

PAC REVIEW 2008/2009

PRODUCED BY THE PLANNING ALUMNI COMMITTEE AND
THE U OF T DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PROGRAM IN PLANNING

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CELEBRATING WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY - ANNA WONG



The department of Geography and Program in Planning's new student lounge on the 5th floor of Sidney Smith Hall. It's hoped that this lounge will become the hub of student life in the department.

A LOOK AHEAD

PAC FUNDRAISING RESULTS IN TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

PAC is thrilled to announce that it has partnered with the Faculty of Arts & Science to fund a new GSEF scholarship award. An endowment of \$50,000 from our revenues will be matched by the University to create a scholarship, in perpetuity. The Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation is made possible through donations to PAC, as well as through funds generated by our annual Spring Social.

PAC has also "topped-up" a second award, also in partnership with FAS, in memory of Matthew Hanson, our classmate who passed away in 2006. There are now two Matthew Hanson Scholarships, also to be awarded in perpetuity. Great news for students!

14TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PLANNING SPRING SOCIAL - SET FOR APRIL 15, 2010

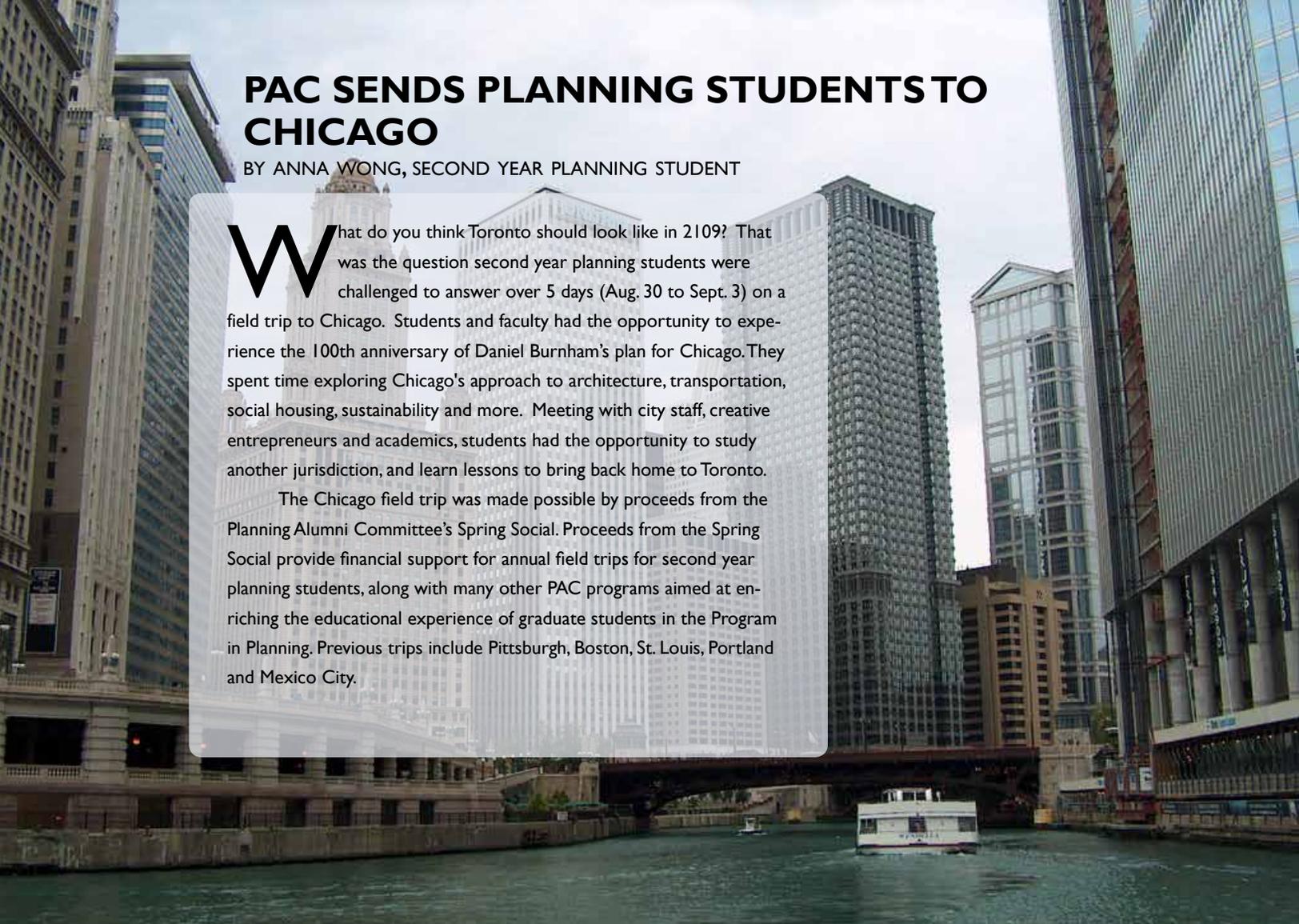
We are delighted to present as our featured speaker the Hon. David R. Peterson, Chancellor of the University of Toronto and chairman of the winning bid for the 2015 Pan American Games. David will speak with us about Toronto's efforts to attract major international events, and the impact of this successful bid on Toronto and its infrastructure. Plan to come to the Great Hall, Hart House, and hear David, as well as meet old and new friends.

