Welcome to the 2018-2019 edition of GeoPlan. For the past decade, the Chair’s Message has been delivered by Professor Virginia Maclaren. As of July 1, 2018, the tri-campus committee charged with selecting Virginia’s successor decided to split the position into two. As of July 1, 2018, I (Richard DiFrancesco) assumed the position of Chair of the St. George (Undergraduate) Department of Geography & Planning and, as of January 1, 2019 Ronald Buliung assumed the position of Graduate Chair of the Tri-Campus Graduate Department of Geography & Planning. The fact that, to date, each of us has been kept very busy speaks to how efficient and dedicated Virginia was in both of these roles.

Along with these changes, we are pleased to welcome Paul Hess as Associate Chair, Director of Planning (again), Matthew Farish as Associate Chair, Undergraduate and Scott Prudham as Associate Chair, Graduate. The tri-campus department has also seen its share of administrative changes with Yuhong He taking over as Chair of the Undergraduate Department of Geography at UTM, and Thembela Kepe taking over as Chair of the Undergraduate Department of Human Geography at UTSC.

Across the tri-campus, we will be welcoming at least six new faculty members over the coming year who specialize in a range of disciplines including: Indigenous Studies, Geographic Information Science and Population Health, Socio-Cultural Geography, City Studies and Urban Governance, and Economic Planning and Geography. It is indeed a very exciting time for all of our undergraduate units, but also for our tri-campus graduate program, as new faculty members begin to assume both research and teaching duties across the three campuses.

The Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) is in full force connecting MScPl alum, faculty, planning students and other planning industry professionals and supporting the extracurricular growth and development of planning students. The commitment of our volunteers and the interest from planning students in PAC activities is a testament to the strength of the MScPl program and the bonds between practicing planners and their alma mater.

I am particularly proud of the Committee that, after a successful Fall Mixer in September, we connected a record number of planning students and alum pairs in our mentorship program this year. Forty planning students have gained a new friend with experience in the “working world” to share professional insight into their coursework and fresh city-building perspectives and ideas.

At our 22nd Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social, we were pleased to have Elliot Cappell, the Chief Resilience Officer at the City of Toronto, share his insights on urban resilience in his keynote speech (p. 11). The funds raised from the Spring Social enabled PAC to offer a full set of our favourite extracurricular student learning initiatives including “Pizzas with Planners” and Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop hosted by MScPl alum, as well as conference grants to students. They also enabled us to continue our proud tradition of sponsoring the Second-Year Student Field Trip. Read more on the adventure of visiting Mexico City with faculty advisor Paul Hess on page 16.

PAC is working hard to support more graduate planning students and minimize their financial barriers to quality planning education. With your generosity and support of our Friends of Planning Fund, we will be one step closer to establishing a new scholarship to provide financial support to future civic leaders and city builders. For more info, please visit https://uoft.me/give2planning.

As always, stay in touch for our latest news and events and make the Community better by taking part. Email us at committee@uoftpac.ca or find us on social media (Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook).

As the President of the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA), I am pleased to share all of our hard work and accomplishments from the 2018-19 year. I recently accepted the Presidency of UTAGA from the previous President, Jacqueline Peers.

For this year’s GeoTrip, we ventured to the Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise. Professor Emeritus Anthony Davis lectured the group, discussing the significance of the lands and their importance to physical and urban geography. UTAGA members are continuing to build a book for UTAGA’s 25th Anniversary titled Our Geographic Worlds. This book will include biographies, images and a series of essays from each Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient from 1995 to 2018. The book is filled with expert essays and interesting biographies, to be released in 2020.

The most memorable UTAGA initiatives include the support of PAC’s initiation, outreach to the Toronto Undergraduate Society (TUGS), GIS workshop series, GeoTrips, Annual Awards and GeoPlan. UTAGA is the association that represents all of the department’s alumni. All alumni members are invited to become involved in the activities of the association. UTAGA is always looking for alumni to join and get involved in meetings and be an active alumni for this great organization.
Department News

As anyone who has interacted with the front office of the St. George unit over the past couple of years knows, there has been a lot of staff turn-over. I am very pleased to report that Maria Wowk has taken on the position of Business Officer of the St. George department as of January 2019, and that Yvonne Kenny has taken on the position of Assistant to the Chair and Graduate Chair. These two core positions, along with the very capable assistance of Samantha Kratochvil and Paul Geruti, have dramatically improved the stability and efficiency of the main office.

The undergraduate counsellor’s position has also seen a fair amount of change over the past year with Kathy Giesbrecht and then Stefanie Steele both taking maternity leaves. Susan Calanza has been serving ably as the Acting Undergraduate Counsellor for the past several months and will remain in that position until Kathy Giesbrecht returns from her leave. We welcome Susan and congratulate both Kathy and Stefanie on the birth of two beautiful babies.

We have also seen some change on the academic appointment side of the ledger on the St. George campus. Professor Jason Spicer joined the department July 1, 2018 fresh out of his PhD. in Planning from MIT. Jason brings much needed expertise in economic planning to the graduate planning and the undergraduate geography programs.

In addition, Nicole Latulippe has joined the departments of human geography and physical and environmental sciences at UTSC. Professor Latulippe holds a PhD from U of T and brings expertise in Indigenous knowledge, governance and law to the undergraduate programs at UTSC and the tri-campus graduate programs in geography and planning respectively.

Jue Wang is set to join the Department of Geography at UTM this July. He joins U of T from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (UIUC), where he studied with Professor Mei-Po Kwan. Professor Wang’s research is focused on human and environmental health, human mobility, urban geography, GIScience, big data and spatial analysis. A warm welcome to Jason, Nicole and Jue.

The UTSG department has been fortunate this past year to host Dr. Kofi Hope and Mr. John Farrow as Bousfield Distinguished Visitors in Planning. Both Kofi and John have been very involved with our MScPl students in both teaching and mentoring roles. Kofi’s mission in particular has been about “adding a new voice or voices to the conversation about city building.”

Professors Barbara Murk and Donald Boyes, of UTM and UTSG respectively, were both promoted to the rank of Full Professor – Teaching this past year. Congratulations to Barb and Don on their achievements.

In addition, Professor Matti Siemiatycki has taken on the role of Interim Director of the School of Cities.

This year also saw Professor Sarah Wakefield receive the Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award, based on nominations submitted by peers and students. In addition, Professor Michael Widener was named as a Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Transportation and Health (see: https://news.artsci.utoronto.ca/all-news/international-engagement/thinking-different-u-ts-newest-canada-research-chairs-exploring-new-frontiers-knowledge-innovation/).

Finally, and by no means least, the two Doctoral Candidates in Geography & Planning, Diaa Lteif and Andrew Kaufman were each selected as recipients of the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Fellowships. These two highly coveted awards are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, attention to social equity and fairness and civic engagement (see: https://news.artsci.utoronto.ca/all-news/u-ts-new-trudeau-foundation-scholars-explore-beirut-refugee-neighbourhoods-sovereign-debt-investors/).

