

GEOPLAN

A newsletter for alumni and friends



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U of T Geographers Around the World

Professor Virginia Maclaren traveled to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos several times during the year as part of the Waste Econ project. Among other activities, she supervised a survey by the Cambodian partners of 300 householders in Siem Reap (the entry town to Angkor Wat, a World Heritage Site), Cambodia. Householders were asked about their current waste disposal practices and their willingness to pay for regular collection of household waste. She also gave a short workshop on statistics for researchers at

Vietnam's Youth Research Institute, who are analyzing the results of a survey of current and former child waste pickers at the Hanoi dump site.



Above: Truck filled with plastics for recycling in Vientiane

In February of 2004 **Dr. Chuck Hostovsky** conducted interviews with key informants in Vietnam for his research examining the role of public participation in environmental impact assessment. Adam Watson, MA, and **Virginia Maclaren** assisted his research. Funding was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency through the Waste Econ program.

Professor Danny Harvey attended a workshop in Changbaishan, China organized by **Professor Jing Chen** as part of the University of Toronto's Canadian International Development

Agency project on carbon sequestration. He gave two presentations: 1) on how climate impacts on carbon storage in China's forests, and 2) on carbon sequestration in the broader context of climate stabilization. Also observed was that China, in its mad rush for western-style "development", has forgotten one of the fundamental concepts of Chinese philosophy – that of seeking a balance between yin and yang.

Professor Amrita Daniere was in Bangkok, Thailand for three weeks in late spring to conduct research on her SSHRC funded project on civic space and urban governance issues. She and her collaborator, Dr. Anchana NaRanong from the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok, interviewed slum dwellers and organizers regarding their use of different kinds of space, both within and exterior to their communities. The project is part of a larger effort/book project with Professor Mike Douglass from the University of Hawaii to compare access to civic space (places where people can meet and engage in political and nonpolitical activities that are not controlled by either the state or the private sector) across Asian cities. So far the book will include chapters on Taipei, Taiwan; Kathmandu, Nepal (to be written by Katharine Rankin); Nanjing, China (to be written by Alana Boland); Tokyo, Japan (to be written by Andre Sorensen); Hanoi, Vietnam; Yogyakarta, Indonesia; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (to be written by Yi Jin Woo, a graduate student in planning). The authors met to discuss their research to date at a conference in Toronto organized by Professor Daniere and sponsored by the Social Sciences and

Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Asian Institute, the Dr. David Chu Distinguished Leaders Program, the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, the Dr. Chow Yei Ching Chair in Housing, Faculty of Social Work, and the Department of Geography.



Above: Amrita Daniere in Bangkok

Professor Miriam Diamond traveled to Venice, Italy in April and Kampala, Uganda in June 2004 as part of two research projects. The goal of the Venice project, which is in collaboration with researchers in Bologna and Venice, is to develop a mathematical model to estimate the concentrations of chemical contaminants in the lagoon's water, sediments, and fish. The project will

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Report from the Chair

I would like to begin by extending my tremendous thanks to Professor Larry Bourne for taking on the duties of Acting Chair for the department during the 03-04 academic year. There were a number of exciting challenges including, among others, the arrival of the “double-cohort” (the double class of graduating high school students as grade 13 was eliminated), the arrival of new faculty colleagues and graduate students, and the comprehensive five-year planning exercise undertaken by the department. Larry stepped into the breach with his trademark dedication, enthusiasm and humour. Somewhere in there Larry managed to win RCGS’s Massey Medal – one of the highest distinctions given to a Canadian involved in geographic research. Thanks to Larry for his leadership, and congratulations!

As the 04-05 academic year is now underway, we find ourselves with almost 30% more students in what was already one of the busiest departments in the university. Our challenge has been to maintain and improve upon the student academic experience through new courses, field trips, tutorials, lab exercises and research opportunities. For example, **Professors Leslie, Hackworth, Hess, Sorensen and Desrochers** have developed new classroom and studio curriculum on urban form, urban function, planning theory and economic innovation. **Professors Wilson and Wakefield** have introduced new aspects of health, environment and social geographies. **Professors Cowling, Simpson, Conway, Boyes and Rinner** have developed new curriculum for understanding landscape ecology, earth processes and support decision planning using laboratory, modeling, remote sensing and GIS approaches. These teaching and research themes, and many other grant funded projects, have led to numerous research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Alumni and friends of the department have assisted with these opportunities through very generous donations to our scholarship funds and the Friends of Geography and Friends of Planning Funds. Your continued generous contributions will help ensure our students develop the skills for critical research and maximize their opportunities for productive careers.

