards were presented to our undergraduate and graduate students along with several UTAGA awards.

This year, UTAGA’s Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award recipients were Michael Noble and Melissa McEnroe for their substantial contributions to the Planning Program and as members of the Friends of Planning Alumni Committee. Over the time that Michael and Melissa were on PAC, the work of the all-volunteer committee grew and expanded. They initiated and expanded the professional development modules and oversaw the increased success of the PAC Spring Social. Under their leadership, PAC has become a model alumni group within the University in its role of building connections between alumni, and enriching the student experience.

The UTAGA Honorary President Award was given to John Horner, who has made generous contributions to the Department of Geography & Planning. John Horner graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA (1962) in Geography and Classical Greek and an MA (1965) in Geography and Economics. His first teaching position was at Saffleet District High School in Stoney Creek. In 1968 he became Head of Geography at Milton District High School and taught there until his retirement in 1997. He has a long record of giving back to his community and received a Celebration ’88 Certificate of Merit from the Government of Canada for community service work in Milton. In 2009, he set up The John Horner Endowment Fund for students at Milton District High School. This endowment provides several scholarships each year to students at the school. At awards night he was recognized for a similarly generous contribution to the Department of Geography & Planning. In 2010, he established the undergraduate and graduate John Horner Scholarships in Geography. Including this year, these scholarships will have provided support to 19 undergraduate and 27 graduate students in the department.

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to Conrad Heidenreich. Professor Heidenreich graduated from the University of Toronto with HBA (1961) and MA (1965) degrees in Geography, and completed a PhD at McMaster University in 1970. He is internationally recognized as the authority on the early mapping of what is today eastern Canada, on the explorations and mapping of Samuel de Champlain and for his classic studies of the historical geography of Huronia. A major scholarly achievement in Canadian social science scholarship is the series of ten plates that he prepared for the Historical Atlas of Canada (1987) of the historical geography of New France in the period 1600-1755. From 1968 to 2002 he taught in the Geography Department at York University, where a whole generation of students learned about the early geography of Canada and First Nations people from an instructor steeped in the life of Canada before industrialization. In 1991 he was president of the Royal Canadian Institute, founded in the 1850s to bring scientific knowledge to the general public, a rare honour for a scholar in the social sciences. In 1999 he was made a Life Member of the Institute in recognition of his many services to it, and in 2015 he received the J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal from the Ontario Archaeological Society for outstanding work benefitting Ontario archaeology.

To nominate the next UTAGA award winners, send the name of a worthy individual (such as a former classmate or graduate), along with a written citation, explaining why you think he/she deserves an award no later than April 30, 2016 to Mariange Beaudry (mariange@geog.utoronto.ca).
Award Winners 2015

UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Monica Nelson

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Symon James-Wilson

Canadian Association of Geographers Undergraduate Award
Jennifer Le

Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science
Julia Field

F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment
Lesia Kinach

John Horner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
Bridge Irwin
Siobhan Knowles
Khairunnabila Prayitno
Mahisha Sritharan

Outstanding Performance Awards
GGR 201/203/205/206: Sophia Zamaria
GGR 223: Caleigh Inman
GGR 240: Jennifer Del Riccio

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Pamela Tetford

Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship
Yekaterina Vasilyeva

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Molly Spratt

Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award
Christelle Broux

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Maria Mate

William G. Dean Scholarship in Geography for Field Research
Adam Cave
Pamela Tetford

GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Graduate Alpar Scholarship
Travis Bost

John D. Barnes Geodetic Sciences Fellowship
Remi Luo

John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Daniel Chen
Neil Nunn

Nicolas Lombardo receiving the James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship from Carolyn Lemon

Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam, Larissa Sage and Natalia Zdaniuk receiving the John Horner Graduate Scholarship from Dorothy Horner

Stephanie Malcher, Amina Menkad and Lia Milito receiving the Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation from David McKay

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Remi Luo

John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Daniel Chen
Neil Nunn

Nicolas Lombardo receiving the James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship from Carolyn Lemon

Kira Borden receiving the Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship from Robert Putnam

Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam, Larissa Sage and Natalia Zdaniuk receiving the John Horner Graduate Scholarship from Dorothy Horner

Tara-Lyn Prindiville receiving the Ian D. Macpherson Award from Peter Walker

Stephanie Malcher, Amina Menkad and Lia Milito receiving the Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation from David McKay

James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography
Nicholas Lombardo

Oscar J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship
Cameron Proctor
Jian Yang

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Michael Chrobok
Chloe Fox
Katarina Gilgorijevic
Paulina Kubara

Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Kira Borden

UTAGA J.B.R. Whitney Award
Zach Anderson

Griffith Taylor Scholarship in Geography
Gwen MacGregor

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Jonathan Bamforth
Meaghan Maund
Andrew Picard
Stanley Woo

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Stuart Burkimsher

CIP Award for Academic Excellence
Matthew Kelling

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Matthew Kelling

Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation
Stephanie Malcher
Amina Menkad
Lia Milito

LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Andrew Picard

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Jonathan Bamforth
Giulia Ilacqua
Carli Melo
Amina Menkad
Andrew Picard
Stanley Woo
Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Lillian D’Souza

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Tara-Lyn Prindiville

Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Ira Banks
Stuart Burkimsher
Michelle Kearns
Emily Macrae
Aqsa Malik
Angus McNeill-Knowles
Anna Melikian
Nadine Oliver

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Natalie Corbo
Meaghan Maund

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship
Carli Melo
Shareefah Rene

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Matthew Hilder

EXTERNAL AWARDS (PROVINCIAL)

Donald F. Putnam / George Tatham/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Brent Coleman

Edward Sorbara / Building Industry and Land Development (BILD) / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Matthew Hilder

J. M. Tomczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Heather Wilson

Michael Ralph Walsh / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department Geography
Sean Grisdale

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Nicholas Lombardo

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Tara-Lyn Prindiville

Urban Strategies / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Frances Woo

U of T Planning Alumni / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Stephanie Malcher

ESRI Canada Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Lea Ravensbergen-Hodgins

William G. Dean Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Michael Wang

Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Shannon Black
Anni-Claudine Buelles
Bryan Dale
Sean Grisdale
Rebecca Jacobs
Elie Lewison
Matthew Lie-Paehlke
Ewa Modlinska
Cameron Proctor
Natalia Zdaniuk

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
Corey Bialek
Kevin Chan
Michele Colley
Natalie Corbo
Lillian D’Souza
Adam Garcia
Jonathan Kitchen
Jessica Krushnisky
Lisa Mills
Alyssa Scott
Nathan Stewart
Kathleen Watt
Mercedes Sharpe Zayas

