

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)

Spring 2007
Circulation: 5,600

Chair's Message

Dr. Joe Desloges

Welcome to the Spring '07 edition of GeoPlan. In my eight years as Chair of the graduate department of Geography and Program in Planning, and as Chair of the St. George department, it has been a remarkable privilege to interact with alumni, students, staff and faculty. I have stressed several times that the greatest reward in this position is to see first hand the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students, the successes of faculty researchers and educators, and the contributions of our staff to this important academic enterprise. We have been charged with the responsibility of providing our students (and thus future alumni) with the best possible academic experience and it has been an exciting challenge given the 3-campus nature of our activities. In the next few years we have plans to expand graduate enrolment, including a new Ph.D. in Planning, review our curriculum, and chart new directions for the department. Over the last year Arts and Science on St. George has been closely engaged in an undergraduate curriculum review and renewal exercise that at its heart is examining the educational goals and degree expectations for the 25,000+ students in A&S. Geography and Planning, like Arts and Science, encompasses an impressively wide array of areas of study, a wide range of methodologies, approaches and perspectives, and students from a wide range of educational, cultural and economic backgrounds with many different personal goals. Identifying a single primary purpose shared by all programs is difficult but we have agreed that the general purpose of undergraduate education is to prepare our students to be effective, engaged participants in the world. Our department supplements this general goal with specific goals unique to our discipline including integration of research into teaching, provision of a high degree of choice amongst strong programs, options for interdisciplinarity in course work and projects, and a commitment to equity and diversity in the context of a multicultural community. We expect our graduates to take with them the intellectual development, the exposure to both depth and breadth of knowledge, the specific subject content, the analytical and communication skills – the capacity to question, gather, analyze, assess and conclude – that they acquire here at the University of Toronto, so they may view, analyze and act in the world more effectively. The vast majority of students I speak with are excited about their future and our faculty and staff are whole heartedly committed to providing and improving upon this experience. As I relinquish my Chair duties at the end of this academic year and return as a full member of the teaching and research academy in the department, I very much look forward to joining my colleagues (both new and veterans) in that engagement.



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Awards Night 2006

Fenton Chin

The 12th Annual Awards Night and Celebration of the Graduating Class of 2006, for the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, was held on Thursday, November 9, at Victoria College, Alumni Hall. The Hall was filled to capacity, with standing room only, and all who attended - faculty, alumni, students and their family and friends - had a great evening. Few experiences can compare to the joy of honouring the achievements of our students and alumni. Among our many guests, we were pleased that Professor Pekka Sinervo- Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science- was able to join us in the celebration of student and alumni accomplishments.

This year, UTAGA presented two awards in recognition of the on-going contributions of alumni. The winner of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, which is given to alumni of the Department and its programs, who has led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the department, was Joe Berridge. The 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 given to Joe Guzzi.

UTAGA is accepting nominations now for this year's Award Recipients. The deadline is April 30, 2007. Refer to page 10 for details on how to nominate a worthy candidate.



Joe Guzzi and Jane Macijauskas (UTAGA President)



Robert Putnam and Clare Oswald receiving the Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship



