Over the past couple of years, we have introduced several initiatives aimed at improving the undergraduate experience in Geography. As mentioned in previous newsletters, these have included new field courses in human and environmental geography and a new experiential learning course. The latter course places students with organizations outside the university where they gain practical experience in the application of geography skills.

I want to tell you now about four exciting new undergraduate initiatives that build on these efforts. The first is the Geography Math Help Centre (photo below). The Centre offers back-to-school math tutoring for undergraduate students feeling nervous about math skills that they may not have used in several years. It operates on a drop-in basis, staffed with TAs who are familiar with the range of math-related skills required in our courses. The rationale for the centre is two-fold. Students are often hesitant to take basic math questions to course TAs or instructors for fear of embarrassment or schedule conflict. While there are some math help centres in colleges and departments, these prioritize higher level math skills or specific courses in other departments. Our Math Help Centre is innovative in the context of teaching Geography, a discipline that can be especially challenging for students who may feel less confident in basic math, yet are expected to be competent working with numerical and statistical concepts in the department’s physical and human geography courses and particularly in the quantitative methods courses.

The second initiative is the Pathways to Success with Geography program that combines a series of discipline-specific workshops on navigating the curriculum and post-graduate opportunities, along with a mentorship program for second year students. The workshops offer a second-year orientation for Geography programs, guidance on the selection of third and fourth year courses, and advice on career opportunities and graduate school. The mentorship program links second and fourth year students to facilitate student exchanges on issues emerging from workshops, for peer advice, and to help both groups better anticipate life outside university.

The third initiative comes from the Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society. TUGS suggested this year that we create a new course for the GIS Minor on programming. We will therefore be offering a new course next year that will introduce students to the Fundamentals of Programming and to the application of these skills in geographic information systems. Students will learn how to use programming to edit spatial data, automate common processes, and conduct complex spatial analyses.

The final initiative arises from last year’s name change, when we added Planning to the name of the department. The name change reflects the importance of the Program in Planning in our graduate program and this year we have been exploring ways to enrich Planning education in the undergraduate program. As a first step, we are going to create a Focus in Planning. A Focus is similar to a Minor except that it requires fewer courses. In future, we are hoping to create a Minor in Planning as well. Our undergraduate students are particularly interested in developing hands-on skills and both the GIS Minor and Planning Focus help address that need.

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Joe Whitney was an environmental geographer and Chair of the Department of Geography from 1988-93. He was born in England and received his BA from Cambridge in 1950. He completed a teaching certificate at the University of Hull in 1952 and began his teaching career as Geography Master at Queen's College in Hong Kong, where he stayed for 11 years. While working in Hong Kong, Joe met famed environmental geographer, Gilbert White, who encouraged him to come to the University of Chicago for his PhD and was responsible for his developing an interest in the environment. Joe followed Gilbert White's suggestion and completed his dissertation at Chicago in 1969 on the administrative geography of China. Shortly after, he joined the Department of Geography at UofT as an Assistant Professor.

Based on field research in China, Vietnam and the Sudan, Joe wrote widely on the environment, most notably about soil erosion, waste management and rural energy use. Working with the Ford Foundation while on leave from UofT from 1979-81, he established the Institute of the Environment in Khartoum in the Sudan and organized the first gender and environment conferences there and later in Vietnam. Awarded more than $2.6 million in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development Research Centre, he led a number of important research and training projects in China and Vietnam, including the Soil Erosion and Land Management project in Guangdong Province, China from 1986-89, the Soil Erosion Management and Geographical Information System (SEMGIS) project on the Loess Plateau in China from 1988-92 (Phase I) and 1996-2001 (Phase II) and the Vietnam Environmental Training Project (VIETPRO) from 1993-98.

Joe became Professor Emeritus in 1993 and subsequently moved to the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, as Professor and Coordinator of its Urban Environmental Management Program from 1993-94. As Professor Emeritus, he was actively involved in several ongoing and new research projects in China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Joe made lasting contributions to international development not only with his research and publications but also through the training he provided on the environment to hundreds of government officials, members of non-government organizations, and university researchers in the Sudan, China and Southeast Asia.

Always on the go, Joe was engaged in academic projects and travel until shortly before his death. He was chairing a committee to sponsor Syrian refugees for Senior College at the University of Toronto, he recently completed a publication on the impact of Canadian international development funding to China, and he was researching the Whitney family connections in Japan in the 19th century. He fascinated friends and family with stories of his life, including meeting Ghandi and Sibelius as a youth and travelling around Scandinavia on a 25 pound scholarship at age 16. He was a kind, humble and gentle man who was well liked for his humour and ability to relate to everyone.
I am pleased to report that 2016 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 Jesse Hirsh as our speaker. Jesse brought the technology themes from his radio column on CBC to the field of planning, helping us imagine what Web 3.0 means for city building and public life.

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, in the box below. 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 13, 2017, when the Planning Alumni Committee will host the 21st Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. 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 or find us on Twitter and Facebook @uoftpac.

See you at the Social!

David McKay

2016 PAC Activities 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 2016, 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 ‘Northern Planning’ in November. At least two more skills modules are being planned for early 2017.
- PAC continued to support the Planning Workshop course by helping to co-ordinate topics and clients.

**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 San Francisco 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.

Visit [http://alumni.utoronto.ca/spring-social](http://alumni.utoronto.ca/spring-social) for more information and to purchase tickets. Interested in sponsoring this year’s event? Please contact Anna Wynveen at awynveen@bousfields.ca
On April 14, 2016 the Great Hall at Hart House was home to a great party: the 20th 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 internet strategist and broadcaster Jesse Hirsh. Jesse delved into how the internet, social media and web-based interaction have and will change community and city building. His discussion was well received by the crowd of professionals.

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’s promotional sponsor, NRU Publishing Inc., as well as ongoing support from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Building Industry and Land Development (BILD).

The generosity of the Social’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated:

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

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PAC Thanks:
BILD; NRU Publishing; Ontario Professional Planners Institute
2016 Awards Presentation

The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA), Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) and the Geography & Planning Department’s 22nd annual Awards Presentation evening on November 3rd, 2016, was a well-attended success, with more than 70 students receiving awards.

