When I first joined PAC in 2004, we were a smaller committee focused on planning for and hosting the Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social — our main fundraising event. Since then, PAC has grown in both size and in scope. The committee now has an enhanced student focus, in addition to the Spring Social and other fundraising initiatives. In the past three years, we’ve added several initiatives to PAC’s arsenal, all of which are intended to enrich the educational experiences of graduate planning students.

After making great strides in strengthening the ties between alumni and students, we realized that we needed to build and formalize the ties between alumni to keep alumni connected with one another and with PAC. Led by Keith Potter, we struck an Alumni Outreach subcommittee to tackle this project. We started a database of all alumni, became active on Facebook and established the PAC Review. We now attempt to keep regular contact with the 400+ alumni in our growing database. Through our outreach work, we have been able to reach out to alumni working overseas, in the U.S. and all over Canada, many of whom have reconnected with fellow alumni or volunteered to act as mentors to current students.

As of today, our committee is 29 members strong and I am proud to be a part of such a dedicated group of individuals. Without their countless volunteer hours on PAC initiatives and valuable insight on the committee’s day-to-day business, we would not be able to boast our successes in this year’s PAC Review. I look forward to continuing my capacity as Chair into 2011 and handing over the reigns to PAC’s Vice-Chair, Carly Bowman, who has been an amazing strategist and voice of reason for PAC. Our committee, the Department and students will be fortunate to have Carly at the PAC helm.

Katharine served as the Planning Program’s Director for four years, during which she sat on PAC and served as a great ambassador for the Department. Together with Katharine’s leadership and her support on our initiatives, PAC was able to spearhead and institutionalize several projects, including the Program’s internship program, PAC’s Mentorship initiative and Planning Skills Modules. Katharine’s dedication and commitment to the Program and to PAC’s mandate undoubtedly strengthened the ties between PAC and alumni to the Department and students. Thanks very much, Katharine!

In 2007, PAC had our first set of student representatives join the committee, many of whom now sit on PAC as active members. Since then, PAC has been given a great opportunity to peer into the students’ life and receive first-hand news from the front-lines. PAC thanks Maryann for her two years of representing her peers and Hugo for his year of service. The two brought a positive energy to the Committee, which we will all miss. PAC wishes Maryann and Hugo the best of luck.

This past year we broke many records: in the number of students and alumni involved in our initiatives; corporate sponsorship; and in the number of donors to the Friends of Planning Fund. In recognition of their donations, PAC would like to extend our gratitude and personally thank our Friends of Planning: Graham Bailey, Ronji Borooah, Corwin Cambray, Providenza Cancilla, Jeffrey Cantos, Lorne Cappe, Christian Giles, Tim Haldenby, Elizabeth Jefferson, Kyle Knoeck, Gregg Lintern, David McKay, Allison Meistrich, Michael Mizzi, Michael Noble, Keith Potter, John Reid, Sarah Rogers, Joel Rogers, and Angela Stea.

In 2010, Kanishka became the Planning Program’s Director and PAC member. PAC looks forward to working with Kanishka in facilitating PAC’s mandate in the years ahead. Welcome aboard, Kanishka!

Also in 2010, PAC welcomed two incoming student reps: Michael Thorpe (2nd year) and Carla Tsang (1st year). PAC is fortunate to have such eager support from our student reps.

In 2009, Virginia became the Chair of the Department of Geography and Program in Planning. Virginia has been an excellent mentor to planning students and PAC looks forward to working with Virginia in the future.
The 14th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 15, 2010 was a tremendous success. Great speaker, great band, great crowd, lovely venue and delicious food, as always. The PAC Sponsorship Committee is particularly pleased to thank the 42 sponsors of the 2010 event for their contribution to a record fundraising total.

Social fundraising helps to send second year planning students on their pre-term field trip (this year they went to Detroit - read more about it on page 5), to provide PAC the means to host mentoring, planning skills and planning experience seminars, to support students’ conference attendance and to facilitate social events such as the new Fall Planning Mixer held in September of this year (read more about the Mixer on page 8).

In addition, PAC wishes to thank its promotional sponsors, NRU Publishing Inc. and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), for their substantial contribution in circulating information about the Social to their readership and membership respectively. Without the contribution of these in-kind sponsors, the growth of the Social would not be possible.

