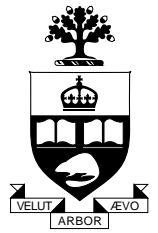


GEOPLAN

A newsletter for alumni and friends



Published by the University of Toronto Department of Geography & Program in Planning and
The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA)

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The “Spirit of Shackleton”

Joe Whitney

Although my interests have always been in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the developing world, I have long had a guilty pleasure of reading about the lives and exploits of polar explorers. Guilty because I secretly relish the pleasure of reading about their frozen adventures from the comfort of my warm bed!

Last February, I was given the chance of experiencing one of these adventures in relative, but not complete, comfort. I joined a group called the “Spirit of Shackleton” that would follow part of that explorer’s epic escape from disaster in the Antarctic ice.

We embarked from Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world on February 23. Our vessel, the *Professor Molchanov* (named after a Soviet Academic and the inventor of radar) was originally a Soviet spy ship strengthened to withstand the polar ice. On the deck of our vessel was a replica of the *James Caird*, the 22-foot boat in which Shackleton and his five companions made their incredible 1200 km voyage from Elephant Island to South Georgia in 1916. The replica had already been sailed in a number of Shackleton movies.

My 40 fellow voyagers were a congenial bunch, ranging from 8-year-old kids, an 83-year old couple, to a group of twelve seasoned hikers from Georgia who planned to traverse some of Shackleton’s route across the mountains of South Georgia. Our group also included the great grandnephew of Shackleton who traveled with his long-time partner, Laura.

Having crossed the Drake Strait with gale force 8 winds and arriving at Port Lockroy and Paradise Bay on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, we saw

for the first time towering glaciers, 60-meter icebergs and minke whales that swam for almost an hour around and under our zodiacs. We visited the Caldera Bay of Deception Island where a 1969 eruption forced the evacuation of the British base established there since World War II. Some of the more hardy of us benefited from the volcanic legacy of the island by bathing in a “warm” pool we excavated on the beach.

On March 2, we found ourselves off Elephant Island, a primary destination of our trip. It was here that Shackleton and his 27-member party landed after being forced to take to their lifeboats when the ice-flow they were stranded on began to melt. The island itself, with 1000 meter jagged peaks and crevassed glaciers, is most forbidding. We zodiaced to Point Wild

where the Shackleton party made their dramatic landing and where 23 of them were to live a perilous existence for many months while Shackleton and four crewmembers sought help from the outside world. We launched the *James Caird* and a number of us recreated Shackleton’s historic landing on the island.

We now retraced, over atypically calm seas, Shackleton’s epic voyage across the 1200 km stormy Scotia Sea between Elephant Island and South Georgia and on the morning of March 5 we saw the rugged southern coast of that island - a slice of Switzerland with 3000 meter peaks dropped into the South Atlantic Ocean. We landed at Cove Bay, Sir Ernest’s point of landing after the grueling crossing of the Scotia Sea.

The next day, we embarked at Grytviken, now a rusting mass of abandoned whaling equipment and oil storage tanks. At the small cemetery, where Sir Ernest was buried in 1926 after yet another failed attempt to cross the

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Joe Whitney's 'Spirit of Shackleton' trip.

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Charting the Future

Report from the Chair

This has been, to put it positively, a busy and exciting year thus far. In his wisdom, Joe Desloges, picked a good year to take research leave. As Acting Chair I have been faced with a number of interesting assignments and challenges, certainly the most pleasant of which has been welcoming, and getting to know, our new colleagues – those starting in September 2003 and January 2004 – and a new cohort of eager graduate students. One of the few benefits of being Chair, aside from free lunches once a week, is learning more about what our new colleagues are doing – and it is an impressive set of talented and enthusiastic individuals. Some examples of their research interests are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter; others will appear in subsequent editions.

Among the other challenges, the immediate priority for the Department is the preparation of another five-year academic plan, this time for the period 2004-2010 (yes, I realize this is six years, but then this is UofT). Following the publication of a report written by the University's Provost – a wide-ranging and pro-active document entitled Stepping-Up – we have initiated our own internal academic planning exercise. This involves a review and assessment of the entire scope of departmental activities and our linkages to other units. An initial departmental (unit) planning document outlining our vision, goals, needs and proposed directions of change, was submitted at the end of January 2004. Based on reactions to that document from the Dean's office, and our own departmental discussions, a more detailed plan will be prepared for submission in April.

Although such reviews can often be routine, and they certainly are time-consuming, this review will be a particularly critical exercise in strategic planning for us. Given the anticipated number of faculty retirements – eleven in total - over the length of the planning period, the Department will be transformed – remade from the ground up. The timing of this exercise then represents an unusual opportunity to carefully evaluate where we as a Department are now – our strengths and comparative advantages – and where we would like to go in the future. The constraint, we are told time and again, is that there will be few (if any) new resources.

In other news, as a single graduate department we are engaged in two new faculty searches this year for new colleagues at UTM, in the field of urban geography (metropolitan development/transportation), and at UTSC in social geography. Also on a very positive note, we have received a number of new research grants, including continuing support from the Neptis Foundation, and a promise to endow a new graduate scholarship in Planning. Other student funding initiatives are also underway, including completing a fellowship endowment in the name of the late Ken Hare.

Finally, I want to thank the donors, and members of UTAGA and the Planning Alumni Committee, for their continued support of the Department, its students and their activities.

Larry S. Bourne
Chair (Acting)

The "Spirit of Shackleton"

Continued from page 1...

