

GEOPLAN

A newsletter for alumni and friends



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The University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA)

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GeoTrip with Professor Tony Davis

Jane Macijauskas



On Saturday May 6th, Professor Tony Davis led U of T geography alumni on a GeoTrip to Rattlesnake Point and Crawford Lake on the Bruce Trail. The excursion was organized by UTAGA in honour of Professor Davis' retirement, providing alumni with an opportunity to revisit their university days and spend the day with an inspired field teacher.

The morning weather was brisk, but the spring sunshine and trek through the Nassagaweya Canyon soon warmed us all. After a groggy start, terminology and concepts from lectures of the past came flooding back to our memories and we gladly realized we hadn't forgotten all we'd learned as undergrads. Rattlesnake Point and Crawford Lake provided ample opportunities for Tony to exhibit his

boundless knowledge of physical geography and biogeography. His enthusiasm was contagious and alumni quickly remembered what we all loved about geography.

After an invigorating hike in breathtaking scenery, we stopped for a picnic lunch in the sunshine. Feeling refuelled, the group explored the 15th-century Iroquoian Village and practised making fire with flint. The trip ended with a leisurely walk along the shoreline of Crawford Lake. We are all looking forward to the next GeoTrip which is being planned for spring 2007.

University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni organized this trip as part of the UTAGA Learning Project. We warmly thank Professor Tony Davis for his time and effort leading this trip.



Retirements in the Department

On May 5, 2006 the department hosted a retirement ceremony for two long serving colleagues. Ms. Jane Davie officially retired after 38 years of dedicated service in Cartography, and if you can believe it, she retired early. Jane is the only staff person to have seen the department through seven chairs, more than 150 faculty and several national leading cartography projects. Professor Tony Davis also retired from the department with more than 30 years of valued service to research, geography education and administration. Tony finished in grand style by leading the May Geotrip. However, retirement for Tony and Jane means continued active and welcome involvement in the department on projects, administration and teaching. We do want to wish them all the best.

Chair's Message

Dr. Joe Desloges

One of the great joys of being in an academic unit that covers the breadth of sub-disciplinary interests that Geography and Planning do, is to see the worldwide contributions that faculty and students make to research and teaching. This past summer alone, I have had the pleasure of communicating with our students on research and course projects from as far away as south and south-east Asia, China, southern Africa, Australia, the Antarctic, Russia, Greenland, from around Europe, Argentina and, of course, from many places in Canada and the USA.

The global diversity of interests is imbedded in the nature of the discipline, but it also reflects the opportunities available through faculty and student research grants, fellowships and international travel awards. Our international collaborators are key to this success. These collaborators include colleagues from cognate universities, institutes, governments, NGOs, not-for-profit organizations and international businesses. Many alumni may have had similar experiences while here studying in our programs, but we have always felt we could do better when it came to international student experiences.

The University of Toronto has set as one of its priorities even greater efforts to improve the student experience and one of the ways to do this is to enhance the international connections. Through the generous support of alumni and friends of the department, we have been able to help provide some additional support for student field trips, student research travel and to host visitors from around the world. Trips to Japan, Germany and the US mid-west are just a few recent examples. We wish to do more. Scholarships, bursaries and support from Friends of Geography and Friends of Planning continue to be important ways to help accomplish this. I want to thank those who have given generously in the past. Page six highlights ongoing ways to contribute. On behalf of the department and students, thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events

**Celebrate the 12th Annual Awards
Presentation for the
University of Toronto
Department of Geography and
Program in Planning**

**Alumni Hall, Victoria College
Thursday, Nov. 9th, 2006
6 p.m.- 8 p.m.**

The 12th Annual Awards presentation for the graduating class of 2006 will take place on Thursday, Nov. 9th, 2006 at Alumni Hall, Victoria College at 6 p.m. This evening recognizes our deserving graduating students as well as individuals who have made contributions to the department and UTAGA over the years. Come out to mix and mingle and celebrate this occasion with alumni, friends and faculty. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP Donna Jeynes at (416) 978-3375 if you wish to attend.

