

News



Queen's
UNIVERSITY



School of Urban and Regional Planning

Kingston, Ontario

Number 31 Spring 2013



Robert Sutherland Hall, home of the School of Urban and Regional Planning. *Photo courtesy of Michael Rac.*

SURP TRAVELS TO INDIA

In December 2012, Dr. Ajay Agarwal led ten SURP students on an intensive two-week field trip to Auroville in India as part of SURP's second international project course. The project team included: **Cassandra Caiger ('13)**, **Nicholas Danford ('13)**, **Lindsey Gradeen**, **Shwaan Hutton**, **Shairoz Jamal ('13)**, **Megan Lawson**, **Carly Marshall ('13)**, **Kelly Martel ('13)**, **Hillary Morgan**, and **Meghan Summers**.

Auroville, a "city in making," is located near Pondicherry in southern India (www.auroville.org). The city's master plan is very progressive and eco-friendly. Indeed, Auroville is internationally renowned for the environmentally- friendly lifestyle of its residents. The purpose of the trip was two-fold. First, like any international project course, gain experience of working in a foreign country where both work culture and lifestyle are very different from Canada. Second, learn from sustainable development practices of Aurovilleans. The client for the course was Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute and the assignment was to recommend guidelines for developing a network of social spaces along "The Crown," a major arterial street in the city. Prior to departure, the students did substantial background research on Auroville, and also studied best practices related to planning of social spaces. Students had several Skype meetings with Lalit, the client's representative, who also delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the group over the internet.

While in India, students worked tirelessly to produce a fine planning document and presented the same to the local community on the last day of the trip. In the process, they conducted a successful stakeholders workshop in addition to individual meetings with several local residents including planners, engineers, social activists, farmers, schoolteachers, youth, and senior citizens. **Nicholas Danford ('13)** and **Hillary Morgan** were interviewed by the local radio station (<http://www.aurovilleradio.org/city-life/urban-design/3059-social-spaces-on-crown>). **Shwaan Hutton** reported the group's daily activities regularly on her travel blog (<http://surpindia.wordpress.com/>). The clients were very impressed by the group's work and have invited SURP to partner with them again in the future. The students too were very pleased with the experience. Of course, flavourful food and +26°C in December helped.



The project team led by Dr. Agarwal (not pictured) in India: From left to right, **Megan Lawson**, **Meghan Summers**, **Cassandra Caiger ('13)**, **Carly Marshall ('13)**, **Hillary Morgan**, **Kelly Martel ('13)**, **Lindsey Gradeen**, **Nick Danford ('13)**, **Shai Jamal ('13)**, and **Shwaan Hutton**. *Photo courtesy of Meghan Summers.*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. David Gordon

This past year saw the School of Urban and Regional Planning's international activities expand to become a significant component of our M.PL. program. Our academic life in Kingston continues to be enriched by visiting scholars and trainees from our Chinese partners under the leadership of Professors Hok-Lin Leung and John Meligrana. We are happy to be a home for visiting graduate students from our partner institutions in China and New Zealand. However, the biggest changes were the depth of our international opportunities for our M.PL. students. In a class of 33 graduate students, ten participated in an India project course, two were interns in Beijing, three are currently on exchange at the University of Western Australia, and four others won International Experience Awards to travel to Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Austria. A new Memorandum of Agreement with the College of Architecture at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University (BVDU) in Pune, India, led by Professor Ajay Agarwal, should lead to further opportunities for projects and exchanges.

At home, SURP continued to recruit an outstanding group of graduate students, meeting our enrolment target (66) for the fifth year in a row despite increased competition across Canada. Academic standing of the incoming classes remained high with many "A" students, SSHRC, Ontario Graduate Scholarships, CIP, Queen's internal awards and a Toronto Commercial Real Estate Women Scholarship.

The School's offerings were diverse and multidisciplinary during the past year aided by our excellent adjunct faculty. We were pleased that former Directors and Emeritus Professors Mohammad Qadeer and Hok-Lin Leung returned to teach a Multiculturalism module and an International Urban Planning module, respectively. Dr. Rima Ammouri (Shared Services Canada) taught the Public Lands Management module in the fall 2012 and the Project Management course in the winter 2013. Dr. Carl Bray taught Heritage Conservation in the fall 2012 and Community Design in the winter 2013. Architect Cam Burns taught our Computer Aided Design course while retired CMHC analyst Dr. Patricia Streich taught

Affordable Housing. OPPI past-President Sue Cumming taught Healthy Community Planning and Dr. Preston Schiller taught Sustainable Transportation – Policy and Planning.

Our second-year students had a choice of projects led by adjunct faculty Charles Lanktree (City of Ottawa), Darin Ramsay (City of Kingston), and **Rob McRae ('99)** (Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority). The most exciting new course was an international project in Auroville, India, led by Dr. Ajay Agarwal in December 2012. The client was so pleased with the results that the School has been invited back for 2013.

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. SURP faculty also taught courses in Queen's Environmental Studies and Business. We also cross-listed courses in the Civil Engineering and Community Health and Epidemiology departments. 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 accelerated 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 the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies in 2013.

SURP students benefitted from a range of professional internships in 2012. Despite the economic recession, almost every first-year student obtained a paid professional internship, and almost all of the 2012 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. Dr. 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 constraint.

Despite the heavy load of teaching, administration and supervision, our scholars remained remarkably productive: we edited journals, published 20 refereed articles, 34 conference presentations and numerous

other reports and articles. The current student body contributed five professional reports and 28 master's theses and research reports over the past year. 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 lower than normal during 2012-2013 due to parental leaves but our emeritus and adjunct faculty came to our rescue. In an extraordinary display of teamwork, other faculty members have adjusted their schedules and accepted larger classes and additional

duties to accommodate academic and parental leaves in 2013.

But the secret to SURP's success is a dedicated and experienced staff team: Angie Balesdent and Jo-Anne Rudachuk provided excellent support to the School and Connie Brobeck and Xu Li kept the Forum and China Projects offices running smoothly.

We look forward to more great teaching and research as the School enters its 44th year of service to Queen's and the Canadian planning profession.

STUDENT AWARDS AND HONOURS

Jennifer Wood ('12) was awarded the **OPPI 's Sue Cumming 2012 Scholarship**, which recognizes a student member who is making an important contribution in the field of planning for healthy communities. Sue Cumming is a past president of the OPPI and a SURP Adjunct Faculty member.

Radhika Brown is the second recipient of the **Sue Hendler Graduate Fellowship**, which was established to recognize SURP students who distinguish themselves academically and are conducting research on planning ethics or women and gender in planning. Radhika's research for her master's report is on "Expanding Edmonton's LRT Design Guidelines to Enhance Women's Safety at Transit Stations".

The 2012-13 class won three **Ontario Graduate Scholarships (Anna Cruceru, Mike Dror, and Hillary Morgan)**, and one **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Award (Radhika Brown)**.

Carolyn Skoworodko ('12) received the **2012 CIP Award for Academic Excellence**, which is given to the CIP student member with the highest academic standing in the program. Carolyn also won 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.

Carl Isaak ('11) won the **Stanley Lash Award** that is given to the student who has written the best term paper in a SURP course in the preceding calendar year.

Kaitlyn Graham ('13) won a **2012 Toronto Commercial Real Estate Women Scholarship**, which may be awarded to female students entering their final year of the Queen's MPL program who specialize in land use and real estate development.

