



# GEOPLAN

A newsletter for alumni and friends

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

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## WHEN IT ALL CAME TOGETHER: MY OLYMPIC MOMENT IN TIME

BY MARTYN FORDE, BA 2008

My pulse raced as the plane's wheels touched down at Beijing Capital International Airport. The Olympic Games—the apogee of my swimming career to date. It was an honour for me to represent my country Barbados, my family, and my alma mater, the University of Toronto, in the XXIX Olympiad this past summer. I had read many accounts by Olympians of their journeys to this prestigious show. It was indeed a show; an amazing display of culture, sport, and politics. The one absolute truth about the Games is that the experiences are unique to the participants and the spectators alike.

My undergraduate years in the geography program contributed significantly to the depth of my experience in China. Much to the annoyance of my swimming teammates, the Games became an opportunity to provide trivia about the geography of China and climate change. The fear of poor air quality and its possible effect on my performance was of paramount concern to me during the months leading up to the Games. When I qualified in

May, I checked the internet religiously every day to monitor the air quality in the Chinese capital. The world was watching, and so was I. Fortunately, everything fell into place for this spe-

cial moment. This was my Olympic debut and I was finally able to walk amongst the best in the world. The stars past and present from all different sports passed me every day in the village. I was able to meet the superstars of the games: Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt. It was surprising how relaxed the atmosphere was amongst these top athletes. In the cafeteria everyone interacted, joked and took photographs, despite rank or national-

ity, displaying the real essence of the Olympic spirit. Unexpectedly, the topic of most conversations amongst the top athletes, some of which I emulated growing up was: “How hard are we going to party when this is over?” I digress. It was on certain occasions when superstars like Swiss tennis player Roger Federer or Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho entered the cafeteria that you saw Olympians swarm Olympians to take photos.

It was my first time to Asia and the presentation of Chinese culture added an atmosphere of majesty to the Games. The opening ceremony was the most memorable (⇒ 7)



Martyn Forde (far left) walking in at the opening ceremonies.

## RODNEY WHITE RETIRES: DINNER CELEBRATES FORMER IES DIRECTOR & CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT CO-FOUNDER

INGRID LEMAN STEFANOVIC

Kin Hubbard, a nineteenth-century American humorist once wrote: "When some fellows decide to retire, nobody knows the difference." When **Professor Rodney White** chose to retire, there was a seismic upheaval in the environmental world at the University of Toronto!

Having led the former Institute for Environmental Stud-

whom we hold in the highest regard both for his administrative accomplishments at the university also for his academic wisdom, his teaching acumen and his collegial spirit.

Rodney studied geography at Oxford University receiving his B.A. in 1965. A Fulbright Travel Scholarship brought him to Penn State, where he

He has undertaken numerous international research assignments, from Senegal to Nigeria to Ghana, and to China. Most of his career has been spent in infrastructure planning, both in rural as well as more recently, in urban areas. Some of his most important publications include his book, entitled Building the Ecological City and more recently, his won-



Prof. Rodney White (centre) is presented with a gift by Prof. Virginia Maclaren (left) and Prof. Ingrid Stefanovic (right, Director of the Centre for Environment).

ies (IES) for more than ten years until 2005, Rodney worked with me and **Dr. Doug Macdonald** as one of the three founders of the Centre for Environment. We all know him as a leader with a heart: always clear-headed, focused, attentive, brilliant and caring. To so many of us, he has been and continues to be a friend, one

completed his M.Sc. in 1967 and in 1971, he received his Ph.D. from Bristol University. His teaching career has taken him to Northwestern University, the University of Ibadan, to McMaster University and finally, since 1974, the Department of Geography and the former IES at the University of Toronto.

derful books written in collaboration with **Dr. Sonia Labatt**: Environmental Finance: A Guide to Environmental Risk Assessment, and Financial Products and Carbon Finance: The Financial Implications of Climate Change.

Rodney has forged new areas of research, (⇒ 3)

“ To so many of us, he has been and continues to be a friend, one whom we hold in the highest regard both for his administrative accomplishments at the university and also for his academic wisdom, his teaching acumen and his collegial spirit. ”

## ...RODNEY WHITE RETIRES *contd.*

both in terms of the urban/environment interface but also in terms of defining and refining a field of study that brings together issues of investment finance and sustainability. And he has done so all during the period of time when he also held an administrative post of Director of IES. In this respect again, those of us who know the challenges of balancing these multiple responsibilities can only be in awe of Rodney's accomplishments.

