

**Western Division,
Canadian Association of Geographers
Newsletter
Fall 2002**

President's Letter

Since our meeting in March some important and interesting events have occurred.

Joseph Mensah, our Vice-President, obtained a position at York University. We wish him well. Because of that, have the task of either having a new VP volunteer from the Executive or having me as President for another year.

Congratulations to Margaret North of U.B.C. on being awarded Royal Canadian Geographic Society's Literacy Award for her work in promotion of Geography and Geographic Education. Margaret has also received the 2001 CAG Service Award and the NCGE President's 2001 Special Award during this year. I'm sure we all join in saying "Well Done!" Margaret and a big "Thank You" for all the tireless work you have done for the Division and Geography over your many years in the profession.

Meetings of myself and Lyle Courtney, Education Committee Chair, took place over the summer with Margaret North and June and Angus Whitmore regarding the Division's continued outreach to the secondary teaching and student communities in the Province. One result of this is that we now have established an electronic link through Dale Gregory of U.B.C. for this newsletter to go out to all of the Geography Secondary teachers in the Province through Dale's Listserve. Angus Whitmore has also agreed to come on board to help the Division establish a better and more involved and personal liaison with the Secondary geography teaching community in the Province. Perhaps by including more of these teachers in our conference and/or special events such as the CAG in Victoria next summer.

Last, but not least, is the location of our Spring 2003 Division Conference. We haven't got a location yet because no one department or institution is prepared to take it on. John Newcombe, at U. Vic., has suggested that BC geographers arrange a joint meeting with Washington State Geographers. The only problem with that is, they want to come to BC rather than us go to them. Therefore, unless there is a volunteer willing to host the Conference, there will be no conference this coming Spring. Our AGM will be fitted somewhere within the schedule of the CAG meeting in June at U. Vic. Unless I hear otherwise, and there is still plenty of time to volunteer to host a meeting, and some institutions have not done so since the 1970s, then the AGM will be at U Vic in June and there will be no Division Conference in the Spring.

Wishing you all best for the upcoming Winter season,

Rod Fowler, President
Kwantlen University College.
rodney.fowler@kwantlen.ca

Augustana University College

The Geography department has been actively involved in several community and cooperative research projects over the past while. First, the department joined with the Canadian Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited Canada on a project to inventory waterbirds in the wetlands of east-central Alberta. Drought limited the abundance and distribution of waterbirds this year, but results will provide a benchmark for years with unusual precipitation. Second, students are continuing to work with Ducks Unlimited Canada on a long-term habitat monitoring project of the parkland region in east-central Alberta. Third, working with the City of Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Committee, a student was hired to conduct wildlife and habitat inventories in the city, assess management efforts, and to prepare a wildlife stewardship plan. Finally, Glen Hvenegaard finished the second of two field seasons examining the influence of patch size on forest songbirds in remnant aspen forests in east-central Alberta.

Glen Hvenegaard is teaching a new capstone course on the history and impacts of environmental science. He will teach a course on the Canadian North, and will join 10 students, and physical education colleague, Morten Asfeldt, on a 3-week canoeing expedition to Nunavut in 2003. Recent papers have been published in the Journal of Ecotourism, Aquatic Mammals, Coastal Management, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, and Parks and Protected Areas in Canada. Andre Legris is a sessional instructor in physical geography and serves as the regional coordinator for the Alberta Bird Atlas project, a province-wide assessment of breeding bird diversity and abundance.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at or look at our website:
<http://www.augustana.ca/departments/geography>.

Camosun College.

Geography at Camosun continues to have strong demands with large number of waitlist students. This resulted in three sections added in Fall and four additional sections anticipated in Winter. We are glad to have two new faculty, Chris Ayles and Bernard Henin, joined the geography team.

The Administration also increased class size by 20% (from 30 to 36) in most Geography classes and doubled the class size in lectures for lab classes.

We all share some concerns about eroding the quality of education as a result of this. Francis Yee has returned to full time teaching in Geography after serving a three-year term as Social Sciences Chair. All continuing faculty (Tim Elkin, Hilary Sandford,

Barry Weaver, and Francis Yee) survived the last round of budget cut, but a retirement position vacated by Ron Glendinning was not fully replaced. After serving the College for 25 years and teaching more than 5,000 Geography students, Ron laid a solid foundation for Geography at Camosun. Happy retirement to Ron!

