



# The WDCAG Newsletter

## 2016 edition



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Welcome to the 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. In this edition of the newsletter, the *Geography Faculty Focus* highlights Dr. Simon Springer from the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. Also included is a summary of a special session from the WD-CAG Annual Meeting in Prince George called “What can I do with my Geography degree”. This summary will be helpful for those mentoring Geography students and for students looking for information on career possibilities in Geography. Thanks to Tom Waldichuk for submitting this for the newsletter. Updates from university and college departments within the WDCAG region are also included.



I hope you enjoy this edition of the WDCAG Newsletter. If you have any comments or feedback 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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It has been a pleasure to serve you as President this past year. The highlight is always our WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference, which allows so many geography students and faculty to interact in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. The 58<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting was held this spring in Prince George, BC, for which I give a full report below. I am happy to announce that the **59<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference** will be held **2-3 March 2017**, at **Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, USA**. Thanks to Patrick Buckley and colleagues for volunteering to host and organise the meeting. Mark your calendars and be sure that you have a valid passport, which is required for entry to the USA.

### The 58<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting at UNBC, Prince George

The 58<sup>th</sup> WDCAG Annual Meeting (*WDCAG-2016*) was held on 11-12 March 2016 at the *University of Northern British Columbia*, Prince George, BC. It had an attendance of 205, of which 160 undergraduate and graduate student. The meeting started on Friday with field trips, a film, and a keynote address by Dr. Charles Helm on “Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark”, followed by an ice-breaker. On Saturday, a diverse conference program was interwoven with the WDCAG-Executive and AGM meetings, lunch, and banquet with keynote by Dr. Sarah de Leeuw titled “Orgasmic Poetic Spaces in Northern British Columbia: Eco-Erotic Poetry and Geographers in the Anthropocene”. The evening was concluded by a dance. Thanks to all at UNBC who made this meeting successful, in particular to the organising committee Neil Hanlon (lead), Sinead Earley, Alex Koiter, Stephanie Hellyer, and all student volunteers and fieldtrip organisers.

Student and faculty participants from BC, AB, WA, SK, and ON warranted 55 oral and 34 poster presentations. Student presentations were judged by faculty, and the winners and runners up announced during the banquet.

## ORAL PRESENTATION AWARDS

### Undergraduate

**Winner BA** - Tyler Blackman, UFV: *The Canadian farm workers union: social movements and labour arrangements*

**Winner BSc** - Theo Harvey, UofL: *Detection and measurement of Arctic coastal fog over Greenland glaciers using MODIS, DEMs and glacier inventories*

**Honorable mention** - Larissa Thelin, VIU: *The potential effects of climate change on the habitat range of the Vancouver Island Marmot*

### Graduate

**Winner MA** - Kirk Walker, UNBC: *Narratives in the Andes: Challenging Traumatic Memory with Photovoice*

**Winner MSc** - Richelle Sussbauer, UNBC: *Sediment-associated contaminant dynamics in the Quesnel River from the Mount Polley mine disaster*

**Winner PhD** - Dominic Reiffarth, UNBC: *Soil and sediment tracing using compound-specific stable isotopes in Manitoba, Canada*

**Honorable mention PhD** - Ben Pelto, UNBC: *An evaluation of different mass balance methodologies for glaciers in the Columbia Basin, Canada*

The **WDCAG's Ineke Dijks Award** for Best Overall Graduate Student Oral Presentation went to **Richelle Sussbauer**, UNBC. This award was established in 2010 to pay tribute to Ineke's commitment to geography and the WDCAG. Ineke Dijks was a geography college instructor and consultant who entered university as a mature student, earning her BA (Univ of Lethbridge) and MA (Queen's Univ) in Geography. In 2009 she received the WDCAG's *J. Lewis Robinson Award* for meritorious service to the discipline of Geography.

## POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDS

### Undergraduate

**BA co-winner** - Edward Bracken, VIU: *Interdisciplinary action project on sustainability*

**BA co-winner** - Justin Wagenaar, TKU: *Cougar Creek.. Oh Dam!*

**BSc winners** - Alexandra Zanussi & Waurner Adema, TKU: *Hare Today...Gone Tomorrow: A method for mapping white-tailed Jackrabbit distribution in Edmonton, AB*

### Graduate

**Winner MSc** – Joshua Montgomery UofL: *Fusing Lidar, SAR and optical data to monitor wet area extent of prairie pothole wetlands in Southern Alberta*



*Some of the WDCAG-2016 student presentation award winners.*

### **The WDCAG-2016 AGM**

The WDCAG-2016 AGM was held during the Annual Meeting and had an attendance of 30. A new executive was elected, with *President*: Hester Jiskoot (UofL); *Vice-President*: Leith Deacon (UofA), *Secretary-Treasurer*: Craig Coburn (UofL); *Members-at-Large*: Gary Fehr (UFV), David Jordan (TWU), Tom Waldichuk (TRU: 1-yr), Crystal Huscroft (TRU); *Student Members*: Brooke Kapeller (UofL); Madelaine Bourdages (UFV); Jackson Baron (TRU); *Western Geography Editors*: Pam Shaw (VIU) & Craig Coburn (UofL); *BC Education Chair*: Pam Shaw (VIU) & Tom Waldichuk (TRU); *Newsletter Editor*: Claire Hay (UFV); *Archivist*: Ben Moffat (MHC); *Awards Officer*: David Jordan; and *webmaster*: Dan Smith (UVic). Welcome to all newly elected and thanks for stepping up to serve the Division. I sincerely thank all of those who served over the past year. I would also like to thank Past president Tom Waldichuk, who represented me as the Regional Councillor to the CAG AGM in Vancouver, May 2015.

The following meritorious awards were presented at the AGM:

- The *J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service* to **Jim Windsor** (UNBC),
- The *J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence* to **Cameron Owens** (UVic)
- The *WDCAG Coffee Mug of Distinction* to **Neil Hanlon** (UNBC), **Hester Jiskoot** (UofL), & **David Jordan** (TWU).

The AGM-2016 approved the division's revised Constitution, which was the culmination of several years of minutious work by our executive, and especially by *Past-President* Theresa Garvin. The new constitution is posted on our website: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wcag/constitution.htm>.

The WDCAG is in good financial shape, and the continuing CAG support grant for student travel to our meetings is much appreciated. Our membership in March was slightly down from previous years, and a call for CAG membership and renewals was made in email correspondence and during the WDCAG-2016 meeting. Our division's membership usually tallies between 250-300. Other matters that came up during the 2016 AGM include better promotion of our awards, streamlining of the WDCAG for its members, executive, and for future conference organisers; the closing of our email list, and a discussion about future Annual Meeting locations with the possibility of an off-campus location.

Our journal *Western Geography* will be published in its online edition in May/June, after it received eleven WDCAG-KRAM 2015 student paper and research note submissions. We will have a call for manuscript submissions based on the WDCAG-2016 Conference, while general paper submissions are always welcome.

I wish everybody a memorable summer, whether you spend it in the field, at your desk, in your lab, on leave, or on holidays. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference of the WDCAG on 2-3 March in Bellingham, Washington.

For updates on our division, our constitution and our annual newsletter, check our website: [www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/), or twitter account: @WDGeog

*Submitted by Hester Jiskoot, WDCAG President*

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## GEOGRAPHY FACULTY FOCUS

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

C.H. How long have you been teaching at the University of Victoria and what is your current position? Have you taught anywhere else?

*S.S. I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. I've been at UVic for 4 years now, but in many ways this has been a homecoming for me as I grew up in BC. I lived in Chase when I was very young and then in Prince George from about the age of 10. For a brief time I also lived in Victoria in the late 1990s. Prior to arriving at UVic I was a Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and prior to that I was an Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Both of these experiences were wonderful in their own unique ways, as each gave me an opportunity to explore new ideas in distinctive cultural settings, but I think what I appreciated most of all was the enthusiasm of the students. Fortunately that passion has carried forward in my current role, as the students we have in the UVic geography program are really what makes this job so rewarding. Their passion for learning and openness to critical thinking brings a smile to my face every time I enter the classroom. (Photo above shows Simon listening to the wind of change in Gorky Park, Moscow, Russia)*

C.H. 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?

*S.S. Well in a previous life I wanted to be a rock star! I played in a Heavy Metal band for a number of years after high school before getting serious about academia. I did my undergraduate degree in Geography at UNBC (2003) under the mentorship of Catherine Nolin, my MA in Geography at Queen's University (2005) with Barry Riddell, and my PhD in Geography at UBC (2009) with Philippe Le Billon and Jamie Peck. I didn't do a postdoc as I was pretty lucky to land a tenure-track position at NUS prior to finishing my PhD. So the day after I handed in my final dissertation at UBC, I was on a plane bound for Singapore along with my partner and our 2 kids at the time (we now have 3). I think each of my degrees prepared me very well for life as an academic. I have nothing but profound respect for each of the departments I studied in, as I was exposed to so many new ideas that were a constant source of inspiration to just keep exploring. My advisors for each of my degrees always allowed me the freedom to move in new directions and follow my muse, which to me is the magic ingredient of a successful program. Without nurturing that will to learn for oneself and allowing students to focus on wherever their passions may*

*lie, then education becomes an exercise in stultification rather than what it should be all about, namely emancipation. It's been 7 years since I was a graduate student and a lot has changed since then, particularly in terms of the demands that are placed on students to compete for scholarships and jobs. Despite these pressures, there are ways to push back against the individualist tendencies of contemporary academia, and I suppose the one piece of advice I would have for current graduate students is not to underestimate the power of collaboration and the rewards that it brings. The most meaningful experiences I've had as a scholar are the opportunities I've had to work alongside really thoughtful, committed, and brilliant people in research, teaching, and service work. I've been fortunate to have had a number of fantastic collaborative opportunities, ranging from the Politics, Economies and Space (PEAS) research group at NUS, to the co-teaching and field studies emphasis at Otago, to the camaraderie that exists within the group of contemporary anarchist geographers, to the great group of colleagues I have at UVic, to being part of the editorial collective with ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies. Each of these situations has provided an amazing opportunity for building friendships as well as intellectual growth.*

C.H. What led you into the field of geography?

**S.S.** *I blame Catherine Nolin at UNBC! In all seriousness, I wouldn't be a geographer today without her guidance. She's an absolutely amazing teacher and an all around wonderful person. She turned me on to the idea that scholarship could be about social justice, which lit a fire in me that can't be extinguished. When I first started my undergraduate degree I floated around a little in the social sciences not really knowing what courses to take and always being dissatisfied with the detached perspectives that were being offered. I've always worn my politics on my sleeve and when I took a Social Geography course with Catherine and she introduced me to feminist geographies, that experience really was it for me. I knew that I had found my purpose and I never looked back. Being given the opportunity to view the world through a feminist lens was a revelatory moment of awakening to the idea that the personal is political and that changing the world for the better could be a process located in the everyday. Catherine demonstrated her politics in a very simple and thoroughly convincing way: she cared. It is as simple as that, but there is also a great deal of nuance here. She broke down academic hierarchies by treating her students with profound respect, she always maintained a positive disposition that encouraged participation, and she was never afraid to tackle difficult and contentious issues, always maintaining the sensitivity required for students to feel heard regardless of their own personal views and whether or not she agreed. She pushed me to do my best and invested the time in me as a student to actually teach me how to write. As funny as it sounds to say now, in the first two years of my undergraduate degree I actively avoided taking courses where a term paper was required because I didn't think I could do it! Catherine showed me that I could and worked with me to nurture a skill that I didn't realize I even had in me.*

C.H. You describe your approach to human geography as eclectic; can you elaborate on this and how this approach influences your research interests?

**S.S.** *Well as I said, my first entry and love for geography was through a feminist trajectory. This has never subsided, but I've added new pieces to what I consider to be an ever-evolving puzzle. During my graduate degrees I was introduced more thoroughly to political economic perspectives and poststructuralist ideas, which have been folded into to what I do. Towards the middle of my PhD I became increasingly interested in anarchist critiques, which I've since taken on as very much at the core of my intellectual project. Of course there are multiple intersections between feminism, poststructuralism, and anarchism, and part of the eclecticism comes from thinking up interesting combinations between these approaches. I'm also really interested in indigenous epistemologies and decolonizing methodologies precisely because they transgress entrenched contemporary Eurocentric*

wisdom. But the bottom line for me is that I want to be able to pick and choose the theories and ideas that I engage, without ever painting myself into a corner or feeling restricted. I'm perfectly content to change my mind, and to keep changing it. The more I learn the less I know and so who I am is a perpetual work in progress and one that will only, perhaps, be completed the day I die. So until that day comes I want to be able to constantly reinvent myself and push the boundaries of geographical thought in new directions without ever being complacent or assuming the arrogance of a position that assumes to have everything all figured out. Whatever perspective we choose to write from has its own set of limitations, whether anarchist, feminist, positivist, or otherwise, and to me being a critical geographer means acknowledging that there are a whole range of blind spots in our own thinking that we are unaware of. Part of the challenge then, which requires eclecticism, is to try and shine light into the darkened corners of our own minds. At the end of my career I don't want to have left a legacy that becomes ossified into a fixed approach or orthodoxy within the discipline, which seems to be the goal of many academics. I'd much rather be remembered as an iconoclast.

