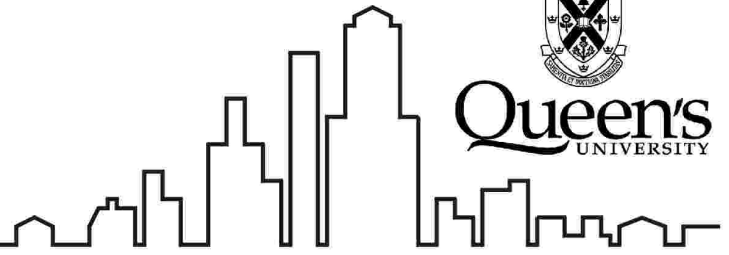


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# News



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

School of Urban and Regional Planning

Kingston, Ontario

Number 29 Fall 2011

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## SURP'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Community planning has been taught at Queen's since the 1930s, and the new School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) opened its doors to its first class of students in the M.PL. program in 1970. Over 700 SURP graduates now influence community development and public policy in every province across Canada and in many other countries. We celebrated SURP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 with events in several cities.

Eighty alumni, family, faculty and staff celebrated in Kingston from September 24-25, 2010. The event began with a presentation by Director David Gordon and former Directors Gerald Hodge, Mohammad Qadeer and Hok-Lin Leung, entitled "Planning Visions: Past, Present and Future". An interactive session on "Trends in Canadian Planning" was conducted with alumni, faculty and current students. The social portion of the celebration took place in the evening at the Time to Laugh Comedy Club with a catered dinner followed by the presentation of the Alumni Achievement Awards to **Elisabeth Arnold** ('86), **Alan Gummo** ('76), **Michael Ircha** ('73), **Hap Stelling** ('80) and **Pamela Sweet** ('74). Professor and Director Emeritus Hok-Lin Leung received a Lifetime Achievement Award during the presentations.

Once the formal part of the evening concluded, alumni enjoyed dancing and listening to the live music of Rudy & Saddle Up (managed by SURP's Jo-Anne Rudachuk) [[www.rudyandsaddleup.com](http://www.rudyandsaddleup.com)] and a set of planning



Members of the SURP community at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Photo courtesy of Phoebe Chan

tunes by SURP graduates Blight of the Concorde (**Mike Szilagyi** ('10) & **Jaime Posen** ('11)).

On Saturday morning, alumni were treated to a continental breakfast before a presentation by **Julia Markovich** ('00), a SURP visiting scholar and Sue's former student, on Sue's book *A Transformative History of Planning in Canada*. She gave us an update on the book's theme, which explores the different roles of women in the Community Planning Association of Canada and the Town Planning Institute of Canada. The anniversary celebrations concluded with a session on "SURP: The Next 40 Years – Planning for the Future".

Other 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations included a reception at the CIP conference in Montreal attended by 50 alumni and students, a dinner for young alumni and first-year students in Toronto, an Ottawa pub night for alumni and interns and a Vancouver dinner this summer hosted by Dr. John Andrew. All of these events introduced current SURP students to our loyal and dedicated alumni.

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## SUE HENDLER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

We were honoured by the presence of Sue's family for the announcement of the Sue Hendler Graduate Fellowship at our Kingston celebration. It will support a SURP student researching planning ethics and/or women/gender in planning. Thanks to the generous contributions from

Sue's estate, the Hendler family, and SURP alumni, the fund passed the University's minimum requirements within the first year, and will provide an annual scholarship of \$2,000.

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SURP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was the year's highlight, but there was other good news. The School's M.PL. program was re-accredited for a further five years by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planner's Institute. The re-accreditation was unconditional and the visiting committee thanked us for our thorough and professional package of briefing materials, some of which are now being used as templates at other Canadian schools. Of course, this credit belongs to our long-serving and efficient staff who maintained accurate records of the School's activities that are invaluable for these reviews. SURP has now finished a three-year marathon of Ontario, Queen's, CIP and OPPI reviews, all with glowing results.

The School continued to revise its core curriculum, making major changes to the research proposal and methods courses that significantly decreased the completion time for our Master's students. A record number (11) completed the program in five terms, rather than the usual six. The faculty will continue renewal of the optional curriculum in 2011.

SURP continued to recruit an outstanding group of graduate students, meeting our enrolment target (66) for the fourth year in a row despite increased competition across Canada. Academic standing of the incoming class remained high with 25 "A" students. Two members of the class won Ontario Graduate Scholarships. Other SURP students won three Queen's Fellowships, two SSHRCs and three Toronto Commercial Real Estate Women Scholarships. Our students also won International Experience Awards to conduct research in Egypt and Iceland.

The School's offerings were diverse and multidisciplinary, aided by our excellent adjunct faculty. We were pleased that emeritus professors Gerald Hodge and Mohammad Qadeer returned to teach courses on seniors planning and multiculturalism. Canadian Institute of Planners President Marni Cappe taught an urban policy course, OPPI President Sue Cumming taught public participation and CMHC analyst Dr. Patricia Streich taught program evaluation. Other courses were led by Dr. Carl Bray (heritage); Sukriti Agarwal (AutoCAD) and Dr. Preston Schiller (transportation). Our second-year students had a choice of four projects led by adjunct faculty David Jackson (Social Planning Council), Jillian Savage (City of Ottawa), Valerie Blazeski (Parks Canada) and **Ian Semple** ('09) (City of Kingston).

Many of these new courses benefit from collaboration with other Queen's departments. We are especially proud of our partnership with the School of Policy Studies, sharing eight courses and enriching the curriculum of both schools. Faculty also



taught courses in Queen's Geography, Environmental Studies, Business, Community Health and Epidemiology and Civil Engineering departments. Additional collaboration and shared teaching is arranged with the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies (SKHS) for 2011. Although SURP has no plans to offer an undergraduate planning program, these partnerships allow our faculty to interact with students outside our School, and our innovative coordinated degree programs with Civil Engineering and Geography bring us a few highly-qualified students for early admission to our graduate program. We hope to expand this program to Environmental Studies and SKHS in 2011-2012.

SURP students benefited from a range of professional internships in 2010. Despite the economic recession, almost every first-year student obtained a paid professional internship, and most of the graduating class had secured planning jobs by the end of the summer. We appreciate the loyal support of our partners from the public and private sectors, and the National Executive Forum on Public Property. Professor John Andrew and Jo-Anne Rudachuk will continue to reach out to our partners to provide good professional experience for our students during a period of public sector spending constraint.

Despite the heavy load of teaching, administration and supervision, our scholars remained remarkably productive: we edited journals, published two books, five technical reports, and 18 articles and chapters, while the current student body contributed five professional reports and 27 master's theses and research reports.

The School's international presence continues to expand. Our China Projects Office continues to coordinate research and training with our Chinese partners under the leadership of Hok-Lin Leung and John Meligrana.

I traveled to four universities in Australia and New Zealand to promote faculty and student exchanges. We have made agreements with two of our new partners in the Matariki Network – the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth, AU and the University of Otago in Dunedin, NZ. The first SURP graduate student went on exchange in January 2011, and we will host several UWA and Otago students in the Fall term.