The 2011 Sponsorship drive will commence in December 2010. Interested in learning more about sponsoring the Spring Social? Please contact planning.alumni.committee@gmail.com and a member of the Sponsorship Committee will be pleased to discuss the matter with you further.

2015 Pan am games: Toronto’s moment is here

By Michael Noble

“The transformative power of sport and how we use it to celebrate our common humanity.”

The Hon. David Peterson

That will be the legacy of the 2015 Pan-Am Games in Toronto according to Pan-Am Bid Committee Chairman and former Ontario Premier David Peterson.

Speaking to over 350 people at the University of Toronto Friends of Planning Spring Social on April 15th, the Hon. David Peterson provided an inside look at how the games were won and discussed the benefits for the City of Toronto, the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and Ontario as a whole.

The lasting physical infrastructure associated with the games will include a green, mixed-use neighbourhood evolving from the Athlete’s Village at the West Donlands, a new sports stadium in Hamilton, and an aquatic centre at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough campus. At this facility, Mr. Peterson asserted, a new generation of world class Canadian athletes would grow up, and Toronto children could learn to swim in one pool while champions like Michael Phelps would train in the pool next to them.

Peterson also discussed his ideas for socially and culturally engaging citizens across Ontario, through student sports events at schools across the province; a host program where Toronto’s multi-cultural communities could open their homes to international visitors; and co-branding opportunities with institutions like MaRS and the ROM, who could focus conferences and exhibitions on the theme of the Americas.

To the audience of planners, designers, lawyers, students and other industry representatives, Peterson suggested that preparations for the Pan Am Games would have an increasingly strong influence on planning work done in the city. He also praised city staff for their work on Toronto’s multi-cultural communities could open their homes to international visitors; and co-branding opportunities with institutions like MaRS and the ROM, who could focus conferences and exhibitions on the theme of the Americas.

The games are of no value on their own,” Peterson stressed. “I can’t see much intrinsic value of running around a track.” Instead, the 2015 Pan-Am games will be known for helping to bring the swagger back to Toronto and providing a lasting physical, social and cultural legacy to the entire province.
14TH ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL
PHOTOS IN REVIEW

Pan-Am Bid Committee Chairman and former Ontario Premier David Peterson

Michael Noble, Scott Pennington, Abril Novoa, Anthony Fernando

Corwin Cambry, Beate Bowron, Tim Holdenby

Carly Bowman, Michael Vidoni, Cathy Biesma

Mark Godfrey, Winston Matsushita, Phil Parry

Bill Wallace, Malena Mendez, Michelle Drylie, Graham Bailey, Adam Molson

Kanishka Goonewardena, Leigh McGrath

Graham Bailey, Bill Wallace, Abril Novoa, Limin Fang

15TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PLANNING SPRING SOCIAL
April 14, 2011

Please plan to join over 300 planners and industry professionals at the 15th annual Friends of Planning Spring Social in April.

We have a fantastic featured speaker lined up: Mr. Tony Gagliano, Co-Founder of Luminato, President of the AGO Board of Trustees and Executive Chairman and CEO of St. Joseph Communications.

This year you can purchase tickets ONLINE (click here), or through the ticket order form that will be widely circulated starting in February 2011.

Tony Gagliano
If 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 boasts the uneasy task of providing servicing 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 Detroit, as well as discussions on immigration led growth and various walking tours. This medley of perspectives provided a well-rounded narrative to understand the reasons beyond a declining manufacturing sector, racial segregation, and the 2008 recession for why a once booming city has since faded into various states of disrepair.

Bob O’Brien of Southwest Solutions, an NGO that works on community development initiatives such as building "livable" affordable housing in and around Mexican Town asked the central question, "Why would anyone invest in Detroit when there is affordable real-estate..."
Corwin Cambray, past PAC Chair (2007-2009), has made us proud. On September 20, 2010, Corwin was awarded an Arbor Award in recognition of his outstanding personal service to the university. The Arbor Award is the University’s way of thanking volunteers such as Corwin, and letting them know that their contributions of time, energy and expertise do not go unnoticed. The award ceremony was sponsored by University Advancement and took place at the President’s official residence at 93 Highland Avenue.

