

GEOPLAN

A newsletter for alumni and friends



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UofT Geography in Berlin

Gunter Gad

Four Geography faculty members and two Geography students took part in a one-week meeting in Berlin with others from the UofT, la Université du Québec a Montréal and a number of German staff and students to discuss Canadian places, cultures and institutions. The event was organized by Professor Pia Kleber of the University of Toronto's Drama Department and by the Canadian Universities' Centre in Berlin (a joint venture of the UofT and UQaM).



View from the Canadian Universities Centre in Berlin

The week's events were opened by his Excellency John Ralston Saul and by the Honorable Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs. (The opening ceremonies were so official that they required a rehearsal). Our team of speakers included Larry Bourne who gave a talk on "New Continental Divides?: The Transformation of Urban Canada in a Changing Global Context"; Sue Ruddick spoke about "Challenging the Landscape of Neoliberalism"; Gunter Gad (with co-author Marlies Schulz of Humboldt University) presented ongoing research on the garment districts of 1920s Berlin and Toronto; and Meric Gertler talked about "Culture as an Economic Engine – with Diversity as Fuel".

Two undergraduate Geography students, Brian Doucet and Justin Ngan, were part of a team of ten University of Toronto students who mingled very well with some students from Québec and a fair number of German students from various Canadian Studies programs. The students attended sessions faithfully and challenged most speakers with interesting if not tough questions as well as different points of view.

One definite highlight was a theatrical evening. About a dozen Canadian playwrights, poets, novelists,

actors, and film-makers presented their work to a full house in a well-known Kurfürstendamm theatre. Several of these artists commented formally and ad hoc on Meric Gertler's talk on "Culture as an Economic Engine". Other highlights were announcements about new partnership deals, student exchange programs, and a book launch. Several of the "deals" involved former Geography Chair and Arts and Science Dean Carl Amrhein who was key in establishing the Canadian Universities' Centre in Berlin.

The week was also a good opportunity to keep in touch with many "Berliner" colleagues with whom we work or exchange frequent visits (e.g. Marlies Schulz and Ludwig Ellenberg from Humboldt University or Margrit Mayer and Gerhard Braun from the Free University) or with students who had studied with us in Toronto such as Alex Hûther. The conference was a great success and a great opportunity for faculty and students to meet, reconnect, share ideas and socialize, and to explore a fascinating city and culture.

Farewell to Carl

Meric Gertler

Carl Amrhein, geographer and Dean of Arts and Science, has left the University of Toronto to accept the position of Provost at the University of Alberta in Edmonton effective September 1, 2003. Carl was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography in 1986. Tenured in 1989, he served as Graduate Coordinator of Geography from 1990 to 1992, and as Chair of the Department of Geography and Program in Planning from 1993 to 1997, when he was appointed Dean of the Faculty.

Those of us who have worked with Carl as colleague, Chair, and Dean feel the loss of his departure acutely. To say that he had made his presence felt from his very first days at Toronto would be an understatement. As a young assistant professor freshly arrived from a two-year stint at Kentucky, he quickly asserted himself in all manner of ways. He had already published a handful of articles in the most highly respected journals of the discipline, flowing from
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Opening Doors to Cleaner Production in Vietnam

Carrie Mitchell

This past summer I had the opportunity to work in Vietnam on a CIDA-funded project called the Waste-Econ Program, headed by Prof. Virginia Maclaren. With an interest in industrial waste management in Vietnam, I headed off for the economic engine of the country, Ho Chi Minh City. In a city with millions of people and thousands of industries, industrial waste management is indeed a serious problem. My preliminary assessment of the situation indicated that one of the major obstacles in terms of controlling industrial pollution was the size and location of current industrial operations. Small-scale industries, which employ less than 50 people, accounted for ninety-five percent of the total number of industries in the city in 1997. Most of these industries are located in residential neighbourhoods and contribute to urban pollution and nuisance for residents. For the most part, these industries go unregulated due to the limited human and financial capacity of Vietnam's environmental organizations. As a result, Ho Chi Minh City is now in a precarious position in effectively dealing with both economic growth and environmental protection.

My research specifically focused on a pollution prevention concept known as 'cleaner production' (CP), which is a strategy companies can use to improve their environmental and economic performance at the same time by looking at ways to reduce their consumption of resources and energy, reuse valuable by-products of the production process and recycle materials that they would have otherwise thrown away. Despite the common-sense approach of cleaner production and its applicability in all sizes of firms, I found from a number of key informant interviews that it has not been widely implemented in Vietnam, even with its promotion by government, research and academic institutions. Through a literature review and personal interviews, I determined that obstacles to CP implementation are part of systemic problems related to Vietnam's overall environmental policy, the growing dependence of firms on foreign financial and technical assistance, the traditional corporate culture and the internal management and accounting systems in companies. A number of targeted training and education programs could be developed to combat these problems. Some of my specific recommendations include: development of courses aimed at government officials to promote greater awareness of CP and foster greater intra- and inter-governmental cooperation and communication; creation of courses directed at top management to transform traditional state-run management styles; initiation of pre-training courses to strengthen internal practices within companies; and, development of a sustainability component in all future training, such as introducing more CP courses in universities, to avoid dependence on outside assistance.