SURP graduate student **Anna Froehlich ('12)**, was the recipient of the **CIP's inaugural Vancouver Scholarship for Excellence and Leadership in Sustainable Planning** for her report: "Implementation of Natural Heritage Systems in Ontario: Recommendations for Prince Edward County."

Anya Paskovic ('12), won the **CIP's Horace Seymour Past President Scholarship** for her report "Urban Lighting: Planning and Public Spaces."

LEGACY GIFT 2012-2013

As a gesture of gratitude and well wishes, a new tradition was started at SURP this year. The Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) funded a "SURP Legacy Gift" from the first-year students to the second-year students of five framed photographs that have now been hung in the School's classroom. The winning photographs, which were submitted by members of the graduating class in a contest, were selected by the first year class in a vote. Congratulations to **Shwaan Hutton, Jeremy Johnston, and Vincent Raso**, the winners of the photo contest. The graduates will be missed, and are wished the best as they pursue their goals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2012 GRADUATES!

FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT

Korey Walker, Nick
Michael, Michelle
Nicholson, Arthur Lo, Eric
Miles, Amy Doyle, Youko
Leclerc-Desjardins, Julia
Cziraky, Professor John
Meligrana, Tara Spears,
Professor Leela
Viswanathan, Jennifer
Wood, Professor Dave
Gordon, Kyle Gonyou,
Sarah Bingham, Anita Sott
*Photo courtesy of Anita
Sott.*



BEST OF LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2013!



Photo courtesy of Meghan Summers

LEFT TO RIGHT

1st Row: Nicholas Danford ('13), Jack Huffman

2nd Row: Lindsey Gradeen, Alexander Stecky-Efantis, Mike Dror, Morgan Alger, Meghan Summers, Vincent Raso, Jennifer Grove ('13), Michael Lee

3rd Row: Megan Lawson, Kaitlyn Graham ('13), Kelly Martel ('13), Cassandra Caiger ('13), Shwaan Hutton, Shairoz Jamal ('13), Radhika Brown, Marika Atfield, Saharsadat Aghabozorgafjeh

4th Row: Hossein Danesh Heidari ('13), David Gundrum ('13), Jeremy Johnston, Mladen Kucic ('13), Jonathan Pradinuk, Brandon Williams, Tony Gkotsis

5th Row: Angie Balesdent, Prof. John Andrew, Diana Chang, Nnamdi Akubueze ('13), Prof. John Meligrana

6th Row: Professor David Gordon

Missing: Ana Crucecu, Carly Marshall ('13), Hillary Morgan, John Stuart, Will Robinson-Mushkat

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EXCHANGES

In the fall, visiting students, **Angus Robertson** and **Bridge Ford**, graduate students from the University of Otago, New Zealand, brought international perspective to many of the classes at the School.

In the Winter term, **Shwaan Hutton**, **Jack Huffman**, and **Jeremy Johnston** travelled to Perth, Australia. They are studying at the University of Western Australia's Urban Design Research Centre.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COURSE

Dr. Ajay Agarwal offered an international project course in Auroville (www.auroville.org). Auroville is located near Pondicherry in southern India. The client for the course was Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute and the assignment was to recommend guidelines for developing a network of social spaces along "The Crown," a major arterial street in the city. Ten SURP students and Dr. Agarwal travelled to Auroville for two weeks during December to work on the project. Prior to departure, the students did substantial background research on Auroville, and also studied best practices related to the planning of social spaces. Students had several Skype meetings with the client. The class was very successful. Both the client and the students have given very positive feedback to SURP. Please see the front page article for more information!

QUEEN'S-BVDU MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in 2012 between Queen's University and Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University for promoting scholarly collaboration between the College of Architecture at BVDU and SURP. The two programs will likely offer a joint international project course in the future and explore possibilities of starting a student exchange. Dr. Ajay Agarwal has been instrumental in spearheading this partnership.

CHINA VISITING SCHOLARS TO SURP

In 2012 there was a steady stream of scholars from China visiting SURP. The visiting scholars' stays at SURP ranged from 3 to 12 months. They added a great deal to SURP's intellectual diversity and enriched the program for our faculty and students.

STUDENT SUMMER INTERSHIPS IN BEIJING

During the spring/summer 2012, students **Morgan**

Alger and Marika Atfield completed their China Internship program sponsored by China's Ministry of Land and Resources. Morgan interned for the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics, while Marika interned with the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute in Beijing. Two more students, **Angus Beaty** and **Isaac Shirokoff**, plan to go in the summer of 2013.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Twelve years ago, the International Experience Awards (IEA) program was created with revenues generated by our China Projects in order to provide students with a unique international experience. The OPPI Eastern Ontario District recently made a donation to increase the awards. Normally, three to five awards of \$1,700 each are given out every year. Proposals on planning-related topics are submitted for adjudication by a selection panel comprised of first- and second-year students. The proposals are judged on their feasibility, practicality and innovation. The award recipients give a presentation to the student body and faculty before and after returning from their trips. The 2012 award winners were **Mladen Kukic ('13)** for travel to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, **Jonathan Pradinuk** for travel to Helsinki, Finland, and **Marisa Talarico ('13)** for travel to Bogota, Colombia. See the last pages of the newsletter for more information on their exciting travels! The 2013 winners are **Cassandra Caiger ('13)** (Austria), **Hossein Danesh Heidari ('13)** (United Arab Emirates), **Lindsey Gradeen** (Sweden), and **Shwaan Hutton** (New Zealand).



Exchange students Angus Robertson and Bridge Ford (who came to SURP for the Fall 2012 Semester) in Montreal for the student field trip. *Photo courtesy of Bridge Ford.*

ALUMNI NEWS

Iain Bourhill ('08) and his wife, Jenny, announce the birth of their daughter, Mairi, in November 2011. Congratulations to the new parents!



After completing an amazing six-month CIP WorldLink internship in Georgetown, Guyana at the country's Lands and Surveys Commission, **Simona Rasanu ('12)** is now working as a Property Officer with City of Toronto Real Estate.

Nalini Naidoo ('99) and Stephen are happy to announce the birth of their third son, Ruan Naidoo Budgell, born on January 30, 2012. Ruan joins his two brothers, Arjun (9) and Tarun (4).



FACULTY NEWS

Ajay Agarwal taught four courses in 2012: Physical Planning, Community Design, Transportation Environment and Health, and International Planning Project. The international planning project course was offered in Auroville, India (see cover story). Ajay also worked on establishing an academic partnership with BVDU College of Architecture in Pune, India. Based on his work, SURP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BVDU College of Architecture for scholarly collaboration in the future. The MOU will help SURP offer future international project courses in India and may perhaps lead to a student exchange program. On a personal front, Ajay and his wife Sukriti were blessed with their second child in October.

John Andrew continued to spend much of his time this year growing the membership and launching the activities of the new Queen's Real Estate Roundtable (Q25), a unique industry organization focused on applied research and professional development for 25 leading commercial real estate companies. Having just signed its eleventh member company, the Q25 is well on its way! Now part of the Q25 are the Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate,

founded in 2004. ESCIRE's capital markets seminar in January sold out faster and generated the largest revenue of any to date.

John was pleased to be awarded Continuing Adjunct faculty status in 2012. He teaches real estate courses at both SURP and the School of Business. He continues to run SURP's internship program. His research highlight was having a paper on the use of role playing simulations to teach negotiation skills that he co-authored with John Meligrana published in *Creative Education*.

