

# News



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

School of Urban and Regional Planning | Kingston, Ontario | Number 32 | Fall 2014



2013 International Project Course team in Auroville, India

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. David Gordon

It's been a great year for the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning but the highlight for me was the 2013 Canadian Institute of Planners conference in Vancouver. I was there to present research and launch a book, but the stars of the day are in this happy image:

the Ottawa Airport. Other teams worked with the KFL&A Health Unit to prepare an active transportation strategy for Queen's Campus Master Plan and developed sustainability indicators for Auroville in India.

The India project course was just one of the School's initiatives to provide international student experiences in 2013. Two students were interns in Beijing, three others went on exchange to the University of Western

The tall fellow in the middle is **Andrew Palmiere ('02)**, a SURP alumnus who had just won a National Planning Award for his Calgary neighbourhood planning. The three beaming young people are **Nicholas Danford ('13)** (Vancouver), **Hillary Morgan ('13)** (Victoria) and **Jon Pradinuk ('13)** (Regina), who between them have just received four of the six CIP Awards for academic excellence; **Per Lundberg ('14)** and **Sarah Nielsen ('14)** won similar awards in 2014. And this from a School that enrolls only three percent of the Canadian urban planning students.



These CIP conferences illustrate a few reasons why the School of Urban and Regional Planning is a strong example of the balanced academy we aspire to at Queen's University. We are a small, research-intensive graduate school with a transformative learning experience for our students. Our M.PL. program starts with outstanding students drawn from across Canada – literally from Victoria to St. John's this year. SURP fosters a close-knit and collegial environment with an intensive orientation, a school setting that encourages interaction and an open-door policy.

We immediately immerse students in a core curriculum that qualifies them to become professional urban planners, getting them out of the classroom in first term with field trips to Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. Most SURP courses have strong active-learning components and group work. Our community planning projects have real-world clients, budgets and adjunct instructors drawn from the profession. This year our students worked with the City of Ottawa to animate the Rideau Canal and developed a multimodal transport policy for

Australia, and four won International Experience Awards to travel to Vienna, Masdar City, Stockholm and Christchurch (and in 2014 to Reykjavik, Rio de Janeiro and Oslo). And SURP's environment is enriched by our Chinese interns and exchange students from partner universities. A new Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Architecture at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University (BVDU) in Pune, India has already shown some promising results, with a visit by Dean Kiran Shinde and new collaborative research grants won by Professor Ajay Agarwal. The SURP-Pune partnership has a joint workshop course in Fall 2014 and further action-oriented research.

It's a good thing that SURP faculty are committed to teaching because 2013-14 has been a test, with an unanticipated confluence of parental and academic leaves. Every member of the faculty has pitched in to keep the M.PL. program humming, juggling their parental duties, adjusting leave schedules and teaching oversized classes. And our adjunct faculty stepped up to teach more than ever. One joyful discovery was that



children's laughter is an unexpected and delightful stress reliever in Robert Sutherland Hall.

Research is the other component of a balanced academy and SURP continues to over-achieve, with two new books, 26 refereed articles and scores of conference papers. Our faculty also won new grants from SSHRC and the Shastri Foundation. We work hard to transfer knowledge to the broader community, by editing two journals, and outreach through the National Executive Forum on Public Property, the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable, the Ambassadors' Forum and China Projects Office. Our work was recognized by over 100 national media citations, but perhaps the nicest acknowledgement was when the *Globe and Mail*

named Professor Andrejs Skaburskis as one of Canada's top three researchers in urban planning and architecture.

Our outreach once again paid dividends in a tough economic climate, as 30/34 of the first-year class obtained paid professional internships and 28/31 graduates had found jobs within a few months of graduation, with almost all of these related to planning.

As always, we need to acknowledge that this remarkable level of engagement is only possible with the impeccable support of our staff team – Angie Balesdent, Jo-Anne Tinlin, Li Xu and Jan Devonshire. They are the glue that holds the School together.

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## URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING AT QUEEN'S: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

*By David Gordon*

Good News!

I am pleased to inform you that Queen's University has taken decisions that SURP will join with the Department of Geography to form a strong new academic unit in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

It is proposed that the School of Urban and Regional Planning continue to deliver the professionally-accredited M.PL. degree and co-ordinate professional outreach programs within a larger Department of Geography and Planning. This move will promote collaboration and allow the new unit to develop new programs that will keep the University at the forefront of planning research, teaching and outreach in Canada, and enhance its international presence.

Queen's has been a leading centre for education, research and outreach on urban and regional planning for almost 80 years, most recently through the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP), founded in 1970, and the Department of Geography, founded in 1960.

### **Synergy:**

SURP and the Department of Geography already have many associations, including a number of cross-appointed faculty and an accelerated degree program.

In many ways combining these two units is a natural fit, and will lead to further collaboration in academic programs as well as research. Geography has five Canada Research Chairs, a large doctoral program and has strength in health and the environment; the Department has an excellent global reputation.

SURP has been considering options for a doctoral program for many years but lacked the scale to launch one on its own. The School's faculty will now be able to participate in one of Canada's best programs, starting as early as 2015.

### ***SURP's Reporting Relationship within the University:***

The catalyst for the change was a 2009 Senate decision that the School of Graduate Studies should no longer host graduate-only teaching programs, and that the School of Policy Studies, the Industrial Relations and SURP should be located within other academic faculties. SURP was transferred to the Faculty of Arts and Science effective July 1, 2014, and reports to Dean Susan Mumm during a one-year transitional period. During 2014-15 it is "business as usual" at SURP, with our programs, facilities, budget, faculty and staff remaining in place, while a task force develops a structure for the new unit.

A task force, chaired by Dr. Bob Lemieux, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Science, has recommended a structure for the new Department of

Geography and Planning. It had representation from both units, including Mrs. Angela Balesdent, Dr. David Gordon, Ms. Randi Newton (M.PL. Class of 2015) and Dr. Leela Viswanathan from SURP. The task force developed an academic and governance structure for the new Department to ensure the vibrant academic culture of these two units continues. This new constitution was approved in principle by both units in October by unanimous votes. The Task Force's report is expected to be presented to the Queen's Senate for approval early in 2015.

#### ***Effect on the M.PL. Program:***

The integrity of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program and its professional accreditation from the Canadian Institute of Planners will be preserved and enhanced for the future. The M.PL. program has been accredited by the CIP since it was introduced in 1970 and the degree's name will be retained. Current M.PL. students will experience no change in their program.

Demand for our rigorous, professional M.PL. degree remains stronger than ever and a record number of new graduate students enrolled in September 2014. The M.PL. Class of 2016 will receive the high-engagement, professional education for which the School is renowned. Our field trips, internship program, financial support, real-world projects, conference visits and international experiences will remain in place.

#### ***Effect on Outreach:***

The outreach centres attached to SURP – the China Projects Office, the National Executive Forum on Public Property, the Ambassadors' Forum and the Queen's Real Estate Roundtable – will continue to be an integral part of our mission. They will continue to report to the SURP Director, with upper-level oversight from the Faculty of Arts and Science, rather than the School of Graduate Studies.

