

# 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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## *Chair's Message*

*Dr. Virginia Maclaren*



As the new Chair, let me begin by offering a special and sincere thanks to Joe Desloges for his commitment and dedication to our department during his eight-year term as Chair and Graduate Chair. We wish him all the best in his future position as Principal of Woodsworth College, starting in July, 2008.

For those of you who don't know me, I teach environmental courses in both the Planning and Geography programs and a planning core course. My primary research interests are in waste management and sustainability indicators. For the last six years, I have been travelling to Southeast Asia a great deal as Director of a CIDA-funded project on Integrated Waste Management in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. That project finished in

2006 and I am looking forward to developing new research initiatives in both Southeast Asia and North America.

Since I arrived in this department, my Chairs have been John Britton, Joe Whitney, Carl Amrhein and then Joe Desloges. All of them have offered exceptional leadership and taken us successfully through many significant changes within the department and within the university. They will be hard acts to follow. Among their many accomplishments has been the development (with your help) of a thriving alumni association – one that is among the largest and very best at the university. It has an incredible record of fund raising for scholarships, visiting scholars, student field trips, student research and student conference travel. My vision as Chair includes a commitment not only to continued support for the activities of the association, but also enhancement of those activities to the fullest extent possible.

This year saw an important restructuring of the graduate administration of the department. Amrita Daniere, Chair at UTM, has been appointed Graduate Chair of Geography and Planning. This means that she will be responsible for oversight of graduate student affairs, including funding and planning, at St. George, UTM and UTSc. Formerly, the St. George Chair was also the Graduate Chair, but with graduate student expansion occurring at all three campuses, the School of Graduate Studies felt that it was becoming more and more difficult for one person to meet the demands of administering both a large undergraduate department and the graduate unit. As a result, SGS decided that it was time to

separate the function of Graduate Chair and St. George Chair and picked Geography and Planning as the first department to experiment with this model. If the new system works out well in our department (which it has, so far), it will likely expand to many more departments across the university. Helping Amrita with graduate administration will be our new Graduate Coordinator, Bill Gough, and our new Director of Planning, Katharine Rankin. Many thanks to the exemplary work provided by both Robert Lewis and Sue Ruddick, who are stepping down as Graduate Coordinator and Director of Planning respectively. *Continued on page 8*

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# University of Toronto Planning Alumni Event April 12, 2007

## Revitalizing Public Spaces -Look to Private Sector Inspiration

The University of Toronto Friends of Planning alumni held its annual spring social last night, featuring guest speaker Daniel Biederman, co-founder of the Bryant Park Corporation, which was instrumental in revitalizing one of New York City's most lauded public spaces. Using his experience in applying private management practices and funding to the management of public parks, Biederman shared with the audience his views on the creation of vibrant public spaces -one that does not include glamorous design competitions, star architects or public funds.

Biederman has worked in numerous cities advising on how to develop or revitalize parks, plazas and business improvement districts and has come to the conclusion that most governments do not know how to run parks well. His approach involves taking the taxpayer out of the funding equation and bringing in private sector management. In the case of Bryant Park, the entire estimated \$4-million annual budget is privately raised and no capital funds have been spent on that park since 1996. "Parks require constant attention," Biederman told NRU. He added that it is difficult for cities to design, operate and finance a park properly with everything else they have to pay attention to.

On the design and planning of public spaces, Biederman believes that you have to start with determining how and when the public will use the park - bringing in the architects only after the management is in place, a budget finalized and the public has been engaged. This approach is in stark contrast to the glamorous design competitions that many cities typically embrace.

According to Biederman, the trend toward celebrity architects and design competitions results in architects designing "as edgy a work as possible" that is less about the users and more about shocking the observers. This is a trend he says that has seeped over from the design of buildings into designing public spaces.

The audience also heard from Toronto Economic Development Corporation CEO Jeffrey Steiner and outgoing University of Toronto alumni committee chair Loretta Ryan (Ontario Professional Planning Institute).

