

News



School of Urban and Regional Planning

Kingston, Ontario

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HOK-LIN LEUNG RETIRES AS SURP DIRECTOR



Hok-Lin (centre) enjoying his retirement party, surrounded by family and colleagues: (L-R) Ajay Agarwal, Angie Balesdent, Graham Whitelaw, Dave Gordon, Lora Leung, Leela Viswanathan. (Photo credit: Maria Meligrana).

After thirty years of service to Queen's, Professor **Hok-Lin Leung**, SURP's director for over twelve years, retired in June of 2009. During his time at SURP, Hok-Lin spearheaded several initiatives, including the National Executive Forum on Public Property, the China Projects Office, and the Ambassadors' Forum. In 2002, Hok-Lin's many achievements were recognized by the People's Republic of China, which awarded him its Friendship Award, the highest honour granted to foreign experts who have improved various aspects of the Country's scientific programs and cultural

life. In 2006, the Canadian Institute of Planners recognized his work in advancing the planning profession by electing him a Fellow of the Institute. Perhaps his greatest impact to SURP, however, has been upon the many students to whom he has served not only as a professor, but as a mentor and an inspiration. On June 23, 2009, Hok-Lin's career achievements were celebrated with a retirement party at the home of Li Xu and Lei Zhang, with over twenty family, colleagues and friends in attendance. We wish Hok-Lin all the best in his "retirement" (the quotation marks being his)!

DAVID GORDON APPOINTED NEW SURP DIRECTOR

Principal Tom Williams has announced that **David Gordon ('78)** has been appointed Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2009. Dr. Gordon received a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and M.P.L. from Queen's, and an MBA and D.Des. from Harvard University. He has taught in the School since 1994 and has served as the SURP Acting Director since February 2008.

Dr. Gordon has also taught at the University of Toronto, Ryerson, Harvard and University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Before becoming a professor, Professor Gordon was a professional planner in the private and public sector for over 15 years, twice sharing the Canadian Institute of Planners' National Award of Distinction.

He is the author of over 100 books, articles and professional reports on urban planning, waterfront redevelopment and implementation techniques.

-Janice Deakin, Associate Vice Principal & Dean, School of Graduate Studies



David Gordon, SURP '78

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It was not a good year for resting on laurels at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, even as the complimentary assessments of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and the University's Internal Academic Review panels arrived early in 2008. Our M.PL. program was described as "high quality" and "one of the best in Canada", while our faculty were lauded as one of the most productive groups of researchers in our field. These achievements were testaments to the quality of our work over the past seven years, and our 2004 strategic plan, *Building on Excellence*.

The excellent results from the past year were built on the foundation laid by Professor Hok-Lin Leung, our Director for the past 12 years. Hok-Lin was on administrative leave for 2008-09, often away expanding Queen's reputation in China. However, he always found the time for strategic, tactical, and personal advice.

2008 was an excellent year to graduate from SURP, with many employment and travel opportunities available to our graduates. Our Internship Program had one of its best seasons ever, with many placements provided by the National Executive Forum on Public Property. Despite the economic collapse last fall, our loyal partners have continued to support the Internship Program in 2009. We recruited a record number of graduate students (66) to our School, as we met our new admissions target (up from 48) for the second year in a row.

We were shocked to hear about Professor Sue Hendler's illness in

early January 2008, and have followed her brave battle with cancer through her fortnightly newspaper column. Within hours of the news of Sue's illness, the entire SURP faculty had agreed to teach an overload and supervise extra students for the year. Every course was offered and all students got the personal attention for which the School is known.

The course offerings in the fall were perhaps the most diverse in the School's history, due to a wonderful group of adjunct lecturers assembled at the academic equivalent of a moment's notice. Two distinguished former directors, Gerald Hodge and Mohammad Qadeer, taught courses in seniors planning and planning for multiculturalism. The President-Elect of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, Sue Cumming, taught courses in ethics and public participation. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation analyst Patricia Streich taught social planning courses, and Preston Schiller taught transit planning. We also recruited award-winning designers Jason-Emery Gröen and Carl Bray to teach physical planning and community design. Finally, the second-year students had a choice of four project courses, led by six senior professional planners from Ottawa and Kingston.

Perhaps the best news comes from an international faculty search for two new tenure-track assistant professors. In July 2009, Dr. Ajay Agarwal joined us from the University of Southern California to teach and conduct research in physical planning and community design. Dr. Leela Viswanathan has joined

us from the Queen's Department of Geography, where she was an Adjunct Assistant Professor and post-doctoral researcher. She will draw upon her extensive Toronto social planning experience to strengthen that area of the School's curriculum. The entire School assisted in recruiting these outstanding young scholars, and their appointment during a period of financial constraint is a strong vote of confidence from the Principal and our Dean, for which we are all grateful.

SURP is a productive urban planning research centre. Over the past year, our professors edited journals, published three books and monographs, many articles and chapters (often in collaboration with our students), and continued outreach to the profession.

The School owes perhaps its greatest debt to a veteran staff team, who kept the place humming during a remarkably difficult year. Connie Brobeck and Li Xu ran the Forum and China Projects Office with great efficiency. And I cannot thank Angie Balesdent and Jo-Anne Rudachuk enough for their expertise, patience and coaching skills with a rookie Acting Director.

I thank the students, faculty, alumni/ae and especially the staff for their strong support for the School over this demanding year. I'm humbled and honoured to be asked to serve as Director of this fine School for the next five years, and value the support of all our community as we strive to make a difference in community planning in Canada and internationally.

A MESSAGE FROM SUE HENDLER

Having written a lot of SURP newsletter articles over the past 22 years, I've gotten pretty good at summarizing my year's work or saying that, yet again, I was hoping to finish my book soon. But this particular piece is harder to write.

In January of 2008, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and then later, in February, with metastatic or advanced breast cancer. This sort of diagnosis usually comes with your oncologist saying something like, "Well, Sue, we don't know how to cure metastatic cancer but we do know how to treat it so that's the direction in which we'll move".

So, December and January of last year were mostly spent having surgeries or recovering from them, while February was full of tests and then waiting for results. As of the end of February 2008, I was on hormone therapy and a bone strengthening medication, as my metastases were on my vertebrae and femur. I was on sick leave for six months and then started an indefinite leave on long-term disability. More recently, the cancer has spread to my lungs and liver and I had to try various chemotherapies. They have since failed and I have rejected further treatment. That means my days are numbered but at least I won't have to go through many more tests, side effects, etc.

My full-time job has thus become focused on my health. I moved from the country to downtown Kingston so that it would be easier to spend time with friends and so that I might feel a little less isolated. I'm working on eating better and trying to walk a fair bit. And, as a true academic, I read a lot. There's a lot of material out



Photo credit: Matthew Rushworth, The Kingston Whig-Standard

there on breast cancer and, while some is pretty depressing, I'm a firm believer in 'knowledge is power'. I'm sure many of you can imagine how prepared I am with lists of questions for my oncologist each time I see her!