This year, UTAGA’s Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award recipients were Helen Huang and Edwin Li for their contributions as members of the Friends of Planning Alumni Committee. As a member of PAC’s communications team Helen organized and co-lead a workshop to teach Adobe design software to students, and coordinated a very successful edition of the annual Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop where planning students learned from professionals with a range of experiences. Edwin has been a dedicated volunteer on PAC since graduating in 2013 and continues to offer his energies to various aspects of PAC’s programming, from organizing a line-up of guest lecturers for the planning skills modules to now taking a lead on PAC’s finances and reporting. The UTAGA Honorary President Award was given to Mitchell Goldhar, the founder of SmartCentres. SmartCentres is a commercial real estate developer and owner of shopping centres which has developed over 250 shopping centres across Canada during the past two decades, the majority of which are anchored by Wal-Mart stores. Mitch has made outstanding contributions to the department, including helping to establish the prestigious John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning, creating the Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in Planning in 2003, and teaching Real Estate Development in the Program in Planning from 2000 to 2004.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was awarded in absentia to Engin Isin. Professor Isin received his PhD in Geography from the University of Toronto in 1990 and currently holds a Chair in Citizenship at the Faculty of Social Sciences, The Open University, UK. He joined The Open University in 2007 after fifteen years at York University where he was professor of social science (1993-2001) and Canada Research Chair (2002-2007). His research focuses on the politics of citizenship and how citizenship has been contested by its ‘others’ (strangers, outsiders, aliens). He is the author or co-author of five books, including: Being Digital Citizens (2015), Citizens without Frontiers (2012), Being Political (2002), Citizenship and Identity (1999), and Cities Without Citizens (1992). He has edited or co-edited 10 books and is the joint Chief Editor of the leading journal Citizenship Studies.
Award Winners 2016

UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

UTAGA Outstanding Performance Awards
Physical Geography: Lika Miao
Human Geography: Hafsah Siddiqui
Environmental Geography: Michelle Zhong
Methods/GIS: Aayesha Patel

UTAGA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Jacob Dimen-Wagner
Liam Fox

UTAGA Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Martin Marchiori-Wong

UTAGA Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award
Noel Ariyaratnam

GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Graduate Alpar Scholarship
Naomi Schwartz

John D. Barnes Geodetic Sciences Fellowship
Laura Bryson

John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Brock Bersaglio Lauren Kepkiewicz
Shannon Black Joshua Steckley
Sherena Hussain Nicole Van Lier

James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography
Julie Mah

Oscar J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship
Parastoo Hosseinibenhangi

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Aviva Coopersmith Anastasia Hervas
Simon Erlich Alexis Mitchell
Beyhan Farhadi

Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Sarah Ariano Jenny Cui

George Tatham / Geography Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Leah Montange

UTAGA J.B.R. Whitney Award
Adrian Lue

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Lauren An Stuart Burkimsher
Ira Banks Eric Forhan

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Izabela Molendowski

CIP Award for Academic Excellence
Matthew Hilder

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Matthew Hilder

Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation
Anni-Claudine Buelles
Stephanie Cirnu
Aviva Coopersmith

LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Ira Banks

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Lauren An
Keegan Butler
Alexandra Fortune-Rusynyk
Jonathan Kitchen
Holly Wacker
Louise Willard

Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Brandon Paniccia

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Jennifer Williamson

Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Lauren An Danielle Magsumbol
Keegan Butler Rebecca Roach
Adam Didycz Holly Wacker
Jonathan Kitchen Louise Willard

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Michelle Kears

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship
Maria Martelo
University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Aqsa Malik

EXTERNAL AWARDS (PROVINCIAL)

Donald F. Putnam / George Tatham / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Adam Dickinson

Edward Sorbara / Building Industry and Land Development (BILD) / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Nathan Stewart

J. M. Tomczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Adrian Khan

Michael Ralph Walsh / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Jillian Linton

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Christopher Webb

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Leah Forte

Urban Strategies / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Brandon Paniccia

U of T Planning Alumni / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Anni-Claudine Buelles

ESRI Canada Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Jeffrey Allen

CONNAUGHT INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
Phuong Dao
Yasmine Khan

ONTARIO TRILLIUM SCHOLARSHIP
Hyun-Chul Kim
Diala Lteif

EXTERNAL AWARDS (FEDERAL)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
Pamela Tetford
Michael Wang

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
Stephanie Cirnu
Andrew Morgan
Aviva Coopersmith
Rachel Phillips
Amanda Crompton
Stephanie Stanov
Sean Grisdale
Kasia Vasileva
Matthew Hunter
Zyler Wang
Rebecca Jacobs
Heather Wilson
Michelle Kearns

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral
Kunitomo Kamizaki
Lea Ravensbergen-Hodgins

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship
Cynthia Morinville

UTAGA Award Winners 2016

UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award
Mitchell Goldhar

Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award
Helen Huang
Edwin Li

PAC Committee members Helen Huang and Edwin Li receiving the award from Fenton’s brother Gordon and sister Sophia
Every year the University of Toronto Department of Geography and Planning hosts a weekly lecture series – renowned and emerging scholars from the various subfields of Geography and Planning are invited to present a public lecture on a Friday afternoon, usually from 3-5pm in Sid Smith Hall. This year we are doing something innovative: faculty member Kanishka Goonewardena is coordinating the Intersections series in conjunction with our department's research clusters. The Political Ecology, Transportation Geography, and Political Spaces clusters, along with the graduate student-led Black Geographies Reading Group, all proposed a theme and a set of activities. These groups were assigned funds accordingly to organize lectures, workshops, reading groups, and/or panel discussions for Intersections. In addition, we have continued to partner with other lecture series on campus, such as the Development Seminar series and School of Environment, and to sponsor a Physical Geography lecture series.

The result has been a phenomenal Fall semester. We initiated the season with a talk on the gendered and racial dynamics of land struggles in Latin America with our own Prof. Sharlene Mollett. Since then we have seen a wonderful breadth of topics covered in our lectures – among them, a physical geography lecture by Jennifer Blesh on agriculture and ecosystem management, and Don Mitchell speaking on the historical geography of urban revolt in New York City. A panel of artists and curators presented on their work that incorporates Anishnaabe language and territorial knowledge, and we have hosted graduate student workshops on Black Geographies and on Métis ethical and legal practices that bear upon human-fish relations. Most importantly, we have seen a deeper engagement in the Intersections series, with collaboration across a wider array of faculty and students who are working to coordinate student workshops, and schedule and host speakers. The programming continues this Winter, with highly anticipated talks by David Harvey, Eve Tuck, Marion Webster, Gavin Walker, Alison Mountz, Elizabeth Delmelle, and more. We will close the lecture season in April with talks by some particularly renowned scholars: in early April we will co-sponsor a public conversation on Black Lives Matter between Robin D.G. Kelley and Fred Moten; we will host Erik Swyngedouw for a lecture post-AAG. Find our schedule at https://intersectionstoronto.wordpress.com/schedule/.

In Memoriam: Cecil Houston 1943-2016

Cecil Houston, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at the University of Windsor, and former Professor of Geography at the University of Toronto Mississauga died on September 20, 2016. Professor Houston was a scholar of Irish-Canadian studies and former President of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies. He received his PhD from the University of Toronto under the supervision of Professor Neil Field and joined Geography at Erindale College (now UTM) as an assistant professor in 1972. He held a variety of positions at the University of Toronto, including Chair of Geography; Social Sciences Associate Dean and Vice-Principal, Instructional Development for Toronto’s Erindale College; Special Assistant to the Principal, University of Toronto at Mississauga; and Director of the University of Toronto’s Communication, Culture and Information Technology Program. He moved to the University of Windsor in 2002 to take up the position of Dean.
The Master of Science in Planning class of 2016 presented their major research projects at a public event on April 12, 2016. Held at the Centre for Social Innovation Annex, planning graduates discussed their topics and most interesting findings in a series of panel discussions. Audience members had a chance to ask questions and situate the research in Toronto's civic discourse, all while enjoying drinks and refreshments.