#### ***Leadership of the Planning Program:***

My term as SURP Director was extended to December 2014, to assist the Task Force and provide administrative continuity during the transition period. I also agreed to reduce my administrative leave to six months, so that I can contribute to teaching and administration in the new unit during the 2015 fall term. John Meligrana will be SURP's Acting Director from January 1 to June 30, 2015 and a new Director will be appointed for July 2015.

I am excited by the opportunity offered by these changes, both as SURP's Director and as a proud alumnus of the School. We will continue to seek input from SURP's faculty, staff, students, alumni and our many supporters in structuring a new future for urban and regional planning at Queen's University.



Home of the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Photo courtesy of Dilys Huang.

## STUDENT AWARDS AND HONOURS

In 2013/2014, two students (**Victoria Coates** and **Jeff Nadeau**) won **Ontario Graduate Scholarships** and five students (**Alix Jolicoeur ('14)**, **Fraser McLeod ('14)**, **Michael Rac ('14)**, **Miranda Spessot**, and **James Taylor ('14)**) received **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Awards**.



2013-14 SSHRC award recipients: Alix Jolicoeur ('14), Miranda Spessot, James Taylor ('14), Michael Rac ('14), and Fraser McLeod ('14).

**Rebecca Tan ('14)** was 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. Rebecca's research for her master's report is on "The Ethics, Feasibility, Opportunities and Challenges of Adopting a Facility Accessibility Design Standard for the Queen's University Campus Master Plan."

**Shairoz Jamal ('13)** received the **2013 CIP Award for Academic Excellence**, which is given to the CIP student member with the highest academic standing in our program. Shairoz 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.

**Kelly Martel ('12)** 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.

**Jonathan Pradinuk ('13)** was the recipient of the **Dillon Consulting Limited Scholarship** and the **2013 Vancouver Scholarship for Excellence & Leadership in Sustainable Planning** for his report "The Implementation of Intensification Corridors: Exploring the Redevelopment Potential of Vancouver's Neighbourhood Shopping Streets."

**Nicholas Danford ('13)** won the **CIP Past President – Thomas Adams Scholarship** for his report "Bylaws and Brothels: An Analysis of Toronto's Adult Entertainment Governance Strategy."

**Hillary Morgan ('13)** received the **CIP Past President – Humphrey Carver Scholarship** for her report "Working Towards Sustainability: Assessing the Land Use Needs of Light Industry in a Changing Economy."

**Cassandra Caiger ('13)** won the **2013 Toronto Commercial Real Estate Women Scholarship**, which is awarded to female students entering their final year of the Queen's M.PL. program who specialize in land use and real estate development.

**Sarah Nielsen ('14)** received the **2014 Vancouver Scholarship for Excellence & Leadership in Sustainable Planning** for her report "Get Moving to School: Comparing Influences on the Potential for Active School Travel in a Large Urban Centre in Western Canada."

**Per Lundberg ('14)** was the recipient of the **2014 CIP Past President – Horace Seymour Scholarship** for his report "Cracking the Codes of Small Downtowns: A Comparative Assessment of Zoning, Hybrid Zoning, Urban Design Guidelines and Form-Based Codes Through a Case Study of 4 Small Downtowns."

## LEGACY GIFT 2013-2014

As a gesture of gratitude and well wishes, the Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) funded a "SURP Legacy Gift" from the first-year students to the second-year students. This year's Legacy Gift is a framed print of SURP's name and logo, which now hangs in the School's hallway. The graduates will be missed and are wished the best as they pursue their goals.

School of Urban and  
Regional Planning





## BEST OF LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2014!



### LEFT TO RIGHT

**1<sup>st</sup> Row:** Michael Rac, Ermias Amayu, Farhad Javidi Parsijani, Nancy Cornish, Prof. Patricia Collins, Bailey Chabot, Ivy Qi, Rebecca Tan, Heather McDonnell, Brooke Herczeg, Golsa Kheir-Moghadam, and Prof. Leela Viswanathan

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row:** David Westbrook, Stephen Bohan, Graham Anderson, Ben Holthof, Keith Davies, Gerry Tchisler, Kecil Joseph, Angus Beaty, Prof. John Andrew, James Taylor, Nik Redpath, Jeff Nadeau, Arthur Grabowski, Isaac Shirokoff, Fraser McLeod, Prof. John Meligrana, and Mattson Meere

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row:** Russell Whitehead, Damilare Adeola, Jacob Bolduc, Per Lundberg, Josh Berry, Li Xu, Jo-Anne Tinlin, Angie Balesdent, Prof. David Gordon, Prof. Ajay Agarwal, Alix Jolicoeur, Ryan Poulton, Jason Sands, and Sarah Nielsen

## INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### International Project Course

In 2013, **Dr. Ajay Agarwal** offered an international project course in Auroville ([www.auroville.org](http://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 create a sustainable development performance evaluation system customized for Auroville. Eight SURP students and Dr. Agarwal travelled to Auroville for two weeks in December 2013 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 page 21 for more information!



International Project Course team members sharing their experiences and findings of Auroville, India at SURP. Photo courtesy of Dilys Huang.

## Queen's-BVDU MOU

**Dr. Ajay Agarwal** visited the College of Architecture at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University (BVDU) for organizing activities as part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Queen's University and BVDU last year. The two programs are offering a joint international project course in 2014 and will explore possibilities of starting a student exchange.

## China Visiting Scholars to SURP

In 2013, there were three scholars from China visiting SURP – Dr. Wei Wei (China Wuhan University), Dr. Haitao Chen (China Guangxi), and Dr. Yumei Cai (Beijing). 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 Internships in Beijing

During Spring/Summer 2013, students **Angus Beaty ('14)** and **Isaac Shirokoff** completed their China Internship program sponsored by China's Ministry of Land and Resources. Angus interned for the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics, while Isaac interned with the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute in Beijing.

## International Experience Awards

Thirteen 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 help fund these 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 2013 award winners were **Cassandra Caiger ('13)** (Vienna, Austria), **Hossein Danesh Heidari ('13)** (Masdar City, United Arab Emirates), **Lindsey Gradeen ('13)** (Stockholm, Sweden), and **Shwaan Hutton ('14)** (Christchurch, New Zealand). The 2014 winners are **Nancy Cornish ('14)** (Reykjavik, Iceland), **Arthur Grabowski ('14)** (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil), and **Michael Rac ('14)** (Oslo, Norway). See page 23 of the newsletter for more information on their exciting travels!



Angus Beaty ('14) during his internship with the Ministry of Land and Resources in China. Photo courtesy of Angus Beaty.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Andrew Palmiere ('02)** and O2 Planning + Design Inc., Calgary, won the **CIP Award for Planning Excellence – New and Emerging Planning Initiatives** for their Bow to Bluff – Hillhurst – Sunnyside LRT Corridor Revitalization Initiative. <http://www.o2design.com/bow-to-bluff-hillhurst-sunnyside-lrt-corridor-revitalization-initiative>

**Steve Willis ('92)** and **Tim Dickinson ('07)** with MMM Group Ltd., Ottawa, won the **CIP Merit Award for Sustainable Mobility, Transportation, and Infrastructure** for their Rideau Canal Multi-use Crossing initiative. <http://mmmgrouplimited.com/projects/rideau-canal-multi-use-crossing-study/>

Steve won an OPPI Member Service Award in 2014 and has advised SURP students in his new role as Vice President of the National Capital Commission.

