

2022-2023

School of Planning

Report to Faculty of Environment Council



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School of Planning



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LOOKING INWARD, OUTWARD, AND FORWARD

From teaching to research and service, members of the School have contributed to and attained substantial achievements. On the research front, School members continue to be highly productive in scholarly research as well as more applied work with community groups, governments, and the private sector. On teaching, the School has delivered courses and supervision to more than 600 undergraduate students and 170 graduate students within our own unit and many more across the University and broader academic community.

Over the past year, members of the School have focused attention inward on sharpening our core mission, for instance by finalizing our undergraduate program revisions, and making changes to various administrative processes for reasons of efficiency and equity. Outward efforts focused on knowledge dissemination, professional development opportunities for the profession, media engagement, and working with governments and international and national advisory bodies. We continue to work diligently on identifying and carrying out action items in the area of equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice in line with the School's statement of values.

The School developed a new event (The Futures Forum), evolving from Pragma, that aims to connect a broad audience, create opportunities for two-way exchange between research and practice, and most importantly, enhance planning education at the University of Waterloo. Moving forward, the School anticipates a full review of our master's programs, implementing the new undergraduate curriculum, and continuing to contribute innovatively to planning education, research, and practice.

Sincerely,



Markus Moos, PhD MCIP RPP
Professor & Director



PEOPLE

The School has 5 staff members and 21 faculty (3 of these are joint-appointments with other departments/programs and 1 is serving in a full-time administrative position). We currently have about 600 undergraduate students and 170 graduate students.

- Current School administrative positions held by
 - **Markus Moos**, Director
 - **Janice Barry**, Associate Director, Graduate Programs
 - **Jennifer Dean**, Associate Director, Undergraduate Programs
 - **Mark Seasons**, Associate Director, Professional Practice
- **Markus Moos** will be stepping down as Director on July 1st 2023. **Mark Seasons** will take on the role at that time.
- **Jennifer Dean** will complete her role as Associate Director, Undergraduates Programs, July 1st 2023. **Carrie Mitchell** will be stepping into the role.
- The School's faculty continue to support the broader University community in serving in administrative positions:
 - **Jeff Casello**, Associate Vice President, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
 - **Michael Drescher**, Director, Heritage Resources Center
 - **Leia Minaker**, Director, Future Cities Initiative

Each year, the School of Planning hosts a Planner-in-Residence, an expert who teaches and conducts seminars. The program gives students and professors the opportunity to interact with professionals who are leaders in their field. The Planner-in-Residence program is funded by the University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto.

- For the 2022-2023 academic year, the Planner-in-Residence is **Becca Nagorsky**. She delivered PLAN 403 in the winter term to our 4th year undergraduate students and interacted with the School community in various other ways throughout the year.
- **Becca Nagorsky** is the Vice President of Stations Planning at Metrolinx. She has fifteen years of experience in transit planning, leading projects ranging from rail, subway, LRT, and BRT project development to long-range network design to station access planning. Becca serves on the Board of Directors for the Toronto chapter of Women in Transportation (WTS), is a regular presenter at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting as well as a past member of TRB's Rail Transit Systems Committee. In 2018, she was named a Rising Star of Progressive Railroading, one of twenty-five young professionals across North America to be recognized. She has also taught the Fundamentals of Transportation Planning course at Seneca College and is a literacy tutor at the Toronto Public Library. Becca moved to Toronto in 2011 after four years in Jerusalem, working on a transit network redesign to support the city's light rail line. She holds a Master of Urban Planning from New York University.



PEOPLE

We thank all our exceptional staff for their continued hard work and outstanding contributions to the School. School staff deliver high quality service, and work collectively to ensure smooth School operations.

- The School welcomed 3 new staff members to fill vacant positions or cover secondments: **Jessica Huang** (Undergraduate Advisor and Program Coordinator), **Jonathon MacAlpine** (Event and External Relations Coordinator), **Ashley Wagner** (Administrative Coordinator)
- The School welcomed a co-op student, **Jenna Castanier**, in the role of Planning and Administrative Assistant. Jenna conducted essential work helping the School move forward on redesigning the studio, creating an updated value proposition for hiring our co-op students, new events, and working with the Academic Services Manager to conduct work left undone due to prior staff vacancies.