Faculty Profile: Deb Cowen

Deb Cowen presented the keynote address at the American Association of Geographers in April 2019. Here is the abstract.

Following the Infrastructures of Empire: Notes on Cities, Settler Colonialism and Method

This talk investigates urban life through the contested formation of settler colonial infrastructure. Transecting nationalist narratives, it ‘follows the infrastructure’ across imperial space, time and struggle, illuminating the extraordinary power of cities both in and as infrastructural systems. It tracks a set of circulations through cities across Canada and well beyond, to explore how the making of ‘national infrastructure’ holds together seemingly disparate archives of Indigenous dispossession and genocide, of transatlantic slavery, and of unfree migrant racial labour regimes. Infrastructure, almost by definition, reproduces material relations, although at times in very queer ways. With an eye towards a future for urban infrastructure otherwise, I ask: what does a map of infrastructure’s afterlives look like, and what is at stake in its refusal and in claims to repair?

Faculty Profile: Robert Dowler

Adjunct Professor, Robert Dowler spent three weeks trekking the 3 Passes in the Everest Region of Nepal. His trip culminated in a successful summit of Imja Tse (Island Peak) at 6:05 am on May 9th (20,305 feet / 6,189m).

Robert is currently an Adjunct Professor teaching project management and conflict resolution in our graduate planning program. Robert is an alumni of the MScPI program at U of T as well as being a past recipient of our Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning. Prior to coming to teach at the U of T, Robert was an Assistant Deputy Minister in Cabinet Office Policy and various other ministries of the Ontario Government. After more than three decades in public service, Robert now devotes his time to adventure tourism, teaching at U of T and Ryerson as well as serving as the Chair and Interim President of the Ring of Fire Infrastructure Development Corporation.

Spatial Analysis Tutorial with Dr. Daniel Arribas-Bel

Professors Steven Farber and Michael Widener, with the Department of Geography & Planning, organized and hosted a three-day spatial analysis tutorial using Python on November 6-8, 2018. Funds from the SGS Milestones and Pathways program were used to invite Dr. Daniel Arribas-Bel from the Geographic Data Science Lab at the University of Liverpool to teach the course. The tutorial was attended by 60 students from Geography & Planning, Economics, Public Health, Engineering, Sociology and Political Science. Following the workshop, and with support from the department, the School of Cities, and Environics Analytics, Professor Farber organized a Spatial Analysis Networking Mixer at Pauper’s Pub. The Mixer hosted 40 students and 20 government and industry participants from:

- City of Toronto
- Metroinx
- Environics Analytics
- Code for Canada
- Neptis Foundation
- Pantonium Inc.
- Esri
- Sidewalk Labs
- Rangle.io
Alemu Gonsamo is a research associate with Prof. Jing Chen at the Department of Geography & Planning. He earned his PhD from University of Helsinki, Finland with eximia cum laude approbatur honour in 2010, MSc in Geo-Information Science from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and BSc with great distinction from Wondo Genet College of Forestry, Ethiopia. From 2014 to 2017, he was one of the first International Young Scientist fellows and a presidential fellow of the Chinese Academy of Science. He is associate editor of Remote Sensing, editorial board member of Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, and serves on review panels for several international organizations including NASA and European commission. His research areas includes satellite remote sensing of biogeophysical properties of vegetated landscape, plant phenology, terrestrial ecosystem response to recent climate change and terrestrial carbon cycle modeling.

Plant phenology has been one of Alemu’s recent research interests. The timing of crucial events in plant life cycles (i.e., plant phenological events) is shifting in response to climate change. Thus, plant phenological events such as bud burst and flowering have received increased attention in the light of climate warming. Using data collected by citizen scientists from across Canada, Alemu and co-authors found that plant flowering in Canada has advanced by nine days for every degree Celsius increase in air temperature. Their analysis revealed the strongest biological signal yet of climate warming in Canada.

Polar regions are expected to show greater and more rapid impact of climate change than any other region on Earth. The Arctic is seen as the barometer of the planet’s environmental health and might help us understand changes that could affect other regions of the Earth in the decades to come. The scientific community is thus racing to provide scientific evidence to understand implications of climate change, inform the general public and feed the political decision process. High quality data products specifically designed for the study of the polar regions are thus urgently needed. To this regard, Alemu developed an operational circumpolar vegetation dynamics (CVD) product in 2016 that is currently being used to monitor changes in plant growth, phenology, northward expansions, and associated feedbacks under climate change. The CVD product is updated annually, freely available for public use and is hosted by international data archives including the NASA cloud servers.

Since 2013, Alemu is actively collaborating with Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, to study forest fire and climate change impacts on carbon cycles of Ontario’s far north. He presented his findings and recommendations in 2014 and 2017 with government reports and invited talks at the head office of Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Much of the recent scholarly works of Alemu is dedicated to global scale analyses to detangle vegetated land responses to climate change and natural variability using satellite observations, CO2 and carbon isotope data and meteorology records. In particular, Alemu is looking at how much recent intensified global greening and earlier arrival of spring are depleting soil water resources for plants and affecting atmospheric CO2 dynamics.

Authoring more than 60 peer reviewed research papers, Alemu is one of the most highly published and cited researchers among his international peers in his field of study. His works appeared in high impact journals and were featured in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature Climate Change magazine, and Earth and Space Science News.

Outside work, Alemu enjoys mountain biking through Toronto’s ravine networks and trails, dystopian novels and sci-fi movies, craft beer, traveling, hiking and camping. He is also the author of a general science book, an 84-page coffee table book titled EARTH and BEYOND: The latest view of the observed universe.
Global environmental change is increasing the frequency and magnitude of environmental hazards, such as floods and drought. This is particularly harmful for rural populations who depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods, such as many regions of the Amazon. However, along the floodplains in Amazonia, annual floods also play an important role for both fishing and agriculture. In this setting, the distinction between what is a favourable flood and what is a harmful flood is less clear.

Under the supervision of Christian Abizaid and Ryan Isakson, I am conducting research on local knowledge and experiences with flooding in riverine, agro-fishing communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Specifically, my Master’s thesis is based upon data collected during fieldwork in the summer of 2017 in Éxito, a riverine village upstream from the city of Pucallpa. I spent three months living in Éxito, learning about the local ways of living, culture, and livelihoods. I conducted interviews and household surveys on the impacts of flooding for individuals and livelihoods, and how local people face flooding in particularly harmful flood years.

In addition to my own data collection, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Peruvian Amazon Rural Livelihoods and Poverty (PARLAP) Project, an international and interdisciplinary collaboration between McGill University, the University of Tokyo, and the University of Toronto. The PARLAP project is the largest study of its kind, researching the relationships between the environment, rural livelihoods, and poverty. The PARLAP household and community surveys have provided me with representative data on flood experience across the Peruvian Amazon. In drawing upon this data, I have been able to consider how flood experience differs across the region.

