

# Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



## Newsletter

Fall, 2001

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### Augustana University College

Faculty member, Glen Hvenegaard returned from sabbatical in September, after a much-appreciated break from teaching. He completed writing projects on park interpretation, tourist typologies, recreation specialization, wildlife festivals, environmental education, and a review of his family's history. He recently attended the graduation session for LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International in Moscow, Russia, where he and his Canadian colleagues gave a presentation about sustainability issues in Canada. He also visited Kalmykia, a steppe region in near the Caspian Sea.

He recently gave a presentation on curriculum planning in environmental education to the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Liberal Arts. He is also beginning a biogeography project (influence of the decline in upland aspen forest area on forest songbirds in central Alberta).

Thanks to Julie Hauser and Andre Legris who taught geography courses at Augustana last year.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at [hveng@augustana.ca](mailto:hveng@augustana.ca) or see our website:  
<http://www.augustana.ca/departments/geography>.

### Camosun College

Geography has experienced a heavy demand for all course offerings this fall with 500 seats filled and a whopping 200 students unserved on the waitlists; that lead to exhausting, standing-room-only classes for the first few weeks.

A happy lament, really. We have three new courses joining the present line-up: GEOG 210 (Map and Air Photos) and GEOG 214 (GIS and Remote Sensing) will be offered in Winter'02 and GEOG 216 (Quantitative Methods) will roll out in either Fall'02 or Winter'03. Despite these additions and Ron Glendinning's retirement in August'02, no major personnel additions are anticipated! Instead, the remaining four instructors will take on heavier geography loadings, reducing teaching commitments in other departments.

With that said, Camosun Geographers are currently offering such courses as First Nations and the Environment, Geography of the Pacific Rim, Applied Geomorphology, Urban Environments and Stream and Soil Assessment to the First Nations Community Studies, Pacific Rim Studies, and the Environmental Technology Programs. It is hoped that this inter-disciplinary work can continue and sporadic hiring of sessional instructors will likely facilitate this goal. With new courses on the horizon, our facilities have seen some improvements. Our GIS lab is now fully equipped with the latest versions of

Arc Info and Image Analysis and, wow, we now have sixteen brand-spanking-new stereoscopes! We have also augmented our supply of aerial photography and digital

databases and are now hip to various internet remote-imaging sites.

Overall, we're off to a good start this fall and we are all enjoying our last two terms of hassling Ron "I'd Rather Be Sailing" Glendinning!

Hilary Sanford

### Capilano College

The field trip and Articulation hosted by UBC last May was another good professional development event, and we look forward to attending Articulation next year in Prince Rupert.

Our Geography classes are filled with plenty of students on the waiting lists this fall term; however, Capilano continues to struggle with the lack of space to run classes with more and more run at blocks not considered prime, such as 4:30 to 6:30, evenings, and Friday afternoon.

Sheila Ross is on an unpaid leave for the year and we were fortunate in persuading Cheryl Shreader to return from Ontario to cover her classes. The department was fortunate in acquiring two extra (soft) sections for the Spring term. Note: "soft" sections means they will not likely be there for future terms. We hired Chris Bottril to teach our Introductory Human Geography sections for the Spring term. Chris comes from a background in Tourism and teaching in Capilano's Tourism Management Program; moreover, he is in his final stages of his PhD from New Zealand.

Charles Greenberg, has a reduced load in the department, as he serves as the Social Sciences Division Chair. He has expanded his "Geo-pardy" game to include some of his UBC students (he was persuaded to teach one course at UBC). It is challenging and if you want to join students in getting

bonus points log on to:

"<http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/geography/charles/home.cfm>"

<http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/geography/charles/home.cfm>

Brett McGillivray

### College of New Caledonia

Geography continues to thrive at CNC. Student enrollments, this term, are the highest in the 30 plus year history of the College. Although we are delighted with the numbers - including a record number of Geography students - it does place a strain on resources.

The CNC Geography Club is already fundraising to finance its trip to the WCAG at SFU in March 2002. This trip will mark the 31st consecutive year that CNC students have attended the WCAG Conference.

Cliff Raphael is back after a one-year educational leave. This leave was spent locally (ie: in Price George). Part of his time was spent developing expertise in the use of ARC/INFO and Arcview software. Cliff expects that his cartography and spatial data analysis and presentation courses in the GIS Advanced Diploma Programme at CNC will be enhanced as a result. Cliff also spent time doing some geomorphology research on

fluvial and glacio-lacustrine deposits in the Prince George area. Overall, educational leave was a good experience and a good break from regular classroom duties. Indeed, Cliff enjoyed his leave so much that his fellow faculty members in the Department of Geography were somewhat concerned that he might want to extend his Sabbatical into a Mondical or even a Tuesdical. We are, therefore, delighted at his return.

Bruce Loerke, the Lab Demonstrator, continues to introduce Human Geography students to the applied side of the discipline as well as helping Physical Geography students see the wonders of the world above and around them. Change is in the wind, however, as Bruce will start teaching the Environmental Geography course in the Spring Semester.

This is a result of the workload adjustments necessitated as a result of the departure of our long-time colleague Alistair McVey (who, members will recall, has accepted the position of Campus Principal at the Port Alberni campus of North Island College). Consequent also to this workload adjustment, Bruce will no longer be teaching statistics in the GIS Programme. Rumours that corks could be heard popping in Bruce's office after this latter decision was made are entirely unfounded!

Jim Windsor continues to be very involved with College committees, especially the International Education Committee and the Black History Month Committee. In June, he delivered a quest presentation on water management to the delegates at the PIBC conference in Prince George. Jim remains the editor of WESTERN GEOGRAPHY and encourages WCAG members to submit manuscripts to him.

### **Douglas College**

The department has hired Lyle Courtney, Wendy Hales and Kathy Runnalls to teach human and physical geography courses. Ian Joyce will be on educational leave in the Winter 2002 semester.

