

## FALL NEWSLETTER 2006

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message, Prince George is receiving its first skiff of snow this Autumn. Perhaps it is cliché, but a ceremonial change of season seems the right time to be taking stock of what has happened and what lies ahead.

In terms of what has transpired since our last Newsletter, I wanted to let you know about the CAG Annual Meetings in Thunder Bay (29 May - 4 June 2006). Our hosts at Lakehead are to be commended for putting on a great conference full of engaging presentations, interesting and well organized field trips and ample opportunities for informal mixing and mingling. I spent an entire week in Thunder Bay and had many opportunities to explore this intriguing place and its surroundings. A particular highlight for me was a walkabout along the beautiful waterfront of Port Arthur on a calm, sunny afternoon with temperatures holding steady in the high 20s (Celsius, of course!).

Some news of note from the CAG Executive Meetings and the AGM:

- (1) The Executive remains committed to providing regional divisions with an annual student travel grant and the Secretary-Treasurer included this as a line in the 2006 budget estimates approved by the Executive and the general membership. This means we can expect another \$1,500 for student travel to our regional conference.
- (2) General membership is down from last year (i.e., 870 vs. 1079 in 2005). Please encourage your colleagues and students to become members of the CAG (and, by extension, the WD-CAG!).
- (3) There was a great deal of discussion about the possibility of putting together a

bid to host a future meeting of the International Geographical Union (likely no earlier than 2016!). The event, which is held every four years, has only been held once in Canada (Montreal in the early 1970s). A motion was passed at the AGM to have a feasibility study done on the potential for a Canadian bid (the general consensus was that only Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver were potential host sites). The results of the study are meant to be ready by the time the CAG meets again next May/June in Saskatoon.

Volume 15/16 of *Western Geography* is now available. This issue marks the end of Jim Windsor's twelve year term as Editor. Ross Nelson will take over upon his return from sabbatical in 2007. In the interim, please send manuscripts and inquiries (e.g., ideas for special issues) to me ([hanlon@unbc.ca](mailto:hanlon@unbc.ca)).

We are seeking nominations for our three annual awards: the J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service; the Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence; and the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Activity. The deadline for nominations is 31 January 2007. See the WD-CAG's website for more details about the awards and nomination process (<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/>).

Finally, please mark your calendars from 8-10 March 2007 for the next Annual Meeting of the WD-CAG to be hosted by the University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC. I hope to see many of you there! In the meantime, stay warm and dry and best wishes for the new academic year.

Neil Hanlon (UNBC)

## **AUGUSTANA FACULTY, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

The Augustana faculty offers a minor in geography and an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science and 2 streams in Environmental Studies (general and outdoor education), coordinated by the geography instructors. This fall, we'll conduct a search for a tenure-track faculty member to teach in the areas of GIS, environmental management, statistics, and other specialty areas.

**Glen Hvenegaard** and **Paul Johnson**, a colleague from Drama, began a new project in Banff National Park, to examine innovative methods of interpretation for children. Three students led kids in a variety of engaging activities, including participation games, drama, improv theatre, and outdoor board games. Two senior students are taking directed studies courses on this topic. Glen wrapped up his involvement in the Battle River Watershed Management Process, as water allocation recommendations were presented to Alberta Environment. He also continued several bird monitoring projects, including work for the Riparian Demonstration Site of the Iron Creek Watershed Management Society. He began teaching a new biogeography course this fall, and enjoys getting his students out in the field.

This winter, sessional instructor, **Geoff Hill**, will be teaching courses in climatology and introductory environmental science.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at [glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca](mailto:glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca) or check out websites at <http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/> and <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/>

*Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard*

## **CAMOSUN COLLEGE**

The Geography group at Camosun College has launched into the 2006-2007 academic

year with some fresh faces, fresh ideas, and renewed enthusiasm for teaching geography. We welcome two new term instructors this fall: **David Mazzucchi** and **Stephanie Olsen**. Regular term instructors **Catherine Griffiths** and **Bernard Henin** are also back, as is our Geography Assistant, **Barb Von Sacken**. Another regular term instructor, **Michelle Bennett**, is away on a year's maternity leave – congrats to Michelle and family on the birth of her new daughter Soleil! Physical geographers **Hilary Sandford** and **Chris Ayles** are working to develop a new Associate Degree (Science) in Geography, as well as keeping their courses and young families afloat. **Francis Yee** continues his active involvement with Camosun's African Awareness Committee. **Barry Weaver** is basking in the glow of last year's award for teaching excellence, yet threatening imminent retirement. Barry will be launching our new Geography of Cities class in winter term, which should be an exciting new opportunity for students. And **Tim Elkin** soldiers on as our articulation rep (for now) and GIS specialist. In light of recent enrollment concerns at the college, all of us are making new efforts to market our courses and programs. Student numbers in our geography classes remain strong, and with our dedicated group and continued good student feedback, we are optimistic about this year and the future.

