

# Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers

## Newsletter

Fall 2003

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### **President's Report for the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, September 2003**

The CAG Annual General Meeting was hosted by the Geography Department of the University of Victoria, May 27 through 31, 2003. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you of some of the events and undertakings from those meetings.

Those of us who sit on the executive began first thing Tuesday morning with a business session that lasted until the early evening. The executive meets at this time to wrap up old items and to give notice to the members of elements of concern that they can then flesh-out during the week. It was one busy day. Later in the week, we would return to some of these issues and prepare some for presentation to the all-member meeting that was held on Friday afternoon. Following the Friday revelries, the executive again met in an all-day session (Saturday) to address any other issues and to tidy up any loose ends. This was my first national meeting and I was quite surprised by the number of issues that have to be dealt with by the executive – it was one full week.

In this forum, I'll briefly mention some of the undertakings of the executive. Should these "highlights" raise any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact me or either of the two other executive members in our division -- Greg Halseth, (University of Northern B.C.) and Diane Draper (University of Calgary). Details of some of these issues will be published in the CAG Newsletter and, soon, will be readily available on the association's new, improved website.

- Your CAG dues will be rising by 2%. Student and retiree rates are being held at 2002 levels.

- There will be subtle changes in the manner in which national elections are held. These focus on nomination and voting process changes that will make the system work much more fairly.
- Over the next 4-5 months there will be two issues of the CAG Directory. Past difficulties with editorial changes and policies have, hopefully, been solved so that this situation does not arise again.
- *The Canadian Geographer* is now published by Blackwell's. This seems to have satisfied the majority of fiscal concerns many have had, yet at the same time other questions have been raised about the journal's recently-altered editorial policy -- a policy unanimously approved by the CAG's executive. Lawrence Berg (Okanagan University College) is the editor of our "new look" journal. By the next national meeting the executive hopes to have full, country-wide representation – including Quebec which has for the last 40 years conducted its business under the auspices of the *Association professionnelle des géographes du Québec*. By 2004 it is hoped that our executive will include an official, elected member from that association.
- Minor policy changes have taken place in the awards. These policies eliminate the possibility of any conflict-of-interest among committee members and those nominated for awards.
- A new study group has been created – focusing on educational concerns. The Geography in Education Study Group should be an effective means of spreading information and of integrating geography teachers at all levels.
- A new website for the entire CAG – including appropriate links to all the regional divisions – should be up and running within

the next few months. The executive sees this as an extremely important element in keeping membership abreast of changes and issues as well as providing a forum for discussion and the dissemination of information and teaching/research aids to serve the members of the association.

Some issues arose that may be of greater concern to members of the WDCAG than those that are of a more national breadth. These include:

- An effort will soon be made to ensure that there are institutional “representatives” of the CAG in each university/college department throughout Canada. Please volunteer for the role when the notice comes your way. There will also be student representatives recruited at the same time – please encourage student membership and participation.
- We now have an Alberta student representative on the WDCAG executive. Thanks you Diane Draper for “recruiting” Geoff Ghitter, a PhD student at Univ. of Calgary.
- Please continue to make use of the CAG Annual Directory (and ensure that your department pays the fee to take part).
- A movement may be afoot to create a “smaller university “group” that could address some concerns of little interest to larger institutions – again, look for such a notice.

Submitted by Ben Moffat, August 22, 2003.

## **Augustana University College**

The 2002-03 winter semester wound down quickly, but the summer was particularly busy at Augustana. The Geography Department thanks sessional instructor Max Dupilka, for his lab instruction in climatology.

Faculty member, Glen Hvenegaard co-taught Geography of the Canadian North with Physical Education colleague, Morten Asfeldt. This field course took place as part of a 3-week tundra canoe expedition on the Hood River in Nunavut. Highlights included numerous close encounters with wolves, Gyrfalcons, abundant wildflowers, the Inuit community of Bathurst Inlet, and the magnificent Wilberforce Falls, the highest waterfalls in the world north of the Arctic Circle. Glen and Morten wrote an article on this

program for Pathways: Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education and Glen gave a presentation at the GeoScience Education Conference in Calgary in August.