We will be participating in two interdisciplinary programs in the Winter 2002 semester. Susan Smythe will teach

Geography 110 (Weather and Climate) as part of the Academic Excellence Program. This program endeavors to create a learning community around three courses (Geography 110, Psychology 200 and English 130) in order to facilitate interdisciplinary instruction and learning.

Earl Noah will teach Geography 160 (Geography of British Columbia) as part of BC Studies program in the Winter 202 semester. This program will involve the team-teaching of Geography 160, History 114 and English 102.

### **Kwantlen University College**

Beginning this January, we will be offering Geog 2390 Geographic Information and Data Analysis and Geog 2395 Cartographic Techniques. These courses are the required techniques courses for our Associate of Arts Degree in Geography. There is quite a lot of student interest in this two year degree as it allows them to transfer a block of courses to the third year of Geography programs at SFU and UBC. Our enrolments continue to be high, particularly in the second year, and many more students are seriously considering Geography as a career path. Joseph Mensah is part of a worldwide team working on an Encyclopedia of the Developing World and has recently completed a book review for the Canadian Geographer.

### **Medicine Hat College**

Winter, Spring and Fall of 2001 have seen a few things happen in and around Medicine Hat College. Within Geography we continue with strong numbers – especially given our role in Environmental Science and Eco-Tourism (one of the new Applied Degree Programs here in The Hat). Third-year students are now enrolled in two Geography courses; Map and Air Photo

Interpretation and Environmental Problems and Resource Management. First-year numbers have also risen with the annual intake of about 20 students in EcoTourism.

Ivan Shukster has completely taken over our Introduction to GIS classes and plans are that next year he takes on Remote Sensing, too. His Masters of GIS, University of Calgary will be getting quite a workout in the future. Ivan's research and other interests continue in Southern Alberta – especially focusing on the proposed Meridian Dam, raptors and corvidea, stewardship of both the Milk River and Red Rock Coulee Natural Areas and naturalist photography. He's off next weekend to open a showing of his art in Red Deer.

Ben Moffat conducted another field course to the western U.S.A. last Spring. June saw the Geography 379 class visit the deserts of Death Valley, volcanoes of Northern California, casinos of Las Vegas and lava flows of central Oregon – not to mention the “wets” of whitewater rafting the Deschutes River. This year's Knob and Kettle Club plans are to hike the Grand Canyon, cruise the art galleries of Taos and atone for all in Salt Lake City.

August saw Moffat at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Historical Geographer in Quebec City where he, along with many past and present graduate students had the privilege of contributing to a special session devoted to Cole Harris. It was a grand time; one topped off by being able to acknowledge Cole's contributions, both personally and professionally to our discipline. While there, he got to catch up with many Western Division members and revel in the charms and ambiance of La Belle Province. One great way to spend a week in August. Late September was the Annual Meeting of the Prairie Division of the CAG. This year it was held in Moose Jaw, Sask. At the Temple Gardens Spa....how could he turn that down? While there, everyone from the

Prairies was invited to our meetings in March.

Medicine Hat College is expanding. By mid 2003 a new three-level structure will dominate our campus skyline (“The Tower” as it is called in these “flat” lands) will house a new library, computer centre and all-purpose classrooms. Each level will be about the size of a smallish Safeway store. For us it's a boon. Overall enrolments are the highest they have ever been (more than 2600 in a campus designed for 2000 at the most) and space is at a premium. Who knows, this might even let us host the WCAG once again....perhaps 2004???

So there we are, ten courses annually, two instructors, two lab instructors and a website:  
[www2.mhc.ab.ca/geography/geog.html](http://www2.mhc.ab.ca/geography/geog.html)

Adios from the eastern fringe.

### **Simon Fraser University**

The department welcomes Suzana Dragicevic as Assistant Professor. Suzana has a PhD from the Universite of Montreal and has conducted post-doctoral research at McGill University. Her expertise is in spatial analysis and GIS, further strengthening our SIS/spatial statistics programme.

We are hosting 2 visiting faculty members: Paul Frazier from Charles Stuart University in Wagga Wagga, Australia will be with us until December; and Andre Robert from York University will be here until next summer.

In summer convocation, SFU awarded an honorary doctorate to Dr Reginald Gollidge, Department of Geography, University of Santa Barbara, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the area of spatial cognition and his more recent work

in initiating the geography of disabilities which he developed after suddenly losing his sight in mid-career.

Our crowding situation mirrors that at several other institutions. Fourth-year classes are generally oversubscribed; our planned curriculum revisions should ease the pressure in the near future.

The Department invites all to the Western CAG conference, March 14-15, 2002. See the announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Michael Hayes has been appointed as Associate Director of the Institute for Health Research and Education, adding to an already busy schedule.

Two doctoral candidates: Steve Prager, October 2nd, 2001 (Geographic Perspectives on the Sustainability of Nations) and Jeff Sommers, June 12, 2001 (The Place of the Poor: Poverty, Space and the Politics of Representation in Downtown Vancouver, 1950-1997) have completed their programmes since the last Newsletter.

In addition, the following students have completed their masters degrees since spring; again, congratulations are in order. PELPOLA, Channa Patrick, April 3, 2001 Bed-Material Transport Rate Derived from Delta Progradation in a Small Alpine Basin, Fitzsimmons Creek, Coast Mountains, British Columbia  
REDDING, Todd Ernest, September 28, 2001 Spatial Patterns of Soil Properties across Forest-Clearcut Edges  
BOURGIE, Marie-Claude, August 23, 2001 Community Forest Management in a Mountain Resort Context: The Compatibility of Timber and Tourism

Congratulations to all!

