The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA) and the Geography and Planning Department's 20th annual Awards Night was a well-attended success. We presented awards to our undergraduate and graduate students along with several UTAGA awards.

UTAGA's inaugural Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award was named after Fenton Chin, who passed away suddenly in 2014. Fenton provided 18 years of volunteer service to the Department and UTAGA, and became the president of UTAGA in 2010. Presented to Graham MacDonald and Adam Molson for their substantial contributions to the Planning Program and Alumni as members of the Friends of Planning Alumni Committee.

The UTAGA Honorary President Award was given to Professor Emeritus Gunter Gad, who has made significant contributions to the activities of UTAGA and the department over a period of many years. Most recently, he was co-editor of the book ‘Reflections on the History of Geography at the University of Toronto’ (2010) that commemorated our 75th Anniversary. For many years, he provided local field trip opportunities for visiting students from other universities, for our incoming graduate students during orientation and for members of UTAGA as part of the GeoTrips series.

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to Kam Wing Chan, an internationally renowned urban and economic geographer whose research focuses on China's cities, migration, employment, and the household registration system. He is the author of Cities with Invisible Walls: Reinterpreting Urbanization in Post-1949 China, and over 60 articles and book chapters. He has served as a consultant for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations, and McKinsey & Co., and worked with the Chinese Government on a number of policy projects. He is widely sought by the media for his expertise on China and has made contributions to the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Economist, South China Morning Post, BBC, CBC, Caixin, and China Daily.

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, to the Geography main office, no later than April 30, 2015.
Chair’s Message

BY VIRGINIA MACLAREN

Welcome to this year’s edition of GeoPlan. This is a special edition since we decided to integrate GeoPlan and the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) Review this year. Melissa McEnroe and Michael Noble, the co-Chairs of PAC, offer their own words of welcome on p. 6.

The focus of my Chair’s message is on some very exciting opportunities in experiential learning that the department has been developing over the past few years for our undergraduate and graduate students. These opportunities are much in demand and include field camps and year-long placement courses. We introduced three new field courses for undergraduates: two in Human Geography (the Toronto field course and the New York City field Course) and one in Environmental Geography (see pages 9-13 for short articles on the student experience in these courses). These courses complement the existing and very popular Physical Geography field course; we are considering adding an Advanced Physical Geography field course in the future. This year, we also introduced our first placement course for undergraduates. A similar course for graduate students in Geography and Planning began two years ago.

Placement courses offer students the chance to work in the offices of a government, NGO or private sector organization, one or one and a half days per week, while also attending classes that support their placements. The classes provide professional development training and teach about reflective learning. The placement supervisors offer mentoring that is invaluable for students in preparing them for the job market.

A second initiative of note is a Faculty of Arts & Science program for undergraduates that Geography joined this year. Known as ‘backpack to Briefcase’ (b2B), it draws on alumni expertise in career planning and outcomes. Alumni participate by talking about their careers on alumni panels and by attending dinners with undergraduate students. This year, Geography hosted one panel, co-hosted a second with School of the Environment, and hosted a dinner. All were very well attended and greatly appreciated by students. Thanks so much to those alumni who participated in these inaugural events (see p.17 for the names of participants).

We intend to make b2B events a regular part of the undergraduate student experience in future. If you would like to help out, please let us know by contacting UTAGA@geog.utoronto.ca or our alumni relations officer carlo.siochi@utoronto.ca.

In Memoriam: Fenton Chin

BY JOE WHITNEY AND JOHN WARKENTIN

UTAGA mourns the recent death of Fenton Chin. Fenton obtained a B.A. in Geography in 1994 and for eighteen years was an active member of the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA) and its President since 2010. In this capacity he worked tirelessly to further UTAGA’s alumni outreach objectives. He organized alumni field trips, ensured the smooth-running of the annual UTAGA Awards Night and made regular contributions to the Department’s alumni newsletter on the topic of ‘Cool Websites for Geographers and Planners’.

In recognition of his outstanding volunteer services with UTAGA, the University presented Fenton with an Arbor Award in 2007.

On a more personal note, Fenton’s family remembers him as a devoted mentor to his siblings and as a person whose Catholic faith inspired all that he did. One of his work colleagues at the Toronto Public Library wrote: “There are people who come to work every day and make an enormous contribution just for being who they are and for how they make us feel. Fenton Chin was one of those people. Original. Lovely. Courteous. Kind. Happy. Smart. Private. Hard-working. Humble. Polite. Helpful. Reliable. Consistent. Dedicated. Professional. Fenton was all that and more”.

In memory of his life and many contributions, UTAGA has created the Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award that is to be presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions in support of the programs, students or alumni of the University of Toronto Department of Geography and Program in Planning.

Fenton Chin receiving a University of Toronto Arbor Award from President David Naylor and Chancellor David Peterson

Meirav Even-Har (HBA 2001) speaks with undergraduates Adel Keshavarz and Madeleine Hansen at the Geography b2B dinner
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. Last winter term (January, 2014), Dr. Thomas Buerk of Humboldt University, Berlin, taught “Urban Design and Social Movements in the City” to a seminar of enthusiastic graduate students. Instructor and students embarked on a number of tours of Toronto, bringing theoretical knowledge from the classroom to the streets of the city.

We were also fortunate to have David MacLeod from the City of Toronto’s Environment and Energy Division in residence for the winter term. He is an internationally recognized expert on municipal climate change policy and co-taught a graduate course with Professor Virginia Maclaren on “Climate Change Adaptation and Outreach”.

This fall term, we were joined by Professor Ahmed M. El-Geneidy of McGill University. Montreal. Professor El-Geneidy is a highly accomplished transportation researcher whose interests include transit operations, active-transportation behaviour, intelligent transportation systems, and measuring transportation needs of disadvantaged populations. Professor El-Geneidy has contributed to a number of classes and is currently teaching a class on "Transportation and Urban Form” with Professor Steve Farber, whom we welcomed to the graduate department and the University of Toronto Scarborough this year.

Professor Ann Markusen, Professor Emeritus of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, is also joining us as a Bousfield Visitor this year. Professor Markusen is an internationally renowned expert on regional economics and planning. She is currently interested in the role of cultural activities and industries as regional economic stimulants, and is teaching a course entitled “Arts, Cities, and Development.”

