

Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



Newsletter, Fall 2007

President's Message

Our meeting last Spring in Abbotsford was accompanied by the usual high spirits of the youthful attendees and high standards of presentations and posters by those same participants. I reflect that it is exactly that combination that makes me so proud of the Western Division of the CAG and so happy to have been chosen to serve as President for the next couple of years. Congratulations are particularly due to the administration, faculty, staff and students at University College of the Fraser Valley for being such expert and hospitable hosts for the WDCAG: I already am looking forward to the next time they ask us to come!

I was also proud to represent you all on the CAG executive meeting held during the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Saskatoon at the end of May, although I believe we are represented particularly well anyway as one western President (Dan Smith of UVic) succeeded another western President (Alison Gill of SFU). The CAG took place in conjunction with the 76th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and perhaps for that reason, physical geographers were scarce on the ground, and papers in that noblest of enquiries, Geomorphology, were almost entirely absent. How different, I reflected, to the WDCAG Annual Meeting where student and faculty papers cover all aspects of our discipline, delighting my intellectual palette with variety. I suppose I saw this as a problem, yet I have no idea what the solution is. Indeed, the good side of the problem is how well researchers in diverse areas of geography have become regular participants in a range of other disciplines, even essential to Quaternary Studies, Atmospheric, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Conflicting schedules in meetings cause all kinds of unfortunate absences at the CAG, although the conference in Saskatoon was well organized and engaging to those who did attend, and actually well-attended in numbers: only the physical geographers were scarce!

Only a few months to go, and for me an easy winter in Victoria, before we meet again in Bellingham Washington. I can't wait to get there with our newly-powerful loonie! Please make your travel arrangements as early as possible to ensure that you are not suddenly aware your passport is out of date, or for those of you who are international students, that you need the appropriate visa. I'm already looking forward to some great papers in Geomorphology!

Robert Rogerson, President 2007-2009, WDCAG

Vice President Academic, University Canada West, Victoria, BC

Augustana College

The Augustana campus 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. Our newest faculty member, Glynnis Hood, began this fall. She is teaching in the areas of resource and environmental management, GIS, biostatistics, parks and wilderness, and other specialty areas. Glynnis is also pursuing research projects in wetland ecology and management.

This past summer, Glen Hvenegaard and outdoor education colleague, Morten Asfeldt, taught a course on Arctic geography while canoeing the Mara and Burnside Rivers in Nunavut. He presented papers on environmental education, bird monitoring, and outdoor education in Kananaskis, Saskatoon, and Norway, respectively. Glen is on sabbatical leave this year, spending time primarily in Denmark and France. He'll be wrapping up past projects and starting some new projects on biodiversity and agriculture, protected areas, and bird monitoring.

This fall, sessional instructor Andra Bismanis is teaching a course in introductory environmental science.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or Dr Glynnis Hood glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca or check our websites at <http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/> and <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/>

Submitted by Glinnis Hood

University College of the Fraser Valley

Field Trips

This year's field school activities began in May 2007 with our highly successful Hawaii Study Tour led by **Cherie Enns, Stewart Brown** and **Sandy Vanderburgh**. Despite last minute flight cancellations, 19 students joined the 3 trip leaders to Oahu, Big Island and Maui (pictured). The students participated in a downtown revitalization project in Hilo in collaboration with the Downtown Hilo Business



Association and a beach management project in Waikiki. Other highlights included volcanoes, beaches, lava tubes and hikes along the spectacular Hawaiian coastline.



This September sixteen students, three faculty trip leaders, and mascot Peat the wooly mammoth, completed a 6-day Adventures in Geography study tour of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks (pictured). Trip leaders, **Michelle Rhodes, Ken Brealey** and **Jonathan Hughes**, and participants visited Yellowstone's famous geyser basins and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, explored the legacy of fire in the region, and learned about wildlife management issues. Students were also introduced to the changing

native and human histories of the parks and the Greater Yellowstone region. While the group didn't meet Yogi the Bear, they did encounter four grizzlies, several coyotes, plenty of

screeching magpies, a dozen or so large elk herds (who were busy bugling) and hundreds of bison.

In addition to the Yellowstone trip, **Claire Beaney, Steven Marsh** and **Sandy Vanderburgh** led 15 eager geography students to the Oregon and Washington coasts at the end of September for a 5-day Adventures in Geography study tour. Camping at Fort Stevens State Park near Astoria, the group explored the geomorphology of the Columbia River Littoral Cell and associated coastal hazards and tourism related issues. While they didn't see as much wildlife as the Yellowstone group, rumors of 18 pirates (pictured) on the loose in Seaside, Oregon have been reported.



Personnel

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Garry Fehr** to the department as a permanent full-time faculty member. Garry's current research involves investigating how informal institutions of class, caste and gender regulate the impact of globalisation on the livelihoods of the rural poor and the sustainability of the forests in central India. This research provides openings for broader discussions on community based resource management, non-economic forms of

power in global commodity chains, the uneven nature of globalisation and the importance of understanding the role of regional cultural diversity in the design of conservation and development initiatives. Garry particularly enjoys teaching courses that explore the nexus of cultural and environmental change, whether it be in Canada or abroad. The title of his recently defended PhD thesis from the University of Guelph is "Globalisation and Informal Regulation: Changes in Non Timber Forest



Product Livelihoods in Madhya Pradesh, India."

In recognition of his cartographic work on the Xeni Gwet'in land claim case, **Ken Brealey**, received a Tsilhqot'in name which is a rare honour in Native circles. His name is ?Elh ?ul deni (pronounced elhhh ool dini) which is the name of a Tsilhqot'in ancestor who was renowned for teaching traditional knowledge and translates roughly as "he who weaves things together." Ken is currently working on cartography for the Hwlitsum and Okanagan land claims.

The department also welcomes new and returning sessional instructors: **Carolyn Atkins, Stewart Brown, Mungandi Nasitwitwi, Dr Cherylynn Bassani, Dr Rod Fowler, Carl Johannsen, Rory Crowley** and **Mariano Maipili** (lab tech).