Overall, there is great potential for CP initiatives in Vietnam. I found that many people, particularly the trainers and consultants I interviewed, are quite optimistic about using pollution prevention techniques in industry in Vietnam. The real challenge in the coming years will be to transfer that enthusiasm to the top management in industry and to prove that investing in CP and other pollution prevention techniques will produce long-term economic benefits for their companies.

Report from the Chair: Same Places, New Faces

Larry S. Bourne

As you probably know, Joe Desloges is taking a well-deserved one-year research leave. Fortunately, he has agreed to return as Chair for a further three-year term in the summer of 2004. In the interim I have agreed to the Dean's "request" to serve as Acting Chair for the year. It is an honour and a privilege, not to mention a serious challenge, to serve as chair of what is undoubtedly the leading department of Geography and Planning in North America.

My vision for the year, such as it is, is not to leave a mess as a personal legacy, but rather to ensure that we continue to build on our existing strengths while taking full advantage of any new and emerging opportunities. For this we will need the support of our alumni and friends.

We are continuing to welcome new faculty colleagues and staff, some of who have been introduced to you in previous editions of Geoplan. We have indeed been very fortunate in both the number and quality of our hiring decisions. Starting this September we welcome, at St. George, Sharon Cowling, Deborah Leslie, Claus Rinner, and Sarah Wakefield; and at UTM (aka Erindale), Pierre Desrochers, Kathi Wilson, and beginning in January 2004, Tenley Conway. The background and interests of these new colleagues are described on page 3. The faces and the age structure of the Department continue to change and improve.

Equally fortunate, we have also been able to attract several new and highly competent administrative staff. In addition to those individuals recognized in previous Newsletters, Jill Rooksby has joined us full-time as Assistant to the Chair, but with continuing responsibilities for UTAGA and the production of this Newsletter. Amanda Greener has nicely settled into the hot seat in the front office. In addition to dealing with the daily needs of students and faculty, assisting both graduate and undergraduate coordinators/counsellors, and maintaining the Departmental web site, Amanda will now be assisting in UTAGA matters. Marika Maslej has recently assumed the challenging position of Business Officer following the retirement of Patrick Deblock. We thank Patrick for his many contributions to the life of the Department and we wish him well in his new pursuits.

Big changes have also been evident at the Erindale campus with UTM's administrative restructuring. I would like to welcome Ferko Csillag as Erindale's first Department of Geography Chair.

We also extend best wishes to our (former) Dean and colleague, Carl Amrhein. As announced on page 1, Carl is leaving to assume the position of Provost at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Carl will be missed by all of us, as a colleague, former chair, dean and friend.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of many of our colleagues and students. Several of these are noted on page 3. Among the most recent notable achievements, Robert Lewis won an excellence in teaching award from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Byron Moldofsky received an award for excellence for staff, John Britton received the award for scholarly distinction from the Canadian Association of Geographers in May, and Meric Gertler has just been elected as a fellow of Academy II of the Royal Society of Canada. Congratulations to all.

Finally, I would ask for the continued input and support of our many alumni and friends. We have, I believe, the most active and innovative alumni association for Geography and Planning in the country, if not on the continent. We look forward to receiving your comments, suggestions and contributions.

Larry S. Bourne
Chair (Acting)

Departmental News

Hires

Please welcome **Marika (Maria) Maslej** as Geography's new **Business Officer**. Marika brings with her extensive experience from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the UofT Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Jill Rooksby will be staying on in the position of **Assistant to the Chair**, covering an extended maternity leave until June 2004. Jill simultaneously retains her duties as our UTAGA Administrator.

Amanda Greener adds to her responsibilities by providing assistance in **UTAGA** matters to Jill. Amanda serves currently in the front office as the department's Office Administrative Assistant.

And, speaking of the front office, you will now find **Larry Bourne** joining the front office staff as he relocates to the Chair's quarters. Larry steps in as **Acting Chair**, covering **Joe Desloges'** one year sabbatical. For Larry's reflection on his new position, please refer to his *Report from the Chair* on page 2.

Ferko Csillag has been appointed UTM's first **Department of Geography Chair**. Join me in congratulating Ferko and wishing him good luck as he undertakes this vital and challenging new role!

In other hiring news, all academic searches for 2003 have now been completed. **Tenley Conway**, an environmental specialist and Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers will join the Erindale team in January. Her interests surround landscape ecology, land use/land cover change, environmental modeling, the structure and function of coupled human-environmental systems, and environmental management.

Newly appointed at Erindale, **Pierre Desrochers**, an Economic Geographer with a Ph.D. from U of Montreal and postdoctoral from Johns Hopkins, works in the areas of economic development, technological innovation, entrepreneurship, international trade, business-environment, and business-university interactions.

Deborah Leslie will be joining the St. George faculty as an Economic Geographer. Dr. Leslie comes to us from Brock University and has a Ph.D. from UBC. Her research focuses on urban-economic, cultural and feminist geography.