**University College of the Cariboo**

The last 6 months have been full of activity and changes for geographers in Kamloops. In June we said a fond farewell to Robert MacKinnon. Robert is now the Dean of Arts at the St. John campus of the University of New Brunswick. Robert's new position is a fitting reward for his years of service as Chair of the Social and Environmental Studies Department and on various boards and committees on campus. Robert came to Kamloops in 1989. He was hired to help develop the geography program within the new University College framework. He also was a key person in the establishment of a Canadian Studies thematic option, and was able to share his experience with colleagues in Japan and Germany during two overseas faculty exchanges. The move east represented an opportunity for Robert and his family to return to their Maritime roots.

Gilles Viaud was elected as Chair of our department in the spring and also served as the Chair of the recent Articulation meetings at UBC. Gilles also attended the CAG meetings in Montreal where he presented the latest results of his research on gender and the urban fabric of Canadian cities in a paper entitled "Census data and household-based studies: or the end of the road for factor ecological studies".

Brian Goehring joined our staff as a full-time sessional instructor this August. Brian is teaching the historical geography of Canada as well as an advanced geomorphology course. He has also been very active in Departmental field trips including the annual excursion to Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Tom Waldichuk travelled to Japan this summer to participate in a field trip. He had a great time renewing contacts, eating sushi, planting rice and practicing Japanese. He also attended the recent Japan Studies Association of Canada

conference in Saskatoon where he gave a paper on Geographic Education in Japan.

Ross Nelson was busy this summer with Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) research. He is involved in two projects: the "Neighbourhoods, Culture and Health" study and the "Biography of a Street" project. The latter examines the historical and current context of a major street in Kamloops from planning, neighbourhood, and business perspectives. Students are active participants in both projects. Through CURA Ross is piloting an internship course that involves 4 students in community based research. Tom Waldichuk is also advising students in a similar course for a CURA sponsored project on forestry practices. Watch for our planned presentations and displays at the Western Division meetings.

Enrollment and student involvement is up again at UCC. Almost all of our upper level courses have wait lists while enrollment in a required techniques course grew 50%. Students have already begun planning and fund raising for the Western Division meetings. Fund raisers include raffles, bake sales, and an air hockey tournament. If the students prove as ambitious and creative in pursuing the coveted Scavenger Hunt trophy, a UCC win is assured.

In light of the large percentage of geography graduates who enter education programs (usually more than 50%), we are exploring ways of providing more opportunities for students in geographic education at UCC. Already planned is a teaching workshop. The workshop will be sponsored and run by people involved in the Geography Network, a group of individuals who successfully obtained a large provincial social studies grant for promoting geographic education. We plan to follow the workshop with a continuing education course. The course will be taught by Beth Dye, the BC representative

on the Canadian Council for Geographic Education, and an experienced geography and social studies teacher. We have also begun discussions with the Education faculty about a more permanent place for geographic education at UCC.

In early September we hosted a visit by geography students and faculty from the University of Cologne. Field trips, barbecues and presentations were on the agenda. UCC has a student -exchange agreement with this university thanks to the efforts of Robert MacKinnon.

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Dr. Ross Nelson, University College of the Cariboo

### **University College of the Fraser Valley**

The Geography Department at UCFV is once again at capacity in terms of Fall enrolment. Long waitlists for some courses reflect both demand in the Valley for post-secondary education and the popularity of our program. At present, we have 57 majors, 18 extended minors, and 13 minors in the discipline, and a large number of prospective (but still undeclared) students in the two year programs. Needless-to-say, this keeps both faculty and the Geography Undergraduate Society occupied. Two sessional instructors were added for September, Andrian Renzetti (a graduate of Trent), who is teaching first and second year climate courses; and Kathy Fitzpatrick (an SFU Geography grad) who is doing two sections of our Geography of Canada course. We also offered our first ever course in Hope this term, a section of Geography of B.C. taught by Don Tunstall.

Over the summer, faculty followed a number of research interests: Both David Gibson and Cherie Enns spent time in Spain and Morocco, David searching for Spanish roots to interests in Latin America;

Cherie pursuing urban planning themes... Doug Nicol retraced the steps of the Overlanders in Alberta and the Robson Valley, and began the ground-work for a new history of Chilliwack.... John Belec spent the Summer solstice at the foot of Mount Logan and added materials from the north for his Canada course. (John's online version of Canada, developed with funding from CanLearn, went onto the Web in September and attracted a full class of students.) ...Sandy Vanderburgh spent some of his summer near the mouth of the Columbia, following up research from past seasons. (He also stayed at home too while new daughter, Jenna, was born in June.)... Don Tunstall continues his research on teaching Australasia and is guiding a workstudy student along similar lines this term.... Steven Marsh has taken over teaching our senior climate courses while Ian Okabe is on leave at UBC (Ian is a visiting professor at UBC for this year, but plans to return next September). Steven will be off to the Climate Change conference in Florida early in the new year.

The provincial government suspension of capital projects in the post-secondary system has cost our department its new facility at the Chilliwack Campus, so the bulk of our program will stay at Abbotsford for the time being. Cherie Enns and Sandy Vanderburgh led another full study tour to Hawaii this past May, and David Gibson, along with colleagues from our Latin America Studies Program, are now planning next May's study tour to Mexico. The Department is also at the early stage of planning a NAFTA mobility project with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College at Truro, two universities in Texas, and two more in Mexico. Several faculty are also planning to present papers at the Western Division meetings next March at SFU. We are looking forward to another eventful and interesting year.

### **University of Lethbridge**

The University of Lethbridge continues to ride the wave of growth that has driven the university to a record smashing enrolment of 7,000 students. The \$37 million Library Information Centre was officially opened by Premier Ralph Klein on October 5<sup>th</sup> and another new building, the Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience, is scheduled to be opened on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Geography is growing strongly with new post-diploma programs which articulate college programs with the U of L in what we call a 2+2: two years of college training and two years at the university. Programs such as Environmental Studies and Agricultural Studies are bearing fruit with considerable Geography involvement. Our new Concentration in GIS now has four separate articulation agreements which partner the University of Lethbridge with geomatics programs at Lethbridge Community College, Olds College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Saskatchewan Institute of Science and Technology.

