Students munched on mini-sliders and gummy worms as they perused the work of fellow Geography undergraduate students on Thursday, March 8. Held in the Geography Lounge on the 5th floor of Sid Smith, the event gave undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff an opportunity to review some of the best undergraduate research projects from 2011-12. Ranging from GIS mapping projects, large poster displays, cartography projects, an interactive video presentation and even a laser-cut model of the Toronto waterfront, students were able to see the breadth of topics and issues that students were able to see the breadth of research conducted by classmates over the past year. “…I don't know, I always thought Geography was just about labelling maps and stuff”, a first-year student said as she stared at the display. Organized by the Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society, this event was the first of its kind for the department and promises to be a highlight of the TUGS event calendar in future years.

Event Review by Erin Kang (minoring in Human Geography)
Photos by Lip Liew (BSc, 2012, Human Geography major, GIS minor)

GeoPlan Gets a Makeover
and gives you a chance to go green! After 13 years of criss-crossing the globe to reach alumni, GeoPlan is giving its readers a chance to reduce their environmental footprint by going digital. If you would like to receive future GeoPlans in digital format only, let us know at: UTAGA@geog.utoronto.ca

 Nicci Ng and Joe Leydon

Toni Papa and Cameron Morris

Phillip Bruno, Mian Mansoor Ahmad, Demos Antonopolous, Aliya Naqvi, Kathy Giebretich

UTAGA AND THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO THIS ISSUE OF GEOPLAN:

Nikki Ng, (BA, 2012), for her profile on pg. 10. Zoe Silverberg (majoring in Human Geography) and Kathleen Stevens (majoring in Human Geography) for their article on the new field course GGR381 on pg. 18. Sarah Hubbs (BA, 2012, Human Geography Specialist) for her article on the field course GGR343 on pg. 16. Stuart Livingston (majoring in Environment & Science), Cameron Morris (majoring in Physical & Environmental Geography), and Larissa Sage (double major in Environmental Studies and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, minor in Physical & Environmental Geography) for their article on the field course GGR390, and Larissa for her photographs from the course on pg. 17. Erin Kang (minoring in Human Geography) for the above cover article, and Lip Liew (BSc '12, Human Geography major, GIS minor) for the cover photographs.

This year UTAGA was very fortunate to have the help of undergraduate volunteer, Kaja McDonald (Majoring in Environmental Geography, Minoring in Physical & Environmental Geography). Thank you Kaja for your countless hours contributing to the editing, layout-design, and preparation for printing and mailing GeoPlan.

Volunteer editor and layout designer Kaja McDonald
### On Transportation in China

China has transformed into a vibrant society after the Open Door Policy (ODP) initiated by Deng Xiaoping three decades ago. Thirty years seems short in Chinese history, but it is too long a time for the luxuriating Chinese in the new Millennium. The transportation sector has been one of the most dynamic during this period.

China now has a booming car industry. The once prevailing bicycle and pedestrian transport has inevitably given way to automobiles. Traffic casualties remain high by any standard. Promoting car ownership is a by-product of the national policy of creating a moderately prosperous society under which a sense of freedom to travel is encouraged. It stimulates domestic consumption. To own a car is a status symbol to many Asian urban dwellers. Besides, the multiplier effects of the automobile industry is unsustainable to national economic planners. China produced 18 million cars last year and consumed most of that production domestically. To facilitate driving around and for national security reasons, the country now has over 60,000 km of superhighways, second only to the United States. In addition China constructed at least 10,000 new bridges a year during the last two decades. I enjoyed managing a Sino-foreign investment project that was responsible for constructing the second BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) expressway in the country twenty years ago.

### Congratulations Dr. Sonia Labatt

Dr. Sonia Labatt, MA 1990 and PhD 1995, received an honorary degree from the University of Toronto in June, 2011. She was honored for her contributions as a philanthropist and for her public service. Together with her husband, Arthur Labatt, she has helped fund research, programs and scholarships at the Centre for Environment, St. Michael’s College, the Rotman School of Management, the Faculty of Arts and Science and two of the University of Toronto’s affiliated hospitals (the Hospital for Sick Children and St. Michael’s Hospital). She has also been a long-serving member of the Faculty of Arts and Science Dean’s Advisory Board and an Arbor Award winner. Dr. Labatt has been an Adjunct Professor in the departments for many years, acting as a supervisor and as a member of Master’s graduate committees in both the geography and planning programs.

### Thank you to our Alumni

In this issue of GeoPlan we would like to thank all alumni who contributed in the Department’s classes and workshops over the past year. To all who are on the list below, and any who may have been missed, your contributions has helped better the student experience, and for this we thank you.