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In Memory of Matthew Hanson

University of Toronto Planning Class of 2004



Often when a profession loses a well- respected member, we hear much about their professional accomplishments. It's easy for us to do the same for our friend and classmate Matthew Hanson, who passed away in March 2006. We have so many fond memories of him.

Matthew, was tagged “zoology boy” because of his unique double major in Zoology and Geography as his chosen field of undergraduate study. It became clear that Matthew was intelligent and a hard worker, but also a sharp-witted and mischievous personality who would lighten up stressful days with oddball commentary and unexpected pranks. On a more serious note, he was known as one who could always be relied upon to balance tensions and resolve conflict. Matthew was a strong, committed friend.

In focusing on Matthew's personality it's difficult to avoid commenting on his contribution to the Planning profession, because he was so committed to his chosen career. As a student, he showed a keen interest in heritage conservation, planning for small towns, affordable housing and First Nations' issues. He spent his Planning Internship at Toronto's Citizens for the Old Town and went on to complete his Current Issues Paper on waterfront revitalization in Deep River, the town where his grandparents lived.

Soon after graduation, Matthew joined Meridian Planning Consultants in Barrie, Ontario. He had an inspiring enthusiasm for his projects and co-workers, and soon grew to love all the activities available to him in the city that was his new home. Never one to forget about others, Matthew still found time to volunteer for the Out of the Cold program, and to travel home often enough to spend time with his friends, family, and his beloved niece, Paisley.

Although Matthew's career was short, those of us who are fortunate enough to have known him are left with memories that will always make us smile and a fine example of a life well lived.

2012 Olympics the Focus of the Planning Alumni Annual Spring Social

Renee Gomes



The attention of the Planning community in the Greater Toronto Area was drawn to the London 2012 Olympics as Joanna Averley provided the keynote speech at Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 11, 2006. Averley is the Director of Design for the London Olympic Delivery Authority and Director of the UK's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. She provided an overview of London's ambitious plans for the 2012 Summer Games as she explained the "lasting legacy" concept on which the City's Olympic plans are centred. Though her presentation was peppered with striking renderings and concept plans for Olympic facilities, many of which formed London's Olympic bid, Averley not only spoke about design, but also discussed how current master planning efforts are focused on the objective of delivering a legacy of urban revitalization and community-building.

London is keen to build on the lessons learned from other Olympic host cities. The 2012 Games and Olympic Park in particular have been conceived as the foundation for a plan to revitalize the Lower Lea Valley. This area in London's East End is currently characterized by derelict land and is home to some of the City's most deprived communities. Averley spoke candidly about the magnitude of this task and the myriad complexities involved. This extended beyond standard financial considerations, to rigorous security regulations and long-term community planning. She acknowledged that London has established a formidable challenge, but was adamant that the effective transformation of the Lower Lea Valley would not be possible without the Olympics as a mechanism for focusing efforts and leveraging resources. She closed her presentation with general remarks on the impact of planning on city life and people's everyday experiences.

The Spring Social, held at University of Toronto's Hart House, was attended by more than 300 members of the planning community and related professions. The event received generous support from sponsors, with proceeds being used to help to fund scholarships for students in the Planning Program at the University of Toronto, as well as travel bursaries and other programs supported by the Planning Alumni Committee.



Joanna Averley & Philip Wong, SmartCentres

Spring Social Photographs by Alberto Espinal

Cool Websites for Geographers & Planners

Fenton Chin, 9T4

1. www.vgsbooks.com On going back to school this autumn season, visit this online visual geography book series for students. It's filled with great study tips.
2. www.mywonderfulworld.org A fine aid for geography teachers.
3. www.climatecrisis.net The official site for An Inconvenient Truth, the recent movie about global warming.
4. www.cchrei.ca This website is for environmental practitioners and students, linking them with career resources, internships and certification.
5. www.careerswithoutborders.org A great resource for those interested in humanitarian work.
6. www.peacehasnoborders.org Peace activists focus on the conflict in Iraq.
7. www.mislincs.org A collection of maps of religious charity missions scattered throughout the globe.
8. www.sister-cities.org Fostering peace between cities and well worth visiting.
9. www.electionworld.org An examination of the political process in other countries.
10. www.gisday.com Geographic Information Systems (GIS) appreciation day will be held on Nov. 15th, 2006. Check out this website for more information.