Antarctic continent, we held a small ceremony at which Rand Shackleton conducted a brief ceremony of remembrance followed by Rand's marriage to Laura at the small whalers' chapel. They had long planned to make this the place where they would tie the knot!

On the following day, a falling barometer, gale force 9 winds and steep-sided 10 meter waves slowed our progress toward the Falklands and only the most sea-worthy were able to watch the gigantic waves from the captain's bridge. The voyage was made still more perilous by giant icebergs pushed relentlessly toward us under the influence of the waves and winds. So great was the storm,

that Stanley Harbour on the Falklands was closed and we sailed for shelter in the lee of the north side of the islands. The next day, we landed on one of the numerous Falkland islands where we had a delightful English tea with scones, jam, clotted cream and home-baked cakes and cookies hosted by a family who had sheep-farmed for over 60 years.

Our return trip to Ushuaia was calm and uneventful and we disembarked on the morning of March 13 after 18 days of an incredible voyage. What made the trip so memorable were, of course, the historic and natural elements experienced, but also the very congenial passengers, the excellent lecturers and guides and the evening gin and tonics around the Molchanov's bar!

Association of American Geographers Poster pays Tribute to Griffith Taylor

Marie Sanderson, Dick Bain, John Warkentin and Don Kerr

Griffith Taylor, the Founder of the Geography Department at the University of Toronto in 1935, will be the subject of a poster at the Association of American Geographers conference in



Philadelphia in March. The 2004 conference marks the 100th anniversary of the AAG and one of the special features will be a Hall of History with biographies of famous geographers. The U of T poster, the work of UTAGA's History of the Department Committee and Cartographer Byron Moldofsky will be entitled "Griffith Taylor: Antarctic Scientist and Career Geographer". The poster will document Griffith's outstanding career: Chief Geologist in Scott's 1910-12 Antarctic Expedition, his geographic research on all seven continents, his academic roles at the Universities of Sydney (Australia), Chicago and Toronto, and his remarkable publication record, with some 25 sometimes controversial books and 180 scientific articles.

Remembering Howard Richards

Colleagues:

Senior members of the Department will certainly remember the name, reputation and perhaps the person of Professor Howard Richards. Howard passed away in Saskatoon in September at age 87.

Howard received his MA and PhD from our Department. He moved to Saskatoon to establish and head the Department of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan; he was also a past president of the CAG and a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Our sympathies go out to his wife Mary Helen and to his extended family.

Prepared by Larry S. Bourne

Marie Sanderson Comes Full Circle

Jenny Lass, 9T8

In a career that's taken her from Hawaii to the Arctic and Australia to Siberia, Marie Sanderson has covered – and broken – a lot of ground. Her journey began in 1940 as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto. This pioneering female academic discovered geography during her first year. With Griffith Taylor as her professor, it's not surprising that she enrolled in the geography honours program. "He was such a stimulating lecturer. He had great ideas," says Sanderson of Taylor.

Taylor was also instrumental in guiding Sanderson to postgraduate studies in 1944: "He suggested that maybe I should go on. I hadn't really thought of graduate school." So she embarked on an adventure to the University of Maryland with a scholarship in hand. She explains, "I had never been out of Ontario. I thought [that the U.S. was] the other side of the world."

Sanderson embraced both her studies and the culture of nearby Washington DC. She frequented the many art galleries and had the opportunity to work at the Library of Congress. At Maryland, her academic path was influenced by her second mentor, CW Thornthwaite whose practical approach to climatology was revolutionary. Under Thornthwaite's supervision, Sanderson graduated with her MA in 1946.

This renaissance woman then adapted to the next phase in her life with ease. She married her high school sweetheart when he returned from the war and supported him as he studied to become a dentist. Sanderson worked for four years at the Ontario Research Foundation as a climatologist and reveled in every experience that came her way, including a trip to the Arctic in 1950 to study potential evapotranspiration. This project led to her first published scientific paper that appeared in *The Geographical Review*.

Sanderson's life changed yet again when her husband set up a practice in Windsor and they had three children. By 1960 their children were in school and Sanderson decided to follow their lead. She had joked while she was supporting her husband while schooling, "maybe someday you'll do the same for me." Those prophetic words were realized



when Sanderson's husband hired a housekeeper so his wife could begin her studies at the University of Michigan.

She made the one-hour commute to Ann Arbor two to three times a week and although she was the only woman in her class, she received unlimited support. However, her dedication was questioned by her department head several months into her program. "He said, 'we've had women start the PhD program but never finish. Are you serious? Are you planning to finish?'" The issue was promptly dropped when Sanderson replied "yes." True to her word, she graduated in 1965.

Fortunately, the University of Windsor was in need of a geography professor and at Thornthwaite's urging Sanderson applied for the position. Although normally unshakable, her lack of teaching experience proved a source of anxiety during her interview with the president of the university. Little did she know her experience wasn't relevant: "I was in his office and he asked me one question: 'Are you planning to have any more children?' And I said 'no I'm not.' I should have said, 'are you?'" Sanderson held her tongue and was hired on the spot.

She taught at Windsor for 22 years. During that time, Sanderson was engaged in myriad projects aside from

teaching, such as two sabbatical leaves in Hawaii and scientific exchanges to China and the USSR. She even tried implementing a course for native students in the Arctic, which was relatively unsuccessful. "I think we were just a little ahead of our time," says Sanderson. However, it was the founding of the Great Lakes Institute in 1980 that is her most valued accomplishment. The first of its kind in Canada, this university-based interdisciplinary institute for Great Lakes research is still operational and highly successful.