The University of Lethbridge

A successful application to the Provincial Government last year resulted in our expanding the Geography major to include an optional Concentration in Geographical Information Science and the appointment of a new Assistant Professor and continued appointment of two Academic Assistants. We now have four faculty, Peddle, Kienzle, Xu and Coburn involved in teaching GIS with the support of two Academic Assistants, Lapp and Montain.

New faculty appointed to the department are:

Hester Jiskoot (PhD Leeds) former post-doc in glaciology at University of Calgary. Hester,s special interest is in Surging Glaciers.

Craig Coburn with a fresh PhD this Fall from Simon Fraser University. His field is Remote Sensing.

Shawn Bubel, one of our own graduates just completing a PhD in Archaeology at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium

Suzan Lapp (MSc Lethbridge) and Jacqueline Montain (MSA Ryerson) were appointed to continuing Academic Assistant positions, having worked the previous year on a one year contract.

In July 2002, the Department of Geography and the University of Lethbridge Faculty of Education jointly offered "Education 4210: Curriculum Development Seminar (GIS in Urban and Natural Environments)", with funding assistance from the Canadian Council for Geographic Education. The institute provided a variety of learning opportunities for a mix of participants - undergraduate and graduate education students, as well as practicing K-12 administrators. Participants strengthened their own teaching skills by becoming more familiar with geographic 'tools' such as handheld GPS units and ESRI's ArcView software. Ongoing feedback indicates the most valuable experiences included investigating free and low-cost software and data available for educators, and discussion on where geographic techniques can be integrated into K-12 curriculum. In addition, plans are already underway for a similar cooperative venture in summer 2003.

Dr. Derek Peddle, Associate Professor of Geography, was appointed Scientific Director of the Water Institute for Semi-Arid Ecosystems (WISE, <http://www.waterinstitute-wise.ca>) at The University of Lethbridge. He has also joined Fluxnet-Canada (www.fluxnet-canada.ca) as a co-investigator with

Dr. Larry Flanagan (Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge) on the project "Influence of climate and disturbance on carbon cycling in forest and peatland ecosystems" using remote sensing and GIS, for which a variety of graduate student and post-doctoral opportunities exist for this and other projects in forestry, agriculture, water resources, and mountain terrain analysis (see <http://home.uleth.ca/geo/derekp.htm>).

Jim Byrne has been appointed Theme Leader in Water Resource Management, Canadian National Network of Centres of Excellence for Protecting and Preserving Water Quality. He is also co-ordinating a new initiative in the NCE in Integrated Watershed Management using Geomatics tools. Jim won the AMPIA (Alberta Motion Picture Industries Associations) award for the ACCESS television series Global Change of which he was Co-producer and Project Leader.

Tom Johnston has recently been appointed Coordinator of Canadian Studies: one of his initial duties was to represent the University at the Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium in Vancouver at the end of September.

Although we are spread as a department over not just Geography but also Archaeology, Urban and Regional Studies, Environmental Science (shared with Biological Science) and Agricultural Studies (shared with Economics), this Fall we are able to boast our highest ever number of Geography majors (90, including 8 co-op students) and continuing high enrolments overall that place us as one of the largest departments in Arts and Science at this University.

Medicine Hat College

As the Fall semester gets into high gear we are looking forward to next year and a major change in the offing. A new building will be gracing our campus come the spring of 2003 - for us this a grand development. It will, in its three stories --- each as big as an average "Safeway" store, house a new library, computer centre and all-purpose classrooms and offices. We have sacrificed some of our pleasant green space, but the state-of-the-art facility will provide needed elbow room for the college's growing numbers of students.

Ivan Shukster (B.Sc. - Alberta) continues to teach both Introductory lab sections and our Introductory GIS class which serves our University Transfer students, Environmental Science (certificate) students and the Computer Aided Drafting students - it is offered twice a year and keeps Ivan pretty busy. Along with his teaching load, Ivan is currently finishing off his MGIS Programme through the University of Calgary.

