The Department of Geography at the University of Toronto was founded in 1935 and the academic year 2010-11 was therefore our 75th anniversary. We had an excellent celebration, packed with events. It started early in September with a display at Robarts Library of more than 100 books authored by geography faculty and alumni. The display was seen by thousands of visitors to the library between September and October. We also put on a special departmental speakers series with the theme of “Intersections” between human and physical geography and between geographers and the community. Twenty-two guest speakers participated and we held special panel sessions on the Tar Sands, Climate Change, the Aboriginal City, and Women and Factory Work in China.

The biggest event of the year was a full weekend of activities in mid-September. The weekend began early on Thursday, September 16th, when the Planning Alumni Committee hosted its first Fall Planning Mixer at the Duke of York, in honour of Geography’s 75th. On Friday afternoon, renowned climate change scholar Professor Diana Liverman (MA ’80) from the University of Arizona gave a public lecture on “Governing Climate”. This was followed by an opening reception and book launch for Reflections on the History of Geography at the University of Toronto. On Saturday, there was a faculty panel session in the morning on the history of the department and a workshop exploring mapping on the web. We had lunch in the Great Hall at Hart House where alumnus David Phillips, Canada’s foremost weather expert, was the guest speaker. After lunch, a group of novice and expert Geocachers was equipped with GPS devices and set out on a hunt for hidden treasures around the University of Toronto campus. The weekend culminated with two field trips on Sunday, one to visit Evergreen Brick Works, a community environmental centre, and the other to Mount Nemo, a cliff ecosystem on the Niagara Escarpment. We had a excellent turnout at all of the events with participants from the class of ’48 up to the present day. Thank you everyone for making it such a success—and a special thanks to the members of the 75th Organizing Committee: Robert Lewis, Jenny Lass (BA ’97, MA ’98), Andrew Malcolm, Jane Macijauskas (BA ’96), Jock Galloway, Tamara Soma (MScPl ’10), David Roberts (PhD ABD) and Dick Baine (BA ’51, MA ’52).

75th photo review

1st row: David Phillips (left) speaks to an audience of alumni, faculty and students (right) at the luncheon held in the Great Hall, Hart House

2nd row: Virginia Maclaren speaks at the book launch (left) for ‘Reflections on the History of Geography at the University of Toronto.’ (right)

3rd row: Jenny Lass and Jane Macijauskas (left) pose while setting up a display of faculty and alumni books at Robarts library (right)

4th row: Alumnus and Evergreen Brickworks General Manager David Stonehouse gives a tour of the old quarry (left) and the visitor’s centre (right) in its final stage before the grand opening, which would occur the following weekend.

5th row: Emeritus Professor Tony Davis speaks to GeoTrip attendees (left) on top of Mount Nemo with its views of South Western Ontario (right)
Alana Boland received the 2010-11 UofT Accessibility Award for Faculty on March 30th. Nominated by geography undergraduate student Johnny Au, Professor Boland was recognized for her efforts to ensure barrier-free education. The undergraduate program in Geography received a letter of commendation at the same ceremony.

Jing Chen was the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from the Chinese Professionals Association of Canada. Professor Chen received his award from the Memorable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Kathi Wilson became Chair at UTM as of July 1st, 2010 and Bill Gough was appointed Chair of the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at UTSC.

Professor Bill Gough was the recipient of the 2010 Canadian Association of Geographers’ Award For Excellence in Teaching Geography. The award is given to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself in courses with small and large enrollments, at different levels of instruction, over several years of teaching in the nominating institution. In a rare “double” for 2010, Professor Gough was also the recipient of the Canadian Association of Geographers’ Award For Excellence in Teaching Geography. He was appointed Chair of the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at UTSC.

Professor Emeritus Jacob Spelt

Professor Emeritus Jacob Spelt passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2010 at the age of 91. Professor Spelt was a former chair of the Department of Geography (1973-77), Vice-Decan in the Faculty of Arts and Science (1978-82), and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture (1982-84). After obtaining degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the University of Utrecht, Professor Spelt joined the Department of Geography in 1948 as a Lecturer and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1985. His research interests included urban geography and the regional geography of Europe, with a historical focus. Two of his major works included The Changing Face of Europe: A Study in Urban Geography (Ottawa: Queen’s Printer, 1965), which he co-authored with Donald Ket, and Urban Development in South-Central Ontario (Toronto: McGraw Hill and Stewart, 1974). He was actively involved in the Division of Education in Geography at the University of Toronto’s 75th anniversary celebrations this year as a contributor to Reflections on the History of Geography at the University of Toronto. His chapter, entitled “A Phoenix from the Ashes”, describes the near destruction and subsequent revitalization of the department in the 1950’s.

Professor Shiu Luk

Professor Shiu Luk passed away on February 17, 2011. Professor Luk received his B.A. (Honors) (1968) and M.Phil (1972) from the Department of Geography at the University of Hong Kong. After receiving his PhD from the University of Alberta in 1975, he held positions at Brock University and the University of Guelph before joining the Department of Geography at Erindale College in 1978. He was about to become Director of the Institute of Land Information Management when he became ill in 1994 and was forced to retire. Professor Luk was a soil scientist who was a pioneer in international environmental research at the University of Toronto and initiated many projects in China. His research was well funded by both IDRC and CIDA. Before he became ill, he was leading research projects in China and was involved in projects in Environmental Impact Assessment and the Three Gorges project and soil erosion management in Inner Mongolia and the Loess Plateau.

Some very active and engaged scholars, he had over 50 peer-reviewed publications in top natural resources and hydrology journals and was the editor of Chinese Geography and the Environment.
On November 12 at Victoria College’s Alumni Hall, UTAGA and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning held our annual Awards Night event. The Honorary President Award went to John Warkentin, for his years of contributions to alumni relations and the department’s development, which included leading sculpture tours around campus and on the waterfront, and working on the History of the Department book.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to J. David Wood, who established the Department of Geography at Atkinson College, York University, and continues to publish on the human geography of rural Canada.

