Welcome to the 2017 edition of GeoPlan. I am writing this message in my last year as Chair of the St. George department and Graduate Chair of the tri-campus programs in Geography and Planning. It has been an honour serving such a wonderful department in both roles. During my 10 years as Chair and eight as Graduate Chair, I have had the great pleasure of celebrating many achievements by our outstanding undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff. We have also seen many changes to the department during that time. We have enhanced our undergraduate curriculum, modified and introduced new undergraduate programs of study, greatly expanded our graduate program along with the number of tri-campus faculty members, improved our space in Sidney Smith and, with the generous support of our alumni and friends, added substantially to the number of scholarships available to our students. We have just been through an external review of the department by international experts and their conclusion was that we are among the top departments in the world in both Geography and Planning.

I would like to highlight two stories in this issue of GeoPlan, both of which are about our undergraduate field courses. After many years at Sutton, Quebec, the site of the undergraduate physical geography field trip moved to the Koffler Scientific Reserve (KSR) at Joker’s Hill, north of Toronto (see p. 8). KSR has a much flatter topography than Sutton, but it has all the physical elements necessary for successful field training - and travel time for the field trip has been shortened from 14 hours to 2 hours round trip. The instructors of the field course, Jing Chen and Joe Desloges, will be introducing an innovative teaching tool to the course next year. They applied for and received funding to purchase a drone, which will allow students to gain hands-on experience in acquiring and processing remote sensing images that they can confirm with ground-based observations.

Another significant change in our field course offerings was the shift of the Human Geography field course to Montreal after having been offered in New York City for the last eight years (p. 9). The shift was motivated by concerns that some of our students wishing to take the course might have been affected by the Trump administration’s proposed travel ban for certain groups. There is now much more certainty around that travel ban and we will reconsider whether there is a need to remain in Canada for future years.

Finally, I hope that you will join us at one or both of two very special alumni events in the coming year, one in Planning and one in Geography. The Planning event is our first alumni reunion of MScPl graduates from the 1990s (p.15). The event is being organized by the Class of ’93 and will take place over three days in early July. The Geography event is the UTAGA 25th anniversary and book launch in October (p.27). I also encourage you join us for a new GeoTrip to Hamilton offered by Tony Davis in June (p.25) and, as always, we welcome Planning alumni to the annual Spring Social in April (p.14).

The Planning Alumni Committee is hard at work, finding ways to keep in touch with our alumni. This year we introduced a new LinkedIn group and created an opportunity for an MScPl student to serve as our Digital Planning Community Animator, sharing our news and stories on all our digital platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter). This year we also offered several of our favourite events. Alumni were out in force at both the back-to-school Fall Mixer and our 21st Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. We were pleased to present a keynote speech from Joe Berridge on ‘YZ Taking Off: The Linked Futures of Pearson Airport and the Greater Toronto Area’ (p.14). The funds raised at the Social enabled PAC to continue the proud tradition of sponsoring the 2nd Year Student field trip. Their article in this newsletter (p.20) details the adventure of visiting Mexico City with Paul Hess serving as the faculty advisor. PAC continues to offer events and programming for students throughout the year as summarized on page 15. 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 bonds between practicing planners and their alma mater. We hope you will join us on April 12, 2018, for the 22nd Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. If you can’t make it, we look forward to bumping into you online and hope you’ll consider reaching out to take a more active role in the coming year. Whether you join the Committee, become a mentor, speak at a teaching module or write a story for our newsfeed – you make the Community better by taking part. Email us at committee@uoftpac.ca or find us on Twitter, Linked in and Facebook @uoftpac.

As I passed the Presidency of UTAGA to Walter Gitow (BA 2004) this year, I thought it was an appropriate time to look back on the achievements of UTAGA since its founding in 1996 and reflect on the privilege that it has been to be a founding member of the association. Memorable UTAGA initiatives have included the creation of PAC (1996), outreach to TUGS, GIS workshop series, GeoTrips, Annual Awards and GeoPlan. A personal highlight was organizing a ‘field trip’ to Iceland in 2013 at the request of Joe Whitney.

In 1992, as a regional councillor for OAGEE (Ontario Assoc. for Geographic & Environmental Education), I co-ordinated a conference with the TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board) and the Department of Geography & Planning. Joe Whitney, then chair of the Department, enthusiastically welcomed the collaboration – ‘Windows on the 21st Century’ - to be hosted on campus October
Assistant Professor Matthew Adams joined Geography at UTM. Matthew’s research uses GIS to predict individual exposure to air pollution on a hyper-local scale, studying locations in Hamilton, Mississauga and other urban areas in the greater Toronto area. He received his PhD from McMaster in 2015.

Assistant Professor Vincent Kuuire has joined the department at UTM. Vincent is a Human Geographer whose research spans migration, urban, and health geographies. He holds a PhD in Geography of Migration and Ethnic Relations from Western University (2016).

Dr. Jeff Biggar, a recent PhD graduate from the department, is now a new postdoctoral fellow. He is working with Matti Siemiatycki on evaluating governance and performance of public-private partnership infrastructure projects in Ontario and British Columbia.

Dr. Emily Rosenman, also a postdoctoral fellow, received her PhD from the University of British Columbia. Her research interests include urban and economic geography, poverty finance, housing and community development, and critical urban theory. She will be working with Jason Hackworth.

Appointments

Professor Amrita Daniere’s appointment as Vice Principal, Academic, and Dean at UTM has been extended to June 2020. 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).

Professor Rachel Silvey was appointed as the Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute in the Munk School of Global Affairs. Rachel is best known for her research on women’s labour and migration in Indonesia. She has published widely in the fields of migration studies, cultural and political geography, gender studies, and critical development.

Professor Alana Boland was appointed Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Alana served as Associate Chair, Undergraduate, for the department for five years and is the recipient of an Outstanding Teaching Award from the Faculty.

Department News

The department has once again seen a few changes to personnel at St George in the past year. Jenny Jung, the office receptionist for the previous two years has left the department to join the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics as their administrative officer and Natalia Zdaniuk, a recent Geography MA graduate, filled in after her departure. We welcomed Maria Wowk, formerly with the Geography Department at UTM as the new assistant to the chair.

22-23, 1993. Donald Kerr, Professor Emeritus, was the opening keynote speaker, and Gilbert Grosvenor, editor of National Geographic Magazine, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon held in the Great Hall. It was at this gathering of geographers that The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and The National Geographic Society announced the establishment of the joint initiative to strengthen geographic education in the classroom, the Canadian Council for Geographic Education which is still going strong as Canadian Geographic Education.

Inspired by the geography teachers of Ontario, Joe Whitney called a meeting of a few alumni from the department to discuss the creation of an alumni association. The proposal was presented to Carl Amrhein, the new Chair of the Department, resulting in the establishment of UTAGA in 1993 with the full support of the department. A book celebrating UTAGA’s 25th anniversary titled Our Geographic Worlds will be published this year (p.27). Please join us in the ongoing search for new initiatives, moving on in the 21st century.
Awards

**Associate Professor Matti Siemiatycki** was named a Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Infrastructure Planning and Finance. The award recognizes Professor Siemiatycki’s outstanding research contributions on public-private partnerships for infrastructure in transportation, water and waste, energy, education, health and justice.

Retirements

**Byron Moldofsky**, the department’s Cartography and GIS office Manager retired from the University in October to take up a consulting career. Byron was a cartographer and production coordinator on the three volumes of the Historical Atlas of Canada, 1980-1991. Since 1993 he was the manager of Cartography Office and GIS Office where he oversaw major GIS, mapping and atlas projects for the Department of Geography, and for university and external clients.

Science Rendezvous 2017 - Physical Geography Booth

By Selina Amaral (BSc) and Anna Soleski (PhD candidate)

Science Rendezvous 2017, Physical Geography flume demonstration was a great success! We welcomed over 200 visitors to our geomorphology booth and demonstrated the modelling of river bedforms in our experimental flume. A flume is an open channel enclosed at either side, filled with sand along the bed. Flumes are used in experimental science to simulate sediment transport processes, bedform development and sedimentary structures, for developing landscape evolution models and characterizing complex river systems in the natural environment. Sediment transport and bedforms are primarily controlled by stream power, which is essentially the product of slope and rate of flow. In the flume, slope and flow rate are controlled by adjusting bed elevation and pump speed. For this experimental demonstration, we set the slope to 2% and flow rate to 0.48 L/s, allowing our visitors to observe the formation of sand dunes at the base of the channel.

