

# News



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

School of Urban and Regional Planning

Kingston, Ontario

Number 25 Summer 2006

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I want to do a Director's Message instead of the Director's Report of the past years. I will not, therefore, highlight the successes of the School and recognize the achievements of members of the SURP community here, but would invite you to read about them in the full text of this Newsletter. The School is embarking on a growth mode, albeit on a modest scale. I want to share two thoughts.

First, and with respect to our program, I think our "constrained-choice" model of course selection has proven to be both robust and adaptable. The six core courses provide a solid foundation to a student to tackle most planning endeavours, the three required courses in each area of concentration are an attempt to give a student sufficient understanding of a planning stream for further skill development, the three to five elective courses offer scope for deepening or broadening a student's knowledge base and skill set, and the thesis/report prepares a student to initiate and execute independent research. The two most common descriptions of our graduates by employers and sponsors are that they can write and they are versatile. Of

course, writing is more than grammar and syntax. It is the ability to organize and articulate one's thoughts coherently. Versatility is the ability to perform credibly on a variety of planning jobs. I believe these qualities in our graduates speak well of our curriculum and pedagogy. However, I feel we can do better, especially with respect to our streams. Presently, we have three streams: land use and real estate, housing and human services and environmental services. At times it feels like five streams. I believe a planner is a good generalist only when he or she also has specific and special understanding and skills in some particular planning area, a sort of Jack or Jane of all trades and a master of some. The "specializing" is good for training, and the "specialization" confers credibility. We will need help and advice, as well as good will, as we move to strengthen our streams. I am happy to report, though, that for the first time in our history we will now be able to offer three project courses, one for each of the existing streams.

Second, it has become commonplace to refer to planning as a process. No doubt, plan-making and plan-implementation involve

intellectual as well as socio-political processes, but I am troubled when process is taken to mean administrative procedures. We fail our graduates, and indeed society, if what they "excel" in is the minutiae of bureaucratic paper-pushing dressed up as "the planning process." As educators we have the responsibility to educate informed practitioners as well as to inform practice. I welcome the progressive steps by our professional institutes to engage academia as a partner in continuing education. I hope we can go further. We can, and should, take down the debilitating and unnecessary barriers between theory and practice, process and product, teaching and learning.

We've earned our opportunity.  
Let's do something worthwhile.



*Hok-Lin Leung, Director*

## STUDENT HONOURS AND AWARDS

The **Stanley Lash Award** is an award for student excellence established in honour of the first Director of the School, Stanley Lash. The award is given to the student who has written the best term paper in a SURP course in the preceding calendar year. The **2005** recipient was **Pooja Kumar** for her paper entitled "The Atlantic Coastal Action Plan," which was submitted in the Environmental Policy course (SURP-851).

The **Ida Mmari Memorial Award** was established in memory of a distinguished alumna **Ida Mmari ('83)** following her death after a brief illness on May 17, 1985 in Tanzania. The award is given to the graduating student who completes the program in two years and has the highest grade point average. The **2005**

recipient was **Kate Whitfield ('05)**.

The **Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Student Award for Academic Excellence** is given to the CIP student member with the highest academic standing in our program. The **2005** recipient was **Allison Reid ('05)**.

The **Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Eastern Ontario District Graduate Research Award** is a \$1,500 cash award to assist a student with research for his/her master's report or thesis. The **2006** recipient was **Keith Batstone** for his research on exploring children's perceptions towards their neighbourhood environment and how their views can be important inputs into urban design and planning.

Two SURP students won major awards during this summer's CIP World Planners Congress and World Urban Forum in Vancouver. **Keith Batstone** won the **Dillon Consulting Scholarship** and **Markus Moos** won the **CIP Past President Scholarship** – Thomas Adams and our congratulations go out to them both.

Summer 2006 **China Internships** were awarded to **Karen Thompson** and **Jennifer Maxmattis**.

The winners of the **2006 International Experience Awards** were Chris Moore (Costa Rica), Adam Perry (Chile) and Alex Turner (China).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUANDS!

