

Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



Newsletter

September 1994

Obituary

Geographer Wins Book Award

Hiroshi Shimazaki, Professor in the Faculty of Management at the University of Lethbridge, was awarded the Prime Minister of Canada's prize for the best book published about Canada in Japanese in 1993 for *Canada, Land and People: A Cultural Geography*. The book is beautifully illustrated with works which include the author's own drawings and paintings. Hiroshi, who graduated with his Ph.D. in cultural geography at Simon Fraser in the mid 1970s, continues his geographical research interests and often attends Western Division meetings.

Report of the Mountain West Canadian Studies Conference

The Centre for Canadian Studies at Simon Fraser University hosted the conference February 17th-20th, 1994, at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus. The theme was "Alternative Frontiers" and the approach was multi-disciplinary. Participants ranged in scholarly interests from philosophy through law, media criticism, literary analysis, social statistics, economics, history and certainly, Geography.

After words of welcome from the university president, John Stubbs, from the Vice-President for Harbour Centre, Jack Blaney, and from the conference organizer, Len Evenden, the Hon. Dave Barrett gave a stirring if somewhat disheartened talk on "Canada in the New North America". This was followed by concurrent sessions. Over 75 papers were given, in total, across 27 sessions. The academic vice-president, Jock Munro, hosted a reception and the Dean of Arts, Evan Alderson, hosted a lunch on Saturday. During the lunch the acclaimed poet, Miriam Waddington, introduced by the well-known Canadianist and literary scholar, Robin Mathews, read from her works.

The dean presented an award to Parzival Copes who set up the Centre some twenty years ago, and the anniversary was also marked by the cutting of a large cake. Concluding remarks were made by Roland Lorimer, former Director of the Centre.
- Len Evenden

Brian Preston died in Vancouver in May 1994 following a massive stroke in March. Brian was born in Whalley, England in 1932 and moved with his family to Toronto in 1950. He came to Vancouver and entered the University of British Columbia in 1968, majored in Geography and graduated at the head of his class in 1971. He won a commonwealth scholarship and took it to the University of Reading where he received his Ph.D. in 1981.

Because of a lack of tenure-track positions in the early 1980's, Brian accepted a series of part-time and leave replacement positions and lectured in an incredibly wide range of courses. He lectured at Simon Fraser in 1977, Guelph in 1980, Winnipeg in 1982, York in 1983, U of T in 1984-1988, UBC in 1989-1993, and Cariboo in 1993. He is survived by his wife and daughter. - J. Lewis Robinson

[Brian was a good teacher and students really enjoyed his classes and respected his paternal advice. As a Ph.D. student teaching my first course at Erindale College I was grateful that I could always go to Brian (who taught the same course at U of T's St. George campus) to discuss technical questions about the course or get advice on teaching approaches. His dry wit and endless supply of fascinating examples and regional anecdotes will be missed by geography students and faculty from Ontario to B.C. - Ed.]

1994 Alberta Field Geomorphology Group Plans Annual Field Trip

Arrangements have been made for a spectacular 5th Annual Field Trip in Southern Alberta. René Barendregt will be leading the trip over the weekend of September 29th-October 1st. Participants will visit local river valleys and coulees, landslide scars, faults, sand dunes, quaternary sediments, erratics trains, and paleosols from Lethbridge to Waterton Lakes National Park. **All are welcome.**

For further information contact René. Phone: (403) 329-2530, E-Mail: BARENDREGT@HG.ULETH.CA.

Academic Liability Insurance?

According to Duane Marble: "I have yet to hear of a university that stood behind a faculty member who was accused of anything in conjunction with their work. I carry academic liability insurance so that I can write letters of recommendation without fear of facing legal action because somebody did not get a post and thinks my letter was responsible."

From: GEOGRAPH@SEARN.SUNET.SE, 7 Jan 1994

The Newsletter of the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers is currently edited and printed at the University of Lethbridge.

Editor: Ian MacLachlan
 Department of Geography
 University of Lethbridge
 Lethbridge, Alberta
 T1K 3M4
 Phone: (403) 329-2076
 FAX: (403) 329-2016
 E-Mail: MACLACHLAN@HG.ULETH.CA

Contributions are welcome. **The submission deadline for the Winter issue is January 15.**

Acknowledgements

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From the President's blotter....