Student Accomplishments

At the end of the 2006-2007 academic year, the department was pleased to honour 3 students for their academic excellence. **Kelly Thomlinson** was the recipient of the CAG Award, **Leifka Vissers** received the Doug Nicol Award and **Lisa Thiessen**, who was funded

by Dr. Olav Lian as a research assistant to assimilate glacial geological data from the eastern Canadian Arctic, won the AAG award. At the recent CAG Annual Meeting in Saskatoon, **Leifka Vissers** was awarded the Best Student Poster in Human Geography for a poster titled 'Coastal and ice-free corridor theories of human entry migration to the Americas: a review' with Claire Beaney. In other student news, Honours student **Winter Moon** was awarded two consecutive NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards for work with Dr. Olav Lian on establishing the new Luminescence Dating Laboratory in the geography department; the award is matched by funds from UCFV and by funds from Olav Lian's NSERC grant. Winter also is the manager of the new lab.

Programming

Recent program changes include the development of a new BA Honours program that began accepting students in May 2007. At press time, 2 students (**Winter Moon** and **Dave Sacco**) have enrolled in the Honours program. Winter's honours research project is concerned with investigating the glacial geology, and establishing the first chronology, for a key lithostratigraphic unit in the western Fraser Lowland, under the supervision of Olav Lian. Dave will be establishing a chronology for two key lake cores collected in the Canadian High Arctic for his honours project also under the supervision of Olav Lian (and in collaboration with environmental geochemist Dr. Peter Outridge of the Geological Survey of Canada).

The department is also streamlining the BA major by offering students a concentration designation to reflect their area of study within the discipline. Concentrations include physical geography, urban studies, environmental studies, international studies and geographic information science. We anticipate this program change to be effective Winter 2008. We are also continuing our work on establishing a BSc in Physical Geography.

To try and offer a more flexible schedule, and a novel approach to teaching, **Cherie Enns** has been instructing courses at the local Legal Grounds Coffee Shop in downtown Abbotsford on Saturday mornings. These courses have had high enrolment and from all accounts have been a successful endeavour and have brought UCFV Geography into the local community. In addition, we also have started teaching an introductory physical geography course at the Abbotsford campus on Saturdays; the course is currently taught by returning sessional instructor, **Mungandi Nasitwitwi**.

Research

Olav Lian has been involved in many research projects over the last few months, but most of his time this summer was spent establishing the infrastructure and bureaucracy required to run the new NSERC-funded UCFV Luminescence Dating Research Laboratory, including acquiring (successfully) radioisotope and instrument licences from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Olav also organized and presented a very successful all-day session at the CANQUA conference in June 2007 on Quaternary dating methods. Olav's principal on-going projects include (i) research into the timing and nature of postglacial sedimentation and landscape adjustment in the lower Fraser and Thompson river valleys, B.C., (ii) work on understanding Quaternary sea level change in New Zealand in collaboration with Drs. Scott Nichol and Paul Augustinus (Auckland) and Dr. Matt Cupper (Melbourne), (iii) research on the nature of paleo-ice flow in the eastern Canadian Arctic, with colleagues Dr. Chris Stokes (Durham, UK), Dr. Chris Clark (Sheffield, UK) and Dr. Slawek Tulaczyk (UC Santa Cruz), (iv) work on aeolian sedimentation and Holocene climate

change on the Canadian Prairies with Dr. Stephen Wolfe (GSC, Ottawa), Dr. Chris Hugenholtz (Lethbridge) and Dr. John Westgate (Toronto), (v) research into subglacial thermal regime during the last glaciation in the upland regions of the southern Coast Mountains, with Dr. Stephen Hicock (Western Ontario), (vi) work with Dr. Tracy Brennand (SFU) on understanding the subglacial processes involved in the advance of last-glacial ice into the Lake Ontario basin, and (vii) research into the paleoecology of pre-glacial (stage 3) sediments in the western Fraser Lowland, with Dr. Richard Hebda (RBCM and UVic). Two new important collaborations were established over the past few months: the first includes research on understanding the timing of the glacial lake Missoula floods that formed the Channelled Scablands. This research is being headed up by SFU Earth Sciences PhD student Michelle Hanson (supervisor is Dr. John Clague), who will be a fixture in Olav's lab for the next several months. The second new collaboration is with UVic Earth Sciences PhD student Adrian Hickin and his supervisor Dr. Vic Levson. The project is concerned with understanding the glacial stratigraphy and geology of parts of northeastern B.C.

Cherie Enns is continuing her research endeavours on children in cities. She is currently organizing a forum entitled "Children and the City: A Child- and Youth-friendly Community Development Forum" to be held at Panjab University, Chandigarh, India in February 2008. This collaborative forum brings together child-friendly community experts from both Canada and India with academics, business, government and non-governmental leaders in the Punjab to learn about and assess the potential for child-friendly development in the city of Chandigarh and greater Punjab. Cherie is also involved in a locally organised forum on "Partners for Affordable Housing" being held in Abbotsford in October.

Claire Beaney is continuing her project investigating the Nathan Creek watershed in Langley Township. This multi-disciplinary project is concerned with determining the state of watershed and ecosystem health in Nathan Creek and involves a hydrological, chemical and biological approach to addressing this question. Over the recent months, flow data have been collected at the study site and initial hydrographs and ratings curves have been developed. Contamination data were collected over a 2 month period this summer that will allow preliminary contamination loading estimates to be made.

Jonathan Hughes has recently established a Biogeography Research Lab that is focussing on paleoecology including micro- and macrofossil analyses and dendrochronology. Currently, two research assistants are working on projects in the new lab. Jonathan's upcoming research will involve a comprehensive study of the ecology and paleoecology of the Rivers Inlet region of B.C., and well as collaboration with **Olav Lian** on research into understanding the link between early postglacial sedimentation and vegetation in Coast Mountains valleys. Jonathan is also very busy collaborating on projects concerned with understanding the paleoseismic record in Washington State.