Upon her retirement in 1988, the University of Waterloo invited her to be an adjunct professor and start another water research institute. The institute, named The Water Network, is now one of the Canadian Centres for Excellence. To her delight Sanderson returned to Toronto in 1998 as a volunteer researcher for the Institute for Environmental Studies and Environment Canada, and now lends her time to UTAGA as the Chair of the Historical Committee. She says that "your first university is special."

Sanderson also has four honorary doctorates, and has published 10 books and over 80 scientific articles. Her current book *The Climate of Southern Ontario* will hit bookstands soon. However, Sanderson's interests lie beyond academic publishing. She enjoys telling the stories of those who meant so much to her by writing the biographies of Taylor and Thornthwaite, and publishing the war experiences of her husband who died in 1978.

Sanderson's explanation for her serendipitous and charmed tale is simple: "I really didn't have any stumbling blocks. I happened to be at the right place at the right time. It's been a wonderful life. I couldn't have imagined a more satisfying career than university teaching." Her remarkable attitude, which has carried her through good and bad times, can be summed up in her advice for new graduates: "Follow what you are interested in. Follow your head and heart."

Planners in Pittsburgh

By Jeff Cantos & Renee Gomes

One early morning in September, 22 planning students rolled out of bed & boarded a bus headed for Pittsburgh. Accompanied by Professors Amrita Daniere and Paul Hess, we embarked on our first official Planning trip that extended beyond the boundaries of the GTA.

Our hosts at the Allegheny County Housing Corporation introduced us to the partnerships that they have used to develop affordable housing, which, in Pittsburgh, is a very different issue from ours in Toronto. With an ageing population and substantial out-migration of young adults, Pittsburgh's challenge is to sustain and promote the development of what is currently a fairly homogenous community, compared to the rapidly growing and diverse population of Toronto. This challenge was restated as a significant issue later in our trip, when we met with 3 planners from the City of Pittsburgh.

Through a meeting with The Honourable Thomas Murphy, Pittsburgh's mayor, & Ronald Schuler, of McGuire Woods LLP, we learned about the different financing options available to municipalities in US cities, and how these provide opportunities for investment that are currently limited for our cities at home. We were even given a private tour of PNC Park, which many of us had studied as an example of an innovative financing project. We were also privileged to receive a personal lecture from Professor David Lewis, who is well known for his contribution to the planning field.

Other highlights included a drive up Mount Washington Incline, and visits to a New Urbanism development, The Church Brew Works, The Andy Warhol Museum, The Carnegie Museum of Art, the famous Strip District, and Primanti Brothers restaurant, where we ate more in one sandwich than you will usually find on an entire menu.

In our short trip, we packed in a lot, but since so many people gave their time to speak with us, we left feeling that we had truly developed an understanding of the urban dynamics of Pittsburgh. We would like to thank Friends of Planning and the Department of Geography, for funding our trip, and our professors, for providing us with this opportunity. The second year planning students are currently organizing a 3-day trip to Boston the week after Labour Day, 2004. Alumni are welcome assuming they are willing to pay their expenses. Visit the UTAGA website for more details.

Introducing the Planning Alumni Speaker Series

By Jeff Cantos, Renee Gomes, and Dan Rosen

January 23rd, 2004 marked the inaugural Planning Alumni Speaker Series (PASS) event. With the help of Eileen Costello (M.Sc.Pl. 9T8) and fellow classmates, PASS was established as a forum for alumni to share their professional experiences with current students in an informal setting. The goal of this new alumni speakers initiative is to introduce our current students to a wide range of planning experiences, ideas and opportunities that exist for an exciting career in Planning. Many of our Alumni, both locally and internationally are working on interesting and exciting undertakings. Sharing such experiences with our current students will help enlighten them and add value to their planning education. The panelists of our first event discussed the relationship between law and planning, and focused on their personal experiences in these two fields. Eileen Costello (M.Sc.Pl. 9T8) of *Aird & Berlis*, Mark Flowers (M.Sc.Pl. 9T6) of *Davies Howe*, Antony Lorus (M.Sc.Pl. 9T8) of *Hemson Consulting* and Melanie Melnyk (M.Sc.Pl. 9T6) of the *City of Toronto* described their career paths since graduation, and reflected on how their respective careers have challenged their views on the role of planners. They presented their experiences with the OMB, which provided for a very lively debate. The speakers also discussed how recent changes in planning legislation have affected their work and will shape the profession for future planners.

We would like to express our gratitude to our first speakers for taking the time to share their experiences with us. Whether you are up the street, across town, or elsewhere in the world, let us know the next time that you plan to be on campus or in Toronto, so that we can discuss speaking opportunities with our current students. Please contact Jill Rooksby at 416.978.1843 or Dan Rosen (dan.rosen@utoronto.ca).

Cool Websites for Geographers & Planners

By Fenton Chin, 9T4

<http://www.rice2004.org>. Geography and cuisine? While last year was the Year of Fresh Water, 2004 has been officially declared the International Year of Rice, by the United Nations. This plentiful, edible grain, like wheat and potato, is one of the most highly cultivated crops in the world, & sustains nearly half of the earth's population. This is surely a wake-up call to preserve our farmlands.

<http://www.cnf.ca/icewatch>. Water covers about 75% of the earth's surface, and a lot of it is frozen solid. If you're interested in global warming, ice ages and long-term geologic evolution or just want to avoid cold, slippery and messy traffic hazards on your city streets, this is the site to visit.

<http://www.festiveearth.com>. Instead of a New Year's Eve party, how about a year-round festival? Festive Earth Society, based in Toronto, aims to promote both ecological & bio-medical health, so that everyone can understand that the well-being of humans, other species, & the environment are all interdependent.

