

News



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

School of Urban and Regional Planning

Kingston, Ontario

Number 26 Fall 2007

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Some of you may not know, my pre-retirement leave will begin in February 2008. The gods must be jealous so they made my past year one of the busiest, administratively. Angie and Jo-Anne worked flat out, but insisted I should keep some sanity by sticking to my mid-day swimming and the occasional disappearance into Stauffer Library to read and write.

There was a tidal wave of administrative chores: the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies review, Internal Academic Review, Senate review of the Graduate School, the negotiation of space to accommodate our increased enrolment, and the sharing with the School of Environmental Studies of the joint appointment of a Queen's National Scholar, just to name the biggies. None of the reviews have been completed, but for each one I had to consult widely and prepare "self studies" that were about three-inches thick. Busy was an understatement. But it was not without reward. As I took stock of our past and looked into the future, two facts came into focus.

One, we were never very aggressive in leading, or even in following, the academic fashion of the day. Maybe that was the natural outcome of our consensus approach or maybe we never

had a powerful leader who could convince or compel. For me, however, the mental image was the famous chariot-race scene in the movie *Ben Hur* (how this dates me!). Sheik Ilderim gave to Ben Hur his team of horses, which he called his sons. His favourite was Antares. Antares was not the fastest or smartest looking, but he was the steadiest, the one on the inside, anchoring his brothers as they turned each corner at the race. But I do not think of any particular individual among us as an Antares. Antares was the collective, a corporate culture and tradition that has kept us, as a collective, from turning to every wind and jumping at every sound. The funny thing was that this collective restraint actually enhanced the freedom of individual members.

This brings me to the second fact. The School has been extremely successful in innovation. Innovation means experimenting. Unlike a demonstration, an experiment, by definition, can either succeed or fail. Experiments involve risks of failure, and you need mental and material capacity to absorb the failure, learn from the experience, and try again. The National Executive Forum on Public Property, the Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate, and the China Projects are all success

stories. But they all went through failures, or near-failures. It was our corporate culture and capacity to innovate, and to sustain innovating, which accounted for the happy outcomes.

This will be my last newsletter as Director. I want to thank my faculty colleagues. Their achievements and pursuit of excellence have made my dealings with the powers-that-be so much easier; their collegiality and understanding have made my administrative responsibility so much lighter. Angie and Jo-Anne have been more than fantastic. No superlatives can describe my appreciation and gratitude. They have kept me sane. To my students, past and current, you are the reason for me to be in this business. I have enjoyed you. I hope you have enjoyed me, or at least my lectures.

There is a Chinese saying, "No banquet lasts forever." I have had a good run. If I were to start all over again I would not have chosen differently.



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 2006 recipient was **Katherine Sparkes** for her blog entitled "Social Matters", which was submitted in the Social Planning course (SURP-871).

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 2006 recipient was **Markus Moos ('06)**.

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 2006 recipient was **Markus Moos ('06)**.

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 2007 recipient was **Katherine Sparkes** for her research on the use of local government policy to promote energy-efficient buildings.

A summer 2007 **China Internship** was awarded to **Andrea Gummo** (see page 12).

The winners of the 2007 **International Experience Awards** were **Tasha Elliott** (Belmopan, Belize), **Kelly McNicol ('07)** (Beijing, China), and **Raktim Mitra ('07)** (Curitiba, Brazil) (see page 13). Tasha and Kelly have yet to undertake their travel.

The purpose of the **Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship** is to assist in furthering planning education, to recognize student members who are making a contribution in their communities, and to provide financial aid for members who are studying planning at recognized planning programs. The winner of the 2007 scholarship was **Michelle Taggart ('07)**.

SURP is one of six programs whose students are eligible to apply for the **Oxford Properties Group Real Estate Research Competition**. Students in their final year of study in these programs may compete by writing and submitting a 1,500-2000 word essay based on a question posed by Oxford Properties Group. Entries are judged by a panel of real estate executives at Oxford Properties Group and the winning entries must combine strong research and analytical skills. The first-place prize is \$10,000 to the winning student and \$5,000 to his/her program; second place is \$5,000 to the winning student; and third place is \$2,500 to the winning student. Congratulations to **Gilbert Schiller ('07)** who was the **first-prize recipient for 2007**.

The **Toronto CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) Real Estate Scholarships** are to encourage women to enter the Canadian commercial real estate industry. The scholarships are valued at \$3,000 each and may be awarded to full-time female students entering the final year of the Queen's M.PL. program. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding potential, interest in the commercial real estate field, and must specialize in Land Use and Real Estate Development in their second and final year of study. The 2007 winners were **Amy Cann**, **Andrea Gummo**, and **Kristen Reid**.

