President’s Report to the Executive
WDCAG – June 2004

Finally back at my desk here in The Hat – so much to relate to you all. A grand tour of the southwestern USA (my annual field course) in May was followed by the CAG meetings in Moncton. The executive has been busy this last year. Many of you have probably visited the revamped website – if not it is at 
http://www.cag-acg.ca/

Our executive meetings have raised elements you should be aware of:

Total CAG membership has risen to almost 1000. Good news but…we feel that the profile of our discipline still needs attention. To that end, a countrywide “publicity” is being sought. There will be efforts made to solidify media links and elevate the profile of geography. Please, if any news stories are printed in your local papers, send them along to Valerie Shoffey in Montreal – email: cag@felix.geog.mcgill.ca

A search for a new editor of The Canadian Geographer will be an upcoming issue.
Lawrence Berg (Univ. of BC – Okanagan) will step down next year. A search process will be announced along with “job description” and “requirements” of the undertaking. Additionally, the executive will examine the relationships between the editor, the editorial board and the CAG executive. It seems that the relationships have never been entirely “codified”. That’s the ultimate goal.

An executive representative for the Province of Quebec (but not full regional status) should be in place for next year’s AGM in London, Ontario (UWO).

I found out that the CAG does not have a formal archivist – nor has there ever been provision for one. We are the only division that has one. The executive is hurriedly trying to rectify the situation and hopes to consult with the WDCAG’s present - Ken Favroldt (UNBC and UCC) and past – Len Evenden (SFU) to help create such a position. In the interim please do not throw out anything that you think may be relevant to the history of the CAG – yours may be the only copy in existence.

A number of CAG executive positions will need to be filled next year. A search committee has been struck to try to make the process more of an election – rather than the “appointment” process it has been in the past. Some of you can expect to be contacted to see if you have any interest in running for: Vice-President (to assume Presidency in 2006), Secretary-Treasurer and two Councilor-at-Large positions. Diane Draper’s (U of C) term comes to a close but Greg Halseth (UNBC) has another year to serve. The committee will be making an effort to ensure equity (gender, regional affiliation, position in the profession, sub-disciplinary interests) among executive members.

Next AGM a new policy will be launched that encourages a smoother transition of regional representation. The incoming regional president (in our case Neil Hanlon, UNBC) will be funded to attend the entire CAG week; she/he will attend the initial executive meeting as a non-voting observer. The out-going representative also attends this meeting (as a voting member), but the latter will not attend the second executive meeting. In the past, the incoming representative has only attended the second meeting. Hopefully this will give the “newbies” the “heads up” on what the issues are and how the executive conducts itself.

The executive reviewed the CAG’s participation in a number of other “geographical” organizations (IGU, HSSFC, NRC, CNC for example). Members have been appointed to represent our interests in each of the relevant organizations.

The CAG is trying to encourage student participation at regional meetings through a $1500 grant to each division directed towards student travel to local AGMs (Ontario, Prairie and Atlantic are all held in the Fall). Each division is free to disburse this money in any manner they see fit. Over the fall, we should explore the manner in which we should spend this money – we will have the examples from back east, so for U. of Lethbridge meeting we should have a system in place - any ideas? Please let us all know of them.

I feel we all owe a debt to André Roy (U. de Montréal); as outgoing President of the CAG the last couple of years he has really made a difference. Especially evident are his contributions in increasing membership (especially student), abetting Quebec’s re-integration, and starting the regional travel grants. He has injected a new enthusiasm and flair to the Executive.

The U. de Moncton and Mount Allison organizing committee should also be lauded. There were 376 registrants at the May meeting, 155 were students. They showed how a smaller institution can really produce and excellent meeting. The Western Division was well represented with participants from our far west (UVic and Kwantlen), far north (Northern Lights), almost prairie (Medicine Hat) as well as BC’s interior (UNBC, UCC, UBC-O), valleys (UCFV) and our big cities (U of C, Mount Royal, U of A, Capilano College, UBC and SFU) – sorry if I missed anyone.

So, this is just a look at what the CAG executive did/tried to accomplish. It gives the WDCAG executive a little bit to do before March. I hope that you all have good summer seasons, get back to me with any questions/
beefs and some of you will be hearing from me individually.
Submitted by Ben Moffat.