Sessionals are occasionally hired to cover core teaching needs during faculty leaves. As a professional School, we also enhance our curriculum by hiring several sessionals to offer courses taught by leaders in the profession. The School wishes to acknowledge the sessional teaching contributions of the following individuals:

- Fall 2022: **Dana Anderson** (PLAN 721), **Sean Hertel** (PLAN 721), **Bob Lehman** (PLAN 721), **James Parkin** (PLAN 417/PLAN 686, Aggregate Resources)
- Winter 2023: **Matthew Davis** (PLAN 487, Management Issues in GIS), **Sean Hertel** (PLAN 703, Planning Professional Practice), **Adrian Litavski** (PLAN 483/PLAN 602, Land Development Planning), **Joelle McNeil** (PLAN 233, People and Plans), **Keely Stenberg** (PLAN 431/PLAN 614, Issues in Housing), **Chan Yang** (PLAN 657, GIS and Spatial Decision Support)
- Spring 2023: **Marcus Letourneau** (PLAN 414, Heritage Planning Workshop), **Dave Galbraith** (PLAN 484, Physical Infrastructure Planning)

This past year we also continued to benefit from outside support for our course delivery from a number of professional groups. For instance, the **UWPAT** (University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto) and **The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation** (TOARC) helped to deliver courses in our program. We also acknowledge and appreciate the **alumni volunteers** that run UWPAT and others that contribute to our programs in countless ways.

Finally, we sincerely thank student members of the Association of Graduate Planners (AGP) and the Planning Student Association (PSA), the planning student associations at the graduate and undergraduate levels respectively. They continued to offer important student initiatives and programming, delivered virtually and in-person. The AGP and PSA are a key part of the School community and contribute to the life of the School and student well-being and success in many ways

RESEARCH

Faculty members in the School continue to be successful in ongoing research activities including the securing of new funding from various sources. Members publish a large volume of peer-reviewed work in major international outlets and in leading journals in planning and adjacent fields.

Faculty also have an impact through practice work and research conducted directly with local communities and organizations. The scholarly work by our faculty last year included a larger volume of output including books, book chapters, peer reviewed articles, reports, designs, software, invited keynote presentations, conference papers and posters and other presentations.

Throughout the year, our faculty members are active organizers and participants in a wide range of events related to their scholarship. While this is an important part of academic life in general, it is particularly important to a professional planning school with stated aims to integrate our scholarly activity with a diversity of broader community interests.

Research News Items

- Associate Professor Woudsma on CBC News - The impact of rising fuel prices on driving
- Dr. Jeremy Pittman appointed to National Advisory Committee for climate change
- Professor Dawn Parker receives funding to investigate lack of family-sized apartment housing in region
- Associate Professor Jennifer Dean on CTV news – Difficulties of settling into a new community
- Dr. Clarence Woudsma contributes to a recent article in "the sprawl", about how consumerism is driving a warehouse boom in Calgary
- Associate Professor Michael Drescher receives funding to investigate climate change mitigation and adaptation options for residential developments
- Associate Professor Michael Drescher and Associate Professor Luna Khirfan raise their concerns about the Government of Ontario's recently proposed new bill, the More Homes Built Faster Act, or Bill 23 in an article published in "THE CONVERSATION".
- Dr. Leia Minaker releases new report for Heart & Stroke



PROGRAMS

Graduate Programs

In September 2022, the School of Planning welcomed 6 new PhD students and 19 MA/MES (Planning) students. This brings the total number of students in our research programs to 123 students. Between May 2022 and April 2023, we also welcomed 19 students to our online MPlan program, which is oriented towards working planning professionals. This brings the total number of students in that program to 41.

- Fall 2022 New Admits
- Total new admits: 31
- PhD – 6 (1 deferred to W23); MA/MES – 19 (3pt and 16ft); MPlan – 6; GDip- 0
- Fall 2022 Student Count
- Total graduate students: 172
- PhD – 49; MA/MES – 74; MPlan – 41; GDip – 8

The School congratulates all our graduate student scholarship winners. The scholarship recipients that have been publicly announced between May 2022 and April 2023 include:

Anya Ingram, SSHRC – CGS-M; **Joy Tigchelaar**, SSHRC – CGS-M; **Brenton Nader**, SSHRC Doctoral; **Kouroush Mahvash**, OGS; **Khairunnabila Prayitno**, OGS; **Kayleigh Swanson**, OGS; **Keely Anne Stenberg**, OGS; **Skylar Niehaus**, Ontario Professional Planners Institute Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship

Mark Seasons in his role as Associate Director, Professional Practice, provided leadership with support from **Johnathon MacAlpine** and **Tracey Beirness** in the following areas:

- Staff colleagues from CECA made online presentations to our Year 1 MA/MES (Planning) student colleagues regarding job search strategy, effective resume writing, and interview skills (November 2022 and January 2023)
- An email letter that promoted our Internship program was sent to 130+ potential employers across the country in February 2022 and 2023, with a follow-up email sent in April 2023
- The Work Experience section of the School's website was updated with new information to date, about 90% of MA/MES (Planning) student colleagues have secured internships in Planning or a related area
- We have designed and will launch a Spring 2023 project course offering that simulates an internship experience for those students who have not been able to confirm an internship position

PROGRAMS

Undergraduate Program

In 2022, the School celebrated over 100 undergraduate students graduating with their BES in Planning. The School welcomed 160 first year students, our largest cohort to date!