### October 2005

Mohammad Kader  
John Kozuskanich  
Allison Reid  
Hans Riekkö  
Andrew Sacret  
Kate Whitfield  
Lorne Wolinsky  
Lily Xu



*May 2006 Convocation (from left to right) George Marinakis, Ric Martins, Hok-Lin Leung, Tara Steell, David Gordon, Maureen McLeod, John Andrew, and Annika Hui*

### May 2006

Kapila Bandara  
Jennifer Bloom  
Annika Hui  
Sharon Lithwick  
George Marinakis  
Ricardo Martins  
Maureen McLeod  
Jason Smith  
Tara Steell

## ALUMNI/AE NEWS

After seven years in San Francisco, Bettina Longino and **Kevin Harper ('94)** returned to Canada last July. As their daughter Emma approached school age, they realized they would either have to move to the suburbs for school or stay in the city and pay for private school. Neither seemed to be a good choice so they said their goodbyes, had their things packed and shipped home, and spent two weeks driving across the U.S., which they said was pretty spectacular. Kevin is working with IBI Group in Ottawa heading up the planning practice and

Bettina continues to work with Geomatrix Consultants. Emma (5) will be heading to Senior Kindergarten in the fall and Cameron (3) is in preschool nearby. They are living in Old Ottawa South just off Sunnyside between Bank Street and Bronson (Carleton University) and love being back in Ottawa. You may reach them by e-mail at home at harperlongino@hotmail.com or you may reach Kevin at work at kharper@ibigroup.com.

**Ross Cotton ('81)** recently left the Township of Seguin as Director of Planning in the Muskoka cottage area of Ontario and became Manager of Planning with the Town of

Innisfil, which is a growth area in the north portion of the Greater Golden Horseshoe of Toronto. Ross also became a grandfather last summer – congratulations!

As a planner and project engineer with Terrain Group in Moncton, NB, **Mark Reade ('98)** was interviewed for an article in the Job Market section of the Saturday, July 2, 2005 edition of the *Moncton Times & Transcript* about what planners do and how they play a direct role in public and private development decisions. The article also highlighted how one becomes a planner, the types of skills needed, the status of the job market, and the pay-scale range.

## WEDDING BELLS



*Congratulations to second-year student Raktim Mitra (second from the right) shown here on his wedding day July 28, 2006 with his bride Propa and fellow SURPers Tasha Elliot, Pooja Kumar and Rocky Kambo.*



## ALUMNI/AE EVENTS

It is a testament to the SURP spirit that one of Canada's smallest planning schools had such a large turnout at the World Planners Congress in Vancouver in June. More than thirty alumni/ae and students crammed the SURP reception. Professors John Andrew, Dave Gordon and Hok-Lin Leung were delighted to catch up with **Eric Aderneck ('02)** (Aplin and Martin, Surrey BC), **Andrew Baigent ('00)** (Urban Systems, Vancouver BC), **Liji Bickis ('03)** (Waterloo ON), **Jennifer Bloom ('06)** (Ottawa ON), **Kirsten Behler ('99)** (Vancouver BC), **Nadia de Santi ('99)** (FoTenn, Ottawa ON), **Roy**

**Beddow ('92)** (Langley BC), **Linda Crawford ('98)** (BC Hydro), **Jason Fox ('98)** (Truro NS), **Kalle Hakala ('04)** (Ottawa ON), **Tammy Henry ('97)** (Newell AB), **Jon Hobbs ('79)** (RAIC Ottawa ON), **Shauna Kuiper ('01)** (Edmonton AB), **James Klukas ('04)** (Urban Systems, Kelowna BC), **Gord Jackson ('79)** (Edmonton AB), **Brian McCosh ('01)** (Urban Systems, Edmonton AB), **Greg Mitchell ('03)** (Surrey BC), **Jason Smith ('06)** (Bowen Island BC), **Tony Sroka ('80)** (CRG Ottawa ON), **Hap Stelling ('81)** (Revelstoke BC), **Pamela Sweet ('78)** (FoTenn, Ottawa ON), **Cathy van Poorten ('00)**

(Coquitlam BC) and **Yan Zeng ('95)** (Vancouver BC). See if you can match the names to some of the happy faces in the picture below.

Another twenty SURP alumni/ae turned out to support the OPPI House of Ottawa's Habitat for Humanity, at a gala banquet organized by alumna **Nadia de Santi ('99)**. Look for more SURP gatherings in Toronto and Ottawa as the school expands its alumni/ae programming in the future.