Joe Desloges, Chair

continued from cover...

involve assembling data from many studies already completed in order that we may mathematically capture the complexities of the lagoon, which include contaminant releases from old and new industries, atmospheric transport from other countries around Italy, and strong tidal “pumping”. As part of the project we are hosting Dr. Silvia Giuliani, a post-doctoral fellow working at the Istituto di Scienze Marine-Sezione di Geologia Marina in Bologna. Julie Sommerfreund, a graduate student from IES-Collaborative Engineering Programmes, is working with Miriam on the project.

Urban agriculture is a means of providing food security for the numerous people coming to cities from the countryside in Uganda and many other third world countries. Often land used by urban farmers is reclaimed garbage dumps or land that receives wastes from human settlements and/or small industrial operations. The project, funded by several agencies including CIDA, aims to understand and quantify potential health risks to children arising from contaminants in urban produce and to balance these risks with health and social benefits provided by this relatively secure food source. The researchers

from University of Toronto are Miriam Diamond from Geography and Donald Cole from the Department of Public Health Sciences. Shelby Yamamoto is an IES graduate student who has conducted field work in Kampala during summer 2004 with Grace Nabulo of Makerere University. While Miriam visited in June 2004 she delivered a lecture at the university on risk assessment.

Professor Andre Sorensen has recently returned from the Barcelona conference of the International Planning History Society where he presented a paper as well as received a book prize for his book, *The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and Planning from Edo to the 21st Century* (London: Routledge, 2002). It won ‘The Most Innovative Book in Planning History Written in English and Based on Original New Research’ 2001-2003.

Andre also spent three weeks of May in Tokyo teaching a series of five lectures on Japanese planning history at the University of Tokyo, and setting up the Tokyo half of his new SSHRC research project comparing civil society and urban governance in Tokyo and Toronto.

Finally, he spent August 17-21 in Shanghai as a keynote speaker at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations conference.

Professor Alana Boland was a research fellow at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in China from February to June of this year. While there she conducted research on government policy initiatives targeting environmental quality at the neighborhood-level in the rapidly developing cities of the Lower Yangtze region. She also used her time in Nanjing to carry out archival research related to the environmental aspects of urbanization for the period of 1950-1965.



Above: New development surrounding Pudong business district in Shanghai

And We Thought Toronto Saw a Cold Summer...

Just ask Ph.D. candidate, Gita Laidler, how cold her summer was! Her studies on sea ice and its impact on Inuit communities have recently taken her to Nunavut, traveling to the remote communities of Iglulik, Cape Dorset, and Panniqtuuq to research and to interview elders and hunters about sea ice. Inuit have seen changes in the ice for years. Now Gita is trying to quantify this shift and the impact it has on the people who depend on it as a way of life.



Above: Gita in the remote community of Iglulik

Instead of focusing solely on the scientific aspect of the research, Gita is trying to bridge the scientific world with that of local knowledge. She says that the Inuit have a lot of knowledge about the environmental conditions of the North, but that scientists conventionally have not listened to them. Locals say the ice is changing; global warming is a worry. “The biggest concern is that the ice is forming later and breaking up earlier. It’s affecting travel and hunting routes,” says Gita. With the increasing use of snowmobiles and other faster modes of transportation, safety is becoming an issue.

Improving further upon previous such research, Gita is responding to concerns from residents about the community’s accessibility to research findings. During her interviews, it was commonly raised that similar work done in the past has never made its way back to the communities themselves, where the results would be vital. Conversely, Gita will be presenting the communities she has visited with copies of her study upon completion. In such regions, where the elders are growing older and traditional oral traditions are threatened, these interviews are important to preserve as a record of traditional knowledge. Once her study is complete, Gita also plans on

creating educational materials that she will submit to the regions’ schools and hamlets for use in preserving traditional knowledge in future generations.