**THE CHALLENGE OF BOUNDARIES**

This is grizzly country! Regional planning and ecological corridors in Alberta - Nicole Percival
Planning and managing the boundary of Rouge National Urban Park - Meaghan Maund
A new road order? Cycle space in Berlin, Münster, and Toronto - Andrew Picard
Walking between gated communities - Carolina Santos Del Río
Enclaves of capital in Myanmar: Urbanization and the Dawei Special Economic Zone - Carli Melo

**BALANCING OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY IN A RAPIDLY GROWING CITY**

Regeneration along the Dupont Corridor - Angus McNeill-Knowles
Lights, camera, action: Toronto's studio district as a catalyst for economic development - Giulia Ilacqua
Revitalizing commercial retail on main streets: Best practices and lessons learned from Canadian and American cases - Lillian D’Souza
Planning for equitable commercial spaces along rapid transit lines - Natalie Corbo

**GGAPSS Critical Campus Walking Tour**

During graduate orientation week in September 2017, Adam Zendel (PhD candidate in Geography) guided a tour detailing the history of activism, resistance, and student organizing alongside the ongoing corporatization and privatization of the University of Toronto. This tour also highlighted many important student services on campus.

**Transportation Research Cluster**

The department established a new research cluster in transportation in 2016. Faculty members with interests in transportation include Steven Farber, Michael Widener, Paul Hess, Andre Sorensen, Alan Walks, Anna Kramer, Ron Buliung and Matti Siemiatycki. The cluster is engaged in research on urban and regional transportation and land use planning, and its intersection with social, economic, health and environmental conditions of people and places. Members of the cluster have expertise in the following areas:

- Automobility and automobile dependence
- Land use, urban form and street design
- Social equity and environmental justice
- Accessibility and participation
- Time use and travel behaviour
- Transport, health and environment
- Affordability and gentrification
- Child and youth transport studies
- Transport and critical disability studies
Assistant Professor Alexandra Flynn joined Human Geography at UTSC as a socio-legal scholar specializing in property law and urban governance. She is currently involved in a long-term project examining the relationship between Indigenous and municipal governments in planning decisions. In addition to her academic work, Alexandra has over ten years of experience as a lawyer and senior policy official, most recently at the City of Toronto where she focused on intergovernmental relations.

Assistant Professor Anna Kramer has joined the department for a two-year appointment as an Assistant Professor in Planning. Dr. Kramer holds a PhD in Planning from the University of Waterloo and has been working at Metrolinx in the Research and Planning Analytics (2014-16) and Economic Analysis and Investment Strategy (2013-14) units. She has also been a researcher at the Neptis Foundation, co-authoring the ‘Growing Pains’ report on population and dwelling patterns in Vancouver and Toronto.

Dr. Wes Attewell is a new postdoctoral fellow from the University of British Columbia. He is the recipient of the University of Toronto’s inaugural Faculty of Arts and Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship. He is researching the spaces of logistics work that increasingly serve as the condition of possibility for development and humanitarian interventions in theatres of conflict and emergency. He is being mentored by Matt Farish, Deborah Cowen, and Emily Gilbert.

Dr. Maxx Hartt is also a new postdoctoral fellow who received his PhD from the University of Waterloo and is working with Jason Hackworth on the relationship between shrinking cities and community health and vitality as measured by quality of life.

Dr. Monir Moniruzzaman, also a postdoctoral fellow, received his PhD from McMaster University. He is currently working on a couple of projects. Firstly, he is using the recently collected student database (i.e. StudentMoveTO) to investigate modal choice behavior of students while focusing on the students’ attitudes towards different transportation modes. Secondly, he is working on a bicycle ridership model and uses the model to explore micro-scale features of the bike environment. Lastly, he is working on a new SSRHC project (PI: Steven Farber) to explore transportation-related barriers for recent refugees from Syria.

Appointments

Professor Amrita Daniere was appointed Vice Principal, Academic, and Dean at UTM for a two-year term. Amrita has extensive administrative experience, including Director of the Program in Planning (2002-05); Chair, Department of Geography, UTM (2006-10); Graduate Chair, Department of Geography & Program in Planning (2007-09); and Vice-Dean, Graduate, UTM (2009-14).

Associate Professor Matti Siemiatycki was appointed Dean’s Special Advisor on the School of Cities Initiative. He will take the lead on behalf of the Faculty for the further elaboration of plans for the proposed School of Cities and for its implementation. Working with leaders from other divisions and faculty from Arts & Science, Matti will advise on the programs and activities associated with the research, education and outreach dimensions of the school and play a critical leadership role in the planning and design of this new academic building.

Awards

David Seitz, a recent PhD graduate of the department was the recipient of the 2015-16 Faculty of Arts and Science Superior Teaching Award.

Jessica Finlayson, the department graduate advisor was the recipient of the 2015-16 Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Administrative Service Award.

Associate Professor Emeritus Lino Grima, founding Canadian Co-Chair of the Sierra Club Bi-National Great Lakes Committee (BGLC) was awarded the Raymond J. Sherman International Award. This award honors extraordinary volunteer service toward international conservation. The work of the BGLC is an outstanding example of how citizen organisations can work across borders to protect shared ecosystems.
Meet the Department’s Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Award Recipients

**Trudeau Scholars** are outstanding students who are interested in growing in a multidisciplinary learning environment and in addressing important questions for Canada and the world. This prestigious three-year $180,000 national scholarship is awarded to up to 15 candidates in Canada each year in the humanities and social sciences. **Trudeau Fellows** are university faculty members who are outstanding researchers studying creative solutions to important issues and are recognized for their ability to inform public debate beyond the academic sphere. Each year, up to five individuals across Canada receive this highly competitive three-year $225,000 award.

**Tammara Soma - 2014 Trudeau Scholar**

Tammara is a food system planner and a Doctoral candidate in urban planning with a specialization in food waste. She has worked with organizations such as Sustain Ontario and FoodShare Toronto, with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Greenbelt Section and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Her community service includes serving as a member of the steering committee of Food Secure Canada, and she was one of the founding members of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council. Tammara blogs for the Huffington Post and is the Co-founder of the International Food Loss and Food Waste Studies group (serving as its Vice-Chair from 2009 to 2010).

With support from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, Tammara launched Canada’s first Social Innovation Lab on Food Waste and Food Insecurity in 2016, which will determine policy options to address one of the century’s biggest challenges: preventing food waste. A Social Innovation Lab approach will be used, which strategically brings together a variety of stakeholders to gain a deep understanding of the system, then identify and prototype innovations and opportunities that can address root causes of challenges.

**Cynthia Morinville - 2016 Trudeau Scholar**

Cynthia is a third year PhD student in Human Geography working with Rajyashree N. Reddy, Deborah Cowen and Scott Prudham. Her research explores the lived experiences of informal workers in the global South earning their livelihoods from discarded electronic waste. E-waste is the fastest growing stream of waste worldwide. An estimated 20 to 50 million tons of electronics are discarded globally every year. E-waste contains both valuable components and extremely harmful substances, posing significant environmental and human exposure risks when recycled in uncontrolled informal settings. Her research explores the persistence of e-waste, in economies, communities and bodies, and seeks to shed light on the ways in which rare metals embedded deep within our electronics are valued, extracted, and returned to markets. Using ethnographic methods, Cynthia looks at several sites of transport and dismantling: Accra, Ghana; Delhi, India; and Singapore. These locations, although very different, are juncture points where e-waste is the object of extensive manual labour and multiple economic transactions. It is these links and the social relationships therein that direct the movements of e-waste – its harmful effects and the potential re-extracted profits. A focus on agency and representation threads through this work as she seeks to offer alternative narratives around the global e-waste crisis.