The event is reported to have sold a record number of tickets and has attracted over thirty sponsors including - Toronto Economic Development Corporation, City of Toronto, Aird and Berlis LLP, BA Group Transportation Consultants, Bousfields Inc., Cassels Brock LLP, Concord Cityplace, Davies Howe Partners, Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, Hemson Consulting Limited, LEA Consulting Ltd., Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, Smart Centres, Wittington Properties Limited and NRU Publishing Inc.

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### **Friends of Planning Spring Social**

PAC presents the highly successful Friends of Planning Spring Social event. Since the inaugural Spring Social in 1997, the event has become a “must attend” on alumni and industry professionals’ social calendar. The event’s success has enabled PAC to play an important role in providing opportunities to enrich the educational experiences of graduate students in the Program in Planning. Proceeds from the event help to fund scholarships as well as travel bursaries and other PAC initiatives.

## **WANTED: Planning Alumni**

The *Planning Alumni Committee* (PAC) is a committee of UTAGA. Its goals are to promote networking among planning alumni, strengthen the ties between planning alumni and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning and to encourage support for planning students through donations.

### **New members welcome!**

If interested in joining PAC please contact [utaga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto.ca)

### **About the Planning Alumni Committee**

The Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) is a committee of the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni. Established in 1996, PAC’s goals are to promote networking among planning alumni, strengthen the ties between planning alumni and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, and to encourage support for graduate planning students.



**Daniel Biederman, co-founder of the Bryant Park Corporation**





**Planning students taking advantage of networking opportunities**

**A captivated audience listening to Daniel Biederman speak**



**(From left to right) Norma Forrest, Ed Sajecki, Jeff Steiner and Bronwyn Frog**

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## 1997 Planning Grads Celebrate 10-Year Reunion

By: Christina Tizzard, MScPl, 9T7

In mid-May, 13 planning grads (9T7) gathered at Armadillos on Front St. – where they had gathered 10 years previously upon submitting final papers to obtain the coveted MScPl. They traveled from near (GTA), mid (Ottawa and St. Catharines) and far (UK) to greet, catch up and toast the ‘real world’. Alan Waterhouse dropped in to check up on his last graduating class and to hear their successes and to wish them well.

There was consensus that everyone was easily recognizable (except for the spouses and partners) and that the group appeared a little more relaxed these days. A commitment was made to reunite sooner than 2017, with plans for an 11-year reunion under way.

A great time was had by all!!

*Those in attendance (in no order); Remo Agostino, Nancy Chin, Andrew Dales, Brian Dick, Kyle Knoeck, Christine Little, Anar Mamdani, Julia (McCammond) Henderson, Valdy Nickel, Katherine Pestieau, Taavi Siitam, Christina Tizzard, Jeremy Warson*



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### Celebrate the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Presentation for the University of Toronto Department of Geography and Program in Planning

Alumni Hall, Victoria College  
Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards presentation for the graduating class of 2006 will take place on Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 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 W. F. Hanson

Matthew Hanson, a graduate of the Master of Science in Planning Class of 2004, passed away tragically in his sleep a year ago March 7th. Matt was a wonderful friend and colleague who touched the lives of so many people. In the words of his colleagues at Meridian Planning Inc, “Matthew was an extremely gifted young planner whose love for the profession was evident in all his work. Our staff and all our clients and colleagues who had the pleasure of working with him will remember his enthusiasm, humour and intelligence.” Matt’s friends remember him for the way he pulled people together and for his readiness to challenge popular opinion. He was always eager to share a drink and an ironic laugh at his own – and others’ – expense.

As a tribute to Matthew, and with the significant initial financial contribution of his parents, Ken and Pat Hanson, the Department of Geography’s Program in Planning and the Planning Alumni Committee are establishing an endowed scholarship: **The Matthew W. F. Hanson Scholarship in Planning**. To date, the total pledges amount to over \$80,000. This scholarship, which will be given to one or more graduate students pursuing their Master of Science in Planning, will be awarded for the first time in the Fall of 2008 at the Annual Awards Ceremony and annually thereafter.

In Matthew’s memory, the Planning Alumni Committee named its annual career workshop, **The Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop**. A panel of alumni representing the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in planning and related professions share their internship experiences, career paths and insights on finding exciting planning opportunities with current graduate students. The Workshop highlights the diversity of careers available to graduates of the Program in Planning and has become a popular event with students.