Professor Larry Bourne, Peter Walker, Dean Pekka Sinervo

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship

Vignesh Krishnamurthy

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography

Amrita Hari

Canadian Association of Geographers Award

Charmalee Sandanayake

Edward Blake Scholarship in Science

Colleen Whelan

Donald Putnam Scholarship

Marc Mohammed & Brian Randall McVeigh

F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment

Irene Ford

Outstanding Performance Awards

GGR 201/203/205/206: Aleksandra Zajackowska

GGR 220: Amrita Hari

GGR 233: Teresa Lindert

GGR 240: Paul Raposo

GGR 391: Alexandre Oustioujaninov

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Leah Turner

The Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship

Rachel Van Sligtenhorst

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award

Charmalee Sandanayake

The Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award

Christopher Sidlar

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award

Aaron Chan

GRADUATE AWARDS

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

Tanzina Mohsin

Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship

Claire Oswald

F. Kenneth Hare Graduate Scholarship in the Environment

Terris Lutter

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

Namrata Shrestha

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

Charmalee Sandanayake

George Tatham/Geography Alumni Graduate Scholarship

Emily Eaton

Griffith Taylor Memorial Graduate Award

Xiaojuan Feng

J. Michael Tomczak/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography

Katherine Geddie

Joseph A. May Scholarship

Vanessa Mathews, Robert Ramsay, Amy Siciliano

J.E.R. Ross Scholarship

Jan Pisek & Oliver Sonnentag

Michael Ralph Walsh/Ontario Graduate

Scholarship in the Department of Geography

Lisa Freeman

The Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography

Josephina Rekers

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship

Keith Potter & Leigh Snyder

Alpar Scholarship

Rachelle Ricotta

Alpar Grant

Geoffrey McGrath

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship

Christopher Sidlar

Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)

Award for Academic Excellence

Annely Zonena

Centre for Urban and Community Studies

Urban Planning Research Award

Lake Sagaris

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning

Jordana Ross & Jessica Wilczak

Edward Sorbara/Urban Development Institute of Toronto/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography, Planning Program

Martine August

Ian D. Macpherson Award

Carlin Bowman & Sabrina Lau

Mitchell Goldhar Award for Achievement in the Planning Program

Amy Cervenak

The Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography

Jessica Wu

Peter R. Walker First Year Planning Scholarship

Heather Dorries, Geoffrey McGrath, Alfredo Sztabinski

Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship

Danielle Murray

University of Toronto Planning Alumni/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning

Jordan Harrison

UTAGA AWARDS

The UTAGA Honorary President Award

Joe Guzzi

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award

Joe Berridge



PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS WINNERS

GRADUATE AWARDS WINNERS



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS WINNERS

Thursday April 12, 2007
6 - 9 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring Social

FRIENDS OF PLANNING

Hart House Great Hall
7 Hart House Circle

Bryant Park: Private Techniques for Upgrading Public Spaces

Daniel A. Biederman, co-founder and President of Bryant Park Corporation and 34th Street Partnership, will be speaking about his experience in downtown regeneration as it relates to the turnaround of parks and plazas, drawing specifically from lessons learned in the award-winning revitalization of Bryant Park in Midtown New York City.

Special thanks to this year's Speaker Sponsors:
Toronto Economic Development Corporation
and the **City of Toronto**.



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 Fund.

2007 PLATINUM SPONSORS:



Presented by the Planning Alumni Committee of the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni in conjunction with the Department of Geography & Program in Planning.

The Planning Alumni Committee thanks OPPI and the Faculty of Arts & Science for their generous support.



Thursday April 12, 2007
6 - 9 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Spring Social
FRIENDS OF PLANNING

Hart House Great Hall
7 Hart House Circle

Daniel A. Biederman

President, BRV Corp.
President, Bryant Park Corporation /
34th Street Partnership

Daniel A. Biederman is a New York-based consultant and co-founder of Grand Central Partnership, 34th Street Partnership, and Bryant Park Corporation, currently serving as president of the latter two organizations. Daniel's work focuses mainly on the art of downtown management, economic development, and rehabilitations in a host of cities including Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Pittsburgh, Miami, and Baltimore, in addition to New York.

As president of the Bryant Park Corporation, Daniel has been at the centre of the redevelopment and ongoing operation of the 9-acre Bryant Park in the heart of New York City. It represents one of the largest efforts in the United States to apply private management backed by private funding to a public park. Bryant Park, once a dangerous and depressing place, reopened in 1991 after a decade-long overhaul and now has virtually no crime despite being one of the most densely occupied urban parks in the world. The revitalization of the Park has won numerous awards, including the J.C. Nichols Prize for Land Use Visionaries, which was awarded to Daniel in 1996 by the Urban Land Institute.

Daniel's work with 34th Street Partnership covers an area that includes Pennsylvania Station, Madison Square Garden, the Herald Square shopping district and the Empire State Building. In January of 1992, the Partnership opened a \$6 million annual program of security, sanitation, social services and debt servicing on a capital improvement bond for the district's streets, sidewalks and plazas.

In addition to these two major projects, Daniel has advised public and private parties on downtown regeneration and Business Improvement Districts. He has written, lectured and taught extensively on these issues and has been published in Urban Land and the Harvard Business Review.