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral
Christopher Alton
Lazar Konforti
Gwen MacGregor
Dylan Simone
Nico Van Lier

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postgraduate Fellowship – Doctoral
Brock Bersaglio
Angela Day
Sarah Nelson
Joshua Steckley

UTAGA Distincted Alumnus Award
Conrad Heidenreich

UTAGA Honorary President Award
John Horner

UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award
Conrad Heidenreich

Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award
Michael Noble
Melissa McEnroe

PAC Co-president Michael Noble receiving the award from Fenton’s brother Gordon and sister Sophia

UTAGA Award Winners 2015
Conrad Heidenreich, Distinguished Alumnus Award

I was raised in two families; first, and most decisively, in my father's family, the Heidenreichs, and much later, after we immigrated to Canada, in my mother's family, the Walkers. I strongly believe that, apart from formal education, the families one is born into and the communities in which one is living are of fundamental importance to learning.

There was only a primary school in the small town where I lived after 1943 when we were bombed out of Berlin. In this rural community, the teachers were recognized for their learning. People would doff their hats, or bow slightly towards them, when they saw them on the streets or in shops. I was persuaded by my family, some talented teachers and the community that learning and reading are important, and expertise in almost anything from the old buildings in the community to getting rid of potato beetles, had social respect. Within the family there was no pressure on us, just a quiet expectation that we would develop like them. My grandmother was particularly important in that. When I was about seven my father gave me a piece of advice I never forgot: 'There is no such thing as Ich mag das nicht (I don't like that – in my case arithmetic). If you don't like something, try to get interested in it and it will be easier to learn; but whatever you do, whether you like it or not, always do it to the best of your abilities'.

I did not get to meet the Walkers until I was 13 and only gradually learned about their relationship to the UofT. Mother had graduated from Trinity in 1932 with a good background in languages and art history and from her father a love of nature, especially insects and animals. My grandfather, Dr. Edmund Murton Walker, was one of Canada's great Entomologists. He taught at the UofT Zoology department from 1906 to 1948 and was Chair for 14 years. He was the oldest son of my Great-Grandfather, Sir Edmund Walker, who was President of the Bank of Commerce, founded the ROM, the AGO and a number of other cultural institutions. He also sat on the UofT Board of Governors and became Chancellor in 1923. The UofT tradition associated with Sir Edmund and learning permeated my family; like my experience with father's family I don't think it ever put pressure on us but rather demonstrated what learning made possible and how it benefited society.

I have always been grateful for the thorough education I received in the Geography Department. I have fond memories of my professors: Donald Putnam the consummate field geographer; Fred Watts with his well organized lectures; Bill Dean, with whom I took an extra graduate course just because I liked Geomorphology; Jacob Spelt and Don Kerr, who gave four of us students summer jobs after third year, collecting interview data on close to 1000 industries in Toronto; but especially Jacob Spelt who supervised my MA thesis. After graduating with my B.A., Georges Potvin, who supervised my B.A. thesis, gave me my first job as field director of an urban renewal study. And then of course there were the lectures from the incomparable George Tatham. He was the person who best integrated the variety of knowledge we were exposed to – he made it all 'hang together,' at the same time promoting logical thinking and a view of life. During my MA, I published three papers, all of them essays that Putnam, Dean and Spelt helped me rework for publication. I thank them hugely.

John Horner, Honorary President Award (delivered by his daughter Lara Verastegui)

I am the very last person who expected to stand here and receive an award. How did I start in life? My sister and I were raised on an isolated farm. We had great inspirational parents. But - we had no money. Mother read to us from the two books we owned - an illustrated book of Bible stories and a Grade 8 geography text book that Mom had used as a teacher in Toronto. I still have those books - somewhat in tatters.

My parents wanted me to be a clergyman, so, I enrolled in Arts and classical Greek. There was room for one more course in my timetable.

Geography was on the list of available subjects. I thought, maybe I can pass Geography. That first Geography class changed my life. Fred Watts was an inspiring lecturer, and, the deal was sealed when after the midterm exam he read MY weather forecast, prepared from a series of weather maps to the entire class. He said, this is the best one, this is the way it is done. I washooked. Geography it was!

The professor who most inspired me was Dr. D. F. Putnam and his 'Physiography of Southern Ontario'. He was, my teacher, my mentor, my advisor and later, my friend. He was quiet, unassuming, compassionate, brilliant and devoted to excellence. After his retirement, he accompanied my students and me on several air flights over Southern Ontario. He pointed out every drumlin and kettle lake in existence. My students were very impressed and they absolutely marveled at how with his big white beard he could so neatly enjoy a bowl of tomato soup. Dr. Putnam was truly 'Down to Earth', as his biography was titled.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to tell Dr. Putnam and Dr. Kerr how much they had influenced me. My regret is that most of the others are no longer with us, and, I cannot thank them. I encourage you young people to study and discover the greatest strength of each of your professors. Try your best to emulate these factors. When you adopt the best from the best, think how powerful you can become.

I became a teacher - 30 years as Geography Department Head, at Milton District High School. Outside my window, was the most striking geographic feature in Southern Ontario - the Niagara Escarpment. It was my distinct honour to instruct about 3,000 senior geography students. Many of my students remain life-long friends.

Large numbers of my students have gained prominence - I will mention two. One was Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders, who was quiet and studious, with a wicked sense of humour. Another was astronaut Chris Hadfield. In grade 12 he was asking questions about the sky and the heavens. Sitting by the window, he continually scanned the sky - truly 'spaced out'! Chris knew what he wanted. He went after it - you know the rest of the story. Chris simply hitched his wagon to a star and achieved his dream. I ask you to do the same.

Simply put - it is my sincere wish that geography will be as good to you as it has been to me, professionally, business wise and personally. Take time to appreciate the world around you. My wife will tell you, I still get a thrill when I point out eskers, drumlins, shorelines, misfit streams and even A-zonal soils. As Dr. Putnam would say 'Why take the highway, when you can take the back road'. I am so appreciative of this honour. Thank you!
Declined the offer because it wasn’t really what I wanted to do. I thought I could be an event planner, a writer, a photographer, or an urban explorer. Taking photos of decline. I drove to Detroit one weekend just so I could put a face to what I had been reading about. Finding a focus was difficult and I found myself filling my time taking food photos and writing recipes instead of applying for jobs.