The Bousfield Visitorship also allows us to organize and support a number of public talks and events. These include contributing to the “Big City, Big Ideas” lecture series that, this year, hosted talks by (our own) University of Toronto President Meric Gertler, and by Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi. Most ambitiously, this fall, the program partnered with the Consulate General of France in Toronto and organized a three-day study tour for six French urbanists including Catherine Barbé, the Director of Strategic Partnerships, Société du Grand Paris. The tour included two public panels on regional planning and transportation in the Toronto area, as well as a public talk by Catherine Barbé on the Grand Paris, a proposed new 140 km circular subway through the Parisian suburbs that is part of an initiative for regional integration. Even with an early November snowfall, over 150 people attended the event. The Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship provides inestimable value to the department and its students and we are looking forward to welcoming next year’s visitors.

Department Awards and Honors

**Professor Meric Gertler** was awarded the Association of American Geographers 2014 Distinguished Scholarship Honors in recognition of a 30-year career in not only advancing theory in economic geography, but also in establishing benchmarks for the next generation of researchers.

**PhD Candidate Railli Lakanen** was named a 2014 University of Toronto Alumni Association Graduate Scholar for her academic achievement and her contributions to extra-curricular leadership, and involvement in the life of the University.

**Professors Emily Gilbert and Virginia Maclaren** were recognized by the Family Care Office, through student nominations, as most supportive of students in balancing studies and family life.

**Professor Minelle Mahtani** was honoured at the Innoversity Creative Summit in recognition of her contribution in making the Canadian media more inclusive and innovative.

**PhD Candidate James Nugent** won the 2014 Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge. His paper was titled: ‘Building Opportunities through Community Benefits Agreements: Leveraging infrastructure projects to increase training and labour market access for equity-seeking and historically disadvantaged groups in Ontario’.

**PhD Candidate Tammara Soma**, who studies the factors that influence food consumption, food wasting in urban Indonesia, and ways to end food waste in landfills, won a Trudeau Scholarship.

**PhD Candidate Amy Mui** from Prof. Yuhong He’s group won the Best Student Presentation Award at the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) conference 2014 in Alaska. Her presentation title was: ‘Modeling seasonal landscape connectivity for threatened turtles in a fragmented landscape’.

**Professor Matt Farish** received a six-month Faculty Research Fellowship from the Jackman Humanities Institute for 2014-15.

**Professors Emily Gilbert and Deborah Cowen** received Outstanding Teaching Awards through the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**Senior Lecturer Don Boyes** won the University’s highest honour for teaching - the President’s Teaching Award. Don has a long history in advancing the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for a variety of institutions and groups and is recognized for his progressive use of technology in teaching.
Award Winners 2014

UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Samuel Whillians

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Jennifer Le

Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Kaja MacDonald

Edward Blake Scholarship in Earth Sciences
Yi Hong

F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment
Maria Mate

Outstanding Performance Awards
GGR 201/203/205/206: Nanjiao Xu
GGR 223: Navid Helal
GGR 240: Bridger Irwin

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Samuel Whillians
The Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship
Lesia Kinach

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Khairunnabila Prayitno

The Geography Toronto Award
Marc Acton Filion

William G. Dean Scholarship in Geography
Julia Palozzi
Tsing Yee Hui

Field Research
Kristina Bijerkaite
Simon Erlrich
Katherine Lee
Kevin Phan

GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Graduate Alpar Grant
Asiya Bidordinova
Joshua Nasielski

Graduate Alpar Scholarship
Michael Himmel

John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Charles Chiu
Jenny Jung
Bing Lu
Anna-Marie Megens
Kevin Roy

James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography
Rachel Harris

Oscar J Marshall Graduate Fellowship
Emily Gise
Xiangzhong Luo
Amy Mui

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Bryan Dale
Angela Day
Eleanor Rae
Samuel Walker
Adam Zendel

Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Genevieve Noyce

George Tatham/Geography Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Jian Yang

JBR Whitney Award
Elizabeth Lord

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Matthew Kelling
Kyle Miller
Brenton Nader
Carolyn Rowan
Dessislava Simova

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
John Kemp
Kyle Miller
Dessislava Simova

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Jonathan Bamforth

CIP student Award in Academic Excellence
Mathieu Maslard

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Mathieu Maslard

Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation
Monica Bennington
Matthew Kelling

LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Rebecca Lau

Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Robin Lattimer

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Michael Himmel

Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Kevin Chan
Meaghan Maund
Lia Milito
Kara Naklicki
Steven Torkos
Jason Rust

Peter Walker Planning Scholarship
Matthew Kelling
Brenton Nader
Carolyn Rowan

Rachel Harris receiving the James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship from Carolyn Lemon

Matthew Kelling receiving the JBR Whitney Award from Emeritus Professor Joe Whitney

Dessislava Simova receiving the Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning from Donor John Malloy

Elizabeth Lord receiving the JBR Whitney Award from Emeritus Professor Joe Whitney

Rachel Harris receiving the James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship from Carolyn Lemon

Dessislava Simova receiving the Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning from Donor John Malloy

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
John Kemp
Kyle Miller
Dessislava Simova

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Jonathan Bamforth

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Sarah Chu

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship
Sapan KC

Sarah Chu receiving the Peter Walker Planning Scholarship from Peter Walker

Carolyn Rowan receiving a Peter Walker Planning Scholarship from Peter Walker

Page 4
The UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award
Kam Wing Chan
(Pictured receiving the award from Professor Emeritus Joe Whitney)

The UTAGA Honorary President Award
Gunter Gad

The Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award
Graham MacDonald
Adam Molson

PAC Co-presidents Melissa McEnroe and Mike Noble received the awards from Professor Emeritus Joe Whitney on behalf of PAC members Graham MacDonald and Adam Molson

**UTAGA Award Winners 2014**

**EXTERNAL AWARDS (PROVINCIAL)**

- **Donald F. Putnam/George Tatham/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography**
  - Amy Mui
- **J.M. Tomczak/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography**
  - Rachel Harris
- **Michael Ralph Walsh/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography**
  - Chloe Fox

- **Rachel Harris receiving the J.M. Tomczak OGS from Donor Michael Tomczak**

- **Ruth E and Harry E Carter Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Faculty of Arts & Science**
  - Evan Castel
- **Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography**
  - Teresa Didiano
- **Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning**
  - Matthew Hilder

