

## FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like many I had the pleasure to attend the CAG meeting in Regina last spring. Having lived in Saskatoon for about a decade while doing my graduate work, it was a great opportunity for me to reconnect with the *land of living skies*. Since I have moved to British Columbia, I had almost forgotten how overpowering the sky ... and Roughrider fans can be!

During its business meetings at the conference, the CAG executive had to make a number of difficult financial decisions in order to balance its books. Two decisions in particular, the first to suspend for a year (2011) the CAG rebates given to divisions (based on the number of CAG members in each division - around \$2,000 per year for the WDCAG), and the second to also suspend the CAG grants awarded to facilitate student travel to regional conferences (\$2,500), will greatly affect our bottom line next year. Although our current budget carries what I would consider a fair balance (about \$8,000), the loss of \$4,500 in revenues will force us to be even more fiscally prudent than usual in the upcoming year. The expectation is that this situation is only temporary, and that the CAG will look to resume paying rebates and student travel grants to its divisions in 2012.

On a more positive note, under the leadership of John Wall, CAG Student Councillor, the association has recently introduced the Geographical Outreach Activity and Learning program, or GOAL for short. Designed to support the efforts of students' clubs, associations, societies, and of special-purpose

project teams recognized by their geography department, the purpose of the program is to:

- support and showcase the volunteer efforts of geography students at the post secondary level who are actively engaged in community outreach;
- promote youth awareness for geography as a discipline and the CAG;
- promote geographical education at all levels.

The types of outreach activities students groups can engage in is very flexible. The CAG has set aside \$5,000 to support five or more of those projects. Please encourage your students to apply to the program so that the WDCAG is well represented in this exciting new initiative and that it gets its fair share of the resources distributed by the CAG. For more information on the GOAL program and to review a few suggestions of potential projects, consult the *Student Zone* on the CAG website ([www.cag-acg.ca/en/notices.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/notices.html)).

Because the CAG and, by default, the WDCAG can always welcome more members, please let me remind you to encourage your colleagues that are not members of our professional organization to join the CAG. Graduates and undergraduates students should also be strongly encouraged to become student members. You can suggest that they browse the CAG and WDCAG websites ([www.cag-acg.ca/en/index.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/index.html) and [www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag)) to discover the many benefits associated with joining the CAG.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to send an invitation for all to attend the WDCAG 2011 Annual Meeting hosted by the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University (Burnaby campus), March 10-12, 2011. As usual, this will be an excellent venue, particularly for graduate and undergraduate students, to present research to colleagues from other institutions in a collegial setting. The theme chosen by our host for this 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting is *Habitat for Diversity*. More information is available at [www.sfu.ca/wdcag2011](http://www.sfu.ca/wdcag2011) and at [www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag).

I hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting in March.

Gilles Viaud Ph.D.  
2010-2011 President, WDCAG  
Chair, Department of Geography  
Thompson Rivers University

#### **AUGUSTANA CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

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). This fall, our campus opened its beautiful new library and a spacious student forum.

This fall, Glen Hvenegaard is teaching a capstone course that incorporates community-service learning, with placement options in local sustainability organizations. He was involved in several conferences this summer and fall: *Society for Conservation Biology* in Edmonton, *Human Dimensions in Wildlife* in Colorado, *Nordicity in Thought in Practice* in Camrose, and *Rural Sustainability* in Camrose. A senior student, Nhial Tiitmamer Kur, is working on how well whale watching companies' marketing efforts align with ecotourism principles.

Glen continues his research on the conservation aspects of wildlife festivals in Canada, learning dynamics on a wilderness expedition course,

and motivations of participating in undergraduate directed studies courses. Recent papers have come out in *Landscape and Urban Planning* (human impacts on biodiversity in southern France), *Forestry Chronicle* (overlapping terms in sustainable forest management and protected areas), *Brazilian Journal of Ornithology* (tourism and shorebirds), and the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* (spatial distribution of beavers). He and colleagues published a major report by the Sustainable Forest Management Network.

