

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most of us, Fall is now well and truly come (and for some, gone) and we are deep into the semester with term papers and finals on the near horizon. I am always surprised at how quickly the Fall term flies by. This is my first newsletter as president of the WDCAG and I must first send thanks to Gilles Viaud who has provided such great leadership to our organization over the past two years. As the incoming president of the organization, I appreciate the fact he will be Past President for at least another year to continue to show me the ropes and ensure a smooth transition in the organization.

Like some of you, Gilles and I attended the CAG meeting in Calgary last May, which was held in conjunction with the cartography and planning organizations. The executive business meetings were almost completely centred on the re-negotiation of the association's publishing contract for *The Canadian Geographer* and evaluating proposals from the shortlist: Taylor Francis and Wiley/Blackwell. The final decision has only come out recently, however a sub-committee has elected Wiley/Blackwell to remain as our publisher. Congratulations to the sub-committee for negotiating a contract that will ensure the stability and viability of the journal for many years to come. Despite a year of financial belt-tightening, the Association's finances appear to remain in good order, and this year we will see funding levels from the National Office return to their 2006 levels after the cutbacks of last year. In addition to the executive meetings, we were able to enjoy the sunshine and amenities of Calgary while meeting with colleagues from across the country. For those of you that have never attended, the CAG is an excellent opportunity

to link in to the Canadian geography community. The next CAG annual meeting will be hosted by Wilfrid Laurier and the University of Waterloo and will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2013, the annual meeting will be held in Whitehorse so start making plans to head north!

One of the initiatives developed by the CAG executive was an online poll of members and non-members to garner a better understanding of why people do and do not choose to become a part of our professional organizations. Those data should be discussed at the annual meeting next May-June, however it reminded me that membership for all organizations is often a challenge. In this era of time-strapped people and competing demands for our attention, it is easy to forget to renew our memberships, or to forget to remind our colleagues and students about the benefits of organizational membership. So I encourage everyone to take some time in the next week or so to remind colleagues and students to join or renew. The CAG – and by default the WDCAG – is always looking to expand horizons and welcome new members.

Lastly, I would like to extend the invitation to everyone to attend the WDCAG 2012 Annual Meeting hosted by UBC Okanagan March 8-10, 2012. Conference Chair Fes deSally and his organizing committee have put together an innovating and exciting program that includes field trips and social activities as well as oral, poster and – new this year – video presentation options. Look to the website for more information:

<http://wdcag.s22.ok.ubc.ca/WDCAG/Home.html>. Student unions, in particular, are invited to provide a 3-5 minute video depicting "One day

in the life of (their department or program).” This is a broad initiative for students to showcase something about their program and to let loose their creative energies! The winning video(s) will be screened at the banquet on Saturday night. As a final, but very important, note: the deadline for abstract submission will be somewhat earlier this year. Look for a conference call to come out any day now but be ready for **early abstract deadlines of the middle of January**. This will include posters, presentations, and video presentations. It looks to be an exciting and interesting conference and I hope to see you all there.

Submitted by Theresa Garvin, PhD, 2011-2013 President, WDCAG

AUGUSTANA CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Augustana campus offers a minor in geography and an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies (2 streams: general and outdoor education).

Glynnis Hood is currently teaching a senior course in Freshwater Ecology and Management and 2nd year course in Statistical Methods for the Natural Sciences. She is also supervising a Directed Study student who is investigating long-term population dynamics of great-blue herons in the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area and a graduate student (UofA, Biological Sciences) who is determining how amphibians use microtopographic features of beaver ponds (e.g., channels). Glynnis’s own research with Dr. David Larson (Augustana), which examines landscape alterations by beavers and their effects on biodiversity and resilience of wetlands to drought, is also producing some interesting results. An additional project aims to assess the effectiveness of alternative management techniques (e.g., pond levellers, specialized culvert fencing) in reducing human-beaver conflict, while maintaining wetlands and biodiversity.