<http://www.earthcharter.org>. Every country and most organizations, including UTAGA, have a constitution. Hence, it's only logical to have a charter for the entire planet, available in multiple languages.

<http://www.earthday.ca>. Earth Day is an annual tradition that is commemorated every April 22. In fact, each day of the year can be considered an earth day. Learn what we all can do every-day, collectively, to protect our planet.

<http://www.doorsopen.org>. A yearly event, especially for urbanists. During spring, The City of Toronto holds open houses for the general public to view historic, new, and interesting architecture and landmarks.

<http://www.ydsquare.ca>. Here's another site for urban geographers, using the very recently revitalized downtown core of Toronto, at the Yonge & Dundas Street intersection, as a study. Click on the links to view official plan maps.

<http://www.dynamicearth.ca>. The City of Sudbury, Ontario, is home to the new Dynamic Earth Museum. A great place to visit for people of all ages! Schools can arrange field trips. Test your knowledge of earth with online quizzes.

<http://www.peacefulworldtravel.com>. The name of this website, itself, states its goal very clearly. This is a very inspiring site, which you should not miss.

Planning Bite #7

By John Dakin

In PB#6 we looked at how two multicultural societies' planners and politicians dealt with different family compositions – monogamous and polygamous. One denied the planning implications of plurality of wives. The other fudged the accepted legal meaning of a “family” as used in planning in Western societies. Neither solution is acceptable. (Fudge maybe fosters some social interaction). Denial promotes resentment and withdrawal.

We can explore this kind of difficulty by looking at “marriage” – a word closely related to “family”. A government decides to legalize same-sex marriage. That done, polygamous groups will demand the same privileges. There will be complications about shelter, pensions, health service, etc. The governmental, public, and planning costs of proceeding by piecemeal change will be high.

Here is a planning lesson. (Think carefully before defining something previously left undefined because it was felt to be culturally self-evident when society was very homogeneous). A multicultural society will have a lower level of homogeneity.

All societies need some minimum homogeneity in functions where everyone must agree how to act, e.g. in the money system, building codes, policing, transportation, public decision making, etc. The cut is between the public and the private “good” – what planning is all about at the values level. This is very important as cultures interpenetrate worldwide and all societies become multicultural.

The two Bite #6 examples are only one tip of a huge iceberg politicians, publics, and planners will have to negotiate. Planners, provided they avoid the Byzantine convolutions of our official decision-making, will be required to make leading contributions toward new solutions.

This calls for a new vision in planning corresponding to the new understanding of what the globalization of humanity implies. We have to live together in societies within the global physical environment. Is the new human condition capable of inspiring a new vision? Perhaps. We have come to understand – but hardly yet act upon – the fact that our species alone will henceforth be responsible for ensuring our survival.

Since Ludwig von Bertalanffy (biologist, early 1920s) and A.G. Tansley (1935) we have progressively realized that we ourselves can irreversibly damage the natural global support system. We are no longer confined to large regional socio-economies like the Greco-Roman imperium or ancient China. Such empires had only limited capacity for global damage. Our new context is in the total globe and ourselves as a total human group. To survive we must control ourselves. That is the new perception. It has given birth to a new vision. The United Nations is a beginning.

However, peoples of many societies – especially the economically poor – suspect “globalization” is just a new manifestation of their old exploitation by the rich. Consider this in relation to the birthrates of the rich societies being only roughly half (Canada 1.2) the replacement rate (2.2) and population pyramids (overweight of seniors). An increasing flow of migrants, legal and illegal, into the rich societies is inevitable.

The new vision of one world is right. Now we need to energize it into a durable global socio-cultural reality. As far as planners and politicians are concerned, the intellectual digging to understand must not stop there.

Hire a Planning Intern!

Those of you who are Planning alumni will remember that a summer internship is an important component of a Planning education. Internships provide students with a valuable opportunity to complement their academic curriculum and develop skills that they can apply upon entering the workforce. For employers, student interns offer fresh ideas, and many make lasting contributions by undertaking specialized research for their Current Issues Paper degree requirement. U of T's Planning students have skills in many areas, including urban design, and urban, economic, social, and environmental planning.

The University of Toronto Program in Planning is now restructuring our internship program, making it easier for employers to connect with students. We are creating an Internship Listing so that employers may post internship information for free, and reach several qualified applicants at once. If your organization is interested in advertising an internship opportunity, or would like to know more about our program, please contact this year's Internship Coordinators:

Jeffrey Cantos: jj.cantos@utoronto.ca
Renée Gomes: gomesrenee@yahoo.ca

Alumni Profiles

Successful graduates of the University of Toronto are in an excellent position to help answer one of the most popular questions students have: “*What can I do with my degree?*” The Career Centre Library proudly features a collection of profiles that relate how alumni have tackled various challenges in their careers, including making career decisions. We are pleased to invite you to submit your profile for this project.

The Benefits of Participating

By submitting your profile you have the opportunity to:

- Give something back. Inspire and motivate current students as they grapple with their own career decisions.
- Establish a presence on campus. Raise the profile of your organization, university program, or occupation.
- Take stock of your career. Reflect on the challenges you have overcome to make it this far, and potential career directions for the future.

What Happens Next?