C.H. At my university we have been engaging in 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?

S.S. *Well if the university of the present is any indication, then I think we are in really bad shape. Contemporary universities are driven by the pursuit of profit and adhere to the logic of bottom lines. There is a new culture of metrics and merit that runs absolutely counter to the notions of collegiality and community. The rise of an administrative class within universities is well documented and their ballooning roll call and salaries never face the same sorts of cuts as everything else that seems to sit on the chopping block. The other thing to think about with respect to universities is that they have always been state institutions and are therefore rooted in certain forms of parochialism and violence. For instance there is an epidemic of gender-based violence on North American campuses, and while occasional lip service is paid to this problem, little has been done to stem the tide of aggression against women, transgender, and genderqueer individuals. Systemic racism and ongoing forms of colonialism also exist within the contemporary university, which again is sometimes recognized, but with little in the way of meaningful change. Not to say that there isn't a lot of activism taking place to try and change things, but there is also a great deal of push back and cooptation. For example, there is lots of talk about diversity on any given campus, but as a discourse this idea may be used to benefit particular groups who take advantage of different experiences and the perspectives that are offered by different backgrounds. Instead of respecting the presence of difference and attempting to redistribute power based on it, diversity is all too often used to exploit difference for its economic value. In other words, rather than an actual ethos, diversity has become a marketing tool. This speaks to the idea of the university as a form of enclosure, which of course it has always been. It accumulates knowledge and ideas while positioning itself as a societal gatekeeper, opening access to its claim to knowledge only to those it deems worthy. Today this means quite simply those who can afford to pay, but again this is shaded by gender and race. Only 'our' knowledge within the university is deemed to be legitimate, and other ways of learning and being in the world are devalued, which isn't very diverse at all, so you can hopefully see the irony here. All of this sounds overly pessimistic I'm sure, and I prefer to be an optimist so my hope is that the university of the future can work to address these issues in meaningful ways. If universities are accessible to all by way of being free, then that changes things quite considerably. Whether Canada is actually ready to invest in the idea that students shouldn't be paying tuition is another matter, but for the university to live into its promise as an engine of radical change in our relationships with each other and the planet, then this seems to me like a necessary step along the path towards greater inclusivity and a more meaningful embrace of diversity. Our role as faculty is to advocate for these sorts of structural changes, rather than being consumed by the minutia of*

*fighting for scraps at the table in the form of competing for merit and grants. Again, we need to adopt a more collaborative and cooperative approach in pretty much everything we do. Why do we need an administrative class to cajole us into believing we need their guidance when we can collectively guide the future of the university ourselves? The spirit of collegiality is already at the heart of what we do, so we actually need to start embracing this idea again in pushing back against the scourge of careerism and individual pursuits that much of contemporary academia insists upon.*

C.H. There is an increasing awareness about student engagement in the classroom. What techniques do you employ in the classroom to engage your students?

**S.S.** *I believe very strongly that education should be an exercise in intellectual emancipation, and accordingly I approach my teaching from the perspective of not wanting to teach students what to think, but instilling them with the critical tools that can enable them to think for themselves. I accordingly position my pedagogical practice as one that situates student-led learning at the forefront of my approach, where my role is simply to facilitate the space to think, act, and create independently, while also ensuring that I am available as a resource for exploring and sharing ideas. For education to live into this sort of promise I advocate for learning to be seen as a shared space, where knowledge is produced as a collective engagement and exchange, as opposed to a structured and unidirectional transfer from 'top' to 'bottom.' In this respect I reject the distinction between 'teacher' and 'student,' insisting that we are instead all co-learners. Taking an approach that actively tears down the hierarchies of knowledge production allows education to become a process of both self and mutual discovery, which requires both the absence of coercion and an emphasis on collaborative work. So within the parameters of what the course focus is, I largely allow students to explore for themselves, making their own decisions about what their interests are, and thinking about how those curiosities might be fulfilled by the collective of co-learners that are gathered in the classroom. This requires designing a lot of flexibility into my courses and holding back on being overly directive. I know some people find this challenging because all too often they are conditioned into accepting rote learning rather than active engagement, but most often they come around and embrace this approach. I've got a book I co-edited along with Marcelo Lopes de Souza and Richard J. White coming out very soon called *The Radicalization of Pedagogy*, where I've been able to explore some of these ideas in greater detail, so hopefully some WDCAG folks will seek it out! (Photo right shows Simon pondering life atop the One World Trade Center in New York City, USA)*





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# “What can I do with my Geography degree?”

## A summary from the WDCAG 2016 special session

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We had a jobs panel at this year’s WDCAG at UNBC. Similar to the successful panel that was held at the 2014 WDCAG at the U. of Victoria, this panel examined life after graduation for undergraduate students. We also talked about going to grad school after completing an undergraduate degree in geography.

### **The following panelists talked about their jobs:**

1. Daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Geospatial librarian, University of Victoria
2. Blake Hawkins, Masters Student in Library and Information Sciences, University of British Columbia
3. Adam Courtenay, Geotechnical Field Service Technician, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Prince George
4. Darwin Horning, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner, PhD Candidate (UBC-O), Lecturer in School of Environmental Planning, University of Northern British Columbia
5. Kristen Johnson, Senior District Development Technician, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Prince George

The panelists each addressed the following four questions in a short introduction at the beginning of the session (from Bethany Coulthard):

1. What was the most useful thing you learned from your geography degree?
2. Do you enjoy what you're doing now and why?
3. What is the best/worst thing about your job/grad school?
4. What is one thing you would have done differently before/after you graduated?

Once the panelists addressed the above questions, we opened the floor to audience questions. In addition to questions from students, two consultants in the audience and UNBC faculty member Roger Wheate also participated in the discussion.

### **Some of the themes and advice that we covered were:**

1. **The breadth of human and physical geography courses can help in one’s job** (Kristen & Adam): Adam mentioned that knowledge of soils is important for him, but learning to interact with the public is also important.
2. **The ability to work in groups** (Adam & Kristen): Take courses in which you have to work in a group, e.g., in a group research project.
3. This led to another theme – **the importance of conflict management** (Adam, Kristen & Darwin): Some of the panelists advised taking conflict resolution courses or even a certificate (Darwin). You can also learn about conflict management while working in a group. Gilles Viaud from TRU Geography

assigns a reading on working in teams and avoiding major conflicts in his courses that involve group projects.

**4. Presentation skills** (Kristen): Take courses in which you have practice presenting in front of the class.

**5. Focus on experiential learning** (Darwin): Take co-op geography, sign up for university exchanges or study abroad programs.

**6. The importance of computer programming and coding** (Adam, Blake, Daniel, & Darwin): For example, learn Python and “R”, a statistical program (Daniel). This advice was in response to a question about the usefulness of computer coding in finding a job. Big data and data management are becoming important (Blake & Darwin).

**7. Search for course MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) to upgrade your skills, e.g., computer coding** (Daniel & Darwin).

**8. Certification/Designations** (Adam & Kristen): Many jobs, including those in the provincial government, require employees to be certified, e.g., as a registered agrologist or as a planner.

**9. Develop a network** -- with people you want to work with (Kristen); developing a network while doing research will likely will lead to a job (Darwin).

**10. Thinking on your feet, being street smart, reading, writing and other skills to develop:** The ability to implement theory (Darwin); know how to read a map; what bylaws are, what zoning and debris flows are (Kristen). The ability to read, write, ask questions, and how to find the solution. Know how to write a cover letter well – succinctly (Daniel); regurgitate important words in application letters (Kristen); look for buzz words; be clear on what you are saying; don’t assume people know acronyms (Adam). Technical writing skills are important -- be very clear, e.g., when describing test sites (consultant in audience). The technical part of what you write may have to hold up in court (Adam & Kristen); phone calls aren’t recorded (so mention them when writing emails).

**11. Consulting as a career** (consultant in audience): The work-life balance may not be great, and the work can be seasonal.

**12. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, TELP (Technical Entry Level Positions)** (Adam & Kristen): These positions can deal with environmental assessment, survey and gravel management, project management, and operations. Once you are hired in the BC government, you may have options to apply for other positions. Flexibility and a willingness to live in northern locations or small towns will increase your job opportunities.

**13. Key websites for geographers who are thinking about planning** (Darwin):

Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) - <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/content/current-job-postings>

Canadian Institute of Planners - <https://ams.cip-icu.ca/jobposting>

Planetizen - <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>

American Planning Association - <https://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

## Grad School:

The session emphasized being successful in grad school – making it a pleasant experience (Blake), and finding a school with funding, such as a teaching assistantship.

It is important to wisely choose a supervisor and people who may sit on your committee (Darwin & Roger): talk to potential supervisors, find people who can mentor you during the grad school application process and beyond. You may also want to consider the location of the university (Roger). Moreover, do you want to study at a big or small school e.g., UNBC? (Darwin) What kind of environment do you want to study in?

To wrap up I put together a short powerpoint presentation with resources for students, e.g., the CAG student website, the CAG joblist and the CAG annual directory, which lists potential supervisors for students who are thinking about going on to grad school) (I have to thank Bethany Coulthard who organized the session at the U.Victoria WDCAG for these ideas, many of which I also copied and pasted).

## Useful Websites:

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH GEOGRAPHY? A GREAT MANY THINGS!**

[http://www.cag-acg.ca/files/pdf/Field\\_of\\_Dreams.pdf](http://www.cag-acg.ca/files/pdf/Field_of_Dreams.pdf)

CAG – Student Zone > Resources>

Bethany Coulthard, Past CAG Student Councillor:

[http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student\\_councillor\\_message.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_councillor_message.html)

### **\*\*CAG STUDENT RESOURCES\*\***

Did you know that the CAG...

- Runs an e-mail listserv ([CAGList](https://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/caglist)) (<https://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/caglist>) that provides updates on grad school, scholarship, employment, and funding opportunities, hot Canadian geographical research, and other Canadian geography news? (There are similar listservs for the western, prairie, Ontario, and Atlantic divisions of the CAG [here](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/regional_divisions.html)) ([http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/regional\\_divisions.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/regional_divisions.html)).
- Publishes a [directory](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag_annual_directory.html) ([http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag\\_annual\\_directory.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag_annual_directory.html)) of all Canadian geography faculty and their research of interest? (Pretty useful for choosing a grad school supervisor).
- Maintains an up-to-date [job postings webpage](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/jobs.htm) (<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/jobs.htm>) listing all academic geography position postings, and also links to over a dozen other geography-related job search websites?
- Has a whole [resources section](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/useful_links.html) ([http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/useful\\_links.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/useful_links.html)) of their website dedicated to geography student issues and skills development, including “preparing for a geography career”, “tips for academic publishing”, “preparing conference posters”, “tips on oral presentations”, etc.
- Provides information on 19 different geography-related [scholarship programs](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_opportunities.html) ([http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student\\_opportunities.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_opportunities.html)) via their website.
- Provides student travel funding to the annual meeting of the CAG via the [student travel grant](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_travel_grant.html) ([http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student\\_travel\\_grant.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_travel_grant.html)) program.

*Submitted by Tom Waldichuk, TRU, 25 May 2016*

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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, Glen, and their colleagues held a grand opening last August for the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, with attendance from many stakeholders and donors. The station will host students, instructors, and researchers from Augustana, the University of Alberta, and universities and agencies from across the country. Glen is now the manager of the station. Please check the website for more information: <http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/research/centres/amlrs/>. Glynnis and Glen then co-taught a Field Studies course at the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station this August. Over 17 days, 11 students planned a research project, developed methods, collected and analyzed data, and presented their results (photos show various field school activities).



Glen Hvenegaard taught environmental science, parks, geomorphology, and capstone courses this year. His students complete community service-learning assignments on a variety of projects, including wildlife monitoring, environmental education, planning, mapping vegetation, soil analysis, water audit, waste sort, and more. The Augustana CSL program is a finalist for an Emerald Award, Alberta's highest level of environmental achievement. Glen presented papers at conferences on prairie conservation, environmental history, and rural sustainability. Glen and 3 colleagues co-edited a new book, *Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada*. Glen and his colleagues also published papers on health benefits of Alberta's provincial parks, impacts of park interpretation, purple martin migration, wildlife festivals, and sustainable forest management and parks.

This summer, he and Glynnis will supervise a team of research assistants working on a project to evaluate habitat connectivity and carbon sequestration in nearby Beaver County. Glen's team of citizen scientists continue to monitor Purple Martin productivity and migration patterns by using light level geolocators. Katherine Rogers will be develop wildlife policies and deliver an environmental education program for 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.



