

# The WDCAG Newsletter

## 2015 edition

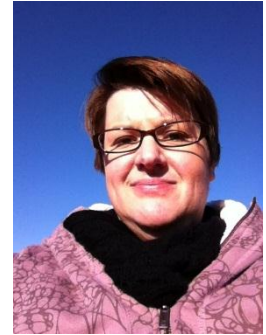


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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Welcome to the new look WDCAG Newsletter. Let me introduce myself. I am Claire Hay and I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at University of the Fraser Valley. I have been editing and collating the WDCAG newsletter for the past 5 years and I am pleased to announce some new changes that will hopefully make the newsletter more interesting to WDCAG'ers and other geographers in Canada and beyond.



The newsletter will now be published annually, usually in late May and will include 2 new sections highlighting the work of faculty and geography students (both undergrad and graduate) around the Western Division. In this edition, the *Geography Faculty Focus* section includes an interview with Dr. Craig Coburn from the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. In the *Geography Student Focus* section, I interviewed 2 undergraduate students from my program at the University of the Fraser Valley: Ashleigh Yakemchuk and Sophie Smith are recent graduates who spent the past 2 years contributing to the Global Rivers Observatory Project with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Updates from university and college departments within the WDCAG region are also included.

I hope you enjoy the new look of the WDCAG Newsletter. If you have any comments or feedback or you know someone who would be a great candidate for the Faculty Focus or Student Focus section in the next edition, I can be reached at [claire.hay@ufv.ca](mailto:claire.hay@ufv.ca). Happy Reading!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As the incoming president of the WDCAG this is my first President's Message for the Newsletter. First and foremost I would like to thank Tom Waldichuk for providing such great leadership to our organization over the past two years. On top of the regular duties, incl. chairing the Executive and Annual General Meetings in 2013 (Lethbridge), 2014 (Victoria) and 2015 (Kamloops) and representing our organisation at CAG meetings, he also stepped up this year to avoid an unprecedented upset. For the first time in 56 consecutive WDCAG Annual Meetings we were on the verge of having to cancel the 57<sup>th</sup>, which was scheduled to be held at UNBC in Prince George. Neil Hanlon and colleagues had everything in place for the 57<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting, including a full conference program for the 208 registrants, but were precluded from holding it due to a general strike at their university, which commenced just a week before our Annual Meeting was about to commence. Tom Waldichuk swiftly and selflessly volunteered to hold a relocated meeting at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops: the WDCAG-KRAM 2015. I appreciate the fact that Tom will be Past President for at least another year to ensure his continuing support and a smooth transition in the organization. He will represent the WDCAG at the 2015 CAG meeting in Vancouver.

### WDCAG-KRAM 2015

The WDCAG Kamloops Relocated Annual Meeting (WDCAG-KRAM 2015) was held on 13-14 March 2015 and was a great success. I would like to extend a gargantuan thank you to the local organisers Tom Waldichuk, David Hill, Darryl Carlyle-Moses and other department members of Geography & Environmental Studies at Thompson Rivers University, as well as the TRU Geography Society (TRUGS) students. Altogether, these apprentice to senior geographers made an enormous effort in getting the meeting organised with less than a week preparation time. Thanks also go to David Jordan (TWU) who took on the role of communications coordinator, and Neil Hanlon (UNBC) who passed on the UNBC conference schedule, which I could rearrange to fit the Kamloops attendance.

On very short notice, Drs. Lisa Cooke and Kellee Caton (TRU), in person, and Dr. Bryan Grimwood (UWaterloo), remotely, agreed to give the Friday night keynote presentation: "From Common Sense to Common Ground: Moral Geography in North America's Mountain Playgrounds". What an interesting and eye-opening perspective on the multiple geographies of place and culture of the local Sun Peaks Resort, the Secwepemc Nation territory, and ski tourism advertisement.

With a reduced attendance of 120 registrants, but twice the vigour, the WDCAG-KRAM 2015 felt like a regular annual meeting. It included the keynote talk, a diverse conference program, refreshments and lunch, goody bags, a scavenger hunt, organiser T-shirts, a banquet with dj, and a post-conference urban field trip.

Participants from BC, AB, and WA, warranted 28 oral presentations in two parallel sessions, which made for refreshing discussions due to the mixed-background audience. Additionally, 32 poster presentations stayed up all day and made for close-up and detailed exchanges. As usual, student oral and poster presentations were judged by faculty. The score sheets were tallied by Kim Naqvi (TRU) and Claire Hay (UFV) and the overall winners announced during the banquet. I would like to congratulate all student presenters for making a great effort and displaying enthusiasm for their research topic. Winners and runners up are listed below, and the former will be sent certificates and monetary and/or CAG-membership prizes.

### **Student presentation awards:**

#### **WINNERS:**

##### Undergraduate Poster:

**Jackson Baron** (Thompson Rivers University): Developing Real-Time Weather Monitoring Equipment with Inexpensive Electronics & Open Source Technology

**Anna H Hayashi** (Trinity Western University): Disappearing Palestine: Political Land Loss in the West Bank since 1949

##### Undergraduate Presentation:

**Tanya Drouillard** (Trinity Western University): User Perception of Trinity Western University's New Organics Diversion Program

##### Master's Poster:

**Heather Richardson** (Thompson Rivers University): Modelling and Mapping Soil Carbon in BC Grasslands

##### Master's Presentation:

**Trina Lamanes** (University of Alberta): Sustainable Urban Development and Recreation in Canada's Premier Resource Based Community

#### **RUNNERS UP:**

##### Undergraduate Poster:

**Kathryn Binnema** (King's University): Getting Where You're Going: The Construction of Groat Road, Edmonton;

**Michelle Gunnlaugson** (Thompson Rivers University): Landscapes of Fear: A Study of TRU Students Based on Gender and Campus Familiarity; **Kara Letain** (King's University): Wood You Rather? A case study of an innovative wood pellet industry in Northern British Columbia; **Aimee McGowan** (Trinity Western University): The Impact of Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation on British Columbian Forests; **Emma Soeten** (Trinity Western University): A Geographic Analysis of the West Indian Manatee in Florida

#### Undergraduate Presentation:

**Sarah Lumley** (Vancouver Island University): The Power of Maps: Using Community Mapping for Empowerment, Connection, and Change

Congratulations to all for excellent research presentations!



*WDCAG President Hester Jiskoot with UofL students at Lake Louise returning from WDCAG-KRAM 2015.*

#### **WDCAG EXECUTIVE**

A new executive was elected by a WDCAG AGM with an attendance of 22. I will be President for the term 2015-17 and welcome my fellow executive: *Past President:* Tom Waldichuk (TRU), *Secretary-Treasurer:* Craig Coburn (UofL); *Members-at-Large:* Garry Fehr (UFV), David Jordan (TWU), Michael Ferber (KU) & Leith Deacon (UofA); *Student Members:* AB-reps. Trina Lamanes (UofA) & Dave McCaffrey (UofL); BC-rep. Anna Hayashi (TWU); *Western Geography Editors:* Pam Shaw (VIU) & Craig Coburn (UofL); *Archivist:* Ben Moffat (MHC). I am looking forward to working with you all.

I would like to acknowledge the continuing support of Claire Hay (UFV), newsletter coordinator; Henry Frew, awards officer; Pam Shaw (VIU), BC education chair; and Dan Smith (UVic), administrator of the WDCAG website: [www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/). Here, you can find information on past/upcoming WDCAG Annual Meetings and Conferences, AGM Minutes, contact details of executive members, lists of awardees, all newsletters, our constitution, and author instructions for our journal *Western Geography*.

#### **WDCAG-AGM 2015 MATTERS**

The WDCAG is in good financial shape, and the continuing CAG support grant for student travel to our meetings is much appreciated. Travel reimbursement cheques have not always been cashed in the past: student clubs are informed to do so within six months of receiving the cheque or theirs will go stale. We acknowledge the passing of our late colleague Angus Gunn (UBC). No faculty awards were announced as no supporting paperwork was submitted: the executive will decide by electronic vote once full nominations are in. It was raised that we need a set of instructions for essential materials that need to be stored in our Divisional Archives – housed in the SFU Library.

From now on, our newsletter will be published once yearly. *Western Geography* has had several submissions and there will be an online edition. If you or your students have a fitting manuscript, please think about submitting it to our journal.

Other matters that came up during the 2015 AGM include changes to the constitution, as requested by CAG and initiated by Past-President Theresa Garvin (UofA), and a contingency plan for cancelled WDCAG meetings. Both matters will be discussed in full and voted on in the 2016 AGM.



It was proposed that UNBC should have the first right to refusal of the 2016 WDCAG meeting. For 2017, King's College and UofA will consider hosting.

On a personal note, I would like to see more physical geographers involved in WDCAG meetings, and strive for better collaboration between fellow geography organisations in Canada.



*Five UofL geographers braved the long drive over the snowy Rocky Mountain passes to the WDCAG-KRAM. What better way to experience the geography of Western Canada?*

I wish everyone a memorable summer, whether you spend it in the field, at your desk, in your lab, or on holidays.

The 58<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference will take place in March 2016, most likely at UNBC in Prince George. See you then!

*Submitted by Hester Jiskoot, WDCAG President*

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## GEOGRAPHY STUDENT FOCUS

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Ashleigh Yakemchuk and Sophie Smith are graduating students from the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC. Over the past 2 years, Ashleigh and Sophie have been actively involved in the Global Rivers Observatory Project ([www.globalrivers.org](http://www.globalrivers.org)) first working as water samplers for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) funded project with UFV faculty member Steven Marsh and later as student researchers developing independent research projects that culminated in practicum placements at WHOI. Their experiences offer an insight into the out-of-classroom opportunities that can often define a student's program. WDCAG Newsletter Editor, Claire Hay, interviewed Ashleigh and Sophie on their geography experiences at UFV.

Many students choose to major in Geography by accident; it is often taken as a program requirement or elective in the first year and then students find out that it is an interesting discipline and choose to major in the subject. Ashleigh and Sophie had very different reasons for choosing geography. Sophie notes that "I took Earth Science 11 and Geography 12 in high school and was attracted to the broad nature of geography and recognized that it offered a variety of well-rounded career options with an environmental focus. I entered UFV with the plan to study geography and chose the BA as science wasn't my strength." In contrast, Ashleigh has a different story. Noting that geography and environmental science were not an option in her high school in Alberta, Ashleigh concentrated on the more traditional science options of biology and chemistry. When she moved to Abbotsford and was investigating post-secondary education options she applied for the BSc program at UFV planning on majoring in biology and chemistry. Ashleigh comments that "I took geography in my first year in addition to biology and chemistry and decided to major in this discipline as it offered the environmental focus I was looking

for.” These 2 pathways into a Geography major reflect the anecdotal stories heard from students in my classes: those who experience geography in high school and those who end up majoring in the discipline after taking a course when they get to university. It is interesting that although Ashleigh and Sophie took different roads to UVF’s Geography program and chose different degrees they ended up in the same classes and worked on the same project.