*Submitted by Chris Ayles*

## **CAPILANO COLLEGE**

The department has lost a couple of Geographers as we start the Fall term – **Bob Patrick** is off to teach at the University of Alberta, and **Heidi McDonald** (who only taught for one term) is with a global research organization. What this means is that we will be advertising for a full time physical geography position (Intro Geomorphology and Intro Weather and Climate) for the Spring term. For all interested the position will be posted on the Cap College web site around the middle of

October and an ad will go in the newspaper as well.

Lower enrollments continue to be a concern for the college overall. Within Geography there are a number of less than full sections, but none have been deleted for this term. We have been designing a number of strategies to attract students to Geography:

- Instead of offering multiple sections in separate terms (e.g. Geography of BC in the Fall and Geography of Canada in the Spring), we will offer both each term.
- Our popular Environmental Geography (101) offered in the Fall will be followed up by a second Environmental Geography (102) for the Spring term.
- Monthly noon hour meetings with faculty and “keen” Geography students (bribed by pizza) are organized around issues that the students want to discuss.
- There is, of course, one of the most popular activities in Geography – the field trip. We have already conducted a walking field trip (Sunday, Sept. 17) to the historic core of Vancouver. It was a little wet out, but the enthusiasm was not dampened.

Another interesting direction for the department has been the on-going link fostered by **Jeanne Mikita** with Sherbrooke College in Quebec. This summer, Sherbrooke geography instructor **Celine Blaise** delivered a credit course to her Quebec students at Capilano College. The francophone students enjoyed some English immersion, and joined Capilano faculty in the classrooms and on field excursions. On one sunny day, the students experienced a bike tour (led by **Charles Greenberg**) through downtown Vancouver and along the waterfront, and later finished up with a tour of Britannia Mine and a sunset picnic at Porteau Cove. Celine plans to repeat her course next June, and in May 2007, Jeanne will bring a group of Capilano students to study in Quebec.

Geography continues to be a service course to a number of other programs one of which is Global Stewardship, which is on its way to being a degree-granting program. The excitement for Geography is developing some third and fourth year courses for this program.

For those geographers interested, I have made up seminar questions for each chapter of *Geography of British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. – UBC Press) as well as *Canada: A Nation of Regions* (2006 - Oxford). If anyone wishes a copy, please e-mail me at: [bmcgilli@capcollege.bc.ca](mailto:bmcgilli@capcollege.bc.ca).

*Submitted by Brett McGillivray*

### **DOUGLAS COLLEGE**

In response to continued weak student demand, the department has been reduced by six sections of instruction over the last three years. We are instigating a variety of initiatives to enhance student retention. We are also exploring a couple of degree options.

**Ian Joyce** has retired from the department. **Wendy Hales** has completed her maternity leave and will resume teaching duties in January. **Brett Gilley** has been hired to teach physical and regional geography.

*Submitted by Earl Noah*

### **LANGARA COLLEGE**

The Langara Geography department continues to offer a wide range of first and second year courses in both physical and human geography, as well as in geology. Second year offerings currently include courses in spatial information systems and technology, resource management, urban geography, cultural geography and geomorphology. **Mark Smith** has completed the development of a new Natural Hazards course, which we will offer for the first time in the Spring semester of 2007.

At the present time, our Department consists of 7 full-time instructors, and 3 sessional instructors. Over the summer and fall semesters, the Geography Department has experienced slightly lower enrollments, which is typical of the College as a whole. Overall, the estimate is that the Department is operating at about 95% capacity at the present time. Fortunately, Geography suffered no reductions in sections, as was the case in some other Social Science Departments, and we are optimistic that the Spring offerings will go ahead as scheduled.

*Submitted by Katrina Erdos*

## **MALASPINA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

### **Programs:**

After three years of implementation, Malaspina's B.A. Major in Geography, with specializations in natural resource management and urban growth management, is undergoing some tweaking. The number of students in the B.A. major and minor programs continues to grow. A B.Sc. Minor in Geography was introduced last month as part of Malaspina's expanded science offerings. Information on these programs is available at <http://www.mala.ca/geography/>

The *Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications* program was successfully unveiled in fall 2005. A third intake in this intensive eight-month face-to-face skills-training program is now in place. By September 2007, an online version of the *Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications* program is scheduled to begin. Last spring, Malaspina received funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, through the BCcampus program, to re-purpose its face-to-face version of the ADGISA program for graduates unable to relocate to Nanaimo. More information about these programs is available at: <http://www.mala.ca/adqisa/>

### **Faculty:**

Faculty turnover came unexpectedly this year. **Martin Andresen** resigned in April to take a position in the Criminology Department at Simon Fraser University. **Hannah Wilson**

will be going on maternity leave in February. This meant that a number of part-time faculty were secured in the spring to cover courses taught by Martin and Hannah. **Michael Tripp** and **Alan Gilchrist** have each been granted a 6-month professional development leave in 2007-08. Hannah will return to her teaching post in fall 2008.