PAC SENDS PLANNING STUDENTS TO CHICAGO

BY ANNA WONG, SECOND YEAR PLANNING STUDENT

What do you think Toronto should look like in 2109? That was the question second year planning students were challenged to answer over 5 days (Aug. 30 to Sept. 3) on a field trip to Chicago. Students and faculty had the opportunity to experience the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham's plan for Chicago. They spent time exploring Chicago's approach to architecture, transportation, social housing, sustainability and more. Meeting with city staff, creative entrepreneurs and academics, students had the opportunity to study another jurisdiction, and learn lessons to bring back home to Toronto.

The Chicago field trip was made possible by proceeds from the Planning Alumni Committee's Spring Social. Proceeds from the Spring Social provide financial support for annual field trips for second year planning students, along with many other PAC programs aimed at enriching the educational experience of graduate students in the Program in Planning. Previous trips include Pittsburgh, Boston, St. Louis, Portland and Mexico City.



View from the architectural boat tour on the Chicago River



Second year masters of planning students from the University of Toronto at the Regional Transportation Authority of Chicago



Green roof on top of City Hall

2008-2009 PAC HIGHLIGHTS - A BUSY YEAR

As you read this article, a new school year is well underway and the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) is building on a successful 2008-2009 session. Below are some highlights from PAC's most active year to date.

Student Representatives

PAC welcomed Maryann Alisch as the first year representative and Melissa Harris was elected as the second year representative having completed her term as the first year representative. Maryann and Me-

lissa did a tremendous job representing their years, providing a valuable link between student interests and PAC's various initiatives. As a result, PAC's focus on student activities was better than ever.

Mentoring Initiative

After a successful pilot season, PAC launched the second year of its mentoring initiative with a kick-off event at the Faculty Pub on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, attracting over 30 students and alumni. The "planning bingo" icebreaker was a huge hit while the "Mentor Tip" sheet and the "Mentor/Mentee" question form really helped to get the

mentor/mentee discussions off in the right direction. Special thanks to PAC members Melissa Tapper and Renee Gomes for running the mentoring initiative, which attracted 26 alumni mentors and 28 student mentees. To learn more about mentoring visit:

www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac/pac-initiatives.

Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop

This popular annual workshop provides an opportunity for Planning Program alumni to share their internship experiences, career paths and insights on finding exciting planning opportunities with current students. This year's workshop, held November 17, 2009, featured panelists Jeff Cantos (City of Toronto Affordable Housing Office), Leigh McGrath (Urban Strategies, Inc.), Reid Henry (Office for Urbanism), Louisa Sotamayor (PhD Candidate, Program in Planning) and Andrew Dales (Andrew Dales Consulting). There were 20 students in attendance this year. PAC provided food and drinks for the students. PAC was pleased to introduce and have Mr. and Mrs. Hanson as special guests attending the event. The workshop's interactive format encouraged an informal dialogue between panelists and the students in attendance, and helped to demonstrate the diversity of internships and careers available to students. The November 17, 2008, workshop featured five alumni, Jordan Erasmus (Ontario Realty Corporation), Corinne Fox (Town of

Whitby), Antony Lorius (Hemson Consulting), Nupur Malaviya (Davies Howe Partners), and Angela Stea (City of Toronto). See the full article on the workshop on page 10 in the Spring 2009 GeoPlan available online at:

www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/geoplan.