**Urban Strategies / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning**
- Monica Bennington
- Edward Sorbara—Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Corey Bialek
- University of Toronto Planning Alumni / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Anna Procopio
- **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**
  - Sarah Chu
  - Michelle Colley
  - Rachel Harris
  - Michael Himmel
  - Carmen Teplee-Hopkins
  - James Nugent
- **William G Dean Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology**
  - David Richardson
- **ESRI Canada Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology**
  - Joyce Arabian

- **Ontario Trillium Scholarship**
  - Yi Wang

- **Matthew Hilder receiving the Neptis Foundation OGS from Neptis Executive Director Marcy Burchfield**

**EXTERNAL AWARDS (FEDERAL)**

- **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)**
  - Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
    - Larissa Sage
  - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
  - Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral
    - Kira Borden
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)**
  - Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
    - Christopher Hilbrecht
    - Robin Lartimer
    - Emily Macrae
    - Mia Robidoux
    - Marie-Line Sarrazin
    - Dylan Simone
    - Laura Vaz-Jones
    - Madeline Whetung
    - Molly Willats
    - Frances Woo
  - **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postgraduate Scholarships – Doctoral**
    - Madelaine Calhuas
    - Leah Fusco
    - Alexis Mitchell
    - Neil Nunn
  - **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship**
    - Sujata Thapa-Bhattarai
- **Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship**
  - Tammara Soma

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postgraduate Scholarships – Doctoral**
- Madelaine Calhuas
- Leah Fusco
- Alexis Mitchell
- Neil Nunn
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship**
  - Sujata Thapa-Bhattarai
- **Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship**
  - Tammara Soma
Message from the PAC

Co-Chairs: Michael Noble and Melissa McEnroe

We are pleased to report that 2014 was a banner year for The University of Toronto’s Planning Alumni Committee. Last year, we hosted a fabulous Spring Social attended by over 300 professionals, and featured Pamela Blais 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.

We hope you will join us on April 16, 2015, when the Planning Alumni Committee will host the 19th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. This year’s keynote will be delivered by Ken Tanenbaum, Vice Chairman of the Kilmer Group, who will be speaking on “The Pan Am Athletes’ Village: A Sneak Peak Beyond the Fence”.

The 2014-2015 school year is our last year as PAC Co-Chairs; an endeavor we have thoroughly enjoyed over the last two years. David McKay, our current Vice-Chair, will take the reins as Chair beginning this Summer and will lead PAC into its next chapter.

We 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: planning.alumni.committee@gmail.com.

See you at the Social!

Sincerely

Michael Noble & Melissa McEnroe

2014 at a Glance

Mentorship, Networking and Career Development

- PAC hosted events, such as 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.
- At the annual Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop, a panel of four alumni shared their internship experiences, career paths, and gave insight on finding exciting opportunities in planning.

Skills Development and Planning Workshop

- PAC hosted three skills modules in 2014, which provided students an opportunity to interact with practicing planners and hear real life experience to enrich the classroom curriculum.
- This year’s modules were: ‘Public Finance’ in January, ‘Planning 101’ in October and ‘Retail Planning’ in November.
- With the support of PAC and the Program in Planning, the second-year Workshop in Planning presentations have become public events, with the six student groups bringing a standing room only crowd to Metro Hall in November.

Scholarships

- 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.
- In September, second-year students travelled to New Orleans to learn about planning in this unique 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.

The University of Toronto Planning Alumni Community Presents

FRIENDS OF PLANNING SPRING SOCIAL

Hart House, Great Hall - April 16, 2015 - 6:00 pm

Keynote by Ken Tanenbaum - Vice Chairman, Kilmer Group

The Pan Am Athletes’ Village: A Sneak Peak Beyond the Fence

“The idea is to take an international celebration of sports and friendship and build a visionary new community on its foundations.”

-Dundee Kilmer Development Ltd.
Comings and Goings

The department has seen a number of changes in personnel in the last year, including promotions, leaves, secondments and transfers. Among staff members, the Chair’s Assistant, Mary-Marta Briones-Bird has taken up a new, more senior position as Administrative Coordinator in the Dean’s Office at the Faculty of Information Science. Congratulations Mary-Marta! Yvonne Kenny is the new Chair’s Assistant. She comes to the department with extensive administrative and governance experience in the education sector in the UK. Our Business Officer, Nina Duras, left for maternity leave in June and will be returning in July 2015. In her absence, we have been very fortunate to have Candace Duong, seconded from Nina’s old position as Business Officer at the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Andrew Malcolm, our Receptionist and Alumni Relations and Events Coordinator, will be moving up to take on the role of Editorial Assistant and Database Coordinator in the Department of Chemistry. Congratulations Andrew! After 19 years working as a GIS Analyst and Cartographer in the department’s GIS and Cartography Office, Mariange Beaudry has shifted into administration. Fortunately for us, she is staying in the department and will be our new Undergraduate Administrative Assistant and Acting Alumni Relations and Events Coordinator. Mariange takes over as Administrative Assistant from Kiersty Hong, who has been seconded as Editorial Assistant for Professor Deb Cowen. Deb is Editor of the prestigious international journal Environment and Planning D: Society and Space. Finally, we have a new faculty member, Dr. Neera Singh, who joined the Department on July 1st. Neera transferred from the Faculty of Forestry at UofT where her research has focused on community forestry, forest governance, environmental movements, gender, tenure and property rights, subjectivity and environment. We wish the very best to all of those who are moving on to new positions and offer our warmest welcome to the new arrivals.

Support the Department

This year the UTAGA Committee established the JBR Whitney Award, in honor of Professor Joe Whitney’s contribution as a founding member of UTAGA and his dedicated service to the Association. The award will be given on the basis of academic excellence to a graduate student studying the environment or international development. We hope to make this an endowed award so we have established a special link on the UofT website for those interested in making donations, as described below.

Donating to the Department of Geography and Program in Planning Online and by Cheque

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/geography to donate online and please choose one or more of the following funds for your donation:

Friends of Geography. Supports undergraduate and graduate students in Geography.
Friends of Planning. Supports graduate students in Planning.
Matthew W.F Hanson Scholarship in Planning. Honours the memory of Matthew Hanson. Awarded to an MScPl student.
James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography. Honours the memory of Jim Lemon. Awarded to a graduate student in Geography.
UTAGA JBR Whitney Award. Honours the contributions of Joe Whitney to UTAGA. Awarded to a graduate student in Geography or Planning.