This fall and winter, Glynnis Hood is teaching our introductory course *Human Activities and the Natural Environment*, and is teaching two senior courses, *Environmental Impact Assessment* and *Biogeography*, this fall. In the winter she will teach *Statistics for the Natural Sciences* and *Resource and Environmental Management*. One of her senior students, Stephen Olson, is conducting a year-long comparative study on coyote diets in agricultural landscapes and nearby protected areas. This research will help managers understand the dynamics of coyotes and their prey species and how these animals use very different habitats. Glynnis is also co-supervising an MSc student, Nils Anderson, who is assessing microhabitat use of beaver ponds by amphibians.

The 2010 research season was productive. Her research project, based in the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park continues to focus on the effects of land use and climate on wetland biodiversity. Glynnis presented various aspects of her research at the *Society for Conservation Biology* conference in Edmonton, the *Nordicity* conference in Camrose, and the *Unwrap the Research* conference in Fort McMurray. She continues to work closely with Alberta Parks and the Beaver Hills Initiative to help assess biodiversity and wetland health in the Cooking Lake Moraine.

This fall, sessional instructor, Pam Stacey, taught a laboratory section for a biogeography course.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at [glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca](mailto:glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca) or Dr. Glynnis Hood [glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca](mailto: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 Glen Hvenegaard*

## **DOUGLAS COLLEGE**

The Department of Geography has been exploring various study abroad options. The department successfully completed two study abroad programs to Wales and Belize in May 2010. Mike McPhee will be participating in another study abroad program to Belize in May – June 2011.

David Godfrey, Geography Lab Technician, will be going on leave from February to April 2011. The department will be advertising for a replacement soon.

Don McPhee is the current Chair of the Department of Geography.

*Submitted by Earl Noah*

## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

On April 1 2009 Geography became a founding member of the new Faculty of Environment (FENV). Indeed, we are still the only main line department in FENV. However, numerous initiatives are being planned, including a redevelopment of the Environmental Science Program, formerly in the Faculty of Science. Physical Geography hopes to continue to have a major role in this Program through a proposed Biogeophysical Systems stream and a Water Science stream. FENV is also starting to plan for its 'own' bachelor of environment degree, and both human and physical geography will be central to its curriculum. There is lots 'going on' regarding curriculum department and, if we survive, the politics more news will follow.

Archeology, by the way, will join FENV next year, while Resources and Environmental Management (REM), mainly a graduate program, is another founding member of the Faculty.

With respect to faculty news, Ted Hickin retires soon, formally on January 1 2011, after spending his entire career (since 1971) at SFU. Ted played a major role in the life of the Department, not least as a two-term chair. He will join Ian Hutchinson and Arthur Roberts who took early retirement a year or so ago. Fortunately, and despite financial contingencies at the University level, the Department has been very successfully renewing itself in recent years, and in August we welcomed Kirsten Zickveld (PhD Potsdam), a climatologist, and next August Meg Krawchuck (PhD Alberta), a landscape ecologist, will join us. They will greatly add to an already vibrant physical geography program. At the time of writing we are seeking to appoint in the remote sensing area.

Remarkably, the Department is planning four conferences in 2011. First, I am delighted to say that next March 10-12 we will host the Annual Meeting of the Division. The theme of the conference, proposed by an undergraduate student, is Habit for Diversity. We hope our Department will provide a stimulate habit for a sharing of diverse geographic ideas. Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld ([ilja@sfu.ca](mailto:ilja@sfu.ca)) and Valorie Crooks ([crooks@sfu.ca](mailto:crooks@sfu.ca)) are the conference organizers; please contact them if you have any questions. See you all in March! Prior to this conference, Ilja is a co-organizer of a Workshop on Intermittent Steams to be held at the Dinosaur Trail Golf and Country Club, Drumheller Alberta. Back at Simon Fraser, Jeremy Venditti is organizing a conference on Coherent Flow Structures in Geophysical Flows at the Earth's Surface at Simon Fraser, August 3-5 (Burnaby Mountain campus). Mike Church (UBC) and Ian Walker (UVic) are also involved, and it is expected that experts from around the world will attend. At the same time, (August 4-5), also

on SFU's Burnaby campus, Suzana Dragicevic is co-organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> ICA Workshop on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling; the theme is 'Our complex world: representation, analysis and modeling'.