Steven Marsh is continuing to research water quality issues in the Fraser Valley region. In collaboration with the City of Abbotsford, Steven has initiated a water quality study of Clayburn Creek which is being influenced by new development. The goal of this study is to quantify the effects of this development on water quality parameters.

Scott Shupe is being instrumental in developing a GIS research facility at UCFV. While space still needs to be secured, Scott has been successful in acquiring a large state-of-the-art digitizing table that can be used by faculty and student researchers on a variety of GIS applications in collaboration with the Department of Criminology.

John Belec is currently on sabbatical leave for the upcoming academic year and is continuing his research on the Fraser Borderland and borderland governance in collaboration with Dr. Pat Buckley (Western Washington University) since 2000. Amongst other activities, Belec and Buckley will co-edit an issue of UCFV's online scholarly journal, the UCFV Research Review, on 'Cross-Border Relationships in an Era of Globalization'.

Submitted by Claire Beaney

Malaspina University College

Programs

The revised B.A. Major and Minor in Geography and the new B.Sc. Minor in Geography are up and running this year. Geography faculty members Alan Gilchrist and Hannah Wilson have been working with Geology faculty on a B.Sc. Major in Earth Sciences – a program that will rely upon many physical geography courses as well as GIS and remote sensing.

Malaspina's Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (ADGISA) is into its third year of operation. This 30-credit post-graduate program is now delivered face-to-face and online. The face-to-face option commences every September and involves four months of intensive hands-on learning in a classroom followed by a four-month GIS applications project during the spring semester. The first offering of the online option begins in January and extends over a sixteen-month period. Virtually all graduates from the face-to-face program have found full-time jobs as GIS technicians or analysts within a few months of graduation. Information about Malaspina's Geography and GIS programs is available at: www.mala.ca/gis

Faculty News

Alan Gilchrist is on professional development leave this fall; **Michael Tripp** starts a 6-month PD leave in January; **Hannah Wilson** remains on maternity leave until Fall 2008.

Jeff Lewis, a recent PhD graduate in Earth and Ocean Sciences from the University of Victoria, was appointed to a full-time temporary position in the Geography Department for 2007-08. Jeff's PhD dissertation was entitled "Snowball Earth: Sensitivity to Sea Ice and Surface Albedo". Jeff was one of three winners of the Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's Graduate Student Prizes for 2007. Jeff is delivering courses in atmospheric environments, environmental geography, climatology, and research methods. Jeff and his family live in Duncan.

Stefan Bjarnason joined the department on a part-time basis this year and is responsible for the delivery of economic geography, spatial analysis, and research methods. Stefan and his family have relocated from Metro Vancouver to Protection Island - across the harbour from downtown Nanaimo.

Faculty from the ADGISA program and the Forestry Technology program are also assisting with the delivery of the geography programs this year.

Faculty Presentations and Workshops

Don Alexander and Steven Bell delivered a mobile workshop entitled: "Walkability on the Ground: Trimming the Fat in Hogtown" in Toronto in October.

Faculty Publications

- Alexander, Don. (2007). "Planning as Learning: Sustainability and the Education of Citizen Activists." *International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management* [forthcoming].
- Alexander, Don and Shawn Natrasony. (2007). "The Rise of Modernism and the Decline of Place: The Case of Surrey City Centre, Canada." *Environmental Design Research Association* [annual conference proceedings] 38, *Building Sustainable Communities*, Sacramento, California, May 30-June 3. 96-100.
- Lewis, J. P., A. J. Weaver, and M. Eby (2007), "Snowball vs. slushball Earth: Dynamic vs. non-dynamic sea ice?" *J. Geophys. Res.*, doi:10.1029/2006JC004037, in press.
- Lewis, J. P., A. J. Weaver, M. Eby (2006), "Deglaciating the snowball Earth: Sensitivity to surface albedo," *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 33, L23604, doi:10.1029/2006GL027774.
- Tomalty, Ray, Don Alexander, and Mark Anielski. (2007). *The Ontario Urban Sustainability Report 2007: Measuring the Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability of Ontario's Municipalities*. Toronto: Pembina Institute.

Belize Summer School

In May-June of 2007, the Malaspina Geography Department coordinated a five-week field project that assisted the Town of Orange Walk in Belize to develop community planning policies. The team was led by planners Larry Wolfe and Pam Shaw, as well as Victoria Macfarlane, all from Malaspina, and included 19 students from geography and other disciplines. The students' reports are now being edited for publication as a compendium of policies for Orange Walk. The reports address various community planning issues, such as urban design, infrastructure, community development, crime, tourism, and conservation.

While in Belize, students also spent time at the Community Baboon Sanctuary, Caye Caulker, the Lamanai Mayan ruins, and other points of interest. The students gained valuable experience applying their knowledge and skills to real world situations, while enjoying a tropical paradise and learning about travel and working in a developing country.

The Geography Department is organizing another field project in Belize for May 2008. The field project will be open to third and fourth year students in Geography and other disciplines at Malaspina and other universities. In this project, Geography faculty and students will be assisting the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) of Belize in emergency planning. The team will assist with two types of studies. One group will assist in physical planning issues, such as hazard identification and mitigation. The other will evaluate existing emergency management and related programs. Among the issues will be preparedness and response to hurricanes, floods, epidemics, and other disasters. The importance of these issues was underscored when Hurricane Dean gave a glancing blow to northern Belize and Orange Walk in August. Work plans will be prepared this fall with NEMO. The team will be based in Belmopan, but with some fieldwork in other communities. The field project will allow students to accumulate nine credits, with approximately four weeks spent in Belize plus preparation before departure and report writing after return to Canada. While in Belize, students will work on specific projects but will also have some time for visiting archaeological sites, jungles, and Caribbean isles. For more information, contact Larry Wolfe at LDSWolfe@telus.net.