Both Sophie and Ashleigh will be graduating from their programs in June. So what were the highlights of their program? Study tours were a popular choice for both students. Sophie participated in UVF Geography’s Adventures in Geography (AIG) study tours to Mt. St. Helens and the BC Interior while Ashleigh took part on an AIG tour to San Francisco focusing on sustainability and natural hazards. Asked why these tours were one of the highlights of their degree programs, Ashleigh commented that “It’s getting to know the students and faculty outside of the classroom that makes them unique” while Sophie noted “that the opportunity to integrate information from all of my courses in a specific setting makes the AIG’s a highlight for me.” In-class field trips, participation in Geography Undergrad Students (GUS) groups and faculty that are more like family also feature highly on their highlight reel. It seems that it is not necessarily the everyday classroom interactions that students find most influential but the high impact practices that keep students in their geography program.

For the past 2 years, Ashleigh and Sophie have been involved in the Global Rivers Observatory Project which is a project funded by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) focused on investigating the health of 11 major watersheds around the world including the Fraser River in BC. Sophie and Ashleigh have been working on this project under the local supervision of Steven Marsh. “This project is looking at the health of watersheds around the world. The water geochemistry tells us about the health of a river just like blood chemistry can tell us about human health” says Sophie. Their participation on this project initially started as a work opportunity says Ashleigh, working as a water sampler for Steven Marsh. This work opportunity came about through project work in a geography course and through personal contact. What followed was an opportunity to develop independent research projects under the supervision of Steven Marsh and participate in a funded practicum placement at WHOI supervised by Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink.



In both projects, Sophie and Ashleigh developed research questions and sampling methodologies, and undertook biweekly data collection, sample analysis and presentation of results. Sophie’s research project investigated seasonal variation in water geochemistry of Nathan Slough which is a tributary of the Fraser River near Abbotsford. For her study, Sophie collected biweekly water samples which were analyzed at WHOI during her practicum.



Ashleigh investigated the impact of residential development on the water geochemistry of Clayburn Creek in Abbotsford. Water samples were collected bi-weekly upstream and downstream of the residential area and then analyzed at WHOI. In both cases, samples were analyzed for cations, anions, nutrients together with water quality parameters such as temperature, pH and turbidity which were measured during sampling.

What was unique about this research project was that it led to a funded practicum placement at WHOI. Sophie and Ashleigh spent 7 weeks in Woods Hole, Massachusetts in February and March 2015 during one of the harshest winters on record; quite a change from winters on the West Coast. Ashleigh commented that “the experience was very positive and although we were undergraduate students working in university labs alongside graduate students, post docs and scientists we were made to feel very welcome.” Sophie notes that “the whole experience was like a real job, a professional setting

where we worked in facilities that we would never have had the opportunity to use otherwise.” Their practicum involved a number of seminars to introduce them to the various equipment that would be used in their analysis followed by the actual processing of their water samples. Asked about the highlight of their experiences at Woods Hole, both told me about the clean labs they worked in, complete with white suits, goggles and booties, to prepare and analyze samples using an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICPMS) to measure anions and cations and an ion chromatograph to measure nutrient loads. Both noted that they wouldn’t have had this opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment back at UFV and the skills they learnt will stand them in good stead in the future.

So now that Ashleigh and Sophie are graduating from their programs, what are their future plans and what advice they do they have for students currently in geography programs. Both Ashleigh and Sophie plan to work in the environmental field. Sophie is working on a term contract with the Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) involved in education and outreach programs for the society. ARMS has become involved in almost all aspects of watershed stewardship, including education, inventory and monitoring, habitat restoration and lobbying for the protection of aquatic habitat. Ashleigh has experience working in the area of sustainability have worked as UFV’s Sustainability Coordinator and in a number of COOP positions while a student at UFV. She was recently recognized as a Green Leader of Tomorrow by the Abbotsford Rotary Club. Ashleigh is looking for a career in this field following graduation and is looking for work across Canada. Both Ashleigh and Sophie commented on the importance of communication as an integral part of their programs. “It’s not what you know” says Sophie “it’s how you communicate that information that matters”. Sophie completed a minor in Communications that she credits with increasing her confidence in communication; something that both Ashleigh and Sophie say should be a mandatory part of any university program.

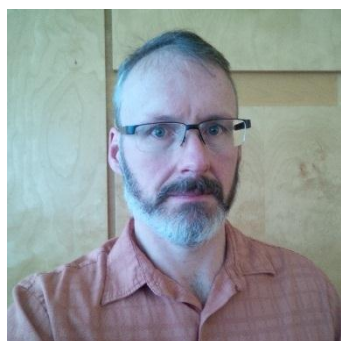
Talking with Ashleigh and Sophie reinforced the true nature of geography with its many pathways, sub-disciplines and opportunities. It seems that Sophie and Ashleigh grabbed as many opportunities as presented themselves to make their programs personal and to prepare themselves for the future. It is not so much the courses but the out-of-classroom activities that defined their programs and prepared them for the future. Something all students can learn from.

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## GEOGRAPHY FACULTY FOCUS

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Craig Coburn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. Claire Hay, WDCAG Newsletter Editor, interviewed Craig (via email) for this inaugural edition of *Faculty Focus*.



CH: How long have you been teaching at the University of Lethbridge and what is your current position? And have you taught anywhere else prior to arriving at ULeTh?

CC: *I joined the Geography Department at UofL in 2002, so this is the end of year 13. The rapidity of the passage of time is alarming. I TA'ed more courses than should be allowed at three institutions, honing my teaching skills on my undergraduate student colleagues for 8 years and was a sessional instructor at SFU prior to arriving at UofL.*

CH: What path did you follow before getting your teaching position? Did you complete a masters and doctorate? What about a post-doctoral position? How do you think your post-graduate experiences prepared you for the various roles and responsibilities of a faculty member? What else might have been useful to know while a graduate student?

CC: *My position currently is not a teaching position per se, we have responsibilities in research and service as well. I do, indeed, have both an MSc from the UofAlberta and my PhD is from SFU. Nothing prepares you*

*for being a faculty member. I think I was a relatively engaged graduate student, taking many roles around campus sitting on various governing bodies and being active in the various geography clubs. These activities are very important. Learning how to play nicely with others is essential to being a success as a faculty member. You'll learn how to do research in graduate school even if you barricade yourself in your office. You can't learn how to be a reasonable person at a meeting or lead an initiative if you've not had some experience outside of the cocoon of research. Universities are very different places these days where the focus on student experience and professional skills development is much stronger. When I was a student, the student-supervisor relationship was much more important. It's a more community initiative these days – and for the better.*

CH: What led you into the field of geography and more specifically, remote sensing?

CC: *I usually blame Prof. Dan Smith for my transformation from a struggling Political Science student into a Geographer. My sister was a Geography Major and I had just been advised that I could no longer obtain a BA as I had too many science credits (I would take science classes to keep my average up), she advised that I go talk to Prof. Smith (then at UofSask). He looked at my course selection – said “you’re one of us” and signed the forms to move me into a BSc in Geography. A circuitous path if there ever was one.*

CH: I heard that you were working with NASA. Can you elaborate on that project and your other research activities?

CC: *I was asked to participate in a project that is seeking to characterize a sand dune system for use as an absolute calibration target for Earth Observation Satellites. The remote sensing community doesn't have many of these sorts of calibration features on Earth, but they are essential to the transformation of a digital number into a physical unit. I have developed a series of instruments that are unique and were needed to develop a model of the nature of the bidirectional reflectance distribution function of this surface. Usually I can be found doing fundamental research in remote sensing involving things like BRDF characterization of a variety of plant/crop canopies and remote sensing instrument development for airborne remote sensing (think UAV stuff).*



CH: Do you have any graduate students (or other research students) working with you at present? Can you summarize their research?

CC: *I've got a master's and PhD student at present and a PDF. They're working on dramatically different topics. One is working on the scaling of LAI to provide meaningful biophysical parameter estimation of riparian forests while the other is looking at new methods of automated image classification using sparse data classification. The post-doc is working on automated systems for the extraction of biophysical parameters relevant to food security system needs.*

CH: At my university we are beginning a campus wide conversation about what UFV should look like in 2025. What are your thoughts about the university of the future? Do you think the students will be similar or different from today? What do you think our role as faculty will be?

CC: *The university of the future will be similar to the university of today because it works, it is effective, and is the cheapest way of providing access to education. Now this isn't to say that the methods will remain static. Even in my short experience, I can see the changes and the increasing effort that we are putting into the student experience and new methods of instruction to improve educational outcomes. We will be moving towards more integrative and deeper understanding of topics. What is the point anyway – to provide humanity with an advanced set of skills to assist in the progression of the human condition. My role as a faculty member will continue to be a leader in research and to expand the teaching endeavour to*



*be more inclusive of student needs. Lately my teaching has been more informed by thinking about how to inspire students to investigate and be creative. To get back the wonder they had as children – we need their energy and passion ignited. I think this is how we are changing as institutions.*

CH: There is an increase in awareness about student engagement in the classroom. What techniques do you employ in the classroom to engage your students?

CC: *It's Geography and it's all wonderful and awe-inspiring. Students need to be engaged and you can't do that without them feeling that they are part of the broader adventure of their lives. You don't need magical gadgets to inspire students to seek out their passions – they just need to know that you care and are interested in their education. Today's technological marvels are wonderful teaching tools, but at the same time some of my most memorable moments in the classroom come from times when the tech has failed or when you're in the field explaining physical processes. The lights go on at those moments and we make real connections. That's engagement.*

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## NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS IN THE WDCAG

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### AUGUSTANA CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Augustana campus offers a minor in geography and interdisciplinary majors in Environmental Science (BSc) and Environmental Studies (2 BA streams: general and outdoor education).

Glynnis Hood is teaching Statistical Methods for the Natural Sciences, Resource and Environmental Management and Environmental Impact Assessment this Winter Term. She also taught a Directed Studies student in the Winter term with senior Environmental Science student Erin Specht. The project is *A policy and regulatory review to identify aids and barriers to the use of beavers in wetland restoration and maintenance in Alberta*. She continues to conduct research on wetland biodiversity, landscape modification by beavers, and methods to reduce human-beaver conflicts through adaptive management. This summer, Glynnis and her summer research assistants will continue her research on mitigating human-wildlife conflict through adaptive management. She will also design and co-teach a new field course with Glen Hvenegaard at the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station this August.

Glen Hvenegaard taught three courses last fall. The first, wildlife diversity of Alberta, challenged students to learn the identification, ecology, and conservation of most vertebrate species in the province. The second, a capstone course in environmental science, integrated issues through the degree program with community service-learning. The last, a new course on environmental education and heritage interpretation, forced students out of their comfort zone through community and class presentations. Glen was on sabbatical in the winter semester. He travelled with his family to Costa Rica; the highlights were catching bats and counting moths on the Osa peninsula, scuba diving at Drake Bay, birding at Monteverde, and rafting the Pacuare River. He presented at the World Parks Congress (held every 10 years) in Sydney, Australia and the Alberta Recreation and Parks Forum.

This summer, he has a team of research assistants working on several projects. Larissa Gomez from Mexico will be locating and catching Purple Martins for a migration project. Alanna Kaiser from the USA will be conducting interviews and investigating websites regarding wildlife festivals. Ryley Corcoran from Alberta will be implementing an environmental education program and developing wildlife policy in the city of Camrose. Heather Marshall will be working on an environmental history of Frank Farley, a Camrose-based ornithologist and conservationist from the early 1900s. Kelaine Brand and Erin Specht will be developing sustainability plans and policies for operations, marketing, curriculum, and outreach for the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station. Glen's recent publications relate to human interactions with nature, wildlife festivals, and the health and well-being benefits of Alberta's provincial parks. He is looking forward to recovering more geolocators that his team attached to Purple Martins last summer; the information retrieved will reveal valuable migration secrets.