- **GGR855 Speaker:**
  - Jennifer Warner (PhD, 2012)
  - Heather Davy (PhD, 2012)
  - PLA1655 Speaker: Christian Ventresca (MScPl, 2004)
  - Leigh McGrath (MScPl, 2007)

- **MScPl, 2008**
  - Michael Noble
  - Cerrina Cameron
  - Matt Armstrong (MScPl, 2010)
  - David McCoy (MScPl, 2007)
  - Kirsten Stein (MScPl, 2010)
  - Cassandra Vink (MScPl, 2010)
  - Scott Pramotoon (MScPl, 2008)
  - Bryan Shardow (MScPl, 2010)

- **MScPl, 2009**
  - Erick Hunter
  - MHPWP Workshop Speakers: Moderated by Aaron Tehara (MScPl, 2009)
  - Andrew Brown (MScPl, 1989)
  - Kyle Krooke (MScPl, 1997)
  - Geoffrey McGrath (MScPl, 2008)
  - Melissa McEnroe (MScPl, 2008)
  - Stephanie Girs (MScPl, 2009)

- **MScPl, 2010**
  - Hyun Park
  - Young Park
  - Vasiliki Kotsaridou

- **MScPl, 2011**
  - Matthew Horsfall
  - David Auvniet Tehara

- **MScPl, 2012**
  - Bryan Sherwood (MScPl, 2010)
  - Cassandra Vink (MScPl, 2010)
  - Scott Pramotoon (MScPl, 2008)
  - Bryan Shardow (MScPl, 2010)

- **MScPl, 2013**
  - Hyun Park
  - Young Park
  - Vasiliki Kotsaridou

- **MScPl, 2014**
  - Matthew Horsfall
  - David Auvniet Tehara

- **MScPl, 2015**
  - Bryan Sherwood (MScPl, 2010)
  - Cassandra Vink (MScPl, 2010)
  - Scott Pramotoon (MScPl, 2008)
  - Bryan Shardow (MScPl, 2010)
This has been a year of significant personnel change in the department and the changes were not fully realized until the beginning of July. Hence, this issue of GeoPlan is a little later than normal in getting to you so that we could announce these changes formally. Upon the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts and Science’s Strategic Planning Committee, physical geographers in the department and geophysicists in the Department of Physics were given the option of transitioning to a new Department of Earth Sciences (formerly the Department of Geology). The committee’s reasoning was that “bringing together human capital and expertise from a wider range of areas should allow for greater synergies and coherence in research and teaching in [earth sciences].” The SPC hopes that this change will also enhance the attractiveness and marketability of the academic programs in earth sciences, as well as making more effective use of human, physical and financial resources.

Three of our physical geographers have made this move: Professor Sarah Finkelein, Sharon Cowling and Miriam Diamond. Professor Joe Dologe also decided to move, but only half of his position, so that he will have a split appointment between Geography and Earth Sciences. Despite these departures, the department will continue to offer a BSc in physical and environmental geography at the St. George campus and MSc and PhD degrees in physical and environmental geography across the three campuses. In support of these programs, we are very pleased to welcome Professor Tat Smith from the Faculty of Forestry, who transferred his appointment to Geography in July and will teach courses on soils, biodiversity and the science of sustainable systems.

Information Technology specialists Bruce Huang will be leaving the department in September and moving to a new job in the Department of Geology at UTM. For 12 years, Bruce has kept the department’s complex system of computers and networks running seamlessly, including all of our office computers plus computers in our GIS lab, Grad lab and new Collaboratory. In 2010, Bruce received the Dean’s Outstanding Technical Service Award in recognition of his exceptional contributions towards supporting teaching and research in the department.

An exciting innovation in the undergraduate curriculum this year was the introduction of a new environmental geography field course, taught by Professor Scott Prudham (see page 18 for a student account of the course). This course will enhance the undergraduate student experience by complementing existing undergraduate field courses in physical geography and human geography. It differs from the other two courses in that it is a local field course, which makes it more affordable for students, yet includes numerous day trips both within Toronto and out to the Golden Horseshoe area surrounding the city.

CHAIR’S MESSAGE

In Memoriam: James T. Lemon

Professor James T. Lemon, professor emeritus of geography, passed away early on Tuesday January 31. Originally from West Lorne in southwestern Ontario, he received a BA from the University of Western Ontario (with the Gold Medal in geography), an MA from Yale (in Divinity), and then a Masters and PhD (both in Geography) from the University of Wisconsin (1964). He came to the University of Toronto in 1967 after several years teaching at UCLA. Jim was a highly respected and often controversial scholar of historical and urban geography, a Guggenheim Fellow, a mentor for and friend of several generations of students and colleagues, in Canada and abroad. Through his research and teaching he influenced, indeed changed, many careers. He was awarded the CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography in 1997.