Gita’s reflections of her time spent in Nunavut show her to have had the ‘full experience’. Notable were her adventures by skidoo, presenting her research and experiences to northern high school classes, and attending an elders gathering where the numerous games, songs, clothing and toys of the older Inuit way of life were demonstrated. At this gathering, Gita

was also fortunate to witness a unique cultural exchange between the Inuit and a First Nations group visiting from Nebraska, U.S.A. The Native American groups exhibited some of their singing, drumming, dancing, and games.

Of special note was her amazing experience riding on a *kamotik*, otherwise known as a dog sled, led by a team of eight dogs. Although there was a learning curve to getting on the sled as it is about to take off (“hang on tight and BE READY!!”), as well as mastering the long dog team whip (“after whipping myself several times, or having it land in a heap at my feet, I managed to be able to get it fully forwards and backwards in one snap”), Gita finally finessed the technique.

The highlight, however, had to be the people and the landscape itself. “...[O]ver the trip I received more and more smiles as I walked by people on the street...People were always friendly to me, and curious to know more about me and what I was doing in town.”

Faculty in the News

Dr. Chuck Hostovsky (St. George) was interviewed twice by CBC Radio regarding the ongoing Toronto waste crisis. He was a guest on Radio Noon phone in show and CBC’s Metro Morning to clarify the historical geography of Toronto’s waste crisis, and to give his opinion of where and how the City and surrounding Regions of Peel, Durham, and York should dispose of their municipal solid waste.

Professor Don Boyes (St. George), *pictured at right*, appeared on the TVO show “More to Life” in May as part of the show’s week long focus on education. Don and host Mary Ito discussed how geography is taught, the effect a map projection may have on a person’s world view, and how technology has influenced geography.

Professor Ken Macdonald (UTSC) was interviewed on OMNI Television’s South Asian News program to provide insight into diplomatic talks between India and Pakistan on the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Ken has worked in Pakistani Kashmir since the mid-1980’s and is currently conducting research into transnational identity formation in northern India and Pakistan.

Professor Miriam Diamond (St. George) published a paper on toxic chemicals after 9/11, and CNN Radio discussed the results of this paper. This discussion was released and played on 2100 radio stations. Miriam also had a discussion on CBC Newsworld regarding brominated flame retardants and actions by the federal government to ban some of them. She also co-organized a press release for the publication “*Beyond the Breaking Point? Why Canada must have a strong government research infrastructure to address environmental threats such as climate change, air pollution, and severe weather*”. This publication was co-signed by 21 senior government scientists and university researchers, and went to all parliamentarians and the media. Miriam was quoted in articles in the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail.



Cool Websites for Geographers & Planners

By Fenton Chin, B.A. 9T4

1. <http://www.openspaceworld.org>. Worldwide Open Space is a web-based communication technology enabling people to hold meetings with groups all over the world.
2. <http://www.greenpeace.org>. We are all becoming more closely knit together in the so-called “global village”. Despite some inherent differences, it is important to foster co-operation among various peoples and cultures, and to work together on issues that affect us all, such as environmental concerns. Greenpeace, with locations in many major cities including Toronto, draws worldwide attention to endangered animal species, deforestation, even war and conflict. There’s the added bonus of numerous links to related sites, educational opportunities, and even job postings.
3. <http://www.greenteacher.com>. Here’s a great site for teachers and students alike. Lots of information about the environment.
4. <http://www.greenestcity.org>. The City of Toronto is a leader in all aspects of healthy living (including, for example, urban sprawl, resource management, crime prevention, economic growth, and social support programs). That’s something to proudly share with others whenever you travel abroad!
5. <http://www.planetizen.com>. If “citizens” live in “cities”, it follows that “planetizens” live on “planets” like Earth . . . at least planners do. This is a very useful site for planners.
6. <http://www.citycreator.com>. City Creator is a free online video-game that allows players to simulate the urban planning process (so that the consequences of making really bad decisions isn’t as devastating as they would be in the real world).
7. <http://www.nationstates.net>. Up a hierarchical level from city planning, this site allows players to simulate the creation of new countries.
8. <http://www.flat-earth.org>. In the days of old, when scholars were bold, new ideas were always met with a scold...According to this organization, the earth is not a sphere—visit its homepage for amusement, but nothing else.
9. <http://www.davidrumsey.com>. Not all things old were bad. Here, you’ll find a collection of historical maps and other very interesting reference material.
10. <http://www.fieldtripearth.org>. Take a tour of the planet from the comfort of your own chair without having to face any of the real hazards (other than annoying internet pop-up ads!). You will learn a lot about planet Earth.