**Deborah Cowen - 2016 Trudeau Fellow**

An Associate Professor in the department, Deborah looks at how conflicts over infrastructure have come to define our political landscape. As reported in the U of T News, she will use the fellowship to pursue an ambitious three-year project entitled *Reassembling the Infrastructures of Citizenship*. “Infrastructure is arguably at the centre of political life today,” says Cowen. “When they work, infrastructures bring us food, water, power, resources, consumer goods, information, security, and connections to loved ones. But the same structures and systems that enable greater mobility for some also often disconnect and dispossess others.” One clear example is the Alberta tar sands. Industry pressure to get bitumen to transnational markets has provoked controversial pipeline construction with social, environmental and Indigenous groups fighting the projects. At the centre of these struggles are questions of competing sovereignties on lands that remain unceded or contested. With an ultimate goal of finding ways toward a more just and sustainable future, Cowen’s project aims to rethink policy and political community from precisely the points of conflict, injury, and difference that lie at the heart of infrastructure crises in Canada. Central to her approach is engagement and learning from the communities whose lives are profoundly affected by infrastructure decisions but who are often at the margins of contemporary political life.
The Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning brings accomplished planning scholars and/or planning professionals into the department for extended periods of time each year. The objective of the Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship is to enrich the planning milieu of the department by stimulating an ever-changing planning discourse amongst faculty and students. While the parameters of these visits can vary from year to year, the Bousfield Distinguished Visitors generally offer graduate planning courses and lead public lectures and seminars while in residence. The Department of Geography & Planning was very fortunate to have had Professor Norma Rantisi, from the Department of Geography, Planning & Environment at Concordia University, as the Distinguished Bousfield Visitor for the majority of the Fall term of 2016.

While in Toronto this past Fall, Professor Rantisi, a noted expert in industrial restructuring, social economy, and workforce development, taught a graduate course entitled ‘Workforce Development in the New Economy: Planning Possibilities and Challenges’. She gave a formal public lecture as part of our Intersections Seminar Series entitled ‘Symbolic Capital and the Remaking of the City’. This lecture dealt with gentrification in the Mile End neighbourhood in Montreal. On the research side, she had an opportunity to collaborate with Professor Deborah Leslie on a research monograph for publication dealing with processes of deskilling in the Cirque du Soleil’s workforce. Professor Rantisi also participated in meetings with planning students and faculty from U of T, York University and the University of Waterloo regarding their participation in the ‘Planners Network: The Organization of Progressive Planning’ run out of Cornell University.

Faculty and students alike truly enjoyed Professor Rantisi’s time in the department and wish her well as she heads back to Concordia University to continue her teaching and research. She will also take on a new role there as Graduate Coordinator in January, 2017.

Working with the Community: the Thorncliffe Park Planning Studio

In the winter term of 2016, I organized the Introductory Studio in Urban Design and Planning as an exercise in collaboration with the Thorncliffe Park Women’s Committee to build a more vibrant community. The graduate course culminated in an interactive workshop on April 16th, 2016, where eight students gave a joint, 20-minute presentation before setting up shop at tables where citizens and stakeholders could hear more about the proposals (see p.13) and offer ideas of their own.

A diverse group of residents participated in the workshop, as well as long-time community leaders like Sabina Ali and Pat Moore, City Councillor Jon Burnside, Member of Parliament Rob Oliphant, and the Head of the Tower and Neighborhood Renewal Office at the City of Toronto, Silvia Fraser. The student team’s design strategies and proposals triggered concrete discussions about designing urban transformation in Thorncliffe Park. These transformations included temporary structures for informal businesses, a redesigned shipping container for a café in the park, reuse of big box retail for social entrepreneurs, networks of landscaped public spaces as a means for youth employment programs, a new community center, a revitalized Leaside Park, night markets, and pedestrian and bike paths for commuting.

What is truly distinctive about the design approach used for this studio is the concept of ‘informal urbanisms’. Rather than proposing predetermined formulas that are common in urban design, the team looked at existing approaches of informalities as strategies for transformation.

Thus, the team built upon informal strategies such as volunteer networks and community organizing, informal economies such as markets and the sale of goods and services by residents, and informal designs such as public space furniture, temporary structures and community gardens as crucial to the vibrant future of Thorncliffe Park. These adaptive and nimble community-based approaches are far more effective because they are grounded in the realities and assets of the neighborhood.

The team also spent quite a bit of time in on-the-ground research and community dialogue over a 9-month period to understand the assets and opportunities in Thorncliffe Park. The design strategies were fine-tuned to actual needs and opportunities of this particular neighborhood. Thus, the team designed physical projects as means as well as ends. For example, a program of planting trees and flowers is also about longer-term youth empowerment, the design of temporary structures is about nurturing informal businesses and wealth generation, and designing accessible public spaces is about community building. Overall, the design proposals are pieces of a larger system of urban transformation and longer-term processes of community empowerment.
In Memoriam: John Bousfield 1929-2016

John Bousfield graduated from Lawrence Park Collegiate in 1947 where he was president of the student council. He went on to study Geography at the University of Toronto, obtaining an honours Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. He then travelled to the United States and finished his post-secondary education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, graduating with a Master of Science degree in City and Regional Planning in 1953. He went on to become one of Canada’s most prominent urban planners. For over 60 years, he practiced as a consultant on a full range of planning and development projects including the preparation and processing to approval of official plans and amendments, zoning by-laws and amendments, site plan approval, urban renewal studies and schemes, municipal boundary changes and development plans for new communities, brownfield sites, new business parks and wind farms for both private and public sector clients, mainly in Southern Ontario. He also had extensive experience appearing before the Ontario Municipal Board as a highly respected expert witness. Among his noteworthy accomplishments was a prescient proposal in 1958 for a green belt around Toronto. In the 1950’s, he was Planning Director for Scarborough where he was responsible for the (then) Township’s first Official Plan in 1959. In the 1960’s he was part of an illustrious team of planners and architects who planned the new community of Erin Mills. In 1967, he authored the seminal Toronto Waterfront Plan and in 1974, he established John Bousfield Associates, now Bousfields, which had grown to a staff complement of about 40 by 2016. Mr. Bousfield was elected to the Canadian Institute of Planners’ College of Fellows in 1997. The John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning was established in his honour in 2007 in the Department of Geography & Planning through a major donation and a matching grant from the University of Toronto. The Visitorship has enriched the Program in Planning immensely since its establishment and the department is proud to be hosting such a prestigious position in his name.