In addition to the flume, we showcased 3D animations provided by the USGS (US Geological Survey, 2016) that demonstrated the development of sedimentary profiles created by different types of bedforms. A time-lapse video was used to show how meandering river point-bars and cutoffs can be formed by adjusting water flow rate and duration, volume of sediment supply and channel slope. Point-bars are seen to be directly related to a secondary flow that cuts across the width of the channel to the cutbank and deposits sediment on the opposite point-bar. We also featured some ‘Fun with Stereoscopes’ and a ‘World River’s Geography’ game, allowing participants to view aerial photographs in 3D and match world rivers to their geographic location. It was great to see so many families with young children attend the event and encourage their interest in Physical Geography. We would like to thank the Science Rendezvous volunteers and staff, our booth neighbours the Earth Science group, and Nacia, our booth volunteer. Link to USGS animations: [https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/seds/bedforms/animation.html](https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/seds/bedforms/animation.html)

Current UTAGA, faculty, student, staff and former Cartography Office members celebrate

Byron Moldofsky’s retirement along with his wife Susan at the Faculty Club Pub - November 2017
For the last 5 years, Professor Jing Chen’s research group has been investigating the exchange of CO₂ and H₂O between a forest canopy and the atmosphere at a deciduous forest in Borden, Ontario. The forest is natural re-growth from farmland abandoned around 1916, and contains a 40 m high measurement tower run by Environment Canada. Canopy-level measurements of forest-atmosphere gas exchange have been taken continuously here since 1995, making the Borden forest flux record the longest in Canada, and one of the longest in the world. We take regular leaf-level measurements using a portable gas-exchange instrument to investigate the relationships between leaf biochemistry, such as leaf chlorophyll, and leaf photosynthesis throughout the growing season. The data are used to investigate how leaf biochemistry influences the seasonal and annual variations in carbon uptake by the forest, and their role in the global carbon cycle.

Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems Research Group (SAUSy)

By Michael Widener, Assistant professor

It’s happened to many of us. You’re running around the city, preoccupied with the many tasks that have to get done - pick up the kids, swing by the bank, check in with work. In an all too brief moment of quiet, you hear your stomach rumble and remember you forgot to eat lunch! Across the street you see a fast food restaurant, and decide to swing by for a quick bite before you head off to the next event on your list.

This feeling of being rushed is common, and it affects how we interact with the world around us. Time pressure, as it is often called, is a type of stress we experience when we feel like we don’t have enough (real or perceived) time to get everything done. To cope, we change our behaviours to help free up valuable time. At the Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems Lab, my graduate students and I are exploring how time pressure affects when and where we shop for and eat food.

In the not so distant past, the ‘food desert’ concept was commonly used to understand who had access to healthy and affordable food options. Food deserts were usually defined as regions of cities where residents lived far from supermarkets and grocery stores. These residents were hypothesized to be at a disadvantage when it came to maintaining a nutritious diet, and were subsequently at risk of a wide range of chronic disease (e.g. obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease).

However, food deserts tend to oversimplify the relationship between urban residents’ locations and where they get their food.

It is also critical to think about other important factors, like a resident’s income, family size, daily activity pattern, the cultural appropriateness of food, and time available to cook and clean.

My team is currently using a range of datasets – from Statistics Canada’s General Social Survey’s Time Use questionnaires to GPS and food purchasing data collected in the recent Canada Food Survey – to explore how time use and pressure influences the types of food we buy, and where we buy that food. We are also working on designing research projects that will allow us to capture how this all eventually leads to better or worse long-term health outcomes, and what types of policy interventions can be designed to improve access to and consumption of healthy and affordable foods.

At the end of the day, we know we probably aren’t going to make people less busy. But, we hope to change urban food environments so that it is a little easier for the person on the run to have a nutritious meal as they dash to their next errand.

Lab Webpage: http://www.sausy.ca

This article was originally posted on Cities@UofT
Professor Katharine Rankin is currently co-leading (with Professor of Anthropology Sara Shneiderman, UBC) two major collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects addressing post-disaster, post-conflict dynamics in a rapidly transforming region of South Asia.

**Infrastructures of Democracy: State Building as Everyday Practice in Nepal’s Agrarian Districts** employs comparative ethnographic methods and deliberative public engagement to explore how people enact and participate in ‘democracy’ in contexts of state restructuring. Following the end of a decade-long civil conflict, local institutions emerged as key sites of ongoing struggle over democratic futures in Nepal. Much of those struggles are waged around the governance of infrastructure development, in a country characterized by challenging topographies and smallholder agrarian livelihoods. Through a focus on infrastructure governance, the research explores how everyday practices at the sub-national scale constitute state building, and how they enable or constrain transformative social change. The project is funded by a SSHRC Insight Grant and entails several nested scales of collaboration including peer researchers in research sites and doctoral students in Canada and Nepal—with core research teams based at the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia in Canada, and at the Martin Chautari Research and Policy Institute in Kathmandu, Nepal. In addition to academic contributions, the project provides policy-relevant analysis of local institutional dynamics and supports processes of public deliberation through community-based research methods, analysis workshops and graphic-format representation. Project website: https://infrastructuresofdemocracy.wordpress.com/

On April 25, 2015, a 7.9 richter-scale earthquake hit Nepal killing more than 8,800 people, injuring over 23,000, and causing extensive damage to already limited and vulnerable infrastructure. The earthquake and its many aftershocks have placed local governmental institutions under tremendous strain while also prompting a groundswell of local and trans-local support for a massive rebuilding effort. A second project, titled **Expertise, Labour and Mobility in Nepal’s Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster Reconstruction**, aims to understand the socio-political effects of Nepal’s 2015 earthquakes and post-earthquake reconstruction. Funded by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, it builds an international network of scholars, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations focusing on post-earthquake reconstruction and social transformation in Nepal, with strong nodes in Canada, Nepal, and Denmark. The project features three ethnographic and survey research pilots focusing on three domains of expertise critical to post-conflict and post-disaster transformation: construction (engineers, architects, and traditional builders); law (politicians, civil servants, and lawyers); and finance (bankers, corporate investors, and microfinance/cooperative fund managers). It aims to build research capacity, in both Canada and Nepal, to investigate and improve post-disaster reconstruction in mountainous regions. Project website: http://elmnr.sites.olt.ubc.ca/.

This feature article was originally posted by the Asian Institute on the Munk School of Global Affairs site.
Nepal Graphic Ethnography Field Trip 2017

With special funding from University of Toronto’s Dean’s International Initiative Fund, in May and June of 2017 two undergraduate students, Helen Loghrin and Sarah Ray, travelled to Nepal with geography doctoral candidate Elsie Lewison to work on the development of a ‘graphic ethnography’ on the politics of roads.

The trip took place under the supervision of Professor Katharine Rankin in conjunction with her larger SSHRC-funded research project entitled *Infrastructures of Democracy* (IOD). The graphic ethnography, targeted particularly to undergraduate audiences, will be one output component of the project and is led by Professor Stacy Pigg, of Simon Fraser University. Professor Pigg is a collaborator on the IOD project and serves on the advisory committee for a new University of Toronto Press book series ethnOGRAPHIC: *Ethnography in Graphic Form*. Graphic novels and other experimental visual and media formats have become increasingly popular in sharing insights from academic research with a wider audience (for examples see: http://www.upteachingculture.com/tag/graphic-adventures-in-anthropology/; http://ethnographicterminalia.org/)

In Nepal, the students networked with Kathmandu-based arts organizations and collectives to identify Nepali artists currently working in the graphic novel medium. They also worked with the core Nepal-based research team to identify key themes and narratives emergent in the project data that would speak to an undergraduate development studies audience. The students travelled with Nepal-based research associate Shyam Kunwar to one of the project district sites in Nepal to learn first-hand about the politics of infrastructure and to gather visual documentation to be used for storyboarding and design. In addition to developing archives for visual documentation and select narratives and a list of artist contacts, Helen (who has since entered the MScPl program) and Sarah (who has since graduated and is pursuing her interests in mountaineering) also developed an interactive map (https://infrastructuresofdemocracy.wordpress.com/home-2/stories-mapping-in-dolakha/) sharing some of the narratives that they documented over the course of the trip.

2017 China Field Trip

In May 2017, a group of thirteen students from GGR343 and CAS450 participated in an Internationalized Course Module (ICM) funded by the Faculty of Arts and Science, with support from the Department of Geography & Planning and the Asian Institute. Our 10-day trip gave us an opportunity to expand on course materials through on-the-ground applications in and around Chengdu, a Chinese city characterized by its long-standing culture as well as its rapid growth and economic development. Led by Professor Alana Boland and PhD student, Leqian Yu, we explored booming city spaces such as Tianfu Guangchang, the new district of Gaoxinqu, and the ‘Financial City’. Through these sites of change, ambition, and sometimes spectacle, we examined the new paths of urbanization transforming mobilities, infrastructure, and historic sites in the city’s bid to enter the ‘global’ stage.