(eg. speed, stopovers, wintering sites) that can help reverse the declining population of this aerial insectivore.

Glen and Glynnis will teach a new field studies course this August at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. About 15 students will conduct short-term research projects on a variety of projects including bird ecology, park visitor preferences, beaver ecology, water quality, vegetation dynamics, wildlife occupancy, etc. The entire group will stay at the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station, a joint project between Augustana and Alberta Parks, and funded by many generous sponsors. The station will be host to students, instructors, and researchers from Augustana, the University of Alberta, and universities and agencies from across the country.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at [glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca](mailto:glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca) or Dr. Glynnis Hood [glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca](mailto:glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca). Check our program websites at <http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/> and <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/>

*Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard*

## **DOUGLAS COLLEGE**

The department is developing a new first year course, Geography 1140: Geography and Media: Geography, Environment and Natural Hazards to be offered in the fall 2015 semester. As well, the department will be offering a third year course (Geography 3327: Tourism and Recreation Geographies) in the fall semester.

Widyarini (Rini) Sumartojo and Rory Crowley are now post – probationary regular faculty. The department is in the process of being renamed the Department of Geography and the Environment. Further curriculum revisions are pending.

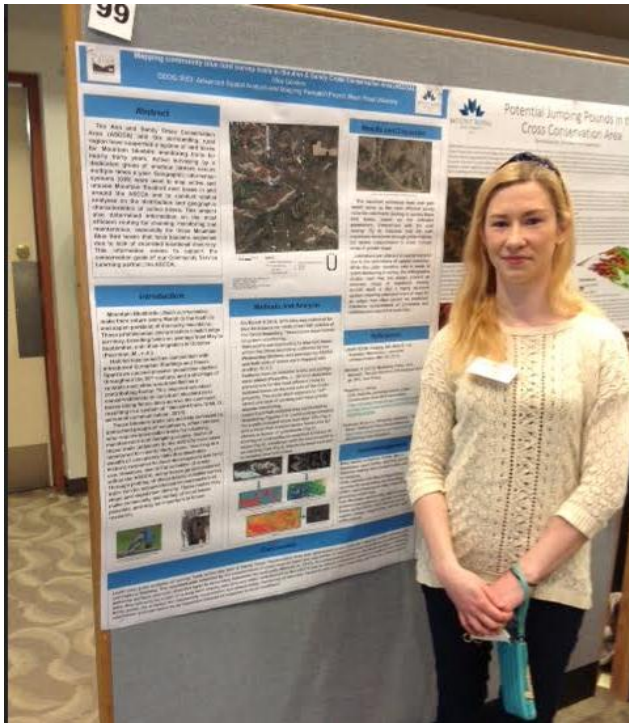
*Submitted by Earl Noah*

## **MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY**

We are in the process of redeveloping the Bachelor of Science, General Major at Mount Royal and the Geography Program is designing a pillar or concentration of geography courses that students can take as their emphasis for the degree. We are also becoming part of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences which is an amalgamation of the Department of Earth Sciences and the Department of Environmental Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Cam Owens from the University of Victoria and Aaron William from Mount Royal University organized a panel session at the AAG titled *International Field School Programs: Thematic-Integrative Approaches, Contested Concepts, and the Evolution of Fieldwork*. The goal of the panel brought together a number of experts who either run international field programs and/or do research on experiential learning on international field programs. Joining them on the panel was Troy Burnett (Geography) and Joe Pavelka (Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership) from Mount Royal as well as other panelists from US schools and Germany.

Lynn Moorman received special recognition from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). A committee of her peers judged her paper entitled, "Children's use of Google Earth as a knowledge enabler" to be a significant contribution to the field of geography education research. She will be honored during their 100th anniversary conference in Washington, DC this summer.



MRU's Institute for Environmental Sustainability Award Winner at the Science and Technology Research Day, Student Alice Liboiron, Geography 3447 Advanced GIS taught by Dr. Lynn Moorman - Mapping Community Blue Bird Survey Trails in the Cross Conservation Area.

#### Publications from MRU Geography Faculty

**Aaron Williams** has a paper coming out in the June edition of the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare titled:

*Interrogating the Ruling Relations of Thailand's Post-tsunami Reconstruction: Empirically Tracking Social Relations in the Absence of Conventional Texts*

**Troy Burnett** has a two volume book coming out January 2016 titled:

*Natural Resource Conflicts: From Blood Diamonds to Rain Forest Destruction*, Volumes 1 and 2. ABC-Clio, California.

**Barbara McNicol** has a book chapter in press titled:

*The Concept of Environmental Supply in National Parks*, Steven McCool and Keith Bosak (eds.), *Reframing Sustainable Tourism*, Chapter 11, Environmental Challenges and Solutions Series, Springer.

*Submitted by Barb McNicol*

## OKANAGAN COLLEGE

The Department of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science at Okanagan College consists of 7 continuing faculty (Arthur Green, Stephanie Bunclark, Leif Burge, Terrence Day, Wei Zang, Andrew Perkins and Todd Redding) with additional support from 2-4 term faculty each year. The department members are spread across 4 campuses from Salmon Arm in the North to Penticton in the south. Recent activities have included:

For more information about the department and our activities, please visit the homepage at:

[http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Programs/Areas\\_of\\_Study/arts/Departments/geogees.html](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Programs/Areas_of_Study/arts/Departments/geogees.html)

A new GI Science stream to the existing Environmental Studies Diploma has been develop for the Salmon Arm campus and is expected to start Fall 2015. The new GIS stream of the is constructed to give learners a two year diploma with the technical skills to find a job as an entry level GIS technician or pursue further training to complete their bachelor's degree in environmental studies or geography. The stream balances a core curriculum of courses in cartography, geomatics, geospatial analysis, and remote sensing with a broad educational base in physical geography and environmental science giving learners the platform to implement GIS-based solutions efficiently and appropriately.

Terrence Day worked with the Okanagan College Library to provide and curate a display of maps from the First World War in the library more information: [http://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/news/article\\_5bba81b4-6f86-11e4-a52d-4bbb4ea3106.html](http://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/news/article_5bba81b4-6f86-11e4-a52d-4bbb4ea3106.html).

Second year students Graeme Barber and Mike Kerkovius presented at the Okanagan Water Research Splashdown at UBCO in March 2015. They talked about research being conducted with faculty member Terrence Day on soil magnetic susceptibility and precipitation. Both did an awesome job, despite the fact that everyone else presenting there were faculty, post-docs or grad students. Mike won an "Honourable Mention" certificate from the judges for the quality of his presentation.

Term faculty member Kathleen Jagger has been coordinating the Earth Matters environmental art competition. The deadline for entries is Oct 20, 2015. For more information:

[http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Campus\\_and\\_Community/employees/publicaffairs/earthmatters.html](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Campus_and_Community/employees/publicaffairs/earthmatters.html)

Arthur 'Gill' Green participated with four other faculty members in the creation of an open textbook on BC regional geography, "British Columbia in a Global Context". Funded by BCcampus, the open textbook is free, licensed for adaptation, and downloadable in multiple formats. <http://opentextbc.ca/geography/>

#### Recent faculty publications:

Day, T. 2015. Academic continuity: Staying true to teaching values and objectives in the face of course interruptions. *Teaching & Learning Inquiry: The ISSOTL Journal* 3(1):75-89.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/teachlearningqu.3.1.75>

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*Submitted by Todd Redding*

## **SELKIRK COLLEGE**

In the past few years, the Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS) has begun to establish chapters across Canada to support networking and knowledge sharing among members, better highlight the contributions of remote sensing to the Canadian society, and to further the development of certifications. During the 2014 Canadian Symposium of Remote Sensing in Quebec City, Selkirk College Instructor Kongwen (Frank) Zhang met with the executive committee of the CRSS and committed to founding the Society's first rural chapter, in the Kootenay region of BC. The Kootenay Chapter was officially established in November of 2014 and is the first CRSS chapter in BC. We are listed beside Ottawa, Toronto, Lethbridge, and Atlantic chapters on the CRSS site at <http://www.crss-sct.ca/about/crss-chapters.php>. The Kootenay chapter promotes remote sensing education and explores the potential of remote sensing applications in rural and mountain areas.

*Submitted by Allison Lutz*



## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

### RESEARCH

The Department of Geography at SFU has a tradition of research excellence in a diversity of disciplines, spanning human geography, earth system dynamics (ESD), and spatial and geographic information science (SGIS). Under this interdisciplinary umbrella, SFU Geography faculty have research strengths in geographical political economies, global environmental change, water science, the city, spatial health and spatial information theory. This identity is reflected in our new website ([www.sfu.ca](http://www.sfu.ca)) which should launch toward the end of May in time for the CAG 2015 meeting we are hosting in downtown Vancouver, in this SFU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Please come join us.

### MEETING HOSTING

We hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Critical Geographies mini-conference in downtown Vancouver (Kingsbury, McCann; <http://www.sfu.ca/criticalgeographies.html>), and SFU GIS Day 2014, both in November 2014.

We are hosting two meetings in June 2015:

Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) annual meeting, June 1-5, 2015 (Hayter - Chair, Schuurman – special sessions, Hall – field trips; [www.sfu.ca/cag2015.html](http://www.sfu.ca/cag2015.html))

International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS), June 5-10, 2015 (Crooks; <http://www.sfu.ca/imgs2015/>)

### GRADUATE PROGRAM

#### **Completed theses October 2014-April 2015**

Loneragan, Christopher (MSc), Oct 2014, “Advancing Tsunami Risk Communication Through Geographic Visualization” (Nick Hedley)

Temenos, Cristina (PhD), Dec 2014, “Differential Policy Mobilities: Transnational Advocacy and Harm Reduction Drug Policy” (Eugene McCann)

Lebaron, Emily (MA), Dec 2014, “Re-Imagining the Geography of the Favelas: Pacification, Tourism, and Transformation in Complexo do Alemão, Rio de Janeiro” (Geoff Mann)

#### **Kudos**

TeamSFU (Sonja Agesen, Tom McKay and Ian Lochhead, mentored by Nick Hedley) designed an “EPI-centered” - an intelligent earthquake situational analysis tool (linking multiple spatial information sources) for citizens to make pre and post-earthquake decisions about shelter, evacuation and access to critical resources. This team of SFU Geography/Spatial Interface Research Lab students took 3rd place in the 2015 Esri Canada's Centres of Excellence App Challenge. Ten teams from Canada's leading GIS/GIScience/geomatics departments entered this challenge.

Jonny Cripps won the Quaternary Research Association's New Research Workers' Award

Blake Walker took first place in the student awards at the Spatial Knowledge and Information (Canada) Conference.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FALL 2015

### **BSc Physical Geography Major Program**

Changes were made to improve the accessibility, flexibility, and focus of the three streams in the Physical Geography B.Sc. Major by streamlining required foundational science courses, and expanding the selection of Human Geography electives. In addition, the geoscience stream was updated to fulfill Professional Environmental Geoscience syllabus requirements of the Canada Council of Professional Geoscientists allowing our P.Geo.'s to practice throughout Canada.