John's appearances in the national and international news media as a recognized expert on real estate counted in the hundreds in the past year, making him one of the university's five most frequently-quoted experts. He appears in a weekly real estate segment on CTV News Channel. He was named to Gerson Lehrman Group's Real Estate Council of Experts. John continued his long affiliation with the Mediation Centre of Southeastern Ontario, as a course instructor and roster mediator.

Carl Bray's consulting work over the past year included completion of a Heritage Conservation District Plan for the City of Orillia, a Heritage Master Plan for the Town of Pelham, recommendations for amendments to the City of Toronto's Official Plan cultural heritage policies, and conservation recommendations for the master plan for the rehabilitation of downtown Goderich, following a devastating tornado. He taught the SURP-858 Heritage Planning course in the fall term of 2012 and the SURP-848 Community Design course while Ajay was on paternity leave. Projects now underway include a Heritage Conservation District Study for downtown Aurora, various Heritage Impact Studies for projects in Kingston and Ottawa, and cultural tourism development projects in Algoma based on the paintings of the Group of Seven.

Patricia Collins was engaged in various research projects in 2012. She was awarded a SARC grant and a SSHRC grant (with Graham Whitelaw as co-investigator) to examine integrated community sustainability planning in mid-sized municipalities, and employed several research assistants from SURP over the summer semester to launch the research. In May, Patricia submitted a letter of intent to CIHR for a programmatic grant application on municipal approaches to address household food insecurity. In October, she was invited to submit a full application, and with the help of two faculty colleagues from SKHS and Gender Studies, Patricia worked tirelessly to assemble the proposal, and recruit collaborators and partner agencies from across Canada to be engaged in the research. She also continued her work with researchers from KFL&A Public Health on analysis and dissemination of results from a survey on active transportation patterns among Kingston residents. Finally, Patricia was a collaborator on two additional grant applications: one to SSHRC on food insecurity discourses with Sarah Wakefield at the University of Toronto, and another to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care on health and the built environment with Jim Dunn at McMaster University. Patricia attended three academic conferences in 2012 (the Canadian Association of Geographers, the American Public Health Association, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning), had one article accepted for publication and submitted several articles for peer review. Patricia is currently on maternity leave, following the birth of her second child, Maeve, but she was back at SURP a couple of weeks later to meet her students.

Despite his administrative duties, **David Gordon** taught parts of five courses and led field trips in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa in 2012. He supervised the research of six graduate students to completion of their master's degrees and eight more are in progress. Dave continues to enjoy coordinating professional liaison and alumni affairs, and is the Faculty Coordinator of the National Executive Forum on Public Property. In addition, he is a founding Director of the Council for Canadian Urbanism, facilitating their sessions at the Calgary symposium and CIP conference in Banff. He developed partnerships with three community agencies to deliver project courses – the City of Kingston, the City of Ottawa and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. Dave participated in research conferences in Canada and around the world. He collaborated with Professor Emeritus Gerald Hodge to write the sixth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities* (Nelson, April 2013), revised his manuscript for a major book on the planning history of Canada's capital, co-edited two journal special issues and helped launch the new Queen's Campus Master Plan.

Gerald Hodge, Professor Emeritus, continues to contribute to the Canadian planning profession from his home in Hornby Island, BC. The sixth edition of his classic text *Planning Canadian Communities*, (co-authored with Dave Gordon), was published in April 2013. He also made preparations for a new edition of *Planning Canadian Regions (2001)*, originally with Ira M. Robinson, and continued writing about the needs of planning for seniors for community media on Hornby Island.

Hok-Lin Leung continued his biannual lecture tours in China (spring and autumn). The tours were centered in Shanghai (based at Tongji University) and Beijing (based at Tsinghua University). The fourth annual Planning Theory Festivals were held in Beijing, with participants from all over China. Inspired by the discussion during the Festival Hok-Lin published a paper entitled, "Homo urbanicus" (*City Planning Review*, 2012, vol. 36, no. 7, July).

Hok-Lin's book, *Cultural DNA of Western Civilization*, originally scheduled to be published in 2012, was postponed to the end of 2013 or early 2014 on account of the size and scope of the book (1/2 million words). Three articles, drawing on the research in writing the book, were published in *City Planning Review* general and more are expected.

Hok-Lin continued to train faculty members of the China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong as well as researchers from the Development Research Centre, State Council on methods of policy analysis and comparative studies. In Canada, Hok-Lin handed over the reins of the Ambassadors' Forum, which he founded in 2003, to Professor Kim Nossal of the Department of Political Studies.

In 2012, **John Meligrana** taught SURP-800 Master's Research Proposal, SURP-801 Population Forecasting, SURP- 815 Legal and Governmental Processes, SURP- 844 Real Estate Planning and Development and SURP- 853 Environmental Services. He co-authored two articles on planning education: one co-authored with John Andrew published in *Creative Education* and the other co-authored with Leela Viswanathan and Graham Whitelaw and published in *Planning Practice and Research*. He also served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the City of Kingston's Electoral Districts, City of Kingston, September 2012 to December 2012. During the summer, John organized a two-week intensive training program in land use planning for approximately 50 government officials from China's Ministry of Land and Resources. The training included 14 presentations by experts from Queen's University, Government of Ontario, Federal Government, the private sector and three field trips: 1) Canadian Wollastonite Mining Operations, 2) Toronto Stock Exchange and 3) Village of Sydenham and South Frontenac Township Government Offices and area. John is looking forward to taking a one-year sabbatical beginning in January 2014.

Former Director and Emeritus Professor **Mohammad A. Qadeer** has been teaching continuously, first full-time and recently part-time, for 41 years, which so far is a record. In 2012, he contributed a chapter on the history of urban development ideas in both the First and Third worlds to the book, *Planning Ideas That Matter* eds. Bishwapriya Sanyal, Lawrence J. Vale and Christina D. Rosen (Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 2012). His manuscript of a book on multicultural cities is being reviewed by a publisher. He now lives in Toronto, savouring its multiculturalism.

Adjunct Professor **Preston Schiller** was a consultant (pro bono) for Science World, Vancouver, for its "SWITCH: The Outdoor Science Experience" new outdoor sustainability exhibit which opened in the summer of 2012. Material he prepared for them as

well as for his (co-authored) book *An Introduction to Sustainable Transportation* is featured in its transportation displays. He was the author of "Getting outside the box of the automobile" *Canadian Civil Engineer*, and "Remembering Jane Holtz Kay," <http://www.thenation.com/>. He is also the author of "Sustainable Transportation," in *Achieving Sustainability: Visions, Principles and Practices*, a new encyclopedia. Preston also taught two sections of SURP-889, a course in Sustainable Transportation, in winter 2013. He also helped to bring the "National Dream Renewed Town Hall" about revitalizing VIA Rail to Queen's and Kingston. Students from the Sustainable Transportation course presented aspects of their term projects as part of it.

Andrejs Skaburskis taught SURP-842 Economics of Land Development and Planning in both the winter and fall terms 2012. He supervised eight master's students, three of whom completed in the summer term 2012. Andrejs continued his SSHRC-sponsored research on neighbourhood transitions. He was Chair of the School's Admissions Committee during the first half of 2012 and he also sat on the Term Adjunct and Continuing Adjunct appointments committees. Andrejs is now heading to full-time retirement in phases. He will teach land economics next fall, do admissions in the winter and that will be that for a while. He will continue as North American Editor of *Urban Studies* and will stay on the editorial advisory board for *Housing Studies*. He will be presenting at conferences and hopes to maintain a semi-active intellectual life after full-time retirement. This last year, he enjoyed not teaching statistics.