The **Canada Lands Company Scholarship** is a \$12,000 scholarship to support a student at SURP who is researching the Rockcliffe Landing project for his or her report or thesis. The award is paid out in installments in April, September, and upon completion of the student's report or thesis. The 2007 winner was **David Fitzpatrick**.

The **Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Eastern Ontario District Nicholas Tunnacliffe Scholarship Award** is in honour of the contributions made by Nicholas Tunnacliffe during his tenure at the former Region of Ottawa-Carleton, and is to assist in furthering planning education, and to recognize student members who are making a contribution in their community, and to provide financial aid for student members. When the award is received, the recipient must be a full-time graduate student at SURP and a student member of OPPI. The 2007 winner was **Jakob Van Dorp**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUANDS!

OCTOBER 2006

John Adams, Darryl Bird, Melissa Copping, Alison Coyle, Cheryl Dow, Laura Dowell, Chris Hadwin, Markus Moos, Guillaume Neault, Teresa Pisani, Mike Sanfilippo, Trina Soonarane, Xian Zhang

MAY 2007

Leanne Blackwood, Emily Caldwell, Qiaoyi He, Rocky Kambo, Jennifer Maximattis, Sasha Meads, Ryan Moore, David Sajecki, Marney Simmons, Michelle Taggart, Yan Zheng

OCTOBER 2007

Calvin Chan, Jocelyn Chandler, Caihong Chen, Tim Dickinson, Mary Leishman, Dave McCready, Kelly McNicol, Raktim Mitra, David Moore, Gilbert Schiller, Karen Thompson, Alex Turner, Rob Wandell, Bryan Ward, Josh White



Some of the October 2007 graduands (from left to right) Caihong Chen, Jocelyn Chandler, Raktim Mitra, Kelly McNicol, Mary Leishman, Tim Dickinson, and Gilbert Schiller

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Bob and Laurel Russell (both class of '75) have moved to Wellington, New Zealand, where Bob has accepted a position as Deputy Commissioner, Service Delivery, Dept. of Inland Revenue. Bob and Laurel recently retired from positions in the federal and Nova Scotia governments, and relocated to Wellington in October 2006. Friends may contact them at 1-226 Oriental Parade, Wellington (tel. 66 04 385-0355).

Proud and tired new parents Min Chen and **Yan Zheng** ('07) are de-

lighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Nina Chen, born at 8:56 a.m. on November 28, 2006 (weight 2977 g, 49 cm).

Zdana Komarnicky ('03) and Andrew Fedchun were married on October 28, 2006 in Toronto. Attendees included **Paula Bustard** (bridesmaid), **Naomi Hirshberg**, **Amanda Santo**, and **Stephanie Stasyna** (all from the class of '03).

In September 2006, **Mike Ircha** ('73)

received a New Brunswick Day Merit Award in the leadership category for his contributions to help shape the development of Fredericton through his volunteer work as chairman of Fredericton's planning advisory committee.

Brenda Burjaw ('99) and her husband Jason are the proud parents of Rebekah Ester Burjaw, born at 12:20 a.m. on March 13, 2007 (weight 8 lbs 7 oz.).

ALUMNI/AE EVENT



SURP alumni/ae and students from coast to coast gathered at a reception at the 2007 CIP Conference in Quebec's St. Roch neighbourhood. Left to right are: Melissa Castellan ('00, Guelph), Paul Aldunate ('00, Brampton), Kirsten Behler ('99, Vancouver), Svenja Baigent (future planner), Dave Gordon ('79, Kingston), Hans Riekko ('05, Toronto), Andrew Baigent ('00, Vancouver), Lucas Baigent (future planner), Kent MacDougall (Montreal), John Heseltine ('79, Halifax), Ken O'Brien ('91, St. John's), Hieu Nguyen ('05, Ottawa), Greg Newman (Belleville), Jason Unger ('96, Newmarket), Andrew Palmiere ('02, Calgary).