*WORLD PLANNERS CONGRESS, VANCOUVER, JUNE 2006  
HOW MANY HAPPY FACES DO YOU RECOGNIZE?*

## FACULTY NEWS

**John Andrew** had another enjoyable year teaching primarily in the social and environmental planning streams, plus one course in the School of Environmental Studies. Much of John's time continued to be devoted to the further development of the Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (ESCIRE), which he founded in 2004 (see pp. 9 and 10). As he begins to focus his teaching and research on the real estate and environmental planning realms, much of that will still centre around his long-standing core areas of research: conflict management and consensus-based planning. John is initiating an exciting research agenda on commercial real estate. He will also continue to work in the area of conflict management and collaborative planning processes. John will carry on his work as a Roster Mediator and course instructor with the Mediation Centre of Southeastern Ontario, and his cross-appointment to the School of Environmental Studies.

**David Gordon** taught all or part of six courses and led field trips to Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa this past year. He coordinates the SURP internship program, professional liaison and alumni/ae affairs. At Queen's, he continues as a member of the Trustee's Campus Planning and Development Committee, the Queen's Centre program committee, the urban design committee and as vice-chair of the Campus Grounds

Committee. In Kingston, he coordinated student practicums for a program that feeds the homeless downtown and gave public lectures on Smart Growth and green planning. Dave continued as the Faculty Coordinator of the National Executive Forum on Public Property, where he established a research committee. Professionally, he was a juror for the OPPI awards and participated in the World Planners Congress, World Urban Forum and the Real Property Institute of Canada conferences. He was appointed to the board of the International Planning History Society and serves on several editorial boards. Dave's book, *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities*, was published in March by Routledge. He presented the findings of the authors at the Capitals Alliance summit in September, which was televised nationally by CPAC. He has also collaborated with former SURP Director **Gerald Hodge** to prepare the fifth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities*, for publication in March 2007 by Nelson. Dave continues his research on the planning history of Ottawa (funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada [SSHRCC]), urban redevelopment (funded by the Forum) and Canadian suburbs, employing eight students as research assistants.

**Sue Hendler** was on sabbatical leave from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006. She spent this time continuing to work on her book, *"I was the only woman": Women and the professionalization*

*of planning in Canada*. In mid-June, she sent a draft to her publisher and then left for a three-week trip to Ecuador which included 11 days touring the Galapagos Islands. Returning home with about 3000 digital photographs of frigate birds, penguins and sea lions (among other amazing species), she will likely be trying to insert as many of her Ecuadorian experiences as possible into her courses so her ethics assignments, especially, may be more exotic than usual!

Having been away from full-time work in SURP for much of the past seven years, Sue is looking forward to updating many of her courses and starting others from scratch. She will also be putting the finishing touches on her book and beginning new writing and research projects. In addition to her teaching and administrative duties at Queen's, Sue began her responsibilities as the North American Editor of the journal, *Planning Theory*, and continues as a member of several other editorial boards. She published with **Julia Markovich ('02)** in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* a paper on feminism and new urbanism which was based on Julia's master's thesis.

Finally, she developed a Free Queen's course on planning which will be offered this fall (this is a program in which courses are offered without charge to interested members of the Kingston community).

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## FACULTY NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

**Hok-Lin Leung** continued his writing and research on land and urban issues in China. In particular he did two rather unusual pieces in the *City Planning Review* journal, reflecting on his personal and intellectual journey when he studied in the U.S. and England, and was overwhelmed by the warm responses from readers. His Ambassadors' Forum explored a number of interesting topics, including "Canada and globalization" and "Rhetoric used in recruitment by terrorist organizations." Last year, the comparative policy research program with the Development Research Center of China's State Council focused on sustainable development and regional economic growth. This year, it will be on administrative performance evaluation systems and resource-based development strategies.

Over the past year, **John Meligrana** continued to develop his research interest in China's urban planning and development. Last June, he was a visiting scholar at both Jilin University and Beijing's North China Electric Power University. He is working with Zhiyao Zhang to complete his SSHRCC-funded research on public participation within China's urban planning system. John also completed (with Hok-Lin) the Canadian International Development Agency-funded policy research on sustainable land use prac-

tices for China's Yunnan Province. Last March, John's SURP-853 class held a highly successful conference entitled "Renewing Our Cities: Infrastructure in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The conference included several creative and exciting workshops organized by the SURP-853 students. The conference also included lectures by several leading experts including: Professor Jamie Benidickson, Ottawa University; Dr. Craig Townsend, Concordia University; Professor Michael Hough, York University; and Mr. Stewart Chisholm, Evergreen. Over fifty people attended the conference including several SURP alumni/ae, community representatives and officials from all three levels of government. So, a great "thank-you" to all the SURP-853 students who worked so hard to make this conference a success.