Andrejs continues as the North American Managing Editor at *Urban Studies* and is on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, *Housing Studies* and *Open Journal of Urban Studies*. Andrejs was listed in the *Globe and Mail* as one of three top researchers in Canada in planning and architecture related fields. Andrejs sat on the SSHRC Insight Grant review committee and he also reviewed a SSHRC development grant. Andrejs is also a member of the University's General Research Ethics Board and he also participated in two reviews of faculty for promotion to full professor and for tenure and promotion.

As well as teaching as a SURP adjunct faculty member, **Patricia Streich** carried out numerous evaluation and research projects in her private

consulting practice. In 2012, her work focused on the First Nations housing fund, Habitat for Humanities, and Ottawa social housing policies. Patricia also contributes in voluntary roles on local housing and poverty initiatives including as a member of the Housing Action Group Kingston.

In winter 2012, **Leela Viswanathan** taught SURP-812 Qualitative Methods in Planning and SURP-870 Program Development for Human Services. In fall 2012, Leela taught SURP-817 An Intellectual History of Urban and Regional Planning with David Gordon; SURP-800, a module in which students prepare their Master's Report or Thesis proposals; and SURP-871 Social Planning, following a community service learning model. She published two articles in *Planning Practice and Research* and *Local Environment* with three more in peer review. Dr. Viswanathan has two SSHRC-funded research projects under way: one is about decolonizing planning knowledge and practice, and the other is on integrating immigrants as new talent in the labour market of Eastern Ontario. Leela is cross-appointed faculty with the Geography Department and continued in her related role as liaison on behalf of SURP. She is Chair of the SURP Unit Research and Ethics Board. She is also Chair of the SURP Academic Committee. In 2012 she supervised or co-supervised 13 graduate students at

SURP (7 continuing) and sat on committees of 8 more outside SURP. She sits on the Queen's University Accessibility Framework— Education, Training and Awareness Working Group and is a member of Principal Woolf's Advisory Committee.

In 2012, **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; sustainability planning in mid-sized cities; community based monitoring; biodiversity management in southern Ontario; and innovation and resilience planning with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Graham taught SURP-855 Environmental Planning and Management in the winter term of 2012; and SURP-800 Master's Research Proposal and SURP-825 Environmental Services Project course in the fall term of 2012. Graham also taught two undergraduate courses in the School of Environmental Studies and supervised (or co-supervised) numerous Master's students from SURP and Environmental Studies. Graham is Co-Chair of the Queen's Sustainable Development Group developing a research program in partnership with professors from other departments as well as Dr. Viswanathan (decolonizing planning) and Dr. Collins (sustainability and mid-sized cities) from SURP.

FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

SURP welcomed a new member to the community this year: Yash Agarwal, born October 2012 to **Ajay and Sukriti Agarwal**. Congratulations to the proud parents!

We are also pleased to announce the birth of **Patricia Collins and Chris Spence's** daughter. The budding feminist, Maeve Harriet Spence, was born on International Women's Day, March 8, 2013. Older brother Liam is adjusting well to his new role, and mom and dad are seemingly seasoned veterans with sleep deprivation.

Last summer was one to remember for **John Andrew**: in July 2012 John was appointed to a Continuing Adjunct position in the Schools of Urban and Regional Planning, Business, and

Environmental Studies; and in August 2012 John and Rebecca St.-James were married at a lovely wedding and reception at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. Felicitations to the happy couple!

At the October 2012 Canadian Institute of Planners Conference in Banff, SURP Term Adjunct faculty member **Marni Cappe** was made a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners – well done Marni!

We also extend our congratulations to **Graham Whitelaw** on being granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor effective July 1, 2013! Graham is looking forward to his one-year sabbatical leave starting this July.

SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

Angie Balesdent and her husband Dana are expecting their first grandchild this August and they are overjoyed about it! To welcome the precious little wonder, Angie plans to try her hand at making a soft and cuddly baby blanket (with a little help from her oh-so-talented sister-in-law Wendy). Dana is already making plans to spoil the child and be the best “Papa” ever! Angie continues in her role as Administrative Assistant at SURP.

Jo-Anne Rudachuk enjoys spending time with her two adorable grandchildren. She continues her work as the Departmental Coordinator at SURP, supporting the students and faculty through the admissions process and right through the following two years in the Program. SURP students think she is something special and they are right!

M.PL. graduate students **Sarah Nielsen** (SURP Office Assistant), **Will Robinson-Mushkat** (SURP Computer Assistant), and **Josh Berry**, **Golsa Kheir-Moghadam**, and **Isaac Shirokoff** (SURP Assistant to the Director) also provided invaluable help to the SURP office this year!

After 14 years of service, **Connie Brobeck**, Assistant Convenor to the National Executive Forum on Public Property, retired at the end of February 2013. Connie served the organization from its early days providing excellent administrative support and service to its Members. SURP faculty and staff, along with Forum Convenor Cathie Macdonald and her husband Brian, feted Connie at a farewell retirement luncheon at the Kingston Brewing Company (Connie’s

pick!) on February 26th. Connie said she looks forward to doing some gardening in style this summer using the tools she plans to buy from Lee Valley with the gift card we gave her! Connie continues to work part-time in the Mathematics Department and she will do some casual work for the Forum this spring/summer. So although Connie has “retired” we still have the pleasure of seeing her around campus.

We are pleased to welcome **Heather Blue** to the SURP Community. Heather was appointed to the newly-named Administrative Assistant and Events Coordinator position for the National Executive Forum on Public Property. Heather hit the ground running preparing for the Forum’s Annual symposium and Members’ roundtable in Yellowknife, NWT in May. Welcome Heather!

Li Xu continues her work in support of the administrative and logistical requirements of the China Projects Office. In the fall, among other things, she was very busy helping settle seven interns from China at their five-months-long placements in Canada. The next big push will be organizing the logistics for a 40- to 50-person delegation from China that will come to Canada mid-June for a two-week intensive training program in land use planning. Hok-Lin Leung and John Meligrana, faculty coordinators of the China Projects Office, greatly appreciate all of Li’s hard work.

SURP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Contrary to our predictions, the summer of 2012 turned out offering a fairly healthy recovery from the economic downturn felt the prior year. Some of the long-term employers that were unable to hire students in 2011 due to temporary hiring freezes returned to our internship program, while several new employers participated for the first time. Nevertheless, the past several years have been characterized by considerably higher turnover of employers than over the longer term. Naturally, it takes a lot more effort to replace lost positions with

new employers than it does to maintain arrangements with long-standing sponsors. We hope that in a few years, with stronger economic conditions, that the program may return to the stability of having a core group of employers that hire year after year.

In 2012, there were 42 internship positions available, compared to the 33 students moving from first to second year in the program. Eleven of these positions were secured by graduating students, such

that 31 of the 33 returning students were placed in internships. Twenty-one of the 42 positions were exclusive to SURP. The number of exclusive positions has been trending down over the past several years as more employers face pressure to open up their summer employment opportunities to other schools.

Fortunately, the positive trend of more students securing for 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. There were 10 such positions this year.