1. Fill out the brief questionnaire online at <https://www.employers.careers.utoronto.ca/alumni/questionnaire.asp>
2. We will edit your profile and submit it to you for your final approval. Rest assured, your contact information will be strictly for staff use.
3. The polished version will take its place in the library collection in print and online. If you wish, a pseudonym can be used to ensure your privacy.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact:

Miguel Hahn

Career Resource Library

416.946.5482

miguel.hahn@utoronto.ca

2003 Award Winners

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Leanne Hindmarch

Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Allison E. Reid

Outstanding Performance Awards
GGR 220: Craig Andrew Case; GGR 233: Jacob Irwin;
GGR 240: Irit Vasserma; GGR 201/203/205/206: Shelly McCabe;
GGR 391: Magda Alicja Biesiada

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Dawn Davidson

Donald Putnam Scholarship
Kathlene Buckeridge

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Christine Hollander

The Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science
Shelly McCabe

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Justin Ngan

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Allison Day

The Ruth Ann & Robert Bobbis Bursary
Ryan Hackett

The Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award
Daniel Stevens

The Sidney & Lucile Silver Scholarship
Christine Hollander

GRADUATE AWARDS

Alpar Graduate Scholarship
Carl Mitchell

Geography Toronto Award
Jenny Hall

**Government of Ontario / William G. Dean Graduate
Scholarship in Science and Technology**
Alexandre Gagnon

**Government of Ontario / ESRI Canada
Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology**
Gergin Naumov

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Jill Wigle, Sharlene Mollett

The Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Lindsay Stevens, Ruth Caceres

The Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Gita Laidler

Graduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Scott Mitchell

J. Michael Tomczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Valentine Cadieux

**The Michael Ralph Walsh/ Ontario Graduate Scholarship in
Geography**
Sharlene Mollett

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Award
Felix Fung

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Josh Lerner, Lori Tesolin

The Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Matthew Hanson, Emily Reisman

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Sabrina Bordone

Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Academic Excellence
Zachary Taylor

Edie Yolles Prize in Urban Planning
Carol Jacob

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies Research Award
Zachary Taylor

**Edward Sorbara/ Urban Development Institute/
Ontario Graduate Scholarship**
Amy-Lyn Hall



Jill Wigle and Robert Lewis



Shelly McCabe, Craig Andrew Case, Magda Alicja Biesiada,
Irit Vasserma & Jacob Irwin



Dawn Davidson & Tony Davis



Valentine Cadieux & Robert Lewis

Photographs by Karl Woo

Awards Night 2003

Fenton Chin, 9T4

The 9th annual awards presentation for last year's graduating geography and planning classes, and alumni took place at Victoria College's Alumni Hall on Thursday November 6, 2003. Many students, graduates, and their family members, as well as faculty and friends of the Geography Department, attended this event. It's an important tradition to both the Department and UTAGA, because it is *the* one event where all who attend get a chance to honour the achievements of their fellow students and alumni. The Department gave a total of 37 awards to its current and recently graduated students that evening, while UTAGA recognized 5 individuals.

There were 3 Outstanding Service Awards, which are presented to those who have made extraordinary voluntary contributions to this university's Geography Department, its programs, its students, or its alumni. The first winner of this award was **Anne McMaster**, a former budget officer and administrative assistant to the Chair of the Department, who compiled the first-ever database of contact information of the Department's alumni. The next recipient of this award was **Melanie Van Hees**, who is currently serving as UTAGA's secretary, and was instrumental in developing the Department's first graduate survey, which gave both UTAGA and the Department a valuable tool in publicizing career opportunities to prospective students. The final Outstanding Service Award winner was **Peter Zimmerman**, who, through 4 years of voluntary service, gave students the opportunity to learn the true complexities of urban issues (in particular, housing).

The UTAGA Honorary President Award is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the development of the Department of Geography, its programs, and alumni. **Jacob Spelt**, who is a retired faculty member of the Geography Department, was presented with this award. He served as the Chair of this department as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Apart from demonstrating his excellent administrative skills, his academic focus on urban development has made him a highly respected geographer, and a very worthy recipient of this award. Dr. Spelt gave a brief lecture on his career and history of the university.

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumnus Award, which is given to a graduate of the Department who has led a career of distinction and brought honour to the Department, was presented, in absentia, to **Alexander Davidson**. Davidson's most notable contribution was his application of geography, in government policies to the management and preservation of Canada's natural resources. He has held ministerial roles in provincial and federal governments, and was also a past president of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Indeed, it's great to be part of such an organization as UTAGA. The recognition of the alumni of the Department of Geography and Program in Planning—role models who truly inspire all—was made possible only by your involvement. So, please remember to nominate a candidate for this year and send your submission to the Department soon.



Top Right: Amrita Daniere & Lori Tesolin
Left: Gergin Naumov & ESRI's John Kitchen
Top Left: Justin Ngan & Tony Davis

Utaga Awards Nominations

Names of prizes and how winners are chosen

1. **UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award:** This award is given to alumni of the Department and its programs, who have led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the Department. Previous winners: 1995 Daniel Griffith, 1996 Marie Sanderson, 1997 Keith Fraser, 1998 William Wonders, 1999 John Warkentin, 2000 William Dean, 2001 Richard Ruggles, 2002 Robert Bateman, 2003 Alex Davidson.
2. **UTAGA Honorary President Award.** This award is given to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the development of the Department of Geography or its programs, and its alumni. Previous recipients: 1995 Donald Kerr, 1996 Joe Whitney, 1997 Barry Goodison, 1998 Carl Amrhein, 1999 Richard "Dick" Baine, 2000 Larry Bourne, 2001 Ken Jones, 2002 Tony Davis, 2003 Jacob Spelt.
3. **Outstanding Service Award.** This award is presented annually to up to five individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to the Department of Geography, its programs, its students or its alumni. Nominees could be alumni or friends, but **NOT** students currently enrolled with the department. Previous recipients: 1999 Penny Henry, Donna Jeynes, Gerald Pisarzowski and Enid Slack; 2000 Pamela Blais, Roger Clarke, Thelma Gee, Tom Heslip and Susan Werden; 2001 Fenton Chin, Catherine Cieply, Joe Guzzi and Jacqueline Peers. There may be multiple recipients in one year.
4. **Geography Toronto (GT) Award (Graduate and Undergraduate).** This award is presented to students who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the Department of Geography & Program in Planning. Note: only students who are able to graduate during the same year that these prizes are awarded are eligible. So, for 2003, nominees must receive their degrees during either the Spring (June) or Fall (November) Convocation ceremonies. Award winners are individuals who have been extensively involved in the undertaking of extra-curricular activities targeted at fellow geography/planning students, while at the same time achieving above average academic success. Like the Outstanding Service Award, there can be more than one recipient.