**Mohammad Qadeer** had a new book published in July by Routledge, London entitled, *Pakistan: Social and Cultural Transformations in a Muslim Nation*. The publisher wrote the following about the book: "*Muslim societies are presumed to be stagnant and resistant to change. Yet the reality is quite the contrary. Pakistan is a pivotal Muslim nation. It exemplifies the scope and direction of social change in a muslim society. This book shows how modernization as well as Islamization are simultaneously acting as processes of social transformation in Pakistan, along with population growth, urbanization and economic development. The book is the first analytical account of the social and cultural development in*

*Pakistan. It is an important resource for anyone wanting to understand contemporary Pakistan and the Muslim world.*" Qadeer also published a paper with Sandeep Kumar entitled "Ethnic Enclaves and Social Cohesion," in the *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, special issue, May 2006, pp. 1-17.

**Andrejs Skaburskis** has an ongoing research program on the changing structure of Canadian cities. He continued SSHRCC-funded work on the changing structure of cities with Markus Moos and they now have several articles coming out in leading journals. Andrejs finished as chair of the Queen's Senate Budget Review Committee this July but is staying on as a member of the University's General Research Ethics Board. He is looking after SURP admissions this year and hopes that alumni/ae will keep on sending us good prospects. Community service is mostly through work as a referee and book reviewer for several journals and as the North American editor for *Urban Studies*, editor of the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* and as a member of the editorial board for *Housing Studies*. He is working hard during a six-month sabbatical ending in January. His travel plans include an overland trip from Lhasa to Kashgar and back to Beijing along one of the old Silk Road trails.

## FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

We're happy to report that **John Andrew** was awarded a two-year appointment at the School beginning July 1, 2006.

**Hok-Lin Leung** was elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and was presented with a certificate naming him as a Fellow in front of a national audience of planners at this year's CIP conference in Vancouver. To quote from his award letter, "... you have made an exemplary contribution to planning that de-

serves recognition on a national basis. This is demonstrated by a high level of excellence and achievement that has contributed to the advancement of both planning and planners."

On July 1, 2006 **John Meligrana** was granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor and he began a well-deserved one-year sabbatical leave. Way to go John!

Twice over the past summer **Mohammad Qadeer** became a grandfather! His daughter Nadra and her husband welcomed their new baby girl, Razia Qadeer Sims, and his son Ahmer and his wife welcomed their new baby girl, Azucena Elida Qadeer. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Qadeer and his family at this wonderful time in their lives.



*The newly-elected Fellows, Stephen Jewczyk, David Palubeski, Hok-Lin Leung and Philip Weinstein, pose with their certificates at the CIP Conference in Vancouver this summer.*



## VISITING FACULTY

**Christopher De Sousa**, Professor of Geography and Co-Director of the Brownfields Research Consortium at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, was a Visiting Scholar at SURP from January 17-19, 2006. The Guest Speakers Committee did an excellent job of preparing the schedule for his visit so that faculty and students had an opportunity to meet and interact with him in both academic and social settings. On the final day

of his visit, Professor De Sousa gave a very interesting lecture on "Building a Sustainable City One Brownfield at a Time." We would like to thank the University for funding Dr. De Sousa's visit under the Principal's Development Fund, Visiting Scholars (Category A).

**Christopher Gore** of the Department of Political Science and Centre for Environment at the Univer-

sity of Toronto, was a guest speaker at SURP in February 2006 and he spoke about "Shifts in Environmental Governance in Canada: How are Citizen Environmental Groups to Respond?".

Watch for notices about **Dr. Susan Fainstein's** visit to SURP from Harvard University in January 2007!

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## GRADUATING CLASS GIFT

Many thanks to the **CLASS of 2006** for their generous gifts of

a new microwave oven and a coffee maker for the School. They

are truly appreciated and used by one and all.

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## SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

**Angela Balesdent** (Administrative Assistant), **Kelly McCaugherty** (Secretary) and **Jo-Anne Rudachuk** (Departmental Coordinator) continued their work in support of the School's administrative responsibilities.

**Connie Brobeck** (Assistant Convenor) and **Cathie MacDonald** (Convenor) continued their work for the National Executive Forum on Public Property.

During the past year **Yumei Cao** (China Projects Coordinator) provided administrative and logistical support for our China-related undertakings, but in August 2006 she resigned her position to move to Ottawa to join her husband, **Chen Xia** (a former China Projects Coordinator). We will miss them both and wish them the very best in the future.