The Geography Department is also exploring the prospect for a two or three week field project in Orange Walk Town for land use professionals, such as planners, architects, engineers, and others. The professional team would assist in implementing some of the recommendations of the 2007 field team, including urban design, zoning, engineering, and community development. In addition to volunteer work, participants would also visit archaeological sites, jungles, and Caribbean isles. For more information, contact Larry Wolfe at LDSWolfe@telus.net.

Departmental Events

The Geography Department will host its Second Annual Urban Issues Film Festival on November 16th. Pam Shaw and Don Alexander are organizing the event again this year, with assistance from the Nanaimo Chapter of PIBC. Some of the films include *Radiant City*, a funny but serious critique of suburbia; *Escape from Suburbia*, a follow-up to last year's *The End of Suburbia*, and *The Street*, an examination of the history of the street in America.

Faculty, in cooperation with students in Geography and the ADGISA program, are organizing an on-campus GIS Day for November 14th – a first for Malaspina.

Student Accomplishments and Activities:

Malaspina University-College geography graduate, James Salmons, received the CAG's undergraduate award for 2007. James is taking the post-baccalaureate program in the Faculty of Education at Malaspina.

Derek Ingram, a 2006 graduate in geography, started his masters program at UNBC in September.

Further Information

For further information on the Geography and GIS programs at Malaspina University-College, please visit our website at: www.mala.ca/gis/

Submitted by Don Stone

University of Alberta

This past year has been an exciting one for the Human Geography program at the University of Alberta with changes in Faculty and in our course offerings. Robert Summers and Damian Collins have joined the department (Damian arrives from New Zealand next spring) as assistant professors, and Bob Patrick has joined the program as a faculty lecturer. Bob brings his research expertise in source water protection policy, Damian's research interests include homelessness and other urban issues, and Robert's interests include rural water supply and institutions of environmental management. Ed Jackson and John Hodgson retired to emeriti status. Theresa Garvin has started some exciting new research into the 'Big Things' that act as small town tourist draws (such as the giant Easter Egg in Vegreville, Alberta) and Tara McGee has continued her research into wildfire risk perception and mitigation.

This past year we had our first Human Geography Field School where many of our 3rd and 4th year students visited a diverse selection of Edmonton Neighborhoods and developed various policy options for the areas. This year our Field School will be held in Vancouver.

Our Human Geography Student Society (HUGSS) had an event-filled year and has returned this fall even more vibrant and active than ever. Last year they organized a number of events, including a field trip to the City of Edmonton Planning Department and to some private planning firms, which provided them with career ideas available to human geography grads. There are numerous events scheduled already for this year including a trip to Edmonton's Waste Management Centre of Excellence.

Many of our students attended the WDCAG conference in Abbotsford last March, with three presenting posters and two presenting papers. This included Heather Castleden who was awarded the 'best PhD paper for the conference'. This year, our students are excited for WDCAG in Bellingham and perhaps some will make it to the CAG in Quebec City. Our students and faculty are coordinating "Food and Health Day" as part of Geography Awareness Week in Canada (Nov 12-16, 2007). This will include a series of posters and other displays which will be seen by students from across campus.

Our program continues to grow at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have added five new courses to our offerings that will be available next fall. These are 'Introduction to Planning', 'Introduction to Social and Cultural Geography', 'The Spatial Economy', 'Topics in Regional Geography', and 'Advanced Issues in Human Geography'. These courses will add to our current course offerings with a strong focus on community, health and environment aspects of human geography.

Lastly, we have just launched our alumni outreach program, so if you are a Geography alumni from the U of A, please contact Robert Summers at Robert.Summers@ualberta.ca and let us know where you are, what you are up to, and how we can best contact you for future newsletters and for information on alumni-student events.

Submitted by Robert Summers

University of Victoria

Recent Faculty Awards

New faculty member, **Dr. Aleck Ostry**, has won a prestigious scholar award (Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Senior Scholar Award. This is a competitive scholar award and as well Aleck won an establishment grant worth \$75,000 from MSFHR

Award Winning Graduate Students

Congratulations to our UVic Geography grad students **Laura Joan Feyrer** (an alumni) and **Mark Seeman**, and to our alumni **Andrea Miskelly** for Future Public Service major awards that have just been announced by the Premier's Office.

Laura Joan Feyrer (UVic Geography BSc 2006) of Victoria began her master's program in biogeography at the University of Victoria in September. She is currently manager of UVic's whale research lab field station in Ahousat, Clayoquot Sound, gathering data on habitat use by grey whales. While studying for her BSc, Feyrer won awards from the American Cetacean Society, UVic and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre. Results of her research will be used to develop a habitat model with maps that will predict grey whale habitat use and help policy-makers understand factors contributing to coastal health and marine biodiversity. Habitat models based on her work will provide tools that can be used to identify sites for marine protected areas and assess the effects of future coastal development on other marine species.

Mark Seemann of Victoria is conducting emergency management research as a PhD student in the Department of Geography at UVic. His research will focus on community resilience to damaging earthquakes. Seeman is an internationally certified emergency manager who worked as an analyst for the B.C. Provincial Emergency Program. He was involved in responding to the World Trade Centre disaster in 2001, the 2003 firestorm in central B.C., and the 2004 avian flu outbreak in Abbotsford.

Andrea Miskelly (BSc UVic Geography 2003) of Vancouver is working towards her master's degree in environmental engineering at UBC. She previously received a fellowship from the UBC bridge program under the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, as well as two awards from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Miskelly's research will investigate a major issue facing pulp and paper mills today: why the endocrine systems of fish are disrupted by waste released into the water, even though that waste has already been treated biologically. Miskelly suspects that plant steroids called phytosterols, prevalent in wood, are transformed into animal steroids as microorganisms break down organic waste during biological wastewater treatment. Her research into this theory could help shape the future of pulp mill waste water treatment and help eliminate damage to fish near these mills.

