

PAC Review 2011

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BY CARLY BOWMAN, PAC CHAIR

Welcome to the third PAC Review! In 2011/2012, we are celebrating fifteen years of the Planning Alumni Committee's activities. The Review features reflections of the seven past PAC Chairs in honour of the occasion. They speak about the goals of PAC during their tenure, accomplishments, and reflections on its current (and ever-growing) mandate. PAC wishes to thank past Chairs Catherine Cieply, Thelma Gee, Michael Skelly, Antony Lorius, Loretta Ryan, Corwin Cambray and Jeff Cantos for their many contributions, past and present.

U of T's Planning Program is fortunate to have a highly engaged alumni group. In addition to PAC's active membership of 20 volunteers, over 75 alumni at all stages in their careers participated in PAC's programming, including the Fall Planning Mixer, mentorship program, workshops and Spring Social pairing initiative. This gives current U of T Planning students immediate access to a diverse range of practitioners, while also fostering (re)connections among alumni. On this latter point, some out-of-Toronto alumni have noted to PAC their planned visits to the GTA, asking that an invite go out to their planning class for a "reunion" of sorts timed to their visit. PAC is delighted to help connect alumni, and hopes for many future happy reunions in this vein!

On the student-centred programming front, PAC is very pleased to be expanding its popular Planning Skills Module program. The Modules, led by PAC volunteers as well as their invited guests, were launched

in 2009 as a complement to the Planning Program's established curriculum. The hope is that they will provide insight for current planning students into an aspect of planning practice, directly from professionals. In 2010/2011, PAC hosted two Modules, one in each of the fall and spring terms. In 2011/2012, the intention is to double the Modules on offer – you can read about the two 2011 fall Modules later in the Review.

PAC is also moving boldly forward into the electronic era by supplementing last year's online Planning Spring Social ticket and sponsorship purchasing with this year's introduction of e-tickets. E-tickets are convenient and environmentally responsible, and will also allow PAC to immediately provide ticket buyers, sponsors, and friends of planning with their Social tickets. We hope you like our new model!

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PAC NEWS

PAC THANKS OUTGOING CHAIR JEFF CANTOS

In May of 2011, Carly Bowman assumed the role of PAC Chair following upon two tremendously productive years with Jeff Cantos at the helm. Jeff continues to attend PAC meetings, and offer his valuable advice and guidance as a member of PAC's "senate" along with fellow past chair Corwin Cambrey. PAC wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to Jeff for his hard work on behalf of both students and alumni.

INTRODUCING VICE-CHAIRS MICHAEL NOBLE AND MELISSA MCENROE

Also in May of 2011, PAC elected co-Vice Chairs Michael Noble and Melissa McEnroe. Michael is a Planner at the City of Toronto, and has been a member of PAC's Promotions and Module sub-committees since joining in 2008-2009. Melissa is a Land Development Associate at SmartCentres and a valued member of the Mentoring and Pairing subcommittees since joining PAC in 2010. Both Michael and Melissa were previously PAC student reps. The Department, students and our committee will be well-served through the future leadership of this dynamic team.

PAC THANKS THE FRIENDS OF PLANNING

In 2009-2010, with the help of the Division of University Advancement PAC launched an online donation form to recognize individual donors to the Program in Planning as "Friends of Planning". We were delighted with the take-up in our first year, which saw 20 "Friends of Planning" make donations. We were even more delighted to see the program grow to 28 "Friends" in 2010-2011. PAC sincerely thanks the 2010-2011 "Friends of Planning": Kyle Knoeck, Michael Mizzi, Gregg Lintern, Angela Stea, Catherine L Cieply, Renee Gomes, Matthew Armstrong, Michael T. Cole, John Livey, Jordan Erasmus, Craig Cal, Heather Inglis Baron, Elise Hug, Keith Potter, David McKay, Christian Ventresca, Jeffrey Cantos, Michael Noble, Kirk Biggar, Gary Davidson, Suzanne Coultres, Graham Bailey, Carly Bowman, Dema Ali, Corwin Cambrey, Tetsuo Kumagai, Joel Singer and Providenza Cancilla, John Reid.