YES! I wish to attend the Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 12, 2007.
(Note; the last day to order tickets is March 31, 2007)

My name as it should appear on my name tag:

Name of my association/employer as it should appear on my name tag:

I am bringing guests and have attached their names and associations with this RSVP.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

of Tickets _____ x \$45 ea = \$_____ Total
\$20 Student Ticket
(No tax receipts will be issued)

My cheque or money order is enclosed
(made out to the University of Toronto)

Please charge my Credit Card
\$_____ upon receipt of this form

VISA Master Card

Card Number *Expiry*

Card Holder's Signature

I will pick up my tickets at the door on April 12.

OR

Please send my tickets to the following address:

Name

Address

City *Province/Postal Code*

Email Address *Daytime Phone No.*

Please return completed forms to:

Jennifer Owen, Department of Geography, Room 5047
100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON; M5S 3G3
(T) 416-971-2658 (F) 416-978-6729 (E) utaga@geog.utoronto.ca

Planning Bite #13

John Dakin

In this rapidly 'technicizing' and globalizing world almost all decision-making, especially public, becomes ever more complex, and has to be based on the best available factual information. Hunch, seat-of-the-pants and panic won't work.

I'm writing in mid-January '07, after the federal government's crackdown on the income trusts, but before there is much firm about their intentions on climate-change.

Important for planners are the underlying attitudes below the decisions. These suggest major cultural change may be reaching the governmental legislative level.

This shift has been apparent in society at large for some time: a move away from reason toward feeling. What is new is that it is actively and overtly being adopted by government.

Only recently has there appeared in the media a growing reference to this change of attitude. 'Principles are better than regulations' or 'Values are more interesting than policies'. Behind these seductive pronouncements lies the implication that principles and values are more reliable for public decision-making than analysis and facts.

The Canadian federal government appears to have adopted this view in its original repudiation of the Kyoto Protocol. But later it is making a belated attempt to appear green, even mumbling about controlling carbon emissions.

Presumably, political expediency rates as a kind of principle.

If this is indeed a major change in the Western culture, planners will have to ask lots of new questions of their societies and themselves. Very basically: What, and whose principles? What, and whose values?

Because urban and regional planning has been based very considerably on reasoned approaches to both public and private interests, there has been some success in creating livable conditions. As first principle: a balance between public good and private good. Political expediency cannot therefore rate very highly.

In Paris, walk from Place des Vosges, Rue de Rivoli, Tuileries Gardens, Concorde with its cross-axis of the Chambre des Députés and the Madeleine, the Champs Élysées, the Etoile with the Arc de Triomphe, the Avenue de la Grande Armeé and the Bois de Boulogne. Just about every possible public-private mix, except industry, is there. Enjoyment for everybody!

'Principles and Values' alone cannot achieve such results, if only because modern problems and solutions are so complex. We don't have the luxury of reverting to simple answers. The penalty for reversion is likely to be failure of great systems. New Orleans, Argentina?

Forty years ago Roberto Vacca, professor of mathematics and systems engineering, University of Rome, warned of such dangers now lying in wait (*The Coming Dark Age* 1974) He thought the first would be New York- and financial. How are planners to respond to this psycho-cultural shift-if this is indeed what we face when the jump of the politician from 'I know this to be right' to voting the money to put it into effect, could be extremely expensive and damaging to society's financial base?

The problem behind this simplistic reversion implicit in this approach to decision-making is that the role of fact-reason can be grossly neglected. So much so that damaging blows can, quite unintentionally, be delivered to the socio-economic-political wellbeing of large populations.

My personal view is that we can deal with this problem only by realizing that this manifestation of drastic cultural change must have identifiable cause(s), which if uncovered might lead to at least some action to fend off some of the damage. Here I can only offer a hypothesis I have found useful over time. A major idea is that every culture, in its grand sweep of rise, brief apex and decline, will eventually press with increasing heaviness on the individuals and institutions of society. This pressure leads to recognizable behavioral patterns.

For planning, all this is very important because to maintain productivity especially for cities, new urban forms have to be conceived and created. Perhaps the Potsdamer Platz in Berlin is a beginning.

