In 1982, the Program in Planning was merged with the Department of Geography at UofT. The merger was a logical one given the long tradition and history of both academic units (geography was established in 1935 and urban and regional planning in 1963). This tradition included the study of the political economy of urban and regional environments, predictions and planning for future development of urban landscapes, and a strong interest in understanding how to achieve sustainability given the rapid growth in population. While the graduate planning program has maintained its core as a distinct professional training venue, planning and geography have become closely aligned over the years. Each has benefited greatly from the richness in scholarship, teaching and backgrounds of our faculty and students and our connections to the “real” issues of the day in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and other urban regions around the world. Alumni and friends of the Department have been integral to the development of our programs and student training. I have been impressed with the diversity of these interactions at professional meetings and workshops, city and regional advisory councils, joint research projects and in government policy and development debates. This has stimulated critical thinking and allowed students – through research projects, internships and post-graduate employment – to train and learn with some of the very best leaders.

A perfect example of this is John Bousfield. John is an alumnus of our undergraduate geography program (5T1), a graduate of the University of Wisconsin’s City and Regional Planning program and a wonderfully accomplished professional planner who is recognized nationally and internationally for his achievements. For the past 50 years John Bousfield has been at the forefront of much of the GTA’s most successful and groundbreaking planning initiatives. These range from the 1967 Metro Waterfront Plan to his work on the Erin Mills community plan in the 1970s to his current involvement planning new adult lifestyle and retirement communities. He has earned a reputation for excellence among private and public sector clients, as well as municipal and provincial officials for his professionalism, and for his passion to make communities better places to live and work.

This past November we celebrated the formal establishment of the John Bousfield-Connaught Distinguished Visitor in Planning – a program to attract leading planners, academics and other professionals from around the world to our Department, the university and the community to help stimulate discussions on critical issues of the day. The Bousfield visitorship was made possible by a lead gift from Mitchell Goldhar as well as support from Bousfields Inc., Geranium Corporation, Glen Corporation, Graywood Development, Metrus Development Inc., the Picov Family, TACC Construction and The MetroOntario Group. This gift will be double matched by UofT and by the University’s Connaught Fund, to create a $1.5 million endowment.

We are excited about the possibilities this visitorship will bring to our community of professionals, scholars and students in the coming months and years. Having had the opportunity to meet and learn more about John and his family over the last few years, I appreciate even more his contributions as an alumnus, professional planner and friend of the discipline.

Chair's Message
Dr. Joe Desloges

Morleen and John Bousfield (front middle) along with friends, family, professional colleagues and UofT dignitaries at the Massey College reception on November 30th, 2005.
Come on a Hike with Tony Davis!

Jane Macijauskas

UTAGA has re-initiated the “Learning Project” in honour of Professor Tony Davis’ upcoming retirement. A GeoPlan Trip, which will be led by Prof. Davis, has been organized for Rattlesnake Point and Crawford Lake on the Bruce Trail.

UTAGA is proud to present an opportunity for alumni to revisit their university days and come on a field trip with an inspired field teacher. Professor Tony Davis began his teaching career at UofT in 1976, and over the past 30 years he has advised and provided guidance to countless students. For those of you who never had the privilege of taking one of Prof. Davis’ courses, join us and discover what you missed. Described as “motivating and humorous,” Prof. Davis provides superb examples, feedback and discussion in the field, out-hikes even the fittest students and, above all, maintains a sense of humour regardless of field conditions. The GeoTrip will visit Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, with inspiring scenic views and breathtaking lookouts of the Niagara Escarpment. From there, we will trek the Nassagaweya Canyon towards Crawford Lake, a rare meromictic lake. We will also explore the 15th century Iroquoian Village that has been reconstructed on its original site, one of the most accurately dated pre-contact archaeological sites in Canada.

Grab your hiking boots, get outdoors in the spring sunshine and rekindle your love for geography with one of the most gifted professors in the department! Please see page 7 for the registration form.