If you would like to be a "Friend of Planning" in 2012, further details on the program and a link to donate are found at the [end of the PAC Review](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR 2010-2011 PAC MEMBERS

Jeffrey Cantos, Chair	Geoffrey McGrath
Carly Bowman, Vice-Chair	Leigh McGrath
Demia Ali	David McKay
Maryann Alisch	Adam Molson
Matt Armstrong	Jessica Nelligan
Craig Cal	Michael Noble
Corwin Cambrey	Lee Owens
Eileen Costello	Keith Potter
Andrew Dales	Angela Stea
Jordan Erasmus	Kirsten Stein
Renee Gomes	Auvniet Tehara
Joyce Kwong	Christian Ventresca
Melissa McEnroe	

PAC THANKS PROFESSOR KANISHKA GOODEWARDENA

Kanishka served as the Planning Program's Director in 2010-2011, attending PAC meetings on the Department's behalf. He continued to foster the cooperative and forthcoming approach the Department and PAC have traditionally enjoyed, and generously represented the Department at key PAC alumni outreach events including the first Fall Planning Mixer and the annual Spring Social. Thanks very much, Kanishka!

PAC WELCOMES PROFESSOR PAUL HESS AND THE INCOMING STUDENT REPS

In 2011, Paul became the Planning Program's Director and PAC representative. PAC looks forward to working with Paul in the months ahead – welcome Paul!

PAC is also delighted to welcome back 2nd year student rep Carla Tsang, and new 1st year student rep. Michelle Berquist, and to thank Michael Thorpe for his service as last year's 2nd year student rep. PAC values the direct input the student reps provide the Committee on student projects, trips and feedback on programming. Welcome students!

16TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PLANNING SPRING SOCIAL, SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 19, 2012

HART HOUSE GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Featured Speaker: Anne Golden, Ph.D., C.M.

President and Chief Executive Officer of The Conference Board of Canada

Speaking about: "Cornerstones of Competitive Cities"

Visit the Spring Social website to purchase tickets, sponsorships, and for more information:

<http://alumni.utoronto.ca/spring-social>



EVENTS IN REVIEW

PLANNING SKILLS MODULES

PAC's Planning Skills Modules were initiated by PAC in 2009 to complement the MScPI and MUDES programs by addressing student requests for more information about the practical day-to-day jobs of professional planners. The case-based workshops illustrate for students the different professional opportunities that may be available to them, the current issues that planners face, and the ways that they respond to these issues.

Beginning with one event in 2009, the program expanded to two the following year, and is anticipated to double again for the 2011-2012 school year. Modules this fall addressed "Planning 101" and Official Plan Review Consultation, both discussed below. In 2012, the successful Advanced Site Planning module will be presented for the third year. A new module focused on affordable housing will round out the schedule.

September 21 PAC Module: "Planning 101"

Leigh McGrath, a consultant with Urban Strategies Inc., presented an overview of the Ontario planning framework, including a discussion of the many players in the planning process, how they interact and the tools and documents they use to do their jobs. Michael Noble, a member of the Lawrence-Allen Revitalization team at the City of Toronto, used the Lawrence-Allen project as a case study to discuss the process of developing a Secondary Plan. An interesting question and answer session followed the presentation.

November 2 PAC Module: "OP Review Consultation"

The Planning Alumni Committee's skills module series continued on November 2nd, 2011 with Corwin Cambray and Matt Armstrong presenting their work with the City of Toronto on the Official Plan Review. At previous PAC events, PAC members had heard from students that there was interest in learning about the public consultation component of the Official Plan Review, and suggested this as a skills module idea to PAC. Previous PAC chair Corwin graciously came out of PAC retirement for this event.