Finally, this small school can only continue to accomplish these amazing feats because of the level of collegiality and teamwork that is unusual in a university setting. Our full-time faculty complement was at an historic ebb in September 2010 due to a retirement, death, illness, long-delayed sabbatical and a parental leave. Our emeritus and adjunct faculty came to our rescue, and our two new professors Dr. Leela Viswanathan and Dr. Ajay Agarwal assumed additional teaching and administrative duties with impressive style.

But the secret to SURP's success is a dedicated and experienced staff team. Angela Balesdent returned from her 'sabbatical' in the Department of Economics and Jo-

Anne Rudchuk assumed even more duties in her 27<sup>th</sup> year at Queen's. Connie Brobeck and Xu Li kept the Forum and China Projects offices running while the faculty were hard pressed to provide oversight. Even more remarkably, we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and ran an international faculty search that term, placing even more stress on Angie and Jo-Anne. But we survived and even thrived.

Our faculty will be enhanced by our new colleague, Dr. Patricia Collins, our fourth new hire in the past four years, which is a remarkable vote of confidence in our School, for which we thank Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Brenda Brouwer and former Provost Bob Silverman. The 2011-12 academic year will see the School of Urban and Regional Planning with its full faculty complement for the first time in five years. We look forward to more great teaching and research as the School enters its fifth decade of service to Queen's and the Canadian planning profession.

Dave Gordon  
Professor and Director

## STUDENT HONOURS AND AWARDS

**Sarah Ramey** ('10) received the **Ida Mmari Memorial Award**, which is given to the graduating student who completes the program in two years and has the highest grade point average.

**Ashley North** ('11) was the recipient of the **Stanley Lash Award**. It is given to the student who has written the best term paper in a SURP course in the preceding calendar year.

**Sarah Bingham**, **Michelle Nicholson**, and **Simona Rasanu** each won \$3,000 scholarships from **Toronto Commercial Real Estate Women (TCREW)**. This scholarship is open to female students enrolled in a degree program at four institutions specializing in real estate.



*Students (L to R) Sarah Bingham, Simona Rasanu and Michelle Nicholson were the recipients of scholarships from TCREW. Photo courtesy of Vincci Leung*

**Henry McQueen** ('11) was awarded the **Horace Seymour Past President Scholarship** from the Canadian Institute of Planners for his report "Brownfield Redevelopment: An Analysis of Key Variables in the Development Process".

The **International Experience Awards Program** is intended to provide students with a unique international planning experience. The 2010 awardees were **Ali Ikram** for travel to Cairo, Egypt, **Kevin Jarus** for travel to Reykjavik, Iceland and **Kieran Miller** ('11) for travel to Gardabaer and Reykjavick, Iceland.

**Carl Isaak** ('11), **Andrew Nakazawa** ('11) and **Natasha Reaney** ('11) were awarded fellowships by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



*Recipients of the SSHRC fellowships with Dr. David Gordon (far right), (L to R): Carl Isaak ('11), Andrew Nakazawa ('11), Natasha Reaney ('11). Photo courtesy of Greg Black*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES!

### Fall 2010

Sarah Brown, Vanessa Covello, Bryan Crosby, Carmen Hindson, Trevor Illingworth, Devin Lake, Meredith Lynes, Warren Neill, Niall Oddie, Will Plexman, Sarah Ramey, Bart Ryan, Carla Schuk, Ken Singh, Sarah Smith, Kristen Sullivan, Michale Szilagyi, Teresa Thomas, Lesley Wintle

### Spring 2011

Justin Adema, Scott Assie, Adrian Brett, Jenny Chook, Tasha Elliott, Kristie Gagnon, Theresa Gilchrist, Tristan Johnson, Laura Maxwell, Emily McGirr, Henry McQueen, Blaise Morrison, Andrew Morton, Andrew Nakazawa, Sarah Orovan, Krystal Perepeluk, Heidi Postnikoff, Natasha Reaney, Darin Schaal, Ana Stuermer, Sumi Yang

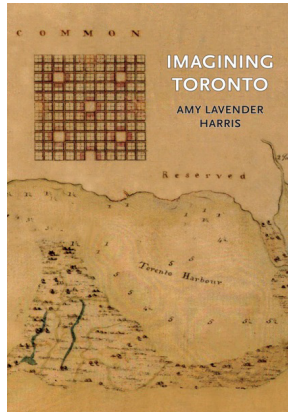


Spring 2011 (L to R) - Heidi Postnikoff, Dr. John Andrew, Theresa Gilchrist, Adrian Brett, Jenny Chook, Dr. Dave Gordon, and Dr. Patricia Streich (Faculty)  
Photo courtesy of Tess Gilchrist

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Amy Lavender Harris** ('97) book *Imagining Toronto* was published by Mansfield Press and is now available in bookstores. It was shortlisted for the Gabriele Roy Prize, which honours the best works of Canadian literary criticism published each year. *Imagining Toronto* explores how Toronto's writers have represented the city's buildings, people, neighbourhoods and natural spaces. It is the first full study of the city's literature to appear in print. More information can be found at:

[www.imaginingtoronto.com](http://www.imaginingtoronto.com).



The cover of Amy Lavender Harris' book, *Imagining Toronto*

**Andrew Sacret** ('05) returned to FoTenn Consultants in Ottawa in July 2011 after a year-long leave which he spent living and working in Zambia. During his year abroad, Andrew supported the Mazabuka Municipal Council as a Planning Adviser through CUSO-VSO. His main role was to assist the Planning Department finalize its Integrated Development Plan (IDP), much like an ICSP or Official Plan. However, working in a busy planning department meant that he had many other tasks beyond completing the IDP: development review, municipal enforcement, budgeting, and staff training among others. The experience was richly rewarding and a lot of fun! His blog remains at:

<http://andrew-in-mazabuka.blogspot.com>.



Andrew Sacret's community walking tours with planning staff and residents in Zambia highlighted a number of important concerns, including water and sanitation

**Allison Reid** ('05) and husband Mark welcomed their daughter Maya Leslie Mikitchook on May 15, 2011.



Allison Reid with daughter Maya

Andrew was awarded the CIP President's Award for Young Planners at this year's annual conference in St. John's. The award recognizes the outstanding professional success and achievement of a young Canadian planner under the age of 35.

**Kelly McNicol** ('07) is the Coordinator of Land Use Planning at Griffith City Council in Australia. He lives close to Canberra and visits often, but his favourite city is Melbourne, which is four hours away. Kelly would be happy to speak to anyone interested in working in Australia.

**Michael Wong** ('09) has entered real estate and has signed on with Royal LePage Signature Realty at the Shops at Don Mills. So far, it has been exciting and he looks forward to the challenges the profession may bring. For up-to-date real estate news and tips visit: [www.mikewong.ca](http://www.mikewong.ca).