I would love to hear from former students as connections with people I have been close to have become all the more important as I progress along this journey. You can email me directly (hendlers@queensu.ca) but you can also sign an on-line health blog called a care page: <http://www.carepages.com/>. I especially like the latter as I can share it with my friends and family more easily than individual messages. Please don't be offended if I don't respond; I appreciate every single good wish I receive.

I'm sorry to have to share this sort of news but also grateful to have access to this medium as it has been hard to tell people individually as they happen to contact me for ref-

erence letters or just to say hello.

Given that I have a captive audience, I'll end by saying that some of you may remember the little quote I have always kept taped to my office door. It reads: "If anyone is going to change the world, it's going to be you". I still believe that. But I think I would now emphasize that if anyone is going to change your world, it's going to be you. Do what you love. Be fulfilled. Try to be a good person. (Yes, I had to put an ethics reference in there!) Imagine getting to a point where you can look at your life and be able to say that you had done most of what you really wanted to do. And, if you hadn't, you were okay with that.

Take good care,

Sue

(Bits of the above are taken from columns on breast cancer that I'm writing bi-weekly for the Kingston Whig-Standard. They come out every other Friday and you can find them on-line, usually the day after, at www.thewhig.com. Just search for 'Hendler'.)

STUDENT HONOURS AND AWARDS

Katherine Sparkes ('08) received the **2008 Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Presidents' Scholarship** for her research into the best practices for the integration of energy and land use planning and distributed energy resource development.

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)**.

In 2008-2009, two SURP students were awarded Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) awards. **Sarah Brown** is researching motivations for building green in the private sector and implications for commercial real estate, while **Laura Maxwell** is studying Ottawa's Greenbelt.

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 **2008** winners were **Jenny Chook, Laurel Gibson, and Dayna Lafferty** (all '09), and the **2009** winners were **Dorothy Belina, Sarah Brown, and Meredith Lynes**. **Jenny Chook ('09)** was also the winner of the first **Legacy Award**, which is part of the Toronto CREW Scholarship program.

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 **2007** recipient was **Hannah State ('08)** for her paper entitled "The Canada Border Services Agency: Final Report and Critical Evaluation," which was submitted in the Legal and Governmental Processes course (SURP-815). The **2008** recipient was **Carla Schuk**, for her paper entitled "The Pursuit of Social Sustainability...," 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 **2007** recipient was **Raktim Mitra ('07)**, and the **2008** recipient was **Kristen Reid ('08)**.

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 **2007** recipient was **Raktim Mitra ('07)**, and the **2008** recipient was **Kristen Reid ('08)**.

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 **2008** recipient was **Nellie Chang ('09)** for her research on inclusionary zoning for affordable housing.

Summer **2008 China Internships** were awarded to **Jenny Chook** and **Trevor Illingworth** (both '09). Jenny's internship was with the Chinese Academy of Land and Resource Economics (CALRE), while Trevor's internship was with the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute (CLSPI). In 2009, China Internships were awarded to **Bryan Crosby** and **Sarah Smith**.

The winners of the **2008 International Experience Awards** were **David Fitzpatrick ('08)** (Cairo, Egypt), **Katherine Sparkes ('08)** (Copenhagen, Denmark), and **Amanda Szpecht ('08)** (Beijing, China) (see pages 22-23 for articles on David and Amanda's experiences). The **2009** recipients were **Bryan Crosby** (Shanghai, China), **Mike Hendren ('09)** (England), and **Bitu Vorell** (Copenhagen, Denmark). Bitu has yet to undertake her travel, while Bryan, Katherine and Mike are travelling at press time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUANDS!



MAY 2008 (above)

Back row (L-R): Benjamin Puzanov, Amanda Szpecht, Andrej Boyanchuk, Prof. John Meligrana, Paul Zamodits, Chancellor Charles Baillie

Front row (L-R): Pooja Kumar, Andrea McMurdy

Not pictured: Dallas Johnson, Karen Trzaska

(Photo credit: John Szpecht)



OCTOBER 2008 (above)

Back row (L-R): Katherine Sparkes, Jakob Van Dorp, John Henderson, Mike Dakin, Dan Minkin, Prof. David Gordon

Front row (L-R): Stewart Fraser, Greg Newman, Julie Dolezel, Tiffany Rutherford, Katrina Broughton, Alex Disette, Kristen Reid, Prince Sibanda, David Fitzpatrick, Andrea Gummo

Not pictured: Adam Perry, Carola Ramos Cortez, Jie Wei

(Photo credit: Robert Dolezel)



MAY 2009 (left)

(L-R) Amy Cann, Prof. David Gordon, Romas Juknevičius, Natalie Barnett, Kyungaie Park.

Not pictured: Andrea Oppedisano, Hannah State

(Photo credit: David Barnett)

SURP'S NEW HOME – ROBERT SUTHERLAND HALL

While SURP is still in the same spot that most alumni/ae left us in, our long-time home has recently been renamed to honour British North America's first known black university student and lawyer.

On February 26, 2009, the University's Board of Trustees announced

that the Policy Studies Building would be renamed Robert Sutherland Hall. Upon his death in 1878, Robert Sutherland bequeathed his entire estate to Queen's University, thus becoming its first major benefactor. The building will be officially rededicated to Sutherland on October 3, 2009.

For more information, check out the Queen's News Centre's articles on the renaming [here](#) (February 24, 2009) and [here](#) (April 1, 2009).

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Paul Aldunate and Melissa (Castellan) Aldunate (both '00) have welcomed Xavier Luke Aldunate, who was born on December 24, 2008 (his due date, surprisingly enough). He is a happy, healthy little guy. Xavier is currently a very demanding boss, but he makes every day interesting.

Elisabeth Arnold ('86) was recently married (to Raymond Guardia), and is living in Montréal. She is working as a consultant in sustainable community development.

Lija Bickis ('03) recently completed her PhD (Waterloo, '08), and is now working for Transport Canada as a Management Trainee. She can be reached at lija.bickis@tc.gc.ca.

Jocelyn Chandler ('07) (and Jérôme Nantel and Noah) welcomed Théo John to the family July 27th, 2008. One more small reason to plan for a better future!

Allan Chong ('96) is now the Director of Quality for ProHome Health Services and for Professional Respiratory Services as well (two companies owned by Trudell Medical Ltd.). He also does some research on behalf of Trudell Medical – a busy position, but one that he is very happy with! Allan and his wife Laurie have also adopted a little girl from China in June 2007. Haddie is a blessing to their family and is now 3 years old (she was adopted at 10 months). She is a scream and very inquisitive and

playful. She loves reading, singing and swimming. Allan would love to hear from old classmates; his e-mail is achong@prohome.ca.

Tara (Doyle) Piurko ('99/LLB '00) is currently an Associate in the Real Property & Planning Group at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, practicing mostly in planning and development law and municipal tax assessment. She and her husband, Jonathan Piurko had a boy, Aidan James Paul Piurko, on February 27, 2008, the day before his father's 34th birthday – not a bad birthday present from his wife! Aidan looks exactly like his father, right down to the golf shirt and general lack of hair on his head.