The Outstanding Service Awards winners were Carly Bowman, Jordan Erasmus, and Lee Owens, all of whom have generously and consistently volunteered their time and efforts in organizing the Planning Alumni Committee’s key annual event, the Spring Social.

To nominate the next UTAGA awards winners, send the name of a worthy individual (such as a former classmate or graduate), along with a written citation, explaining why you think he/she deserves an award, to the UTAGA office. Nominations are held and carried forward for up to three years by the UTAGA committee.

UTAGA Awards 2011
Names of awards, and how winners are chosen

The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award: This award is given to alumni of the Department and its programs, who have led a career of exceptionally high distinction in any field, in any industry (not necessarily in geography) and brought honour to the department.

The 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 Department or of the University, and can hold, or have held, a career in any field, such as business, education, politics, research, and self-employment.

The Outstanding Service Awards: 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.

By Fenton Chin
All awards photos by Stephanie Steele

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Want to help create a better educational experience for our undergraduate and graduate students in geography and planning? Donations to the Department contribute to the establishment of awards and scholarships, but that’s not all. Donations support field research costs for students, awards for students to present their research at conferences, and funding for networking events.

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You can also donate by cheque, payable to the University of Toronto. Please indicate whether you would like to donate to the Friends of Geography or Friends of Planning, and send to:
Annual Fund Office, University of Toronto, 21 King’s College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3

Contributions totaling $1,827 or more per calendar year qualify for recognition in the Presidents’ Circle. As part of U of T’s leadership giving recognition society, Presidents’ Circle members enjoy attending a variety of special events. For more information, please visit www.giving.utoronto.ca/prescircle or call 416-978-3810.

A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.
Planning Program Highlights

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Adelene Akande, Daniel Fucco
Lucas Van Meer-Mass, Michael Vidoni
Alan Tockes Planning Scholarship
Eva Gaikowski, Rebeca Shlydl
Benjamin Sonshine Planning Scholarship
Cherrius Jattan
Centre for Urban and Community Studies
Urban Planning Research Award
Julia Mah, Kirsten Stein
Ede Yeoles Award in Urban Planning
Carla Klassen
Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation
Lucas Van Meer-Mass
Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society Award
Adelene Akande, Audila Valladares, Lucas Van Meer-Mass, Brendon Salakoh
Michael Therry, Pauline Beaupre
Ian D. Macpherson Award
Reiki Lahkonan
Mitchell Goldfarb Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Brendan Goudsouzpour
Peter R. Wilker Planning Fellowship
Jessica Agay, Pauline Beaupre, Valerie Bryson
Ann-Marie Carlin, Samantha Coutu
Nicholas Gallant, Gabrielle Hardy
Shelly Hser, Kristyne Jonzen
Alexander-Magroo, Shaygna Pasco
Normadja Rajbamun, Chloe Richer
Michael Therry, Michael Vidoni
Kimberly Wilmott, Mia Rumitiz
Ian Clark, Kimberly Dundy
David Fucco, Kevinne Kamzazkiw
Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Brendon Salakoh
CIP Student Award in Academic Excellence
Carla Klassen
LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Samantha Coutu
Peter Walker Scholarship
Sheldon Hser, Pauline Beaupre

Undergraduate Geography Awards
Alper Undergraduate Scholarship
Sarah Simpkin
Ben Shinneman Scholarship in Geography
Maria Bianchi
Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Edward Lennox
Donald Parnum Scholarship
Edward Lennox
Edward Blake Scholarship in Science
Holly Grace Vaughan
F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment
Jye Joon
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 213/215
Deborah May
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 220
Miau Manoseh Ahmad
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 222
Amosley Murray
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 240
Katherine Mcilvene-Brown
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Nicholas Lombardo
The Sidney and Lucile Silver Scholarship
Holly Grace Vaughan
Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Alper Undergraduate Scholarship
Edward Lennox
The Geography Tromino Award
Brendon Salakoh
The Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Stephanie Mah
William G. Dean Scholarship in Geography
Field Research
Sara Qazi

Graduate Geography Awards
Alper Graduate Scholarship
David Roberts, Daniel Suarez
Bruno Tan, Daniel Suarez, Adreene Akhmed
Donald F. Parnum Graduate Scholarship
Jennifer Weaver
Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society Award
Claire Donald, Anwuyi Shani, Amy Cervenan
Martin Dourleak, Laura Piekulski
Renata Rearma
Griffith Taylor Graduate Scholarship
Renata Rearma
John D. Barnes Geodetic Sciences Fellowship
Randy Bui
Joseph A. May Scholarship
Jean-Francois Blouetemette, Renata Rearma, Oscar J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship
Jennifer Weaver, Andrew Tan
Ontario Graduate Scholarship Awards
Donald F. Parnum/Greg Maturm/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Benjamin O’Reilly
J.M. Timeko/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
John Paul Constantin
Michael Ralph Walsh/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Kristine Haynes
Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Kristine Haynes
Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Brendon Salakoh
Edward Sllahat/Urban Development Institute of Toronto/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Thomas Beck
University of Toronto Planning Alumni Award/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Nita Choong
Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Heather Anoden
Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Jessica Wlczak
Laura Sense
Serger Storvel
Christopher Wollan
William G. Dean Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Amy Mui
ESRI Canada Scholarship in Science & Technology
Randy Bui

Flavia Redemeier, BA ’48
The day before graduation, June 1948, our geography class—learned that most of us would not be graduating, having failed our Science German. As we had all been reassured by Professor George Tahmat not to take the Scientific Languages requirement too seriously, we had fallen down dramatically. This only came to light when I asked about allowing my mother, Catherine Elliott, to graduate with us. She had achieved her B.A. that spring in the Pure Course for Teachers, completing requirements for a bachelor’s degree at Smith College some twenty years earlier. Where in the Geography Department and the U of T Registration turned swiftly and we all graduated safely but with distinct distinction.