To top off a big month, Corwin was nominated as one of the newest members of the University’s College of Electors (College). The College was established by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto in 1971 and is a group of members representing the constituent alumni associations of the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA). The members of the College are responsible for electing the Chancellor and the alumni members (alumni governors) of the Governing Council. PAC wishes Corwin the best of luck in his new endeavours with the University. We’re rooting for you, Corwin!

Ann Borooah, MCIP, RPP

Ann has been the Executive Director, Toronto Building and Chief Building Official for the City of Toronto since November 2001. In this position, she has overseen major reforms in the development appraisal system, and has introduced new initiatives including a by-law regulating the construction of green roofs and a new sign regulation regime for the City.

Prior to joining the City, Ann held the position of Director of the Development and Buildings Branch in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs of the Province of Ontario. In this position, she was responsible for the introduction of the 1997 edition of the Building Code, the transfer of septic system regulation to the Building Code from environmental legislation, and the introduction of Bill 124, a comprehensive review of the Building Code Act and related legislation. Joining the provincial government in 1982, she played a number of roles in the housing, development and planning fields, including holding the position of Director of Housing Advocacy and Planning from 1991 to 1993. While completing her education and before joining the provincial government, Ann worked in several consulting architecture and planning firms.

Ann studied architecture at the University of Waterloo, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Geography and a Masters of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Toronto. She is a Registered Professional Planner, a member of the Ontario Building Officials Association, Past Chair of the the Large Municipal Chief Building Officials ("LMCBO"), and a member of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, the Ontario Building Code Advisory Council, the Ontario Building Code Energy Advisory Council and Lambda Alpha International.

Congratulations Corwin!

Corwin Cambray, past PAC Chair (2007-2009), has made us proud. On September 20, 2010, Corwin was awarded an Arbor Award in recognition of his outstanding personal service to the university. The Arbor Award is the University’s way of thanking volunteers such as Corwin, and letting them know that their contributions of time, energy and expertise do not go unnoticed. The award ceremony was sponsored by University Advancement and took place at the President’s official residence at 93 Highland Avenue.

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DO YOU REMEMBER THE NINETIES?

IF YOU GRADUATED IN THE NINETIES, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PAC is trying to help alumni of the Planning Program to stay in touch with current students – and with each other.

We have lost touch with the following alumni. If you know anyone in this list, please send us their email address, or ask them to contact us at: planning.alumni.committee@gmail.com

**1990**
Maureen Fair
Kathryn Fisher
Robert Gosse
Nicola Jansco
Rob Whyte
Joanne Zanin-Minkiewicz
Haraldur Sigurdsson
Laura Van De Bogart
Edward Veldboom
Robert Walker
Shannon Wiens
Maureen Wilson

**1991**
Matthew Casey
Frank Dieterman
Francois Fournel
Irene Krajicek
Gillan Lawrence
Yuen-Ling Mark
Sharon Markesteyn
Filomena Nunes
Valve Aloe
John Christie
Alan Craig
Jose Gavinha
Eugenio Macchione
Melissa Murphy
Melissa Phillips
Judith Sherrat
Terry Singh
Paul Stewart
Darren Taubman
Lesley Ann Yule

**1992**
Gloria Brandao
Kerry Lakotos-Hayward
Stanley Lartey
George Meadows
Brian Mierzynski
Peter Naperstkov
Motohiko Nishihayashi
Bohdan Onyskay
Judith Pucher
Igor Vojnovic
Rhonda Wagman
Jill Watson
Sandra Young
Patricia Buckley
Debbie Cella
Derek Covington
Sean Demsky
Helen Garland
Denise Girard
Diana Gregoric-Adzemovic
Julia Jackson
Peter Kowel
Wayne MacGregor
David Morton
Lauren Pilley
Susan Pollock
John Romagnoli
Denise Russel
Brett Smith
Fraser Smith
Daniel Tassie

**1993**
Nicola Zeunert
Yvette Ali
Johanna Cheng
Theresa Diesch
Pilar Eguillor
Terri Lasko
Qian Lei
Tomas Lopez
Terri Nikolaevsky
Lim Pun
Sonya Ahamed
Jennifer Ahearn
Andree Appleton

**1994**
Gregory Cardwell
Helen Dassi
Christopher De Sousa
Keeley Griffiths
Randy Grochowski
Bill Lashbrook
Neil Mallen
Daniel Naundorf