Our new generation of academic staff is settling in nicely. Stefan Kienzle (Heidelberg) is a GIS specialist with expertise in hydrology and he brings many industry contacts to the university. Wei Xu (PhD Guelph) is our second GIS expert with many exciting projects on the transformation of rural China. Shawn Bubel, one of our many outstanding alumna is in her second year teaching Archeology on a term contract while she finishes her doctorate at Louvain in Belgium. Pano Karkanis (Uppsala), an earth scientist with incredibly broad experience brings the perspective of agricultural engineering to his courses in physical geography and geotechnics.

We were sad to bid farewell to two outstanding Academic Assistants, Dennis Sheppard and Ryan Johnson. Dennis and Ryan will stay close to the university as

they have been hired to teach geomatics technology at Lethbridge Community College, just across the Oldman River from the university. We have been joined by two new Academic Assistants to support our Concentration in GIS and teach laboratory sections. Suzan Lapp (B.Sc.) is completing her Masters at U of L while Jacqueline Montain (B.A.Sc, MSA) is delighted to be back in Lethbridge after a year in Toronto.

The University of Lethbridge established the School of Graduate Studies on January 1, 2001 and the university is funding graduate studies at higher levels than ever before. Counting graduate degree programs in archaeology and environmental science, ten graduate students are presently in residence in the Department of Geography and a Grad Room culture is gradually evolving.

Professor René Barendregt became Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science on January 1, 2001. Congratulations are in order to René as he successfully juggles all of the tasks required of an august academic administrator while he keeps his active NSERC-funded research program on the rails and moving down the track.

Jim Byrne, Director of the Water Resources Institute, is a team leader of the Water Resource Management Program in The Canadian Water Network under the National Centres of Excellence Program. The NCE is an innovative approach to Research & Development designed to develop Canada's economy and improve the quality of life of Canadians. Jim will also be leading an ambitious project related to drinking water and health to investigate cause and effect associations in the occurrence of waterborne pathogens agriculture, ecology and urban/industrial activities.

Ivan Townshend worked very hard with Wayne Davies to co-organize the 2001 meetings of the IGU Urban Commission - Monitoring the Cities of Tomorrow. The August meeting attracted urban geographers from North America, Latin America, West Asia, East Asia and Europe. Participants enjoyed a well organized conference program and they will long remember field trips to Calgary and Banff as well as a side trip to Lethbridge which included memorable visits to a feed lot and an ostrich producer near Granum, Alberta, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and of course, an urban field trip to explore the geographical and historical wonders of downtown Lethbridge.

The department is preparing to welcome Reg Golledge from University of California, Santa Barbara who will join us on November 6-7 as our 2001 Western Canadian Lecture Series guest. Reg will deliver the 2001 Owen Holmes lecture "You Don't Have to Have Sight to Have Vision" on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Reg will give a presentation to the department the following day on, "The Nature of Geographical Knowledge" which develops some of the themes from his Presidential Address to the Association of American Geographers in New York last Spring.

### **University of Northern British Columbia**

The Geography Program at UNBC said farewell to three members this summer and welcomed three new members. Allan Gottesfeld (geomorphology), Kevin Driscoll (sessional lecturer) and Robert Legg (GIS senior lab instructor) have moved on to greener pastures, at least Rob who has gone to Ireland.

Neil Hanlon has joined us as our new medical geographer. Neil spent last year



as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the School of Health

Services Administration at Dalhousie.

Neill's research interests are focused on the role of local systems of governance and administration in shaping health care policy reform in Canada, and the relationship of health care organizational features and spatial-temporal patterns of health service utilization. See the current issue of *Canadian Geographer* for an example of his work. Neil will be exploring rural and remote health care topics at UNBC and teaching two new medical geography courses.

Catherine Nolin has joined the program as our first SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow. Catherine is doing research on Central American-Canadian transnationalism. She has recently presented papers on Guatemalan Refugees at the CAG, AAG, and the Congress of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, to which she has been elected a board member.

Chris Jackson has joined us from the College of New Caledonia as our Senior Lab Instructor. She will be looking after geography, forestry and environmental studies courses. Chris is currently involved with a BC Hydro/BC Government/Pembina Institute Climate Change secondary education project through work with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund's Wild BC Education programs.

Gail Fondahl has returned from her sabbatical. Before her return, she helped organize the Second Summer School on Legal Anthropology near St. Petersburg, Russia. The school focused on the evolving landscape of aboriginal rights to resources in the Canadian and Russian Norths. Gail

presented a paper on aboriginal community research protocols which will be published along with other papers from the Summer School by the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Moscow). A co-authored paper on Native Land Claims will appear in a future issue of *Canadian Geographer*.

Greg Halseth has presented papers at the CAG, the PIBC, and the Canadian Rural restructuring Foundation, Sackville NB. Work has begun on a new SSHRC project looking at Community Transition in a Single Industry Town: Social Capacity and Local Responses to Mine Closure. Fieldwork continued with Gail on the historical geography of former sawmill towns along the Upper Fraser River. In September, Greg represented Canada at the Saltzburg Seminar's Universities Project on the Civic Responsibility of Universities. Greg is on sabbatical this year.

Kevin Hall has been very busy over the summer and into the fall term. He spent six weeks in the Gobi Desert and the Tibetan plateau conducting fieldwork on rock weathering. He presented a paper and chaired a session at the 5th International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo and was an external examiner for the Geography Department at the University of Pretoria. Kevin has submitted his D.Sc., has become a member of the editorial board of *Journal of Geographical Science*, and will spend much of October-December doing weathering research with the British Antarctic Survey.