Glen gave another presentation at the CAG in Victoria in May and also attended the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa in September and the Conference on the Science and the Management of Protected Areas in Victoria in May. He joined the program team on Ecosystems and Poverty for Leadership in Environment and Development and supervised a student for the Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Project. He is also working with the Battle River Community Foundation by serving on the board of its Community Environment Initiative.

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

## **University of Northern British Columbia Geography Program**

*Kevin Hall*, first chair of the program, stepped down after 9 years of service in building our program. We thank Kevin for his dedication and wish him the best as he returns to his teaching and research pursuits. *Gail Fondahl* assumed the chair's duties of the Geography/Resource, Recreation and Tourism Program in July.

*Gail Fondahl*, in addition to assuming the role of program chair, recently gave the conference paper: “Remaking Space in North-Central British Columbia: The John Prince Research Forest,” Canadian Association of Geographers, Victoria, BC, 29 May 2003.

*Kevin Hall* was a presenter, chair of a session and ran a workshop at the Eighth International Conference on permafrost in Zurich, Switzerland this past summer.

Congratulations to *Greg Halseth* who was appointed to the governing council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. "Dr. Halseth is a recognized expert on community economic development and he has contributed extensive public works on the changing face of rural Canada," said Dr. Marc Renaud, President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. "His

ideas and knowledge will expand the already broad base of Council expertise, and help the Council work toward the best interests of all Canadians."

As well, Greg has been invited to give some interesting presentations, including: the Real Estate Institute of British Columbia, Terrace, "BC's resource economy: an historical and contemporary perspective" and the Vancouver Opera Association, Vancouver, "Building community in an instant town: A modern frontier tale". Greg also gave papers at a range of conferences in North America and in the UK.

Neil Hanlon continues building the program's specialty area of Health Geography, while on parental leave until November. Neil also gave the following conference papers: "Public hospitals as centralized points of passage in the reconstruction of Canadian health care."

Presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in Medical Geography, Manchester, UK, July 2003; and Hanlon, N and Halseth, G "Demographic change and health care delivery in northern BC: exacerbating an already strained system." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Victoria, BC, May 2003.

Heather Meyers, (our geography colleague teaching in the International Studies Program) was part of a team that organized this year's Circumpolar Arctic Social Sciences PhD Network field course on "Avoiding Boom and Bust." Starting in Prince George, they traveled up the Alaska and Dempster Highways, stopping in Fort St. John, Ft. Nelson, Whitehorse, Faro, Dawson City and Inuvik. They enjoyed presentations from First Nations, community and government representatives, about the nature of past northern development and current/future development plans, in mining, oil and gas, and pipelines. They flew to Yellowknife, to speak to government representatives, and then on to Edmonton to visit the Canadian Circumpolar Institute. Students came from Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Russia, Lithuania, Canada and the US; faculty were from Alaska, Canada and Denmark.

See <http://web.unbc.ca/internationalstudies/CASS2003/casstrip.html> for more details.

Heather's current research involves: Evaluating the effectiveness of communications programs about contaminants in country food, and community comprehension of the issue.

Catherine Nolin reports her biggest achievement is her role as Mom to the newest BC Geographer, Will Hanlon! Catherine returned from maternity leave in September 2003.

Catherine's current research project is as co-investigator on a 12-member cross-Canada research team funded through a SSHRC Strategic Research Grant. The three-year project is entitled, *Global Displacement and Social Cohesion: Transnational Solidarities and Newcomer Incorporation* (see: <http://www.yorku.ca/cohesion/>). Her components of the project include two related studies: *Social Spaces of Refugee Settlement Experiences: Geographies of Latin American Social Networks in Vancouver & Northern British Columbia*.

Catherine was also nominated for the UNBC Teaching Excellence Award, 2002-2003.

As well, she was invited to give the presentation: "I yearn to return': Spatializing social relations across transnational ruptures," as invited presenter at the International Migration in the Americas: Emerging Issues Conference, organized by the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC) and FLACSO-Dominican Republic, York University, Toronto, ON, 19-20 September 2003.

See: <http://www.yorku.ca/cerlac/recent03-04.html#Migration> (Program) and <http://www.yorku.ca/cerlac/migration/documents.htm> (Documents).