For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at [glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca](mailto:glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca) or Dr. Glynnis Hood [ghood@ualberta.ca](mailto:ghood@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 of Geography has been renamed the Department of Geography and the Environment. The Department has created two new courses: Geography 1140 (Environment and Media: Geographies of Nature, Climate Change, and Natural Hazards) and Geography 1150 (Geographies of Metro Vancouver). The Department has also been expanding its third year course offerings.

Mike McPhee has been conducting research on the New Westminster Lost Streams Project. Sarah Paynter will be the Chair of the Department in September.

The Department will be hosting the Geography Articulation Meeting in May. The Department is currently advertising for a full time Geography Lab Technician position at the New Westminster campus.

*Submitted by Earl Noah*

## KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

### Department

The Geography department at KPU has officially changed its name to **Geography and the Environment** to provide a better understanding of the breadth of the discipline. Our department has eight full time permanent faculty members and one part time member teaching a range of both physical and human geography. **Jan Thompson** is the new chair of the department, taking over from **John Rose**.

We offer a **BA in Applied Geography**, as well as Associate Degrees in Arts and Sciences. The department is also working on a BSc in Environmental Geography. In 2015, seven students graduated with a BA in Applied Geography and have the honour of being the first BA graduates from the Department of Geography and the Environment at KPU!

### Faculty

Two long-serving members of our department retired recently: **Alan Sawchuk** and **Leah Skretkowicz**. Both are now studying world geography with recent trips to Iceland (Alan) and Spain (Leah). We wish them well.

**(KPU Geography Faculty (L to R):** Alan Sawchuk (retired), John Rose, Bill Burgess, John Martin, Leah Skretkowicz (retired), Jan Thompson (chair), Parthiphan Krishnan. )



We would like to welcome **Joe Koch** and **Khaled Hamden** to the department. Joe Koch PhD (with specialties in glacier history, dendrochronology and climate change), has been hired in a permanent position and Khaled Hamden PhD (with specialties in soil science and climate change) has been hired on a temporary basis. Below is a brief update of what some of our faculty members have been up to.

### Bill Burgess

Bill is working on two research projects, one on the relationship between metropolitan population health and public services in the US, and the other on the network of large financial and industrial corporations in Canada. He presented a case study on the ownership and financial connections among corporations in the Alberta tar sands industry at the 2016 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Calgary

### **Khaled Hamdan**

Khaled is exploring innovative teaching approaches that can improve the engagement and performance of students (Reef polling, jigsaw, Think-Pair-Share). Part of his research findings will be presented in BC Campus Festival of Learning: a Celebration of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 2016. He is also organizing an interactive workshop on how to use smart devices as mobile classroom response systems. Khaled spoke with Joytv about the unusual storm that hit Metro Vancouver in August, 2015. The interview was broadcasted on October 16th, 2015.

### **Joe Koch**

Joe conducted fieldwork in the summer of 2015 in Garibaldi Provincial Park to reconstruct treeline fluctuations, and has secured funding for fieldwork at Pemberton Icefield this coming summer to reconstruct Holocene glacier fluctuations. He was interviewed by Powder Magazine (June 2015) and the Vancouver Sun for two articles (November 2015) about glacier retreat, changing climate, and the impact on skiing in southern British Columbia. In January and February 2016 Joe joined M/V Ortelius as a guide and staff geologist for three cruises to Antarctica, the Falklands, and South Georgia.

### **Parthiphan Krishnan**

Parthi is working on a research project with Dola Pradhan from the department on the effects of sea level change and livelihood adaptation strategies of communities along the east coast of India. He and the project's research assistant presented a poster at the recently concluded WDCAG meeting at UNBC. Apart from introducing new undergraduates to the wonders of geography, his teaching focus is on the use of GIS for current issues, ranging from changes to the ALR and food security to housing new refugees in Metro Vancouver.

### **John Martin**

John continues to research the hydrology of lakes and wetlands in coastal forests and recently published a paper in *Western Geography* (see below). He also enjoys teaching the next generation of geographers by organizing Geography's contribution to the Kwantlen Science Challenge (involving high school students) in November, 2015 and giving "rock-talks" to first and second grade students.

### **Mungandi Nasitwitwi**

Mungandi has developed a keen interest in spatial analysis and as part of professional development he spent 2015 at University of Melbourne in Australia where he is pursuing the Master of Information Technology. He will add his new spatial skills to the GIS teaching team at KPU and will teach introductory GIS commencing fall 2016.

### **John Rose**

Concluding, in April 2015, his second, three-year term as department Chair, John returned to a full teaching course-load this past year. This work included instruction in introductory human geography, qualitative methods, the historical geography of urbanization, urban politics and planning, and urban social geography. In September 2016, John will begin a one-year, KPU-funded, education leave to pursue an ongoing research project examining the relationship between housing supply and housing affordability, in a survey of major metropolitan markets around the world.

### **Dola Pradhan**

Dola continues to research on the impacts of sea level rise and livelihood adaptation strategies along the East Coast of India and recently presented a paper on this topic in an international conference held in India (see below).

## Jan Thompson

Jan continues to collaborate with KPU's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems with a research focus on water quantity and agricultural water management in the Lower Mainland region. She has also provided hydrological information and expertise to The Waterwealth Project, a grassroots organization working to improve water policy and raise awareness around water issues in the local area. As the new Chair of the department she has been kept busy with new initiatives to increase interest and enrollment in Geography and to enhance KPU student experience by working with others across a variety of Arts and Science disciplines.

## Events

The first annual KPU Geography Social and Networking Event was held on March 4th, 2016. The event served to showcase the programs and opportunities that the Department of Geography and the Environment has to offer students at KPU. It provided, in particular, an opportunity for current KPU students to learn about the newly approved and implemented Bachelor of Arts major in Applied Geography. Students attending the event also networked with Environment Canada representatives and senior geography students and alumni, and got to know about the various exciting activities—research and otherwise—conducted by Geography Faculty members.

The Department of Geography, KPU along with Utkal University and SOA University in India, jointly organized an international conference on “Global Warming, Sea-level Rise and Livelihood Adaptation Strategies along the East Coast of India” on December 27, 2015. This conference was held in Odisha, India and about 300 participants consisting of academics, decision makers, non-governmental organizations, students and local community leaders participated in this conference.

Kwantlen once again hosted the Kwantlen Science Challenge (KSC) in November, 2015. This is an all-day event in which 30 lower mainland high school teams compete in scientific activities in fields such as Geography, Chemistry, Biology and Design. The Geography event had teams investigating—given only a topographic map, an aerial photograph, and rock samples—two local, natural hazard events, the Clinker Peak eruption and the following Rubble Creek landslide. Eight KPU Geography students graciously volunteered to help at the event (on a Saturday!) and everyone from faculty to high school students had a good time. For more information go to: <http://www.kpu.ca/sciencechallenge>

In collaboration with the University of Regina and as a part of a Canada Wide Experiment, KPU Department of Geography and the Environment launched a high altitude weather balloon to the stratosphere in May, 2015. Although the launch was successful, unfortunately, the recovery of the balloon was not! We hope to launch (and recover) another balloon in 2017.

Students in a fourth year course updated and expanded previous calculations of the ecological footprint of KPU. They estimated the resources consumed and waste produced required about 0.5 hectares of land somewhere in the world, about 150 times our campus area.

## Posters, Presentations and Publications

KPU faculty are in bold, KPU students are underlined.

**Hamdan, K.** (*accepted*). The effects of using mobile classroom response system on students' engagement and performance. *BC Campus Festival of Learning: a Celebration of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. Burnaby, British Columbia. <http://sched.co/68vv>

**Hamdan, K.** (*accepted*). Using Smart Devices as Mobile Classroom Response Systems. An interactive workshop on the use of smart devices (smart phones and tablets) as MCRS. *BC Campus Festival of*

*Learning: a Celebration of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.* Burnaby, British Columbia. <http://sched.co/6ACZ>

**Koch, J.**, 2015. Little Ice Age and recent glacier advances in the Cordillera Darwin, Tierra del Fuego, Chile. *Anales del Instituto de la Patagonia Serie Ciencias Naturales* 43, 127-136.

**Koch, J.**, 2015. 4300-year old 'glacier forests', southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia and their global context. Invited talk presented at CANQUA 2015, August 2015.

**Krishnan, P** and **M. Little**, 2016. *Climate change, sea level rise and livelihood adaptation strategies in Orissa, India.* Poster presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, UNBC, March 2016.

**Martin, J.E.**, 2015. The role of hydrologic fluxes in the monthly water balance and water chemistry of a small coastal headwater lake. *Western Geography*. 20/21, 102-126.

Solomina, O., Bradley, R.S., Jomelli, V., Geirsdottir, A., Kaufman, D.S., **Koch, J.**, McKay, N.P., Masiokas, M., Miller, G., Nesje, A., Nicolussi, K., Owen, L.A. Putnam, A.E., Wanner, H., Wiles, G., and Yang, B. (accepted). Glacier fluctuations during the past 2000 years. *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

*Submitted by John Martin*

## UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

### *The University of Lethbridge delegation at the WDCAG-2016 meeting*

The University of Lethbridge Department of Geography travelled the >1000 km to Prince George with a delegation of 14 undergraduate and graduate students and two faculty members, Craig Coburn and Hester Jiskoot. Three travel groups took different routes, which allowed the students to experience the geography of the Icefields Parkway, a Jasper sleep-over on the way up, views of Mount Robson (the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies at 3954 m a.s.l.), and a hike on the snowpacked wooden boardwalk of the Ancient Forest Trail to see, feel and smell the giant cedar trees. Craig Coburn drove with his students through the Kamloops route on the way up to Prince George to give his students the full experience of interior central BC. Altogether, our students presented 5 oral presentations and 6 posters, and walked away with a lot of good feedback as well as two awards: the best oral presentation for undergraduate BSc to Theo Harvey, and the best MSc poster presentation to Josh Montgomery.







### Departmental News

The U of L will soon be home to a new science and academic building. With the planned research and outreach opportunities this **Destination Project** (<http://www.destinationproject.ca/>) will help define the University's direction for the future. With the Alberta Provincial funding approved, the U of L has started construction on this project in Spring 2016.

### Faculty news

With a faculty of 18 Professors, 2 Instructors, and 7 Adjunct Professors, the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge is one of the largest in western Canada.

**Stefan Kienzle** is department chair and **Shawn Bubel** is co-chair. In 2015, they succeeded **Wei Xu**, who has started a well-deserved study leave, which includes time for his field research in China. We had two recent promotions to Full Professor: **Stefan Kienzle** and **Kevin McKeough**; and two retirees: **Karl Staenz** in 2015, and **Ian MacLachlan** in 2016. Both are still regularly involved in teaching and graduate student supervision.

In 2015, **Philip Bonnaventure** joined our team as Assistant Professor. His research interests include: Permafrost in mountain and High Arctic environments, climate change, microclimatology of mountain and boreal environments, geomorphology and Earth surface processes, and GIS. He was awarded a University of Lethbridge Research Fund (ULRF) in "High Arctic Microclimatic Hotspot Assessment, Cape Bounty, Nunavut". **Ravinder Virk** transitioned to the permanent position of Instructor, and **Ariel Pollard-Belsheim** has joined us for an Instructor term position. Both keep many of our labs going, instruct courses, and help our students individually with computer and field-related research. **Trent Hoover** has been a term-appointed assistant professor, teaching geomorphology and environmental science courses, over the past few years. His research interests are in ecological hydraulics and interactions between fluvial geomorphology and ecological processes.

**Matt Letts** served as interim Associate Vice-President (Research) in 2015. During his tenure, the University of Lethbridge experienced its greatest ever NSERC Discovery Grant success. He also played an integral role in the development of the UofL's new AGILITY Program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In 2016, Matt was renewed for a second term as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts & Science. He is excited to return to this role during the Phase I construction of the Destination Project.

**René Barendregt** is back teaching full-time, after 12 years in the role of Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts & Science, and 2 years of Administrative and Study Leave. His paleomagnetic research frequently takes him to South America and all over Canada.

**Shawn Bubel's** discovery of non-utilitarian upright features at the Fincastle Bison Kill Site was the second-most viewed and shared story among Western Dig's Top 5 Archaeology Discoveries in the American West of 2015 (<http://westerndigs.org/top-5-archaeology-discoveries-in-the-american-west-in-2015/>). This publication was one of the culminations of a decade of archaeological research by her and her research team at this ancient site. Shawn is also head archaeologist of two other sites: Fort Vermilion in northern Alberta, and Tel Beth-Shemesh in Israel.

**Laura Chasmer**, Adjunct Assistant Professor, won the 2015 Canadian Remote Sensing Society Bronze Medal Award for Outstanding Early Career Achievements.