The college's new-found emphasis on degree-granting has resulted in our first graduating classes finishing in December 2002. Geography's involvement has focused on upper level classes that serve the Ecotourism Applied Degree - students not only take our Introductory courses but also our Map and Air Photo Interpretation class and an Environmental Problems and Resource Management seminar class. Seeing 4th-year students wearing caps and gowns, with Medicine Hat College degrees in hand parading

across the stage will be quite a thrill.

September has been busy with field trips and conferences. Before the snow flies we try and get the students into the field. We co-operate closely with our Biology Instructors (we go on one another's trips) to take our students around Southwestern Saskatchewan-Southeastern Alberta over the first weekend (major gas plants near Burstall, saline lakes, Great Sand Hills, Hutterite Colony, Maple Creek, The Cypress Hills and Manyberries are all destinations and "talk" or camping sites) and into the Southern Rockies (camping and plant collecting at the University of Lethbridge's Field station near Beaver Mines, Alberta and a trip to the Frank Slide site) during the second weekend. Both trips are great "icebreakers" and get the students busy and motivated. This coming weekend eighty of my first-year students and I are off to Dinosaur Provincial Park - just northeast of beautiful downtown Patricia, Alberta for a day of sedimentary strata, dinosaur fossils and Red Deer River meanders - as long as the snow holds off, it should be another successful excursion.

The Prairie Divisional Meetings have been on the schedule the last few years, too. This year, a 10 hour drive east (the last weekend in September is when they hold their AGM), and I was at Neepawa, Manitoba - Margaret Laurence's hometown for you CanLit types - where 30+ papers were presented, field trips to the Manitoba Escarpment and around the human landscapes of the region were undertaken, a banquet featuring Ukrainian fare was held and, of course, their famous slide competition (and its usual enthusiastic - and raucous - atmosphere) drew the meetings to a close. They were all invited to our meetings in March...but, since we don't know where they are being held, most were rather hesitant to commit.

June will again see another southern excursion by our Knob and Kettle Club. This year marks the tenth time the class has been offered and therefore, to that end, all alumni are being contacted to meet in St. Mary's, Montana on the last Saturday of June, 2003 to meet and camp with this year's group. During those ten years almost 80 students have travelled through the Western USA - hopefully many will show up at our "Rendezvous".

As before, you can virtually visit us at
<http://www2.mhc.ab.ca/geog/geography.html>

Ben Moffat

**Mount Royal College
Department of Earth Sciences
Geography Program**

The Geography Program, within the Earth Sciences Department (2 fulltime geographers and 3 fulltime geologists), is actively growing and changing with campus renovations and new college mandate. As the Mount Royal College campus doubles in size, and seeks degree-granting status from the Alberta provincial government, we are adding new courses and teaching full-capacity classes. Recent course additions have been 1) 3213 World Regional Geography 2) 3327 Tourism and Recreation Geography and 3)

3321 Environmental Problems and Resource Management. The course in Tourism and Recreation Geography is a compulsory seventh term requirement for the Applied Degree in Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership offered through the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

While small, we remain active. Pam Van Bakel is involved in the Fish Creek Park GIS Partnership which is a collaborative project involving the University of Calgary, SAIT, Mount Royal College, Alberta Community Development, and Alberta Sustainable Resources Development toward the creation and implementation of a Fish Creek Park GIS. Barbara McNicol is in her second year as the Geography Program Coordinator and has been appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Calgary. She continues her work researching tourism growth and development impacts in the Town of Canmore while beginning a new project on backcountry user group impacts in Banff National Park.

Sessional instructor Dana Naldrett is working with Darren Sjogren (University of Calgary) on the United Nations Environmental Program project 'Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Evaluation, China and Pakistan'. The project uses remote sensing, GIS and field inspection to assess hazard potential in mountainous regions. Sessional instructor Marie Tremblay continues her research around habitat connectivity issues for wildlife, specifically making management recommendations to Parks Canada about wildlife corridors in the Radium Hot Springs and Lake Louise Areas. Marie recently gave a presentation at the 'Living With Wildlife' week-end held in Radium, B.C. this past September.

Barbara McNicol
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SELKIRK GEOSPATIAL RESEARCH CENTRE

CASTLEGAR -- As early as the fall of 2003, graduate students may begin studies at the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC) in Castlegar, BC.

Potential benefits to the region are immense. High-level training will accommodate technicians, technologists, and academic, government, and industry researchers who would otherwise be forced to leave the region, while new training opportunities for Selkirk students and the interested public will broaden the skill base of the local population and drive new economic opportunities.