And luckily that became the key to my success. While working as a research assistant for Professor Hackworth in my final year, I was telling him how I always wanted to write a cook book. I had been writing one for about five years at that point but had no experience with the publishing process. After giving me a comically huge book about literary agents, he referred me to fellow Geography alumna Jenny Lass, now a very successful cook book author who lives in Toronto. She agreed to meet me for coffee and gave me invaluable advice about how to write, sell, and market a cook book. Confident with my new understanding of the industry I did just that. I finessed my writing, improved my photos, sought out an agent, and now I have a pile of my own books sitting in my living room. Jenny encouraged me to become a member of the executive of UTAGA, which I did, and I find that being a member allows me to maintain a connection to the school that helped shaped who I am. Although I am no longer a student I still feel like I’m part of the community.

In Memoriam: Dick Baine

By John Warkentin

In 1991, as chair of the Canadian Association of Geographers’ Education Committee, Dick wrote a report surveying the state of geography teaching in Canada. Highlights of the report included an analysis of the challenges geography faced in finding a place in the curriculum of the various provinces across the country in elementary and secondary schools, the problem that even if geography was in the curriculum it might not be taught. In particular schools because of the low number of students and the competition from other subjects, and the relationship of geography to Social Studies, particularly important in the provinces west of Manitoba. Known today as the Baine Report (1991) it is an important base line to which subsequent studies on the state of geography teaching in Canadian schools compare their findings to analyze what has changed.

Dick received many honours, including: the Award of Distinction, Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education; the Distinguished Teaching Award, National Council [US] for Geographic Education; the Arbor Award, University of Toronto, for Outstanding Voluntary Service to the University; the Service to Ontario Geography Award, Canadian Association of Geographers, Ontario Division; and...
Our tour will include the Le Nord Picardy, Normandy, and Paris regions of France. The trip will focus on the contributions made by Canadian soldiers during World War I and World War II and highlight how their sacrifices helped shape our modern world. We will go in-depth in learning about the great sacrifices and heroics that helped to shape our modern world.


Preliminary Itinerary

Day 1 - Departure From Toronto
Day 2 - Arrive Brussels - Ypres Area (2 nights)
Day 3 - Ypres & Salient Tour
Day 4 - Ypres - Vimy Ridge - Beaumont Hamel - Dieppe (1 night)
Day 5 - Dieppe - Honfleur - Bayeux - Bayeux Area (2 nights)
Day 6 - Normandy (Canadian efforts at D-Day)

Day 7 - Normandy Area - Caen - Rouen - Giverny - Paris (5 nights)
Day 8 - Paris
Day 9 - Versailles & Fontainebleu
Days 10 - 11 - Paris
Day 12 - Departure from Paris

What is Included:
Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
Accommodation in three and four star superior tourist class hotels in twin/double or triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
A filling breakfast everyday to get the day started well throughout your touring program
Dinner daily reflecting local cuisine every evening in local restaurants (with the exception of days 8 & 10 which will be by own arrangement and cost)
A full-time WorldStrides International Discovery programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
The expertise and perspective of local guides where needed during your tour
All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
Transportation by private coach while in Belgium and France.
Porterage for airport transfers and hotels
Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to $7,500) and $50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation

GeoTrip 2017 - CANCELLED

Join us for the upcoming UTAGA/Senior college trip
Discovering Belgium & France
May 20 - 31, 2017
UTAGA/Senior College 2015 GeoTrip to Haida Gwaii

By Joe Whitney

Where is Haida Gwaii (Home of the Haida people)? Most Canadians questioned don’t know or take wild guesses. In Asia? Africa? When they hear the former name Queen Charlotte Islands, most recognize the place as being on Canada’s West Coast in B.C. The more than 150 islands occupy some 10,000 sq. km on the extreme western edge of the North American continent and are now home to some 5,000 people, half of whom are Haida. The islands are also sometimes known as The Galapagos of the North because their long separation from the American continent has created some unique biological adaptations to the environment.

UTAGA President, Jackie Peers first suggested Haida Gwaii as the destination for our GeoTrip and it was unfortunate due to teaching commitments that she could not join us.

Our little group of six Senior College and UTAGA members set out from Victoria with our driver and outstanding guide Nina Bonner of Midnight Sun Tours for a long passenger van drive up Vancouver Island to Port Hardy. The next morning we embarked on a 15 hour voyage through the Inner Passage to the town of Prince Rupert. The BC ferry on which we travelled provided us all with luxurious cabins, showers and beds, but the weather and the scenery were so spectacular that we spent most of our time on deck. Prince Rupert, where we spent the night, has the deepest harbor on the entire North American Pacific seaboard and is the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, now CN Rail.

The following day, we travelled by two small floatplanes to Masset on Haida Gwaii – a trip of some 50 minutes that would have taken nearly seven hours by BC Ferry. The pilot of our small plane seemed quite casual, and after instructing us in emergency procedures, took off and then proceeded to eat his lunch from a paper bag, gulping down soup and pudding from a plastic bowl and, much to the dismay of one of our group sitting in the co-pilot’s seat, took his hands off the controls completely! But we arrived safely at the little harbor of Masset which we took to our inn.

The next morning on our way to Naikoon Provincial Park we stopped at the home and studio of Haida artist Bill White, viewing some of his painting and carving work and experienced a drumming performance of a traditional Haida story. From there we proceeded north along the shore to Tow Hill, an old volcanic plug and sacred Haida site, from the top of which we had an incredible view to the tip of Graham Island and on to the mountains of Alaska.

Below the hill was a much more sobering spectacle: an old graveyard marking the burial sites of the hundreds of Haida who had succumbed to the small-pox and other diseases brought by the foreign traders, hunters and loggers, decimating three-quarters of the population. Of particular poignancy were the graves of children who had been repatriated after their death at the notorious residential schools.

The following day we visited the homes of other artists and toured the Haida Heritage Centre, a modern building housing an incredible array of Haida art, artifacts, canoes and totem poles. We stayed the night at the beautiful Haida House deep in the wild woods near Tlell.

The next day was one of high adventure – a three-hour zodiac ride in our survival suits, to the abandoned village of Skedans decimated by smallpox in the 1880s, a place often visited by Emily Carr and now a National Historic Site of Canada. All that is left of the village are fallen and rotting totem poles and moss-covered cedar trunks.

We were guided through the site by Haida Watchmen who guard such sacred sites to honour the departed and to prevent theft of cultural objects. In the Haida culture, no attempt is made to preserve totem poles which are left to rot and return back to Nature.