Dr. J. Lewis Robinson is presented with the Meritorious Service Award by Dr. Len Evenden.

University of Lethbridge

The Department of Geography at The University of Lethbridge continues to consolidate its strong position at the university. Our faculty contingent numbers 17, we now boast a total of 21 fine graduate students, and well over 120 undergraduates have chosen to become geography majors. All this in a province that does not teach geography at the secondary level! Dr. Walter Aufrecht is back in the department after a year of leave. Walter is delighted to report that Noah V. Honch who earned a B.Sc. in archeology at the University of Lethbridge in 2001 with Great Distinction and was awarded the Gold Medal in Science, has subsequently been awarded a Master in Theological Studies (Harvard Divinity School, 2003), Master of Arts (Oxford, 2004, with Distinction) and has begun doctoral work at Oxford.

Our faculty have a number of exciting research programs under way. Dr. Rene Barendregt began a second term as Associate Dean of Arts and Science while continuing his research on the paleomagnetism of Quaternary sediments and volcanic units, especially in the Yukon. Dr. Tom Johnston is President of the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association and continues to pursue his research on farm-level response to variation in agro-climatic conditions. Dr. Robert Rogerson is the current Chair of the Department and continues his research on coulees in southern Alberta. Dr. Nobuyuki Takahashi, of Hokkai Gakuen University in Sapporo, is spending his year of research leave in the department. His interests are highland geomorphology and ecology although he plans to extend his research into areas glaciated by continental ice.

Dr. Shawn Bubel worked on two large research projects this past year. One is in our own backyard at the Fincastle bison kill site. Twenty-six students worked on the SSHRC-funded DIOx5 excavation during the months of May and August, uncovering thousands of bison bones, along with numerous flakes and projectile points connected with the Sonota culture. Interestingly, over 90% of the lithic material is Knife River Flint, which comes from North Dakota.

In June and July eighteen students joined Shawn in Israel, where they excavated at Tel Beth Shemesh. This year's excavation focused on the transition from the Late Bronze age to the Iron Age (1300-1200 BC), to ascertain the ethnicity of the Israelites. (Were they Hebrew slaves who escaped from Egypt or local Canaanites who made a few cultural changes?) Preliminary evidence points to a local adaptation.

Dr. James Byrne has concluded a four-year term as a National Theme Leader in Watershed Resource Management and Member of the Research Management Committee (RMC) of the Canadian Water Network (CWN/RCE), a federally funded Network of Centres of Excellence. He has been a national leader since the network was first conceived in 2001. Jim is currently leading climate change projects on downscaling future precipitation scenarios for western Canada; and assessing climate change impacts on runoff and water supply in the Okanagan Basin, B.C. Finally, the Water Under Fire Television series, a seven part treatise on the state of Canada water resources, is scheduled for broadcast on five Canadian networks this winter. The series, produced by Byrne and Gallant Productions, Lethbridge, and
co-produced by Dr. Richard Mrazek (Associate Dean of Research in Education at Lethbridge) was filmed on locations from coast to coast and into the far north in 2003 and 2004. For more information on Water Under Fire, see http://waterunderfire.com.

Dr. Craig Coburn has designed, developed and built a goniometer for use with Dr. Derek Peddle’s spectroradiometer. The instrument will be used to measure hemispherical canopy reflectance and to determine bi-directional reflectance distribution functions for a variety of vegetation canopy types. Craig has also begun the testing phase of an airborne digital remote sensing system that he is developing and building himself. His multispectral remote sensing system uses extended infrared and visible video cameras and high performance image capture hardware to create multispectral images. The current configuration includes six different image bands imaging the 400 to 1200 nm region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

In the summer of 2004, Dr. Hester Jiskoot led an NSERC-funded field research program on Shackleton Glacier on the Clemenceau Icefield of the BC Rockies. In August, her research team measured ice flow velocities and strain rates of the glacier to quantify tributary-trunk interactions. She also measured surface roughness of different flow units, in order to ground-truth ASTER satellite image data of glaciers in this region. This is the first known field research on any of the Clemenceau Icefield glaciers.