UTAGA Poster Featured at Philadelphia American Association of Geographers Conference

By Marie Sanderson

The 2004 AAG Conference was held in March in Philadelphia, the site of the first AAG conference one hundred years ago. The organizers of the Conference suggested that AAG members submit posters of outstanding geographers or histories of outstanding departments. The members of UTAGA’s historical committee, Dick Baine, Don Kerr, Marie Sanderson and John Warkentin suggested a poster honouring the founder of the University of Toronto’s Department of Geography, Griffith Taylor, and Larry Bourne, Acting Chair, eagerly agreed. Byron Moldofsky, departmental cartographer, worked with the four retirees in designing a very impressive four by eight foot poster featuring Taylor’s life and works.

Larry Bourne and Marie Sanderson ‘manned’ the poster in Philadelphia where it was on display for four days and attracted a good deal of attention. There were approximately 60 posters on display in a ‘Hall of History;’ but the UTAGA poster was the only one featuring a distinguished geographer, and the only one from a Canadian University. Geographers who stopped to look at the poster came from Australia, China, Nigeria, Britain, the United States, and Canada, and most knew of Taylor or had read his books.



The poster is now at home in the Geography Department and will be on display at a special event in 2005.

Above: Dr. Philip Horwarth, University of Waterloo; Dr. Marie Sanderson, UTAGA; and Dr. Changming Liu, Beijing Normal University standing in front of UTAGA's Griffith Taylor poster in Philadelphia.

Celebrating the Department’s History!

2005 marks the *70th anniversary* of the department. We are planning a celebration on a Saturday in early May. Please look for announcements with details on the UTAGA and departmental web sites and in the spring issue of GEOPLAN.

Geography is What Geographers Do #6: The Digital Revolution is Upon Us

By Roger Clarke, B.A. 7T1, B.Ed. 7T2

Over the past five “digitally” produced articles for GeoPlan, I have suggested ideas and opportunities that students, and perhaps even faculty, may generate as research topics or studies. A favourite topic among many, including myself, is “family history research” and historical Canadian topics.

Of interest to both historical and social geographers, this type of research is key in understanding how our province, country, and local areas were founded and settled, and how they grew to be the municipalities that we know today.

Many readers may be interested to know of some new developments occurring in the realm of “digitally enhanced research” and access to rare and unique books.

As a geography undergraduate at U of T, and later as a grad student at York University, I often ran into the proverbial “brick wall” when doing research. The problem often resided in accessing a source; an older book, map or manuscript often held in the Thomas Fisher Rare Books section or in the Map Library. “I need an appointment for when???” The project is due in two days.” Of course you couldn’t touch many of the older and rare books, and therefore they were out of your research portfolio...Enter the 21st Century and the Digital Age.

An interesting service is now being offered in the U.K. by Rod Neep of Archive Books. He provides a low cost alternative service to local libraries and records repositories in the U.K. (and to some extent in other countries) by copying rare and old books to DVD and CD Rom for costs. While this was originally aimed at institutions, it has now spilled over in to the public sector, allowing individuals to acquire or access rare books. Such sources may have previously been totally out of reach for individuals and researchers.

Archive Books’ distribution is done over the internet, and all I can say is that my order of a topographical book produced in 1791 arrived in 5 days from England.

In Rod Neep’s own words, “The Archive CD Books Project exists to make reproductions of old books, documents and maps available on CD to historians, and to co-operate with libraries, museums, and record offices in providing money to renovate old books in their collection, and to donate books to their collections, where they will be preserved for future generations...The Project is all about making CDs of old and rare books available to genealogists and historians at a reasonable price. It is a ‘user supported’ project, and is intended to be non profit making.” (See Archived CD web

site at <http://www.rodneep.co.uk/>)

Some of these books have been kindly lent to the project by various individuals: County Record Offices, museums, family history societies, and libraries. Others have been purchased. The Archive CD Books Project will pay for the renovation of books loaned by record offices, museums, and libraries so that they may be preserved for future generations. Archive Books is also able to give CDs to local libraries and record offices so that the books no longer suffer from heavy use.