Clockwise (from right): Aidan James Paul Piurko; Allan, Laurie and Haddie Chong vacationing in Acapulco, 2008; Théo John Chandler Nantel; Paul and Xavier Luke Aldunate



ALUMNI/AE NEWS



On July 7, 2008, **Laura Evangelista ('04)** welcomed her son George Dolan Stairs to her family (above — she can't believe he's a year old!).

Carrie Fortier ('96) retired from the Canadian Forces in April 2009 as a Lieutenant Colonel, and started her second career as the General Manager Infrastructure Technical Services with the Canadian Forces Housing Agency in Ottawa — moving the family for hopefully the last time. Carrie is enjoying working with many fellow SURP alumni, including **Leanne Pelley ('01)** and **Peter Linkletter ('97)**.

Naomi Hirshberg ('03) married Jonathan Mitchell on August 24, 2008 in Toronto. Attendees included **Stephanie (Stasyna) Strong, Paula Bustard, Zdana (Komarnicky) Fedchun, Amanda Santo Bell** and **Carla Guerrero** (all from the class of '03).

Mark Jensen ('92) has been promoted to Director of Community and Development Services for the City of Timmins, and has been there for just over eight years. His wife, **Janet Jensen** (another SURP student) is working for Morrison Hershfield, as a Communications Coordinator for the past 15 years. Their children Emily (12) and Tara (10) are growing up to be fine

young ladies and are both enjoying the game of Ringette very much. He and his family also recently purchased a cottage at Kenogamissi Lake, which they attend as much as possible during the year.

John Kozuskanich ('05) is currently finishing his PhD in hydrogeology at Queen's, looking at the influence of septic systems on rural drinking water quality. He will be heading to Reston, Virginia (cul-de-sac heaven) in the new year to do a two-year post-doc at the United States Geological Survey.

Kristine Taylor Lee ('99) and husband Maxime Therien adopted Nicolas Lee Therien (born August 2007) from Novosibirsk, Russia in March 2009, and are thoroughly enjoying their new life together!

In February 2008, **Peter Linkletter ('97)** was named to the Realcomm "Top 35 People to Watch" list. He credits his combination of a Queen's MBA and SURP M.PL. as a key factor behind this honour. He became the Director General of Real Property for the Department of National Defence in April 2009, and is pleased to be working with SURP students and alumni/ae. He is also Chair of the Real Property Institute of Canada's National Workshop, taking place in November, 2009.

In August 2008, **Denise McCormick Baker ('00)**, husband Steve, and five-year-old Sophia welcomed baby Ben to their family. Denise is now back at work, and is still with the Town of Oakville legal department working on planning matters.

Tanya Mitchner ('04) and her husband Cam are the proud parents of Finlay Alexander, born on March 29, 2008.

Michael Nowlan ('01) has been promoted to Real Property Policy and Information Manager for the Real Property Division, National Resources Canada. He and his wife Christiane welcomed Simon Bernhard Campbell Nowlan on January 24th, 2008 (pictured below).



SAVE THE DATE!

SURP's 40th reunion will take place in October 2010! Details to follow on our website:

www.queensu.ca/surp

Plan on attending with your classmates!

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Carola Ramos Cortez ('08) is currently working for the Projects on Airports office at the Private Investment Promotion Agency (PROINVERSION) in Lima, Peru.

After five and a half years with Terrain Group's Moncton office, **Mark Reade ('98)** recently relocated to the firm's Saint John, NB office. His wife Stacey also relocated to Saint John as an Account Manager with RBC. Since joining the consulting industry in 1998, Mark has worked on a number of engineering and planning projects throughout Atlantic Canada. He can be reached at mreade@terraingroup.com.

Allison Reid ('05) married Mark Mikitchook on May 10th, 2008, at St. George's Golf & Country Club in Toronto.

Hannah State ('08) presented her Master's Report on Native women's perspectives on city living to the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference in Ottawa in March 2009, where it won an award of \$2,000. She recently became engaged to Queen's MPA graduate Brent Wiskin.

John Turvey ('96) is currently working for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs as a Land Use Policy Specialist out of the Guelph office. His wife Becky, while presently on maternity leave, is Manager of Geotechnical Engineering and Laboratory Services in the London office of Trow Associates Inc. They are parents to Bronwyn Charlotte Olivia Turvey (born June 14, 2007) and Ethan Callum Christopher Turvey (born November 24, 2008).

Alex was born to **Lily Xu ('05)** on June 27th, 2007. He is a "terrible two" who loves strawberry picking and fishing.



Top left: Allison Reid and Mark Mikitchook

Top right: Brent Wiskin and Hannah State.

Centre left: Bronwyn Charlotte Olivia Turvey and Ethan Callum Christopher Turvey.

Bottom left: Alex Xu

Photo credits: (p.6, clockwise from top right) Tara Piurko, Allan Chong, Jocelyn Chandler, Melissa Castellon Aldunate; (p.7, top-bottom) Laura Evangelista, Michael Nowlan; (p. 8) Allison Reid, Hannah State, John Turvey, Lily Xu.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST FACULTY!

AJAY AGARWAL



Ajay Agarwal earned his Ph.D. in planning from University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Ajay's research interests are in the evolution of urban spatial structure, land use and transportation, and urban design and travel behaviour. He has taught 'The Urban Context for Policy and Planning' and 'Urban and Regional Economics' at University of Southern California. He has researched a variety of transportation topics including transit oriented development, highway safety, goods movement, and travel behaviour.

Ajay was born and raised in India where he practiced as a consulting architect and a land use planner for more than four years before commencing his graduate studies in the United States. He is accompanied by his wife Sukriti, also an architect-urban planner by profession, and their adorable son Arnav.

LEELA VISWANATHAN



My work experience as a social planner among community-based, non-governmental organizations in Toronto and with the Ontario provincial government have informed both my academic teaching and research interests. Prior to pursuing my PhD, I worked as a public policy consultant and planner with different levels of government and diverse groups and

communities in Toronto, including persons with disabilities, senior citizens, literacy learners and instructors, ethno-specific organizations, racialized youth, and new immigrants. Since moving to Kingston, I have joined the Neighbourhood and Transportation Committee, convened by the Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area in order to contribute to the social development and quality of life of the city. I earned my PhD in Environmental Studies at York University in 2007 and in that same year started my career at Queen's University as a postdoctoral fellow and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography and cross-appointed with the School of Urban and Regional Planning. I joined the faculty of SURP as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in July 2009.

My research interests emerge at the intersection of social planning, planning for healthy communities, and diversity and equity. I love cities big and small, and enjoy exploring the boundaries that separate and connect urban, suburban, and rural regions. My research reflects my exploration of geographic communities and social networks, social and spatial interactions, and experiences of engagement and belonging from different vantage points. I am examining the processes of integration by immigrants to smaller Ontario cities, and the resultant systemic challenges faced by municipal government and social service programs. Moreover, I am also researching various approaches to planning for healthy and sustainable communities, and I hope to expand this work with students and the wider Kingston community.