Details

Date&Time: Saturday May 6th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Ticket Cost: $15
Transportation will be provided from the St. George Campus

Notes: Bring your own lunch
Contact Jane Macijauskas at utaga@geog.utoronto.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

In this Issue of the GeoPlan

Regulars
Message from the Chair 1
Cool Websites for Geographers 8
Planning Bite #11 8
Departmental News 11

Features
GeoPlan Trip 2
Awards Night 2005 3-4
Spring Social 2006 5-6
GeoPlan Trip Registration Form 7
Historical Photo of Griffith Taylor 9
UTAGA Awards Nomination Form 10
The 11th Annual Awards Presentation and Graduation Reception for the Department of Geography and Program in Planning was held on Thursday November 10, 2005 in Alumni Hall, Victoria College. Attended by over 100 faculty members, alumni, students and friends, this event was an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our students and alumni. This year 35 awards were presented to 43 current or recently graduated students (see following page for a full listing).

Three additional awards were presented by UTAGA to recognize the continued contributions of alumni. The Outstanding Service Awards, which are presented to individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to the UofT Department of Geography, its programs, students or alumni, were presented to Corwin Cambray (MScPl9T9), Jenny Lass (MA 9T8) and Valdemar Nickel (MScPl9T7). The UTAGA Honorary President Award, which is given to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the development of the Department of Geography or its programs and its alumni, was presented to Marie Sanderson. The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award, which is given to an alumnus who has led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the Department, was bestowed upon Dick Baine. Prof. Emeritus Baine made a poignant speech regarding the future of geography education and the state of geographic thought in Canada.
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Roza Tchoukaleyska

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Maxmillian Billings

Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Aisling Brady

Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science (Geography/Geology)
Ryan Hackett

Donald Putnam Scholarship
Suzanne Brooks & Jason Cooke

F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment
Anna Gunz

Outstanding Performance Awards
GGR 201/203/205/206: Rachel Van Sligtenhorst
GGR 220: Susan Horn
GGR 233: Vignesh Krishnamurthy
GGR 240: Hayley O'Dell
GGR 391: Nandor Gortva

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Sharlene Tan

The Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship
Chaun Li

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Nigel Falcon

The Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award
Wilfred Haufe & Roza Tchoukaleyska

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Valeria Maurizio

GRADUATE AWARDS

Alpar Graduate Scholarship
Lesley Collins

The Donald F. Putnam/George Tatham Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Amy Siciliano

F. Kenneth Hare Graduate Scholarship in the Environment
Angela Loder

Government of Ontario/William G. Dean Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology
Liana Del Gobbo

Government of Ontario/ESRI Canada Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology
Carl Mitchell

The Graduate Geography Toronto Award
Thomas Janzen

Griffith Taylor Memorial Graduate Award
Tarmo Remmel

J. Michael Tomczak/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Josephina Rekers

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Gita Liadler & Jennifer Ridgley

Michael Ralph Walsh/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Lindsay Stephens

The Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography and Planning
Vanessa Mathews

The Neptis Foundation Scholarship
Chris Eckley

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Jordana Ross

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Valeria Maurizio

Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Award for Academic Excellence
Utter Chauhan

Centre for Urban and Community Studies Urban Planning Research Award
Erik Hunter & Natasha Webster

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Felix Fung

Edward Sorbara/Urban Development Institute of Toronto Scholarship
Jessica Wilczak

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Utter Chauhan

Mitch Goldhar Award for Achievement in Planning
Annely Zonena

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Kristina la Fleur

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning
Kirk Biggar

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Scholarship
Valeria Maurizio

UTAGA AWARDS

The UTAGA Outstanding Service Award
Corwin Cambray, Jenny Lass, Valdemar Nickel

The UTAGA Honorary President Award
Marie Sanderson

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award
Dick Baine
Town Planning: Art Form, Science, Or Intuition?

Joanna Averley, Deputy Chief Executive of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Director of Design for the London Olympic Delivery Authority, will be speaking about her experience as a town planner in England on major projects and the latest thinking on the role of planning in providing the means to creating great buildings, public spaces and places.