FACULTY NEWS

John Andrew

Being a professor is both a privilege and a responsibility. For me, it has been a demanding, yet immensely satisfying career. I admit to struggling with the task of achieving a work/family balance. But in balancing the pressures of the job are truly unique rewards. While I enjoy interacting with my colleagues it is our graduate students from whom I derive the most satisfaction. One-on-one interactions, classroom teaching and helping students earn scholarships and find jobs are among my favourite tasks. These became easier and more rewarding with the establishment of Queen's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (ESCIRE), which I run

and my recent transition to teaching and researching in a blend of commercial real estate and environmental planning. For the first time in my career I am realizing meaningful synergies and complementarity among these three legs of the "academic stool" - teaching, research and administration/community service. My research agenda now focuses on environmental issues in commercial real estate and I continue to mediate disputes and consult on conflict management, mainly when environmental, real estate and land use issues are involved. I invite real estate professionals I know through ESCIRE to give guest lectures in my courses. Revenue from

ESCIRE supports my research. Other research grants are provided by real estate companies that are ESCIRE clients. Most of those funds flow to student research assistants. Some of these companies sponsor ESCIRE seminars and hire students for internships and/or after graduation. Others provide student scholarships. My research generates findings that provide real-life lecture material. These are just a few of the positive synergies among teaching, research and external professional activities. The catalyst has indisputably been ESCIRE, and as it develops so too will these interactions.

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Faculty News

(Continued from page 4)

It all helps me do more for our students, which allows me to continue to feel satisfied and challenged in my work.

David Gordon is taking a mini-sabbatical leave in the Fall 2007 to create a book on planning Canada's capital. The first phase of the project is complete with the launch of the web site www.PlanningCanadasCapital.ca. In between writing book chapters, he is presenting papers at conferences around North America. Dave thanks all the former students who were kind enough to write the school about his teaching and supervision. The positive feedback was humbling and a wonderful source of information on what seems to work in the classroom and beyond.

Sue Hendler was the Organizer and Facilitator of 'Planning the Urban Environment', a Free Queen's course offering in the Fall 2006 term. She developed an eight-week course on planning, including identifying and confirming speakers, and attended each session for the purpose of continuity and trouble-shooting. The course was full with a lengthy waiting list and continued for an extra week in which she facilitated a discussion on "When Strangers Become Neighbours", a planning-related video by members of the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia.

During the past year, Sue increased her involvement with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. She is now the Co-Chair of the Planning Theory Track, which means that she and an international colleague review and accept/reject abstracts for the annual ACSP conference. She also delivered two presentations at the 2006 and 2007 conferences: "Putting the 's' back into diversity: Planning and sexuality" and "Querying planning (theory)" (with Michael Backs, York University). She continues as North American Editor of *Planning Theory*, and has started to work (with Gail Dubrow, University of Minnesota) on a new collection of essays on gender, sexuality and planning. Her history book is not gone or forgotten but keeps inching its way towards completion.

Finally, Sue is looking forward to teaching a new module next term on citizen engagement and participation as well as expanding the qualitative methods module which will become a required course in 2008/9.

Hok-Lin Leung was asked by The Commercial Press, the biggest publisher in China, to compile an anthology of his work; some had been published previously and some had only been circulated within government for internal study. The tentative title is *Economy, Land and Cities: Some Research Concepts and Methods*, and is scheduled to be published before 2008. The comparative policy research program with China's State Council continued. The topics covered included infrastructure, energy and social policies. Starting next

year Hok-Lin will be doing two lecture circuits in China each year, plus consulting with the government. The Ambassadors' Forum will also continue.

John Meligrana finished a productive sabbatical in July 2007 and has returned to SURP with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. During his sabbatical, John concentrated on completing his SSHRC-funded research on urban development and planning in China. He undertook two field trips to China giving numerous guest lectures to Chinese universities as well as presenting a paper at the China-Canada symposium held in Beijing and sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Canadian Embassy. But continued frustration with the language barrier led John to take drastic action. He enrolled in a course on the Mandarin language for beginners at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. Although he successfully completed the course, he was by no measure the star pupil that he was during his student days at SURP. Throwing caution aside, he will attempt to put into practice his new language skills during an upcoming field trip to China. One should quickly add that "lost in translation" has been a motto frequently adopted by John and usually in response to Hok-Lin's request to take on more administrative duties.

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FACULTY NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Andrejs Skaburskis is continuing to entertain first-year SURP students with statistics lectures and challenging the second year students with applied welfare economics in SURP-811. Three papers written with **Markus Moos ('06)** got accepted in major international journals this last year and Markus is now doing his PhD at UBC. Andrejs' latest thesis supervisor, **Alex Turner ('07)**, is gainfully employed at CMHC in Vancouver.

Andrejs gave a lecture at the Center for Spatial Analysis at McMaster in the spring. He gave the keynote speech opening the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Conference in Vancouver this October. Presentations were also given at the AESOP conference in Naples and the ACSP conference in Milwaukee. These are the European and North American conferences for planning professors. With Markus, he gave a paper at the Regional Science Association International conference that was held in Toronto last year.