This is the last issue of the WCAG Newsletter to be edited by Ian MacLachlan. We must find someone to take over the job for the Spring Newsletter leading up to the Victoria Meeting.

In parallel with declining CAG membership overall, the latest membership figures for the WCAG show that we have slipped 12 percent from 219 to 192 members.

We have discovered that our Western Division constitution contradicts the constitution adopted by the Canadian Association of Geographers in 1990. For example, the WCAG claims jurisdiction over CAG members from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana but the CAG only allocates CAG members from Alberta and British Columbia to the WCAG. We hope to resolve these issues and amend our constitution at the Annual General Meeting in Victoria. Thus we shall have to send out the proposed amendment in the next issue of the Newsletter.

College and University News

University of Alberta

The salary settlement has been announced for the academic staff at the U of A. Compensation has been cut 5.6% which includes 6 days without pay, and an increased employee contribution to the pension plan.

Leszak Kosinski, H.J. McPherson and Peter Smith all retired on June 30, 1994, though Smith is on post-retirement employment. Shelagh Squire has left us to take up an appointment at Carleton University and D. Halliwell is now working for Forestry Canada. At present, it seems that we shall not be able to replace them, though now that the salary situation has been clarified, there may be some "light at the end of the tunnel."

J.R. Eyton was awarded the 1993 J.M. Ellis Innovative Map of the Year Award. This award recognizes excellence in creative design in cartography and significant design advances in the field.

Two Ph.D.s were awarded at Spring Convocation 1994: S. Wang, "Evaluation of Planned Residential Environments with Regard to Pedestrian Safety: A Case Study of Edmonton"; and Y. Zhuang, "Organized Motion in the Atmospheric Surface Layer". Also awarded were 3 M.A.s: C. Coburn, "A Comparison of Rural and Urban Environmental Attitudes and their Influence on Outdoor Recreation Participation"; P. Enright, "Agri-Processing and Rural Development: Locational Trends, Public Policy and Local Influences in Alberta 1975-1991" and J. Fang, "The Relationship between Residential Segregation and Ethnic Assimilation: A Case Study of the Chinese in Edmonton."

Rod Smith, one of our Ph.D. students, has received a prestigious Isaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship and an Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize for the coming year.

Athabasca University

Under the guise of deficit fighting, the Klein government has cut the budgets of all universities in the Province, (with the exception of Athabasca University) by 21% over three years. A U has had its budget cut by 31% over a three-year period.

The official justification for this "special" treatment is that the number of graduates from Athabasca University, when adjusted for faculty size and overall fulltime equivalent enrolments, is not equal to other universities in the Province. However, the mandate of the University has never been to graduate students. As an open distance learning university that services more than 12,000 students across Canada, AU's primary mandate was to provide the people of Alberta and Canada with life-long learning opportunities. Many students take courses at Athabasca

to test their readiness for University level study or because they require additional credits to graduate from another University. Thus Athabasca contributes to the graduation of students from many universities in Western Canada and Canada overall.

The Klein government, in its "White Paper" on higher education, pointed to AU as a model of efficient course and program delivery. Athabasca's mandate has been expanded to include new programs in business administration, nursing, and distance education. The distance education model with its pared down academic staff, lack of student-based campus with no potential of a political breeding ground, lack of expensive capital investment, and overall low cost of course and program delivery, fits well with the deficit reduction strategy.

The additional cut in budget and the expanded mandate are designed to force a change in the direction of services provided by the University. The intent appears to be to move AU away from functioning as a university and toward a "training" post-secondary institution. The cuts severely limit AU's ability to expand existing programs so that we can in fact graduate more "in house" students.

The result will likely be the stagnation and decline of existing liberal arts courses and programs and a push to graduate more students in the new "applied" focus mandate areas. The likely dismissals of tutors, increasing student fees and the overall decline in services will likely discourage students outside Alberta from taking our courses.

The end result of these cuts is that morale among academics and staff is at an all time low. The Faculty of Arts has lost seven faculty from a total of 34 through early retirement or resignations as faculty take new positions elsewhere. These losses mean that in some cases AU has lost the only faculty member associated with a discipline. Moreover, faculty now have to tutor a minimum of 128 students per year. This means that many tutors will be laid off, and that faculty will have even less time to devote to course and program development.