The project began in the UK in March 2000, and has now developed world-wide, with each country scanning and producing its own books on CD. The Canadian branch was formed in 2003.

There are currently over 1300 old and rare books on CD with more coming every month. Many of these books are somewhat specialized and many others are suited to 19th century historical research.

Books include topics such as: original census material, topographical dictionaries, gazetteers, local directories, local histories, special books on special topics, university and private school registries ...and the list goes on.

You can donate books to the project or even sponsor a book. In many ways this creates opportunities for researchers and others to ensure books are preserved for future generations. This is just a first step in providing more universal access to rare and old books and allowing other institutions to share their books with clients who would not otherwise have access.

The “digital revolution” is now truly upon us, with information and book sharing leading the way.

Fall Field Trip: Toronto Monuments

Toronto's geography and history can be read through its public sculpture. Many of the over 500 public sculptures in the city are located between Spadina Avenue and Bay Street, most on the grounds of the University of Toronto (including its associated colleges) and at Queen's Park. For some time **John Warkentin** has been researching Toronto's Monuments and has lead some interpretive tours. He has agreed to lead a joint University of Toronto/York University tour. The tour is set for:

Saturday October 2, 2004 at 10:00am. Rain or Shine
Meeting Place: NE corner, Spadina Avenue and College Street

Finish: Shortly after 12pm at Queen's Park
Please RSVP to geogalum@yorku.ca

The University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social 2004

Waterfront Blues: Waterfront Corporation Still Needs Basic Powers

By Loretta Ryan, MSc.Pl. 9T1, and Amrita Danieri

In late April the University of Toronto's Planning Alumni Committee held its annual 'Friends of Planning Spring Social 2004'. Approximately two hundred planners from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors gathered at Hart House to network and listen to John Campbell, President and CEO of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, speak about the corporation's plan to spark a renaissance along the waterfront. He noted that he is responsible for an area twenty times that of Canary Wharf or Battery Park City, two famous sites known for their vibrancy. Campbell cautioned that integrating waterfront development remains one of his biggest challenges. Amenities that help build community cannot be added as an afterthought, he noted. Campbell also complained that although Bill 151 described the powers needed to get the waterfront redeveloped, his corporation still lacks these basic tools, the most important of which is the power to raise capital.

The Planning Alumni Committee also announced a scholarship partnership that includes matching commitments from the University and the province.



John Campbell, President and CEO of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation



Susan Pfeiffer, then Vice-Dean of Research and Graduate Affairs, Arts and Science



Corwin Cambray, PAC member, and two guests



Loretta Ryan (left), Enid Slack (middle), Larry Bourne (middle), and guest

Thank you to Karen Gorra for photographing the event



Planning alumni, guests, students, and faculty socializing at the PAC spring event

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

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the PAC committee in putting this evening together. The 2003-2004 Planning Alumni Committee includes: Antony Loriois (Chair), Michael Skelly, Andrew Brown, Corwin Cambray, Catherine Cieply, Eileen Costello, Joe Guzzi, Stephen Lue, John MacKenzie, Jason Mercer, Nancy Murinic, Valdemar Nickel, and Loretta Ryan.

Planning Bite #8

By John Dakin

Bite #7 showed how the inter-weaving of cultures can impact planning. Such small examples, however, only hint at much larger problems. Most societies now have human groups with widely different values and histories. What methodology can we create for looking at these future societies?

Although books on futures have been plentiful, 'futures' as a discipline has been short on basic theory. Bertand de Jouvenel's *The Art of Conjecture* (1967) was an early attempt.

In the 1970's I offered a course, 'Futures for Planners', because it seemed strange that planning curricula and thinking did not differentiate this as a specific focus of study. In *Feedback from Tomorrow* (1979) I brought together two emerging theory bases: electronic technologies and work on the biosphere as environment.

I can't recall anyone at that time using, as base, the inter-weaving of the world's major regional cultures – the Chinese, Hindu, Islamic, and the Western. Yet, for us now this is one obvious base for the systemic development of 'futures' thinking. Differences of race, language, religion, the ways of financing business, etc. – much is changing fast.

An immediate task for academics and practitioners in planning is to discover how to address the thinking process itself. A sort of theory of theories – a metaphysics of the problem – is needed.