As part of our graduate program, as program chair, Eugene McCann initiated a new Distinguished Visitors Speakers Series, with Stuart Aitken (San Diego State) spending a very successful three days in the Department in September. Eugene hopes to invite a distinguished physical geographer next year. In the past few months, several graduate students successfully defended their theses; congratulations are due to: Kenji Kitamura (PhD) who is a research coordinator at the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Japan; Priya Vadi (MA) who will return to the UK to undertake a PhD; Emilia Kennedy (MA) who is pursuing her PhD in Geography at UBC taking; Gaeten Reuse (MA) and Sonja Agesen (MA) who are both in our PhD program; and Daniel Hought (MSc) who is working for the USGS in California. And Krystal Chin won an Outstanding Student Paper Award at the 2009 American Geophysical Union fall meetings in San Francisco.

And, congratulations to Nick Blomley for his latest book, *Rights of Passage: Sidewalks and the Regulation of Public Flow*, Routledge.

*Submitted by Roger Hayter*

## **THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY**

The Fall semester began with some concern as to the numbers of students in Geography at TRU, both in service classes and as majors. The numbers held firm to last year, with a slight increase. In 2011 TRU Geography will graduate the first cohort of Masters students, and we continue to have good student participation in the joint-degree program (B.A. – B.Sc.) with the University of Javle in Sweden.

A new numbering system for courses now involves four digits, with the final one indicating

a face-to-face class (0) or an open learning distance class (1). New classes in Geography include GEOG 2740 (Understanding the World through Images and Measures), GEOG 3750 (Applying GIS), GEOG 3760 (Computer Mapping for Management and the Social Sciences), GEOG 4850 (Geography of First Nations Issues in British Columbia) and GEOG 4990 (Hydrologic Flood Modelling using GIS).

Ross Nelson has rejoined the Department after having served several years in Administration in Open Learning, the distance delivery component of Thompson Rivers University. Gilles Viaud continues as the Chair of the Department, as well as serving as the President of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Tom Waldichuk led another successful Field School in China during the summer. Darryl Carlyle-Moses continues Fieldwork in examining the interplay of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation and Hydrology at Mayson Lake. This work continues to involve both graduate and undergraduate students, particularly during the summer. Kim Naqvi continues with Geography as well as offering a class at our Lillooet Campus. Crystal Huscroft is back from maternity leave, while Carolyn Teare and Barbara Jackson remain with us part time. Michael Campbell continues to provide expertise in GIS and Computer Mapping.

The Department has been busy firming up the language of Teaching, Research and Service requirements in the continuing adaptations required to move to the university format. We will soon be embarking on the preparation of the next Five-year plan.

All roads and railroads pass through Kamloops. Stop in to see us if you are passing by. Just don't try to get here by air.

*Submitted by Brian Goehring*

## UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The past six months have seen lots of ongoing activity in Geography at University of Alberta. The undergraduate Human Geography program offers an annual field school held here in Edmonton, and last May students participated in projects related to developing alternatives for decommissioned public school sites, transportation planning for disabled citizens, and community development in an inner-city neighbourhood. In addition to teaching the field school, Faculty Lecturer Dr. Ewa Dabrowska has also developed and implemented a local Community Service Learning (CSL) course that gets our students out into neighbourhoods and working with real issues relevant to our community. Well done Ewa!

Our graduate students have also been very busy. Congratulations to Dr. Anna Pujadas-Botey on the successful July defence of her PhD dissertation titled "Interdisciplinarity in Ecosystem Management" (Supervisor Theresa Garvin) quickly followed by the birth of her son Tau. Bravo also to Brian Joubert and Kurt Borth (both supervised by Bob Summers) for successfully completing their PhD Candidacy Exams. Brian received an IDRC Doctoral Research Award for his project "Local Institutions of Borehole Management in Malawi" and is currently in Africa doing fieldwork. Kurth Borth was awarded a City of Edmonton Graduate Fellowship and a Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship and will shortly begin data collection on his project "Investigation of Household Energy Attitudes within three Neighbourhood Contexts." We are all looking forward to the upcoming defence of Amy Christianson (supervisor Tara McGee) of her thesis titled "Metis Settlements and Wildfires: A Successful Wildfire Risk Reduction

Program." Amy holds a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship.