The results of my research suggest that flooding experience is highly individualized. This is in terms of both the lived realities of severe flooding, but also in knowledge production. I hope that by embedding our understanding of environmental hazards in locally produced and experiential knowledge, we can reorient how we understand global environmental change. This will be an important step in challenging the power imbalances and adaptation narratives in climate change discussions, and instead promoting policies that centre local knowledge and lived realities.

Jennifer Langill completed her MA in August 2018.
In late August, Professor Jing Chen and Joseph Desloges led a group of 18 students to the Koffler Scientific Reserve (KSR) in King City for some experiential learning. GGR390 is an introduction to field methods in vegetation mapping/analysis, soils, hydrology, climatology and geomorphology. The course includes exercises and a group project during a five-day field camp in the summer, followed by data analyses and report writing throughout the fall semester.

Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the KSR is a natural gem with rich biodiversity and great geological significance just north of the GTA. For most of us, it was our first time completing a research project from beginning to end, and getting hands-on experience in natural environments that no classroom had offered. Having varied interests within the class, we had the option to choose from a wide variety of research topics. My interest is fluvial geomorphology, therefore I decided to work in the Kettleby Creek to explore pool-riffle relationships with three other like-minded peers. Even though we had such passion for conducting field work, it was not all fun and games. Every day, we went back to our cabins drenched, with litres of water pouring out of our waders. Despite the obstacles, we all managed to gather meaningful data and put together a very rewarding report.

This field course was an eye-opening experience for students like me, who were not familiar with data collection in a field setting. Weather observations, taking stream discharge measurements and measuring water quality are all practical skills that prepared us for the workforce and further education. Most importantly, this field experience has made me realize even after learning about the formation of features in class, it was still a completely different experience to study them in the real world. Despite the demanding physical effort, my anticipation and excitement throughout the trip grew stronger by day. I am grateful for having such a memorable experience which was only made possible by amazing instructors, friends and learning facilities.

GGR482 Toronto Field Course

From September to December 2018, a group of 10 undergraduate and six graduate students participated in a field course led by Professor Paul Hess and Professor Robert Lewis entitled “The Historical Geographies of Toronto”. This course gave us the opportunity to examine and relate modernist planning theories to post-war urban development in Toronto.

The course was broken down into four modules spanning the history of modernist planning in 1950s Toronto. Each module consisted of two components: in-class lectures, followed by walking field trips of the areas discussed in class. These field trips illustrated examples and provided evidence of the theories we discussed in class by turning to the fabric of built form and spaces within the city.

Creative destruction was a central theme explored throughout the course. The term refers to the ways in which capitalism works as an economic system to sustain itself by constantly creating new from the old. Creative destruction is key to modernist planning: the ideology follows the reasoning that ideal environments can be created by erasing existing structures and starting anew with a blank canvas. Through this course, our class read and explored case studies of creative destruction in Toronto’s modernist planning era.

A primary space we studied was the central business district (CBD), a place defined by high-density built form and specialized land use. In class, we discussed the impact of capital accumulation on the fabric of public and private spaces in city. We discussed how the formation of new, branded, centralized business area and modernist architecture was symbolic of capitalism’s tendencies to encroach into new spaces, creating new modes and technologies of capitalist production, consumption and flexible accumulation. In walking through these spaces, it became easy to connect class discussion around the impact of creative destructive and capital accumulation in the city’s urban fabric.

In our walk around the downtown core, we found increasingly efficient, specialized and differentiated functions and linkages of work, as reflected in increasingly dense yet segregated space. For example, at Nathan Philips Square, we discussed the city’s attempt at reimagining urban spaces with global ideas of modernity to eliminate ‘blight’ in the city. We also explored the underground PATH system, evidence of planners’ attempts to solve the new spatial problems brought by high pedestrian and high automobile traffic in the CBD. Planners introduced a separation between flows of people and motorized vehicles by creating an underground horizontal pedestrian network connected to the above-ground vertical built form.

The field course was a unique opportunity for undergraduates and graduates alike to learn about Toronto’s modernist planning history in the most hands-on way possible – by actually walking around and studying the physical built form in our city. We had a wonderful class dynamic that made for an engaging learning experience. As an undergraduate student, I found the class especially beneficial as I was able to experience a course structured similarly to a graduate seminar, learn outside the classroom, and explore the city with my peers.
On November 1, 2018, the University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA), the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) and the Department of Geography & Planning held the 23rd annual Awards Presentation. The night was a clear success with more than 120 awards given to graduate students, distinguished alumni and other honourees. This event represents our opportunity to not only acknowledge the tremendous scholarly successes of our graduate students, but also to offer a token of appreciation to the many individuals who add so much value to our many programs in the Department.

Members of PAC figured prominently in this year’s UTAGA Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Awards with three current members, John Kemp, Carolyn Rowan and Anna Wynveen all receiving awards. John, Carolyn and Anna are long-time members of PAC and have been generous contributors to the MScPl program and its students over the past several years. Also receiving a Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award was Professor Virginia Maclaren, for her many years of service to both PAC and UTAGA during her terms as Chair of the Department.

For the first time, PAC awarded its first Honorary Chair’s Award to Ronji and Anne Borooah in recognition of the contributions they have made since their time as students in the Department. UTAGA awarded Jacqueline Malachoski-Peers with their Honorary President’s Award in recognition of her dedicated service to the alumni organization since graduating.

UTAGA awarded its distinguished Alumni Award to Professor Graeme Wynn (Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, UBC). Professor Wynn, an alum of UTSG undergraduate Geography is perhaps best known for his work on environmental history and in particular the historical conception of human-environment interactions in the Imperial period of the 19th and early 20th centuries. In her 2015 essay on Professor Graeme Wynn, Professor Jane Carruthers notes that he has made a “…remarkable contribution to the teaching and administration of geography as discipline of study.” 1 Professor Wynn’s visit to UTSG in 2018 included a seminar to faculty and students in the Department entitled “Three Maps and the Nature of Canada.”

UTAGA also awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award to Professor Damaris Rose, an urban social geographer, recently retired from the Urbanisation Culture Société research centre of the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, an affiliate of the Université du Québec. Professor Rose taught urban social policy and research methods courses in the urban studies graduate programs and, she has conducted research in housing, gentrification and neighbourhood change — often from a gendered perspective, and on the housing of newcomers, in the context of Montréal and other Canadian cities. (Professor Rose was actually given this award in 2017 but was unable to attend the ceremony at that time, so it was given to her during the 2018 ceremony.)2

PAC awarded its Distinguished Alumni Award to Lindsay Dale-Harris, Partner at Bousfields Inc. Dale-Harris, an alum of the MScPl program, and has more than three decades of planning experience in the Greater Toronto Area with both public and private sector clients. Lindsay, and Bousfields Inc., has been a friend of our Planning Program for many years, with many of our graduates working at various levels within the firm.

As is usually the case, the awards night ceremony and associated refreshments and festivities made for a very enjoyable evening. Congratulations to the many graduate students, distinguished alumni and other awardees for their hard-earned accomplishments and a profound thank you to the many contributors to our programs whose generosity adds considerably to the very positive social and scholarly milieu of the Department.