The evening went well and was well attended and catered, with 15 first year students and 7 second year students (and 4 pizzas). Past PAC chair Jeff Cantos, and current chair Carly Bowman joined in the latter half of the evening. Students asked questions of Corwin and Matt regarding the scope of the Official Plan, about consultation strategies, and about how to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world practice. There seemed to be a fair degree of interest in the subject, as questions continued for about 45 minutes after the talk. Some students requested follow up regarding specific projects they were working on, and Corwin and Matt were pleased to oblige.



Photos: Scenes from the PAC Fall Planning Mixer

FALL PLANNING MIXER

On September 8, 2011, PAC returned to the Duke of York on Prince Arthur Street to host the 2nd Fall Planning Mixer. The Mixer was first held in 2010, intended to be a casual, free event for students, alumni and instructors to together toast a new academic year. It was such a success in 2010 we decided to do it again – with more food! – in 2011, and we weren't disappointed.

Starting at 6pm and concluding long thereafter, the 2011 Mixer again attracted alumni in all stages of their careers, while also providing a forum for incoming students to get to know one another better and make some professional connections (when else are they likely to have the ear of one of the new Deputy City Managers of Toronto, for instance?).

We think we will make it an annual event. Keep your eyes on your inbox in August 2012 for your save-the-date Mixer Flyer for 2012. May we suggest that, if you keep an early bedtime, avoid falling in with Jeff Cantos, Geoffrey McGrath and Russell Mathew...

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE 15TH ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL: APRIL 14, 2011

BY CARLY BOWMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARYANN ALISCH

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

PAC and the Department of Geography and Program in Planning, would like to thank the many individual Friends of 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 sponsors, NRU Publishing Inc. and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Finally, the generosity of the Social's many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated.



Left: Featured Speaker Tony Gagliano
Right: PAC Chair Jeff Cantos (left) and Speaker Tony Gagliano (right)

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

Platinum: Bousfields Inc., Concord CityPlace, Cresford Developments, Hemson Consulting Ltd., Malone Given Parsons, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd., Stikeman Elliot

Gold: BrookMcLroy, The Daniels Corporation, Dillon Consulting Limited, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Fidelity Property Management Ltd., Fogler, Rubinoff LLP, Geography Jobs, Goodmans LLP, MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited, McCarthy Tetrault LLP, R.E. Millward and Associates, The Sorbara Group, Tridel, Urban Strategies Inc., Venchiarutti Gagliardi Architect Inc., Walker, Nott, Dragicvic Associates Ltd.

Silver: Altus Group, Andrew Dales Consulting, Armstrong Hunter, GENIVAR, GSP Group, HDR Corporation, Johnston Litavski Planning Consultants, Pound & Stewart Planning Consultants, Townsend & Associates, Turner Fleischer Architects Inc., Urban Metrics, Weston Consulting Group Inc., Wood Bull LLP

PAC CONGRATULATES THE 2011 UTAGA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Three PAC members past and present were recognized in 2011 for their outstanding contributions. David McKay, Leigh McGrath and Keith Potter are all recipients of 2011 UTAGA Outstanding Service Awards, for their work on sponsorship, planning skills modules and alumni

outreach. The Committee, and the Department, have all benefitted from the extraordinary efforts of these individuals. Congratulations David, Leigh and Keith!



Jane Macijauskas presenting the award to Leigh McGrath (left), David McKay (middle) and Keith Potter (right)

PAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BY LEIGH MCGRATH

In 2007, the Planning Alumni Committee launched its Mentorship Program with approximately 10 mentees and 10 mentors. This new initiative was aimed at enhancing the planning student experience and developing stronger connections between students and professionals. Now in its fifth year, the Mentorship Program for the 2011-2012 school year has attracted 40 students and 35 professionals.