Ellen Petticrew has been working on several projects including Restoration of Tabor Lake: Community and Scientific Approaches, Effects of Fine Sediment Storage on Fish Bearing Gravel Bed Rivers, and, Use of Artificial Flood Flows for Characterizing Sediment Fluxes in Rivers. Ellen also

presented a paper at the 5th International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo. She is also the symposium co-ordinator for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Sediment and Water Science, which will be held May 5-10 in Banff. See: [http://www.wsc.monash.edu.au/iasws/ninth\\_conference.html](http://www.wsc.monash.edu.au/iasws/ninth_conference.html) for details.

Reg Horne presented papers at the CAG and at a minority rights conference at University of Wisconsin over the summer and both of these are currently under review. He has also had an article accepted by Canadian Geography. Reg is active with the Faculty Association and represented UNBC at the CUFA-BC meetings and is involved with the Western Faculty Associations Conference being hosted by UNBC this fall.

Grad students have of course been busy over the summer. Lana Sullivan lived in Tumbler Ridge conducting interviews and focus groups as work towards her MA.

Brian Stauffer successfully defended his MA thesis on Spatial Evolution of the BC Salmon Canning Industry 1870-1970.

Jen McConnachie spent four months in the field studying the role of organic matter sources on fine sediment transfer in mountain streams.

Chad Luider completed his field work in the Okanagan evaluating the role of dissolved organic carbon on copper complexation in lakes. Chad is being jointly supervised by Ellen and Dr. Jeff Curtis at OUC.

Erinn Radomske is a new grad student who plans to study the effects of nutrient enrichment on bacterial growth in streams.

Finally, The Geography Program is pleased to announce a summer field trip is planned for August of 2002 to South Africa. The trip will provide credits in both physical and human geography.

Reg Horne

## University of Victoria

### GEOGRAPHERS SAIL IN CHARITY RACE

In September, a University of Victoria Geography crew skippered by Prof. Peter Keller and crewed by Rick Sykes, Kimberlee Chambers, Sarah Maxwell and Jon Corbett entered the boat J-Walker in the 5th Annual Vancouver Island Easter Seals Charity Regatta. 47 boats raised \$46,500 for the Lions Society of British Columbia. The Geography team placed 3rd in their Division, a very respectable finish, given that two of the crew were novices!

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UVic Geography crew in "academic-nautical" regalia in preparation for pre-race parade.

### A 'BLAST' COMES TO UVIC GEOGRAPHY!

The Department of Geography at the University of Victoria is pleased to announce the development of a CFI-funded Boundary Layer Airflow and Sediment Transport (BLAST) Research Unit. Headed by new faculty member, Dr. Ian J. Walker, the BLAST unit will include state-of-the-art field equipment and a supporting research laboratory for the study of aeolian (wind) processes in coastal and semi-arid sedimentary environments across North America.

The general objective of the program is to determine how sedimentary environments such as beach dune systems and continental dunefields respond to variations in local wind characteristics, sediment supply conditions, land use impacts, and potential climate change effects. Walker's

BLAST program brings to Western Canada much needed research expertise in wind erosion and sedimentary processes and will expand knowledge in this significantly understudied area of Canadian environmental research.

The BLAST unit significantly enhances the Department of Geography's research capacity in geomorphology and adds a new dimension to the strong research program in Earth and Ocean Systems at the University of Victoria. The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of the BLAST program will reinforce Walker's existing research links with researchers from the University of Guelph, Trent University, Mount Allison University, and Massey University, New Zealand while establishing new initiatives with Parks Canada, the Geological Survey of Canada, and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

Dr. Walker and the department would like to express their appreciation to the Canada Foundation for Innovation ([www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca)) and to the University of Victoria for their generous support of the project.

Please direct any comments or inquiries to:  
Ian J. Walker  
([www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/faculty/walker/](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/faculty/walker/))

[photo deleted]

Walker's BLAST program to study wind erosion processes in Canadian coastal and continental dunefield environments.

#### "DOMICIDE" - A NEW PUBLICATION FROM UVIC GEOGRAPHERS

"Domicide - The Global Destruction Of Home", by UVic Geographers Doug Porteous and Sandra E. Smith (also an alumnus of UVic Geography).

Their analysis begins with an examination of just how important home is to human life and community. Using a multitude of case studies of displacement, they derive a theoretical framework that addresses the methods, effects of, and motives for domicile. Two case studies of resettlement resulting from hydro-electric power development in British Columbia are used to test this framework.

Porteous and Smith assess the implications of loss of home, evaluate current efforts at mitigation, suggest better policies to alleviate the suffering of the dispossessed, and - as a last resort - urge resistance against unacceptable projects.  
- McGill-Queen's University Press

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#### UVIC GEOGRAPHY PROF TO ADVISE SHEILA COPPS

For the next three years, UVic geography professor Dr. David Chuenyan Lai will be representing B.C. on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which advises Sheila Copps in her role as Heritage Minister. "Many people think that heritage is all about studying old things," says Lai. "But I think that unless we know our heritage we don't know about our society." Lai's priorities during his term are to increase Canadians' knowledge about First Nations and Inuit people, culture and sites.

He also hopes to promote multiculturalism and to highlight the contributions of women, particularly women in the Chinese and other minority cultures. "By understanding our diversity we can achieve unity," says Lai. He has devoted more than 30 years to researching and writing about Canada's

Chinatowns and Chinese communities. Victoria's Chinatown and the Chinese cemetery at Oak Bay's Harling Point have now been designated as national historic districts of Canada, mainly because of Lai's research.