We are also pleased to welcome **Claus Rinner** who comes to us from the Institute for Geoinformatics, University of Münster and has his Ph.D. from the University of Bonn in GIS. Dr. Rinner's area of expertise involves GIS, cartographic visualization, web mapping, and spatial decision support systems (SDSS).

Finally, last year's hires **Sharon Cowling** and **Sarah Wakefield & Kathi Wilson** are installed in their offices and begin teaching classes this term. Welcome to all our new staff and faculty members.

Awards

Professor Meric Gertler has been elected a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada**. This is a rare honour and great national recognition of significant achievements in scholarship and research.

Meric joins **Larry Bourne** and professors emeriti **Ian Burton** and the late **Ken Hare** as our FRSC faculty.

This past May, The Faculty of Arts & Science honoured its outstanding staff and teachers with the presentation of its Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards. Geography had two of our own recognized as **Professor Robert Lewis** received an **Outstanding Teaching Award** and **Byron Moldofsky** of Cartography was the recipient of the **Outstanding Technical Service Award**. Congratulations on the well deserved recognition!

It is a delight to share with you that **Professor John Britton** has been selected to receive the **Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of economic and industrial geography.

Professors Kathi Wilson and **Ferko Csillag** have been awarded funding through the **Instructional Technology Courseware Development Fund** for their project entitled "*Where on Earth? Learning about Geography and the Environment through Interactive Teaching*". This project is a collaborative venture among the Department of Geography, Academic Skills Centre and the UTM Library. The purpose of the project is to develop and implement interactive computer-based courseware in the course "Introduction to Geography" that will enhance the learning environment for students exploring geography.

Dr. Chuck Hostovsky has received the **Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Geography in the Service of Government**. Please join me in congratulating Chuck for this well deserved honour.

Deaths

GRENFELL, Douglas Paul (5T8)

Paul died peacefully, Sunday 23 March, 2003 at Toronto Grace Hospital, in the loving setting of the Palliative Care Unit, thus ending a two year adventure with a brain tumor. He leaves a circle of constant friends and a grieving family.

Paul Grenfell was a founding member of UTAGA and his hard work was a large part of what made the group such a success. Paul will be fondly remembered by colleagues and classmates alike. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family.

Carl Amrhein continued

his doctoral work at SUNY Buffalo (1980-84) under Ross MacKinnon. His research program on the simulation of labour markets and industrial location processes in a geographical context produced a flow of papers that remain to this day some of the freshest and most innovative work on these topics within the social sciences. This work led Carl to pursue a number of the most vexing methodological problems in quantitative geography, including aggregation effects and the modifiable areal unit problem. Through the highly creative application of advanced simulation techniques, Carl deepened our understanding of these core issues in geographical analysis.

Fortunately for us, Carl's creativity, energy, and prodigious intellect found many other outlets within the department and the university. Along with other junior faculty, he galvanized efforts to update both the undergraduate and graduate curriculum. As Graduate Coordinator, he led the effort to introduce new systems for graduate admissions and for student participation in the management of the graduate program, a process of change that gathered steam during his tenure as Chairman of the department. Indeed, it was during Carl's tenure in the corner office on the fifth floor of Sidney Smith Hall that his many special qualities as an academic administrator became fully evident. His resolve and determination were already the stuff of legend. What we soon came to realize was that he was also an incredibly thoughtful, inclusive, and creative leader who found innumerable ways to enable all members of the department to realize their aspirations and plans.

It was undoubtedly these very same qualities that led Carl to a glitteringly successful career as Dean of the country's largest university faculty. Although we missed the opportunity to work with Carl as frequently as we had while he was Chairman of the department, we have continued to benefit from his inspired leadership of Arts and Science over the past six years. Now that he has moved to Edmonton, we know that he will lead the University of Alberta to new heights of achievement and distinction. Our warmest wishes go to Carl and Ellen, and their sons Steven, Peter and David, as they contemplate their first winter in Edmonton.

Alumni Bulletin Board

Penny Harvey

Wayne Gibson, B.A. 7T2, continued on to acquire a B.Ed., taught secondary school (some geography but mainly mathematics) until 1992 and has been an Investment Advisor at BMO Nesbitt Burns since 1995. Wayne particularly remembers sitting in the Embassy Tavern with Joe May and classmates discussing various and sundry philosophers and their impact on Geography.

Dr. Barry Goodison, MA 6T9, Ph.D. 7T7, has recently been appointed as Chair of the Science Steering Group of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP Project on Climate and Cryosphere (Clic)). This project expands on the Arctic Climate System Study (ACSYS). The project should be of considerable interest to Canadian climate scientists and further information can be found at <http://clic.npolar.no/>, or by contacting Barry at Barry.Goodison@ec.gc.ca. He remains as Chief of the Climate Processes and Earth Observation Division of the Climate Research Branch, MSC, Environment Canada.

Jason Haremza, MsPl 0T1, has been working since February as an Associate Planner with the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Counsel. He is also anxiously awaiting the resumption of the Toronto-Rochester ferry service next spring after a 40+ year hiatus!