MScPl Student Design Proposals from the Thorncliffe Park Planning Studio

CAFE IN THE PARK

The Thorncliffe Park Women’s Committee is in the midst of applying for an exciting new opportunity in the community: a café in the park. In collaboration with Market 707 at the Scadding Court Community Centre, the café would provide parents and students with a space to meet and relax, while also providing employment opportunities for local youth.

WHAT THORNCLIFFE PARK DRIVE COULD BE

In the scenario proposed, there are bike lanes added, the pedestrian path had been widened, and the apartment building properties have been opened to create space for new gardens, seating and shelters. Interventions such as these help transform the primary travel route through the neighborhood, Thorncliffe Park Drive, into a truly great street.
We all have seen the growth of mapping on the web - online maps are everywhere! This is a welcome trend for cartographers and GIS practitioners, as more maps are being made and used than ever before. Among the many communities who are expanding the role of mapping and ‘geovisualization’ in serving their interests are those involved in historical research - not only historians as such, but heritage societies, museums, public history organizations, librarians and archivists, local history enthusiasts, and many others such as geographers and urban planners who are seeking to learn about the present and future from historical trends.

To make these maps and to do this kind of historical analysis, they all need historical geographic data - historical maps in GIS form. Over recent years, many people from the U of T have approached me about finding and using these data. If I cannot help them, the first place I send them is to Marcel Fortin, the Map and Data Librarian at the Robarts Library. Although maps and GIS data in general are much more ‘open’ and widely available than they were a decade ago, Marcel and I have both lamented that there is no organized way of finding historical geographic data in Canada to use for these purposes. In so many instances, academic or public projects have done excellent historical research and mapping, but have had no standardized method to preserve and distribute their findings and data. We have each had many similar conversations over the last few years within the national professional associations we belong to, those of geographers, cartographers, and map librarians.

Therefore, in 2014 we made a proposal to SSHRC (the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) for a Canadian Historical Geographic Information Systems Partnership Development project. Marcel Fortin was proposed as the director with three co-directors, 15 academic and non-academic partners, and myself as project manager. We received a modest ‘Partnership Development’ grant for 2015-17, to achieve three objectives:

1. to do research to find out the best practices for acquiring, distributing, using and preserving Canadian historical GIS data - to be made freely available to all, both academics and private citizens
2. to build a community of partners and collaborators interested in developing and using these resources
3. to build pilot project websites to test how to design and implement a Canadian historical geo-data portal, and a selection of applications for historical web-mapping.

We are half-way through the project now, and information about our progress is available on the project website, Geohist.ca. At the moment some of the research ‘White Papers’ have been posted, and a set of blogs have been written outlining our activities - but the pilot project websites are not active yet. Work by project partners and research assistants is ongoing. A current student in the Program in Planning, Haydi Wong, is acting as research assistant here in our office. Our main focus is working on the historical web-mapping applications. We are taking old maps and data (such as a few maps from the Historical Atlas of Canada project, www.historicalatlas.ca) and re-working them using three different web-mapping platforms (arcgis.com, mapbox.com and carto.com) in order to compare and contrast their capabilities. The idea is to help non-GIS users (such as most historians) find the fastest and best route to web-mapping their research, depending on their own goals and constraints.

We held a conference in June 2016 attended by about 60 people in-house, including students, academics, librarians and various community members (it was also broadcast online). We expect to hold another ‘end-of-project’ conference in June 2017, to report on where we are at and where we propose to go. It is hoped that this groundwork will lead to a larger project fulfilling the vision of making historical GIS and web-mapping more easily available for everyone.
Walking and cycling have always been my favourite ways of moving around my hometown Moscow, Russia. Back in early 2000s, commuter cycling infrastructure was not part of planning in Russian cities. Cyclists had to use sidewalks and park paths to avoid roads and aggressive motorists. Interested to learn how cities could become more comfortable for cyclists, in 2008 I joined the U of T Master’s in Planning program. Under the supervision of Professor Paul Hess and with support from Nancy Smith Lea, Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), and Professor Ron Buliung, I conducted a study on motivators and barriers to cycling in Toronto. Meanwhile, important changes were taking place in Moscow, which in 2010 was ranked the most congested city in Europe. To address congestion, the Moscow government unveiled its new Transportation Program, which among other innovative measures included plans to build bike lanes, install bicycle parking, and promote commuter cycling. Embarking on this reform, Moscow has demonstrated unprecedented openness to international best practices. Cycling activists, experts, and officials visited cities around the globe to study best practices and invited international experts to help develop plans and design cycling infrastructure.

On deciding to pursue a PhD in Planning at U of T under the supervision of Professor Paul Hess, I focus on the reasons for a fundamental change in Moscow’s approach to transportation and cycling. I am applying the policy transfer and policy mobility frameworks which are used to theorize how policies are borrowed and implemented in a different context. I interviewed Russian and international experts, planners, academics, officials, and cyclists from all walks of life to learn how ideas they had seen in Europe, North and South America, such as bike share programs, cycling events and infrastructure, we got assembled in Moscow in both familiar and unique ways.

I hope that better understanding of how cycling ideas were introduced and policies have been implemented in Moscow will help understand factors that facilitate dissemination of cycling policies in cities with different planning contexts.

Graduate Student Profile (MScPl and PhD Planning): Asya Bidordinova

Kazakhstan has much to do with cold war history. Beginning in the 1950’s, the Soviet Union moved forward with an astounding array of scientific and military projects that produced space and nuclear technologies, ballistic missile defense systems, and a biological weapons program so clandestine that production facilities never appeared on area maps. All of these projects required massive investments in laboratories, test sites, and bedroom communities for an elite echelon of scientists, military personnel, and their families. Indeed, Kazakhstan is home to several of the Soviet’s most prized military-industrial and defense landscapes, including former closed cities: the small modern hamlets where leading cold war technicians, young families, and military conscripts lived and recreated in elaborate suburban environments.

The end of the Soviet Union at the close of 1991 brought unimaginable changes to millions of people. Of particular interest to me are the ways in which former defense industrial landscapes, infrastructures, laboratory complexes, and their attendant closed and/or secret cities have been transformed in the post-Soviet period. My dissertation project examines the political, social, economic, and environmental afterlives of cold war science and technology by looking to three locations in Kazakhstan: 1) The Baikonur Cosmodrome, the world’s oldest and largest space launch site; 2) Stepnogorsk, a primary Soviet biological weapons facilities and uranium mining complex; and 3) Sary Shagan, one of the Soviet’s premier ballistic missile research and test sites. Taken together, these places provide a window into a diverse set of post-Soviet landscapes. What kinds of economies have developed in and around these sites? How does extensive environmental pollution affect politics at local, national, and international scales? How are resident populations affected by municipal decline? This research has required that I spend several years in Kazakhstan and work closely with many terrific people who helped me to better understand the post-Soviet period and greatly expand my Russian language skills.

I have a BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a double major in History and Russian studies. I received my MS from the Geography Department at Michigan State University where I worked on urban monuments and memorials in Kazakhstan, looking for socio-political factors behind altering, maintaining, or effacing Soviet history in the built landscape. Robert Lewis and Matt Farish have supervised my research at U of T since I began doctoral work in 2013.