**Adrian Brett** ('10) is the Urban Planning Manager of the Queen's Solar Design Team (QSDT), which recently won the first-ever Home Sweet Home Student Challenge, a provincial sustainable home design competition. The house, dubbed the NatuReal House, was composed completely of renewable and recycled materials. For more information visit: [www.queensu.ca/news/articles/](http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles/)



*A watercolour of the Queen's Solar Design Team's solar house  
Photo courtesy of Queen's University*

**Stuart Ziegler** is Project Manager with Run Communications in Montreal. He is the proud father of Ethan, born in February 2011.

**Ken Singh** ('10) is working with the Ministry of Local Government in Guyana as the Principal Regional Development Planner. He is designing, developing, and implementing land-use plans at the regional level throughout the country.

**Bart Ryan** ('10) is pleased to announce the birth of his son Xavier Kuma Ryan-Sato, who was born on October 7, 2010 in Ottawa.



*Bart Ryan's son  
Xavier Kuma Ryan-Sato*

**Carl Isaak** ('11) and wife Tamara welcomed their daughter Cara Marie Isaak into their family on June 22, 2011, weighing 8 pounds 11 ounces.



*Carl Isaak and wife  
Tamara with Cara  
Marie*

## FACULTY INTERVIEW WITH PATRICIA COLLINS

### What were you doing prior to joining the faculty at SURP?

Prior to joining SURP, I was working as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Health, Aging & Society at McMaster University. My postdoctoral research explored Ontario-based Community Health Centres' initiatives to address upstream social determinants of health.

### What led you to pursue a faculty position at Queen's?

During my PhD in health geography, I developed a strong interest in the burgeoning field of urban health, and in the expanding literature connecting health with the built environment. I also had the good fortune during

this time to become friends with an urban planner who introduced me to the kinds of work that urban planners do. When the position opened up at SURP for a faculty member with interests in healthy communities, it instantly felt like the right fit for me, so I applied. The rest, as they say, is history.

### What are your academic areas of interest and expertise?

I seek to understand the determinants of, and the opportunities for, creating communities that are both healthy and equitable. To this end, my research interests straddle various fields, including the intersections of

health and the built environment, healthy urban planning and health policy, community and population health, primary care, social planning, and the social determinants of health and health equity. My graduate research programs investigated the challenges faced by municipal governments and community-based organizations in addressing the social determinants of health in the communities that they serve. I have trained in the fields of health geography (PhD), health policy & health research methods (MSc), and biochemistry (BSc), and have taught courses on health and the built environment, health systems and services, state civil society and health, and health research methods.

**What do you enjoy and find most challenging about teaching?**

I enjoy seeing students apply concepts that they've learned in class to their lived experiences outside of the classroom; I enjoy using the classroom as a space for

debating critical issues; and I always enjoy reading well-written student papers. One of the biggest challenges I find with teaching is striking a balance between delivering a challenging curriculum to students without making them feel overwhelmed.

**What are some of your other interests and what do you like to do in your free time?**

My free time is usually spent playing with my toddler son, catching up on sleep, experimenting with new recipes, cycling around the city, and trying my best to maintain a car-free lifestyle in a car-centric city.



## FACULTY NEWS

**Ajay Agarwal** taught courses on Physical Planning, Healthy Communities (with Dr. Leela Viswanathan) Community Design, and Urban Transportation. The Urban Transportation course was offered for the first time at SURP and in addition to SURP students, the course drew students from Civil Engineering. Ajay has continued to work on his established research program that examines the factors responsible for employment center growth. In addition, he has embarked upon a new research project that examines barriers to active transportation.

**John Andrew** continued to run Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (ESCIRE) and launched the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable. John was part of a small team at the Queen's School of Business' Monieson Centre that completed a feasibility analysis for a proposed not-for-profit development in Bancroft, Ontario. John co-taught (with David Gordon) Real Estate Planning and Development, Real Estate Management in the Queen's School of Business and Environmental Policy in the School of Environmental Studies. He continued to run SURP's student internship program and supervised two students' Master's reports. John was a collaborator on a successful SSHRC Partnership Development Grant application, which was awarded \$239,000 in funding for a project entitled "Research Partnerships to Revitalize

Rural Economies". In the past year, John was quoted in the print media more than 120 times as well as being interviewed seven times on television and four times on the radio. He carried out consulting work with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, served as an expert witness on real estate issues in a civil litigation case and was an advisor to the Canadian Real Estate Association. John also continued his long affiliation with the Mediation Centre of Southeastern Ontario, as a course instructor and roster mediator.

**David Gordon** extended the tradition that SURP Directors should make a substantial contribution to the MPL curriculum. He taught parts of seven courses, led field trips in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston and supervised 16 graduate students and a post-doctoral fellow during the year. Dave continued most of his former administrative portfolio including professional liaison, alumni affairs and acted as the Faculty Coordinator of the National Executive Forum on Public Property. He combined faculty recruiting with research presentations at conferences for Canadian, American and European professors. Another trip included visits to four Australian and New Zealand universities to explore the potential for future student and faculty exchanges. Professionally, he participated in the Canadian Institute of Planners conference in Montreal and Eastern Ontario's

research on the planning history of Canada's capital city, Canadian suburbs (funded by SSHRC) and the global influence of Gordon Stephenson (funded by SARC), employing five students as research assistants.

**Hok-Lin Leung** continued his twice-a-year lecture circuits in China, visiting the Development Research Centre, State Council, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, the China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong, the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Tsinghua University, Peking University, the China University of Finance and Economics, Fudan University, and Tongji University. Hok-Lin's research on the cultural DNA of Western civilization produced a book draft whose tentative publication date is Spring 2012. Two articles based on the research were published earlier by the *China Public Administration Review* in 2009 and 2010. He is also developing a series of articles based on this research to be published by the *China City Planning Review* under the general title of "Old Concepts and New Situations". This was the third year of the Theory Festival created by Hok-Lin and sponsored by the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design. The purpose of the Festival is to stimulate planning theory development by borrowing approaches and methods of disciplines not related to planning through the use of metaphors, associations and analogies drawn from these disciplines. This time, the expert speakers were from stem-cell research and hydrogeology (dams). Hok-Lin continued his advice/training work with the Development Research Centre, State Council and the China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong. He was also an invited speaker at the Expo 2010 Shanghai China Forum. His talk was titled "Grass-root Units and Harmonious Cities". Hok-Lin also worked with a number of visiting scholars from Tsinghua University and the China University of Finance and Economics. He will be taking up a regular guest appointment at Tongji University (the largest architecture and planning school in China).

**John Meligrana** taught Legal and Governmental Processes, Real Estate Planning and Development (with David Gordon and John Andrew) and Environmental Services. John continues his research into China's urban development and planning. He completed a major policy report for the Xi'an Municipal Government as part of the CIDA-funded project entitled "Reconstruction of Ancient Urban Area and the Protection and Inheritance of Islamic Culture in Xi'an". In January 2010, John and Robert Cameron (University of Cape Town) were awarded a substantial research grant by the Government of South Africa's Municipal Demarcation Board to study municipal

government reform and boundary change both in South African and international case studies. The final report for this project was submitted in December 2010. In 2010, John was awarded a Principal's Development Fund grant to support a postdoctoral researcher from Fudan University (Shanghai, China), Dr. Feng Xie, to study at SURP. Professor Xie was at SURP between October 2010 and January 2011 and collaborated with John on two research papers regarding land use change in Shanghai.