Special thanks to this year’s speaker sponsor: URBAN STRATEGIES INC.

Join over 300 practicing professionals from the public, private, academic and not-for-profit sectors in support of the University of Toronto’s Friends of Planning Scholarships.

The Planning Alumni Committee is pleased to welcome our 2006 PLATINUM SPONSORS:
Joanna Averley  
Deputy Executive Director, CABE  
Director of Design, London Olympic Delivery Authority  

Joanna is a town planner who has worked in the UK on a number of major projects and initiatives within the public and private sector. She is Deputy Chief Executive of CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) a government funded agency that promotes design quality across England. Joanna is currently on secondment from CABE to the Olympic Delivery Authority where she is the Director of Design.

Since 2000, Joanna has been at the centre of setting up and growing CABE. England is in the midst of a major public sector building program. At CABE, Joanna directs the advisory services that provide technical advice and support to client organizations who are devising regeneration and masterplanning projects. In particular, she has led the work on major masterplans, housing renewal and design coding while advising the design and procurement of housing, health centres, and schools.

Joanna’s new challenge is preparing London to welcome the world for the 2012 Olympics. The Olympic Delivery Authority is the agency set up to deliver the physical development of the Olympic Park and venues for the London 2012 Olympics. As Director of Design for the ODA she is overseeing the masterplan and design of the Park and brief development and procurement of the venues.

As a town planner Joanna has been involved in a broad spectrum of design, planning and regeneration best practice. Prior to working at CABE she worked in consultancy, on masterplanning projects and planning policy development, including the masterplanning of Manchester City Centre, during the rebuilding programme following the IRA bombing of 1996.
GeoPlan Trip 2006
RSVP Registration Form
Return completed form by April 21, 2006.

Participation is on a first-come-first-served basis. Space is limited.
Ticket cost (to cover transportation); $15 per person: #Tickets _______ x $15 each = Total ________________

Names of people wishing to attend (i.e. yourself and guest(s)): __________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: ______________________ Province: _______ Postal Code: _______________
Phone #: (H) _________ (B) ___________ e-mail: ___________________________

Payment Option
☐ My cheque is enclosed (payable to the University of Toronto) in the total amount of $ _____________

This GeoTrip 2006 is being run by the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA) as part of the UTAGA Learning Project. For additional information please contact utaga@geog.utoronto.ca or 416-978-3375.

Please return completed form to: Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Room 5047, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON, M5S 3G3 or fax to 416-946-3886. Thank you!

Network and Gain Experience on the UTAGA Executive
Past President Jenny Lass

Want to find out what it's like to participate in UofT's most active departmental alumni association? Want to help plan special events, field trips and book launches? Now's your chance to get involved! UTAGA is seeking new members to feed free pizza to at our executive meetings that take place about every three months. You can give us your input at meetings as a member at large, or you can play a more active role and take on a committee-chair or executive position — it's up to you.

Volunteering with UTAGA will give you much more than just an extra activity to list on your résumé. This is an opportunity to meet new people (or reconnect with old friends) and develop new skills.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at jenny@grainfreegourmet.com.
Certain recent events in some natural and human systems have suddenly catapulted ‘thinking about thinking’ into the harsh immediacy of the reality of our human condition.

The hurricanes that hit the north shores of the Gulf of Mexico were natural happenings in the biosphere. By ill luck, they vented their fury on an area of human population vital for energy production and refining.

The human systems failed, at least in part. All three levels of government, the special emergency arrangements (FEMA), and the voluntary helping services were all slow to act. When they did get going, their efforts were inadequate for the magnitude of the emergency.

Do such experiences of events that show failure in human systems suggest a common cause? May we expect more of the same, perhaps more frequently and of a greater magnitude?

Some responses to such questions may already be appearing. The Toronto Globe and Mail recently had an article on the need for critical thinking. But what does that mean? Does it mean thinking within the boundaries of the very thinking that led to present system failures? Are we now thinking merely about making more efficient and productive systems that have already reached their maximum capability?