This summer, Glen Hvenegaard taught a joint 3-week field course on Arctic geography and outdoor education with colleague, Morten Asfeldt. In the Northwest Territories, they travelled with 8 students along Artillery Lake, down Pike’s Portage, and finishing along the beautiful east arm of Great Slave Lake. Because of the early start, they encountered lots of ice which hindered their progress (see picture). In July, they presented results of their research on learning associated with this course to the International Outdoor Education Research Conference in Denmark. Glen, Glynnis, and Political Studies colleague, Lars Hallstrom, did not receive funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation for a sustainability centre. However, they are working with other funding options to proceed with a research station at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.

Over the summer, Glen and his research assistants worked steadily on several projects: the role of interpretation at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, ecotourism and conservation through wildlife festivals, and the dynamics of independent studies courses. A recent paper on birds as indicator species came out in *Ecological Indicators*. While on sabbatical this fall, Glen is an Adjunct Research Fellow at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia. He is working with colleagues there on publications sponsored by the tourism group within the World Commission on Protected Areas.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or Dr. Glynnis Hood glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca.

Check our websites at

<http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/> and <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/>

Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard

CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Camosun Geography is in the midst of a full program review with all of our courses being

assessed and amended. New physical courses and new methods courses are guaranteed outcomes but the broad sweep of the review is expected to refresh all of our offerings.

Bernard Henin has been regularized at 50 percent and we are all delighted. Chris Ayles was elected as Social Science Chair for 2011-2014 so his classroom presence has had to be reduced. Trisha Jarrett and Hilary Sandford have picked up his courses and Catherine Griffiths, our wonderful sessional instructor, has taken up the overflow.

Spring term was busy as we hosted the Geography Articulation meetings, ran full spring courses and secured a \$500 ESRI scholarship for our students. In the summer, Francis Yee went with a colleague to Ghana to learn about the social and economic development in some of the rural areas. He distributed 60 used cell phones to women in two rural districts to help them connected with their families and access to medical and other information. In addition, he brought two packages of medical supplies to St. Theresa's Hospital in Nkoranza District where malaria is rampant.

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

The department is experiencing strong enrolments in the fall semester. Mike McPhee and Susan Smythe are scheduled to participate in study abroad programs to Belize and Scotland in 2012. Tomasz Majek has been teaching additional sections.

Submitted by Earl Noah

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

The Geography Program, in the Department of Earth Sciences at Mount Royal University, is attracting Bachelor of Science students to the newly implemented Geography Minor. At this time, it is difficult to determine the exact student numbers enrolled in the Geography

Minor since all minors are declared at graduation. Information does suggest that interest is strong from Environmental Science and Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership students and that there is growing interest from students in the Faculty of Arts in departments such as Policy Studies, Sociology and Anthropology. We are hoping to attract as many students as possible into the new Geography Minor and then, evaluate possible future demand for a Geography Major as part of the Bachelor of Science Degree Program.

There have been some interesting developments from our faculty on the research front where Lynn Moorman has been nominated to be a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society for her work in spatial literacy, and efforts in geographic education with the Canadian Council for Geographic Education (CCGE). She will be attending the Fellows Dinner and AGM in Ottawa, on November 3rd. Dr. Troy Burnett has been active on the Editorial Board of ABC-Clio, Santa Barbara, and is in the process of beginning new research on geo-politics of the Arctic. Dr. Barbara McNicol is completing her sixth and final year as Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences and will be looking forward to a sabbatical beginning in fall term 2011. This last summer Barb and her undergraduate research assistant, student Dylan Lewis, spent July and August interviewing commercial operators in Banff and Jasper National Parks to determine categories for indicators of environmental supply by commercial tour operators. This study is ongoing, and growing, and will be further developed over the coming year to include international participants. Susan Hunt will be offering another Geography Field School this spring term 2011. The offered field courses are a cooperative venture with Dr. Antoine Sassine of the Department of Languages and Cultures who will conduct a romance studies course along with Susan's geography course in France, Spain and Morocco.

There have been so many changes at Mount Royal during our transition from a college to a

university, that the last three years have seen the Earth Sciences Department move from older, smaller offices to a larger area vacated by the Chemistry and Biology Department. A brand new science wing has been added to the old science building and slowly, and surely, we are extending our floor space, acquiring new equipment, and setting up new laboratories that can be accessed by soil, bio-geography and geomorphology classes. The Geography Program also is offering new 300-level courses in Spatial Analysis and GIS, Advanced Bio-geography, Parks and Protected Areas, and Global Environmental Issues. We are all now looking forward to the newly planned university library for the academic year of 2012/13.