Cool Websites for Geographers & Planners

Fenton Chin, 9T4

1. <http://www.juicygeography.co.uk> - Geography's a really juicy subject to learn and teach. This is a great site for teachers; learn how to inspire enthusiasm among students.
2. <http://www.helmink.com>. Here's a collection of vintage, historical maps.
3. <http://www.mapsofwar.com> - Historically, maps have always been used by the military. It's important to recognize this, and hope to change the use of maps for only peaceful purposes.
4. <http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/woalert.php>. This is a live, real-time map of the disasters occurring in different parts of the world (provides information about such things as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.)
5. <http://healthmap.org>. This site's name is self-explanatory. Like the previous site, it provides important, up-to-date information, but on the topic of disease alerts and health.
6. <http://wikimapia.org>. Recently the internet has seen the growth of many "wikis" (such as the famous Wikipedia online encyclopedia) — interactive sites where users can contribute knowledge or information about any topic — which are almost as prevalent as Google-oriented sites. Here you'll find a world atlas, and major nodes in most countries, available in many languages.
7. <http://www.mappy.com>. This site, also available in various languages, allows surfers to plan their routes for any kind of trip, in any country.
8. <http://www.climatehotmap.org>. Early warnings for global warming. A useful tool for any geographer and environmentalist.
9. <http://www.earthsite.org>. The official site of the original, International Earth Day (which, incidentally, is observed on March 20, 2007)
10. <http://www.worldcitydb.com>. The world city database is great, not just for urban or city planners, but generally, anyone who also likes to surf the web, as it enables visitors to track their cyberlocation (IP address) as well as co-ordinates (latitude and longitude).

New Doctoral Degree in Planning

Susan Ruddick

*Associate Professor and Director of Planning
Department of Geography / Program in Planning*

The Program in Planning at the University of Toronto is excited to announce our new doctoral degree in planning. The program builds on our well-known and highly respected Msc.Pl. in Planning. The doctoral program will prepare our students for a career in teaching and research to meet increasing demands for planners. The skills, techniques and approaches of planners in cities of the West are in growing demand in the industrialized and the developing world. North American Cities confront issues of growth decline, social redistribution and sustainability. Countries in much of the developing world seek planners to help guide the pace and pattern of growth in their cities and towns. The Ph.D. program in Planning will be characterized by a strong commitment to theory, as well as practice, and its conceptual foundations will be reinforced by its close association with Geography. The program is now accepting applications and will begin next fall with a strong cohort of 4-6 doctoral students.

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?

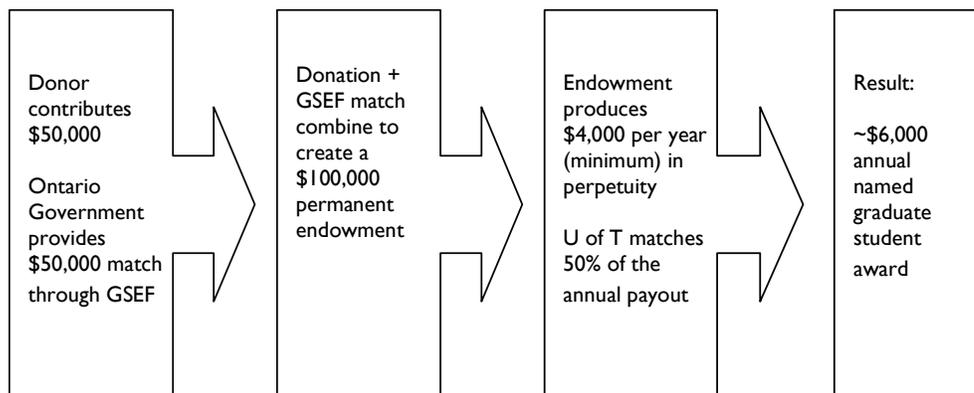
An award may be funded by a single donor or by multiple donors, either in one lump sum payment or over a period of time. Once established an award can be built up through future contributions, which may increase both the value and number of awards that are made to students each year.

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 totaling) \$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*).

Graduate Scholarships Endowment Fund at the University of Toronto

3:1 matching from the Ontario Government and U of T



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

UTAGA AWARDS REFERENCE

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 in any field, in any industry (not necessarily geography) 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. He or she need not be a graduate of the Department or of the University, and can be, or have been, in a career in any field, including, but not limited to professions in business, education, research, politics, self-employment, etc.
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. 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 2007, 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, 2007

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please complete a UTAGA Awards 2007 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.