**Cheryl Dow ('06)** and Jason are thrilled to announce the arrival of Felicity Lyn Grove in the early hours of July 17, 2013 at a healthy 8 lb 6 oz. Mom and baby are doing well!





**Nadia De Santi ('99)** is happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Selena, on June 3, 2012. Congratulations to the new parents!

**Andrew Sacret ('05)** was recently appointed the CIP's Director of Policy & Public Affairs in the CIP's national office in Ottawa.

**Brant Wishart ('82)** passed away on October 11, 2013 in Halifax. Brant was Director of Strategy and Sector Relations at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and was an Adjunct Professor in the School of Planning at Dalhousie University. He was also a long-

time member (2<sup>nd</sup> from left in photo) of the SURP Alumni Killer Croquet team.



## FACULTY NEWS

Despite being on parental leave during 2013, **Ajay Agarwal** taught one International Planning Project course and maintained full master's report/theses supervision load. The project course was offered in Auroville, India and involved developing a customized sustainability indicator system for Auroville. Ajay also worked on furthering SURP's academic partnership with BVDU College of Architecture in Pune, India. Based on his work, SURP is offering an international project course in partnership with BVDU in Pune in 2014. Ajay also worked on raising external funding support for his research and teaching initiatives in India. Ajay presented papers at two international conferences, had one book chapter and three articles accepted for publication, and launched two new research projects. One of the projects examines Complete Streets policies in the Canadian context, and the other examines emerging travel behavior of generation Y and its implications for transportation policy and planning in Canada. Ajay is also collaborating with Prof. Patricia Collins on two research projects: one examining the influence of a new express bus service on commute characteristics of Queen's University employees, and the other examining the association between commute trip characteristics and mental health outcomes using General Social Survey of Canada.

**Sukriti Agarwal**, a Senior Policy Planner with the City of Kingston, taught SURP-881 GIS in Urban Planning in Fall 2013. The course featured hands-on use of GIS for creating, displaying, manipulating, and analyzing spatial data. For the final course project, students analyzed the potential for fixed route transit service in the City of Kingston using available census data.

**John Andrew** continued to spend much of his time this year running the new Queen's Real Estate Roundtable (Q25), a unique industry organization focused on applied research and professional development for commercial real estate companies in Canada. The Q25 grew from five to 16 member companies during 2013 – more than double the projected growth rate. The Q25 now encompasses Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate, which hosted four sold out seminars in Toronto. John was quoted and interviewed more than 80 times in the national and international news and media.

John is cross-appointed to, and also teaches in the School of Business and the School of Environmental Studies. He continued to run SURP's student summer internship program and engage in various outreach efforts to alumni and to the real estate industry on behalf of SURP students.

John co-authored an article on the Canadian retail sector published in the *Cornell Real Estate Review*. He had accepted for publication (in 2014) in the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* an article he co-wrote, evaluating the feasibility of developing an affordable housing and community centre. John continues to collaborate on the Monieson Centre's SSHRCC-funded "Research Partnerships to Revitalize Rural Communities Project." He led a workshop on negotiation in planning at the Canadian Institute of Planners Annual Conference in Vancouver, and moderated a panel discussion at the Canadian Real Estate Wealth Investor Forum in Toronto. John is a member of Gerson Lehrman Group's Real Estate Council of Experts.



**Carl Bray's** consulting work over the past year included work on six Heritage Conservation District Studies and Plans in Goderich, Aurora, Toronto, Perth, London, and Kingston. He completed a thematic framework for visitor experience development projects as part of a cultural tourism development strategy for the Algoma Region of Northern Ontario that focuses on the paintings of the Group of Seven, and is now working on a second project of this type in the Sudbury region. He gave expert testimony at two Ontario Municipal Board hearings involving Heritage Conservation Districts in Unionville (Markham) and Whitevale (Pickering/Seaton new town), and supplied a Heritage Impact Statement for a third hearing in Byward Market (Ottawa). He supplied heritage policy for the review of Official Plans in downtown Regina and Prince Edward County as well as the City of Toronto. He co-authored a report recommending acquisition and development by the municipality of a group of heritage properties in downtown Aurora. As in previous years, he has undertaken a wide variety of Heritage Impact Statements for developers in Kingston and Ottawa. Although he did not present a paper, he attended the Heritage Canada Foundation annual conference in Ottawa.

**Patricia Collins** spent the Winter 2013 semester on parental leave, but returned to teaching by Fall 2013. She taught the SURP-801 Survey Research Methods module course for her first time, as well as SURP-823 Health and Social Planning Project Course with David Gordon and Anne MacPhail at Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health. While on leave, Patricia continued to oversee the work for a SSHRC project (with Graham Whitelaw as co-investigator) to examine integrated community sustainability planning in mid-sized municipalities, and employed three research assistants from SURP over the Winter and Spring/Summer semesters to maintain the research project. Two of her RAs presented findings from this research at the Canadian Association of Geographers annual meeting in August 2013 in St. John's, Newfoundland. In April 2013, Patricia was awarded a SARC grant to examine media coverage from across Canada of household food insecurity, and supervised a research assistant to support that work over the Spring/Summer semester. Last October, Patricia collaborated with SURP colleague Ajay Agarwal to launch an online survey concerning the commuting habits of Queen's employees, the results of which are currently under analysis. Finally, Patricia was a Co-Applicant on an Insight Grant application submitted to SSHRC in October, and the Nominated Principal

Applicant on a Population Health Intervention Research Grant application submitted to CIHR in December 2013.

**Sue Cumming** taught two courses in 2013 – SURP-861 Healthy Community Planning (Winter) and SURP-807 Participation Techniques module (Fall). The public participation module provided skill-based approaches, tools, and techniques for public consultation, stakeholder engagement, and facilitating public input to a range of planning projects and initiatives. The Healthy Community Planning course, which included MPH, MPL, and MPA students, examined the relationship of the built environment on health and was focused on the review of best practices, studies, and initiatives across Canada for planning for health. Sue also provided several guest lectures this year to SURP students on Healthy Community Planning and to undergrad students in the Geography Department at Queen's.

Beyond his administrative duties as School Director, **David Gordon** taught parts of six courses and led field trips in Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa in 2013. He supervised the research of five graduate students to completion of their master's degrees and twelve more are in progress. Dave managed professional liaison and alumni affairs for the School and continued as the Faculty Coordinator of the National Executive Forum on Public Property. He developed partnerships with three community agencies to deliver project courses – the City of Ottawa, the KFL&A Health Unit, and the Ottawa Airport Authority. Dave participated in research conferences in Canada and around the world. He collaborated with Professor Emeritus Gerald Hodge to publish the sixth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities* (Nelson, April 2013), edited the journal *Canadian Planning and Policy*, and helped complete the new Queen's Campus Master Plan.