I joined the program in 2008 as a mentor and I've had the pleasure of mentoring four students through their planning degrees at U of T. As a relatively new professional myself when I joined the program, I wasn't sure what kind of advice I'd be able to give students on navigating their planning education. I quickly found that students were eager to talk about course selection, approaches to assignments, job searching and transitioning from school to work, all topics I could weigh in on with my own experience and advice.

From year to year I have been able to meet new students and hear about their interests, ideas and questions about planning. While meetings with mentees were typically brief, a half hour over coffee every month or so, I found myself looking forward to our discussions. It was refreshing to have a regular opportunity to dust off that student part of my planning brain and constructively examine and reflect on what it is exactly that planners do. From procedural questions about planning policy to larger discussions about perennial hot topics for students including affordable housing or gentrification, I was consistently challenged to provide clear and concise explanations, positions and rationales to describe the many facets of planning practice.

While the mentorship program is designed to benefit the student, my experience demonstrates that the benefit can be mutual between mentor and mentee.

My professional practice has definitely been enriched by acting as a mentor and I have enjoyed becoming what I consider to be an



Photos: Scenes from the Mentorship Meet and Greet

extended part of the Planning Program. If you aren't a mentor already and have the capacity to do so, I encourage both recent and not-so-recent planning graduates alike to participate in the program and to help bolster students' understanding of planning in practice.

PAC 2011-2012 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

PAC is pleased to announce that the 2011-2012 Mentorship Program is in full swing. With approximately 75 mentees and mentors, this year's program is the largest yet and promises to better connect current students with alumni in a wide range of planning related disciplines.

Based on career goals and interests, participating students have been paired with alumni mentors for the duration of the academic year, establishing their own goals and schedules for the program.

The PAC Mentorship Committee kicked off the 2011-2012 Mentorship Program with a meet and greet event in early October, held at the Elephant & Castle pub. Mentors and mentees had a chance to meet and briefly discuss goals for their involvement in the program. They also participated in some networking activities and had a chance to connect to program participants beyond their own assigned pairings. It was a great chance for alumni to reconnect with former classmates and find out what current students are up to. We look forward to another successful year of the PAC Mentorship Program!

DEMYSTIFYING A “LARGER THAN LIFE” CITY: OUR SECOND YEAR PLANNING FIELDTRIP TO NEW YORK

BY CARLA TSANG, SECOND YEAR PLANNER, URBAN DESIGN SPECIALIZATION

All summer long, the second year planners spent balmy Toronto nights dreaming of skyscrapers, checkered yellow cabs and the iridescent 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 is the most densely populated city in the United States, with an estimated 8,175,133 residents living on a land area of merely 790 km². It is also one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse places in the world, with an estimated 800 different languages spoken in the city.

New York City is an odd place in that its larger-than-life image

mystifies the true realities of urban experience there. Popular culture has 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 Chum and Professor Matti 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 readapting 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

*Manhattan skyline from the top of the
Empire State Building*





Tenement Tour - Our docent showing us a photo of Orchard Street in the Lower East Side during the nineteenth century

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 reflexivity towards the area's industrial past. It was unanimous that the best design feature of the park was the "bench 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 Tom Angotti at Hunter College (City University of New York) shed light on the relationship between racial discrimination and housing evictions 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 constituted "adequate housing" at the time, an uncanny (and somewhat unnerving) 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



Us at Concrete Plant Park, one of two newly constructed parks in South Bronx



One of the many overpasses intersecting South Bronx



The Tenement Museum in the Lower East Side



High Line Tour - Moveable street furniture on the original train tracks

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 Centre, one of the main economic assets of the community. Although the campaign 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 idiosyncrasies 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 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!

A REFLECTION ON PAC - 15 YEARS IN THE MAKING

As PAC celebrates our 15th anniversary, we thought it would be beneficial to hear from our past PAC Chairs and have them share their reflections on their terms and PAC.