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 or 613-533-6000 ext. 75756.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

The National Executive Forum on Public Property (the Forum) is now in its fifteenth year of operation. Based at Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning, the Forum is a national non-profit organization for the advancement and sharing of best practices in public property management, use and development. Throughout the year, the Forum provides valuable networking opportunities for senior executives from Federal, Provincial and Municipal departments, agencies, public utilities and Crown corporations who are responsible for managing public assets. As well, senior consultants, private organizations and academics with an interest in the management of public lands, buildings and infrastructure also contribute to the sharing of knowledge, ideas and techniques for issue management. For 2013, the Forum includes representatives from twenty-five government member organizations, eleven Associate organizations, two Academic Advisors, and a number of International Associates and Advisors. Dr. David L.A. Gordon, Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, is the Forum's Faculty Coordinator.

Through offering **internship opportunities** Forum members continue to support student learning and career development. In 2012, thirteen SURP students participated in various internship placements at the City of Toronto, City of Ottawa, City of Edmonton, Department of National Defense and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Every year, the Forum hosts a **Spring Symposium** to explore and discuss a topical issue facing public property senior decision makers and leaders. The theme for this year's symposium is "Risk Management: Best Practices for Decision-Making Today". This event for Forum members, affiliates and invited guests was held

at The Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NWT from Tuesday May 28th to Thursday May 30, 2013. In addition to this event, Forum government members will meet in October 2013 in Montreal for a two-day working session.

Throughout the year, the Forum's **Research Advisory Committee** provides timely and valuable information to Forum members through various research projects and surveys. In 2013, work will continue on the Benchmarking program, cell phone tower survey and corporate governance project.

2013 will see a number of **staffing changes** within the Forum. **Cathie Macdonald**, Forum Convenor has recently announced that she will be stepping down after fourteen years of stellar service. She plans to retire in the summer of 2013. Cathie has been instrumental in the development and advancement of the National Executive Forum on Public Property and will be missed. During her fourteen years with the Forum she has been a dedicated leader and advocate and tirelessly devoted herself to fulfilling the Forum's vision and creating value for members. The Forum executive is currently conducting a search to find a suitable replacement for the Convenor position. **Connie Brobeck**, Assistant Convenor retired at the end of February. Connie also served the organization from its early days providing excellent administrative support and service to members. As of February 1st, **Heather Blue** replaced Connie and has taken on this administrative role as the newly-named Administrative Assistant and Events Coordinator. If you have any questions about the Forum or would like to view the Forum's library materials just drop by the office in Room 502. More information can also be seen on the Forum's website: <http://www.publicpropertyforum.ca/>

EXECUTIVE SEMINARS ON CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

ESCIRE is now part of the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable (Q25), and offered two successful and well-attended seminars in Toronto: "Real Estate Capital Markets in Canada and the United States: Equity, Debt and Cross-Border Flows" in February; and "Seeking Growth, Seeking Yield: Finding the Best Real Estate Investment Opportunities in Canada" in June. Although it did not take place in 2012, it is worth noting that the January 2013 seminar, entitled "Real Estate Capital Markets", sold out faster and generated the largest surplus of any previous seminar.

ESCIRE seminars are capped at 100 paying registrants in order to ensure their high quality and interactivity.

The series continues to receive very favourable feedback from 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, it has since its creation in 2004 gradually built up the reputation of Queen's 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. ESCIRE has been run since its inception by Dr. John Andrew.

QUEEN'S REAL ESTATE ROUNDTABLE

The Queen's Real Estate Roundtable (Q25) is a new and unique industry organization focused on executive development and applied research. It is not-for-profit, and brings together senior executives from a variety of types of companies within the commercial real estate sector, for the purposes of advancing and sharing best practices in the industry and discussing issues of common interest. It is based on a maximum membership of 25 of the leading companies within the commercial real estate sector in Canada. The Q25 is based at Queen's University, but member companies play a significant role on the governance of the organization.

The Roundtable builds on the strong reputation and success of the Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate

(ESCIRE), established in 2004. The Roundtable is run by Dr. John Andrew and in early 2013 its membership had grown to 11 leading firms.

While the focus of 2012 was the recruitment of new member companies, it has shifted in 2013 to rolling out most of the Q25's functions and activities, such as an annual members' retreat, the applied research program, members-only executive seminars, and other events. The kick-off event for the Q25 was a luncheon meeting in Ottawa on the topic of Canadian investment in Indonesian infrastructure and real estate with the Ambassador of Indonesia, members of the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable, invited business leaders and Professor Emeritus Hok-Lin Leung.

AMBASSADORS' FORUM

Started in 2003, the Ambassadors' Forum brings together the Heads of Missions to Canada from 20 Asia-Pacific countries to learn more about Canadian and world issues. Normally there are 3-4 sessions each year, attended by the ambassadors themselves. It is funded by the Office of the Vice-Provost (International) and the Office of Research

Services. With his increased commitment in China work, Professor Emeritus Hok-Lin Leung handed over his responsibility of the Ambassadors' Forum to Professor Kim Nossal of the Department of Political Studies, but will continue to have a special interest in this worthwhile project.

2012-2013 EVENTS

Date	Lecture	Speaker
September 20, 2012	Public-Private Partnerships for the Redevelopment of Public Lands	Frank Lewinberg , Architect, Planner and Partner, Urban Strategies
October 10, 2012	Places to Grow: The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe	Tanzeel Merchant , Manager, Growth Planning and Analysis, Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure
January 23, 2013	India International Planning Project Presentation	Project Manager, Nick Danford ('13)
January 29, 2013	The Campus in the Community	Joe Berridge , Partner, Urban Strategies
February 28, 2013	Public-Private Partnerships in Canada: Exploring Planning Concerns	Dr. Matti Siemiatycki , Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto
March 19, 2013	SURP Alumni/ae Planners Panel A panel of SURP alumni/ae answered questions and offered advice on how to transition from school to the work-force. Featured:	Jocelyn Chandler ('07) , Planner, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; Melissa Farrell ('03) , Director, Primary Health Care Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; Bruce Krushelnicki ('76) , Director of Planning, City of Burlington; Dayna Lafferty ('09) , Planner, FoTenn, Kingston; Anil Wijesooriya ('03) , Vice President, Development Planning, Infrastructure Ontario (formerly Ontario Realty Corp.)
March 26, 2013	Social Media and Planning at Urban Strategies Inc.: Public Engagement for the Campus Master Plan	Anthony Greenberg , Planner, Urban Strategies, Inc.
April 4, 2013	Innovative Civic Engagement and Creative Placemaking in Calgary: Establishing a New Norm	Andrew Palmiere ('02) , Principal, Senior Urban and Regional Planner, O2 Planning and Design

QGAPS AND STUDENT LIFE

MESSAGE FROM QGAPS PRESIDENT

By Heather McDonell

I am happy to report that since the establishment of the Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) in 2011, that it is still effectively continuing communication between students and professors. We plan to continue to properly foster the relationship in the forthcoming year in the SURP community. Any questions or recommendations for QGAPS are greatly welcomed with open arms!



QGAPS President Heather McDonell, Damilare Adeola, and Bailey Chabot at the 2012-2013 End-of-Year Formal. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Nielsen.*

SURP STUDENT LIFE

By Michael Rac, Vice-President Student Life

Another academic year at Queen's University is quickly coming to an end, and the halls of the School of Urban and Regional Planning are quieting down.



Some SURP students testing their vocal skills at an Orientation Week event. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Nielsen.*

The SURP Social Committee has had a busy past several months organizing a slew of activities and social events.