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2004

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: On a separate piece of paper, state the nominee's name, your name, the Award you are nominating them for, and your justification for their nomination and return it to: UTAGA Recognition Committee, c/o Department of Geography & Program in Planning, Room 5047, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3; in-person, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, at Sidney Smith Hall, 5th Floor, by fax to 416.978.6729, or send your nomination by email to utaga@geog.utoronto.ca. Nominations will be accepted only from faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends.

AWARD PRESENTATION: Awards will be presented at the Department's annual Awards Night scheduled for **this November**.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact Jill Rooksby, UTAGA Administrator, by e-mail utaga@geog.utoronto.ca.

The 2004 U of T Spring Reunion

The 2004 Spring Reunion takes place from June 3 to 6 and is the University of Toronto's largest alumni event of the year. Each year, thousands of graduates return to their alma mater for a full weekend of festivities held at divisions all across campus, including special ceremonies for those celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries of graduation, and the annual 'Great Books by Great Grads' Arts & Science alumni book fair.

Alumni from the graduating classes of 1924, 1929, '34, '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74 and 1979 will be honoured at Spring Reunion 2004 this June. Many faculties and colleges will also honour alumni from 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

Please visit www.springreunion.utoronto.ca or call (416) 978-0424/1.888.738.8876 for more information.

Dept. of Geography & Planning Program Giving

The Department of Geography and Program in Planning has a long history of excellence in research and teaching. Our faculty and graduates have set high standards in education, scholarship and creative expression that have been recognized by the international academic community. Our members have played a key role in securing the University of Toronto's ranking as the top research-intensive university in Canada for ten consecutive years – and among the best in the world.

It is in part due to the strong support of our friends and alumni that the department is able to attract and retain the academic talent that is the foundation of our community. We thank you for your commitment and we look forward to your continued involvement in the University of Toronto.

Government of Ontario Matching Funds Program (OGS):

In order to increase access to the University and to attract top students from around the world, UofT has made a significant commitment to student aid. In 1998 this commitment culminated in a policy that extends financial support to any qualified undergraduate student wishing to attend UofT and for whom financial need poses a barrier.

The Department and UTAGA have established three new scholarships "The George Tatham / Geography Alumni Graduate Scholarship," "The University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship" and "The F. Kenneth Hare Memorial Scholarship." If the goal of \$50,000 in donations and pledges in each of these funds is attained then they will become OGS awards and thus fully matched. If the goal is not reached the awards will remain as regular scholarships administered through the department.

Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund program (OSOTF II):

The second phase of the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund program (OSOTF II), which began January 1, 2004, was created by the Province of Ontario to encourage private contributions to permanent endowment funds for university and college students with financial need. (Students must be Canadian citizens and have resided in Ontario for one year.) In the first phase of the OSOTF program, the U of T created an endowment of more than \$300 million for student support. The second phase is expected to add \$228 million to the endowment by 2011.

Pledges to the OSOTF II program made in 2004 and 2005 will be matched by the Province. The pledge period ends on December 31, 2005 and all pledges can be paid – and will be matched – over a multi-year period.

For additional information please contact Monica Lin, Associate Development Director, Faculty of Arts & Science: 416-946-5616

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. We do not rent, trade, or sell our mailing lists. If you do not wish to receive future notifications of GeoPlan, please contact us at 416-978-2139 or address.update@utoronto.ca

A Spring Gathering for Alumni, Friends and Colleagues

The 2004 Friends of Planning Spring Social

In keeping with the success of previous years, the 2004 Friends of Planning Spring Social promises an evening of good food, fun times and a great opportunity to network with fellow alumni and planning colleagues.

Presented by UTAGA's Planning Alumni Committee, the Spring Social will be held



John Campbell

on Thursday April 22nd, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hart House. Mix and mingle with over 200 public, private, academic, and not-for-profit professionals who are expected to attend this annual cocktail party. This year's featured speaker is **John W. Campbell, President and CEO of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation.**

The Spring Social is planned as part of the UTAGA Learning Project. In lieu of an admission fee, a minimum \$40 donation to the University of Toronto Planning

Alumni Graduate Scholarship is suggested. This unique opportunity to take advantage of a five-to-one matching program and create a new fully endowed OGS scholarship has been extended until December 2005. For additional information about the scholarship please see page 11.