Le Corbusier's approach to Paris gives us insight as to what planners now need to consider in creating future societies. He asked, what human functions do city-regions serve? Le Corbusier found four such functions: living, working, transport, and leisure activities (*La Ville Radieuse*, 1932). So far so good. These

broad categories of the functions still stand.

But that was seventy years ago. Le Corbusier did not have (or didn't use) the outputs of the many interdisciplinary academic disciplines available now. Today we can bring to bear within each function a vast amount of well-organized data and knowledge. Also, we have some experience of cross-fertilizing the outputs of these disciplines within each function and between functions.

Additionally, we have at least the beginnings of systemic work on two mega-contexts that have to be recognized for planning any city-region. First, we understand life as a component of the biosphere of Earth and of the need to ensure that our activities do not degrade it to our own detriment. Next, there is the web of human life and civilization. What were once regarded as regional civilizations are now inextricably connected in a global network. Of course, the first mega-context is the matrix of the human mega-context. But the latter is now so powerful that it is better to think of the two as a symbiosis. Humans must help the natural order maintain itself. Planners must work with these two mega-contexts constantly in mind. But first, we have to *think about how to think* about the subject.

Get ready for the Annual Geography/ Planning-UTAGA Awards Night 2004

By Fenton Chin, 9T4

The 10th annual awards presentation for the graduating class of 2004 will take place on Tuesday, November 9th, 2004 at Alumni Hall, Victoria College. During this special evening, not only are our very deserving graduating students honoured, but also so too are U of T Geography alumni and friends. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to recognize such individuals who have made contributions to the Department and UTAGA over the years.

These individuals, many of whom live and work abroad and have distinguished themselves in careers as diverse as the subject of geography itself, have voluntarily contributed their efforts in support of the Department and the discipline. They serve as excellent role models to inspire future generations of geographers, indeed reminding us of the vital role UTAGA members play in the life of the Department.

Nominations for 2005 award winners will begin soon. Look out for the nomination forms in the next edition of GeoPlan.

UTAGA Seeking New Members

Want to find out what it's like to participate in the University of Toronto's most active 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. We have all sorts of special events planned for 2004/2005 and we are always looking for new 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 position - it is up to you. For more information feel free to contact **UTAGA President, Jenny Lass** at (416) 481-1323.

Check UTAGA Out Online!

Check us out at <http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/webutaga>. Any suggestions or comments are most welcome. Updates will be added every month so stay tuned!

In Search of the Canadian City

By Christian Bernholt, Geographisches Institut, Humboldt Universität Berlin

“What do you expect? What are you looking for?” asked the man on the plane next to me. “Well,” I said, “we are looking for the myth of the North American City.” This is why sixteen geography students (of 120 who applied) from the Humboldt-University of Berlin came to Canada: to learn everything about The Canadian City. Prior to our Canadian visit, Professor Marlies Schulz, of Humboldt, asked students about our images of the country. Ice hockey, maple trees and syrup, mounties, bears, wilderness... And what about Canadian cities? Ghettos, urban sprawl, skyscrapers, CBDs without people, expressways, and people in the streets drinking out of bottles hidden in paper bags. Surprised?

We arrived in Toronto on July 29. We took a taxi downtown and there it was: the highways, skyscrapers, polished fire trucks just like in the movies, and so on. We met **Professor Gunter Gad** of the University of Toronto, who organized the field trip together with Professor Schulz. We went to the Department of Geography and listened to a presentation by **Professor Alan Walks** on the social geography of Toronto, its different neighbourhoods, Toronto as an immigrant city, and many other interesting aspects. Gunter Gad took us to places most Europeans link with American cities: China Town, the CBD, and the places of the rich like Rosedale. He also took us to the empire of Hurricane Hazel - Mississauga. I have never seen anything like this before: a shopping mall as a city centre?

As we had learned, big cities are exceptional places. Cities like Kitchener-Waterloo are more typical and Professor Pierre Fillion of the University of Waterloo showed us around. I was impressed. It looked like a small town in Germany, and yet there were over 300,000 people living there. I now began to understand the term *urban sprawl*. The next day, Professor Christopher Fullerton of Brock University in St. Catharines took us to Niagara Falls and provided us with an



The Humbolt University students with Professor David Hanna (second from left) at McGill College Avenue in Montreal.

in-depth look at tourism in this region, attracting 14 million visitors each summer. I was shocked to see what tourism can do to a city: crammed streets with ghost trains, crowded shops, and blinking lights.

