



2017 Newsletter

WDCAG 2017 Newsletter

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WDCAG PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (submitted by Leith Deacon, University of Alberta)

As the incoming President of the WDCAG, this is my first President's Message for the *Newsletter*. I would like to thank Dr. **Hester Jiskoot** for providing incredible leadership to our organization over the past two years. In addition to the regular duties, including chairing the Executive and Annual General Meetings in 2017 (University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, BC) and 2016 (University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC), Hester conducted a significant amount of work to revise and update our organizational constitution. Additionally, in response to changes to federal immigration and refugee policy in the United States, and with consultation from the WDCAG Executive, Hester played an integral role in relocating the 2017 meeting from Western Washington University to the University of the Fraser Valley.

WDCAG 2017

The 59th WDCAG Annual Meeting was co-hosted by Western Washington University and the University of the Fraser Valley on March 3-4th 2017. The decision to co-host the meeting required both cooperation and coordination between both institutions. The tireless work and quick thinking of the organizing committee was remarkable. In addition to the student volunteers, the work of **Patrick Buckley** (WWU), **Andrew Bach** (WWU), **Steven March** (UFV), **Claire Hay** (UFV), and **Garry Fehr** (UFV) deserve specific mention, for without their efforts, the meeting would not have gone so well.

The conference included four field trips on Friday March 3rd followed by an engaging keynote presentation by Tzaporah Berman titled *This crazy time: Living our environmental challenge*. With some technological help, the talk was presented at Western Washington University and simultaneously broadcast at University of the Fraser Valley to enable audiences from both locations to engage and ask questions. Saturday was filled with stimulating paper and poster presentations on a wide range of geographical research. In total, 228 people registered for the conference, of whom 183 were students and 45 were faculty representing 11 institutions. There were 37 paper presentations, 44 poster presentations, and two panel discussions. After the AGM, the conference concluded with a banquet during which Sidney Atkins gave a thought-provoking presentation titled *Ethnic mosaic of the western border*. I would like to thank all faculty who graciously offered to judge paper and poster presentations. I would like to congratulate all participants for making a great effort to present their research and for displaying professionalism throughout.

WDCAG 2016 meeting Winners are listed below and will receive certificates and/or CAG membership prizes.

Undergraduate Poster Presentation

Severine Rolland-Bege (Trinity Western) and **Madelaine Bourdages** (UFV)

Undergraduate Paper Presentation

[BA] **Melanie Sammier** (UNBC) and [BSc] **Colleen Fish** (UVic) and **Branden Turner** (TRU)

Master's Poster Presentation

Josh Montgomery (ULeth)

Master's Paper Presentation

Sasha Nasonova (UVic)

Ineke Dijks Award for Best Overall Graduate Student Presentation

Jillian Harvey (UVic)

Congratulations to all for excellent research presentations!

WDCAG Executive

A new Executive was elected by a WDCAG AGM with an attendance of 25. I will be President for the term 2017-2019 and welcome my fellow executive: *Past President: Hester Jiskoot (UofL), Secretary-Treasurer: Hester Jiskoot (UofL, 1-yr); Members-at-Large: Sinead Early (UNBC), David Jordan (TWU), Gilles Viaud (TRU), Crystal Huscroft (TRU); Student Members: AB-reps. Holly Clayholt (UofL), Kyla Rushton (UofL); BC-reps. Brandon Turner (TRU), Madelaine Bourdages (UFV); Western Geography Editors: Craig Coburn (UofL) Tom Waldichuk (TRU); Archivist: Ben Moffat (MHC).*

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support of **David Jordan (TWU), Awards Officer; Pam Shaw (VIU) and Tom Waldichuk (TRU), BC Education Chairs; Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic), Newsletter Editor; and Dan Smith (UVic), administrator of the WDCAG website: www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/. Here, you can find information on past/upcoming WDCAG Annual Meetings and Conferences, AGM Minutes, contact details of executive members, lists of awardees, all newsletters, our constitution, and author instructions for our journal *Western Geography*.**

WDCAG-AGM 2017 Matters

The WDCAG is in solid financial shape and the continuing CAG support grant for student travel to our meetings is much appreciated. A motion was passed to spend approximately \$2000 on additional student travel reimbursement for 2017 to bring the carry forward down to \$5000. Additionally, a separate motion was passed to allocate \$1000 to the 60th anniversary meeting and an additional \$1000 to four WDCAG students to enable their attendance to the 2018 IGU/CAG conference in Quebec City.

Service awards were presented at the AGM. Recipients are listed below:

J.L Robinson Award for Meritorious Service

Dr. Tom Waldichuk (TRU)

W.C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction

Dr. Harry Spaling (KingsU)

J.A. McVey Award for Teaching Excellence

Dr. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood (UVic)

The *Western Geographer* had several submissions. Two 'best student papers' were recognized with a \$250 prize: Undergraduate: **Fraser C. Cashion** and **Fes. A. De Scally**, Precipitation gradients at the crest of a BC coastal mountain range.

Graduate: **Amanda Heineman** and **Geraldine J. Jordan**, Assessing walkability: Comparison of street segment indices for the James Kennedy Elementary School catchment, Township of Langley, BC.

In other matters, a motion was passed that the President of the WDCAG write a letter to the BC Ministry of Education in response to the proposed curriculum changes, supported by letters from departmental chairs.

The 60th WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference will take place March 9-10th 2018, at the University of Alberta, co-organized by U of A and King's University in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mark your calendars. See you then!

WDCAG Newsletter Editor's greeting

Hello! Hope you enjoy this 2017 issue. We may have to think about a survey for the best time of year to solicit submissions. However, there is probably no optimal time consensus.

daniel Brendle-Moczuk, MLIS, Geospatial & Social Sciences Data Librarian, UVic

WDCAG 2017 conference summary



The 2017 WDCAG Annual Meeting was re-located from Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham, WA to the Abbotsford campus of the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in Abbotsford, BC due to border crossings concerns in the current political climate. Organizers on both sides of the international border worked hard and long to ensure a successful conference.

Organizers: Patrick Buckley, Andrew Bach, Gigi Berardi, Madelaine Bourdages, Garry Fehr, Aquila Flower, Claire Hay, Nicole Klassen, Steve Marsh, Sarah McLean, and David Rossiter.

Thanks also to ALL the student volunteers!



UFV GATE student volunteers at the registration desk

Friday March 3, 2017 was a day of field trips: Fraser Valley agriculture in transition led by **Gary Fehr**, Guided tour of the Sólh Temexw ('the Stó:lō world') by **Sonny McHalsie**, Physical landscape of the Fraser Valley led by **Christina Neudorf**, and Diverse geography of Abbotsford: A city in the country led by Terah Sportel.

Keynote speaker was Tzaporah Berman who spoke from Bellingham and her address was broadcast to UFV. Students had so many questions that in the interest of time, questions had to be limited.

Saturday March 4, 2017 was full of concurrent sessions, poster presentations, and the evening banquet which featured Sidney Atkins' presentation *Ethnic mosaic of the western border*.

WDCAG poster & presentation award winners are listed above in Leith's presidential report.

What to do with a geography degree – 2017 edition (Submitted by Tom Waldichuk & Garry Fehr)

WDCAG 2017 Jobs panel, Saturday, March 4, 2017

Due to the good turnout at the jobs panel at the 2016 WDCAG, Garry Fehr and Tom Waldichuk organized another panel for the 2017 conference at University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in Abbotsford. All the panel members had graduated in Geography -- two at UFV: Aneesha Dhillon and Jillian Hansen-Carlson, and two at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (formerly University College of the Cariboo): Blake Collins and Garry Fehr. We also talked about such things as furthering one's education beyond an undergraduate degree, work-life balance, and even finding an appropriate partner! Several faculty from the Western Division and the President of the Canadian Association of Geographers weighed in on the conversation.

Panelists' introduction (in alphabetical order):

Blake Collins, MCIP, Senior Planner, City of Abbotsford

As generalists, geographers play a vital role in many areas of Local Government. Myself and many of colleagues have educational roots in geographic disciplines from behavioral and social geography, to environmental policy, physical geomorphology and GIS analytics. With emerging trends, I believe geography students will continue to fill key interdisciplinary problem solving positions. In this session, I will offer my educational and career path choices that have led to my current position and role with the City of Abbotsford and share some of the lessons I've learned along the way.

Aneesha Dhillon, Operational Training Specialist at NAV Canada

Aneesha uses her geography education to train air traffic controllers.

Garry Fehr, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Director of the Agriculture Centre of Excellence, UFV

In my current position, I spend considerable time with business owners, researchers, government managers and technicians, producers, entrepreneurs and activists that all operate in the agriculture sector. Perhaps unsurprisingly a significant proportion of them have Geography education in their background.

Jillian Hansen-Carlson, B.Sc., LEED AP BD+C, CISEC, LEED Coordinator, ICON West Construction

There has been an increase in the number of cities requiring green buildings. This has resulted in an industry that ballooned from what it was a decade ago. Having a geography education will enable people in the industry to look at the 'big picture': does it matter if rebar is purchased from China verses Seattle? Is it really important to install erosion measures around your site? And, is it worth fussing over a waste bin the hauler brought to landfill when it could have been diverted? A geography degree has enabled me to say "Yes" to the above and provide multiple reasons from multiple approaches.

The four panelists addressed the following questions (care of Bethany Coulthard, PhD, UVic, 2015)

1. What was the most useful thing you learned from your geography degree?

Blake: diversity, from the variety of courses taken

Garry: 1. Different approaches to a single issue/problem; 2. Learning how to work in groups

Aneesha: dealing with others, networking, connecting, starting from scratch

Jill: Having a well-rounded education

2. Do you enjoy what you're doing now and why?

Blake: Yes, I'm at the forefront of new things; I continually need new projects continually – a long-term project is not good for me.

Garry: Yes, teaching and my new job; I love coming up with creative solutions – its lots of fun; I really enjoy my students; I invite them to have espresso with me in my office to talk about their future careers.

Aneesha: Yes, I loves my job; I'm obsessive about airplanes; I pretend that I'm a pilot through simulation; I look at maps and weather.

Jill: Yes; I'm outside a lot and I get to work with a lot of different people on many different construction sites.

What to do with a geography degree (con't)

3. What is the worst thing about your job?

Blake: There are two components that I don't like: Politics – staff are responsible for providing recommendations – the Council doesn't have to agree – this can be super frustrating; second, I'm an idealist – there is a lot of bureaucracy in the city.

Garry: I have to interact with government; the government doesn't want to be seen as pushing the process; but sometimes you have to work with government; I don't like not being in control.