We took day trips to Chengdu’s rural districts, living at a rural ‘home-stay’ (nongjiale) in Pengzhou county, an example of the rapidly growing eco-tourism and country-living vacation industries. We also visited the 2008 earthquake epicenter and memorial site in Mianyang. In so doing, we considered questions of preservation, renewal, and re-creation, and how these play out across urban-rural linkages. Across these spaces, we saw that development is not necessarily overwriting history, culture or environment, but instead notions of old and new in tandem to remake the city landscape.

Our engagement with the city also occurred at different scales. At the Gao family farm, we saw how a family operation was seeking to promote locally-grown and ecologically-conscious produce. We visited the local environmental NGO Chengdu Urban River Association, which operates at a city-wide scale, monitoring river levels and water quality while encouraging parents, especially women, and children to get involved. At a larger scale, the new Taikoo Li Sanlitun, as Chengdu’s main shopping centre, is seeking to attract a mix of local and international clientele in its branding of historic roots and contemporary lifestyles.

Finally, a unique and especially fruitful element of our ICM was the chance for us to work with new people and make connections abroad. Our group met start-ups that grew from Canada-Chengdu connections. We joined up with local urban planning students as we made our way around the city, sharing project ideas, while learning from their local perspectives on urban change. Even within our own U of T group, we shared ideas and collaborated across disciplines, which led to insightful, creative, and fun explorations of course ideas. As Prof Boland noted on the last day, it was a great group full of positive energy, engagement, comradery, and remarkable stamina, all of which made for an incredible learning experience.
Through alligator-infested waters and serpent-dotted trees, the GGR390 class miraculously overcame all obstacles in our arduous journey to complete the physical geography field camp. Perhaps the above retelling may be a slight dramatization of the actual events that took place. This field course was a five day long excursion last August at the Koffler Scientific Reserve in Newmarket. The course provided a hands-on introduction to field methods in geomorphology, vegetation mapping, analysis of soils, hydrology and climatology.

The Koffler Scientific Reserve (KSR), located on 350 hectares owned by University of Toronto, is situated in the eastern sector of the Oak Ridges Moraine near Newmarket. We learned many skills, including how to interpret data from a climatological station, take stream discharge measurements, take water quality measurements, and assess leaf cover of the forest. In learning these skills, we handled complex pieces of equipment, including total stations, sling psychrometers, acoustic doppler velocimeters and ground penetrating radar.

The independent group research projects were the most interesting part of the field course. The projects covered were: the aspect control on plant diversity, riffle and pool formation in Kettleby Creek, carbon storage in KSR forests, and the origins of the eastern sector of the Oak Ridges Moraine. For three days our groups worked independently going out in the field to collect data. My group spent our days under the hot sun moving a ground penetrating radar device (see photo above right) up and down hills at 50cm intervals. The groups collected as much data as they could over the field duration to be analyzed at a future date.

It was incredibly fun to get to work with Professors Joe Desloges and Jing Chen as well as the TAs Pamela Tetford and Anna Soleski. All in all, I have learned a lot from the course about how physical geography research is carried out in the field.
In September 2017, 20 undergraduate students accompanied Professor Deborah Cowen and TA Sabrien Amrov for a five day field course in Montreal. Our group arrived in the city, excited for the opportunities that being physically present in the city would offer that the classroom could not. The experience that unfolded attests to the value of experiential learning.

We passed through Place Émilie Gamelin, now renamed Jardin Gamelin, nearly every day. Each time our group saw the racialized, mostly Black, homeless population of the park being frisked, surveilled and displaced by men in uniform. This daily tread through Place Émilie Gamelin quickly dismantled the facade of a romanticized city that shaped many of our perceptions upon arrival. Our group was immediately exposed to such acts of bordering that created contradictions of flow and containment, where some were free to move through and take up space, while others were stopped, frisked, and violently displaced.

We quickly learned that Montreal’s landscape was designed, and consistently re-designed, to welcome some and exclude others. On our trip, however, every such encounter of state-sanctioned violence was followed by a meeting with members of incredibly resilient communities. Our impression of Montreal was profoundly shaped by these individuals and communities who welcomed us and shared with us the various nodes of resistance they had built into the fabric of the city. Montreal stands on unceded Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe territories. Our first day began with a meeting with Camille Larivée, organizer of Unceded Voices, who would help us grapple with that living legacy. Camille showed us the breathtaking murals by Indigenous-identified, two-spirit, queer and women of colour artists from the collective. Their street art interventions recognize the importance of walls and structures as spaces for healing and re-asserting an Indigenous presence on stolen land. They paint without the City’s permission on unceded land that has been central in the building and maintenance of the Canadian settler colonial project.

We also heard from Professor Ted Rutland and PhD candidate Fred Burrill about how communities in Montreal actively resist rent increases, the conversion of plexes, and rapid condominium development - a refreshing change from the narrative of learned helplessness. We were left with Professor Rutland’s statement that if we are to progress as a society and build cities that people can truly call home, then we need to ‘democratize the city-making process’. Along a walking tour of the Centre Sud neighbourhood, Nora Butler Burke told us that we are still far from that goal as trans migrant women are constantly criminalized, punished and confined to a state of precarity by the criminal justice and immigration systems in the city. But she also told us about the support networks, both institutional and informal, that trans migrant women have formed in Montreal, allowing for the creation of community that can collectively face these oppressive systems.

Professor David Austin shared some of the findings from his book, Fear of a Black Nation: Race, Sex, and Security in Sixties Montreal, as we toured around Little Burgundy. Professor Austin recounted how a few decades ago, most of its inhabitants were rail porters, one of the only jobs available to Black men. In spite of all obstacles, Black porters transformed the rail lines, a crucial part of settler colonial infrastructure, into a network of resistance and Black organizing. As we stared at the site where the Negro Community Centre once stood, a gaping hole left by its demolition four years ago, we reflected on the long traditions of relentless and creative organizing that define so many marginalized communities, and how they build infrastructures of resistance and community for themselves even when others are persistent on tearing them down.

Ultimately, the institutions we study are fallible. As Mostafa Henaway of the Immigrant Workers Centre put it as we walked around the Cotes des Neiges neighbourhood, ‘power is brittle’. This prompted us to wonder if we could do a different kind of accounting, based on the voices and experiences of the marginalised. We learned related lessons from other guest interlocutors: Haitian community organizer and hip hop artist Ricardo Lamour, and lawyer and community advocate Sameer Zuberi. For twenty of us, the privilege of stepping into Montreal’s urban landscape was a reminder that within the everyday, there is potential for resistance and self-determination, that what is now, does not always have to be.

We return to UofT mindful of the communities and individuals who welcomed us in Montreal. As one small step towards that, the students decided to collaborate on a magazine that will archive and commemorate the sites, histories, and individuals that informed our fieldwork, that we will share back with those who offered us so much. We hope and vow to carry our experiences forward to share and apply our learning to our home city of Toronto.

Mural by Dolly Deals about Canadian residential schools, for Unceded Voices. 2017. Photo by authors.
Oil palm is an economically important, and rapidly expanding crop, which is continuing to transform the Guatemalan landscape at unprecedented rates. Over the last decade, the area dedicated to oil palm has more than doubled in Central America, and increased nearly six-fold in Guatemala alone. Caught in the transition, the communities hosting the plantations are struggling to take advantage of the economic opportunities brought by the oil palm, with little assurance of stable long-term livelihoods. Oil palm employment options are limited and other livelihood options are becoming scarce as oil palm spreads over other agricultural lands and parts of the tropical rainforest.

In my research, I am working with scholars from the San Carlos University in Guatemala and the local communities in the Lachuá Ecoregion which are hosting smallholder oil palm plantations. My goal is to understand the ecological and socio-economic implications of the oil palm boom in this region. Specifically, I am focusing on the often-overlooked impacts on water access and quality, and the local food system. Working with Professor Ryan Isakson and colleagues in San Carlos University, I conducted a survey in two communities in the Lachua Ecoregion, conducted community workshops and interviewed oil palm growers, community leaders, government officials, and representatives of local NGOs. My results support the emerging critiques of rural development strategies that rely exclusively on the promotion of ‘boom’ crops such as oil palm, since many host-community members are alienated from the benefits of oil palm and are at the same time forced to bear the socio-ecological costs of the crop.

In continuing my research, I hope to integrate my findings into a socio-ecological food system analysis to examine the implications of oil palm on food security and to determine what new vulnerabilities may be emerging in this changing landscape. My findings may help to inform future development policies in various parts of the world, as well as food and energy policies (since oil palm is a common feedstock for biodiesel).

I am a fourth year student graduating this June with a double major in human geography and psychology, and a minor in environmental geography. I am the human geography representative for the Toronto Undergraduate Society (TUGS) this year. This is my first year on TUGS and already it has been an incredible experience to connect and plan alongside the executive committee for not only the current geography student body, but for the classes to come as well. Alongside this, I am incredibly excited to join the editorial board for this year’s Landmarks: The Undergraduate Geography Journal. After gaining the experience of having one of my articles published in last year’s volume, I am looking forward to working on the skills required to provide editorial support.