On the evening of our graduation day, Professor Midwshield of Anthropology telephoned to offer me a job as Ethnology Assistant at the Royal Ontario Museum (this was cross-appointed as Chair of Anthropology, U of T, and Curator of Ethnology at the ROM) and in accepting his offer I effectively left the geography stream. But I never left the understanding of physical and cultural geography instilled by Professors Taylor, Parnum and Tahmat and their principles became second nature in my life and career as wife of a farmer, mother of two sons, and volunteer in an interesting and various way.

When Ruth Bratton (BA ’46) and I set out on our summer job of 1947 to survey potential locations in Lake Ontario Townships for releasing pheasant Quails for the Fish & Wildlife Division, Department of Lands & Forests, we were incredibly “green” in our knowledge of agricultural geography. More than one occasion, one of us climbed a fence to uproot a seedling to see what was on the end—usually corn. By the end of the summer and 10,000 miles on my ‘39 Ford, we could read the landscape for agricultural advantages in shelter, food (likely insects) and water, but at about the same time the Ontario Government procedure for naturalizing pheasants was abandoned. However, “reading” a landscape has stood me in good stead wherever I am—England (remememering Professor Tahmat’s classes in interpreting English maps), Turkey, Sicily, and China, among others.

Professor Taylor’s “tran- sects” over unfamiliar territo- ries and his conclusions on the effects of cultivation have led me to take my children afield in Australia and Japan. Professor Parnum’s pestilious field days by car (I had to fol- low him in a second car with fellow students) led to a love of the Ontario landscape and an understanding of soils helped my career as a gardener, even though my younger son, studying for a B.A. at University of Guilph, assured me that Russian naming in pedology were long gone.

As a mother, Girl Guide leader, ROM tour guide, horticultural lec- turer, and volunteer executive in many organizations, my geography background has helped me to understand and promote a love of living on the land at home in Ontario. Thank you to all.

I really enjoyed the 75th Anniversary Lecture at The Great Hall of Hart House, even though I suffer a friction of resentment at its previous rejection of female students, and the Reflections of the History of Geography at the University of Toronto has been a pleasure to read and relate.

S. Bryn Dhir, BA ’07
Read Dhir’s article “90° N to 90° S” on pg. 52

Bryn was a member of the expedition field staff and educator for the 2010 Arctic and Antarctic expeditions with Students On Ice, an award winning Canadian organization focusing on protecting the poles by protecting the planet through environmental education and awareness.

(Flull bio: www.studentsonice.com)

Jenny Lass, BA ’97, MA ’98
Jenny has recently earned the title of Holistic Nutri- tionist. She graduated from the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition with merit (a mark over 90%) and received two awards: an award for having the highest mark in the class and an excellence award. She is also pleased to announce the release of her third book, The Canadian Guide to Portraits, published by John Wiley & Sons, Canada Ltd (Spring 2011).
15TH ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL IN REVIEW

Tony Gagliano brings the Spirit of Luminato to the 15th Annual University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social

By Carly Bowman

On April 14, 2011, planning students, alumni and faculty as well as a diverse group of industry professionals returned to Hart House for the 15th Annual University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social. The featured speaker at this year’s event was Tony Gagliano, co-founder of Luminato and Chair of the AGO’s Board of Trustees, as well as Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph Communications.

Mr. Gagliano spoke about how he and fellow Luminato co-founder, the late David Pecaut, launched a dream of a world-class festival of arts and creativity to match Toronto’s cultural renaissance in the early 2000s. This big dream, through sheer perseverance and the support of major government and private industry partners, saw Luminato launched for 10 days in June of 2007. The festival was a tremendous success, enthusiastically embraced by Torontonians and visitors. Now in its 5th year, Luminato takes place June 10-19 in 2011. Luminato is recognized for the substantial role it serves in supporting the arts community, the Toronto economy, and the sense of play in our urban setting (who can forget the 2009 red ball protest, or 2008’s Yongs Dundas Square dancing under the “ceiling” of its lanterns, to name just two?). Mr. Gagliano gave the 2011 Spring Social’s attendees lots to speak about. With the usual tasty food, great student band and lively company, the Social continued on for several hours after Mr. Gagliano’s keynote address.

The University of Toronto’s Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, would like to thank the many individual Friends of Planning Fund Donors whose generous contributions directly support student success in graduate planning programs as well. As well, PAC wishes to recognize the University of Toronto’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated. The following are the Corporate sponsors of the 2011 Social:

Premier: Aird & Berlis LLP, Cassels Brock Lawyers, Davies Howe Partners, Fraser Milner Casgrain, Lea Consulting Ltd.

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FIGHTING BLIGHT IN DETROIT

Reflections on the 2010 Masters in Planning Field Trip

By Robyn Shyllit

I am an asteroid were to hit the Great Lakes region, I imagine Detroit as the bizarro world that would survive the impact—remnants of a wealthy history, people cautiously (and not so cautiously) crossing the street, large pockets of urban catastrophe, and small glimmers of hope dotting a sprawling landscape. A city large enough in physical scale to encompass the island of Manhattan, Boston, and San Francisco, once built for a population of 2.5 million, now bears the uneasy task of providing services to an estimated 800,000 current residents.

I admit that venturing into a city that has faced 60 years of decline was not my first choice for a glamorous travel destination. But upon completing our expedition it became clear that learning from Detroit was a needed awakening, as lessons learned from challenge can be more valuable than those discovered with continued victory.

Our tour’s agenda was thoughtfully planned by PhD Student Joshua Akers, and included a visit to the Heidelberg Project, City Planning Department, Data Driven Communications.

Our tour’s agenda was thoughtfully planned by PhD Student Joshua Akers, and included a visit to the Heidelberg Project, City Planning Department, Data Driven Communications.
CONGRATULATIONS CORWIN!