New Faculty

Dr. Terri Lacourse - Assistant Professor and NSERC University Faculty Award holder. Dr. Lacourse is a paleoecologist, and her primary research interests focus on temporal and spatial patterns in the distribution of plant communities along the Pacific coast of Canada. She completed her master's program at the University of Ottawa, where she conducted paleoecological research in the Kluane Lake region of the southwest Yukon. She completed her PhD at Simon Fraser University, where her research focussed on the late Quaternary paleoecology of the Pacific coast of Canada with field sites on Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), northern Vancouver Island, and the adjacent continental shelf. Prior to being appointed at the University of Victoria, Dr. Lacourse held a PDF in the Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Lacourse is currently setting up a new research lab at UVic - the Earth Systems Ecology Lab. The main goal of her lab will be to examine ecological dynamics and interactions between the biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere using the geological record and Quaternary science methods (such as pollen analysis) that provide a long-term perspective on vegetation dynamics. The lab will focus on vegetation dynamics since the last glaciation, the climatic and non-climatic factors that drive these dynamics and the responses of plant communities to past climatic change. The main geographical focus of the lab is the Pacific coast of Canada, a region characterized today by temperate rain forest and dominated by large, long-lived conifers. Students interested in any aspect of earth systems ecology or paleoecology are encouraged to contact Dr. Lacourse via email, tlacourse@uvic.ca to discuss their background and research interests.

UVic Geography Alumni in the community

Dean Fortin (BA UVic Geography 1981) is now a Victoria City Councillor and executive-director of the new Burnside-Gorge Community Centre. This \$5.4 million centre is in an industrial area in Victoria, offering outreach programs for homeless families, child care, youth centre, summer camp programs and counselling.

Steven Myhill-Jones (BSc UVic Geography 1999) is President and Chief Executive Officer of **Latitude Geographics**, and has won a place in Victoria's top forty businesses, as well as ranking 34 in the 2007 PROFIT 100 ranking of Canada's fastest-growing businesses.

Award-Winning Photos From UVIC Geography Graduate Students and Faculty

As part of the AGM, a competition for photos for our UVic Geography calendar brings out some really fine images:

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/faculty/smithd/agm2007/index.html>

Participatory Binning Livelihood Enhancement in Victoria

This summer, the Communities-based Research Laboratory (CBRL) at the University of Victoria conducted a participatory-based livelihood assessment of the binning community in Victoria, an initiative in collaboration with the University of British Columbia and funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).

The purpose of this project was to conduct a participatory base line survey (census) among binners in Victoria to gain a better understanding of the extent and diversity of this community and to record the assets and barriers that binners face during their work. The information collected in this project will help shed light on quality of life issues regarding this population and will contribute to defining appropriate public policies that can tackle the social and economic needs of these people.

The Binning census was conducted by participating binners and members of the CBRL at selected bottle depots in Victoria during the week of June 18th to June 22nd. As part of the research, members of the CBRL and Lifecycles, a local NGO, recently hosted a community-mapping event at Centennial Square, in the centre of Victoria, entitled 'building a better world, one bin at a time'. Participating binners were encouraged to identify access (and barriers) to services, facilities and resources that are important in their daily lives. This was also an opportunity for binners and community members to network, share stories and discuss strategies to overcome obstacles related to homelessness and resource recovery.

This project, being participatory in nature, enabled binners in Victoria to voice their perspectives on numerous livelihood issues, particularly on homelessness and resource

recovery. This process, for many, was an empowering and socially binding experience. Additional interviews were also conducted with various community stakeholders; including bottle depot managers, Street-link nurses, an Our Place outreach worker, and representatives from the CRD waste management.

It is estimated that there are at least 150 binners in Victoria today. The value redeemed from the bottles remains an important source of income for them, many of whom are homeless. As scavenging through garbage bins remains an illegal



Participating project members conduct survey with binners in Victoria, June 2007. Photo: C. Tremblay.

activity, their actions are not without confrontation. Frequent encounters with police lead to fines or arrests. Also, humiliation towards them is a common reaction from the community at large. However, binning provides the ability to become independent, without having to resort to begging or crime. Individual community initiatives in Vancouver are already working to eliminate the negative stigma that is attached to binning, to empower the binners and to improve their image. The United We Can bottle depot www.unitedwecan.ca in Downtown Eastside Vancouver, a social enterprise, plays an important role in improving the public image of binners and in strengthening the cohesion among them. Key leaders from the Vancouver initiatives also participated in this project for experience sharing and learning. Contacts between the binning communities in Vancouver and Victoria have been made and the dialogue between government, society and binners in Victoria and Vancouver has been initiated over the past months.

This research aims to improve the livelihood strategies of binners by generating awareness in our community about the benefits from strong partnerships between consumers and binners, and by restoring the dignity and integrity of binners that is often challenged by society's negative perception.

The findings from this project will soon be available at our website www.pswm.uvic.ca, and the results will be presented in forthcoming conferences. For more information on this project please contact project director Dr. Jutta Gutberlet (juttag@uvic.ca) or Crystal Tremblay crystalt@uvic.ca.

Douglas College

Wendy Hales is on maternity leave. **Sarah Paynter** was hired to fill Wendy's position. **Dave Godfrey** has left the department to complete the PDP program at UBC. **Erin Seedhouse** was hired as the New Westminster Geography Lab Technician.

The Department continues to adjust to fluctuating enrolments and is pursuing the possible joint degree with UCFV.

Submitted by Earl Noah

University of Lethbridge

This summer, we welcomed three new colleagues in the department. **Sarah Boon** is our new assistant professor in Environmental Science, and her research projects involve combined field and modelling to examine the cryosphere, its linkages to hydrology and meteorology, and its response to climate change. She also examines the impact of mountain pine beetle infestation on the snow portion of the hydrologic cycle. **Chris Hugenholtz** is our new Geomorphologist, and has research projects related to aeolian geomorphology, sand dune morphodynamics, airflow and sediment transport processes, terrain hazards and Quaternary environments. We also welcome Guy Duke back, who is now in a permanent-stream position as Academic Assistant, and teaches most of our GIS labs.