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.
On April 10, 2014 the Great Hall at Hart House was home to a great party: the 18th 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.

Pamela Blais honoured the event by serving as the featured speaker. Ms. Blais is the author of “Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy, and Urban Sprawl”. She is also Principal at Metropole Consultants Ltd. and a seasoned speaker.

The presentation, titled Economic Drivers Versus The Cities We Want, challenged the gathered planners to think about the forces that shape planning that fall beyond our scope of work. Ms. Blais asked the audience to consider how planners and the development community can respond to global economic and cultural trends and municipal policies that encourage alternative practices rather than best practices.

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. Finally, the generosity of the Social’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated:

Premiere Sponsors: Davies Howe Partners LLP; Dentons; LEA

Platinum Sponsors: Cassels Brock Lawyers; Concord Cityplace; Bousfields; Wood Bull LLP; Hemson Consulting; Burnside; RAW; MHBC; Aird & Berlis LLP

Gold Sponsors: BA Group; Daniels; Fasken Martineau; Fogler Rubinoff; Goodmans LLP; Walker, Nott, Dragicevic Associates; MMM Group; Urban Strategies; Tate Economic Research; Tridel; Sorbara Development Group; WeirFoulds; IBI Group; Stikeleman Elliott

Silver Sponsors: Altus Group; Brattys LLP; Crozier & Associates; GSP Group; R.E. Millward & Associates; JKO Planning Services; Weston Consulting; Johnston Litavski Planning Consultants; SGL Planning Associates; Turner Flescher Architects; Wellings Planning Consultants; Venchiarutti Gagliardi Architect

PAC Thanks: BILD; NRU Publishing; Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Photography by Vincent Luk
A Few Big Days in the Big Easy

By Kerry Thompson

In the first week of September 2014, twenty second-year Planning students traveled to New Orleans for our cohort field trip. The trip was almost entirely student-planned, with generous funding from the Planning Alumni Committee, and faculty supervision by Virginia Maclaren, Chair of the Department. New Orleans had narrowly beaten out Mexico City as the preferred location for the trip, which was decided by popular vote during a well-attended cohort meeting the previous March. Attendees at the meeting felt that the city appealed to the diverse planning interests that typify our cohort and would provide a rich historical and cultural (including culinary) experience.

Our hostel was situated in the Garden district, within easy walking distance to the up-and-coming Magazine Street, and slightly longer walking distance to the Warehouse District and downtown. A short – and exceptionally cheap ($1.25) – ride on the historic St. Charles streetcar brought the French Quarter within reach. The ‘official’ trip started with an evening mixer at a local pub with students from the Masters of Planning program at the University of New Orleans, which served as an informal primer on life and politics in the Big Easy.

The following day was intended for flexible exploration of the city, aided in part by a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour. Key landmarks included the French Market, the St. Louis Cemetery, and the historic residential areas of the Garden District. An interesting insight was the unique local method of navigation in the Crescent City: rather than using the cardinal directions, as might be expected in other grid-patterned cities, the proximity of New Orleans to Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River – and the orientation of the street grid to these features – means that locals typically refer to locations as lakeside, riverside, uptown (upriver from Canal Street) or downtown (downriver from Canal Street).

Later that afternoon, we reconvened to speak with David Waggonner, of Waggonner and Ball Architects. Waggonner has been an architect in New Orleans for decades, but recently his firm has been focused on water management, which became a key issue in infrastructure and disaster management after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. (Daily thunderstorms provided a firsthand demonstration of the ubiquity of water in the city.) Using state disaster recovery funds, the firm developed the Greater New Orleans Water Plan, which provides technical and policy recommendations for treating water as an inevitable part of the city, rather than a hazard to be reactively managed.

Following this meeting, we returned to our...
hostel for a casual pizza dinner in the courtyard. We were joined by Ethan Ellestad from the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans, and Sue Mobley from Sweet Home New Orleans, who discussed their organizations’ work supporting the thousands of musicians who rely on precarious work (gigs) to sustain a living. Such a living is made challenging by antiquated zoning or noise ordinance bylaws, whose enforcement is unpredictable and which threaten to close the venues that are the lifeblood of the grassroots cultural economy.

Thursday morning began with a visit to the offices of Evacuteer, a non-profit organization that recruits, trains and manages evacuation volunteers. The purpose of Evacuteer is to help the City provide information and transportation in the event of a mandatory evacuation. In such an event, a shuttle stops at 17 neighbourhood locations marked with large, distinctive statues that double as public art. Our guides Jennifer Hardin and Chris Mergerson then led us to City Hall, where we were given a quick tour of the disaster response centre.

Shortly thereafter, we met with Stephen Craver and Victor Smeltz from Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation at the site of the Oil and Gas Building, an office tower that was in the process of being redeveloped into mixed-income residential units. After checking out the ground floor of the building, which had lately been used as a night club, we climbed 14 dark and sweltering storeys (no electricity) as our guides discussed the improving real estate market in downtown New Orleans, and their efforts to preserve the mid-century architectural elements. The view from the roof made the trek all worth it!

Finally, we returned to City Hall to speak with Dubravka Gilic from the New Orleans City Planning Commission. She discussed resiliency and recovery planning with us, focusing on post-Hurricane Katrina reconstruction planning. Federal disaster relief funds were critical in developing and executing plans in the aftermath of the disaster, which inundated much of the city and left lasting effects on the economy. Only now has the population returned to levels consistent with pre-hurricane projections. Particularly shocking was her description of the toll on City staff (including planners) in the days and weeks following the hurricane: 12- and 14-hour work days in offices without air conditioning or circulation, regardless of whether their homes or families had themselves been impacted.

On our final day in the City, we met with Dana Eness and Mark Strella from the Urban Conservancy, which attempts to promote economic development through local, independent business. After viewing a stormwater demonstration project in the courtyard of the Conservancy office building, Strella led a tour of Magazine Street, where retailers are grappling with the consequences of rising rents – but also rising exposure – due to increasing gentrification in the area. The theme of community development continued that afternoon at the offices of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, where Jason Neville discussed its triple mandate of affordable housing provision, commercial revitalization, and land stewardship. On the brief walking tour of the Castle Haley neighbourhood that followed, he explained that like the City, the agency – which had grown in size and scope in order to manage the thousands of disused properties that were abandoned after Hurricane Katrina – was facing an uncertain future now that federal assistance funds were dwindling.