Ellen Petticrew is currently on sabbatical at the University of Exeter in Devon, UK.

Debra Straussfogel continues to develop the program's specialty area of Economic Geography. She recently delivered a paper in Smithers, BC on alternative models for considering resource-based communities. Other delivered papers include: "Restructuring and Dependency in Resource-Based Communities" Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, May 28-31, 2003; and "The Issue of Dependency in Resource-Based Communities: Measurement and Meaning." Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Colloquium, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC.

### Of particular note

Several UNBC geography faculty recently received significant grants including: Neil Hanlon (SSHRC), Brian Menounous (CFI) and Gail Fondahl (FII).

### Recent publications of UNBC Geography Faculty:

Arocena, L. and Hall, K. 2003. Calcium Phosphate Accumulation on the Yalour Islands (Antarctica): Surface Coatings and Geomorphic Implications. *Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research*, 35, 233-241.

Bismanis, Andra, Michelle MacGregor, Stephen Dewhurst and Greg Halseth 2003. A Guide for Managers and Researchers - Incorporating Forest History into Sustainable Forest Management. A report for Forest Renewal BC. Prince George: University of Northern British Columbia.

Bockheim, J. and K. Hall. 2002. Periglacial processes and landforms of the Antarctic continent: A review. *South African Journal of Science*, 98, 82- 101.

Boelhouwers, J. and K. Hall. 2002. Introduction: Southern Hemisphere Working Group. *South African Journal of Science*, 98, 46-47.

Fondahl, G. 2003. Through the years: land rights among the Evenkis of southeastern Siberia, *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, Spring 2003, 28-31.

Fondahl, G. and G. Poelzer 2003. Aboriginal Land Rights at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century. *Polar Record*, 39 (309):111-122. (An extract of this article was published in *Taiga News*, 43:4, Summer 2003).

Fondahl, G., O. Lazebnik, G. Poelzer and V. Robbek, 2003. *Razvitie sistemy traditsionnogo prirodopol'zovanie i samoupravlenie korennykh malochislennykh narodov Respubliki Sakha (Yakutiya): Vzglyad iznutri* [Evolving Systems of Aboriginal Land Use and Self-Government in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia): Local Views] Bi-lingual report, 84 pp.

Hall, K. 2002. Present and Quaternary periglacial processes and landforms of the Maritime and sub-Antarctic: A Review. *South African Journal of Science*, 98, 71-81.

Hall, K. 2003. Mechanical Weathering in Cold Regions, with Special Emphasis on the Antarctic Environment and the Freeze-thaw Mechanism in Particular. Unpublished D.Sc., University of Natal, (Pietermaritzburg), 1492 pp.

Hall, K. 2003. Micro-transducers and high-frequency rock temperature data: changing our perspectives on rock weathering in cold regions, in M. Phillips, S.M. Springman and L.U. Arenson (eds.): *Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Permafrost*, 349-354.

Hall, K. and M.F. André, 2003. Rock thermal data at the grain scale: Applicability to granular disintegration in cold environments. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, 28, 823-836.

Hall, K. and J. Boelhouwers, 2003. Bibliography on Southern hemisphere permafrost and periglacial landforms and processes. *Circumpolar Active-Layer Permafrost System (National Snow and Ice Data Center)*, 3, 97 pp.

## Douglas College Geography Department

There have been several faculty and staff changes in the last few months due to maternity leaves. Both Sabrina Henwood (David Lam Geography Lab Technician) and Wendy Hales (Instructor) are on maternity leaves. They have been replaced by David Godfrey (David Lam Geography Lab Technician) and Mungandi Nasitwitwi (Instructor).

Michael McPhee has joined the Geography Department from the Habitat Restoration Program. Michael is a co-author of the recently released *Lower Coquitlam Watershed Atlas*.

The Department is currently reviewing its curriculum and expects to offer the Geography 270 (Geographic Information Systems) course in the Winter 2004 semester.

### Mark your calendars

WDCAG Annual General Meeting Medicine Hat College March 18-20, 2004.

CAG Annual General Meeting Université de Moncton May 25-29, 2004.