Submitted by Barbara McNicol

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

This Fall we have welcomed two new colleagues, Meg Krawchuk (Landscape Ecology) and Anders Knudby (Remote Sensing). We are also delighted to have John Irwin join us as a limited term lecturer this year. Nick Blomley has taken over as Department Chair.

We have several visiting scholars: Will Damon, a visiting Fulbright Scholar, and Akin Akinwumi, a Post-Doctoral Fellow, are both working with Nick Blomley. Paul Tranter is still with us from the School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, University of New South Wales, Canberra. He is interested in transportation and social geography. Aura Roig Forteza, a PhD student at the U of Barcelona, is also already in town to work with Eugene on drug use and policy. Mathew Burke continues as a Post-Doctoral Fellow, working with Tracy Brennand. Genevieve Le Baron is now working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with Geoff Mann.

In other news, Valorie Crooks has been asked, along with a colleague in Health Sciences, to prepare a White Paper on health tourism for the Province. Melissa Giesbrecht, PhD student, was awarded the 2011 Jacques May Thesis Prize from the Association of American Geographers'

Health & Medical Geography Specialty Group. Gretchen Hernandez received a national research grant called the ANSER Graduate Student Research Award, for her research in Bolivia on Social and Solidarity Economy in Indigenous Communities in the Bolivian Highlands. Eugene McCann has been invited to be Gastprofessor (Guest Professor) at the Institut für Humangeographie, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in May-July, 2012. He has also been invited to give a presentation in the SFU President's Faculty Lecture series in November, 2011, and was invited to be 'Study Group Guest' of the Institute of Australian Geographers Urban Geography Study Group at the IAG Conference in Wollongong, NSW in July. Suzana Dragicevic has taken up the position of Associate Editor for the Landscape and Urban Planning Journal. Tracy Brennand is President of the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group for the year and has been active on the editorial and conference front. Jesse Proudfoot, PhD student, received a 2-year SSHRC Postdoctoral fellowship to study the geographies of harm reduction drug policy in Chicago. Britta Ricker Peters, PhD student, was awarded joint first prize in the graduate student poster competition at the recent SFU Sustainability Festival. Nick Hedley secured new research funding in early 2011 to support three new research initiatives applying mobile geographic visualization interfaces to tsunami education, watershed awareness and environmental accountability in British Columbia. He also gave a set of invited research presentations in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand in June and July 2011 at the request of GEOIDE (one of the Canadian Network of Centers of Excellence) and CRCSI (Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments).

In the past few months, several graduate students successfully defended their theses. Congratulations are due to: Annamarie Ruelle May 2011 – MA; Ofer Amram August 2011 –

MSc; Yue-Ching Chen Aug 2011 – MSc; Terence Lai Aug 2011 – MSc; Martin Lin June 2011- MSc; and Jesse Proudfoot Oct 2011 – PhD. Twelve new graduate students joined us this Fall.

Submitted by Nicholas Blomley

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (HUMAN GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM, EAS)

The Fall semester has begun, with many of our courses almost literally packed to the rafters with enthusiastic students. Taking the lead in much of this teaching is Kim Naqvi, who has taken up the position of Faculty Lecturer. Alongside Kim and our four permanent faculty members is Sean Ryan, who has a sessional position (and is also appointed at Athabasca University).

The sustained growth in our undergraduate numbers over recent years is beginning to feed into our graduate program, which now stands at 12 (4 PhDs and 8 MAs). This number would be higher but for three propitious completions over the summer: Amy Christianson defended her PhD dissertation (Supervisor: Tara McGee), while Amy Procter and Andrew McLellan defended their MA theses (Supervisor: Damian Collins).

Future expansion will likely include an undergraduate planning program closely linked to human geography. Indeed, geographer Bob Summers is the acting director of planning as we move towards its establishment.