**Andrejs Skaburskis** returned from sabbatical in 2011 to teach Housing Policy and Economics of Land Development and Planning. He continued his studies on the spatial restructuring of Canadian cities and in the winter term had the good fortune to work with **Emily McGirr** ('11) on survey data developed a few years ago with Tim Spence-Donnegani, another SURP student. The resulting paper on resident satisfaction with gentrification in a Toronto neighbourhood was the basis of two conference presentations and is currently being reviewed for publication by the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Most of his other research involves statistical analysis of data developed with the long-form census questionnaire. Andrejs continues as the North American Editor of *Urban Studies* and is on the editorial boards of four other international journals. Much of his time is spent on reviewing papers submitted for publication and on grant and faculty evaluations. He continued studies of housing and informal settlement patterns by travelling and photographing the remains of Inca settlements in the Peruvian Andes and the Urinara tribe villages along the Rio Chambira, a small and remote tributary of the Amazon. He has accepted a retirement package from Queen's that offers a reduced workload over this and the next two years.

In Fall 2010, **Dr. Leela Viswanathan** taught An Intellectual History of Urban and Regional Planning with Dr. Gordon; Healthy Communities with Dr. Agarwal; Qualitative Methods in Planning; and Housing and Human Services Project Course and Social Planning. A community service learning model was used for the first time in this social planning course. Four groups of students developed projects for the Kingston Community Health Centres and the Pathways to Education program benefiting communities in North Kingston, particularly the Inner Harbour and Rideau Heights neighbourhoods. In the 2010-2011 school year, Leela was busy as an invited guest lecturer for geography and planning courses at the University of Toronto and York University, as well as in Environmental Studies and Occupational Therapy programs at Queen's.

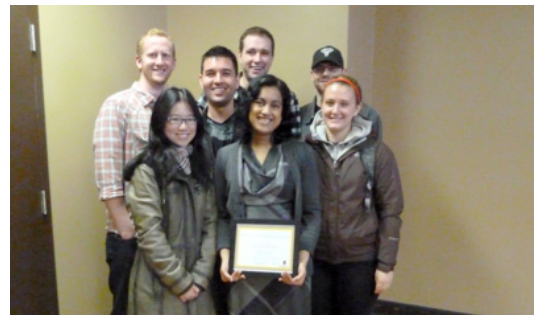
**Graham Whitelaw** continued his SSHRC-supported research on community-based land use planning and environmental assessment with the Mushkegowuk Council and Fort Albany First Nation. Additional SSHRC grants were secured by the research team from Queen's and University of Waterloo focused on community-based land use planning on the Fort Albany Traditional Territory and on post-colonial land use planning in the Mushkegowuk Territories (led by SURP's Dr. Leela Viswanathan). Graham is also working on SSHRC-supported research on the role of biodiversity science in land use and environmental planning in southern Ontario, as well as on community-based monitoring through a

Community University Research Alliance SSHRC grant awarded to a group of researchers based mainly in Nova Scotia (Dr. Cathy Conrad *et al*). Graham continues to promote sustainability research through the Sustainable Development Research Group. A website for the Group is under development and will highlight student research. Graham taught Environmental Assessment in the winter term of 2011 and Environmental Project Course in the fall term of 2010. Graham also taught undergraduate courses and a graduate course in the School of Environmental Studies. He is currently supervising (or co-supervising) the research of seven masters students (three from SURP, four from Environmental Studies).

## FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

The SURP community welcomes **Dr. Patricia Collins**, who started a Faculty position in July 2011.

**Dr. Leela Viswanathan** was awarded the 2011 Steve Cutway Accessibility Award for her contribution as a faculty member at Queen's in promoting and facilitating accessibility for her students. She was nominated by two SURP students.



2011 Steve Cutway Accessibility Award recipient, Dr. Leela Viswanathan (front, centre) with SURP students.

## SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

In August 2009, **Angie Balesdent** took a one-year leave of absence from SURP in order to take up an appointment as Administrative Assistant in the Department of Economics, which she said was a great learning experience and very interesting. She returned "home" to SURP in August 2010. This past spring, Angie celebrated 25 years of service to Queen's and she and her husband Dana attended the Principal's dinner, held in recognition of the contributions made by long-serving faculty and staff of the University.

**Jo-Anne Rudachuk** and her husband, Brian, were honoured to host a Canadian-style barbecue for the delegation visiting from China in July. Approximately 70 people were treated to an afternoon of food, fun and music. Activities included playing horseshoes, hiking trails, roasting hot dogs over a bonfire, swimming in the pool and enjoying a great barbecue. The delegates were also treated to a special private music performance by members of Rudy & Saddle Up, a country/classic rock band that Jo-Anne manages in her "spare time".

Check out the pictures on the band's website: [www.rudyandsaddleup.com](http://www.rudyandsaddleup.com). This event may become an annual affair!



The delegation visiting from China at a Canadian-style barbecue  
Photo courtesy of Li Xu

## VISITING SCHOLAR

On Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 SURP students welcomed Visiting Scholar **Dr. Julia Markovich** ('00), a recent graduate of Oxford's doctoral program in Geography.

Dr. Markovich gave two lectures at SURP, the first titled 'They seem to divide us: Social mix and inclusion in two New Urbanist communities' on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the second, 'Gender, eldercare and the built environment:

Towards a "new infrastructure for everyday lives" ' on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Julia was also a postdoctoral fellow at SURP, completing Sue Hendler's book *'I Was the Only Woman': Women and the Professionalization of Planning in Canada*. Julia was Sue's original research assistant on the project. Her work is supported by a fellowship funded by Queen's, SURP and the Hendler family.

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## 2010-2011 EVENTS

### Colonial Histories of Planning

Professor Leela Viswanathan, co-sponsored by SURP and Studies in National and International Development

### Contemporary Speculation: Seven speculations

Dr. David Wilson, Professor of Geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Nowhere to Go or No Way to Get There? Geographic vulnerability, mode, destination, and household evacuation planning

Dr. Lisa Schweitzer, Associate Professor of Planning at the University of Southern California

### Rugged Land: Explore Fogo Island's architecture

Dr. Robert Mellin, Professor of Architecture at McGill University

### Snohetta: The works

Craig Drykers, Architect with the New York / Norway firm Snohetta

### SURP Faculty Research Presentations

Professors David Gordon and Graham Whitelaw

### Professional Planners Panel

A panel of planning professionals offered advice for SURP students entering the workforce, including: Sukriti Agarwal, Environmental Planner, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority; **Nadia De Santi** ('99), Senior Planner, FoTenn Consultant; **Bruce Krushelnicki** ('76), Director of Planning and Building, City of Burlington; Sara Jane O'Neil, Environmental Planner, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority; **Ian Semple** ('09), Transportation Project Manager, City of Kingston

### Nobody's Junior Planner: Local governments grow up

CIP President Marni Cappe for the Plunkett Executive Lecture in Public Policy, co-sponsored with the School of Policy Studies

### Invited Lecturer

Anne McIlroy, Principal at Brook McIlroy in Toronto

### Global Plans, Local Influences Exhibition at Douglas Library

An exhibition by SURP students to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gordon Stephenson and George Muirhead's *Planning Study of Kingston*

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## ADMISSIONS

This has been another year with many applications. We had 33 students join us in September and three students visiting for the Fall term from Australia and New Zealand. We also have one student slated to join us in January 2012. We had very few dropouts from this year's acceptance list indicating the growing demand for

planning education. We are also really pleased that three of our first-year students and one second-year student received the prestigious Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) scholarship. These fellowships are Canada's highest award for study in our field.