The geography program at AU has been severely hit by these cuts. The program was in its infancy with only three courses being offered. Only last year the Faculty of Arts passed an academic plan that included a proposal for a degree program to be established in Geography by 1997. As Gerry Thomas was the only geography faculty member, program development depended on the hiring of external Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the areas where he did not have the expertise. Funds for SMEs are no longer available, which spells death for the geography degree program.

Faced with this eventuality, Gerry has accepted a position at another University starting in the Fall. In all likelihood, no one will be hired to replace him, at least not in a fulltime capacity. He had already lost one of his tutors, and had he remained at AU, would have been forced to lay off all three tutors. All in all, the future of distance education in Alberta-- and in geography-- looks very bleak.

Augustana University College

In August 1994, Augustana University College (formerly Camrose Lutheran) welcomed Glen Hvenegaard to coordinate and develop the geography program. Glen is completing his Ph.D. (from the University of Victoria) on ecotourism and conservation at Doi Inthanon National Park, Thailand. He holds M.Sc. (Wildland Recreation) and B.Sc. (Forestry) degrees from the University of Alberta. Glen has also conducted research on recreational impacts, wildlife economics, nonconsumptive wildlife user groups, and biogeography, in several parks and protected areas in Canada and the United States.

Augustana now offers a Geography minor and is making plans to offer a Geography major. Enrolment for the 1994-95 geography courses will be about 200 students. Current offerings include first year courses in human and environmental geography; second year courses in geomorphology, climatology, cultural geography, regionalization in Canada, and geography of rural Canada; third year courses in cartography, remote sensing and air photo interpretation, resource studies, environmental hazards, and parks and wilderness; and fourth year directed studies courses.

In support of the new curriculum, Glen is also developing two new courses: Human Activities and the Natural Environment; and Parks, Wilderness, and Wildland Conservation. Please direct questions regarding Augustana's geography program to: Glen Hvenegaard, Geography Program, Augustana University College, 4901-46 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta T4V 2R3 (403-679-1100 or 1-800-661-8714; Internet: hveng@augustana.ab.ca).

University of British Columbia

We were all saddened by the death of Brian Preston who had taught many courses for us on a sessional basis. (*See obituary on page 1*).

UBC is looking for a climatologist for the Atmospheric Science Programme. Lewis Robinson received an honorary degree at Spring Convocation. At the same ceremony, UBC graduated the largest number of geography B.A. students ever: 95 in all. (A further 25 from the same cohort will graduate in the fall.) Seventeen B.Sc. students graduated at a separate ceremony.

The proposed new building for Geography in the Earth Sciences complex has been put on hold as the government declined to fund it. The on-going financial problems besetting all post secondary institutions are manifesting themselves at UBC by significant reorganisation within the faculties. All small (i.e. less than 15 members) departments are being urged to merge! Geography may be the preferred choice for some smaller departments. There are no sabbatical leave replacements so we have had to reduce most of our multi-sectioned courses to one. However, at present we have not been asked to take a salary reduction.

University of Calgary

Government cutbacks have led to a cut of approximately 5% in

the faculty and support staff's compensation. Faculty have lost their entire travel budget, must work a number of days each year without pay and all fee remission support for faculty and family members has been abolished. The most severe damage is likely to occur next year when a 7% cut occurs. This is in addition to the present 11% cut and the final 3% cut in the third year of the programme.

The department has seen a number of departures this year. Brenton Barr resigned from the University last January after a two year leave of absence to continue working for Fracmaster. Herb Kariel will be retiring from the department on December 31st. Michael Coulson and Larry Cordes have opted to take early retirement in 1997.

Marta Styk, department cartographer for over 20 years, took advantage of the early retirement package to relocate with husband Albert to White Rock, B.C. We will miss her dry wit, hard work and Slovakian tendency to invert two word phrases. Despite the cutbacks, the department was fortunate to be able to replace Marta with Robin Poitras, a cartography graduate from Algonquin College most recently with the Geologic Survey of Canada.