At the master's level Amy Procter and Andrew McLellan (both supervised by Damian Collins) are the recipients of SSHRC's J-A Bombardier MA Scholarships. Andrew is also the recipient of the City of Edmonton Fellowship and his work identifies place-making in media representations of light rapid transit in Edmonton and Auckland, NZ. Amy is examining outdoor smoking policies on university campus sites. Esther McNairney (supervisor Theresa Garvin) is continuing her work on older adults that choose suburban locations for aging-in-place and is in the midst of data collection. Part-time student Sirina Hamilton-MacGregor (supervisor Bob Summers) will be shortly starting her data collection for her project on community perceptions of the 124<sup>th</sup> street corridor in Edmonton. Three new masters' students joined the department this fall. Jen Baker (supervisor Tara McGee) will be examining media representations of avalanche events, Laraine Stewart (supervisor Tara McGee) will be examining risk communication by heavy industry, and Erica Frank (supervisor Theresa Garvin) will be evaluating age-segregation in Edmonton neighbourhoods.

The undergraduate student society has been active, organizing pub nights and meetings. In conjunction with the Career Centre, we welcomed a set of Human Geography alumni back to campus for a meeting with current students to talk about job opportunities for graduates with a BA in Human Geography. In the next week students will be visiting the Boyle community in Edmonton to discuss the redevelopment plans currently in consideration by the city. Finally, the undergraduate society is

also busy organizing a contingent to the WDCAG at SFU in March, and the CAG in Calgary.

The following is a list of recent accomplishments among Human Geography Faculty and students:

#### **Successful Grants:**

**T. Garvin** (PI), S. Johnson, C.J. Nykiforuk, V. Menec & B. Parke. Can We Get Old Here? A Scoping Review of Suburban Aging-in-Place. CIHR Knowledge Synthesis Grant 2010-11.

**Recent Publications:** (bold indicates member of our department)

**Collins, D.** 2010 'Homelessness in Canada and New Zealand: A comparative perspective on numbers and policy.' *Urban Geography*, 31(7): 932-952.

**Dabrowska, E.** & J. Bates. 2010. The health beliefs of Old Order Mennonite Women in Rural Ontario, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 42:1, 92-111.

**Dabrowska, E.** & S.K. Wismer. 2010. Inclusivity matters: Perceptions of children's health and environmental risk including Old Order Mennonites from Ontario, Canada. *Health, Risk & Society*, 12:2, 169-188.

**Dabrowska, E.** & S.K. Wismer. In press, 2011. "Outside Assumptions. Research with the Old Order Mennonite Women in Ontario: An Exploratory Study. In Rural Health in Canada. Lippert, B. (ed).

Furgal, C., **T. Garvin** & C. Jardine. 2010. Trends in the study of Aboriginal health risk in Canada. *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*. 69,10: 321-332.

**Pujadas Botey, A** & **T. Garvin**. 2010. Interdisciplinary Research in Ecosystem Management: A Literature Evaluation. *The*

*International Journal of Science in Society*. 1:4, 195-213.

*Submitted by Theresa Garvin*

#### **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - VANCOUVER**

This is a bumper year for UBC Geography. We have our highest undergraduate enrolments ever, with an increase of 23% in student numbers from last year. New programs have benefited the most, with the Geography BA in Environment and Sustainability reaching 150 majors in only its second year. There is also a surge in the Physical Geography courses that have been re-configured as Geographical Biogeosciences. After some student uncertainty in the first year numbers are very robust in all these courses in 2010-11. Also unprecedented in size is the new cohort of 32 new graduate students, and the complement of nine post-docs. So the Geography Building is bursting at the seams!