One interesting tale that explains the terror of privately owned public space is the story of a real estate tycoon who acquires large plots of land throughout Detroit's waterfront, site them as they waste away and devalue adjacent properties, builds illegal roads, and cuts off neighbourhoods from each other and the basic surviving. After seeing the destruction this has created on both sides of the border it became quite clear that the magnitude of what Detroit must overcome requires an unapologetic uphill battle.

While there are many individuals and organizations working to create positive change, it would be false to ignore the unavoidable sense of anger, mistrust, and resentment felt while walking throughout dilapidated areas. Though we too have cities in Canada that face decline after being reliant upon a single industry, their issues seem minute in comparison to being reliant upon a single industry, their issues seem minute in comparison to the issues that Detroit must overcome.

As an example of this needed fearlessness, in 1866 artist Tyree Guyton started the Heidelberg Project. By transforming abandoned homes and empty plots of land into a public art project, Guyton's work demonstrates the impact of culture-led regenera-
tion in a place more needed than a loft conversion in Leslieville. Though the question was asked regarding the gentrification of Detroit's downtown, my answer was "The Stockyards," a new retail power centre situated at the corner of Wixom Road and St. Clair Avenue. Students learned how regulations such as the site plan control by-law work with design guidelines to shape the physical appearance of the built environment and its relationship to the public realm. David was described in his details of the various steps which moved each project from concept to completion, such as development design, pre-construction, and approval.

Developing our Interviewing Skills

Robyn Sylvis is a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and is completing her degree in Planning at the University of Toronto focusing in cultural planning and community development.

Full Planning Mixer

CAREY BOWMAN, MScPL ’97

On September 16, 2010, PAC hosted a casual gathering of students, instructors, alumni and friends at the Duke of York. Called the "Fall Planning Mixer," the event was a great success, drawing planners in all stages of their careers, and winding on from 5:30 until well into the evening.

The Mixer was launched as an opportunity for U of T planners to toast the Geography Department’s 75th anniversary. The event was also geared to filling a hole in the U of T planning social calendar, welcoming the new school year at an old favourite haunt. It succeeded in both regards—so well, in fact, that PAC is considering making it an annual affair.

Interested in engaging in a little September grad school nostalgia? Keep your eyes on your inboxes next August for an announcement respecting the second annual Fall Planning Mixer.
By: S. Bryn Dhir
Expeditions to the Ends of the Earth

The Earth has two polar regions. One at 90° N and the other at 90° S. Depending on which direction the globe is held, either end could be located at the top or bottom. As Herzog once said, “in the most hostile, barren, alien environments on the planet, you meet the most interesting people.” And you also encounter the most incredible things, landscapes, and species of wildlife. Travelling to the opposite ends of the Earth within five months gave me a clear perspective of the effects of climate change while also experiencing firsthand, all things geographically polar.

Journey to the top of the world

It was rainy and grey in late August 2010 when we entered the relatively calm waters of Uvagua Bay aboard the Lyubov Orlova, a Russian ship that has charted many waters with Students On Ice founder Geoff Green. The ship hosted a diverse group of environmentalists, a variety of artists, scientists, journalists, explorers and students who were eager to learn. Ship-based programming included lectures and demonstrations by arctic biologist and documentary filmmaker David Gray, migratory and students who were eager to learn. Ship-based programming included lectures and demonstrations by arctic biologist and documentary filmmaker David Gray, migratory

Environmentalists, a variety of educators like myself, artists, scientists, journalists, explorers and students who were eager to learn. Ship-based programming included lectures and demonstrations by arctic biologist and documentary filmmaker David Gray, migratory

And you also encounter the most incredible things, landscapes, and species of wildlife. Travelling to the opposite ends of the Earth within five months gave me a clear perspective of the effects of climate change while also experiencing firsthand, all things geographically polar.

The Antarctic is simple and peaceful, but within that simplicity also lies an overwhelming beauty and majesty. The icebergs, water and snow were full of shades of blues and whites, as if you had put on a pair of tinted glasses. Climbing up a pillow ice cap on Koerner Island was unlike anything in the Arctic now due to the lack of snow and ice there; but here, the snow remained kilometers thick. There were no native communities in the Antarctic that could tell tales of the changes in weather and climate, but there were polar naturalists such as Olle Carlsson and polar historian David Fletcher who were happy to share their combined knowledge of 60 years of environmental change.

The Antarctic is a place of intense scientific research. We visited the Ukrainian Vernadsky Research Station on Galindez Island, which was once a British base and played a part in NASA’s discovery of the hole in the ozone layer. An afternoon on the base showed us the variety of focused work being conducted surrounding meteorology, seismology, glaciology, environmental physics and geomagnetism. Like other bases belonging to the Russians, Americans, Chileans, Chinese, Australians, French and Germans, Vernadsky is maintaining an impressive work schedule filled with research and experiments.

A race to the end of the Earth

Four months later, it was a liberating feeling to be back on the open water heading down the Beagle Channel aboard the MV Ushuaia to the Drake Passage. Once again the world as we know it was literally left behind. For miles, there was no land and no ship to be seen. The lookout for ice and icebergs began again; this time it would lead to something else.

The Antarctic is simple and peaceful, but within that simplicity also lies an intimidating, monumental scale. Everything is larger than life and I was reminded of the short time humans have been calling this planet home, in comparison to the 2,500 million years of all life on Earth.

From the bow of the ship, I saw waves smash violently up onto the cliffs and rock faces of Monumental and Elephant Islands while Deception Island swayed true to its name, hiding a sheltered volcanic harbour. We saw Albatross and a variety of sea birds flying alongside the ship and studied the Adelie and Gentoo penguins in their natural habitats. The penguins were just as curious of me, as I was of them. Keeping at a distance, they walked along their run-coloured penguin highways created by thousands of foot prints, sounding like a variety pack of barking and barking party favours. These little flightless creatures were elegantly over-dressed in their black and white tuxedos. Mothers with their chicks were huddled together in their pebble-covered rookeries, while others waddled their way confidently around Hertoena Island.