Graduate Student Profile (PhD Geography): Robert Kopack

Old Soviet rocket in Baikonur, Kazakhstan
Graduate Student Profile (MA Geography): Simon Erlich

My academic path has been greatly influenced by a number of the exemplary Professors within the University of Toronto’s Geography department. Initially wanting to be an Indiana Jones-esque archaeologist coming into the university setting, my fantasies of discovering world-altering artifacts quickly met the reality of modern archaeology: not the same as Hollywood presents it to be (sorry fellow dreamers). Enter Dr. Sarah Wakefield’s first year geography class, GGR107 (a class I’m currently a TA in – talk about full circle). A world facing environmental catastrophe? Persistent inequality across populations? The fact that food, something I consume at least three times per day, plays a major role in contributing to these issues? Suddenly my adventurist nature found something tangible and benevolent to dedicate itself to. Coffee-no wait, that’s just what’s constantly on my mind as a graduate student-I mean food! It was like finding the holy grail of my educational desire and it had been in front of my nose all along (literally!). Taking that first year course has led me to where I am today.

Today I am a second year MA student in Human Geography being supervised by the ever-inspiring and always-supportive Dr. Michael Ekers and Dr. Scott Prudham. My research is grounded in critical food studies and focuses on retail food cooperatives within the city of Toronto. I am interested in their potential to answer critiques of the local food movement around access and affordability. In addition, my research attempts to gauge their potential transformative role in forwarding food system change. I have been collecting interview and survey data from two prominent cooperatives in the city, the Karma Cooperative and the West End Food Co-op.

My aim is to leverage the knowledge gained in this research to more broadly consider the cooperative model as an alternative to pro-capitalist, profit-driven businesses. It may end up being the basis for considering a career in the cooperative sector.

Undergraduate Student Profile: Bronwen Hunter

This June I will be graduating with a major in sociology and a double minor in human geography and GIS. I am also one of the Co-Presidents for the Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society (TUGS) this year. This is my second year on TUGS and it has been a privilege to continue representing such an amazing undergraduate society and community. This year we have an incredibly motivated and passionate executive team and together we have made lasting contributions to undergraduate geography curriculum, on top of hosting socials and academic seminars for our students. Also through the Geography & Planning Department, I have gained valuable editing experience during my involvement with Landmarks (the U of T undergraduate geography journal). You can catch my photograph of the Scarborough Bluffs on the front cover of the Fall 2016 issue. http://geography.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Landmarks_2016_Journal.pdf

After graduation, I am hoping to further pursue studies in GIS and eventually enter the workforce with this field in mind. My studies in sociology and human geography have allowed me to critically engage in a number of issues that surround social and geographic inequality, while GIS has provided a platform through which I am able to draw inferences on these issues using spatial analysis. I have had the opportunity to showcase these classroom-developed skills in the real-world throughout my internship at the Martin Prosperity Institute for this academic year, where research is used as an instrument for policy change and to promote prosperity and equality for all. On my downtime I enjoy running, exploring, reading and photography. You’ll most likely spot me in the TUGS office, in a coffee shop or at the CN Tower where I work part-time.

Undergraduate Student Profile: Clara Risk

I am a fourth year student studying Physical and Environmental Geography, GIS, and Forest Conservation. I’m really interested in using GIS to solve environmental problems. Through the Department of Geography, I’ve had many great opportunities that made my undergraduate experience very positive. I was able to travel to Quebec for a field methods course in 2015. On the field course (GGR390), three other students and I collected data about the Sutton River, and completed a research project using this data upon our return to U of T. I also had the opportunity to complete another research project in my third year with four other students which focused on GIS. Our project looked at using GIS to select a location for a quarry that would minimize the environmental and social impacts on the area. I am now working with a professor to develop a manuscript for this project and also interning at Environics Analytics to improve my data management skills. At U of T, I am an executive member of the Trinity College French Language Society and I volunteer with the Blue Crew.
GGR381 is a field course in Environmental Geography that studies Toronto’s urban metabolism, which encompasses the provisioning of everyday services and materials such as food, water and energy, used by people living in a specific area. Through field trips across the Greater Toronto Area and by linking field trips to theoretical concepts, the course teaches students to consider practical solutions to the city’s socio-environmental challenges.

As a class we discovered that within this space we call a city, activities such as using a washroom, walking paved streets, drinking water, or finding shelter in buildings, involved processes that we may take for granted. Before taking this course, the production of services and materials for urban residents was a distant unacknowledged fact, but to confront the City of Toronto’s Ashbridges Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant or the CBM Sand and Gravel Pits in Guelph, where materials used at construction sites in Toronto are extracted, was an awakening experience. Although some of the sites were a bit – how shall we put it – in-your-face-smelly, the theme of networks of provisioning was evident even when we were holding our noses!

Through the various readings and trips, we learned that access to healthy food or other basic necessities was often an issue of social justice. As a class, we visited three spaces in the span of two days that dealt with food in the city: the Ontario Food Terminal, Ryerson’s Urban Farm, and Black Creek Community Farm. The experience of food in the city for most people involves trips to the grocery store, where the produce may have been distributed via the Ontario Food Terminal after being grown using industrial farming techniques and/or transported a great distance.

The irony one can observe in a place such as the food terminal is that there is an abundance of food sold to supermarkets and other retailers across the city, yet malnutrition and hunger still occur in Toronto. Meanwhile, farms such as those at Ryerson and Black Creek try to close a gap in the disparity between who has access to healthy, sustainably grown food and who does not. Interestingly, some academics have critiqued urban agriculture for subsidizing the capitalist society we live in, which has arguably created the inequality and hunger in the first place. However, one can hope that the pockets of change driven by well-meaning people such as those running these farms, could amount to a significant social change—especially if those efforts were not marginalized and rather became part of a transformative restructuring in terms of how we connect to food in general.

After our field trips and extensive readings, I have come to understand that the city is actually an ecosystem. The course really allowed for some deep thinking about the human place in our spaces and how those spaces are defined and connected. Albert Einstein once said “you can’t blame gravity for falling in love” but I can blame this course for giving me a deeper understanding of this city, its inner workings, complexities, and flaws, which has made me fall in love with Toronto all over again. However, I also understand now just how much work needs to be done if we want to build a more sustainable and socially-just city.
On Monday, September 5th, I made my way with other MScPl students to the West Coast where we encountered our first planning challenge as we travelled from the airport to an AirBnb in Oakland. After a great deal of time spent trying to learn the fare system and trying to navigate the multiple transit providers that brought us to our home for the week, we began to ask the questions that any planning student might ask: Why is the transit fare system so complex? Why are ticketing box operators unable to explain the fare system? Why is it so difficult to transition between different modes of public transit? Over the next few days, we explored these questions in our discussions with professionals as well as questions about housing affordability, activating public spaces, and ensuring resiliency, but within a policy and political context distinctly different from that in Toronto.