Professor Emeritus **Gerald Hodge** made revisions for his textbook (with David Gordon), the sixth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities*, which was published in April 2013. Besides making preparations for a new edition of *Planning Canadian Regions* (2011), originally with Ira M. Robinson, Gerald wrote a book review on Markey, Halseth, and Manson's *Investing in Place: Economic Renewal in Northern British Columbia* (Plan Canada, Spring 2013).

Professor Emeritus **Hok-Lin Leung** continued his semi-annual lecture tours in China (spring and autumn). His base in Shanghai was Tongji University and in Beijing was Tsinghua University. The fifth annual Planning

Theory Festival was held in Beijing, with invited speakers (Chinese medicine and mathematics) who presented their thought patterns and research methods to stimulate the participating planners to brainstorm about urban and planning theory. The group committed to writing two planning theory think-pieces based on the brainstorming.

Hok-Lin's *The Cultural DNA of Western Civilization* was published in March 2014 and became a non-fiction bestseller in China. Two more articles that applied the concepts in the book to urban planning, came out in the journal *City Planning Review* as continuation of the series "Old Concepts and New Situations".

Hok-Lin's appointed professorships included Tsinghua, Tongji, and Peking University as well as the China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong. He continued to advise the China State Council, the Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Land and Resources, and the Ministry of Housing and Rural and Urban Construction. In Canada, he resumed as the convener of the Ambassadors' Forum (which he created in 2003) after a one-year absence.



Prof. Leung giving a lecture at Peking University's School of Urban Planning and Design.

In 2013, **John Meligrana** taught SURP-800 Master's Research Proposal, SURP-806 Population Analysis, SURP-815 Legal and Governmental Processes, SURP-818 Physical Planning, SURP-824 Project Course, SURP-844 Real Estate Development, and SURP-853 Environmental Services. He co-authored an article entitled "Selecting Key Features for Remote Sensing Classification by Using Decision-Theoretic Rough Set Model" in *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing*. In collaboration with Hok-Lin Leung, he has started to

revise the textbook *Land Use Planning Made Plain* to be published as a third edition by University of Toronto Press. He also served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for City of Kingston's Electoral Districts, City of Kingston.

During the summer of 2013, John organized a two-week intensive training program in land use planning for approximately 40 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 field trips to Canadian Wollastonite Mining Operations, and Village of Sydenham and South Frontenac Township Government Offices and area. Recently, John prepared and submitted a major grant applications with Agriteam Canada for funds from the Government of Canada's Office of Religious Freedom to continue work in China on the topic of urban redevelopment and the preservation of minority groups. The proposal has received initial approval from the Office of Religious Freedom.

Professor Emeritus **Mohammad Qadeer** has been teaching continuously, first as full-time and recently part-time, for 42 years, which so far is a record. During Winter 2013, he taught SURP-810 Planning for Multicultural Cities, a module course that he has been teaching for many years.

Adjunct Professor **Preston Schiller** continued teaching his course on Sustainable Transportation. He presented "Bike to transit, bikes on transit and bikes as transit" to the Bicycle Urbanism Conference at the University of Washington's College of Built Environments in June 2013. His article, "Sustainable Transportation," has now appeared in Gale Publishing's *Achieving Sustainability: Visions, Principles and Practices*, a new encyclopedia. Taylor and Francis Publishing has requested that he prepare, as principal author, a revised second edition of *An Introduction to Sustainable Transportation: Policy, Planning and Implementation*. China Architecture and Building Press has purchased the Chinese translation rights to the original edition, although there is no word yet when it might appear.

**Andrejs Skaburskis** taught his last course prior to retirement, SURP-842 Economics of Land Development and Planning in Fall 2013. He is still supervising master's students and has "in press" two papers in major international journals and a book chapter co-authored with recent graduates. Andrejs is continuing his SSHRC-



sponsored research on neighbourhood transitions. He was Chair of the School's Admissions Committee and continued to monitor the progress of applications until the start of term in September 2014. He will continue as North American Editor of *Urban Studies* and will stay on the editorial advisory board for *Housing Studies*. Andrejs will be presenting at conferences and participated in mentoring junior faculty at the 2014 European Network for Housing Research Conference in Edinburgh. He hopes to maintain a somewhat-active intellectual life in retirement.

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 2013, her evaluation work focused on Canada's Business Immigration Programs (for Citizenship & Immigration Canada), City of Ottawa social housing policies, and review of CMHC evaluations. Patricia also contributed in voluntary roles on local housing initiatives, including as a member of the Housing Action Group Kingston and making submissions to the City of Kingston Housing and Homelessness Committee and to City Council on Kingston's Homelessness Plan and the Final Kingston Housing and Homelessness Strategy approved in December 2013.

In Winter 2013, **Leela Viswanathan** taught SURP-812 Qualitative Methods in Planning and SURP-870 Health and Social Planning. In Fall 2013, 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. The students' reports are accessible on the SURP website. Leela published four co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and has two book chapters accepted about teaching and community-service learning and about race and space.

Dr. Viswanathan has two SSHRC-funded research projects under way. The first, 'Decolonizing planning knowledge and practice' is in partnership with Dr. Graham Whitelaw, researchers from the University of Waterloo, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. This project has had an impact on the revised 2014 Provincial Policy Statement guiding land use planning in Ontario. **Fraser McLeod ('14)** has offered integral research assistance to the project and co-authored an article published in

September in *Plan Canada*. The second project is on integrating immigrants as new talent in the labour market of Eastern Ontario and has received research assistance from **Lindsey Gradeen ('13)** with publications forthcoming.

Leela is cross-appointed faculty with the Geography Department and acts as liaison on behalf of SURP. In 2013, she was cross-appointed to the School of Environmental Studies. She is Chair of the SURP Unit Research and Ethics Board and Chair of the SURP Academic Committee. In 2013, Leela supervised or co-supervised 12 graduate students at SURP (eight continuing) and sat on committees of six more outside SURP. She sits on the Queen's University Accessibility Framework – Education, Training and Awareness Working Group and participated in the development of teaching training and awareness tools for Universal Design in Learning.

In 2013, **Graham Whitelaw** continued his SSHRC-supported research on several topics: Indigenous land use planning with Dr. Leela Viswanathan in partnership with the Mississauga's of the New Credit and Walpole Island First Nations; sustainability and mid-sized cities with Dr. Patricia Collins; and innovation and resilience planning with Dr. Dan McCarthy, University of Waterloo, and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Graham taught SURP-856 Environmental Assessment. Graham also taught in the School of Environmental Studies and supervised (or co-supervised) numerous Master's students from SURP and Environmental Studies. He was awarded the 2012-2013 Environmental Studies teaching excellence award. Graham is also Co-Chair of the Queen's Sustainable Development Group. Graham was on sabbatical during Fall 2013 following his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

## FACULTY CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Andrejs Skaburskis** as Professor Emeritus on July 1, 2014. Congratulations!