At a dinner on May 8, 2008 at the U of T Faculty Club, Rodney's accomplishments were celebrated by **Professor Virginia Maclaren**, Chair of the Department of Geography, as well as Dr. Sonia Labatt, Rodney's co-author and colleague. As Director of

the Centre, I was also pleased to have the opportunity of lauding Rodney's achievements. Someone once pointed out the irony of the typical presentation of a watch as a retirement gift at a point in life when schedules and time are no longer such a matter of urgency! Avoiding the watch, we chose instead to honour Rodney with a historical map of Toronto and an album where friends and colleagues each took the time to insert comments and words of respect and gratitude.

As Rodney formally leaves the university, we know that he has retired from teaching but we also know that he will continue to be a strong force in the intellectual world of

environment, urban sustainability and financial research and thinking. Author Hartman Jule has said that "retirement has been a discovery of beauty for me. I never had the time before to notice the beauty of my grandkids, my wife, the tree outside my very own front door. And the beauty of time itself." May Rodney now enjoy these moments – but may he also continue to keep in touch with us here at the University of Toronto, where he will continue to be held in highest possible regard.

**Ingrid Stefanovic is Director of the Centre for Environ-**  
**ment.**

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE DR. VIRGINIA MACLAREN

Welcome to the fall edition of GeoPlan. This is the first GeoPlan to be made available in an electronic version only and we welcome your feedback on the new format. We will be mailing out a paper version of the Spring GeoPlan in March, in addition to posting an electronic version.

These past several months have been a time of transition in the department. We are very sad to report the passing of **Don Kerr**, former Chair of the Department (1968-1973) and President of the Canadian Association of Geographers (1960) (see article on p.11). Don was a regular visitor to the department until the last few months of his life and an active participant in UTAGA.

In June, we held a joint retirement party for **Donna Jeynes** and **Rodney White**. Donna was a wonderful, welcoming

presence in the front office from 1990 to 2008 (see article on p.10) and she will be sorely missed. Rodney retires after 34 years at the University of Toronto, ten of them as Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of environmental leadership at the university (see article on p.2).



Professor Don Kerr

After Donna's departure, **Stephanie Steele** kindly stepped temporarily into the receptionist role and did a wonderful job. She leaves in December to continue her undergraduate studies full-time. Another departure is Cartography department member Justin Ngan, who is taking up a new job in Fort McMurray. **Jennifer Owen**, part-time events coordinator and GeoPlan editor, is also leaving after two years in the department. Jennifer has really had her hands full in that time organizing a growing number of UTAGA, PAC, Geography and Planning events. Jennifer started her Master's degree in Environmental Science at Scarborough on a part-time basis in September and will continue with the program in January. Good luck to Stephanie, Justin and Jennifer in your studies and future careers!

**The 14th Annual Awards Presentation for the University of Toronto Department of Geography and Program in Planning were held at Alumni Hall, Victoria College Thursday, Nov. 6th, 2008 For Award Winners Names and pictures of the event please see the next issue of GeoPlan.**

## PAC ENJOYS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

CORWIN CAMBRAY, 9T9

This article's title captures the 2007-2008 academic year for the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC).

PAC started the year after bidding a fond farewell to Joe Guzzi and Loretta Ryan – two long-serving members who have made outstanding alumni contributions. Both Joe and Loretta continue to champion the Program and provide advisory support to PAC when called upon. PAC was fortunate to recruit nine new alumni members to its rank. Bringing high energy and a “can do” attitude, the rookies wasted no time in making valuable contributions to the committee's work. PAC also welcomed Katharine Rankin as the new Director of the Planning Program. Please see the sidebar for a list of the 2007-2008 PAC Members.

PAC's 2007-2008 work program focused on enriching the student experience. The first step was attending student orientation in September to provide a PAC welcome and overview to the incoming class. PAC then requested GGAPSS, the geography and planning student body, to elect a second student representative to enhance student representation on PAC and provide the potential for continuity should the first year representative seek re-election in their second year. GGAPSS agreed to the request and Melissa Harris was elected as the first-year student representative joining Michael Noble, the second-year student representative, on PAC.