Dr. Dan Johnson joined the University in January 2004 as a Tier-I Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Grassland Ecosystems as a member of the Department of Geography and affiliated with the Water Institute for Semi-arid Ecosystems (WISE). Dan began new projects on grassland biogeography and ecology of the food web relationships of insects, plants, microbes, and birds, including species at risk such as the Burrowing Owl, while also being an active participant in newly initiated research on water quality, watershed ecology and aquatic ecology. Dr. Johnson is also involved in the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research (AICWR) within the Watersheds Theme.

Dr. Stefan Kienzle is working on the impacts of climate change on water resources in southern Alberta. Alpine snow pack estimates, important for water resources planning, are significantly improved by integrating digital elevation models, shading effects of mountains, lapse rates and radiation budgets on a 100m by 100m grid cell system. Stefan is also working on a trend analysis of low water flows, and he has developed a new evaluation method of watershed recovery after a drought by carrying out detailed analysis of the speed of hydrographic recession.

Academic Assistants Suzan Lapp and Jacqueline Montain have taken responsibility for additional lab courses including Geology and Glaciology. Highlights of the past academic year included the third offering of the highly successful ‘Education 4210: Curriculum Development Seminar – Geographic Information Science in Urban and Natural Environments’. First offered in 2002 with support from the Canadian Council on Geographic Education, summer 2004 saw this innovative course operating at near capacity with 20 undergraduate and graduate Education students, who explored the use of geographic information system software and global positioning receivers in K-12 classrooms.

Suzan Lapp attended the Canadian Water Network Workshop where she participated in a detailed study of the Grand River Watershed, exploring the impacts of population on this valuable resource, and bringing back many new ideas that could be incorporated into our current course offerings.

Jacqueline Montain attended the Southwest Alberta Teachers Association Convention in February, making a presentation along with Dr. Stefan Kienzle and Dr. Rick Mrazek (Education) to promote the integration of Geographic Information Science in K-12 teaching and to introduce practicing teachers to our Education 4210 course.

Dr. Matthew Letts is studying the impact of microclimatic variation on photosynthesis processes right here in the Lethbridge coulees. He set up weather stations in May of this year on south-facing and north-facing slopes, to characterize microclimatic and pedoclimatic
extremes. Preliminary results show that Silver Sagebrush and Skunkbush Sumac are capable of extremely high rates of photosynthesis and transpiration when soil moisture availability is high. Rather than conserving moisture to survive in an arid environment, they photosynthesize rapidly early in the season.

Matt also traveled to Cundinamarca, Colombia this summer, where he established a high altitude weather station in tropandean ‘paramo’ and studied photosynthesis processes in a hemiparasitic mistletoe and its host plant. On route to Cundinamarca, where he is collaborating with Corporación Regional de Cundinamarca and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Matt presented a paper on light limitation as a control on cloud forest productivity in the north-west Andes of South America at the Miami conference of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation.

Dr. Ian MacLachlan is back from a year at the Centre of Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Ian visited departments of geography through the length of the British Isles and advanced his research in the areas of humane slaughter and the nineteenth century origins of the meat processing industry, possibly the most closely regulated of any manufacturing sector. Ian is now working on contemporary issues related to the beef commodity chain in the wake of the BSE crisis of 2003.

Dr. Derek Peddle has been appointed the PARC-WISE Research Professor in Climate Change, a 3 year appointment through the Water Institute for Semi Arid Ecosystems (WISE, based at the University of Lethbridge: [http://www.waterinstitute-wise.ca](http://www.waterinstitute-wise.ca) for which he is also Scientific Director), and the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC, based in Regina). He has also been appointed the University of Lethbridge Theme Leader of Watersheds in the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research ([http://www.albertaingenuity.ca](http://www.albertaingenuity.ca)), a 5 year $11M initiative involving the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary and Alberta. Derek continues to serve on the Board of Governors and Senate of the University.

Dr. Ivan Townshend has completed a SSHRC-funded Multidisciplinary Aboriginal Program study of employment structure and diversity of First Nations communities on the prairies. He continues to work on the social ecology of neighbourhood privatization in cities, and was an invited speaker at the International Research Network on Gated Communities conference in New Orleans. Ivan is currently working with colleagues in Health Sciences on a study of the health implications of "community resiliency" in rural communities. He also continues to work on the link between the experiential structure of community, well-being, and civility in both urban and rural communities. He was the recipient of a University of Lethbridge Book Award for *Monitoring Cities: International Perspectives*, a valuable collection that is available for purchase through the department.