### **New Course**

GEOG 328-3 Labour Geographies: An examination of contemporary debates in Labour Geography, surveying geographical approaches to work and employment. Lectures explore the relationships between space, place and labour market change in the context of globalization and uneven development. This course is included in the upper division requirements for the Resources, Economy, and Environment Concentration of the Geography B.A. major.

### **Designated Writing, Quantitative and Breadth Courses**

Effective Fall 2015, two additional courses will be designated as Breadth social science – Geography 241 Social Geography and GEOG 221 Economic Geography; two additional courses will be designated as Breadth science – GEOG 213 Introduction to Geomorphology and GEOG 253 – Introduction to Remote Sensing; and one additional course will be designated as quantitative: GEOG 213 Introduction to Geomorphology.

*Submitted by Tracy Brennand*

## **THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY**

It was a busy winter at TRU!

### KRAM 2015

One of the major events was the sudden relocation of the 2015 Western Division conference to our campus. Hester Jiskoot from the University of Lethbridge called this the “Kamloops Relocated Annual Meeting.” Faculty member David Hill picked up on the acronym, and it stuck with everyone – the students even had KRAM t-shirts made up.

I was amazed to see our students and faculty spring into action once it became official that we would host the annual conference. Our Thompson Rivers University Geography Society (TRUGS) quickly called a meeting on the Tuesday before the conference (on the previous evening we had just agreed to host it). Upwards of 30 students pitched in to help with several aspects of the conference: one student, Jackson, stayed up all night to create a website; Sarah and Christine contacted the campus caterers to plan out the food; Ali created a poster to advertise the conference; Erin ordered t-shirts for the students and faculty; Michelle paired faculty with student presenters who needed to be evaluated; and there were many other tasks that the students took on. David Hill did an amazing job of organizing the students as well as arranging the Friday night keynote speakers -- Dr. Kellee Caton and Dr. Lisa Cooke -- the pub crawl downtown, the music at the banquet and many other things. David also edited the conference program after Hester Jiskoot organized the talks into two concurrent sessions, with the help of David Jordan at Trinity Western U. who was in charge of communications for the conference. This all started with the support of Neil Hanlon from UNBC who gave us all his well-organized spreadsheets of conference information, so we were able to relocate the conference to TRU in four days.

I want to thank all the students for their hard work helping out with the conference preparations and on the day of the conference with set up and registration. I also want to thank Dr. Kellee Caton for assisting with the conference registration, presentation evaluations, and poster set up, geographers Joseph Morong and Doug

Brown for chairing sessions, and my fellow faculty members Darryl Carlyle-Moses, Michael Mehta, Gilles Viaud and especially Kim Naqvi for helping with the poster evaluations, and David Hill, who has continued to work on the conference finances. Finally, I want to thank my Western Division colleagues Neil Hanlon, Hester Jiskoot, and David Jordan for their hard work and co-operation, so that we did not have to cancel the 57<sup>th</sup> conference this year.

#### Faculty News:

##### **Darryl Carlyle-Moses**

Darryl presented two posters this year, one at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco and one at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Chicago. The work that Darry presented was also published as three journal articles, two being a part of the Canadian Geophysical Union's Special Issue in the journal *Hydrological Processes* and one article in Springer's *Urban Ecosystems*. Darryl was also invited to submit a chapter on "Rainfall Interception, Detention and Depression Storage" for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of V.T. Chow's *Handbook of Applied Hydrology* (McGraw-Hill), which is expected to be published in July 2015.

In March Darryl also invited a hydrology colleague Dr. Del Levia from the U. of Delaware to give a lecture at the Environmental Science Seminar Series on the "Effects of Forests on Water and Biogeochemical Cycles". He also gave an informal talk to the geography students about graduate school at the U. of Delaware.

##### **David Hill**

In the past academic year, David published a paper on the value of combining weather radar data with non-conventional data sources for quantitative rainfall prediction (Hill, D.J. 2015. Assimilation of weather radar and binary ubiquitous sensor measurements for quantitative precipitation estimation. *Journal of Hydroinformatics*. doi:10.2166/hydro.2015.033). The results presented in this paper came from his NSERC funded research project on Ubiquitous Sensing of The Environment. He presented his new results from this research program at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Chicago this April, and will do the same in May at the Environmental and Water Resources Institute World Congress in Austin. He has also been invited to present information security and privacy aspects of this work at the Evanta Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Executive Summit (<http://www.evanta.com/ciso/summits/vancouver-bc/speakers#>) in Vancouver this June.

##### **Crystal Huscroft**

Crystal has been on sabbatical since January and has been developing an atlas of periglacial landforms in the Yukon in partnership with the Yukon Geological Survey.

##### **Terry Macdonald**

Terry Macdonald taught Geography 2230 (Regional Geography of British Columbia and Yukon) in the Winter 2015 Session. He is teaching Geography 1010 (People, Places and Landscapes: Introducing Human Geography) in the current Summer Session.



### **Michael Mehta**

Over the winter months Dr. Michael Mehta (see photos) has moved forward his research and community outreach work on renewable energy by hosting a community forum on renewable energy options for Kamloops; he has spoken at several meetings on solar photovoltaic power; and he hosted a solar BBQ in April for more than 100 people to learn about how to cook using only the power of the Sun (see attached photo). He also participated in an event in April at Kwantlen Polytechnical University on shifting university investment patterns and practices away from the fossil fuel sector, and he gave a public lecture on how to more fully embed social impact assessment into the EIA process.

### **Kim Naqvi**

This past winter Kim enjoyed teaching her new second year course on geographic thought, in which she had students work on a joint poster for the WD-CAG conference entitled “Define and Illustrate Geography.” She also attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Chicago, where she presented a poster about the Swiss painters Albert Anker and Paul Klee, who painted in two very different eras of modernization. She is also working with faculty from other disciplines studying the pedagogy of place.

### **Gilles Viaud**

Gilles taught first year human geography and the geography of Canada over the winter term. He is currently working on his small cities research in collaboration with the United Way.

### **Tom Waldichuk**

Tom had his paper on the commodification of rural landscapes translated into Japanese for inclusion in a book on the commodification of rural space in Japan (Waldichuk, T. (2015). Ibaraki ken Ushiku shi ni okeru noson keikan no shohinka. In A. Tabayashi, (Ed.), *Chiiki shinko toshite no noson kukan no shohin ka* (pp.107-125). Tokyo: Norin Tokei Shuppan ISBN 978-4-89732-313-8). Tom also gave a presentation on the cultural differences between the Japanese and Canadian rural-urban fringe at this year’s WD-CAG conference.

Last fall Tom finished teaching his third year field course in Kamloops by evaluating student-led field trips in -10 degree weather. Luckily he wrote fast enough to prevent frostbite, and the low temperature helped students quickly get to the point of their talks. This past term Tom taught rural geography for the first time, and he taught two sections of the introductory environmental geography course. In addition to the relocated WD-CAG conference, he was involved in putting on the TRU Undergraduate conference, in which some of our geography students presented their research.

*Submitted by Tom Waldichuk*

## **UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

The human geography group at the University of Alberta had a busy year. Congratulations to Human Geography’s **Damian Collins** for being recognized for his teaching excellence with a Faculty of Science Student Choice Award. Damian is currently working with Master’s student **Jalene Anderson** on Housing First responses to homelessness. Jalene has received a SSHRC CGS-Masters scholarship and Queen Elizabeth II scholarship to



support this research. He is also collaborating with MA graduate **Jia Li** (now a PhD student at Hong Kong University) on migrants' perceptions and experiences of smoking bans.

**Tara McGee** leads the First Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership that brings together researchers, First Nations communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, and government agencies involved in wildfire evacuations in the three provinces. The partnership is examining how First Nations residents and communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario have been affected by recent wildfire evacuations, and identify ways to reduce the negative impacts of evacuations on First Nations. PhD student **Henok Asfaw** and Master's student **Kyla Mottershead** are completing their research as part of this partnership. Kyla has received a SSHRC CGS-Masters scholarship and Queen Elizabeth II scholarship, and recently received 'honourable mention' in the SSHRC storytellers competition for her video about the First Nations wildfire evacuation partnership. Graduate student **Leanne Labossiere** successfully defended her M.A. thesis "Taking it into their own hands: Innovative Wildfire Mitigation Measures at the Municipal Level" in January. Leanne's project examined wildfire mitigation programs in Logan Lake and Kamloops, BC. Tara is also working with PhD student **Arshad Khalafzai** and Master's student **Konstantinos Koukouzakis** who have started research on climate change impacts.

The physical oceanography group in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences had an active 2014-2015. At different times, the group included, besides its lead, **Paul Myers**, 3 post-doctoral research fellows, 5 graduate students and 6 summer students/interns. The two largest projects the group was involved in were the NSERC CCAR networks, VITALS (Ventilation Interactions and Transports Across the Labrador Sea) and the Canadian Arctic GEOTRACES Project. Additionally, many members were involved in activities associated with ArcTrain, a graduate training program funding by both NSERC and the German DFG. An ArcTrain summer school on high latitude climate dynamics was held in May 2014 in Bremen Germany, at which **Paul Myers** was an instructor and two graduate students, **Laura Castro de la Guardia** and **Laura Gillard** attended. **Laura Castro de la Guardia** was involved in another ArcTrain activity, spending two months on the German research vessel PolarStern in the Arctic Ocean, visiting the North Pole during the cruise. Multiple members of the group presented at both the Annual CMOS Congress in Rimouski (June, 2014), the FAMOS Workshop at Woods Hole (October, 2014) as well as the Arctic Change Meeting in Ottawa (2014). This year was also an active year for model development and simulation, as we completed our first 1/12 degree high resolution simulation of the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans with the NEMO (as well as numerous 1/4 degree simulations addressing additional science questions). Many technical developments were involved in that process. We have also now gotten the biogeochemical model BLING, developed by Eric Galbraith at McGill, coupled to NEMO to use in future studies. In terms of awards, **Laura Castro de la Guardia** was awarded both a Queen Elizabeth II and Rob Hibbs Scholarship while **Laura Gillard** won an award for best MSc talk during one of her presentations. Finally, **Paul Myers** was awarded an Editor's Citation for excellence in refereeing by the Journal of Geophysical Research - Oceans.

*Submitted by Tara McGee*

## UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

### Department News:

**Steven Marsh** has officially taken over the reins as department head. Steve's 3 year term will run until January 2018.

**Claire Hay** has returned to the department following maternity leave and taught GEOG 202 Introduction to Geomorphology. In this course, Claire used a variety of active learning and problem-based learning strategies to engage students in the field of geomorphology. Fieldwork at Aldergrove Regional Park provided the stage for a variety of data collection activities where students measured streamflow, surveyed valley cross-section profiles,



analyzed mass movements and collected sediment for analysis (see photo). These field activities formed the basis of lab activities back in the classroom.