2 Information taken from a poster for Professor Rose’s seminar entitled “Finding housing for refugee newcomers in Canadian cities: the experiences of Resettlement Assistance Program workers during the 2015-16 Syrian resettlement operation.” The seminar was given on November 2, 2018 in the Department of Geography & Planning. (see: https://intersectionstoronto.com/portfolio/damaris-rose/)
UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Alexandra Simone Potamianos

Canadian Association of Geographers Undergraduate Award
Alexandra Simone Potamianos

Daniel Wilson Scholarship in Science
Charlotte Hobson

William G. Dean Scholarship in Geography for Field Research
Jamil Mahamud
Atlanta-Marianna Grant

F. Kenneth Hare Undergraduate Scholarship in the Environment
Monica Nelson

John Horner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
Matthew Bourne
Olivia Teresa Caruso
Hayley Roberts
Fangkuo Zhong

Sidney and Lucille Silver Scholarship
Charlotte Hobson

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Alison Zhou

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Charlotte Hobson

UTAGA Outstanding Performance Awards
Environmental Geography: Zina Fraser
Human Geography: Sydney Wilson
Methods/GIS: Phoebe Chow
Physical Geography: Wenxi Liao

UTAGA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Kibria Khalood

UTAGA Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
James Chapman

UTAGA Undergraduate Geography Toronto Award
Puneh Jamshidi
Aayesha Patel

GRADUATE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Graduate Alpar Scholarship
Hubert Lee

John D. Barnes Geodetic Sciences Fellowship
Lauren Jewett

John Horner Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Doug Ascanio Grafeo
Clio Fregoli
Dingyi Xiong
Maximilian Buchholz
Maria Roxana Escobar Nanez
Sabrien Amrov
Trudy Ledsham
Christopher Dick

George Tatham Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Sarah Archibald

Griffith Taylor Scholarship in Geography
Janina Kowalski

James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography
Ellen Power

Oscar J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship
Mitchell Bonney

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Adriana Stark
Catherine Brokenshire
Amil Davis
Zannah Matson
Lea Ravensbergen-Hodgins

Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Danielle Lemire

UTAGA J.B.R. Whitney Award
Laura Vaz-Jones

PLANNING PROGRAM AWARDS

CIP Award for Academic Excellence
Sharon Lam

Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation
Lucy Cui
Cecelia Pye

Graduate Geography award recipients
Mitchell Goldhar Award for Excellent Achievement in the Planning Program
Gemma Johnson

Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning
Anson Ma
Ellen Ferris
Kevin Kapenda
Marty Chan

LEA Consulting Ltd. Award in Planning and Transportation
Anson Ma

Thomas Luther Panton Scholarship
Hubert Lee

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Scholarship
Ali Reda Darouiche

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Anson Ma
Kevin Kapenda
Laura Dumbrell
Sarah Chan

University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship
Stuart Dow

Peter R. Walker Planning Fellowship
Aisha Jallow
Elise Antoniadis
Ellen Ferris
Emma Bunting
Jacob Woeller
Junyi Fan
Justin Matthews
Katarina Graves
Kevin Kapenda
Laura Dumbrell
Marty Chan
Cecelia Pye

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Igor Samardzic

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Natasha Cheong

Edie Yolles Award in Urban Planning
Tammy Chou

William G. Dean Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology
Alecia Daugtinis

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Cheryl Rogers

Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Planning
Charlaine Pereira

Donald F. Putnam / George Tatham Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Geography
Sarah Archibald

Edward Sorbara / Building Industry and Land Development (BILD) / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Stephen Pomodli

J. M. Tomczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Catherine Brokenshire

Urban Strategies / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Rebecca Nelson

U of T Planning Alumni / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Sean Grant

Michael Ralph Walsh / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Geography
Sean Grisdale

Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Haifa Al-Arasi
Mitchell Bonney
Timothy Bristow
Neil Nunn
Ellen Power
Adriana Stark
Ryan Whitney

Connaught International Scholarship
Gregoire Benzakin
Mehrdad Shirinbakhsh Masouleh

Ontario Trillium Scholarship
Sneha Mandhan

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) - Alexander Graham Bell Graduate Scholarship - Master’s
Spencer Elford
Kira Holland
Karl Chastko

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship
Andrew Morgan

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s
Symon James-Wilson
Hafsa Siddiqui
Mitra Fakhrshrafi
Clio Fregoli
Lindsay Lucato
Claire Stevenson-Blythe
Gemma Johnson
Felicity Cambell
Helen Loghrin
Natasha Cheong
Stuart Dow

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral
Nil Alt Kecik
Zannah Matson
Emily Hawes
Sabrien Amrov

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship
Andrew Kaufman
Diala Lteif

Hubert Lee receiving the Graduate Alpar Scholarship from Ronald Buliung, Graduate Chair
Photo credit: Cecelia Pye
In the evening of April 12, 2018, the University of Toronto’s Planning Alumni Committee (PAC) hosted the 22nd Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social with the Department of Geography & Planning. More than 250 alum, faculty, students and city-builders filled the Great Hall at Hart House with laughter and chatter while enjoying hors d’oeuvres and an antipasto spread, live jazz and one another’s company well into the evening.

Elliott Cappell, the Chief Resilience Officer at the City of Toronto, gave an intriguing keynote address. In his talk “Elasti-city: Resilience in Times of Urban Change”, Elliot shared his unique insights and experience from leading the development of Toronto’s Resilience Strategy. It was impossible not to have felt the passionate call and optimism for actions in preparing Toronto to be strong through shocks and stresses facing cities in the 21st century.

PAC wishes to recognize the record contribution of the event’s corporate and promotional sponsors, who not only enabled the event but also support the planning students in their access to field trip and conference grants, guest lectures, career coaching and mentorship throughout the school year.

PAC would also like to thank the many individual Friends of Planning Fund donors whose contributions directly support student success in graduate planning programs through scholarship growth. We hope we can express our gratitude to you more personally at our event next year. For more information, please visit https://uoft.me/give2planning.

See you next spring!

The generosity of the Social’s many corporate sponsors is deeply appreciated:

Presenting Sponsor:
Devine Park LLP

Premiere Sponsors:
Crozier & Associates; Davies Howe Partners LLP; LEA Consulting; MHBC Planning

Platinum Sponsors:
Aird Berlis LLP; Bousfields; Counterpoint Engineering; Daniels Corporation; Hemson Consulting; RAW Design; Tridel Developments

Gold Sponsors:
BA Group; Concord Adex; Fasken Martineau LLP; Fogler Rubinoff LLP; Hunter & Associates; Odan Detech Group; Speight Van Nostrand & Gibson Surveying; Stikeman Elliot; Urban Strategies; Wood Bull LLP

Silver Sponsors:
Altus Group, Economic Consulting; Goodmans LLP; GSP Group; Hammerschlag & Joffe; IBI Group; Johnston Litavski Planning Consultants; Madison Group; Quadrangle Architects; R.E. Millward and Associates; SGL Planning & Design; Sherman Brown Dryer Karol Barristers & Solicitors; Tate Economic Research; Turner Fleischer Architects; Urban Metrics; Valcoustics; VGA; Walker, Nott, Dragicevic

In-Kind Support:
CNU Ontario; NRU Publishing; Ontario Professional Planners Institute; Urban Land Institute Toronto

Register for the next Friends of Planning Spring Social
https://alumni.utoronto.ca/events-and-programs/friends-planning-spring-social
## Community Building
- **Fall Mixer** - More than 45 alum and students celebrated the start of a new academic year at the Duke of York pub over chatter and finger food while welcoming the incoming class of 2020.
- **Mentorship Program** - PAC introduced 40 pairs of students and alums to each other (a new record!) where mentees have sought professional insight into their coursework or a new friend with experience in the "working world", while mentors have in turn gained from their mentees’ fresh perspectives and new ideas. Many took the opportunity to attend the Meet-and-Greet at the Duke of Somerset pub in late October.