Dr. Wei Xu visited China again this past summer. In Shanghai, he presented “Dynamics of Shanghai’s spatial restructuring in an era of globalization” at the International Conference on Urban Changes in the 21st Century, held at East China Normal University. Dr. Xu also visited the Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve in Jilin Province, where he attended a workshop on China’s Capacity for Carbon Sequestration, organized by a University of Toronto CIDA project team. As an invited specialist, Dr. Xu presented a paper on “Impact of agricultural to forest land conversion: the case of Changbaishan, China.”

Finally, all members of the department are looking forward to hosting our colleagues at the upcoming annual WDCAG meeting to be held at the University of Lethbridge in March 11-12, 2005.

Submitted by Ian MacLachlan.

**University of Alberta at Camrose**

Major changes occurred this past summer at our institution. On July 1, Augustana University College officially merged with the University of Alberta. We are now called the Augustana Faculty, as part of the University of Alberta's Camrose campus. We will continue to offer an expanded selection of liberal arts and sciences undergraduate degree programs. In the long term, site plans have been developed to envision
a campus that can accommodate 2000 students. In the short term, this may involve construction of a new library and performing arts centre. I don't know what this merger means for future institutional contributions to this newsletter.

Administratively, Geography is now part of the Department of Science, along with biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and computing science. Augustana will continue to offer a minor in geography and contribute to the existing BSc in Environmental Science. A new BA in Environmental Studies is in the approval process. We look forward to making new links between our Camrose campus and the Edmonton campus. Faculty member, Glen Hvenegaard, and Physical Education colleague, Morten Asfeldt, co-edited a special issue of *Pathways: Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education* on technology developing relationships with nature. Glen also had a paper on Bird Festivals published in *Recent Advances and Research Updates*. Glen is part of the Battle River Watershed Stakeholder Advisory Group, with a mandate to make recommendations to the government on water allocations in the basin.

Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard. glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca (or hveng@augustana.ca) or visit our website: www.augustana.ca/departments/geography.

**University of Northern B.C.**

**Faculty News:**

Gail Fondahl is on sabbatical for the fall term at Edinburgh University’s Institute of Geography, working on a monograph on indigenous land rights in post-Soviet Russia.

Kevin Hall is on sabbatical from July 1st, 2004 until June 30th, 2005 undertaking research on the weathering of San cave art in southern Africa.

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson visited UNBC's Prince George campus on Wednesday, October 6th. Her Excellency, along with Geography's Greg Halseth, Mayor Colin Kinsley, and Paul Michel (Director of UNBC's First Nations Centre) participated in the panel discussion moderated by Anthropology professor Jim MacDonald.

Neil Hanlon is the new President of *The Canadian Rural and Remote Health Association* which is a nonprofit organization working with individuals, organizations and communities to create a national network of information and communication concerning rural and remote health issues, promote policies and programs designed to achieve and sustain good health and health care in rural and remote areas, and empower people to identify solutions to rural and remote health concerns.

Neil also gave a presentation at the BC Aging Research Network (BCARN) Consultation Meeting in Prince George on population aging research that he is currently undertaking in northern BC. The BCARN is one of eight research networks being supported by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

In September, Catherine Nolin was elected to the Board of Directors for the Prince George Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS) for a 2-year term.

Catherine was also invited to present her ongoing research on immigration and settlement in BC’s northern communities at the 3rd Annual Steelhead Seminar in Smithers, BC, which is organized by UNBC's Political Science program. This year's seminar brought together academics, regional mayors, municipal and regional government representatives as well as immigration service providers and community organization representatives.

At the end of October, Catherine traveled to Guelph, Ontario with graduate students Jacqui Stephens, Jenn Reade, and Sandi Paradis for the Congress of the *Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* (CALACS) to present three papers in two linked sessions entitled: "Guatemala: Scenarios of War and Peace, I and II.”

Deb Straussfogel is Acting Chair of the Geography and RRT programs during Gail Fondahl's sabbatical in Scotland, July to December 2004.