## SURP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

After two years of being relatively unscathed, the economic downturn seemed to have a negative impact on the SURP internship program in Summer 2011. Several of our "veteran" employers were forced to impose temporary hiring freezes, requiring considerable effort to replace these positions with new employers. The recent turnover of employers has been considerably higher than over the longer term.

The positive trend of more students securing their own positions is continuing, especially in their home cities outside of Ontario. Often this yields some of the best employment opportunities; ones that often become sustaining positions for subsequent SURP students.

The School greatly appreciates the important role played by SURP 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 [john.andrew@queensu.ca](mailto:john.andrew@queensu.ca) or 613-533-6000 ext. 75756.

	Students Hired
SURP-Exclusive Positions	11
Non-Exclusive Positions	10
Student-Found Positions	10
Total	31

## PRACTICA

**Phoebe Chan** focused on enhancing the capacity for entrepreneurship for vulnerable populations with Social Enterprise and Innovation Kingston (SEIK), part of the Social Planning Council of Kingston and District.

**Brittany Hasler** worked with the Prince Edward County Planning Department examining heritage policy.

**Darin Schaal** worked with SEIK on web content for SEIK.ca.



Student **Emily McGirr** ('11) presenting at the Urban Affairs Conference in New Orleans, April 2011  
Photo courtesy of Andrejs Skaburskis

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY:

### A CELEBRATION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE KINGSTON PLANNING STUDY

*By Tristan Johnson, Second-Year CIP Representative and Kris Nelson, First-Year OPPI Representative*

Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) celebrated World Town Planning Day with an exhibition highlighting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gordon Stephenson and George Muirhead's 1960 *Planning Study for Kingston*. The exhibition took place at Kingston's City Hall on the evening of Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, featuring displays completed by many first-year SURP students. Displays included annotated maps and descriptive handouts related to specific topics within the 1960 Kingston study and other city plans completed by Gordon Stephenson in Australia, Canada and England. Speeches by George Wallace (Director of Planning and Development, City of Kingston) and Sue Cumming (OPPI President) preceded an informative presentation by SURP Director David Gordon on the 1960 Kingston study. Commentary on the study by co-author George Muirhead and contributing academic Stuart Fyfe capped off the evening.

The exhibition was well-attended, with over 60 guests including SURP students, SURP alumni, Kingston staff and residents. A special thanks to Queen's SURP,

OPPI and the City of Kingston for co-ordinating and sponsoring the exhibition. As well, gratitude to Johannes Bendle, Sarah Bingham, Chris Callahan, Anna Froehlich, Kyle Gonyou, Brittany Hasler, Ali Ikram, Kevin Jarus, Youko Leclerc-Desjardins, Kris Nelson, Michelle Nicholson, Simona Rasanu and Sharlad Sukumaran for their exceptional work.



*Back row (L to R): Johannes Bendle, Youko Leclerc-Desjardins, Anna Froehlich, Sharlad Sukumaran, Brittany Hasler, Simona Rasanu  
Front row (L to R): Kyle Gonyou, Kevin Jarus, Michelle Nicholson, Ali Ikram, Kris Nelson, George Muirhead, Chris Callahan, Sarah Bingham, David Gordon*

## QUEEN'S GRADUATE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING STUDENTS

In 2011, SURP graduate students established the Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) to represent the collective will of students in the Master of Planning program. QGAPS communicates on the variety of activities and associations in which students serve and promotes the interests of its members. QGAPS is fully funded by its student members through an annual levy of \$20.

**Council** is QGAPS' official decision-making body and its voting members are the Executive and Representatives. The Association consists of five **Executive members** (President, VP Finance, VP Administration, VP Academic and Professional Development, VP Student Life), seven **Representatives** (Upper Year CAPS, First Year CAPS, Upper Year OPPI, First Year OPPI, SGPS, Upper Year Class, First Year Class), five **Committees** (Promotions and Exhibitions, Academic and Professional Events, Social Events, International Experience Awards, Orientation),

and four **Coordinators** (Course Review, Professional Development, Technical Support, Unit Research Ethics Board). Students are represented on the main governing bodies of the School (such as its Board and Academic Committee) and on numerous more focused groups, thereby having a significant voice in the policy-making activities of the School.

Events and Projects: QGAPS members help organize a number of activities and events throughout the year including first-year student orientation, trips to conferences (such as OPPI and CAPS), field trips to Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal, a visiting speakers lecture series, social functions and community events, and professional development activities and planning careers sessions with alumni.

Date and process for election: A meeting is held in September each year to elect the non-executive

members of Council to their respective positions (a two-year commitment) and in January to elect the Executive (a one-year commitment). All QGAPS members may vote. Council is required to meet formally at least once per month between September and April and informally

at least once during May to August. Agenda topics range from internal administrative and financial matters to academic and professional development. Special meetings are held as needed.

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## EXECUTIVE SEMINARS ON CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

ESCIRE hosted two successful real estate seminars in Toronto over the past year, co-ordinated by Dr. John Andrew. More than 180 senior executives attended these events, which are each capped at 100 paying registrants to ensure that their high quality and interactivity is maintained. ESCIRE continues to receive very favourable feedback from its clients regarding the choice of seminar themes, the design of the four panel sessions that constitute each seminar and the high calibre of the speakers and moderators that we engage. In addition to the commercial success of the seminar series, since its creation in 2004 it has developed Queen's reputation

as a well-respected provider of executive development events to the commercial real estate sector. In addition to revenue, ancillary benefits to SURP continue to be guest speakers for real estate courses, scholarship funds for students, jobs for graduates and research funds for faculty. This year, the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable was launched, with the first corporate members signing on. The Roundtable will carry out executive development, networking, member-directed research and other activities focused on international real estate investment and corporate social/environmental responsibility.

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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The National Executive Forum on Public Property, founded by SURP and interested government organizations in 1998, is a networking organization for executives responsible for managing public property. The Forum currently has 27 government Member organizations from all levels of government as well as three Academic Advisors, two Forum Advisors, and Associate Members (businesses) and has recently introduced an International Associates class of membership. David Gordon continues as the Faculty Coordinator, Cathie Macdonald as the Convenor, and Connie Brobeck as the Assistant Convenor. Funded by members and symposia fees, the Forum continues to be financially strong. Please see [www.publicpropertyforum.ca](http://www.publicpropertyforum.ca) for more information about the Forum.