Next we went to Ottawa, the city a fellow student and I gave a presentation on back in Berlin. I expected a very British city and, well, even our guide for the day was British: Professor Iain Wallace of Carleton University. Iain did an excellent job and took us to many interesting places. He even took us outside the green belt and we visited the Corel arena and the high-tech industry cluster. Much of the literature I read described Ottawa as a down-to-earth city; somewhat provincial. Just let me say that Ottawa is anything but provincial! Parliament Hill and Byward Market fast became our favourite places. Then we headed east to Montreal. I was quite excited because my French is not very good, and I wondered if I would be able to order something to eat. Yes, I could! The first thing we recognized was the “*savoir vivre*”, as the French would say. The supermarket sold many food specialties and even alcohol. We were very impressed. For the next two days Professor David Hanna of the Université du Québec à Montréal guided us through

Montreal. What I liked most was his explanation of Montreal’s housing types and their adaptability to changing demographics. Gunter Gad took us on a tour of the St. Lawrence River. It included a stop at the Lachine Rapids, the old Lachine Canal, and the old port of Montreal. We also went to the islands in the river and our car fanatics got an opportunity to do a round on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve at 30 kilometres an hour!

“So why didn't we stay there longer? What are we doing here in Calgary?” we asked ourselves. I have to apologize. We were told in the literature to expect a boring city, nothing to do, many men, no women. But Professor Wayne Davies of the University of Calgary did a fantastic job of impressing us. He took us everywhere: Nose Hill, downtown, the Bonavista communities (which are on their way to becoming gated communities), and finally we saw Calgary’s attempt to develop residential areas in the neo-urbanism style. And, after all, we were sad to leave Calgary. One impression: I don't know why, but Calgary gave me the strongest feeling of being in an American City. The last destination was Edmonton. Professor Peter Smith of the University of Alberta was our guide. Although he is retired, he amazed us with his energy and enthusiasm. Professor Smith took us not only to the residential areas and the downtown core, but also to locations of oil companies and the cattle market. There it was, the smell of cowboy.

We had seen a lot in three weeks. Sometimes I felt like an American tourist doing Europe in ten days. But there was no culture shock. It's a different world, maybe American, but not so dramatic as I expected. Canada is so special and so big that Canadians could create their own types of cities. It was good to have seen the diversity of Canadian cities; much better than reading about them or seeing them in movies. I think I will come back.

* Our partnership with Humboldt University Berlin involves assisting their geographers with field trips to Canada. This year’s field trip was the fourth we helped with. Here is a brief account by one of the student participants. *Gunter Gad*

Departmental News

Jill Rooksby who was with us for two years in her capacity as both the Assistant to the Chair and UTAGA coordinator has moved to a new position at the University of Toronto Magazine. Thanks from all of us for your contributions! We are pleased to welcome back Carla Vitoria as Assistant to the Chair after her extended maternity leave.

There is someone new at the DiFrancesco house!!! SERINA DIFRANCESCO arrived August 17th!! Serina, big sister Sofia, Mom and Dad, Professor Rick DiFrancesco, are all well.

New Tenureships

Brian Branfireum (UTM), Kanishka Goonewardena (St. George), and Katharine Rankin (St. George) have all had successful tenure reviews and all have been promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations!

New Appointments

Alan Walks (PhD, UofT, 2003) has been appointed as Urban Geography Assistant Professor at UTM. Minelle Mahtani (PhD, UC London, 2000) has been appointed Social Geography Assistant Professor at UTSC.

Awards

Larry Bourne is this year's Massey Medal winner (RCGS) and will be pinned by the Governor General in Ottawa at the Government House on November 10, 2004. Congratulations Larry!

Retirements

Gunter Gad (UTM, St. George) retired in June 2004. Fortunately, Gunter remains active within the Department and will be teaching GGR 366 (Historical Toronto) in the fall.

New Departmental Plan

Academic Planning Exercise for the Faculty of Arts and Science completed a detailed report of the Department's activities and the development of a long-term five-year plan for the years 2004-2009.