A snowstorm may have postponed a SURP night of watching the Kingston Frontenacs face off against the Belleville Bulls in January, but three weeks later a large group of students made it out to watch an exciting re-match.

Further embracing Kingston's winter, on February 28th students came together for an evening of skating at Market Square followed by some much-needed hot chocolate and nachos. It seems that planners also make good skaters, as there was not one witnessed wipeout. March may have come in as a lamb, but it certainly was not dull. A SURP Movie night complete with popcorn and soda pop kept things interesting and educational, while a much talked about squash tournament made for some competitive and athletic fun.



Second-year students Hillary Morgan, Mladen Kukic ('13), Jonathan Pradinuk, and William Robinson-Mushkat at the End-of-Year Formal. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Nielsen.*

Keeping with tradition, the year-end formal was held at the historical and beautiful Renaissance Centre in Downtown Kingston. Students, staff and guests celebrated another successful year and reflected on our time at SURP with a picture slide-show.

The class of 2013 will be greatly missed, and we wish them the best of luck in pursuing their dreams. However, the Social Committee looks forward to September for yet another year of memorable events and new faces!

CHINA PROJECTS

Training for Officials from China's Ministry of Land and Resources

During the summer, SURP organized a two-week intensive training program in land use planning for 43 government officials from China's Ministry of Land and Resources. The training included 14 presentations from experts from Queen's University, Government of Ontario, Federal Government, the private sector and three field trips.

Chinese Government Officials Internship Program

The Queen's - China Ministry of Land and Resources internship program was established 17 years ago under a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Ministry. The purpose is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of land and mineral resources administration and management in China by sharing relevant Canadian experiences with Chinese professionals/officials. Every year, 6-8 interns are placed in Canada for five months, in government agencies, private firms and non-governmental organizations to observe and study Canadian practices as well as participate in, and contribute to Canadian projects. Government sponsors over the years have included Natural Resources Canada, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipality of Kingston, and Municipality of Hastings.

The 2012 China Ministry of Land and Resources Interns were placed in the following locations:

- Mr. Zhang Fugang interned at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University
- Ms. Qiu Xiaolei and Ms. Zhang Rui interned with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Peterborough Office
- Mr. Kan Youxun interned with the Planning and Development Department, Hastings County, Belleville
- Ms. Cheng Ting interned with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the Kingston Office.
- Ms. Sun Yan and Ms. Gu Yanfei both interned with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry in the Sudbury Office

China Visiting Scholars to SURP

In 2012 there was a steady stream of scholars from China visiting SURP. The visiting scholars' stay at SURP ranged from 3 to 12 months. They added a great deal to SURP's intellectual diversity and enriched the program for our faculty and students.

Student Summer Internships in Beijing

During the spring/summer semester students **Morgan Alger** and **Marika Atfield** completed their China Internship program sponsored by China's Ministry of Land and Resources. Morgan spent her semester at the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics, while Marika interned with the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute in Beijing.

STUDENTS AT PLANNING CONFERENCES

CAPS-ACÉAU Conference in Montréal *By Michael Rac and Heather McDonell*

This year's Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS) Conference was held at the Université du Québec à Montréal in Downtown Montréal, from February 1st through 3rd. This annual conference allows planning students from all across Canada to meet, share their work, and take part in workshops and seminars relating to planning. This year's theme was 'Idencités / Idencities,' and focused on topics relating to urban identities.

Students attending the conference had the opportunity to explore the character of a place and how planning practices shape it, in order to better understand the evolution of our urban fabric. A common question at the conference was how should we as future planners acknowledge the identity of a city and those who live there, in order to respect this relationship in a professional ethical manner? Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning students explored this theme of 'Idencities' through a variety of guest speakers, workshops, and tours throughout Montréal.

SURP and Queen's were well represented with three student presentations. **Sarah Nielsen, Heather McDonell, and Michael Rac** presented their project on Community Asset Mapping in North Kingston during the individual student presentation period. **Nick Danford ('13)** and **Hillary Morgan** also presented their experiences and findings from their time spent in Auroville, India as part of the SURP International Project Course. The project included 10 Queens Master's of Urban and Regional Planning students traveling to Auroville, India. The project site was of particular interest as the city is advanced in sustainable design and community building. **Mike Dror, Morgan Alger, and Jon Pradinuk** were also on site to display their groups work for a project course on transit-oriented development at Blair Station in Ottawa. The team of eight students partnered with the City of Ottawa to ensure that the city's transition from a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to a Light Rail Transit (LRT) develops into a complete and integrated community.

Besides presenting their work, SURP students were able to participate in some interesting workshops and tours. One of the favourites was UQAM Professor David Hanna's engaging and sensational tour of the

Griffintown Neighbourhood. The first residential suburb of the Old City of Montréal, the students learned the colourful history of Griffintown and its urban development. Cases of land-title stealing in the early 1800's, famous murder scenes, and stories of mafia control were described to the students as they walked around notable sites. The neighbourhood today is on the cusp of becoming one of Montréal's most popular and exciting areas to live, work, and play. Another memorable part of the conference was a discussion and presentation on "Imagining the Playful City", led by City of Vancouver planner Michael Gordon. During the session students were given examples of how playfulness can be incorporated into urban planning not only for children and youth, but also for adults. After all, cities should offer fun for everyone.

Our hosts, the Université du Québec à Montréal along with the Université de Montréal, McGill University, and Concordia University should be applauded for creating an informative and fun experience for all those who took part. We are sure that next year's CAPS conference will be just as memorable!



SURP Students **Brittany Hasler ('12), Tony Gkotsis, Megan Lawson, Kyle Gonyou ('12), Marisa Talarico ('13), Anna Froelich ('12) and Simona Rasanu ('12)** attending the 2012 Ontario Heritage conference in Kingston. Kyle was part of the organizing committee and several students were sponsored by the Frontenac Heritage Foundation. *Photo courtesy of Dave Gordon.*

Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference in Markham *By Sarah Nielsen and Fraser McLeod*

The 2012 Ontario Professional Planners Institute held their annual symposium in the city of Markham on September 20th and 21st. The theme of the conference, “Healthy Communities and Planning for Active Transportation: Talking the Talk and Walking the Walk”, drew out droves of SURP students early on the 21st.

The morning started with opening remarks from the now Premier, Kathleen Wynne, who was then the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Numerous presentations on active transportation and successful healthy community planning initiatives provided insight into the challenges and approaches of building healthy communities, engaging in both the morning and the afternoon sessions. A new feature of the conference, the Planning Active Transportation Hub Symposium (*PATHS2013*), gave students and

professionals a chance to engage with the issues being discussed, view short presentations and exhibits, and see digital student posters. Congratulations to second-year students who had really interesting posters in this exhibit!

Finally, the day concluded with a fascinating series of discussions about why active transportation is integral to the future of our communities and how it can be implemented effectively and efficiently. Moderated by Eleanor McMahon, founder of the *Share the Road Cycling Coalition*, the innovative set of speakers included Marc Corriveau of the National Capital Commission, Lee Parsons of Malone Given Parsons Ltd. and Jeff Olsen of the SUNYA Initiative for Healthy Infrastructure and provided the audience with a wide gradient of strategies and best practices currently being implemented in the field. In particular, for first-years who had never experienced an OPPI conference before, these concluding discussions left many with a great sense of possibilities and ideas regarding active transportation to be implemented both in their current studies and future careers.