If you have any questions about the scholarship or would like to make a contribution, please call Monica Lin, Associate Director, Development and Alumni, Faculty of Arts & Science at (416) 946-5616 or email [mclin@artsci.utoronto.ca](mailto:mclin@artsci.utoronto.ca).

## Updates from Abroad

By: Kate Parizeau

The city of Buenos Aires recently experienced its first snowfall in almost 90 years. As I am learning, the Southern winter does not make for the best working conditions - neither for the city’s cartoneros (who collect recyclable materials from curbside waste every night), nor for a team of survey administrators attempting to learn more about cartoneros’ lives and work. Despite these climatic inconveniences, the work proceeds.

I am currently in Argentina conducting fieldwork; my PhD research investigates environmental health risks and diverse coping mechanisms in the informal recycling industry in Buenos Aires. Most of these workers live in the provinces surrounding the city limits, and travel into Buenos Aires in the evenings via trucks or specialized trains. Cartoneros collect cardboard, newspapers, white paper, plastic, glass, metals, household items and clothing discarded from residences and businesses. These materials are either re-sold or re-used.

The study of the work and health of cartoneros is closely connected to the broader issues of urban poverty and inequality. In addition to examining how political and economic changes have affected the lives and work of Buenos Aires’ cartoneros, my work also investigates the ways they respond to and cope with the dangers and difficulties that accompany poverty. The work of cartoneros is an important element in the dynamics of this world city, and I hope that my research will contribute to greater understanding and appreciation of the role that cartoneros play in contemporary Buenos Aires.

Kate Parizeau is a 3rd year PhD student in the collaborative program between Geography and Environment and Health.



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# Obituary for Nadine (Hooper) Deacon (1917-2007)

By: Dr. Don Kerr, Dr. Gunter Gad and Dr. Dick Bane

In early January 2007, Nadine (Hooper) Deacon, the first graduate of the University of Toronto's Geography Department died at the age of 90. Born in Montréal, she moved with her family to Royal Oak, Michigan at the age of 2. Following her completion of high school in Michigan, she enrolled in the undergraduate program at Trinity College, University of Toronto in 1936. Increasingly she became interested in geography courses and upon graduation with honours she decided to embark on graduate studies in geography.

Nadine selected Toronto as a subject of her research and in the process wrote an outstanding thesis (Toronto: A Study in Urban Geography) attaining her M.A. in 1941. In many ways her thesis was a benchmark, being the first major work in Canada in this emerging field. To some extent, the thesis reflects the preoccupations of Nadine's supervisor, Griffith Taylor, with the physical geographic controls of urban development. However, Nadine seems to have been more influenced by the Scottish "planner" Patrick Geddes and the American urban geographer Chauncy Harris, especially when she constructs a "functional" map of Metropolitan Toronto of the late 1930s. This map is extraordinary, since it does not stop at the political boundaries of the City of Toronto but includes the suburban areas of the time. Apart from major business areas, retail strips and industrial corridors along the many railway lines, Nadine also constructs a very detailed social geography based on the type and quality of dwellings. While she used some published sources such as directories, most of the data was collected through "personal surveys", that is, detailed field work all over the urban region. This 1939/40 map links earlier maps by engineers and planning consultants with the later land use maps of the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board. Another pioneering feature of Nadine Hooper's thesis lies in the chapter of Foreign Settlement in Toronto. Based on various directories, Nadine maps people of Jewish, Italian, Finnish, Chinese, Ukrainian and Czechoslovakian origin. Curiously, French Canadians also figure in the discussion of Foreign Districts of Toronto. A twenty-page summary of the thesis was published under Nadine's married name (Nadine A.H. Deacon) in the Canadian Geographical Journal (Vol. 29, No. 2, 1946, pp.80-99) under the title "Geographical Factors and Land Use in Toronto". This article follows the thesis closely.



While the thesis is extremely rich in maps, the article includes 36 photographs, half of which were taken by Nadine in the early 1940s. Her photographs complement the selection of archival pictures and early air photos with snapshots of ordinary residential areas, retail strips and parks.