## Student Growth and Development
- **"Pizzas with Planners"** - PAC hosted four extracurricular student learning modules led by alum of the graduate planning program to give students a chance to break (er, crust) with practicing planners and gain perspectives on their planning experience on a given subject: Planning 101: Orientation to the Planning Framework (October 2018), Transit Oriented Development and New Mobility (November 2018), Affordable Housing: A Planning Policy Perspective (February 2019) and Planning for Revitalization: Insights on Community Design and Engagement from Toronto Community Housing Projects (March 2019).
- PAC supported the PLA1106 “Workshop in Planning Practice” course by helping to coordinate project topics and clients.

## Support for Learning
- **Annual Second-Year Student Field Trip** -- PAC’s long-standing field trip grant supported 22 students from the graduating class for a self-directed visit to Mexico City under the guidance of Dr. Paul Hess to learn more about planning challenges in a different context (p. 16).
- **Conferences** -- With PAC’s financial support, students were able to attend planning conferences like OPPI, CIP and others to present their work and learn from a broad range of students and professionals.

## Recognizing Talent and Achievement
- **PAC presented two newly established lifetime achievement awards for graduates of the planning program from UTAGA for Geography grads:** the PAC Honorary Chair Award for contributions to the planning program, and the PAC Distinguished Alumni Award for an alum whose career achievements bring honour to the Department. PAC also acknowledged the dedication and contribution made by members of our volunteer committee and the Department with the Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Awards. Recipients are profiled on pg. 8.
- The Matthew Hanson Scholarship in Planning, the Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship, the University of Toronto Planning OGS Award, the Peter Walker Scholarship and the Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation were presented to students who are listed on pg. 9 and pg.10.

---

## We Are Building a New Scholarship!

PAC and the Department are working hard to support more MScPl students to benefit from quality instruction, challenging discussion, critical debates and incredible support from the Faculty.

As of printing, we have reached over two-thirds of the financial endowment required by the University to establish a new scholarship for future planning students.

With your generosity and support of our Friends of Planning Fund, we will be one step closer to establishing a new scholarship to provide financial support to future civic leaders and city builders.

For more info, please visit [https://uoft.me/give2planning](https://uoft.me/give2planning).

PAC would also like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who donated more than $60 to the Friends of Planning Fund in 2018 since the 22nd Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social (p. 11):

Andrew J. Brown  
Anna C. Wynveen  
Corwin L. Cambray  
Hannah Nogiec  
Joel Singer & Enza Cancilla  
Jonathan R. Gouveia  
Kevin Chan  
Luciano Piccioni  
Michelle Berquist  
Robert G. Dowler
The Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship honours John Bousfield (1929-2016), a founding partner of Bousfields Inc, and one of the most influential planners shaping the Greater Toronto Area in the post-war period. The Visitorship is awarded to accomplished planners. We define planning roles broadly, and visitors may have substantial experience in academic, public, private, non-profit, or community organizations. Visitors engage with members of the Department and, especially, help enrich the educational experience of students in the Master of Science in Planning Program. Visitors typically teach, give public talks, and participate in department life in a more informal way. This year we have had two distinguished visitors, Dr. Kofi Hope, and John Farrow.

**BOUSFIELD DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR**

**Dr. Kofi Hope**

Dr. Kofi Hope is a Rhodes Scholar with a PhD in Politics from Oxford University. Currently, he serves as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Wellesley Institute, as well as a Strategic Consultant for the Vice President HR/Equity at the University of Toronto. Kofi has also worked as the Founding Director of the CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals, a non-profit that creates economic opportunity for black youth in Toronto. In 2005, he founded the Black Youth Coalition Against Violence, and in 2017 won the Jane Jacobs Prize for his contributions to the life of Toronto. Kofi brought his knowledge and commitment to working on issues around race, inequality and city building to the department in various ways. In September, he hosted the award-winning South African filmmaker, Kurt Orderson for a screening of his documentary film “Not in my Backyard” addressing gentrification and community resistance. In October, he organized and was one of the speakers in a public talk, “Global City for Who? Inequality and Social Exclusion in Toronto and London.” Also featuring Hashi Mohamed, a London-based planning lawyer and moderated by Sara Mojtehedzadeh of the Toronto Star, the talk drew a full house at Innis College Town Hall. Over the winter term, Kofi taught a graduate course with Zahra Ebrahim (a public interest designer who also teaches in the UTSC Cities Studies program) entitled “Citybuilders Lab: How Good Policies are Made.” The course focused on ‘inclusive city-building techniques’ for planners drawing on concepts and techniques outside of planning. The course and Visitorship was very successful, and we hope that Kofi will become a long-time friend of the Department.

**BOUSFIELD DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSIONAL**

**John Farrow**

Our second Distinguished Visitor this year, John Farrow, has been a long-time Department friend, having taught in rotation two important courses in the professional planning program, “City Planning and Management,” and “Policy Analysis.” John’s education includes a post-graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning for Oxford Polytechnic, and an MBA from the Schulich Business School, Toronto. John has a long and distinguished professional planning career, consulting on planning and city management in North America, Europe and the Middle East. Formerly CEO of Lea Group Holdings, he is currently President of LEA International, Ltd, which provides planning and engineering consulting services worldwide. Among other distinguished positions in his career, he led the Canadian Urban Institute, and has worked with all levels of government providing policy and organizational development expertise. In addition to teaching his usual course this year, John organized a series of brown-bag lunches for students, giving them opportunity to interact with high-achieving career professionals with planning degrees, but working in fields other than planning. John is also lending his expertise to the program itself, by bringing faculty and students through a strategic review exercise to help us make it even stronger in future. We are very grateful to John’s dedication to the Department and program.
On July 6, 7 and 8, 2018, the Class of 1993 held its 25th Year Reunion and invited alumni of the classes of the 1990's to celebrate with them. It was a fun and exciting opportunity for classmates and faculty to reconnect and mark this important milestone. Many classmates attended including those that travelled from across the United States, Asia and Iceland.