STUDENT FIELD TRIPS TO MONTRÉAL AND TORONTO

Building off of the past successes of field trips, Dr. Dave Gordon gave first-year students the chance to experience both Toronto and Montréal through the eyes of a planner. With a strong knowledge of both cities and a passion for contemporary examples of successful urban and suburban planning, Dr. Gordon gave informative and humorous tours, for which the students were very grateful. The trips also provided an opportunity for the first-year students to get to know each other.

Highlights of the Toronto trip began immediately after the conclusion of the OPPI conference in Markham on September 21st, with tours of the communities ranging from Cornell to Don Mills. The whirlwind tour then took the students into the heart of Toronto, experiencing an array of the city’s most heralded landmarks including the financial district, the St. Lawrence neighborhood, the Distillery District, Regent Park, and Nathan Phillips Square. All held crucial lessons for the bright-eyed first-year SURP students, underscoring the



The class of 2014 with Dr. Gordon at Mount Royal, observing the work of Fredrick Law Olmsted. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Nielsen.*

many facets of urban planning in Canada's largest city. Dr. Gordon and the students certainly engaged in active transportation by walking to all of these areas, but as Dave had predicted, the students learned volumes more from seeing it on the ground!

The trip to Montréal, although a little colder, was equally exciting and informative. Again, Dr. Gordon provided an engaging tour, starting with the redevelopment project in Benny Farm and winding into the city's core. After the formal tour ended, the students had the chance to experience some of

Montréal's cuisine and the city's vibrant nightlife on the Hallowe'en weekend.

The next morning, first-year student David Westbrook led the most scenic part of the tour. Discussing what he had learned about Fredrick Law Olmsted's Mount Royal park from a presentation for the Planning History course, he toured students expertly around the historic paths. After this tour, Dr. Gordon took students to the Mount Royal neighborhood and Bois Franc, looking at developments outside of the city centre as the students left Montréal.

SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SURP-824: Land Use and Real Estate Project (Fall 2012)

A team of nine students worked as student consultants for Darin Ramsay of the City of Kingston to generate a report entitled "Great Streets for the City of Kingston". Academic direction was provided by Patricia Collins and David Gordon. The students conducted a detailed analysis and review of the basic elements of great streets, synthesized best practices for complete and green streets, and developed plans and designs for applying the elements to several categories of Kingston streets. Their recommendations included the need to educate the public about how rights-of-ways serve purposes beyond moving automobiles, to capitalize on ongoing street improvements in order to phase-in changes that are in keeping with great street principles, and to determine how elements of great streets will be prioritized given physical and economic limitations. The students were excited to learn of the City's plan to hire external consultants to develop complete streets guidelines for Kingston, and that their final report will be used as a key data source by these consultants.

<http://completestreetsforcanada.ca/news/students-help-bring-complete-streets-kingston>



SURP-826, the Blair (Re)Envisioned team: Jennifer Grove ('13), Morgan Alger, Will Robinson-Mushkat, Kaitlyn Graham ('13), Mike Dror, Jeremy Johnston, Jonathan Pradinuk, and Hossein Danesh Heidari ('13). *Photo courtesy of Jeremy Johnston.*

SURP-825: Environmental Services Project (Fall 2012)

Under the academic supervision of Graham Whitelaw and John Meligrana, the course team partnered with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and staff **Rob McRae ('99)** on "Exploring Opportunities for Environmental Investment in Coastal Areas of the CRCA". The project team was retained to conduct independent research on the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River coastline between Brockville and Greater Napanee. This project was the latest venture in a long history of collaboration between the

Conservation Authority and the School. The focus of the research was on potential economic opportunities along the Cataraqui Region coastline and how they relate to environmental conservation, and vice versa. The team was asked to provide the CRCA and coastal communities with ideas that could be used to inform sound planning and management practice, as well as further research. The project team made seven recommendations: 1) Create a prioritization toolkit for natural and cultural assets, 2) Inter-municipal coordination in regards to shoreline development policies and restrictions, 3) Improve physical linkages in the study area, 4) Improve tourism marketing through themed packages, special group marketing and study, 5) Pursue opportunities for enhancing protection and accessibility of coastal lands, 6) Promotion of research and development of water technologies and green infrastructure, 7) Improve accessibility by addressing 8-80 cities principles and guidelines.

The report link is <http://www.cataraquiregion.on.ca/internal/SURP825Report.html>

SURP-826: Special Field Project (Fall 2012)

Under the academic supervision of Dr. David Gordon the course team partnered with the City of Ottawa and staff Charles Lanktree on the “Blair Station (Re) Envisioned: A Transit Oriented Development Study for Ottawa’s Blair Station”. The City of Ottawa is converting the existing Transitway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system from Tunney’s Pasture to Blair Station to Light Rail Transit (LRT). This is expected to stimulate land use intensification and transit-oriented development (TOD) around future LRT stations. This study outlines a proposed plan for intensification of the Blair Station Area (BSA) to assure it develops into an integrated, complete community that meets the City’s TOD policies. The vision is to transform the Blair Station Area into a diverse, connected, compact and transit-oriented destination that enhances the quality of life for existing and future residents and transit users. <http://www.queensu.ca/surp/current-students/project-courses/Report.pdf>

SURP-827: International Planning Project (Fall 2012)

Please see the cover article for more information!

Dr. Ajay Agarwal offered an international project course in Auroville (www.auroville.org). Auroville is located near Pondicherry in southern India. The client for the course was Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute and the assignment was to recommend guidelines for developing a network of social spaces along “The Crown,” a major arterial

street in the city. Ten SURP students and Dr. Agarwal travelled to Auroville for two weeks during December to work on the project. Prior to departure, the students did substantial background research on Auroville, and also studied best practices related to planning of social spaces. Students had several Skype meetings with the client. The class was very successful. Both the client and the students have given very positive feedback to SURP. http://www.queensu.ca/surp/current-students/project-courses/SURP_827_2012_Full_Report_Capturing%20the%20spirit_FINAL.pdf

SURP-871: Social Planning (Fall 2012)

Under the leadership of Dr. Leela Viswanathan, students in SURP-871 Social Planning developed their projects in partnership with Rev. Christine Williams and the Good Shepherd Mission located at 68 Cowdy Street, in the Inner Harbour neighbourhood of Kingston, Ontario. Through this course, students learned about university-community collaborations and the role of faith-based organizations in community development and capacity building. After running a community workshop with members of the Mission and of the St. Luke’s Church on Nelson Street, the students developed three projects: an asset-based community assessment and map; an action planning for a community garden and kitchen; and a background report for the development of affordable housing on Mission grounds.



SURP-871, Social Planning class: Graham Anderson, Rev. Christine Williams, Michael Rac, Morgan Alger, Heather McDonnell, Rebecca Tan, Sarah Nielsen, Megan Lawson, Lindsey Gradeen, Kelly Martel ('13), Prof. Leela Viswanathan, Carly Marshall ('13), Bridge Ford, Cassandra Caiger ('13), and Shai Jamal ('13). *Photo courtesy of Dr. Leela Viswanathan.*

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

Spaces of Contention in 'Western Europe's Most Feared Neighbourhood'

By Mladen Kukic ('13)

The Amsterdam suburb of Slotervaart was constructed in the 1960's to accommodate immigrant guest workers from Africa and the Middle East. The extremely high concentration of minority residents of low socio-economic status, and the isolated nature of Slotervaart's Le Corbusier inspired design, contributed to the segregation of neighbourhoods based on race and status. Cultural malaise between Slotervaart and surrounding traditional Dutch neighbourhoods culminated in racially motivated riots in 2007, gaining the attention of European media, which quickly branded Slotervaart as Western Europe's 'most feared neighbourhood'.