Full definitive answers to such questions cannot yet be given. How and why cultures and their societies rise, remain stable and then decline, is not completely understood. We do not even know if it is useful to ask such questions for operating in the actual world. But if cultural and socio-economic change are found useful from examining the way we have come out of our recent pasts, then at least we have to make the effort to minimize the human suffering. Change will threaten to impact particularly large urban populations which cannot drop to subsistence living on the land, as in some cultures.

If urban planners do not become proficient at understanding systems and the way they interact, it seems likely they will remain locked in thinking modes that are already obsolete.

1. [http://www.findyourspot.com](http://www.findyourspot.com). The mascot of this website, Spot, will guide you through an online quiz to help you find out what cities and towns best suit your living needs. There is information on the site related to urban geography and residential location.

2. [http://www.spacing.ca](http://www.spacing.ca). This is the electronic version of Toronto’s urban landscape journal with updated daily material.


4. [http://www.rulers.org](http://www.rulers.org). Good leaders oversee countries and entire regions in addition to running cities. On this site, you will see the human side to geography, with country-specific statistics.

5. [http://www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info). If live statistics and continually changing data tickle your fancy, you will find this website very useful. It gives visitors the “big picture” of our ever-changing planet.

6. [http://www.earthcam.com](http://www.earthcam.com). As its name suggests, this is not just any ordinary webcam. This is a network of cameras set at designated sites all over the globe.

7. [http://www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com). If you’re looking for maps for close study of the earth, you will find them here.

8. [http://www.world-gazetteer.com](http://www.world-gazetteer.com). Every atlas has a gazetteer, so why not check out an electronic one too?

9. [http://www.iydd.org](http://www.iydd.org). The United Nations has declared 2006 to be the International Year of Desertification. Deserts may provide breathtaking, and even romantic sceneries for film, but let’s help keep the earth fertile with this interactive world map of sandy wastelands.

10. [http://www.ToxicNation.ca](http://www.ToxicNation.ca). This Canadian website is supported by world-renown environmentalist and University of Toronto alumnus, Robert Bateman. The site keeps records of pollution and sustainability of our country’s land use activity.
Readers of GEOPLAN know that Griffith Taylor was the founder of UofT’s Geography Department in 1935, the first Department of Geography at a Canadian university. Many readers will also know that Taylor was the senior geologist on the famous Scott Antarctic Expedition in 1910-1912. In November 1911, as instructed by Captain Scott, Taylor led a three month geological exploration of the coast of Victoria Land. The amount of work that Grif and his colleagues accomplished was phenomenal. The surveys were remarkable in view of the fact that they were done with plane-table and theodolite under extremely difficult weather conditions. Taylor also developed a theory explaining the build of the Antarctic Continent. He described his Antarctic experiences in a book called “With Scott, the Silver Lining” (a copy of the book is on display in the Geography Department at U of T).

The historic photo above shows Taylor in his sledging gear at the start of the Western Party in November 1911. It was taken by Herbert Ponting, the official photographer of the Scott Expedition. A 18” x 13” original of this photo was featured at the Steven Bulger Gallery in Toronto. Several UTAGA members viewed the photo and enthusiastically suggested that the true home for the photo was in the Department of Geography at UofT. The department is supporting acquisition of this historic original photograph, which is now almost 100 years old, and plans to display it in Sidney Smith Hall.

Alumni and friends of the Department wishing to contribute to the purchase of the photograph and its display may send a donation using the pledge form at the right. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations. GEOPLAN will provide further information on the unveiling and display of this wonderful addition to the Department.

Yes! I would like to contribute to the Griffith Taylor Photo
Please return this form along with your donation to:
Annual Fund Office, 21 King’s College Circle,
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

Contact Information:
Name: __________________________
Address: _________________________
Phone #: _________________________
Fax #: _________________________
E-mail: _________________________
Job Title: ________________________
Employer: _______________________
Address: _________________________

Are you a grad of UofT?
If so, what year? __________

Payment Options: (please select one)

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Cheque enclosed in the amount of $ _________
Donations should be made payable to the University of Toronto.