Roger Wheate presented and chaired a session at the *International Cartographic Association* workshop on high mountain cartography in Vall de Núria, Catalunya (Catalonia, Spain), 29 September to 2 October 2004.
Graduate Student News:
Joanna Kafarowski (Ph.D candidate, NRES- Geography) secured formal support of the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee and Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association -- the two partners for her doctoral research -- and is currently negotiating with potential fieldwork communities in Nunavik. Joanna presented a paper on "Indigenous research methodologies in a Canadian context" at the Northern Feminist University in Steigen, Norway earlier this summer and will be presenting another paper entitled "Valuing local knowledge in the Canadian North: How the involvement of local peoples results in relevant resource management decisions" in Penang, Malaysia in November.

Recent Publications:
See our website: http://www.unbc.ca/geography
Submitted by Debra Strausssfogel

University College of the Cariboo

Geography at the University College of the Cariboo (UCC) has gone through quite a metamorphosis since November 2003. We have seen two of our senior instructors retire; we have survived our second departmental review with, shall I say, flying colours; we have broken off from our colleagues in Sociology and Anthropology to form our own, independent Department of Geography; we have hired four new Geographers, two of which are on-going faculty; we have added six new upper level courses; and we have elected our first Departmental Chair, Ross Nelson. What else? Oh yes, UCC has received university status, will join forces with Open Learning University, and will be renamed Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in April 2005. All in a day's work!

Certainly, the event in Geography that precipitated most of the chain reaction I just described was the retirement last August of Jim and Mary Miller. Jim and Mary are now residing in Burnaby and are still busy with their stamp business. You can visit them online at http://www.canadacovers.ca. The loss of two excellent colleagues, instructors, and mentors who together shared over 35 years experience teaching physical geography in our department, forced us to rethink the structure of our program as we plan for a small cities research and teaching focus. Through careful planning, a lot of lobbying, and also extremely good timing, we not only secured the replacement of Jim and Mary’s positions, but we also negotiated the hiring of one additional continuing faculty position in Human Geography as well as a second Physical Geography Lab Instructor position. Let me introduce you to our new Geography colleagues.

Dr. Darryl Carlyle-Moses is a hydrologist and biogeographer and came to us from the University of Toronto. His research interests focus on hydrological processes at the soil-plant-atmosphere interface, particularly the measurement and modelling of the quantitative importance and spatial and temporal variability of canopy water fluxes (you can always email him directly for the translation!). Most of his recent research has been conducted in a
headwater catchment of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range, in north eastern Mexico. Darryl is currently developing 3 new upper level courses: The Urban Biophysical Environment; Global Hydrology; and Fluvial Geomorphology. In addition to teaching these new courses, Darryl is joining forces with Brian Goehring in delivering the department's introductory Physical Geography courses.

Maija Heimo is in the final stages of her PhD program at UBC. Her research interests span a wide range of topics in cultural geography. Maija's current research focuses on the political ecology of water conservation in Mexico City. Like Darryl, Maija will be introducing new upper level courses this year: a first one on the Geographies of Gender, and a second entitled Political Ecology. She is also assigned to teach our third year cultural geography course as well as some of our lower level offerings.

Crystal Huscroft comes to us from Whitehorse where she was working for the Yukon Geological Survey. Crystal has a Master's in Earth Sciences from SFU and is teaching labs in our upper and lower levels Physical Geography courses. Her main research is on the study of landslide hazards and climate change in Canada's northern regions.

Finally, Nick Cradock-Henry was hired to teach lower level Physical Geography labs and to assist with first year Human Geography courses. Nick has a Master's from Wilfrid Laurier and a GIS diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming. He was most recently employed by the Silva Forest Foundation where he helped author a recent study of the Ecosystem-Based Plan of the North-Central Saskatchewan Land Use Planning Area.

Anyone wanting to know more about UCC's new Geographers or consult the report of our latest Geography Program Review, please check the UCC Department of Geography website at the following address: www.cariboo.bc.ca/ae/education/geog/index.html

You may also be interested to know that UCC/TRU will be co-hosting a Small Cities Conference in early May (2005). The conference is a follow-up to last year's successful Small City Forum. Announcements will be on the web in short order. Also appearing soon will be the Small Cities Book from New Star Books. It contains research and reflections by participants in UCC Cultural of Small Cities CURA project. From BC's (perhaps Canada's) newest Department of Geography. Submitted by Gilles Viaud.