FACULTY NEWS

John Andrew spent much of his time over the past two years running Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (see later section on ESCIRE), and (as of mid-2008) took on coordination of the SURP Internship Program. John continued his research on environmental issues within commercial real estate, funded by two private-sector research grants. His primary project is analyzing the financial aspects of "green" versus conventional office buildings, from a portfolio management perspective. In addition to SURP, John taught in the School of Business and the School of Environmental Studies.

John co-authored, with Nellie Chang ('09) and Michelle Nicholson, a literature review and annotated bibliography entitled *Office Space, Changing Workplaces and Human Performance*, for the National Executive Forum on Public Property. John presented a summary of this report at the NEFPP's annual conference in Winnipeg. He wrote a chapter in a 2009 book edited by Prof. Pamela Welbourn, entitled *From Contamination to Revitalization: The Story of Brownfields Development and Smart Growth in Kingston, Ontario*.

John's professional activities included providing independent facilitation services and advising on environmental and planning matters to several organizations; presenting on commercial real estate investment analysis to a national law firm; and presenting papers on the role of public participation and consensus building in managing contaminated sites at conferences in Vancouver and Calgary. Both papers were published in conference proceedings. He instructed in nego-

tiation courses offered by the Mediation Centre of Southeastern Ontario and served on advisory committees of CoreNet Global and the joint Environmental Labour Market Transition Project of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and ECO Canada. John is a regular commentator on commercial real estate issues, having been quoted in *The Globe and Mail* and *The Kingston Whig-Standard*, and appearing in live interviews on the Business News Network and CBC Radio.

Although **David Gordon** was on sabbatical leave during Fall 2007, and served as Acting Director from February 2008 through June 2009, he taught in four courses during each year, led field trips in Toronto, Ottawa and Kingston, and supervised 21 graduate students. Dave combined faculty recruiting with research presentations at conferences for Canadian, American and European professors. Professionally, he participated in the Canadian Institute of Planners Québec City and Winnipeg conferences, the OPPI conference in North Bay, and Eastern Ontario's World Town Planning Day celebrations. On the writing front, Dave collaborated with Director Emeritus Gerald Hodge to publish the fifth edition of the popular textbook *Planning Canadian Communities*. Dave is also continuing his SSHRC-funded research into Canadian suburbs and the planning history of Canada's capital city, as well as his Forum-funded research into urban redevelopment. Dave was honoured to be promoted to the rank of full Professor in July 2008, and to the position of Director in July 2009. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute recognized Dave's two decades of service to the

planning profession with its 2008 Member Service Award.

Hok-Lin Leung went on administrative leave in February 2008, and went into "retirement" in July 2009 after thirty years of service at Queen's. How time flies! He has started his twice-a-year lecture circuits in China, covering Beijing (Tsinghua University, Remin University, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Ministry of Land and Resources, and the development Research Center of State Council) and Shanghai (Fudan University, Tongji University and the China Executive Leadership Planning Academy at Pudong).

His book, "Toward a Subjective Approach in Policy Evaluation and Planning: Common-Sense Structured", is being translated, and will be published as a bilingual book this year. Last year, he started writing a book on "Cultural DNA of Western Society, Economy and Politics", which he hopes to complete in several years' time. His anthology, *Economy, Land and Cities: Research Methods and Ideas* was published in December 2008 by the Commercial Press. He has two exciting initiatives underway: (1) training of senior Chinese officials and Party cadres on public policy and planning and evaluation, and (2) development of planning theory for China through an annual "Theory Festival", where theorists from various fields are invited to share their theoretical insights. He will maintain his consulting work with the Canadian government, and will continue to run the Ambassadors' Forum. Since last May, he has been spending most of his waking hours (and some of his sleeping hours) baby-

(Continued on page 11)

Faculty News

(Continued from page 10)

sitting his twin grand-daughters in Toronto; with three more grandchildren on the way, there's a lot more baby-sitting in his future!

John Meligrana continues to investigate trends in the urban and regional planning and development of Chinese city-regions. His recent work included an evaluation of Shanghai's municipal land use and comprehensive urban plans that will be published in future volumes of *Town Planning Review* and *Urban Policy and Research*. John was the instructor for the Land Use project courses in 2008 and 2009, which worked with the Ottawa International Airport Authority and the City of Kingston (see details on pages 17 and 19).

Students enrolled in SURP-853 (Environmental Services) in 2008 organized and hosted a highly successful one-day workshop entitled "Environmental Stewardship: What Can Local Communities Do?" The workshop drew an attendance of almost 200 people and included guest speakers from the City of Kingston, Cataraqui Conservation Authority, Ottawa University and a number of environmental NGOs. SURP-853 students did an awesome job running this workshop. The 2009 SURP-853 class worked with John and the Green Committee of the Tamworth and Erinsville Community Development Committee in Stone Mills Township to develop the community's Local Environmental Action Plan. On a personal note, John wishes to announce his engagement and marriage to his long-time partner Maria. The wedding was held on 8/8/8 – a very lucky day indeed! Thanks to David

for giving SURP faculty and staff the day off to attend.

Andrejs Skaburskis is still energetically continuing his research, teaching and administration duties despite his advancing age, calming temperament and broadening interests. The courses he teaches, as most of you know, include normative, quantitative, housing and land economics. He was recently honoured for his 25 years of service to Queen's University. His research continues with survey work in Toronto's gentrifying neighbourhoods, and with some more abstract think pieces regarding the role of risks and hazards in shaping neighbourhoods and encouraging gentrification. He has been consulting to CMHC, and is involved as an expert witness in an environmental damage lawsuit. He is still a managing editor of *Urban Studies* and Associate Editor or on the Editorial boards of three other major journals.

Andrejs gave the opening keynote address at the Housing and Urban Renewal Conference in Vancouver in 2007. His Cornell New Urbanist paper was selected as the best Canadian planning paper of the last two years and will be published in a volume with the "best papers" from other regions. With alumnus Markus Moos ('07), he co-wrote the chapter on land economics in the geography text *Canadian Cities in Transition*. He gave invited lectures in December 2008 at the University of Cambridge and at University College London.

In February 2009, Andrejs gave a lecture to several hundred students at the University of Tehran. As part

of his continuing study of settlement patterns in the Himalayas, he followed a 1,100 kilometers stretch along the Afghanistan border keeping his steps (and the car) on the Tajikistan side of the Pyanj river. His previous trip in Tibet's north western region was followed by a hop-skip-and-jump back along the Silk Route in western China. To his great surprise, his "Edge of the Gobi" picture was selected as "best photo" by Queen's Alumni Review and published in their magazine along with a photo of his favorite camel (see page 24). Andrejs got married last year after living harmoniously for 22 years with Sandra Olney, previous Director of the Queen's School of Rehabilitation Therapy. Most SURP alumni/ae can understand why it took Sandy so long to agree to the commitment!