We are offering, together with the Department of Physics, a new multi-disciplinary Major in Remote Sensing. This major is structured to provide a firm theoretical, experimental, and applied background in remote sensing. It offers a strong basis for further study at the graduate level in related fields, while also providing training in areas of

employment opportunity from GIS to astrophysics. We are also proud to report that more than 40 students are now registered in our major in Archaeology & Geography, which has been implemented since academic year 04/05.

Some updates on our research activities: **René Barendregt** participated in INQUA in Australia, and the QRA in Great Britain, and remains prolific with five publications in 2007 related to landscape and sedimentation reconstruction of North America, as well as geoarchaeological reconstruction in Europe. **Stefan Kienzle** developed a new snow routine for his hydrological model during his study leave in South Africa and New Zealand, and tested this in an alpine/semi-arid watershed to simulate the impacts of irrigated agriculture on streamflow and is currently applying the model here in Alberta and Montana. **Dan Johnson's** new research projects include a multi-University experiment on how grazing and fire affect biodiversity at Grasslands National Park, an assessment of the distribution of Yucca and Yucca moth in Canada (endangered species), and modelling impacts of soil temperature and moisture on the geography and inter-year variability of phenology of insects that spend part



Students Dan Juhlin and Colleen Curran working the ice auger on Shackleton Glacier, BC.
Photo: H. Jiskoot.

Two students completed their MSc degrees in the Department of Geography since Spring 2007:

Kristin Goosen “Quantifying biomass production in rangeland in Alberta using current and archival SPOT satellite imagery”:

supervisor D. Peddle.

Peter Eddy “Development of remote sensing techniques for the implementation of site-specific herbicide management”: supervisor D. Peddle.

We also had a number of new graduate students starting, but interested students are always welcome to apply, and can do this by contacting any of our faculty directly, or by finding out more about our department <http://www.uleth.ca/fas/geo/> or the School of Graduate Studies <http://www.uleth.ca/sgs/>.

Finally, the new U of L Water and Environmental Science Building, which will provide state-of-the-art research facilities for many of our colleagues, is now taking shape above ground, and our first faculty should be moving in some time next year.

Submitted by Hester Jiskoot

Okanagan College

The Geography & Earth and Environmental Science department at Okanagan College is still growing. Last summer we hired Dr. **Terence Day** to teach physical geography and geographical techniques. That brings our department to a total of five full time faculty

members and one term instructor. Currently, we teach first and second year courses at the Kelowna, Vernon and Salmon Arm campuses and first year courses at the Penticton campus.

Our faculty are active in research. **Stephanie Bunclark** continues to work on her research into the role of women in the fisheries on Vanuatu. Terence Day has developed a model to predict the world distribution of landslides. **Leif Burge** is actively working on several aspects of river stability, including using spectral analysis techniques to investigate structures of steep mountain streams and streams that have experienced channelization and other management techniques. Dr. Burge also recently published a coauthored paper on “in situ jet-testing of the erosional resistance of cohesive streambeds” in the *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering*. He currently has a student investigating the rate of carbon sequestration in forest plantations on abandoned agricultural land. These projects are being conducted through the Okanagan College Data Analysis Group that was formed in collaboration with the department of mathematics to apply mathematics to environmental problems. **Kathleen Jagger** continues to work on a project investigating sedimentation in Okanagan Lake near Penticton. **Stephen Doyle** continues to develop a physical geography video series, the latest being *Alpine Glaciation*. In addition, he is working with the Departments of Biology and Philosophy in the development of an interdisciplinary program entitled Southwest Studies, which is set to commence in Summer, 2008 and will take students to locations such as Grand Canyon and the San Francisco Volcanic Field. Finally, **Peter Rotheisler** is investigating Holocene paleoclimate in British Columbia using the Chironomid record in lake sediments.

Submitted by Leif Burge

Simon Fraser University

The department has seen a significant number of Master's students complete and successfully defend their thesis work in 2006 and 2007. Topics span the discipline:

Ariane Khachatourians, Therapeutic Landscapes: A Critical Analysis

Arif Jamal, Linking Migration and Education Across Generations: Ismailis in Vancouver

C. Leah Gold, Negotiating Health and Identity: Peruvian Villagers' Discourses on the Uneasy Co-existence of Primary Health Care and Indigenous Medicine

Christopher Martin Lindberg, Making Sustainability Happen: Market Mechanisms for Sustainable Neighbourhood Development

Craig Andrew Emmerton, Downstream Nutrient Changes Through the Mackenzie River Delta and Estuary, Western Canadian Arctic

Erin Johanna Welk, The Evolution of a Coastal Community: Power Relations and Tourism Geographies in Tofino, British Columbia

Jenny Patricia Romero, Contract Farming and Producer Participation in the Avocado Industry in Michoacan: The Case of Calavo De Mexico

Jesse Proudfoot, At Street-Level: Bureaucrats and the Spaces of Regulation

Julia Dawn MacKenzie, Moving Towards Sustainability in the Olympic Games Planning Process

Julia Rae Chandler, Influence of Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum* Pursh) in a Mixed Conifer Forest of Southwest British Columbia

Nathaniel Joseph Bell, Constructing Place Specific Measures of Health and Socio-Economic Inequality for Metropolitan Vancouver

Robert Scott Fiedler, Geographies of Immigrants at Risk for Homelessness

Robert Scott Lidstone, Refugee Queerings: Sexuality, Identity and Place in Canadian Refugee Status Determinations

Sarah Paynter, Using Bodies: Negotiating Reproductive Health in an Indian Village

Scott Thomas Weston, Interannual Trends in the Radiation Climatology of the Canadian High Arctic

Shahram Yassemi, Development of a GIS-Based Spatial Decision Support System for Forest Fire Management

Tanya Darlene Turk, The Role of Bigleaf Maple in Soil Chemistry and Nutrient Dynamics in Coastal Temperate Forests

Taskin Shirazi, Snowmelt and Soil Thaw Energy in Sub-Alpine Tundra, Wolf Creek, Yukon Territory, Canada

Last year three new faculty members joined the department. **Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld** is a hydrologist. Her current foci include ecohydrology and runoff generation mechanisms in forested watersheds. **Jeremy Venditti** is a geomorphologist. Much of his work is focused on erosion and sedimentation processes in river channels. **Valorie Crooks** is a health geographer. Her current projects include an evaluation of a national health-related social program, an examination of information sharing within a chronic illness support group, and the siting of palliative care services in rural and remote BC. The department also welcomed **Owen Hertzman**, a Senior Lecturer in physical geography.