Andrejs is still looking after admissions for SURP and hopes you will

continue to send us great students. He is chairing the internal academic review of the Department of Political Studies and the Canadian Studies Center. Andrejs is still a managing editor for *Urban Studies* and associate editor for the *Journal of Architecture and Planning Research*. He is on the editorial boards of *Housing Studies* and the *Open Journal of Urban Studies*. He is conducting research supported by a new SSHRC grant and is planning visits to Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan and possibly Tajikistan this coming spring. This Christmas will be spent at his daughter's yoga studio in Phnom Penh. The studio was recently ranked 21st out of the top 25 yoga studios in the world.

Graham Whitelaw

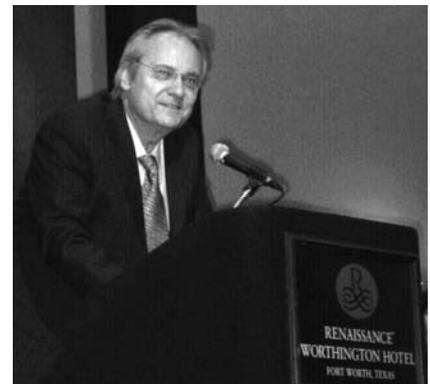
I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the SURP community. I recently joined SURP and the School of Environmental Studies through a QNS appointment. I have worked in both the private and public sectors. My consulting work has mainly served government and

civil society sectors with a specialization in facilitation. During the 1990s, I was part of the Ontario Ministry of Environment's land use policy team working on a variety of files including environmental assessment, brownfield redevelopment and the Niagara Escarpment. I left the Provincial government in 2000 to pursue a PhD and graduated in 2006 from the School of Planning, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo. My dissertation research focused on the role of the environmental movement in land use planning processes. My current research is focused on environmental assessment, specifically strategic assessment and First Nations' planning along the western James Bay coast. I will be teaching SURP-855 Environmental Planning and Management in the winter '08 term. I have also taught courses in environmental assessment, environmental monitoring, and sustainability. My favourite publication to date, co-authored with Dr. Paul Eagles, is "Planning for long, wide corridors on private lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine, Ontario, Canada" (*Journal of Conservation Biology*, Vol. 21, Number 3, 2007).

FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

An article in *Plan Canada* named Gerald Hodge's *Planning Canadian Communities* and Hok-Lin Leung's *Land Use Planning Made Plain* as two of the most influential Canadian books for professional planners in Canada.

At the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference in Forth Worth, Texas in November 2006, **Andrejs Skaburskis** was presented with the "Rapkin Award" for the best article in 2005 in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. (Andrejs giving his acceptance speech in opposite photo.)



VISITING FACULTY

Dr. Jill Grant of the School of Planning at Dalhousie University was a Visiting Scholar at SURP in November 2006 (supported by the Principal's Development Fund, Visiting Scholars, Category D, as well as contributions from the Department of Geography and SURP). During her visit, Dr. Grant gave a public lecture entitled "**The end of public space? Gated communities and private streets,**" and an in-house talk entitled "**Can New Urbanism deliver on its promises?**" and both were well-attended and well-received. Students also appreciated the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Dr. Grant.

In January 2007, **Dr. Susan Fainstein** of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard was a Visiting Scholar at SURP (supported by the Principal's Development Fund, International Visiting Scholars, Category A-1, as well as contributions from the Departments of Geography, Political Studies, Women's Studies, and SURP). "**The Just City: A panel discussion with Susan Fainstein**" was held in the Policy Studies Conference Room 202 on January 24th. Other panelists included Queen's faculty members Betsy Donald (Geography), Hok-Lin Leung (SURP), Katherine

McKittrick (Women's Studies) and Mick Smith (Environmental Studies/Philosophy). Dr. Fainstein also gave a seminar on "**Urban Renewal**" to the SURP community and met individually with students and faculty.

Upcoming visitors are Dr. Kristen Day (California-Irvine) and Dr. Vanessa Watson (Cape Town).

SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

In February 2007 we bid a sad and fond farewell to **Kelly McCaugherty** (Secretary) whose position ended. We are happy to report that you may still see Kelly's smiling face in the Office of the Chaplain here at Queen's. Our loss has been their gain and we wish Kelly all the best!

Angela Balesdent (Administrative Assistant) 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, as did **Li Xu** in the China Projects Office.

ADMISSIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

Jo-Anne Rudachuk and Andrejs Skaburiskis continued to recruit outstanding students from across Canada. This year's entering class of 34 has degrees from 19 universities and four provinces. Demand for admission to the M.PL. program remains strong, with a substantial waiting list. This year's class won five Ontario

Graduate Scholarships and three Queen's University Fellowships/Scholarships.