Aneesha: The worst things about my job are computer issues.

Jill: Working with Consultants can be difficult and some work conditions on construction sites are not favourable.

4. What is one thing you would have done differently before/after you graduated? Or what worked well for you at university? Do you have any advice?

Blake: The travel component (of my education) fell into place – (I travelled to Spain as part of my masters program). I really encourage travelling -- it really took me out of my element.

Garry: Study abroad is useful; find courses to build tangible skills; open up a folder and write down a new skill, e.g., I learned SPSS (a statistics program), earn a certificate; focus on tangible skills.

Aneesha: Take co-op; study abroad; I did internships; I asked my employer why I was hired -- it was because of my internship.

Jill: I moved to Edmonton when the economy was good and was able to get a job in the field I wanted very quickly.

After each of the panelists responded, the floor was open to the audience. Several students and the following faculty had questions or comments:

Dr. David Edgington, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, UBC

Dr. Maxwell Ofosuhene, Co-Chair, Department of Geography and Environment, TWU

Dr. Dan Shrubsole, President of the CAG. Assistant Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Former Chair of Department, UWO (2005-2016)

Dr. Patrick Buckley, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, WWU.

Questions from the audience:

To Blake: *Did you have difficulty applying for your position?*

Blake: I started with a temporary position. Don't be scared with temporary positions -- I was lucky and worked hard.

What other courses would be beneficial for community planning?

Blake: Community planning requires a Masters degree. Development planning needs someone with an aptitude to learn quickly, and it requires a degree. One can become involved in development planning more quickly than community planning. Look for a certified planning program – one that is accredited.

Garry: If you want to go to grad school, start looking now. Read a professor's academic paper that interests you and send him or her a short email. Ask if she or he is taking any grad students.

Aneesha: I would take English courses to improve and gain more writing skills. I have a double major with English and Geography.

Jill: I have a science degree, so I can understand scientific material.

Is it worth taking undergraduate geography degrees with concentrations?

Blake: It depends on your passion – if you are passionate, take the concentration.

Garry: When applying for a job, talk about your concentration in the cover letter to make yourself stand out.

What made you stand out when applying for a job?

Aneesha: I was jet lagged and because of this I was extremely relaxed -- be yourself and if you don't succeed, just think of it as more practice.

Jill: I went from one company to another, getting to know people and networking.

Blake: Managers will host information interviews. Ask for one -- don't be shy.

What to do with a geography degree (con't)

Garry: To figure out what kind of job you want, buy someone a coffee and ask them how they got their job and what they like and dislike about their job. Most jobs aren't advertised: Three out of four people get jobs through their network. This is a way to expand your network.

Aneesha: I volunteered at the air show – that's how I got my job, by connecting and networking with the people that were there.

Blake: Use social media, e.g., linked-in to help with your job hunt.

Would you consider a masters degree?

Aneesha: I'm happy right now without going to grad school.

Jill: Not at the moment. I have to obtain certificates.

Blake (has a Masters degree): I have had to get training in public administration. I would have considered taking an engineering degree.

Maxwell Ofosuhene: *What about doing a PhD and not getting employed in academia – there are very few jobs. Perhaps students should be encouraged to consider employment outside academia.*

Dan Shrubsole: There has never been a guarantee of any specific type of employment with any certificate, diploma or degree – PhD included. Throughout my career, I have noticed that many PhD's have either not pursued an academic career or not achieved one. My memory seems to recall that about 50% of geography PhDs had found non-academic employment – the government, private and non-government sectors.

There have been only two periods of time in Ontario that saw the academic job sector open up. The first was just prior to and after 1995 when the Provincial Government eliminated Grade 13 and created the 'double cohort' at universities. The second period was between 2003 until 2008. The Ontario Government (and many other national/provincial/state governments worldwide) believed that future post secondary education and research were fundamental to promoting national and regional development. Although that period ended with the financial crisis, there were already questions about the efficacy of that approach. My own career started on 3-year contracts – there were very few tenure track jobs in the late 1980s and early 1990s - and the Department Chair at Western had the difficult (at least that is my perspective in hindsight) of informing me that although the Department appreciated my many contributions, I should seek other employment opportunities. Fortunately for me (and Western as well), I was eventually offered a tenure-track appointment. I found that being patient, doing your best despite the circumstances, and learning the difference between things you can control (influence) and those you cannot are some of the key lessons from this period of my life.

There are at least four things that can change to better promote and prepare PhDs in non-academic employment. First, faculty members should be open to, and when appropriate encourage their students to pursue this type of work. I have observed that some faculty wish their students, often the ones they supervise, to continue their research tradition and/or obtain positions at what they perceived are 'prestigious' institutions. Second, geographers who hold PhDs and have obtained non-academic employment should be invited to campus or via Skype to talk to the current graduate study body about their career path. Some Departments already do this and the Canadian Association of Geographers can contribute to this by highlighting the varied careers of all geographers – undergraduate, Masters and PhD. Third, many Career Development Offices at universities provide short courses on a range of skill sets for the non-academic sector (e.g., project management, responding to requests for proposals, working in an office or team environment). Fourth, some PhD students must be more welcoming of a range of employment goals.

David Edgington: I was an urban planner in Australia. Someone asked me if I wanted to go to Japan, and then I became interested in the Geography of Japan, and I started my PhD at Monash University in Melbourne. When you're planning your career you can only do it one step at a time. Everyone should have an inquiring mind – you never know where it is going to lead to

Have Geography departments failed students? No. we're really all about education -- so academics by themselves won't have skills to train say project managers. We can only focus on training the future academics in our field.

What to do with a geography degree (con't)

Pat Buckley: My undergrad degree was in civil engineering and geology, and I was working on the Spokane Reservation with a great tribe, but in a boring job, and making more money than I do now. So I quit and went back to school choosing Geography. My advice is to go where your heart brings you, but you have to be flexible. After getting my PhD I interviewed at UCLA, but I didn't want a research mill where you were told to avoid wasting too much time with students. I applied for the job at WWU and got it. If I didn't get tenure, I'd have gone back to a job in Seattle with a delivery company (I love transportation). I love being a professor (but hate grading). Follow your heart.

What about relationships and balancing career goals as an academic?

Blake: Find a partner who is super supportive. Local governments don't accommodate families well.

Garry: I treated education like a job. I scheduled time to be with my son. My family was the reason that I went back to school, so that I could have more time with them. My wife later went on to do her masters degree and we used a similar approach.

Aneesha: Make sure you have time for yourself.

Jill: Schedule time. If you can't have a dog, don't have kids.

Dan Shrubsole:

Along with the type of job and who your employer will be, your decision about if and who to have as a life partner is one of the most fundamental – perhaps the most important one. It is they who you will likely share the highs and lows, your aspirations and fears, and look for moral, spiritual, uplifting and realistic advice...perhaps some financial support too!!

What about working in the field? Working outside vs. inside?

Blake: I don't want to be a desk-top planner. I like to go to the site. But when I can't, I use Google street view and air photos. I need to be outside more. But most jobs are inside.

Jill: I'm outside a lot for my job. Working outside is great; sitting at a desk all day is never fun.

Garry: In my previous jobs, working with pole lines and towers, I was outside all the time. I also had a business hauling waste, but I had a hard time hiring people who wanted to be outside. I still do as much of my job as possible outside but it requires planning.

Follow-up question. Can a BA be applied effectively to work outside?

Garry: Yes. In management and planning.

I'm in GIS. How do you go about seeing opportunities, e.g., in remote sensing?

Garry: The use of drones in agriculture -- look for them in the private sector. Who do drone companies work with? What are their linkages? Look at LinkedIn.

Follow-up tip: Look for MacDonald Dettwiler and DigitalGlobe.

Where should I start with my job hunt? Suggestions?

Blake: The website <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca>. This website is connected to development and planning departments. The website contains information about different industries. Also look at the Planning Institute website: www.pibc.bc.ca. Also, look at professional associations. I think it is important for new grads to use social media to establish industry contacts (Twitter, and LinkedIn especially).

Jill: Use the yellow pages online.

Aneesha: I volunteered and asked to see what people do.

Dan Shrubsole: The CAG is developing career materials on its website, and holds career-oriented events, similar to this one at the National meetings. The AAG also has developed good materials. Also seek advice from your University's Career office.

David Edgington: Look for information at the university career offices.

Are grades important when finding a job?

Jill: Cs and Ds get degrees. All that matters is finishing.

Blake: No one has ever asked about grades -- attitude and aptitude are important.

Aneesha: No one asked about my grades.

What to do with a geography degree (con't)

Follow-up question: Did you have to improve your grades for grad school?

Garry: My undergraduate grades were sufficient.

Blake: My colleagues have professional Masters degrees.

To Jill: What is it like working with men?

Jill: Old men are good to work with – there's less drama.

What are specific skills that employers are looking for?

Garry: The cover letter should point to the resume; e.g., write about the skills you have listed in the resume even if that means you work with data bases. If people skills are needed, write the cover letter differently.

Blake: People skills, evidence of working in interdisciplinary teams. Talk about real world examples. Talk about specific projects that you've worked on. I am a generalist by nature.

What do I do if have 60-70% of the job skills?

Blake: Fake it till you make it. Over-emphasize the good skills.

Garry: Deconstruct your good skills. Have some bullet points. Use multiple examples.

Blake: Start with "I have two years experience, made up of x, y & z.

Jill: Many jobs aren't posted. My company, for example, doesn't post jobs.

How did you learn about green buildings?

Jill: They trained me. I showed that I was interested.

What kind of planning is more popular today?

Blake: Do the planning that you're passionate about, e.g., social planning. Have many hats, but wear that hat, e.g., that of a transportation planner.

When do you get a business card?

The company that you work for gets it for you.

What if I take a year off? How do I get a reference letter?

Dan Shrubsole: Get references from people you were working or volunteering for.

Garry: Tell me which course you took with me, so I can write the reference letter.

Jill: Keep in touch with your prof.

Other advice:

Dan Shrubsole: If something is in your back yard, go for it.

Garry: You need to network. (Garry talked about how he got a job at UFV.)

Should I use the reference from my job as a lifeguard when applying for another job?

Garry & Blake: yes

Should I mention that I worked as a bar tender?

Blake: Yes, it shows that you have experience dealing with difficult people.