Career Development Seminars

In response to student requests for professional skills development PAC sponsored two seminars as part of its Student Focus initiative. The Rotman School of Business's Jeff Muzeralli conducted his "Interview Skills" seminar on February 6, 2009. The seminar's focus on interviewing techniques was very well received by the 30 student participants. On March 5, students attended a joint "Mastering Your Networking Skills" & "Looking for Unadvertized Work" seminar presented by the University's Career Centre. Special thanks to Katharine Rankin, Director of the Planning Program, for helping to organize these professional skills development opportunities. PAC covered the costs of these seminars through its Friends of Planning Fund.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2008-2009 PAC MEMBERS

Corwin Cambray, Chair
Jeffrey Cantos, Vice Chair

Carly Bowman

Eileen Costello

Andrew Dales

Jordan Erasmus

Renée Gomes

David McKay

Geoffrey McGrath

Leigh McGrath

Adam Molson

Abigail Moriah

Michael Noble

Lee Owens

Kate Parizeau

Keith Potter

Vivienne Skoberne

Angela Stea

Melissa Tapper

Christian Ventresca

Melissa Harris,

Second Year Student Rep.

Maryann Alisch,

First Year Student Rep.

Andrew Malcolm,

UTAGA Special Events Coordinator

Fenton Chin,

UTAGA Rep.

Katharine Rankin,

Director, Program in Planning

PAC can be reached at

pac@geog.utoronto.ca

or 416-978-3375 or by visiting

www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac.

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A FIELD TRIP OF A LIFE TIME....

BY DEMA ALI, SECOND YEAR PLANNING STUDENT



Professor Gunter Gad



During the second half of April 2009, I and a group of graduate planning and geography students spent Friday evenings learning about everything from the 1871 German Empire, the Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany, to East Germany, and reunification. The seminars brought threads of past, current, and counter planning initiatives alive – most of which we saw firsthand in the 10 day trip in May.

The experience walking through the streets and neighbourhoods of Berlin cannot be summarized in a few words. All aspects of social, urban, economic, and environmental planning manifested themselves in every area we visited. The tour included visiting the Unter den Linden, the Holocaust Memorial, University of Toronto Berlin (didn't know it existed), Potsdamer Platz, Marzahn, and suburbia (Potsdam and Adlershof). All the tours enriched our understanding of planning issues and provided valuable lessons to bring home.

Last but not least, I want to acknowledge all my classmates, thank my brother Hakam for joining us on the trip, and pass on a special thanks to the guidance of Professor Susan Ruddick and Professor Gunter Gad for the memorable field trip!



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Lucky 13

The 13th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 16, 2009 was a smash, setting new records across the board from corporate sponsorship and ticket sales to attendance and net proceeds. Internationally acclaimed Canadian architect Bruce Kuwabara was this year's featured speaker. See Michael Noble's article, Toronto - [The Passion of Politeness](#), on Kuwabara's address and the Spring Social in this issue.

Planning Skills Module

As a new initiative PAC decided to develop a planning skills module for students. To identify potential module topics PAC conducted a survey asking students to rank planning topics of interest. Over 30 student responses helped shape the inaugural planning skills module, Feet on the Ground - Working in Ontario's Planning System, held on March 11, 2009. Four alumni — Leigh McGrath, Renee Gomes and Emily Reisman from Urban Strategies; and Jeff Cantos from the City of Toronto — provided 28 student participants with an overview of Ontario's planning system, highlighted recent master planning projects and engaged students in a case study exercise. The inaugural module was a huge hit with the students. For additional details see Maryann Alisch's, [Planning Alumni Give Students a Behind the Scenes Look at Ontario's Planning Framework](#), article in this issue. Based on student interest in these types of learning experiences, PAC is looking at offering additional modules over the next year.