**Pam Shaw** was appointed to a half-time regular position this year. She is currently working on her PhD dissertation in geography at the University of Victoria.

### **Events:**

Five undergraduate geography students from Malaspina presented papers at the WDCAG meeting at Thompson Rivers University in April. **Michael Tripp** and **Hannah Wilson** accompanied the students to Kamloops. Michael plans to organize another student trip to the WDCAG meeting at the University College of the Fraser Valley this spring.

**Don Alexander** has been working to strengthen the Smart Growth Canada Network, a new organization engaged in the development of on-line courses on various aspects of smart growth for students, professionals, and members of the general public.

**Larry Wolfe, Don Alexander, Hannah Wilson, and Tim Naegele**, along with students **Nadine Wieping** and **Emily Harrison**, were among key organizers of the *Malaspina Climate Change Fair* held on the Nanaimo campus on September 21st. The fair featured speakers **Guy Dauncey** and **Steven Hall**, as well as entertainer Shane Philip. Exhibitors from the transportation, food, housing, and recycling sectors displayed their solutions to climate change. This highly successful event was organized by the new Malaspina Climate Change Group.

### **Activities:**

The Geography Department, in cooperation with the Mid-Island Science and Technology Centre and Malaspina's Faculty of Science

and Technology, hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Olav Slaymaker on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Olav's presentation was entitled "Snow, ice and permafrost in global environmental change". The event was well attended by students, faculty, and the general public.

**Alan Gilchrist**, along with **Steve Earle** (Geology) and Erik Krogh (Chemistry), are contributors to the five-year *Vancouver Island Water Quality Hazard Inventory and Aquifer Vulnerability Project* funded by the federal and provincial governments. The study is aimed at identifying areas on Vancouver Island that may be vulnerable to aquifer contamination. Regan Purdy, a graduate of Malaspina's geography program, has been hired as a full-time research officer for this project.

**Alan Gilchrist** was recently appointed, for a two-year term, as the Social Sciences representative to Malaspina's Planning and Resources Standing Committee of Education Council.

Last June, **Larry Wolfe** coordinated the shipment of 10 cubic feet of textbooks to the University of Belize Library as part of Books for Belize project. The books will greatly enhance the university's holdings, especially in community development and environmental planning and natural resource management. This project is part of Larry's volunteer work with Malaspina and the Galiano Institute, of which he is President.

#### **Faculty Publications:**

Alexander, D. and Tomalty, R. 2006 *Smart Growth in Canada: Implementation of a Planning Concept*. (Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation)

Alexander, D., Tomalty, R., and Anielski, M. 2005 'The Challenges in Implementing a

Smart Growth Agenda: The BC Sprawl Report 2004' *Plan Canada* 45(2)

Beconytė G., Govorov M., and Paršeliūnas E. 2006 'National Level Development of Geographic Information E-Training Centre: The ISI Proceedings' *Citizens and*

*Governance for Sustainable Development*, 146-150

Natrasony, S and Alexander, D. 2005 'The Rise of Modernism and the Decline of Place: The Case of Surrey City Centre, Canada' *Planning Perspectives* 20

Stone, D. 2006 'Politics and Planning in Nanaimo, 2004-2005' *Nanaimo between Past and Future: Critical Perspectives on Growth, Planning and the New Nanaimo Centre* (Nanaimo: Friends of Plan Nanaimo Society)

*Submitted by Don Stone*

#### ***MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE***

The Geography Program at Mount Royal College is growing and will become a major contributor to the new Bachelor of Earth Sciences Degree that should be offered through the Faculty of Science and Technology in fall 2008. We have added a second year Geographic Information Systems course beginning the winter of 2007 and have successfully completed the first Geography Field Study to Eastern Europe in the summer of 2006. The Geography Field Study will move to Central Europe for the summer of 2007 and will be led by **Susan Hunt** and **Cameron Owens** (who is now a Doctoral Student at Simon Fraser University in the Department of Geography).

**Barb McNicol** has partnered with the Town of Canmore, Alberta, Planning and Development Office to provide a study about both 1) foreign ownership of residential lands in Canmore (funded by Mount Royal College) and 2) a Canadian second home ownership evaluation (funded by the Town of Canmore). The first half of the study is well underway with the second part beginning in November. Barb is also a founding committee member of an Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes (AACTI) funded Community of Practice focusing on Spatial Considerations for Human Activities, Risk and Environmental Conflict supported by Alberta

Provincial Parks. Other research also focuses on creating curriculum for environmental and tourism studies around park management-defined environmental and human use related themes.

**Pam MacQuarrie** will be back from sabbatical in fall 2007 having completed the program 'Geographic Information Systems' at the Centre of Geographic Sciences, Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia 2005-06. Pam is currently working with the Applied Geomatics Research Group in Middleton, Nova Scotia; exploring microclimate data of the Annapolis Valley region.