Planning Bite #12

John Dakin

The title of the UN World Urban Forum held in Vancouver in June 2006 can be usefully examined in the perspective of "thinking about thinking". Such enquiry can include what was going on in Madrid and Bonn at the same time, that is, discussions on the socio-political future of the EU.

The forum title was "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action". Note the colon after 'future'. The words merit most careful scrutiny. They seem to reflect an earlier hidden discussion. Our species' demographics indicate we'll need more cities and these must be capable of continuous existence.

Demographics may be the only base for agreement in discussing our global situation, but the jump to cities as the solution lacks logical authority. Other options exist for both demographic prediction and the solution.

Ideas-Action fares no better. This coupling is trapped by originating from the other two couplets, but even freestanding it is tricky. We often act first and supply a rationale afterwards.

We must be generous and assume the framers of the wording weighed their options well and chose for good reasons the appeal of the contemporary jargon over precision of meaning. A gathering of 10,000 presents terrible problems of communication.

While the forum was taking place in Vancouver, Madrid saw representatives of the countries of Europe discussing a new social model for the EU. The fact of envisaging the need to explore such a topic is highly significant for moving all of us into the future.

Both attempts imply sensitivity to the vast diversity of cultural, socio-economic, political and religious backgrounds we must now take into account when addressing futures.

In the 1960s, the state of California gave some successful space-age companies big budgets to research how the administration could be made as efficient at the space program. If we can make things work so well in space, surely we ought to be able to do the same on earth. Politics wrecked the program.

It may be that the Madrid meeting will have made the more important contribution to shaping our human future. Interestingly, the sub-Saharan African peoples are following the EU model by forming the African Union.

We must hope that we shall improve our social efficiency. The subject appears to be entering public discussion in new ways. But first, between the Idea and the Action must come the Understanding.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & PROGRAM IN PLANNING GREAT AWARDS FOR GREAT STUDENTS

U of T is committed to ensuring that qualified undergraduate and graduate students have access to the highest quality university education regardless of their financial circumstances. To support the university in this commitment, many alumni, friends, faculty and staff have chosen to establish scholarships. These awards recognize academic excellence or proficiency in a particular discipline while making university education a reality for many students.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT STUDENT AWARDS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING?

You may direct your donation towards general support for student awards in the Department of Geography or to an established award. Alternatively, you can endow a new-named award.

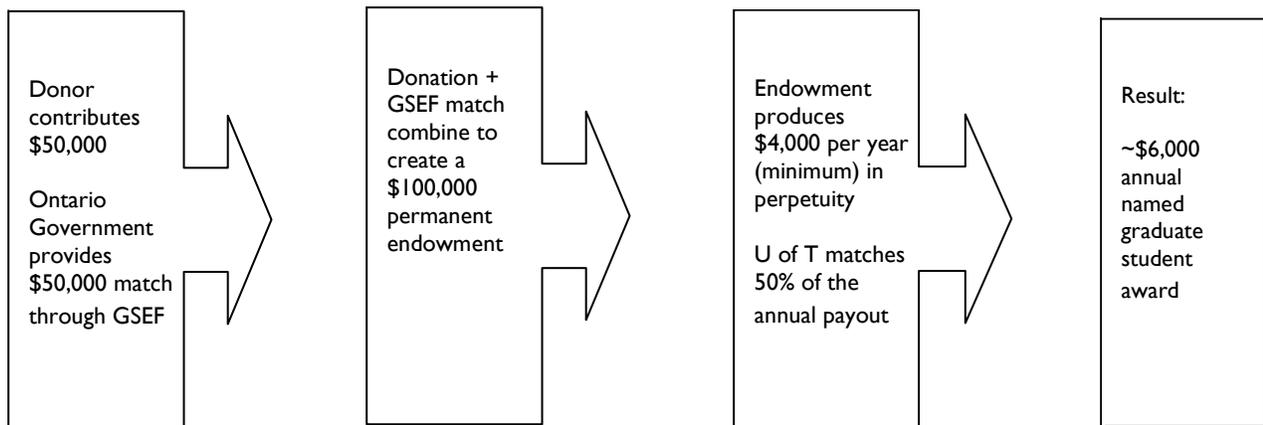
HOW CAN I CREATE A NEW-NAMED AWARD?