Next PAC adopted two new initiatives - the Internship Experience and Mentoring – as key pieces of its work

program. An overview of each initiative is provided below along with highlights of other work related to enriching the student experience.

### Internship Experience

As you may know, graduate planning students are expected to enhance their professional planning expertise by undertaking a summer internship upon the completion of the first year of study. To improve the resources available to first year students searching for an internship placement, PAC struck an internship sub-committee to prepare an Internship Resource Guide and an Internship Database. These materials identify firms that hire summer interns along with key contact information and testimonials from past summer interns. The database, available to students on a password-protected web site, will be updated regularly. If you know of a firm that offers summer internships in a planning or related field, please contact us at [ut-aga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:ut-aga@geog.utoronto.ca)

PAC also assisted with an Internship Evening on November 20. A panel of second year students shared their internship experiences with 20 first-year students, and representatives from the University's career centre were on hand to provide general career advice.

A special thanks to internship sub-committee members Jeff Cantos, Michael Noble, Melissa Harris, Katharine Rankin, and particularly, Leigh Snyder for her work on the Internship Experience initiative.

### Mentoring

PAC also participated in UT-AGA's pilot mentoring program pairing graduate planning students with planning alumni. The pilot program was a great success matching 27 planning student mentees with 18 mentors. Mentoring provides a great opportunity for students to explore their areas of interest and obtain some career guidance. Mentoring is also a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the Program and the Department. If you are interested in learning more about the Mentoring Program, please contact us at [ut-aga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:ut-aga@geog.utoronto.ca)

### The Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop

Twenty-five students attended PAC's career workshop on November 14 where a panel of recent graduates discussed their Program experience, career choices and how to find exciting planning opportunities. The workshop's interactive format encouraged an informal dialogue between panelists and students throughout the evening. The participation of recent planning alumni also helped to demonstrate the diversity of careers available to graduates. Special thanks to our 2007 panelists: David O'Hara (Fort York, City of Toronto), Eileen Costello (Aird & Berlis LLP), Tom Janzen (The Planning Partnership), Abigail Moriah (Community Development Consultant) and Annelly Zonena (Toronto Community Housing Corporation).

### Student Activities

Over the past year PAC's Friends of Planning Fund supported a range of planning activities (⇒ 5)

## 2007-2008 PLANNING ALUMNI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Corwin Cambray, Chair

Jeffrey Cantos, Vice Chair

Katharine N. Rankin,  
Director, Program in  
Planning

Carly Bowman

Eileen Costello

Andrew Dales

Renée Gomes

Melissa Harris, Student  
Rep.

Jordan Erasmus

Tom Janzen

Susan Mintz

Abigail Moriah

Mimi Ng

Michael Noble, Student  
Rep.

Lee Owens

Kate Parizeau

Vivienne Skoberne

Leigh Snyder

Angela Stea

Melissa Tapper

Christian Ventresca

Annelly Zonena

...ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE *contd.*

including student attendance at planning conferences, the second-year trip to Portland, Oregon, the planning exchange to Indonesia, workshop materials, presentation luncheons and scholarship development.

**Spring Social**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social was a resounding success. PAC carried out a number of student-focused initiatives at the event. Read more in the

Spring Social article in this issue of GeoPlan.

Overall, PAC succeeded in delivering its 2007-2008 work program to enrich the student experience. First and second year students benefited from a range of activities aimed at broadening their planning knowledge and providing them with tools for their future planning successes.

**What's Next?**

A new year is underway! PAC continues to implement its mandate to encourage networking among planning students, alumni, faculty and other planning industry professionals, and to raise money for the Friends of Planning Fund. Alumni interested in working with PAC should contact at [utaga@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:utaga@geog.utoronto.ca) or 416-971-2658 or by visiting [www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac](http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac)

**THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PLANNING SPRING SOCIAL: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!**

CORWIN CAMBRAY, 9T9

The Planning Alumni Committee held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 10. This year's event was biggest yet, attracting over 330 professionals from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, and raising over \$20,000 for the Friends of Planning Fund.