Maxwell Ofosuhen: We should advise our students about the transferability of their geographic knowledge and skills into other work environments beside teaching, e.g., spatial thinking, research, GIS, policy, and planning skills

Useful Website:

Preparing for a career in geography

http://www.aag.org/cs/jobs_and_careers/preparing_for_a_geography_career/preparing_for_a_geography_career_overview

What to do with a geography degree (con't)

From **Bethany Coulthard**, Past CAG Student Councillor:

Did you know that the CAG:

- Runs an e-mail listserve (**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
- Publishes a directory of all Canadian geography faculty and their research of interest? (Pretty useful for choosing a grad school supervisor). But you need to be a CAG member to receive the directory.
- Maintains an up-to-date **job postings webpage** (<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 (<https://www.cag-acg.ca/student-resources-les-ressources>) 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 student travel funding to the annual meeting of the CAG via the student travel grant program (<https://www.cag-acg.ca/single-post/2016/09/29/CAGACG-Student-Travel-Grants-2017>)

Scholarships for geography students:

<http://www.canadian-universities.net/Scholarships/Geography.html>

WDCAG INSTITUTIONS NEWS & REPORTS

Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta (submitted by Glen Hvenegaard)

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

Glynnis Hood taught *Resource and Environmental Management*, and developed and taught a new course this past winter called *Wildlife Ecology and Management*. She also taught a Directed Studies student, **Wyatt Beach**, in the winter term. Wyatt's project was "The influence of beaver channels on winter habitat selection and movement of small mammals in boreal wetlands." With former directed studies student, Samantha Matters, Glynnis co-published "An Analysis of the History of Aboriginal Peoples in the Beaver Hills, Alberta, Canada" in the *Canadian Journal of Native Studies* (December 2016). Glynnis's conference presentations range from Sweden to Newfoundland, as well as to more local ones in Alberta. She continues to conduct research on wetland biodiversity, wildlife ecology, landscape connectivity, and methods to reduce human-beaver conflicts through adaptive management.

Adjunct professor and sessional instructor, Dr. **Dee Patriquin** taught our introductory course and environmental impact assessment. She supervised **Robyn Perkins's** directed studies project on the movements of black-capped chickadees through an urban landscape. For her research, Robyn won the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award at Augustana (Fall term 2016).

Glen Hvenegaard taught environmental science, wildlife, interpretation, and climatology, courses last year. His students completed community service-learning assignments on many projects, including wildlife citizen science, environmental education, and waste audits. The Augustana CSL program won an Emerald Award for environmental achievement in Alberta. Glen presented papers at conferences on park interpretation, social science in parks, wildlife stewardship, and environmental history. He also published papers in the *Journal of Interpretation Research* (Batoche National Historic Site), *American Entomologist* (insect festivals), *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Leadership* (group journals and sense of community), and *Journal of Ornithology* (Purple Martin stopovers on migration).

Glen is also the manager of the Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.



The station hosts students, researchers, and communities for teaching, research, and local partnerships. Please check the website for more information: <http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/research/centres/amlrs/>. Glynnis and Glen will co-teach a Field Studies course over 13 days in September at the Station.

This summer, Glen and Glynnis supervised a team of research assistants working on an ecological connectivity project in nearby Beaver County. Glen's other research assistants include Frida Rodriguez Escobar (Purple Martin dispersal), Carson Hvenegaard (environmental education), and Heather Marshall (environmental history of Frank Farley).

Augustana hired Dr. **Greg King** to join the Geography and Environmental Science program, starting in January 2018.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or Dr. Glynnis Hood ghood@ualberta.ca.

Check our program websites at <https://www.ualberta.ca/augustana/programs/degree/geography> and <https://www.ualberta.ca/augustana/programs/degree/environmental>

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (submitted by John Martin)

Student news

This year, 14 students graduated with credentials from the Department of Geography and the Environment at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Credentials offered in the department include a BA major in Applied Geography, a BA minor in Applied Geography, an Associate of Science in Geography and an Associate of Arts in Geography. We are particularly proud of **Jiajun Zhang** (Double Minor in Mathematics and Geography) who won KPU's President's Outstanding Graduate Award. Jiajun also presented a poster at the WDCAG in 2016 and is currently attending the University of Waterloo in the Master of Arts in Planning program. Well done Jiajun!

Faculty news

Our faculty have been very busy this year and we have seen some changes in the department. Long-time faculty member **Bill Burgess** retired to enjoy more time on Lasqueti Island. We will miss Bill's dedication to the department (through initiatives such as calculating KPU's ecological footprint) and wish him all the best.

Dr. David Sadoway has been hired in a 50% position. David is trained as an urban planner and resource and environmental manager and he has lived and worked in East, South-East and North-East Asia for over 15 years. His current research involves the socio-psychological impact of noise and vibration in high density neighbourhoods, smart citizenship, and urban futures. Welcome aboard David!

Jan Thompson remains chair of the department and has overseen several changes including, among many other things, a proposed BSc degree in Geography. We welcomed back **John Rose** this fall after a year-long educational leave examining the relationship between housing supply and affordability in the urban housing markets of Canada, the US, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. The research addresses arguments which purport that high housing costs are the product of governmental regulations which have restricted the supply of land for housing development. **John Martin**, along with an excellent group of student volunteers, ran Geography's contribution to the 2016 Kwantlen Science Challenge, an all day science event for high school students. For the challenge, students had to identify minerals and determine the geologic history of a simplified mine. **Dola Pradhan** and **Parthiphan Krishnan** completed their research on climate change in India, editing a compilation of papers while contributing a paper of their own, both noted below.

After great success last year, the department offered an open field trip to the entire KPU community with a geographic boat tour along the Fraser River. This year the tour was held on Saturday September 30th, on an old-fashioned paddlewheeler boat.

Publications

Pradhan, D., Das, M. R., Rath, K. C., **Krishnan, P.** and Das, N. R. (Eds.). 2016. *Global warming: Sea-level rise and community adaptation strategies*. Bhubaneswar, India: SOA University Press.

Pradhan, D., **Krishnan, P.** and Sahoo, S. 2016. Climate change, sea-level rise and livelihood adaptation strategies: A study of communities along the Odisha Coast, India. In: Pradhan, D., Das, M. R., Rath, K. C., Krishnan, P. and Das, N. R. (eds.), *Global warming: Sea-level rise and community adaptation strategies*. pp. 31-49. Bhubaneswar, India: SOA University Press.

Okanagan College (submitted by Todd Redding)

The department is offering two new courses related to wine and viticulture. Geography 110 "Geography of Viticulture" is being offered in Penticton as part of the new Viticulture Technician Diploma program and explores the physical geography behind grape growing and terroir. Geography 213 "Geography of Wine" is offered in Kelowna in the winter term and looks at the physical and human geography around grape growing, wine making and consumption.

Publications:

Day, Terence. (2017). "Core themes in textbook definitions of physical geography." *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien* 61(1): 28-40.

Day, Terence, and Rachel Spronken-Smith. (2017). "Geography education: Fieldwork and contemporary pedagogy." *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Simon Fraser University (SFU) (submitted by Tracy Brennand)

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 (sfu.ca/geography) and on Facebook (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 September 2016 - August 2017

McIntosh, Alison (MA), September 2016, "Reducing harm through food and work: incorporating food security and peer employment in harm reduction programming" (Eugene McCann)

Walker, Blake (PhD), November 2016, "Towards a suburban spatial epidemiology: differentiating geographical patterns of cancer incidence, patient access, and surgical treatment in Canada's urban fringe" (Nadine Schuurman)

Jamrozik, Maciej (MSc), November 2016, "Effects of bigleaf maple on the growth and morphology of mature conifers in the southern coastal forests of British Columbia" (Margaret Schmidt)

Hendricks, Kristianne (MA), April 2017, "How People Green the Port: Sustainability in Canadian Ports" (Peter Hall)

Hunt, Brendan (MSc), April 2017, "Experiments on the Morphological Controls of Velocity Inversions in Bedrock Canyons" (Jeremy Venditti)

Ehlert, Dana (PhD), April 2017, "Modelling the climate response to anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions: time-dependent processes, commitment, and reversibility" (Kirsten Zickfeld)

Heung, Brandon (PhD), April 2017, "Regional-Scale Digital Soil Mapping in British Columbia using Legacy Soil Survey Data and Machine-Learning Techniques" (Margaret Schmidt)

Morgan, Jeff (MA), June 2017, "Caribbean offshore medical schools and the international mobility of medical education" (Valorie Crooks)

Labove, Josh (PhD), August 2017, "Lines that matter: reading the Charter at the Canada-US border" (Nick Blomley)

Li, Xinru (MSc), August 2017, "Exploring the reversibility of marine climate change impacts under CO2 removal from the atmosphere" (Kirsten Zickfeld)

Simon Fraser University (con't)

Lochhead, Ian (MSc), August 2017, "Generating 3D data, simulations, and geovisual interfaces for 21st century risk assessment and communication in multilevel space" (Nicholas Hedley)

Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program, with over 450 majors and minors is in a period of profound change. We are transforming it to best suit the needs of our current students, to encourage new students to become geographers, and to address shifting capacities among our faculty. At the core of this renovation is an ongoing review of all our programs, involving the creation of program-level Educational Goals for each of our majors, a program mapping to fit courses to the Goals, and a subsequent reorganization of each program. At the 'chalk face,' our rethinking is most obvious to students in Geography 100 (Our World: Introducing Human Geography), where Drs. **Nick Blomley** and **Geoff Mann** have joined Dr. **Ivor Winton** and some excellent sessional instructors in teaching versions of the course. The revised course has been successful and we are confident it will attract more students to Geography.

The department's longstanding suite of degree programs (BA Geography; BA Environmental Specialty; BSc Geographic Information Science; and BSc Physical Geography) has now been joined by a new program: our Bachelor of Environment (BEnv) in Global Environmental Systems. Students who become GES majors develop expertise in social and biophysical systems at the global scale. They study the consequences of these systems and how their negative effects might be mitigated. In doing so, students participate in advanced biophysical, socioeconomic data analysis and modeling courses. These five programs provide a valuable geographic education to a wide range of students, with each one calibrated to provide a specific blend of social science, science, and analytical knowledge.

Kudos

Congratulations to **Ruslan Rydvanskiy** (BA student Geography) and **Marco Jorge** (PhD student Geography), the winners of the SFU 2017 ESRI Canada Higher Education Scholarship Award, April 2017. Ruslan's submission was related to the GIS analytical tools to site municipal solid waste facilities while Marco used GIS to extract geological features from digital terrain models. The scholarship 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 applications in the discipline.

PhD student **Taylor Anderson** (supervised by **Suzana Dragicevic**) was awarded the ESRI Canada Center of Excellence (ECCE) Student Associate Achievement Award in July 2017, based on her extraordinary accomplishments during the past year.