Skedans itself is a part of the Gwaii Hanaas National Park now, after many political battles, cooperatively managed by the Government of Canada and the Haida Nation. For the Haida, the marine and terrestrial environments are inseparable. The boundary between earth and ocean exists only on a map, so the Haida Nation pressed to have the adjacent marine environment protected and, thus, was established the Gwaii Hanaas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, which covers 3,400 square kilometers, and is a primary feeding habitat of the Humpback Whale. The Park is now one of the only places in the world where a representative area is protected from mountain top to ocean depth!

We are so grateful that we had this opportunity to visit Haida Gwaii in splendid weather not just because of its astounding beauty but because its people are rediscovering their traditional arts and crafts and the artists, who are among the most affluent on the island, are passing on these skills, pro bono, to a new generation of Haida youth. We were also most impressed by our stay at Haida House, impeccable lodging run by the Council of the Haida Nation.
The department has seen several changes to office personnel in the past year. Nina Duras the St. George business officer returned in July after a year of maternity leave - a big thank you to Candace Duong who filled in for her. Kathy Giesbrecht, the undergraduate advisor took maternity leave in July and Benjamin Pottruff, seconded from UTSC Human Geography, Political Science and the Centre for Critical Development Studies has replaced her until July 2016. Jenny Jung, a recent Geography MSc graduate has joined the St. George front office as receptionist and Mariange Beaudry, a former cartographer and GIS analyst with the department's Cartography Office is now our Communications and Events Coordinator.

Dr. Mia Hunt is a new postdoctoral fellow in the department. Her research concerns ways in which the everyday experience, material, and practice of place intersect with larger urban forces, including planning, branding, and notions of citizenship. She recently returned to Canada after completing her PhD in Cultural Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her doctoral research used visual ethnography to explore how the banal textures of London's corner shops intersect with larger forces of the city. No stranger to the Department, Mia completed an MScPl here in 2008. Her current work, supervised by Deborah Leslie, explores the material, practice, and politics of the craft employment programs at Sistering, an agency that supports marginalized women in Toronto.

Dr. Amit Tubi is also a new postdoctoral fellow and his research focuses on adaptation to climate change. His doctoral research, conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, examined the ways in which societies adapt to climate extremes over long time spans in different social and physical environments. Amit has also conducted research on the effect of climatic perturbations on conflict and cooperation over natural resources, as well as in synoptic climatology. His post-doctoral research, supervised by Prof. Matti Siemiatycki, analyzes the courses of action that are adopted by institutions in relation to infrastructure adaptation.

Appointments

Prof. George Arhonditsis has been appointed Interim Chair, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, UTSC.
Prof. Deb McGregor has accepted an offer to join Osgoode Hall Law School and York University Faculty of Environmental Studies as an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice.
Dr. Julia Markovich has taken up a permanent position as Senior Research Associate with the Conference Board of Canada in Ottawa.
Prof. Bill Gough has been appointed Interim Dean and Vice Principal (Academic), UTSC.
Prof. Alan Walks is Acting Chair, Department of Geography, UTM, while Kathi Wilson is on leave this year.

Awards

Prof. Meric Gertler was appointed to the Order of Canada. His appointment is in honour of 'his research in urban geography, notably for his influential studies of innovation, technology and development in cities'.
http://news.utoronto.ca/order-canada-awarded-university-toronto-president-faculty-members

Prof. Don Boyes received the 2015 Canadian Association of Geographers' Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography.
Prof. Joe Desloges was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.
Dr. Benita Tam (PhD 2012) received the 2015 Canadian Association of Geographers' Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize for Excellence in Native Studies for her dissertation on 'The effects of weather and climate variability on the well-being of a rural and urban Aboriginal group in Ontario, Canada'.

Faculty Profile: Michael Widener

M ichael Widener joined the Department at St. George on July 1st as an Assistant Professor in Urban Geography and GIS. Prior to this appointment, he spent three years as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Cincinnati. He earned his PhD from SUNY at Buffalo in 2012, MS from Florida State University in 2009, and BA with Highest Honours from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2007. Michael is originally from Memphis, Tennessee.

Michael is interested in topics related to health, transportation, and urban geography, and uses a number of quantitative tools to explore research problems in these areas. By using data to understand how a person's mobility affects and is affected by their health, he hopes to inform policy discussions and complement other qualitative and quantitative research to make cities more equitable and healthy. His current primary projects involve understanding how time pressure affects spatial access to healthy foods, whether the activity patterns of children with acute asthma worsen attacks, and how different modes of emergency medical service transport impact trauma survival.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys long distance running and cycling, cheesy science fiction novels, cooking new meals while fending off his annoying cats, and exploring Toronto’s many neighbourhoods with his partner, Rohini. During graduate school he was in an all-geographer cover band named Spatial K that regularly gigged at such esteemed venues as Bird’s Aphrodisiac Oyster Shack, Bullwinkle’s Saloon, and the occasional birthday celebration. Michael is usually in his office during the week and loves to chat with folks about whatever they are interested in (academic or otherwise) over coffee.
How much was paid for a performance by the ‘Princess’ Performers’ at the Guild Hall in Exeter in 1501 on the occasion of the visit by their patron, Katherine of Aragon? Were the performers ‘players’, jesters, or minstrels? Where did the troupe that performed for her that week come from previously - and where did they go after? Did they have trouble getting their money, or was it an uncontested transaction?

You may think that these kind of arcane details about dramatic performances that took place in the ‘Early Modern’ era in the British Isles, have very little in common with the kind of online mapping software found on your dashboard GPS systems, or on your smartphone. But you would be wrong! You can now view online the answer to these and other questions dear to the research interests of historians of British drama in the ‘Early Modern’ period, on a background of Google Map-like present day streets and buildings, and other tools of the latest web-mapping technology.

On November 15, 2015, the Records of Early English Drama project (See: http://reed.utoronto.ca) re-launched their Patrons and Performances website, with online mapping designed and created by Mariange Beaudry and Byron Moldofsky of the GIS and Cartography Office of our department. The original website was created in 2003, which in terms of online mapping (or anything online for that matter) is the equivalent of prehistoric. So it was time for a re-boot - and a grant by the Connections Program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council provided the opportunity to breathe new life into the REED project, as well as some similar work on theatre history done in quite different times and spaces.