At the 2014 CIP Conference in Fredericton, **David Gordon** was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Institute

of Planners – the highest honour from the Canadian planning profession!

The sixth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities* by **Gerald Hodge** and **David Gordon** won the 2014 Award for Planning Excellence for a planning publication from the Canadian Institute of Planners.



## SUPPORT STAFF NEWS

**Angie Balesdent** and her husband Dana are happily spoiling their sweet little granddaughter Isla (the “s” is silent like in Island) and looked forward to the big family gathering this past August to celebrate her first birthday. They also have a canine addition to the family, an adorable 6 lb Yorkie named Daisy, who has a wonderful temperament and goes with them everywhere. They continue to enjoy spending their summers at the trailer at Waterways Campground on the Big Rideau, swimming, boating, and sitting around the campfire at night with friends and family. On the work-front, Angie continues as SURP Administrative Assistant.

No. There isn't a different Jo-Anne in SURP. **Jo-Anne** has gone back to using her maiden name (Tinlin) and is enjoying her new life in her new home and continues to enjoy spending time with her two adorable grandchildren. In her spare time, Jo-Anne also continues to expand her Music in You Productions business in preparation for retirement. Check it out at [www.musicinyouproductions.com](http://www.musicinyouproductions.com) and on Facebook.

Jo-Anne 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. She just celebrated 30 years working at Queen's University.

We would like to welcome **Jan Devonshire**, who joined the National Executive Forum on Public Property in the Administrative Assistant/Event Coordinator position October 1, 2013 and rallied to learn all about the Forum and organize the Fall Members' Working Session in Montreal for early November 2013. Following this quick introduction to all the great Forum members and the world of Government Real Estate, she is enjoying being a part of SURP and utilizing her administrative and organizational skills for all the NEFPP events and meetings that occur during the year. Having had a successful National Symposium in the GTA this May, she and the Executive Director for NEFPP are focused on the 2014 Fall Working Session, redesign of the Website, and next year's National Symposium in Calgary. Meeting the Members from across Canada and learning about the ins and outs of Government Real Estate has been a pleasure and challenge with many highlights.

Off campus she and her husband (both Queen's alumni) enjoy travelling, golf and curling, gardening and



renovating their older home. When her daughter and son are home they are always included in the latest construction project!

**Li Xu** continues as China Projects Coordinator, a multifaceted role in support of the administrative and logistical requirements of the China Projects Office. She has had a very busy summer helping to organize the July visit of a 25-person delegation from China's Ministry of Land and Resources for a three-week intensive training program in land and mining use planning. This training

program has been running for 19 years. This fall, among other things, Li is kept busy with three Visiting Scholars from China who are calling SURP their home for a while and with six Interns from China who she has helped settle in to their five-months-long placements in Kingston, Belleville, Peterborough, and London. Professor Emeritus Hok-Lin Leung and Professor John Meligrana are the Faculty Coordinators of the China Projects Office and they greatly appreciate all of Xu Li's hard work.

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## SURP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The summer of 2013 was one of the most challenging in the history of the internship program. Some planning agencies now offer short unpaid internships, instead of the summer-long paid positions that many SURP alumni experienced. We also saw a continuation of the recent trend in which fewer employers hire SURP students consistently year after year. In some cases this increase in employer turnover was caused by temporary hiring freezes, especially in government. This was exacerbated by an increasing number of public sector employers advertising their positions at multiple planning programs, rather than exclusively with SURP.

While several of these lost positions were replaced by others, the total number of available paid positions declined from 42 in the summer of 2012 to 34. Exactly half of these were exclusive to SURP, probably the lowest proportion in the history of the internship program. Of the other 17 positions, five were not exclusive to SURP and 12 were ones that students secured on their own. This latter number represents a positive trend. In a challenging summer job market, our students are taking greater initiative to find their own positions. In some cases, this is driven by their desire to

work in cities outside of Ontario or smaller centres (often their city of origin) in which we often cannot offer positions. Often this yields some of the best employment opportunities, which may become sustaining positions for subsequent SURP students. 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.

Of the total 34 positions, 27 went to students who were in between the first and second years of the program (for whom internships are really intended). Graduating students secured the other seven positions. Therefore, the number of positions actually slightly exceeded the size of the target class.

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.

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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

The National Executive Forum on Public Property (the Forum) is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Based at Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning, the Forum is a national non-profit organization for the advancement and sharing of best practice in public property management, use and development. Throughout the year, the Forum provides

valuable networking opportunities for senior executives from federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal departments, agencies, public utilities, and crown corporations who are responsible for managing public assets. Last year, the Forum also began welcoming government-owned development corporations into its membership. As well, senior consultants, private

organizations, and academics with an interest of the management of public lands, buildings, and infrastructure also contribute to the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and techniques for issue management. In 2014, the Forum includes representatives from over 30 government-member organizations, numerous associate organizations in the private sector, academic advisors from across Canada and the United States, 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 advisor.

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 of the 2014 symposium, held in the City of Toronto from May 28-30<sup>th</sup>, was "A Different Value Proposition: Leveraging Public Real Estate to Achieve Community and Government Objectives". The subject of this symposium was extremely timely to anyone working in a government-owned organization, and as a result achieved near record attendance for a NEFPP event and was extremely well received by Members, Academic Advisors, and Associates from across Canada, the United States, and Europe. The session examined the value provided by public real property organizations, including publicly-owned real property development corporations. It looked closely at the value propositions these organizations bring to the table that differentiates them from their private sector counterparts, and included an examination of the organization's value uptake in both the monetary and social/environmental spheres. The primary tools of value creation used by government real property organizations in carrying out their mandates were examined fully at this conference.

Some of the primary questions that were asked: Is there a better way for different levels of government to work together collaboratively to streamline costs and optimize efficiency? Do real property organizations belonging to government have to find a better way to standardize value creation tools and the key performance indicators used to measure this value creation? Other issues that were on the table

throughout this three-day meeting included some of the barriers to modernizing service offers and how these are overcome in an atmosphere of unpredictability. Also discussed: What financial instruments should be used to transact investments, optimize efficiency, and better manage the optics of funding real property development with tax payer dollars?

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 continued on the benchmarking program, expanding the information collection in three major key performance indicator areas. Work was also completed in 2013 on the Forum's vision, mission, and value statements, enhancing the strategic direction of this organization.

2013 was also a year during which the Forum entirely changed its staff. Cathie McDonald, who had run the Forum for over a decade, retired and was replaced by Dr. Gordon K. McIvor. Dr. McIvor brings to the role over a quarter of a century of experience in government real estate, having served as the Vice President at Canada Lands Company in Toronto. His career also includes stints at the World Bank, the OECD, and numerous other national and international organizations. Connie Brobeck, the assistant convener, also retired in 2013 and was replaced by Ms. Jan Devonshire, who assumes the new role of Administration and Events Coordinator. Jan has extensive experience in organizing conferences, marketing, and membership services, and will bring a new level of service to all members of the Forum.