In addition to numerous articles, he was also the author of award winning books on early Pennsylvania (The Best Poor Man’s Country. 1972, recently reprinted), which won the prestigious Beveridge prize from the American Historical Association as the best book published in American history that year, and second prize in the Sigma Sigma Sigma (1986). An Illustrated History (1986), a volume short-listed for the City of Toronto annual book award in 1986. Equally prominent was his third book, a path-breaking study entitled Colonial Drama and Native Limbo. Great Cities of North America since 1600 (1996). He was also an active participant in progressive politics (particularly the NDP) at all three levels of government, from the intensely local (in the Annex, and as an elected trustee of the Toronto School Board), to provincial and federal politics. Jim served as chair of the

P	 PROFESSOR JAMES T. LEMON"
The Honorary President Award was presented to Peter Walker in recognition of his outstanding support of graduate student education in the Program in Planning. He has been involved with the program since the early 1980s, when he was on an advisory committee that helped develop the program and he created two major awards for planning students: the Peter Walker Planning Scholarship and the Peter Walker Planning Fellowship.

Michael Church, now an emeritus professor at the University of British Columbia, was this year’s Distinguished Alumnus. He is a world leader in the study of fluvial sediment transport and the interpretation of river channel changes. In his address, he remarked that while he has received other honours, it is even more rewarding to be recognized by one’s alma mater.

This year’s Outstanding Service Awards winners were Leigh McGrath, David McKay, and Keith Potter, all of whom have generously and consistently volunteered their time and efforts in organizing the Planning Advisory Council’s fund-raising drive, event planning, and database of alumni networks and other contacts.

To nominate next year’s 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, no later than April 30, 2013.

UTAGA Awards 2012
Names of awards, and how winners are chosen

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

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.

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.

Honorary President Award
Peter Walker with presenter Jane Macijauskas

Distinguished Alumni Award
Michael Church receiving congratulations from Joe Desloges

Donating to the Department of Geography and Program in Planning Online

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. Last year your donations supported field research costs for students, awards for students to present their research at conferences, and funding for networking events.

This year you can help honour the memory of Professor Emeritus James T. Lemon, and contribute to the Department’s newest scholarship:

The James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography will honour graduate students in urban and historical geography, with special consideration given to students whose research speaks to issues of social justice. You’ll find the option to donate to this scholarship at our online donation page, or you can simply write James T. Memorial Scholarship on your cheque or accompanying letter in your mail-in donation:

Cheque payable to the University of Toronto
Annual Fund Office, University of Toronto, 21 King’s College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3
https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/46

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. Solicitation Code: 057004556. Charitable Reg. BN 108162330-RR0001
AWARD WINNERS 2011

Matthew Hansson Scholarship in Planning
Antonio Defrance
Graham Macdonald
Leif Maitland
Lori Flowers
Inger Jensen
Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Yi Luo
Emily Wall
Jennifer St. Paul Butler
Inger Jensen
Benjamin Sunshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Noreen Khambati
CIP student Award in Academic Excellence
Adenike Akande
Cities Centre Urban Planning Research Award
Michael Vidoni
Erin Guilliksen
Edie Yelles Award in Urban Planning
Brendon Goodmurphy
Friends of Planning Scholarship for Innovation
Shagulla Paia
Narmada Rajakumar
Michael Bucks
Ian D. MacPherson Award
Thomas Beck
LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Lori Flowers
Mitchell Goldblatt Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Anna Zamani
Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Sumert Ahlawi
Bonnie Bartlett
Nita Chosaung
Shagulla Paia
Jennifer St. Paul Butler
Emma Cohley
Zubaira Hussami
Peter Walker Planning Scholarship
Halon Ali
Graham Macdonald
Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Jacob Garrett
UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS
Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
Holly Vaughnan
Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Monica Nelson
Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Christopher Gurski
Donald Putnam Scholarship
Jennifer Shiller
F Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
Stephanie Mah
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 201/203/205
Juhee Nam
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 222
Lucia Fisher
Outstanding Performance Award for GGR 240
Maria Bianchi
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Lisa Ohberg
The Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship
Lisa Ohberg
Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Alexandra Miceli
The Geography Toronto Award
Jennifer Shiller
The Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Joshua Mitchell
Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science (Geography) and Field Research
Joyce Arabian
Anna Labelttski
Grace Arabian
John Horner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
Saha Qami
Stephanie Mah
Melissa Wierszewski

GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS
Anne McMaster Grant
Amy Mai
Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Kristine Haynes
Mauro Packalen
Joseph A. May Scholarship
Anne Marie Vlajcic
Mauro Packalen
Lia Frederiksen
Michelle Majored
Laura Pitkanen
Eleanor Rae
Renata Ramura
Benjamin Spiegel
J.E.R. Ross Scholarship
Anne Marie Vlajcic
Vincent Cheng
Antony Chou
Mauro Packalen
Corey Ponder
Cameron Proctor
David Roberts
Jennifer Sawyer
Stephanie VanHor
Lepian Yu
John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Amy Carveren
Zeyn Muses
Mai Nguyen
Mauro Packalen
Eleanor Rae
David Roberts
James Thayer
Chao Wang
Leqian Yu
ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS
Donald F. Putnam/George Tatham/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Eli Levinson
Michael Ralph Walah/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Daniele Tassaro
Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Stefanie Vanthul
Urban Strategies/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Carla Tsang
Edward Worso/Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILDA)/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Thomas Beck
Neptis Foundation/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Melissa Rubene
University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Heather Anndog
Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Neha Ali
Jason Burke
Vincent Cheng
Ryan Dade
Melissa Fong
Susan Gibbons
Alexey Gladenko
Carolyn Hatch
Rebecca Ouellet
Mauro Packalen
Shirley Pasternak
Eleanor Rae
Christopher Wollen
William D. Dean Scholarship in Science & Technology
Viladk Shumeda
ERS Canada Scholarship in Science & Technology
Cameron Proctor