[photo deleted]

Dr. David Chuenyan Lai

#### CFCAS GRANT TO UVIC TREE-RING LAB FOR DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Dan Smith and his students at UVic's Tree-Ring Laboratory have time to stop and count the tree rings, thanks to a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Studies. The foundation is giving \$418,000 to UVic Geography chair Dr. Dan Smith, and his research partner Dr. Brian Luckman, from the University of Western Ontario, to study tree rings in BC and the Yukon over the next three years.

The intention is to develop an integrated database of tree-ring, climate and derived proxy climate data for the Canadian cordillera. The database will be used to document the natural variability of western Canadian climates and to reconstruct temperature and precipitation conditions for the last 300 to 500 years. The database will also be used to develop a chronology of extreme climatic events, past circulation patterns, past hydrological changes and to model the attendant impacts on forest productivity.

The research comprises the Canadian contribution to the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research Collaborative Research Network 03 involving the collaboration of 15 primary researchers from 13 institutions in Canada, USA, Mexico, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

#### **REPORT ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION ANNUAL MEETING AT UBC, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup>.**

The 86<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the largest North American geography educators association was held at UBC in the first week of August. The NCGE has a membership of over 2,000; mainly US based teachers from schools and colleges. The UBC meeting was attended by approximately 700 delegates. The local arrangements committee was made up of 12 geographers, primarily from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, mainly recently retired geography teachers from the secondary and post-secondary systems in BC.

We had started planning for this meeting three years ago and had essentially completed all the arrangements by May of this year so the actual four-day event was very relaxed. We opened with a very elegant reception in the Student Union Building, sponsored by UBC Faculty of Arts, the Geography Department, the Canadian Association of Geographers and the Western Division of the CAG. The AMS caterers did us proud! The opening session was addressed by Audrey Kobayashi, who welcomed the NCGE to Canada on behalf of the CAG and WCAG. The main speaker was Mario Runco, Jr., an astronaut from NASA. His talk addressed the theme of the conference, Space Odyssey 2001, and his slides were quite spectacular as he took us around the world with views from various space shuttles and satellites. We closed four days later with what had been planned as an outdoor salmon BBQ but was eventually held in the SUB Ballroom. The

Museum of Anthropology had been booked for conducted tours before the dinner. Despite the rain, about 200 delegates did avail themselves of this opportunity. The dinner was catered by UBC Food Services and won them rave reviews! Awards for service are traditionally given out at this final banquet and the NCGE were generous in rewarding the local arrangements committee as well as their own members.

Between these two social events the main purpose of the annual meeting is to inform the members of developments in geographic education. The meeting is hence composed of plenary sessions, workshops, paper sessions and field trips. All sessions tend to have a practical pedagogic outcome; many are lesson plans, evaluations of teaching strategies, presentation of new curricula, and new texts. Books, atlases, CD-ROMs, websites and other teaching resources are “workshopped” by their authors and publishers. An increasing number of Computer workshops are given at these meetings and the Geography Department’s GIS lab was used for three days, as was one of the Buchanan labs. The entire Geography department’s technical staff was generous with their time in assisting both the set-up and the instruction of these workshops.

Twenty fieldtrips had been arranged to support several workshops that focussed on developing field studies with community partners. All trips were well attended despite the unseasonable weather. In fact the NCGE has never run so many field trips, nor made so much money on them! The two-day Vancouver Island trip sold out within 4 days of being advertised. Day trips went out to Fort Langley, Whistler, Lillooet, Mount Baker, Fraser Valley, Fraser Delta, the Borderlands; half day trips took in the North Shore parks, Pacific Spirit Park, Vancouver Neighborhoods, Downtown, Port, Granville Island and the Point Grey

Cliffs. And every trip included teaching materials as well as general descriptions of the routes. These trips were all lead by volunteers from the local schools and colleges, we thank you all for your time and expertise; it was greatly appreciated.



Liz Peerless (at Derby Reach Regional Park) prepares for the NCGE field trip to Fort Langley

Obviously the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> have overshadowed all the good news of this meeting. We heard with great sorrow of the 3 young geography students, their teachers and two members of the National Geographic Education program who were killed when the plane they were on was used to target the Pentagon. These people were all on their way to participate in an NGS sponsored workshop in California. May God rest their souls.

Margaret North

### Public Lecture Series

Puget Sound/Georgia Basin: Managing An International Ecosystem  
Lecture Series October 9-November 12, 2001. The objective of the public lecture series is to highlight the cultural, economic, political and environmental importance of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin and to educate citizens in the regions about issues that affect their everyday lives. The University of Washington (UW) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), along with endorsers and program supporters, are taking a lead role in this educational endeavor. Sponsors: Canadian Studies Center/Jackson School of International Studies, UW; and the Canadian Studies Program, UBC. Contact: Canadian Studies Center, Secretariat, Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium, Jackson School of International Studies, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 98195-3650. Phone: 206-221-6374.  
Website:  
<http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/canada/canada.html>.

### Conference of interest: Note

PLAYING THE WILD CARD:  
UN/DISCIPLINED THOUGHTS ON  
WILD(ER)NESS  
The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Liberal Arts (CIRLA) 2002 Conference will be held at Banff Centre for Conferences in Banff, Alberta, on May 9-12, 2002. Papers could include the following themes or starting points: Wild Mind/Wild Bodies; Marking/Mapping the Wild: Geography, Politics, Institutions; Seeing/Representing/Displaying the

Wild; Wild History, or the Wild in History; Wild Life, Wild Lives; Memories and Anticipations of Wilderness; Wild Ideas: What's Left To Explore?; Call of the Wild: Place, Territory, Terrain, Milieu; Interdisciplinarity: Academic Wild(er)ness?; Wild and Free: Liberal Education on the Edge of Respectability; Wild Goose Chase: Defining Wilderness; Hinterlands: Boundaries of Space and Knowledge; Wild(er)ness in the Urban and the Rural; Is anything wild anymore?