This grant was called ‘On the Road Again: Tracking Itinerant Performance Through Time’ and was a joint effort of REED, the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama, the Geography Department, and the University of Toronto Libraries Information Technologies (https://its.library.utoronto.ca). ‘On the Road Again’ is a work in progress, developing ways to explore and visualize databases currently being developed for four different history of performance research projects:

• REED: Records of Early English Drama - Patrons and Performances to 1640
• The JUBA Project: Early Blackface Minstrelsy in Britain 1842-1852
• The Fringes of Show Business in Canada West: Performance culture in Southern Ontario 1840-1919
• The Exhibition and Reception of American Popular Film in Canada in the 20th Century

The challenges of recreating historical mapping and integrating the results of database searches into a well designed web-map interface is the kind of thing our GIS and Cartography Office has been doing for a number of years. Still, spanning 500 years or so of history and two continents, while trying to understand the needs of researchers with very different perspectives, was a bit of a new challenge. The images on this page barely scratch the surface of what we and our collaborators came up with. Feel free to explore the website launched from the On the Road Again home page (http://OTRA.library.utoronto.ca). And email feedback is always appreciated!
For the physical geography student, field courses provide a valuable and often all too infrequent opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts learned in a static classroom to the dynamic natural environment, where observations often do not fit neatly into defined theoretical categories. They also facilitate the development and utilization of problem-solving skills to quickly address unexpected situations which are bound to occur in the field.

This year, thirty physical geography students, ranging from minors to specialists, spent one of their final weeks of summer engaged in the GGR 390 Field Methods course, designed to introduce undergraduate students to methods of field research and surveying through a direct hands-on approach: after learning basic instrumentation, students were able to conduct research themselves on a topic of their choice, and also made daily measurements of local weather conditions, water quality and stream discharge. The course this year was run by Prof. Jing Chen, Prof. Jane Liu, and teaching assistants Anna Megens and Pamela Tetford, and supervised by Prof. Joe Desloges, who took time off from his sabbatical to attend.

The course began with an early start and seven-hour drive to the site, most of it spent sleeping and observing the changing terrain, shifting from the flat plains of southeast Ontario to the rolling Monteregian hills of southeastern Quebec, many of which are actually volcanic intrusions which never broke the surface. Our location this year (and for many years prior), was Sutton, Quebec, a small town with a commanding view of the Green Mountains, a local chain of the Appalachians. Our host, Le Montagnard Hotel and Condos, welcomed us with a delicious dinner, after stopping at picturesque Lac Spruce for lunch, we spent the afternoon learning instrument use and techniques for surveying, soil sampling and analysis, as well as vegetation and biomass sampling, techniques which would be incorporated into many of our chosen projects. That evening, students formed groups and selected their topics. Many chose to examine how variables such as vegetation diversity and biomass shifted along an elevational gradient, while others examined paleo-flood reconstruction, step-pool reaches along a local branch of the Sutton River, and soil changes along a topographic sequence. Students spent the next three days conducting research on their chosen site, some hiking most of the way up the mountain to reach their site each day. It was fascinating to see the concepts learned in class being confirmed right before our eyes, and, in some instances, needing to come up with our own theories as to why something was being observed by synthesizing many different concepts. The trip concluded with a last, incredible meal at Le Montagnard, followed by an evening at Sutton’s local brewery enjoying local craft beers.

The experience and knowledge we gained in a single week was remarkable, and evidence that hands-on learning truly helps solidify the concepts learned in class. Being immersed in the situations one normally only reads about allowed us to synthesize our past knowledge with newly acquired skills in order to undertake the research projects we conducted at Sutton.

A huge thank you goes out to the team of professors and teaching assistants, who taught us (and continue to teach as we write our project reports) invaluable research skills we will be able to use throughout our careers, patiently answered our endless supply of questions, and helped us create memories we will hold for a lifetime.

On the second day, we finally headed up Mont Sutton, to a summit called Mount Roundtop, above 900 metres in elevation. The hike, though strenuous at times, rewarded us with a breathtaking view (once the ever present fog finally cleared). After stopping at picturesque Lac Spruce for lunch, we spent the afternoon learning instrument use and techniques for surveying, soil sampling and analysis, as well as vegetation and biomass sampling, techniques which would be incorporated into many of our chosen projects. That evening, students formed groups and selected their topics. Many chose to examine how variables such as vegetation diversity and biomass shifted along an elevational gradient, while others examined paleo-flood reconstruction, step-pool reaches along a local branch of the Sutton River, and soil changes along a topographic sequence. Students spent the next three days conducting research on their chosen site, some hiking most of the way up the mountain to reach their site each day. It was fascinating to see the concepts learned in class being confirmed right before our eyes, and, in some instances, needing to come up with our own theories as to why something was being observed by synthesizing many different concepts. The trip concluded with a last, incredible meal at Le Montagnard, followed by an evening at Sutton’s local brewery enjoying local craft beers.

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Of our stay. Our luxurious base camp also included a pool, jacuzzi, and badminton and volleyball nets for relaxing after a tough day of hiking and field work (yes, some intense matches between students and instructors took place). After introductions it was time for bed; we had a busy day ahead of us.

Our gogginess was quickly dispelled the next morning by a delicious breakfast and plenty of coffee before heading out to learn how to use a large variety of monitoring equipment, ranging from the automatic ‘HOBO’ weather station to the acoustic doppler velocimeter, which measures water velocity. The afternoon was spent on a short road trip around the Sutton region, exploring the underlying geology of the Appalachian region, learning about the cultural significance of the area as well as how to estimate the stream discharge of a river (specifically the Missisquoi River), without any equipment.

Students Keino Widjanarko and Carl Sequeira taking a tree core sample for biomass analysis. Photo credit: Jane Liu

Professor Jing Chen and students Keino Widjanarko and Carl Sequeira preparing to use digital hemispherical photography. Photo credit: Jane Liu

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Much like the gold prospectors who first settled Denver in 1858, many of the twenty second-year planning students on this year’s field trip weren’t too sure what to expect when they reached their destination. Like those first pioneers, we had heard there was gold where it was least expected (though our gold was the urban context rather than the yellow stuff). Unlike those pioneers, however, we actually found an abundance of what we were looking for and returned with an embarrassment of riches in learning and memories.

In a comprehensive four-day trip, bookended for some with trips to nearby Boulder for hiking and touring, the Class of 2016 was treated to what felt at times like a utopian world of urban planning. The group, joined this year by Adjunct Professor John Farrow as the faculty representative, convened in its entirety on Tuesday September 8th. The trip’s formal itinerary was kicked off with a biking tour of the quaint university town of Boulder. The tour was led by David Kemp, senior transportation planner for the City of Boulder, who provided an introduction to the city’s urban infrastructure and offered a first glimpse of the exceptional regional planning coordination that became a central theme of our time in Denver.

The active start led naturally into a leisurely evening providing the chance for the group to eagerly catch-up on a summer filled with activities all over Canada and the world. The excitement for the trip grew as we sampled the offerings of the city’s booming craft brewery scene and smaller groups set out to explore the city’s rich variety of urban forms. Our basecamp, Hostel Fish, was centrally-located and offered easy access to the downtown core.