Graham Whitelaw continued his SSHRC-supported research on community-based land use planning with Fort Albany First Nation and use of traditional environmental knowledge and western science as complementary forms of knowledge. Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Research and Development Program research continued on extending models and practice of strategic environmental assessment through research application in the Regional Municipality of York, Ontario. Graham is also working to establish a research program associated with the Sustainable Development Research Group at Queen's University focused on environmental planning in southern Ontario. In 2009, Graham won the School of Environmental Studies' teaching award.

LIFE AFTER SURP

While officially retired, **Gerald Hodge** continues to be quite active in the profession, and in the SURP community, having recently been appointed a Professor Emeritus. Gerald returned to SURP in October 2008 to teach a popular module (SURP-809) on planning for seniors. Eastern Ontario's contribution to

World Town Planning Day 2008 was centred around the launch of Gerald's most recent book, *The Geography of Aging: Preparing Communities for the Surge in Seniors*. Gerald also collaborated with David Gordon on the most recent fifth edition of his classic planning text, *Planning Canadian Communities*.

Hodge was rewarded for a lifetime of contributions to the planning field with the Canadian Institute of Planners' 2008 President's Award, which is given to an individual whose contribution to the planning community warrants national recognition.

FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

*Right: After 22 years of harmonious living, **Professor Andrejs Skaburskis** married his partner Sandra Olney in Kingston in August 2008. (Photo credit: Andrejs Skaburskis)*

*Bottom right: For his twenty years of contributions to the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, **Professor David Gordon** received its 2008 Member Service Award. Here's Dave pictured in his dream office (though his new office isn't far off!). (Photo credit: Connie Brobeck)*

*Below: **Professor John Meligrana** married his long-time partner Maria in Kingston on August 8, 2008 (8/8/8) – a lucky day, indeed! (Photo credit: Becky Hinch)*



SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

Jo-Anne Rudachuk (Departmental Coordinator) continued her work in support of the School's administrative responsibilities. Jo-Anne was recently honoured for her 25 years of service to Queen's, including 20 years with SURP.

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.

Angie Balesdent (Administrative Assistant) shall be taking a one-year assignment with the Department of Economics, which starts in August 2009. We wish her all the

best during her time away, and look forward to having her back at SURP in 2010!

In the meantime, we would like to welcome **Marilyn Redmond**, the new Administrative Assistant, to the SURP family!

VISITING FACULTY

From November 15 to 21, 2008, SURP played host to accomplished urban scholar **Dr. Vanessa Watson** from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Watson gave a public lecture entitled "Planning Post-Apartheid Cape Town: From Segregation to Integration?" on November 17.

Her work is most recently focused on planning theory and practice,

although she is also known for her research on housing and government form/restructuring. She is active in both scholarly and professional planning communities in South Africa, but her work resonates with scholars from across the globe. Discussions of difference and diversity could be seen as dominating planning theory discourse these days, and Dr. Watson has a clear voice in this context. Her

positions on deep difference, however, can be seen to apply much more broadly in planning circles, with respect to current debates about multiculturalism policy, and ideas about citizenship and immigration. Her interests are thus timely and topical within a Canadian context, and we at SURP enjoyed hearing her speak, and shall consider her ideas in this way.

ADMISSIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

Jo-Anne Rudachuk and Andrejs Skaburskis continued to recruit outstanding students from across Canada in 2008 and 2009. Despite tremendous competition from other universities, the 32 students of the 2008 entering class were truly exceptional students. The change in Ontario-university funding formulas and the new Master's program at Ryerson has increased the opportunities for Canadian students to study City and Regional Planning. This is in part in recognition of the importance of planning for the future of Canadian cities.

As usual our students come from across Canada; almost half (15) of the incoming students went to universities outside Ontario for their

Bachelor's degrees, with the largest number from British Columbia. We had an exchange student from Australia, and students from Guyana and Iran. In terms of background, 11 are from geography and the rest are scattered across a number of fields from urban studies to engineering. Planning is a multi-disciplinary endeavour offering a wide variety of employment prospects and the range of our student interests reflect the richness of the field.

In terms of the 2009 class, SURP had a record number of applications this year and it has been difficult to select the best and most deserving students. Right now we have ac-

cepted 38 students who have agreed to come, and expect that a few will drop out over the summer. If not, we may have students sharing seats in 554!

More than half (20) of the 2009 class attained Bachelor's degrees from schools outside Ontario; as with 2008 the largest concentration of these hail from British Columbia. SURP has four international students joining us this year, from the USA and Ghana. 16 students have a background in geography and the rest have undergraduate degrees in fields ranging from urban studies to communications studies. We at SURP are all looking forward to another exciting, involving, and challenging year!

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SURP students saw one of the strongest job markets in recent years during 2008, 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 Kingston, 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 Na-

tional Executive Forum on Public Property, who hired our students in other provinces.

Despite the significant economic recession, by the start of the Summer of 2009 we had slightly more internship positions than students finishing their first year of study. However, several employers hired graduating students, leaving a few first year students scrambling to find work. As the job market for planners usually lags behind the general economy, SURP is working hard to secure additional opportunities for Summer 2010, as well as to preserve our existing positions.

It is more important than ever before for students to aggressively search for their own positions. Often this yields some of the best employment opportunities; ones that often become sustaining positions for subsequent SURPs.

The School greatly appreciates the important role played by alumni/ae who hire our intelligent and hard-working students. If you or a colleague may be in a position to bring one of our finest into your organization, we encourage you to contact our internship coordinator, [Dr. John Andrew](#) at 613-533-6000 ext. 75756.

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 several seminars in 2008 and 2009. The January 2008 seminar, entitled *Real Estate Capital Markets In Stormy Seas: Navigating Through The Credit And Liquidity Crunch*, attracted national coverage in *The Globe and Mail*, and featured 22 high-profile industry leaders speaking on four panels, addressing private equity capital, debt capital, analysts' perspectives on the investment markets, and REITs. A highlight of the day was a thought-provoking and dynamic presentation by Benjamin Tal, Senior Economist of CIBC World Markets. Speakers and attendees came from across Canada and the United States.

Designed as a follow-up to the previous seminar, the January 2009 event was entitled *Real Estate After The Credit Crisis: Capitalizing on Opportunities in Recovering Markets*.

Like the seminar one year prior, it was a fully-subscribed success, with more than 120 participants. It featured 21 expert speakers on four panels; as well as a keynote address by Aron Gampel of Scotiabank.

The May 2009 seminar returned to one of our recurring themes: global commercial real estate investment. This time the focus was on capitalizing on strategic opportunities emerging from turbulent global markets. This well-received program featured an unprecedented number of speakers and attendees from other countries, who brought diverse and valuable perspectives from other markets.

ESCIRE now offers three seminars each year, with the next one scheduled for October 7, 2009 on a theme yet to be determined as of press time. The seminar series now enjoys generous corporate sponsorship and national media 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. These developments will further develop 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 to SURP include corporate sponsorship of events, research grants, student scholarships, guest speakers for courses, and 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 john.andrew@queensu.ca, or visit <http://www.queensu.ca/escire>.

CHINA PROJECTS NEWS

Exciting new developments are happening between Queen's University and Fudan University in Shanghai. The impressive work of our research alliance has led to the establishment of a joint Queen's-Fudan Centre for Research on Sustainable Development and the Environment. The Centre received formal approval by Queen's University in March 2009.