## University of British Columbia Geography

The UBC Geography Department is presently advertising for a tenure-track position in Physical Geography, with a start date of July, 2004. This vacancy is occasioned by the forthcoming retirement of our distinguished colleague Professor Olav Slaymaker next year. In recognition of Olav's impressive contributions to geomorphology, we are hosting an international symposium in his honour (June 27-30, 2004). The general theme will be *Sediment and Geochemical Budgets in Geomorphology*. A link describing this event will be posted on our website within the next month. Keynote presentations will be given by Dr. Tom Dunne, University California, Santa Barbara, and Dr. Nel Caine, University of Colorado. Persons interested in submitting abstracts should send them by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, to Dr. Philip Owens [Philip.owens@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:Philip.owens@bbsrc.ac.uk)

We were delighted that three faculty have recently received major scholarly awards. Emeritus Professor Cole Harris was the 2003 recipient of the Massey Medal of the RCGS for his distinguished contributions to Canadian historical geography. Cole's award is described at:

[www.rcgs.org/rcgs/english/programs/awards/awards\\_massey03.htm](http://www.rcgs.org/rcgs/english/programs/awards/awards_massey03.htm).

As well, Cole's latest book *Making Native Space: Colonialism, Resistance, and Reserves in British Columbia* was the winner of the 2002 Sir John A. Macdonald Prize, of the Canadian Historical Association. Professor Tim Oke has received a number of awards recently. In 2002 he received an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology from the American Meteorological Society, and also in 2002 won the Patterson Medal from the Meteorological Service of Canada. This is the highest award for meteorology in Canada. Finally, in 2003 he was elected Fellow of The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for his outstanding contributions to urban climatology and meteorology. We were also delighted that Olav Slaymaker was 2003 recipient of the David Linton Award from the British Geomorphological Research Group. Our congratulations to Cole, Tim and Olav for their

outstanding achievements. Other notable achievements include the appointment of Dr. Greg Henry, our Arctic biogeographer, to the Chair of the International Tundra Experiment, or ITEX ([www.itex-science.net/default.cfm](http://www.itex-science.net/default.cfm) and within our own department the promotion of Dr. Dan Hiebert and Dr. Ian McKendry to the rank of Full Professor. Prof. Graeme Wynn was Quatercentenary Visiting Research Professor at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, between April and July this year. He has also been appointed Chair of the Cecil and Ida H Green Visiting Professorships program for 2003-6, and is convener of the ongoing inter-disciplinary Vancouver-Green College Lectures on Nature, History and Society. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Geraldine Pratt as chair of the graduate program in Women's Studies and Gender Relations. On the graduate front, one of our recent Ph.Ds, Dr. Alison Mountz, was appointed as Assistant Professor at Syracuse University; and one of our post-docs. from last year, Dr. Willie Jenkins, secured a position at York University. Our best wishes and congratulations to all.

Geography has long purported to be an interdisciplinary field, and so it was quite in keeping that no fewer than three members of our department (Philip Austin, Trevor Barnes, and Michael Church) participated in a three-day, interdisciplinary symposium at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) here at UBC. The topic was *Science Envy*, which dealt with the 20<sup>th</sup> century preoccupation of science over other disciplines. A link to the event can be found at [www.pwias.ubc.ca/programs](http://www.pwias.ubc.ca/programs).

We are also pleased that Dr. Merje Kuus, one of our newly hired faculty, was invited to be an Early Career Scholar at PWIAS, a position that another of our new faculty, Dr. Karen Bakker, held in 2002-03. Another PWIAS event in October 2003 involves a third member of our new faculty, Dr. Mike Buzzelli, who is presently co-organizing a PWIAS workshop on *Environment and Health* in conjunction with Dr. Gerry Veenstra, UBC Sociology.

This academic year we have three physical geographers on sabbatical leave (Mike Church, Dave McClung, and Tim Oke) and Graeme Wynn is also on leave in the period

January – June, 2004. This has left rather a gap in our physical geography teaching strength this year, but I am pleased to report that we have appointed several excellent sessional lecturers to cover most of the courses. Next year our faculty on leave will be Trevor Barnes and David Edgington. This will provide sessional teaching opportunities in 2004-05 in the areas of economic geography and the regional geography of the Asia-Pacific region.