**Chris Hopkinson**, our Campus Alberta Innovates Program (CAIP) Research Chair in Terrestrial Ecosystems Remote Sensing, was awarded an NSERC Engage grant for his LiDAR portal development, and an NSERC Discovery Grant for "Integrating Lidar and Radar to support 4D environmental mapping, modeling and monitoring: 4DEM3".

**Derek Peddle** established and Co-Chairs with a local industry partner the Lethbridge Chapter of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, in partnership with the Alberta Geomatics Group. He was also selected for a faculty exchange program to teach Canadian Studies in Japan.

**Dan Johnson** has new funded research with openings for graduate students with previous training and experience in GIS, and topics related to statistical analysis and biometeorology, or agriculture and economics. His research projects involve: 1) Long-term analysis of the abundance and geography of grassland insect outbreaks, and 2) Detection, movement, and status of an invasive species combination: potato insect vectoring crop pathogens in Canada.

**Hester Jiskoot** continues her NSERC-funded research on the influence of Arctic sea fog on glaciers, and was besides President of the WDCAG also Scientific Editor for the journals AAAR and JGR-ES, as well as council member of ACUNS, and national correspondent to the IGS. She was also one of many co-authors on the first globally complete glacier inventory paper 'The Randolph Glacier Inventory'.

**Ivan Townshend** has been continuing work on inequality and neighbourhood change in Canadian CMAs as part of a SSHRC Partnership project (<http://neighbourhoodchange.ca>), as well as ongoing research on issues of community cohesion and resilience in communities that have been evacuated from wildfires (<http://www.ruralwildfire.ca>). He is on Study Leave in 2016-17.

The Agricultural Land-use Planning in Canada Project, a \$464,000 study funded under the SSHRC Insight Grant program, is in its final year. A pan-Canadian study, Dr. David J. Connell (UNBC) is the Principal Investigator, and the Co-investigators are Dr. Wayne Caldwell (Guelph), Dr. Christopher Bryant (U of Montreal), Dr. Doug Ramsey (Brandon), Dr. Greg Cameron (Dalhousie), Dr. Matias Margulis (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies), **Dr. Tom Johnston** (Lethbridge), and Dr. Claude Marios (U of Montreal).

**Stefan Kienzle** launched a website (<http://www.albertaclimaterecords.com>) which visualizes his research results of the indicators of climate change in Alberta between 1950-2010 as an interactive online map.

### Student News

We have had some successful changes in and additions to our **undergraduate curriculum**. This includes a new undergraduate major **BSc in Remote Sensing**, joined between the departments of Physics and Geography, which is unique in Canada. We now also offer a minor in Geography. Our multidisciplinary major in Geography & Archaeology, as well as our departmental contributions to Environmental Science, Agricultural Studies, and Urban & Regional Studies, are very successful. This is all in addition to

our regular degree offerings of BSc and BA in Geography, both with opportunity for COOP-studies and a declaration of concentration in GIS.

The department has a continued growth in its **graduate student body**, with MA, MSc, and PhD student totals around 25. We also have a growing number of Postdoctoral Research Fellows. Our remote sensing colleagues led the successful *NSERC CREATE AMETHYST* program that supported primarily Ph.D., Masters as well as PDF and undergraduate students over the past 6 years in remote sensing and geospatial sciences. This is now transitioning into the new *A+ Program* for partner-based collaborative research.

Our BSc undergraduate student Theo Harvey (BSc 2016) won three student prizes this year: Best Poster at the ACUNS conference, the Ian MacLachlan Prize for Economic Geography, and the WDCAG-2016 Best Undergraduate BSc student oral presentation. MSc student Josh Montgomery won the Best MSc Poster presentation prize at the WDCAG-2016, and PhD student Gaelle Gilson was awarded an Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship (AITS).

MA student Aimee Benoit successfully defended her thesis on 2 May 2016, passing with no revisions required. This is truly exceptional. Dr. Simon Evans, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary and an expert of Southern Alberta's ranching industry, served as the External Examiner. Ms Benoit has applied to enter our Ph.D. program in Geography.

#### RECENTLY COMPLETED MASTERS AND PHD THESES 2014-2016:

**Timothy Anderson, MSc 2014:** *Hydrological impacts of climate change on the Castle River watershed, Alberta, Canada.* Supervisor: Stefan Kienzle.

**James Banting, MSc 2016:** *Tree species mapping around reclaimed oil and gas well sites using hyperspectral and light detection and ranging (LiDAR) remote sensing.* Supervisors: Karl Staenz and Nadia Rochdi

**Celeste Barnes, MSc 2014:** *Coastal population vulnerability to sea level rise and tropical cyclone intensification under global warming.* Supervisors: James Byrne and James Graham (New Media).

**Aimee Benoit, MA 2016:** *Stewarding Ranching Landscapes in the Calgary Region: A Land-Use Planning Analysis.* Supervisor: Tom Johnston.

**Ashley Bracken, MSc 2014:** *Detecting soil erosion in semi-arid Mediterranean environments using simulated EnMAP data.* Supervisors: Karl Staenz and Craig Coburn.

**Tanya Byrne, MA 2014:** *Household Adaptive Capacity and Current Vulnerability to Future Climate Change in Rural Nicaragua.* Supervisors: James Byrne and Susan McDaniel.

**Devin Cairns, MSc 2014:** *Simulation of groundwater flow in mountain watersheds.* Supervisors: James Byrne and Dan Johnson.

**Marcus Dostie, MSc 2014:** *Determining the optimal revisit time for primate spatial data collection.* Supervisors: Stefan Kienzle and Louise Barrett (Psychology).

**Parastoo Emami, MA 2014:** *Evaluating procedural justice in regional planning process : lessons from Alberta's regional plans.* Supervisors: Wei Xu and Henning Bjornlund (Economics).

**Mathew Peter Hall, MA 2014:** *Irrigators' Perception and Intention towards Water Re-allocation Policies in Southern Alberta.* Supervisors: Wei Xu and Henning Bjornlund (Econ).

**Kyle Howard, MA 2014:** *Market-Based Instruments for Ecosystem Service Provision in Southern Alberta: an exploration of landowners' perspectives.* Supervisors: Henning Bjornlund (Econ) and Wei Xu.

- Peter Kennedy, MSc 2014:** *Automatic template-guided classification of remnant trees.* Supervisors: Karl Staenz and Jinkai Zhang.
- Catherine Kloppenburg, MSc 2014:** *Detecting leafy spurge in native grassland using hyperspectral image analysis.* Supervisors: Karl Staenz and Anne Smith (AAFC).
- Colin Langhorn, MSc 2015:** *Simulation of climate change impacts on selected crop yields in southern Alberta.* Supervisor: Stefan Kienzle.
- Gordon Logie, MSc 2016:** *The impact of spatial resolution on riparian leaf area index modelling using remote sensing.* Supervisor: Craig Coburn.
- Sheila Macdonald, MSc 2014:** *Redefining Old Women's Phase pottery : a typological analysis of ceramics on the Northwestern Plains.* Supervisor: Shawn Bubel.
- Elizabeth Millions, MSc 2015:** *Physiological and morphological responses of pine and willow saplings to post-fire salvage logging.* Supervisor: Matthew Letts.
- Jonathan Reich, MSc 2015:** *Disease forecasting and the role of pollinators in the spread of blossom blight of seed alfalfa in Southern Alberta.* Supervisors: Syama Chatterton (AAFC) and Dan Johnson.
- Kevin Riddell, MSc 2014:** *Design, testing and demonstration of a small unmanned aircraft system (SUAS) and payload for measuring wind speed and particulate matter in the atmospheric boundary layer.* Supervisors: Chris Hugenholtz and Derek Peddle.
- Jurjen van der Sluijs, MSc 2014:** *Characterizing tree species in the Northwest Territories using spectral mixture analysis and multi-temporal satellite imagery.* Supervisor: Derek Peddle.
- Amber Zary, MA 2014:** *Capacity and capacity-building needs in Alberta's water governance structure.* Supervisors: Wei Xu and Henning Bjornlund (Economics).

Submitted by Hester Jiskoot

## **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 sciences, the city, spatial health and spatial information theory. This identity is reflected in our website ([www.sfu.ca](http://www.sfu.ca)) and facebook presence (<https://www.facebook.com/GeographySFU/>). Check out our News, Kudos and Events entries to see what we have been up to in this very busy year.

### GRADUATE PROGRAM

#### **Completed theses May 2015-April 2016**

Anderson, Taylor (MSc), May 2015, "Geographic Automata Systems Approach for Simulating Forest Insect Infestation: A Case Study of the Emerald Ash Borer" (Susanna Dragicevic)

Ferguson, Gretchen (PhD), May 2015, "From Spaces of Marginalization to Places of Participation: Indigenous Articulations of the Social Economy in the Bolivian Highlands" (Sean Markey)

Jorge, Marco (MSc), May 2015, “Longitudinal Subglacial Semi-Automated Mapping and Measurement” (Tracy Brennand)

Jjumba, Anthony (PhD), June 2015, “Toward Four-dimensional Modeling of Geospatial Phenomena: An Integration of Voxel Automata and the Geo-atom Theory” (Susanna Dragicevic)

Montgomery, Bryn (MSc), June 2015, “Expanding and Comparing GIS-based Multi-criteria Decision Making Methods: A Soft Computing Logic for Agricultural Land Suitability Evaluation” (Susanna Dragicevic)

Kear, Mark (PhD), July 2015, “Governing Homo Subprimicus: Essays on the Financial Regulation of Poverty After the Subprime Crisis” (Geoff Mann)

Longhurst, Andrew (MA), July 2015, “Policy Frontier—Regional Politics of Poverty and Drug Policy Mobility” (Eugene McCann)

Amram, Ofer (PhD), August 2015, “Spatial Epidemiology of Child and Youth Injury” (Nadine Schuurman, Michael Friger)

Whitmore, Rebecca (MA), August 2015, “Canadian Informal Caregivers in Medical Tourism” (Valorie Crooks)

Gitto, Alessandro (MSc), September 2015, “Representative Point- Integrated Suspended Sediment Sampling in Rivers” (Jeremy Venditti)

Perkins, Andrew (PhD), September 2015, “Refining the Pattern and Style of Deglaciation on the Southern Fraser Plateau and Environs” (Tracy Brennand)

Scarpone, Christopher (MSc), September 2015, “Modelling Exposed Bedrock and Soil Depth in the Critical Zone of Southern British Columbia” (Margaret Schmidt)

Ton, Michael (MSc), November 2015, “The Effects of Disturbance History of the Taxonomic and Functional Composition of Ground-layer Plant Communities” (Meg Krawchuk)

Camp, Philip (MSc), December 2015, “Human-Fire Interactions in British Columbia: Varying Constraints of Human-caused Wildfire Occurrence and Geography of the Wildland—Development Interface” (Meg Krawchuk, Anders Knudby)

Latt, Sai (PhD), January 2016, “Depoliticization, Securitization and Violent Accumulation in the Integration of the Greater Mekong Sub-region” (Janet Sturgeon)

Keane, Oliver (MA), April 2016, “Social Enterprise in British Columbia: The Profile Page as a Crisis Heterotopia” (Peter Hall, Nadine Schuurman)

Ho, Derrick (PhD), April 2016, “Spatial Influences of Heat Exposures and Social Vulnerability on the Temperature-Mortality Relationship: A Case Study in the Greater Vancouver Area” (Anders Knudby, Nadine Schuurman)

Johnson, Rory (PhD), April 2016, “Exploring the influences on the Caribbean’s emerging medical tourism industry” (Valorie Crooks)

#### Kudos

PhD student Mileva Samardžić-Petrović (supervised by Prof. Suzana Dragičević) won the Best Paper Award at the 10th International Conference on the Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics) in Banff, Alberta, in June 2015.

PhD student Jonathan Cripps (supervised by Professor Tracy Brennand) won the Canadian Quaternary Association's (CANQUA) 2015 Dreimanis Doctoral Scholarship for "demonstrating excellence in Quaternary science". He also won the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group's Olav Slaymaker award for best student talk at CANQUA 2015 in St. John's, Newfoundland.

MSc student Olympia Koziatek won the graduate 2016 SFU Esri Canada GIS Scholarship Award. The award recognizes excellent achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through the design and implementation of an original and individual project related to the advancement of methods or application in the discipline.

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

We welcome our new Physical Geography lecturer, Andrew Perkins, who will be starting with us July 1, 2016, in time for an exciting Fall semester.

Changes to the undergraduate program in the last year include:

#### **Urban Studies Certificate**

Changes were made to provide students with more flexibility in shaping the program to meet their needs/interest. Students are now able to select courses from a greater array of options than was previously available.

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

GEOG 455 Theoretical and Applied GIS has been designated as a Writing course effective Spring 2016.

Also upcoming is:

#### Geography 100

GEOG 100 will be renamed from "Society, Space, Environment: Introducing Human Geography" to "Our World: Introducing Human Geography" in 2017. Nick Blomley and Geoff Mann will join Ivor Winton as instructors of this exciting introductory human geography course.