Roger Wheate, department cartographer/GIS support, is moving to the northerly extremes of the WCAG empire at UNBC in Prince George where he will teach cartography/GIS and run the GIS lab. He can be reached at wheate@unbc.edu. The department hopes to replace him by Christmas.

Derald Smith has bid farewell to his first two Ph.D graduates. Tim Fisher (Calgary's sole representative at WCAG 94) has headed to Gary, as a Professor in the Department of Geosciences, Indiana University Northwest. Tim waited long enough in Calgary to boldly start a new generation of Fishers (Paul James, born August 11th). You can email Tim at fisher@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu. Harry Jol has gone west to resume his ground-breaking, yea even penetrating, post-doctoral work at SFU. Harry and Tim between them helped to change the face of graduate life as we knew it at U of C. We will miss those mentally-stimulating coffee breaks, QUATS discussions and geographical enquiry over a beer, but we will probably get a lot more work done!

Finally, Ian Yeboah who added colour to the department for almost a decade has assumed a tenure-track position in human geography at Miami College, Oxford, Ohio (near Cincinnati for WCAG members lacking an atlas) where he will team up with U of C graduate A-xing Xhu. Ian will be fondly remembered for his scything soccer tackles and for terrorising undergraduates who refused to give up their computer time.

New graduate students at the doctoral level include: Stefania Bertazzon from the University of Venice working in Economic Geography; Christoph Gneisser from Portland State University working in Periglacial Geomorphology; Richard Meyers from the University of Calgary (B.Sc. Lethbridge) working in Hydrology-Geomorphology.

The Geography Department is co-operating with the Geology

and Geophysics Department in proposing a joint B.Sc. Degree in Earth Science which has been formally approved in record time. The department is also investigating the possibility of a Joint Environmental Science Programme with the Faculty of Environmental Design and other units on campus.

The department will be hosting the annual meeting of the Canadian Cartographic Association in the first week of June, 1995. Contact Michael Coulson (coulson@acs.ucalgary.ca) or Nigel Waters (nwaters@acs.ucalgary.ca) for details on this conference on the latest in GIS and mapping.

University College of the Cariboo

Ross Nelson, with a recently minted Ph.D. from UBC, has received an "on-going" contract with UCC after being in sessional positions for the last two years.

Jim Miller has recently submitted an "eleven point proposal" to the B.C. Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour seeking funding approval for the establishment of a G.I.S. Certificate Programme (using ArcInfo) at UCC.

While no new courses are being offered in 1994/95, enrolments in all Geography courses remain high. Thus, the Social and Environmental Studies Department at UCC has four full-time Geography faculty (Rob MacKinnon, Bob Hay, Ross Nelson and Jim Miller) as well as two part-time faculty (Ken Favrholt and Bruce Petch are new appointments this fall) and a full-time laboratory demonstrator (Mary Miller).

University College of the Fraser Valley

The Geography Department continues to enjoy strong enrolment in all areas of the curriculum, particularly in the first two years of the program. We have added Geography 201 (climatology) and 202 (geomorphology) to strengthen prerequisites for upper level study in physical geography. We anticipate adding new courses in human and physical areas at the third and fourth year level to broaden selections for a growing number of degree students.

The Department now numbers 5 full-time faculty, having recently added Ian Okabe (Ph.D. UBC) in climatology at the Chilliwack campus and two sessional instructors: Cherie Enns in areas of social/economic/planning, and Harry Jol, who will teach several sections in introductory physical geography this year.

Our department (through Sandy Vanderburgh) continues to participate in a multi-disciplinary Environmental Studies initiative and has instituted, with John Belec's work on Arc/Info, a modest G.I.S. capability. Doug Nicol again co-led (with the Theatre and English departments) a study tour of the U.K. in July. David Gibson continues to visit Mexico as part of our joint venture with Anthropology/Sociology in the Latin American Studies Program. All department members presented papers at local conferences this year. We also saw our first geography minor B.A. graduates receive their degrees in June.

The University College is planning for new facilities in both Abbotsford and Chilliwack which will include major classroom/lab facilities for Geography. We are hoping to hire a full-time lab assistant this coming year and expect additional faculty positions in due course as well.

