

Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



Newsletter Fall, 1999

Augustana University College

In July, students in Geography, Environmental Studies, and Outdoor Pursuits completed a 3-week canoeing expedition in Nunavut. The trip was part of a combined geography/physical education course on the Canadian North and Outdoor Pursuits. Highlights included large herds of musk ox and caribou, wolves, ice-locked lakes (involving paddling around the edge and pulling canoes on top), technical rapids, and an amazing archeological site (including a gravesite, kayak stand, and human remains).

Glen Hvenegaard was one of 10 Canadians chosen for this year's LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) Associate Program. Over the next 2 years, he will attend workshops in Ottawa, Brazil, and Russia. Glen and Varghese Manaloor (a colleague in Economics) received a research grant to examine the benefits and costs of wetland conservation at Beaverhill Lake, Alberta. Glen co-authored a paper on the economic values of whale watching that was presented at the 1999 meetings of the International Whaling Commission.

To learn more about our program, email: hveng@augustana.ab.ca or visit us at <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/departments/geography>.

Capilano College

Geographers teaching at Capilano for the 1999/2000 year:

Karen Ewing	Brett McGillivray
Chris Gratham	Jeanne Mikita
Charles Greenberg	Sheila Ross

Scott MacLeod (managing Asia Pacific Management Coop Program)

Fall Semester is in full swing with full classes in Geography. There were unusually long wait lists, and many students wanting to take geography did not have the privilege of experiencing this discipline.

Charles Greenberg is teaching the second semester of an Urban Field Studies course (Geog. 202) -- a course paid for by the planning department of North Vancouver District Municipality. This non-base funded course has been a great learning experience involving students in an Official Community Plan.

The Geography Department is starting the term off with a one day field trip to Whistler on Oct. 2.

For those teaching the Geography of British Columbia, or for those interested in many issues in this province, British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition by Brett McGillivray will be published by UBC Press, March 2000.

Karen Ewing and Chris Gratham helped in creating a searchable database on the web that compiles, annotates and evaluates online resources in Geography. The site is hosted by the Centre for Curriculum

Transfer and Technology and is located at:
www.ctt.bc.ca/edtech/OER/

Douglas College

Douglas College continues to deal with high enrolments. The Summer Semester was fully enrolled and the current Fall Semester is at 104% of capacity.

Ian Joyce has published two articles based upon his work on the Cuban fishery and is currently conducting more research in Cuba. Two term faculty members: Cheryl Schreader and Don Mc Phee were hired this year. Susan Smythe is presently seconded to Douglas Development and is working on various faculty professional development initiatives.

The Department will be conducting a Unit Review in January to assess the direction and strengths of our program. As well, the Department is currently rewriting our course outlines to stress learning outcomes.

Geography 170 (Cartography) was offered for the first time at our David Lam campus (Coquitlam).

Medicine Hat College

The academic year 1999-2000 sees Medicine Hat College's enrollment higher than ever. With more than 2000 students gracing our corridors, most classes are quite full, first year Introduction to Physical geography has 86 registrants. Our second-year offerings have grown, too. While this term's Canada class contains about 10 students (primarily University Transfer and Education), the GIS class has 13. In the Winter we will once again offer four courses including Intro Human, Map and Air Photo Interpretation, Remote Sensing and the Geography of the North. In spring (June) another trip will return to the coasts of Oregon and Northern California.

This year, in addition to the Programme students enrolled in Watershed Management and Renewable Resources Management (who transfer to Lethbridge Community College for the second year of their programs), the college has added EcoTourism Management students to our classes. For the time being this is a two-year diploma program, but the college has high hopes of making it into an applied degree (in co-operation with Mount Royal College in Calgary). That would significantly increase our second-year numbers.

We still have three faculty members here teaching in the discipline: Laurie Milne (she teaches 4 lab sections in addition to her regular load in Anthropology and Archaeology), Ivan Shukster (who covers labs in GIS, remote sensing, map and air photo and the intro classes) and Ben Moffat (who gets to do everything else). In addition, Moffat has been appointed co-ordinator of the Environmental Science Programme.