The National Executive Forum on Public Property is the only organization of its type in the world, and many other countries are closely following its success. It is uniquely positioned to provide its members with best practices from all across Canada and around the world, and also accomplishes this in an atmosphere of collaboration and common understanding of the issues impacting government-owned real property operations. 2014 is a major growth year for the Forum, and it is presently welcoming new members from





different provinces and cities across Canada. The spring conference once again provided senior real property practitioners working for different jurisdictions across the country with the unique opportunity to better understand both the successes and issues preventing success that have been experienced by fellow members. Turnover in this

organization is extremely low due to the high value-added component recognized by all of its membership. As it continues to grow, it will bring to the attention of more Canadians the value of having government organizations involved in certain sectors of the real property market.

## 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 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.

During the Q25's first full year of operation, its membership grew from five to 16 member companies; more than double the projected growth rate. The Q25 now encompasses Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate (ESCIRE), founded in 2004 and well-respected as a provider of high-quality, small and interactive executive development events to the commercial real estate sector. In 2013, Q25/ESCIRE hosted four executive seminars in Toronto, all of which were successful, fully-subscribed events: *Real Estate Capital*

*Markets 2013; North American Real Estate Investing; Optimizing Value in Mature Commercial Real Estate Markets: Acquisition, Development and Asset Management; and Investing in Accommodation Real Estate: Condos, Hotels, Seniors Housing and Mixed Uses.*

In addition to significant revenue-generation for SURP, ancillary benefits to the School continue to be guest speakers for real estate courses, scholarship funds for students, jobs for graduates, and research funds for faculty. The Q25 is run by John Andrew (as ESCIRE has been since its inception).



SURP students with Prof. Andrew at the 2014 *Real Estate Capital Markets* executive seminar in Toronto. Photo courtesy of John Andrew.



SURP students at the Developer's Den real estate case competition at York University's Schulich School of Business: Andrew Misiak, Gerry Tchisler ('14), and Nancy Cornish ('14) (top); Isaac Shirokoff, Thomas Fehr, Jessica Jiang, and Jesse Dostie-Provost (bottom). Photos courtesy of John Andrew.

## 2013-2014 EVENTS

Date	Lecture	Speaker
September 6, 2013	Space Making and the Queen's Master Plan	<b>Martha Whitehead</b> , Librarian, Queen's University
September 17, 2013	International Experience Award Post-Trip Presentation – Stockholm, Sweden	<b>Lindsey Gradeen ('13)</b>
October 23, 2013	Indigenous Planning in the City	<b>Dr. Ryan Walker</b> , Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Saskatchewan
November 20, 2013	International Experience Award Post-Trip Presentations – Christchurch, New Zealand & Vienna, Austria	<b>Shwaan Hutton ('14)</b> <b>Cassandra Caiger ('13)</b>
November 21, 2013	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Overview / Kingston Housing Market Overview	<b>Vivian Chih</b> , Corporate Representative, CMHC <b>Andrew Scott</b> , Market Analyst, CMHC
January 15, 2014	Suburban Nation?	<b>Dr. David Gordon</b>
January 16, 2014	India International Planning Project Presentation	<b>Michael Rac ('14)</b> , Project Manager
January 29, 2014	Making Healthy Cities for All: Tales from a Healthy Communities Researcher	<b>Dr. Patricia Collins</b>
February 5, 2014	Decolonizing Planning Knowledge and Practices	<b>Fraser McLeod ('14)</b> <b>Dr. Leela Viswanathan</b>
February 26, 2014	Greater Treasure Beach Sustainable Community Plan	<b>Kevin Duguay</b> , President, Kevin M. Duguay Community Planning and Consulting Inc.
February 28, 2014	Ending Homelessness in Kingston and Across Canada – What is the Plan?	<b>Michael Shapcott</b> , Director of Housing and Innovation, Wellesley Institute
March 10, 2014	Public Transit and the Planning and Governance of Big Cities	<b>Paul Bedford</b> , Vice-Chair, Transit Investment Strategy Panel; former City of Toronto Chief Planner
March 12, 2014	International Experience Award Pre-Trip Presentations	<b>Nancy Cornish ('14)</b> <b>Arthur Grabowski ('14)</b> <b>Michael Rac ('14)</b>
March 19, 2014	Canada's First: A National Urban Park in the Rouge Valley	<b>Richard Scott</b> , Senior Planner, Parks Canada
March 26, 2014	Planning and Management in Cultural Tourism Destinations in India: Prospects and Challenges	<b>Dr. Kiran Shinde</b> , Principal, BVDU College of Architecture (Pune, India)

## QGAPS AND STUDENT LIFE

### MESSAGE FROM QGAPS PRESIDENT

*By Pegah Tootoonchian*

Another successful year has come and gone. For the past three years QGAPS has made a tremendous amount of effort in ensuring the student body's success both academically and professionally by fostering a strong SURP community. On behalf of the QGAPS, I would like to thank faculty, staff, and students for their on-going contributions and support to SURP. As always, we welcome any comments, questions, or recommendations you have for the betterment of QGAPS and the SURP experience.



First-year students during Orientation Week 2013. *Photo courtesy of Sarah Nielsen.*

Quieting halls and empty offices are signs of another academic year finishing off at SURP. QGAPS had a busy year with an array of events and opportunities for students. Over the past several months the social committee made a solid effort to host events, allowing students to come out and de-stress. What better way to de-stress than having a movie night complete with an abundance of snacks. The best cure for a stressful semester: watching *Wall-E* of course. Along the way we put on our professional caps and found ourselves in Toronto for the annual Canadian Association of Planning Students conference. Our students had the opportunity to network with professional in the field, present their projects, and participate in discussions pertaining to planning issues and topics of interest.



SURP students enjoying a movie night at the end of the Winter semester. *Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bang.*

The school year is of course not complete without the year-end formal. As tradition goes, the year-end formal celebrates the successes of the academic year and bids farewell to the graduating class as they set foot into the planning world. The formal was held at the beautiful Renaissance Centre in Downtown Kingston. It was great to see students, faculty and staff, as well as guests enjoy the night as we all reflected back on our time at SURP.

The time has come to say goodbye to our graduating class of 2014. We would like to wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavours. As we say our goodbyes, we would also like to welcome the new SURPers who joined our community in September 2014. QGAPS looks forward to another year filled with memorable events and opportunities.



SURP community at the year-end Spring formal.



## CHINA PROJECTS

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

During the summer of 2013, 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 (MLR) internship program was established 18 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, six to eight 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. Building on past successes, MLR started the process of a new MOU with expanded activities and financial

support. The most exciting development was research collaboration between Queen's and MLR.

The 2013 China Ministry of Land and Resources Interns were placed in the following locations:

- Ms. Shen Xiaojie and Ms. Wang Wei interned at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University
- Ms. Chen Siji interned with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Peterborough Office
- Mr. Liu Hailong interned with Planning and Development Department, Hastings County, Belleville
- Ms. Lou Xiaolin interned with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the Kingston Office

### China Visiting Scholars to SURP

There was a steady stream of scholars from China visiting SURP in 2013. 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 Spring/Summer 2013, students **Angus Beaty ('14)** and **Isaac Shirokoff** completed their China Internship program sponsored by China's Ministry of Land and Resources. Angus interned for the China Academy of Land and Resources Economics, while Isaac interned with the China Land and Surveying and Planning Institute in Beijing.