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations
Professor Meric Golder received an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Lund University, Sweden on May 25. He was honoured for his contributions to our understanding of innovation, creativity and culture as drivers of the economic dynamics of city-regions. Lund University is one of the largest and oldest universities in Scandinavia and is consistently ranked among the world’s top 100 universities. Within the field of Geography, it is well known for its expertise in regional innovation systems and research on the creative economy.

Professor Emeritus Larry Bovone was elected to the College of Fellows of the Canadian Institute of Planners. Election as a Fellow recognizes exceptional achievement in the realm of Canadian planning and is the highest award the Institute can give to a member. He has also been awarded the International Geographical Union’s highest honour for his many contributions to urban geography and the IGU. This award was inaugurated in 1976 to honour individuals who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service in the work of the IGU or in international geography and environmental research. It is presented once every four years to no more than three or four individuals.

Vanessa Mathews, PhD, 2010, accepted a tenure stream position as an Assistant Professor in Human Geography at the University of Regina. Van- essa is an urban and cultural geographer with research interests in urban change, industrial heritage, and visual culture.

MSC student Jenny Stiller received the 2012 Gordon Goyen Student Leadership Award. Jenny completed her undergraduate degree in the Depart- ment in 2011 and is currently working on her MSC in physical geogra- phy. The award recognizes her contributions to the Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society (TUGS).

Rahim Minoh, PhD, 2011, accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University. And another success for Rahim Minoh, his PhD dissertation titled, ‘School travel made shifting behavior in Toronto, Canada, was selected as a winner of the AAG Transport Geography Specialty Group 2012 Ph.D. Thesis award.

Senior lecturer and GIS expert Don Bogos was elected a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Post-doctoral fellow may Chauan received the 2011 SSHRC Postdoctoral Prize and the 2011 Royal Society of Canada’s Alice Wilson award. Her PhD thesis looked at how older women are mobilizing and forming transnational connections in their struggles for social change.

Professor Mark Hunter has won the prestigious C. Wright Mills Award in 2011 for his book Live in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa. The award is given by the American Sociological Association meeting by the Society for the Study of Social Problems. In 2010 his book was awarded the prestigious Amancy Talbot Prize for African Anthropology by the Royal Anthropological Society. The award is given to the most valuable work of African anthropology of that year.

PhD Student Sally Turner received the 2012 Teaching Excellence Award at UTM for outstanding teaching by a teaching assistant.

Professor Kathi Wilson was selected as the recipient of the 2012 Teaching Excellence Award at UTM for outstanding teaching by a faculty member.

PhD Student Jeness Nager received a 2011 Teaching Assistants Training Program Teaching Excellence Award, an Award only five out of seventy-two TAs can receive.
From the Tropics to the Office

By Gabriela Sauter

I

If you work on the fifth floor of the Sidney Smith building, chances are you have seen me in the hall or ‘looking comfortable’ in my office. I’m in my fourth year of my PhD in Planning, and spend an amazing amount of time trying to write about urbanization in coastal tourist areas in ‘developing’ countries. I say trying because about half that time is spent organizing my desk, the other two thirds is thinking about what I’m going to do later, how long I’m going to run, or which yoga class to attend, and the remaining three quarters is no doubt spent on Facebook. Let me explain how I got to this point.

I started my post-secondary education with a BA in Economics and Management at Leeds University in the UK. I eventually took some interesting courses (the economics of famine, development economics, and environmental economics), which inspired me to go for an MSc in Development and Planning with a specialization in Environment and Sustainable Development from the Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London (UCL). As part of this, I was involved in a group project that took me to Sambisa, India, looking at forced evictions and resettlement schemes of an infrastructure project that displaced around 30,000 families living in poverty reduction and environmental management, with fieldwork in a number of countries – Indonesia, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Thailand. Again, much of the work I was involved in dealt with forced evictions, and my interest in that area became the catalyst to get me started on a PhD.

My current research – under the supervision of Amita Banerjee – looks at the fragmented character of new urban settlements in the context of mass tourism, using Veron-Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, as a case study. My thesis calls for a focus on the processes of urbanization rather than simply a study on the impacts of tourism, given the new importance of this once invisible phenomenon. The study aims to understand the process of enclave tourist environments manifested by gabriela sauter

My Serendipitous Route to Teaching GIS

By Don Hoels

I specialize in teaching geographic information systems, and I’m fortunate to have a job that combines my interests in geography, technology, GIS, and teaching. Recognizing those interests, and gaining the experience to put them to use in my current position, took a long time and some serendipitous opportunities.