**Shawn Mueller** is continuing to teach Introduction to Mapping, GIS and Remote Sensing (Geography 2231). **Shawn Mueller** is a sessional instructor at the College while undertaking doctoral work in Geography at the University of Calgary. Shawn's research concentrates on updates and modification gaps in cartographic theory and then focuses on connecting with crisis driven geographic analysis and visualization. Shawn also teaches Introduction to Spatial Methods (Geography 231) at U of C.

**Susan Hunt** has been coordinating Physical Geography 2201 for the past two years with **Samanti Kulatilake** and **Aaron Williams** covering the introductory sections. As well, Susan remains actively involved with the Alberta Great Canadian Geography Challenge sponsored by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and volunteered at the event again in April 2007. This event involves Junior High School Students from both the Public and Catholic School systems from all over Alberta.

*Submitted by Barbara McNicol*

## **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY**

### **Department News:**

After more than 13 years at UCFV, **Sandy Vanderburgh** is leaving the department to take up a new



position as Dean of Science and Technology at Douglas College in January 2007. An integral member of the department and current department head, Sandy will be greatly missed by faculty, staff, and students alike.



To replace Sandy at the helm, we are pleased to introduce **Dr. Ken Brealey** as our new Department Head effective

January 2007. Ken joined the department in 2002 and is currently

Chair of the Institutional Ethics Review Board.

We welcomed two new faculty members to our department in September. **Dr. Jonathan Hughes** comes to us from the University of Washington where he was a



Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow with the US Geological Survey. He completed his PhD in 2002 from Simon Fraser University in the

Department of Biological Sciences. Jonathan will offer a new course in Biogeography in January 2007 and will develop courses in wetlands and plant ecology, offered jointly with Biology, in the next academic year. As a paleoecologist, Jonathan's research focus is on understanding environmental change, specifically earthquake-induced environmental change in the Pacific Northwest.

**Dr. Scott Shupe** comes to us with a PhD in Renewable Natural Resource Studies from the University of Arizona and was a National Research Council



Postdoctoral Research Associate with the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Centre in Denver, Colorado. Scott will expand our offerings in GIS, remote sensing and image processing with a new course, Advanced GIS, planned for January 2007. His research focus is land-cover change evaluation using remote sensing and GIS.

At the end of September, **Claire Beaney**, **Steven Marsh** and **Sandy Vanderburgh** led 16 students through Jasper and Banff



National Parks to Drumheller as part of Adventures in Geography IV. The focus of the field school was the geology and geomorphology of the Rocky Mountains and the Alberta Plains. Adventures included hiking to Cavell Meadows at Mt Edith Cavell, the forefield of the Saskatchewan Glacier, and dinosaur hunting in the Badlands around Drumheller. By all accounts, it was another successful trip. Stay tuned for details of Adventures in Geography V in the next newsletter!!

**David Gibson** and Steven Piper (a colleague from Sociology) visited Mexico with 16 students on the most recent Mexico Study Tour in May 2006. They traveled throughout Mexico studying markets, public spaces and religious festivals while travelling around Mexico City, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tlaxcala.

**Cherie Enns**, **Sandy Vanderburgh** and **Stewart Brown** will be heading off to Hawaii in May 2007 with 18 students visiting Hawaii, Kauai and Oahu. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> offering of this increasingly popular study tour. Students will be introduced to the regional geography of the Hawaiian islands

including the geomorphology, geology, biogeography and social and cultural identity.

### **Research:**

In collaboration with Dr. Vesna Furtula and Dr. George Derksen at Environment Canada and Drs. Edith Camm and Anthony Stea at UCFV, **Claire Beaney** is involved in a project to investigate the relationship between land-use, water quality and the health of aquatic organisms in Nathan Creek. Nathan Creek is a small, rural watershed in the Township of Langley. This multi-disciplinary project will utilize various methods including chemical investigation of pollutants, hydrological data to determine loading levels and bioassays to assess the impact of pollutants on fish survival. Claire's role in the project is to establish the hydrologic model of Nathan Creek which will ultimately allow determination of contaminant loading and understanding of the spatial and temporal variability of various pollutants.

**Cherie Enns** has been actively continuing research into child-friendly cities presenting her results at a number of national and international venues. In October, Cherie is presenting a poster at the International Child in the City Conference in Germany. She is also presenting a paper to the Vancouver Island Planners on Child Friendly City; also in October. In addition, Cherie is teaching an Applied Planning Course (Geog 460) with projects in Vancouver, Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

Over the past few months, **Olav Lian** has been active in many areas conducting a wide range of research activities. These include continued research on paleoenvironmental reconstruction of pre-last-glacial nonglacial intervals in southwestern BC; and field work related to his NSERC funded project on early postglacial landscape adjustment in the Cordillera.