Langara College

Langara is no longer a campus of Vancouver Community College. As of April 1, 1994 we officially gained independence and became Langara College. The institution is going through some major changes.

At the end of July Gordon Kaberry retired from over three decades of service to the geographic discipline to the geographic discipline and at one time served as the WDCAG President. His services to both the department and the college will be sorely missed and the department wishes him well in his future endeavours. With the retirement of Gordon, the Chair was left vacant and Roz Scarnell has taken over.

Steven Doyle led a successful and academically rewarding environmental field school on Vancouver Island. Bob Francis is still "down under" and will be returning to his teaching duties in January. Fall will see the addition of two new temporary faculty members: Steven Marsh and Jennifer Gettsinger. Both will be teaching physical geography. Also returning is Katrina Erdos who will be teaching introductory geography. Eric Grass is still working on a British Columbia text and as President of WCAG, is preparing for the Victoria Meeting in March.

University of Lethbridge

With an enrolment of 4,671, The University of Lethbridge has reached a record number of students. The hiring freeze, loss of positions through retirement, and drastic reductions in the hiring of sessionals have increased workloads and class sizes while faculty and staff adjust to a 5 percent reduction in salary. In spite of provincial funding cutbacks, the university remains upbeat and has just introduced an entirely new coop program for Science majors with \$200,000 in new money from the federal government.

Bob Rogerson became Chair in July. René Barendregt is enjoying a hard earned study leave after four years as Chair. He will be dividing his time between field work, the Pacific Coast Geoscience Centre, and writing at the University of Lethbridge. Rod McNaughton is also on study leave and he is currently teaching marketing at the University of Waikato in New Zealand. Marvin Sundstrom is on long term disability at his home in Victoria and we all are wishing him a successful convalescence.

Ian MacLachlan and Rod McNaughton were both successful in their applications for SSHRC Standard Research Grants. Ian is researching the industrial restructuring of the beef and cattle industry while Rod is working on geographical patterns of strategic alliances between multinational firms. Using Nat Christie funding, Jim Byrne and Ian Saunders continue their work on climate modelling while Tom Johnston and Quentin

Chiotti are continuing their research on agricultural responses to climate change.

New adjunct faculty include Brian Freeze (a bioeconomist with interests in cattle and beef production) and John Keng (soil scientist with international development experience) who are both employed at the Lethbridge Agricultural Research Station.

Medicine Hat College

The 1994-95 year sees Medicine Hat College struggling with a reduced budget. Faculty recently settled a three-year contract with "raises" of -5, -0, and 0. Within the Geography Department there are rather few direct impacts that students would notice. But the acquisition of teaching resources will be severely curtailed.

The summer was busy for Ben Moffat. Comprehensive exams and "quality time" at the University of Saskatchewan were sandwiched around a month-long, data gathering excursion northward up the Alaska and Dempster Highways to Inuvik. His students will benefit from the 200+ slides he shot, not to mention post-midnight fish stories and tales of child-snatching mosquitos.

"Programme development" seems the local administration's flavour of the month. Ben's pet programme will be a field course, Geography 379: The U.S.A., offered in the Spring of 1995. The wilds of Wyoming, Idaho and Washington will again entertain a dozen or so Rattlers on the road who are members all of the college's recently re-founded Knob and Kettle Club.

Ben will be doing a lot of windshield field work as he tracks back and forth from Medicine Hat every two weeks or so to maintain his status at the University of Saskatchewan while marking labs, exams and papers. With a potential trip to Inuvik coming up next February Ben is unlikely to attend the meetings in Victoria but he does look forward to your e-mail: BMOFFAT@acd.mhc.ab.ca.

University of Montana

The University of Montana's Department of Geography has submitted a significantly revised curriculum for consideration by the University. Baccalaureate emphases would include general geography, teaching, cartography, and planning. The M.A. program would include three tracks: general geography, cartography, and planning. The M.S. program would be eliminated.

The Department of Geography continues to support the Public Policy Research Institute's administration of the Montana Geographic Alliance; has initiated a program of Occasional Papers; and is in the process of establishing a campus chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon.

University of Northern British Columbia

On August 17th the Prince George campus of the University of

Northern British Columbia was officially opened. The geography programme, housed within the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, has six faculty in Prince George and two sessional positions in the regions.