We are pleased to welcome **Li Xu** to the SURP administrative family as the new China Projects Coordi-

nator. Li jumped in with both feet to organize the August visit by the 29-person delegation from the Ministry of Land and Resources in China, as well as the visits by the seven Interns and the two State Council Researchers from China planned for late September or early October.



## ADMISSIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

Jo-Anne Rudachuk and Andrejs Skaburskis continued to recruit outstanding students from across Canada and internationally to bring a diverse class to SURP. This year's entering class of 33 has degrees from 19 different universities from four Canadian provinces as well as four other countries. Demand for admission to the M.PL. program remains

strong, with a substantial waiting list. This year's class won two prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarships in a national competition from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. They also won one Carrel Fellowship from Queen's.

Applicants from central Canada are invited to an open house in the fall where they can learn about the unique culture of the School from enthusiastic students, staff and faculty. Students who are admitted to the program in February are also invited to visit the school later in the term and be SURP students for a day.

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## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SURP students enjoyed perhaps the strongest job market in recent years during 2006, with many external positions available. It was also a bumper year for internships at the School, with 18 positions interviewing on campus. We are grateful for the support of the Cataraqui

Region Conservation Authority, the Department of National Defence, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, City of Kingston, Loyalist Township, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Ontario Realty Corporation, Public Works and Government Services

Canada and the City of Toronto for our on-campus program, and several other members of the National Executive Forum on Public Property who hired our students in other provinces. The School also thanks the many alumni/ae who mentored our students' job searches.

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## EXECUTIVE SEMINARS ON CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

Founded at SURP in 2004, Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (ESCIRE) hosted its third seminar in downtown Toronto in May 2006. Entitled "Global Real Estate Investments: International Acquisition Opportunities and Domestic Transactions With Foreign Buyers" was a resounding success and a nearly sold-out event with over

80 participants. The full-day program featured 16 high-profile leaders in the industry speaking on four panels - two dealing with Canadian companies investing abroad and two on foreign investment in Canadian commercial real estate. Speakers came from Canada, the United States and Britain; while attendees came from across Canada, and an unprecedented number from the U.S. The speakers and registrants

represented many of the most significant investors in global real estate. For the first time, this seminar enjoyed corporate sponsorship, and this is expected to grow for future seminars. It also generated a national story in *The Globe and Mail*. Building on our success, we will begin offering two seminars each year. Planning is now underway for the next one, tenta-

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## EXECUTIVE SEMINARS ON CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

*(Continued from page 9)*

tively scheduled for November 2006, on a theme soon to be finalized. Each of our seminars addresses a new emerging theme of importance to the industry, in a small and interactive forum that allows business leaders to develop the vision, creativity and strategic thinking that they need

to maximize their own performance, and create greater value for their organizations. We are gradually establishing Queen's as a well-respected provider of executive development, and it appears that we are filling an important and unique niche in the Canadian real estate industry. We plan to significantly expand the purpose, func-

tions and scope of this evolving initiative over the next few years, so stay tuned! For information on future seminars or corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact ESCIRE Director John Andrew at 613-533-2958 or [andrewj@post.queensu.ca](mailto:andrewj@post.queensu.ca) or visit [www.queensu.ca/surp/escire.htm](http://www.queensu.ca/surp/escire.htm).

## CHINA PROJECTS NEWS

Last summer (2005) was another successful internship and exchange with China's Ministry of Land and Resources and Fudan University. John Adams and **Maureen McLeod ('06)** were selected for the internships with the Ministry of Land and Resources Beijing Office, while Guillaume Neault and David Sajecki attended Fudan University. All four students worked tirelessly as research assistants for John Meligrana's on-going research on China's urban planning system. Both David and Maureen presented a paper on their China experiences to the World Urban Forum held in Vancouver last June. This summer (2006) two students, Jennifer Maximattis and Karen Thompson, participated in the Beijing Internship (see pp. 2, 13 and 14).

Hok-Lin Leung and John Meligrana completed their one-year project to develop sustainable

land-use policies and practices for China's Yunnan Province, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The project concluded with a successful conference and seminar held in the provincial capital city of Kunming in September 2005. Special thanks to Ed Sajecki, Commissioner of Planning City of Mississauga, and Michael Hough, York University, for their expertise and assistance throughout this project. Also, Zhiyao Zhang, Queen's University doctoral student, provided valuable managerial and administrative support to this project. Thank you, Zhiyao!