After graduation I hope to further pursue my studies in a graduate program. I am interested in continuing work within the field of international development, both academically and professionally. My studies in human geography, psychology, and environmental geography have allowed me to understand the connections and complexities of the world around me. In my classes I have been able to engage with and discuss the social issues that I am passionate about. These skills have been put to use at both my internship with Sustain Ontario, an NGO engaging with Food Justice issues in Ontario, and with WE where I work as a trips facilitator. Apart from that you can catch me enjoying the outdoors, reading, cooking, globe-trotting, or racing around campus!
The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA), Planning Alumni Community (PAC) and the Geography & Planning Department’s 22nd annual Awards Presentation evening on November 2nd, 2017, was a well-attended success, with more than 90 students receiving awards.

This year, UTAGA’s Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award was given to David McKay in recognition of his long service as a member of the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), culminating in his service as Chair of the committee from 2015 - 2017. During his time on the committee, David fostered a robust annual corporate sponsorship fundraising campaign that enabled extensive engagement between the alumni community, the Department and the student body. Perhaps most notably under David’s leadership, the annual grant from PAC for the second year field trip grew to $15,000, ensuring that the field trip remained accessible to a growing number of students. David has dedicated a significant amount of energy to mentoring PAC committee members, as well as giving students insights into the demands of professional practice by participating in the PAC planner speaker series as both an organizer and presenter.

The UTAGA Honorary President Award was given to Martha Shuttleworth, the President and Founder of the Neptis Foundation, an organization that has undertaken ground-breaking research and made highly significant policy contributions towards shaping the design and understanding the functions of Canadian urban regions. Her inspirational leadership of Neptis has been recognized with the Friends of the Greenbelt Award in 2008 and the David Crombie Award for Urban Leadership in 2016. Martha received the Honorary President Award in recognition of Neptis’ outstanding support of graduate student education in both the Geography and Planning programs. This has taken the form of two scholarships: the Neptis Foundation Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography and the Neptis Foundation Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning. The scholarships have been awarded since 2001 and 2005, respectively, and have benefited 28 of our graduate students. The award also recognizes many years of research and mapping collaborations between Neptis and the department’s GIS and Cartography office that produced data bases and reports used in geography and planning education and supported student research assistants. The Neptis Foundation’s lengthy record of support for graduate education in the department made Martha Shuttleworth a truly deserving recipient of this year’s award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2016 was presented to Engin Isin as he was not able to attend last year’s ceremony. Engin 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).
**UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS**

**Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship**
Adriana Stark

**Canadian Association of Geographers Undergraduate Award**
Adriana Stark

**Edward Blake Scholarship in Earth Sciences**
Genevieve Pinnington

**William G. Dean Scholarship in Geography for Field Research**
James Taylor

**F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment**
Sophia Zamaria

**John Horner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography**
Matthew Bourne
Alexandra Potamianos
Hafsaah Siddiqui
Thomas Willington

**Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship**
Su Hyun Park

**Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography**
Hayley Roberts

**Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science**
Genevieve Pinnington

**Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award**
Charlotte Gale

**UTAGA Outstanding Performance Awards**
Environmental Geography: Olivia Caruso
Human Geography: James Chapman
Methods/GIS: Wenxi Liao
Physical Geography: Matthew Bourne

**UTAGA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award**
Clara Risk
Helen Logrin

**UTAGA Undergraduate Computer Applications Award**
Harry Moss

**UTAGA Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award**
Bronwen Hunter
Nicholas Stern

**GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS**

**Graduate Alpar Scholarship**
Andrew Kaufman

**John D. Barnes Geodetic Sciences Fellowship**
Jeffrey Allen

**John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography**
Kyla Egan
Leah Forte
Emily Hawes
Anamarie Martins
Killian McCormack
Stephanie Varty
Nicole Yu

**James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography**
Kuni Kamizaki

**Oscar J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship**
Alexis Robinson
Cheryl Rogers

**Joseph A. May Scholarship**
Valentina Castellini
Rachel Phillips
Tim Ross
Stephanie Stanov
Christopher Webb

**Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship**
Alexander Cebulski

**UTAGA J.B.R. Whitney Award**
Tammy Chou

**PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS**

**CIP Award for Academic Excellence**
Andrew Walker

**Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation**
Sharon Lam
Danielle Magsumbol
Clara Shipman

Charlaine Pereira receiving the ESRI Canada Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology from Alex Miller, President
Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Haydi Wong

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Arno van Dijk
Anamarie Martins
Hannah Miller
Izabela Molendowski

LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Tolu Alabi

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship
Adwoa Afful

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Igor Samardzic

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Alison Blagden
Leah Forte
Anamarie Martins
Anna Shortly

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Adam Didycz

Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Alison Blagden
Laura Dumbrell
Madeleine Hicks
Gemma Johnson
Leah Forte
Anna Shortly

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Tammy Chou
Desiree Liu

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Timothy Bristow

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Jennifer Willliamson

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Symon James-Wilson

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Timothy Bristow

Donald F. Putnam / George Tatham/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Zach Anderson

Edward Sorbara / Building Industry and Land Development (BILD) / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Sean Grant

J. M. Tomczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Beyhan Farhadi

Urban Strategies / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Simmy Saini

U of T Planning Alumni / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Lucy Cui

Michael Ralph Walsh / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Emily Hawes

Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Adam Didicz
Valentina Castellini
Kiley Goyette
Matthew Lie-Paehlke
Julie Mah
Zannah Matson
Rachel Phillips
Sam Walker

Connaught International Scholarship
Cynthia Malone

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) - Alexander Graham Bell Graduate Scholarship - Master's
Sarah Archibald
Alesha Bakkeldund
Justin Murfitt

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship
Adrian Khan
Nicholas Lombardo
Naomi Schwartz

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's
Jeffrey Allen
Amanda Baldo
Caolan Barr
Philip Kuligowski-Chan
Robert Keel
Sharon Lam
Jennifer Langill
Keir Matthews-Hunter
Rebecca Nelson
Natasha Petzold
Ellen Power
Clara Shipman
Hisham Shokr
Adriana Stark
Haydi Wong

EXTERNAL AWARDS (PROVINCIAL)

ESRI Canada Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Charlene Pereira

William G. Dean Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Alexander Cebulski

Recipients of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's with Virginia Maclaren (r)

Photo credit: Jonathan Lung

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On April 13, 2017, the Great Hall at Hart House was filled with the laughter and chatter of over 300 alumni, faculty, students and city-builders at the 21st Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social. Attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and an antipasto spread, live jazz and one another’s company well into the evening. Everyone paused their conversation to take in the keynote address: ‘YYZ Taking Off: the linked futures of Pearson Airport and the Greater Toronto Area’ by Joe Berridge (photo at right). Listening to the presentation, it was impossible not to be impressed by the growth potential and international significance of our region and its main airport.

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 through scholarship growth. Furthermore, PAC wishes to recognize the substantial contribution of the event’s corporate and promotional sponsors, who enable not only the event, but the long standing student field trip grant, and the rest of PAC’s programming throughout the school year.

Photo credit: Vincent Luke

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

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BILD; CNU Ontario, NRU Publishing; Ontario Professional Planners Institute, Urban Land Institute

Register for the 2018 Friends of Planning Spring Social
https://alumni.utoronto.ca/events-and-programs/friends-planning-spring-social
2017 PAC Activities at a Glance

Community Building
• Alumni and students filled the Duke of York with a homecoming buzz at the PAC Fall Mixer, where we warmly welcomed the incoming class of 2018.
• Over 30 pairs of Mentors and Mentees were introduced to one another, and many took the opportunity to attend the Meet and Greet Gathering, our last at the Victory Café on Markham Street.

Student Growth and Development
• PAC hosted 3 ‘Pizza with a Planner’ events giving students a chance to break bread (er, crust) with a few practicing planners and hear insights from their real-world experiences on a given subject: Tech in Planning (February), Resilience & School Travel (March), and ‘Planning 101’ Orientation to the Planning Framework (September).
• PAC supported the PLA1106: Workshop in Planning Practice, course by helping to co-ordinate project topics and clients. These projects are listed on the department website: http://geography.utoronto.ca/planning-projects-by-m-sc-planning-students.

Support for Learning
• The annual second-year student field trip took place in Mexico City under the guidance of Dr. Paul Hess as chaperone, thanks to PAC’s long-standing field trip grant.
• With PAC support, students were able to attend conferences like OPPI, CIP and others to present their work and learn from a broad range of students and professionals.