We now have access to a web site <http://192.139.34.242/geog/geography.html> All courses have their own pages, some with more on-line content than others. I would be interested to hear what you think, and am always interested in other "useable" sites -- especially within the division.

For those of you who are interested, the Medicine Hat College faculty Association has just settled a new contract (two-year). Faculty have had tuition fee waivers for themselves and families written into the agreement, many who teach distance education classes have been absorbed into the association, workload "discussions" have been joined and a 3% (+ 3% in year two) increase in pay resulted. Most are quite happy with the situation.

Here's hoping my Winter schedule allows me to attend (finally....it has been awhile) the upcoming meetings in Abbotsford come March, renewing old and acquiring new acquaintances

Ben Moffat

Simon Fraser University

Much has changed in the Department of Geography at SFU in the past 6 months. Two of our colleagues, Tuck Wong and Tom Poiker, retired in September. The sadness of saying goodbye to Tuck and Tom, both of whom have enjoyed lengthy careers at SFU and will be missed by their many friends in the department and at the university, has been tempered by the arrival of two new faculty who joined the department in September. Ben Bradshaw (PhD, Guelph) is an Assistant Professor with research interests in agricultural systems and the political, economic and cultural determinants of environmental degradation. Nadine Shuurman (ABD. UBC) whose research interests include spatial information systems and social theory, is a limited term instructor in the department.

The external review conducted of the department in October provided the opportunity for us to reflect upon where we are going and ways that we might build upon our collective strengths. We are looking forward to the reviewers' report which we hope will arrive before Christmas. We are grateful to the three external reviewers (Brian Massam, York; Ken Hewitt, Laurier; and Diane Draper, Calgary), and to the internal reviewer (Tina Loo; history) for the considerable amount of work they have done on our behalf.

Over the past six months, five graduate students have successfully defended theses. Brian White's PhD thesis is entitled "Authoring the Tourism Landscape of Clayoquot Sound". He was supervised by Alison Gill. Kevin Rees' PhD is entitled "Innovation in the Periphery: Networks or Fragments in the High Technology Industries of Greater Vancouver?". Simone Engels' MSc thesis is entitled "The

Geomorphology and Depositional Architecture of a Prograding Beach-Ridge System; Boundary Bay, B.C." (M. Roberts, supervisor). Derek MacKenzie's MSc thesis is entitled "The Effect of Mechanical Site Preparation on Soil Properties, Nutrient Dynamics and Tree Growth: Tenth Year Results from Two Sites in Northern BC" (M. Schmidt, supervisor). Tim Reiffenstein's MA thesis is entitled "A Production Chain in Development: the Export of Premanufactured Homes from BC to Japan" (R. Hayter, supervisor).

Incidentally, Kevin's supervisor, Roger Hayter, was the recipient of the 1999 CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography at the last meeting of the CAG at its meetings in Lethbridge. Congratulations Roger!

University of British Columbia

There were many highlights of the past year. Distinguished friends and colleagues were recognized beyond the Department for skills and accomplishments that many of us within Geography have long appreciated. Among those honoured in this way: Cole Harris, recipient of the UBC Dean of Arts Prize for his excellent research and teaching, and his "service" contributions; David Ley, awarded one of the two new Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Prizes for his excellence in the education and supervision of graduate students; Derek Gregory, one of the Teaching Prize winners from the Faculty of Arts honoured for his contributions in undergraduate and (graduate) teaching; and Walter Hardwick, who retired in 1997, selected to receive the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto Distinguished Educator Award for 1998 for his many fold contributions to the development of post-secondary education in BC.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to appoint two new colleagues during the year. Dr. Dan Moore, who graduated from UBC with a BSc in 1979 before taking his PhD as a Commonwealth Scholar from the University of Canterbury, joins us as the FRBC Chair in Forest Hydrology. Dan was formerly in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University, and he joins us with established research programs on the Stuart-Takla watershed and on Place Glacier. Dr. Juanita Sundberg, who is a specialist in Central America, comes to us from the University of Texas where she recently completed her PhD on the Petén Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala. Juanita will teach courses in the geography of Latin America and in Feminist Geography. We are delighted to have Dan and Juanita with us for 1999-2000, and the future.