(Photo of Olav investigating sediments at Thelon Bluffs, eastern Canadian Arctic, Nunavut)

Olav is currently supervising construction of the NSERC-supported UCFV Luminescence Dating Laboratory; construction is expected to be complete before Christmas. A state of the art luminescence dating system is currently being built for the laboratory in Denmark. The dating system was funded by an NSERC Research Tools and Instruments Grant awarded to Olav in the spring of 2006. Olav remains a member of the editorial boards of the Elsevier journal Quaternary Geochronology and the Elsevier Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science. In addition, Olav is organizing a special session for the 2007 CANQUA conference on Quaternary dating methods and applications; and is writing a number of manuscripts related to research on the nature of paleo-ice streams in the eastern Canadian Arctic with colleagues from the UK.

**Steve Marsh** is enjoying his sabbatical. He is currently working on a number of projects. He has co-authored a report on the 2004 Abbotsford Aquifer Nitrate Study which is due for release this fall. He is supervising Carl Nienhuis and Meghann Kenkel as they continue to map and classify constructed roadside watercourses in Abbotsford in cooperation with DFO. He is assisting with the compilation and editing of the Georgia Basin - Boundary Habitat Atlas to be released next spring. He is busy with the reorganization of his courses. He continues his community work by being a member of a number of committees: Friends of Semiahmoo Bay (Director); Little Campbell

Watershed Society (Director); Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Stakeholder Committee; Shared Waters Alliance; and Silverdale Wetland Committee.

*Submitted by Claire Beaney*

### **UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE**

The University of Lethbridge has hired two senior research scientists from the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing to join the remote sensing group at UofL. **Dr. Karl Staenz**, an expert in hyperspectral remote sensing has joined the department of geography and **Dr. Phil Teillet** a pioneer in the radiometric calibration and validation of optical remote sensing instruments joined the department of physics.

As a result of this new depth in the field of remote sensing, UofL has begun the process to establish a multi-disciplinary major in remote sensing with offerings from geography and physics. We expect this new major to attract a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate level students. We are all looking forward to the breadth of experience these "new" faculty members will bring to the University of Lethbridge community.

*Submitted by Craig Coburn*

### **UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

#### **August 2006 UNBC Field School to Guatemala**

Dr.



**Catherine Nolin** and 13 UNBC students presented a Slideshow & Commentary on their experiences during the 2006 Field

School in Guatemala. The participants presented an evening of images, reflection and dialogue on Guatemala's brutal past, violent present, and Canada's many entanglements in the country.



The next field school will be to South Africa in 2007 led by, **Drs. Kevin Hall and Greg Halseth**. The field school will focus mainly in the area of the Drakensberg Mountains in Zululand and the Free State.

Studies will concentrate on small communities and the physical and cultural aspects of San ('Bushman') rock art.

#### **UNBC participation at the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Annual Meeting**

in Thunder Bay, Ontario. UNBC Geography was highly visible at this year's conference and



we are pleased to announce that **Jessica McGregor** was awarded best student presentation in the Master's category by the Geography of Health and Health Care Specialty Group.

#### **NEWS:**



Congratulations to **Brian & Kim Menounos** on the birth of their son, Nathan Peter Menounos on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Congratulations to Ms. Arian Spiteri (MNRES) who successfully defended her thesis entitled: **"Evaluating Community Incentives For Biodiversity Conservation**

**In Protected Areas In Nepal"** Ms. Spiteri is co-supervised by **Dr. Gail Fondahl**, Chair of Geography and RRT, and Dr. Sanjay Nepal, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Texas A&M University

Congratulations to undergraduate student, **Cristian Silva** (Anthropology major; Geography minor), who was successful in receiving UNBC's second Canada Corps University Partnership Program Internship placement (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/canadacorps>). Cristian is partnered with the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) with Executive Director Sr. Fredy Peccerelli serving as his immediate supervisor while working with the Foundation from May through August 2006. Cristian first volunteered with the FAFG immediately following his participation with the 2004 Geography Field School to Guatemala and is instrumental in generating discussions for a long-term partnership between UNBC and the FAFG. Congratulations, Cristian!

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Catherine Nolin** Book Review Editor, *Refuge: Canada's Periodical on Refugees*: <http://www.yorku.ca/crs/Refuge/refuge.htm>

#### **FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS' FIELDWORK:**

In mid-July, **Sarah Boon** installed three meteorological stations along an elevational transect at the Andrei Glacier, in the Coast Mountains north of Stewart, BC.



These stations monitored air temperature and precipitation lapse rates until early September, when she returned to take them out again. One station had been attacked by a grizzly, but luckily the data were still intact! Lapse rate data will be related to synoptic weather conditions, and used to improve numerical models of glacier melt and mass

balance. This research was supported by the Geological Survey of Canada's National Glaciology Programme, and involved collaboration with the University of Victoria's Tree-Ring Laboratory.