Applicants from central Canada are invited to an annual 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.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SURP students enjoyed another strong job market in 2007, with many external positions available. It was also a good year for internships at the School, with many positions interviewing on campus. We are grateful for the support of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Ottawa Airport Authority, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, City of King-

ston, KFLA Health Unit, Loyalist Township, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Treasury Board Secretariat, 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 appreciates the efforts of the many alumni/ae who mentored our students' job searches in other cities.

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 two more successful seminars in downtown Toronto, in January and May 2007. Entitled "Fundamentals and Future Trends in Commercial Real Estate: A Focused Analysis of the Office, Multi-Unit Residential, Retail and Capital Markets" and "Global Real Estate Investment: International Acquisition Opportunities and Foreign Investment in Canadian Assets", these events attracted over 200 registrants combined. Each full-day program featured 16 to 20 high-profile leaders in the industry speaking on four panels. Speakers came from Canada, the United States, Germany and Britain, while attendees came from across Canada and the U.S.

The seminar series now enjoys generous corporate sponsorship and national me-

dia attention. Each event addresses a new emerging theme of importance to the industry, in a small and interactive forum. Already a sustainable financial success, exciting plans are underway to significantly expand the purpose, functions and scope of ESCIRE's activities beyond offering three seminars annually beginning in 2007. These developments will further enhance Queen's role in this dynamic industry, and will be closely linked with research and teaching at SURP. Revenues accruing from these activities support SURP-based research in commercial real estate. Spin-off benefits are accruing to SURP and are expected to increase in the near future. These include corporate sponsorship of events, research grants, student scholarships, guest speakers for

courses, and improved access to employment opportunities for graduating students.

For information on future seminars or corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact ESCIRE Director John Andrew at 613-533-2958 or visit john.andrew@queensu.ca or visit <http://www.queensu.ca/escire/>.

CHINA PROJECT NEWS

The biggest news on the China front was the establishment of a Queen's University permanent office in China, located in Shanghai. It began operations in August. Its mandate is to facilitate faculty and student exchanges, student recruitment, research collaboration and alumni/ae affairs. Queen's is the first Canadian university to have an office in China. SURP was very much instrumental in this, and our own China Projects Office will be its counterpart on the Canadian side.

The collaborative training and internship placement in Canada for China's Ministry of Land and Resources continued. This was the eleventh year of

the program. Andrea Gummo was our summer intern to the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics (CALRE). In turn, Wang Ran, Ministry of Land and Resources is visiting Kingston for a five-month internship that started in September. Ms. Ran is working part time in the Kingston Offices of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as well as taking a few SURP courses.

John Meligrana and Hok-Lin Leung were the lead people in our China projects. Chinese collaborators include State Council, Ministry of Land and Resources, Ministry of

Construction, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Tsinghua University, People's University, University of Geoscience (Beijing), Fudan University, and Tongji University. In August, SURP hosted a delegation of officials from Shanghai. The delegation, led by Dr. Ren, Fudan University, included a mixture of academics and government officials interested in Canadian best practices in land development and environmental protection.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

By Cathie Macdonald, Convenor

The Forum, founded at Queens University in 1998, is a networking organization for executives responsible for managing public property. It has grown to 26 government Member organizations from the three levels of government. Members also include Associate private businesses, Academic Advisors from universities across Canada and two Forum Advisors, with international expertise. David Gordon continues as the Queen's Faculty Coordinator, Cathie Macdonald as the Convenor, and Connie Brobeck as the Assistant Convenor.

Forum members have provided many internships for SURP students in the past and have also recruited Queen's students for permanent positions. British Columbia's ARES, BC Hydro, City of Toronto, City of Ottawa, Treasury Board Secretariat, and the Department of National Defence provided employment opportunities last year, and the Canada Lands Company donated a \$12,000 research scholarship to a SURP student.

In 2007 the Forum made adjustments to its operations to better meet the needs of its growing membership, with the Queen's Advisory Research Committee approving related

amendments to the Forum's constitution.

The 2007 Conference, "Creating Value: How public real estate can contribute to increasing Canada's competitiveness", was held in May in St. John's, NL, with 72 delegates. Conference presentations are posted on the Forum's website. The Forum's Members' Retreat was held November 1-3 in Montréal.

At the Retreat, the paper, "The RFP process for the disposition of publicly-owned real estate

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

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assets", including a "Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography for Public Development", was presented by James McKellar, Academic Director, Program in Real Property, Schulich School of Business, York University and David Gordon. SURP students **Gilbert Schiller ('07)**, **Raktim**

Mitra ('07) and **Sanjay Regmi** assisted David Gordon with the preparation of the Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography, and also assisted in compiling information for Forum Members on educational programs to assist with employee recruiting. These documents are available on the Forum website or in hard copy from the Forum office.