**1995**
Pac

**1996**
Mirella Ng Wong Hing
Angela Thompson
Angela Valentine
Michael Van De Vege
Melinda Vandenbergh
Michael White
Andrea Yearsley

**1997**
Susan Asprey
John Fraser
Mark James
Beverley Rowlands
Tina Schankula

**1998**
Caroline Abili
Richard Dresher
Sarah Hardy
Tamara Kerbel
Steven Kirchgraber
Yael Levitte
Kamlesh Minocha
Julie Stein
Gerda Zonruiter

**1999**
Devina Bahadoorsingh
Penelope Duda
Barbara Gosse
Angela Han
Shellen Liao
Terence Tam
Yoko Ujike
Fall Planning Mixer

On September 16, 2010, PAC hosted a casual, free 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’s 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 inbox next August for an announcement respecting the second annual free Fall Planning Mixer.

Mentorship Kick-off

By Michael Thorpe, 2nd Year PAC Rep

The Planning Alumni Committee kicked off its annual mentorship program this year with a Meet and Greet on Oct. 6th. This is PAC’s fourth year running the mentorship program, an opportunity that is made available to both first- and second-year planning students.

The main highlights of the night were the icebreaker activity and mentor/mentee “speed dating”. After introductions were made everyone was asked to play “mentorship bingo” by filling out a list of things people have done, such as traveled internationally for work, who can use their left hand, and even who has tattoos! This made for a nice transition into the speed-dating segment. All the mentors got on one side of the room and all the mentees moved from mentor to mentor, spending a few brief minutes answering questions about themselves such as their research interests, why they are in planning, and what their future aspirations are.

The Meet and Greet was an excellent way of showing the amount of expertise and experience that the U of T’s planning program graduates have contributed towards and the willingness of career professionals to share of themselves to add to the academic experience of planning students.

Continued on page 9

Developing our Interviewing Skills

By Hugo Bonilla

On Tuesday February 2, 2010, a group of fifteen first-year planning students attended a professional development session on job strategy and interviewing skills presented by Jeff Muzzerall and sponsored by the Planning Alumni Committee.

Jeff is the Director of the Corporate Connections Centre at the Rotman School of Business and a renowned specialist in career advice and communication. He is a very energetic New Brunswicker eager to share with students his life experiences and career path as an environmentalist, investment banker, entrepreneur and communicator.

In my opinion, the workshop had three clearly defined sections: introductions, information and practice. Informal introductions from the attendees broke the ice and provided the information that Jeff needed to tailor the content and examples of his presentation to the needs of his audience.

In the second part Jeff used a host of examples from real life to illustrate “to do’s” and “not to do’s” when looking for a job and writing resumes and cover letters. He provided tons of tips as to how to

Continued on page 9
approach a job search and the things that employers are looking for in successful candidates.

Nevertheless, the meat of the event was the practical third part of the session. Two planning students had previously been approached to participate in mock interviews for typical entry-level planning positions and they agreed to do so in front of the entire audience. Their skills were put to the test when Jeff proved to be a keen interviewer who asked difficult questions. After each interview the audience analyzed the highs and lows of the interviewee and Jeff provided some tips for specific situations. The main lesson learned from this section was: practice, practice, and practice.

Students were really grateful to get this hands-on and entertaining session to face the round of interviews that we are all likely to encounter in our search for internships. I believe that we are better prepared now. The only thing left is: practice!

In Seattle, Chicago… Phoenix? Though I have never traveled to the aforementioned cities, I imagine providing a convincing response to this question would be a daunting task. It became evident that more than any new development, what is most needed in Detroit is an internal grassroots uprising, and investment from valiant entrepreneurs brave enough to establish themselves in a city that lacks the basic means with which to attract and retain their interest.

As an example of this needed fearlessness, in 1986 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 regeneration in a place more needed than a loft conversion in Leslieville. Though the question was asked regarding the gentrification of Detroit’s downtown neighbourhoods, this was likely a concern several decades prior when the glamour of industry was the epitome of the city’s success, all those who responded stated that today this it is simply not yet a concern, as you first need people to populate an area before there is any competition for real estate.