Over the next several years, Nadine's work was used by planners, geographers, economists and high school teachers as a major source of information on the historical development of the city, its functional pattern and social and economic structure. Many of her maps are examined even today by historical geographers.

Nadine's academic work, perforce, slowed down significantly after marrying Arthur Deacon in 1942 and starting a family. However, by the late '50s four children had been born and Nadine was anxious to return to more research on geography.

*Cont. on next page*

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## *Nadine Deacon Cont.*

In the early 1960's she enrolled in the doctoral program at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. She performed well but the challenge of a very demanding program and the call of the family back in Toronto brought about her decision, with some reluctance, to give up the program. Her career as a geographer, however, by no means ended. Following some lecturing at UofT and at York University, she took up a full - time teaching assignment at Bishop Strachan School, a distinguished girls' school in Toronto. She was head of the geography program at B.S.S. from 1966 to 1972.

It is not an exaggeration to say Nadine was a world traveller, covering six of the seven continents. Over the years she and Arthur travelled widely, not as tourists but rather on their own with an intense curiosity about people and places.

Nadine was a loyal member and strong supporter of the department and attended many functions and lectures. In fact, she insisted on attending, despite physical difficulties, the launching of the book on George Tatham, one of the founders of the department, just a short time before she died.

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## **Network and Gain Experience on the UTAGA Executive**

Jennifer Owen

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 become part of our executive meetings that take place every three months or so. 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 [utaga@geog.utoronto](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto)

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## *Chair's Message Cont.*

Speaking of expansion, this fall we received our largest class of incoming graduate students in the history of the department – 45 for Geography (20 MA, 13 MSc, 12 PhD) and 44 for Planning (32 MScPl, 6 MUDS, 6 PhD). We now also have one of the largest undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science, with 3,200 undergraduate students taking our courses and over 1,000 students enrolled in our specialist, major and minor programs.

On a closing note, I am delighted to welcome Deb Cowen to the department as an Assistant Professor. Many of you will know her as a graduate of our undergraduate, Planning (MScPl) and PhD (Geography) programs. Welcome also to Siri Hansen, our new front office assistant, who will be helping with both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with our alumni association over the next five years. I would love to hear from you about any ideas that you may have for ways that the department can support and interact with its alumni. If you would like to become more involved in alumni matters, please consider joining either the UTAGA or Planning Alumni committees (contact [utaga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto.ca) for more information).

# Memory Lane

Can you recognize the people in these pictures?

**Picture 1**



**Picture 2**



**Last Issue's Picture**



The group of people pictured in the last issue of GeoPlan's Memory Lane are (Back row, L to R) Joan Roy, Roger Brown, Neil Feild, Dr. Putnam and Mary (Beacock) Fryer (Front row, L to R) Barbara Weatherhead, June Bradley (Gardner) Strachan and Shiela (Irwin) Irving.

Thanks to June Strachan for the photo.

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# News

## Congratulations

**Congratulations** to *Professor Miriam Diamond*. This spring was a time of great excitement for Miriam Diamond, who, on May 1, 2007, was named Canadian Environmental Scientist of the Year by Canadian Geographic. Having begun her career as a biologist researching the Arctic Redpoll, a small finch species native to the world's most northern climes, Diamond's research took her through the study of mines and metal pollution, to lakes, and now her interest in chemical contaminants. One of her current areas of focus is urban contaminant issues which came from beginning her family within the context of Toronto's large urban environment. Wondering what it was, exactly, that her children were being exposed to sparked Diamond's innovative approach to measuring and modelling the sources, fate and potential health effects of chemical contaminants in cities. Now, with her children in their teens and a history of collecting data from some normal (such as soil) and some weird places (window panes included), Diamond has begun a foray into the realm of indoor pollution, keeping a close eye on emerging contaminants, such as brominated flame retardants and perfluorinated "stain resisting" compounds. The recognition highlights several important facets of her academic career: it is essential to discover and explore environmental issues that touch people's lives; it is important to do work that can influence policies; and not only is it possible to achieve academic excellence while nurturing a family, but one's family can be the source of inspiration!