### **TRAVELLING AND PRESENTATIONS:**

The following are the UNBC presentations at the Annual Meeting of the CAG:

**Clasby, Rachael** and **Hanlon, Neil**. Networks and partnerships in a remote resource town: a case study of adapting to an aging population in Mackenzie, BC.

**Fondahl, Gail**. Visiting the 'Tree of Memory': performing a landscape of resistance and revival in Siberia.

**Halseth, Greg, Ryser, Laura** and **Sullivan, Lana**. Communities want answers – academics want questions: some cautions from a community-based research team.

**Hanlon, Neil, Halseth, Greg, Prior, Pamela** and Goodenough, Rebecca. Situating voluntary care and service provision within systems of support in remote settlements: emerging issues and future directions.

**Maher, Patrick**. A glimpse to the south: visitor experiences in the Ross Sea region.

Markey, Sean and **Halseth, Greg**. The struggle to compete: from comparative to competitive advantage in Northern British Columbia.

**McGregor, Jessica** and **Hanlon, Neil**. Expanding the mine: applying political ecology to environmental conflict in northern BC.

**Catherine Nolin** attended the Congress of the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS) in Calgary, Sept 28-30, to present the paper, 'Latin American Transnationalism in Rural/Remote and Urban British Columbia: Challenges and Opportunities of Place.'

**Sarah Boon** attended the Northern Interior Forest Region's Mountain Pine Beetle Field Tour to discuss snow accumulation and

melt in pine beetle infested forest stands. Tour participants included staff from the Ministries of Forests & Range, Environment, and Health. The group travelled the Kluskus FSR, south of Vanderhoof, to examine pine beetle impacts on forest management, hydrology, and fire management.

**Greg Halseth** was the invited guest speaker at the "Territorial Dynamics in Periurban Areas & Natural & Cultural Heritage Resources Colloquium," April 26-28, 2006. The Colloquium is hosted by the Département de Géographie at the Université de Montréal and sponsored by the Villes-Régions-Monde network (INRS-UCS), the Laboratory on Sustainable Development and Territorial Dynamics (directed by Christopher Bryant) of the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal, and by the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems.

**Sarah Boon** and Paul Sanborn (ESM; Forestry) attended the AGM of the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management in Smithers, BC.

### **UNBC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH IN THE NEWS:**

**Brian Menounous** is leading a new research network that will predict the future of western Canada's glaciers. [http://www.unbc.ca/releases/2006/05\\_23glacier.html](http://www.unbc.ca/releases/2006/05_23glacier.html)

UNBC hosted a symposium organized by **Deborah Thien** addressing issues of gender and care in northern communities. *Caring for the North: Gender, Care and Northern Places*, featured international keynote speaker and renowned feminist geographer, Liz Bondi of the University of Edinburgh. [http://www3.telus.net/public/wnn/CFN\\_Symposium.htm](http://www3.telus.net/public/wnn/CFN_Symposium.htm)

CURA Project (**Gail Fondahl**): Please visit the link below to read the latest newsletter for the Tl'azt'en Nation-UNBC CURA,

*Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management. Spring 2006 Newsletter* at: <http://cura.unbc.ca/pubs/NewsletterSpring2006.pdf>

UNBC included in quality of life research project. *The Prince George Citizen*, 5 May, p. 13 [by: Mark Nielsen] "Prince George will be included in a five-year, \$4.2-million university research project to determine quality of life outside major urban centres. The project will be based out of Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, but UNBC professors Alex Michalos and **Greg Halseth** will be among the 37 'co-investigators' who will participate in the effort."

### **ALUMNI NEWS:**

#### **STEVE ABBEY (BA GEOG)**

Steve continued his academic studies in South Africa at the graduate level after participating in the Geography Field School to South Africa organized by Dr. Kevin Hall in 2002. Below, please see an update from Steve:

*"It is true, I am continuing with my PhD studies. I plan to graduate in September this year and immediately start with the next project. My PhD studies will look at the transformation of small rural towns in a post-apartheid era. The studies will be similar to the research that Dr. Halseth is interested in, but the variables within South Africa drastically differ from those in northern Canada. I am also scheduled to teach a class at the University later this year which will be a great stepping stone into becoming a lecturer. I am currently working as an environmental consultant but I am in the process of resigning to enable me to focus all my attention on my studies and furthering my academic career. My future plans are to enter academia and teach at a university while conducting research. I am scheduled to present my Masters research at an international conference in Santiago, Spain during the first week of August."*

**KELLY GEISBRECHT** (MA NRES-Geography 2004)

Kelly has returned to UNBC after a brief stint working for the BC Provincial Government. From September 2005 to March 2006, Kelly worked as a Planning Officer with the Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands leading strategic land use planning implementation assessments of Land and Resource Management Plans and coordinating related public consultations in Fort St. James and Mackenzie. Kelly is back with the UNBC Office of Research as a Research Project Officer on a term position until March 2007, assisting researchers engaged in social science- and humanities-related research.