One interesting tale explained the terror of privately owned public space was the story of Manuel “Matty” Maroun, an 83 year old real estate tycoon who acquires large plots of land throughout Detroit’s waterfront, sits on them as they waste away and devalue adjacent properties, builds illegal roads, and cuts off neighbourhoods from each other and basic servicing. After seeing the destruction he 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, however it would be false to ignore an unavoidable sense of anger, mistrust, and resentment felt while wandering throughout dilapidated streets. Though we too have cities in Canada that face decline after being reliant upon a single industry, their issues seem minute in comparison to the mass coordination needed to reinvigorate Detroit. Discussing other North American cities that have survived catastrophe, Rebecca Solnit’s thesis in A Paradise Built in Hell suggests that there might just be something amazing that comes out of Detroit’s disaster. As noted by the city’s planning department – this is the first time in history Detroit is being forced to change.

Now back at home in my densely inhabited quickly gentrifying downtown neighbourhood with an abundance of grocers, public transit, schools, and life, I can reflect on an eye opening adventure that introduced me to issues on a different scale from those we are exposed to in Toronto.

As suggested by many we spoke to on our short journey, for something groundbreaking to happen in Detroit sustained investment is needed for a new type of economy. Though exactly what this will look like has yet to be formally established, it is safe to say that energy must be channeled into a post-industrial assembly line – NGO’s, adventure seekers, planners, community groups, entrepreneurs, artists, and long time residents working collectively to inform a direct vision that moves beyond Armageddon.

Robyn Shyllit is a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and is completing her Master’s degree in Planning at the University of Toronto focusing in cultural planning and community development.
Dear Friends of U of T Planning,

Every year the Planning and Alumni Committee (PAC) at the University of Toronto provides financial support and career development opportunities to dozens of planning students. We fund scholarships, field trips, workshops and other activities which offer students a competitive advantage after they graduate. This year, we’d like to invite you to make a contribution to the Friends of Planning Fund, and to help us sustain these important initiatives throughout 2010-2011.

Last year, our internship evening, professional development workshops, planning skills module, Mentoring Program and Spring Social Pairing drew in over 175 students and 60 alumni participants. With the total planning program size of typically 60 students, we are pleased that this figure reflects students’ desire to attend multiple PAC events.

The Fund also helped to send several students to conferences, and supported a field trip to Detroit that was attended by 18 members of the graduating class. Like earlier field trips to Indonesia, Mexico City and Chicago, this one allowed students to engage directly with practicing planners, visit development sites, and observe planning in an environment very different to what they are familiar with in Toronto.

We are also delighted to announce a new graduate scholarship, the “Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation”, our third new PAC-sponsored award unveiled in the past two years. These new awards were made possible in part through the generous support of individuals like you. This brings the total number of annually awarded PAC-sponsored scholarships to five.

We would like to replenish the Friends of Planning Fund so that we can maintain and even expand our support of these essential activities. With your help, we hope to create more scholarships, and increase our levels of funding for conferences and workshops. Every M.Sc.Pl. student has access to the Fund and all are invited and encouraged to come to our events and to take full advantage of the opportunities we offer.

Please consider making a donation of $50 or greater before March 31, 2011 to the Friends of Planning Fund. For your donation, you will receive a tax receipt as well as complimentary admission to the 2011 Friends of Planning Spring Social as a “Friend of Planning.”

Thank you for your support.

You can now give online at: www.donate.utoronto.ca/geography.

For more information about PAC, please visit: www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac.
YES! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FRIENDS OF PLANNING FUND

You are invited to make a donation of $50 or more before March 31, 2011.

I WISH TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ Other amount $__________

☐ I want to join the Presidents’ Circle* with my enclosed minimum gift of $1,827 or $152.25 per month.

* 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.

☐ I want to make a continuous monthly gift of $________ per month beginning ______ / ______ / ______

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☐ Planning Scholarships  ☐ Other (specify) ____________________________________

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☐ Cheque (payable to the University of Toronto)
☐ Credit Card payment in the amount of $ ____________

PAYMENT OPTION #2:

☐ CONTINUOUS MONTHLY GIFT of $ ____________

* Continuous monthly gifts will be deducted in the middle of the month. I understand that I can change my monthly gift at any time via written notice to the Annual Fund office. Tax receipts will be mailed annually in February.

For payment by credit card, please complete the following:

☐ VISA  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ AMEX

Credit Card# _ _ _ _/_ _ _ _/_ _ _ _/_ _ _ _  Expiry Date _ / _

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Name (as it appears on card)  Cardholder’s signature

Please return this form along with your donation to:
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