An award may be funded by a single donor or by multiple donors, either in one lump sum payment or over a period of time. Once established, an award can be built up through future contributions, which may increase both the value and number of awards that are made to students each year.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES:

There is currently a remarkable leveraging opportunity that will effectively triple the impact of donations made in support of graduate student awards. Donations of (or totalling) \$50,000 will be matched 1:1 through a special **Graduate Student Endowment Fund** established at the U of T by the Province of Ontario. The annual payout on the resultant \$100,000 endowment will then be augmented by the University to create a named scholarship of approximately \$6,000 per annum to benefit graduate students, in perpetuity (*see diagram below*).

If you wish to support student awards in the Department of Geography or for more information, please contact:



Monica Lin, Office of Advancement, Faculty of Arts & Science
100 St. George Street, Suite 2032
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3
Tel: (416) 946-5616
Email: mclin@artsci.utoronto.ca

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 Department of Geography newsletters, please contact us at (416) 978-2139 or address.update@utoronto.ca. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations. Charitable reg. BN 108162330-RR0001

Departmental News

New Administration Appointments

Professor Danny Harvey has agreed to be our next Undergraduate Coordinator, at the St. George Campus, for a two-year term starting January 1, 2007.

Professor Sue Ruddick has agreed to be the Director for the Program in Planning for the 06-07 academic year.

Promotions

Professor Emily Gilbert has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective July 1, 2006.

Professor Jason Hackworth has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective July 1, 2006.

Professor Joe Desloges has been promoted to the rank of Professor effective July 1, 2006.

Grants

Congratulations to Professor Meric Gertler who is co-PI on another successful multi-million dollar SSHRC-MCRI grant entitled "Social Dynamics of Economic Performance". This is a pan-Canadian initiative with researchers involved from several major city-regions.

Professor Jing Chen of our Department was recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and will be officially inducted this November at a ceremony in Ottawa. Congratulations to Professor Chen on this important national honour.

Congratulations to Professor Sarah Finkelstein who was awarded a CFI-Leaders Opportunity Fund of just under \$400,000 to develop a state-of-the-art paleoecology laboratory in the Physical Geography Building.

New Faculty Appointments

The department would like to welcome several new faculty to the department. See the Spring *GeoPlan* for full profiles.

St. George

Dr. Matthew Farish, Ph.D. UBC 2003, Assistant Professor in militarism and geopolitics, environmental history, American studies.

Dr. Rachel Silvey, Ph.D. Washington 1995, Associate Professor in migration, Indonesia, feminist theory, critical development studies.

UTSC

Mr. Mathew Wells, Ph.D. Australia National University 2001, Assistant Professor in turbulence modelling, physical and chemical transport processes.

Dr. Mark Hunter, Ph.D. Berkeley 2005, Assistant Professor in uneven geographies of health, Aids, sexuality, political economy, development, Africa.

Dr. Thembele Kepe, Ph.D. Western Cape, South Africa 2002, Assistant Professor in people environment interactions, land rights, politics of development, South Africa.

Dr. Ian MacDonald, Ph.D. Waterloo 1995, Assistant Professor in international development, politics of biodiversity conservation, transnationalism, South Asia.

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:

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Editor and layout: Kim Graham

Please Note:

Unless otherwise specified, degrees and diplomas listed in this publication are 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.

Change of Address?

Please e-mail your new contact information to
address.update@utoronto.ca

or visit

***www.alumni.utoronto.ca/
address.htm***

to fill out an online form.

Do you have any news?

We are always interested in hearing how our alumni are doing. If you have any news or announcements, we would love to hear from you. You can e-mail UTAGA at
utaga@geog.utoronto.ca

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