SURP continues to provide intensive training for approximately 40 officials from China's Ministry of Land and Resources. In August, the officials visited SURP to attend lectures as well as participate in numerous field trips throughout Ontario, Québec, and British Co-

lumbia. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the training program.

Also, for the tenth year SURP organized the placement of eight interns from the Ministry of Land and Resources for a five-month period with various government and non-profit agencies to obtain Canadian experience in land and mineral resources management.

SURP continues to provide the lead for a series of China research symposia and workshops at Queen's. The next move is to establish a formal China Scholars Forum, in partnership with researchers from Civil Engineering, History, Political Studies, Development Studies, Religious Studies, Biology and other cognate disciplines.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## CHINA PROJECTS NEWS

*(Continued from page 10)*

Hok-Lin Leung began a five-year program of comparative policy study with senior researchers from the Development Research Center of the State Council, China. In this program, four

researchers will come to Queen's University each year for three months to work with Hok-Lin. Last year, the research focus was sustainable development and regional economic growth.

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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

By Cathie Macdonald, Convenor

The Forum, founded at Queen's University in 1998, is a networking organization for executives responsible for managing public property. It has grown to 22 government Member organizations - six major cities, nine provincial and seven federal government departments and agencies. Members also include ten Associate private businesses and six Academic Advisors from universities across Canada. David Gordon continues as the Queen's Faculty Coordinator; Cathie Macdonald as the Convenor, and Connie Brobeck as the Assistant Convenor.

The 2006 Conference, "Asset management strategies to meet changing needs of government," took place in May in Victoria, BC, with 100 delegates. Conference presentations are posted on the Forum's website at

[www.publicpropertyforum.ca](http://www.publicpropertyforum.ca).

David Gordon and SURP student Gilbert Schiller updated the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) database and collection of 113 RFPs, which will also be used in teaching urban development and real estate-related courses. These RFPs are available from the new Members-only section of the Forum website or in hard copy from the Forum office.

Forum members have identified several potential research topics of interest, including: effective approaches to aging facilities; IT systems for real property management; RFPs current practice vs. best practices; Triple Bottom Line implementation; valuation of public assets; and office space planning. Two research papers are underway by Forum Academic Advisors: "Governments Rent or Own: Lessons from the Private Sector" by Tsur Somerville (Director, UBC Centre for Urban Economics and Real Estate), and "Changes to Best Practices in Requests for Proposals for Public Property Development" by David Gordon and James McKellar (Academic Direc-

tor, Program in Real Property, Schulich School of Business, York University).

Planning is now underway for the annual Fall Retreat in Montréal, attended by government Members and Academic Advisors, where Members' issues of the day will be discussed.

## PROJECT COURSE (LAND USE AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT)

Twenty-one graduate students developed two alternative plans for a proposed suburban town centre in the City of Gatineau for the fall 2005 Land Use Planning and Real Estate Development project course, taught by Dave Gordon. The "La Cité secondary plan" evaluated mixed-use development options for private, city and federally owned lands that include the Gatineau cultural centre, a college campus,

the National Archives preservation centre and a station on the proposed Rapibus public transit system. The SURP team gathered international precedents for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and sustainable design techniques. The students prepared two land use and urban design plans as well as a real estate analysis that demonstrated that their proposals were financially feasible. Their conclusions were presented in a 200-page report, real estate analysis spread-

sheets, a CD-ROM and a bilingual colour brochure and presentation. The City of Gatineau planning staff requested that the students present their proposed plans to the City Council in the winter. The La Cité project was sponsored by the Treasury Board Secretariat and Ville de Gatineau. It was the eleventh project funded by the School's agreement with the federal government.

## PROJECT COURSE (HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES)

The intersection of health and homelessness was the subject of the 'social' project course in 2005. Seven students, John Adams, Keith Batstone, Alison Coyle, Cheryl Dow, Guillaume Neault, Trina Soonarane and Karen Trzaska, prepared a comprehensive (and very attractive) report on the connections between health status and homelessness. They completed a literature review and also did interviews with health and housing services providers in order to obtain background and contextual information on this relationship. They then conducted interviews with several people who were using the emergency shelter system in Kingston at the time of their study. Finally, they conducted a focus group with a subset of homeless people in order to present their interim findings and obtain feedback on them.