University of Victoria
Another Fulbright Scholarship!

UVic Geography Graduate Kirstin Campbell (BSc '98) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. Campbell, a visiting Canada-U.S. Fulbright scholar at Northern Arizona University, will learn about "Lurch," a forest management model that evaluates a forest's response to predefined management actions.

Campbell finds this program compelling because of what she calls its "long term planning, including First Nations' knowledge and goals for their land." In the long term, Campbell wants study how climate change will affect the Cheslatta Carrier Nation land, which is just south of Burns Lake in British Columbia.

Campbell is pursuing her doctorate in forestry at UBC. She shares the award with Uvic graduate Lyana Patrick and is among 60 Canadian and American students and scholars participating in the Canada-U.S Fulbright Program's bilateral academic exchange in the 2004/05 academic year.

Professor Jamie Cassels, UVic's vice president academic and provost, says, "the success of these two women not only reflects the outstanding quality of students and programs at the University of Victoria but it also celebrates the university's commitment to strengthening its unique relationships with First Nations communities, and to making a major contribution to environmental research."

UVic Geography Co-op Alumnus, Ian Scott (BSc '99), was a recipient of last year's Fulbright Scholarship.

Award and Publication for Harry Foster

Harry Foster was presented with the Orthomolecular Doctor of the Year Award in May, 2004 by the International Society for Orthomolecular Medicine. I am the only Geographer who has ever been given this award.
It usually goes to a physician. Foster's new book, *What Really Causes Alzheimer's Disease*, is going to the printers, Trafford Publishing and will also be posted to the Internet at: http://www.hdfoster.com

**Peter Keller New Dean of Social Sciences**

Dr. Peter Keller is now Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, bringing an exciting new perspective to the Faculty. His message: http://www.sociailsciences.uvic.ca/message.html

**New Geomatics Lab About To Open**

Our Geomatics lab, after so much planning and renovation of the space, is about to be launched officially on December 1. The lab's opening signals a new focus on Geomatics, with the combined BSc Geography-Computer Science leading the way.

In the photo are our new team of Geomatics teaching staff, including, standing at left, senior lab instructor John Fowler, MSc; senior lab instructor Carrie Steckler, MSc; and senior instructor, Dr. Ian O'Connell. More on the Geomatics Program: http://www.geog.uvic.ca/geomatics/

**UVic Geography Department Create First Community Green Map of Victoria**

The map features treasured community and natural places in Victoria and the Capital Region and represents a multi-year collaboration between our Geography Department and Common Ground. As part of the worldwide Green Map system, its the most recent of 175 green maps that have now been printed world-wide. Our cartographer Ken Josephson, as well as our new Dean of Social Sciences, have been enthusiastic supporters and contributors to this Green Map, which we also hope to bring to the internet before long.


**University College of the Fraser Valley**

Although growth in the Geography Department at UCFV has been on-going since “university-college” status was conferred in 1992, the pace of growth has shifted up several notches in the past two years. Currently, there are 103 major, 34 extended minor and 40 minor students enrolled in the programme. As well, faculty numbers have grown substantially, now numbering eleven, with a brand new, hot-off-the-press position in human geography approved this week, subject to funding. Expect a job ad to appear soon on the CAG listserve.

Our two most recent faculty additions are Michelle Rhodes (Ph.D., 2002, Simon Fraser University) and Olav Lian (Ph.D., 1997, University of Western Ontario). Michelle fills our position in suburban ecology and comes to us from University of Montana-Western.

In 2002 she co-authored the book, The Unknown World of the Mobile Home with John Fraser Hart and John T. Morgan. Her expertise in cross-border political economy is a welcome addition to the Department’s Fraser Borderland initiative.

Olav Lian will arrive in January 2005, from Royal Holloway College, University of London, England. He has specialization in the study of Quaternary environments, specifically sedimentology, stratigraphy and geomorphology. His main field research areas have been British Columbia and North Island, New Zealand, but he also has studied the Quaternary in Russia, England, the United States, and Manitoba and Ontario in Canada. His work in luminescence dating of mineral sediments has resulted in an extensive research and publication record. Olav, who is also an Adjunct Professor of Earth Sciences at Simon
Fraser University, will complement existing strengths in physical geography at UCFV.