#### Kudos

BA student Anthony Lee won the undergraduate 2016 SFU Esri Canada GIS Scholarship Award. The award recognizes excellent achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through the design and implementation of an original and individual project related to the advancement of methods or application in the discipline.

Geography undergraduates Mansoureh Rameshk and Franz Schug won the top two prizes in the 2015 SFU GIS Day map competition, organized in October 2015 by the Bennett Library Research Commons and the Esri Canada Center of Excellence. Ms. Rameshk's first place map showed the impact of climate-induced flooding in Surrey, BC. Mr. Schug's second place map showed deforestation and poverty in Brazil.

David Swanlund, who graduates in June 2016 with a BA Environmental Specialty (Honours) degree won the 2015 Warren Gill Memorial Award that recognizes leadership and service within the community by a Human Geography student.

Gabriel Boothroyd-Roberts, who graduates in June 2016 with a BA (Honours), has won the 2016 Canadian Association of Geographers Undergraduate Award. Mr. Boothroyd-Roberts, whose work includes an excellent honours thesis on the impact of the BC provincial government's "Blueprint for Jobs" on SFU, has been a top student in the Department throughout his undergraduate career. In September, he will begin Law School at UBC.

Michelle Linde, who graduates in June 2016 with a BA, was awarded the Department's Kim Fofonove Memorial Book Prize Award. This prize was established by members of the Department and by friends of former geography student Kim Fofonove. Each year this prize is awarded to an outstanding geography major or honours student from the graduating class.

Amelia Cooper, who graduates in June 2016 with a BA Environmental Specialty, received the Peter Schaub Memorial Book Prize. This prize was established to honour the memory of Peter Schaub, a former Dean's medal award winner and outstanding geography student who was an active participant in the Geography Student Union (GSU). We award this prize annually to a Geography major student from the graduating class who has made a significant contribution to the Department.

*Submitted by Tracy Brennand*

## **THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY**

Our eight faculty members and student club have been keeping busy since the spring of 2015. Here is a summary of what they have done and their plans for the summer, fall, and winter.

### **Darryl Carlyle-Moses**

Our Chair Darryl has kept busy managing the department while continuing his research. He published an article with former Geography major and Environmental Sciences grad student Chad Lishman in the journal *Hydrological Processes*. He also published a paper on urban hydrology in *Hydrological Processes* with former Environmental Sciences grad student Julie Schooling, and then published a similar paper in *Urban Ecology*. Darryl has also written a research paper with former Geography and Environmental Sciences grad student Adam McKee on the hydrology of juvenile lodge pole pine stands post-beetle infestation. He also has a chapter on canopy interception loss coming out this summer in Chow's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the *Handbook of Applied Hydrology*. Darryl presented at, and was principal convener of, a session at the American Geophysical Union in December 2015 in San Francisco and presented a poster at the AAG in San Francisco in March. He has completed field work on two studies: one on precipitation interaction with ponderosa pine and another with TRU Natural Resource Science's Tom Pypker on precipitation interaction with sagebrush.

### **David Hill**

David has recently published two papers, one with Jackson Baron -- who is a new student representative from BC for the WDCAG -- on the Canadian weather radar system. The other paper is co-authored with Xai Liang and Kellee Caton from TRU's Tourism Management on travel and life-wide learning. He was also a co-author of a presentation at the American Geophysical Union with Darryl Carlyle-Moses, TRU Natural Resource Science's Tom Pypker and Geography student Ali Grzybowski. David also co-presented with Geography student Brandon Turner on participatory remote sensing at the WDCAG and presented on the same topic at the AAG. He will be presenting at the Environmental and Water Resources Institute World Congress on data fusion of remote and land-based measurements.

David has also received an NSERC award for \$600,000 as a co-investigator for UAV-based rangeland management. He is supervising a Masters student who is looking at species identification with multispectral sensing. Finally, he is on the organizing committee of two conferences: the Environmental Water Resources Institute World Congress, and the Tourism Education Futures Initiative Annual Meeting this June in Kamloops.

### **Crystal Huscroft**

Crystal has been collaborating with UBC Geography to develop and study the effectiveness of virtual field trips. She has also been completing a web atlas of periglacial landforms for the Yukon Geological Survey. The bulk of her time has been dedicated to teaching our first year and third year physical geography courses. In collaboration with David Hill, they have transformed our introductory hydrology on geomorphology classes to be case study based. Student feedback has been very positive as students report that they see the real-world applications of the theory that they are learning. Students tackle technical reports and even doctoral theses. Lectures and textbook readings are structured to support understanding of the concepts described by the case-study readings. Crystal has also revamped her third year geomorphology course to be (in large part) project-based. The course culminates in a field project and final report requiring students to meet professional standards for mapping and writing.

### **Terry Macdonald**

Terry Macdonald taught Geography 2230 (Regional Geography of British Columbia and Yukon) in the winter 2016 session. He is teaching Geography 1010 (People, Places and Landscapes: Introducing Human Geography) in the current summer session. He also plans to teach a land use course again in the Tourism Management programme in fall 2016.

### **Michael Mehta**

Michael taught introductory environmental geography last fall (Geography 1100) and taught Environment and Resources (Geography 3100) in the winter. He will be teaching a renewable energy course in the fall (Geog4990).

Michael continues with his work on renewable energy -- his non-profit GabEnergy has become the largest provider of solar photovoltaic equipment west of the Rockies. With GabEnergy's team, he has helped design and commission dozens of large and small solar arrays in the province, including notably BC's largest and second largest residential arrays. His work on air quality and wood smoke emissions is ongoing and involves collection of nephelometric data of PM2.5 levels and the development of policy, regulatory, and legal approaches.

Michael also presented a paper at the WDCAG on the health risks associated with wood fire smoke in rural communities.

### **Kim Naqvi**

Kim focusses on lecture development and has adapted the first year World Regional Geography course to reflect social and economic development and the emergence of sustainable development concepts. Economic geography is extended to two courses: second year introductory and a third year thematic course. She is also developing a new third year development geography course. The new second year geographic thought course continues to be developed in order to better reflect a more balanced mix of human, physical, and environmental approaches.

In addition to continued work in place-based education, Kim is currently researching how Canadian geography programmes portray themselves to students through websites, and how this identity connects to high school programming. She presented on this topic at the WDCAG at UNBC, and will be presenting at the upcoming CAG conference in Halifax.

### **Gilles Viaud**

Gilles continues to work on the quality of place of small cities. He is now involved with Terry Kading and a senior undergraduate student from TRU's Political Science programme to research seniors' policy in



Kamloops. The project is titled “Challenges of an Aging Demographic in the Small City. This work is in partnership with the city and a number of non-profit housing stakeholders. Gilles is also the co-supervisor of a student enrolled in TRU’s brand new Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship programme. Finally, Gilles will be on sabbatical next year, from January to June.

### **Tom Waldichuk**

Tom attended the Japan Studies Association conference in Tokyo in May 2015, presenting his paper on the cultural differences between Japanese and Canadian rural-urban fringe residential landscapes. He was on sabbatical from July 1 to December 31 and attended the annual conference of the Human Geographical Society of Japan where he presented a poster on landscape change and preservation in an urbanizing satellite city of Tokyo. He also conducted some interviews related to this landscape change, especially the planning and construction of a highway bypass.

In the winter Tom taught a new third year course on the rural-urban fringe while also teaching introductory environmental geography. He also presented a paper at the WDCAG on agritourism, with a focus on southern BC and organized a jobs panel, which was well attended.

### **Geography students and the Thompson Rivers University Geography Society (TRUGS)**

TRUGS was involved in several activities this past year, such as a weekend trip to Wells Gray Park, adopt a road, and fund-raising activities, such as bake sales and pub dinners to help send students to the WDCAG at UNBC. In particular, I want to thank the hard work of Erin McLean and Christine Cziglan – the Co-Presidents – for taking charge of getting us to Prince George. Approximately 20 students and five faculty members, with Butch the driver at the helm, took our chartered bus. We stayed at the same motel as in 2003 when an unnamed student – now a Geography prof! -- had to sleep in his truck because of the manager’s dim view of the lively late-night socializing going on in his room. It was much quieter this year.

At the WDCAG Kim Naqvi’s students in her second year geographic thought class presented a poster on how they define geography. The students finalized their definitions after discussing their research of geography department definitions on the internet and of definitions that previous students in the course had come up with.

Many Geography students also presented their work at the TRU Undergraduate Conference. Students in Gilles Viaud’s fourth year Urban Analysis class gave the following oral presentations:

1. The Development of Geographic Information Systems and its Applications in Urban Studies (Sarah Cooke)
2. A Study of Income Inequality in the City over Time: A Canadian Perspective (Kim Goodall)
3. Urban Quality of Life: Does Greenspace Affect Quality of Life? (Katherine Hawrys)
4. A Lifetime of Contributions: A Review of the Work of Chauncy D. Harris in the Field of Urban eography (**Alexis Karakatsoulis**)
5. The Suburban Way of Life: What are the Risks? (Nick Welychko)

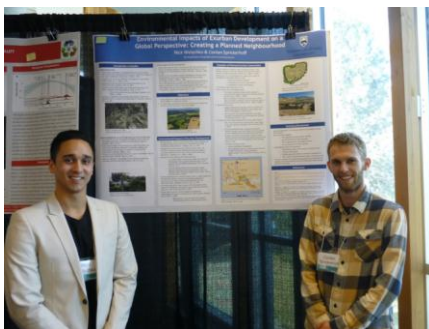
Tom Waldichuk’s students in his third year rural-urban fringe class and directed studies student Cheryl Fraser gave both poster and oral presentations of their projects:

1. Waste Not, Want Not: The Application and Use of Biosolids in British Columbia’s Rural Urban Fringe, (Kim Goodall, Carley Rookes, and Rachel Windhorst)

2. The Commodification of Agriculture: An Examination of Wine Tourism in the Rural Urban Fringe (Cheryl Fraser, Lauren DiMambro, and Ethan Lavoie)
3. [Migration to the Rural-urban Fringe: An In Depth Look at a Higher Quality of Life as a Driving Factor](#) (Katherine Hawrys, and Tanis Lerner)
4. Environmental Impacts of Exurban Development on a Global Perspective (Conlan Sprickerhoff, and Nick Welychko)
5. Sense of Community in the City's Countryside: The Examination of Miner's Bluff Rural Neighbourhood in Monte Creek, BC (Cheryl Fraser)



*Left photo* - On the way to the WDCAG, taking a break on the top of the hill on Hwy 97 after doing a street count of humans in Clinton. *Right photo* - Geographers giving a presentation at the TRU Undergraduate Conference in March.



Geographers presenting their poster at the TRU Undergraduate Conference in March.

*Submitted by Tom Waldichuk*  
(photos by Tom Waldichuk, used with students' permission)

## UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

It's been a busy and productive year in the Department of Geography and the Environment (GATE). Here are the highlights of our year.

### *Student News*

This year's graduating class will see 25 BA majors, one BA Honours, seven BSc majors and two BSc Honours graduates. We will be awarding our Geography student awards at our upcoming graduation dinner. **Tyler Blackman** is the winner of the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for GATE and for the Doug Nicol award which acknowledges the student's academic achievement as well as their contribution to the department. Tyler is a worthy recipient of this award, named after our late

colleague Doug Nicol. **Tyler Andersen** has been awarded the American Association of Geographers award and **Audrey Faber** is the winner of the Canadian Association of Geographers which is awarded to the highest GPA of a graduating Geography student. Congratulations to all our award winners!

Over the past year, students from GATE have been busy presenting the results of their research at a variety of conferences. Our students have presented at the Annual Conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) in Prince George on March 10 and 11, 2016, at UFV Student Research Day on April 9, 2016 and at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in San Francisco on March 29 to April 2, 2016.

This year's WDCAG Annual Meeting was held in Prince George at UNBC and 18 students and 4 faculty/staff made the journey north with 10 students and 1 faculty member presenting on their research. Eight students presented research posters and one honours student gave an oral presentation. **Tyler Blackman** won an award for his presentation on his Honours project entitled, "The Canadian Farmworkers' Union: Social Movements and Labour Arrangements." The eight poster presentations included: "Preliminary Analysis of Stoney Creek, Abbotsford, British Columbia: Current Water Quality and Potential Threats to the Watershed", by **Madelaine Bourdages** and **Alexandra Groeneweg**; "Analysis of Decomposition Rates of Thimbleberry and Japanese Knotweed in the Fraser Valley", by **Shyna Kanda**; "The National Housing Act and Post-War Suburbanization", by **Christian Parr**; "Potential Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on the Coastal Geomorphology of Crescent Beach, British Columbia", by **Shae Turner**; "Analysis of the invertebrate composition for Japanese Knotweed and Thimbleberry leaf litter samples collected at Clayburn Creek, Abbotsford, BC, Canada", by **Karanjit Puri**; "Monitoring the Spread of Invasive Plant Species in Abbotsford, BC", by **Alanna Strangway**; "Major and trace ions, nutrients, and CDOM concentrations at two contrasting sites on Clayburn Creek in BC, Canada", by **Ellen Clemence**; "Investigation into the Possible Effects of Agriculture on the Geochemistry of Willband Creek, Abbotsford, BC, Canada", by **Audrey Faber**.