When I was 15, my parents bought a computer (quite a new thing as the early eighties) and I was immediately hooked. I spent countless hours learning how to program and playing games, of course. When I got to university, it seemed perfectly natural to me to request a computer account and learn command line word processing on a mainframe terminal so I could latex-print my term papers (a rarity back then).

My favorite in geography started right after my second year at Queen’s University. During a disastrous first year in life sciences, I was thumbing through the course calendar and came across the geography section. The courses all sounded so interesting that I took nothing but geography that year, and as many as I could for the rest of my degree. In my final year, scheduling limitations forced me to take something called “geographic information systems.” It sounded deadly boring, but I was desperate, so I signed up for it and quickly realized that GIS was the perfect marriage of my interests in geography and technology.

The summer after graduation was spent working with John de Goede on Johnstone Inlet, digitizing glacial features from air photos. I couldn’t believe I was getting paid to do something so interesting, and also realized that GIS skills were in demand. That summer, my new M.Sc. supervisor, Cheryl Pratte, asked if I would be her field assistant on a trip to the Mackenzie Delta. After two weeks exploring the Beaufort Sea coastline by helicopter, I was in love with the North. Both my M.Sc. and Ph.D. (under Peter Ashmore) focused on using GIS and remote sensing to study the evolution of the lakes and vegetation of the Mackenzie Delta, and I spent three wonderful field seasons camping under the midnight sun.

During my Ph.D., I took a leave of absence to work for a startup company for a year in Inuvik owned by the Gwich’in Tribal Council, who had recently received an infrastructure grant. After a year and a half there, my Ph.D. committee wholeheartedly agreed that I was coming back, but I was getting a practical education in business, and I could see my study area from my office window! I did indeed return to school, but continued to work as a freelance GIS consultant for clients across the territories and in Ontario.

Towards the end of my Ph.D. at Western, I was asked to teach a course called The Natural Environment. Even though I had been a TA for a long time, having my own course file difficult, and I was amazed to discover that I loved teaching. I then taught an introductory GIS course at Western, with other stints at Simon Fraser University and Ryerson, and providing customized training at part of my consulting.

I joined the Department of Geography in 2001, and now teach GIS courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Students learn mapping and-handling skills with industry-standard software, and have opportunities for experiential and service-learning with organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, Toronto YMCA, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. We also discuss the implications of rapid evolving geospatial technology and its use for things like navigation and location sharing through smart phones and social media.

Currently, I am preparing an online introductory GIS course to be offered this fall. I’m determined to use technology to make online learning effective and enjoyable, and I’m keenly aware of the dangers of using technology just for its own sake. I recently attended the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation’s Course Design Institute, and have also been consulting with a team of experts in course design, online learning, and instructional technology. Over the summer, I’m recording lecture podcasts and software demonstrations. Students will be able to download and watch the podcasts and demos, run the GIS software, and with conference with me, all on a variety of devices including smart phones and tablets such as the iPad. It’s a lot of work but also a lot of fun!

I use social media such as Twitter and Google+ to connect with students, alumni, industry professionals, and other educators. I manage a LinkedIn group for students and alumni of GIS courses, to provide a forum for discussion, particularly around professional development and jobs. Our alumni members have been extremely helpful in providing advice to students just starting out in the field. I have also been blogging about teaching and learning GIS as a way to share and interact with the wider GIS community.

Visit Don Boyes blog at: www.donboyes.com

The departmental website which will improve communications and students and provide them with up-to-date information. Kathy has an academic background in music (also saxophone) and history with a particular interest in Russian and Soviet literature and history. She is a building gardener and not a little excited about her community garden vegetable plot.
The 16th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social was held on April 19, 2012 and was well attended by a broad network of planning students, alumni, faculty, and professionals. The event was held at the Great Hall in Hart House, and featured live jazz, great food, and an excellent opportunity to network with many prominent industry representatives. The Planning Alumni Committee was pleased to welcome featured speaker Dr. Anne Golden, Conference Board of Canada president and CEO, who spoke about the role of cities and their ever-growing global significance.

Dr. Golden, who was recently awarded the Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award by the Canadian Urban Institute, described cities and city regions as the new drivers of economic prosperity and the places where innovation and global trends will first arise. She also described qualities that successful cities will need in order to thrive, which included finding innovative ways to govern the city region that will benefit infrastructure planning and transportation. Dr. Golden noted that leadership would be the transformative ingredient crucial to the governance of any city or city region. The emphasis on a collaborative approach to economic development among municipalities, especially working together to improve the economy of the city region, is key.