The SGRC can also benefit those in the social and service sectors with its capacity to use state of the art mapping and image processing technologies in partnership with local health authorities, municipal planners, tourism bodies, and chambers of commerce to collect and use spatial data to improve peoples lives and the local economy.

Other benefits the SGRC will bring to the Columbia Basin are many: to attract

industry and public initiatives, to increase community profile, to create opportunities for national recognition in research and education, to increase recruitment of students, to enhance local work opportunities for co-op students and real world project experience for students, and to participate in community based mapping projects developed by local residents and agencies.

Southeastern BC is recognized and celebrated as one of the most ecologically diverse areas in North America, and supports equally diverse industries including forestry, mining, hydrological power generation, backcountry recreation, resort operation, and eco-tourism. Because the region is so rich both in biodiversity and resources, it faces a critical need for comprehensive and coordinated land management planning.

Selkirk College is strategically positioned to be a neutral arbiter of collaborative research projects critical to the management of diverse ecological, industrial, social, and environmental concerns, and a key provider of up-to-date spatial information to the public, who are often the last group to gain access to maps and spatial data pertaining to their own communities and environments.

At the outset, the SGRC, in cooperation with the University of Calgary, will offer undergraduate and graduate courses in GIS, Remote Sensing / Image Processing, Internet Mapping Technology, Database Management Applications, Global Positioning Systems, and Software Applications. These courses will be specific to the areas of geography, forestry, biology, planning / management and physical sciences. Other courses may be added as the program develops, and faculty hope to develop interdisciplinary programs in the future. At the same time, government, First Nations, non-profit, and private sector partners in the Centre will gain access to a sustainable, world-class infrastructure for the collection and analysis of community and regional information.

In partnership with participating agencies, the SGRC will use spatial information and technology to help ask and answer questions on a wide range of topics. Areas of research are expected to cover a broad range of topics as diverse as bio-remediation and waste management to avalanche risk and archeology.

BC's Interior is going through tough economic times, and reorganization and downsizing in the provincial government has also affected many rural communities. The SGRC, Selkirk College and its partners in education will play a crucial role as a development engine for the Kootenay, Boundary, and Columbia regions, providing short and long term benefits to local citizens, businesses, and visiting students alike. And best of all, in establishing the SGRC, Selkirk College and its partners in education will put this unique GIS research program firmly on the map.

For more information contact Donna Delparte
<<mailto:ddelparte@selkirk.bc.ca>>ddelparte@selkirk.bc.ca (SRGC
Coordinator) or Allison Lutz <<mailto:alutz@selkirk.bc.ca>>alutz@selkirk.bc.ca
(Geography Instructor).

Simon Fraser University

The Fall term has begun with considerable excitement. Undergraduate student demand continues to grow; with over 750 currently registered majors, minors and certificates. A cohort of 15 bright and energetic graduate students has joined the department as well.

The past year has been noteworthy for the many research grants secured by Geography faculty. Young professors who have recently joined the Department have been particularly busy, securing more than one million dollars for a variety of research projects. Nadine Schuurman is establishing a geospatial data laboratory funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. Bill Quinton is investigating soil energy balances in permafrost, and Suzana Dragicevic is modelling spatial processes using GIS and cellular automata, both with NSERC support. Jennifer Hyndman is conducting several SSHRC projects on globalization and migration, and on the implications for developing countries of linking aid and security. Natural Resources Canada is supporting Ben Bradshaw's research on farm-level adaptation to multiple risks.

We observed many other transitions. After 36 years with the department, Len Evenden retired at the end of August (in time to avoid the fall semester, he claims). He remains active in the department and in the growing Urban Studies program. To mark his "moment of freedom", Len established the Polly Evenden Bursary for a graduating Geography student who is accepted into the Professional Development Program of the Faculty of Education, and who intends to teach Geography in the BC school system. The bursary is named for Len's wife, Polly, herself a geographer, a post-graduate alumna of that Faculty, and "the one who made it all happen over the forty years since they met in graduate school". Len deeply appreciates contributions made by friends in the Western Division, and others, to help set up this bursary.