The group, joined this year by Adjunct Professor John Farrow as the faculty representative, began its formal itinerary on Tuesday with a walking tour of City Hall and the Civic Center, given by a local volunteer. These buildings speak to a San Francisco come and gone – both literally and figuratively. The original City Hall and Civic Centre were destroyed several years after their completion in the 1906 Earthquake, and were rebuilt to be earthquake-proof. The new buildings were inspired by the neo-classical architecture and baroque architecture of European origins, such as the dome of Les Invalides (France). The San Francisco we experienced is decidedly no longer merely echoing the greatness of its European counterparts, but instead is a leader in the disruptive technologies and change that speak to a city that has established its own ‘greatness’ on the global stage.

In the afternoon, following a break for some of the best burritos and horchata that San Francisco has to offer, we were welcomed into the office of Nelson Nygaard for a meeting with transportation planner Ben Kaufman. Ben shared a main objective of the firm’s work: to turn demand away from single occupancy vehicles by 1) improving public transportation efficiency, 2) reforming parking, and 3) improving performance metrics by reforming policy. The first ‘shock’ to the room occurred when Ben informed us that muni (San Francisco’s municipal public transportation system) is the slowest in the United States, travelling at an average speed of 8 miles per hour. What’s more, he informed us that the Bay Area has over 20 transportation agencies running routes. We finally understood why the fare system was complicated. We learned that the local government has made some important steps to addressing these challenges, but we also began to understand why Uber originated in the Bay Area!

Day two started with an immersive workshop with Daniel Homsey, the project manager of the Neighbourhood Empowerment Network (NEN). Homsey compared San Francisco to a cruise ship, insofar as it is a place through which residents pass on their way to their (individual) destinations with little consideration for their impact on the environment, and little development of the social capital necessary to survive natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes, flooding, etc). NEN’s solution to this problem was based on the collective impact model, where common goals are found despite individuals’ differing trajectories. In a world where issues of climate resiliency and vulnerability are issues that can impact us all, this immersive workshop introduced us to a new way of leading change in our community back in Toronto in order to prevent, and where necessary, be prepared for, such events.

Our afternoon at the Department of Planning brought our attention back to public spaces and housing. Our meeting with Neil Hrushowy on turning ‘pavements into parks’ inspired us to think about how piloting temporary design opportunities can lead to important changes in the ways that people use and enjoy their city. He shared insights on how his team at the Department of Planning is working towards streamlining the permit process for approvals, and is creatively overcoming financing challenges, in order to convert more parking spots into parks.

Our conversation with Kimia Haddadan at the Department of...
Planning helped us to understand why accommodation – even for a several night stay – in San Francisco was unaffordable. The second shock of the trip rippled through our group: the average monthly rental price of a one bedroom apartment in San Francisco is $3,670, and in Oakland, $2,190. This put our conversations around affordability in Toronto into a whole new perspective. Our conversation with Kimia also helped illuminate the challenges to building high-rise dwellings and apartments in the Bay Area. The photo (previous page) shows the lack of high-rise building in San Francisco, which is surprising given the high demand for rental housing in the city.

Our final day provided us with an opportunity to develop an appreciation for the Bay Area, and specifically, Oakland. Our morning started with a discussion on how inclusive and equitable planning can take place through participatory budgeting. Ginny Browne, the project manager at the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP), told us about how the PBP team engages residents and helps build new leaders amongst groups who are typically underrepresented in planning processes. Robert Ogilvia, Oakland Director of SPUR Ideas + Action for a Better City gave a compelling talk, followed by a walking tour, on the potential and challenges for developing downtown Oakland. Robert gave us a background on the unique policy and political context in the Bay Area, and how SPUR uses its board of directors to build a vision for growth in Oakland with buy-in from multiple sectors. He showed us some of the early signs of growth and change in Oakland with Uber’s investment in a new corporate headquarters (see photo below).

In the moments between scheduled activities, the group enjoyed the opportunity to explore a multitude of unique districts and sites, while building new and deeper relationships. Seeing planning in a new context gave us an opportunity to reflect on who we want to be as planners, to be inspired by new parts of planning that were previously unknown to us, and to develop a contextual understanding of the urban dynamics that are shaping cities across North America. We are all especially 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 constantly providing insightful questions and valuable perspectives on the planning issues and great spirit in coping with our group of 16 women!

Lastly, a very special thanks to the three student organizers Aviva Coopersmith, Minha Hassim, Keegan Butler – thank you for giving up so much of your summer and taking so much care to organize an inspiring and educational trip.

**Faculty Books**

*Calculating Property Relations: Chicago’s Wartime Industrial Mobilization, 1940-1950*  
*(University of Georgia Press, 2016)*  

**by Robert Lewis**

Combining theories of calculation and property relations and using an array of archival sources, this book focuses on the building and decommissioning of state-owned defense factories in World War II-era Chicago. Robert Lewis’s rich trove of material—drawn from research on more than six hundred federally funded wartime industrial sites in metropolitan Chicago—supports three major conclusions. First, the relationship of the key institutions of the military-industrial complex was refashioned by their calculative actions on industrial property. The imperatives of war forced the federal state and the military to become involved in industrial matters in an entirely new manner. Second, federal and military investment in defense factories had an enormous effect on the industrial geography of metropolitan Chicago. The channeling of huge lumps of industrial capital into sprawling plants on the urban fringe had a decisive impact on the metropolitan geographies of manufacturing. Third, the success of industrial mobilization was made possible through the multiscale relations of national and locational interaction. National policy could only be realized by the placing of these relations at the local level.

*Robert Lewis* is a Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning at University of Toronto, St. George.
**Domains of Freedom: Justice, Citizenship and Social Change in South Africa**  
*University of Cape Town Press, 2016*  
*by Thembele Kepe (Co-Editor)*

This collection acknowledges the enormous expectations placed on the shoulders of the South African revolution to produce an alternative political regime in response to apartheid and global neoliberalism. It does not lament the inability of South Africa's democracy to provide deeper freedoms, or suggest that since it hasn't this is some form of betrayal. Freedom is made possible and/or limited by local political choices, contemporary global conditions and the complexities of social change. This book explores the multiplicity of spaces within which the dynamics of social change unfold, and the complex ways in which power is produced and reproduced. In this way, it seeks to understand the often non-linear practices through which alternative possibilities emerge, the lengthy and often indirect ways in which new communities are imagined and new solidarities are built. In this sense, this book is not a collection of hope or despair. Nor is it a book that seeks to situate itself between these two poles. Instead it aims to read the present historically, critically and politically, and to offer insights into the ongoing, iterative and often messy struggles for freedom.

*Thembele Kepe* is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Geography, and the Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

**Mobilisation of Forest Bioenergy in the Boreal and Temperate Biomes: Challenges, Opportunities and Case Studies**  
*Elsevier, 2016*  
*By C.T. (Tat) Smith (Co-Editor)*

This book features input from key international experts who identify and analyze the main opportunities and roadblocks for the implementation of sustainable forest biomass supply chains in the boreal and temperate regions. It draws from responses to surveys that were sent to specialists from different countries, compares models of bioenergy deployment, and discusses different types of bioenergy carriers. Efficiency and profitability of the supply chain are analyzed and the scale and level of confidence of feedstock inventory estimates are highlighted. Logistics and ecological and socio-economic footprints are also covered. The book provides a synthesis of the scientific and technical literature on specific aspects of forest biomass supply chains, and quantifies future potentials in comparison to estimates provided by other sources and the targets for bioenergy production set by various organizations (IEA, IPCC, etc.). Finally, the book proposes recommendations for practitioners, policymakers, and future research. This approach makes the book especially relevant for professionals, policymakers, researchers, and graduate students in the field of bioenergy conversion and management, as well as those interested in sustainable management of natural resources.