Forum events - The Forum's May 2011 Symposium in Ottawa was well-attended and well-received. The topic "More for Less - Business Models to Increase Productivity and Value" inspired good discussions on meeting the challenges of reduced budgets in the management of public real property. Don Drummond, former Chief Economist and Senior VP of TD Bank (now Matthews Fellow and Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the Queen's School of Policy Studies) highlighted issues facing Forum members around the lack of capital for infrastructure

renewal. Next year's Symposium will be in Vancouver on May 10-11, 2012. Symposium presentations are available at: [www.publicpropertyforum.ca/library.htm](http://www.publicpropertyforum.ca/library.htm). The fall Members-only Retreat will be held in Montreal to further develop the Forum's benchmarking program and discuss current trends and opportunities in the management of public real property.

Research and Information Program - The current major initiative is the development of benchmarking systems for "facility condition index", "operating and maintenance costs" and "space utilization", through the work of Member-based focus groups. A working session took place before the Ottawa Symposium, a new initiative. Jacqueline Vischer, Academic Advisor with the University of Montreal, has been assisting with the review of customer and client surveys used by Members. Another project is the organizations to show the importance of their work. As well past surveys continue to be updated - on information systems, sustainable projects, performance measures, lease administration, innovative and leading edge energy strategies, use of social media and security of IT systems. Survey results are available to Forum Members only unless the organisation is willing to share its information.

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Internships for SURP students - In the past, Forum Members have provided many internships for SURP students and have also recruited Queen's students for permanent positions. In 2011, nine internships were

provided by six Forum Members: Cities of Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto, Department of National Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Public Works and Government Services.

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## CHINA PROJECTS NEWS

In July, we hosted another training event for 40 mid-level professionals in land and mining management from China. There were seven full-day lectures plus a number of site visits. This was the fifteenth year of our training program for the China Ministry of Land and Resources.

We placed seven interns from China for a period of five months (September 2010-January 2011) in various government agencies (the Ontario Ministries of Natural Resources, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Northern Development, Mines and Forestry; the federal Natural Resources Canada; and the Planning and Development Department of Hastings County, Ontario). This was also part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the China Ministry of Land and Resources.

The Office hosted two visiting scholars (China University of Finance and Economics and China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong) who stayed for six months. The Office also organized a Canadian delegation of land and resources management experts to visit China, with all expenses paid by the China host of Ministry of Land and Resources. The Office continued to assist the University administration as well as other units (e.g. School of Policy Studies) in their outreach efforts with China.

In 2010, **Drew MacMartin** ('11) and **Natasha Reaney** ('11) were two students selected from many applicants to attend Fudan University during the spring/summer

semester and study under the direction of Professor Ren, Co-director of the Biodiversity Institute at Fudan University. Both Drew and Natasha attended a two-day International Association for China Planning (IACP) Conference at Tongji University. Natasha also attended the World Estuary Alliance Conference held in Shanghai.

In 2010, two SURP students participated in the China Internships with the Chinese Academy of Land and Resource Economics (CALRE) and the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute (CLSPI) in Beijing. **Laura Moebs** ('11) was placed with the Chinese Academy of Land and Resource Economics (CALRE) while **Andrew Nakazawa** ('11) was placed with the China



*Old town, Shanghai China. A successful urban revitalization and heritage preservation example.*

*Photo courtesy of Drew MacMartin*

Land and Surveying and Planning Institute (CLSPI); both agencies form part of the Ministry of Land and Resources. Both students spent approximately three months between May and August, at their respective internships.

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## AMBASSADORS' FORUM

The Ambassadors' Forum was started in 2003. It brings together Heads of Missions to Canada from 20 Asia-Pacific countries and is funded by the Office of the Vice Principal (Academic) and the Office of Research Services. The purpose of the Forum is to have informed and thoughtful Canadians sharing their insights and experiences with the ambassadors on topics of national and international significance, and to provide a neutral venue for international dialogue. In 2010, there were three events:

- The June event was held in Kingston, with the Principal hosting a luncheon for the group. The topic was "Reforming the World's Financial System: Rules Versus Principles".
  - The September session, entitled "Managing the Oceans: The Canadian Experience", was held in Ottawa.
  - The December session was also held in Ottawa. The title was "Declinism and America's Future in East Asia".
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## SURP AT THE CIP CONFERENCE, MONTREAL

*By Tristan Johnson, Second-Year CIP Representative*

On October 2, 2010, a busload of enthusiastic SURP students descended on Montreal for a two-night trip to attend the 2010 CIP Conference: Planning for Climate Change.

Before attending the conference, the students were very fortunate to have tours of several fascinating Montreal sites from distinguished expert planners. The tours included:

- Benny Farm, led by Canada Lands General Manager Basil Cavis
- Downtown Montreal led by a guide from the Canadian Centre for Architecture
- Parc Mount Royal, led by noted parks scholar Peter Jacobs (U de Montreal)
- Town of Mount Royal

The conference was excellent, with many SURP students volunteering in various capacities, and featured an inspiring keynote speech by renowned Danish scholar and author, Jan Gehl, one of the world's leading urban experts. SURP students also got the opportunity to network with Jan at a reception organized by SURP alumna **Elisabeth Arnold** ('06).

Between all of the tours and the conference events, the energetic students still managed to find time to enjoy the many nightlife experiences available in the bustling city of Montreal.

This trip would not have been possible without the assistance of the School's administrative staff, Angie Balesdent and Jo-Anne Rudachuk, as well as Director David Gordon, who helped to organize some of the tours as well as the trip itself. Finally, as the 2009-2011 OPPI representative, I also was heavily involved in the planning of the trip, from booking the hotel to making sure that the bus ride went off without a hitch, so I will give myself a pat on the back.



First-year students on a tour of Benny Farm in Montreal with Dave Gordon (far right) led by Canada Lands General Manager Basil Cavis (second from far right)

Photo courtesy of Claire van Koughnett

## SURP AT THE CAPS-ACÉAU CONFERENCE, WATERLOO

*By Michelle Nicholson*

The Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS) Conference was held at the University of Waterloo from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The CAPS Conference runs annually and provides an excellent opportunity for students from planning schools across the Country to showcase work and meet their colleagues from across the Country.

The theme of this year's conference was "Resilience: Planning for Dynamic Futures". The Conference focused on the ability of communities to adapt, respond, and continually change in the face of changing environments.



SURP students at the CAPS-ACÉAU Conference at Waterloo (L to R): Claire van Koughnett, Jamie Posen, Ana Stuermer, Phoebe Chan

Photo courtesy of Phoebe Chan

The first day of the Conference involved professional development workshops in the morning, followed by mobile workshops in the afternoon showcasing planning achievements in the Waterloo region.

The two remaining days of the Conference were devoted to student presentations. Also interspersed throughout the conference were a variety of prominent speakers from the planning profession, including keynote speakers Brent Toderian, Planning Director for the City of Vancouver, and Dr. Thomas Homer Dixon, Chair of International Governance Innovation and award-winning author. The Conference also featured several social events providing participants with an opportunity to meet planning students from across the Country.