The University of Toronto’s Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, would like to thank the many individuals and Foundations planning Fund donors whose donations directly support student success in graduate planning programs at U of T. As well, PAC wishes to recognize the substantial long-term contribution of the event promotional sponsor, NRU Publishing Inc., as well as the ongoing support from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Finally, the generosity of the Social’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated. The following are the Corporate sponsors of the 2012 Social:


Gold: BA Group, Condom CityPlace, Crowe & Associates Consulting Engineers, The Daniels Corporation, Friedeau Martinez, Fugle, Rubenoff LLP, Goodstein LLP, R.E. Milburn and Associates, The Sorbara Group, private owners and developers to fix the existing place, existing housing by providing density bonuses and breaks on development taxes for new constructions. There are also a limited number of direct government grants. Together these policies have had a hard time getting traction. Existing housing is therefore crumbling and little new affordable housing is being built, at least in the parts of the country where it is most in demand. On August 6, 2011, over 300,000 protesters took the streets of Tel Aviv to advocate for social justice, with affordable housing at the top of the list of issues. The conference I attended brought together housing professionals from Boston to meet with activists and academics from Tel Aviv and Haifa to figure out ways to move these projects in cities forward.

Another important decision I made was to become a play-date gigolo. If I heard about another parent out there who was friendly, had children and spoke a bit of English, I would give them a call. “Hi, my name is Michael, I hear you have children, so do I? Can we come over?”

The vast majority of my time was spent in parent mode, but I did manage to make contact with some planners in Israel, particularly those associated with the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) in Haifa. Two experiences stand out.

First, I had a chance to participate in a conference on affordable housing. In the mid-20th century, Israeli governments were very active in building or encouraging the construction of affordable housing throughout the country. In recent years, policies have focused on encouraging private developers to fix the existing place, by providing density bonuses and breaks on development taxes for new constructions. There are also a limited number of direct government grants. Together these policies have had a hard time getting traction. Existing housing is therefore crumbling and little new affordable housing is being built, at least in the parts of the country where it is most in demand. On August 6, 2011, over 300,000 protesters took the streets of Tel Aviv to advocate for social justice, with affordable housing at the top of the list of issues. The conference I attended brought together housing professionals from Boston to meet with activists and academics from Tel Aviv and Haifa to figure out ways to move these projects in cities forward.

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The University of Toronto’s Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, would like to thank the many individuals and Foundations planning Fund donors whose donations directly support student success in graduate planning programs at U of T. As well, PAC wishes to recognize the substantial long-term contribution of the event promotional sponsor, NRU Publishing Inc., as well as the ongoing support from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Finally, the generosity of the Social’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated. The following are the Corporate sponsors of the 2012 Social:

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Gold: BA Group, Condom CityPlace, Crowe & Associates Consulting Engineers, The Daniels Corporation, Friedeau Martinez, Fugle, Rubenoff LLP, Goodstein LLP, R.E. Milburn and Associates, The Sorbara Group, private owners and developers to fix the existing place, existing housing by providing density bonuses and breaks on development taxes for new constructions. There are also a limited number of direct government grants. Together these policies have had a hard time getting traction. Existing housing is therefore crumbling and little new affordable housing is being built, at least in the parts of the country where it is most in demand. On August 6, 2011, over 300,000 protesters took the streets of Tel Aviv to advocate for social justice, with affordable housing at the top of the list of issues. The conference I attended brought together housing professionals from Boston to meet with activists and academics from Tel Aviv and Haifa to figure out ways to move these projects in cities forward.
DEMYSTIFYING A “LARGER THAN LIFE” CITY:
OUR SECOND YEAR PLANNING FIELDTIP TO NEW YORK
PHOTOS AND ARTICLES BY CARLA TSANG, (CURRENTLY FINISHING HER MSCP)

All summer long, the second year planners spent sunny Toronto nights dreaming of skyscrapers, checkered yellow cabs and the red-inked billboards of a city that never sleeps. Ever since we were told in June that our fall planning fieldtrip would be to New York City, our class was buzzing with excitement and anticipation. To most of us, the city needed no introduction. New York City is a beacon for finance, art, media, fashion, technology and international affairs; its stature amongst other global cities has earned it the title of “cultural capital of the world.” Having been popularized as a place of ambition and opportunity, the New York City Metropolitan Area routinely depicted Manhattan as a mecca of affluence, sophistication and glamour. Most of the world will only experience New York as tourists. Very few of us will actually live in Manhattan. Admittedly, we too were tourists when we embarked on our trip with coordinator Antony Chau and Professor Mari Siemiatycki on the morning of September 5th. However, our role as burgeoning planners afforded us a glimpse into life in the Big Apple through the various planning issues we discussed as we spent the week exploring the city.