We would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to our individual donors and our corporate sponsors from last year. Our 2003 corporate sponsors included Aird & Berlis; Bousfield, Dale-Harris, Cutler & Smith; Cassels, Brock & Blackwell; Fraser Milner Casgrain; Hemson Consulting; Fasken Martineau DuMoulin; IBI Group; Lea Consulting; MacNaughton Hermesen Britton Clarkson Planning; Urban Strategies; Wittington Properties; and PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The Planning Alumni Committee also wishes to thank the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Science for their promotional support of the event. For information about sponsorship opportunities for this year, please contact Antony Lorius at 416.593.5090 x34 or alorius@hemson.com. We want you to be a part of this event. Space is limited, so please RSVP by April 9, 2004 using the form on page 11. For more information, please contact utaga@geog.utoronto.ca or call 416.978.3375.

Bring your colleagues! Bring your associates! Bring friends of alumni!
They are all welcomed and encouraged to attend this great social event.

Research on Microfinance Sector of Vietnam

by Yogendra Shakya and Dr. Katharine Rankin

From May to October 2002, Dr. Katharine Rankin from the University of Toronto and Yogendra Shakya, a PhD student working under Dr Rankin's supervision, conducted extensive research on the microfinance sector of Vietnam. This research was conducted in close conjunction with the microfinance pilot program of the Waste-Econ Project.

We studied six microfinance projects as case studies in our research, including:

- 1) Action Aid project in Phuong Nam commune, Quang Ninh province;
- 2) Rural Development Service Centre (RDSC) project in Phuong Mao commune, Phu Tho province;
- 3) Save the Children (UK) project in Cam Xuyen commune, Ha Tinh province;
- 4) CIDSE project in Tan Duong commune, Thai Nguyen province;
- 5) Peoples Credit Fund project in Yen Bai province; and

6) Waste-Econ project in Trang Minh commune, Hai Phong province.

A wealth of data was generated from these six case studies regarding the challenges, potentials and limitation of microfinance. While conclusive remarks can be made only after extensive data analysis, preliminary impressionistic analysis hints at many interesting findings about microfinance. For example, unlike other studies on microfinance, our research shows that microfinance has a highly differentiated impact in the local community. Other studies, which rely heavily on quantitative indicators of sustainability like loan repayment rates and financial sustainability, have tended to show that all borrowers benefit equally from participating in microfinance. Our study indicates that only certain types of households benefit from microfinance while for others participating in microfinance may have neutral or negative impacts. Our research investigated the role of a wide range of factors that affect microfinance outcomes and found that certain factors (such as amount of household land, type of occupation, number of other sources of loan, number of adult household members and allegiance to local cadres) play a much more important role than others. Our research also uncovered interesting findings about how economic marginalized people engaged in different tactics such as loan swapping (paying one loan with another) and loan sharing (borrowing with a neighbours or relatives name) to avoid penalties or to the maximize positive outcomes from microfinance.

We owe the success of our research in large part to our Vietnamese research assistants Tran Thi Huong and Vu Phuong Nga (both were from the Department of Ethnology of Hanoi National University). Their extensive field research experience and knowledge of development issues and excellent interview skills helped us to overcome some of the language barriers and strengthened the quality of our data. We would also like to thank Dr. Son of NISTPASS for his advice and for connecting us to relevant government officials, and Mr. Cuong for helping us get through the bureaucratic procedures required for conducting field research.

Departmental News

Dr. Claus Rinner joined the Department as an Assistant Professor on a three-year contract in August 2003. He arrives from the Institute for Geoinformatics at Münster University – one of the largest Universities in Germany with 43,000 students. Claus now teaches Cartographic Design by Computer, and Geographic Information and Mapping II in the Department, as well as Digital Cartography and a GIS project course for the joint Master of Spatial Analysis program with Ryerson University.

Within Geographic Information Science, Claus' research focuses on computer support for spatial decision-making. In collaboration with Dr. Jacek Malczewski of the University of Western Ontario, he has a related paper under review by the Journal of Geographical Systems, and a presentation scheduled in the Geovisualization session at the AAG 2004 meeting. Claus recently published a paper on Web-based Spatial Decision Support Systems in the Journal of Geographic Information and Decision Analysis.

Claus received his Ph.D. from the University of Bonn in 1999 with a thesis on Argumentation Maps, a concept for GIS-based support of planning debates.

Joe Desloges, along with Ray Kostaschuck from Geography at the University of Guelph and Peter Ashmore from Geography at the University of Western Ontario, has received a three year \$200,000 strategic project grant (SPG) from NSERC. The focus of the research will be erosion in the Toronto region of southern Ontario. Channel bed and bank erosion in existing and newly urbanizing areas of the GTA require millions of dollars in remediation work each year. These efforts - some successful and some not - help to protect urban infrastructure worth hundreds of millions and help maintain the hydrologic and geomorphic function of streams, creeks and rivers. The purpose of the NSERC grant is to work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Geological Survey of Canada and a number of private geoscience consulting agencies to improve erosion assessment techniques in urban watersheds. Hydrologic, geomorphic and engineering models will be developed for a number of test rivers in the region that contrast well established urban rivers with watersheds that have just recently been built over or are in

the early stages of planning. The group hopes to involve several graduate students with interests in fluvial geomorphology, environmental impact assessment and (sub)urban planning strategies.

Zack Taylor, MSc.PI, OT3, was recently awarded the 1st annual Center for Urban and Community Studies Award. Zack won the award based on his outstanding Current Issues paper on how urban design could improve the Gardiner Expressway along a number of different facets.

Matthew Peros, Geography Department PhD Candidate won the L.R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award at the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Annual Meeting, in St. Catharines, Ontario in October 2003. The title of his paper was *Micropaleontological Research in North Central Cuba: Implications for Prehistoric Archaeology*.