The first activity in Denver proper took us to Mariposa, an affordable housing development led by the Denver Housing Authority (DHA). Ryan Tobin, Director of Real Estate Development for DHA, gave us a personal tour of the award-winning, nationally recognized multi-phased development. The 900 unit development replaced 278 functionally obsolescent public housing units and added new market housing in a massive revitalization project spanning several years. The project drew on a number of city-wide policies including a transit-oriented development initiative that saw billions of municipal, regional and state dollars put into public transportation.

Outside the Colorado Convention Centre and the famous Blue Bear (**I see what you mean** by Lawford).

With the displacement issues experienced in Toronto’s social housing revitalization work, the group asked about Mariposa’s displacement and were surprised to learn that just under 30 percent of the original public housing tenants stayed in the community. Even more surprising was that this was deemed a success relative to other US revitalization projects where displacement is typically higher. We also learned about the unique funding models used in American social housing development and the central role of private partners and housing authorities working as market-landlords, much of which is supported by Federal housing investment through low-income housing tax credits.

We lived the reality of transit-oriented Mariposa by walking off the sidewalk in the community directly onto the platform for the ‘RTD’ (Regional Transportation District). There we caught a light rail train to the Municipal Building for a talk on Denver’s transit system with Senior City Planner David Gaspers. David spoke to us in detail about Denver’s unprecedented investment and planning in regional transit through its Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan. The strategic plan provides an in-depth model for TOD in the city by creating a series of typologies for different stations in the city and integrating various topological overlays to determine optimal and realistic land use development patterns from the anticipated development growth (the plan is certainly worth a review for anyone interested in TOD).

One of the key messages from David’s talk was how regional cooperation led to massive achievements for transit in the city and region. Through a voter-approved ballot initiative called FasTracks, the city and region positioned themselves to launch six new transit lines in 2016 with a seventh expected in 2018. In just a ten-year period, Denver was able to plan and execute a comprehensive transit expansion plan creating nearly 200km of new commuter rail and light rail, nearly 30km of bus rapid transit, 21,000 park-and-ride parking spots and a number of other transit improvements. The plan spans eight counties (or political jurisdictions) with some receiving little direct benefit from the increased investment and higher tax bill.

A thought-provoking morning was followed by an equally rich walking tour of some of Denver’s historic neighbourhoods centred on the ‘LoDo’ (Lower Downtown). The tour was led by Ken Schroeppe, a professor in Planning and Design at the University of Denver. Ken’s multiple roles as a planning consultant, board member of the Downtown Denver Partnership, and academic became clear through the tour as he spoke equally passionately about the unique sight lines created by Denver’s angled downtown grid-pattern and the history of heritage preservation as LoDo traversed various periods of economic boom and bust.
The tour highlighted Denver’s palpable civic pride and took us through the historic Larimer Square area and to a revitalized Union Station, which like many heritage buildings was narrowly saved from demolition to become an exemplary model of heritage preservation. The day’s explorations conveniently ended at a pub where we met with local planning and geography students who were part of the University of Denver chapter of the American Planning Association.

On day three, a compelling lecture with four staff at the memorably named DRCOG (Doctor Cog), gave us more in-depth insights into this important theme of regional collaboration. DRCOG is the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the regional planning agency for the eight counties that make up the Denver metropolitan region of 2.2 million people (compared to the approximately 650,000 people in the City and County of Denver).

Brad Calvert, Metro Vision Manager, introduced the organization and some of the history of its politics. Among Brad’s many insights was that Denver’s regional collaboration was rooted in the Mile-High Compact, an agreement between the region’s governments to support the growth of the region above any individual member’s growth.

Regional Economist, Dan Jerrett, showed us that Denver is a national leader in its use of econometrics and data analytics for developing land use plans and strategy. Dan walked us through DRCOG’s use of UrbanSim and its own time-series and scenario analysis which allows the region to build comprehensive models of how real estate markets would respond to specific parcel-level policy interventions. In short, the region’s modelling uses inputs such as parcels, buildings, household size and employment. Through analysis of demographic trends and well-developed forecasting techniques, the model produces outputs showing employment, residential unit demand and commercial square footages tailored to the specific demographics in the base case.

Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a more in-depth view of the FasTracks program and the region’s transit growth. Andy Taylor, Senior Planner, gave a brief overview of the region’s urban growth boundary and commented on how despite lacking a Colorado state mandate, regional coordination and collaboration ensured that the land use policies were followed by the region’s governments. The presentations ended with the one, now obligatory, mass-selfie of the trip with Nate Currey, Comms/PR Director, doing the honours for the @DRCOGorg Twitter page.

After a lunch sampling the offerings of at least fifty food-trucks in the manicured Congress Park, we were treated to another walking tour. This time we focussed on the public art treasures of the City led by Brendan Picker, City of Denver Public Art Coordinator. Brendan introduced us to some of the City’s diverse collection, all unique and purpose-made for the City. The tour revealed the parallel between Toronto’s Percent for Public Art program and Denver’s policy requiring all government construction projects to contribute 1% of their construction value to same cause. Inevitably, the tour also provided for the ‘people’s choice’ in group pictures alongside the iconic Blue Bear.

As was the case throughout the trip, the final day offered yet another set of new insights and a range of topics. To the appreciation of many, the morning lecture was a later start and was hosted in the hostel itself. Jan Harrington, CEO of Colorado Community Land Trust offered us great insights into her organization, providing a candid account of the challenges in leveraging multiple stakeholders to engage in unfamiliar housing and policy models. Jenney Starkey of the Cherry Creek North Business Improvement District rounded out the range of perspectives we encountered on the trip with a private sector view of planning, governance and economic development in Denver.

Between the scheduled activities the group enjoyed the opportunity to explore the city and forge deeper bonds together. The value of exploring planning in a new context and with external perspective was by no means lost on any of those attending the trip. We are all extremely grateful to the Planning Alumni Community for their generous support in funding the trip and continuing to fund the experience as a meaningful component of the Master’s program. All who attended would like to express their gratitude to John Farrow for attending on behalf of the faculty and constantly providing insightful questions and valuable perspectives on the planning issues and great spirit in everything else. Lastly, very special thanks must also go to the three student organizers Guilia Ilacqua, Jessica Krushnisky and Stephanie Malcher – thank you for giving up so much of your summers and taking so much care to organize an unforgettable trip.