This fall has seen the inception of a major curriculum review within our department, spearheaded by Dr. Dan Hiebert, who is giving generously of his time despite having assumed the position of Director of the Metropolis Project earlier this year. Because of the fairly long approval process for curricular changes, we anticipate that most of the ensuing changes will not become effective until 2005-06.

We continue to enjoy a vibrant graduate program in our department. At present we have 87 graduate students in program (53 Ph.D, 16 MA, 17 MSc) and have admitted 21 new graduate students this fall, ten of them Ph.Ds. At present we are offering 17 graduate courses. There are major changes afoot at UBC concerning graduate funding, in particular the proposed 4-year tuition waiver for Ph.D students. Our recently completed Master's theses are:

Floyer, James. *Statistical avalanche forecasting using meteorological data from Bear Pass, British Columbia, Canada*. MSc

Holley, Alison. *Public Participation GIS: A Proposed Model for Community Organizations*. MA

Kryzanowski, Judi. *Tropospheric ozone in the Lower Fraser Valley, British Columbia and the threat of injury to forest plants*. MSc

Loeb, Emily. *Potlatch, Idaho: A Case Study of a Single-Industry Town and the Factors which affect its Development*. MA

Nicholson, Heather. *Arsenic in plants important to two Yukon First Nations: impacts of gold mining and reclamation practices*. MSc

Oabel, Patrick. *The Iloilo Urban Region: Structural Change, Decentralization and Employment in a Philippine Secondary City*. MA

Rolph, Sandra. *Effects of a ten-year climate warming experiment on nitrogen cycling in high arctic tundra*. M.Sc

Smith, Rebecca. *Natures of change: a transitional environmental history of Vancouver Island and the South Island of New Zealand*. MA

Swanton, Daniel. *Iranian identities in Vancouver: contesting ethnic and racial signifiers through situated perspectives produced using methodological triangulation*. MA

Teo, Sin Yeh. *Imagining Canada: Tracing the cultural logics of migration amongst PRC immigrants in Vancouver*. MA

White, Russell. *Geomorphic process domains in a mountain basin*. M.Sc

**Recently completed Doctoral dissertations are:**

Brealey, Kenneth. *First (National) space: (Ab)original (re)mappings of British Columbia*.

Farish, Matthew. *Strategic environments: militarism and the contours of Cold War America*. (Matt is now a post-doctoral student at the Munk Centre for International Studies, U. of Toronto)

Mountz, Alison. *Embodied geographies of the nation-state: an ethnography of Canada's response to human smuggling*.

Murphy, Andrew. *Milking a Virtual Cow? Institutional and Consumptive Implications of Online Grocery Shopping*.

Rayback, Shelley. *Cassiope tetragona and climate change in the Canadian high arctic: experimental studies and reconstruction of past climate for Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada*.

Runnals, Kathryn. *Detecting microclimatic biases in historical temperature records*.

Venditti, Jeremy. *Initiation and Development of Sand Dunes in River Channels*.

Wilson, Robert. *Seeking refuge: making space for migratory waterfowl and wetlands along the Pacific flyway*.

Our post-doctoral fellows in residence this year include Dr. Geoff Mann, who is working with Trevor Barnes on resource-industry labour relations; Dr. Jamie Murton, who is working with Graeme Wynn on the 19<sup>th</sup> century tea trade; Dr. Takashi Gomi, who is working

with Dan Moore on forest hydrology; and Dr. Jeremy Venditti, who is working with Mike Church on fluvial sediment transport.

Prepared by Dr. Mike Bovis

## **The University of Lethbridge**

Since our last report in the Spring there have been many changes. Ian MacLachlan finished his term as Chair and is enjoying a year-long study leave at the Centre of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh. Robert Rogerson replaced him in the Chair.

We should lead with our "big news": Dan Johnson of Agriculture Canada, famous in southern Alberta, if not all of Canada for his research on insect populations which has included a very powerful GIS application for grasshopper outbreak forecasting and control, has just been appointed a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Ecosystem/ Biodiversity/ Biogeography in the Department of Geography and affiliated with the Water Institute for Semi Arid Ecosystems (WISE). This prestigious appointment will be a shot in the arm for scholarship in the Department: Dan has taught Biogeography at the University as an Adjunct Professor for some years; he is a popular figure with students and faculty and we are delighted with the appointment.