Submitted by Damian Collins

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Enrollment and Changing Faces

The large undergraduate enrollment surge last year has been maintained, and at present the Department of Geography has about 450 majors and honours students. The Environment and Sustainability BA stream in Human Geography has driven the pressure for seats. Only two years old, this new stream already has

200 majors. In recognition of this growth, the Department was able to add a new position, filled by **Dr Loch Brown**, as an Instructor to the E & S program. In September the Department also welcomed 31 new graduate students in MA, MSc and PhD programs. Among staff we said goodbye to two long-serving members, **Rosemary Cann**, Curator in the Geographic Information Centre since 1975, and **Lorna Chan**, Head's Assistant. **Kevin Gillard** has moved into leadership at the GIC, **Tania Lam** has joined the GIC group, and **Catherine Aldana** is the new Head's Assistant.

Achievements

To add to the previously announced Spring honour roll, we congratulate **Michele Koppes**, recently appointed in cold region geomorphology, who has been nominated for a Canada Research Chair, and **Geraldine Pratt** and **Trevor Barnes** who were both elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Five current faculty members are now RSC Fellows. **Matthew Evenden** has been awarded UBC's Killam Teaching Prize.

Facilities

This has been an exciting year with the achievement at last of a major improvement in the Department's shoddy laboratory space. Physical Geography has been allocated a floor in a new building project 100 metres from the Geography Building that will provide good lab space to most or all of our physical geographers by the end of 2013. Meanwhile, the Dean has promised significant funding from the current Capital Campaign to renovate our venerable old building.

Graduates

The following theses were accepted for graduate degrees in 2010-11:

John Gallagher MSc: Patterns of planetary boundary layer influence at the Whistler Mountain air chemistry observatory: an observational mountain meteorology study

Heather Frost PhD: Getting by high school:

identity formation and the educational achievements of Punjabi young men in Surrey, B.C

Craig Jones MA: The misrule of Gaza

Jessica Lehman MA: Expecting the sea: displacement and the environment on Sri Lanka's east coast

Richard McCleary PhD: Landscape organization based on application of the process domain concept for a glaciated foothills region

Andrew Nelson MSc: The environmental history and geomorphic impact of 19th century placer mining along Fraser River, British Columbia

John Nesbitt MSc: Quantifying forest fire variability using tree rings Nelson, British Columbia 1700–present

Caleb Johnston PhD: Unmapping the metropolis: urban restructuring, governmental logics, and adivasi rights in liberalizing Ahmedabad

Joanna Reid PhD: Grassland debates: conservation and social change in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, British Columbia

Sarah Marie Roberts PhD: Three-dimensional radiation flux source areas in urban areas

Thomas Thomson MA: The death and life of the Little Mountain Housing Project: BC's first public housing community

Benjamin Thorpe MA: Outside the international: Roma, Europe, and the leaky valves of modernity

Xanthe Walker MSc: The reproduction, establishment, and growth of white spruce in the forest tundra ecotone of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk region

Colette Wabnitz PhD: Sea turtle conservation and ecosystem-based management with a focus on green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and seagrass beds

Jayne Walenta PhD: Corporate Performances in Space: Situating fraud in the Enron case

Claire Wooton MSc: A landscape level analysis of yellow-cedar decline in coastal British Columbia

Contact

Alumni or others who wish to keep in touch with departmental people and events can be added to the monthly Geography newsletter list by contacting: lisa.dam@geog.ubc.ca

Submitted by David Ley

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

The geography department at the University of Lethbridge continues to grow as we are expanding our graduate student population (n=21). In the past year we have added Gary Weikum (former City of Lethbridge Planner) to continue the development of our Urban and Regional Planning Program. Gary brings decades of experience to the department and has added interesting courses in sustainability issues in planning. We also had a great deal of success in generating several new NSERC discovery grants and a SSHRC grant in climate change communication using new media technologies.

In our continuing effort to provide student-centred learning, we have expanded our field course offerings in physical and human geography and have had another successful year digging up interesting things in Israel in our archaeology program. Student numbers have remained steady despite the economic downturn.

On the horizon for our department are two university centre initiatives. The UofL is creating a centre for remote sensing (Alberta Terrestrial Imaging Centre) that will focus on hyperspectral imaging science and technology and the creation of the Water Institute for Sustainable Environments (WISE). These two centres will enhance our research and teaching efforts by providing a foundation for the continued development of our existing research strengths.