Both graduate and undergraduate programs remain vigorous. On the graduate front, 1998-1999 was a "bumper year", with a large intake of very promising new students and record success levels in University Graduate Fellowship and other funding competitions. Current enrolment in the graduate program is approximately 100. Undergraduate numbers were also healthy in 1998-1999, showing a slight increase over the previous year. With approximately 275 majors and honours students in our programs we graduate about 100 students each year. A committed group of leaders in the Geography Students' Association organized many successful events, intellectual and social, and saw their efforts rewarded by *Maclean's Magazine's* recognition of the Geography Lounge as one among a handful of "places to be" on this and other campuses across Canada.

With support in part from the Geography Department Endowment Fund we were able to mount a successful undergraduate field course in Normandy, France and Yorkshire, England in June 1999 (for more on this see the Arts Faculty Newsletter for September at www.arts.ubc.ca). These are immeasurably helpful contributions to our

students, our programs and our Department in general.

On a slightly different note, I must record that "administrative rationalization" has led to the formal transfer of three colleagues in Atmospheric Science to the Faculty of Science. Phil Austin, Douw Steyn, and Roland Stull will continue to teach one Geography course a year (or, at least, Douw is scheduled to do so when he returns from his important duties as Co-ordinator of Science One and a participant in the Integrated Science Program). With this move, Phil, Douw, and Roland, and their graduate students will have closer links with their colleagues in Oceanography. The Department will, of course, continue its highly reputed graduate and undergraduate programs in Climatology.

The year ahead promises to be at least as eventful as last. Undergraduate enrolments are up again, and we have welcomed another talented graduate intake. In conjunction with the Richmond Nature Park we are putting on a speaker series—"Islands in the Stream: The Geography of Richmond Lulu Island" which is part of our ongoing outreach program. The Department is to be reviewed this year, in the cycle of regular reviews conducted by the University. We are also looking forward to conducting searches for three new colleagues, in GIS, Physical Geography, and Canadian Human Geography with an historical emphasis. These are welcome, and very precious, opportunities at a time when faculty numbers, in general, are declining across the campus.

University College of the Fraser Valley

Students pushed the enrolment envelope one more time at UCFV in September with all classes facing waitlists, some very sizeable ones. In addition to our regular faculty, the Department has Kevin Rees from SFU teaching our second year

economic geography class at the Abbotsford Campus. Steven Marsh, who has taught sessionally for UCFV for several years was regularized this year. Steve has had his office assigned to Chilliwack where he is teaching all the physical sections this term.

Members of the Department spent busy summers in research activities in various corners of the world. This work, together with all other major activities in the Department, is reported in some depth in our seasonal newsletter, Benchmarks, found on the Internet at: <http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/geography/nicol/newsc.html>

The big event this coming year will be our hosting the Western Division, CAG annual meetings on March 9, 10, and 11 at the Abbotsford Campus. We would like to invite everyone to attend. Details and websites are at the end of this Newsletter.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

There have been a lot of changes at UNBC since the last newsletter.

Three members of the program, Ellen Petticrew, Gail Fondahl and Greg Halseth have been promoted to Associate Professor.

Ellen has taken her sabbatical leave and will be in the U.K. and eastern Canada. Allen Gottesfeld is also on leave and is involved in preparation of the land and resources position for the Gitanyow land claim and getting their GIS facility running. Kevin Driscoll, has been brought on to cover some of the course load. Kevin is a UNBC graduate who was with the Forestry program last year.

Two new Senior Lab Instructors, Scott Emmons (MSc UNBC) and Robert Legg

(MSC Aberdeen) have joined Roger Wheate in the GIS lab which is being upgraded with a new 4 processor SGI server distributing to 20 PC X-stations running UNIX software. Roger will serve as past president of the Canadian Cartographic Association this year. The annual conference will be in Edmonton June 1-4.

Philip Morris successfully defended his M.A. thesis "Negotiating the Production of Space in Tl'azt'en Territory 1969-1984" in June. He headed off shortly after that for a year of development work in Pakistan.

New to the grad program this year is Paul Pan (B.A. UNBC). Paul will be working with Reg Horne. Paul is interested in land values in ethnic neighbourhoods. Reg is continuing his study of Vanderhoof which he presented at the CAG in June.