Many graduate students completed their programs this year. Two earned the Ph.D.:

Michelle Rhodes, July 9, 2002 (Boom and Bust Borderlands: Agriculture, Free Trade, and the Politics of Boundaries in the Canadian-American Grasslands),

Craig Coburn, August 29, 2002 (Local Spatial Variability as a Measure of Image Texture: A Multidimensional Approach to Image Texture Analysis and Classification).

In addition, the following students have completed their masters degrees since the last Newsletter.

Tammie Tupechka, November 30, 2001 (The Power of Maps and the Politics of Place: Community Mapping in Vancouver's Grandview-Woodland)

Keith Broersma, March 21, 2002 (Socioeconomic Influences on Mortality in the South Fraser Health Region)

Colin Wooldridge, April 5, 2002 (Channel Bar Radar Architecture and Evolution in the Wandering Gravel-Bed Fraser and Squamish Rivers, British Columbia, Canada)

Karen Ramsay, April 8, 2002 (Sustainable Housing: Indicators and Implications)

Kevin Tabata, April 9, 2002 (Character and Conductivity of Anastomosing Channels,

Upper Columbia River, British Columbia, Canada)

Ross Smith, April 10, 2002 (The Role of Community in Agroecosystem Health: A Study of the Fraser Valley of British Columbia)

Robert J. Patrick, April 25, 2002 (Developing Sustainability Indicators for Rural Residential Areas: The Public Transit Connection)

Karen Asp, July 23, 2002 (Extended Producer Responsibility and Sustainable Community Development: Preliminary Policy Considerations Towards an Integrated Approach)

Neil Chura, July 23, 2002 (Extended Essays: Knowledge-Management in Planning Community-Based Ecotourism: Toward Community Empowerment and Occupational Standards and Certifications in Planning Community-Based Ecotourism: Toward Communities of Practice)

Laura Carlson, July 25, 2002 (Context and Public Spaces: A Tale of Two Squares)

Mungandi Nasitwitwi, August 28, 2002 (Measurement and Modelling of Global Solar Radiation in a Southern African Savanna Environment)

Our congratulations to all!

Alex Clapp

(Late note from Bob Patrick:)

Hi Mark and Len:

I attended the CAG (Ontario Division) conference yesterday at Univ of Western Ontario in London. It was a busy day, very well attended, esp. given the density of universities and geography departments here in Ontario. I presented a paper based on my thesis called "Public Transit and Kyoto: A role for local governments". The paper discusses the benefits of using indicators to measure progress towards sustainable transportation - rather topical given the headlines in the Globe and Mail all week long regarding Kyoto! My first slide included reference to you Mark, as advisor, and also credited SFU.

Anyway, there was a contest leading into the conference for "best research paper" and I won, or should I say we won ... a little cash and the paper's publication in "Great Lakes Geographer". So I'll be buying the beer next time we gather.

Cheers,

Bob

Bob Patrick, MA

Rural Water Management Group

Department of Geography

University of Guelph

Guelph, Ontario

UBC

There are new faces in the Geographical landscape at UBC these days. In addition to Karen Bakker and Philippe Le Billon, whose appointments were announced last year at this time, but who deferred their arrival in the department until July 2002, three more new colleagues joined the department in July, and a fourth is to take up his appointment on 1 January 2003. July's newcomers are: Dr Michael Buzzelli, Assistant Professor in GIS,

Housing, and Health Geography, Dr. Merje Kuus, Assistant Professor in Human Geography with specialisations in Political Geography, Geopolitics and Contemporary Europe, and Dr. Elvin Wyly, Assistant Professor in Urban Geography with special interests in the US urban system and gentrification. Michael comes to us from McMaster University where he completed his PhD with Richard Harris and held a post doctoral fellowship with the Geographical Information Sciences Health and Environmental Analysis Laboratory, School of Geography and Geology. Merje is a graduate of Syracuse University, and a specialist in northern Europe, who gained experience working with the European Union and at George Mason University in Washington DC before relocating to Vancouver. Elvin, a graduate of Minnesota and Penn State, was previously at Rutgers in New Jersey, where he held appointments in the Department of Geography and the Center for Urban Policy Research. At UBC he will lead the re-invigoration of the cross-disciplinary Urban Studies program. Joining us in January is Jim Glassman, whose Geography PhD is from Minnesota (he has another in Philosophy), and who is currently teaching at Syracuse University. Jim is a political economist, a specialist on Thailand, and an all-round knowledgeable SE Asianist.