Interspersed among all these fascinating and informative experiences were other activities partaken in pairs or small groups, including a bayou kayak tour, a bicycle tour of the Lower Ninth Ward, and enjoying lots of local Southern food, drink and music. The consensus among those of us who attended is that the trip was an unforgettable whirlwind adventure, valuable not only for a real-world lesson in planning in an exceptionally challenging urban environment, but also for the opportunity to share our experience with an incredible group of people.

Although everyone who attended is responsible for the trip’s success, certain individuals deserve special thanks. First, several students from the trip planning committee of the previous cohort were invaluable in providing documents and advice, and passing on their knowledge of other cohorts’ experiences. Second, Paul Hess and Candace Duong should be recognized for their help in coordinating the trip from the Department side, and Virginia Maclaren for attending as our Department supervisor. Third, many students (a majority of the attendees) deserve recognition for their contributions to researching and planning the trip – the outstanding efforts of Organizing Committee chairs John Kemp and Jason Rust were particularly essential and much appreciated. And finally, a big thanks is due to the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), without whose generous support none of this would have been possible.
Concrete Classroom

By Symon James-Wilson

Symon James-Wilson is a third year human geography specialist concurrently pursuing her H.B.A. and B.Ed in the teacher education program at Victoria College. In September, she and nineteen other third and fourth year undergraduate students accompanied Professor Deborah Cowen and T.A. Eleanor Rae of the Department of Geography and Programme in Planning for a five-day intensive human geography field research course – GGR382 - in four of New York City’s boroughs. These are her reflections on some of the major themes explored in the course.

As we looked up at the shattered window façade of former P.S. 64, I was pleasantly unsurprised that its boarded-up entry way welcomed our curiosity about what the walls would say if they could talk. I watched, as my nineteen colleagues immediately connected to a space that could all too easily be left unobserved after a saturated day of field research in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This educational institution turned community centre and now vacant site, practically gleaming with the promise of real estate development, left me wondering how a seemingly isolated and crumbling building on East 9th street and Avenue B was in fact so intimately connected to the greater story of the city that we had turned into our classroom.

Looking back on my own primary schooling in New York, I remember many attempts to bring me in line with the belief that public education is the “great equalizer” of North American society. As if a model meritocracy merely rewarding the pious hard workers with white picket fences, casting the undeserving aside like wheat separated from the shaft, the history of American education is riddled with contradictions. In an age when we are taught to approach knowledge as a commodity that is bought and sold, from subway marques advertising online colleges, to textbook companies convincing us that paying for expensive standardized test prep courses is the only way to prove our capacity for higher education, perhaps P.S. 64’s crumbling edifice is a metaphor for the deconstruction of the education system as we know it.

The recent publication of plans to transform P.S. 64’s landmarked site, once known for its diverse population of teachers and learners, into dormitories for the Joffery School’s predominantly white, middle class troupe of elite prima ballerinas in this rapidly gentrifying area, is deeply ironic. The site is a metric of this global city, where vast stores of wealth are amassed through highly polarized social, political, and economic geographies marked by segregation and racialization that hardly resemble Uncle Sam’s or Horace Mann’s “American Dream.”

Traversing landscapes of change and continuity, it was almost impossible to ignore the ways our own experiences mapped on to the street grid. Deeply engaged in dialogue that extended far beyond nine-to-five, we experienced the splendor of a learning environment governed by collective collaboration rather than individualistic competition. The knowledge that we would soon exchange our names for student numbers and return to the large institutional classrooms gave rise to discussions of whether any of these impending proceedings were indeed more ‘efficient.’

As both a product and critic of the North American education system, I am fascinated by the capacity for education to foster analytical and autonomous thinking skills in its students. Yet, I am also compelled to question its active construction of binaries and barriers that prevent a range of divergent minds and bodies from meeting in a variety of physical and figurative intellectual spaces. Engaging geographical research and theory by experiencing the places ourselves made it clear that education has the power to transcend traditional borders between minds, nations, and even the confines of our pocketbooks. Affordable hands-on learning experiences like GGR382 allow us to see the convergence of formal knowledge and lived experience where the subject and the space are one in the same.

Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society Game / Pub Night

By Noel Ariyaratnam, TUGS social coordinator

On Tues. Jan. 13th, TUGS kicked off the academic semester with one of its most successful events. The two part night began in the comforts of the Sidney Smith TUGS lounge with a multitude of games including a University student favorite, “Cards Against Humanity”, which broke the ice in a similar fashion to climate change melting Arctic sea ice. Students also enjoyed delicious pizza (and cookies of course!). The games night took flight with a great turnout even as the food diminished—a strange phenomenon for university students who often follow free food. Afterwards, Geography students ventured off to a local pub for a joint pub night with another University group, the Outing Club (UTOC). Spectacular turnout was evident as the nectar of magic drinks was consumed and a prehistoric method of networking (face to face conversations!) stole the room. The TUGS games & pub night was a great success with many new connections made amongst students who felt comfortable to express their opinions on nerdy geographical topics with other like-minded individuals. It also fostered a shared passion for geography as an amazing and vast field at the University of Toronto. Geography is more than just coloring maps, but it’s about coloring your mind with all the intellectual diversity of geography’s various streams.
Many Geography students do not have the chance to explore learning outside the boundaries of a classroom or textbook. GGR390: Field Methods in Physical Geography was a perfect opportunity to experience this. This year’s location at Sutton, Quebec, provided students the latitude to pose their own research questions and design methodologies to investigate them in small groups. The emphasis on peer collaboration was paramount as it added to the social experience and fostered what is largely a key aspect of scientific research.

A group of 16 students together with the effervescent teaching team of instructors, Prof. Joe Desloges and Maara Packalen, and TA Anna Megens, took part in what would be an eventful week of nature exploration, socialization, and food. Yes, food was endless at our destination this year, Le Montagnard Hotel and Condos, conveniently situated in a location that offered a scenic view of the Appalachian Mountains. The staff at Le Montagnard did not disappoint with the service and array of sumptuous food they provided us, every meal a wonder.