Planning is now underway for the Forum's annual conference, May 29-30, 2008, in Winnipeg.

Please see www.publicpropertyforum.ca for more information about the Forum.

SURP-823 HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES PROJECT COURSE (FALL 2006)

Transitioning from chronic homelessness to stable housing in Kingston, Ontario

Students enrolled in the Housing and Human Services project course worked with the City of Kingston, Department of Community Development Services for a second year on issues of homelessness. The students were asked to explore the Hostels to Homes pilot project, which is a provincial/municipal endeavour aimed at helping chronic homeless shelter users find and maintain stable housing. The project included a literature review, service provider interviews, client interviews and a presentation to the community. Later in the summer, we learned that some of the students' recommendations had, in fact, been adopted by the government in its refinement of the program. Most notable, perhaps, is that clients of the Ontario Disability Support Program will now be eligible to participate in Hostels to Homes.



Photograph taken by Bryan Ward ('07)

SURP-824 LAND USE AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COURSE (FALL 2006)

Fifteen graduate students evaluated the potential for transit-oriented development (TOD) for a proposed Ottawa light rail transit (LRT) route during the fall 2006 Land Use Planning and Real Estate Development project course, conducted by Dave Gordon. The students demonstrated that there was ample opportunity for sustainable development in the Montreal - Blair Road corridor and recommended po-

tential station locations and routes based upon their analysis. The SURP team gathered international precedents for TOD, and prepared design guidelines for intensification around the proposed transit stations. Their conclusions were presented in maps prepared with GIS, a 200-page report, a CD-ROM, a colour brochure and a presentation. The TOD project was spon-

sored by the Treasury Board Secretariat and enjoyed the support of the City of Ottawa, National Capital Commission and Canada Lands Company. It was the twelfth project funded by the School's agreement with the federal government.

SURP-825 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROJECT COURSE (FALL 2006)

In fall 2006, the group of nine students enrolled in the Environmental Services Project Course (SURP-825) completed a Waterfront Environmental Management Study of the portion of the Rideau Canal between Kingston Mills Lockstation and Seeleys Bay. The clients for this project were Parks Canada, the City of Kingston and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. The study identified and evaluated the effec-

tiveness of alternative planning mechanisms that would better protect the natural, historic, recreational and scenic values and setting of this National Historic Site and Canadian Heritage River, while providing appropriate waterfront development opportunities. The team of student consultants carried out a thorough analysis, and delivered two presentations and a comprehensive report

that was very well received by the clients and many other stakeholders. One of the team's key conclusions was that sound planning policies, carefully designed development controls and wise stewardship are essential if the Rideau Canal is to maintain its pre-eminence as one of Canada's finest heritage and recreational corridors.

SURP-875 COMMUNITY PRACTICUM (WINTER 2006)

Two graduate students assisted the board of the "Lunch By George" program, which provides almost 10,000 meals per year to some of Kingston's

most vulnerable citizens. The students researched programs elsewhere, updated a web site (www.osgk.org), brochure, and

fundraising presentation. They also prepared a successful grant application to support the program's operations.

CAPS 2007: A HEIGHTENED EXPERIENCE BOTH INSIDE AND OUT

By Andrea Oppedisano

The annual Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS 2007) conference entitled "Cultural Planning: Integrating the Everyday", was held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery this year – in February! Despite experiencing below 50°C weather, some of the coldest temperatures the prairies have seen in 50 years, the conference proved to be a great success.

Students representing ten different planning schools across Canada, including five students from Queen's, participated in a variety of

events ranging from tours, mobile workshops to art centres across the city, a panel discussion with leading Aboriginal and Native Studies professors, and a lecture by John Lornic. In addition to the events organized by the University of Manitoba Student Planning Association, the conference also showcased 29 different research projects including two by Queen's students: "Transit Oriented Land Use Planning: A Method to Evaluate Development Potential" and "Housing Forms in Children's Renderings: Perception in Reality?".

As advertised, CAPS 2007 provided a venue for knowledge, research and experience sharing and Winnipeg confirmed its friendly nature, as I experienced some of the kindest, most generous citizens Canada has to offer. I do have to admit though, for anyone planning to visit Winnipeg and the rest of Manitoba (a trip I highly recommend), do go in the summer when you can walk the streets without the threat of frost bites.