Submitted by Craig Coburn

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty News

Dr. Gail **Fondahl** was elected president of International Arctic Social Science Association at the Association's triennial congress in Iceland, June 2011. She co-led with colleague Joan Nymand Larsen (Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland) a workshop on Arctic Social Indicators as part of MCRI Project on Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA), in Yellowknife, 18-19 October 2011, for Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics. She also participated in the Arctic Change Assessment Scoping Workshop, Oslo, 28-30 September 2011, as one of Canada's representatives.

Dr. Greg **Halseth** along with forest industry leader Ike Barber, a long-time supporter of UNBC & UNBC Chancellor John MacDonald presented information and data they have collected related to the evolving forest economy in British Columbia to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention in Vancouver on Sept 26 2011. Dr. Greg **Halseth** delivered an invited talk on "Globalization and Resource Peripheries: Observations from British Columbia, Canada" at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. He delivered a keynote address on "Peripheries at the Core of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities" at a **conference on innovative strategies for northern regional development** in Sundsvall, Sweden, as well as a seminar on "The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies" for the Rural Development Network, Ottawa, Ontario. Together with SFU's Sean Markey, he also delivered a keynote address on "Challenges of Rapid Industrial Growth For Small Communities" at the 2011 BC Oil and Gas Conference in Fort Nelson, BC.

Dr. Neil **Hanlon** is a co-Principal Investigator on a project awarded \$550,000 over four years (2011-2015) by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The research is titled "Partnering for Change: Understanding the

Contribution of Social Entrepreneurship to Primary Health Care Transformation." Dr. Zoë A. **Meletis** presented "*Just add hope? A reflective and action-oriented session on holistic critical pedagogy*" at the [6th International Conference of Critical Geography](#) (Frankfurt, Germany), in August 2011. Zoë conducted a month of [fieldwork in Tortuguero, Costa Rica](#), in June 2011, with her graduate student. She was also elected as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Two Rivers Gallery, in Prince George, and will be researching community perceptions of the Gallery with undergraduate Melanie Bodhi. This project is funded by one of UNBC's first Undergraduate Research Experience awards.

In June, Dr. Brian **Menounos** travelled to Switzerland to give an invited talk at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH).

Dr. Catherine **Nolin** was invited to present two talks in April at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL on Violent Development and Forced Migration in Guatemala. The Journal of International Human Rights at the NU Law School & the Buffett Center on International and Comparative Studies hosted the talks which were co-sponsored by the Center for Forced Migration Studies. As well, she and several UNBC colleagues, participated in a [UNBC-EPAF delegation](#) in Peru in June 2011. The Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) invited Dr. Nolin and the others to formalize a new partnership and start collaborative research on Peru's internal armed conflict and the search for Peru's disappeared. See:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_P1oua7Tro

Dr. Ellen **Petticrew** received \$27,933 from the Fraser Salmon & Watershed Program for her project "Marine-derived nutrient sampling using a continuous flow centrifuge."

Drs. Phil Owens and Ellen **Petticrew** attended the 12th International Symposium on the Interactions between Sediments and Water in Dartington, south-west England in June. They gave four oral and five poster presentations on

work based in Prince George and at the Quesnel River Research Centre. In addition, Phil organized and led one of the mid-conference fieldtrips.

Dr. Roger **Wheate** attended the 25th International Cartographic Congress in Paris, 3 - 8 July 2011 as one of Canada's two official delegates. He also presented on the Cartographic representation of glacier retreat in western Canada.

Recent publications:

Booth, A. and **G. Halseth**. 2011. Why the public thinks natural resources public participation processes fail: A case study of British Columbia communities. *Land Use Policy* 28(4): 898-906.

Campbell, L.M. and **Z.A. Meletis**. 2011. Agreement on water and a watered-down agreement: The political ecology of contested coastal development in Down East, North Carolina. *Journal of Rural Studies* 27: 308-321.

Horn, C. and **G. Halseth**. 2011. Seeing like a Circle: Perspectives on the Field from a Dialogue on Urban Aboriginal Economic Development, *Aboriginal Policy Journal* 1(2): 101-131.