MA student **Samantha Thompson** (supervised by **Eugene McCann**) received the Michael Geller Graduate Scholarship in Urban Development in July 2017. The Michael Geller Graduate Scholarship in Urban Development provides financial support to one Master's or PhD student each year. Awardees have demonstrated academic and research excellence at the post-graduate level in the field of urban development.

Gabriel Lord, graduated in Summer 2017 with a BA Geography Major (Honours) degree and Urban Studies Certificate. He won the Warren Gill Memorial Award that recognizes leadership and service within the community by a Human Geography student.

Shawna Nichol, who graduated in June 2016 with a BA Geography Major, won the 2017 Canadian Association of Geographers Undergraduate Award. Each year, The Canadian Association of Geographers presents awards to the most outstanding students graduating in Geography honours/majors programmes at universities across Canada. Winners receive a complimentary membership in the CAG for the following year and, in addition, their names are announced at the Annual General Meeting and in the *CAG Newsletter*. Shawna was accepted into Langara's Applied Planning program.

Simon Fraser University (con't)

Seraphina Skands, who graduated in June 2017 with a BA Geography Major (Honours) Degree and Urban Studies Certificate won the Peter Schaub Memorial Book Prize Award. 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 through the GSU. Seraphina is pursuing a Master's degree in Geography at Queen's.

Kelsey-Rae Russell, graduated in June 2017 with a BA Geography Major, the Urban Studies Certificate and Environmental Literacy Certificate. She won the 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. She is working for the Agricultural Land Commission in Burnaby, BC.

Nick Blomley was elected to the Social Sciences Division of the Academy of Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada Fellows. <https://www.sfu.ca/mao/awards-and-honours/2017-rsc-blomley.html>

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (submitted by Tom Waldichuk)

Greetings from Thompson Rivers University, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. Our eight faculty members and students have been busy during 2017.

Faculty Updates:

Darryl Carlyle-Moses has been busy chairing the department while undertaking his hydrological research around Kamloops, teaching, and presenting at conferences.

David J. Hill: Many of his students presented at this year's WDCAG conference, including Brandon Turner, who gave the top presentation in the undergraduate category.

Journal Articles

Richardson, H., **D.J. Hill**, D.R. Denesiuk, and L. Fraser (2017). A comparison of geographic datasets and field measurements to model soil carbon using random forests and stepwise regressions (British Columbia, Canada). *GIScience and Remote Sensing*, 54(4): 573-591. doi: 10.1080/15481603.2017.1302181.

Hill, D.J., C. Tarasoff, G.E. Whitworth, J. Baron, J.L. Bradshaw, and J. Church (2017). Utility of unmanned aerial vehicles for mapping invasive plant species: a case study on yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus* L.). *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 38(9-10): 2083-2105. doi: 10.1080/01431161.2016.1264030.

Presentations

Hill, D.J., C. Tarasoff & J. Baron (2017). Utility of unmanned aerial vehicles for mapping invasive plant species: A case study on yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus* L.). In *Proceedings of the World Environmental & Water Resources Congress*, May 21-25, Sacramento, CA, USA.

Turner, B., D. Carlyle-Moses, & D.J. Hill (2017). Hobbyist electronics offer a low-cost alternative for the study of key stemflow processes. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, April 5-9, 2017, Boston, MA, USA.

Carlyle-Moses, D., B. Turner, & D.J. Hill (2016). Applications of hobbyist electronics in monitoring stemflow processes: Preliminary insights and results. *Eos Trans. AGU, Fall Meet. Suppl.*, Abstract 0800h H31E-1422.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (con't)

LaZerte, S.E., M.W. Reudink, A. De Jong, J. Kusack, M. Paetkau, K.A. Otter, J. Bailey, A. Sutter, J. Roberts, M. Betts, D.J. Hill (2016). Science, engagement, education: Open, web-based visualization and analysis of animal movement data. In *Proceedings of the North American Ornithological Conference VI*, August 16-20, Washington D.C.

Turner, B., D.J. Hill & D.E. Carlyle-Moses (2017). Leveraging hobbyist electronics in the study of stemflow: Insights, challenges, and opportunities. *59th annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Associate of Geographers*, Abbotsford, BC March 3-4, 2017. (Best undergraduate oral presentation award winner).

Shippit, J. and D.J. Hill (2017). Reflecting on protein: Assessing forage nutrition through spectral signatures. *59th annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Associate of Geographers*, Abbotsford, BC March 3-4, 2017

Baron, J., D.J. Hill, and H. El Migili (2017). Fusing computer vision and machine learning for invasive species classification in remote sensing imagery. *59th annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Associate of Geographers*, Abbotsford, BC March 3-4, 2017.

Hill, D.J. Here come the drones: How consumer electronics are changing how we monitor the environment. University of Delaware, Oct 14, 2016. (Invited Talk)

Hill, D.J. Here come the drones: How consumer electronics are changing how we monitor the environment. Kamloops Naturalists Club, Sept 10, 2016. (Invited Talk)

Grants

Hill, D.J. (Principle investigator). Comparison of the accuracy of LiDAR and UAV-based photogrammetry for generating digital surface models to quantify standing timber volume in a section of a B.C. forest, (\$25,000). NSERC Engage Program.

Hill, D.J. (Co-Investigator). Development of unmanned aerial vehicles for precision cattle ranching, (\$663,940). NSERC CU-I2I program.

David is also the Associate Editor of *Journal of water resources planning and management* and was on the Technical Program Committee for the 2017 World environmental and water resources congress.

Crystal Huscroft taught Geography 1000 this past year and was involved in campus committees dealing with curriculum mapping and environmental sustainability. She is also running a physical geography field school in the Rockies this September.

Terry Macdonald taught Geography 2230 (Regional geography of British Columbia and Yukon) in the winter and Geography 1010 (People, places and landscapes: Introducing human geography) in the summer. In the fall he will again deliver Geography 2230, as well as a land use course in the Tourism Management program.

Michael Mehta taught an introductory course on environmental studies and sustainability, a third year course on natural resources, and other courses on renewable energy, risk, and environmental sociology.

Michael continues with his work on renewable energy and he formed a company called Sweet Spot Solar to help individuals, companies, and communities across Western Canada to access this technology. He is also the lead on Canada's first solar sidewalk that was installed on campus during the summer of 2017. 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. He has setup more than 50 air quality sensors across British Columbia to-date, and will be writing up the results from this work during a sabbatical in the winter term of 2018.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (con't)

Kim Naqvi's teaching work continues to address the theoretical grounding of core courses. Realistically, only one course can be seriously revised each term. This fall, World Regional Geography, with origins in teaching colonial expansion and governance, continues to address critical thinking about development practice, colonial history, and pre-colonial diversity, and explores sustainable development options in that context. The winter term takes on the relatively new course, The Americas, bringing its physical and human geography foundation to life through Carmen Aguirre's narratives (*Something Fierce*, 2012; *Mexican Hooker #1*, 2016) as a Chilean exile in Canada, and revolutionary fighter based in Latin America. Since much takes place in the context of US geopolitics, continental interaction is well covered, but also the subtleties of racial, cultural, and economic conflict, sense of place, and belonging.

Gilles Viaud taught 2 courses in the fall 2016 term: Introduction to social and behavioural geography (3rd year problem-based course) and the Geography of small cities (4th year course). He was on sabbatical during the winter 2017 term working on research that looks at the impact – or lack thereof – small cities appear to have on the national municipal policy discourse. His study argues that small cities' apparent invisibility in the realm of policy may be in part due to the place they occupy at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) many discussion tables. Gilles presented preliminary results of his research at the CAG conference in Toronto in May in a poster titled "*Small cities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities policy agenda*".

Along with Terry Kading, a TRU Political Science colleague, Gilles is also involved in a research project that looks at aging trends in Kamloops with a special focus on the effects of naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs). During this last academic year, Gilles and Terry had the great pleasure of mentoring **Brayden Wilson**, an undergraduate research assistant that was awarded in June the Governor General's Academic Medal (Silver) and TRU Medal in Arts for the excellence of his academic performance.

Gilles has also continued to work on his quality of life research with United Way (Thompson Nicola Cariboo). He is now is part of a group of professionals representing various public (City of Kamloops, Interior Health, TRU ...) and non-profit community organizations that is working towards the creation of an evidenced-based community wellbeing measurement tool. In June Gilles was invited to be the guest speaker at United Way (Thompson Nicola Cariboo) Annual General Meeting. His talk was titled "*Measuring quality of life: enhancing community knowledge and decision making*".

In March Gilles contributed to a series of public talks on "A healthy small city: A celebration of research in our lives and in our community", organized by TRU's research office and United Way (Thompson Nicola Cariboo). His presentation was titled "*Quality of life in small cities*".

Tom Waldichuk attended articulation at Douglas College in early May 2016 – his first experience representing TRU. Later in May he presented a paper at the CAG in Halifax on agri-tourism in Japan and British Columbia. In the middle of June he spent four days with three geography colleagues from Japan interviewing farm operators and government officials in the Thompson-Cariboo region. In October he attended the Japan Studies Association at UBC and presented on applying farm preservation and promotion policies from Japan to agriculture in BC. At the 2017 WDCAG he presented preliminary findings about agri-tourism in the Thompson-Cariboo, and together with Garry Fehr organized a jobs panel (the notes from which are forthcoming).

In the fall Tom taught rural geography, introductory human geography, and the geography of Japan. In the winter he taught introductory human geography and was preparing to take 12 students on a third year field trip to Japan.

Student News

Brandon Turner won the best undergraduate oral presentation at the WDCAG in Abbotsford March 2017. The following other students also presented at the *2017 WDCAG Conference*:

Graduate Student:

Shippit, Jamie and D.J. Hill. Reflecting on protein: Assessing forage nutrition through spectral signatures.

Undergraduate Students:

Baron, Jackson, D.J. Hill, & **H. El Migili**. Fusing computer vision and machine learning for invasive species classification in remote sensing imagery.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (con't)

Irvine, Claire. Implementing sustainability in rural tourism as a way to minimize the negative impacts of commodifying landscapes.

Jepsen, Lindsey. From cows to cabins: The commodification of ranches.

Spolia, Narain. The commodification of rural landscapes for resort communities: A study of capital interests versus socio-environmental interests.

Poster presentations at the 2017 TRU Undergraduate Conference.

Rural Geography 3510 Fall 2016 students:

Helgason, Ty. Commodification of rodeos.

Irvine, Claire. Implementing sustainability in rural tourism as a way to minimize the negative impacts of commodifying landscapes.

Jepsen, Lindsey. From cows to cabins: The commodification of ranches.