The students found that service

providers face numerous challenges in offering assistance to homeless persons. Financial and spatial issues predominate here. Homeless persons, on the other hand, also encounter barriers in accessing these services; they include their day-to-day priorities that are focused on obtaining food and shelter and not necessarily health care, their loss of personal identification which is typically required in order to obtain many health services, and physical/temporal challenges in accessing services. They also manifest health issues which, while not necessarily that different from those of us who are more adequately housed, are certainly exacerbated by their housing situation.

The report concludes with ideas for the sorts of interventions and research that could be pursued in the future in order to address the issue of health and homelessness. It has been well-received by the clients of

the project, the City of Kingston (Department of Community Development Services) and the Kingston Community Health Centre. Health and housing services providers have also been complementary and have indicated that the project has been useful to them in their work. As testament to the quality of the project, Sue Hendler has decided to pursue this line of inquiry in this year's project course with an emphasis on the transition from homelessness to housing. The client for the project will, again, be the City of Kingston which has been asked by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to conduct an evaluation of how the community is doing in terms of helping people to get off the streets and out of emergency shelters and into more stable, safe and comfortable housing.



## 2006 CAPS CONFERENCE AND P4T FORUM

By Maureen McLeod and  
Jocelyn Deeks

The students of the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning program held a rejuvenated Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS) conference (P4T) in Vancouver this June, coordinated to link with the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) World Planners Congress and the World Urban Forum. The sheer concentration of so much plannerania garnered a significant SURP presence at all three events. P4T attracted 160 delegates from 24 universities, and offered 64 concurrent sessions showcasing student

research in technology, transportation, diversity and cultural planning, media, urban/rural, and sustainability fields. The event opened with keynotes from three speakers including William Rees, Larry Beasley and Leonie Sandercock. Throughout the conference, there was a prominent sustainability theme and dialogue/discussion among attendees after each session.

P4T emerged out of the official dissolution of CAPS in January 2006. A CAPS Anti-Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held to discuss how CAPS is being reincorporated under CIP. Organizers from the host city will form the

CAPS executive, with an additional student from each school of the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP) attending the yearly AGMs. Next year's venue for the conference was also selected: the city few have visited, but all have dreamed about ....WINNIPEG!!!

Closing ceremonies included the presentation of an Infrastructure Canada Essay Competition award to SURPer **Jennifer Bloom ('06)** and closing remarks by John Friedmann; Ian Wight of the University of Manitoba urged planners to "go forth and multiply the great places of your world, and stop by Winnipeg on the way."

## INTERNSHIPS IN CHINA

By Jennifer Maximattis and  
Karen Thompson

Jennifer Maximattis and Karen Thompson were lucky enough to spend three months of their summer in Beijing. Jennifer spent her time in the China Institute of Land and Surveying and Planning (CILSP). Everyone was very willing to answer any and all questions whether they involved Land Administration Law, GIS software or where the best place in Beijing is to eat hotpot. Much time was spent studying government confiscation of land and the resulting resettlement of farmers, as well as differences be-

tween Canada and China with regards to environmental policy and planning. A definite highlight of Jennifer's internship was the weekly English Corner where she and her co-workers gathered together to discuss a variety of topics from Canadian geography to the differences between Canadian and Chinese versions of Valentine's Day.

Karen spent three months at the Chinese Academy of Land and Resources Economics (CALRE) which is located in a Beijing suburb, Yan Jiao. CALRE is an economic policy think-tank for the Chinese government. Her time at the academy provided a mind-

broadening cultural experience as she both lived and worked in close proximity with her coworkers within the Academy's compound. In between doing urban planning presentations and conducting research for various departments, she honed her volleyball skills and acquired an extensive Chinese volleyball vocabulary. She was warmly welcomed into the homes of various Academy members, and became an impromptu English Corner host for the Academy's children.

During their time in China, Karen and Jennifer also had the opportu-

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## INTERNSHIPS IN CHINA

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nity to visit Shanghai and Hong Kong. They were given a warm welcome in Hong Kong by SURP alumni/ae **Ivy Wong ('04)**, **Terence Leung ('99)** and **Kit Mei**

**Tong ('96)**. In Shanghai, Professor Wenwei Ren generously showed Jennifer and Karen the campus of Fudan University and they discovered they shared not only similar ideas about the greening of cities, but a favourite restaurant in King-

ston as well.

Jennifer and Karen would like to thank their hosts in China who made their stay a valuable educational experience as well as a cultural one.