Characterized as an inner suburb of Amsterdam, Slotervaart is bounded by rivers and highways, creating an isolated environment. Immigrant guest workers had little reason to venture out of their neighbourhood and interact with traditional Dutch residents. Instead, they tended to congregate with fellow immigrants and continue practicing their native culture. On ground level, ethnic African- and Middle Eastern-influenced businesses proliferate, while on the façade of residential buildings, balconies display large satellite dishes, connecting families to their home country through media. As a



Satellites present on virtually every balcony have contributed to Slotervaart being dubbed a 'Satellite City'.



The focal points for the development of Slotervaart's high-street are the newly built Islamic cultural centre (left) and police station (right).

consequence, Slotervaart residents failed to integrate into Dutch culture, creating an aura of resentment and distrust between Slotervaart residents and surrounding neighbourhoods.

High concentrations of cheaply built social housing add socio-economic complexities to the contentious nature of Slotervaart. Most residential units were designed to accommodate single guest workers or small families. However, the majority of households are comprised of large families that suffer from overcrowded apartments. To avoid their congested homes, teenagers spend countless hours populating Slotervaart parks. For traditional Dutch residents, such parks, crowded with poor immigrant teens speaking a foreign language, developed into a source of fear of 'otherness'.

Slotervaart's notoriety necessitated the implementation of a new post-modern plan that seeks to better integrate Slotervaart with the rest of Amsterdam through intensification and investment in services. Part of the plan aspires to create a 'high-street' with a concentration of community services and commercial activity. One of the initial projects on the high-street was the construction of a police station. Ironically, the station was built directly adjacent to a community-funded Islamic cultural centre. The cultural centre, representing a symbol of community unity, is overshadowed by a modern

police station, a symbol of government power and authority. The narrow space between the cultural centre and police station is a particular source of contention. Initially designed to allow room for prayer, the area is now constantly under surveillance by the multiple cameras that surround the police station.

The spaces of contention, spurned by Slotervaart's two newest buildings, have contributed to the distrust and cultural divide. Yet, they have also provided a lesson in the hazards of utilizing a top-down approach to planning and neglecting community participation and collaboration.



The space between the Islamic cultural centre and police station is particularly contentious due to the presence of surveillance cameras facing the cultural centre's prayer area.

Aging Helsinki: Integrating the Elderly in Finland's Capital City

By Jon Pradinuk

My International Experience Award took me to Helsinki, Finland to explore how they are planning for a rapidly aging population. The small Scandinavian country has been at the forefront of elderly care for over two decades and is now aging more rapidly than any European country. By 2030, the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to rise to 1.5 million, more than one-quarter of Finland's total population. With cities in Canada anticipating their own aging

population challenge, I was keen to learn how Helsinki was effectively planning for its elderly.

Care and service provision for the elderly in Finland is predominantly the responsibility of municipal governments, and every municipality must develop and frequently update an Old Age Strategy. The one broad national policy is to enable as many seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible. This has a number of planning implications, including the need to retrofit the existing housing stock to meet universal design standards as well as the additional demand placed on housing the city's growing population. While avoiding the pain and suffering associated with moving the elderly out of their homes where they feel most comfortable makes it an enviable policy, I can't help but think of the potential onset of seclusion and loneliness of the housebound elderly.

To address this issue, Helsinki has developed a number of Senior Service Centres across the City. These centres typically contain freely accessible common spaces on the ground floor, classrooms a floor above, and above those apartments designed for people with a wide range of cognitive and physical abilities. My first visit was to the Kamppi centre in the heart of downtown, which accommodates up to 2,000 visitors a day. Next, I hopped on the Metro for a short ride to the recently renovated Kinapori centre. Although the exterior of the building wasn't much, the interior courtyard provided a welcoming outdoor space in the middle of a very urban environment.



Former off-ramp recently transformed into a segregated bikeway.

Inside, I was impressed by how many people were using the centre and the sheer variety of programs offered including theatre, painting, woodworking, yarn-spinning, etc. Some of the products from these workshops are sold with the proceeds going towards funding the centre. Most centres are ideally located near a Metro station, close to shopping and other services. Overall, I found Helsinki's public transit system to be excellent, offering seamless transitions between the subway, streetcar, and buses. There's also a well-connected system of separated bike lanes well-used by seniors (Fig. 1).

The private sector has also had some innovative responses to the aging population challenge. One such example is the Loppukiri cooperative apartment complex in the trendy Arabia art and design district (Fig. 2). The idea was born from three proactive women who wanted to develop a cooperative housing community where the residents retained decision-making power. The NGO they started, the Active Seniors Association, quickly grew to 70 members, raising enough capital to begin financing. They retained a top architect in the field of seniors housing to develop a wonderful building on land rented from the City, each of the 58 units designed to the liking of each member. Loppukiri provides a mixture of privacy and community life for the residents, who are each responsible for roles such as cooking, cleaning, teaching classes, or building management. I was told



Figure 2. The Loppukiri cooperative apartment complex located in the trendy Arabia district has incredible scenic views and access to a nearby parkway.



Figure 3. Jatkaasari is just one of Helsinki's former port land areas being redeveloped as an urban neighbourhood. As you can see, construction is well underway.

the shared tasks help build self-esteem and maintain creativity. The project has been a resounding success, attracting over 3,000 worldwide visitors (now including myself I guess). The Association has also just broken ground on a sister project in the former industrial lands of Kalasatama, one of Helsinki's many new planning areas.

It was a very exciting time for anyone to be visiting Helsinki, let alone for an urban planning student. The city is currently undergoing unprecedented change after the movement of cargo port operations in 2008 opened up huge redevelopment possibilities near the old city centre. Amidst this change, the City opened up Laituri downtown, what they call a "city planning meeting place." It was an impressive place with nicely displayed exhibits and plenty of information available on the changes sweeping the city. While it was nice to see planning reach such an elevated status, Laituri seemed more like a place to passively relay information rather than to hold active discussion. Nonetheless, I was pleased to find out that one of the central blocks in Jatkaasari (Fig. 3), the newly planned western harbour area, was being reserved entirely as a welfare block for elderly citizens. Helsinki was named the 2012 Design Capital of the World, and for good reason. The city is full of character and has an impressive arts and design culture that definitely makes it worth a visit.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION?

In an attempt to keep the SURP Alumni Database as up-to-date as possible, we ask that you take a moment to complete this form and return it to us as soon as possible.

NAME: _____

LAST NAME WHILE STUDENT AT SURP IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE: _____

HOME MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

HOME EMAIL: _____

WORK MAILING ADDRESS: _____

WORK TITLE: _____

WORK TELEPHONE: _____

WORK EMAIL: _____

ANY NEWS TO SHARE FOR THE NEXT SURP NEWSLETTER?

Return to: Jo-Anne Rudachuk, Departmental Coordinator
School of Urban and Regional Planning
Queen's University
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

Fax: 613-533-6905
Email: rudachuk@queensu.ca

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Queen's School of Urban
and Regional Planning

LAYOUT DESIGN: Sarah Nielsen

EDITORS: Sarah Nielsen, Angie Balesdent, and David Gordon