The iceberg, water and snow were full of shades of blues and whites, as if you had put on a pair of tinted glasses. Climbing up a pillow ice cap on Koerner Island was unlike anything in the Arctic now due to the lack of snow and ice there; but here, the snow remained kilometers thick. There were no native communities in the Antarctic that could tell tales of the changes in weather and climate, but there were polar naturalists such as Olle Carlsson and polar historian David Fletcher who were happy to share their combined knowledge of 60 years of environmental change.

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GeoTrip in Review: Waterfront Sculpture Tour

By Andrew Malcolm
Photographs by Mary-Marta Briones-Bird

On April 24th, John Warkentin (PhD, ’54) shed a new light on Toronto’s waterfront for alumni and members of the department. Though the group was already familiar with the area, the display of sculptures along the waterfront had often gone unnoticed by even the most avid visitors.

Beginning with Richard Deacon’s Between the Eyes at the foot of Yonge Street, and ending with the dramatic figures portraying the arrival of Irish immigrants during the famine in Ireland Park at the foot of Bathurst (The Arrival, Rowan Gillespie), John’s tour drew attention to dozens of sculptures. One highlight of the tour was thanks to a very kind security guard who let us into WaterPark place (10 Bay Street, usually closed on weekends) granting us a close up view of William McElcheran’s South Wind. Many tour attendees remembered the work of McElcheran from John’s U of T sculpture tour (Businessmen on a Horse and untitled piece in front of St. Michael’s College). South Wind was definitely the most impressive work, with figures emerging from a marble wall carved as a cityscape.

The tour group also learned some new information about familiar sculptures. Little Norway Park Memorial Rock, near the ferry terminal, was in fact brought over from Norway as a thank you for providing that same space as a training base during World War II. Toronto, John told us, is a very fortunate to have the waterfront’s Toronto Music Garden, a combination of garden and sculpture that interprets Johann Sebastian Bach’s Suites for Unaccompanied Cello. The Julie and sculpture that interprets Johann Sebastian Toronto, John told us, is a very fortunate to have the waterfront’s Toronto Music Garden, a combination of garden and sculpture that interprets Johann Sebastian Bach’s Suites for Unaccompanied Cello. The Julie and sculpture that interprets Johann Sebastian

GeoTrip in Review: Garrison Creek

By Marcin Zimowski (BA ’10)
Photographed by Mary-Marta Briones-Bird

On May 15th, 2010, eager Geo-Trippers assembled in Christie Pits Park for a tour through Toronto’s geologic and historical past. We were joined and hosted by Helen Mills of the Toronto Lost Rivers Walks Group, Richard Anderson of York University, and the past president of UTAGA, Joe Whitney. Our tour would take us along Garrison Creek, one of Toronto’s lost rivers and Discovery Walk trail.

Christie Pits Park, named after the site’s sand pits used until the early 1900s, once funneled Garrison Creek as it ran from the bluffs further upstream. The park is known for its infamous race riot of 1933, when the Anglo-Canadian Pie Gang unfurled a large Swastika during a baseball game, inciting reprisal from the largely Jewish and Italian Spadina Avenue Gang. Scores were injured, and it revealed the racial tensions felt in Toronto just prior to the Second World War. After discussion of that unfortunate episode, we turned to the geologic history of the site.

As the Wisconsin glaciation receded some 12,000 years ago, it left a deep deposit of glacial drift that became the shoreline of Lake Ontario’s largest precursor, Lake Iroquois. When the ice blocking the St. Lawrence waterway eventually melted, the water drained from Lake Iroquois’ banks (situated at what is now Davenport Road) and emptied into the mouth of the current lake. The largely barren land left in the wake was scoured off the ground. Unbeknownst to us and just about everyone else, this is actually the balustrade of one of Garrison Creek’s bridges. The valley once ran the whole way through to the lake, and while there are snippets of it left, such as in the north-western part of Trinity-Bellwoods Park, there’s practically no evidence of the ravine’s course through the south-east end of the park onto Queen Street. As we continued our journey through numerous parks and parkettes, we were reminded of the creek’s former path by the meandering residential streets and storm drains that now flow underneath Toronto.

By mid-afternoon, we reached the terminus of the lost creek at Fort York, where Garrison Creek derived its name. There we were greeted by Andrew Stewart (MSc ’06), director of Strata Archaeological Services Inc. and the Fort’s administrator, David O’Hara (MSc ’05). They gave us a presentation of the new visitors’ centre that will be unveiled in time for the bicentenary of the Battle of York fought during the War of 1812, when Fort York was still at the shoreline.

Their plans look great, and the whole Geo-Trip was packed with tons of fun and learning. We’d like to thank the volunteers for their expertise and everyone who showed up for this enthusiasm; hopefully you can make it out to the next Geo-Trip!

On our way south, we passed Harbor Street, and found a peculiar cement railing a few feet off the ground. Unbeknownst to us and just about everyone else, this is actually the balustrade of one of Garrison Creek’s bridges. The valley once ran the whole way through to the lake, and while there are snippets of it left, such as in the north-western part of Trinity-Bellwoods Park, there’s practically no evidence of the ravine’s course through the south-east end of the park onto Queen Street. As we continued our journey through numerous parks and parkettes, we were reminded of the creek’s former path by the meandering residential streets and storm drains that now flow underneath Toronto.

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If you would like to attend, please RSVP to mainoffice@geog.utoronto.ca or by calling the Geography Main Office at 416-978-3375.