The Chair, Kevin Hall, was formerly a professor at the University of Natal (South Africa). He obtained his B.Sc. and M. Phil. from the Universities of Swansea and Reading respectively. His Ph.D. on Quaternary glacial geology is from the University of the Orange Free State (South Africa). His research interests include weathering processes, periglacial processes and cold regions.

Allen Gottesfeld came to Northern British Columbia after growing up in New York City and attending the University of Arizona (M.Sc.) and University of California, Berkeley (Ph.D.) He spent many years living on the Skeena River near Kitwanga B.C. and teaching at Northwest Community College in Terrace. Allen specializes in studies of fluvial process and has worked extensively with aboriginal natural resource issues.

Ellen Petticrew was the initial member of the programme having joined UNBC a year ago. Her B.Sc. and M.Sc in geography were obtained from Queen's and UBC and her Ph.D. from McGill (Biology). A post-doctoral fellowship at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography added a marine component to her research interests of sediment in aquatic systems.

Roger Wheate joins the programme from the University of Calgary. He holds a B.Sc. from the University of St. Andrew's (Scotland), an M.A. from Queen's and is currently completing his Ph.D (St. Andrew's). Roger's research areas include GIS, cartography and remote sensing with an emphasis on visualization of the third dimension in topographic depiction and mountain environments.

Greg Halseth obtained his education at UBC (B.A.) and Queen's (M.A., Ph.D.). He comes to UNBC after a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship in the SFU Geography department and the Community Economic Development Centre. His research interests include community change and the contention and conflict bound up in the pressures associated with that change.

Gail Fondahl joins us from the Geography department at Dartmouth College where she was a research fellow associated with the Institute of Arctic Studies. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. from University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. from Dartmouth College. Her research interests are in First Nations studies with regional specialization in the circumpolar north and Russia.

Murray Rice holds a sessional appointment in the Northwest region (Fort St. John). He is currently completing his Ph.D. in geography at the University of Saskatchewan where he also obtained a M.A. and a B.Sc.(engineering physics). His interests include locational analysis of corporate headquarters, the ongoing role of the NorthWest Company in Northern Canada, and hospital allocation problems in rural areas.

Reg Horne has been appointed sessionally to our Northeast

region and will be lecturing in Terrace and Prince Rupert. He has held a variety of term and sessional positions at Canadian universities including Trent, Brandon and Victoria. His Ph.D is from University of Lancaster (UK), his M.A. is from McMaster and his B.A. is from Guelph. His recent research interests focus on self-employment in rural areas.

For information regarding this new programme contact Kevin Hall at 604-960-5864. (E-mail: hall@unbc.edu).

Simon Fraser University

Professor Ted Hickin is editing a volume entitled *River Geomorphology* developed from papers presented at the September 1993 meeting of the International Association of Geomorphologists. The volume is being published by Wiley and will be in the bookstores in 1995.

The 6th International Medical Geography Symposium, jointly sponsored by the CAG Health and Health Care Study Group and the Medical Geography specialty groups of the AAG and the IBG, was held in Vancouver July 12th-16th. The meeting attracted 120 registrants and 106 papers. Major themes included access and utilization of health care services; environment and health; new directions in geography, health and health care; GIS and health planning; housing and health; culture, representation, gender, power; and disease ecology. The meeting was hosted by Michael Hayes, chair of the CAG study group, with the assistance of Susan Elliott (McMaster, formerly University of Victoria) and Isabel Dyck (UBC). Clyde Hertzman (Health Care and Epidemiology, UBC) gave the keynote address, entitled "Health Status in Eastern Europe: Assessing the Relative Contribution of the Physical and Social Environment", based on a soon-to-be-released book.

Selected papers from the symposium will appear in a special issue of *Social Science and Medicine*. Other papers will appear in *Health and Place*, an international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal from Butterworth-Heinemann to be published quarterly starting March, 1995. Graham Moon (School of Social and Historical Studies, Portsmouth) is the Editor; Michael Hayes is the Associate Editor (North America).