Mikhail Prisyazhnyi is here from Yakustk State University as a transfer graduate student for one term. He is looking at models of northern development.

Greg Halseth continues his research on Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge and has almost completed his study of community participation in resource planning and management. Check the web site in November at: <http://quarles.unbc.edu/frbc/index.html>

Gail Fondahl spend the end of May near Moscow serving as a discussant at a week-long course for the Summer School in Anthropology of Law, organized by the Commission on Folklore and Legal Pluralism. In July, she returned to Siberia for a final summer field session on her project "Indigenous Land Tenure and Self-Government in the Russian North." For details see: <http://otaku.unbc.ca/ucgf> Gail visited an Evenki (native) village and a number of reindeer herding camps.

Kevin Hall spent part of the summer at the XV International Congress of

the Quarternary Association meetings in Durban, South Africa where he ran session, workshop and business meeting of the International Permafrost Association, Working Group on Southern Hemisphere Permafrost and Periglacial Processes and was co-leader of a post conference excursion to the mountains of Lesotho. This fall, Kevin will attend the Canadian Polar Commission meeting on the Antarctic in Calgary and then visit the Antarctic with the British Antarctic Survey.

The Geography Club is up and running and making plans to attend the WCAG in Abbotsford. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

University of Victoria

Recent developments in the Geography Department point to a strong and renewed focus on questions of international interest. This outreach has always been a strength of the Department. During the past year, faculty, students and technical staff alike have travelled widely to undertake research, present papers or lectures, organize conferences, or give expert advice.

The Shrimp Aquaculture Research Group, led by Mark Flaherty, has been conducting field research in Thailand and India. *Team Shrimp* graduate students have been successful in receiving prestigious national fellowships or substantial research grants: Rob Braaten (NSERC), Paul Miller (SSHRC), Brian Szuster (International Development Research Center), and Dolagobinda Pradham (United Nations Environment Program). Southeast Asia is also of on-going interest to Phil Dearden, who continues to research and offer expert advice on national parks and conservation issues in the region. Steve Lonergan, well-known for his research on water and security in the Middle East, "touched down" on almost all continents in his capacity

either as a member of the International Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme or as Chair of the Research Panel on Environmental Security (Canadian Global Change Programme). Larry McCann visited the Canadian Studies Programme, University of Pisa, Italy, lecturing on the links between Canada's landscape and literature.

On home turf, Peter Keller's executive role in the International Cartographic Association culminated in helping to organize a very successful international conference, held in Ottawa in August. Well over 2000 delegates were in attendance. The main publications and CDs of papers offered to delegates were designed and prepared by the Geography Department's skilled technicians Diane Braithwaite and Ken Josephson. Closer to Victoria, David Lai is participating in UBC/SFU's "Metropolis Project" on immigration to Canada, investigating the impact of Asian investment on regional shopping centres. Soon to travel abroad is Dan Smith, well-recognized internationally for his dendrochronology research. Dan is involved in an initiative of North and South American scientists to explore past climate from treeline sites along the cordillera between Alaska and Tierra del Fuego. The group will meet in the Patagonia region of Argentina in April, 2000 to conduct research and share data on the vulnerability of selected regions to climate change during the past several centuries

Editor's Note

My apologies for the tardiness of the Fall Newsletter. In hopes of receiving material from more departments (what you see is what I got), I am asking all Departmental Chairs to provide me the name (and e-mail address) of a departmental contact for Newsletter submissions. It may be a continuing contact, it may be somebody new...I don't really care, so long as I can reach the right person for Spring Newsletter submissions.

Thanks,
 Bob Horsfall (horsfall@sfu.ca)
Western Division, CAG
Year 2000 Annual Meeting

Department of Geography,
 University College of the Fraser Valley
 Abbotsford, B.C.
 March 9-10-11, 2000

Set aside the second weekend in March and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association, to be held in Abbotsford (travel map at <http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/maps/>) at the University College of the Fraser Valley. (see UCFV website at <http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/maps/abbypark.gif> for building locations and parking facilities). The registration desk will open late afternoon on Thursday, March 9th, and the conference will begin with a public lecture that evening at 7:30 in the campus theatre. This will be followed by an informal, no-host gathering at King's Crossing, a local pub, restaurant, and hotel adjacent to the campus.