Jost, G., R.D. Moore, **B. Menounos** and **R. Wheate**. 2011. Quantifying the contribution of glacier runoff to streamflow in the upper Columbia River basin, Canada. *Hydrology and Earth System Science* 8: 4979-5008. doi:10.5194/hessd-8-4979-2011

Kunkel, T., B. Schorcht and R. Brazzoni. 2011. Aboriginal business capacity building programs in the Central Interior of British Columbia: A collaborative project between the University and communities. *Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education* 37(1). Available at: <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/cejuce-rcepu>

Marshall, S., E. White, M. Demuth, T. Bolch, **R. Wheate**, **M. Menounos**, **M. Beedle** and **J. Shea**. 2011. Glacier water resources on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. *Canadian Water Resources Journal* 36: 109-134

Nolin, C. and **J. Stephens**. 2010. "We have to protect the investors": 'Development' & Canadian mining companies in Guatemala. *Journal of Rural and Community Development* 5(2),37-70.

<http://www.jrcd.ca/viewarticle.php?id=315&layout=abstract>

Nolin, C., A. Zehtab-Martin and **G. Halseth**. 2011. Hidden avenues of (im)migration: Experiences of mail-order brides in northern BC. *Our Diverse Cities, Volume 8, Spring (British Columbia)*. Ottawa: Metropolis Project of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 132-141. http://canada.metropolis.net/pdfs/odc_bc_2011_e.pdf

Russell, G.* 2011 Canadian mining companies and investors making a killing. *The Global Educator Journal (British Columbia Teachers for Global Peace & Education)*, Summer, 22-23. http://pagebc.ca/documents/Summer_2011_Journal.pdf

Ryser, L. and **G. Halseth**. 2011. Informal support networks of low-income senior women living alone: Evidence from Fort St. John, BC. *Journal of Women & Aging* 23(3):185-202.

* Adjunct faculty member

May Convocation:

Aimee Smith (BA Geography '11) was awarded the Top Geography Student Award for the 2011 graduating class.

Field Courses:

Planning is underway for Spring/Summer 2012 Geography Field Courses to Guatemala (Dr. Catherine Nolin), Peru (Dr. Catherine Nolin), and to South Africa (Dr. Kevin Hall, Dr. Greg Halseth, and Dr. Neil Hanlon) in 2012. See:

http://www.unbc.ca/geography/southafrica_2012.html and http://www.unbc.ca/geography/guatemala_2012/

Graduate Student News:

Nick Ehlers (NRES MA Candidate Geography, Supervisor: Dr. Zoë A. Meletis) received a \$1,500 Graduate Student Research Travel award from the Office of Research and Graduate Programs at UNBC, which he applied to his Summer 2011 fieldwork in Costa Rica.

Leana Garraway (MA Interdisciplinary Studies, Supervisor: Dr. Neil Hanlon) was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Master's Graduate Scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Erica Henderson started the MA Interdisciplinary graduate program (supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin) to examine the issue of impunity in Guatemala.

Theo Mlynowski (NRES MSc Candidate Geography, Supervisor: Dr. Brian Menounos) recently received a \$2,500 graduate student grant from the Geological Society of America (GSA) for his proposed MSc thesis project, "The relation of glacier activity to sediment yield in a proglacial lake, Peyto Basin, Alberta". Theo also received an award of \$1,000 from the GSA's Sedimentary Geology Division as their outstanding student of 2011.

Cristian Silva spent a busy summer working on his research and helping to coordinate the UNBC [delegation](#) to Peru to meet with the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team.

Chris Turner is continuing at UNBC, now as a PhD student, with the tentative dissertation title: Seeking Certainty: Strategies for Reconciling Overlapping and Contested Aboriginal Claims to Territory in Treaty Negotiation and Land Management in British Columbia (co-supervisors Drs. Gail Fondahl & Mike Murphy).

Recent thesis defenses:

Christine Creyke (co-supervisors Drs. Greg Halseth & Gail Fondahl) successfully defended her MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) thesis: The Tahltan Nation and Our Consultation Process with Mining

Industry: How a Land Use Plan Might Improve the Process, on April 19, 2011.

Courtney Jermyn (supervisor Dr. Brian Menounos) successfully defended her MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) thesis: An Approach for Remote Landslide Mapping, South Nahanni Watershed, Northwest Territories, Canada, on June 7, 2011.

Alexandra Pedersen (supervisor Dr. Catherine Nolin) successfully defended her MA International Studies thesis: Amplifying Voices of Development: Insights from Indigenous Maya Leaders in El Quiché, Guatemala, on April 15, 2011.