AWARD PRESENTATION:

*Awards will be presented at the department's annual Awards Night this year scheduled for **November 8, 2007.***

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact Jennifer Owen, UTAGA Special Events Co-ordinator, by e-mail at utaga@geog.utoronto.ca.

UTAGA AWARDS 2007 - NOMINATION FORM

DEADLINE: April 30, 2007

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 selecting committee (you may attach additional explanatory pages, if needed).

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

Complete a separate form for each person nominated. Return the form(s) to: UTAGA Recognition Committee, c/o Department of Geography & Program in Planning, Room 5047, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3; or send your nomination by email to utaga@geog.utoronto.ca. Nominations will be accepted from faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jennifer Owen, UTAGA Special Events Co-ordinator, using the e-mail address above.

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 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 utaga@geog.utoronto

Departmental News

New Appointments



George Arhonditsis joined the UTSC Department of Physical and Environmental Science, and the Graduate Department on August, 2005. George received his university education in Greece, taking an M.Sc and B.Sc from the Agricultural University of Athens prior to earning his Ph.D.

at the University of the Aegean. His doctoral dissertation was on marine eutrophication. His postdoctoral experience includes a fellowship at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Washington and Research Scientist at Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University. George's research has been directed towards studies of aquatic biogeochemical modeling and aquatic ecosystem responses to climatic variability. He also has an interest in plankton ecology and watershed-aquatic ecosystem interactions. George is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at Scarborough in environmental pollution, advanced readings in environmental science, and fundamentals of ecological modeling.



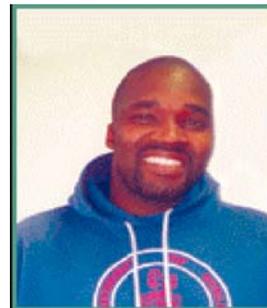
Nathan Basiliko officially joined the UTM Department of Geography and Graduate Department on July 1, 2006. Nathan completed a B.Sc. at Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources and PhD in Geography at McGill University (2005). He was a post-doctoral

fellow at the University of British Columbia in the Department of Forest Science. His research interests and expertise involve the impacts of environmental change on Canadian forests and wetlands, particularly focusing on soil biogeochemistry and microbial ecology. Nathan will be teaching GGR227, Ecosystems and Environmental Change; GGR307 Environmental Soil Science, and GGR406 Advanced Biogeochemistry at UofT-Mississauga in the next year. He hopes to also teach a course on forest ecology and management in the near future.



Mark Hunter joined the UTSC Department of Social Science and the Graduate Department on July 1, 2006. Mark's doctoral dissertation, on the social roots of AIDS in South Africa, involved extensive ethnographic work in a shack settlement and urban 'township' and was

completed at the University of California (Berkeley) in 2005. This was preceded by graduate and undergraduate studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (M.A. 1998) and the University of Sussex, UK (B.A. 1992). Mark's research interests include uneven geographies of health, sexuality, political economy, critical development studies, and ethnographic methods. His Ph.D. thesis, which he is currently revising as a book manuscript, shows how the AIDS pandemic emerged out of not only South Africa's racialized history but rising social inequalities and a changing social geography in the post-apartheid period. Mark is currently teaching undergraduate courses on 'health and sexuality' and 'geographies of disease' at the Scarborough campus. In addition he runs a graduate course on 'political economy, the body and health'.



Thembela Kepe joined the UTSC Department of Social Science and Graduate Department as an assistant professor in July 1, 2006. Thembela received his Ph.D. from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, in 2002. Previously he completed his

M.Sc. at the University of Guelph (1992) and a B.Agric. at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa (1988). For ten years he worked at the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape. Thembela's research is directed towards people-environment interactions, rural livelihoods, rural land use planning, land reform and the politics of local development in southern Africa. Currently he is researching the politics of land claims in southern Africa. Presently Thembela is teaching an undergraduate course in geography and international development studies at UTSC. He also leads a graduate course on political ecology of African environments.