A number of events took place on the weekend for alumni to gather and celebrate. A casual gathering was held at the Duke of York pub on the Friday evening. A welcome reception was hosted by the Department of Geography & Planning on Saturday afternoon, and it was a pleasant atmosphere as friends and faculty became reacquainted. We all enjoyed our tour of the fifth floor and other favourite spots in Sidney Smith Hall and were impressed with the changes to the classroom and work spaces, but also equally impressed with how much was still the same. We learned how the Planning Program has changed and evolved since the 1990s and the great opportunities that the university provides to prepare current students for the challenges of our urbanizing cities.

At the Saturday evening dinner, brief presentations were made reminiscing of memories shared by the class of 9T3 with a photo presentation. A special presentation was also made to honour the significant contributions of Dr. Virginia Maclaren to the Department of Geography & Planning. We also celebrated the contributions made by the class of 9T3 specifically to the planning program. It was several members of this class that were the pioneers of the school’s Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), including Catherine Cieply, Joseph Guzzi, Geoffrey McIlroy and Michael Skelly. This group developed the vision for alumni, faculty and student interaction, and established the foundation for PAC’s activities such as the Spring Social and several scholarships. Edwin Li, the current PAC Chair, greeted the alumni and updated alumni of PAC’s current program. The class was impressed with the success of PAC and how it has evolved over the years.

We thank the Faculty, including Dr. Richard DiFrancesco and Dr. Virginia Maclaren, the Alumni office and PAC for helping us with the planning of the reunion weekend. The reunion was planned almost a year in advance by Joseph Guzzi, Rita Mezei, Catherine Cieply, Nancy Mudrinic, Michael Skelly, Geoff McIlroy, Terri Nikolaevsky, Loretta Ryan and Michelle Berquist.
A multidisciplinary team of graduate students from the University of Toronto received one of seven honourable mentions granted in the prestigious Urban Land Institute’s Hines student competition in 2018. It was led by Master of Science in Planning student Sarah Chan, and consisted of members Lucy Cui (MScPl), Lori Chan (MArch), Stephanie Tung (MArch) and Krizia Napolitano (MBA). Geography and Planning’s Matti Siemiatycki served as the faculty advisor for the competition. In total, there were over 130 submissions from graduate teams from universities across North America. In the end, four finalists were announced with a team from Cornell University winning the $50,000 prize. While the University of Toronto team didn’t win, they were the only Canadian team to have received recognition among a sea of mostly Ivy League American universities.

The annual competition challenges graduate students to create a comprehensive urban design scheme, complete with planning and real-estate market analysis. The site and city isn’t revealed until the start date, where all teams have a short timeframe of two weeks to complete the competition. All submissions included a detailed panel outlining the major urban design moves, financial proforma, and proposal narrative.

In 2018, the chosen city for the site happened to be in Toronto, with the site located east of the Don River, south of Eastern Avenue, and north of the proposed East Harbour development. The U of T team’s proposal, titled “The Seam”, is a masterplanned strategy to revitalize Toronto’s formerly industrial east Donlands area by creating a vibrant mixed-use district through leveraging existing proximity to major employment centers, transit infrastructure and natural assets.

Doctoral Student Writing Retreat

By Sue Ruddick

The third annual writing retreat was held at Woodsworth College on June 9 and 10, 2018. Led by Professor Sue Ruddick, this writing retreat is attended each year by twelve to fifteen doctoral students. This two-day workshop introduces a range of prewriting, outlining, drafting, and revising tools and techniques.
Second-year Master of Planning Students Marveled at the Urban Planning Interventions of Mexico City for Annual PAC Trip

By Cecelia Pye

Second-year students returned inspired and invigorated from their September study tour of the planning innovations of Mexico City. Thanks to the funding raised by the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), 22 students were able to join the trip. The four days included a walking tour of the Historic Centre with Professor Paul Hess and Ryan Whitney, an afternoon talk with Mexico City’s urban planning Laboratorio, a cable car ride on the Mexicable, a bike tour with the city’s bike sharing service, and a pyramid tour of Teotihuacan.

Students have cited the walking tour, the Mexicable, and the EcoBici bike tour as the highlights of the trip. Paul and Ryan led the students through the Historic Centre, highlighting the city centre’s landmarks built atop of the ruins of Tenochtitlan’s religious and cultural sites. The group walked through a network of pedestrianized streets built as recently as six years ago. The pedestrianized streets themselves are contentious, as locals were forcibly removed for their construction. These are the social extremes of Mexico City.

Following the historic city tour, the students listened to a talk with Laboratorio para la Ciudad, an experimentation lab funded by the municipal government to encourage innovative design solutions and urban interventions. The speaker was very passionate, sharing a number of ongoing projects. For example, the organization collected information by mobile phone from citizens to map the informal bus routes by private buses. This use of open data helped formalize the system and improve the service times for the buses.

The Mexicable is a cable car system opened in 2016 in Ecatepec de Morelos, a suburb of Mexico City. Students rode the cable car across the system, admiring the brightly painted houses, the use of local artists and graffiti, and exceptional service. The Mexicable is notable as it has cut commuter travel time from over one hour down to 25 minutes, it moves 1,900 people per hour, and it has been designed to be safer than being on the ground in the event of an earthquake. After only 10 months of operation, it has surpassed 10 million in ridership. It is a highly subsidized form of transit, costing only seven pesos per trip (50 cents Canadian). The area it serves is extremely dense and noted for its violence, with little ground transportation and no infrastructure planning. Not only is it a useful service for the locals, it has brought a sense of pride to the area.

The group toured the EcoBici headquarters, which is the bike sharing service of Mexico City. The City itself has 187 kms of cycling infrastructure with two-meter-wide bike lanes. They have segregated barriers designed to protect cyclists from cars. Each Sunday, there is a street closure that cuts through the heart of the City, 55 kms long, to encourage biking and exercising. Following the tour, the group was escorted out on the city streets to test the system and the bike paths.

Between these study tours, the group test tasted mezcal, ate hundreds of tacos, and toured multiple museums. It was an amazing trip that gave the students a chance to bond and grow closer. We would like to send a big thank you to PAC, and highly recommend Mexico City (and Paul Hess) for future trips to come!
Faculty Books

Wirtschaftsgeographie (Economic Geography: Economic Relations in Spatial Perspective)  
(Ulmer, 4, 2018)  
Co-Authored by Harald Bathelt

This book systematically discusses classical and new theories in economic geography and related disciplines and evaluates them in the context of empirical investigations. Beginning with a critical review of traditional regional science and optimal location approaches, the authors develop a relational conception of economic action in space that enables interdisciplinary analyses of globalization processes. The book is directed to scholars and students of geography, economics, international business, management, political science and generally to all social scientists who are interested in the relationship between economy and space. It analyses questions of how firms are organized in space, how they interact with their environment, how they innovate to create and secure jobs and how these processes are interlinked and evolve over time. This completely restructured and extended edition is a rich sourcebook for those interested in understanding economic action in spatial perspective.