Saturday, September 17th, 2011 from 10:30am to 12:00pm

Suggested donation: $5

Join Professor Tenley Conway in a walk around the Harbord Street area. From an aerial view, this region of Toronto is barely visible below its canopy of diverse, old and large neighbourhood trees. What are the benefits, aside from aesthetic beauty, of having a dense canopy above residential and business areas, and how does socio-economic status and governmental policy facilitate or restrict the creation of urban forests? These are some of the questions to be answered on the tour. It will begin at the South West Corner of Harbord and Spadina.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to: mainoffice@geog.utoronto.ca or by calling the Geography Main Office at: 416-978-3375

Graduate Student: Angela Loder

“...a new type of nature, so there hasn’t been a lot of research yet into what people think about them or how people feel about them,” she said.

Many urban centres began undertaking green roof strategies in response to growing environmental challenges, but Chicago and Toronto stood out in Angela’s work because of their relative comparability. “I was studying the urban scale of environmental action, and both cities engage in a lot of urban-level initiatives on climate change, health and well-being, so in many ways they were similar. The biggest difference was that Chicago had a lot more power. Politically, the city was not a creature of the province like many Canadians cities are. And so half of my battle was understanding the policies, because there’s the policy, and then there’s the policies behind the policy, which explained why these two cities had very similar implementation programs, but Toronto took about twice as long as Chicago to reach the same level.”

Angela has worked with Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, the leading green roof industry and research organization in North America, as well as the City of Chicago and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service on social perceptions of urban nature and green roofs. She also helped develop policy documents for Environment Canada on integrating green roof policy into Ontario’s Smart Growth objectives, and is currently working on a federally funded interdisciplinary project linking energy conservation, occupant comfort and behaviour, and human factors engineering.

Angela is a Canada-US Fulbright Scholar and the co-founder of a health, design, and green building research group that brings together leading health researchers, designers, NGO’s and the United States Green Building Council.

Staff Member: Bruce Huang Receives Outstanding Service Award

Bruce Huang has been the Department of Geography’s Information Technology Specialist since 1998. He manages an enormously complex system of hardware and software that includes three teaching labs (with 50+ workstations), six research labs (with 30+ workstations), faculty, staff and teaching laptops, 50+ workstations), six research labs (with 30+ workstations), faculty, staff and teaching laptops, and workstations (100+), wired and wireless networks, GIS and remote sensing software, quantitative and qualitative analysis software, urban design software, numerous servers and three operating systems. Bruce is always there when you need him, including very early mornings, evenings and weekends if there is a system shut-down or other emergency. Even for the most trivial requests, Bruce is unfailingly courteous and supportive, incredibly knowledgeable and keeps the department current with all of the newest developments in hardware and software.

In recognition of his exceptional service to the department, Bruce received the Dean’s Outstanding Technical Service Award from the Faculty of Arts & Science on April 14, 2010. Congratulations Bruce! And thank you from all of the faculty, staff and students that you have helped over the years.
When I tell people what I am doing now (which, depending on when exactly “now” is, could involve the design of high-performance buildings, writing about how we might transition to an electricity system with zero reliance on fossil fuels, or speculating on how to slowly reverse the acidification of the oceans once our fossil fuel binge is over), they are sometimes surprised that I’m in a geography department. In reply, I tell them that geography is concerned about relationships between humans and their environment, both physical and social, in the broadest sense, and that the geography Department is probably the only department where I’d have been allowed to do what I’ve done, and have changed fields of interest as often as I have. Within geography, one has the freedom to pursue one connection after another, which can lead to a very wide-ranging journey and, in my case, back to where I started 30 years before.

I entered university as a first-year student at the University of British Columbia in 1974, my intention was to become an architect. When I entered university, there were only 12 undergraduate programs, and I had to pick an undergraduate program, 1974, my intention was to become an architect. So…by 2004, 30 years after my initial intention to go into architecture, I was devoting every possible moment writing what I had thought would be a medium length book on the how to design ultra-low energy buildings. This book (A Handbook on Low-Energy Buildings, 701 pages, published by EarthScan) was published in 2006 and was followed by two other books (Energy and the New Reality, Volume 1: Efficient use of Energy, and Volume 2: Carbon-Free Energy Supply, published by EarthScan). The latter two books of course started out as one book, but as the writing progressed, that idea became impractical.

The focus of my research for the next many years will involve around energy use and the question of how to rapidly (within decades) make the transition, both in Canada and worldwide, to a completely fossil-free electricity system. The research strategy will be to guide a team of graduate students in developing a series of renewable energy and energy demand modules that are driven by internally-consistent datasets for the real-time variation in temperature, wind, solar irradiance, and precipitation. I will also be investigating how to shift an increasing fraction of our heating and transportation energy needs to electricity. The feasibility of doing so depends strongly on the design of new buildings, the renovation of existing buildings, and making proper choices in the internationalization of existing urban centres and the design of whatever new urban centres that we create.

I was involved in the preparation of the chapter pertaining to energy use for buildings in the last assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in 2007, and in the Global Energy Assessment of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (based in Austria), which comes out later this year, and I will be involved in the next IPCC assessment report (which comes out in 2013). At the same time, I find myself drawn to climatology. As a result I am currently working on a book which will be published in 2016 (tentatively titled: Energy, Climate, and the Future). The book will discuss the role of greenhouse gases in the climate system, the impacts of climate change on human systems, and the role of human systems in driving climate change. The book will be aimed at a general audience and will be written in a way that is accessible to those with little or no background in science.

I only joined the Department of Geography last summer, but I am truly proud and excited to become part of such a stimulating, friendly and collegial community of faculty, staff and students. I am the second faculty member, after Scott Pradhan, to have a joint appointment with Centre for Environment, where I teach half of my courses. Previously I was at McGill University, where I conducted graduate and postdoctoral research in human-environment geography. Before that, I had done a BA in International Relations at the Universidade Bresasiamericana in Mexico City, for which I wrote an honours thesis on a Canadian-Mexican initiative to promote local sustainable resource-use practices around the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. It was that work that got me interested in human-environment geography and field-based research.