Further enhancing the sense of change was the retirement of Cole Harris, in December 2002, shortly after the publication of his important book on the creation of the BC Reserve system (and much else) entitled Making Native Space. Graeme Wynn has stepped down after serving as Head since 1996, and is currently on administrative leave, part of which will be spent as the Quatercentenary Visiting Fellow at Emmanuel College in the University of Cambridge. Michael Bovis has assumed charge of the department for a three-year term (until June 2005). Also on leave are Olav Slaymaker and Douw Steyn. Marwan Hassan is teaching on a sessional basis, as are Bill Burgess, Mike Carr, Greg Finnegan, Bob Galois, Owen Hertzman, Greg Levine, Scott MacLeod, and Erik Schiefer (except for O. Hertzman, one course each).

Among the usual range of honours and recognitions that came the way of members of the department, we note that Dr. Trevor Barnes was the 2002 recipient of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography, that Dr. Mike Buzzelli received the 2002 CAG Starkey-Robinson Award for the best dissertation on the geography of Canada; and that Dr. Ken Denike received the BC School Trustees' Association Service Award in 2002. In addition we are pleased to record that Mrs. Margaret North was the 2002 recipient of the Canadian Geographic Literacy award from the RCGS/CCGE. On a more local scale, Sally Hermansen and Graeme Wynn received UBC Alma Mater Society "Just Desserts" awards for services to students in the department. Also local, but more notable are the following UBC appointments which are also by way of "recognitions". Dr. Karen Bakker has been appointed an Early Career UBC Scholar in the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, September 2002 to August 2003; Dr. Michael Church has been a Distinguished UBC Scholar in Residence at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, January to December 2002 and Dr. David Edgington, has been appointed Director of the Centre for Japanese Research in the Institute of Asian Research, for the period September 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005. Finally, congratulations to Dr Ian McKendry for his own stellar achievement and for further enhancing the Department's reputation for teaching by being selected as one of the 2002 recipients of the

Faculty of Arts Killam Teaching Awards.

UCFV

The Department of Geography at UCFV continues to fully enrol most of its courses, and added several sections of lower level physical and regional geography to accommodate strong demand and long waitlists. It is anticipated that the situation will continue into the New Year and additional courses are planned again.

The added demand has allowed us to hire two new faculty on a temporary basis for the year. Claire Beaney, a Ph.D. student from SFU has stepped into the geomorphology seat at the Abbotsford Campus, filling in for Sandy Vanderburgh who is on sabbatical this year.

Ken Brealey, who recently completed his Ph.D. at UBC where he worked with Cole Harris, is teaching a range of cultural, social and regional courses for us at Chilliwack in the Fall, and at both campuses in Winter, 2003.

Carolyn Atkins, who taught geomorphology at Chilliwack last Winter, is back this year teaching a new format class of both introductory physical geography courses.

Stewart Brown, who has taught both physical and environmental courses with us, and who participates in the study tour to Hawaii, is teaching the introductory physical geography courses at Mission this year.

The Department is offering its very popular Hawaiian study tour this coming Spring, co-taught by Sandy Vanderburgh and Cherie Enns. The group has already had its first meeting and the numbers and enthusiasm for the trip seem just as high as in the past. The Mexican study tour, led by David Gibson and colleagues from other departments at UCFV, was very successful this year. The halls in the department are covered again with photographic evidence of field scholarship and enjoyable activities. Steven Marsh has completed his work with Tampere Polytechnic in Finland, guiding a large group of students through a joint water quality and resource project. Three of the students, Matt and Shauna Lucas and Richard Garside actually travelled to Tampere and Murmansk, Russia, in September to visit student colleagues and represent the Department. They are presenting the results of their trip and project in a public forum in late October. John Belec and Doug Nicol, along with WWU colleague Pat Buckley have carried their borderlands course still further afield: John presented a paper on the course at the CAG in the Spring, and a summary paper on the course will appear in the Journal of Geography later in the year. Ian Okabe is back in the Department after spending his sabbatical year researching and teaching at UBC.