Spolia, Narain. The commodification of rural landscapes for resort communities: A study of capital interests versus socio-environmental interests.

Geography of Japan 3900 Fall 2016 students:

Hughes, Aly. Environmental sustainability: Urban agriculture in Japan's major metropolitan areas.

Jules, Geraldine. Studio Ghibli's influence on ecotourism in Japan.

Yu, Richmond. A cup of harmony: Examining the sustainable development of Japan's tea industry.

Jaap, Kaitlin. The effects of Libby Dam on the Kootenay region.

Additional Comments

Tom Waldichuk would like to commend **Brandon Turner** for becoming a student rep, representing BC, on the executive of the WDCAG and also thank **Jackson Turner** for serving a term as student rep on the executive.

The *Thompson Rivers University Geography Society (TRUGS)* was involved in several activities this past year, such as a weekend trip to Wells Gray Park, other hiking trips, and adopt-a-road. Students also spent much time raising funds to attend the WDCAG at UFV. For example, they organized bake sales and a fund-raising dinner. In particular, thanks to **Carley Rookes** for her hard work as President of TRUGS and for getting us to Abbotsford! Approximately 20 students and four faculty members boarded a chartered bus bound for the conference. We look forward to travelling to Edmonton with the students for the 60th WDCAG in March 2018.



Students in the Geog3700 field course arriving at Narita Airport in Japan on May 15, 2017. (Brandon Turner photo)

University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) (submitted by Claire Hay)

Student Award Winners

UFV hosted our annual graduation dinner on June 1st at Mission Springs. We honoured the recipients of our departmental awards which included: **Jonay Middleburg** our CAG award winner with the highest GPA of our graduates; **Alexandra Groeneweg** our AAG award winner; **Alexandria Bragg** our winner of the Doug Nicol Memorial award; and **Elliot Hart** our UREA recipient this year.



Steven Marsh and Jonay Middleburg with the CAG award



Elliot Hart receiving the UREA recognition

Geography Awareness Week

Last November, AGUS (our student group) organized a number of activities for Geography Awareness Week. This included a highly successful “Be a Geographer” Day where various geography activities were set up on the campus green to draw attention to our discipline and encourage students and faculty alike to experience what it is like to be a geographer. They plan to repeat this successful event at Geography Awareness Week 2017!



Collecting soil cores with Mariano Mapili and Travis Gingerich



Water quality station by the pond

University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) (con't)



Plant identification with Donovan Toews and Biology prof, Alan Reid



Planning studio students on the Green

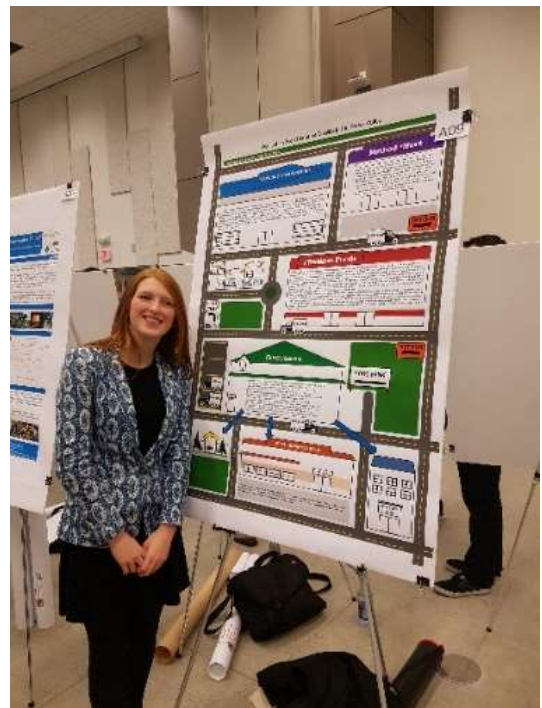
Student Research Day at UFV

Miranda Monosky presented a poster entitled, “Gentrification and the construction of nature: A political ecology approach to urban green space”. **Elliot Hart** and **Laura Wilson** presented their research, “Correlations between environmental cues from Google streetview and street crime in Surrey, BC”.

Students in the Geography and Biology departments worked with **Steven Marsh** and **Sharon Gillies** on the Global Rivers Observatory and have had the opportunity to develop their own research projects and a number presented their research. Biology students, Sahil Chawla, Ekanki Chawla, Courtney Smith and Shyna Kanda presented their poster, “Analysis of water quality in the upper and lower Clayburn ecosystem”. **Alanna Strangway** won an award for her poster, “Geochemistry report for Clayburn Creek watershed, Abbotsford, BC”. **Dianne Paulson** presented on “Water chemistry and indicator bacteria in Clayburn Creek watershed – Fall 2016”. **Madelaine Bourdages** presented on “Seasonal variability of geochemistry in the Fraser River, British Columbia.”

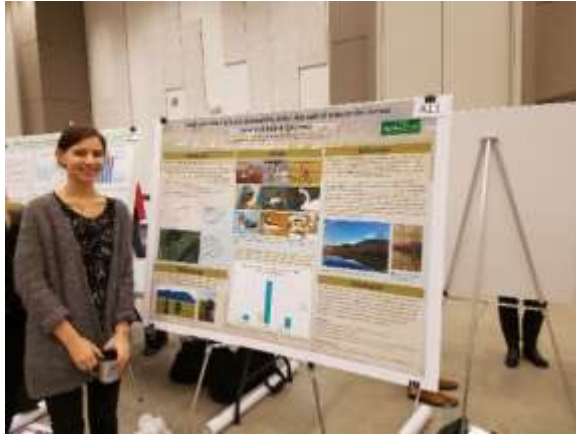


Alanna Strangway at UFV Student Research Day.

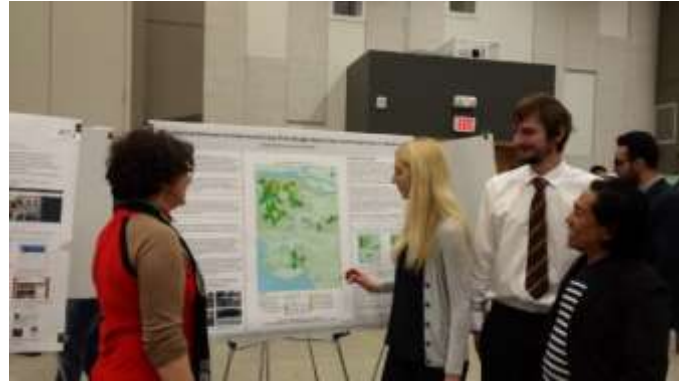


Sarah Speight on the Quality of Food Donations.

University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) (con't)



Shae Turner presenting on land-use transitions and biodiversity shifts.



Elliot Hart and Laura Wilson with their research supervisors Mariano Mapili and Michelle Riedlinger.

In addition, **Sarah Speight** won an award for her poster, "Evaluating food donation quality in the Fraser valley." **Shae Turner** presented "Land-use transitions and biodiversity shifts: the case of birds in the Sumas Prairie of British Columbia." **Lauren Westhaver, Tamara Pottrick, Nick Bruce, Shyanne Batt** and **Suyash Mehra** presented on, "Integrating bee friendly plants into urban gardens to benefit agriculture in the Fraser Valley."

WDCAG 2017 annual conference & student participation

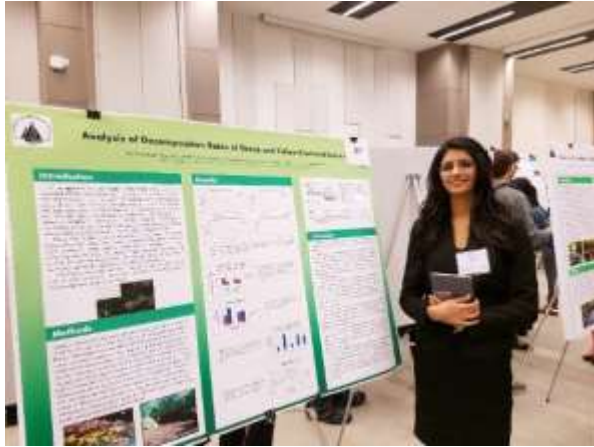
The Annual Conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers was to be hosted by Western Washington University in Bellingham but due to concerns over transportation of students across the border it was decided to move the conference to the University of the Fraser Valley and to have the two institutions co-host. With a month to prepare we hosted a very successful conference. Many thanks to organizing committees of both Institutions: Steven Marsh, Garry Fehr, Claire Hay, Nicole Klassen, Sarah McLean and Madelaine Bourdages from UFV and Patrick Buckley, Andrew Bach, Gigi Berardi, Aquila Flower and David Rossiter from WWU.

The conference included field trips investigating Fraser Valley Agriculture led by Garry Fehr; a Sto:lo place names tour led by Sonny McHalsie; and a tour of downtown Abbotsford, A city in the country led by Terah Sportel. The keynote, "This crazy time: Living our environmental challenge" was delivered by Tzaporah Berman.

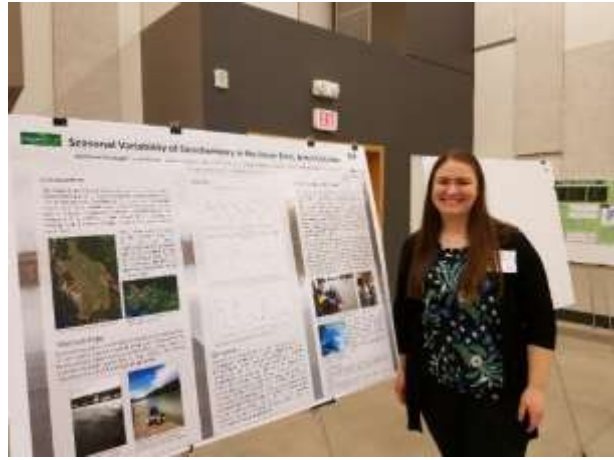
We had one of the largest contingents of our students presenting research posters from both Geography and Biology. **Madelaine Bourdages** won most outstanding undergraduate poster for her research poster, "Seasonal variability of geochemistry in the Fraser River, British Columbia. Shyna Kanda (Biology) presented, "Analysis of decomposition rates of green and yellow knotweed leaves." **Shyna Kanda, Alayna Miller, Abdel Deol, Ekanki Chawla, Risa Venuto, Sahil Chawla, and Sean Goldbach** presented, "Factors relating to the decomposition rates of Japanese Knotweed and Thimbleberry." **Alanna Strangway** presented, "Geochemistry report for Clayburn Creek watershed in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada". **Alexandra Groeneweg** presented, "Seasonal variations of water quality in Stoney Creek, Abbotsford BC." **Dianne Paulson** presented, "Water chemistry and indicator bacteria in Clayburn Creek watershed – Fall 2016." **Shae Turner** presented, "Land-use transitions and biodiversity shifts: the case of birds in Sumas Prairie of British Columbia." **Sarah Speight** presented, "Evaluating food donation quality in the Fraser Valley."