INTERNSHIP IN CHINA

By Andrea Gummo

Andrea Gummo participated in a three-month internship this summer at the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics (CALRE). The Academy is a policy think tank under the Ministry of Land Resources, located 40 km east of Beijing in Yan Jiao. While living and working in the CALRE compound, Andrea was able to take part in a unique culture and lifestyle that was typified by the open-armed welcome of CALRE's staff. Andrea did research in the Mining, Environment and Economics department and shared reports on Canadian natural resources management while learning about current challenges in the field for China. She found that it

was a fascinating time to be in Beijing with all the changes occurring in preparation for the 2008 Olympic games. As well as becoming familiar with Beijing on many weekend trips, Andrea visited the cities of Mudanjiang and Suifenhe in Heilongjiang, and saw farmland in the northern province bordering Russia. She traveled to Hong Kong's Victoria Peak, Shanghai's Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, Hangzhou's West Lake, and Suzhou's canals and traditional gardens. Andrea also traveled to Taiwan to see the world's tallest building in Taipei and to play Gaelic Football with English teachers and locals in Hsinchu, 70 km south of the capital.



Andrea with Sun Jing, the Academy's translator

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to Shanghai, People's Republic of China

By Alex Turner

Shanghai is China's most cosmopolitan city and its economic nerve centre, a vast urban stew of eastern and western influences that, over time, have provided the city with a unique cross-cultural architectural heritage. The Chinese economic surge of recent years has brought rapid modernization and redevelopment to Shanghai. The city has once again become a global centre for architecture, with new projects often focused on being the biggest, boldest and most expensive.

Shanghai's historic buildings (and even neighbourhoods) are disappearing at a rapid rate, resulting in both the loss of architectural heritage and the displacement of residents, who are sometimes moved long distances at the government's whim. In speaking with displaced residents, I found that while the costs of disconnection from former neighbourhoods and friends were significant, they were often exceeded by the benefits of modernization (such as flush toilets). Further, most residents did not see it as their role to question the authority of the government in deciding where they should live.

The fight to preserve Shanghai's architectural heritage is an uphill battle. Few displaced residents even consider the historical value of their former residences, and some of them say that the preservation of European-influenced buildings is a Western concern. Indeed, the main proponents of preservation are Westerners and, while they certainly have good intentions, a question necessarily arises: is it their place to dictate their values to the Chinese, who are generally more pre-occupied with modernization and raising the standard of living? The debate goes on...



Alex (far right) in Shanghai with his interpreter and a displaced resident

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to Curitiba, Brazil

By Raktim Mitra

Curitiba, Brazil is best recognized for its efficient and innovative pub-

lic transit system. The city of 1.6 million is often referred internationally as an "ideal" example of sustainable urban planning for its park systems, historical conserva-

tions and bus rapid transit (BRT) oriented urban and transportation infrastructure.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

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Curitiba has grown radially with its historical downtown at the centre. The land use and transportation plans have utilized the five major radial growth corridors to plan and guide the city's growth. Curitiba's famous bi-articulated buses run along these high-density corridors, with several other bus systems providing feeder services to this BRT infrastructure.

Liana Vallicelli, an architect planner at IPPUC (Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano de Curitiba – the urban planning authority of Curitiba) explained that the success of the city's urban planning lies in involving politicians, professionals and people in the decision process as well as continuous research and evaluation during planning and implementation. Daniel Costa, a Transportation Planner at URBS (Urbanizacao de Curitiba S.A. – the city's transportation agency), told me the success stories of Curitiba's BRT. He mentioned that the

present bus system in Curitiba offers faster and efficient services over private cars, and thereby discourages private vehicle usage in the city.

Curitiba provides a range of great examples of integrated urban planning. Any planning student will greatly benefit from visiting the city. I would like to thank SURP for making the trip possible for me.



Curitiba's bi-articulated buses run in dedicated bus-lanes and provide fast, user-friendly services compared to other transportation alternatives.

GREEN SCHEME

The **Green Scheme** was founded by students from the SURP-853 Environmental Services class. It is a student initiative to strengthen ties between long-term Kingston residents and university students

through partnerships between students and community groups to undertake greening and beautification projects in the Sydenham and Williamsville electoral districts. The Green Scheme received grants from

the Queen's Town-Gown program, the City of Kingston Healthy Community Fund and the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston. It received the