In all, the Department continues its active schedule of teaching and research. A new senior course, Geography 400, provides a format for guest lecturers in the Department, with two offerings this year focussed on World Cities with Cherie Enns and

Urban Ecology with Abbotsford planner, Peter Andzans. Future plans include a new initiative called the Social Ecology Project, a locally-based venture that will integrate many of the research interests in the department; an attempt to expand our cross-border activities, forging more links with Western Washington and the Association of Washington Geographers; and the development of a Department bocce team to challenge others in the institution.

The most recent and welcome news was the re-establishment of the Chilliwack Campus planning group to oversee the 12 million dollar capital funding restored by the Provincial Government in the early Fall. The Geography Department has a major lab and teaching facility in the original plans and is looking forward to expanding its operations on its major eastern Campus.

Doug Nicol

UNBC

Kevin Hall, chair has set new standards for his colleagues to emulate - earning his DSc this year, from the University of Natal. Kevin is the first person at UNBC to earn a DSc. As part of his application, he submitted ±120 published papers. Congratulations!! In order to gather material for the next dozen or so papers, he carried out fieldwork in June/July in Tibet on rock weathering.

Three Geography faculty accompanied 10 students on a three week field course to South Africa and Lesotho in August. Joining forces with University of Pretoria faculty and students, we had a introduction to the physical and cultural landscapes of northeast South Africa, looking at weathering at 4000m in Lesotho, Bushmen rock paintings, various settlement types, dunes on the Indian Ocean, pulp mills and sugar-cane plantations, South Africa's largest mall, in Durban - and a few rhinos, giraffe, baboon, and zebra as well. We hope to run a similar field course here in B.C. for Pretoria's students, and to return to South Africa for future field courses.

Ellen Petticrew organized a very successful 9th International Symposium on the Interaction between Sediment and Water in May. Held at Banff, it attracted 150 scholars from 31 countries. As payback (?), Ellen was elected the President of the International Association of Sediment and Water Science. A PhD candidate at the University of Barcelona, Joachim Farquell, spent much of the summer in Ellen's lab, assisting with research dealing with fine-grained sediment storage in gravel bed rivers of the Stuart-Takla region.

We are delighted announce the hiring of several new faculty and staff - Debra Straussfogel (Economic Geography) joined us this summer, and Brian Menounos (Geomorphology) will be starting in January. Catherine Nolin (Social Geography) also began her tenure-track appointment, after a year of post-doc'ing it here - seems like an old-timer, but we're delighted to have her in this new capacity. Her fourth year directed reading course, 'Culture, Rights and Power' was well subscribed in the spring term, and

will hopefully become a regular senior seminar. More news on these folks' research foci and courses is promised in future WDCAG newsletters.

Three students defended their MA theses: Lana Sullivan (The Geography of Community Crisis: A Case of Tumbler Ridge, B.C.), John Rex (The Development of a Protocol for Measuring In-Stream Sedimentation) and Laura Ryser (Institutional Barriers to Climate Responsive Design in Commercial Redevelopment in Prince George, B.C.). All are since gainfully employed.

Lana has been appointed (a Research Associate for the British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health in Vancouver, BC.); Laura is a research assistant for the Canada Research Chair in Small Town and Rural Studies Program (Greg Halseth); and John is consulting for WLAP on water quality.

Nancy Elliot, PhD Student (NRES) was invited to present a plenary paper at the Northern Research Forum (Novgorod, Russia), on "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and New Technologies." Nancy is working on GIS/virtual reality technologies to facilitate the understanding of TEK.

All were affected by a move across campus, to a new lab building. While the packing and unpacking took time, we now have even better GIS facilities, as well as both social and natural science laboratory space. Roger Wheate, our GIS guru, compares the new GIS room to the Titanic's boiler room - no windows, but huge. On-going projects in the GIS lab include using remote sensing for ecosystem mapping in the northern Rockies and glacier change in the coastal mountains, mapping of the UNBC Reserve Lands and road patterns in northern BC, 1950-2000 and investigation of web-based data sharing systems.

UVIC

DAVID C-Y LAI AWARDED QUEEN'S JUBILEE MEDAL:

Dr. David Chuen-yan Lai was awarded a Queen's Jubilee medal in a ceremony during the Queen's visit to Victoria in October. This medal is only the most recent in a career now filled with awards and recognition for Dr. Lai's work.

STUDENT AWARDED NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY PRIZE.