We welcome back from sabbaticals Dan Hiebert who spent the year away as the Willy Brandt Visiting Professor in Malmo, Sweden, Elvin Wyly, who moved between Sweden, Amsterdam, Singapore and Hong Kong, and Jim Glassman who split his time between North America and Southeast Asia.

There were two summer institutes in the Department: Jamie Peck and Trevor Barnes led a group of 45 young Economic Geographers from 14 countries for a week, while Marwan Hassan hosted a second summer institute in Hydrologic Synthesis. This intensive program lasted seven weeks! Not to be outdone, our graduate students organised and led the third annual Pacific Worlds in Motion conference in June, a graduate student conference run jointly with the National University of Singapore. Earlier David Edgington and Brian Pendleton (Langara) had taken 22 undergraduates on a

two-week field trip to the Osaka-Kyoto region in western Japan.

Three new books have been published in the Department so far this year: David Edgington's *Reconstructing Kobe* (UBC Press), following the devastating earthquake; Matthew Evenden and two co-authors have written *The River Returns: An Environmental History of the Bow River* (McGill-Queen's Press); while David Ley has published *Millionaire Migrants: Trans-Pacific Life Lines* (Blackwell-Wiley) in which Vancouver looms large!

This year it is the department's turn to be reviewed with an evaluation panel visiting in late February. Expect lots of facts and figures from me next time – and hopefully a good review.

*Submitted by David Ley*

## UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

### Programs news

If it's the fall semester, then that means its Adventures in Geography time. This past semester, **Carolyn Atkins, Michelle Rhodes** and **Steven Marsh** co-led an AIG trip to Alberta Rockies, spending time in Banff National Park, Jasper National Park and Kananaskis.



Students completed a number of field activities in human and physical geography including designing interpretative trails, lichenometry, measuring altitude effects on temperature and

vegetation and tourism and wildlife management issues. They also enjoyed a hike through 30cm of fresh snow! Not bad for early September! Plans are in the works for a trip to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks next August.



In May, **David Gibson** and **Garry Fehr** (along with Stephen Piper, SCMS) took a group of UFV students to Mexico (photo taken as Paso de Cortes between Popo and Ixta). They travelled throughout Mexico studying markets, public spaces and religious festivals in Mexico City, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tlaxcala.



This past summer, **Ken Brealey** along with UFV Canada Research Chair, Hugh Brody and Sto:lo Nation's Sonny McHalsie and Dave Schaepe delivered the second edition of UFV's Certificate in Indigenous Studies: Maps, Films, Rights and Land Claims. Fourteen students participated in this intensive month long program at the UFV

Chilliwack campus. This certificate program is offered to students each summer.

The Geography Department also hosts a monthly speaker series (organized by **Jonathan Hughes**) bringing in speakers in Geography-related areas to highlight their research to faculty and students alike. This semester the Discovery Series has heard talks from Rolf Matthews (SFU) presented on Fraser Lowland paleoecology, Rick Routledge (SFU) talked about salmon decline and Lionel Pandolfo (UFV) introduced us to modelling atmospheric dynamics. Next semester we are looking forward to talks by John Clague (SFU) presenting on the rising toll of natural disasters, Brent Ward (SFU) introducing us to glaciation in the Cordillera, Will Valley (UBC) on urban farming, Scott Miles (WWU) on earthquake risk assessment in Haiti and, and Roger Hayter (SFU) on economics of the resource industry in BC.

It has been a busy summer and fall here at UFV Geography. We are pleased to announce our new GIS Certificate organized and managed by **Scott Shupe** in conjunction with Computer Information Sciences has been recently approved and will be launching January 2011. This is a 30 credit certificate program that students can take alongside their major and which concentrates on GIS, Remote Sensing and Computing courses to provide students with the necessary skills when looking for employment in this exciting area.