Karl Heck, M.Sc.Pl. 9T0, has learned that planning is a much better profession than public apartment management. After almost four years as the Deputy Director of the Cortland Housing Authority, a 686-unit Public Housing Authority in Central New York, Karl has returned to planning in Greene County in the eastern part of New York State in the Catskill Mountains and along the Hudson River. He runs the Community Development Block Grant and Main Street Revitalization Program for the County. The area has a number of older Main Streets, which have been struggling to re-identify themselves as the population changes. Many of the areas were resort towns in the 1940's and 1950's and have had declines in the tourist trade as that business has changed in recent years. Greene County is strongly committed to economic and community development and is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Karl also worked as the Administrative Coordinator and Community/Economic Development Coordinator for the Tompkins County Planning Department in Ithaca, NY for eight years after graduating from the U of T.

Robert Keyes, B.A. 7T0, is still in Ottawa working as the Senior Vice-President, International for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. He has had this position since March 1997. His primary focus is the many international trade and investment challenges facing Canadian business, as well as the ever-changing dynamics of the Canada-US relationship.

David Knox, Hon. B.A. 6T7 spent three years in an "apprenticeship" teaching with Bob Putnam (Donald Putnam's son) at Oakwood Collegiate in Toronto and then moved to Collingwood, ON with his wife Cathy and infant son James. He was Geography Head there until his retirement from the Simcoe County District Board in 1998 and finds it hard to believe that he has been retired for 5 years. However, he still does supply teaching in the area – mainly at the Alternative School associated with Collingwood CI. He is also the Land Steward Director for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail club and would welcome new volunteers. Dave suggests that classmates might be interested in checking out a "looking back" radio show which he

co-hosts every Saturday night called John and Dave's Flashback Diner. The show broadcasts on both Barrie's FM 101.1 and Collingwood's 95.1 The Peak from 7 to 9 p.m. and plays the roots of rock'n'roll – the 50's, 60's and 70's. It is also re-broadcast on Barrie 101.1 on Sundays from 7-9 a.m. and can be found at www.thepeakfm.com. July 26, 2003 marked the 100th consecutive broadcast! Dave notes that 2 of his 3 adult children live in Toronto. His son James teaches in the Classics Dept. as he finishes off his Ph.D. and his daughter Amanda teaches French Immersion at Winchester Elementary School. His other son Kevin lives in Collingwood and teaches special education at Worsley Elementary, Wasaga Beach. Dave's wife Cathy works at the Collingwood Public Library.

Christine Protas Kowalyk, B.A. 7T8, studied geomorphology with Dr. Jopling and Dr. Van Der Eyk and is now the Assistant Chief, Training and Education, Emergency Management Ontario. As a result of the Emergency Management Act passed into law in Ontario in April 2003, emergency management is evolving to become a more comprehensive program which will be a leader in North America. Christine would like to encourage new graduates to consider getting involved with the Ontario Emergency Management Association in order to get a jump on new employment opportunities.

Karl Lisle, M.Sc.Pl. 9T8, is still in Portland, Oregon with the City's Planning Bureau.

Neil D. Mallen, B.A. 9T4, M.Sc.Pl. 9T6, has been working in Burnaby, B.C. as an Environmental Planner with Golder Associates Limited for over six years. He is a member of Golder's BC Environmental Assessment Group, which is busy on a wide range of projects in Western Canada and is integrated with similar groups in Seattle and Calgary. He is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA, www.iaia.org) which is planning to hold their annual conference in Vancouver in June 2004. He and his wife Araceli (also a U of T grad) have just bought a fixer-upper (1927) in Vancouver and are in the city to stay.

Neil adds that his role with Golder Associates is to promote and contribute to sustainable local and regional development focusing on strategic plans for local governance, and environmental assessment and approvals for infrastructure, land development and natural resource development. He is responsible for project management and business development and his expertise is in the synthesis of planning and biological sciences, the environmental regulatory framework, and coordination of multidisciplinary teams.

His specialization in environmental planning at U of T is serving him well. He is directly applying lessons learned through course work in environmental assessment, environmental law and regional economic development. Neil states that, as much as anything, his education provided him with a successful way of approaching his work and a broad appreciation for the issues and perspectives of various stakeholders.

In order to give current students a view of future possibilities, Neil included information concerning a current project that is an exciting challenge. His company has been retained to undertake an environmental assessment for a proposed "superquarry" in coastal BC. Aggregates will be shipped by large ships to coastal California markets. The assessment will meet the requirements of both the BC Environmental Assessment Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Key issues are:

1. Potential impacts to groundwater and, in turn, fisheries resources including salmon runs in a nearby river;
2. Potential effects on marine ecology including killer whales that frequent the area; and
3. Potential impacts to First Nations in terms of potential adverse effects to environmental and spiritual values, and also potential economic benefits.

His role as Project Manager involves developing a clear understanding of how the project will affect the area in terms of both the natural environment and the socio-cultural environment in close consultation with the proponent and regulatory agencies.