New Scholarships

This year the Department is proud to announce three new endowed

scholarships:

1. Donald F. Putnam/George Tatham/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography;

2. University of Toronto Planning Alumni Committee/Ontario Graduate Scholarship; and

3. Urban Strategies/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography and Planning. Extended thanks to Joe Berridge and Frank Lewinberg.

The Department would also like to thank Mr. Morden Yolles who has considerably enriched the Edie Yolles Prize.

The Department recently received a letter from Dean Pekka K. Sinervo recognizing the successful efforts of the Department in creating new endowed scholarships. The letter states, "I offer my congratulations to the Department for establishing the highest number of named endowments (in Arts and Science) to date under the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program."

New Books

In May, the Department held a book launch to recognize the works of three faculty members;

Manufacturing Culture: The Institutional Geography of Industrial Practice by Meric S. Gertler, Professor and Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies, Department of Geography and Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto. This book "demystifies the origins of national and regional industrial cultures" and "makes important recommendations for industrial policies aimed at enhancing the innovativeness of firms".

The Cultural Politics of Markets: Economic Liberalization and Social Change in Nepal by Katharine Neilson Rankin, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Toronto. This book "makes a clear case for a strategic merger between anthropological and planning perspectives in thinking about the issue of market transformation".

Towards Sustainable Cities: East Asian, North American and European Perspectives on Managing Urban Regions edited by Andre Sorensen, Peter J. Marcotullio, and Jill Grant. "While questioning what strategies can promote sustainable cities in a global context, the book also illustrates that formulae generated out of American and

European experience cannot be universally applied, but that some of the analytical approaches and experience of other developed countries can offer insights for those working in different contexts".

Hosted Conferences

Natural Cities Conference was hosted by the Division of the Environment and involved Rodney White, Ian Burton, and Danny Harvey.

Affordable Housing Conference was hosted by the Centre for Urban Studies and involved Amrita Daniere and Larry Bourne.

OPPI/CPI Annual Meeting was held in Toronto this year. The Department hosted a U of T Planning Alumni Reception in honour of the CPI/OPPI Conference "Moving Minds - Our Urban Challenge", which was held on Monday July 12, 2004.

Alumni Bulletin Board

Mark Hummer, M.A. 0T1, will be starting a PhD program in Historical/Cultural Geography at the University of Kansas. After spending two years in Salt Lake City, Utah, he moved to Lawrence, Kansas in July and started grad student field camp.

Yael Levitte, MSc.Pl. 9T8, and Oren Falk are pleased to announce the arrival of Naomi Levitte, who was born on May 8, 2004. Congratulations Yael.

Wing Yin Ng, Hon. BSc. 9T8, has recently been promoted to Senior Investment Representative, Electronic Brokerage Services at TD Waterhouse Investor Services.

Rupen Seoni, MSc.Pl. 9T4, is the newest addition to the Environics Analytics Group, a new company affiliated with Environic Research, which specializes in geodemographic consulting.

Daniel Stevens, B.A.0T3, is now working on his MSc. in the Spatial Analysis and Modelling Lab at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. His research includes the development of innovative urban growth modelling techniques by developing extensions to GIS software that incorporate cellular automata for use in spatial decision support.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & PROGRAM IN PLANNING



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Comments, suggestions, alumni information (including change of address notices) are most welcome. They should be sent to:

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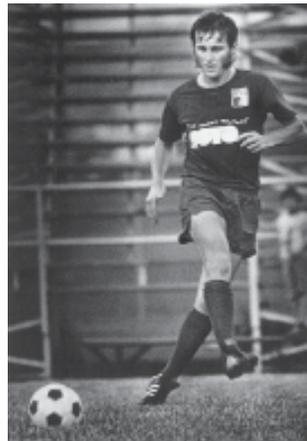
Unless otherwise specified, degrees and diplomas listed in this publication are only those earned through the Department of Geography & Program in Planning at the University of Toronto.

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

Memory Lane



The class of 1964



Can anyone recognize this young soccer player (left)? Hint: he played for the University of Wisconsin Madison Soccer Club in the early 1970's.

The young graduate pictured (right) in the last issue of the GEOPLAN's Memory Lane is Professor Larry Bourne (circa 1961).



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