CATHERINE CIEPLY PAC CHAIR 1996-1997

I am honoured to have served as Chair of PAC's first Executive in 1997. PAC was initially established for the overriding purpose of forging connections among Alumni, U of T Planning Students, and the Program, and to raise funds for a new First Year Planning Scholarship. As a means to accomplish this, and with the encouragement and support of Program in Planning Director Larry Bourne and Department of Geography Chair Carl Amrhein (now Provost and Vice President (Academic) at the University of Alberta), PAC proceeded to organize its "First Annual Open House" held at Croft Chapter House in March, 1997.

The first Open House was a tremendous success, with over 150 attendees and in raising \$75,000 for the Planning student scholarship, comprised of the generous contributions of Alumni including a significant donation from Peter R. Walker, Walker Nott Dragicevic, and matching grants from the University and the Province.

It was envisaged from the outset that with a successful first Open House and with continued momentum, PAC could play a role in helping to enhance Planning students' experiences and opportunities on a broader scale. Over the past 15 years, PAC has clearly made significant strides.

None of this would have been possible without the ongoing commitment and support of U of T Planning Alumni, including a highly dedicated PAC Executive, or without the continued support of Friends, Sponsors and Program representatives. I am sure my fellow Planning Alumni would agree that through PAC's efforts – not only in continuing to deliver a "must attend" annual industry event, but also through its ongoing programming efforts – there are considerable opportunities to connect with Alumni and with others engaged in diverse professional activities and, significantly, to give back to the University community and its students -- our "next generation" of Planning leaders.



THELMA GEE PAC CHAIR 1997-2001



In PAC's second year I was appointed the PAC Chair and remained so for four years. Those years were exciting times and there was much work to be done or continued: from solidifying the Spring Social as an annual event to developing options for moving forward, defining our mandate, developing a mission statement, giving

the "Spring Social" a proper name, and eventually setting up a scholar-

ship fund. Along with the PAC team, we forged ahead on energy and plenty of optimism. In successive years, much effort was spent ensuring that attendance at the Spring Social would continue on an upward trend – lots of cold calls were made to get people to "the event" and to raise sponsorship funds.

Many thanks to Carl Amrhein, former Professor of Geography and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, UTAGA and to our numerous Department of Geography & Program in Planning friends – your support and advice were invaluable. To my former, fellow PAC members – together, we planned, organized and did whatever necessary to put PAC on the map. Thank you for all your efforts and commitment. PAC is now in its 15th year. Your hand in laying a solid foundation for this committee is acknowledged. Finally, I want to acknowledge Susan Warden, whose assistance to PAC was so much appreciated.

MICHAEL SKELLY
PAC CHAIR 2001-2003

2011 marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of the University of Toronto Planning Alumni Committee. Being a member of the first PAC was an exciting and rewarding experience. As a Committee, with support from Department of Geography and Program in Planning faculty and staff, we were able to grow the annual Spring Social into one of the must-attend events in the planning industry calendar. Through the generous donations of alumni and corporate sponsors, coupled with matching government funds, a new scholarship was established for planning students. Proceeds from the Spring Social also went to the Friends of Planning Fund. This fund was used to assist in

the financing of planning field trips, bringing in guest lecturers and other related activities to enhance the educational experience of planning students.

During my time as Chair of PAC from 2001 to 2003, the work of the Committee focused on expanding fund raising efforts and increasing attendance at the Spring Social. Past and current members of PAC, faculty, departmental staff and alumni should be proud of the collective efforts of the last 15 years and look forward to continued success and new initiatives by PAC in the coming years.

ANTONY LORUIS
PAC CHAIR 2003-2005



I stepped down as Chair of PAC on July 1, 2005. The committee's main focus during my tenure had been on fundraising for the annual Spring Social, which at the time was a fairly modest event that attracted considerably lower attendance and corporate sponsorship support than it does today.