John Newton, M.Sc.Pl. 7T5, Ph.D. 9T5, is the Principal of John Newton Associates which specializes in the provision of business continuity and crisis communications planning and research services. John is active in the promotion of business continuity and emergency management in Canada through consultancy, research, and educational activities. For the past eight years, his focus has been on mitigating the impact of hazards, understanding vulnerability, and assisting private and public clients in the development and implementation of business continuity plans.

Jason Parker, M.A. 9T3, went on to obtain an M.A. in International Affairs from Carleton University in 1995. He has worked in the brokerage industry since 1996 and currently is Vice President of Corporate Debt Research at BMO Nesbitt Burns. He lives in Oakville with his wife Catherine, has one son, James, who is 17 months old and a second son is expected in September.

Paulina Lim-Shuet Pun, B.Sc. 9T1, M.Sc.Pl. 9T3, is delighted to announce the arrival of her son Wesley on December 7, 2002. Her three-year-old daughter Celine is excited about having a baby brother and grabs every opportunity to show that she is a big sister. Following three months maternity leave, Paulina is back at work as a town planner under the Sub-Regional Section of the Planning Department in the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Vivienne Skoberne, Hon. B.A. 9T7, M.Sc.Pl. 9T9, is very pleased to share the news that she and **Mike Schrenk, 9T7**, were married on September 7, 2002. Vivienne is Team Lead, Program Services, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Long Term Care Redevelopment Project in Toronto, ON.

Toshiro Isami Takishita, Hon. B.A. 9T7, obtained law degrees from the University of Windsor and the University of Detroit Mercy in 2000. He is currently practicing civil litigation and health law with the Toronto firm of Tremayne-Lloyd Partners LLP.

Michael White, 9T6, started working for the Planning Department of the City of Vancouver shortly after graduation. As the department is quite large, it offers opportunities to be exposed to a number of different areas within the profession. Michael's first few years were spent on projects dealing with community planning and public process. Since then, he has been working on industrial and employment issues, and most recently zoning policy for the city. A recent highlight was having lunch with Jane Jacobs as part of the C-5 Mayor's conference held in Vancouver last year. Michael found it amazing to actually meet one of the great urban thinkers about whom we can usually only read. He lives in Vancouver with his wife Nina and they spend most of their free time renovating a 90-year old money pit!

Robert M. Woods, B.A. 9T7, has not had an opportunity to work in the environmental field but is enjoying the computer field. He started with Unix Admin at Proctor and Gamble, moved to Senior

Unix Admin with a Logistics team at the Department of Defense (U.S.) and then went to Ford to do Network Security and Firewalls. He is doing the same at BMW Canada with the addition of data networks (Cisco). At the moment he is working on encryption and has just finished some interesting projects like Voice-over-IP, and the design and implementation of a Dealer extranet for the secure, encrypted transaction of customer inquiries and customer information to head office. Robert says that although it is not climatology or geology, it is challenging, and that it would be perfect if he could get more fresh air, glacial till and crinoid fossils.

UTAGA News

New PAC President

There is a new appointment on the PAC Committee. After years of serving as **PAC Chair, Michael Skelly** (B.A. 9T1, M.Sc.Pl. 9T3) is handing over the position to **Antony Lorius** (M.Sc. Pl. 9T8). Antony has been an active member of PAC in the past and we extend our warmest welcome to him in his new capacity. Thank you, Antony, for taking on this most vital role! UTAGA, PAC, and the Department would also like to give heartfelt thanks to Michael for his many years of dedicated service and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

UTAGA Awards Night 2003

Our UTAGA Awards night will be held on Thursday, November 6th at 6:00 in Old Vic Hall. We look forward to another night of celebrating our top students and Alumni.

Next *GeoPlan* will highlight the ceremony and the winners.

Seeking New UTAGA Members

Want to find out what it's like to participate in UofT's most active departmental alumni association? Want to help plan special events, field trips and book launches? Now is your chance to get involved!

UTAGA is seeking new members to feed free pizza to at our bi-monthly executive meetings. We have all sorts of exciting events planned for 2003/2004 and we're looking for volunteers. You can give us your input at meetings as a member at large, or you can play a more active role and take on a committee chair or executive position – it's up to you.

For more information feel free to contact UTAGA president Jenny Lass at (416) 481-1323.

Check us out

The UTAGA website has been revamped and includes some new features. Check us out at <http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/webutaga/>. Any suggestions or comments are most welcome. More updates will be added every month so stay tuned!

PAC Spring Social Success

April 10th marked another terrific turnout and a great time at the seventh annual University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social 2003. Held at Hart House on the St. George Campus, over 200 alumni, planning professionals, faculty and students made this event a resounding success. Amidst the mixing and mingling at the Social, a real highlight included key speaker **Christopher Hume** from the *Toronto Star*.

The event was an even greater success considering it raised a record amount of donations for the Friends of Planning Fund! The Fund is dedicated to enriching and improving the learning experience of students in the Planning Program through helping to send students to conferences, funding research projects and bringing in prominent guest lecturers among other initiatives.

Thank you to the Planning Alumni Committee members (see facing page), and Professor Amrita Daniere for all their hard work in making this year's event bigger and better than ever!