**Audrey Faber** and **Ellen Clemence** traveled to San Francisco to present at the AAG on their results obtained from their sampling with myself and analysis at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution during their recent practicum. They also presented at UFV Student Research Day. Audrey won the award for best research poster for the Arts – interesting for a BSc student! (Photos below: Ellen (left) and Audrey (right) discussing their posters at the AAG).



In addition to Audrey and Ellen, we had a number of other students present their research results at UFV Student Research Day. They included: **Christian Parr**, **Alanna Strangway**, **Madelaine Bourdages**, **Alexandra Groeneweg**, **Shyna Kanda** and **Karanjit Puri** presented their posters from the WDCAG. In addition **Harman Gill** presented, "A Nutrient Loading Assessment of Lakes in Abbotsford, British Columbia" and **Donovan Toews** presented "Water Quality Research Testing for the Fraser Valley Watershed".



**Donovan Toews** (left) **Audrey Faber** (right) with GATE Department Head **Steven Marsh** at Student Research Day



**Tyler Blackman** won the Best Undergraduate Research Presentation Award (BA Category) at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers annual conference, and the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award (UFV) for his honours research, *'The Canadian Farmworkers Union: Social Movements and Labour Arrangements'*. Tyler's honours thesis project is founded upon first-hand study, conducting semi-structured interviews and archival research, to examine the Canadian Farmworker's Union (CFU) and understand how social movements mobilise resources in complex ways across space and at different scales. The research argues there is a need to revisit the histories of social movements and critically examine how movements of the past play a role in future social change and the contestation of space and place, and reveals how social movements use framing, diagnostically and prognostically, to alter perceptions of

space and place at different scales and draw support for their cause. Tyler's research reveals: the unionisation of farm labourers in Canada was significant because at the time none had previously organised with any great success; the CFU operated outside of the typical arrangements of traditional trade unions to make their organisational effort possible; as a movement, it drew support from variegated constituencies and approached its goals with correspondingly diverse strategies; the task of organising farm labourers at this time and in this space required substantial resource mobilisation and framing of the movement to broader publics for support; and the CFU is better understood as a social movement rather than a traditional trade union because of significant structural challenges. Tyler will be heading to University of Victoria in September to start a Masters degree.

**Jordan Bryce** (Geog BSc Honours) and **Libby Griffin** (MSc SFU and UFV BSc grad) presented their research results at the recent CANQUA meeting held at St. John's in August 2015. Their research is being supervised by **Olav Lian**. In addition, **Jordan Bryce** has received a Hakai Graduate Fellowship worth \$46,000 over two years to pursue her MSc at Simon Fraser University. (photo above: **Jordan Bryce** with her poster at CANQUA 2015, St. John's.)





**Audrey Faber** and **Ellen Clemence** are at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution completing environmental practicums under the supervision of Dr. Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink. They worked as research assistants under **Steven Marsh** and **Sharon Gillies** for the past year when they developed their research projects and collected samples on Clayburn and Willband Creeks in Abbotsford. Ellen is investigating coloured dissolved organic carbon, nutrient concentrations and basic water chemistry parameters as measured on Clayburn Creek during the fall of 2015. Audrey is investigating changes to water chemistry as water flows from Sumas Mountain across Matsqui Prairie from sampling done on Clayburn and Willband Creeks. (Photo left: Audrey and Ellen prepping samples for analysis at Woods Hole.)

### Program News

The 2015 Adventures in geography to the Canadian Rockies consisted of 9 students led by **Carolyn Atkins** and **Garry Fehr** in August 2015. The students completed six field techniques, three human geography and three physical geography activities that included plant identification along an upwardly sloping transect; human-wildlife interactions with remote sensing; necrogeography; Banff tourism analysis; glacial retreat; and a fluvial analysis of two small rivers. Students took turns cooking for the group in the hostel and it was an excellent opportunity to provide a capstone course that taught workplace skills (see photo above). **Carolyn Atkins** and **Steven Marsh** will be leading a group of ten students to Mt. St. Helens and the Washington Scablands in late August on our annual Adventures in Geography study tour.



**Claire Hay** has been integrating experiments and other high impact practices into GEOG 103: The Physical Environment over the past year to enhance student engagement and retention in what has been a traditional lecture classroom. The photo opposite shows the glacier experiment in action where students investigated the influence of slope, sediment and water on glacier 'goo' behaviour. In GEOG



304: Geography of the Coastal Zone, Claire adopted a problem-based learning delivery model where students investigated the question "What are the geographic impacts of sea level rise in Crescent Beach, Surrey, BC?" Students used a self-directed but facilitated approach where they developed primary data collection protocols, data analysis, survey design and implementation and

researched the study area in the context of sea level rise in other areas. Photo to the left shows students conducting a clinometer tape survey of the beach to determine whether sea level rise would result in flooding



of the community. Students presented their study findings to representatives from the City of Surrey. They concluded that a 1metre rise in sea level over the next 100 years together with the predicted 1:200 year storm surge of 1.16m will result in major inundation of Crescent Beach and significant coastal erosion. Their surveys of Crescent Beach residents showed a lack of awareness of the risks to the community as well as an expectation that the City of Surrey would act to protect their community.



**Steven Marsh** and **Claire Hay** had their upper level physical geography courses (Geog. 304: The Geography of the Coastal Zone and Geog. 308: Climate Change and Variability) out in the field investigating the threat of predicted sea level rise on Crescent Beach. Our students were given a tour of the area by Carrie Barron from the City of Surrey. Our students spent a day in the field collecting data that they will later analyze to better understand the threat of a predicted one to two metre rise in sea level for this coastal community.

Integrating activities of 2 courses related to a single theme gave students a more complete understanding of the interconnections in what they were learning about climate change.

**Cherie Enns** continues to support students completing internships in Africa. From May to July 2015, Queen Elizabeth Scholars Sierra Nickel, Josh Rempel, Marie Verbenkov, and Jeremy Wagner of the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) conducted research on modern food retailing in Dar es Salaam. Their research entailed interviewing managers from 8 supermarkets within the city to discuss the factors that inform their food procurement strategies. As a result of their research, their article titled 'Supermarket Food Procurement Practices in Dar es Salaam: Risks and Benefits for Rural Smallholder Farmers' has been published in the Fall/ Winter 2016 issue of Undercurrent. During the winter semester, three students worked in Dar es Salaam under the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship funding and a fourth headed to Nairobi to join a fifth student funded under a separate grant with Aga Khan University. All these students will be working in the area of food systems research and the program information can be found at <http://ufveastafricainternships.com>. The East Africa Internship program (EAIP) offers students opportunities to engage with pertinent issues surrounding food security and food system sustainability in Kenya and Tanzania.

**Dr. Terah Sportel** and **Dr. Mariano Mapili** instructed GEOG 452: Advanced Field Techniques this semester with the theme being, *“Lessons from the past and applications into the future: the virtual reconstruction of Sumas Lake and its history through Geographic Methods and Field Techniques.”* The course is envisioned not only for the students to learn and practice field techniques in Geography, but to get involved in the re-telling of the Sumas Lake reclamation story through physical indicators such as



topography, vegetation and soils but also narratives from historical archives, present and former residents of the Sumas Prairie, as well as First Nations' perspectives. The students will use what they have learned about the former Sumas Lake to reconstruct Sumas Lake into a predicted future brought about by sea level rise due to a changing climate. (Photo above: GEOG 452 students visit the Barrowtown Pumping Station to learn about the rate of pumping required to keep Sumas Prairie dry.)

A citizen science project was carried out by the students in GEOG 211: Environmental Science under the guidance of **Dr. Mariano Mapili** that aims to discover the state of water quality in lesser known lakes within the City of Abbotsford. The citizen science project will allow students to determine the current

water quality of these lakes as part of the course theme, “One World, One Health”, and will assist to determine if any of these lakes will require attention as part of the City of Abbotsford’s updated Community Plan.

During the Fall 2015 semester, **Cherie Enns**, and Criminology faculty, **Yvon Dandurand and Amy Prevost** hosted an event that aimed to link the United Nations 17 global sustainable development goals with community engagement. Representatives from UFV and the greater community came together for an interdisciplinary discussion of these goals. The event was divided into two sections with the first involving 17 speakers who had two minutes to link their work to one of the UN goals. The second part provided time for UFV students to present on their internship experiences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and how they contributed to the development of the UN ratified goals. The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Program will provide over \$400,000 in funding to support future internships in Africa for UFV undergraduate students. Geography students **Michalea Minchuk** and **Lisa Harrington** presented on their internship experience working at KidsCare, Tanzania.

In June 2016, the Agriculture Centre of Excellence (ACE) at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), will host a conference titled "Cities and Food" which will bring together a consortium of academics, industry professionals, government officials, NGOs, funders, partners, and student interns to discuss the ways in which urban food systems can be developed securely and sustainably. Along with keynote speaker Dr. Alex Awiti of the East African Institute, UFV Queen Elizabeth Scholars will be discussing food systems research they conducted in East Africa. On June 9th and 10th, come join the global discussion on sustainable food system development!

#### *Faculty News*

**John Bélec** is on sabbatical leave during 2016-17. During this period, Bélec will be engaged in research that focuses on various aspects of Canadian housing policy and house design. His analysis of the impact of CMHC mortgage policy on the early post-war city will be extended to Hamilton ON and provide a comparison to that of Vancouver (*Canadian Geographer* 59 (3) 341-353). Bélec will also investigate Vancouver’s first automobile suburb: Norgate village in North Vancouver. Together with collaborator and former UFV Honours student, Derrick Swallow, he will also complete his study of the lower mainland’s answer to the *Vancouver Special* ie, the *BC Box*.

**Claire Hay** completed the BC Provincial Instructor Diploma offered through Vancouver Community College in summer 2015. She started this diploma as part of her sabbatical activities which sought to inform her curriculum design, lesson planning and active learning strategies in her classes. Claire has been actively employing these new concepts in her classes this semester and presented on problem-based learning at recent conferences:

Hay, C. (2016) *The importance of facilitation in problem-based learning*. Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Prince George, BC. March 12, 2016.

Hay, C. (2015) *Making the leap: personal reflections on adopting problem-based learning strategies in the classroom*. Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC. June 1-5, 2015.

Session co-organizer at Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Prince George, BC. March 12, 2016 with Teresa Dawson, University of Victoria. Session was titled “*Reinventing our courses: new innovations for teaching and learning in geography*”

It was a busy year for **Dr. Lenore Newman** and **Dr. Lisa Powell** at the Agriburban Research Centre. First, they had the following invited presentations:

(2016) Managing farmland in a changing world, March 15th, UK-Canada Frontiers of Science Meeting, Whistler, BC (Lenore)

(2016) The future of urban agriculture, January 30th, Abbotsford Horticultural Grower's \Short Course, Abbotsford, BC. (Lenore and Lisa)

(2015) How to build empathy for nature in our urban environment, June 20th, CONDUIT, Vancouver, BC. Lenore)

(2015) Getting the most from the Agricultural Land Reserve, June 8th. Presentation to the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, Abbotsford, BC. (Lenore and Lisa)

Lenore and Lisa also presented at a couple of interesting conferences:

(2015) Feeding the Anthropocene: Global Farmland management in a crowded world. November 1st, Repositioning the social at the heart of the Anthropocene. University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. (Lenore)

(2016) AAG in San Francisco: Lisa and I both presented on rural/urban fringe dynamics.

And they published a couple of interesting things:

(2015) Newman, L. The fall and rise of the Canadian public market, in McWilliams, Mark (ed) Food and Markets: Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2014. London: Prospect Books (pp 290-298)

(2015) Newman, L., Powell, L. J., & Wittman, H. Landscapes of food production in agriburbia: Farmland protection and local food movements in British Columbia. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 39, 99-110.

Lisa and Lenore were also contracted to prepare a report on the health impacts of agriculture in BC.

**Olav Lian** and **Christina Neudorf** represented UFV at the 2016 BC Tech Summit at the Vancouver Convention Centre on January 18 and 19, 2016.

**Scott Shupe** is a co-author on a manuscript being submitted this month that describes the drivers of nutrient concentrations in urban streams in South, Central and North America. He is also part of a current initiative to submit a proposal for a special edition to a peer reviewed journal describing the global freshwater research program and related local/regional research projects.

**Terah Sportel** has a forthcoming paper:

*Forthcoming*. Sportel, T. and Véron, R. 2016. Coconut Crisis in Kerala? Mainstream Narrative and Alternative Perspectives. *Development and Change*. 45 (5).