**CHRISTINE CREYKE** (Geog BA) has a new position as Land Stewardship Coordinator.

Christine's contact information is  
Tahltan Central Council  
Dease Lake BC  
Phone: 250-771-3274  
Fax: 250-771-3020  
Home: 250-771-4292

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS:**

**Hanlon N.;** Skedgel C. Cross-district utilization of general hospital care in Nova Scotia: Policy and service delivery implications for rural districts. *Social Science and Medicine*, Volume 62, Issue 1, 2006, Pages 145-156.

Kovanen D.J.; Begét J.E.; **Menounos B.;** Koch J.; Clague J.J.; Osborn G.; Mazzucchi D. Comments on "Early Holocene glacier advance, southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia" by Menounos et al. [1] (multiple letters). *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Volume 24, Issue 12-13, 2005, Pages 1521-1528.

**Menounos B.;** Clague J.J.; Gilbert R.; Slaymaker O. Environmental reconstruction from a varve network in the southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada.

*Holocene, Volume 15, Issue 8, 2005, Pages 1163-1171*

Sherry E.; **Halseth, G.**; **Fondahl G.**; Karjala M.; Leon B. (2005) Local-level criteria and indicators: An aboriginal perspective on sustainable forest management, *Forestry*. Volume 78, Issue 5, Pages 513-539.

**Straussfogel, D.** (2006) "At the Theoretical Interface of Climate Change and Resource Dependency: Example of the Vulnerability of Boreal Forest Livelihoods." *Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change* 11(4):911-931.

Sui J.; Hicks F.E.; **Menounos B.** Observations of riverbed scour under a developing hanging ice dam. *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering, Volume 33, Issue 2, 2006, Pages 214-218.*

**Wheate R.** Carto 2005: Joint Annual Meeting of the CCA and ACMLA. *Cartographica, Volume 40, Issue 4, 2005, Pages 115-117.*

White J.C.; Wulder M.A.; Brooks D.; Reich R.; **Wheate R.D.** Detection of red attack stage mountain pine beetle infestation with high spatial resolution satellite imagery *Remote Sensing of Environment, Volume 96, Issue 3-4, 30 June 2005, Pages 340-351*

*Submitted by Catherine Nolin and Deb Straussfogel*

## **UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**

### **New faculty**

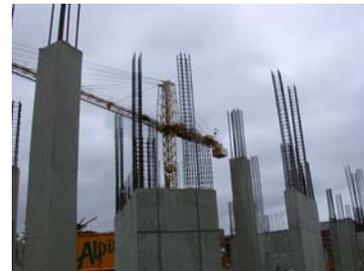
**Naomi Pope** (UVic BA Hons 1998) is now finishing her PhD at UCLA, and has joined UVic Geography Dept as a limited term assistant professor.

**Dr. Aleck Ostry** will be joining the department in January 2007 as a Tier II Canada Research Chair in the Social Determinants of Health. Dr. Ostry is currently a search scientist in the division of occupational & environmental health at the University of British Columbia. He holds a Canadian Institute for Health New

Investigator Award and a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award. He is interested in the impacts of work organizational change, unemployment, employment re-structuring, and job strain on worker's health. He is also an historian and conducts research on the history of public health and on work and health.

### **New building progress**

New Geography building construction now



well underway, with the big hole now filled in and reaching up to the second floor. Lots of activity as our

dedicated in-house specialist Ken Josephson works to design the interiors for offices and lab spaces.

### **Informal Recycling Project**

The people who forage for food or recyclable materials in dumpsters call it "binning" but to University of Victoria geography professor Jutta Gutberlet it's also "informal recycling." She has studied recycling programs incorporating such practices as binning in Vancouver as well as Brazil and other developing countries and initiated a panel discussion on formal and informal recycling methods at UVic on October 19 to mark Waste Reduction Day.

Gutberlet believes that inclusive recycling programs can be applied in Canada and in our community as well. "This event is a starting point to promote dialogue between government, business and community. Designing organized structures to include binners in waste management would improve their livelihood while reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill."

Panel participants included representatives from the regional district, as well as from Waste Management Vancouver and Vancouver's United Binners Association.

More information on Gutberlet's project in Brazil is at <http://pswm.uvic.ca/home/>.

### **Cartography Prizes for UVic Geography students**

At the Geotec 2006 conference in Ottawa, CCA President's Prize, first place was awarded to our UVic Geography student Ian Macek, for his map, "The World Contribution to Peace and War". An Honorable Mention went to Chandi O'Brien, UVic, for "The Magnitude of Undernourishment in Africa".

In the Canadian Issues category, first place went to our Jacolby Giuseppini, for his map, "Fatal Road Accidents", and an Honorable Mention to Carson Farmer, UVic for his map, "Diabetes and Physical Activity".