Two SURP students were selected as part of the 2008 SURP China Summer Internship program.

Jenny Chook ('09) was our summer intern to the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics in Beijing. **Trevor Illingworth ('09)** was our summer intern to the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute in Beijing. This summer (2009) Bryan Crosby and Sarah Smith are spending time at Fudan University interacting with the faculty and students at the Institute of Biodiversity Science. We look forward to hearing all about their exciting adventures upon their return to SURP.

SURP was home to Xu Genlin, PhD. Candidate in the School of Public Policy and Management at

Tsinghua University in Beijing, and Gao Bing, PhD. Candidate in the School of Earth Sciences and Resources at the China University of Geosciences in Beijing. They were active in SURP activities and attended a number of lectures. We wish Genlin and Bing all the best. This year, SURP is home to Ma Xuesong from Jilin University.

In August 2007, John Meligrana organized a study-tour of best practices in environmental management in Canada for a group of seven government officials and researchers from China. The government officials were from the local governments of Shanghai and Chongming Island while the researchers were from Fudan, Tongji and China East Normal Universities. The study-tour included site visits to Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston and Montreal and included meetings with the BC Islands Trust, City of Mississauga and the National Capital Commission. This study tour is part of the on-going research collaboration between the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the Institute for Biodiversity Science at Fudan University.

In June 2009, the China Projects Office organised SURP's annual training program for about 40 government officials from China's Ministry of Land and Resources. The officials were divided into two groups with half receiving training in mining and mineral development and the other half receiving training in urban planning and land management. The training consisted of lectures by the representatives of Ontario Ministries of Municipal Affairs, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The training also included field visits to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver. There was no training in 2008 as the Chinese Government was pre-occupied with responding to the earthquake disaster.

Also, for the thirteenth year, SURP has 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.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

By Connie Brobeck, Assistant Convenor

The Forum, founded by SURP in 1998, is a networking organization for executives responsible for managing public property. The Forum now has 25 government Member organizations from all levels of government. David Gordon continues as the 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. Forum members providing internships in 2008 and 2009 include Cities of Brampton, Calgary, Ottawa and Toronto, BC ARES, Correctional Services Canada, Department of National Defence, Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

The Forum has recently held conferences in Winnipeg (New Realities) and Halifax (Leveraging Investments in Infrastructure and Real Property), and retreats in Montreal. Next year's conference will be in Edmonton, May 13-14, 2010. Conference presentations are available at www.publicpropertyforum.ca/library.htm.

Recent papers of interest, also downloadable from the Forum's

(Continued on page 16)

National Executive Forum on Private Property

(Continued from page 15)

"Library," include: Workplace Productivity Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography, prepared by John Andrew with Queen's students Nellie Chang ('09) and Michelle Nicholson, and The RFP Process for the Disposition of Publicly Owned Real Estate Assets, with Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography, a discussion paper by James McKellar and David L.A. Gordon.

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



Attendees of the 2008 NEFPP Conference posing on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature. (Photo credit: Connie Brobeck)

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Green Scheme

The Green Scheme, a student initiative started in 2006 to strengthen ties between long-term Kingston residents and university students by jointly undertaking greening and beautification projects in the Sydenham and Williamsville wards, undertook several projects in 2007 and 2008. The Green Scheme partnered with the Sydenham Ward Tenants and Ratepayers Association (SWATRA) and the City of Kingston to obtain several grants in 2008. Trees were planted along King and Johnson Streets in partnership with SWATRA. Greening events were organized in conjunction with SURP's 2008 Orientation Week (North Kingston community garden, pictured), Homecoming weekend (Aberdeen Street with Sci'44 Co-Op), and the WRENS (Navy Memorial Park).

See <http://sites.google.com/site/urbangreenscheme/> for more info!



SURP students (from left) Mike Szilagyi, Prince Sibanda, Carla Schuk, Tara Tran and Devin Lake tending the North Kingston Community Garden in September 2008. (Photo credit: Mike Wong)

SURP-823: Housing and Human Services Project Course (Fall 2007)

Students focused their efforts this year on exploring food security in the Rideau Heights neighbourhood of the City of Kingston. With the Department of Community Development Services as their client, the students conducted a literature re-

view, a resident survey, key informant interviews and finally, one or more focus groups with the goal of making community-based recommendations on how to alleviate the "food desert" status of this part of Kingston. The project followed on

the heels of two successful endeavours that were focused on homelessness in Kingston, and continues the tradition of the course in terms of trying to improve the living conditions of marginalized persons in the city.

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SURP-824: Land Use and Real Estate Project Course (Fall 2007)

Under the direction of Professor John Meligrana, SURP-824 students worked on a project for the Ottawa Airport Authority to examine the development potential of airport lands for aviation and non-aviation urban business park purposes. The students delivered two presentations: one to the Ottawa Airport

Authority and the other to the City of Ottawa and National Capital Commission. The project report identified three development options for the 315 hectare (779 acre) airport lands. The final report is entitled "A Vision for the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport, South Lands: Exploring

Development Options", which contains over 100 pages, a large number of land use maps, images and a CD-ROM. This was the first time the Ottawa Airport Authority was involved as a client for the land use project course.



Students from the 2007 SURP-825 Environmental Services Project Course.

Back Row (L-R): Shirley Bailey (City of Kingston), Dan Minkin, Mike Dakin.

Front Row (L-R): Andrea Gummo, Katrina Broughton, Dallas Johnson, Amy Cann, Amanda Szecht, Lindsay Closs (Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority), John Henderson.

Seated: Iain Bourhill

(Photo credit: John Andrew)

SURP-825: Environmental Services Project Course (Fall 2007)

In Fall 2007, a team of nine second-year students completed a greenway study for the Collins Creek Watershed. The purpose of the study was to develop a long-term strategy for a greenway system within the Collins Creek Watershed. Its objectives were to prioritize lands within the watershed based on their ecological significance, development pressure and potential for recreation; and to recommend ways in which these lands could be protected through various land use planning policies and/or acquisi-

tion. The greenway system the report recommends will protect the ecological functioning of the watershed, provide high-quality recreational experiences, and accommodate the growth of communities. The funding clients were the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and the municipalities and townships through which the watershed flows: the City of Kingston, the Township of South Frontenac and Loyalist Township. The student team worked closely with senior client representatives, and con-

sulted with a broad variety of stakeholders. The team of student consultants carried out a thorough analysis, and delivered a presentation and a comprehensive report that was very well received by the clients and many other stakeholders. The project was a high priority for each of the client organizations. For the City of Kingston, which was in the midst of a five-year review of its Official Plan, the timing of this report was particularly fortuitous.

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SURP-875: Community Practicum (Winter 2008)

Hannah State ('08) and Tara Tran ('09) assisted the board of the "Lunch By George" program, which provides almost 12,000 meals per year to some of Kingston's most vulnerable citizens. The students

researched programs elsewhere, updated a web site, brochure, and fundraising presentation. They also prepared a successful grant application to support the program's operations. The sponsoring organiza-

tion was so pleased with the work that it invited Tara to join its Board of Directors.