No sooner have we Packed in this year's Spring Social, but planning for 2004 is already underway! If you are interested in helping out in what is becoming a planning event 'not to be missed', please contact Jill Rooksby at utaga@geog.utoronto.ca.



(left to right).

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Jason Mercer, Paula Gallo, & guest

Page 6 - Right

Top: *Speaker Christopher Hume of the TorontoStar*

Middle: *Outgoing PAC President Michael Skelly with Incoming PAC President Antony Lorius and Ken Whitwell*

Bottom: *Bob Millward, Laura Taylor and Ray Simpson*

Page 7

Top: *Luciano Piccioni and Peter Nikolakakos frame our sponsorship sign*

Middle: *Robin Waxman and Gunter Gad*

Bottom: *Virginia Maclaren and Sonya Graci*

Photos by: Antonio Mendonca



2003 Spring Social Sponsors

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*Thanks is also extended to the Ontario
Professional Planners Institute and the
Faculty of Arts & Science for their
promotional support.*

*We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of
the PAC committee in putting this evening together.
The 2002-2003 Planning Alumni Committee
includes:*

*Michael Skelly (Chair), Andrew Brown, Corwin
Cambray, Catherine Cieply, Eileen Costello, Thelma
Gee, Joe Guzzi, Stephen Lue, Antony Lorius, John
MacKenzie, Jason Mercer, Nancy Mudrinic,
Valdemar Nickel, and Loretta Ryan .*



<http://www.wateryear2003.org>. Traditionally, every year is given a designation (for instance, 1994 was the international year of the family). This is the year of fresh water. Hopefully, earth's supply of fresh water will remain constant for generations to come.

<http://www.carfreeday.ca>. Transportation, like the internet, has become more of a necessity than a luxury, for connecting to the world. Pollution-free vehicles, such as electric cars, may not become commonplace for some time so cleaner alternatives such as avoiding the use of cars and "walk-to-school" days have become popular economical and healthy practices.

<http://www.imf.org>. Geography and finance. This is the International Monetary Fund. The environment and economy are inseparable; both affect each other. Money is power, and sometimes this power is concentrated in certain parts of the world, while deficient in others.

<http://www.who.int/en>. Geography and medicine. The World Health Organization, which caused an uproar a few months ago by warning against travel to Toronto due to the emergence of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), is where to surf to find health-related information from around the world.

<http://www.worldstadiums.com>. Geography and sports. Athletics demonstrate what healthy bodies can do. And competitions, as well as other major events that require much space and involve many spectators, require big meeting places. Stadiums, like Toronto's very own Skydome, are also great tourist attractions.

<http://www.planetinfocus.org>. Geography and film. Aside from sports, one may also enjoy entertainment of the theatrical kind. Planet in Focus, based in Toronto (in fact, at the U of T's Innis College), holds a festival, once every autumn, for movie-goers who love our planet.

<http://www.anzwers.org/free/universe>. Geography and astrophysics. Perhaps travelling away from earth, into outer space, would be more exciting, despite its risks, like the American space shuttle tragedy earlier this year. This site provides a very good atlas of the universe.

<http://1421.tv>. Space travel? How about time travel (i.e. geography and history)? The Zheng He Foundation of London, England, uses evidence meticulously being gathered from different sources, to prove that the Chinese—not Europeans—were the first to map the world, and in particular, North America. (see book review on page 10).

<http://www.atlapedia.com>. The Flemish cartographer, Gerhard Mercator, coined the term "atlas," and is credited with being the first to map the whole world (or so we were taught to believe). You'll find many good atlases here.

<http://www.worldnews.com>. Geography and journalism. Thanks to technology, we can have the world at our fingertips. Just remember to be aware of bias, and even deceit and propaganda—there is no such thing as a completely objective news report.

Planning Bite #6

John Dakin

Bite #5 noted the mounting complexity of situations facing planners now. How are we to think about this? As a start, demographics are topical, quickly flinging us into social and cultural dilemmas.

An immigrant arrives with three legal wives on his passport, but trigamy is not legal in Canada. Is this a single family? Is this multiculturalism?

A man in Durban, South Africa, applies to double the floor space in his home to accommodate a second wife. The law states that only a 5% increase is allowable. The man argues that his second wife needs comparable space to his first. This cultural difficulty arose because the law was based on the UK 1932 Planning Act. This was written for a homogenous British society and was not reworked to accommodate cultural differences. Planning that does not give attention to these cultural shifts risks being marginalized.

In the first example, a society may ease itself into elastic application of the planning law, deeming that all who eat at the same table constitute a single family, therefore counting it as a single-family residence. In fact several families may live in a single-family residence, but try adding a basement bathroom and kitchen for grandma, it will be refused. However, if you do that without a permit and the neighbours don't object, it will be winked at.

Such "deeming" and "winking" quickly proliferate as alternatives to rethinking the law. Also, they ramify far into the general society. The plumber will do the work if the transaction is under the table. If it is, the taxman is defrauded. We create a new collective reality outside the law.