Food trucks in Congress Park and downtown Denver
Photo credit: Meaghan Maund
Graduate Student Profile: Dylan Simone

I am a second year PhD student in Human Geography, under the supervision of Professor Alan Walks (who also served as my MA supervisor). My research focuses broadly on the intersections of housing, finance, and immigration, primarily in the Canadian context. My MA thesis was titled ‘Household Indebtedness and Socio-Spatial Polarization among Immigrant and Visible Minority Neighbourhoods in Canada’s Global Cities’. Household debt is headline news in Canada currently, but what gets lost in the media is the degree to which immigrants and racialized minorities often bear the largest and most predatory forms of debt burdens. Using custom datasets from Environics Analytics, as well as datasets from Statistics Canada such as the Census (it’s back!), I seek to understand questions around economic inequality (wealth/income/debt burdens), housing and mortgage markets, and immigration processes. In addition, I serve as a research assistant on the Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership (David Hulchanski’s ‘Three Cities of Toronto’), where I work out of Statistics Canada’s Research Data Centre calculating indices of income inequality across Canadian urban regions from the 1970s to present.

Prior to graduate school at UofT, I completed my BA in Human Geography at McMaster University. At McMaster I was fortunate to work for a number of years with Professor Bruce Newbold in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, on issues surrounding immigrant health, housing, and quality of life. This rewarding collaboration initiated my research interests surrounding immigration processes and policies, and served as a basis for my undergraduate thesis on immigrant housing trajectories in Canada. This work utilized Statistics Canada’s Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada. My interest in housing issues gained traction through coursework with, and mentoring from, Professor Richard Harris. Working with such supportive and encouraging Professors here and at McMaster have shaped my understanding of what constitutes excellent student-faculty relations, and is something I seek to emulate.

Graduate Student Profile: Sydney Clackett

Over the course of my education I have had many opportunities to study natural environmental processes mostly within the classroom setting, which I have always found to be a rewarding academic experience. However, it was not until I was recently given the opportunity to travel the Yukon Territory to conduct field work that my eyes were truly opened to our great Canadian landscape and the environmental processes that take place around us. The field work was a component of my MSc in Physical Geography research under the supervision of Dr. Trevor Porter. This research focuses on using tree-rings as passive archives for mercury concentrations within the Klondike region of Central Yukon, and will provide insights into past mercury changes that may potentially support accurate projections of future health impacts due to mercury pollution.

Prior to beginning my Master’s program, I completed a Bachelor of Environment Studies degree at the University of Windsor in 2015 and had the opportunity to work concurrently at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER) as a GIS technician. My employment at GLIER provided me with the opportunity to work on a project with Syncrude Canada Ltd. that focused on developing and maintaining a geospatial metadata cataloging system for data collected as part of Syncrude’s Sandhill Fen Reclamation project in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

My aim is to use these experiences as both the foundation and inspiration to continue learning about the physical environment throughout my degree and future career.
Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia

The Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA) addresses vulnerabilities to climate change in urbanizing areas of Southeast Asia with the goal of enhancing resilience and, hence, economic and social well-being. Individual and community vulnerabilities in the region are linked to global environmental change and to the rapid pace of urbanization and economic integration of the region. Professor Amrita Daniere, Department of Geography & Planning is Co-Director of the project.

http://urbanclimateresiliencesea.apps01.yorku.ca/about/

Discussing climate change resilience research at Mahasarakham University

By Angelica de Jesus and Ishtiaq Afridi

On July 20 2015, the Urban Climate Resilience Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA) hosted a workshop at Mahasarakham University in Khon Kaen—a major city in the Isan region of Thailand. Presenters shared ongoing research endeavours focusing on climate change resilience in the Mekong region. The workshop was a wonderful opportunity for participants to learn about climate change challenges in Southeast Asia, and for presenters to receive feedback on their current research.

Workshop presenters included Dr. Pakamas Thingphanga (Thailand Environment Institute/Institute for Social & Environmental Transition); Mr. Weerayuth Phothaworn (Khon Kaen University); Dr. Kontaros Kaomuangnoi (Mahasarakham University); Prof. Saimai Chaisirirn (Mahasarakham University); Angelica de Jesus (University of Toronto); Ishtiaq Afridi (University of Toronto); and Taylor Martin (University of Ottawa).

The one-day event covered several topics including the challenges of urbanization and climate change vulnerability in Southeast Asia, as introduced by Dr. Thingphanga, co-director of UCRSEA. Dr. Kaomuangnoi, a lecturer from Mahasarakham University, shared insights on the importance of promoting social enterprises in the Mukdahan Special Investment Zone in order to offset impacts of the major development project in the Northeastern province of Thailand.

During the latter half of the workshop, Angelica de Jesus, Ishtiaq Afridi, and Taylor Martin explained how their respective research efforts support UCRSEA’s goal of enhancing resilience, as well as improving the economic and social well-being of communities in Southeast Asia.

Angelica de Jesus, a PhD candidate in Planning at the University of Toronto, is researching how Myanmar migrants perceive, experience, and anticipate climate change impacts in the informal settlements of Phuket, Thailand.

Ishtiaq Afridi, a student in the MSc in Sustainability Management Program at the University of Toronto, is examining how the private sector copes with climate change impacts, as well as the role government policies and regulations play in influencing climate change actions in Thailand.

Green infrastructure in Lào Cai city

By Lusha Zhou

Exactly two months after I arrived in Việt Nam, I completed my first interview. Although it was a mock, it felt really good. Certain moments in the interview reminded me of why I was so invested in this topic, and it outshone the sometimes dubious interval for logistics and permission procedures.

My Master’s research project in Geography is about green infrastructure in Văn Hòa commune in Lào Cai city, and its potential to balance the pressures of urbanization and climate change. Green infrastructure uses vegetation and soil to absorb stormwater. Because these infiltration landscapes reduce stormwater runoff, green infrastructure reduces the risks of flooding. Green infrastructure also provides public green spaces, filtered water and air, and reduces heat in the city.

To evaluate green infrastructure potential, I use interviews, policy documents, satellite imagery, and field observations to explore local knowledge, government planning, and existing landscapes. I find that residents’ knowledge about local environmental conditions is not only broad, but deep and sensitive to change. I propose that local knowledge could complement government planning to understand and steward the land as green infrastructure, in order to address the pressures of urbanization and climate change. Timely action could mobilize and weave strong local knowledge and largely vegetated landscapes, before these resources weaken, into the
Undergraduate Student Profile: Noel Ariyaratnam

I am a fourth-year student majoring in Human Geography and Political Science and minoring in Canadian Studies. I am also President of TUGS, a part time server, and a member of the Canadian Studies Union. It has been a very busy year for me so far in my role as President of TUGS. The TUGS executive has put multiple initiatives on its agenda to help students become more closely connected to the Geography community. One of the initiatives is a Geography Radio Talk Show. With the help of the local university radio station, TUGS hopes to create a small, but informative talk show that presents new ideas, concepts and themes within the field of Geography. The program will provide geographers with an opportunity to showcase a new study or personal research on the topic that’s not limited to writing papers. TUGS hopes that the program will help expand the voice of undergraduate students.