Recognizing Talent and Achievement
• PAC established two new lifetime achievement awards from UTAGA for Geography grads: the PAC Honorary President Award for contributions to the planning program, and the PAC Distinguished Alumni Award for an alum whose career achievements bring honour to the Department, recipients are profiled in this newsletter (p.11).
• The Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning, The Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto Planning Alumni OGS Award, and The Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation were presented to students who are listed in this newsletter (p.12-13).

Pizza With a Planner

By Helen Loghrin (1st Year PAC Rep)

For the planning student, government policy and legislation can be a daunting network to navigate through. Luckily for the students of the Master of Science in Planning program, Helen Huang from MHBC and Anna Wynveen from Bousfields were able to organize and explain planning policies and legislation at PAC’s Pizza with a Planner: Planning 101.

This fall, Master of Science in Planning students joined Helen and Anna for a workshop that introduced students to the planning documents they would need to become familiar with for future employment. As the room filled with the smell of mouth watering pizzas and chocolate cake, Helen and Anna began to weave their way through the complicated framework of provincial and municipal documents. The dynamic duo provided a detailed explanation by introducing a range of documents from high order legislation like the Ontario Planning Act, to detailed secondary plans and zoning by-laws like the Toronto 569-2013 zoning by-law. Using specific developments as examples, Anna and Helen then proceeded to guide students through the process of analysing and amending legislative documents. Students benefited from the presenters’ demonstration of tools that are available to search for planning components, especially beyond the scope of plans and zoning by-laws. Introductions to search portals like TMMS and a detailed description of what should be included in a due diligence report were particularly advantageous to land use planning students. To top it off, presenters eagerly shared examples of their own work, which helped students to truly understand the triumphs and hardships that were associated with on-the-ground projects.

Thank you Helen Huang and Anna Wynveen, as well as all Planning Alumni Committee members, for introducing us to the land use planning framework. The tools and documents that you introduced have already helped us so much, and we look forward to future Pizza with a Planner events.
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 the following distinguished visitors.

BOUSFIELD DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR

**Dr. John Curry, MCIP RPP**

John Curry is a retired professor and past Chair of the School of Environmental Planning at the University of Northern British Columbia. He has extensive Canada-wide experience working with small and medium size communities in the areas of economic, social, and ecological planning and development. Dr. Curry has worked both in the public and private sectors. In the private sector, he was President of both the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development and Curry, Curry and Associates. The latter was a Prince Edward Island firm which specialized in publishing and community economic development consulting. He served for five years as Editor-in-Chief of Plan Canada, the professional journal of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Dr. Curry returned to graduate school mid-career and completed a PhD in 1995 at the University of British Columbia in the area of community sustainability. This area of research attempts to develop community and regional level planning and implementation processes which bring together ecological, social and economic issues. His research focused on: examining barriers to moving towards sustainability; methods to incorporate principles of sustainability into rural and remote communities; climate change processes of adaptation at a community and regional level; and new venture and entrepreneurial development in First Nations and non-First Nations communities. The First Nations research was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Dr. Curry currently teaches the graduate planning course Sustainability and Urban Communities at the University of Toronto and the graduate Theory and Studio courses and the undergraduate Introductory Planning and Studio courses at Ryerson University.

BOUSFIELD DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSIONALS

**Jennifer Keesmaat, MCIP RPP**

Ms. Keesmaat is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario (double major in Politics and Planning) and York University Masters of Environmental Studies – (Urban and Regional Planning). Jennifer served as the Chief Planner for the City of Toronto from 2012 to 2017 and is perhaps best known for her advocacy of density, walkability, complete streets, and active transportation, as well as for a national urban agenda. While in residence, Ms. Keesmaat will have multiple points of contact with students and faculty including coffee-break/brown-bag sessions with planning students through the Fall term, and as the instructor of a graduate planning course in the Spring term, 2018.

**Stan Makuch, LLB**

Mr. Makuch is a Toronto municipal and planning law lawyer who also had an outstanding public and academic career. His legal career has consisted of extensive public and private sector experience. He was the municipal solicitor for three different municipalities in the Toronto area; he was special special counsel for the City of Toronto in the approval of its official plan before the OMB. He was retained by numerous other public bodies such as the City of Mississauga, the City of York, the University of Toronto, the Scarborough Public Utilities Commission, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada. His diverse practice in representing the private sector includes clients such as Brookfield Homes, Loblaws (IPCF), Equifund, and Ringling Bros. Circus. Mr. Makuch appearing before the Superior Courts including the Ontario Court of Appeal, the OMB and other planning and environmental decision-making bodies. His academic career includes experience as an Adjunct Professor of Law and Planning at the University of Toronto, Acting and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto, and author of numerous books and articles including: a text, ‘Canadian Municipal and Planning Law’ which was relied on by the Supreme Court of Canada, and a recent article on ‘The Disappearance of Planning Law in Ontario’, UBC Press, 2016. His work has resulted in major changes to and enhancement in municipal powers. His public service includes serving on the City of Toronto Planning Board and Committee of Adjustment, The Metropolitan Toronto Board Of Police Commissioners, and the Provincial Police Complaints Board.
Planning lunch break discussion and Q & A with Jennifer Keesmaat and Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto (MScPl program graduate) on the topic of ‘Planning today: what cities need from planners’ held Oct 25th, 2017.

Photo credit: Jonathan Lung
Second Annual OPPI Student Case Competition

BY NATASHA PETZOLD, SECOND YEAR OPPI REPRESENTATIVE

In March, the University of Toronto Program in Planning hosted the second annual Ontario Professional Planner’s Institute Student Case Competition. A team from our planning program competed with teams from other accredited planning programs in the province to create a Master Plan for an industrial waterfront property in the Town of Meaford, Ontario. The plan had to take into account criteria provided by the town, such as mixed-use residential and connectivity requirements.

Dr. Rick DiFrancesco welcomed students from the various planning schools as well as the Director of Development and Environmental Services from the Town of Meaford, Mr. Robert Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong provided a detailed history of the site, which included three parcels with various existing and previous uses. His presentation was complete with images and a video fly-over of the site to give students a better understanding of the site’s proximity to the Town centre and to the water.

After the presentation, students were taken to their assigned work rooms and provided with a complete background package that included the town’s Waterfront Strategy and Master Plan, as well as supporting planning documents. After many hours (which I’m sure did not feel like hours for the competitors) time was up and presentations began. Students presented their ideas using physical drawings and slideshow presentations. Each student presentation was unique and full of creative and interesting ideas for the future redevelopment of the site.

A popular recommendation by students was the integration of a Woonerf-style street as the primary connection between the street and the waterfront trail system. Students also incorporated the apple into their presentations, as this fruit is a cultural symbol in the Town of Meaford and can be seen represented in the Municipality’s logo.

All teams presented competitive and creative recommendations for the site. At the end of the day, the Queen’s team placed 3rd, Ryerson University took home second place, and the team from York University was named the first place winner. The Director of Development and Environmental Services especially appreciated the York team’s consideration of Meaford’s First Nations community.

The first place team was invited to submit an article for the July/Aug issue of the Ontario Planning Journal (see http://ontarioplanners.ca/getmedia/5ce8bf69-82ae-4521-8304-dbcc53051fc1/32-4-Journal-interactive-FINAL-ads.aspx), was awarded free registration for the 2017 OPPI Conference, and was invited to deliver a presentation at the conference about their winning proposal.

The case competition was a wonderful experience. I was impressed with the level of (respectful) competition among the planning schools and am extremely proud of our own University of Toronto team, which demonstrated passion, great spirit, and teamwork throughout the exhausting competition.

Organizing committee members: Scott Plante (York), Natasha Petzold and Emily Trainor (UofT) from the OPPI Student Liaison Committee for 2016-2017. Photo credit: Richard DiFrancesco

Robert Armstrong presenting the Town of Meaford’s case to the student teams at the start of the competition. Photo credit: Richard DiFrancesco

Graduate Student Profile (MScPl): Tolu Alabi

The Planning program at the University of Toronto has provided me with the opportunity to explore the various aspects of city life as well as the various roles that policies and by-laws can serve in shaping the form and function of a city.

I previously completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, where I majored in Architecture and Human Geography, and minored in Geographic information Systems (GIS). In addition to my studies, I have worked at the City of Toronto in both the Buildings Department and Committee of Adjustment. In these positions, I responded to zoning inquiries from members of the public, and processed various applications for building, demolition, Planning and Committee of Adjustment approval. Through the work that I have undertaken at these departments I have been provided with the opportunity to see firsthand the effects and practical applications of Planning.

For my current issues paper, I have chosen to examine the workflow of application processing at the Committee of Adjustment. My paper explores factors such as the work experiences of employees, resource availability and organizational changes at the department. The purpose of the research is to offer up recommendations which aim to improve the efficiency of application processing at the Committee of Adjustment. Professor Anna Kramer is my research supervisor and will serve as a great guiding support through the phase of my research.