My main interests are in rural livelihoods in tropical forest regions and their implications for conservation, development, poverty alleviation, and environmental change adaptation. I have been working on a number of projects in rural Mexico and Peru, including a project on the impact of climate change on small-scale shifting cultivators in the Amazon. I have also been involved in the preparation of the chapter on food security in the Global Energy Assessment. In addition, I am a member of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (based in Austria), which comes out later this year, and I will be involved in the next IPCC assessment report (which comes out in 2013). At the same time, I find myself drawn to climatology. As a result I am currently working on a book which will be published in 2016 (tentatively titled: Energy, Climate, and the Future). The book will discuss the role of greenhouse gases in the climate system, the impacts of climate change on human systems, and the role of human systems in driving climate change. The book will be aimed at a general audience and will be written in a way that is accessible to those with little or no background in science.
ENV395: Ecology and Conservation in the Galapagos Islands, the Andes and the Amazon

In May of 2010, a group of 19 students embarked on a field course of a lifetime: ENV395, otherwise known as Ecology and Conservation in the Amazon, Galapagos, and Andes. Few of us knew Geography Professor Tony Davis before we arrived at Pearson International Airport, but very quickly after we met him we knew he would lead the class with enthusiasm, humour and, most importantly, he would provide the answers to any questions that might arise on the trip.

Upon arrival in Quito, we settled into our accommodations in Cumbaya, only 20 minutes outside of the capital. Few of us knew each other before this course; but we connected with each other through our shared curiosity about this new place and our common environmental consciousness. Those of us who spoke Spanish became instant celebrities and provided a great resource for the rest of us.

The first few days of our trip were spent becoming familiar with Cumbaya. After the jetlag subsided, we explored the Universidad de San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) campus and the community we would call home for the next 30 days. The campus at USFQ is breathtaking, set against a backdrop of Andean Mountains and exotic birds.

We would meet for lectures a few times a week. Initially, lectures focused on the anthropo- peginic and environmental history of Ecuador, while later lectures had a more contemporary and ecological focus. In addition to Tony, we had several other lecturers. David Romo is a Professor of Conservation Biology at USFQ. He is native to Ecuador, so his perspective on the conservation issues and cultural history of Ecuador was fundamental to our learning experience. Also, he was a great tour guide! He would take us to marketplaces, show us the local fruits and teach us the local legends and traditions of the places we visited.

Our first overnight trip was to the Andes. We packed our bags, piled on the bus and headed for the Flanks of Mount Chimborazo, Ecuador’s largest mountain. Our first hike took us to Pichincha Volcano, a rather enchanting-looking forest with peeling, crooked trees. Tony explained to us that these trees are a lot older than their size would suggest, due to the harsh environment associated with higher elevations and that their pappy bark was an adaptation for protection against forest fires. This was the first place where we had a lecture outside of a classroom. It was an incredible learning experience to be in the location of your lecture topic, especially since these forests are in serious decline due to deforestation. We all felt an overpowering sense of conservation urgency as we took notes leaning up against these magnificent trees.

Climbing Mount Chimborazo was our biggest physical challenge of the entire trip, and, in some, the most memorable. Along the way, Tony would point out vicuñas, a type of camelid, and towering lava formations. Some of us were just amazed to be higher than the cloud! The hike reached a peak in a large cairn at approximately 4900 m above sea level. We all sat there for a moment, to absorb what we had accomplished. The descent was a bit downer, but our adventure was a 7-day deep dip into the Amazon rainforest, at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station, a remote location used for research and educational purposes.

It was a trek to get there—we took a plane, a boat, a bus and another boat. However, the trips to and from the rainforest were one of the best part of the experience. We saw all kinds of wildlife and indigenous communities while traveling on the river. On the trail, we went on night walks, canopy tours, hung out on observation towers looking for birds and monkeys, are lemon ants and conducted research projects. The research projects were great assignments, as we had the freedom to explore our interests and incorporate them into the course. We also experienced first-hand the effects of humidity, bugs and what we called jungle fever, but we were still sad to go. At this point, none of us could imagine how this trip could get any better.

The next place we traveled to was the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, approximately 960 km west of mainland Ecuador. We spent a third of our trip on the islands, island hopping, hiking, snorkeling… and, yes, attending lectures. The Galapagos Islands are a biodiversity hotpot, which makes them a great place to see many different species, and, unfortunately, also a place that is under threat from humans. Also, island fauna have few predators, so they are taller than most continental species. Traveling to sea lions will try to play with you when you are snorkeling. A large portion of the course content was on plant taxonomy and volcanism and what better way to learn than to hike on a volcano itself. The value of this trip cannot be expressed in monetary terms and it was something different for each of us: it gave a new face to environmental issues, it was a chance to meet like-minded individuals, to afford escape from the everyday, it was the best classroom we’ve ever had. This was an experience we are sure to remember every day and for the rest of our lives.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER SHILLER AND CHRISTINE LEGIC. JENNIFER IS A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY, MINOR IN NORTHERN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, MINOR IN VISUAL ART AND STARTING AN HONORS IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IN SEPTEMBER AT U OF T. CHRISTINE IS A MINOR IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, MINOR IN ZOOLOGY AND A MAJOR IN FORESTRY.

GGR382: New York

On September 6, 2010, 20 undergraduate students from the Geography Depart- ment set out for the first time as the Upper West Side for the GGR382 field course in New York City. One can only imagine the variety of transportation modes and routes taken to or- der to amass this group: Taxis, planes and busses brought students with diverse interests together for a week exploring the city that never sleeps.

Leading our group around Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens was Professor Robert Lewis and our teaching assistant Patricia Vitiello. The first day’s last afternoon picnic in Central Park was a perfect setting to acquaint us and set the stage for the whirlwind week ahead.