**Congratulations** to *Gita Laidler*, winner of the Canadian Association of Geographers Blackwell Award (awarded for outstanding contribution of a recent Ph.D graduate in geography) for her thesis "Ice, Through Inuit Eyes: Characterizing the importance of sea ice processes, use and change around three Nunavut communities". *Laidler* was also the winner of the Canadian Association of Geographers Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize for Excellence in Native Studies which recognizes and promotes excellence in applied research on Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

**Congratulations** to *Lisa Yongqin Zhang* on her NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship at York University with Prof. John R. Miller.

**Congratulations** to *Professor Meric Gertler* for winning the Canadian Association of Geographers Scholarly Distinction in Geography. This award is given for outstanding scholarly work in geography.

**Congratulations** to *Professor Larry Bourne*, appointed as the interim director of UofT's new Cities Centre.

**Congratulations** to *Kate Parizeau*, a second year PhD student in the collaborative Geography and Environment and Health program, named a Trudeau Scholar this year, one of only 15 of these scholarships awarded to doctoral students in Canada.

**Congratulations** to *T. Michael Sone* MScPl 2002, on his marriage to *Jane E. Goldthorpe* BA 2000 in Thornhill, Ontario on August 19th, 2006.

**Congratulations** to *Ranjana Mitra (MA '01)*, who led an initiative for the Community Environmental Alliance of Peel that received a silver award at the Canadian Environmental Awards gala.

## Welcome Back

Many of you may remember Dr. Chuck Hostovsky, MCIP, RPP left us in 2005 to take a position at Minnesota State University at St. Cloud. During his year in the North Star state he taught urban and environmental planning and initiated research that examined the relationships between the obesity epidemic in the Twin Cities region, transportation and urban built form. Other research he initiated in the state included examining exurbanite opposition to rural land uses, and the use of waste-to-energy incineration to manage municipal solid waste. Dr. Hostovsky was also very involved as a faculty advisor to the Vietnamese Student Association and was active as a member of the Sierra Club North Star chapter's sustainable transportation committee. Dr. Hostovsky has now moved back to the GTA and will be continuing his research agenda here and has a contract to teach GGR332, GGR393, GGR418, UTM 234 and TBA summer courses over the next year. Feel free to drop by his office in SS5035 or at UTM or email him at [chostovs@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:chostovs@geog.utoronto.ca)

## *Send Us Your Business Cards!*

We are updating our business card collection which we have available for students to see the many different places where Geography and Planning may lead them. If you would like us to display your business card to our students, please send it to the address below and include your graduating year.

**The UTAGA OFFICE  
c/o University of Toronto  
Department of Geography  
100 St. George St., Room 5047**

**Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G3**

*Thank you!*

### **New Appointments**



#### **Deborah Cowen**

joined the St. George Department of Geography on July 1, 2007.

Deborah's work investigates the broad themes of citizenship, cities and security. She has investigated the military as a social welfare

institution in connection with the building of national political space, as well as the relationships between war, cities and citizenship.

Her current research examines initiatives to secure supranational systems, such as transportation, and how this experimentation works to recast the social and citizenship. Deborah also has an ongoing interest in the political and social transformation of inner suburbs. She is co-editor (with Emily Gilbert) of a recent collection titled "War, Citizenship, Territory". Her book, "Military Welfare: The Soldier and Social Citizenship in Canada", based largely on her PhD research here at U of T, is forthcoming. Deborah returns to the department after 2 years of postdoctoral research: a year at New York University's International Center for Advanced Studies, and a year at York University studying security policy and labour in Canada and the United States. Deborah will be teaching undergraduate courses in North American urban geography and urban politics, and will be offering a new course on postwar suburbs.

### *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 first-year graduate 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. UofT's Planning students have skills in many areas, including urban design, and urban, economic, social, and environmental planning.

If your organization is interested in advertising an internship opportunity, or would like to know more about the summer internship experience, please contact

**[utaga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto.ca)**

### **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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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: Jennifer Owen*

*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.*

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## ***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](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto.ca)*

## ***Change of Address?***

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