In the early stages of this process, the integrity of planning and planners becomes at risk. The alternatives become; rethink what we are really trying to do, or be swallowed up in the mindsets and routines of bureaucracies.

This suggests research approached within the popular clichés of the present general mindset will likely be useless, or worse, actively counterproductive. The output of such research may, however, be very acceptable to business and politicians, although of little use in the thinking of how to guide the development of city-regions and making life in them truly productive.

Let's return to the demographics. The conclusion has to be that the data from this field needs to be used in practical application only after it has been examined in the appropriate cultural and social contexts. This really means that if we are going to do demographic research for planning purposes, we must start with those contexts. What we find there will still structure the research.

The message is that the learning/teaching of planning is not a study of Persian history or a think-tank process, but rather a process of exploration, integration, and synthesis of knowledge from many sources. A wise planning law professor once commented that "the interdisciplinary job has to be done in a single skull." One could further surmise that if you don't find out how to shape the product of the interdisciplinary work into practical action in the real world; if you remain an economist, lawyer, architect, urban designer, sociologist etc., you have missed the message.

Taylor Books Donated to Department

Griffith Taylor, founder of the UofT Department of Geography in 1935 (the first geography department in Canada) was a member of the Scott Antarctic Expedition in 1910-12 as chief geologist.

Dr. Marie Sanderson (4T4) was one of Taylor's first students at the UofT and as such fascinated by his many tales of Antarctic exploration and adventure and over the years collected many of his publications. Marie recently donated these books to the Department.

Among the books donated by Marie was the rare *With Scott: the Silver Lining* (1914) as well as books on Australia, Canada, and the Environment.

Marie also authored Taylor's biography in 1988 entitled *Griffith Taylor: Antarctic Scientist and Pioneer Geographer* which she donated to the UofT Department of Geography. Other Department of Geography publications include the biographies of two of the first professors hired by Taylor when he founded the Department entitled *Down to Earth: a Biography of Donald Fulton Putnam* by Robert Putnam and Marie Sanderson and *The Art of Geography: the Life and Teaching of George Tatham* by John Warkentin.

The collection is displayed in the main geography office.

Geography is What Geographers Do #5:

The Digital Revolution is Upon Us

Roger Clarke B.A. 7T1

Over the past four articles that I have scribed for the GeoPlan (Department of Geography and Planning), I have suggested ideas and opportunities for students and maybe even faculty to generate research topics and studies on one of my favourite topics, "Canadian/historic family research". This type of research is a key component to both historical geography and social geography in understanding how our province, country and local areas were founded, then settled and grew to the municipalities that we know today.

There are some new and substantial developments for those interested in the Canadian social and historical research of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Both the 1901 Censuses for Canada (http://www.archives.ca/02/02012202_e.htm) and England/Wales (<http://www.census.pro.gov.uk>) are now on-line. These sites allow researchers to download images of the actual census pages for research on family structures, demographics and historical perspectives on Canada and Britain at that time. For example, the average male's life span in 1901 was approximately 47 years, compared to today's 74 (approx.) years (1998 North American figure).

Further, many old books (many now beyond copyright), data sets, census information, parish records and old city directories are being put on CD Rom and DVD for researchers to access either on-line or through purchase and loan from vendors and libraries.

The days of huddling over the dusty microfiche readers of UofT's Sigmund Samuel Library are long gone. Gone also are the dusty images and even more obscure black and white photocopies (often used in older papers and of limited clarity and readability) generated by those old microfiche reader/copiers.

England and Wales have now made registration records available on-line for 1837 to 1904 and are compiling more at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/> (free source) and <http://www.1837online.com/> (small fee). Both resources are important sources of information on families and will ultimately lead to further abilities to collect, collate and analyze key demographic and household data for analysis of

families, migration patterns and other important 19th century historical parameters.

Rumours abound that the Irish government in cooperation with a private sector venture (similar to the 1901 English census partnership) is considering putting Census and other information on-line for researchers on a pay-per-view basis.

The Province of British Columbia - showing leadership in information management and meeting the demands of a growing research community - has put access to older vital statistics and civil registration information on-line and the Province of Manitoba has undertaken a similar project.

While there may be some privacy concerns with the growing access to government information on-line, provincial and federal privacy policies have been maintained and the information that is on-line is the same as the information that could previously be accessed on microfilm at the various archives.

From an environmental perspective, it also makes a lot of sense. By encouraging users to access this information electronically, the days of travel across, town, the province or the country are gone resulting in less green house gases, fewer pollutants and more access. A definite benefit to the environment from the "Digital Revolution".

The digital revolution is now in full swing for key archival information, older journals and books. These initiatives have and will continue to be research tools and valuable assets to academic and individual researchers for the future. Initiatives such as those in the UK, U.S. and with some of the provinces give the research community tremendous opportunities to research, gather and analyze information to a greater extent than has been previously thought possible.

Next Edition:

How far will the Digital Revolution take us in historical research?



Speaking of what Geographers do:

Tony Davis and Joe Desloges once again led an ambitious group on the GGR490 field trip in Kananaskas, AB.