Understanding urban landscapes is a major focus of many geography students. Lectures and readings aid in this understanding, but a higher, intangible comprehension emerges when on the ground, experiencing it first hand. Visiting the Lower East Side (including the Tenement Museum), Chinatown, Little Italy and Jackson Heights helped illustrate the important role of immigration in shaping the urban landscape of New York City. The recently developed High- line walkway as well as the neighborhoods of SOHO, Greenwich Village, the former Meat Packing District and Williamsburg, gave us concrete examples of diverse types of urban redevelopment and gentrification. Suburban developments in Queens, including Sun- terside Gardens Park and Forest Hills Gardens, highlighted the real-world implementation of Le Corbusier’s ideas of functional town-planning in the era of private automobiles.

In addition, the student field trips also served as an opportunity to experience the city this way. At two people who have been to New York City on several previous occasions, we can honestly say that the city will never appear the same to us again, and we have Robert, Patricia and an entire class of wonderful people to thank for that.
GGR 390: Gallivanting in the Northeastern Appalachians of Sutton, Quebec

I n early September of 2010, nineteen students had the opportunity to start the fall term one week early. Though this may have cut short our summer vacation, on the plus side, we began classes in the beautiful mountains of Sutton, Quebec. The 'classroom' section of the course was to be completed in one week, while we would, in groups, continue developing research papers throughout the fall semester with a final presentation in November. Sutton offered an ideal setting for learning about field methods used in biogeography, fluvial geomorphology, soil science and other physical geography fields.

Our trip was supervised by Professor Joe Desloges, Professor Sarah Finkelstein and our TA Roger Phillips. All three have been running the course successfully for a number of years resulting in a well-organized routine. The trip started early on a Sunday morning in Toronto: we loaded up the equipment, piled into three vans, and took off. Learning began on the road as we used a field guide to track glacier landforms along the way, and got acquainted with our car mates.

Six hours later we were in Sutton, a small, quaint town, similar in size to that of rural Ontario with the added towering beauty of a mountainous landscape unique to the Appalachians. Comfortable accommodations at the Hotel Horizon afforded us the added perks of a hot tub, swimming pool and tennis courts! Not that any of us played tennis...though we did all make good use of the hot tub and pool.

The first order of business was setting up the weather stations that would record data to be used later on in our assignments. There were quite a few hands at the ready and they went up fast. We were then introduced to our first famous Hotel Horizon dinner, a massive plate of spaghetti and tomato sauce, which was quite filling.

Later that night a welcoming group meeting clarified the program for the week and what was expected of us. The meeting also gave us a chance to introduce ourselves: it was great to see people from so many different backgrounds and fields.

Over the next five days we hiked, took measurements, collected data, and explored beautiful Mount Round Top, as well as its accompanying streams. In addition, we developed our own research projects. For some of us, this was the first time collecting our own data. We did have rain for about a day and a half, which made taking measurements a little wet, but resulted in great data for stream discharge and made the hot tub that much more welcoming. The rest of the days collecting data went very smoothly, and ended on a very good and sunny note.

We finished off our week with an evening in town, showing off our dancing skills to the local Suttonions. Overall we had a great time and I would highly recommend this course to anyone interested in further developing skills for field work in physical geography. The professors and the TA were great and were enormously helpful. Consistent with the lesson we learned the first day, the TA were great and were enormously helpful. Consistent with the lesson we learned the first day, the TA were great and were enormously helpful.

The Contours of America's Cold War (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010)

BY MATTHEW FARISH

I n The Contours of America's Cold War, Matthew Farish explores new ways of conceptualizing space as part of post-World War II American militarism. He demonstrates how the social sciences were militarized in the early Cold War period, producing spatial knowledge that was of immediate use to the state as it sought to expand its reach across the globe.

Geographic knowledge generated for the Cold War was a form of power, and it was given an urgency in the panels, advisory boards and study groups established to address the challenges of an atomic world. He investigates how the scales of the city, the continent, the region, the globe and, by extension, outer space, were brought together as strategic spaces or categories that provided a cartographic orientation for the Cold War and influenced military deployments, diplomacy, espionage and finance.

Farish analyzes the surprising range of knowledge production involved in claiming and classifying American space. Backed by military and intelligence funding, physicians, policy makers, soldiers and social scientists came together to study and shape the United States and its place in a divided world.

Matthew Farish is an Associate Professor in the department.

Love in the Time of AIDS


BY MARK HUNTER

I n some parts of South Africa, more than one in three people are HIV positive. Love in the Time of AIDS explores transformations in notions of gender and intimacy to try to understand the roots of this virulent epidemic.

By living in an informal settlement and collecting love letters, cell phone text messages, oral histories, and archival materials, Mark Hunter details the everyday social inequalities that have resulted in untimely deaths. Hunter shows how fear sparked and then chronic unemployment have become tangled with ideas about femininity, masculinity, love, and sex and have created an economy of exchange that perpetuates the transmission of HIV/AIDS. This sobering ethnography challenges conventional understandings of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.
This book celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto. It is not meant to be a complete history of the department but rather a history of selected moments and events. Some of the 16 contributions are based on reminiscences and some are based on archival research and interviews. Some are a bit of both. Chapter authors include current and emeritus professors, current and retired staff, and alumni.

Read about various periods in the department’s history (the early years, the middle years), geography and geographic education, the quantitative revolution in geography, GIS and cartography, the map library, geography at UTM and UTSC, the internationalization of geography, planning and geography, and a student’s perspective from the early 1990s.

Contribution authors: John Warkentin, Marie Sanderson, Andrew H. Clark, Jacob Spelt, Jock Galloway, Dick Baine, Matthew Farish, Michael Bunce, Thomas McIlwraith, Byron Moldofsky, Joan Winearls, Joe Whitney, Gunter Gad, Jan Masiauskas, Virginia Maclaren.

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