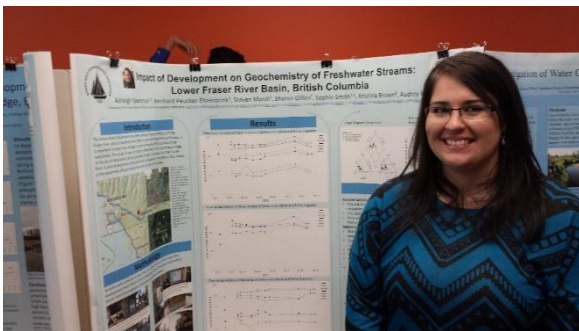
**Carolyn Atkins, Steve Marsh** and **Terah Sportel** collaborated on a field trip through the Lower Mainland looking at urban climatology, green buildings and planning. This field trip allowed students in GEOG 307 Urban Climatology and GEOG 452 Field Methods in Geography to jointly investigate issues surrounding urban climate concerns and development issues and ways in which buildings can mitigate these issues. On this field trip students visited Guildford Mall in Surrey to investigate the newly installed living wall and toured the roof of the Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel with Executive Chef to look at the role of urban agriculture, sustainable food resources and climate.

This past semester included the inaugural offering of GEOG 219 Biogeography taught by **Jonathan Hughes**. This course was previously offered at the 300-level but it was recently moved to the lower-level to complement courses in climatology and geomorphology.

### Student News:

This past February, GATE students **Ashleigh Yakemchuck** and **Sophie Smith** visited the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, to work with Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink and other scientists involved in the Global Rivers Observatory project. Ashleigh and Sophie have been working on this project under the local supervision of Steven Marsh. This funded practicum placement provided Ashleigh and Sophie with the opportunity to work in a state-of-the-art laboratory and process water samples collected by themselves as part of this global project. Ashleigh's project investigated the impact of residential land-use on stream chemistry on Clayburn Creek (a tributary of the Fraser River). Sophie's work investigated the seasonal variation of water geochemistry in Nathan Slough which is a tributary of the Fraser River. Check out more details of their time at WHOI in the *Geography Student Focus* section of the WDCAG Newsletter.

Students working with **Mariano Mapili** presented posters of class projects at Student Research Day on April 8, 2015 and with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Research Open House on April 14, 2015. The poster "Monitoring of Himalayan Blackberry in Abbotsford Parks" a citizen science project in Geog/CMNS 257: Environmental Science



Communications was presented. In this project, students were able to monitor the invasive Himalayan Blackberry using a cell phone application. Seven other Geography students presented their research posters at Student Research Day.

**Heather Marsh** presented her poster on "Geography of dog parks, Abbotsford, BC". **Sophie Smith** presented her research from the Global Rivers Observatory Project, "Seasonal Variation of Nathan Slough's Water Geochemistry in British Columbia." **Derrick Swallow** presented a poster on his Honours research, "Suburban Architectural Design and

Housing Policy: A BC Box Case Study." There were four posters from our BSc students. **Jordan Bryce** presented her research on "The origin of mysterious organic mats in the beaches of Calvert Island, BC Central Coast." Three other projects that are part of the Global Rivers Observatory were presented by: **Ashleigh Yakemchuck** on "Impact of development on geochemistry of freshwater streams: Lower Fraser River basin, British Columbia"; **Audrey Faber** on "Investigation into the impact of urban development on the Kanaka Creek watershed, Maple Ridge, BC."; and **Ellen Clemence** presented her poster from the WDCAG. **Ashleigh** won the award for the most outstanding BSc research poster (see photo above).

GATE students were also front and centre at a recent Science Research Open House which highlighted the variety of student-led science research being conducted at UFV. The project “Monitoring of the Spread of Invasive Plant Species in Abbotsford” was presented which was an application of spatial statistics, cluster analysis and hotspot techniques conducted in GEOG 252: Explanation in Geography –Quantitative Techniques. In this project, the students were able to identify areas where specific invasive plant species can be controlled most effectively. At the same event, the project “Bioengineering Trials to Control the Invasive Reed Canary Grass” was also presented. This project was an applied research component of the GEOG/BIO 319: Swamps and Bogs course where students partnered with the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to try novel strategies to control red canary grass in wetlands (see photo).



Over the past year, **Derrick Swallow** has been working towards his Honours designation with supervisor **Dr. John Belec**. Derrick’s project is titled “Suburban Architectural Design and Housing Policy: A BC Box Case Study”. In this project, Derrick investigated the origins of the BC Box as a housing form and looked at the policy reasons why the BC Box was a prevalent housing type in the Abbotsford area in the 1960s. Derrick presented the findings of his project at a department-wide seminar on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2015.

#### Awards:

As we prepare to graduate the most recent group of BA and BSc students from GATE in June, we are proud to announce this year’s award winners:

- CAG Award: Samantha Scott
- AAG Award: Kalei Swanson
- Doug Nicol Award: Derrick Swallow
- University Research Excellence Award for GATE: Ashleigh Yakemchuk and Sophie Smith

GATE students and faculty were also represented at this year’s Environmental Leadership Awards presented by the Abbotsford-Matsqui Rotary Club. **Lenore Newman** was recognized as the Green Leader for her work on saving the Agricultural Land Reserve. Student **Ashleigh Yakemchuk** (BSc Geography) was presented with the Green Leader for Tomorrow Award for her work at UFV for the Centre for Sustainability.

#### Field schools

This past April and May, 12 students and GATE faculty members **Steven Marsh**, **Terah Sportel** and **Mariano Mapilli** spent 2 weeks in New York City working alongside UFV Biology students. Field school participants navigated the New York metro system, investigated emergency preparedness following Hurricane Sandy, visited a number of famous NY museums, strolled through Central Park discussing geology, geomorphology and ecology and much, much more.





*UFV students and faculty outside the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on the New York Study Tour*



*Students visit Native American "Lenape" caves and middens on their guided tour of Inwood Park in Manhattan, New York.*



*Students visit Dutch Kills Green, an innovative solution to creating parks in busy intersections of Queensborough, New York as part of beautification, greening and stormwater management.*



*Students visit the High Line Park, a greening initiative in New York through the conversion of an elevated train track to a park. This was included in their context tour of the Meatpacking District where heritage sites are preserved.*

The next installment of the Adventures in Geography study tour is being planned for the Alberta Rockies at the end of August. GATE faculty members, **Garry Fehr** and **Carolyn Atkins** and 9 students will be investigating the glacial geomorphology and climate signals of mountain environments together with resources and tourism issues in national parks. Stay tuned for details in the next edition of the WDCAG Newsletter.

### **Internships**

UFV's Department of Geography and the Environment under the mentorship of Cherie Enns and Garry Fehr continue to successfully promote internships in India and Africa. **Cherie Enns** has been successful with her application for funding for Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships project "Urban Food Systems in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and the Fraser Valley: Capacity Building for Policy and Planning" for a total of \$293,000. This project will connect with \$60,000 plus in funding from Aga Khan University in East Africa for food systems and planning policy. In May, 4 students will be heading to Dar es Salaam for 3 months working with Ardhi University working on food mapping and 2 Students will be working with a local NGO related to social policy.



## Events:

An Environmental Careers Networking Event organized by **Michelle Rhodes** took place on March 19<sup>th</sup> and included a panel discussion on transitioning to the workforce and an open mentoring/networking session. The purpose of this event was to provide current UFV students interested in the environmental science field an opportunity to get first-hand information on how to enter the field as well as job-searching tips from past UFV students now working in this area. Panelists included: Dylan Anderson (BA student), Co-op student with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Nathalie Armstrong (BSc 2011 UFV and MA cand. UBC), Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations; Anita Brar (BSc 2012), formerly Caribou Research Technician, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement; Theresa Fresco (BA 2005 UFV, MA 2012 UBC), Membership Coordinator, Connecting Environmental Professionals, and Program Coordinator, Fraser Basin Council.; Jillian Hansen-Carlson (BSc 2013), Green Building Coordinator, Light House Sustainable Building Centre; and Leanne Hunter (BSc 2013), Environment Canada. Other alumni acted as mentors for current UFV students in this networking event. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Geography and the Environment, UFV Career Centre, UFV Centre for Sustainability, and UFV Alumni Association.

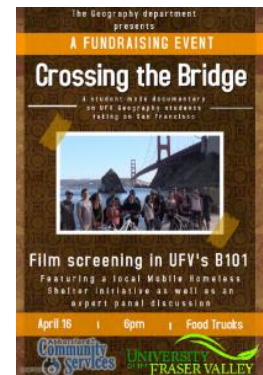
**Cherie Enns** is busy working with Campus Planning to engage students around the Campus Plan and the U District plan developed by the City of Abbotsford. Over the summer, GEOG 464 Planning Studio students will be working with city and university project team to prepare planning reports on selected development opportunities. The UDistrict project was officially launched on April 8, 2015.



*UDistrict Launch at UFV Abbotsford campus, April 8, 2015 (photos courtesy of UFV)*

Another event organized by **Cherie Enns** focused on *Sustainable Food Systems in East Africa, the Punjab and the Fraser Valley*. Increasing population degraded land resources and declining water supply are increasing the vulnerability of global food security. This symposium hosted by UFV in partnership with Aga Khan University East Africa Institute and Panjab University will discuss sustainable food systems. Keynote speakers shared their expertise on sustainable food systems that range from food distribution, resource use, policy and new innovations in production. Keynote speakers included Alex O. Awiti (Director East Africa Institute at Aga Khan University in Nairobi), James Kuhns (Ryerson University), **Lenore Newman** (CRC UFV), Dhian Kaur and B.S. Ghuman (Panjab University), George Imbenzi (Kenya Consulate) and Orlando Schmidt (Regional Manager for Coast Region of BC Ministry of Agriculture).

*“Crossing the Bridge”* is a film by UFV student, **Megan Russell**. This documentary follows the Adventures in Geography excursion to San Francisco in the fall of 2014. On this tour Geography students explored Bay Area earthquakes, transportation systems and homelessness. This film screening also included a panel discussion featuring **Mike Smith, Jonathan Hughes, Dylan Anderson** and **Megan Russell** on the film. In addition this event highlighted a local innovative project involving cooperation between the Abbotsford Community Services and R Mann Trucking creating a Mobile Homeless Shelter. Richard Aikema from Abbotsford Community Services presented on services for homeless in Abbotsford and Raj Mann discussed the donation of a truck for the shelter project in Abbotsford.



Faculty and students presented at this year's Annual Conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. **Simon Chilvers** (sessional lecturer UFV) and **Tyler Blackman** (UFV student) co-organized a session on Class Matters in Studies in Human Geography. **Simon Chilvers** presented a paper titled, "Multi-class alliances, state-building, and the politics of regional identity in India." **Tyler Blackman's** presented on, "Antimonies of historical materialism and their significance for political geography." **Terah Sportel** was also a part of this session and discussed, "Invented community histories and scheduled caste studies in South India." **Garry Fehr** presented on, "Effects of participatory conservation programs on forest biodiversity." **Michelle Rhodes** discussed "How I learned to stop worrying and love the BC Box: Morphological resilience in BC's most ubiquitous house form." **Steven Marsh** presented on, "Authentic research opportunities through the Global Rivers Observatory project for UFV undergraduate students." In addition, **Ellen Clemence** presented a poster on, "An investigation of water chemistry at Silverdale Creek, Mission, BC."