Rob Maclsaac, chair of Metrolinx, was the Spring Social's featured speaker. In his keynote address - *A New Era for Mobility in the GTHA* - Maclsaac highlighted the transportation challenges facing the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton, and discussed

Metrolinx's work in developing a Regional Transportation Plan. Over the last year Metrolinx has released a series of white and green papers on transportation topics ranging from sustain-

ability to funding, and implemented an innovative consultation program to engage the public and stakeholders on its work. Maclsaac shared some ideas on how a new era of mobility might be achieved

reaching significance of the Metrolinx mandate and its current work towards the Regional Transportation Plan, Maclsaac's talk resonated with the Spring Social audiences. To learn more



Rob Maclsaac speaking at the 2008 Spring Social

in the region. One possibility he sees is transforming GO Transit stations from transit nodes to mixed use mobility hubs that provide a range of uses and services, such as day care. Given the wide-

about Metrolinx, please visit: [www.metrolinx.com](http://www.metrolinx.com)

*Student Focus at Spring Social*

Over the years the Spring Social has become a (⇒ 6)

**THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL ATTRACTED A RECORD 34 CORPORATE SPONSORS**

**Platinum Sponsors** - Aird & Berlis LLP, BA Group Transportation Consultants, Bousfields, Cassels Brock Lawyers, Concord City-place, Cresford Developments, Davies Howe Partners, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, HEMSON Consulting, Lea Consulting, Malone Given Parsons, Menkes Developments, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, SmartCentres, Stikeman Elliott LLP, Urban Strategies, Walker, Nott, Dragicevic Associates, and Wittington Properties.

...SPRING SOCIAL contd.



Gary Wright (Left), Paul Bedford (Centre) and David Butler (Right)

“must attend” on alumni and industry professionals’ social calendar. The event also provides students with networking opportunities within the larger planning community, which may translate into employment prospects. To help students make the most of the Spring Social, PAC carried out a number of student-focused initiatives at this year’s event.

For the first time graduate planning students were exempt from purchasing a student ticket. This initiative helped to attract over 50 students to the event. PAC also worked with the Program to have students prepare posterboards as part of their second-year workshop. These posterboards were displayed throughout the Great Hall at Hart House helping to showcase the professional work of our talented students. In addition, the Spring Social program contained student information including a link to on-line student profiles, and resume packages produced by students were distributed at the end of the evening.

After a successful pilot at the

2007 event, PAC ran its pairing exercise matching planning students with professionals. This year 32 students were paired with 29 professionals from planning and related professions. Students appreciated having someone to help them “work the room” and develop their professional networks.

Students were also hired to provide musical entertainment. The jazz trio of Mark

throughout the evening. All three are students studying in the Bachelor of Jazz Performance Program in the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto.

The success of the Spring Social would not be possible without our volunteers. Planning alumni, staff, faculty and student volunteers contribute a lot of time and energy to help to promote and run this event. Special thanks to Jennifer Owen and Donna Jaynes for their wonderful work. Corporate support is also a key component. Our 2008 platinum, gold and silver corporate sponsors are listed in the sidebar. These firms’ support of the Spring Social is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to NRU Publishing Inc., the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute for their generous promotional support.

The Planning Alumni Com-



Professional planners and students enjoy the evening

Godfrey (bass), Phil Parry (saxophone) and Tyson Kerr (piano) filled the Great Hall with their wonderful music

mittee looks forward to seeing you at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social next year.

**corporate Sponsors cont.**

**Gold Sponsors** - The Daniels Corporation, Dillon Consulting Limited, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Goodmans LLP, IBI Group, MHBC Planning Ltd., MMM Group Limited, and Ontario Realty Corporation

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## PLANNING ALUMNI WANTED

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 through donations.

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

To join PAC please contact

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

## ...MY OLYMPIC MOMENT IN TIME *contd.*

experience! The teams waited in the athletes' tunnel of the marvellously designed Birdsnest stadium, oblivious to the amazing spectacle that was taking centre stage. As we marched closer and closer to the opening of the tunnel, the anticipation grew. We could hear explosions from fireworks and the loud rumble of the crowd in response. My heart raced and my palms became clammy. Any glimpse of the excitement we could steal from over the heads of the teams preceding ours, was indistinguishable.