*Jennifer Maximattis, Professor Wenwei Ren, and Karen Thompson at the old gate of Fudan University.*

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico

By Melissa Copping

The two forts that guard San Juan's ports, Castillo de San Cristobal and San Felipe del Morro, make the largest fortified system in the New World, with immense stone walls wrapping around Old San Juan. Dating back almost 500 years, the

city is rich in Spanish and Caribbean culture, where cobblestone streets are lined with Spanish colonial buildings.

Through Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions, I met people dedicated to restoring San Juan's cultural assets. Two major threats to Puerto Rico's heritage and

historical built form were identified: a lack of resources, and a lack of political backbone to enforce heritage conservation regulations (such as designated heritage conservation districts in Canada). Although publicly-owned buildings are in a relatively good state of repair, the preserva-

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## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

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tion of privately owned buildings seemed somewhat haphazard. Where one building would be carefully restored and sparkle, the adjoining building would be crumbling.

Adding to these challenges is on-

going squabbling within Puerto Rico's political system. The day after I arrived, all government services in Puerto Rico shut down (with the exception of hospitals and the *policia*) after the government declared bankruptcy earlier this year. With such problems to solve, it is not surprising that heritage preservation and planning issues take a back seat.

In light of the many challenges they face, it was inspiring to see the dedication displayed by volunteers and architectural and planning professionals to enable Puerto Ricans to retain their invaluable heritage assets. I would like to thank SURP for making my memorable trip to Puerto Rico possible.



*Contrast between restored Spanish colonial and decaying buildings*



*Old San Juan Cemetery and Fort San Cristobal taken from Fort El Morro with the "La Perla" squatter community in between the two forts*

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to San Jose, Costa Rica

By Chris Moore

*With Little Regard for the Land:  
Urban Development in Costa Rica*

Costa Rica, a country so rich in cultural tradition and diverse in opportunity, seems like an ideal place that one might choose for vacation or travel, not necessarily work.

However, in being a country which prides itself on providing breathtaking opportunities in Eco-Tourism, Costa Rica is also a country that is under the immense pressure of urban development organizations. With a large degree of socio-economic polarization, sustainability and sound urban planning are often overlooked in the pursuit of adequate service

provision. As such, working in the planning profession in a nation like Costa Rica seems like a logical choice for individuals seeking to help make a difference in a society.

My experience in Costa Rica was not nearly long enough to get a solid grasp on urban de-

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## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

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velopment from a Third World perspective, yet was successful in providing me with an eye-opening glimpse of how the planning profession operates outside of North America and, more importantly, in the developing world.

My experience was centred primarily within the capital region of San Jose but extended briefly to the neighbouring communities of Santa Ana and Escazu and, as such, introduced me to the most prevalent area of concern in the country.

There are many relevant issues regarding urban development in Costa Rica but none more evoking of trepidation than the environmental degradation and unsustainable practices characteristic of San Jose, a city of roughly two million people. Very little is done to protect the natural environment throughout the capital city of Costa Rica as pressure from development is too strong. Storm-water management is nonexistent as the open-sewer systems convey untreated and often highly contaminated runoff to the country's water courses, buffering and natural resource protection are difficult to justify when every parcel of land

possesses a lucrative price tag, and urban living is such a highly sought-after commodity that government intervention in the form of planning often lags behind urban construction. Being a country that possesses so much natural beauty it is hard to imagine that so little is done to protect those features from succumbing to the forces of urban growth, yet this is exactly the case. Even though my experience in the country may have been short, it left me with a profound desire to return to the area in the future with the aspiration of helping to preserve one of the most beautiful natural environments in the world today.



*Squatter Town Hillside*



*Open Sewer*





**We hope you enjoyed this edition of the SURP Newsletter.**

**Please remember to send us your news!!**

Alumni/ae are always asking us for news of their colleagues and we need you to fill us in so that we can report on your personal and professional accomplishments (ie. jobs, children, travel, relationships, etc.). Please send your news to [angela.balesdent@queensu.ca](mailto:angela.balesdent@queensu.ca).

We would also invite you to share your contact information on the "SURP Community" section of our web site

[www.queensu.ca/surp/](http://www.queensu.ca/surp/).

Click on "Current Student and Alumni Contact Information", pick a graduating class year, and let us know if you would like your contact information added to this site. Just send the details to Jo-Anne at [rudachuk@post.queensu.ca](mailto:rudachuk@post.queensu.ca).

**THANK YOU!**

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