Shawn Bubel has just heard that her application for an SSHRC Community-University Research Alliances Program grant with two faculty outside the Department was successful: The total grant is for \$963,000 with \$500,000 of that being directed to Shawn's research over the next five years. She will focus on the archaeology of the Piikani and Pikuni people in the southwestern Prairies.

Two new faculty joined the department: Matthew Letts joined us to teach Atmospheric Science. Matthew has both BA and BSc from Queen's, MSc from McGill and this year completed his PhD from King's College, London. His diverse research interests include peatland carbon dynamics, atmospheric science, organic soil hydrology, and tropical cloud forest ecology. He was employed as a Lecturer at Trent University since 2001.

Kevin McGeough is teaching Syro-Palestinian and Mesopotamian archaeology

this year as a replacement for Walter Aufrecht during his leave of absence. A University of Lethbridge graduate, Kevin intends to complete his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania on Economic Modalities at the Late Bronze Age Site of Ugarit.

Fall 2003  
Susan Dakin left to take up an Environmental Planning position in the City of Lethbridge: she continues to teach at the University of Lethbridge on a Sessional basis.

Our Graduate Program has grown considerably to nine students at present with two others who have just graduated this fall: Nicole Rabe and Guy Duke are both engaged as Research Assistants in the department.

In the last Newsletter we wrote about a new student and faculty exchange relationship with Canterbury Christ Church University College in England. One of our students who is in England this year, Chris Birrell has just received a Canadian Millennium Foundation's Award for Excellence. We also have the first student from Canterbury registered with us this fall.

The Department has been heavily involved in curriculum change. One big change is that we have decided that our introductory course should be Geography, not just Physical Geography. We have also initiated a multidisciplinary major in Archaeology and Geography and extended our Concentration in GIS to majors in Environmental Science, Urban and Regional Studies and Agricultural Studies. A Field Excursion course, a Field School course and a Remote Sensing Field School have been created to strengthen field work in our programs. The latter is a new senior level course within the Concentration in GIS. It will be offered in alternating summers at the Kananaskis Field Stations with a Rocky Mountain forest ecology focus, and in the Lethbridge area with an agricultural focus. Of course all our curriculum changes have to be passed by Arts and Science Faculty Council and General Faculties Council before we can smile with satisfaction, but we remain optimistic and look forward to the years ahead.

Derek Peddle, Scientific Director of the Water Institute for Semi Arid Ecosystems (WISE, <http://www.waterinstitute-wise.ca>) has

been appointed to the University Steering Committee of the new Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research, (<http://www.alberta.ingenuity.ca>) a 5-year \$7.5M initiative involving the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary and Alberta. He has also been appointed to a new position on the Executive of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, and has been appointed as one of two faculty members to the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors.

Hester Jiskoot participated in an international workshop on Assessing Global Glacier Recession in Boulder, CO, where current methods of determining the worldwide recession of mountain glaciers over the last 50-100 years were evaluated, and strategies for improved global glacier monitoring were put forward.

Tom Johnston has been appointed Vice President of the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association.

And something good to finish with: Jim Byrne won a Summit Achievement Award, 2003 for the video series he produced with George Gallant "Global Change: Witnessing the Impacts." He seems to have impeccable timing: Jim who teaches our Natural Hazards course was filming another educational video in Nova Scotia when the Hurricane struck this fall!

For further information on our Department, please visit our revised and updated web-site at: <http://www.uleth.ca/geo/>  
Robert Rogerson

## University of Victoria

**CAG 2003 A GREAT SUCCESS!**  
The 53rd Annual Canadian Association of Geographers Meeting at UVic was a great success. Over 550 papers were submitted, nearly 100 volunteers! A wide variety of academic presentations, as well as entertaining social events provided a good conference ensemble that attracted both national and international participation.

UVic has set a high bar for next year's CAG meeting, "The Other Edge of Canada", 25-29 May, in Moncton, hosted by the University of Moncton and Mount Allison University.