Arriving at Sutton after a long drive from campus, we began to set up an assortment weather measuring equipment; most familiar, others unheard of. Amongst the latter was a contrivance—the “HOBO” weather station—which comprised devices that measured and digitally recorded weather elements including wind, temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, and solar radiation. The data collected would be central in completing the first assignment for the course.

A brief trip the next day helped us get acquainted with the area and to explore various geological features and the processes that formed them. Students also got acquainted with weather and hydrological measuring devices as part of our orientation. This was useful for the duration of the trip as we routinely took measurements aimed at investigating aspects of climate and hydrology.

On the second day, the group began an ascent of the Mount Sutton, observing the biogeography of forest tree species along the way. Upon our descent, demonstrations on key surveying techniques were taught, such as measuring elevation using a stadia rod and an Abney level, taking angular direction using compass measurements, and obtaining tree cores using simple manual drills, amongst others. It was a long hike but the inspiration derived thus was apparent as we narrowed down on project choices.

Students officially chose group projects that would explore a variety of topics on the third evening of the trip. Popular amongst the groups was the role of altitudinal changes and slope steepness on factors concerning forest micro-climates, soil pedogenesis, and vegetation composition. One group set out to investigate methods and indicators of paleo-flood magnitude and frequency in Sutton Creek using extracted tree cores, while another examined “step-pool” sequences at three distinct locations along the creek. Working on different sites, groups could already begin to observe elevational impacts on geological features. For the rest of the trip, these changes were further explored with the aid of field instruments, thus giving us the opportunity to apply techniques explained earlier in the week first hand.

A special dinner courtesy of the Le Montagnard staff, and a customary night-out at Sutton’s local bar on our last day helped remind us that, indeed, our week of learning and jollity had come to an end.

We are all interested in weather changes. GGR390 provides students a fascinating opportunity to observe and analyze several phenomena that influence weather. In other words, students have a chance to actually practice weather analysis and reporting.

In-class learning is often criticized for being too focused on the course syllabus. Consequently, the material conveyed, whilst valuable, is not comprehensive without accompanying field experience. Theoretical knowledge can only go so far.

Collaboration has been recognized not only as a buzzword in the academic community but also as a catalyst for change and innovative ways of thinking – GGR390 encompasses these. The course creates a community of students with shared interests which can greatly enhance learning.

Finally, working with the teaching team headed by Prof. Joe Desloges was a blessing in many ways. For one, they helped us refine our research methodologies. They also served as human encyclopedias that provided us with geological knowledge and other useful information regarding notable sites we passed along the way.
Meeting for the first time at the foot of the Toronto Harbour on September 2nd, our GGR381 class of 18 was eager to board a ferry to reach our first destination of the year: the Toronto Island. This was the first of three full day trips planned by Scott Prudham and TA Bryan Dale, all linked to the idea of “Urban Metabolism”. On our trips we observed how the City of Toronto and the surrounding nature transform and coproduce each other. Our aim was to start thinking about the natural and urban as inseparable.

The first stop along our journey was at the Toronto Island Water Treatment Plant. Here we were introduced to the infrastructure, processes, people, and nature that provide the City with safe drinking water. During this trip and others, we began to understand how nature is incorporated into seemingly “unnatural” urban processes. We learned that in the case of purifying water, the filtration process mimics a river. In cleaning wastewater, the secondary treatment process relies on bacteria and the majority of the waste is composted. Similarly, in the cleaning of contaminated soils, the process is built to work with the basic physical properties of the aggregates.

The next day at The Ashbridges Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant, as we watched water complete its cycle here, our knowledge about the complexity of wastewater treatment and the demands put on this plant had only began to form. Unlike the Toronto Island Water Treatment Plant, which has a steady supply of fairly clean water, the Wastewater Treatment Plant deals with a different input every second. The infrastructure we saw on the tour is amazingly adaptable to the natural fluctuations in incoming water, showing how the urban is dependent and inseparable from the natural.

At the Dufferin Quarry and Niagara Escarpment Commission we learned about the heated debates that go on between developers and Niagara Escarpment Commission and all the socio-economic and political factors that play to shape this area. I’m sure some of us are now interested in pursuing Land Use Planning and Zoning Law.

The Hearn Generating Station was breathtaking to walk through; the cross-section floors, endless ceilings, overhanging wires, puddles, seeping sunlight – it was such an eerie sight of urban decay. Being the largest permanently enclosed area in the GTA and in such close proximity to the heart of Toronto, it is the space to fill a developer’s dream. However, this space once again reminds us of how interdependent urban is with nature – the heavy soil contamination of The Portlands will make it nearly impossible to upgrade this site.

Throughout the remainder of the semester, we will continue to visit different sites around Toronto, tracing all the inputs, outputs and links of Toronto’s “metabolic” system. Most recently, we had a trip to the Metrolinx East Community Relations Office, where we learned about the scale of the Eglinton LRT project, the different stages of the project and the variety of different individuals and corporations involved in realizing this project.

This course has so far made my transition to third year much more exciting and pleasurable. Going into my upper years of study and thinking of where I want to head after graduation, this course has given me the opportunity to be exposed to different fields related to geography, meet professionals in the field, and most importantly allowed me to apply the theory that I have learned in previous years. I look forward to the upcoming excursions and to working with my fellow like-minded young geographers on our small group projects where we will analyze an urban space, while taking into account the main themes of the course.
Grad Student Profile: Andrew Tam

I completed both my Doctor of Philosophy (2014) and Master of Science (2009) degrees in Physical Geography (Climatology) from the Department of Geography. My graduate research included an assessment of climate change impacts on permanently frozen ground (permafrost) between the subarctic region of northern Ontario and the Canadian High Arctic. My study area was located along a geographical south-to-north transect that extended from Lansdowne House in Ontario towards Canada’s northern most settlement at Alert, Nunavut, on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island. My research also focused on the subarctic Hudson Bay Lowlands of northern Ontario and the low and high arctic regions of Nunavut.