The Elgar Companion to Innovation and Knowledge Creation  
(Elgar, 2017)  
Co-Edited by Harald Bathelt

This unique Companion provides a comprehensive overview and critical evaluation of existing conceptualizations and new developments in innovation research. It draws on multiple perspectives of innovation, knowledge and creativity from economics, geography, history, management, political science and sociology. The Companion brings together leading scholars to reflect upon innovation as a concept (Part I); innovation and institutions (Part II); innovation and creativity (Part III); innovation, networking and communities (Part IV); innovation in permanent spatial settings (Part V); innovation in temporary, virtual and open settings (Part VI); innovation, entrepreneurship and market making (Part VII); and the governance and management of innovation (Part VIII).

Perfect City: An Urban Fixer’s Global Search for Magic in the Modern Metropolis  
(Sutherland House, 2019)  
By Joe Berridge

There may not be such a thing as a perfect city, but all great cities have moments of perfection - perfect streets or buildings, perfect places to raise a family or to relax with a coffee - and all of them strive for perfection when they undertake grand projects. Cities, more than ever, are the engines of our economies and the ecosystems in which our lives play out, which makes questions about the perfectibility of urban life all the more urgent.

Joe Berridge, one of the world’s leading urban planners, takes us on an insider’s tour of the world’s largest and most diverse cities, from New York to London, Shanghai to Singapore, Toronto to Sydney, to examine what is working and not working, what is promising and what needs to be fixed in the contemporary megalopolis. We meet the people, politicians, and thinkers at the cutting edge of global city-making, and share their struggles and successes. We visit a succession of great urban innovations, stop by many of Joe’s favorite restaurants, and leave with a startling view of the magical urban future that awaits us all.

Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia  
(Cham, Switzerland: Springer International, 2017)  
By Amrita Daniere

Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia, is finally out to press. Co-edited by Dr. Amrita Daniere and Dr. Matthias Garschagen, it features the work of young scholars and graduate students whose research focuses on the relationship between urban poverty, vulnerability and climate change adaptation in rapidly urbanizing areas in Southeast Asia. It also highlights both the vulnerabilities to climate change faced by residents in these areas as well as ways to enhance their resilience and hence, economic and social well-being. The goal is to share the knowledge we have all gained from their combined research to both address emerging debates but also offer key recommendations that can help urban residents to achieve long-term resilience. All the work focuses on the dynamics of power relations and looks to increase the role and voice of the traditionally marginalized in shaping their future urban spaces.
Race for Education: Gender, White Tone, and Schooling in South Africa
(2018)

by Mark Hunter

Following the end of apartheid in 1994, the ANC government placed education at the centre of its plans to build a nonracial and more equitable society. Yet, by the 2010s a wave of student protests voiced demands for decolonized and affordable education. By following families and schools in Durban for nearly a decade, Mark Hunter sheds new light on South Africa’s political transition and the global phenomenon of education marketization. He rejects simple descriptions of the country’s move from race to class apartheid and reveals how white phenotypic traits like skin colour retain value in the schooling system even as the multiracial middle class embraces prestigious linguistic and embodied practices the book calls ‘white tone’. By illuminating the actions and choices of both white and black parents, Hunter provides a unique view on race, class and gender in a country emerging from a notorious system of institutionalised racism.

Transboundary Environmental Governance across the World’s Longest Border
(2018)

Co-edited by Andrea Olive

Canada and the United States share a border that spans several of the world’s major watersheds and encompasses the largest reserves of fresh water on the planet. The border that separates these two neighbours is political, but the natural environment is a matter of common concern. In recent years, dramatic changes have taken place in the political and environmental landscapes that shape the conversations, possibilities, and processes associated with the management of this shared interest. More than ever, Indigenous populations are recognized to be a necessary part of negotiations and decision-making regarding matters ranging from pipelines to the protection of endangered species’ habitats. The contributors to this volume examine the state of the existing transboundary relationship between Canada and the United States, including the governance structures and processes, the environmental impacts and adequacy of these structures and processes, and the opportunities and obstacles that exist for reform and improved outcomes.

In Memoriam

Geoffrey Matthews


“Geoff developed his distinctive, aesthetically pleasing mapping style of clean, clear and simple maps unbounded by heavy or even light neat lines... they have an airy free-flowing quality suggestive of intellectual continuity. The publication of the Ontario atlas ... in 1969 initiated a brilliant cartographic career for Geoff. The Atlas won two successive Gold Medals in the Leipzig International Book Fair in 1970 and 1971, respectively for “The most beautiful book in the world” and “Best book in its class for a five year period”. His first class, imaginative maps and outstanding production efforts for the Ontario Atlas led quickly to a plethora of cartographic tasks and consulting opportunities.”

During this period Geoff built up the Cartography Office to be the leading facility of its kind in Canada. However, on the local level, he will be fondly remembered by many former students, faculty and staff for his day-to-day presence in the department. Geoff taught a course in Cartographic Techniques throughout the late 1960s, 70s and 80s, pointing many students towards geographic careers. He designed and drew countless maps, charts and graphs for faculty research publications over these years, making lifelong friends with many professors along the way. The Cartography Office also employed dozens of staff members and graduate students throughout this time as cartographers and researchers all supervised and mentored by Geoff, to their great benefit, as I can personally attest. And it should not be omitted that this was all done with Geoff’s uniquely Aussie sense of humour, combined with his down-to-earth, no-nonsense approach to getting the job done, and done with excellence.

Geoff’s career is recorded in more detail in the book Reflections on the History of Geography at the University of Toronto which includes a chapter on the Cartography Office. Those of us who remember him and this period in the life of the Department will see his passing, as one of his former staff members put it in a recent email, as “the end of an era.”

- Byron Moldofsky
08:58, ..., 08:59, ... 09:00 Ready for departure! As we embarked from Hart House Circle, we admired our beloved alma mater shining in the morning light on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

We reminisced about years spent studying for a great future. As we crossed the city limits of Toronto into the Greater Toronto Area, students and alumni talked, shared memories and uplifted each other for a great journey filled with economic, physical and urban geography.

We approached our waiting tour guide, Professor Emeritus Anthony Davis, our faces beamed with happiness, joy and smiles that our professor who lectured to us would be our delight once again. His encyclopedic knowledge resonated at every stop and was there to answer all questions and provide a sense of calm and peace that he longed for after his courses. His calming voice and hilarious demeanour encouraged us to learn more, ask additional questions and hope that the trip would not end! One of the highlights of our journey was travelling along Burlington Street East in Hamilton being able to witness the already prepared rolled metal from the foundry ready to take its place in society as a result of forged rolling.

Eager and keen with open minds, our day progressed in all areas of geography and planning. Hamilton Harbour was our port of call for lunch. Princess Point was extensively photographed, analyzed and toured. With our minds filled, cameras overworked, we proceeded to our tour bus and headed back to the St. George Campus.

Undergraduate Student Profile: Esther Bushuev

I am a fourth-year student majoring in physical and environmental geography with a double minor in GIS and geoscience. Coming into my first year at U of T, I was unsure about what I wanted to study and my future goals beyond university, but after taking my first introduction to physical geography course I knew I had found my niche. Three years later, and I am proud to call myself a physical geographer, with a particular interest in geomorphology, hydrology and remote sensing. After taking the physical geography field methods course this fall, I find myself increasingly drawn to the research field. Working in the field, collecting data and conducting our own research projects was a great experience and it allowed me to apply the knowledge I have gained in the class-room.