**GEOGRAPHY OPEN HOUSE, 5-6 September**

As part of UVic's 100th anniversary celebrations, the Geography Department showed

off its labs - the BLAST lab, Whale Lab, Tree-Rings Lab, and Spatial Sciences Labs. In addition, the Society of Geography Students volunteered to staff the Geography info table, and help blow up balloons. Exhibits, video shows, presentations and a book give-away rounded out the Geography contribution.

## NEW GEOGRAPHY CO-OP COORDINATOR

Ms. Zuzana Capeau, new UVic Geography Co-operative education coordinator, is actively promoting the program and doing a great job building the profile and opportunities for geography students. Zuzana started working in Co-operative Education with the UBC Computer Science program in 1998. Having three years of experience there, Zuzana looks forward to working with students, faculty and employers, who are closer to her own academic interests. She majored in Health Psychology at the University of Calgary in the late 80's and then went to McGill for a year before completing her MA in Medical Anthropology at the University of Alberta. UVic Co-op website: <http://mycoop.coop.uvic.ca/index.php>

New WGS Title: "Demography, Democracy, and Development: Pacific Rim Experiences," Volume 38 in the Canadian Western Geographical Series. Produced and published by The Department of Geography, University of Victoria and distributed by UBC Press.

Demography, Democracy, and Development: Pacific Rim Experiences is edited by Robert E. Bedeski and John A. Schofield, and is a volume of the proceedings of the second annual University of Victoria-National Sun Yat-Sen University Social Sciences Symposium, had in Taiwan in April 2000. More information: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wgs/wgsc38.html>

## UVIC GEOG GRAD STUDENT GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

It was one of a thousand papers submitted for scientific review but its high quality and relevance got it noticed. And getting noticed means University of Victoria Department of Geography Ph.D. student Laura Johnson is flying to Quebec City this month to present her paper to the XII World Forestry Congress. "Elation. That's what I feel. It's wonderful to get this sort of recognition from the worldwide forest

community," says Johnson, author of Seasonal evergreen forests do burn: conservation concerns for southeast Asia. Johnson's paper documents the occurrence of fire in seasonal evergreen forests in continental southeast Asia. It's important because it's widely believed that these types of forests do not, or only rarely, burn. "Recent reports from protected areas suggest otherwise but little documentation exists to support these observations," says Johnson. If seasonal evergreen forests in "protected" areas are burning, critical habitats are being lost. Biodiversity is being threatened. The soil is being degraded. And evergreen species are being killed. "Relatively few intact seasonal evergreen forests remain and, of those that do, most are in protected areas such as Thailand's Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary," adds Johnson. That's where she conducted her fieldwork and interviews. The worldwide forest community almost missed out on an opportunity to hear Laura Johnson speak about her eye-opening research. When you're a student, being invited to Quebec City is one thing. Finding the money to cover the costs of registration, travel and accommodation is something else again. But when word of the accolade she'd received happened to reach Natural Resources Canada, Johnson's dream became a reality. "When we learned through colleagues of the caliber of Laura's work and the international recognition she had earned, the opportunity was perfect for us to demonstrate our commitment to encouraging gifted students of forest science," says Dr. Paul Addison, Director-General at the Canadian Forest Service's Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria. Financial assistance from the Canadian Forest Service is covering Johnson's hotel, transportation and food costs and the World Forestry Congress has collaborated to ensure the cost of her airfare and registration are covered as well. [http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/newstips/wfc\\_student\\_e.html](http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/newstips/wfc_student_e.html)

WCIRC      ACTIVE      AT      UVIC!

At the beginning of August 2003, the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC) group (product of a joint agreement between the Department of Geography, University of Victoria and the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) of Environment

Canada) moved into new facilities located in the Technology Enterprise Facility I (TEF I) building at 2300 McKenzie Avenue on the UVic campus. W-CIRC has five offices and two labs at the TEF I building and an office in the Geography Department where Professor Terry Prowse, Research Chair Climate Impacts on Water Resources, and graduate students are housed.

As of September 1, 2003, Dr. Fred Wrona (Branch Director of the Aquatic Ecosystem Impacts Research Branch and Director of the National Hydrology Research Centre, Saskatoon) of NWRI has become a Victoria member of W-CIRC and will soon be contributing to the Department of Geography as a Water-Resource Geographer. Dr. Wrona is an internationally recognized expert in aquatic ecology and ecotoxicology, biostatistics and quantitative ecology; and integrated monitoring program design and application. He has ongoing studies/research activities that deal with: the assessment of the effects of climate change on the stability and dynamics of aquatic food webs; the impacts of contaminant stressors on aquatic food web structure and complexity; and the scientific assessment of interbasin transfer/bulk water removal.