Again this year, PAC waived the ticket cost for graduate planning students, helping to attract 53 students to the Spring Social. PAC also ran its popular Spring Social Pairing matching current students (tomorrow's leaders) with today's professionals. Thanks to Kate Parizeau's efforts, 25 professionals volunteered to be paired with 29 students, helping them to "walk the room" at the Great Hall, Hart House. As well, PAC's student representatives, Maryann and Melissa, organized student resume packages, which were distributed at the end of the evening and posted on-line.

PAC'S ENHANCED STUDENT FOCUS

BY CORWIN CAMBRAY, PAC COMMITTEE

At the start of my two-year term (2007-2009) as PAC Chair the committee adopted a number of initiatives with the goal of providing additional opportunities for students to benefit from our alumni resources. I am pleased to report that today PAC-supported activities are providing students with more opportunities to interact with alumni and to develop their professional skills. From one-on-one mentoring and Spring Social pairing to improved internship resources, professional development workshops and planning skill modules, PAC has succeeded in strengthening its Student Focus over the past two years.

I am particularly proud that PAC delivered student-focused

NEW LEADERSHIP JEFF CANTOS & CARLY BOWMAN

Jeff Cantos now takes over as PAC Chair (2009-2011) after two outstanding years as Vice-Chair making significant contributions on a number of committees including chair of the Creative Committee. Jeff's energy and passion will help to further build PAC's ability to provide valuable activities for alumni and students alike.

At its May 5, 2009 meeting, PAC unanimously endorsed Carly Bowman as its incoming Vice-Chair. Carly has co-chaired the Sponsorship Committee the past two years including the redesign of the Spring Social's corporate sponsorship program, which helped the 13th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social set a new fundraising record this past Spring. Her successes to date bode well for PAC's future and will serve her well as she assumes the Vice-Chair position.

PAC is very fortunate to have such talented alumni on its executive. Jeff and Carly will make a dynamic 1-2 combo. Great for PAC - Great for Alumni and Students - Great for the Program!

Green City Art by freevectorstock.com

activities throughout the 2008-2009 school year attracting 178 student participants and 61 alumni participants (see, [2008-2009 Highlights](#), in this issue). Ultimately, PAC's success in delivering these activities is attributable to alumni taking pride in their Program, their desire to see more student opportunities, and their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise, as well as key support from Katharine Rankin in her role as Director of the Planning Program.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years as PAC Chair and working with many dedicated members who, through our committees and initiatives, have contributed to making PAC an active and effective alumni group.

TORONTO: THE PASSION OF POLITENESS

BY MICHAEL NOBLE, PAC COMMITTEE

Politeness. Cooperation. The good old Canadian Compromise. Canada is often damned with faint praise as a place that is clean, nice and basically bland.

Looking around the City of Toronto, Bruce Kuwabara sees the Canadian tendency towards compromise and 'mutual accommodation', as the foundation not of blandness, but of excitement and renewed vitality. Speaking to over 300 people at the University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 16th, Kuwabara asked the question "Is Toronto Ourtopia?". He described a city which is experiencing a period of growth and change unseen in decades and explored its potential to become an international urban mode.

Bruce Kuwabara's picture of Toronto included the spectacular buildings of the cultural renaissance, new transit lines, the waterfront revitalization and the redevelopment of major urban precincts such as CAMH, Regent Park and the Universities. He has a personal knowledge of these exciting projects and others throughout Toronto, having built up an impressive body of work as a founding partner of KPMB Architects, a company which has earned 10 Governor General awards and produced six of the nine Cultural Renaissance projects in Toronto.

To demonstrate the beauty of accommodation, Kuwabara talked about two of his own projects, Canada's National Ballet School and the Gardiner Museum. He described the buildings as mixing in skillfully and beautifully with surrounding structures despite differences in styles, eras and architects. Beyond the buildings, he noted that Toronto is a place of personal openness and compromise which is a magnet for talented

and passionate people from around the world, who settle or work here because they are able to be themselves. To Kuwabara, nurturing this spirit of openness and cooperation is helping Toronto to become an international model of sustainable and civil urbanism. Time will tell if Toronto can use this spirit to further advance its quest to become a truly world-class city.