One of my clearest memories of PAC is not of my term as Chair, but rather from one of the first Spring Socials held at the Croft Chapter House at University College while I was still a planning student. Looking back I can only marvel what has evolved from that small initial gathering. I don't think there was ever a grand plan for the event to achieve its current level of success or for the mandate of PAC to expand to its current level of involvement in scholarship and student assistance. But, succeed the committee has, and to the great benefit of students now and in the future. I am proud to have played a small, though relatively brief role, in its development.

LORETTA RYAN
PAC CHAIR 2005-2007

As the leader of a dedicated team of volunteers, I was Chair of the University of Toronto's Planning Alumni Committee from 2005 to 2007. During this term, the Committee worked to substantially increase the profile, attendance and sponsorship of the annual spring networking event. We were pleased to contribute to the growth in scholarships and opportunities to fund educational activities, such as, workshops and field trips. It was an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I am grateful for everyone's efforts, especially those who laid the earlier foundations for success. Notable amongst these is Catherine Cieply who led the founding of the Committee and Thelma Gee who served as Chair for four years. Special thanks to Joseph Guzzi. Although he never served as Chair, his contributions were many and substantial. I would also like to extend a special thanks to the many Department

Chairs and the Directors of the Planning Program who supported the committee over the years. In addition, I would like to express gratitude to the Geography Department for the considerable administrative support and especially to Jennifer Owen whose assistance was invaluable when I was Chair.



PAC CHAIR 2007-2009



In 2007 I stepped into the "big seat" after a two-year term as Vice-Chair and serving on various sub-committees since 2002 with PAC. As Chair I was a beneficiary of past Chairs' efforts in establishing the Spring Social as a perennial success and much anticipated industry event. As a result I had the opportunity to direct PAC's attention

towards enhancing its Student Focus. We introduced a number of initiatives to enrich the educational experiences of students including career

workshops, student-alumni mentoring, internship resources, Spring Social pairing, planning skills modules, and a first year representative to enhance student representation on PAC. Students and alumni embraced these new initiatives. In the 2008-09, PAC's student-focused activities attracted 178 student participants and 61 alumni participants. During this period PAC also benefitted from significant growth in Spring Social sponsorship which, along with other fundraising efforts, enabled PAC to introduce three new graduate scholarships and fund various student field trips.

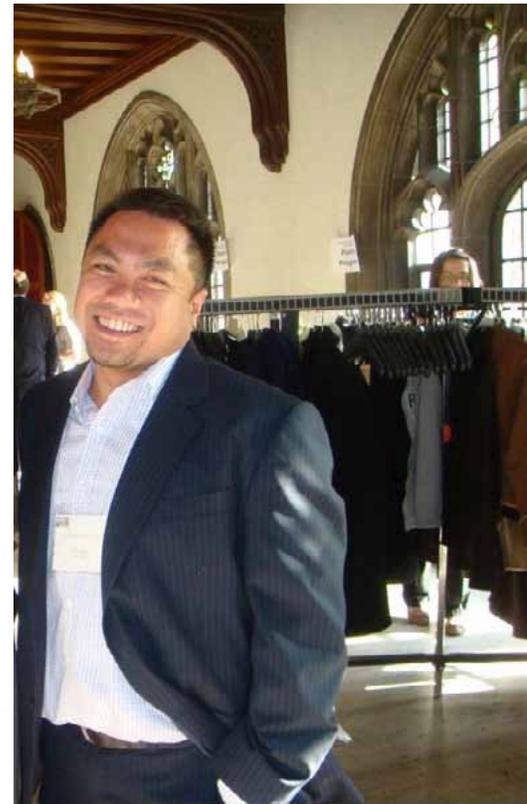
PAC's success in strengthening its Student Focus would not have been possible without alumni taking pride in their Program as well as key support from Katharine Rankin, Director of the Planning Program, Virginia Maclaren, Department Chair, and Monica Lin, Advancement. I thoroughly enjoyed my two years as PAC Chair, especially working with many dedicated members who contributed to making PAC an active and effective alumni group.