SFU's Community Economic Development Centre (Director, John Pierce, Geography) will host a conference in late April, 1995 entitled "Preparing for Now: Community Strategies for Economic Renewal". The conference is aimed at bringing together practitioners from public and private agencies, academics and NGOs to stimulate creative thinking about opportunities for sustainable economic development in resource based communities and to co-ordinate partnership among organizations and different levels of governments to address the needs of resource based communities. For further information contact Penny Simpson at the CED Centre: Phone: 604-291-5850. Fax: 604-291-5788. E-mail:penny-simpson@sfu.ca

Professor Ted Hickin has been appointed staff hydrologist to the British Columbia Utilities Commission Panel conducting the hearings into the environmental impact of Alcan's Kemano

completion project in northern British Columbia.

Ken Page, Senior Lecturer at Charles Stuart University, NSW, Australia, is a Visiting Scholar in the Department during Fall of this year. He will be working with Professor Ted Hickin on the application of the Department's new ground-penetrating radar system to various geomorphic problems. Harry Jol (Ph.D. Calgary) will take up an NSERC postdoctoral appointment in the Department this Fall. He will be working with Professor Mike Roberts on the application of the Department's new ground-penetrating radar system to various geomorphic problems. Greg Halseth, a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow in the Department and Community Economic Development Centre, has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Northern British Columbia.

Mike Hayes is co-editor of a new book, *The Determinants of Population Health: A Critical Evaluation*. Nick Blomley's *Law, Space and the Geographies of Power* will be published by Guilford this fall. Roger Hayter, Michael Hayes and Arthur Roberts begin one year sabbaticals this month.

Scott Babakaiff, who recently graduated from the Department's M.Sc. program, has been appointed to the staff of a major Vancouver engineering company, Hay & Co. Consultants Inc., where, with another SFU graduate, Roland Atkins, he will help develop the company's growing geomorphology/environmental consulting sector. Chris Smith, who recently graduated with a Ph.D. from the Department, has been appointed Program Director of Social Planning Council of Edmonton.

Undergraduate enrolment in geography courses for Fall 1994 is at 2,213 students, a 15% increase over last year. Geography majors, as of the Spring of 1994, stood at 469.

University of Washington

Bill Beyers continues as Chair while Morgan Thomas continues as Associate Dean of the Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Douglas Jackson retired from teaching after 39 years in the department and the university. David Hodge was on leave as Program Director for the Geography and Regional Science Program in Washington, DC; Katharyne Mitchell joined the department as an Assistant Professor; and Nicholas Chrisman spent the year on sabbatical.

Bill Beyers has a three year \$225,000 grant from the NSF to study the development of businesses in the producer services. Kam Wing Chan has a Fritz Faculty Research Grant from the Jackson School of International Studies for research on interprovincial migration in China.

Education Committee Report

by Margaret E.A. North

The University of Victoria's Faculty of Education announced that it would no longer accept Introductory Physical Geography as a lab science for students entering the faculty. Several of the colleges and this committee protested this decision last fall but

to no avail. In May a UBC student was told that she was ineligible to enter the teaching programme as her Introductory Physical Geography was not considered to be a science lab course, despite the fact that it is so credited by UBC. Marg North phoned the head of the Social Science department of the Faculty of Education and explained the nature of the course, its common curriculum throughout the province and the content of labs. She stressed the relevance of this science course for the developing curriculum in Social Studies which may include environmental education. Marg followed this up with a fax including lecture and lab outlines used by a number of colleges. Since then there has been no word on whether the Faculty has reversed its decision. This may be an ongoing battle. Please be prepared to take this up for your students, and as extra ammunition you could refer to the Social Studies Needs Assessment, based on a polling of over 7000 teachers, that indicates Geography is ranked second after Environmental Education as the area that Social Studies teachers feel should be stressed in the curriculum.

Premier Harcourt's announcement concerning the Year 2000 left the process of Educational reform in some disarray. June Whitmore and Marg North met with three members of the Curriculum Branch in July 1993 and argued that they really had no professional geographers in the Ministry or on any of their committees and therefore Geography was not adequately represented. The group was receptive but knew nothing about Geography. We have attempted to remedy this. Since that time the Social Studies K-11 review committee was advertised and a request for application for membership was circulated, Marg had asked for colleges to submit applications. This whole selection process came to a halt when the PSA decided that they would not participate because of the Ministry's failure to provide the essential resources and in-service training promised when the existing Social Studies curriculum was put in place.