For more on the Lunch By George program, visit the website at www.osgk.org.

SURP-823: Housing and Human Services Project Course (Fall 2008)

A team of five students collected and synthesized census and community data to prepare a profile of Kingston's quality of life, on behalf of the Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area. This project was supervised by John Osborne and Dave Jackson of the Social Planning Council, and supervised by SURP Professor John Andrew. The

Kingston Community Profile that the team produced provides a baseline measurement of the health and well-being of the Kingston community by investigating, explaining and forecasting the trends and implications of Kingston's quality of life. The student consultants analyzed the culture of Kingston, the key components of its quality of life,

and future implications for its current direction. It is hoped that this document will be used by all sectors of the Kingston community to empower positive social change.

The completed report can be found on the Social Planning Council's website, www.spckingston.ca.



Students and supervisors of the 2008 SURP-823 Housing and Human Services Project Course. (L-R) John Osborne (Social Planning Council), Nellie Chang, Alissa Golden, Tara Tran, Amanda Slaunwhite, Melissa Shih, Dave Jackson (Social Planning Council).

(Photo credit: Social Planning Council of Kingston)



Students of the 2008 SURP-825 Environmental Services Project Course, posing at Desert Lake.

Rear row (L-R): Mike Hendren, Dayna Lafferty, Dan Kingsbury

Front row (L-R): Liz Spang, Kate Trottier, Trevor Illingworth

(Photo credit: Steven Godfrey)

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SURP-824: Land Use and Real Estate Development Project Courses (Fall 2008)



Students from the SURP-824 project courses presenting at the Canadian Association of Planning Students 2009 conference in Montréal, Quebec. Left photo (L-R): Jenny Chook, Jeffrey Oakes and Christopher Meek presenting the Ottawa Airport project. Right photo (L-R): Mark Touw (obscured), Emily Gaus and Michael Wong presenting Moving Kingston Forward. (Photo credits: Jenn Sandham)

SURP offered two land use project courses in Fall 2008, one for the Ottawa International Airport Authority and the other for the City of Kingston. John Meligrana provided the overall direction for both land use courses, with Ann Tremblay, Director of Airport Planning and Municipal Affairs, the project coach for the Ottawa Airport project and Shirley Bailey, Senior Policy Planner, and Paul MacLachy, Director of Strategy, Environment and Communications, acting as coaches for

the City of Kingston project. The Ottawa project examined the development potential of airport lands for aviation and non-aviation purposes. The students delivered two presentations: one to the Ottawa Airport Authority and the other to the City of Ottawa and the National Capital Commission.

The Kingston land use project resulted in a report entitled *Moving Kingston Forward: Towards Sustainable Residential Development*. The

report includes a detailed framework for implementing a sustainable development program, with specific focus on residential and subdivision agreement. Specifically, a collection of tools was compiled to help City staff thoroughly address all aspects of sustainability when reviewing site plan or subdivision applications. Students delivered several public presentations to the Kingston development community, and to the City's Planning Committee.

SURP-825: Environmental Services Project Course (Fall 2008)

The group of eight students enrolled in the Environmental Services project course completed a study on lake and watershed planning in the Cataraqui Region, on behalf of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. The study was supervised by CRCA Project Manager for Sourcewater Protection, Rob McRae ('99), and by SURP Professor John Andrew. The purpose of the study

was to investigate the best planning and management practices that will help ensure the future health of the region's inland lakes. Using Desert Lake in the Township of South Frontenac as a case study, the student team investigated how sound land use planning practices by local municipalities could support the conservation of the lakes. The findings that this project generated were

enthusiastically received by the CRCA and the Desert Lake Property Owners Association (who actively participated in the study), and are expected to influence future decision making in the region.

The completed report can be found on the CRCA's website, www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SURP-848: Community Design Project (Winter 2009)

A group of twenty students supervised by noted urban designer Carl Bray studied Upper Princess Street in Kingston's Williamsville neighbourhood, and produced a study outlining urban design recommendations for several specific study areas. The study was derived from best practices and examples used in other North American communities. These recommendations were presented to selected Williamsville community members and local politicians in April 2009, and to local merchants, Kingston city

planners, and executives of the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) in June 2009. Aspects of the study were profiled in *The Kingston Whig-Standard*, in February and April, 2009.

The students' recommendations include creation of a more complete streetscape (including greater emphasis on the pedestrian realm and provision of bike lanes), a consistent, continuous street wall of two- to four-storey buildings, and concentration of higher densities at the east and west ends of the corridor.

The recommendations all attempt to provide a good transition between the built form and land uses in the corridor, and the adjacent residential neighbourhoods, while addressing awkward lot configurations and a disjointed street network (a key point with local residents). The study recommends both interim and full-development phases (a key point in making the revitalization process begin and stay viable). Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the study, however, is its recommendation that the City look into bringing back the traffic circle at the intersection of Bath Road, Concession and Princess Streets. This would help make a confusing intersection more "legible" and accessible to all modes of transportation.

Computer renderings of a revitalized Upper Princess Street. Clockwise (from left): an active and vibrant streetscape; a gateway to Williamsville at Princess and Division Streets; a potential future traffic circle at Bath Road, Concession and Princess Streets. (Credits: Alissa Golden, Will Plexman, Adrian Brett)



CAPS 2009: WATCH OUT, MONTRÉAL, HERE COMES SURP!

By Heidi Postnikoff and Andrew McCreight ('09)

It took a bit of juggling and a couple of class cancellations, but in the end, early in the morning on January 29th, over 50 first- and second-year SURPers (and our Director, David Gordon) boarded a bus bound for the CAPS/ACEAU conference in Montréal. For a total of three days, we attended various presentations from keynote speakers and fellow planning students from universities across the country. A diverse selection of lectures ranging from the implementation of successful transit-oriented development in San Francisco to participatory planning in the inner-city of Winnipeg kept us intrigued throughout the day. Dispersed throughout the conference, engag-

ing round table discussions and mobile workshops allowed us to roll up our sleeves and put our thinking caps on. When the sun went down, various mingling events brought the students together for some memorable (often late night!) Montréal activities.

Due to our rather large turnout of students, we were a proud group of SURPers - both non-presenters and presenters. A large handful of the second-year students did a great job sharing their project courses, and the conference proved to be an excellent venue where they could present their findings to an audience beyond the realm of the SURP/Client relationship.

For many of us, it was our first trip to Montréal, and both the conference and the city provided ample

entertainment and learning opportunities for us enthusiastic planning students! Specifically, the underground city helped to keep our toes warm, and was a unique example of urban accessibility.

