



## Welcome to the Director's Update - Academic Year 2009-10

*Dr. Nancy Holman, Director of Planning Studies*

It is always nice to begin these newsletters with a good graduation photo and I think the excitement and merriment in this photo fairly well sums up the class of 2009-10. The year was truly amazing with an incredibly active Planning Society and a brilliant student body!



We were a group of 33 Regional and Urban Planning MSc Students and 8 Double Degree Students from Science Po, so S400 (our study room) was particularly crowded and warm during the warmer months of the term! However, despite our large number we all found a dynamism that pushed us all to produce some very good work! This is evidenced in the great results we had this year and I would like to congratulate: Pablo Navarrate; Jonathan Martins; Solenne Cucchi; Alexandra Payne; Andrea Roberts; Thomas Rosenbaum and Linda van Soerland for their degree classifications of Distinction - you all had fun and you did well so hats off!! Congratulations are also extended to Dr. Christopher Lyons who completed his PhD this year!

This year we are also very proud to welcome Dr. Alan Mace and Dr. Asher Ghertner who have joined the Department. Alan has a background in UK spatial planning and is a member of the RTPi. His primary research interests are: suburbanisation; community involvement in planning; planning and governance; shrinking cities; and second home ownership. Asher joined us after finishing his PhD at UC Berkley and is primarily interested in: urban informality; the political economy of displacement; political ecology; governmentality; ethnography and Indian politics.



Our Planning Society field trip this year was to Istanbul and we were again warmly welcomed by Murat Yalcintan a former RUPS PhD student and now professor of planning at Mimar Sinan Guzel Sanatlar University in Istanbul. We are also pleased to announce that we now have an Erasmus Partnership with MSGSU. This agreement allows our research students to spend up to 6 months in Istanbul as part of their studies.

Please see the separate report prepared by the Planning Society for details about our 2009/10 field trip!

Another amazing event, organised by Adriano Calle Lucas (1979/80) was our RUPS 30 year reunion. This event featured staff both past and present (including Derek Diamond, Michael Hebbert, Nigel Spence, and Christine Whitehead) along with alumni of the class of 1979/80. Another notable attendee was a truly lovely bottle of Port from the year of graduation!



So, friends that is all that I have for now other than to wish this year's batch of RUPS students the best of luck!