**Stay in touch with UFV Geography and the Environment**

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

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UFVGeography>

*Submitted by Claire Hay*



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

### *58th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Geographers:*

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Geographers was held at the Prince George Campus of UNBC on March 11-12, 2016. Delegates from Alberta, British Columbia, Washington State, Saskatchewan, and Ontario attended; in total 205 registrants took part, including 160 undergraduate and graduate students.

Field trips on Friday March 11 included a hike along the Greenway behind UNBC, a tour of downtown Prince George, a trip to Eskers Provincial Park, and tours of the UNBC Bioenergy Facility. In addition, the film *Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley* (Honduras) was screened.

The formal part of the meeting commenced Friday evening with a welcome and blessing from Ms. Darlene McIntosh, an Elder from the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, on whose unceded territory UNBC's main campus is located. Dr. Charles Helm, Vice President of the Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation delivered the keynote address. He spoke of the extraordinary local efforts undertaken to secure the recent designation of the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark. This lively and inspiring talk was followed by an Icebreaker at UNBC's pub, The Thirsty Moose.

After a full day of oral presentations (55) and posters (34) on Saturday, the conference wrapped up with the AGM, a Banquet Dinner (attended by 130 delegates & guests), a presentation by Sarah de Leeuw (Northern Medical Program & Adjunct Member of Geography Faculty), and dance.

### Student Presentation Awards at WDCAG 2016

Competition	Winner	Honourable Mention
Oral Competition		
BA	Tyler Blackman (UFV)	
BSc	Theo Harvey (U Lethbridge)	Larissa Thelin (VIU)
MA	Kirk Walker (UNBC)	
MSc	Richelle Saussbauer (UNBC) Recipient of the Ineke Dijks Award for Best Overall Student Presentation	
PhD	Dominic Reiffarth (UNBC)	Ben Pelto (UNBC)
Poster Competition		
BA	Co-winners: Edward Bracken (VIU); Justin Wagenaar (The King's U.)	
BSc	Alexandra Zanussi & Waurner Adema (The King's U.)	
MSc	Josh Montgomery (U Lethbridge)	

More on the conference (videos, photos, etc.) can be found on UNBC Geography's page:  
<http://www.unbc.ca/geography>.

### Faculty News:

UNBC's Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) awarded **Ellen Petticrew** and colleague Phil Owens (Environmental Sciences) the 2015 Distinguished Scholars Awards. **Catherine Nolin** was NRESi's choice for the Community Advancement Award.

**Catherine Nolin** was included among the Exemplars during the 2016 Celebration of Teaching at UNBC for commitment to field schools and experiential learning. **Catherine Nolin** took on the 2-year position of Senior Grievance Officer with the UNBC Faculty Association, September 2015 to September 2017.

Welcome to postdoctoral research fellow Dr. **Chris Darvill**, who recently arrived at UNBC from the UK. Chris completed his Ph.D. at Durham University, studying the glacial geomorphology and chronology of southern Patagonia. At UNBC, he is working with Brian Menounos and Brent Goehring (Tulane University, USA) on a Tula Foundation project looking into the glacial history and landscape evolution of Calvert Island on the west coast of Canada.

Also we welcome new research associate **Todd French** who is working with Ellen Petticrew and Phil Owens on both Nechako River and Quesnel Lake projects.

### In the News:

Some great national coverage of our faculty's work:

Brian Menounos took CBC reporter Chris Brown on a tour of a BC glacier last October:  
<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2677503613>

while Ellen Petticrew's and colleagues' work on the environmental impact of the Mount Polley mine breach was covered by CBC as well, last May (2015):

<https://www.facebook.com/thenational/videos/10152842945452686/?fref=nf>

and in more local news, Brian and his PhD student Ben Pelto's work on the Kokanne Glacier to determine snow accumulation versus ice melted, was covered in the Nelson Star in April:

<http://www.nelsonstar.com/news/376566031.html>

### Recent publications:

Alber, S.J., S.J. Déry, and **E.L. Petticrew** (2015). Flooding in the Nechako River Basin of Canada: A random forest modeling approach to flood analysis in a regulated reservoir system. *Canadian Water Resources Journal*, [doi.org/10.1080/07011784.2015.1109480](https://doi.org/10.1080/07011784.2015.1109480)

Barthod L.R.M., K. Liu, D.A. Lobb, \*\*P.N. Owens, N. Martinez-Carreras, \***A.J. Koiter**, **E.L. Petticrew**, G.K. McCullough, C. Liu, \***L. Gaspar** (2015). Selecting colour-based tracers and classifying sediment sources in the assessment of sediment dynamics using sediment source fingerprinting. *Journal of Environmental Quality* 44:1605-1616. doi: 10.2134/jeq2015.01.0043.

Blewett, J., and **N. Hanlon** (2016) Disablement as inveterate condition: Living with habitual ableism in Prince George, British Columbia. *The Canadian Geographer* 60(1): 46-55.

Brise, L. and S. **de Leeuw** (2015) Seeing Clearly: A Community-Based Inquiry Into Vision Care Access For a Rural Northern First Nation. *Canadian Journal of Optometry*. 77(2). 34-42.

**de Leeuw, S.** (2015). *Skeena*. Sechelt, BC Caitlin Press. 96 pgs

**de Leeuw, S.** (2016 online release, forthcoming). Tender Grounds: Intimate Visceral Violence and British Columbia's Colonial Geographies. *Political Geography*. Special Issue on Violence.

**de Leeuw, S.** (2015). Activating Place: Geographies and Determinants of Indigenous Health. In *Beyond the Social: Determinants of Aboriginal Peoples' Health in Canada*. M. Greenwood, M., S. de Leeuw, N. Lindsay and C. Reading (eds.), 145-162. Toronto, Canada: Canadian Scholars Press.

**de Leeuw, S.** (2015). Tau(gh)t Subjects. In *Knowledge and Power: 7th Edition of the Knowledge and Space Editions*. P. Meusbürger (ed.), 295-314 Springer Publishers.

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**Fondahl, G.,** and G. Wilson, eds. (2015) *Northern Sustainibilities. Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 8*. Prince George: IASSA. (Proceedings from Eighth International Congress on Arctic Social Sciences.) 173 pp.

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\* Graduate student/former graduate student

\*\* Affiliate geographer/Adjunct faculty

#### **Invited Lectures:**

de Leeuw, S. (March 2016). Geo-Somatic Poetry and Orgasms: Some Critical and Creative Reflections About Ways Geographers Might Move Differently in the Anthropocene. Founder's Lecture. Carleton

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Nolin, C. (2016) Documenting 'development' and the search for Guatemala's dead and disappeared, in *NEW 471 Breaking Barriers, Social Justice in Digital Humanities*, New College, University of Toronto, ON, 10 February.

Petticrew, E.L. and \*\*P.N.Owens (2015) Seiches, sediment and food webs: The breach of the Mount Polley tailings impoundment one year later. Association of Professional Engineering and Geoscientists - BC Annual Conference, Kelowna, Canada, October 2015

### **Field Courses:**

Ellen Petticrew led a Fluvial Geomorphology field course from the Quesnel River Research Centre in late Aug-Sept, 2015. The emphasis was on river disturbance and restoration.

Brian Menounos and Alex Koiter will leading a Geology and Geomorphology field course in 'Basin and Range' country (eastern California, Arizona, Nevada and southern Utah) in May for a Geology and Geomorphology field course. }

### **Thesis Defences**

The following students, supervised by Geography faculty members, defended their theses:

Md Abdur Rashid, MA International Studies (International Development stream), UNBC '15, Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin: Gendered Violence in Gender-Based Development Projects: Conditional Cash Transfer Programs and Women's 'Empowerment' and 'Development' in Bangladesh Thesis defence: 22 June 2015

Leah Vanden Busch, MSc NRES (Environmental Science), UNBC '15; Co-supervisors: Dr. Ellen Petticrew & John Rex; The Delivery, Seasonal Storage, and Trophic Transfer of Marine-Derived Nutrients Within a Stream-Riparian Ecotone" Thesis defence date: 28 September 2015

Carolyn Emon, MA Interdisciplinary Studies; Supervisor Dr. Neil Hanlon; Human Trafficking: An Examination of Available Services and Support in Prince George, BC. Thesis defence: March 30, 2016

### **Stay in touch with UNBC Geography:**

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

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

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNBCGeography>

*Submitted by Gail Fondahl*

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Dear Colleagues, here are a few glimpses into what has been happening in our department this year.

**Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood** is co-author of a comprehensive study on street numbering in the US.



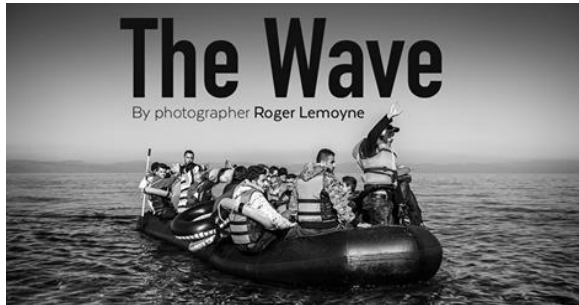
[Mapping America's Numbered Streets](#) - A new geographic analysis finds that half of all U.S. cities use



street numbers instead of names as a way to aid navigation.

(RIGHT) Blocking cars from Government Street not a 'silver bullet': planners  
(<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/blocking-cars-from-government-street-not-a-silver-bullet-planners-1.1754587>)

**Dr. Jen Bagelman**



Geography sessional instructor Jen Bagelman was involved in a project documenting refugee journeys across the Mediterranean

[The Wave | Zoom Photo Festival Saguenay](#): Canadian photographer Roger Lemoyne spent two weeks in November 2015 between the island of Lesbos in Greece - where thousands of migrants arrive every day - and Macedonia, one of the many countries they

cross on their...(zoomphotofestival.ca)

**Dr. Ian Walker**



[Coastal climate crunch: BC beaches could be battered by both El Niño and La Niña](#)

## 2015 CAG Award for Service to the Profession of Geography: Dr Daniel J. Smith



[http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/dan\\_j\\_smith.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/dan_j_smith.html)

### Dr. Olaf Neimann

Olaf Niemann (right), an international leader in remote sensing technology, is the newly appointed BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing.



### Peter Keller named SFU's next VP Academic and provost

February 18, 2016

By Justin Wong

Following a national search, Peter Keller has been appointed Simon Fraser University's next [vice-president academic](#) and provost. Keller will take over from Jonathan Driver who is returning to his position as professor of archaeology on Sept. 1, 2016.

"We are delighted to have Keller join our University in this vital role," says SFU President Andrew Petter. "He brings extensive experience in university governance, academic affairs and community engagement, and is well-equipped to support SFU's vision to be Canada's most community-engaged research university."

Keller will be charged with ensuring an outstanding educational experience for SFU students and a productive environment for its faculty and staff. The position is responsible for providing academic leadership to the University's three campuses and eight faculties.

"SFU has an exceptional record of teaching, research and community engagement," says Keller. "I'm looking forward to advancing the University's academic mission, including its commitment to engage students in learning experiences that prepare them for life in an ever-changing and challenging world."

Keller comes to SFU following an impressive tenure at the University of Victoria where he is a professor in the Department of Geography. He most recently served two terms as dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

During his time as dean, Keller played a key role in developing the UVic Institute for Community Engaged Research and guiding its direction. He also was instrumental in creating the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs, which pioneered interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs in areas such as the human dimensions of climate change, technology and society, and the social determinants of health.

Keller has served as president of the Canadian Cartographic Association and is a member of the Council of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. As well, he served two terms as chair of Canada's National Committee to the International Cartographic Association, from 1995-2003.

He holds a BA with honours from Trinity College in Dublin, as well as an MA and PhD from the University of Western Ontario.

**Dr. Jutta Gutberlet**

Geography's Dr. Jutta Gutberlet receives 2015 Faculty of Social Sciences 'Award for Outstanding Community Outreach'

**Dr. Chris Darimont**

*The unique ecology of human predators*

*Science* 21 August 2015:

Vol. 349 no. 6250 pp. 858-860

DOI: 10.1126/science.aac4249

ABSTRACT: Paradigms of sustainable exploitation focus on population dynamics of prey and yields to humanity but ignore the behavior of humans as predators. We compared patterns of predation by contemporary hunters and fishers with those of other predators that compete over shared prey (terrestrial mammals and marine fishes). Our global survey (2125 estimates of annual finite exploitation rate) revealed that humans kill adult prey, the reproductive capital of populations, at much higher median rates than other predators (up to 14 times higher), with particularly intense exploitation of terrestrial carnivores and fishes. Given this competitive dominance, impacts on predators, and other unique predatory behavior, we suggest that humans function as an unsustainable “super predator,” which—unless additionally constrained by managers—will continue to alter ecological and evolutionary processes globally. <<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/349/6250/858>>

**Dr. Cameron Owens**

- 1) Congratulations to our very own Dr. Cameron Owens who received the J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence from the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers!
- 2) Dr. Owens leads the Cascadia field school on educational adventures

**2016 CASCADIA SUSTAINABILITY FIELD SCHOOL**

University of Victoria  
Geography

Learn from inspiring community leaders grappling with the most urgent societal challenges.