During my academic pursuits, I was concurrently establishing my career in the Federal Public Service of Canada. I am now the Assistant Environment Officer with the Department of National Defence at the 8 Wing/Canadian Forces Base Trenton, which includes the Canadian Forces Stations Alert and Eureka in Nunavut. I administer and manage the environmental programs that focus on federal regulatory compliance, environmental assessments and protection, contaminated sites remediation, and scientific research. I am also a collaborator with the National Research Council Canada – the Energy, Mining and Environment’s Arctic Program and the University of Toronto Scarborough’s Cold Climate Research Group.

Grad Student Profile: Charles Z Levkoe

After five years of fieldwork in four provinces, dozens of interviews, hundreds of hours of meetings and workshops, what seemed like a lifetime in front of a computer screen, and the birth of my second child, I submitted the final version of my thesis in November 2013. While I was more than ready to move on from the PhD program, it was difficult to make the break from my incredible supervisor Sarah Wakefield, and my dedicated committee members. During my PhD work, I used a collaborative, community-based methodology to investigate the way that grassroots organizations and individuals were involved in a transformative food politics through the mobilization of regional networks. Upon graduation in January 2014, I began a SSHRC funded postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Alison Blay-Palmer at Wilfrid Laurier University. The focus of this position is to build on my analysis of regional food networks to investigate mobilization at the national and trans-national scales.

In addition to this research, I have continued to teach at the University of Toronto in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning. I am currently teaching Planning for Change: Community Development in Action. This is a two-term joint undergraduate and graduate service learning course and is co-taught with Amrita Daniere and Shauna Brail. Also, I recently received an Insight Development Grant from SSHRC in partnership with Michael Ekers at UTSC. The project is entitled “The Antinomies of Non-Wage Labour in Ontario’s Agricultural Sector and the Alternative Food Movement” and examines the role of non-waged labour (e.g. intern, apprentice and volunteer) on agroecological farms. The aim of this research is to discover how alternative labor arrangements may be part of, or constrain, the development of a sustainable food and agricultural movement (www.foodandlabour.ca).

Furthermore, in the summer of 2014, I took on the academic co-lead position of a seven-year, SSHRC funded Partnership Grant entitled Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement. This research is aimed at strengthening community food security by investigating the ways that community-campus partnerships can be designed and implemented to maximize the value created for community-based organizations. Working with a range of community-based non-profit organizations and academic institutions from across Canada, the overall goal is to study existing models and to articulate “wise practices” in the areas of community-engaged teaching and research in the context of furthering sustainable food systems (www.carleton.ca/communityfirst/).
Faculty Profile: Jun Zhang

I was thrilled to join the Geography Department and to relocate my whole family from two continents over to Toronto last summer. Not only did I know that this is one of the best geography programs in the world with a long and proud history, but I had also already made friends with many colleagues and alumni of the Department before my arrival. My advisor Eric Sheppard received his graduate degrees here, and he would never hide his love of this school and city before me. Previously, from 2007 to 2013, I was an assistant professor in economic geography at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. Before that, I received my Ph.D. in geography at University of Minnesota, and studied as an undergraduate and Master’s student at Peking University in China.

I was trained as an economic geographer with a strong interdisciplinary perspective, interested in the geography of uneven economic development at multiple scales. At the core of my research is a long-standing interest in the geography of innovation and agglomeration in a globalizing context. My doctoral dissertation, “Market Transition and the Spatial Dynamics of Internet Development in China,” sought to trace and theorize the spatially-uneven evolutionary process of China’s internet industry, in the context of China’s emerging market-oriented (re)institutionalization and increasing embrace of globalization. Inspired by the key role of venture capital in stimulating internet growth in China, my subsequent research has examined the formation of venture capital centers in China in the context of the industry’s rapid expansion and restructuration, and the changing landscape of China’s venture capital and technological entrepreneurship. My dissertation work also inspired me to search for a genuinely dynamic approach to economic geography without sacrificing the concerns of various streams of political economy and institutional theories. Several years ago I initiated a research project, jointly with Eric Sheppard, aimed at advancing the emerging stream of Evolutionary Economic Geography by bridging it with geographical political economy and historical institutionalism.

In collaboration with Professor Jamie Peck at UBC, I have made an effort in the past few years to place China into the prevailing transatlantic debate on varieties of capitalism, and to take the prevailing national-scale analysis down to urban/regional scale to gain a better understanding of polymorphic, locally-variegated capitalisms. We consider the extent to which the Chinese economy can be meaningfully characterized as capitalistic, the character of its state form and recent development path, its position within—or beyond—conventional understandings of capitalistic variety, and its variegated and interlinked regional models. Taking a neo-Polanyian perspective, I have also tried to reinterpret China’s marketization process and the rise of Chinese capitalism in a critical dialogue with the literature on global neoliberalism and China’s market-oriented transformation.

Graduate Student Profile: Robin Lattimer

I am a second year student in the Geography Department’s Masters of Science in Planning Program (2015), with a focus in environmental planning and policy. My Current Issues Paper explores the role of local government in environmental assessment under the guidance of my supervisor, Virginia Maclaren. My past research has focused on collaborative frameworks in Ontario’s Source Water Protection program and climate change adaptation in Toronto. This research has been generously funded through a SSHRC Canadian Graduate Scholarship, an Arthur and Sonia Labart Fellowship, the Alexander B. Leman Memorial Award, and the Mitchell Goldhar Award.

In addition to my studies, I’ve worked as the Teaching Assistant for an environmental law course with the School of the Environment and volunteered as the President of the Graduate Geography and Planning Students Society in 2013-2014. I have attended a number of conferences across Canada and looks forward to presenting her research findings at the International Association for Impact Assessment conference in Italy this spring.

Prior to my studies at the University of Toronto, I spent two years volunteering in community-based development programs across Central and South America. Last summer, I gained experience in a broad range of planning and land use practice as a planning intern with Urban Systems in Vancouver. I look forward to building upon the strong academic foundations that the University of Toronto has provided as I pursue a career in environmental consulting and policy.
In a world in which global trade is at risk, where warehouses and airports, shipping lanes and seaports try to guard against the likes of Al Qaeda and Somali pirates, and natural disaster can disrupt the flow of goods, even our “stuff” has a political life. The high stakes of logistics are not surprising, Deborah Cowen reveals, if we understand its genesis in war.