As I graduate from this Planning program and move into professional practice, I look forward to building upon and using the academic and practical experience that I have gained while studying at the University of Toronto to contribute towards developing livable cities.
On April 22, 2017 an impressive crowd gathered for the Cities of the Future Symposium, which was held at Alumni Hall in Victoria College. The symposium was organized by a group of planning graduate students in the department, who invited students, professionals and thought leaders to discuss and share ideas about social and technological innovations, and the role of entrepreneurship in shaping the future of cities. As the terms ‘innovation’ and ‘entrepreneurship’ become increasingly pervasive in our urban lexicons, we sought to critically engage in conversations about the meaning and value of these buzzwords. We also asked, what is their role in shaping the future of cities, what is our role as students, public servants, practitioners, activists, and professors in relationship to these concepts and what vision do we have for the future of the City of Toronto? Coinciding with Earth Day celebrations, the symposium offered a forum to look into the future and collectively imagine how we can help make cities a better place to live.

The symposium featured three keynote speakers: Dr. Ilse Treurnicht, the CEO of MaRS; Robert Ouellette, Founder of MESH Cities; and Maria Montejo, Manager at the Dodem Kanonhsa’ Cultural Facility. Ilse kicked off the symposium by presenting the big picture and situating us in the midst of sweeping trends in innovation that are influencing our cities, such as machine learning and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and crypto-technologies, gene editing, new generations of materials, and the plummeting costs of solar. She highlighted the extraordinary convergence that is occurring across many sectors and fields which has led to acceleration and disruption in multiple domains within our traditionally embedded systems, such as the convergence of the digital and health sectors, and the rise of the Internet of Things. In striving to solve society’s complex challenges, we must build entirely new coalitions of problem-solvers to draw upon the best of our science, technology, public policy, business, and investment communities, among others.

Robert’s presentation propelled us onto an intellectual journey to rediscover our aspirations for sustainable, liveable cities. While we have the knowledge to design and build great cities, we have lost sight of what we are actually aspiring to achieve. To inform the design of 21st century cities, Robert has proposed the MESH Cities (Mobile, Efficient, Subtle, and Human) framework, which can help ‘future-proof’ our cities to ensure that they grow stronger as they undergo disruptions and change. As Robert explains, ‘Mobile’ refers to the super-computer connectivity people now carry around with them in the form of mobile devices; ‘Efficient’ refers to the many ways cities can become energy self-sufficient and cleaner; ‘Subtle’ is where AI and other systems can come into play by providing such functions as predictive algorithms that help make city life easier and more pleasurable; and ‘Human’ refers to our ability as people to live productive, satisfying lives in representative democracies that do not overly control us.

Maria concluded the day with a fascinating talk about our connections with one another and the world at large. As a traditional knowledge keeper and member of the Mam Jakaltec/Popti (Mayan) community of Indigenous people who reside in the Xajla territory of Guatemala, Maria shared with us many of her insights from traditional knowledge and reminded us of the interconnections that we share. As we forge ahead in our own lives, we must bear in mind our essential task as human beings in this world – that is, to help nourish the community around us and allow others the opportunity to do the same. At the end of her talk, she brought the symposium to a close with a beautiful traditional song about Water and the life and nourishment it provides.

In conclusion, we would like to thank all volunteers and steering committee members for their support and hard work, as well as the generous funds provided by the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Arts & Science (Pathways program) and the Department of Geography & Planning, and donations from the Graduate Geography & Planning Student Society (GGAPSS).
Mexico City is undoubtedly one of the world’s most enthralling cities. Twenty-two million people, 16 boroughs, a 12-line subway system, historic Spanish architecture, spectacular art museums, lush parks, eccentric public spaces, Aztec pyramids, and copious amounts of tacos. These are just a few significant characteristics which define Mexico City in all its breathtaking culture and glorious complexity. On September 4th 2017, thirteen of us from the second year MScPl cohort embarked on a four-day experience of the Mexican capital, which also happens to be North America’s largest city. Funded by U of T’s Planning Alumni Community, we were given the opportunity to learn about approaches to urban planning in a massive, sprawling metropolis.

With the help of Professor Paul Hess – and his two PhD students, Claudio Sarmiento-Casas and Ryan Whitney – we were able to experience several neighbourhoods in Mexico City, and learn about the history, arts, culture, and city planning strategies of each area. Given the enormous size of Mexico City, there is a very wide range in the socioeconomic distribution, accessibility to transit, and approaches to planning between varying boroughs and neighbourhoods. We quickly noticed the stark contrasts between different areas of the city as we travelled from our accommodations in the hip and trendy, middle-class Zona Rosa area, to the Historic Center on the first day of the trip. The route from Zona Rosa to the Historic Center allowed us to experience Mexico City’s extremely busy subway system, which put rush hour foot traffic on Toronto’s TTC to shame. Despite being packed on the train like sardines, we marvelled at the widespread coverage Mexico City’s metro provided to riders, and the vast amount of connectivity this transit system created between boroughs on opposite sides of the city.

The first destination in the Historic Center was the Plaza de la Fundación, where we met with Claudio and Ryan, who provided informative details about the history behind the public space we were standing in, and guidance for navigation in this district. The group proceeded to make their way further into the Historic Center to meet up with architect, Mariana Plascencia, who led a walking tour titled ‘Feminist Views of Space’. Mariana led us to several key historic buildings which held architectural significance for Mexican women, and provided a detailed tour of the nearby community. After the tour, the group was led through a pedestrian-oriented street lined with various stores and restaurants, and sat down for an authentic taco lunch. The remainder of the day consisted of further visits to key architectural and planning sites in the Historic Center, including the Zócalo, which is a massive public square bordering the National Palace and the Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral. This was followed by a tour of the New York City SoHo-inspired street of Av. 20 de Noviembre, and the renewed arts district of Calle Regina.

The second day of the trip took place at the Laboratorio para la Ciudad (City Lab in English), which is an experimental government organization that conducts research about how to resolve urban issues throughout Mexico City using creative and innovative approaches. Here, we listened to presentations from a variety of panelists and speakers touching on a range of planning concerns in Mexico City. The day-long session was titled ‘From Roadways to Waterways’, and was divided into two main panels: 1) urban mobility and public spaces, and 2) urban resilience, water, and consumption. Each panel hosted four speakers, four speakers who covered a range of topics, including planning for child-friendly streets and public spaces; planning for child-friendly streets and public spaces; development of cycling infrastructure; and environmental planning focusing on clean water distribution. We were able to ask questions and engage in discussions with the speakers after each presentation was finished. To finish off the day, we were escorted by Claudio to visit Futura CDMX, which was an interactive, digital exhibition that showcased the history of Mexico City and its urban development.

On the following day we visited the ‘colonias populares’, which are informal settlements on the periphery of Mexico City. This day trip gave us the opportunity to observe the types of housing, public transit, businesses, and community facilities in the city’s lower-income areas. We were given a tour of a local recreational centre and learned about all the activities, programs, and services which are available to residents in the neighbourhood. Not only did this experience provide a chance to compare the differences between lower-income and middle/high-income communities in Mexico City but it also made us think about similar differences in Toronto. The fourth and final day of the trip consisted of a visit to the ancient Aztec pyramids of Teotihuacan. This portion of the trip allowed students to experience a key component of Mexico’s past. While learning about this fragment of history and its significance we enjoyed amazing views of ruins and the surrounding, mountainous landscape from atop the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon.

Overall, this was a fantastic learning experience for the second year MScPl cohort. The group eagerly engaged with the various speakers, and learned about the planning initiatives and projects which are currently taking place in Mexico City. Experiential learning is an important aspect of planning, and the lessons which were absorbed in Mexico City about varying approaches to planning for a wide range of demographic groups, and different urban landscapes, will surely not be forgotten. Special thanks goes out to Paul Hess, Claudio Sarmiento-Casas, Ryan Whitney, Hiba Hussain, Adam Didycz, Izabela Molendowski, and PAC for helping with the organization of the various activities, and for making this trip possible!
As we know from the work of Neil Smith and others, gentrification in the guise of urban regeneration has become an attractive policy option for some cities, as federal devolution and retrenchment has pushed localities to be more entrepreneurial and supportive of redevelopment to increase their property tax base and attract more middle-class residents. However, when successful, these revitalization efforts can also produce negative outcomes, such as increased socio-spatial segregation or the eviction of low-income populations.

There is also a popular presumption that shrinking cities, such as Detroit, have an abundant supply of affordable housing and, thus, any negative impacts resulting from gentrification are assumed to be relatively minor. This assumption stems from the observation that low-demand housing markets will tend to generate lower housing prices because supply greatly exceeds demand. However, a weak housing market with high vacancy rates does not necessarily mean increased housing affordability, especially for low-income residents. In a weak housing market, rents are often insufficient to cover regular repairs and thus there is little economic incentive for landlords to properly maintain their properties. Sustained under-maintenance then gives way to further disinvestment and eventual abandonment, causing the supply of decent housing to decrease over time. And, if gentrification works to limit affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents, then their options become even more limited.