Kay Donaldson, a third-year UVic geography student has won the President's Prize from the Canadian Cartography Association.

Her thematic map of Canadian Forces postings is related to her own interest in a career in the Canadian Armed Forces and won the award of the Communicating Canadian Issues - Undergraduate category.

See Kay's map at: <http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/images/donaldson3.gif>

UVIC GEOGRAPHERS SAIL FOR EASTER SEALS

A team of UVic Geographers (Peter Keller, Ian Walker, Zeif Gedalof, Jon Corbett, Cindy Marven, Kim Pearce and Roxanne Paul) entered the 2002 Vancouver Island Easter Seals Regatta. They managed to raise \$ 1,400 for Kids with Disabilities as well as sailing to a second place finish. A total of \$ 62,000 was raised in the event

NEW BOOKS FROM UVIC GEOGRAPHERS

Dr. Harry Foster's new publication, "What Really Causes AIDS" is available through Trafford Publishing.

The new Western Geographical Series Number 35 on child health will be available shortly.

"BLAST"-ING HAIDA GWAI: COASTAL WIND EROSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH IN NAIKOON PARK

This past summer, researchers from UVic Geography's Boundary Layer Airflow & Sediment Transport (BLAST) Research Unit (headed by I.J. Walker) initiated coastal wind erosion and climate change impacts research in one of BC's most dynamic, yet understudied coastlines - the northeastern coast of Graham Island, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). Macrotidal range, erodible sediments, frequent extreme storms, and strong winds (hourly averages often exceeding 100km/hr!) produce an incredibly dynamic coastal environment host to active aeolian beach-dune systems - this despite high rainfall (1250 mm/yr) and forest cover in the area.

The first phase of the research involved establishing an erosion-pin monitoring network along a foredune ridge and installation of the BLAST-2 wind erosion met station. The goal of the study is to document and examine terrestrial (aeolian) geomorphic processes in this region and, in doing so, develop new approaches for modeling aeolian processes in wet coastal environments. This will be done using onsite measurements and longer-term climate data to test existing models of aeolian activity and dune mobility used in typically dry settings. This work has broader relevance for managing coastal erosion and dune habitat in Naikoon Park and for understanding the longer-term effectiveness of wind action as a geomorphic agent in Canadian coastal environments. For more information on BLAST, contact: iwalker@office.geog.uvic.ca

PLANNING FOR CAG 2003 CONTINUES FULL SPEED!

We're planning an exciting program of keynote speakers, field trips, workshops and sessions, so start putting together your presentations and stay tuned for developments over the Fall.

Check out our CAG 2003 Website for further information and contacts for your questions:

<http://geog.uvic.ca/cag2003.acg/>

NEW HOMEPAGE FOR UVIC GEOGRAPHY.

After a few years with our now-famous "globe-balloons" dark blue homepage, we've got a new homepage design and are developing a new structure for our website. Check it out:

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/>

Kwantlen University College

Our courses were fully enrolled this Fall semester and almost the same number again tried to register in Geography but were unsuccessful.

Joseph Mensah moved to York University for the Fall semester on a tenured appointment. We will therefore be hiring an urban geography replacement for Joseph in the Spring of 2003.

Our first five graduands from our Associate of Arts in Geography program convocated this summer and there are a number of students interested in obtaining the degree this coming year.

Leah Skretkowicz is away on a one year sabbatical, and your President (me) is acting Chair of the Department for one year. We have also had the pleasure of having the following sessional instructors join us for the Fall and Spring Semesters; Kathy Fitzpatrick from Coquitlam College, John Rose from UBC, Lyle Courtney from Douglas College, Jerome Leseman from SFU and Ken Brealey who is also teaching at UCFV.

Kwantlen is involved in the usual rounds of budget cuts and increasing enrolments and therefore Department growth and expansion is encouraged conceptually and stymied financially. A situation that leads us here to hope and discouragement at the same time. However, some planning is taking place with a view to expand our Pacific Rim regional offerings and to develop one or two upper level undergraduate courses to be a part of the College's Liberal Education Degree component.

Rod Fowler
Dept. of Geography
Kwantlen University College.

Note from the Co-editor:

Many thanks to those who provided submissions for this issue of the newsletter.

For comments and submissions for the next issue please contact

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