In *The Deadly Life of Logistics*, Cowen traces the art and science of logistics over the past sixty years, from the battlefield to the boardroom and back again. Focusing on choke points such as national borders, zones of piracy, blockades, and cities, she tracks contemporary efforts to keep goods circulating and brings to light the collective violence these efforts produce. She investigates how the old military art of logistics played a critical role in the making of the global economic order—not simply the globalization of production but the invention of the supply chain and the reorganization of national economies into transnational systems. While reshaping the world of production and distribution, logistics is also actively reconfiguring global maps of security and citizenship, a phenomenon Cowen charts through the rise of supply chain security, with its challenge to long-standing notions of state sovereignty and border management.

Though the object of corporate and governmental logistical efforts is commodity supply, *The Deadly Life of Logistics* demonstrates that they are deeply political—and, considered in the context of the long history of logistics, deeply indebted to the practice of war.

*Global Mixed Race* (NYU Press, 2014)
Edited by Rebecca C. King-O’Riain, Stephen Small, Minelle Mahtani

Patterns of migration and the forces of globalization have brought the issues of mixed race to the public in far more visible, far more dramatic ways than ever before. *Global Mixed Race* examines the contemporary experiences of people of mixed descent in nations around the world, moving beyond US borders to explore the dynamics of racial mixing and multiple descent in Zambia, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Okinawa, Australia, and New Zealand. In particular, the volume’s editors ask: how have new global flows of ideas, goods, and people affected the lives and social placements of people of mixed descent? Thirteen original chapters address the ways mixed-race individuals defy, bolster, speak, and live racial categorization, paying attention to the ways that these experiences help us think through how we see and engage with social differences. The contributors also highlight how mixed-race people can sometimes be used as emblems of multiculturalism, and how these identities are commodified within global capitalism while still considered by some as not pure or inauthentic. A strikingly original study, *Global Mixed Race* carefully and comprehensively considers the many different meanings of racial mixedness.

*Mixed Race Amnesia: Resisting the Romanticization of Multiraciality* (UBC Press, 2014)
By Minelle Mahtani

Mixed Race Amnesia is an ambitious and critical look at how multiraciality is experienced in the global north. Drawing on a series of interviews, acclaimed geographer Minelle Mahtani explores some of the assumptions and attitudes people have around multiraciality. She discovers that, in Canada at least, people of mixed race are often romanticized as being the embodiment of a post-racial future -- an ideal that is supported by government policy and often internalized by people of mixed race. As Mahtani reveals, this superficial celebration of multiraciality is often done without any acknowledgment of the freight and legacy of historical racisms. Consequently, a strategic and collective amnesia is taking place -- one where complex diasporic and family histories are being lost while colonial legacies are being reinforced. Mahtani argues that in response, a new anti-colonial approach to multiraciality is needed, and she equips her readers with the analytical tools to do this. The result is a book that takes critical race studies in new and exciting directions.
Canada and the United States are similar in terms of the species of wildlife that mingle freely across their shared border. Despite this similarity, however, there are significant differences between approaches to wildlife management in these two nations. In Land, Stewardship, and Legitimacy, Andrea Olive examines the divergent evolution of endangered species policy on either side of the 49th parallel. Examining local circumstances in areas as distant and diverse as southern Utah and the Canadian Arctic, Olive shows how public attitudes have shaped environmental policy in response to endangered species law, specifically the Species at Risk Act in Canada and the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. Richly researched and accessibly written, this is the first book to compare endangered species policy on both sides of the Canada–U.S. border.

Opening A Window to the West: The Foreign Concession at Kobe, Japan, 1868-1899

After more than two centuries of self-seclusion, Japan finally opened itself to Western traders and influences in the 1850s. However, Westerners were restricted to a handful of Foreign Concessions set adjacent to selected Japanese cities, where they could fashion a working urban space suited to their own cultural patterns, and which provided the Japanese with a microscopic view of Western ways of behaviour and commerce. Kobe was one of these treaty ports, and its Foreign Concession, along with that at Yokohama, became the most vibrant and successful of these settlements. In this first book-length study of Kobe’s Foreign Concession, Ennals situates Kobe within the larger pattern of globalization occurring throughout East Asia in the nineteenth century. Detailing the form and evolution of the settlement, its social and economic composition, and its specific mercantile trading features, this vivid micro-study illuminates the making of Kobe during these critical decades of growth and development.

Thank you to our Alumni

In this issue of GeoPlan we would like to thank all alumni who contributed to the Department’s classes and workshops over the past year. 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.

PAC Module Speakers:
Matt Armstrong (MScPl, 2008)
Michelle Berquist (MScPl, 2013)
Yi Luo (MScPl, 2012)
David McKay (MScPl, 2007)
Geoffrey McGrath (MScPl, 2008)
Leigh McGrath (MScPl, 2008)
Joseph Milos (MScPl, 2014)
Michael Noble (MScPl, 2008)
Shagufa Pasta (MScPl, 2012)
Vrinda Vaidyanathan (MScPl, 2012)

And a big thanks to all the alumni who participated in the PAC Mentor program!

Hilary Ferguson (MA geog, 2009) - guest lecture in GGR1105 (Core Course in Human Geography), fall 2013; fall 2014
Danielle Tesario (MA geog, 2012) - guest lecture in GGR1105 (Core Course in Human Geography), fall 2014

Backpack to Briefcase Speakers:
Louise Aubin (BSc, 1989)
Tija Dirks (BA, 1991)
Damian Dupny (PhD, 1999)
Meirav Even-Har (HBA 2001)
Ricardo Gomez-Insausti (PhD 1996)
Anna Greener (HBA, 2009)
Justin Holmes (HBA 2012)
Nicole Pinto-Lobo (HBSc, 2008)
Brian Ridgway (BA 1996)
There is always plenty of room in GeoPlan for Alumni news. As usual, we also welcome short articles that might be of interest to alumni. Please send all updates and articles to:
UTAGA@geog.utoronto.ca; 416-978-3375

Our UTAGA listserv reaches a broad alumni audience and you can find instructions on how to join at: geography.utoronto.ca/alumni/utaga/keeping-in-touch/

In 2013, the department launched a new website with more comprehensive and easily accessible information. In addition to current and past copies of GeoPlan, it includes a list of alumni books and complete information on departmental awards and past winners.

- VISIT US ON THE WEB -
geography.utoronto.ca/alumni/utaga