Last school year I had the opportunity to study at Seoul National University in South Korea as an international exchange student. There I was able to take a variety of different geography classes, ranging from rural geography to geopolitics, taught by professors from all around the world. Being able to learn about the geographies of different countries and through different aspects was a great experience and really eye opening, expanding my knowledge far beyond Canada’s borders. After the school year ended, I worked as a research intern in the earth science department’s marine sedimentology lab, studying paleoenvironmental changes in tidal flats on the coast of Korea. This was especially interesting for me since tidal flats are not a common topic of study here in Toronto.

In the future I hope to continue my studies in graduate school. I am very passionate about environmental conservation and I have a strong interest in studying the effects of climate change and human development on the physical environment. I hope that one day my knowledge will help to contribute to the wellbeing of our planet. I am so thankful for the professors, TAs and classmates that have made my undergraduate studies so enjoyable and inspired me to continue my studies in geography!
Call for Nominations - UTAGA and PAC Awards

Nominations are welcome from all Geography & Planning alumni for the following awards. A brief statement describing the accomplishments of the nominee should accompany the nomination. All nominations should be submitted to chair.geoplan@utoronto.ca. Recipients receive their awards at the Annual UTAGA Awards Night.

UTAGA and PAC Distinguished Alumnus Award: This award is given to alumni of the Department of Geography & Planning who have led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the Department. Two awards are given annually, one to a graduate in geography and one to a graduate in planning. All alumni who have a University of Toronto degree in either Geography or Planning are eligible to receive these awards.

UTAGA Honorary President Award: This award is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the development of the Department of Geography & Planning and its alumni.

UTAGA Fenton Chin Outstanding Service Award: This award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to the Department of Geography & Planning, its students or its alumni.

Giving Back

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all of our alumni and friends who have made donations this year to the Department. As noted on the back page of this newsletter, donations help support several award funds that support our undergraduate and graduate students. Another way that alumni can enrich the student experience is through donating their time to interact with students. The department offers numerous opportunities to contribute in this way. Alumni participation last year included presenting guest lectures in courses, presenting at planning workshops, mentoring planning students, participating in undergraduate geography alumni-student dinners, and participating on alumni panels at undergraduate career events. If you would like to participate in the future in any of the activities below, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Lindsay White, Event Coordinator, Advancement Events: la.white@utoronto.ca.

To all who are on the list and any who may have been missed, your contribution has helped better the student experience, and for this we thank you.

Thank you to our alumni volunteers

PAC Module Speakers:
Kevin Chan
Tammy Chou
Helen Huang
Allison Lebow
Sean Major
Rishab Mehan
Stephan Nieweler

b2B Social Sciences Speed Networking:
Michael Di Febo
Greg Tanzola

b2B Geography & Planning Mentorship Meal:
Michael Di Febo
Justin Holmes
Camila Miki
Kara Naklicki

We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions in 2018

Diana J. Baxter
Kathleen and William Bell
Michelle K. Berquist
Adam J. Brown
Joel Singer and Enza Cancilla
Corwin L. Cambray
Kevin Chan
Robert G. Dowler
J. Ricardo Gomez-Insausti
Jonathan R. Gouveia

Brian Greenwood
Robert E. Keast
Richard C. Kellar
Jingxian Jane Liu
Douglas MacLeod
L. Wayne Morgan
Michael Nathan Noble
Hannah Nogiec
Luciano Piccioni
Archibald S. Platt

Kevin A. Shaw
Catherine A. Spears
John Kenneth Steil
J. Michael and Naomi Tomczak
Anthony J. Usher
John Warkentin
Jill Watkins
Jeff J. Wilker
Anna C. Wynveen
How You Can Enrich the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Experience in Geography & Planning

Would you like to help create a better educational experience for our undergraduate and graduate students in Geography & 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.

Use this link - https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/46 to donate online and please choose one or more of the following funds for your donation:

**Friends of Geography**
This fund is an endowment that we add to each year through the efforts of alumni and friends of the Department. This fund is used to support geography undergraduate and graduate student travel for research, conferences and field trips.

**Friends of Planning**
The Friends of Planning endowment funds scholarships, annual field trips, and workshops for students in the Master’s of Science in Planning program. Field trip visits sponsored by the fund in the last few years to Mexico City and San Francisco have 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 continues to grow five PAC-sponsored scholarships that are awarded annually.

**Matthew W. F. Hanson Scholarship in Planning**
Matthew Hanson was a graduate of the Master of Science in Planning class of 2004, a wonderful friend and colleague who touched the lives of so many people before his passing. To honour him, friends and family created this scholarship to recognize students in the Master of Science in Planning program on the basis of academic merit.

**James T. Lemon Memorial Scholarship in Geography**
This scholarship honors the memory of Professor Jim Lemon, a faculty member who joined the department in 1967. Jim was a highly respected and often controversial scholar of historical and urban geography, a Guggenheim Fellow and 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. The James T. Lemon Scholarship is dedicated to supporting graduate student research in Geography that contributes to the development of a more just society.

**UTAGA-JBR Whitney Award**
This award recognizes Joe Whitney’s contributions as a founding member of UTAGA, former department Chair, and his long-time service to the Association. The award is given on the basis of academic merit to a graduate student studying the environment or international development. Contributions to this award are currently being matched 50-50 by a generous alumni donor.

You can also donate by cheque, payable to the University of Toronto. Please indicate to which of the above funds you would like to donate and send to: **Annual Fund Office, University of Toronto, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3.**

Contributions totaling $1,827 or more per calendar year qualify for recognition in the President’s Circle. As part of U of T’s leadership giving recognition society, President’s Circle members enjoy attending a variety of special events. For more information, please visit https://boundless.utoronto.ca/our-supporters/presidents-circle/ or call 416-978-3810. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.

There is always plenty of room in GEOPLAN for alumni news. As usual, we also welcome short articles that might be of interest to our geography and planning alumni. Please send all updates and articles to: events@geog.utoronto.ca

- VISIT US ON THE WEB -
  
  http://geography.utoronto.ca/alumni/

  We’d love to hear what’s new with you!
  
  http://geography.utoronto.ca/alumni/utaga/keeping-in-touch/

**GEOPLAN**
100 St. George Street, Room 5047, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G3
Tel: (416) 978-3375

Special thanks is extended to the front office staff of the Geography Department for their ongoing assistance and to the many individuals who made contributions to this edition of GEOPLAN

Editors: Richard DiFrancesco, Maria Wowk, Mariange Beaudry
Samantha Kratochvil, and Cecelia Pye

The University of Toronto respects your privacy.
We do not sell, rent, or trade our mailing list.

Cover images:
- GeoTrip- Photo credit: Zenon Godzyk
- Mexico City Trip - Photo credit: Sarah Chan