### Student News

As reported in the spring newsletter, UFV Physical Geography student, **Justine Cullen**, was awarded the prestigious 2010 Farouk El-Baz Student Award from the Geological Society of America (GSA) for research in desert and dryland environments. Justine's project involves developing dating protocols for sand dunes in the Canadian prairies that serve as proxies for long-term environmental (climate) change. Her research will be conducted in our Luminescence Dating Laboratory and will form the basis for her Physical Geography honours

project. Justine and her supervisor **Olav Lian** recently travelled to Denver for the annual GSA meeting where Justine was presented with her award by Dr. Mostafa Abubakr (who is next to Justine in the photo), of the Center for Remote Sensing, Boston University. Mostafa is a close colleague of Dr. Farouk El-Baz, who the award is named after. Justine is the first Canadian, and the first undergraduate student, to have won this international award. Only two are awarded each year. More about the El-Baz student award can be found at the following GSA website <http://www.gsafweb.org/CurrentEvents/gsastudentawardn.html>.



UFV Geography is also going international this semester. Four students are completing AUCC internships in Chandigarh, India (supervised by Garry Fehr) where they are doing household surveys in four villages inquiring as to whether the 15 year old governance legislation has translated into more representation for women and marginalized castes as well as transparency and efficiency of village development priorities.

In addition to internships in India, 8 students are completing internships in Tanzania. Student **Angela Ostrickoff** sent along the following note:

*"Hello from Tanzania! There is a group of interns in East Africa this semester, specifically, Tanzania. The eight students along with Cherie Enns are spearheading the first internship that UFV has had in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The students academic backgrounds are varied,*



*sociology, human geography, biology; but all are studying geography while away. As part of the internship, each student must intern at a NGO of their choosing. Four students are working at Kwetu, a home for girls at risk of living on the streets of Tanzania; they are helping with English, improving their living space and doing art projects. Three students are at Haven of Peace Academy, an international school that does community outreaches, and the students are helping with these outreaches. There is also one student working that the Tanzanian Conservation Society, assisting with research projects and some field work. The East African Internship is a great opportunity for students with a background in geography to branch out and see a different part of the world, explore their areas of research and work with NGOs on the ground in Tanzania.”*

#### Faculty News

**Garry Fehr** has been recently appointed Director of the Global Development Institute at UFV taking over from Cherie Enns. The Institute focuses on four key areas of research: 1. Good governance of the rule of law; 2. Children and development; 3. Environmental sustainability; and 4. Education. Garry has also been involved with the “On the CASE” Photo Exhibit which was shown at UFV from October 26-30, 2010 and will be touring other galleries and universities across Canada. CASE = Child Activists for Social Empowerment. This exhibit is a collaboration with Paris-based photojournalist Marilyn Smith and Garry’s research on community development in Chandigarh, India. The photos demonstrate how training 9-13 year olds basic healthcare, nutrition, first aid and disease prevention in the slum of Janta Colony has delivered significant improvements in the health of both children and adults in the slum community. The photos can be seen at <http://www.marilynslumproject.blogspot.com/>.

**Steven Marsh** and Sharon Gilles (Biology) are supervising students in a time series water sampling project along the Fraser River. This project is being done in collaboration with

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) and Woods Hole Research Centre (WHRC) as part of the Global Rivers Project and which includes the following rivers: Fraser River (North America), Congo River (Africa), Yangtze River (Asia), Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers (Asia), MacKenzie River (North America), and Lena and Kolyma Rivers (Siberia). Steven and Sharon together with their 4 students (Bryce Downey, Jenna Fanslau, Garrett Macklam-Harron and Helena Fraser) attended at workshop on the project in mid-October at Woods Hole, MA (see photo). They participated in discussions on the state of the research at each of the rivers, the variation in sampling protocols and the future directions of the research.



This past summer, **Ken Brealey** completed a Map Series and Report on the Historical Geography of the Cowichan Tribes Land Use and Occupancy on the lower Fraser River. This work lays the foundation for possible future negotiations in treaty, a title and rights litigation or submission to the Specific Claims Tribunal. Two UFV Geography students, Paul Stephany and Sally Hope, were hired to complete the GIS work necessary for the completion of this submission. Ken has also completed a Map Series and Report on the Cache Creek Dump Extension for the Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council.