Taking up Human Geography was by far one of the best decisions in my university career. In a country such as Canada, where the culture, environment, politics and identity differ so much, I have found Human Geography to be a key tool for helping to understand Canadian nationalism, my main area of interest. My current research project is focused on analysing the variance of cultural association and representation between first and second generations in Canada. Still with a lot of work to do, I hope to have a paper ready for the second edition of Landmarks, the Undergraduate Geography Journal.

Faculty Books

Temporary Knowledge Ecologies - The Rise of Trade Fairs in the Asia-Pacific Region
(Edward Elgar, 2015)
Edited By Harald Bathelt and Gang Zeng

The development of trade fairs in the Asia-Pacific region has been highly uneven, with large differences between industries, cities and countries. Based on a knowledge perspective, this book is the first of its kind to connect economic growth with the rise and development of trade fairs. Using country-specific case studies, the contributors identify three key areas of exploration: knowledge generation and transfer processes through trade fairs, interrelationships between industrial and trade fair specializations, and linkages between economic development, industrial policy and trade fair dynamics. They demonstrate that trade fairs in the Asia-Pacific region have evolved from transaction-oriented places to knowledge-based and relational spaces.

Harald Bathelt is a Professor in the Department of Political Science where he is the Canada Research Chair in Innovation and Governance. He holds a graduate cross-appointment in the Department of Geography & Planning.
The Canadian Environment in Political Context
(University of Toronto Press, 2015)
By Andrea Olive

The Canadian Environment in Political Context is an introduction to environmental politics designed to explain and explore how environmental policy is made inside the Canadian political arena. The book begins with a brief synopsis of environmental quality across Canada before moving on to examine political institutions and policy making, the history of environmentalism in Canada, and crucial issues including wildlife policy, pollution, climate change, Aboriginals and the environment, and Canada’s North. The book ends with a discussion of the environmental challenges and opportunities that Canada faces in the twenty-first century.

Andrea Olive is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga with a joint appointment in Geography and Political Science.

The Urban Political Economy and Ecology of Automobility - Driving Cities, Driving Inequality, Driving Politics
(Routledge, 2014)
Edited by Alan Walks

This volume provides a holistic and reflexive account of the role played by automobility in producing, reproducing, and differentiating social, economic and political life in the contemporary city, as well as the role played by the city in producing and reproducing auto-mobile inequalities. The first section, titled Driving Vulnerability, deals with issues of global importance related to economic, social, financial, and environmental sustainability and resilience, and socialization. The second section, Driving Inequality, is concerned with understanding the role played by automobility in producing urban socio-spatial inequalities, including those rooted in accessibility to work, migration status and ethnic concentration, and new measures of mobility-based inequality derived from the concept of effective speed. The third section, titled, Driving Politics, explores the politics of mobility in particular places, with an eye to demonstrating both the relevance of the politics of mobility for influencing and reinforcing actually existing neoliberal-isms, and the kinds of politics that might allow for reform or restructuring of the auto-mobile city into one that is more socially, politically and environmentally just. In the conclusion to the book Walks draws on the findings of the other chapters to comment on the relationship between automobility, neoliberalism and citizenship, and to lay out strategies for dealing with the urban car system.

Alan Walks is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

Alumni Books

Getting Started with Data Science: Making Sense of Data with Analytics
(IBM Press, 2015)
By Murtaza Haider

Getting Started with Data Science takes its inspiration from worldwide best-sellers like Freakonomics and Malcolm Gladwell’s Outliers: It teaches through a powerful narrative packed with unforgettable stories. Murtaza Haider offers informative, jargon-free coverage of basic theory and technique, backed with plenty of vivid examples and hands-on practice opportunities. Everything’s software and platform agnostic, so you can learn data science whether you work with R, Stata, SPSS, or SAS. Best of all, Haider teaches a crucial skillset most data science books ignore: how to tell powerful stories using graphics and tables. Every chapter is built around real research challenges, so you’ll always know why you’re doing what you’re doing.

Murtaza Haider (PhD 2003) is a graduate of the department and Associate Professor of Real Estate Management at Ryerson University.
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Friends of Planning
The Friends of Planning endowment funds scholarships, annual field trips, and workshops for students in the Master’s program in Planning. Field trip visits sponsored by the fund in the last few years to New Orleans and Denver have allowed students to engage directly with practicing planners, tour development sites, and observe planning in an environment very different to what they are familiar with in Toronto. The fund also continues to grow five PAC-sponsored scholarships that are awarded annually. With your donation, you will receive a complimentary admission to the annual Friends of Planning Spring Social.

*NEW* UTAGA J.B.R. Whitney Award
Joe Whitney has been serving as a member of the UTAGA committee since its inception in 1993. This award, established in 2014 by the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA), recognizes Joe Whitney’s contribution as a founding member of UTAGA, former department chair and his longtime service to the Association. The award is given on the basis of academic excellence to a graduate student studying the environment or international development.

Matthew W. F. Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Matthew Hanson was a graduate of the Masters of Science in Planning class of 2004, a wonderful friend and colleague who touched the lives of so many people before his passing. To honour him, friends and family created this scholarship to recognize students in the Masters of Science in Planning program for their efforts and contribution to student life.

James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography
This scholarship honors the memory of Professor Jim Lemon, a faculty member who joined the department in 1967. Jim was a highly respected and often controversial scholar of historical and urban geography, a Guggenheim Fellow, a mentor for and friend of several generations of students and colleagues, in Canada and abroad. Through his research and teaching he influenced, indeed changed, many careers. He was awarded the CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography 1997. The James T. Lemon Scholarship is dedicated to supporting graduate student research in Geography that contributes to the development of a more just society.

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There is always plenty of room in GeoPlan for Alumni news. As usual, we also welcome short articles that might be of interest to our geography and planning alumni. Please send all updates and articles to:
mariange@geog.utoronto.ca | 416-946-3148
Our UTAGA listserv reaches a broad alumni audience and you can find instructions on how to join at: geography.utoronto.ca/alumni/utaga/

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