Friday, March 10th is Field Trip Day, with a host of trips off campus and at least one session on campus. One of the latter will be an Internet session on weather and climate, led by UCFV geographer and climatologist, Ian Okabe. Field Trips scheduled so far include: Geomorphology and Natural Hazards of the Fraser Valley (Vanderburgh and Marsh), The Changing Face of Agriculture (Gibson), The Pacific Borderland: An International View (Nicol), Housing and Suburban Growth (Belec and Enns). Some of the trips will occupy the entire day, with lunch included, while others will take place only in the morning or afternoon.

Friday evening will begin with no-host cocktails before dinner, the annual dinner and awards ceremony, with a guest speaker, all followed by a rest-of-the-day social.

Saturday will be largely occupied with papers, likely five concurrent sessions, with some time for at least one panel session and several poster sessions. A lunch buffet on campus will be included in the registration fee. After lunch, time is set aside for the AGM, including the election of officers.

We anticipate a sizeable crowd for the Year 2000 Meetings, and are encouraging everyone to register as early as possible. (Look for the Call for Papers and Registration Opening early in November). The Fraser Valley is undergoing rapid and interesting geographical change; the field trips may be particularly popular as a result. We have already heard from colleagues around the region that contingents of students are being planned. A note from Tom Waldichuk at Cariboo may be typical: "By the way, the students here are already organizing and are going to be holding monthly bake sales so that everyone can go to WCAG 2000 in ABBOTSFORD! They're even going to make up t-shirts like the students from CNC (I hope that's a motivator...!)"

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More information on the Meetings can be obtained from the UCFV special Conference website at (<http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/geography/nicol/wdcag.html>) or from Geography Department Head, John Belec at the Department email address of: geography@ucfv.bc.ca.

We hope to see you in March.

Conference Theme: Borderlands Call for Papers and Participation

You are invited to attend and participate in the annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. The meeting will be held from Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11, 2000 at the Abbotsford Campus of the University College of the Fraser Valley. The

meeting is open to all geographers, educators in geography, and persons in related disciplines. Papers and posters from all fields of geography will be welcome. Special sessions on Borderlands and on Innovations in Geographic Education will be scheduled during the meeting

Proposed Program

(See our WDCAG Conference Website
<http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/geography/nicol/wdcag.html>
 for updates)

Thursday, March 9
 Registration, Public Guest Lecture
 (evening)

Friday, March 10
 Registration, Field trips, On Campus
 Workshop, Y2K Social, Banquet

Saturday, March 11
 Registration, Paper and Poster Sessions,
 Panel on Geography Education,
 Displays,
 Publishers, WDCAG Annual General
 Meeting

Abstracts

All presenters, whether they intend to give an oral presentation or participate in a poster session, must submit an abstract of between 175 to 200 words. The abstracts will not be edited. Authors are responsible for spelling, grammatical and typographic errors. Type the title in upper and lower case, followed by the author(s) affiliation(s) and address(es). The name of the person actually presenting the paper or poster should appear first in papers with co-authors. Do not use boldface type or underlining. The body of the abstract should be single spaced.

If at all possible, abstracts should be submitted by e-mail either as (1) an

attachment in Word or WordPerfect Version 7 or later, or as (2) a plain text document as part of the message. The e-mail address for abstracts is: wdcag@ucfv.bc.ca. When this is not possible, abstracts may be submitted on a 3.5" PC or Mac diskette along with one paper copy of the abstract.

Please label the diskette with the last and first name(s) of the presenting author(s) and enclose it in a hard envelope to protect it in shipping.

The deadline for abstracts is January 17, 2000. Please send diskettes and hard copies to:

Dr. John Bélec,
 WDCAG 2000
 University College of the Fraser Valley,
 33844 King Road,
 Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 7M0

For more information, please contact:

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Updates will also be posted on the WDCAG 2000 Conference web page at:

<http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/geography/nicol/wdcag.html>

<http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/geography/nicol/wdcag.html>