*Tat Smith* is a Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning at University of Toronto, St. George.

**Alumni Books**

**An Analysis of Hong Kong Transit City**  
*(China Construction Industrial Publishing House, 2014)*  
*by Liang H. Wang*

My new book on the development and management of public transit in Hong Kong is one of the few books to have been published on this subject since my earlier book on a similar topic came out more than two decades ago. The book consists of a total of 0.55 million Chinese characters in 18 chapters, explaining how the collusion of land use design and property development has helped in producing an unexpectedly efficient public transport system at the expense of social justice. I argue that the so-called success of transit-oriented development in Hong Kong is in fact ironically a consequence of malpractice in urban planning.

*Liang H. Wang* (PhD 1997) is a graduate of the department. Based in Hong Kong, Liang provides urban and transport planning and policy consulting services in the region, with a focus on public transport policy transformation and land use planning at and around mass transit and high speed railway hubs in Hong Kong and urban China. Before taking up consulting he was in senior management in an infrastructure investment group and lectured at the National University of Singapore and the University of Hong Kong. He was project manager for the Long Term Economic Plan for Trengganu State under the Economic Planning Unit in the early years. This book has been adopted as reference material for major planning schools in the region.
We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all of our alumni and friends who have made donations this year to the department. As noted on the previous page of this newsletter, donations help support several award funds that support 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.

**Thank you to our Alumni**

### PAC Module Speakers:
- David Biggar (MScPl 2014)
- Brent Fairbairn (MScPl 2013)
- Daniel Fusca (MScPl 2011)
- Helen Huang (MScPl 2014)
- John Kemp (MScPl 2015)

### Guest lecturers:
- JPG1812 (Planning for Change) Fall 2016:
  - Pauline Beaupre (MScPl 2011)
  - Sarah Phipps (MScPl 2003)

### Speed Networking:
- Kayla Apostolides (HBA 2014)
- Rachel Harris (MA 2015)
- Kara Naklicki (HBA 2013, MScPl 2015)

### Backpack to Briefcase speakers:
- Christelle Broux (HBSc 2016)
- Anna Greener (HBA 2009)
- Yunis Kariuki (HBSc 2010)
- Graham Macdonald (MScPl 2012)
- Kara Naklicki (HBA 2013)
- Melissa Perri (HBA 2012)
- Cecelia Pye (BA 2014)
- Jennifer Shiller (HBA 2011, MSc 2013)

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**Alumni News**

**Ranjana Mitra** (MA 2001) received a Meritorious Service Medal for her work as founder of the Community Environmental Alliance in Peel and Share-IT.

The Community Environment Alliance of Peel is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to enhancing community health and environmental sustainability. It encourages individuals and companies to dispose of e-waste properly, and also distributes refurbished computers and reconditioned bicycles throughout the community. Ranjana has become a driving force in preserving our planet for future generations.

The Meritorious Service Decorations were established to recognize the extraordinary people who make Canada proud. Their acts are often innovative, set an example or model for others to follow, or respond to a particular challenge faced by a community. They are those who inspire others through their motivation to find solutions to specific and pressing needs or provide an important service to their community or country.
How You Can Enrich the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Experience in Geography and Planning

Would you like to help create a better educational experience for our undergraduate and graduate students in geography and planning? Donations to the Department contribute to the establishment of awards and scholarships, but that’s not all. Last year your donations supported field research costs for students, awards for students to present their research at conferences, and funding for networking events.

Use this link - https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/46 to donate online and please choose one or more of the following funds for your donation:

**Friends of Geography**
This fund is an endowment that we add to each year through the efforts of alumni and friends of the department. This fund is used to support geography undergraduate and graduate student travel for research, conferences and field trips.

**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 Denver and San Francisco 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.

**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.

**UTAGA-JBR Whitney Award**
This award recognize Joe Whitney's contributions as a founding member of UTAGA, former department Chair, and his long-time service to the Association. The award is given on the basis of academic merit to a graduate student studying the environment or international development. Please see the new matching funding opportunity for this award described on p.2.

You can also donate by cheque, payable to the University of Toronto. Please indicate to which of the above funds you would like to donate and send to: Annual Fund Office, University of Toronto, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3.

Contributions totaling $1,827 or more per calendar year qualify for recognition in the Presidents' Circle. As part of U of T’s leadership giving recognition society, President’s Circle members enjoy attending a variety of special events. For more information, please visit www.giving.utoronto.ca/prescircle or call 416-978-3810. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.

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

**GEOPLAN**
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Tel: (416) 978-3375
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The University of Toronto respects your privacy.
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GeoTrip Spring 2017
Wandering the Waterfront - Deciphering the Natural and Anthropogenic Landscapes of the Toronto Shoreline

Join Professor Tony Davis as you explore the shoreline from the Bluffs to the Toronto Islands

Date: Saturday May 6th
Time: 9 am - 2 pm
Cost: $10.00 (to cover bus transportation) Ferry fee not included
Registration: http://geography.utoronto.ca/utaga-2017-geotrip/

Our waterfront still reflects its glacial heritage. Over 130,000 years of ice advance and retreat are recorded in the Scarborough Bluffs. The city’s most prominent landform, the Lake Iroquois Shoreline reflects a history of fluctuations in the level of Lake Ontario. Glacial debris reworked by the modern lake formed the Toronto Islands.

The natural landscape has been substantially modified by human activity, particularly infilling; the extension of the lakeshore south of Front Street, the infilling of Ashbridge’s Bay, the construction of the island airport, for example. The largest physical feature on the Waterfront, the Leslie Street spit is entirely anthropogenic. The urbanization of the GTA and the drastic modification of the Lower Don have changed the supply of sediment and water to the area.

We’ll start at Bluffers Park to examine the distinctive Sunnybrook Drift, mostly varved clays deposited in a deep proglacial lake. Our next stop will be the Leslie Street Spit, a 5 km structure designed originally as an eastern extension of the Toronto harbour, composed of construction debris and dredgeate. The spit is administered by the TRCA. In the 60 years since construction began it has become an important wildlife sanctuary.

Our third stop will be at the eastern docks to talk about the Keating Channel and other ill-conceived manipulations of the lower Don. Time permitting we’ll then head for the Toronto Islands to consider modifications of the original features and contemporary issues (erosion, airport extension, etc.).

This GeoTrip by bus will start and return from Hart House, 9 Hart House Circle, St. George campus.

Note - Bring your own lunch.

Tour Leader: Tony Davis has been a leader of several GeoTrips and is one of the department’s most entertaining speakers.
The 'Tenure Tracks' perform at the department's annual Talent & Trivia Night held May 4th at the Tranzac Club. Talent included storytelling, musical performances, and poetry.

Summer St. George staff lunch

2016-2017 St. George faculty retreat held at the Chestnut Conference Centre