Alumni Bulletin Board

Frank A. Barrett, 5T8, has recently published another volume in his ongoing research into the history and development of medical geography. Titled *Foreign Primary Sources for Medical Geography and Geographical Medicine*, the 519 page volume consists of 78 translations from Chinese, Dutch, French, German and Latin. The original works were published between 1782 and 1985 and it is believed that this is the first time this material has been available to monolingual English-speaking researchers. The volume is adjunct to his major analytical study *Disease and Geography: The History of the Idea* (2002). Both volumes are in the Gerstein Library – U of T, and in major research libraries around the world.

David Crosby, 9T6, worked in GIS for the province of Ontario for four years and has since moved to Sarasota, Florida where he is working as a Spatial Analyst for Sarasota County. He is also working on his master's degree in Geography part-time at the University of South Florida in Tampa. **Steven Ehrlich, 9T4**, has earned his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and now resides in Wakefield, Quebec.

Julie Filzmaier, 9T9, graduated last spring from Nursing school and is now a Registered Nurse. She has been working for 7 months as

a Public Health Nurse in the communicable diseases division of Toronto Public Health, specifically with Tuberculosis.

David Liddle, M.A., 6T8 (pictured below, left), is currently Chancellor of Nipissing University in North Bay and **Dennis Mock, Ph.D., 7T6** (pictured below, right), is currently the President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University.



Anthony Saar, B.A. 9T7, is living in Cleveland pursuing a Masters of Education degree in Mental Health Conseling. He also works at Cleveland State University as a Graduate Assistant For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Student Services.

Greg Tanzola, M.Sc.PI, 9T8, is working for Landtactix Inc. of the Sorbara Group. By night, he is playing Dad to healthy and happy children Madeline (3) and Joseph (1).

Eva-Marie Tropper, M.Sc. PI. 0T0, has moved to Chicago and is employed as an urban planner with the Village of Orland Park, Illinois (pop. 53,000). In this capacity, she is actively involved in historic preservation, downtown and greyfields redevelopment, open space and current planning projects as well as the advancement of sustainable growth practices in the southwest suburbs of Chicago.

Vince Way-Nee, 8T4, is living in Peterborough where he is working as a Detective Constable in the Forensic Identification Section of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service. He is married to Ann Stephenson 8T4 and has 2 children, Emily (9) and Geoffrey (7).

University of Toronto

Friends of Planning Spring Social RSVP & Scholarship Appeal

Completed forms should be returned by fax to 416-946-3886 or to the address below.

RSVP

- YES, I wish to attend the "Friends of Planning Spring Social" on April 22, 2004.
(Note: RSVPs must be received by April 9, 2004 if you wish to attend.)

My name as it should appear on my name tag: _____

Name of association/employer to appear on my name tag: _____

- I intend to bring ____ (#) guests and have attached their names and association on a separate sheet herewith.

Donations/Pledges

The Department is hoping to increase The University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship fund to a total of **\$50,000** in order to transform the existing scholarship into an Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Upon securing this goal, all donations made to this fund will be matched on a 5:1 basis. The provincial government's Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program will greatly increase funds available for graduate student aid, and thus enhance the Department's ability to attract the very best scholars from across Canada and internationally. **All pledges must be made by December 31, 2004.**

- I wish to support The University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship.

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship (56-7777) \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD (please check one)

- My cheque/money order is enclosed (payable to the University of Toronto) in the total amount of \$ _____.
- I will forward payments in instalment(s) of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____ beginning in _____ (month) _____ (year), on a Monthly / Quarterly / Semi-annual / Annual basis (please circle your choice).
- Please charge my credit card \$ _____ upon receipt of this form.
- Please charge my credit card: Monthly / Quarterly / Semi-annually / Annually (please circle your choice)
- Instalment(s) of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____ beginning in _____ (month), _____ (year).

Mastercard Visa AMEX Credit Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Cardholder's signature: _____

(please sign for validation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ (res.) _____ (bus.) email: _____

Please return completed forms to: Jill Rooksby, Department of Geography, 5047, 100 St. George St., Toronto, ON, M5S 3G3

If you have any questions in regards to the Department of Geography, please contact Donna Jaynes at 416-978-3375. **Thank You!**

A charitable receipt for income tax purposes will be issued by the University for all donations.

GEOPLAN

is a publication prepared by the University of Toronto Department of Geography & Program in Planning and the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA)

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

The UTAGA OFFICE
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100 St. George St., Room 5047
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G3
or call: 416.978.3375
fax: 416.946.3886
email: utaga@geog.utoronto.ca

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

Editor: Jill Rooksby
Layout: Rebecca Crump

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

Professor William G Dean has identified this picture (top right) which was featured in the last issue of GEOPLAN. The picture, taken by Professor Dean in 1950 is of the Geographical Branch of the Federal Department of Mines & Technical Surveys party on its way to Southampton Island in northern Hudson Bay. The three people are (left to right) W.D.(Doug.) Bell, then an MA student in the U of T Dept of Anthropology specializing in aboriginal archaeology; Brian Bird, an Associate Prof in Geography U of T, and his wife, Beryl, also an Asst. or Assoc. Prof in Geography U of T. Prof. Dean was working on his MA in Geography & Geophysics at U of T.



The photo was taken at one of the watering stops on the RRY between La Pas and Churchill, Manitoba. Cars of the mixed freight and passenger steam train are behind Brian & Beryl. From Churchill they were flown (RCFA) to Southampton Island (Coral Harbour) for their summer's work in 1950.



Can anyone recognize this young graduate? (bottom left) The photo was taken in the Spring of 1961.

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CANADA



Wrong address? Please return this newsletter to the address above so that we can correct our mailing list.
Thank you.