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☐ Credit Card payment in the amount of $ _________
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UTAGA AWARDS 2006 - NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: ____________________________________________________________________

Name(s) of Nominator(s): _____________________________________________________________

Award: _____________________________________________________________________________

Please explain how the nominee meets the award criteria and attach any supporting documents that you believe will help the selection committee (use additional pages if needed).

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2006

UTAGA AWARDS REFERENCE
Names of Prizes, and how winners are chosen.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:
Please complete a UTAGA Awards Nomination Form for each person you wish to nominate 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.

1. UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award: This award is given to an alumnus of the Department and its programs, who has led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the Department.

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.

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.

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. For 2006, 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. There can be more than one recipient.

AWARD PRESENTATION:
Awards will be presented at the Department’s annual Awards Night this year, scheduled for Thursday November 9, 2006.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact the UTAGA Administrator by e-mail at utaga@geog.utoronto.ca.
Dr. Ron Buliung joined the UTM Department of Geography and the graduate department on January 1, 2006. Ron completed an NSERC-funded post-doctoral fellowship with the Joint Program in Transportation in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Toronto last fall. This was preceded by graduate and undergraduate studies in Geography at McMaster University (Ph.D. 2004; MA, 1997; BA, 1993). Ron’s research attempts to broaden current thinking regarding the influence of transport and land use policy on the spatial behaviour of urban agents (households, firms, etc). To this end, he has been exploring the relationship between daily activities and travel, and the morphology of urban areas. He has also been working on the development and application of measures for describing human behaviour within the space-time domain. Recent research activities include examining the travel impacts of ‘big-box’ retail in the Greater Toronto Area, and the development of open source tools for measuring spatial properties of activity-travel behaviour. Ron will be teaching undergraduate courses in geographic information systems, quantitative methods and the geography of transportation. A graduate course on transportation planning is in development.

We welcome Dr. Nathan Basiliko to the Department of Geography at UTM. This has very successfully concluded our search for a physical geographer with a specialization in soil processes. Nathan brings to UofT an exceptionally rich research program in the biogeochemistry and microbial ecology of northern forest and wetland ecosystems, global and environmental change, natural resource management and ecosystem restoration. His work complements not only the tri-campus research interests of the Department of Geography, but also will make important contributions to a wide range of new collaborations. The Department of Geography at UTM is particularly excited about Nathan’s role in an emerging Landscape Genetics research cluster that brings together faculty in Geography and Biology at UTM. Nathan will officially join the Department in July 2006.

Dr. Sarah Finkelstein joined the St. George Department of Geography and the graduate department on January 1, 2006. Sarah completed an NSERC-funded post-doctoral fellowship at the Laboratory for Paleoclimatology and Climatology in the Department of Geography at the University of Ottawa. Sarah did her Ph.D. in Geography at UofT (2004), preceded by graduate studies in plant sciences at Cambridge (M.Phil, 1999) and undergraduate studies in ecology and environmental studies at Princeton (BA 1998). Sarah’s research is directed towards improved understanding of paleoenvironmental changes from recent to Holocene time scales reconstructed from a wide variety of paleoecological indicators including pollen and diatoms. She is interested in the relationship between climate variability, water level changes and plant community responses in wetlands, peatlands and near lakes. After several years studying temperate marsh and wetland environments of southern Ontario (including human impacts), Sarah is starting a research program in the Canadian Arctic. She will be teaching biogeography, field methods, introduction to physical geography. She is also developing a graduate course in the area of paleoenvironmental reconstruction.

Congratulations to Professor Don Boyes who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. Don joined the Department on July 1, 2001 and quickly established himself as a valued member of the Department and the University. Thanks to Don for all his contributions and congratulations to him on this important recognition.

Congratulations to Professor Amrita Daniere, who will begin a three year term as Chair of the UTM Department of Geography on July 1, 2006.
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.