In general, I study how income inequality manifests itself spatially through unequal housing patterns. As such, my dissertation research explores how gentrification occurs in a shrinking cities context by examining the social and housing implications of regeneration initiatives in Detroit’s greater downtown area. Specifically, I look at how the affordable housing opportunities of low-income households have been affected by recent intense reinvestment and long-term disinvestment. I also explore local planning efforts to encourage more socially just and equitable development. My goal and hope is to help inform planning approaches to address spatialized inequity.
Nowhere is the wonderful balancing act of individual interest and community interest more obvious than in the day-to-day work of a planner. I was able to explore this balancing act in a very practical way as a Planning Policy Intern with the City Planning division at the City of Toronto, for the course Planning for Change, which is a two-term placement course for planners and geographers.

My research topic related closely to Toronto’s heated affordable housing and housing affordability debate. In particular, I was looking at the impact of the City’s rental replacement policies. These policies require the replacement of rental units where an application has been made to demolish or convert them to condos. The objective of the policies is to ensure that Toronto’s rental housing stock does not further diminish in size. The rental housing stock is seen as an important source of affordable housing. As a planning policy intern, my term in City Planning involved reviewing the impact of the policies, and identifying mechanisms to improve their administration.

The objective of the Planning for Change course was not only to gain professional experience, but also to actively engage in evaluating the impact of one’s professional work on a given community. Consequently, throughout the term I found myself constantly working to identify whom the rental replacement policies were aiming to serve, and how I could actually measure the impact of the policies on this community. While it may seem self-evident, I learned that it is far easier to collect feedback from, and identify the impact of, policies on the individual developer. It is far more difficult to receive feedback from, and identify the impact of policies on the community (renters impacted by the policies) because individuals who had been impacted by the policies generally did not return to the same rental building after replacement. Through this experience of planning, I came to understand why it is that individual interests so often trump community interests in decision-making processes. Communities are often not mobilized, are difficult to reach, and may not be as vested in seeing policy change as individual interests.

On a practical note, the Planning for Change course provided a valuable professional learning opportunity. Gaining professional experience in the policy review process, rather than the policy development process, was particularly valuable for me. I learned just how important it is to approach policy development (or any project development, for that matter) thinking more explicitly about the intended outcome. Based on this experience, I will aim to ask different questions in project development in the future: how will I measure the success of this project? Which community will be impacted and what is the intended outcome for this community? Having a defined community in mind, the project will be in a better position to seek feedback from the impacted community. Moreover, the more a project has specific and measurable objectives, the more successful it will be at having the intended impact on the community.

MScPl Students Make Expert Panel Presentation
By Robert Dowler

On March 23rd, graduate students in Rob Dowler’s PLA1516: Planning & Governance course visited the provincial legislature and had the opportunity to present draft cabinet submissions in the Executive Council Chamber. The students presented recommendations on ‘The Future of the Ontario Municipal Board’ to an Expert Panel which included Associate Secretary of Cabinet, Steven Davidson, Provincial Planning and Policy Director, Laurie Miller. ‘Not many people have had the opportunity to present in the Cabinet Chamber - it’s a rare opportunity for the students to experience cabinet decision-making firsthand and interact with practicing professionals on the Expert Panel’, noted Professor Dowler.

(l-r): Arno Van Dijk, Adam Didycz, Abbas Ali, Rebecca Roach, Jiahuan (Dora) Zhou, Sharon Lam
Photo credit: Robert Dowler
This book focuses on the relationship between the state and economy in the development of cities. It reviews and reinterprets fundamental theoretical models that explain how the operation of markets in equilibrium shapes the scale and organization of the commercial city in a mixed market economy within a liberal state. These models link markets for the factors of production, markets for investment and fixed capital formation, markets for transportation, and markets for exports in equilibrium both within the urban economy and the rest of the world. In each case, the model explains the urban economy by revealing how assumptions about causes and structures lead to predictions about scale and organization outcomes. By simplifying and contrasting these models, this book proposes another interpretation: that governance and the urban economy are outcomes negotiated by political actors motivated by competing notions of commonwealth and the individual desire for wealth and power. The book grounds its analysis in economic history, explaining the rise of commercial cities and the emergence of the urban economy. It then turns to factors of production, export, and factor markets, introducing and parsing the Mills model, breaking it down into its component parts and creating a series of simpler models that can better explain the significance of each economic assumption. Simplified models are also presented for real estate and fixed capital investment markets, transportation, and land use planning. The book concludes with a discussion of linear programming and the Herbert-Stevens and the Ripper-Varaiya models. A fresh presentation of the theories behind urban economics, this book emphasizes the links between state and economy and challenges the reader to see its theories in a new light. As such, this book will be of interest to scholars, students, and practitioners of economics, public policy, public administration, urban policy, and city and urban planning.

John Miron is a Professor in the Department of Human Geography at the University of Toronto, Scarborough.

Sustainability Policy, Planning, and Gentrification in Cities

Sustainability Policy, Planning and Gentrification in Cities explores the growing convergences between urban sustainability policy, planning practices and gentrification in cities. Via a study of governmental policy and planning initiatives and informal, community-based forms of sustainability planning, the book examines the assemblages of actors and interests that are involved in the production of sustainability policy and planning and their connection with neighbourhood-level and wider processes of environmental gentrification. Drawing from international urban examples, policy and planning strategies that guide both the implementation of urban intensification and the planning of new sustainable communities are considered. Such strategies include the production of urban green spaces and other environmental amenities through public and private sector and civil society involvement. The resulting production of exclusionary spaces and displacement in cities is problematic and underlines the paradoxical associations between sustainability and gentrified urban development. Contemporary examples of sustainability policy and planning initiatives are identified as ways by which environmental practices increasingly factor into both official and informal rationales and enactments of social exclusion, eviction and displacement. The book further considers the capacity for progressive sustainability policy and planning practices, via community-based efforts, to dismantle exclusion and displacement and encourage social and environmental equity and justice in urban sustainability approaches.

This is a timely book for researchers and students in urban studies, environmental studies and geography with a particular interest in the growing presence of environmental gentrification in cities.

Susannah Bunce is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Geography at the University of Toronto, Scarborough.
GeoTrip - Wandering the Waterfront I - Deciphering the Natural and Anthropogenic Landscapes of the Toronto Shoreline

By Andrew Reed BSc, MA (Toronto) PhD (London)

Professor Emeritus Tony Davis’ decision to tackle the Toronto waterfront in his most recent UTAGA GeoTrip was inspired and prescient of record runoff in the Great Lakes Basin: by the time the participants assembled at Hart House for the trip early in June, the high-water levels in the Great Lakes and flooding of the Toronto islands and numerous other locations around Lake Ontario had been in the news for weeks. The natural landscape was really only evident on the first stop at Bluffers Park on the shore of Lake Ontario east of downtown. Here the relic shoreline of Lake Iroquois, which forms the hill between Davenport and St. Clair Avenues north of the University, is exposed to erosion by the waters of Lake Ontario.

It takes special talent to make a cliff face interesting to a diverse audience but, as usual, Tony was up to the challenge. Tony’s audiences have learned to pay attention because they know they will be questioned. The enthusiasm with which he communicated the contrast between the slow accumulation of sediments over geological time spans -150,000 years of which are evident in the shoreline at Bluffers Park – and the rapid natural mass wasting of the cliff face which dumped an average of 45,000 cubic meters of those cliffs into the lake each year was infectious. Beyond this point, anthropogenic influences took centre stage. Efforts by Scarborough politicians to halt this rapid diminution of their jurisdiction led to ‘remedial work’ which dates back to the 1970s. Historically, Scarborough’s loss accumulated to the west and created the original Toronto Islands. Reduced sediment load and the subsequent diversion of the deposition by the Leslie Street spit meant that dumped fill from Toronto construction sites was needed to maintain and expand the Islands. The flooding of the islands prevented the group from making an originally scheduled stop there, but demonstrated one of the unintended consequences of human intervention nonetheless.

The Leslie Street Spit, now 5 km long, was the second stop, and time constraints allowed only a short incursion. Whereas strictly speaking a spit is a natural geomorphic phenomenon, the Leslie Street version was constructed with fill from excavations, demolition debris, and dredgeate - the almost poetic term for the muck dug out of the Toronto harbour each year. The Leslie Street ‘Spit’ is valued by many Torontonians who have access to much of it each weekend as a nature reserve. Birds are the primary draw, but beavers and other mammals are also well ensconced, if less obvious. I had no idea that construction of the ‘Spit’ began as part of a big push to expand Toronto’s harbour infrastructure in anticipation of a surge in demand once the St. Lawrence Seaway was upgraded for the umpteenth time in the 1950s. We learned that technical change in the form of containerization rendered this initiative redundant shortly after the dumping began. However, the dumping continued, and the fortuitous tendency of wildlife to colonize the resulting landscape provided a convenient post hoc justification.