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GREEN SCHEME

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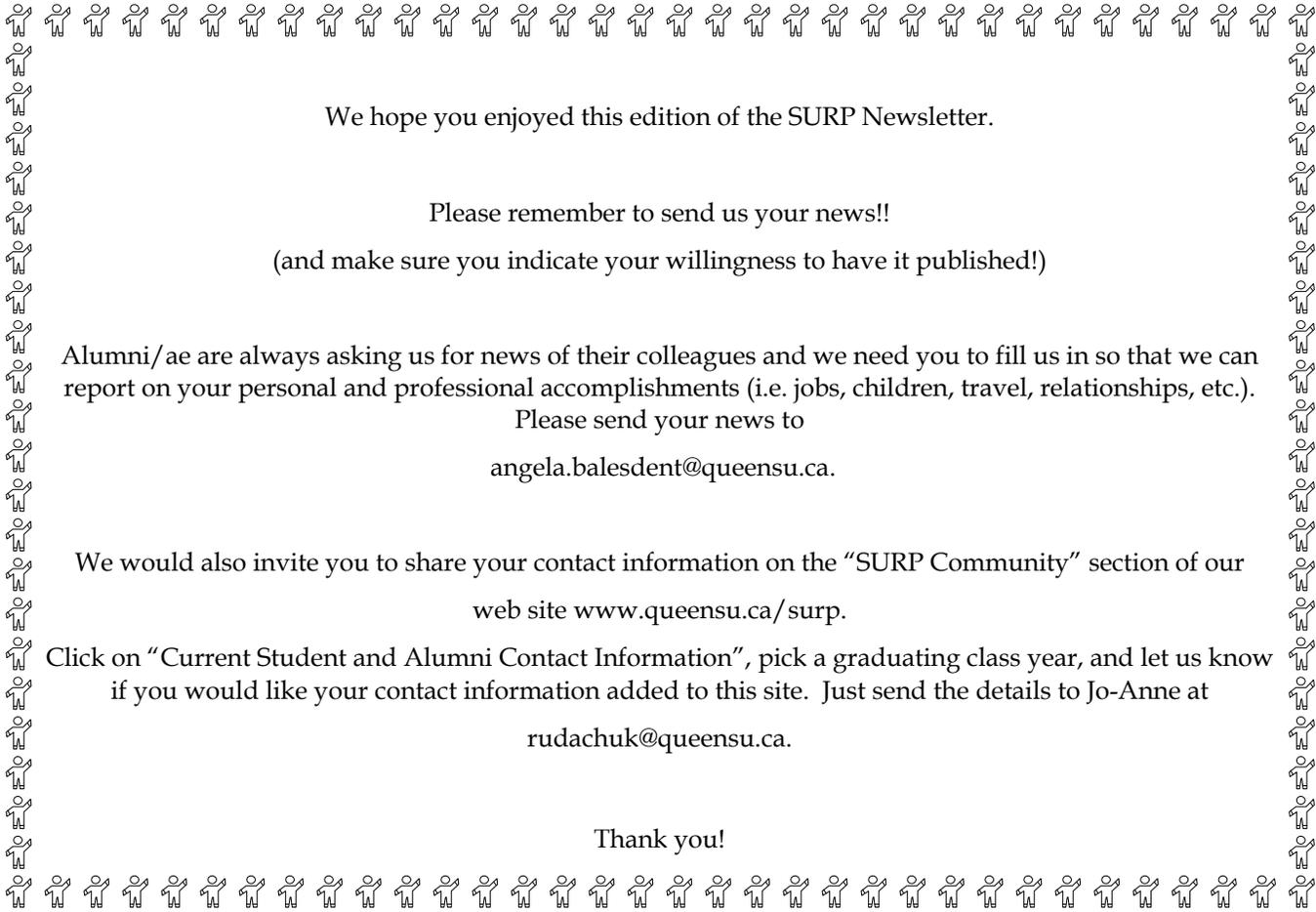
Kingston Chamber of Commerce award for best community initiative. Pilot projects were started at a local school, daycare, seniors

centre, two churches and Navy Memorial Park. Other greening events were organized in conjunction with Queen's orientation week (City Park) and homecoming (Victoria Park and Aberdeen Street). An-

other 40 trees were planted along King Street in partnership with the Sydenham Ward Tenants and Ratepayers Association and the City of Kingston.



Green Scheme planting a tree on Aberdeen Street following Homecoming 2007 activities. From left to right: Farrah Ward, Dayna Lafferty, Kelsey Jensen, Iain Bourhill, Greg Newman, Dan Minkin, and Matt Holme. Picture courtesy of Andrew Jones.



We hope you enjoyed this edition of the SURP Newsletter.

Please remember to send us your news!!
(and make sure you indicate your willingness to have it published!)

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 (i.e. jobs, children, travel, relationships, etc.).
Please send your news to
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.

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@queensu.ca.

Thank you!

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In December 2006, some creative SURP students made this street of gingerbread houses for an auction, the proceeds of which went to Habitat for Humanity.