Three of my life-long friends and fellow swimmers were with me: Bradley Ally, Andrei Cross and Terrence Haynes. We had grown up watching each other develop to this point. Bradley carried the flag and the rest of us aligned ourselves behind him. As they announced Barbados to step forward I turned to my roommate Terrence (a graduate of the Engineering Program at the University of Toronto) and shouted "We made it!" Stepping onto the track, our entire national team of eight athletes paused and looked at the sea of people in awe. Never had I heard or seen such a multitude in one place. The cheering was deafening and the flashes of light from cameras sparked erratically throughout the crowd. The acrobatic performances and the precision of the ceremony were unpar-

alleled, somewhat uncanny.

As I walked around the circle waving to the crowd, amidst all the different national colours, I spotted spectators waving the Barbadian flag. It was indeed a proud

passed away in January; I was an Olympian. Despite taking twenty-three years to swim a race that lasted twenty-three seconds, fulfilling that promise was undeniably the greatest experi-



Beijing 2008™



moment. The reality of it was made most personal as I called my grandfather from the ceremony. He witnessed me keep my last promise to my grandmother before she

ence in my lifetime. Finally, as clichéd as it sounds, it all came together to my moment in time.



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## PALEOCLIMATE RECONSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MELVILLE PENINSULA, FIELD SEASON JUNE 2008

JENNIFER ADAMS, MSc CANDIDATE

Over the past millennium, the Canadian Arctic has experienced climatic shifts, creating environments that may be conducive to biogeographic change and to the migration of human populations. Ancestors of

significance.

During June 2008, my supervisor, Dr. Sarah Finkelstein, and I left Toronto, bound for the Melville Peninsula, Nunavut to conduct the highly anticipated field work component associated

with our paleoclimate project. We arrived in Hall Beach on June 5<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled. We would spend the next few days in Hall Beach, anxiously awaiting our departure for Sarcpa Lake, where the long-term sediment samples would be collected. After a one-day delay in Hall Beach (due to the great uncertainty and tumultuousness of Hall Beach weather) Sarah and I, along with our colleague from the University of Ottawa, Dr. Konrad Gajewski, boarded the Twin Otter in Hall Beach, and would be taken 100 km inland. We soon arrived at Sarcpa Lake, anxious to begin our paleoclimate study of the area. Over the next 12 days, we faced the greatest diversity of weather the Melville Peninsula has to offer, including fog, snow, gusting winds up to 30 knots, warm weather, and sunny days. Due to our good fortune, we were able to visit 3 lakes in those 12 days and successfully obtain many sediment cores including long cores up to 127 cm in length and shorter contemporary cores, water samples, and algae samples, all of which will be analyzed for diatoms over the (⇒ 10)



Jennifer Adams scraping a rock to collect modern diatoms from a lake.

modern day Inuit, the Thule, originated in Northern Alaska and began migrating eastward across the Canadian Arctic about 800-1000 years ago. The study of paleoclimates from the Melville Peninsula is critical to complete the picture of climate variability throughout the past millennium, and to address the possible link between changing climate patterns and the migration path of the Thule. As part of a large interdisciplinary International Polar Year project, our research group is using lake sediments and microscopic fossils including diatoms (microscopic algae) and pollen to provide paleoclimate reconstructions from this region of archaeological



Konrad Gajewski (L.) (From U. of Ottawa) and Sarah Finkelstein (R.) measuring the length of a lake sediment core

“ During June 2008, (we) left Toronto, bound for the Melville Peninsula, Nunavut to conduct the highly anticipated field work component associated with our paleoclimate project. ”

**...PALEOCLIMATE *contd.***

coming months. Just when we were becoming quite fond of our new home at Sarcpa Lake, the Twin Otter arrived to bring us back to Hall Beach. Here we would be joined by a lab mate from Toronto, John-Paul Iamonaco (MSc candidate), and we would spend the remainder of our time collecting more water and algae samples from the shallow ponds just north of the community. We would also enlist the help of a member

of the community, Joseph Piallaq, who worked diligently as our bear monitor. I now have time to reflect on all that was accomplished during the successful field season and to contemplate all that will be accomplished in the coming months. The sediment cores, water samples, and algae collection from both the Sarcpa Lake and Hall Beach areas will provide a clear and complete picture of environmental conditions and

chance over at least the past 1-2 millennia on the Melville Peninsula. Our findings will aid in testing the archaeological hypothesis that the Thule migrated across the Canadian Arctic due to changes in climate over the past millennium. Our study will also help to complete the overall record of Arctic climate change during the Holocene, as the Melville Peninsula has historically been absent from any such studies.