We are also pleased to welcome to the department, **Dr. Lionel Pandolfo** as adjunct professor. Lionel comes to us from UBC and is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> adjunct professor at UFV. Lionel received a PhD in atmospheric dynamics and

climatology from Yale University in 1992. After post-doctoral positions at Columbia University and the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City, he became an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Pandolfo is now an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford. Within climatology Dr. Pandolfo's interest lies in investigating the dynamics of Earth's atmospheric envelope that evolves on fast time scales. Even though, in people's minds, climatology is concerned with studying the phenomenon of global warming, the lowest layers of the atmosphere, the troposphere and stratosphere, offer a rich assortment of dynamical phenomena. In hindsight, one can see that these phenomena are intertwined with global warming.

**Scott Shupe's** proposal submitted to the DigitalGlobe 8-Band Research Challenge was accepted in September, 2010. DigitalGlobe is a company that operates a series of high resolution remote sensing satellites, and has recently successfully launched an advanced satellite called WorldView-2 which gives remote sensing and GIS researchers unprecedented access to high-resolution imagery. WorldView-2 contains 8 spectral bands (rather than the conventional 4), including coastal blue, yellow, red-edge and NIR2 bands. The 8-Band Research Challenge was initiated by DigitalGlobe to seek out new and innovative ways to apply the extended spectral resolution of WorldView-2. Scott's proposal is entitled "Object-Oriented Feature extraction in the urbanizing Kanaka Creek Watershed, British Columbia using WorldView-2 imagery" and involves a comparison of land cover classification of WorldView-2 vs SPOT satellite imagery.

*Submitted by Claire Beaney*

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

### News

A UNBC Geography graduate was named the 2010 UNBC Alumnus of the Year. James Adamson (BSc Geography '04) is a hydrologist working on a variety of projects around the world. He found himself working in Haiti at the time of their catastrophic earthquake and he stayed to work on relief and rebuilding efforts around the country. As part of the Alumni Week activities, James was feted and delivered a special talk on his work. We also pressed him to work through several classroom lectures. Congratulations James!



The Geography Program recently hosted José Pablo Baraybar from Peru. José Pablo is Executive Director of the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team and President of the Latin American Association of Forensic Anthropology. In addition to talks and guest lectures, José Pablo delivered a special condensed course "GEOG 498 / IDIS 791 Enforced Disappearances" which ran September 27 - October 7, 2010.

### Faculty News

Congratulations to Drs. Brian Menounos, Garry Clarke (UBC), and Dan Moore (UBC) who received a \$100,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation from Climate and Atmospheric

Sciences for their proposal, "Western Canadian Cryospheric Net-work: Modelling hydrological impacts of deglaciation" in Fall 2010.

Drs. Phil Owens and Ellen Petticrew attended the International Symposium on Sediment Dynamics for a Changing Future, Warsaw, Poland, June 14 - 18.

Dr. Ellen Petticrew and graduate student Sam Albers, MSc (Biology) attended the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, NM June 6 - 11.

UNBC presentations at the June 1-5 Prairie Summit joint meeting of Canadian geographers, cartographers, re-mote sensors and geomorphologists at the University of Regina included Dr. Sarah de Leeuw (Northern Medical Program) and NRES graduate students/researchers Jennifer Herkes, Alex Martin, Laura Ryser and Chelan Zirul. Drs. Neil Hanlon and Roger Wheate were part of a panel of editors discussing publishing issues for young faculty.

Dr. Catherine Nolin delivered the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture at the 2010 CAG Annual Meetings. Her talk was entitled: "Geography That Breaks Your Heart: Feminist Geography from/to the Peripheries".

Dr. Phil Owens is attending the [European Geosciences Union annual conference](#) in Vienna, May 3 - 7, which is attended by about 10,000 scientists. He organizing and chaired two sessions and presented two posters.

Dr. Brian Menounos gave a talk about geoscience education at UNBC at the Minerals North conference in Prince George, BC in late April.