Overall, the conference was a great experience and we're excited to see how it will unfold next year. The hard work that went into it certainly did not go unnoticed. From all of us at SURP, we send out a big thank you to all those involved in making it such a success. Also, we thoroughly enjoyed learning about projects and research from the other planning schools and send out a second big thank you to all the presenters.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to Beijing, People's Republic of China

By Kelly McNicol ('07)

Beijing's urban form has been vastly manipulated in preparation for the summer Olympics. The Chinese government has invested in the construction and renovation of 36 Olympic venues as well as 59 training centres, athlete accommodations, highway and road construction, a mass expansion of the city's subway system and a multi language publicity campaign. These vast and unprecedented changes to Beijing were remarkable; however the billions of dollars spent on the Games will have little benefit to the majority of city residents. Most Beijingers will never step inside an

Olympic venue as the structures will be used for private functions after the games (the Water Cube was designed to also function as an entertainment palace with a wave pool and beach for local elite and foreign visitors), they can't afford to use the subway and they do not understand the English signage which has invaded their streets.

I would argue that all of the modifications made to Beijing were meant to symbolize the progress and recent economic success of the Chinese government and instill a sense of pride in the people of China. Across the entire city, residents were excited about showcasing their city and way of life to the world and eager to host representatives from

every nation. But will this sense of pride and excitement last? Or will the enormous venues (with a price tag of over \$50 billion) become long-term financial and aesthetic nightmares for Beijing, much like the Olympic Stadium in Montréal? This question seems relevant to an outsider, but the overwhelming fact for the people of China is that for a brief time, in the summer of 2008, Beijing was at the center of the world stage and all eyes were fixated on how a former communist nation decided to fuse sport, culture, and consumption into its urban spaces. I hope you enjoyed the show, because the Olympics' effect on Beijing may last forever!

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to Cairo, Egypt

By David Fitzpatrick ('08)

With a metro population approaching 18 million, Cairo is Africa's largest city and the economic heart of the region. Unconstrained growth has placed increasing pressure on the city's outdated infrastructure and caused housing costs to exceed beyond affordable levels. Large scale master planned communities such as Al-Rehab City offer the upper-middle class an opportunity for "western living" away from the noise, congestion and pollution of central Cairo. While these private gated communities have been a major marketing success, the horizontal sprawl of the city has only served to add more automobiles to the already

overcrowded road network. Private communities have also resulted in increased socioeconomic segregation, despite a historic inter-dependency among the various classes within Egypt.

No easy solutions are evident to overcoming the major planning challenges currently facing Cairo. For the urban poor, food inflation and a lack of affordable housing options have isolated millions within Cairo's slums and among the cemetery tombs of the City of the Dead. Large scale arrests and a heavy military presence within the city have kept the situation stable, but thus far government attempts to address the underlying issues have been superficial at

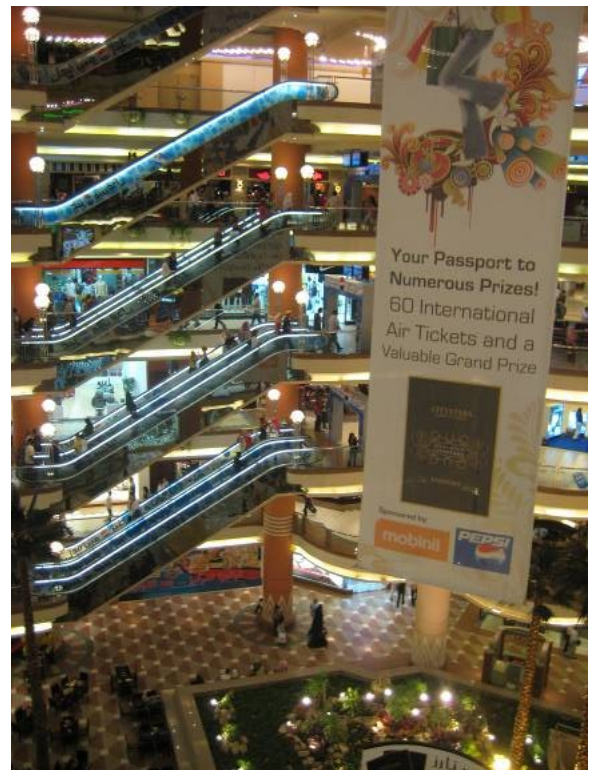
best. Despite living, working, and shopping far from these troubled areas of Cairo, the affluent elite are not immune to the problems facing the city. A visit to CityStars, one of the Middle East's largest and most successful high-end mall complexes, required sitting in gridlock for nearly an hour before undergoing an intense security screening process which makes the international airport appear lax. The affluent may be able to achieve physical separation by living in private enclaves, but economically and socially, these groups are just as much dependent on the orderly functioning and general welfare of the city as the remainder of Cairo's population.



Above: With parking spaces in high demand, cars are left in neutral and pushed out of the way by hand. Cars are typically double parked, but in some cases three or four lanes are used as parking on each side of the street.

Right: The interior of the 7 storey and 1.5 million square foot CityStars mall.

(Photo credits: David Fitzpatrick)



INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Travel to Beijing, People's Republic of China

By Amanda Szecht ('08)

Set to host the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, Beijing has taken over the global stage for the biggest, boldest and most expensive sporting event. The recent surge in the Chinese economy has brought about rapid modernization and urbanization to China's capital city of Beijing. Consequently, the result has been a steady increase in the transportation share of emissions in Beijing, going from third to first place as the leading air pollution source. So, as worsening air pollution has become a key barrier to daily life in Beijing, it has subsequently become a barrier in hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. And so, with a huge amount of support from the Chinese government and large amounts of money and labour, Beijing's transportation infrastructure has undergone a major transformation as they prepare to host the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. Changes to their transportation infrastructure included: the addition of Terminal 3 to the airport; the re-opening of Beijing's south railway station, the opening of the world's fastest inter-city rail train, connecting Beijing and Tianjin; the addition of 7 new lines and 80 new stations to the city's subway system; several major expansions to Beijing's ring road; and the addition of thousands of buses, mini buses and cars to transport spectators, athletes and officials between venues and around the city.

What has this meant for a population of over 15 million people and with 3 million projected visitors to the city for the Games?

Visiting Beijing before the Games, the issue that arose was not the lack of investment or updates to their transportation systems, it was the ease in which travelers and visitors outside of China (the projected 3 million visitors to Beijing for the Olympic Games) are able to get around the City without being able to read or speak the language. And although more than 60,000 Beijing residents were learning English in preparation for the games, major problems still arose with taking taxi's and buses, being able to read street signs and bus times, as well as figuring out bus routes. It became

clear that without knowing the language using most forms of transportation within the City was very difficult. The exception however was the subway system, which was the most efficient and straightforward system, with announcements and signs in both English and Mandarin.

And so, although there have been major improvements and advancements to the transportation systems within Beijing, it is still difficult for visitors to the city to travel with ease. Yet, the long-term benefits as a result of the transportation improvements will be a significant improvement in Beijing's air quality and thus their quality of life.

(Photo credit: Amanda Szecht)



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 rudachuk@queensu.ca.

We would also invite you to share your contact information on the "SURP Community" section of our newly redesigned website, 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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Andrejs Skaburskis' photo "The Edge of the Gobi" (left), winner of the prize for best photography in the Queen's Alumni Review "Snap Judgments 2008" contest.