The CCA Student paper prize also went to Carson Farmer for "Mapping the Effects of the Modifiable Areal Unit Problem on Local Measures of Spatial Autocorrelation" The first place maps can be seen on our UVic Geography News webpage.

In addition, our Geomatics Senior Instructor Dr. Ian O'Connell was interviewed for [http://www.yesmag.bc.ca/This\\_Issue/Issue.html](http://www.yesmag.bc.ca/This_Issue/Issue.html). More recently, Ian and several of our

geography students (only one of whom had ever done a geomatics course!)

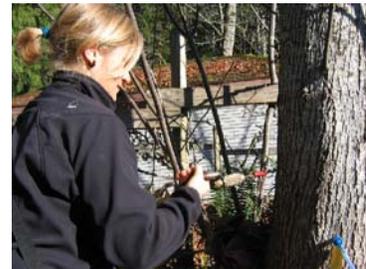


participated at the UVic Engineering Open House, with our Geomatics Booth. All of the student volunteers very ably helped out, and with a great location next to the door and BBQ, some activities included using "Google Earth" to fly through of all the department's world research sites. Very popular indeed!

### **Innovative UVic Geography grad student research cases: "Tapping the Bigleaf Maple on Vancouver Island: A Feasibility Study."**

UVic Geography PhD student Deirdre Bruce, MSc.

The harvesting of non-timber forest products in British Columbia is currently unmanaged and unregulated.



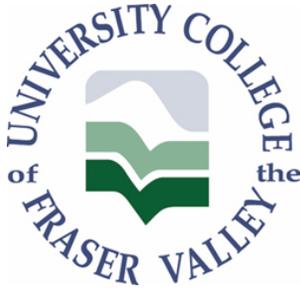
With a decrease in employment in forest dependent communities, many people are looking to alternative economies such as non-timber forest products to supplement incomes. This project aims to assist resource-based communities in the development of innovative approaches to manage indigenous, non-timber resources. My project will investigate the feasibility of the bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) tapping on Vancouver Island. The forest industry considers the bigleaf maple to be a pest species and the maple are often chemically or physically treated. However, it is known that the bigleaf maple contributes many important ecological values and provides habitat to numerous birds, mosses and lichen. Tapping the bigleaf maple promotes the conservation and the management of this currently undervalued tree species as it sustains the multiple values of this deciduous tree species.

Developing partnerships and collaborating with a variety of different landowners within the community is integral to increasing awareness of this activity and in turn facilitating the growth of the bigleaf maple tapping industry on Vancouver Island. My research project aims to assess the feasibility of this activity by utilizing a hands-on participatory approach to research. In addition, there has been little to no research on the sap flow of the bigleaf maple, so the

project will be exploratory and provide baseline sap flow data. In addition, the project will outline the challenges and opportunities of forest innovation in timber dependent communities on Vancouver Island.

This research has been supported by the Agroforestry Initiative, the Pacific Forestry Centre and the University of Victoria. For more information, please contact Deirdre Bruce at [deidreb@uvic.ca](mailto:deidreb@uvic.ca).

*Submitted by John Newcomb*



# WDCAG 2007

## Schedule of Events

### **Thursday, March 8**

#### ***Evening***

Conference Registration and Ice Breaker (no host bar) – University House

### **Friday, March 9**

#### ***Day***

Conference Registration

Field trips

- Aboriginal Geography of the Fraser Valley
- Social/ Cultural Geography of the Fraser Valley
- Coastal Geomorphology of Boundary Bay
- Quaternary Geomorphology of the Fraser Lowlands

All field trips will run from approximately 09:00 – 15:00 p.m.

#### ***Evening***

Conference Registration

Keynote Lecture – Open to the public (on campus)

Speaker: Dr. Richard Hebda, Royal BC Museum

Blue Grass Pub Night @ Casey's on Campus

### **Saturday, March 10**

#### ***Day***

Conference Registration, Paper and Poster Sessions, Lunch and Annual General Meeting

#### ***Evening***

Banquet – at Ramada Inn & Conference Centre

(Outstanding Student Presentations Awards, Scavenger Hunt Trophy)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Hugh Brody, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies

WDCAG Dance and party to follow. *All conference participants are invited*

For more information, please visit the conference website at  
[http://www.ucfv.ca/geography/Conferences/WDC\\_AG.htm](http://www.ucfv.ca/geography/Conferences/WDC_AG.htm) or contact Nicole Levinsky at  
[nicole.levinsky@ucfv.ca](mailto:nicole.levinsky@ucfv.ca)

The WDCAG newsletter is published two times per year, and is distributed electronically only. It is a compilation of contributions by members of geography departments in Alberta and British Columbia.

To view back issues of the WDCAG Newsletter check our website at:

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wcag/publications.htm>

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter!!

Claire Beaney, Newsletter Editor

Email: [claire.beaney@ucfv.ca](mailto:claire.beaney@ucfv.ca)



*Drumheller Badlands and Hoodoos (photo by Steve Marsh)*