Catherine Nolin took a class of UNBC students to Guatemala in spring 2010 to study geographies of culture, rights, and power. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> Geography field school to Guatemala for Catherine. Photo attached. In

August, she led a group of graduate students to Guatemala to further their human rights and development work. See: [http://www.unbc.ca/geography/guatemala\\_2010/index.html](http://www.unbc.ca/geography/guatemala_2010/index.html)



In June 2010, Ellen Petticrew (with Phil Owens, UNBC and Marcel van der Perk, U.Utrecht) co-edited a special issue of the Journal of Soils and Sediments on the theme of "Sediment response to catchment disturbances". This drew from a special hydrological session at the 2009 European Geophysical Union.

Gail Fondahl (UNBC Vice-President, Research) has been appointed as Canada's representative to the International Arctic Science Committee's Social and Human Working Group. The IASC has 5 new working groups, In addition to the Social & Human Working Group, the other working groups include Marine, Cryosphere, Terrestrial, and Atmosphere.

#### **Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) News:**

Ellen Petticrew and Phil Owens hosted a number of researchers and students from several European Geography Departments this summer at the QRRC. Dr Klaus Kuhn from the University of Basel, accompanied by several graduate students sampled forest soils and lake sediments to determine the carbon budgets for a portion of the Quesnel watershed. In early July, Dr Christine Embleton-Hammon (University

of Vienna) and Dr Olav Slaymaker (UBC) brought 20 undergraduate students to the QRRC as part of a larger BC field tour. Dr Marcel van der Perk and two graduate students from University of Utrecht spent 3 and 8 weeks respectively working from the centre. van der Perk conducted flume experiments to quantify interstitial gravelbed flows while the students sampled riverine fine sediment to assess the temporal and spatial influence of mining in the Quesnel River watershed. The field station is used by UNBC graduate and undergraduate students over the full year and details about the resources at the station can be found at <http://www.unbc.ca/qrrc/>

#### Graduate Students:

Chris Turner (MA NRES-Geography, Supervisor: Dr. G. Fondahl) was awarded a prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Master's Graduate Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Christine Creyke (NRES Geography, Co-supervisors: Drs. Gail Fondahl & Greg Halseth) won a Jane Glassco Arctic Voices Fellowship from the Walter Gordon Foundation.

Jocelyn Joe-Strack (NRES Geography, Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Petticrew) has received an NSERC Northern Research Internship (May to August 2010), an ACUNS Northern Residents Scholarship for Master's students (May 2010 to April 2011), a Studentship in Northern Geography from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society (May 2010 to April 2011), a UNBC Graduate Award: "Sophie Thomas Bursary" from the Sophie Thomas Foundation (May 2010 to April 2011) and a Jane Glassco Arctic Voices Fellowship from the Walter Gordon Foundation.

#### Recent thesis defenses:

Nathan Einbinder, MA NRES (Geography), "Dams, Displacement, and Perceptions of Development: A Case Study from Río Negro,

Guatemala", August 3, 2010. (Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin).

Chelan (Hoffman) Zirul, MA NRES (Geography), "The Changing Governance of Rural Regional Development: A Case Study of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition," July 5, 2010. (Supervisor: Dr. Greg Halseth)

#### Alumni:

The Geography Faculty members would like to send warm congratulations to **Dr. Simon Springer** on the publication of his new book, based on his MA research, "*Cambodia's Neoliberal Order: Violence, Authoritarianism, and the Contestation of Public Space.*" See: [http://www.routledge.com/books/search/author/simon\\_springer/](http://www.routledge.com/books/search/author/simon_springer/)

Simon completed his BA Geography degree here at UNBC in 2003 and went on to complete his MA Geography at Queen's University, and his PhD in Geography at UBC. Simon is now Assistant Professor of Geography at the National University of Singapore where he lives with his wife Marni and children Solina and Odin.



Submitted by Greg Halseth

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to all WDCAG Geographers and associated departments who submitted news items for this edition of the WDCAG newsletter. The WDCAG newsletter is published in the Spring and Fall of each year and aims to provide WDCAG members and the broader geographical community with updates from Geography departments within the region. For an archive of previous newsletters, please visit <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/publications.htm>. The newsletter serves you, the members, so if you have any suggestions, ideas or news items, please contact **Claire Beaney**, Newsletter Editor ([claire.beaney@ufv.ca](mailto:claire.beaney@ufv.ca)).