In addition UFV Geography Alumni, **Tyler Blackman** chaired a special session entitled "Sustainable livelihoods and the spatial politics of inequality and uneven development". In this session **Madison Stewart** presented, "Sustainable livelihoods & community based development in rural Peru." **Abeni Steegstra** presented, "Environmental impact, racism, and the clothing industry." **Naomi Gasparac** presented, "Conflict and food security: A circular link." **Terah Sportel** presented with **René Véron**, "Coconut crisis in Kerala? Mainstream narrative and alternative perspectives."

University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) (con't)



Shyna Kanda on decomposition of knotweed.



Madelaine Bourdages: Geochemistry of the Fraser River.

Faculty Updates

Lenore Newman had her first book *Speaking in Cod Tongues: A Canadian Culinary Journey* (University of Regina Press) released this past spring and was seen and heard numerous times on the radio and television promoting the book.

Jonathan Hughes contributed a module on earthquake paleoecology and salt marsh ecology at the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve field school hosted by UFV Biology Department (see photo below).



Jonathan Hughes also co-chaired a technical session on “Recent advances in peatland hydrology, Part 1: Peatland restoration and ecohydrological processes” at the Canadian Geophysical Union and the Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology joint annual scientific meeting in May 2017.

Olav Lian was awarded another five-year NSERC Discovery Grant.

Scott Shupe had his article from his collaboration with Earthwatch, “High resolution stream water quality assessment in the Vancouver, British Columbia region: a citizen science study” published in *The Science of the Total Environment*.

John Belec was featured in an article in the *Hope Standard* on the demographic challenge of an aging population. **Mariano Mapili** (Geography and the Environment), Renee Prasad (Agriculture) and Michelle Riedlinger (Communications) with students from GEOG 252, GEOG 257/CMNS 257 and GEOG 300J were involved in a project that surveyed residents living within a two-Km range of berry farms and a population of students from UFV with the goal of community-level efforts to increase the number of local wild and bumblebee populations. The students found that Fraser Valley residents are aware of bee decline in the region and a significantly high number of residents are willing to adjust their gardens to include identified bumble bee-friendly plants to help mitigate bee population decline. Surveyed residents even e-mailed instructors and praised them for the initiative.

University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) (con't)

However, a significantly lower number of surveyed UFV students were willing to help with efforts to support bumblebee populations even though they were equally aware of the bee population decline. The results of the study was presented by students from the three classes during the student research day and we have submitted an abstract for presentation at the *World Environmental Education Congress* (WEEC) which occurred in Vancouver from Sept 9-15, 2017 (<http://weec2017.eco-learning.org/>).

Claire Hay recently presented a paper at the *Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* annual meeting in Halifax, NS entitled "Looking at the gates of tomorrow: Supporting Arts faculty implementing ePortfolio curriculum change" with Mary Gene Saudelli and Michelle Johnson from UFV Teaching and Learning. This conference presentation results from faculty professional development initiatives related to ePortfolio delivered at UFV to support the ePortfolio requirements for the BA and BGS programs. This research is funded by UFV's Fund for Innovative Teaching. In addition, Claire is contributing to the launch of the new BA as one of the faculty members responsible for teaching the introductory ePortfolio courses (ARST 101). She is also teaching the inaugural section of PORT 398 for the Bachelor of General Studies which requires students to complete an ePortfolio. Claire also continues to support the Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy team at the City of Surrey by participating in stakeholder meetings looking at climate change solutions in Crescent Beach. This collaboration will extend to the next offering of GEOG 304 Coasts and Climate Change in winter 2018.

Other News

We have had renovations to our dedicated classroom which included the removal of the windows and door between the room and A417 (water lab), a reorientation and the installation of a smart board and additional whiteboards.

Our Fall 2017 installment of *Adventures in Geography* has been postponed to the spring of 2018 due to the wildfire situation in the BC Interior.

Terah Sportel published with Véron, R. in 2016 *Coconut crisis in Kerala? Mainstream narrative and alternative perspectives*. *Development and Change*. 47 (5): 1051-1077. doi: 10.1111/dech.12260.

Terah Sportel and Mariano Mapili are working as LTAs in GATE again this year instructing human geography and technique courses respectively. Leah Sperling has joined GATE as our department assistant while Sarah McLean is on maternity leave.

University of Northern BC (UNBC) (submitted by Gail Fondahl)

Recent Conference

UNBC hosted the 12th Annual Critical Geographies Mini-Conference in September (22-23 September).

www.critgeogminicon.org

Consistent with the long-standing goals of this conference, the emphasis was on creating a fun, engaging, and friendly atmosphere that embraced an unsettling of the "traditional" conference structure. It offered a wide range of spatially-oriented critical scholarship and encouraged creative work on various themes from geography and other disciplines. The conference always works towards inclusion of non-academic knowledges. The unique geographies of Northern British Columbia provided potential topics for scholarly work and excellent opportunities for non-academic knowledges and the arts to be engaged.

WDCAG 2017 annual conference

UNBC Geography attended the WDCAG in Abbotsford BC, with a small but active contingent (including faculty members Faran Ali, Sinead Earley and Catherine Nolin)

University of Northern BC (UNBC) (con't)

Professorial Sabbatical and Other Adventures

While on sabbatical in 2016/17, **Neil Hanlon** was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Social Gerontology at the National University of Ireland – Galway in June-July, 2016. There, he gave a keynote panel presentation at an interdisciplinary conference hosted by the Centre for Landscape Studies, in addition to a presentation of research to faculty, students, and community affiliates of the Centre for Social Gerontology. He was also a visiting scholar at the Centre for Aging and Society, Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, where he gave a research presentation to faculty and graduate students as part of the Centre's Aging and Society Seminar Series.

Ellen Petticrew and **Phil Owens** (Environmental Science Program) spent four months of a sabbatical visit in New Zealand collaborating with researchers at the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). They presented talks on Canadian sediment fingerprinting projects and the impacts of the Mt Polley Mine impoundment spill in both Hamilton and Christchurch, NZ.

A large three year Environment and Climate Change Canada: Environmental Damages Fund grant to **Ellen Petticrew** and collaborators is under way in the Quesnel Watershed, to assess the impacts of the Mt. Polley Mine impoundment spill on Quesnel Lake. In this second year a successful spring sampling of riverine source material was completed but unfortunately the summer sampling season has been curtailed by fires in central BC. All staff and researcher access to the Quesnel River Research Centre has been restricted as the fires around Williams Lake continue but researchers hope to be able to return to the field station and recommence sampling in August.

Sinead Earley (Canol Project) and colleagues spent a good part of July and August following the abandoned Canol Road by cycle and raft. Built in the winter of 1943-44 to service the construction of the Canadian Oil pipeline from Norman Wells, NWT, to a refinery in Whitehorse, Yukon, the Canol Road is a fascinating yet under-documented example of wartime and post-WWII industrial infrastructure in the North. <https://canoldoc.wordpress.com/>. Earley's all-female team includes a videographer.

Gail Fondahl spent most of May in eastern Siberia, carrying out fieldwork with colleagues, on her SSHRC project, "Indigenous territorial rights in the Russian Federation: A quarter century onward." The visit involved interviewing people in two native Evenki communities, as well as in regional centres and the capital city of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Yakutsk.

Fredy Peccerelli (adjunct professor) was honoured with honorary law degrees from both UNBC and Queens University this spring. Mr. Peccerelli is an internationally renowned forensic expert, who has worked with Dr. **Catherine Nolin** for over a decade, as several UNBC Geography Rights & Actions field schools have been hosted by his organization, the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG).

Graduate Students

Diana Benz completed her PhD in July 2017 (**Roger Wheate**, co-supervisor).

Dissertation: "Multivariate statistical analysis of lodgepole pine outer bark samples for metallic mineral exploration within the southern Nechako Plateau, British Columbia, Canada."

Erica Henderson completed her MA Interdisciplinary Studies in April 2017 (**Catherine Nolin**, Supervisor).

Thesis: "Seeking justice in Guatemala: Dignifying the 'Disappeared' in a context of impunity."

UNBC Geography Faculty Publications (partial list)

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

Brahney, J., **Menounos, B.** and Wei, X., and Curtis, P. (2017) Determining annual cryosphere storage contributions to streamflow using historical hydrometric records. *Hydrologic Processes*. DOI 10.1002/hyp.11128

University of Northern BC (UNBC) (con't)

Burke, S, Schmidt, G, Wagner, S, Hoffman, R and **Hanlon, N.** (2017) Cognitive dissonance in Social Work. *Journal of Public Child Welfare* 11(3), 299-317.

de Leeuw, S. (2017). Writing as righting: Truth and reconciliation, poetics, and new geo-graphing in colonial Canada. *The Canadian Geographer* 61(3), 306-318.

de Leeuw, S. (accepted & forthcoming 2017). May breath: Essayed poetics against Canada's ongoing settler colonial violence toward indigenous women and mothers. *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative*, Special Issue on Absent Mothers.

de Leeuw, S. (2017) [*Where it Hurts*](#). Edmonton, Alberta: NeWest Press. 123 pgs.

de Leeuw, S. (2017). Place of the open season. In *Writing Intimacy into Feminist Geography*. (p214-221); P. Moss and C. Donovan, (Eds); New York: Routledge.

de Leeuw, S. & Greenwood, M. (2017). Turning a new page: Cultural safety, critical creative literary interventions, truth and reconciliation, and the crisis of child welfare. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* 13(3), 142-151. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1177180117714155>

de Leeuw, S. & Hawkins, H. (2017). Critical geographies and geography's creative re/turn: poetics and practices for new disciplinary spaces. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 24(3), 303-324. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1314947>

de Leeuw, S., Parkes, M., Sloan Morgan, V., Christensen, J., Lindsay, N., Mitchell-Foster, K., & Russell, J. (2017). Going unscripted: A call to critically engage storytelling methods and methodologies in geography and the medical-health sciences. *The Canadian Geographer* 61(2), 152-164. doi:10.1111/cag.12337

Fondahl, G. and G.N. Wilson, Eds. (2017) *Northern sustainabilities. Understanding and addressing change in the circumpolar world*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Fondahl, G. and G.N. Wilson (2017) Exploring sustainabilities in the Circumpolar North. In *Northern sustainabilities: Understanding and addressing change in the circumpolar world*, (p1-9); Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Halseth, G. Ed. (2017). *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*. New York: Routledge.