A hallmark of UCFV Geography is field study, both local and international. Field schools are held in Hawaii and Mexico in alternating years. This past summer, David Gibson led 16 students to Mexico and is preparing a new trip to Spain for spring 2005. Cherie Enns and Sandy Vanderburgh are well into the planning of their next field excursion to Hawaii, also in the spring. Closer to home, a field excursion to Mount St Helens on October 1 turned into the trip of a lifetime for three van loads of students and their Instructors, Claire Beaney, Steve Marsh and Sandy Vanderburgh. Shortly after we arrived at the first stop, the Johnston look-out, the volcano obliged by venting. The group was besieged by American media types who had been camping out in anticipation of some volcanic action due to earthquakes in the previous week. Interviews with faculty and students ran on FOX and KIRO in Seattle and CBC in Vancouver. Finally, the pitter patter of little feet could soon prove deafening in the halls of the Department with no fewer than three recent bundles of joy. In the summer, a baby girl was born to Kathy Peet and husband Keith, and a baby boy was born to Stewart Brown and wife Katerina. A second addition to Tanya and Sandy Vanderburgh’s family, a boy, arrived just today, October 29th.
Douglas College
Due to the fact that two faculty members are away on maternity leave, the Department of Geography hired Jason Miller and Parthi Krishnan as sessional instructors in the fall 2004 semester. The department is continuing to review its program in light of the changes occurring in the BC post-secondary system. Submitted by Earl Noah.

Capilano College
Brett McGillivray's book on the Geography of B.C. is soon to appear in its second edition. It should be out before next summer. His book on the Geography of Canada is currently being reviewed at Oxford University Press so we should expect to see that book soon as well. This coming spring term, starting in January 2005, we will be offering our second year Weather and Climate course for the first time in over twenty years. Submitted by Sheila Ross.

University of British Columbia
Outstanding Achievements
There are three signal events to report at UBC Geography over the past few months. First was the announcement in late July 2004 that Professor Emeritus Cole Harris had been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. This is Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement, and we are very honoured to have yet another OC in the history of the Department (Professor Emeritus J. Ross Mackay having been previously elected to that august office). The citation noted Cole’s many achievements in both the research and teaching of historical geography, and that “...through his understanding of the evolution and special character of our nation, he has illuminated the past so that we can better understand how to move toward the future”. Our heartiest congratulations to Cole on his magnificent award!

Our second major accolade this year was the election of Professor Derek Gregory as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. This is the sixth such election in the history of the department, the other Fellows being Ross Mackay, Tim Oke, David Ley, Mike Church, and Cole Harris. It is fitting that this recognition of Derek’s scholarship arrived at about the same time as the appearance in print of his latest book The Colonial Present, published by Blackwell. In fact as I write these notes, Derek is located somewhere in the Middle East, conducting yet more field research on matters colonial. To Derek, wherever you are congratulations on your stellar achievement.

We also have a major undergraduate accolade to report this past year. One of our graduating BA students, Amber Zirnhelt, won the prestigious Sherwood Lett Memorial Scholarship, one of the ‘premier’ undergraduate awards at UBC. It recognizes truly all-round performance, not only in terms of academic excellence but also community service and sporting achievement (Amber is an accomplished mountain biker who has performed in national competitions). Amber has also won the Margaret Lawrence Scholarship in Arts, a Canadian Millennium Foundation Award, a Geography Alumni Scholarship, a Walter D. Firth Scholarship, a Canadian Merit Scholarship, and an Undergraduate Scholar Program award! This is a truly amazing set of achievements. Amber graduated with high honours this spring, and has since commenced graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Moving On – A Time of Change
We have an impending retirement in our department - Dr. Kenneth Denike, who retires in December 2004. Ken has been a member of the Geography faculty for well over 30 years and has taught courses over a broad spectrum of topics, including urban and economic geography and quantitative methods. Ken’s Geography 375 has been one of the few regularly taught courses at UBC dealing with multivariate methods in the social sciences. Who, pray who will now assume responsibility for instructing on such arcane topics as: \( b = [X'X]^{-1}[Y] \) and all its mathematical ramifications? Perhaps less well known by most people at UBC is Ken’s long-standing service to the Vancouver community. For many years Ken served on the Vancouver School Board, and was Chair of the Board for several years during the 1990s, presiding over a budget larger than most of us
can imagine. This was a period of dramatic change in the schools, consequent upon the arrival of a large body of immigrants to the Vancouver region. Ken’s other major community focus has been transportation studies, and most recently he has contributed materially to the development of the present U-Pass system, designed to enhance commuter use of transit to UBC. The system has been a resounding success, in no small measure due to Ken’s efforts. Ken is also the recipient this year of an award for best geographic education paper from the National Council for Geographic Education for his co-authored paper on Medical Mapping.