Rachel M. Silvey joined the St. George Department of Geography and the Graduate Department on July 1, 2006. Rachel's graduate work (Ph.D. University of Washington, 1997) in Indonesia led to her doctoral dissertation on gender politics and migration patterns. Her graduate and undergraduate

studies were completed at Washington (M.A. 1993) and the University of California, Santa Cruz (B.A. 1990). Migration, Indonesia, feminist theory, critical development studies and the politics of transnationalism are all areas of ongoing research interest for Rachel, while a recent focus has been on the role of the state in shaping migration policy for contract workers. Presently Rachel is occupied with the teaching of courses on transnationalism, migration and gender, at the undergraduate level and transnationalism, diaspora and gender for graduate students.



Mathew Wells joined the UTSC Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate Department on March 1, 2006, having previously worked with the Geology and Geophysics Department at Yale University and at the Applied Physics Department at Eindhoven

Technical University in the Netherlands. Matthew took his Ph.D. (2001) and his B.Sc. (1996) from the Australian National University. The focus of his research has been environmental fluid dynamics, with particular interest towards how currents in the Great Lakes transport chemicals and biological materials. Matthew has worked on mathematical models of turbulent mixing and dispersion processes in the near shore region of the lakes. In the fall Matthew taught a class on physical oceanography and this year will be instructing classes on physical limnology and environmental fluid dynamics.



Ken MacDonald joined the UTSC Department of Social Science and the Graduate Department in July 2006. Ken completed his graduate work at Waterloo University (Ph.D. 1995), having researched the political ecology of risk in Pakistan's northern mountains. This was preceded by graduate

and undergraduate studies at Wilfrid Laurier University (M.Sc. 1988, B.A. 1984). Ken's current research continues his interest in northern Pakistan, exploring; the cultural politics of conservation; the role of transnationalism and transculturation in the production of cultural identities; and relations between institutional resilience and vulnerability to natural hazards. He is teaching a graduate course in the area of organizational and institutional ecology. Ken is also instructor for undergraduate courses in International Development Studies and the new tri-campus program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies.



Matthew Farish joined the St. George Department of Geography and the Graduate Department on July 1, 2006. He completed both his undergraduate degree and his Ph.D. (2003) at the University of British Columbia. His doctoral dissertation concerned the history of geographical

thought in the USA during the 1940's and 1950's and the impact of the Cold War on the history of geography in that country. Current research interests are urban culture, American studies, environmental history, the cold war, and militarism and geopolitics, with a particular focus on the Arctic and how this area of North America was crucial to setting up a continental defense perimeter. During the most recent semester Matthew has instructed courses at the undergraduate level on the history and philosophy of geography and Canada in a global context and on the historical geography of the Americas. In the fall of 2006, he also taught a course on cultural and historical approaches to the idea of landscape.

GGAPSS Update

The past 18 months have been an exciting time of restructuring and revitalizing the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society. In September of 2005, a new constitution and the first set of bylaws for the Society were approved unanimously by the membership. The majority of changes approved were designed to increase participation and integration of the three graduate student streams: Human, Physical, and Planning. A new executive position was created, the Vice-President Communications, to take over the management of the website, the GGAPSS email account, the events/opportunities digest, and the publication of Terra Firma, the new graduate student newsletter. The Vice-President Social position was expanded to include not only the organization of social events, with a new mandate to encourage cross-stream and faculty interaction, but also to oversee the use and maintenance of graduate student office and lounge facilities; this position was renamed Vice-President Internal. An addition to the President's portfolio has resulted in the organization of the GGAPSS archives in order to more reliably pass along institutional knowledge.

Perhaps as a result of these procedural and administrative changes, GGAPSS has become a remarkably active contributor to departmental life, taking part in discussions and decision-making at many levels. Below is a summary of a few recent arena of GGAPSS activity.