Submitted by Valorie Crooks

Capilano College

Our department is in need of a physical geographer (Introductory Geomorphology and/or Introductory Weather and Climate) for the Spring 08 term because of a number of faculty changes: **Karen Ewing**, who has been at the college for 34 years is retiring, **Sheila Ross** is off on an educational leave, and **Cheryl Schrader** is on maternity leave. Fortunately, we have hired **Diane Tanner**, but we need one more instructor. 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. The selection process is now underway.

On the Human side of the discipline we have hired **Kirsten McIlveen** to replace **Jeanne Mikita** who is on leave this year.

Lower enrollments continue to be a concern for the college overall and Geography did lose a section this term. Hopefully, through field trips and stressing the practical side of geography, we will not see further losses for the Spring term.

Capilano continues to pressure the provincial government to become a regional university although I suspect that even if we are granted this status it would have little bearing on geography.

For those geographers interested, I have made up “new” seminar questions for each chapter of *Geography of British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition* (2nd 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.

Submitted by Brett McGillivray

University of Northern British Columbia

Faculty News

Gail Fondahl (Chair of Geography Program) served as co-organizer, along with Natalia Novikova of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), for the *5th International Summer School in Legal Anthropology, on Self-Government and Co-management: Prospects for the Indigenous Peoples of Russia's North*. The summer school was held in the western Siberian city (and oil centre) of Khanty-Mansiysk, from August 6 -11. Rick Krehbiel (ENPL Adjunct), **Pam Tobin (MA NRES GEOG**, now working with Dr. Laurie Chan), Richard Binder from the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat and Gail presented talks on co-management, impact benefit agreements and resource revenue sharing, and cultural dimensions of EIAs. The summer school involved 30 students (comprised of undergraduate and graduate students and indigenous activists), and 8 lecturers (lawyers, anthropologists, geographers from Russia and Canada).

Following yet another highly successful Field School to South Africa this April-May, **Kevin Hall** stayed on to undertake further studies on the weathering of San rock art.

With funding support from Service Canada, the Community Development Institute (CDI, under **Greg Halseth's** Directorship) is initiating a new project examining the human resource issues and needs within the service industry sector across northern BC. Over the next year, the CDI will be combining information from a range of service sectors, with policy and literature respecting economic development opportunities, in order to identify the potential limits which shortages in key employment sectors may have on realizing additional local benefits from new and existing economic activities.

Neil Hanlon was recently appointed Editor of *Western Geography*. He takes over from **Jim Windsor**, who held this post for more than twelve years.

Catherine Nolin received a UNBC Excellence in Teaching Award at this May's Convocation. The citation read by Dr Heather Smith, Acting Dean of Teaching and Learning, included the following statements:

Through her delivery of the Geography Field School to Guatemala, [Catherine] has challenged her students. The course is described as 'life changing for many students who witness poverty and the results of state terrorism, and thus confront these issues both in the literature and the field.' ... Catherine embraces the concept of student centered teaching, as she reveals in her teaching philosophy: 'a supportive environment allows students to take chances, reach further than they might otherwise, and enables students to grapple with intellectual, emotional, and philosophical challenges'.

Congratulations, Catherine!

Drs Ellen Petticrew and **Philip Owens**, along with Dr Marcel van der Perk (U Utrecht), are supervising three master's students from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, who are spending two months at the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) to collect field and flume data on gravel bed channel experiments. We wish to welcome Paula Penninkhoff, Linda Wubben and Rineke Hulsman and wish them every success in their research. Ellen and Phil will host an open house to showcase this research and other work done by UNBC faculty and graduate students. The open house will take place at the QRRC on Saturday October 13th.

This August, **Dr. Brian Menounos** and colleague Dr. Paul Sanborn (ESM) traveled to Cairns, Australia to attend the [INQUA Congress](#) which is a gathering every four years of the International Union for Quaternary Research. This is the largest gathering of its kind of Quaternary researchers. Session themes are broad, and such diverse topics are covered as palaeoclimate, archaeology, glaciology, the carbon cycle and environmental reconstruction. Brian presented one paper, co-authored another two and was a co-convenor of a session entitled “Global Glacier Fluctuations.”

A fond farewell to **Dr. Sarah Boon**, who leaves us to take up a tenure track appointment at the University of Lethbridge. Best wishes from everyone at UNBC!

Welcome New Graduate Students

Veronica Haddon (MA Interdisciplinary Studies) is looking at Environmental assessment process & First Nations' communities. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin.

Chelan Hoffman (MA NRES, Geography) is examining emerging regional governance mechanisms for economic development. Supervisor: Greg Halseth.

Jennifer Herkes (MA Interdisciplinary Studies) will be examining the role of identity in creating the creation of community within purpose-built single industry ‘instant towns’ in northern BC. Supervisor: Greg Halseth.

Derek Ingram (MA NRES, Geography) is working with supervisor, Gail Fondahl, on the CURA project.

Joseph LeBourdais (MA NRES, Geography) will examine issues of community and health services development in the Peace River Regional District of BC. Supervisor: Neil Hanlon.

Cristian Silva MA Interdisciplinary Studies is looking at exhumations of gendered acts of violence in Guatemala. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin.

Recently Completed Theses

Rachael Clasby (MA NRES, Geography). Networks and partnerships in a resource town: A case study of adapting to an aging population in Mackenzie, B.C. Supervisor: Neil Hanlon.

Jessica Place (MA NRES, Geography). Expanding the Mine, Killing a Lake: A Case Study of First Nations’ Environmental Values, Perceptions of Risk and Health. Supervisor: Neil Hanlon.