Also in May, Marg North met again with the Curriculum Branch personnel, partly to see if there was anything happening in the Social Studies review process. (The PSA had apparently negotiated terms that would allow the review process to start.) The main purpose of meeting with the Ministry was to see where they were going to place Environmental Education. We had suggested in the Socials curriculum, but a subsequent publication put out by the ministry for review indicated, once again, total ignorance of Geography as it was not mentioned as a possible relevant discipline. More critical review ensued.

The formation of the Canadian Council of Geographic Education (CCGE) was formally announced at the CAG in May. The B.C. and Yukon division is planning an evening meeting on October 21st at the Hotel Georgia, Vancouver, 7:30-9:30 pm. The speaker is Hugh Downie on the subject of Wilderness (the theme of this year's Geography Awareness week). The following day, Saturday, there will be a field excursion to the Pacific Spirit Park to examine the human impact on park/wilderness areas. The teachers who have joined the CCGE are very keen; several have attended the Queen's University summer institutes, now in their third year. We are looking at ways of expanding these institutes to other provinces and intend to approach the Education faculties to see if diploma

status could be granted for attendance at these fortnight long institutes. The University of Manitoba is offering credit for their summer institute this year.

At the post-secondary level we have been writing letters and networking to try to use the Premier's and Moh Sihota's interest in GIS to advance a case for direct funding of GIS faculty positions in the universities. As you know, there is a critical shortage of trained GIS analysts. We see this as due to the inability of the single GIS person in the typical department to find the time to expand their programmes while simultaneously sitting on every university computing committee and pursuing their own academic careers.

Education Committee Members: M. North (Chair, UBC), J. Whitmore (U VIC, CO-OP), P. Thomas (U VIC, Faculty of Education), Lis Dawson (Churchill School), Beth Dye (Sentinel School, BCTF), Bob Francis (Langara).

Forthcoming Meetings

Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Division, Association of American Geographers October 13-15, 1994, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact: Harvey Miller, Geography, University of Utah
Phone: (801) 585-3972
E-Mail: HMILLER@GEOG.UTAH.EDU

Canadian Association of Geographers, Western Division March 3 to March 5, 1995, Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Contact Dan Smith. Phone: (604) 721-7328 E-mail: Smith1@uvvm.uvic.ca [*See enclosure for more details.*]

Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting, March 15-19, 1995, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: AAG@GWUVM.GWU.EDU

Canadian Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, May 31-June 4, 1995, Montreal, Quebec.

WCAG Executive

President: Eric Grass (Langara)
Phone: (604) 323-5532
Fax: (604) 323-5555

Vice-President: Cliff Raphael (New Caledonia)
Phone: (604) 562-2131
Fax: (604) 561-5816

Past-President: Rob MacKinnon (Cariboo)
Phone: (604) 828-5170
FAX: (604) 371-5769
E-Mail: RMACKINNON@CARINS.CARIBOO.BC.CA

Secretary-Treasurer: Tom Johnston (Lethbridge)
Phone: (403) 329-2534
FAX: (403) 329-2016
E-Mail: JOHNSTON@HG.ULETH.CA

Newsletter Editor: Ian MacLachlan (Lethbridge)
Phone: (403) 329-2076
FAX: (403) 329-2016
E-Mail: MACLACHLAN@HG.ULETH.CA

Publications Editor: Mike Edgell (Victoria)
Phone: (604) 721-7326
FAX: (604) 721-8653

Members-at Large

Dan Smith (Victoria)
Phone: (604) 721-7326
Fax: (604) 721-6216
E-Mail: SMITH@UVVM.UVIC.CA

Susan Smythe (Douglas)
Phone: (604) 520-5400
Fax: (604) 527-5400

Leah Skretkovicz (Kwantlen)
Phone: (604) 599-2205
Fax: (604) 599-2068

Sandy Vanderburgh (Fraser Valley)
Phone: (604) 853-7441
Fax: (604) 855-7558

Student Representatives

Sabrina Eckschmidt
Phone: (604) 432-1156
Michelle Douville (Lethbridge)
Phone: (403) 329-2225