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## STUDENTS AT PLANNING CONFERENCES

### Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference in London, Ontario

The beginning of the 2013-14 school year started with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Conference that was held at the London Convention Centre on September 18 and 19, 2013. The three key conference themes were Healthy and Sustainable Community Design, Community Engagement, and Making it Work. Although the Conference was held earlier in the term compared

to previous years, a few SURP students still attended 'Student Day' on September 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition to a variety of presentations, there were also 15-Minute Ignite Sessions, poster presentations, and multi-media presentations given by students. Some of the sessions included a presentation by Cory Bluhm, Manager of Downtown Development at the City of Kitchener, on changing the way streets are designed through innovative strategies. SURP lecturer and OPPI past president Sue Cumming also gave attendees insights on school siting practices and

how they impact healthy community planning. During the lunch break, there was a student/planner speed networking event that allowed student participants to make new connections. It was a great experience to have one-on-one conversations with professional planners.



Conference attendees at the OPPI Conference in London.  
Photo courtesy of Dilys Huang

For the Lunch and Learn Ignite Sessions, **Arthur Grabowski ('14)** gave a presentation on the role of the Pan/Parapan American Games in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area. **Dilys Huang** also gave a poster and multi-media presentation on facilitating urban agriculture through planning policies and tools. Overall, the various events at the Conference provided an excellent opportunity to engage in topics related to the three key themes.

### CAPS-ACÉAU Conference in Toronto

The Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS) Conference took place earlier this year from February 6 to 8, 2014 in downtown Toronto at the TIFF Bell Lightbox and Metro Hall. Hosted by Ryerson University, the University of Toronto, and York University, this year's Conference celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CAPS, with *Transformations* as the key theme. Over the three days, SURP students and faculty attended a variety of events, such as keynote presentations, panel sessions, walking tours, student presentations, and a design charrette. Some of the noteworthy sessions included City of Toronto Chief Planner, Jennifer Keesmaat, and City of Vancouver Senior Planner and CIP President, Michael

Gordon, giving an address on initiating transformative planning practices and effective public engagement to create positive change in our cities. Another session was a panel discussion on what we must do to make planning better that involved dialogue between a number of planning school directors. The panel provided an overview of how planning has transformed over the years and how it will change in the future. Some SURP students also participated in a neighbourhood design charrette and a walking tour of the Toronto waterfront urban renewal project.

During this year's Conference, several SURP students presented their projects and research as well. **Rebecca Tan ('14)** gave a presentation on facility accessible design standards on university campuses, which is based on the research for her thesis. **Elizabeth Bang, Pegah Tootoonchian, Ibrahim Dia, Jordan Suffel, and Natasha MacDonald** presented their redevelopment plan for the Kingston North Block District. A presentation was also made by **Dilys Huang, Holli Poholka, and Ivy Qi ('14)** on the role of faith-based organization in addressing food insecurity. This was followed by **Arthur Grabowski ('14), Jacob Bolduc, and Jeff Nadeau** presenting strategies on animating the Rideau Canal corridor in the City of Ottawa, which was part of a project course involving a team of second-year SURP students.



SURP students at the CAPS-ACÉAU Conference in Toronto.

On the second to last day, there was also a great turnout of SURP students and alumni at a get-together event. On the whole, the Conference offered students a great experience to learn outside of the classroom and to share ideas on transformative city building.



## STUDENT FIELD TRIPS TO TORONTO, MONTREAL, OTTAWA, AND MILLBROOK

To complement the SURP-817 class, Professor Gordon brought an eager group of first-year students on a series of field trips to Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa over the course of the Fall 2013 term. During the day trip to Toronto last October, students visited a number of destinations, including suburban tours around Nottingham, Cornell, and Don Mills. Students also had the chance to explore the Distillery District and visit the revitalizing Regent Park North neighbourhood followed by a stop in the St. Lawrence community. Everyone had the chance to meander through the underground PATH network to Toronto City Hall, the Financial District, and Dundas Square in the heart of downtown Toronto as well.



The Class of 2015 with Prof. Gordon in the Financial District of Toronto.

A few weeks later, the students went with Professor Gordon to Montreal. The day started off with a tour of the award-winning Benny Farm project with Basil Cavis of the Canada Lands Company. City of Montreal Chief Planner, Sylvain Ducas, and SURP alumnus, **Robert Tyler Wood ('09)** from the Centre d'histoire de Montréal then led students on an informative walking tour of downtown Montreal and the Quartier des Spectacles. On the second day of the trip, students departed for Parc Mont Royal and were guided by SURP student, **Robert McIntosh**. Afterwards, students visited Bois Franc, a suburban Montreal community where another SURP student, **Kate Finkler-Kemeny**, presented an overview of the New Urbanist neighbourhood to students.

Near the end of the term in December 2013, the first-year students went to Ottawa, which included a walking tour of the central part of the City and Hull. Public Works and Government Services Canada also discussed with students the planning and development that occur in the Parliamentary Precinct. Before visiting the *Artists, Architects, and Artisans* exhibit and attending a public lecture on the Art of City Building by Professor Gordon at the National Gallery of Canada, the students went to City Hall to see the second-year project course students give their presentation on the Rideau Canal. The trip concluded with the OPPI Holiday Social before everyone headed back to Kingston.

For the 2013 World Town Planning Day, SURP partnered with OPPI Lakeland District and helped out with a school outreach event held at the Legion in Millbrook, Ontario. The assignment for the public school and high school students was to come up with a plan for downtown revitalization for Millbrook to the year 2025. Since the Legion is located in downtown, part of the exercise involved walking tours. The event was organized by Kevin Duguay, a planning consultant from Peterborough, and Lakeland District. **Holli Poholka, Dilys Huang, Samantha Romlewski, Jenna Thibault, Daren Zuk, and Per Lundberg ('14)** attended from Queen's. Two planning students from the University of Waterloo were also in attendance.



SURP students helping with the World Town Planning Day outreach event in Millbrook. Photo courtesy of Per Lundberg.



## SURP PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### SURP 823: Health and Social Planning Project (Fall 2013)

A team of six students worked as student consultants for Anne MacPhail of Kingston Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health to generate a report titled "An Active Transportation Strategy for Queen's University". Academic direction was provided by Patricia Collins and David Gordon. The students conducted a review of the benefits, costs, and best practices for active transportation (AT) for university towns in mid-sized cities; an analysis of the current commuting patterns and policies to support AT in Kingston and to Queen's; and gathered primary data from AT users and key informants to develop recommendations for an AT strategy for Queen's.