Halseth, G. (2017) Introduction: Political economy perspectives on the transformation of resource towns and peripheries. In *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*, (p1-9); New York: Routledge.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L. & Markey, S. (2017) Canada: Localization and globalization: Industrial re-organization in Mackenzie, British Columbia. In *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*, (p51-84); New York: Routledge.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L. and Markey, S. (2017) Canada: Contentious flexibility: Job losses in labour restructuring in Mackenzie, British Columbia. In *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*, (p161-194); New York: Routledge.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L. and Markey, S. (2017) Canada: Building for the future: Community response to economic restructuring in Mackenzie, British Columbia. In *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*, (p268-295); New York: Routledge.

University of Northern BC (UNBC) (con't)

Markey, S. & Halseth, G. (2017) Rural restructuring: Conclusion. In *Transformation of resource towns and peripheries: Political economy perspectives*, (p336-349); New York: Routledge.

Musotto, L., Borrromei, A., Coronato, A., **Menounos, B.**, Osborn, G., and Marr, R., 2017. Late Quaternary palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of central Tierra del Fuego (Argentina) based on pollen and fungi. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 238: 43–54.

Hanlon, N.T. (2017) Putting populism first: Assessing the legacy of the Campbell government's approach to health policy. In *The Campbell revolution? Power, politics, and policy in British Columbia*, (p150-164); J. Lacharate and T. Summerville (Eds), Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Hanlon, N. & Kearns, R. (2016) Health and rural places. In *International Handbook of Rural Studies*, (p. 62-70); M. Shucksmith and D.L. Brown (Eds); New York: Routledge.

Koiter, A.J., Owens, P.N., **Petticrew, E.L.**, Lobb, D.A. (2017). The role of soil surface properties on the particle size and carbon selectivity of interrill erosion in agricultural landscapes. *Catena*, 153, 194-206.

MacLeod, M.L.P., Stewart, N.J., Kulig, J.C., Anguish, P., Andrews, M.E., Banner, D., Garraway, L., **Hanlon, N.**, Karunanayake, C., Kilpatrick, K., Koren, I., Kosteniuk, J., Martin-Misener, R., Mix, N., Moffitt, P., Olynick, J., Penz, K., Sluggett, L., VanPelt, L., Wilson, E. and Zimmer, L. (2017) Nurses who work in rural and remote communities in Canada: A national survey. *Human Resources for Health* 15(1), 34-45.

Panagopoulou, A., **Meletis, Z. A.**, Margaritoulis, D., & Spotila, J. R. (2017). Caught in the same net? Small-scale fishermen's perceptions of fisheries interactions with sea turtles and other protected species. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 4, 180-220. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00180>

Meletis, Zoë A., and Blake Hawkins. (2017). Open for business? First forays into collaborative autobiographical writing in extractive northern British Columbia. In *Writing Intimacy into Feminist Geography (p97-108)*; P.Moss & C.Donovan, (Eds); London: Routledge.

Petrov, A., S, Burnsilver, F.S. Chapin III, **G. Fondahl**, J.K. Graybill, K. Keil, A.E. Nilsson, R. Riedlsperger and P. Schweitzer (2017) *Arctic Sustainability Research: Past, Present and Future*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

Petrov, A., S, Burnsilver, F.S. Chapin III, **G. Fondahl**, J.K. Graybill, K. Keil, A.E. Nilsson, R. Riedlsperger and P. Schweitzer (2017) Arctic sustainability research: Toward a new agenda, *Polar Geography* 39(3): 165-178.

Ponce, F., Borrromei, A., **Menounos, B.**, and Rabassa, J. (2017) Late-Holocene and Little Ice Age palaeoenvironmental change inferred from pollen analysis, Isla de los Estados, Argentina. *Quaternary International* 442: 26-34.

Ryser, L. and **G. Halseth** (2017) Opportunities and challenges to address poverty in rural regions: A case study from northern BC. *Journal of Poverty* 21 (2): 120-141.

Presentations

Neil Hanlon delivered the keynote address at the Futures of Aging conference held at the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging at McMaster University in March, 2017.

In March, **Zoë Meletis** presented on her research at UNBC's Global Fridays colloquium, "From world famous to least known: Early Insights into nascent sea turtle tourism in Martinique (France), after research in Tortuguero, Costa Rica."

University of Northern BC (UNBC) (con't)

Zoë Meletis also spoke on her work with “The Art, Change, & Creativity research project” (a collaboration between UNBC University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George’s Two Rivers Gallery, and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions), alongside **Mark Groulx** (UNBC School of Environmental Planning) and undergraduate students **Carleen Paltzat** and **Scott Brown**, at the Conference of Irish Geographers in Cork, Ireland in May. The ACC team also organized a Special Session for the CAG at York. It included a paper of their own and 4 others from across the country, all on “Creative Engagements with Climate Change”; a related paper was also presented at the CIP Annual Meeting in Calgary, in June.

In May **Catherine Nolin** and her graduate student, **Stacey Pickering** participated in a by-invitation week-long Summer Course on Refugees & Forced Migration at the York University Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) in Toronto, where Stacey presented on her research.

In June **Gail Fondahl** gave papers on her Siberian research, on two conflicting territorial laws affecting indigenous rights, at the IX International Congress on Arctic Social Sciences in Umeå and at the Nordic Geographers Meeting in Stockholm.

Roger Wheate attended the biennial International Cartographic Congress in Washington, DC, July 1-7, as Canada's official delegate. He also attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Cartographic Association in Ottawa, May 30-June 2, where he presented on "150 years of topographic mapping" in conjunction with Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations.

Brian Menounos contributed to a CBC podcast, *2050: Degrees of change: On adapting to climate change*.
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcasts/2050-degrees-of-change/>

Awards

Zoë Meletis was presented with UNBC Excellence in Service Award, in large part for her on-going work on co-organizing the annual ‘Inspiring Woman Among Us’ events at UNBC. This past year’s week of talks, films and other events (November 2016) featured, among others, two talks by Anne Godlewska (Queens – Geography).

Other Kudos

Thanks to **Brian Menounos** and his successful networking, artist K.A. Colorado has provided UNBC with a wonderful set of art installations focused on climate research and the Arctic. See

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFHOWeBvkjU&feature=player_embedded for the artwork.

Greg Halseth and **Marleen Morris** (adjunct), who are co-directors of UNBC’s Community Development Institute, celebrated the opening of the new office of the CDI in Fort St. James. <http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/fort-st-john/community-development-institute-opens-1.20462521>

Other Visiting Geographers

Polar Week at UNBC brought Arn Keeling (Memorial University - Geography) to Prince George to introduce, screen and lead a discussion “Guardians of eternity: Controlling Giant Mine’s toxic legacy” on the legacy of the Giant Mine (NWT). We also hosted Laurence Smith (UCLA - Geography), to talk about ‘The New North: Four forces shaping our world in 2050’ and his research on supra-glacial rivers on the Greenland ice sheet.

University of Victoria (UVic)

Faculty News

UVic Geography recently hired two Assistant professors. **Chris Bone** was most lately at the University of Oregon and Chris's "teaching and research focus on the use of spatial data science for exploring climate and human-driven natural disturbances and their impacts on diverse human populations." Chris established the Spatial Data Science Lab. **Eva Kwohl** comes from the DFG (German Research Foundation) Postdoctoral Fellowship at Simon Fraser University. Eva is "interested in how flow and sediment transport processes shape the Earth's surface" and at UVic wants to add "aquatic vegetation into this equation." Eva just inaugurated the Coastal Dynamics Lab. (Chris and Eva replaced Trisalyn Nelson and Ian Walker who left for Arizona State University.)

Other recent UVic Geography news is at: <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/home/news/index.php>

Because UVic faculty have profiles on Academia.edu, Google Scholar and ResearchGate, only a few recent publications will be highlighted here.

Thatcher, J., Bergmann, L., Ricker, B., **Rose-Redwood, R.**, Barnes, T.J., Barnesmoore, L.R. Martin, M. et al. (2016). Revisiting critical GIS. *Environment and Planning A*, 48(5), 815-824.

Burnham, R.E., & **Duffus, D.A.** (2016). Gray whale (*Eschrichtius Robustus*) predation and the demise of amphipod prey reserves in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia. *Aquatic Mammals*, 42(2), 123.

Phillips, S.R., & **Costa, M.** (2017). Spatial-temporal bio-optical classification of dynamic semi-estuarine waters in western North America. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*. Forthcoming; Online September, 2017.

Harvey, J.E., & **Smith, D.J.** (2017). Interannual climate variability drives regional fires in west central British Columbia, Canada. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences* 122(7): 1759–1774.

Student News

Recent UVic geography theses and dissertations can be found at <https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/handle/1828/101> so only a few selected theses and dissertations will be listed.

Akins, P. (2017). *Making collaboration work: an evaluation of marine protected area planning processes on Canada's Pacific Coast* (PhD)

Boss, D.G. (2017). *Monitoring changes in patterns of cycling safety and ridership: A spatial analysis* (MSc-Geog)

Eamer, J. B. R. (2017). *Reconstruction of the Late Pleistocene and Holocene geomorphology of northwest Calvert Island, British Columbia* (PhD)

Fitterer, J.L. (2017). *The effects of alcohol access on the spatial and temporal distribution of crime* (PhD)

MacKinnon, S.J. (2016). *A 258-year record of precipitation as snow from tree-rings, Southern Coast Mountains, BC* (MSc-Geog)

Current student research news:

Megan Adams with supervisor Chris Darimont featured on CBC

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bear-fish-hotspots-1.4172570>

Other News

Ken Josephson, long time cartographer and visual designer at UVic Geography was awarded the Faculty of Social Sciences Meritorious Staff Contributions Award <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/home/news/current/celebrating-ken.php>

Geography student **Trilby Buck** and UVic Chemistry students along with daniel Brendle-Moczuk and David Boudinot presented on plastic nurdle pellets fouling the beaches of Victoria at UVic's community conference IdeaFest:

<http://www.uvic.ca/ideafest/events/events/librchemgeog.html>

Vancouver Island University (VIU) (submitted by Hannah Wilson)

Department News

Following a Program Review, the BA in Geography has undergone its biggest curriculum revision since the start of the Major over a decade ago. New emphases on issues of natural and social sustainability enhance existing programs in Natural Resource Management and Urban Systems and recognize the expertise brought about by our newest faculty members, **Matthew Bowes** (human dimensions of parks/protected areas and tourism geography) and **Michele Patterson** (social and cultural values of seafood communities).