**DONNE JEYNES RETIREMENT**

BY PROF. TONY DAVIS AND PROF. JOE DESLOGES

This past June a long-serving member of our staff retired. To many of you Donna Jeynes may have been the person you first met at the front desk. The front desk is the front line in the office. It was here that Donna met and greeted, directed and organized, defused crises and healed wounds. She juggled many chores and yet retained her buoyancy throughout. She cared about the people she met and dealt with, creating the friendliest front office in the faculty.

Since she started with the department in 1990, Donna has interacted with faculty and staff across three campuses, our retired staff and faculty, the 300+ undergraduate and graduate students who complete our programs each year, and thousands of alumni prior to 1990. It is nothing short of phenomenal that Donna knew most by name and when anyone visited they would be greeted with warmth and interest.

In 2001, Carl Amrhein, Dean of Arts and Science presented Donna with his first Special Service Award.



Donna Jeynes (left) and Prof. Virginia Maclaren (right)

The citation described Donna as an unfailingly good-natured, helpful, enthusiastic, efficient and dedicated member of Geography; one who takes a genuine interest in the students, faculty and staff that make up the department. She has a knack for making

everyone feel special.

We thank Donna for all her contributions over so many years. We will miss her good cheer, her infectious enthusiasm and her dedication to the success of the department. We wish Donna and her family all the best in retirement.

## NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Dr. Chuck Hostovsky, MCIP, RPP has been hired by the MMM Group's Planning and Environmental Design Department to work part-time on the Cities of Mississauga/Brampton Hurontario/Main Street Higher Order Transit Study. Chuck is managing the Environmental Assessment process, assisting with land use planning and facilitating the public consultation program. For more information go to [www.hurontario-main.ca](http://www.hurontario-main.ca).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Professor Emeritus Larry Bourne FRSC, who received an Honorary Degree from the Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick at Fall Convocation on Friday, October 24th in Saint John. This is be Larry's second honorary degree. His first was an honorary Doctorate of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, awarded in 1999.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Professor Meric Gertler as he has been appointed Dean

of the Faculty of Arts and Science. He will assume his new position 1 December 2008, for a term ending 30 June 2014.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Matti Siemiatycki, winner of the Institute for Public Policy Research's competition, Britain's Got Brains. The aim of the competition was to find the best policy idea from an early career academic. Matti fought off tough competition to identify the most pressing problem facing Britain today – his OHpolicy proposal is to introduce performance benchmarking to reduce the frequency of cost overruns on large public infrastructure projects.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Joe Desloges, on his installation as principal of Woodsworth College. He was formally installed on 15 October at a ceremony in Hart House's Great Hall attended by students, colleagues, family, University of Toronto and Woodsworth academic and administrative leaders.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to MSc student Tracie Greenberg and Prof. Harvey Shear, who have received the Distinguished Participant Diploma as part of the 2008 Hromadka Award at the International Water Pollution Conference in Alicante, Spain. The award, for their paper Preliminary Analysis of Water Pollution in a Small Lake in Western Mexico, was made in "recognition of an outstanding scientific contribution."

**CONGRATULATIONS** to PhD candidate Jim Delaney, awarded the Kari Polyani Levitt Prize by the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development for best graduate student essay. Jim's work will be published in the Canadian Journal of Development Studies.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to David Roberts, a PhD student in the department, has won the prestigious Joao Havelange Research Scholarship that was created to promote soccer-related scientific research.