INTERSECTIONS

The graduate student speaker series, formerly called "Subterranean", has grown in both resources and vibrancy over the past couple of years. We currently host approximately two events per month. These events include faculty/student panels on a variety of disciplinary and departmental topics, up-and-coming scholars from the local area, and renowned scholars from across North America and elsewhere. Our most recent panels have focused on the theme "Bridging the Divides", with panellists speaking to the gaps in understanding between Geography and Planning, Human and Physical Geography, and on the subject of Gender. Recent notable speakers have included Mona Damosh, Scott Lamoureux, Jamie Peck, and Matthew Sparke. Attendance at Intersections events has grown consistently, although we will always encourage more participation.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Although a couple of parties and pub nights were always the tradition, GGAPSS has worked recently to build a vibrant social life in the department. The Society feels this encourages a collegial academic environment, and makes every attempt to organize a diverse range of activities. Fridays usually find many graduate students at Rower's Pub, discussing recent Intersections events, sharing stories about research, and playing futsal. We host an annual Halloween party with prizes for best costume, an end-of-year party, an ice skating event, regular coffee hours, and will inaugurate the first trivia night in March. We also organize all the orientation events for new students in September. Last year saw the first faculty-student soccer tournament, which was a tremendous success. Graduate student participation in these events is always strong, and continues to increase as bonds between the different streams grow stronger.

Overall, GGAPSS has been guided by a commitment to graduate students in all streams and by a dedication to facilitating the development of a collegial departmental community. And this remains our goal.

For more information on the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society, please see our website, at <http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/grads>. We can be contacted at ggapss@yahoo.ca.

Current GGAPSS officers:

President – Amy Siciliano
VP-Academic – Claire Oswald
VP-Finance – Jennifer Forkes
VP-Communications – Paul Jackson
VP-Internal – Terris Lutter

Human Geography Representative – Patrick Vitale
Physical Geography Representative – Lisa Melymuk
Environmental Geography Representative – Tom Young
1st Year Planning Representative – Gudrin Bildfell
2nd Year Planning Representative – Jordan Harrison

CUPE Stewards – Lisa Freeman, Mia Hunt, Jim Delaney
GSU Representatives – Kate Geddie, Angela Loder
UTAGA Representative – Robert Ramsay
PAC Representative – Keith Potter
Computer Committee Representatives – Emily Eaton, Andrey Petrov

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 including your graduating year.

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

Thank you!

Congratulations

Congratulations to *Joseph Guzzi* 9T3, *Jennifer Lass* 9T8 and *Joan Winearls* on receiving the 2006 Arbor Award. The Arbor Award was established in 1989 to recognize alumni volunteers for outstanding personal service to the University over a number of years. The awards ceremony took place in September at the president's official residence.

Congratulations to *Tom Young* 0T3 for winning the Dean's Graduate Essay Prize. Tom was nominated by the Department of Geography for his essay "Democracy or Expertise? Objectivity as an elusive ideal in resolution of land use disputes". The Dean's essay prize was established in 2004 to encourage and publicly recognize excellence in writing and critical thinking. Tom receives a prize of \$1,000 and his essay will be published in the spring 2007 issue of *idea&s: the arts & science review*.

Congratulations to *Professor Lino Grima* 7T0. At the 2006 Annual Banquet of the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) in Toronto, Lino Grima received an award "in recognition of his long and dedicated work" as Chair of the CWRA Scholarships Award Committee. Lino is a retired faculty member and an alumnus (MA 1968, Ph.D. 1970) of the Department of Geography.

Congratulations to *Dr. Damian Dupuy* on his new position as Manager, Knowledge Transfer Initiatives and Co-ordinator, Partnerships, Planning, and Administration here at U of T.

Congratulations to *Professor Alana Boland* on receiving an Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award. Students, staff and faculty colleagues wrote in support of Alana's nomination recognizing her great accomplishments in and outside the classroom. There are more than 800 faculty who teach in Arts and Science so this is an outstanding honour.

Congratulations to *Professor Emily Gilbert* on the appointment as the next Director of Canadian Studies effective July 1, 2008.

Congratulations to *June Bradley (Gardner) Strachan* 5T2, on her marriage to Bud Strachan in Niagara Falls on October 28th, 2006.

Regrets

Dagnija Strautnieks class of 1963 passed away September 30th, 2006 in Fairview Park Ohio, USA

Beryl Bird, a former member of the teaching staff in Geography, died last year in her early eighties. Beryl joined the faculty of University of Toronto as a lecturer in 1948. She and her husband, Brian, left Toronto in the early 1950's for Montreal where Brian joined the teaching staff in Geography at McGill.

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
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Memory Lane



Can you recognize the people in this picture?

Hint: The photo was taken on a field trip around

"Golden Lake" in 1951

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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