This year the Geography Department co-sponsored the 11th Annual Urban Issues Film Festival on the theme of “Community Economic Development and the Public Good,” along with the Master of Community Planning program, and the North Island chapter of the Planning Institute of BC. The keynote speaker was the multi-award-winning CEO of Embers (Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal), an organization based in the Downtown East Side of Vancouver that specializes in providing work experience and income for people with major employment challenges. The films shown included a mix of shorter and longer films and drew attendees from the campus, community, and the planning profession.



For the second year in a row, Geography was a popular “major” at GrandKidsU – an institution-wide program for grandparents and their grandchildren where students participate in two days of faculty-facilitated learning workshops in a University setting. This year's Earth Explorers carried out weather observations with instrumentation, a temperature experiment, campus geocaching (shown on left), 3D air photo interpretation, map design, and a breakout room for solving a geographic mystery. Kudos to technician **Jessica Craig** for designing and hosting the workshops.

Faculty News

Don Alexander has conducted ongoing research on sustainable neighbourhoods and indicators for assessing them, and has involved student researchers in this process. (Publications listed at end).

Jeff Lewis continues as a faculty Advisor for ACER, “Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research”, funded by NSERC and SSHRC. 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 held a successful 2016 Climate Change symposium on Policy and Sustainability and is currently working with a group of VIU Nursing students for the 2017 symposium, which will focus on Climate Change and Human Health. In 2016, Jeff gave a number of climate change presentations including at the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Festival and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce. Also, this past Spring semester, Jeff and co-instructor Sylvie Lafreniere of the Sociology Department taught University Essentials (INTR 150), a new course open to all students that focusses on essential skills required for academic success and lifelong learning, specifically university level reading, writing and numeracy skills.

Vancouver Island University (VIU) (con't)

GEOG 467 Field Studies in Geography



Students take streamflow measurements – Englishman River, Parksville, BC



Faculty member Dr. Pam Shaw discusses small coastal city urban design – Parksville, BC .



Tide pool species identification and habitat characterization – Nanaimo, BC

Pam Shaw is delighted to report that the Master of Community Planning Program at VIU was fully accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners/Professional Standards Board in early 2017, so the first cohort of students walked across the stage at convocation in June with degrees from an accredited university. Out of more than 100 applications, a new cohort of 20 students has been accepted for Fall 2017 and the program continues to develop. There were many other highlights this year: students participated in the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Program in Belize, attended a wide variety of field trips and experiences, and worked on projects with Ucluelet, Cobble Hill, Lantzville, Gabriola Island, K'omoks First Nation, and Lyackson First Nation.

Pam is also the Research Director of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI), and recently presented at the UNESCO EuroMAB Conference in France. The Institute continues to publish the *International Journal of Biosphere Reserve Research*, which is a digital, open access publication (see biospherejournal.org). MABRRI has benefitted from its largest research season to date for summer 2017 with 25 students employed in a variety of research projects relating to human/nature interactions in fragile environments.

Hannah Wilson is continuing on in her role as Chair until winter, at which time the torch will be passed to Dave Cake. When not busy with administration and teaching, Hannah continues her collaborative research with VIU Earth Science faculty member Jerome Lesemann on remote predictive mapping techniques for mineral exploration in Canada's North. She has also partnered GEOG 101 students with Nanaimo Area Land Trust and the Land Conservancy of BC to participate in a long-term covenant monitoring process in Mount Benson Regional Park – near the 1019m summit. This ecological monitoring teamwork in action was profiled by our local MP Sheila Malcolmson by inclusion in the constituency calendar (shown at right).



Michele Patterson is now in her second year as a permanent half-time member of the VIU Geography Department. She teaches a variety of human geography courses at all levels of the undergraduate program. She continues to work on her PhD research looking at social, cultural and economic characteristics of the farmed salmon industry. This past year she also added two new research roles, firstly, as co-investigator in a new UBC 2016-2019 Sustainable Aquaculture of Pacific Oyster project called "*The Shellfish Gene*."

Vancouver Island University (VIU) (con't)

Michele is also working with a PDF from UBC on the Genomics and Society component of this large project, using qualitative research to involve perspectives on oyster culture and the use of genomics among residents of coastal communities in the study area. Secondly, she is part of a four year (2015-2019) Genome BC/Genome Canada project entitled: *Enhancing production in Coho: Culture, community, catch (EPIC4)*. She recently submitted to the team leader her soon to be published paper entitled: Values, wellbeing, genomics and salmon – A literature review. She also recently spoke at two events: Teaching in the Post-Truth Era (VIU) in April 2017, and on a panel about seafood marketing at the BC Seafood Expo in Comox in June 2017.

GIS faculty **Paul Zandbergen**, **Dave Cake**, and **Michael Govorov** are entering the last year 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. The project just published three GIS textbooks for use by Ukrainian students.

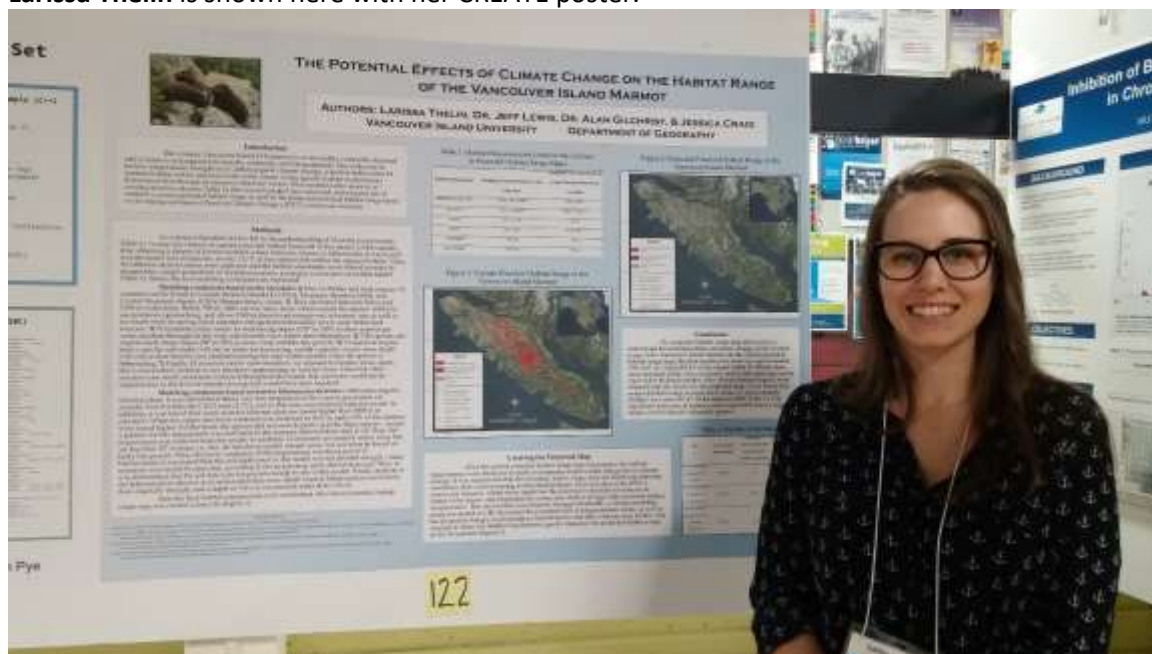
Student News

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

- 2017 Carto Cup: **Andrew Wilson**
- Best presentation at Geography Research Day: **Kayla Harris**
- 3rd-year Geography Award 2017: **Trevor Dickinson** and **Wren Congdon**
- Award recognizing Service to the Department 2017: **Kayla Harris**
- CAG Award 2017: **Sarah Holden**
- Lady Rose Prize 2017: **Hayley Robinson**

For the second year in a row, a Geography student has been selected as the winner of the VIU Community Engagement award, sponsored by the Vancouver Island University Faculty Association. Congratulations last year to Linda Bracken and this year to **Wren Congdon** (shown above). Congratulations also to **Jessica Pyett** on winning a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, which is funding her semester abroad in Belize.

VIU Geography attended the WDCAG annual conference hosted by WWU and UFV. Congratulations are extended to student presenter **Kayla Harris**, whose wetland mapping work with members of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) was showcased. A number of Geography and Geoscience students also participated in VIU's CREATE conference for undergraduate research. 4th-year student **Larissa Thelin** is shown here with her CREATE poster.



Vancouver Island University (VIU) (con't)

Publications

Alexander, T., Paes Ferraeira, M.I., and **Alexander, D.** (2017). Sustainable development in Canadian context: A critical review. English edition of *Boletim do Observatório Ambiental Alberto Ribeiro Lamego*, 10(1), 7-22. DOI: 10.19180/2177-4560.v10n12016p7-22

Alexander, D. (2016). Urban environmental degradation: Causes and solutions. In *Environmental degradation: Types, causes, and impacts*, (p1-20); A. Marsh (Ed.), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science.

Alexander, D. and Stephens, C. (2016 Summer). PIBC annual conference session highlights – Planning and ecology: A good marriage? *Planning West* 58(3)

Alexander, D. (2016). At Main and Hastings, a radical rebuff takes shape: How Bob Williams helped make a derelict cop shop a litmus test for clashing values in Vancouver. *The Tyee* 5/31.

Bowes, M., Keller, P., Rollins, R. & Gifford, R. (2017). The effect of ambivalence on on-leash dog walking compliance behavior in parks and protected areas. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* 35(3): 81-93.

Marine Planning Partnership Initiative. (2015). *North Vancouver Island Marine Plan 2015*. Contributions from Kingzett, B., Tillapaugh, **Cake, D.** and **Patterson, M.**

Murray, G., Wolff, K., & **Patterson, M.** (2017). Why eat fish? Factors influencing seafood consumer choices in British Columbia, Canada. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 144, 16-22.

Patterson, M., Filgueira, R., Tillapaugh, D., Grant, J., Thupaki, P., Kingzett, B., **Cake, D.** (2016). *Carrying capacity assessment for shellfish aquaculture in Haida Gwaii (Skidegate Inlet)*. Prepared for Tides Canada.

Patterson, M., Lieberknecht, L., Hooper, T. & Ardron, J. (2016). *Recommendations on applying Canada-BC Marine Protected Area Principles in Canada's Northern Shelf Bioregion (Principles 6, 7, and 8)*. Report submitted by PacMARA to the BC Marine Protected Area Team.

Witter, A., **Patterson M.**, & Murray, G. (2017). Improving local benefits from fisheries in the MaPP region: Exploring alternative seafood marketing as a potential implementation tool. Prepared for Tides Canada.