SURP often has a strong representation at the Conference and this year was no exception with 13 students attending and presenting. Student presentations included the topics of greyfield redevelopment in Ottawa, the actions of the Canadian Institute of Planners to combat climate change, brownfield revitalization in Kingston, the potential for private sector involvement in social planning in Kingston, and long range sustainability planning.

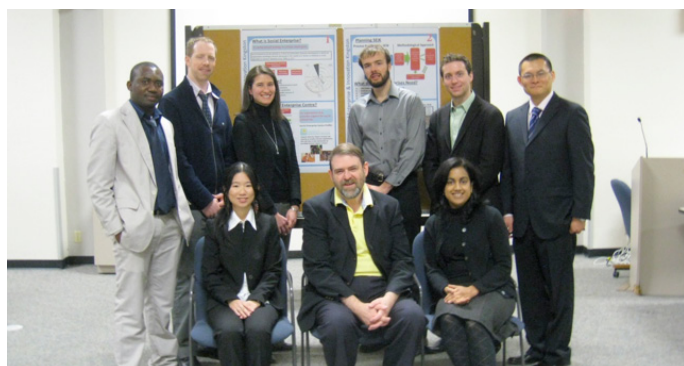
The 2012 CAPS Conference will be held in Vancouver, hosted by Simon Fraser University.

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## SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### **SURP-823: Housing and Human Services (Fall 2010)**

A team of seven students collected and synthesized information on behalf of the Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area to develop a model for a social enterprise centre. This project "Social Enterprise and Innovation in Kingston: A Plan for the Development of a Social Enterprise Centre in Kingston" was coached by David Jackson of the Social Planning Council and supervised by Dr. Leela Viswanathan. The project was so successful that the Social Planning Council is further developing the model for implementation.



*SURP-823: Housing and Human Services Project Course Team Fall 2010  
Back row (L to R): Steven Takyi, Darin Schaal, Emily McGirr, Tristan Johnson, Jeffrey Cyr, Sumi Yang*

*Seated front (L to R): H. K. Phoebe Chan, Mr. David Jackson (Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area), Dr. Leela Viswanathan (SURP)  
Photo courtesy of Leela Viswanathan*

### **SURP-824: Land Use and Real Estate Development Project Course (Fall 2010)**

The students prepared a strategic parking management plan for downtown Kingston entitled [Towards a Sustainable Demand Strategy for Downtown Kingston](#). The proposed plan forms a key component of the City of Kingston's Transportation Demand Management strategy. The primary objectives of the proposed plan are to maximize utilization of the existing parking facilities, optimize future parking supply and help create a vibrant pedestrian and public realm in downtown Kingston. The report consists of a comprehensive background analysis, a parking utilization study, evaluation of parking demand, SWOT analysis and best practices review.

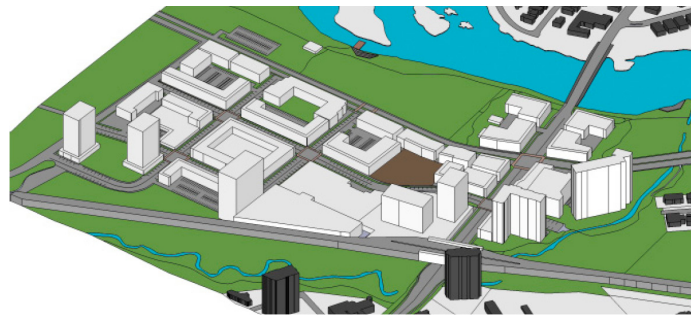
### **SURP-825: Environmental Services Project Course (Fall 2010)**

The project identified and evaluated the effectiveness of alternative planning mechanisms that would better protect the natural, historic, recreational and scenic values of the Rideau Canal, while providing appropriate waterfront development opportunities. Its specific objectives were to:

1. Determine if the existing municipal official plans, zoning bylaws, site plan control processes and requirements from Parks Canada and the local conservation authorities are adequate to protect the natural, historic, scenic and recreational values of the study area.

2. Evaluate the effectiveness of waterfront planning mechanisms in use elsewhere (especially in Ontario) through personal contact with municipal and provincial planners.

3. Recommend land use mechanisms to protect the natural, scenic and recreational characteristics of the Rideau Canal based on successes in other jurisdictions (e.g. Townships of Muskoka, Lake of Bays, City of Kawartha Lakes, etc.).



*Billings Bridge 3D view of entire site in Mainstreet*

### **SURP-826: Land Use and Real Estate Development Project Course (Fall 2010)**

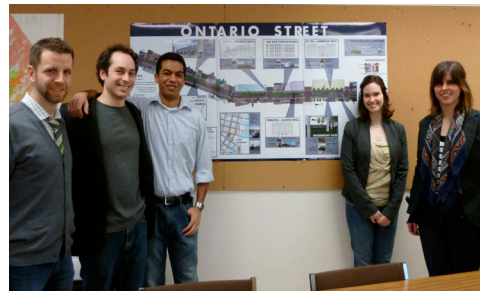
SURP agreed to develop a new vision for the Billings Bridge shopping centre as part of a series of graduate student workshops sponsored by the City of Ottawa and the federal government over the past decade. City of Ottawa planner Jillian Savage led the student workshop, aided by Dr. David Gordon. The project was timely because the City was about to embark on a Community Design Study for the Lower Bank Street corridor, just south of the downtown. Billings Bridge is a successful inner suburb community shopping centre adjacent to a station on Ottawa's renowned bus rapid transit network.

The [Billings Bridge study](#) required the land use planning, engineering, real estate and urban design skills of a talented and hardworking team of ten graduate students. They spent fourteen weeks exploring how the area might be redeveloped using the latest planning techniques, drawing upon best practices from across North America and Europe.

The site is currently a good example of transit adjacent development (TAD) because the ingredients for a good transit-oriented development (TOD) are there, but the site layout and design are not ideal. The students prepared two design options for redeveloping the site, including an innovative proposal to relocate the transit station to Bank Street. The team's preliminary plans confirm that the site can accommodate substantial growth in a manner that takes advantage of the transit facilities - moving from TAD to TOD. Ottawa planning staff were very pleased with the final report and presentation, which was a good foundation for their current community design study.

### **SURP-848: Community Design (Spring 2011)**

In Dr. Ajay Agarwal's Community Design class, three groups of students were given the opportunity to redesign Ontario Street and one team redesigned the Kingston Centre.



*An Ontario Street redesign team (L to R): Kris Nelson, Matthew Ippersiel, Ali Ikram, Claire van Koughnett, Anya Paskovic  
Photo courtesy of Phoebe Chan*



*The Kingston Centre redesign team (L to R): Jeffrey Cyr, Henry McQueen, Sarah Bingham, Ryan Jeffrey, Nigel Terpstra  
Photo courtesy of Phoebe Chan*

### **SURP-853: Environmental Services Course (Winter 2010)**

Students in John Meligrana's SURP-853: Environmental Services course developed, organized and hosted a community workshop based on an environmental theme. The students led a workshop entitled "Putting Green Ideas into Action: How to Make Our Community More Sustainable" held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Tamworth, Ontario. The workshop was attended by over two-dozen residents, including local politicians and township staff. The program included panel discussions,

presentations and community input on the following topics: successful green economies in rural communities; community involvement in green development projects; rural recycling; household habits; energy efficiency; and environmental farm planning. The workshop was a key element in helping the Tamworth Community

implement its recently completed Local Environmental Action Plan.