In a guided walk of the High Line in Manhattan’s lower west side, we observed the challenges of redeveloping industrial infrastructure to contemporary uses within the city’s historic Meat Packing District. Beginning in the nineteenth century, the High Line was an elevated rail corridor which transported freight between different factories along Manhattan’s waterfront. After falling into disuse, the railroad was transformed into a linear park in 2009 through the support of Mayor Bloomberg and other advocacy groups. Despite the torrential downpour which resulted in an unpleasant combination of soggy socks and windblown umbrellas, it was apparent that the design of the High Line was an ingenious solution which simultaneously addressed the need to create green space while maintaining a sense of exclusivity towards the area’s industrial past. It was unanimous that the best design feature of the park was the “bend on wheels” street furniture which could be whimsically rolled along the original tracks of the rail line.

Despite the substantial amount of density in Manhattan, affordable housing has long been an issue in New York City. An afternoon seminar with Professor Timo Aarons at Hunter College (City University of New York) dealt with the relationship between racial discrimination and housing crimes in the city. A later visit to the Lower East Side revealed the poor living conditions of immigrants during the nineteenth century within the city’s iconic tenement buildings. Entire families were squeezed into 2 rooms and living quarters also doubled as factory spaces. Although the tour’s docent spoke of how these conditions reflected ideas of what constitutes “adequate housing” at the time, an uneasy (and somewhat unsavory) parallel exists to this day. During a pub night with the Hunter College Planning Department, students revealed that they often shared a bachelor apartment with 3 or 4 other roommates to afford the cost of housing.

Although our trip focused mainly on the borough of Manhattan, the final walking tour brought our class to South Bronx, where the legacy of Robert Moses was laid out in plain view. The low-income neighbourhood was riddled with modernist towers, warehouses and a tangle of freeways. The tour was hosted by the South Bronx Watershed Alliance, which is a coalition of community groups aimed at creating a healthier, more sustainable and politically engaged neighbourhood. In a battle reminiscent of our fight against the Spadina Expressway in the 1970s, the coalition is advocating the removal of the Sheridan Expressway which cuts through the neighbourhood. However, the Sheridan serves as a ramp onto the network of freeways, as well as a primary route to Hunts Point Food Distribution Center, one of the main economic assets of the community. Although the campaigns focused on the community’s disproportionate share of social and environmental burdens, some positives were highlighted as well. Our guide was able to show us some grassroots efforts to build healthier public spaces in the neighbourhood, such as public art programs for youth, community gardens and two newly created parks.

At the end of the week, we left New York still awe-struck from the glamour of the city, but also quietly contemplative of the many challenges planners and stakeholders face in running a city of this magnitude. For many of us, we were grateful to see a side of the Big Apple that seemed less fabricated and contrived. As one friend remarked to me on our flight home, “It’s like meeting your favorite celebrity and discovering awkward insidiosities that make them more human.” As planners, we can perhaps appreciate that these idiosyncrasies are what make cities truly complex living entities, and above all, authentic.

The second year planners would like to thank donors and the Planning Alumni Committee for their generosity, which made this fieldtrip possible. Your continued commitment in supporting our educational and professional development is much appreciated!
This trip to Chengdu was a unique chance to explore at first-hand the processes of urban development in China. To understand the urbanization process, we not only visited sites in the city itself, but also surrounding rural areas, including visits to an organic farm on the edge of the city, a high-tech industrial zone and artist community in the suburbs, and village areas further away where large scale construction was remaking the lived spaces that had been destroyed by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. In the city and these areas outside, we had the opportunity to meet with various NGOs and community members involved in reshaping the city of Chengdu.

The first thing that struck me upon arriving in Chengdu was the scale of the city. Not only is the city large in terms of population (over 10 million urban residents), but the sheer scale of the built environment amazed us all, with large projects everywhere. However a second very striking aspect was the way in which many of these projects seem to fit the saying “build it and they will come.” From the subway terminals surrounded by empy land, to giant apartment complexes with no inhabitants, there was a surprising amount of seemingly unused megaproject space, particularly when contrasted to the busy and highly populated areas that made up the rest of the city. We were assured however, that with time, these spaces would become indistinguishable from the other dynamic areas of Chengdu.

Perhaps the most striking example fitting the “build it and they will come” approach to development was a village we happened upon in a rural area outside the city. We were heading there to visit an earthquake memorial site. What we found however was a village rebuilding itself in a style more fitting of the French countryside, complete with cafes and window flower planters. The purpose here was to create a new tourist destination site for the region’s growing middle class.

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**GGR 381: Urban Metabolism and the City of Toronto**

The Environmental Field Course (GGR381) is an excellent choice for students interested in connecting ideas of human-environmental interactions with practical and experiential applications. Offered for the first time in fall 2011 by Professor Scott Prudham, the course was an opportunity for us, as students, to engage in the study of Toronto’s “urban metabolism.” The course considered the inputs and outputs of labour, raw materials, finances, energy and policy that underpin the production of Toronto as an urban space and its connection to the “country.” Field trips challenged students to bridge theory and practice as they pertain to some of the city’s most vital spaces. The experience was a chance for geography students to look at cities and spaces from a new perspective and challenge conventional wisdom about the human-nature dualism.