This past semester, the Geography Discovery Series partnered with the Centre for Sustainability's greenSPEAK seminar series to welcome a number of speakers to campus. Speakers included UFV's Dean of Science **Lucy Lee** who presented a talk on "Sustainability in the face of a megathrust earthquake: lessons from the 1970 Peruvian earthquake". **Garry Fehr** (Department of Geography and the Environment, UFV) gave a talk entitled "Medicinal Plant Conservation Schemes, Scams and Challenges". In his talk, Garry presented findings of his research into medicinal plant conservation in India where a number of conservation initiatives of the past 10 years have resulted in a broad range of biological, economic, political and social challenges for the Indian government seeking conservation and economic development. **Jorge Macias** (a research scientist) presented a seminar on how exotic species get established in new environments and discussed processes for detecting and monitoring these species. Finally, GATE students, **Derrick Swallow** and **Ashleigh Yakemchuk** presented the findings of their independent research projects. Derrick presented the findings of his honour project entitled: "Suburban Architectural Design and Housing Policy: A BC Box Case Study". Ashleigh presented a talk on the role of development in affecting water geochemistry in Clayburn Creek in Abbotsford. This project is part of the larger Global Rivers Project.

#### Faculty News:

**Scott Shupe** presented freshwater research results from the Earthwatch Program to a HSBC citizen scientist reunion event in Vancouver on April 9, 2015. **Scott** is co-author on a manuscript with Earthwatch involving global analysis of freshwater data which has been submitted to *Hydrobiologia*.

**Steven Marsh, Sharon Gillies** (Biology) and UFV Geography grads **Rosalie Luymes, Audrey Epp** and **Jenna Fanslau** are co-authors of a paper entitled, "Seasonal hydrology drives rapid shifts in the flux and composition of dissolved and particulate organic carbon and mercury in the Fraser River, Canada" which has been submitted to the journal *Biogeosciences*.

**Steven Marsh** presented at the recent Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union where he presented 2 posters on the research being done in collaboration with WHOI and WHRC. In addition, Steve was a co-author on two presentations by Sharon Gillies, UFV Biology. Her presentations were entitled, "My River My Home: Both Art and Science", and "The Impact of Climate Change on the Fraser River may Result in Increased Algal Blooms in the Strait of Georgia".

**Cherie Enns** and **Garry Fehr** are collaborating on a project with funding by Aga Khan University and DFATD on food capacity and security. **Cherie Enns** is also working on a project on E-Learning related to sustainable development with UN Habitat. She is also working with Save the Children concluding work on child rights in several countries including South Sudan, East Africa, Zambia and Senegal. Cherie has had numerous articles in the papers <http://www.chilliwacktimes.com/news/295073271.html?mobile=true>. Finally, **Cherie** has just concluded the Abbotsford Homeless Taskforce and Harrison Age Friendly Plan working with many former UFV Geography grads.

An article by **John Belec** on the topic of Canada's suburbs will appear in this year's volume (59) of The Canadian Geographer. The journal article is entitled: "Underwriting Suburbanization: The National Housing Act and the Canadian City" and presents the results of Belec's analysis of CMHC data dating back to the 1950's.

**Lenore Newman** and post-doc **Dr. Lisa Powell** presented on agriburbia at a panel at the AAG in Chicago this past April. Lenore and Lisa have also recently had a paper published: **Newman, Lenore, Lisa Jordan Powell**, and Hannah Wittman. "Landscapes of food production in agriburbia: Farmland protection and local food movements in British Columbia." *Journal of Rural Studies*, 39 (2015): 99-110.

**Claire Hay** is presenting a paper entitled "Making the leap: personal reflections on adopting problem-based learning strategies in the classroom" at the upcoming CAG Annual Meeting in Vancouver in June. She is also completing the final 2 courses towards the BC Provincial Instructor Diploma and hopes to complete the program requirements this summer. Claire has been actively using new teaching pedagogies in the classroom this year to improve student engagement.

**Khaled Hamdan** is working with Pearson Education to develop supplemental materials for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Canadian Edition of Geosystems.

*Submitted by Claire Hay*

## **UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

### Strike at UNBC and WD-CAG implications:

There was a Faculty Association labour stoppage at UNBC from March 5 to 18, 2015. This prevented the Geography Program from hosting annual WD-CAG conference (set for March 13-14). We thank Tom Waldichuk and his team at Thompson Rivers University for stepping forward to host the meeting. We also thank UNBC's Neil Hanlon who had prepared all of the conference materials and activities, and was able to pass the conference agenda and program to TRU just before the labour action.

### Faculty News:

**Kevin Hall**, the founding Chair of the UNBC Geography Program, retired this past summer from the university and has moved to the Shuswap area. We wish him and his wife Alida well, and look forward to the first batches of wine from the cottage vineyard!

Adjunct faculty member **Sarah de Leeuw** was appointed Associate Editor for the AAG's latest journal: "GeoHumanities". Published by Taylor and Francis, GeoHumanities will include original peer-reviewed articles that span conceptual and methodological debates in geography and the humanities; critical reflections on analog and

digital artistic productions; and new scholarly interactions occurring at the intersections of geography and multiple humanities disciplines.

Congratulations to **Gail Fondahl** and her co-editor Joan Nymand Larsen (Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat) on the recent publication of their report entitled, [Arctic Human Development Report II : Regional Processes and Global Linkages](#) (2015). See also:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNBC/photos/a.10150215246325119.349527.12457470118/10153074233100119/?type=1&fref=nf>

Over the past several months, **Gail** gave the following invited talks:

- “Human Development in the Arctic: Language Vitality in the Larger Picture”, ICC Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium”, Ottawa, 12 February 2015
- “Improving regional and local development: the John Prince Research Forest”, *Trans-Atlantic Science Week*, Toronto, 28 October 2014
- “The Arctic Human Development Report II: An Overview” at “The Arctic Human Development Report II: A Sneak Preview”, University of Alaska – Anchorage, Anchorage, 19 September 2014.
- “Environmental Issues to Sustainable Development and Human Well-Being in the Arctic”, *11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region*, Whitehorse, 10 September 2014
- “Land Claims among the Evenki of Siberia”, *Images and Land Claims: A Weekend Festival of Film and Ideas*, organized by Sto:lo Nation and University of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack, 13 July 2014

**Gail** was also appointed to the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Peer Review Panel.

**Gail** also helped convene a workshop with colleagues Andrey Petrov (University of Northern Iowa) and Peter Schweitzer (University of Vienna) on "Understanding Sustainability in the Arctic", 6-11 February 2015, to draft a white paper on that topic as part of the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP-III) process. The paper will be presented at the upcoming ICARP-III conference in Toyama, Japan, in April. She then traveled to Ottawa to participate in the Inuit Circumpolar Council's "[Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium](#)".

Congratulations to **Neil Hanlon** who won a “Healthier You Award” for his ongoing research on topics related to community health.

**Catherine Nolin** is the new Chair of Geography at the University of Northern British Columbia, starting January 2015. See: <http://www.unbc.ca/news/35877/dr-catherine-nolin-new-chair-geography>

**Catherine** also travelled to McGill University for a Research Team Leaders’ Workshop for CICADA (Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives), 19-20 February

**Ellen Petticrew, Phil Owens** and Stephen Dery at UNBC were co-applicants on a successful NSERC Collaborative Research and Development Grant “Contributions of climate change and hydro-electric regulation to the variability and change of freshwater-marine coupling in the Hudson Bay System.” This large (\$10.6 M) four year grant was initiated at University of Manitoba (D. Barber) in conjunction with Manitoba Hydro.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has funded a large project which involves researchers from many countries throughout the world on “Climate change and its impact on glacier retreat and land-water-ecosystem quality in polar and mountain regions across the world: from assessment to action”. **Ellen Petticrew** and **Phil Owens** are involved for expert advice on the use of sediment tracers in mountain watersheds in Canada.



**Roger Wheate** is compiling the quadrennial Canadian National Report on Cartography (2011-15) for presentation to the International Cartographic Congress in Rio de Janeiro, August 2015. This is published as a special issue of *Geomatica*, the journal of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics.

#### In the News:

MSc NRES (Geography) grad **Sam Albers**, current Manager of the Quesnel River Research Centre, is featured in [UNBC Update, pg. 11](#) ("Tracking the Tailings UNBC researchers investigate the aftermath of Mount Polley Mine site breach")

UNBC, Faculty to Settle Dispute through Arbitrator

- [CKPG News](#)
- [My Prince George Now](#)
- [UNBCFA](#)

**Gail Fondahl** speaks to provincial and national press about her co-edited publication: [Arctic Human Development Report II : Regional Processes and Global Linkages](#)

- [Vancouver Sun](#)
- [CBC News](#)
- [CTV News](#)

Prince George City Council heard from UNBC's Community Development Institute co-directors **Greg Halseth** and **Marleen Morris**, on March 2, 2015 regarding the results of a nearly 18-month process to conduct a housing need and demand study and complementary housing strategy framework." @CDIatUNBC. See:

- [Prince George Citizen 1](#)
- [Prince George Citizen 2](#)
- [My Prince George Now](#)
- [CBC DayBreak North audio interview 10 min.](#)

**Zoë Meletis** is featured in the documentary film *Line In the Sand*, which follows the route of the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, from Alberta to Haida Gwaii, seeking out narratives about environment, resources, and place as they relate to the proposed project. The film had its World Premiere in Prince George, at UNBC, on April 1, 2015. <http://www.lineinthesand.ca>

**Ellen Petticrew** and **Phil Owens** wrote the Final Word in [Fall issue of UNBC Update](#) (p. 24) ("Here to help: Research centre's existence critical for ongoing research")

"UNBC landscape ecology research guides Mount Polley monitoring program" *Globe and Mail* (National Edition), supplement on Western Schools, page W4, November 27, 2014

#### Recent publications:

Beedle, M. J.\*, **B. Menounos**, and **R. Wheate**. 2015. Glacier change in the Cariboo Mountains, British Columbia, Canada (1952–2005). *The Cryosphere*, 9, 65–80, 2015. DOI:10.5194/tc-9-65-2015. Internet: [www.the-cryosphere.net/9/65/2015/](http://www.the-cryosphere.net/9/65/2015/)

Clark, D.E., M.F.A. Vogels, M. van der Perk, **P.N. Owens\*\***, **E.L. Petticrew**. 2014. Effects of a small-scale, abandoned gold mine on the geochemistry of fine streambed and floodplain sediments in the Horsefly River watershed, British Columbia, Canada. *Minerological Magazine*, 78:1491-1504.

**de Leeuw, S.** \*\* 2014. Three poems: Flying North, Snow on Clear-Cuts Below; Herschel Island; You Re-entered The Atmosphere. *Contemporary Verse 2* (CV2). 27-32.

**de Leeuw, S.** \*\* 2014. 1CountryBoy. *Kwe: Standing With Our Sisters*. Ed. Joseph Boyden. Penguin Canada. Toronto. pg. 87-90.

**de Leeuw, S.** \*\* 2015. Two Poems: Debris Flow, Snohomish County Washington; Denver International Airport, April. *ElevenEleven: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Issue 18. <http://elevenelevenjournal.com/issue-18-table-of-contents/>

**de Leeuw, S.** \*\* 2015. After Paul Auster Spoke About Lightning. *Best Canadian Essays 2014*. Eds. Christopher Doda and Natalie Zina Walschots. Toronto, Ont.: Tightrope Books. pg. 21-32.