The third and final stop was at the mouth of the Don River, at a point where we were looking up the river from the port lands. This vantage point only exists because a long time before Tony started teaching in the Department it was decided that forcing the Don to make a right-angled turn to enter the Inner Harbour would be a good idea. Tony left us in no doubt that any students of his would have seen the flaw in this scheme right from the get-go! As he exclaimed, ‘rivers don’t make
right-angled turns. Urbanization upstream increased the river’s sediment load after the Keating Channel was built perpendicular to the artificially straightened lower reaches of the Don, resulting in rapid buildup of silt in the channel itself and adjacent portions of the Inner Harbour. This necessitated annual removal of nearly 35,000 cubic meters of the aforementioned ‘dredgeate’ now used to extend the spit, an expensive way to make up much of the 45,000 m³ which used to fall off the Scarborough bluffs naturally!

This GeoTrip vividly illustrated the complementarity of human and physical geography and the enduring relevance of these disciplines. The legacy of the historic dumping of often noxious wastes in the wetlands of Ashbridge’s Bay raises difficult questions over whether these should be exhumed and disposed of more appropriately or left where they are. The future of the port lands in general and the reconfiguration of Keating Channel in particular are now being addressed in the Lower Don Lands Redevelopment initiative.

The weather on the trip was fantastic, and that in itself was a rarity last summer. A handout summarizing the main points and posing some test questions was provided - it included a chart which put the high-water levels of the 2017 spring in historical perspective: they were literally ‘off the chart’. I learned a lot, and was surprised I was able to dredge up answers to many of Tony’s questions that were instilled in me a long time ago now by some of his colleagues in the department. I appreciated the opportunity to participate, and look forward to future GeoTrips.
In Memoriam

Gunter Gad, Professor Emeritus

Gunter Gad was born in Nürnberg, Germany, and passed away peacefully on September 12, 2017, in Toronto. Gunter studied political science, history, and geography at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, and graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1968. After further graduate work in geography at the University of Toronto, Gunter was appointed to the Department of Geography at Erindale College (now UTM) in 1972 and received his PhD in 1976. He taught at the St. George campus post-retirement until 2009.

Gunter embraced life in Canada, the diversity of its people and the richness of the Canadian landscape. He was a dedicated professor, a mentor to many students, and took pride in innovative teaching. His urban trails were legendary as were his international and Canadian field excursions. Gunter was in his element leading diverse groups around Toronto or canoeing in Algonquin Park. (The Globe and Mail, Sept. 16, 2017)

Alan Jopling, Professor Emeritus

Alan Jopling was Professor Emeritus at the Department of Geography, University of Toronto, where he taught from 1966 to 1988 at the St. George campus. During a long and varied career he held positions at Harvard University, MIT, the University of Sydney, and the University of New South Wales, where he was one of the founding members of the Geology Department. He worked as a civil engineer for the NSW government during WWII; as an exploration geologist for the Socony Vacuum Oil Company (now Mobil Oil) in Peace River, Alberta in the early 1950s; as a research geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey during the early 1960s; and as a mining geologist at Hill End, NSW, Australia, during the 1980s and 1990s.

Alan’s research at Harvard University and then at the University of Toronto focused on the fluid mechanics of sedimentary processes. At the University of Toronto he taught courses in physical geography, with an emphasis on geomorphology. Later he was cross-appointed as Professor of Geology, and for several years he was a member of the Environmental Sciences and Engineering Institute. In 1978 he joined a consortium of anthropologists as one of the principal investigators, trying to prove that humans crossed the Bering Land Bridge from Asia into North America over 100,000 years ago. The field work was carried out in the Old Crow Basin in the Yukon, above the Arctic Circle.

Upon retirement in 1988 he moved to Sydney, Australia, the city of his birth, and he continued to take an active interest in mining exploration, geomorphology, and early human migration into the Americas. By David Jopling

Mary Beacock Fryer (HBA 1952)

May 24, 1929 - October 29, 2017. Mary was born in Brockville, Ontario, to William G. and Hazel (Seaman) Beacock, who traced her ancestry back to the United Empire Loyalists. She attended the University of Toronto, graduating with Honours in Geography in 1952, and the University of Edinburgh, graduating with a Master’s degree in Historical Geography in 1954. After returning to Canada, she worked as a librarian and teaching assistant in the University of Toronto Geography department. She wrote numerous history books, and in 2012 was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her service to Canadian history. (The Globe and Mail, Nov. 4, 2017)

Ann Borooah (nee FAIRLEY) (MSc (Urban and Regional Planning) 1982)

October 26, 1954 - October 29, 2017. Ann dedicated her life to public service. She sought to contribute to the betterment of the city and province throughout her career. She studied architecture at the University of Waterloo before completing a BA in Urban Studies and an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto, where she received the Ian D. Macpherson Memorial Award upon graduation. Ann progressed from her position as the Director of the Buildings Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Ontario, to her appointment in 2001 as the first woman to be Chief Building Official for the City of Toronto and Executive Director of Toronto Building. Ann made a difference in every role she occupied. At the Province of Ontario, she expertly guided her team through the development of the Ontario Building Code. While at the City of Toronto, she introduced and implemented the City’s first ever sign bylaw, first green roof construction standard and first updated zoning bylaw for the amalgamated city, among other initiatives. With her team, she developed policy and legislation and led a Division responsible for regulating development in the City of Toronto. She was a leader in her field, a consummate and down to earth professional and an enthusiastic mentor. (Toronto Star, Nov. 4, 2017)

Christopher Rhodes de Freitas (HBA 1971, MA 1973)

Chris passed away on July 5, 2017 in New Zealand. Chris was born in Trinidad and educated in Canada (University of Toronto) where he received a Commonwealth scholarship and completed his PhD in Brisbane, Australia. After graduation, he joined the faculty of the University of Auckland in New Zealand and made his home there. He served as the Deputy Dean of Science and Technology and completed a term as Pro Vice Chancellor. He was known for his work on climate change and was an excellent teacher and mentor. Chris will be missed by his friends in Canada along with his colleagues in the scientific community. (Toronto Star, July 12, 2017)
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 back 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 the future in any of the activities below, 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 and any who may have been missed, your contribution has helped better the student experience, and for this we thank you.

**Giving Back**

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**PA**

**Module Speakers:**
- Michelle Berquist (MScPl 2013)
- Helen Huang (MScPl 2014)
- Katie Wittmann (MScPl 2014)
- Anna Wynveen (MScPl 2015)

**b2B Social Sciences Speed Networking:**
- Mark Lebovits (HBA 2004)
- Ryan Lamers (HBA 2015)

**b2B Geography Mentorship Meal:**
- Momin Ahmad (HBA 2015)
- Mary Jane Braide (MA 1985)
- Jessalyn Chen (HBSc 2016)
- Kara Naklicki (HBA 2013 / MScPl 2015)
- Katelyn Palmer (HBA 2008 / MA 2010)

**Guest lecturers:**
- JPG1507 (Housing and Housing Policy)
- Phil Brown (MScPl 1976)

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**Thank you to our Alumni Volunteers**

**Katherine McLean Willson (HBA 1976, MA 1978)**
Katherine graduated from Victoria College with an Honours BA in 1976, and then earned an MA in Geography with an emphasis on urban geography in 1978, also from the University of Toronto. Katherine combined an unusual set of skills in quantitative analysis and the early use of computer applications in geographical research, with a life-long interest in nature conservancy and education about local cultures wherever she traveled. Her long career spanned a number of diverse positions and occupational settings. She worked in early years on housing policy with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and also had a ten-year career with the Archives of Ontario. She also worked on the financing of social housing in the Ontario government, including designing the decentralization of housing responsibilities to local government levels in the early 2000s. She retired in June 2015. By Larry Bourne

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**We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions in 2017**

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**This event has been cancelled - the book will be launched and available for purchase at the Annual Awards Ceremony held: November 1, 2018 - Alumni Hall - Victoria University, University of Toronto, St George Campus**
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](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 Master 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 Master of Science in Planning program on the basis of academic merit.

**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 and 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 in 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. Contributions to this award are currently being matched 50-50 by a generous alumni donor.

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](http://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

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Special thanks is extended to the front office staff of the Geography Department for their ongoing assistance and to the many individuals who made contributions to this edition of GEOPLAN

Editors: Mariange Beaudry, Larry Bourne, Virginia Maclaren and Natalia Zdaniuk

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- GeoTrip with Tony Davis - Photo credit: Zenon Godzyk