Pamela Prior (MA Interdisciplinary Studies). The Social and Cultural Experiences of Food Security in the Takla Lake First Nation: Informing Public Health. Supervisor: Neil Hanlon.

Sarah Parsons Quinn (MA NRES, Geography). Locally Based Measures of Successful Forest Co-Management: A Case Study of Tl'azt'en Nation and the John Prince Research Forest. Supervisor: Gail Fondahl.

Other Student News

Jennifer Adomeit (BA Geog '07) - received a Geography Program award for her outstanding achievements in Human Geography.

Christina Tennant (BSc Geog '07) is the recipient of the CAG Outstanding Geography Student Award & the 2007 Excellence of Scholarship Award from the National Council for Geographic Education.

NRES graduate student **Melanie Grubb** was awarded a US\$1700 Geological Society of America Graduate Research Grant to support her MSc research titled "Turbidity current dynamics and proglacial sedimentation in Kitsumkalum Lake, Central Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada." Melanie is supervised by Brian Menounos. Congratulations, Melanie!

Publications

Fondahl, G. and D. Atkinson (2007) Re-making space in north-central British Columbia: The establishment of the John Prince Research Forest, *BC Studies*, 154:67-95.

Hall, K., Meiklejohn, I., and Arocena, J. (2007) The thermal responses of rock art pigments: Implications for rock art weathering in southern Africa. *Geomorphology*, 91, 132-145.

Halseth, G., Manson, D., Markey, S., Lax, L., and Buttar, O. (2007) The connected North: Findings from the Northern BC Economic Vision and Strategy Project, *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(1): 1-27.

Halseth, G., K. Sedgwick, and B. Ofori-Amoah (2007) "From Frontier Outpost to 'Northern Capital': The growth and functional transformation of Prince George, BC, Canada", *Beyond the Metropolis: Urban Geography as if Small Cities Mattered*, Ben Ofori-Amoah (ed.), University Press of America.

Hanlon, Neil, Rosenberg, Mark and **Clasby, Rachael** (2007) Offloading social care responsibilities: Recent experiences of local voluntary organizations in a remote urban centre in British Columbia, Canada. *Health and Social Care in the Community*, 15(4), 343-351.

Hanlon, N., G. Halseth, R. Clasby and Pow, V. (2007) The place embeddedness of social care: restructuring work and welfare in a remote resource community in northern BC. *Health and Place*, 13(2), 466-481.

Schiefer, E., **B. Menounos**, and **R. Wheate**, 2007, Recent volume loss of British Columbian glaciers, *Canada, Geophysical . Research. Letters*, 34.

Osborn, J., **B. Menounos**, J. Clague, J. Koch, and V. Vallis (2007) Multi-proxy record of Holocene glacial history of the Spearhead and Fitzsimmons ranges, southern Coast Mountains. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 26, 479-493.

Nolin, Catherine and Katie McCallum (2007) North of 53°: Non-metropolitan diversity in northern British Columbia. *Our Diverse Cities*, Volume 3 (Rural Communities), pp. 145-149. Ottawa: Metropolis Project of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Nolin, Catherine (2007) Rural poverty among immigrants and refugees in British Columbia, in *Proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Senate of Canada*, Issue No. 19 (Rural Poverty in Canada), 29-32; 38-42.

Owens, P.N. (2007) Editorial. Sediment management at the river basin scale: Challenges. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*, 7, 7.

Förstner, U. and **Owens, P.N.** (2007) Sediment quantity and quality issues in river basins. In: Westrich, B. and Förstner, U. (Eds), *Sediment Dynamics and Pollutant Mobility in Rivers*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1-15.

Owens, P.N. (2007). Erosion processes and pollution transport. In: *Effects of River Sediments and Channel Processes on Social, Economical and Environmental Safety: Proceedings of the 10th International Symposium on River Sedimentation*, August 1-4 2007, Volume 1, Moscow, 96-105.

Petticrew, E.L. and **McConnachie, J.L.** (2007). Identifying variable organic matter sources in riverine suspended sediments. Chapter 6.1 in *Sediment Dynamics and Pollutant Mobility in Rivers. An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Westrich, B. and Forstner, U., eds. Berlin: Springer, pp. 218-232.

Williams, N.D., Walling, D.E., Leeks, G.J.L. (2007). High temporal resolution in situ measurement of the effective particle size characteristics of fluvial suspended sediment. *Water Research*, 41, 1081-93

Submitted by Neil Hanlon

Camosun College

The fall term has started well here at Camosun College and Geography courses are running at 96% capacity (after two sections received early cancellation). **Chris Ayles** is busy this term preparing for the launch of our new Natural Hazards course (GEOG 111), a more specialized first-year offering for our geography majors. Approval has also been granted to list a Latin America regional specialty course (GEOG 250).

We are now offering Associate Degrees in Arts, Science and GIS and the requirements of these programs are streamlining our course offerings. All faculty are in varying stages of “hybridizing” course offerings – splitting delivery between classroom and on-line – with GEOG 102 and GEOG 216 starting up in hybrid-distance formats this year and GEOG 222 fully online this winter. It is our department’s plan to offer a full Associate Degree in Geography online within the foreseeable future.

Catherine Griffiths and **Bernard Henin** are our returning sessional instructors this year and all continuing faculty, **Chris Ayles, Tim Elkin, Hilary Sandford, Barry Weaver** and **Francis Yee** are on-campus and hard at work. Francis Yee has again embarked on an ambitious project and will be spearheading a day of student activities on October 17th to mark the Day to End Poverty. **Barb Von Sacken**, our newly regularized Geography Assistant, is creating promotional material and displays to further advertise our offerings. All in all, it should be a good term.

Submitted by Hillary Sandford

The Western Division CAG Newsletter is published twice a year, in the Fall and Spring and is electronically distributed.

For more information and back issues of the newsletter go to the website:
<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wcag/>

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Western Division will be hosted by Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington March 6-8, 2008.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Fall 2007 issues of the newsletter.

Ineke J. Dijks
Newsletter Editor, email: geoarch@telus.net

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