**Fondahl G.** 2014. Tracking, understanding and addressing rapid change in Arctic human development, *Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of Development of the Arctic* (<http://www.arcticinfo.eu/en/the-project/features>)

**Fondahl, G.,** S. Crate, and V. Filippova. 2014. The Sakha Republic: Yakutia, in *Arctic Social Indicators*, J. Larsen, P. Schweitzer & A. Petrov (eds), pp. 57-91 (Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers). Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/TN2014-568>

**Fondahl, G.,** V. Fillipova, and L. Mack. 2015. Indigenous peoples in the New Arctic, in *The New Arctic*, eds. B. Evengård, J. N. Larsen and Ø. Ravna (Berlin: Springer)

Gjertsen T. and **G. Halseth.** (eds.) 2015. *Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North – From Tana, Norway to Oktemtsy, Yakutia, Russia: The Gargia Conferences for Local and Regional Development (2004-14)*. Prince George, BC: Publications Series of the UNBC Community Development Institute. Tromso, Norway: Septentrio Academic Publishing of the University Library at UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Septentrio Conference Series, Number 1, 2015.

**Halseth, G.,** D. Manson, L. Ryser, S. Markey, and M. Morris.\*\* 2015. Constructing rural places in a globalized world: Place-based rural development seen from northern British Columbia, Canada. In Gjertsen T. and Halseth G. (eds.), pp. 227-239. *Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North – From Tana, Norway to Oktemtsy, Yakutia, Russia: The Gargia Conferences for Local and Regional Development (2004-14)*. Prince George, BC: Publications Series of the UNBC Community Development Institute. Tromso, Norway: Septentrio Academic Publishing of the University Library at UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Septentrio Conference Series, Number 1, 2015.

Larsen, J.N. and **G. Fondahl.** eds. 2014. *Arctic Human Development Report II: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*. TemaNord 2014:567 (Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers). Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/TN2014-567> (500 pp.)

Larsen, J., P. Schweitzer, A. Petrov. and **G. Fondahl.** 2014. Introduction, in *Arctic Social Indicators*, J. Larsen, P. Schweitzer & A. Petrov (eds), pp. 15-54 (Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers). Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/TN2014-568>

**Meletis, Z.A.** (2014). Book review of Marcuse, Peter et al (eds), Searching for the Just City. Debates in urban theory and practice, Routledge, 2009. *The Canadian Geographer* 58.3: e42.

**Petticrew, E.L.** and **P.N. Owens**\*\* 2014. Breaking down barriers. *Innovation International*, 164, 102-104.

Sullivan, L., L. Ryser, and **G. Halseth.** 2015. "Recognizing Change, Recognizing Rural: The New Rural Economy and Towards a New Model of Rural Service". *Journal of Rural and Community Development*. 9(4): 219-245.

\* Graduate student

\*\* Affiliate geographer/Adjunct faculty

### Field Courses:

For recent UNBC field schools, please see:

<http://www.unbc.ca/geography> and <http://blogs.unbc.ca/nolin/>

The UNBC field school to Peru runs from June 15 to July 3, 2015. It is organized by **Catherine Nolin** with UNBC partner First Nations Studies and international partner Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Foundation. See: <http://epafperu.org/en/peru-field-school-2015-transitional-justice-in-practice/>

**Ellen Petticrew** plans to deliver a Geography field course in fluvial geomorphology (Aug 29-Sept 3, 2015) at the Quesnel River Research Centre, in Likely BC. Plans are underway to deliver a full term of watershed-focused courses to a cohort of ~10 students at the QRRC from Sept-Dec 2016. This course would be open to UNBC and other universities students.

### Graduate Students:

**Cherise Chrispen** and **Zoë A. Meletis** (2015). *Conservation and Consumption- Conflicted and confusing bedfellows in sea turtle conservation*. International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Dalaman, Turkey. April 19-26, 2015.

**Cherise** also won an award at last year's WDCAG for her paper: Thinking closer to home: Considering the consumption---related beliefs and behaviours of North American sea turtle conservation practitioners.

**Tejinder Dhaliwal** (MA NRES, Geography), will present a portion of his ongoing MA research, at the upcoming CAG: **Tejinder Dhaliwal** and **Zoë A. Meletis**. *Sustainability and Culture: Reflections on the initial findings of studying Sikh participation in and perceptions of recycling in Abbotsford, BC*. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Simon Fraser University, June 1-5, 2015.

### **Thesis Defences**

**Malyssa Mauer**. 2015. "Late Holocene Glacier Fluctuations in Southernmost Patagonia." MSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), UNBC, Prince George, BC, January 22. Supervisor: Dr. Brian Menounos.

**Jocelyn Joe-Strack**. 2014. "Mercury, Sulfur-Reducing Bacteria and Organic Matter in the Subarctic Lake Sediments of Kusawa Lake, Yukon." MSc thesis. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), UNBC, Prince George, BC, December 19. Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Petticrew

**Som Pun**. 2014. "The Opportunities and Limitations of First Nations Forestry Agreements in British Columbia: Collective Experience of the Tl'azt'en Nation & the Future Need for Community-Based Resource Management & Decision-Making." Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (MNRES - Geography), UNBC, Prince George, BC, December 8. Supervisor: Dr. Greg Halseth

**Rob Vogt**. 2014 (November). A Model for Holocene Glacial Erosion at Peyto Glacier, Alberta. MSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), UNBC, November 14. Supervisor: Dr. Brian Menounos.

### Stay in touch with UNBC Geography:

We're now on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNBCGeography>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNBC-Geography/428896160643>

Homepage: <http://www.unbc.ca/geography>

New Geography Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNBC-Geography-Club/127227914114452>

*Submitted by Greg Halseth*

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

### FACULTY

We will be welcoming **Dr. Johan Feddema** as our new chair. He is currently professor and chair of the Geography Department at the University of Kansas. He obtained a PhD in Climatology from the University of Delaware, and his research interest is primarily in studying the processes by which anthropogenic actions affect climate. His current research combines remote sensing, GIS, and modeling to develop datasets to simulate land cover change and other human processes at the Earth's surface in the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Community Climate System Model (CCSM). He has published in a variety of journals, including *Climate Research*, *Climate Dynamics*, *Climatic Change*, and *Science*, and was a contributing author to the third and fourth IPCC reports (from the AAG digital Digest Geography news from internet and social Media sources April 28, 2015)



**Dr. Dan Smith** has been our interim chair for the past few semesters. We're very grateful for his service (again), and wish him continued success as he steps away from the responsibility of keeping the department directed and growing.

UVic geography professor **Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood's** edited book, *Performativity, Politics, and the Production of Social Space* (2014, Routledge, co-edited with Michael Glass, Univ. of Pittsburgh) was among the books honoured by the Geographical Perspectives on Women (GPOW) Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers at the GPOW Book Reception in Chicago on April 22, 2015.

It is an honour to have **Dr. Simon Springer** on our faculty. His exceptional contributions have been recognised and valued the world over, as seen in these examples.

- He has had a new book published by Palgrave Macmillan in March called "Violent Neoliberalism: Development, Discourse, and Dispossession in Cambodia"  
<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/violent-neoliberalism-simon-springer/?K=9781137485328>
- He was named by the Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers as the 2015 recipient of the Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award. The award's description is as follows: "This award will be given to an individual who has received her/his PhD within the past ten years, in honor of contributions that have generated new interest in the subfield and/or opened up new areas of inquiry for political geographic research."

UVic geographer **Dr. Olaf Niemann**, an international leader in remote sensing technology, is the newly appointed BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing. It is the first and only research program in this field in Canada. For the article in its entirety please see

<http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/release.php?display=release&id=146>

UVic geography wildlife expert **Dr. Chris Darimont** — a research pioneer on BC's coastal wolves and bears, and a passionate advocate for science-based conservation policy — is this year's winner of the Distinguished Academics Early in Career award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA-BC). For the article in its entirety please see <http://ring.uvic.ca/news/outspoken-conservationist-recognized-bc-faculty-association>

Geography faculty member **Dr. Jutta Gutberlet** received the 2015 UVic Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Outstanding Community Outreach. Jutta is committed to working with communities on livelihood issues and local development approaches and strategies for social inclusion, poverty reduction, conflict resolution, and overall sustainability. Her research entails applied, empirical fieldwork in countries in the Global South, most

often in disenfranchised neighbourhoods and communities. She brings her academic skills to risky and poverty-stricken locations, where her participatory research methods have the potential to contribute to the empowerment of local communities, during and after the fieldwork. Her research has contributed to the structuring, organization, and enhancement of the voice of informal recyclers, primarily in Brazil.

#### MAPPING TOOLS IMPROVE CYCLIST SAFETY

Did you have a near miss during your morning cycling commute? Then map it on [BikeMaps.org](http://BikeMaps.org) and your incident will be part of a new University of Victoria project aimed at improving cycling safety. UVic geography professor **Dr. Trisalyn Nelson** and a team of researchers in the UVic Geography SPAR Lab (Spatial Pattern and Analysis Research) are launching a web-map to find hot spots of safe and risky cycling in the Capital Regional District. They are collecting data to conduct geographical information system (GIS) and statistical analysis. Cyclists can record bike crashes, near misses, hazards, and thefts in the region.

“With only 30 to 40 per cent of cycling accident data captured by traditional data sources, BikeMaps.org represents an important effort to fill data and information gaps,” says Nelson. “I love cycling and I commute by bike daily. But, especially as a mom, I am always looking for ways our family can ride as safely as possible.”

Sponsorship for BikeMaps.org is provided by the SPAR Lab, CRD, CAA (Canadian Automobile Association), and NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council).

Engage using the [#bikemaps](https://twitter.com/bikemaps) hashtag on Twitter.

#### Graduate Students

PhD candidate **Jennifer Mateer** recently received the Mitacs Globalink Scholarship and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, both given in order to complete doctoral research in India.

*We had many graduate students defend this year in a broad range of studies. Congratulations!*

**Hille, Erika**, MSc (December 2014) The Effects of Shoreline Retrogressive Thaw Slumping on the Hydrology and Geochemistry of Small Tundra Lake Catchments

**Masuruli Baker, Masuruli**, PhD (December 2014) Costs and Benefits of Nature-Based Tourism to Conservation and Communities in the Serengeti Ecosystem

**Slaunwhite, Amanda**, PhD (December 2014) Alcohol Related Harm and Primary Health Care in British Columbia, Canada

**Stevenson, Kira**, MSc (December 2014) Using Long-term Ecological Research to Promote Sustainable Whale-Watching Practices in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia

**St-Hillaire, Vicki**, MSc (December 2014) Holocene Glacial History of the Bowser River Watershed, Northern Coast Mountains, British Columbia

**Ahmed, Roxanne**, MSc (February 2015) Spatio-temporal Variation in the Spring Freshet of Major Circumpolar Arctic River Systems

**Charbonneau, Ansley**, MSc (April 2015) Rock Glacier Activity and Distribution in the Southeastern British Columbia Coast Mountains

**Leech, Heather**, MSc (March 2015) Seasonal Habitat Selection by Resident and Translocated Caribou in Relation to Cougar Predation Risk

**Mood, Bryan**, MSc (April 2015) Latest Pleistocene and Holocene Glacier Behaviour at Franklin Glacier, Mt. Waddington Area, British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada

**Paquette-Struger, Benjamin**, MSc (April 2015) Biogeochemistry, Limnology, and Ecology of Arctic Lakes



**Smiley, Byron**, MSc (April 2015) A 100-year retrospective and Current Carbon Budget Analysis for the Sooke Lake Watershed: Investigating the Watershed-Scale Carbon Implications of Disturbance in the Capital Regional District's Water Supply Lands

**Suzanne, Christina**, MSc (April 2015) Effects of Natural and Anthropogenic Non-Point Source Disturbances on the Structure and Function of Tributary Ecosystems in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region

**Wicks, Adam**, MSc (April 2015) Coastal Storm Surge Identification and Classification at Red Dog Dock, Alaska, 2004-2014

*Submitted by Kinga Menu*

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY**

### Program News

In addition to a new BSc Geoscience Major, the Department offers a BA Major and Minor in Geography, which continue to have strong enrollments. The BA Major has three streams: General, Natural Resource Management and Urban and Regional Management.