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2001.  
Contact: Bruce Janz, Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Liberal Arts (CIRLA), Augustana University College, 4901 46 Ave, Camrose, Alberta, Canada T4V 2R3. Tel: 780-679-1524. Fax: 780-679-1129. :Email: [cirla@augustana.ca](mailto:cirla@augustana.ca). Website at <http://www.augustana.ca/departments/cirla/cirla02>.

### President's Letter

This summer and fall has seen four important events occur that impact Geography and geographers in the western Division.

In August, the conference of the CCGE/NCGE was held at U.B.C. with over 800 attendees. Margaret North has a separate report on the Conference in this newsletter. The Western Division was a co-sponsor of the banquet and we contributed \$500 towards the costs of the event. We have received a nice "thank you" letter from Margaret North on behalf of the NCGE. Arising out of that Conference for us at the local level was a commitment by some attendees from B.C. to develop geographic secondary curriculum resources around the Geological Survey's new poster initiatives. Locally, for the Lower Mainland, they have posters on the geology of the Georgia

Basin and its Natural Hazards, the Human and Environmental geography of the Basin, and a new poster on the Hydrology of the Basin. Posters are also available for other regions in Canada. The GSC contact person is Bob Turner at the GSC office on Robson Street. These posters have been designed to be relevant to senior high school and first year university classes.

The second event was the open house at the Geological Survey of Canada's Robson Street office. Attendees were given a comprehensive tour of the work, laboratories and facilities available to graduate students and researchers at the GSC. I learned quite a few things about what is available to geographers and I hope to establish a better linkage between the Western Division and the GSC office and its members. I have extended an invitation to several of their specialists in geology and GIS to present and display some of their work at our Conference in March 2002 at SFU.

The third event that has occurred this year is the publication of articles in the fields of anthropology and economics that have mined heavily in the early geographic literature of theories of environmental determinism. A separate commentary on this follows this letter. I believe it is an issue that needs addressing by Geography and geographers.

The fourth event that has caught my attention this year is the debate that took place on the CAGlist, supplemented by two President's Letters by Audrey Kobayashi in the CAG Newsletter, regarding the declining membership in the CAG, the declining attraction of Geography as a major among undergraduates, and the lack of 'rootedness' and 'identity' felt by many new and not so new practitioners in the our discipline. I am in the process of putting my thoughts on paper regarding these issues by way of a letter to the Editor of the CAG

Newsletter. However, I believe that it is an important discussion to be having, despite groans from the greying members of our profession, and would encourage less senior members to give it some thoughts and write about it either in this newsletter or the national one, or post your comments on the CAGlist. Ask yourself the questions: "What do you think Geography is? Do you feel at home in Geography?"

Finally there was one, fifth event, that affected us – September 11<sup>th</sup>. Despite all the myriad of ways it has affected the world, there is something that should cause all of us in academia pause for thought. First, while we obsess about our ever increasing training and education in things High-tech, 19 men managed to inflict a devastating attack in a very Low-tech fashion. We, and our educational administrators, might want to remember that all the High-tech in the world is not a sufficient replacement for human creativity and an absolute dedication to a system of belief. Only a personal exchange and discussion of ideas can bring a new perspective to a human's thinking. The passion of the human voice in the academe changes thoughts and minds. Since Ancient Greece we have tended to call this passionate exchange of thoughts and ideas, 'Education'.

Rod Fowler

### **The Physical Environment: What makes Human Geography geographic. A commentary**

A recent report by two economists that was circulated on the CAG list, "It's the Weather, Stupid - Scientists Determine Colder Weather Leads to Better Economies" by Lee Dye, filed with ABC News, represents what seems to be a trend for economists to dabble in geographic determinism. Recently, I read an anthropology article in a popular magazine that also quoted the works of Derwent Whittlesey and Ellsworth

Huntington. In this article these early twentieth century American geographers were cited to support a “new” environmental model for anthropology that included a role for the environment in the cultural development of human groups.

No doubt motivated by a perceived need to make anthropology ‘current’ and environmentally relevant, the anthropologist quoted both Whittlesey and Huntington as if they were contemporary geographers, though the bibliographic citation did give the correct dating for these early works. Since then, economists have also taken up the cause of environmental determinism to explain economic conditions in cities and third world countries. In the March 2001 issue of *Scientific American* an article, “The Geography of Poverty and Wealth” by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Andrew D. Mellinger and John L. Gallup, discussed how recent research in economics had found that a “tropical climate and lack of access to sea trade have hurt the poorest nations.” This article again cited Whittlesey as a reference source.

The response from the discipline of geography to these co-optations of early geographic thought appears to have been somewhat complacent. The responses that I’ve seen so far, albeit minimal, treat these borrowings as unworthy of critical response from the profession. However, if such an article can make the cover of *Scientific American*, then surely some very influential ‘others’ are taking this stuff seriously. Should we in Geography not be doing the same? Should not we be questioning the out-of-context use of the concepts and works of our early geographers? If one reads these works almost a century later, the context of their Victorian social-Darwinist academic theorizing clearly, and possibly startlingly, becomes apparent.

A brief reading of Ellsworth Huntington’s *The Red Man’s Continent* (1919) will convince any contemporary reader of the numerous since-discovered errors of

geographic and evolutionary ‘facts’ made by Huntington. Huntington embedded these ‘facts’ within a context of social-Darwinist theories that incorporated the white supremacy and racial worldview relevant to that era. Huntington’s main thesis was that the Anglo-European ‘race’ was the most superior form of ‘man’, and that was brought about through evolutionary development in the temperate climate regions of Western Europe.