Throughout the course, small groups of students explored sites of historical, political, ecological, and social significance. We had the opportunity to tour Sir Adam Beck Generating Station in Niagara Falls, the Rouge River Valley, farmer’s markets and Ashbridges Bay water treatment facility. Tours were led by a wide range of people, such as planners, academics, environmental and political activists, politicians and community members. Field visits were coupled with readings and class discussions to provide a framework to explore the various socio-natural processes by which the City of Toronto has been functioning of urban space.

**The Dynamics of Social Capital and Civic Engagement in Asia**

The purpose of this volume is to highlight the impacts on civic engagement of social capital, and its various component parts (trust, norms, networks and associations), in diverse parts of Asia. Addressing the prevailing need for improved governance within the spatial, political and cultural realities in the rapidly transforming landscapes of Asia, the contributors to the book bring together interdisciplinary work that focuses on the ways in which civic engagement can link with social capital building. The goal of this volume is to inspire policy that recognizes that a vibrant society with access to rich stores of positive social capital requires civil society, alternate civilities and the state. The result is a dialogue on the interplay of social capital and civic engagement in socio-political contexts quite different from those found in the West.

This book contributes to current discussions about the nature of social relations and their connection to politics and change and offers a unique lens into the validity of these important concepts in contemporary research across a variety of Asian settings. It will be of interest to social scientists across the board, especially those with an interest in Asia and Asian development.

Amrita Daniere is a Professor of Geography and Vice-Dean at UTM.

**Faith Based: Religious Neoliberalism and the Politics of Welfare in the United States**

By Jason Hackworth

Faith Based explores how the Religious Right has supported neoliberalism in the United States, bringing a particular focus to welfare—an arena where conservative Protestant politics and neoliberal economic ideas come together most clearly. Through case studies of gospel rescue missions, Habitat for Humanity, and religious charities in post-Katrina New Orleans, Jason Hackworth describes both the theory and practice of faith-based welfare, revealing fundamental tensions between the religious and economic wings of the conservative movement.

Hackworth begins by tracing the fusion of evangelical religious conservatism and promarketer, antigovernment activism, which resulted in what he calls “religious neoliberalism.” He argues that neoliberalism—the ideological sanctification of private property, the individual, and anti-statist politics—has rarely been popular enough on its own to promote wide change. Rather, neoliberals gain the most traction when they align their efforts with other discourses and ideas. The promotion of faith-based alternatives to welfare is a classic case of coalition building on the Right. Evangelicals get to provide social services in line with Biblical tenets, while opponents of big government chip away at the public safety net.

Though religious neoliberalism is most closely associated with George W. Bush’s Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the idea predates Bush and continues to hold sway in the Obama administration. Despite its success, however, Hackworth contends that religious neoliberalism remains an uneasy alliance—a fusion that has been tested and frayed by recent events.

Jason Hackworth is a Professor of Geography at St. George.

**Rural Resistance in South Africa**

By Themelka Kepa & Sunilie Snyders

Much has been written about anti-apartheid resistance by the marginalized people of South Africa, as well as its violent repression by security forces in urban areas (e.g. Sharpeville massacre; Soweto riots). Very little attention has been paid to resistance by rural people. The Mpondoro Revolts, which began in the 1950s and reached a climax in 1960, took among the most significant rural resistances in South Africa. Here Mpondoro villagers emphatically rejected the introduction of Bantu Authorities and unpopular rural land use planning that meant loss of land. The volume presents a fresh understanding of the uprising, as well as its meaning and significance then and now, particularly relating to land, rural governance, party politics and the agency of the marginalized.

Themelka Kepa is an Associate Professor of Geography at UTSI.
Everybody knows that the Internet is the most powerful information network ever conceived. It is a gateway to information, a messenger of love and a fountain of riches and distraction. We are all connected now, but connected to what? In Tubes, acclaimed young journalist Andrew Blum takes readers on a fascinating journey to find out.

As Blum writes, the Internet is tangible: it fills buildings, converges in some places in the world and avoids others, and it flows through tubes—along train lines and highways, and under oceans. You can map it, smell it and see it. As Tom Vanderbilt does in his bestselling Traffic, Blum goes behind the scenes of our everyday lives and combines first-rate reporting and engaging explanation into a fast-paced quest to explain the world in which we live. The room in Los Angeles where the Internet was born; the busy hub in downtown Toronto that links Canada with the world; a new undersea cable that connects West Africa and Europe; and the Great Pyramids of our time—Blum visits them all to chronicle the dramatic story of the Internet’s development and explain how it all works.

Andrew Blum, who studied human geography at the University of Toronto (M.A., 2002), is a correspondent at Wired magazine and a contributing editor at Metropolis. His work has also appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, the National Post, Saturday Night, Business Week, Slate and Popular Science, among many other publications. He lives in New York City. Visit him online at www.andrewblum.net


ALUMNI BOOKS

Alumnus Andrew Blum Publishes Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet

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