The Department will be offering two new applied Master's program in the fall: a Master's of GIS Applications and a Master's in Community Planning. Both have accepted students for the incoming cohort. The MGISA will be thesis-based and given over one year, with entrance requirements of a Bachelor's degree and an Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (or equivalent). The MCP will be a two year program, with course work in the first year and a thesis or major project and additional courses in the second year with a targeted start date of September 2015. The MGISA will be taught online and the MCP will be given in a traditional face-to-face delivery format. The Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications offered by the Department has strong enrollments, and many students are interested in the upcoming MGIS. Employment in the GIS sector is very strong at the moment and most graduates get employment within a short period of graduating.

### Faculty News

**Don Alexander** [regular faculty] has been serving as department chair, and will soon be turning over the reins to Hannah Wilson. He also continues to organize, with Pam Shaw and off-campus partners, the annual Urban Issues Film Festival, which this year will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He pursues his research and writing as time allows, and will be presenting at the 2015 CAG meeting in Vancouver.

**Matthew Bowes** [soon-to-regular faculty] is a human geographer currently involved with human dimensions of parks and protected area research on the west coast of Vancouver Island in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve dealing with human-wildlife conflict, migratory shorebird disturbance and habituation of wolves in the Long Beach Unit. Project funding and support came from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, PAPR, Parks Canada, the Wildcoast Project and Province of BC Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The first publication from this research, 'Parks, Dogs and Beaches: Human Wildlife Conflict and the Politics of Place' is featured in the book *Domesticated Animals and Leisure*, available Sept. 2015.

**Dave Cake** [regular faculty], who teaches in the Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications, is working on GIS projects in northern Canada, Ukraine, and Peru.

**Jessica Craig** has been the acting Geography technician for the past four months. Her master's research focused on dendrogeomorphology, specifically reconstructing fluctuations in glacial cover during the Holocene epoch in the Mt. Waddington area. She has greatly enjoyed working with the students and faculty at VIU, getting to know them and helping them achieve their academic goals and objectives. She hopes to continue working closely with the students and faculty in the future.

**Zöe Dalton** is an Adjunct and Instructor in the Geography Department. Her doctoral research focused on First Nations/non-Aboriginal relations in species at risk management in southern Ontario, and her current collaborative research with Vancouver Island First Nations focuses on Indigenous Food Sovereignty in relation to maternal and child health. She looks forward to presenting at the Canadian Association of Geographers' Species at Risk special session this June; she and Clint Jacobs from Walpole Island First Nation (Zoe's doctoral research partner ) will be sharing the findings of their joint research into challenges surrounding the collection and use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in species at risk work. One of their recent co-authored articles (Constructing Reconciliation Research) is being published in the spring 2015 issue of the *Canadian Journal of Native Studies*. In her teaching, Zoe endeavours to provide a sense of the complexity of environmental issues, and the need to address these via interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral, collaborative approaches to research. Her teaching focus in the Department includes Biogeography, Environmental Geography and Atmospheric Environments.

**Bill Floyd** [adjunct] is a Geography post-doc at UBC, and is involved in hydrological study design for the Hakai Beach Institute Bog-Forest Research Program. He is on secondment from his forest hydrological research position with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations while he carries out his research for Hakai.

**Alan Gilchrist** [regular faculty] was on a research leave in the second half of 2013/14 and returned to teaching in 2014/15. His research explored the impact of climate change on crop water requirements on Vancouver Island and supports the thesis that global warming will increase crop water demand and irrigation needs. The research suggests that the increased need for water will depend upon the degree of warming that the Earth experiences, which will in turn depend upon the global response to current levels of carbon dioxide emissions, but it could be significant. Several plausible scenarios predict that crop water requirements could be double or more by the end of the twenty-first century.

**Michael Govorov, Dave Cake, and Paul Zandbergen** [regular faculty], who was hired in the fall, are involved with a project funded by the Partners for Development Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD). Vancouver Island University (VIU) and its partners, the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (NUK), and the National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" (KPI), proposed developing and delivering an educational program to the Ukrainian civil service to support that country's development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). In November of 2012, the project "Laying the Foundation for a Spatial Data Infrastructure: Building Capacity within the Ukrainian Government to Support Sustainable Economic Growth" began. Six Geography department faculty members are involved in this project.

Six critically important SDI courses will be adapted to the Ukrainian context, translated into Ukrainian and delivered both to Ukrainian trainers in Canada (using a train-the-trainer model), and later in Ukraine, to Ukrainian civil servants who are responsible for the implementation of the NSDI. The project will continue through March 2018. See more at <http://www.viu.ca/sdi/UKROVR.asp>.

**Jenny Horn** [adjunct] is fascinated by the links between folks, their region and their food. She works in food system transformation at the Cowichan campus of Vancouver Island University. Dr. Horn is a farmer herself, so she understands the complexity of the food system and the passion that people have for the foodlands that provide them with their sustenance. Jenny received her PhD in Rural Studies from James Cook University in Far North Queensland, Australia and has since focused her work on regional foods, including the Slow Food movement, geographical indicators and indigenous food systems. She is the Coordinator, Cowichan Centre for Agriculture, Aquaculture & Food Security/Sustainability and Honorary Research Associate, Community-Based Research Institute.

**Jeff Lewis** [regular faculty] continues as a faculty Advisor for ACER, "Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research", funded by NSERC, SSHRC and TD Friends of the Environment. ACER is a public outreach initiative led by an inter-disciplinary group of students and faculty at Vancouver Island University, which is dedicated to increasing the public's understanding of the science and implications of climate change through presentations, hands-on demonstrations and interactive activities. To date, ACER has presented to over 15,000 students and members of the general public throughout British Columbia and beyond. This year ACER

successfully ran a new initiative, The Climate Café, with five movie screenings and panel discussions with the public. Jeff Lewis was an invited speaker at the 2014 Climate Change Symposium hosted by the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo, where he presented *The Science of Climate Change*.

**Michele Patterson** is both Adjunct and Sessional in the Department. She taught Geography 433 (Special Topics in Geography: “The Geography of Seafood”) in Spring 2015; and will teach three courses in the Fall 2015 term. In April 2015, she successfully defended her PhD proposal in Geography at the University of Victoria and is looking forward to next steps on that. She also works in VIU’s Institute for Coastal Research, and among other activities is developing a new research program on fisheries marketing and diversification in rural coastal BC, and organizing a special session on ‘seafood as an element of food security’ at the upcoming Aquaculture Association of Canada conference in Nanaimo.

**Pam Shaw** [regular faculty] has been appointed as the Director of the new Master of Community Planning Program at VIU. This program is currently in the pre-accreditation stage with the Canadian Institute of Planners and will be starting in September 2015 with a full cohort of 20 students. The focus of the program is on small communities, urban/rural interface, islands, GIS as it relates to planning, post-carbon communities, and issues important to the First Nations surrounding the Salish Sea. Pam is also the Research Director with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve Research Institute, and is working on a number of projects relating to socio-ecological interactions in fragile environments. The Institute is benefitting from a \$247,000 CFI grant for infrastructure to complete these research projects. Class projects include: Geog 342 completing a land assessment project for Lyackson First Nation to assist the Nation in decisions on Addition to Reserve Lands; Geog 322 continued its collaboration with International Education on VIU’s Mapping the World Project; and several students involved in Directed Studies who continued the implementation of the Campbellton Action Plan.

**Michael Tripp** [regular faculty] is continuing with his research on the geography of Siberia and on the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley, and recently served a term as interim chair of Global Studies. He also co-instructs the domestic field school and the Reading Week trip to San Francisco with Pam Shaw.

**Hannah Wilson** [regular faculty] is gearing up to take on the role of Chair of the Geography Department. Her research focus took a turn toward LiDAR analysis this past year, thanks to instructional involvement in the aforementioned CIDA-funded “Laying the Foundation for a Spatial Data Infrastructure: Building Capacity within the Ukrainian Government to Support Sustainable Economic Growth” project. She also recently embarked on a collaboration with Dr. Jerome Lesemann of the Earth Sciences Department which proposes to use remote predictive mapping methods for mapping mineral resources in Canada’s North.

**Jim Windsor** [sessional faculty], who taught full-time until recently at UNBC and is a long-time WDCAG stalwart, is teaching three sections of GEOG 100: World Regional Geography for us.

#### Conferences, Meetings, & Publications

JACK, PAMELA & **ALEXANDER, DON**. 2015. *Is Vancouver Island University a Leader in Sustainability? A Comparative Analysis of Vancouver Island University, Royal Roads University, and the University of Northern British Columbia*.

**ALEXANDER, DON**. “Natural Gardener’s Demise a Troubling Sign.” *Vancouver Courier*, 24 April 2015.

**ALEXANDER, DON & SHAW, PAM**. “Say Goodbye to Small Retail: Should We Care?” *The Bird’s Eye*, 15 & 22 April 2015.

**ALEXANDER, DON**. Three book review forthcoming in *Planning West*, the *Canadian Geographer*, and the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*.

MACDONALD, P.A., MURRAY, G., & **PATTERSON, M.** (2015). Considering social values in the seafood sector using the Q-method. *Marine Policy*, 52, 68-76.

MURRAY, G., D'ANNA, L, MACDONALD, P., & **PATTERSON, M.** (2014). Navigating Change: Wellbeing, values and the management of marine social-ecological systems. *PICES Press. Newsletter of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, Winter 2014, Volume 22, No.1.* 13-19. Retrieved from:  
[http://www.pices.int/publications/pices\\_press/volume22/v22-n1/PPJan2014.pdf](http://www.pices.int/publications/pices_press/volume22/v22-n1/PPJan2014.pdf)

#### Student Accomplishments and Activities

GEOG 324 (Research Methods in Geography): This year the Research Methods class conducted research on Buttertubs Marsh in Nanaimo, an important urban wetland and bird conservation area. The class presented their findings to members of various stakeholder groups including Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nanaimo Naturalist Society. A number of the students' projects will potentially be incorporated into the educational material available at the marsh, including a new, updated trail map and a historical timeline display with important dates and aerial photos. Graduating student Doug Wortley won this year's Student Service Award for his contributions to the Department.

#### Field Schools

Geog 465: Field School to San Francisco in February 2015 was a great success. Nine VIU students attended, with activities focusing on urban design and architecture, cultural geography, and street systems. An international field course in Belize was conducted in the summer of 2014, led by Pam Shaw, and adjunct professor Larry Wolfe, and focused on research pertaining to the community of Ladyville.

For further information on the Geography and GIS programs at Vancouver Island University visit our websites at: <http://www.viu.ca/geography/> and <http://www.viu.ca/adgisa/>

*Submitted by Don Alexander*





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**THE END!**

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