We are pleased to report that Dr. Elvin Wyly, who was hired into our faculty in July 2002, was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure this past spring. Elvin had previously resigned from a tenured position at Rutgers University to take up his appointment with us.

Sabbatical Leaves

Trevor Barnes and David Edgington are both on leave this year, causing quite a gap in our economic geography courses, which we were very fortunate to be able to cover with a series of exceptional sessional appointments. But it is quite beyond me why professors of cognate abilities always seem to go on leave in the same year! Next year we will have Ian McKendry and Dan Moore on leave, and this past year it was Profs. Church, McClung and Oke. It’s all intended to drive a Head quite insane.

Research News and Highlights

Significant papers published by our faculty and graduate students span a huge range of topics and journals, ranging from geophysical studies, to urban geography, to cross-cultural studies. Not counting book chapters, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and other research papers, over 85 refereed papers by members of our department have appeared in print in top-flight refereed journals in the past few months alone. Also appearing in print was the sole authored book by Geraldine Pratt, Working Feminism (Edinburgh University Press/Temple University Press). When one includes the three other books by Karen Bakker, Matt Evenden, and Jim Glassman, reported in the Spring WDCAG Newsletter, and Derek Gregory’s latest book, reported above, this has been a very impressive year indeed for us with regard to published scholastic work.

Academic Employment News

Johanna Waters, PhD, 2004, is now a Lecturer at the University of Liverpool; Alex Vasudevan is now Lecturer at University of Nottingham; Jamie Winders, MA UBC 2000, Ph.D Kentucky, is now Assistant Professor at Syracuse University; and Brett Eaton, Ph.D. 2004, is now Assistant Professor at UBC.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

We continue to make progress with the review of our BA curriculum, a large task commenced last year, with Prof. Dan Hiebert heading our Curriculum Review Task Force. The upshot of this is a planned revision of first-year Human Geography courses (Geog 121, 122), the introduction of a second-year Urban Geography course (Geog 250) to be taught by Dr. Elvin Wyly, and the introduction of a second-year GIS course, Geography 270, to be taught by Sally Hermansen. The latter course will finally bring our second-year offerings more in line with ‘the rest of the world’. We expect that all of these changes will be approved in the next round of curricular submissions in spring 2005, so that they should appear in the electronic version of the 2005-2006 UBC Calendar.

Our undergraduate enrolments are slightly increased over last year, having topped out at just over 5,000 3-credit equivalents for the first time ever. In previous years, our total enrolments in early September had been 4,700 – 4,800. An all-time record intake of 28 graduate students was admitted this September (10 MA, 5 MSc, 13 Ph.D), selected from a field of about 140 applicants. We presently have 97 graduate students in our program, distributed as 23 MA, 15 MSc. and 59 Ph.D.

Recently Completed Theses

MA theses:

Harker, Christopher, November 2004. Witnessing Untitled.


MSc. theses:


PhD theses:


Rivard, Etienne, November 2004. Prairie and Quebec Metis Territoriality: Interstices Territoriales and the Cartography of In-Between Identity.

Schifer, Erik, November 2004. Contemporary Sedimentation Patterns within Green Lake, Southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia.


Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the WDCAG Newsletter.

The deadline for the next (Spring) Issue is March 31 2005.

This will be shortly after the next Annual Meeting at the University of Lethbridge - see the poster below.

Send your next contribution to:

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The University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge, Alberta.
March 11&12th, 2005.

"A different kind of conference, Pilgrim”.

No Sack’O Shit.

No BI**dy Banquet.

Cowboy Poetry.

Wagon Train.

Bunk House.

http://www.uleth.ca/fas/geo/