## WITH REGRET...

**'Remembering Don Kerr'**  
By Virginia Maclaren, Graham Heron and Jenny Lass

On the evening of Monday 11 August, 2008 Donald P. Kerr passed away peacefully after being ill for some time. He was a member of the Department of Geography for 62 years, as graduate student, faculty member, and professor emeritus, and he served as chair for the Department between 1967 and 1973. He is predeceased by his wife Ruth. Donald Kerr was born in 1920 in Toronto and with

his family moved to Vancouver in 1937. He completed a BA in geography at the University of British Columbia in 1941 and an MA, supervised by Griffith Taylor, at the University of Toronto in 1943. After brief and intensive training in meteorology in Toronto in 1943, Don Kerr spent the remaining war years as meteorological officer attached to the Royal Canadian Air Force in various locations on the west coast of British Columbia. In 1946, Griffith Taylor invited Don Kerr to become a lecturer at the Department of

Geography at the University of Toronto. While teaching courses in climatology, Don Kerr also worked on a PhD under Taylor's supervision. He received his PhD in 1950 with a thesis on the Regional Climatology of British Columbia and he became a regular faculty member from 1951 onwards.

During the 1950s Don Kerr developed his interest in urban and economic geography with a strong emphasis on the economic history of Toronto and the industrial geography of the (⇒ 12)

## NETWORK ON THE UTAGA EXECUTIVE

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...WITH REGRET *contd.*

Toronto region. These interests were further extended in his pioneering efforts to develop "metropolitan studies" in Canada. His article on "Some Aspects of the Geography of Finance in Canada," published in 1965, and his book chapter on "Metropolitan Dominance in Canada," published in 1967, became landmarks in Canadian and international urban geography. In the 1970s, Don Kerr increasingly emphasized the historical dimension of metropolitan studies. He contributed a key chapter in several of the Heartland and Hinterland editions on "The Emergence of the Industrial Heartland 1750- 1950" and he published several other articles on the long term economic trajectories of Canadian metropolitan areas. In the 1980s, including five years after his retirement in 1985, Don Kerr was a key member of the Historical Atlas of Canada team. He served as member of the executive committee, was senior editor of Volume III, and was a major contributor to sections and plates of the atlas.

As Chair of the Geography Department of the University of Toronto between 1968 and 1973, Don Kerr presided over a major expansion of the Department, especially the graduate program. He was an early and continuously active member of the Canadian Association of Geographers, including a term as president in 1960. He also served on many university, Canadian, and international committees. The CAG honoured him with an Award for the Service to the Profession of Geography in 1992. He received the Gold medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 1993 and became a Fellow of the Royal

Canadian Geographical Society in 1995.

Don Kerr was a generous mentor to many graduate students, research assistants and young faculty who took an interest in Canadian economy and society. He will be remembered for his skill in mediation and as a peacemaker in conflicts. His devotion to Canadian geography in general and the well-being of his department never waned. Just recently, he was working with others to help prepare a history of the department and until a few years ago was a regular visitor to his office on the fifth floor of Sidney Smith Hall. He took part in "historical-cultural" evening seminars ten and more years after his retirement and was a constant and actively engaged supporter of the University of Toronto Geography Alumni Association.

But there was another side of Don. He loved music and took up ballroom dancing after his wife Ruth died. He signed up for lessons at a local dance studio and mastered a range of dance moves in many different dances (waltz, foxtrot, tango, cha-cha, rumba, samba to name but a few). Don had the energy, both mental and physical, to dance all night with ladies of all ages, literally from 18 to 80. He had such a grace of character that all were happy to spend time in his arms. Don was also a friend to all the men he met as well. Don attended dance nights once or twice a week at all sorts of venues, from ballrooms (Famee Furlane and Westway) to restaurants with dance floors. Don let almost nothing stop him from getting onto the dance floor as soon as possible, dance shoes on and a willing partner in his hands. He

enjoyed the waltz and rumba, but his specialty was the "geriatric cha cha," which he expertly led at half-speed. Those who danced with Don will never forget his warm smile, incredible spirit, enthusiasm, positive attitude and vibrancy. Don will be remembered for the twinkle in his eyes and in his toes.

#### 'Remembering Denis E. Cosgrove'

By Gunter Gad with contributions by Jim Lemon and Joe Berridge

Our former Master's student and one of the world's most accomplished cultural geographer Denis Cosgrove died of cancer on 21 March 2008 in Los Angeles. He was 59 years old.