All student projects can be found at:  
[www.queensu.ca/surp/current-student/project-courses](http://www.queensu.ca/surp/current-student/project-courses).

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## TORONTO FIELD TRIP

The first-year class and Dr. David Gordon visited Markham, Don Mills, Regent Park, St. Lawrence, the Distillery District and downtown Toronto for the annual *Intellectual History of Urban and Regional Planning*

course field trip. Thanks to alumni guides **Alison Reid** ('05), **Hans Reikko** ('05), **Cheryl Dow** ('06) and **Vanessa Covello** ('10), and to **Emily Caldwell** ('07) who helped arrange a dinner with 20 recent alumni.

*Most of SURP's first-year class during the annual Toronto tour, with alumni guides **Hans Reikko** ('05), **Vanessa Covello** ('10) and **Cheryl Dow** ('06) from the City of Toronto (second row, third, fourth and sixth from left). Hans gave us an overview of transportation projects he was working on, Vanessa discussed her Master's report comparing two downtown squares and Cheryl toured us through her work on the competition to renew Nathan Philips Square and the roof of City Hall. Not pictured – **Alison Reid** ('05) of the Toronto Urban Design unit, who guided us through the downtown and demonstrated the new street furniture she worked on.*




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## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

### Winter Hibernation Discouraged: Livability in Copenhagen

By **Bita Vorell** ('10)

In Copenhagen, Denmark, frigid temperatures and short winter days do not translate to months of hibernation and inactivity. Throughout the winter months the streets of Copenhagen remain bustling with people; shopping streets, parks and plazas are buzzing with activity and life; and people continue to walk and bike to work.

In Winter 2010, I spent 10 days in Copenhagen to experience the strategies that make the city vibrant in winter. Having spent two winters in Ontario, I was particularly interested to explore how Canadian winter cities fare, in comparison with Copenhagen.

The secret to the success of Copenhagen as a city is the value that has been placed in the quality of the public realm. Just as traffic engineers conduct traffic counts once or twice a year, Danish planners have systematically studied how people use public spaces and have utilized this data to make the city more people-friendly. As a result, Copenhagen has gradually transformed from a car-dominant to a people-friendly and active winter city. It is estimated that throughout winter in Copenhagen,



*Photo courtesy of Bita Vorell*

30% of residents continue to cycle to work, compared to approximately 3% in Toronto. The sociability of public spaces is realized through attention to a range of planning initiatives:

- A dense urban form (four to six storey buildings) throughout much of the city
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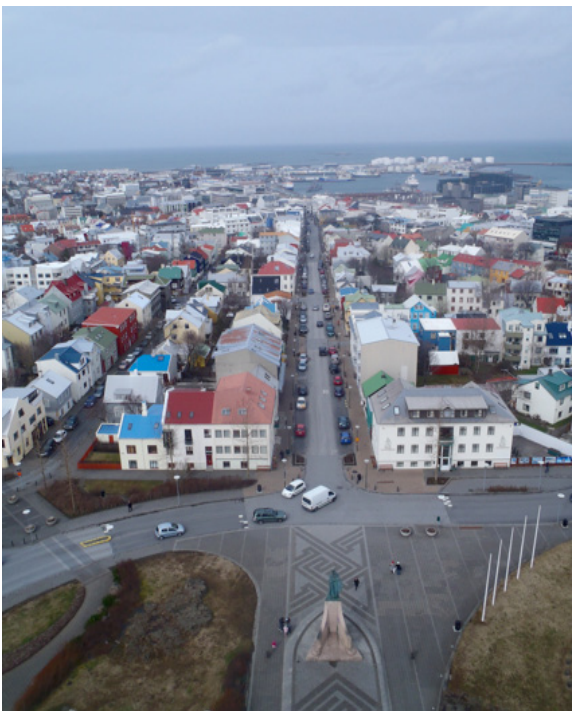
- A mix of residential/retail/office use on all 'high' streets and many side streets
- Exemplary attention to the design of buildings and the public space, from the facade to street furniture and landmarks - historical or contemporary
- A well-maintained network of bike lanes, sidewalks and pedestrianized streets
- Seasonal decorations, particularly creative lighting to create ambiance
- Management of public spaces: winter events and programming such as carnivals, holiday markets, street vendors, musicians and warming stations

In most Canadian winter cities, people generally retreat indoors during winter. The networks of underground pathways, glassed skyways and enclosed shopping malls allow people to go about their day without stepping outside. While the focus in Canada is shifting towards more sustainable ways of life, we need to re-emphasize the importance of inviting public spaces, and the programming and management of these spaces in making winter into an asset for our cities.

## Planning and Real Estate in Iceland's Economic Collapse

*By Kevin Jarus*

Iceland in 2008 was a country in crisis. The recession hit Iceland's economy particularly hard: businesses closed, jobs were lost, and taxpayers were on the hook for billions of dollars in corporate debt. A SURP International Experience Award allowed me to study how the real estate crash that occurred during the economic crisis was influenced by planning practice in Iceland in the years leading up to 2008, and also how planning has changed in the years since.



*View of Downtown Reykjavik from the top of Hallgrimur Church*

*Photo courtesy of Kevin Jarus*

In 2008 Iceland was booming, with high-quality jobs and high-paying wages being the norm. This led to a demand for housing, both in high quality and quantity, and politicians and planning regimes at the time were all too eager to provide it. Planning during this period was focused on the expansion of the housing market to outlying areas of Reykjavik, with decentralization and a focus on developing in greenfield lands being standard practice. Indeed, numerous housing developments were planned in pockets surrounding Reykjavik.

After the 2008 crisis, people stopped building their 'dream homes' in outskirt communities almost overnight. The expensive new infrastructure to support the houses became redundant.

Central Reykjavik was not immune from the collapse. A cluster of almost-finished luxury condo towers, left idle since 2008, was a telling landmark in the city centre. According to Mr. H Sigurdsson, the head of the general planning division for Reykjavik, post-recession planning had shifted to downtown intensification after it was realised that spending lots of money on new infrastructure or suburban developments was no longer viable.

While a balance must be reached, real estate will definitely no longer have a carte-blanc in the planning department. Instead, the intricacies of intensification will now be on the minds of planners in this vast, wonderful Country. I only hope they remember the lessons learned from 2008.

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

**Send your news (and consent for publishing) to:  
[rudachuk@queensu.ca](mailto:rudachuk@queensu.ca)**

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Editors: David Gordon, Angie  
Balesdent, Sarah Bingham and  
Simona Rasanu

Layout designer: Sarah Bingham