JEFFREY CANTOS
PAC CHAIR 2009-2011

Taking on the position of PAC's Chair for two years was quite the daunting task. The challenge ahead of me included heading a volunteer group whose mandate grew from organizing and hosting a premiere event to hosting the Spring Social on top of holding workshops, skills modules and mentoring initiatives for current students. With this on my plate, my first task was to recruit alumni volunteers onto the committee and to be generally involved with PAC's initiatives. With PAC's growing mandate, I did the only logical thing I could think of... increase the mandate even more! With the assistance of Keith Potter, Corwin Cambray and Carly Bowman (PAC's current Chair), we sparked an Alumni Outreach initiative that sought to strengthen the alumni to alumni connections, building upon our work with the alumni to student connections. With great success, PAC has been able to reach out to our alumni through our Facebook page, the PAC Review and an email list.

Managing and sustaining the work of previous PAC Chairs is not an easy job, but with the help of a fantastic committee, we were able

to keep our student and alumni involvement at high levels for our events. A special thanks to the Kanishka Goonewardena, Andrew Malcolm and Marika Maslej from the Department for their assistance with PAC's day to day activities. I am proud to have been a member of such a dedicated team of volunteers and look forward to seeing what PAC has in store for the next 15 years ahead.





Geography and Program in Planning UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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. Thanks to generous donations made to our Friends of Planning Fund, we are able to fund scholarships, field trips, workshops and other activities which offer students a competitive advantage after they graduate.

Yearly, our Fall Planning Mixer, mentoring kick-off, professional development workshops, planning skills modules and Mentoring and Spring Social Pairing programs draw in the approximately 60 students enrolled in the Masters program for multiple engagements – the events have become so popular that we yearly expand our offerings, this year with two new planning skills modules. In addition, program alumni participate in the Mixer, mentoring and pairing initiatives, a mutually rewarding engagement that last year saw over 70 alumni directly involved.

Last year the Friends of Planning Fund also helped to send several students to conferences, and supported a field trip to New York that was attended by 18 members of the graduating class. Like earlier field trips to Detroit, Indonesia, Mexico City and Chicago, this one allowed students to engage directly with practicing planners, tour development sites, and observe planning in an environment very different to what they are familiar with in Toronto. The Fund also supports five annually awarded PAC-sponsored scholarships.

This vital support of our students would not be possible without the donations of our many alumni and friends. With your continued help, we will 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 attend our events and to take full advantage of the opportunities we offer.

Please consider making a contribution of \$50 to the Friends of Planning Fund to help us sustain these important initiatives throughout 2011-2012.

You can now give online at: <https://donate.utoronto.ca/geography>.

For your donation, you will receive a tax receipt as well as complimentary admission to the 2012 Friends of Planning Spring Social. On behalf of our students, thank you for your support.

For more information about PAC, please visit: www.geog.utoronto.ca/alumni/pac, or contact PAC Chair Carly Bowman at planning.alumni.committee@gmail.com.

For more information on donations to the Planning Program, you may also contact Monica Hahm, Director of Advancement at 416.946.5616 or monica.hahm@utoronto.ca.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF PLANNING FUND!

1.) YOUR INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

May we recognize you in published donor listings ?

Yes, please recognize me as _____ No

2.) YOUR GIFT: (Please select one option)

a.) Here is my single donation of \$ _____

Visa Mastercard Amex

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ / _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Cheque, which is enclosed (payable to the University of Toronto)

b.) Here is my monthly donation of \$ _____

Please charge my credit card on the 1st day of each month: Visa Mastercard Amex

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ / _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Blank cheque marked VOID, which is enclosed. I authorize the University of Toronto to deduct the amount I have specified from the account number on the cheque, on the 1st day of each month.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3.) HOW TO DONATE: (Please select one option)

a.) Return this completed form to: University of Toronto, Donations Management
21 King's College Circle
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