Denis Cosgrove's lengthy career was built on a Bachelors degree from Oxford University, a Master's in Geography from the University of Toronto and a PhD in Geography from Oxford. His first teaching/research position was at Oxford Polytechnic. In the 1980s and 90s he was teaching and writing at Loughborough University (UK) and Royal Holloway of the University of London. In 1999 he became the inaugural Alexander von Humboldt Chair of Geography at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Denis Cosgrove enjoyed a stimulating year in Toronto as a Master's student in 1969-70. He took several graduate courses, especially with Jim Lemon and Cole Harris. Jim Lemon remembers that on his behest one session in a graduate class with Denis as participant involved joining a protest at the Ontario legislature against the Spadina expressway. Denis Cosgrove's Master's thesis, (⇒ 13)

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**The UTAGA OFFICE  
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...WITH REGRET *contd.*

supervised by Cole Harris and Jim Lemon, documented and interpreted Toronto's wholesale district of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although never published, this piece of research became important in two ways. With its focus on architecture and urban landscape and the relationship of landscape and economic change, it became a stepping stone for Denis Cosgrove's PhD research program. His Master's thesis also was important in stimulating research on the intertwining of wholesale trade and financial and other services, which gave rise to Toronto's "financial district."

In his PhD thesis Denis Cosgrove developed the theme of economic change and landscape further with a study of the Venetian "terra ferma," especially the town of Vicenza. He saw the emergence of a Palladian landscape in the context of the "social formation," the class structure of the Venetian state. Later work focused on the representation of landscape in art and other visual media, including cartography. He published and edited or co-edited 11 books and wrote 80 articles. Some of the remarkable titles are Social Formation and Sym-

bolic Landscape (1984), The Iconography of Landscape (1988, co-edited with Stephen Daniels) and Apollo's Eye: A Cartographic Genealogy of the Earth in Western Imagination (2001).

Denis Cosgrove maintained close contact with friends and colleagues in Toronto and reinforced these in 1977-78, when he spent a year exchanging jobs with Gunter Gad. He taught undergraduate courses at the Erindale Campus and a graduate course at St. George. At Erindale he also supervised the BA thesis research of several students interested in the historical geography of banking in Toronto and in the histories of office architecture. In typical Oxford Polytechnic fashion, he urged some students to present their research findings in the form of "urban trails."

Denis leaves many friends in Toronto and other places in Canada. He kept in touch and on occasion Torontonians visited him in Oxford, sometimes on their sabbaticals. Jim Lemon remembers getting introduced to the Oxford University colleges and the pints of beer, joining him at Labour Party meetings, or pottering with him in

his allotment garden. He will be especially remembered by the Lemon, Berridge, Andrews and Gad families of Toronto and by Bob Hatfield (who was one of Denis' fellow graduate students) and Bob's family in Ottawa.

A delightful and engaging man, Denis held friendships across the world both inside and outside geography. He loved to cook and eat and talk. Fluently multi-lingual he travelled broadly, excitedly exploring the logic behind landscapes as diverse as the Italian Veneto and suburban Los Angeles. A memorial held in this summer, fittingly at the Royal Geographical society in London, drew large, diverse and international attendance. He leaves his children, Emily, Isla and Leo, and his wife Carmen.

The web-site of the UCLA Geography Department provides a detailed account of Denis Cosgrove's career and it also provides access to what many other friends and colleagues wrote about Denis Cosgrove. ([www.geog.ucla.edu/cosgrove.php](http://www.geog.ucla.edu/cosgrove.php))

## WELCOME!

**Matti Siemiatycki** joined the St. George's Department of Geography and the graduate department on July 1, 2008. He completed his PhD (2006) at the University of British Columbia, MSc. at Oxford University (2003) and BA at Ryerson University (2002). Between 2006 and 2008 he worked as a research fellow at the University of Glasgow. Matti's doctoral dissertation traced the history



of planning, financing and delivering large trans-

portation infrastructure projects in Vancouver, from the founding of the city in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the present. Current research interests are transportation planning, infrastructure finance and delivery and urban politics and governance. In the 2008-2009 academic year, he will be teaching courses on transportation and decision methods in urban planning.

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[alli@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:alli@geog.utoronto.ca)

## GEOPLAN

is 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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Editors: Jennifer Owen and Siri Hansen

Photos from Spring Social  
Greg Tjepkema

**Please Note:**

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