In addition to identifying priority routes for walking and cycling near Queen's University campus, they generated 38 recommendations related to infrastructure, programming, and policies to support walking, cycling, and multi-modal transportation to and from Queen's. Their final report was enthusiastically received by the consultants for the Queen's Campus Master Plan update that was happening concurrently, and formally presented their recommendations to the Environment, Infrastructure, and Transportation Policy Committee for the City of Kingston.

<http://www.queensu.ca/surp/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.surpwww/files/files/Project%20Courses/SURP%20823%20Report%20complete%20compressed.pdf>



SURP-823 Health and Social Planning Project Course team: Ivy Qi ('14), Heather McDonnell ('14), James Taylor ('14), Keith Davies ('14), Sarah Nielsen ('14), Nancy Cornish ('14).

### SURP 824: Land Use and Real Estate Project (Fall 2013)

A team of nine students worked as student consultants for Ann Tremblay of the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority to generate a report entitled "A Multi-Modal Transportation Centre at Ottawa Airport". Academic direction was provided by John Meligrana. The goal of this project was to provide advice to the Ottawa Airport Authority on an optimal site for the development of an intermodal transportation centre and complementary land uses. OMCIAA planner and SURP alumnus **Alex Stecky-Efantis ('13)** provided important guidance for the project.

<http://www.queensu.ca/surp/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.surpwww/files/files/Project%20Courses/SURP-824%20-%202013-14comp.pdf>

### SURP 826: Special Field Project (Fall 2013)

Under the academic supervision of David Gordon, the project course team partnered with the City of Ottawa staff Rose Kung and Charles Lanktree on the "Animating the Rideau Canal" study. The Canal is a World Heritage site and much-loved by residents and tourists as a skateway during Winterlude. But the Rideau Canal is a bit boring the rest of the year. The students found more exciting examples of urban heritage canals in other cities and prepared demonstration plans for key stretches of the Rideau.

<http://www.queensu.ca/surp/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.surpwww/files/files/Project%20Courses/Animating%20the%20Rideau%20Canal%20Final%20for%20screen%20viewing-1.pdf>

### SURP 827: International Planning Project (Fall 2013)

For the second consecutive year, students participating in the international project course travelled to Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India to undertake a project addressing local planning and development issues. The project was completed by eight second-year SURP students for the Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute, under the supervision of Dr. Ajay Agarwal. The central objective was to develop a set of sustainability indicators that would be appropriate for evaluating whether development within Auroville was consistent with the community's broader vision. The intention was to create a useful resource for Aurovillian

planning and development professionals concerned with identifying and assessing strengths and weaknesses of local sustainability practices.

The Auroville community, which presently includes 2,500 local residents, aims to achieve human unity and foster spiritual growth. In its progressive place-making pursuits, Auroville has come to be well recognized for its strong focus on sustainable development practices and lifestyles. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) unanimously endorsed the town at its foundation in 1968.



Michael Rac ('14) (Project Manager) giving the final presentation for the SURP 817 project to a group of Auroville citizens.

The student project team worked for three months researching sustainability indicator systems such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), while also familiarizing themselves with Auroville's unique culture, planning history, and guiding principles. After making the lengthy journey to Auroville in December, the students presented their preliminary research, conducted in-depth interviews with residents and sustainability experts, and visited numerous sites in the community. The result, the Auroville Sustainability Indicator System, or AVSIS, is a tiered system of qualitative and quantitative indicators designed to gauge the multiple facets of sustainability specifically in the Auroville context. At the end of the two-week trip, AVSIS was presented to the Auroville community at a gathering of over 80 residents and visitors, and was met with considerable interest and enthusiasm.

Having traveled half way around the world and been thrust into a dramatically new context, the project team was confronted with the reality that sustainability is more than just its social, economic, and environmental elements. It became clear that sustainability is a complex, lived experience that covers

all facets of life and cannot be adequately captured by scientific measurements. Project member **Graham Anderson ('14)** was very happy with the results. "The entire project team bonded together and spent many long days working in an unfamiliar and challenging environment, but in the end we produced something that we are all extremely proud of. It was a once in a life time experience."

### **SURP 871: Social Planning (Fall 2013)**

Under the leadership of Dr. Leela Viswanathan, students in SURP-871 Social Planning developed projects in partnership with Rev. Christine Williams and the Good Shepherd Mission, 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. In Fall 2013, students conducted research on addressing food insecurity in the neighbourhoods surrounding the Mission. After running a workshop with community service providers, the students developed four projects: examining the role of faith-based organizations in addressing food insecurity; food skills programs; the role of childhood education in breaking the cycle of food insecurity; and identifying options for food access in the neighbourhood. The student reports are accessible on the SURP website in the Research tab, under Student Work.



SURP-871 Social Planning class: Prof. Leela Viswanathan, Rev. Christine Williams, Miranda Spessot, Daren Zuk, Shazeen Tejani, Anthony Fotino, Jessica Jiang, Samantha Romlewski, Randi Newton, Diane Tan, Victoria Coates, Holli Pohlka, Dilys Huang, Ida Olesen, Ryan Poulton ('14), Ivy Qi ('14), Cian O'Neil-Kizoff, Bailey Chabot ('14), and Nancy Cornish ('14). *Photo courtesy of Leela Viswanathan.*



## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS

### 2013 Award Recipients:

- **Cassandra Caiger ('13)** – Vienna: Bike City



- **By Hossein Danesh ('13)** – Masdar City: Beacon of Sustainability or an Extravagant Experiment?



- **By Lindsey Gradeen ('13)** – Living Sustainably in the Eco-villages of Sweden: A Closer Look at the Eco-city of Hammarby Sjöstad



- **Shwaan Hutton ('14)** – Christchurch, New Zealand

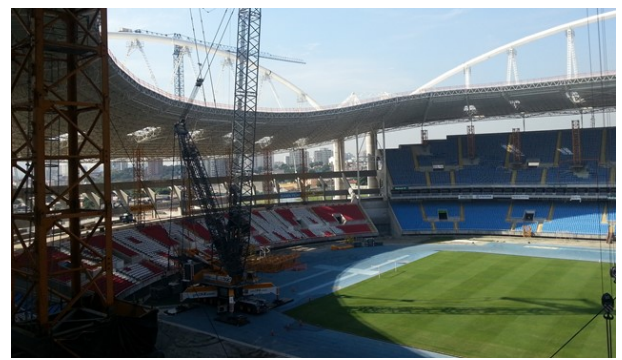


### 2014 Award Recipients:

- **Nancy Cornish ('14)** – Reykjavik, Iceland



- **Arthur Grabowski ('14)** – Rio De Janeiro, Brazil



- **Michael Rac ('14)** – Fjord City: Socio-Economic Accessibility and Waterfront Redevelopment in Oslo, Norway



Visit [www.queensu.ca/surp/current-students/international-experience-opportunities](http://www.queensu.ca/surp/current-students/international-experience-opportunities) to find out more about the International Experience Award recipients' travel experiences through their articles!





*In the interest of sustainability, if you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email [tinlinj@queensu.ca](mailto:tinlinj@queensu.ca)*

## 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 to us as soon as possible.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WORK TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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ANY NEWS TO SHARE FOR NEXT SURP NEWSLETTER?

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