Pictured left to right are:

Wilfred Haufe, Joe Desloges, Paul Jago, Duncan Gibson, Steve Guenther, Tony Davis, Anna Gunz
Sitting: Bonnie Moore, Dawn Davidson, Toni Largo
Not pictured: Taylor Blake

Books for Geographers

Fenton Chin, B.A. 9T4

Menzies, Gavin (2002) *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*. London: Bantam Press. ISBN: 0593050789

Retired British Royal Navy commander Gavin Menzies takes readers back in time to the 15th century, when, he claims, vast fleets of Chinese pioneers arrived in North America before any famous westerners. According to Menzies, the Chinese made the first-ever maps of the new world, only to have records of their exploits ignored and unpublished by a new homeland government.

Each chapter of the book is devoted to a fleet admiral, each of whom explored a continent outside of Asia. The main theme of geography – **maps** – is revealed in a discussion of how Portuguese and Spanish sailors were guided to the unknown world (where they “discovered” new lands) using maps from one fleet admiral in particular – Zheng He. Zheng He, it is worth noting, is better known as the famous Sinbad the Sailor from European folklore.

Menzies also considers many important questions about the possible impact of these discoveries; what shape the world would have taken if these early Chinese explorers were celebrated and published by the then Ming Dynasty. To site a few examples, would Mandarin, and not English, be the major language of international communication? Would Buddhism and Confucianism – not Christianity – be the religion of the new world? Would the atrocities and war crimes committed by European colonizers have been avoided?

Of course, these are theories that are perhaps not uniformly agreed upon by researchers and historians in the area. But even if you don't believe Menzies' theories, you can certainly appreciate a few morals from his book. First, it reminds us of how important it is to network with other people and organizations – unlike the way that Ming Dynasty Emperors isolated themselves from the rest of the world at the time. And secondly, we must always give credit where credit is due. We can see pertinent examples at work all around us. For instance, how would things be different if the international scientific community denied the work and support of so many women of the last century?; or if some scholars, out of blind arrogance, refused to listen to others who contested the theory that the earth was flat and was the centre of the universe? We must remain open to new voices and the possibilities they bring us.

These are just some of the issues raised, and some of the ‘places’ my mind journeyed to, while reading Gavin Menzies (2002) “1421: The Year China Discovered the World”.

Editors' Note:

The editors would like to note that the article by Jock Galloway "Honouring Ken Hare" in the Spring 2003 *GeoPlan* was abridged and not the author's intended draft. We apologize for the error.

New Scholarships

We proudly announce the establishment of several new scholarships in the Department. Some have been fully established and fully funded, while others are still eligible for further contributions. We wish to thank all the donors for their very generous gifts which will benefit greatly both graduate and undergraduate students in their studies.

FULLY ESTABLISHED

J.M. Tomczak/Ontario Graduate Scholarship

With a donation from J. Michael Tomczak, this scholarship is valued at \$15,000 and is to be given to students enrolled in full-time studies who have obtained a first class standing.

Michael Ralph Walsh/Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Donated by Dorothy Sterling Dow Walsh c/o Marguerite R. Dow, this scholarship is valued at \$15,000 and is to be given to students enrolled in full-time studies who have obtained a first class standing.

The Edward Sorbara/Urban Development Institute of Toronto/Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Donated by Mr. Edward Sorbara, this scholarship is valued at \$15,000 and is to be given to students enrolled in full-time studies who have obtained a first class standing.

Edie Yolles Prize in Urban Planning

Provided by the Estate of Edie Yolles, the \$500 prize is to be awarded annually to a student of merit graduating from the University of Toronto Planning Program. A student of merit is not necessarily the one with the highest grades, but a student who demonstrates a comprehensive approach to planning and has acquired the necessary skills.

Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program

Donated by the Sacks Partnership, this award is given to a graduate student either entering or continuing in a Masters of Science in Planning based on academic merit. Financial need may also be considered.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

The U of T Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship was initiated by donations from Alumni and Friends of the Department of Geography and Program in Planning. It is to be given to full-time Geography and Planning graduate students on the basis of academic merit.

The George Tatham/Geography Alumni Graduate Scholarship

Established with donations from Alumni and Friends of the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, this scholarship is to be awarded to full-time graduate students in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning on the basis of academic merit.

F. Kenneth Hare Scholarship in the Environment

This scholarship was established with donations by Friends of the University of Toronto. Two awards will be given annually: one is to be awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student in their third or fourth year of study in either of the Environmental and Resource Management or Physical and Environmental geography programs; the second to an outstanding doctoral-stream graduate student in the collaborative environmental programs between IES and the Department of Geography.

& PROGRAM IN PLANNING

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Please Note:

Unless otherwise specified, degrees and diplomas listed in this publication are only those earned through the Department of Geography & Program in Planning at the University of Toronto

Views or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Geography & Program in Planning.



Memory Lane

Left: Dr. Putnam, John Stager, Len Prior (5T6), Arnold Potts at pier near Mount Julian, 1948.

Below: This picture is only identified as being taken at Southampton Island in 1950. We invite anyone who knows the people pictured or who have any comments or reflections on the Memory Lane photos to contact us!



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