The 13th Annual Spring Social was held Thursday, April 16 at the Great Hall at Hart House at the University of Toronto with proceeds supporting the University of Toronto's Friends of Planning Fund

The event attracted over thirty corporate sponsors. *Premiere* - Aird & Berlis LLP, Cassels Brock Lawyers, Davies Howe Partners, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, LEA Consulting, Stikeman Elliott LLP; *Platinum* - Bousfields, Concord CityPlace, Cresford Developments, Hemson Consulting, Malone Given Parsons, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, SmartCentres, Wittington Properties; *Gold* - BA Group Transportation Consultants, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Fogler, Rubinoff LLP, Goodmans LLP, Hanson + Jung Architects, MHBC Planning, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Miller Thomson LLP, Ontario Realty Corp., R.E. Millward and Associates, The Sorbara Group, Walker, Nott, Dragicevic Associates; and *Silver* - Altus Group, Counterpoint Engineering, ENTRA Consultants, iTRANS, McCormick Rankin Corporation, Turner Fleischer Architects, Weston Consulting Group. Special thanks also to Ontario Professional Planners Institute and NRU Publishing Inc. for their promotional support of the Spring Social.

A FRIEND OF PLANNING IS A FRIEND OF MINE

BY JEFF CANTOS, PAC CHAIR

Last year, PAC undertook a fundraising campaign to help generate funds, which would help us meet our longterm goals of developing graduate scholarships and enhancing students' educational experiences. As this year's PAC Chair, I would like to personally thank **Graham Bailey, Corwin Cambray, Charles Cheesman, Abigail Moriah,** and **Michael Noble** - our donators from last year's fundraiser. Their gifts have helped PAC deliver on our mandate. Personally, I would love to see the day when every incoming and continuing student in the Planning Program receives financial assistance. Because of the generosity of our alumni, we are getting close to that day.

For more information about PAC, please visit:
www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac.

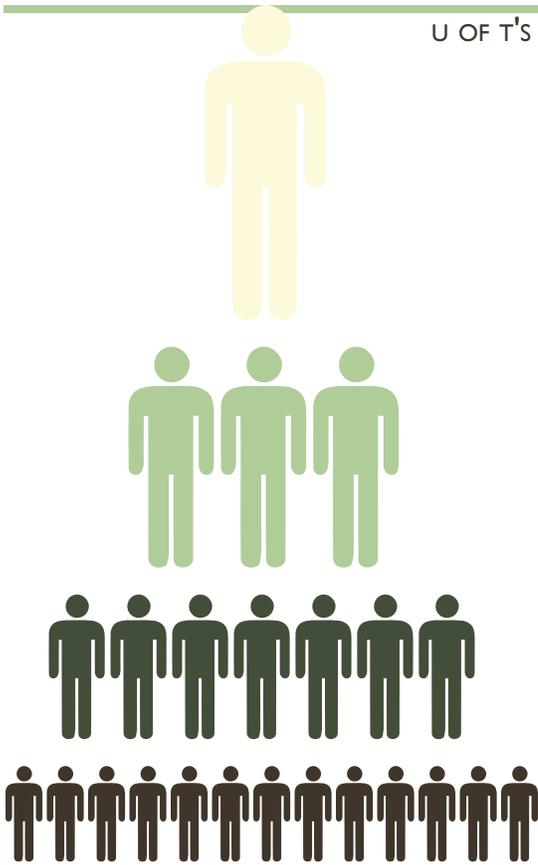
UPDATE ON ALUMNI EVA-MARIE TROPPER

"I recently joined a team of project managers responsible for the redevelopment of downtown Chicago and surrounding neighborhoods in the Central Planning District. I manage all projects underway or planned for the South Loop, Near South Side and Bronzeville. This is a dynamic area that includes Chicago's Museum Campus, south Grant Park, Columbia College, McCormick Place and venues planned for the 2016 Olympics. My work includes creating neighborhood plans, reviewing and approving private redevelopment projects, acquiring land and conveying city-owned land to meet area redevelopment goals."

— Eva-Marie Tropper

Msc.Pl. (Specialization: Urban Planning and Development, Department of Geography and Planning, U of T), Graduated in 2000

Hon B.A. (Specialization: Urban and Economic Geography, Department of Geography and Planning, U of T), Graduated in 1997



In preparation for the 50th Anniversary of U of T's Masters of Planning Program (approaching in 2013), PAC has launched an Alumni Outreach initiative. Led by Alumni Outreach Committee Chair Keith Potter, the Committee aims to encourage and support connections between alumni at large, and between alumni and current students in U of T's Planning Program.