Congratulations to our undergraduate award recipients: **Natasha Ing** (Academic Achievement Award), **David Pau** (Pragma Council Award) and **Jaskaran Dhillon** (CIP President's Award)

We are pleased to welcome Jessica Huang to the School as our Undergraduate Advisor and Program Administrator (Tiffany Chen is on secondment to CEE).

Overall, 149 undergraduate planning students received a total of 247 awards/scholarship during the past academic year.

- Fall 2022 Admissions
- New first year admits: 160
- Total undergraduate student count: 609
- Graduating students
- Spring 2022: 102
- Fall 2022: 8
- Spring 2023: ~92 (final count not available until May 19th when grades become official)

Some noteworthy undergraduate accomplishments

- The PLAN 211: Design Studio Foundations course, taught by Dr. Katherine Perrott, partnered with the Sustainability Office to produce urban design visualizations that explore the possibilities of what the future of the University of Waterloo campus could look like when meeting the University's sustainability goals. The students' first project was to create a general idea of a sustainable campus by submitting prompts into the new cutting-edge AI technology: DALL-E 2. Dr. Perrott and some students were interviewed by CBC about this project.
- Ted Rogers Real Estate Association held the 9th annual Expand Your Empire Development Conference, Canada's largest real estate development conference and competition. The team from the University of Waterloo, including Matthew Van Bakel from the Planning program, won the First Place Grand Prize and the Most Feasible Design award in the competition.
- The University of Waterloo's Planning Students' Association (PSA) and the Toronto Metropolitan's Association of Planning Students (TMAPS) hosted the Waterloo - Toronto Metropolitan Undergraduate Planning Conference (WTMUPC) to build bridges, learn from each other, and connect. This year's theme was "Cities in 2050", with threads of future, sustainability, and reconciliation. The event was an enormous success with over 100 undergraduate students attending.





EVENTS

One distinguishing feature of the School of Planning is our vibrant and vital connection with the practice world of professional planning; and special events are an essential contributor to the success of that connection.

Annual events included:

- School Graduation Celebration
- School Undergraduate Welcome Event
- School Meet and Greet with New Graduate Students
- Induction Ceremony
- Pragma Council Conference (now Futures Forum)
- Speaker events
- School Senior Orientation and Professional Development Event

FUTURES FORUM

The Futures Forum (May 10th, 2023) is a new annual event organized by the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. The intent is to provide time and space to learn, debate, and critically investigate ways in which emerging societal developments might impact our communities, considering topics from a diversity of public interest perspectives. This includes but is not limited to considering issues such as climate change, technology, social justice, and sustainable economic development.

The Forum is meant to help maintain current bridges and build new ones between academia and practice. The event is part of the School's larger academic mission to enhance the student learning experience via strong ties with the profession, opportunities for faculty and students to debate and disseminate knowledge, and continuous professional learning opportunities. The event also builds on the Faculty of Environment's and the University of Waterloo's strategic objectives to conduct transformational work that deals with some of the most pressing issues of our times.

The intent of the Forum is to encourage participants to find ways to blend theory, empirical research, and practice and community insights from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. The Forum aims to encourage participants to tackle complex contemporary societal problems by being responsive to and critically consider evidence and expertise as well as lived experiences. While planning is a focus, the Futures Forum aims to be of interest to a broad range of participants interested in public policy and societal transformations in general.

At the time of writing, nearly 120 people have registered for the inaugural event, including a mix of students, faculty, professionals in planning and other industries, and staff from across campus. The inaugural Futures Forum focuses on opportunities and challenges of public engagement, as viewed through the lens of technological, socio-economic, and political changes. The keynote speaker is **Bianca Wylie** who presented on "Public Engagement, Technology and the Art of Living Well Together". The event included a networking component and two hands-on workshops facilitated by **Marta Berbes** and **Morgan Boyco**.

Report prepared and submitted by Markus Moos, May 2023, with special thanks to Tracey Beirness, Jenna Castanier, Jennifer Dean, Jessica Huang, Jonathan MacAlpine, Sheree Solomon and Ashley Wagner for assistance in compiling information for this report and Jenna Castanier for final formatting.