Travel study program touring through BC, Washington and Oregon

Get credit for two 3<sup>rd</sup> year Geography classes in May/June

Apply by Feb 19th!

[camo@uvic.ca](mailto:camo@uvic.ca)

The poster features three photographs: a woman in a blue shirt examining plants, a group of people on bicycles on a trail, and a group of people standing together outdoors. A rainbow flag is visible in the bottom right corner.

**Dr. Simon Springer**

- 1) Books Simon has written that are coming out in 2016





2) Friday, Mar. 18 - Geography Lecture Series - Students from Dr. Simon Springer's Activism and Community Based Planning Course: SHIFT Happens

Department of Geography Lecture Series

**SHIFT Happens:**

Decolonizing sense of place and co-learning through grassroots pedagogy

Students from GEOG 407 - Activism and Community Based Planning



Friday, March 18 @ DTB B215, UVic

refreshments 2:45 pm, seminar 3:00 pm

All are welcome. Bring your coffee mug!!

**Michael Grilliot**

Times Colonist turned to Geography PhD candidate Michael Grilliot for insight into Gorge Waterway landslide [Landslide on Gorge limited, house stable, Esquimalt official says](#) Debris also tumbles down Saanich bluff; both incidents tied to recent heavy rain. (timescolonist.com | By Jeff Bell)



Dr. Randy Scharien Received a 170,000 CFI JELF

Dr. Maycira Costa and Dr. Randy Scharien: Big announcement regarding new projects led by Geography's Maycira Costa and Randy Scharien. [ow.ly/Yrh1b](http://ow.ly/Yrh1b)



**Dr. Michelle Lee Moore** discusses her students' project that helped protect the Highlands water supply: [Highlands working hard to protect its water supply - Goldstream News Gazette](#) University of Victoria students to help communicate recommendations (goldstreamgazette.com | By Katherine Engqvist)

**Dr. Trisalyn Nelson**

Bike-vehicle crashes on Galloping Goose prompt study (<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/bike-vehicle-crashes-on-galloping-geese-prompt-study-1.1823801>)



**Dr. David Atkinson** is helping northern residents prepare for the impact of Arctic storms.



[Current issue - University of Victoria:](#) For most of us, a change in the weather is just an inconvenience—the need to pack an umbrella or throw on a raincoat. But for those in the North, a change in the weather can mean life or death. (uvic.ca)

**BC CAN EXPECT WORSE DROUGHTS THAN IN PAST THREE TO FOUR CENTURIES**

Combined with the impacts of climate change and deforestation, the coastal regions of southern BC are very likely to be hit by a worse drought within the coming decades than any time in the last three to four

centuries, according to a [new report](#) co-authored by recent PhD graduate Bethany Coulthard at the University of Victoria.

Using 350 years of tree ring data as well as long-term drought records, Coulthard found at least 16 historical droughts worse than the benchmarks used today by hydrologists and water managers in coastal BC. “We have underestimated both how common and how severe the worst droughts are in this part of BC,” she says. “If we don’t implement more conservative mitigation strategies, the region will be seriously underprepared when one of these droughts hits. The impacts would be disastrous for stream ecology and salmon.

She and her collaborators discovered that the smaller the tree rings, the more extreme the conditions, such as low snow depth and a hot summer. Streamflow records are short and don’t usually catch the most extreme droughts, while tree-ring records give a longer, more accurate snapshot and, in addition, the province’s small watersheds can have high runoff one year and very low runoff the next—all of which can mislead planners and the public into thinking one strong streamflow year signals safety from drought. Coulthard is meeting with BC provincial planners next month to discuss drought predictions and modelling.

The report is available on ScienceDirect.com and was originally published in the *Journal of Hydrology*. It is co-authored by geographer Dan Smith, who leads the [UVic Tree Ring Laboratory](#), and David Meko of the University of Arizona. Coulthard is a research associate in the lab and a postdoctoral scientist at the University of Arizona. This research was supported by an NSERC Discovery Grant, an NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral (CGSD), and an NSERC Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement.

#### **Media Contacts:**

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Tara Sharpe (University Communications + Marketing) at 250-721-6248 or [tksharpe@uvic.ca](mailto:tksharpe@uvic.ca)

#### **Field schools**

A great student blog about our field schools!



[Field schools: an out-of-the-classroom experience with a lasting impact \(Guest Post\)](#)

Geography **Professor Stephen Cross** is a fish farm pioneer!



[Learning from and by the sea - Macleans.ca](http://macleans.ca)

A pioneer in aquaculture research lives next to his underwater farm  
macleans.ca

### **Projects**

We are pleased to announce the second edition of the Peces para la Vida II (Amazon Fish for Food) Bulletin describing the Project's accomplishments in the last six months. An article on the Bolivian visit to Canada in September 2015, including the forums held at UVIC, is showcased in this edition. The digital version can be accessed through [https://issuu.com/pecesparalavida/docs/ppvii\\_bulletin2\\_en](https://issuu.com/pecesparalavida/docs/ppvii_bulletin2_en). A description of the project by Canadian Geographic can also be found at: <http://idrc.canadiangeographic.ca/.../fish-for-food-bolivia.a...>

### **Graduate students who have completed their programs this year**

Jodi N. Axelson  
Steven E. Beasley  
Allison Byrne  
Tyson K. Carswell  
Mikaela Lynn Cherry  
Bethany L. Coulthard  
Shannon Ashley McFadyen  
Rhianna Alecia Sharon Nagel  
Alejandra M. Orozco-Quinter  
Diana E. V. Parton  
Kylee Pawluk  
Stephen Robert Phillips  
Sarah Jeanine Sprague  
Shanley D. Thompson  
Gillian Sarah Walker  
Jodi N. Axelson

*Submitted by Kinga Menu*

## VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

### *Department News*

With eleven years since the start of the BA Major in Geography and four years since the inception of the BSc in Geoscience, this past academic year marked another ground-breaking time for Geography with the start of two additional program pathways for students, this time at the graduate level. The new Master of GIS Applications (MGISA) builds upon the existing Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (ADGISA). The new Master of Community Planning (MCP) is a two-year dynamic professional degree with primary foci of small-city planning, urban design, First Nations planning, sustainable economic issues, and rural/urban interface planning. The MCP program brought about a new administrative unit in the Faculty of Social Sciences (Community Planning Department) with strong personnel links by **Pam Shaw** and **Don Alexander** to the Geography Department.

This year the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Issues Film Festival took place on November 6<sup>th</sup> to coincide with International Town Planning Day. It featured a variety of shorter and longer films on the theme of 'Residential Redux' and keynote speakers, Dave Witty, vice-president academic of Vancouver Island University, and Ting Pan, sustainability coordinator for the Regional District of Nanaimo. The festival was sponsored by the Geography Department, the North Island chapter of the Planning Institute of BC, the VIU MCP program, and the Geographic Students' Union.

### *Geog 467 Field Studies in Geography:*



*Students along with faculty member Alan Gilchrist visit the streamflow study site in Parksville, BC.*



*Students along with faculty member Hannah Wilson collect intertidal ecosystem measurements in Piper's Lagoon, Nanaimo, BC.*

### *Faculty News*

After 20+ years of service to the Geography Department, **Timothy Naegele** retired in August 2015. Replacing Tim in the role of technician is **Jessica Craig**. Thus far, Jessica has greatly enjoyed working with the students and faculty at VIU, getting to know them and helping them achieve their academic goals. **Michael Tripp** will be retiring this upcoming summer. His regional geography expertise on Russia was given the chance to shine this year in our 400-level special topics course, which this year was "Russia and the Near Abroad."

VIU Geography will enhance its curriculum in social ecological systems with two new members of the team. Parks and sustainability expert **Matthew Bowes** will be joining the full-time regular ranks this upcoming August. Matt successfully defended his PhD dissertation in June 2015. One of the

publications to arise out of his thesis is chapter “Parks, Dogs, and Beaches: Wildlife Conflict and the Politics of Place” in the book “Domestic Animals and Leisure” and is co-authored with VIU’s Rick Rollins and Peter Keller and Bob Gifford of UVic. Coastal social science expert **Michele Patterson** was recently selected as a part-time regular faculty member, effective in August. Michele was successful this year with a 3-year Mitacs Accelerate PhD Fellowship (2015-2018) for her dissertation research entitled: *“What is a farmed salmon?” Understanding the life of a seafood commodity from ocean to table*. She is doing her field work this spring/summer on BC salmon farms and in processing plants, and next summer with distributors, chefs and customers.

**Don Alexander** presented three separate papers at the CAG conference in June of 2015. He continues to be a principal organizer of the Annual Urban Issues Film Festival and began teaching in VIU’s new Master of Community Planning program. He is currently on sabbatical working on a number of research and writing topics, yet still finds time to serve on the university’s Sustainability Advisory Committee.

**Alan Gilchrist** continues to do research in the area of water resources management. He gave several presentations during the last year to a variety of stakeholders on his recent research regarding the impact of climate change on agricultural water demand on Vancouver Island. His hope in the future is to widen the research to look more generally at how climate change will quantitatively impact the availability of water resources.

**Jeff Lewis** 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. ACER is currently organizing a symposium for October 1st, 2016, titled Climate Change: Policy for a Sustainable Future. Jeff Lewis was also an invited speaker at the 2015 Science and Technology Teaching and Learning Symposium, where he was part of a panel discussion and led a one-hour workshop of effective group work.

**Pam Shaw** is happy to report that the first year of the MCP at VIU has been wildly successful. There were many highlights this year: a student design competition for the waterfront in Qualicum Beach, field trips to SFU’s Univercity, Granville Island, and the False Creek area, and the completion of a new Parks Master Plan for the Town of View Royal. Four students from the Program were accepted as Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholars, and will be completing their research this summer in Belize. A new cohort of students has been selected for Fall 2016, and the Program will apply for full accreditation with the Canadian Institute of Planners in Spring 2017. Pam is also the Research Director of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI), and recently presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Peru. A major outcome of this Congress was a new International Journal of Biosphere Reserve Research, which will be published by Viewscape Publishing out of VIU (first edition due out this summer). MABRRI has a full research program for Summer 2016 with nine students employed in a variety of research projects relating to human/nature interactions in fragile environments.

**Hannah Wilson** assumed the role of Chair in July 2015 and will serve a two-year term. When not busy with this and teaching, she continues her collaborative research with VIU Earth Science faculty member Jerome Lesemann on remote predictive mapping techniques for mineral exploration in Canada’s North.

GIS faculty **Paul Zandbergen**, **Dave Cake**, and **Michael Govorov** are entering year 4 of a 5-year CIDA-funded project which is continuing its work towards building capacity for GIS and spatial data infrastructure in the Ukraine with the goal of helping Ukraine’s civil servants move forward with land reform. This, in turn, will contribute to the country’s food security and economic growth.

At the WDCAG AGM, **Jim Windsor**, VIU's newest GEOG 100 instructor won the J.Lewis Robinson Meritorious Award for Service to Geography (2016).

**Student News:**

We're proud to announce this year's award winners:

- 2015 Carto Cup: **Jessica Pyett**
- 2016 Carto Cup: **Larissa Thelin**
- Best presentation at Geography Research Day: **Larissa Thelin**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Geography Award 2016: **Trevor Dickinson**
- Award recognizing Service to the Department 2016: **Haley Robinson**
- CAG Award 2016: **Mike Anderson**
- Lady Rose Prize 2016: **Amanda Jefferies**



VIU Geography had a strong showing at the WDCAG hosted by UNBC. Congratulations are extended to student presenters: **Rhys Turner, Sarah Holden, Haley Robinson, Stephanie Pike, Edward Bracken, Larissa Thelin and Linda Bracken.** **Edward Bracken** (shown at left) presented a poster created for his GEOG 101 Environmental Geography class and was awarded best BA poster presentation. **Larissa Thelin** received an honourable mention for best B.Sc. oral presentation which was entitled "The potential effects of climate change on the habitat range of the Vancouver Island marmot."

Congratulations also to **Haley Robinson** (pictured at right) on winning a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, which is funding her semester abroad in Punta Gorda, Belize at the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). While there, she will be researching coastal resilience and facilitating conservation awareness in local schools and communities.

VIU student alumni continue to do well as they move forward onto graduate school. **Warrick Baijius** (Geog BA 2013) secured four years of NSERC funding to carry out PhD studies at USask. He will be working to bridge indigenous and scientific knowledge systems for a Manitoba First Nation source water protection plan. **Sarah Lumley** (Geog BA 2015), who has spent the past 7 months working as the Assistant Coordinator of Research and Communications at MABRRI, was recently awarded a SSHRC to begin Master's-level research at Queens University.



*Submitted by Hannah Wilson*



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**THE END!**

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