A number of initiatives are already underway: a Facebook Page for "University of Toronto - Program in Planning Alumni" and an independent Alumni Listserv (<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac/listserv>) have been created, and plans are being developed for a quarterly Alumni News newsletter.

The Alumni Outreach Committee is currently assembling a list of contacts of graduates of U of T's planning program, and is seeking "champions" from each graduating year to act as connectors between the program and their former classmates.

Contact PAC at pac@geog.utoronto.ca for more information, or to get involved.

PLANNING ALUMNI GIVE STUDENTS A BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT ONTARIO'S PLANNING FRAMEWORK

BY MARYANN ALISCH, PAC STUDENT REP

In March, 2009, the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) held its inaugural Planning Skills Module entitled Feet on the Ground: Working in Ontario's Planning Framework.

The evening session offered students in the planning program the chance to learn about the world of professional planning from the perspectives of both planning consultants and a municipal planner. The speakers included Leigh McGrath, Renee Gomes and Emily Reisman from Urban Strategies, and Jeff Cantos of the City of Toronto who all drew on real working experiences to provide students with valuable insights on current planning practice.

Complimenting the PAC sponsored professional development courses on interviewing, mastering your networking skills and looking for unadvertised work, this skills module was the result of a survey completed by the planning students which allowed them to choose which professional skills they were most interested in learning more about.

The module began with an informative presentation which famil-

iarized students with Ontario planning legislation and also gave a glimpse into some recent master planning projects. Students were then invited to take part in a case study exercise where they were introduced to Toronto's Zoning By-laws and Official Plan and were guided through the steps taken in the development review process from both the private

and public sectors. Pizza and refreshments generously provided by PAC were enjoyed by all during the exercise!

Feedback from the students was nothing but positive with the interactive format of the evening being cited as an especially successful element. Those in attendance indicated that the session was greatly appreciated and voiced a collective desire for

more! Following the success of this pilot event, PAC is preparing for a follow-up skills module for the 2009-2010 school year.

On behalf of the first and second year planning classes, thank you to PAC for continuing to be so dedicated to enriching the students' educational experience and for taking the time to offer this much appreciated Planning Skills Module.

Those in attendance indicated that the session was greatly appreciated and voiced a collective desire for more!

CELEBRATING WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY

BY ANNA WONG, SECOND YEAR PLANNING STUDENT



Where are the planners? Scattered throughout the room are Hugo Bonilla, Mia Baumeister, Jesse Ajayi, Nicholas Gallant, Valerie Bryson, Brendan Salakoh, Doris Ho, Erin Gullikson, Ada Chan and Anna Wong

On Friday, November 6th, nine U of T Geography and Planning students went to Mr. Crombie's grade 4/5 class at St. Richard Catholic School in Scarborough to do a World Town Planning Day educational activity with the kids.

The grade 4/5 students were introduced to planning as a profession, encouraged to think and learn about how their homes, communities and cities are built as well as to think about their "sense of place" relative to their homes, schools and other important buildings. In turn the U of T Geography and Planning students had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with several rambunctious youth, figuring out the best way to communicate planning ideas in interesting and relevant ways.

Together, the groups carried out several exercises to convey key lessons about the importance of planning practise. They started with a

land-use colouring activity so that the kids could gain a sense of how compatible and incompatible uses can be arranged effectively. This was followed by a reflective, writing based activity that asked student's questions about their neighbourhoods and communities which covered everything from "Are there any places in your neighbourhood that you don't feel safe?" to "What kinds of things would you like to see more of in your community?" Finally, everyone got out the construction paper, pencils, glue and tape to create their very own model cities, which tended to chock-full of candy stores, video arcades and places to play.



Brendan Salakoh and his students



Mia Baumeister and Erin Gullikson look proudly on to their students' presentation

A special thanks goes out to Mr. Crombie and St. Richard Catholic School, the Department of Geography and Planning at U of T and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute for their support in this endeavor.