Dr. Frank Quinn, a policy advisor in the Water Policy and Coordination Directorate, Environment Canada, Ottawa, has been in Victoria most of October to collaborate with Professor Prowse on an evaluation of historical and spatial trends in dams and water diversions in Canada. This stems from their recent co-authoring of review chapters on these topics for an upcoming Environment Canada publication about Threats to Water Availability in Canada.

Three M.Sc. Graduate students have embarked on thesis projects affiliated with W-CIRC. Mr. Laurent deRham (Dr. Prowse, supervisor) is researching extreme flood events, particularly those produced by ice jams, in northern Canada. A special focus is being placed on the Mackenzie River system and the effects of climatic trends and atmospheric teleconnections. Ms. Katrina Bennett's M.Sc. project (Drs. Prowse and Gibson, co-supervisors) involves the study of variability in lake and catchment water balance and implications for acid sensitivity in the tar

sands region of Alberta. The research utilizes GIS, isotope mass balance, and water chemistry to assess limnologic patterns in a regional network of 50 lakes situated in a range of hydro-geologic regimes. Ms. Arelia Werner's thesis (Drs. Prowse and Gibson, co-supervisors) addresses potential climate-change impacts on the water balance of Sooke Lake, Greater Victoria's main water-supply reservoir. Her work will contribute to a broad assessment of climate controls on past, present and future reservoir water balance from a synthesis of historical records, climate proxy archives, and water and isotope-mass balance techniques.

The new students and Dr. Wrona adds to W-CIRC's compliment which includes Terry Prowse (Project Chief and Professor/Research Chair in Geography), John Gibson (Research Scientist and Adjunct Professor of Geography), Daniel Peters (NSERC Visiting Fellow) and Martin Lacroix (Climate Impact Hydrologist). W-CIRC is now considering sabbatical options for visiting scientists. Those interested should contact Professor Prowse directly ([prowset@uvic.ca](mailto:prowset@uvic.ca)).

#### ICE-BOUND FORESTS REVEALED BY RETREATING GLACIERS

According to researchers at UVic's tree ring laboratory, glaciers in B.C.'s Coast Mountains are retreating at rates of between 25 and 50 meters per year and, in the process, are exposing buried forests that, until now, have been entombed below the ice for 2,000 to 5,000 years. These sub-fossil forests, including trees, soil, cones and other organic material, contain a wealth of scientific data on glacier responses to climate change rarely available to Canadian scientists.

"We're using trees to tell glacier stories and the glaciers are really emphasizing that some kind of threshold climate change has taken place within the last century," says Dr. Dan Smith, founder of UVic's tree ring lab and chair of the geography department. "Whether it's global warming or changes in precipitation, our research at several glacier sites within the Coast Mountains is telling us this hasn't happened in the past 5,000 years."

Using dendrochronology, the science of dating events and climate change by studying

tree rings, Smith and graduate students Sandy Allen and Sarah Laxton traveled to Todd glacier near Stewart, B.C. this summer to collect samples that they will use to eventually create a 3,000-year tree ring chronology. This annual record of tree growth will enable researchers to track climate and glacial mass balance changes in the Coast Mountains more precisely than ever before. UVic Geography's Tree Ring Lab: <http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/uvtrl/uvtrl.htm>  
John Newcomb

Thank you to everyone who submitted contributions to this newsletter. We all benefit from being informed about what is happening in the various geography departments. I had hoped to receive more contributions, but I realize that this is a busy time of year in the middle of the semester. For the previous newsletter I received several more contributions including some from institutions with geographers but without a geography department. This newsletter is an instrument to stay in touch. Please keep us informed about what is happening in your university or college. If any of you have suggestions about someone who would like to be included in this publication, please let me know. What about non-academic geographers? Would it not be interesting to find out what they are doing, what type of work they are involved in? Please spread the word!

Ineke Dijks

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