In Geography and other social sciences, geographic and bio-evolutionary discoveries have long since replaced the earlier theories of geophysical action and racial evolution. However, *The Red Man’s Continent* was written for the popular readership of 1919 and for use in secondary education. Huntington wrote in his introduction that his monograph was a summation of contemporary geographic thought. If the geographic and evolutionary determinism recounted in *The Red Man’s Continent* was the dominant state of thought in Anglo-American Human Geography at that time, the criticisms levelled at this earlier canon during the early post-WWII years were justified. Unfortunately, perhaps even horrifically, the recent “Jack Frost” report, circulated through the CAG list as mentioned above, reiterates much the same arguments that Huntington made 90 years ago.

Len Evenden provided me with four sources from past geographic debates on how geographic determinism grabbed the popular mind in America. They are “Twentieth Century Magic” by Erhard Rostlund, first published in *Landscape* in 1956 and reprinted in Wagner and Mikesell, *Readings in Cultural Geography* (1962). Another is by the Australian Oscar Spate in his study of Toynbee and Huntington, (*Geographical Journal* 1952) followed by his 1960 piece in the *Annals*. Spate uses this debate contextually in his discussion of the ‘Nature of Geography’ issues of those



times, especially the coming of quantification. George Tatham's two chapters in Taylor's *Geography in the Twentieth Century*, also published in the 1950s, treat environmentalism and possibilism. Together, these sources provide an excellent brief introduction to the 'errors' in thinking of those early geographers who were very influential in their day.

However, geographers making the "determinism" criticisms did not throw out the environmental determinants argument completely. As summarized and critiqued by Tatham, they developed the theory of Possibilism. Physical environments present certain constraints and opportunities for human actions. Since then, however, it would seem that human geographic thought has reduced the importance of the physical environment elements of possibilism and increased the economic, political, sociological and psychological elements, in some cases appearing to make one or more of these elements the 'final cause' explanation.

While none of these are 'final causes', the down-playing by human geographers of the physical environment within possibilism, and their promotion of other human, economic and social elements has permitted two needs to arise. One is the need to bring back the physical environment into the discussion of world social and political affairs and if geographers are not doing it, then environmentalists, anthropologists, economists and others appear all too willing to fill that role. Secondly, the lack of attention paid to the physical environment within academic human geography discussion and teaching has tended to exclude and marginalize the physical geographers in the discipline. We need to reverse that trend. As Olav Slaymaker & Tom Spenser have noted in the final chapter of their book *Physical Geography*

*and Global Environmental Change* (1998), physical geographers need to be fully included and involved in the debates on human and social actions.

Therefore geography and geographers now have two academic and social projects to undertake in respect to this borrowing from the geographic canon. One is to counter the naïve use of determinist geographic thought by other disciplines. Secondly, we need to start incorporating more depth on the physical environment aspect of possibilism into our human geography research, writing and teaching. It is this physical element that distinguishes geography from the other social science disciplines. It's what makes our discipline geography and us geographers.

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*Your reactions to Rod's comments are solicited. Determinism reappears each time the flaws in other thoughtways become apparent. There seems to be a certain inevitability here which might merit our consideration. Perhaps a session at the upcoming meetings could be dedicated to such a discussion?*

*The alternation between environmental and human determination of human outcomes seems to have been a theme throughout human history (I can't take environmental determinism farther back than the Gilgamesh Epic; perhaps others might).*

*A last point--so far as I can see, the determinist argument has always been used to make the case for "why we are better than they are", whomever we and*

*they might be, and whether the argument is made by geographers or by others.*

*Your editor...*

### **Western Division meetings of the CAG, 2002**

The annual meeting of the Western Division will be hosted by Simon Fraser University Department of Geography. The department is pleased to be the host in 2002; this will be the third time that the Division will have met here. Please make a note of the information below, and plan to attend - and present a paper.

#### **Dates**

March 14th, Friday evening, keynote speaker  
March 15th, all day Saturday, paper sessions

Field trips are yet to be announced, but will probably be scheduled immediately before and after the papers sessions.

#### **Place**

All sessions will be held at SFU's Harbour Centre Campus, located on Hastings Street in downtown Vancouver.

#### **Arrangements**

We hope to make this a "paperless" meeting -- to the extent possible. So the divisional web site will be the main point of contact for arrangements, and there will be a link between the SFU Geography web site and the Division's site.

You will be asked to submit your titles and abstracts electronically.

Advance payment will be requested, and information on how to do this will be included in the first call for papers.

In addition to the program, information concerning accommodation and restaurants will be provided.

#### **Program**

Invitations to submit titles and abstracts will be forthcoming shortly, via the Divisional web site, in the First Call for Papers. All members on the list will receive this and other communications as they are sent. Chairs or CAG representatives are asked to distribute information throughout their departments. We should like everyone in the Division's constituent departments to have the opportunity to be informed of this meeting.

Advance commitments have been made by several faculty members, along with associated professional colleagues.

This means that, in addition to paper sessions and field trips, there will be the following:

-a demonstration GIS lab, concerning student project ideas;

-a display about co-op work in Geography, with SFU's co-op co-ordinator in attendance;

-a demonstration, and instruction, in the mysteries of using the new electronic library systems for research at all levels - ejournals, new search methods, and all that stuff.

And a special event: Professor Lennart Berggren, Chair of the Department of Mathematics at SFU, will deliver the Friday evening lecture on "Ptolemy's Geography", illustrated with a geography student audience in mind. The title of Professor Berggren's book, published with Professor Alexander Jones, a classical scholar at the University of Toronto, is Ptolemy's Geography: An annotated translation of the theoretical chapters. Princeton University Press, 2000. It is described by the advance reviewers as "...the best in any language...supersedes all previous translations and corrects all editions..." (University of Chicago); and "...a work that will be the standard for many years...(re)...one of the most important figures in the history of science..." (Cambridge University). We are honoured and pleased that Professor Berggren has agreed to give this lecture.