Jamie Pepper (supervisor Dr. Gail Fondahl) successfully defended his MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) thesis: Perspectives for First Nations' Strategies Towards Local Marine Management in the Broughton Archipelago, British Columbia, on Friday, September 2nd, 2011.

Hya-Rim Roncin (co-supervisors Drs. Catherine Nolin & Fiona MacPhail) successfully defended her MA International Studies thesis: The Meanings of Reconciliation and Development in Post-Genocide Rwanda, on Thursday, September 15th, 2011.

Cristian Silva (supervisor Dr. Catherine Nolin) successfully defended his MA Interdisciplinary Studies thesis: Exhuming Guatemala's Gender-Based Violence: Justice, Truth-telling, and Rebuilding in a Post-Conflict Society, on Thursday, September 1st, 2011.

Jiwon Slotwinski (supervisor Dr. Neil Hanlon) successfully defended her MSc Community Health Science thesis: 'People Need to Listen to Us': The Role of Empowerment in Positive Prevention Helps People Living with HIV/AIDS to Improve their Health and Quality of Life, on April 20, 2011.

Chris Turner (supervisor Dr. Gail Fondahl) successfully defended his MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) thesis: Overlap: Causes and Implications of Contested

Indigenous Claims to Territory in the Context of the BC Treaty Process, on August 3, 2011.

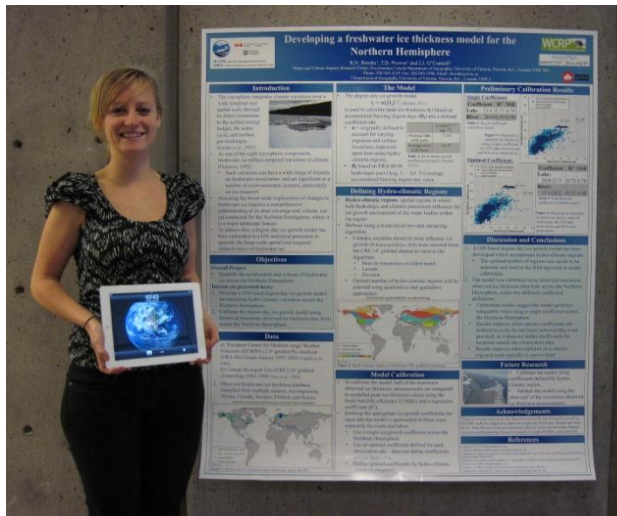
Submitted by Greg Halseth

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

We offer a glimpse into the very diverse world of geography at UVic since the last WDCAG newsletter. Not nearly everything is included...just a little taste!

We have students shining and receiving awards and scholarships:

Rheannon Brooks wins another prize!!!!!!



In November Rheannon Brooks presented a poster based on her thesis work at the Open Science Conference of the World Climate Research Program in Denver Colorado. Her poster was recognized as being “outstanding” and as such she received a WCRP Outstanding Poster Presentation certificate, and a one-year membership or complimentary registration at AGU, AMS, or EGU. Moreover, her poster was recognized as one of the top five scientific contributions for the entire conference by early-career scientists and students. For this, she received another certificate and an iPad!!! Not surprisingly, Rheannon has also run off with the poster prizes at the last couple of WCAG meetings.

Well done Rheannon!!!

Commonwealth Scholarship



AND...

Geography Grad Student wins award at CAG meeting - Colette Starheim also received the Dionne Award for best student oral presentation from Professor Brian Luckman at the 2011 CAG meeting in Calgary.



Field School:

Travel in India is not for the faint of heart; the diverse culture, dense population and multiple language dialects are challenging for most travellers. In August, 20 UVic geography field school students took up the challenge and went to India, where they spent the next four weeks

exploring issues of community governance, women's empowerment, resource use and management, and conservation. The India Field School was a first for UVic in partnership with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA).



A highlight of the summer was a life changing learning experience in the India field school

UVic geography professor Phil Dearden and PhD candidate Crystal Tremblay led the group through Northern India from village to village, beginning in New Delhi and continuing to Haryana and the Himalayan region, followed by a number of days in the Alwar district of Rajasthan at the Sariska Tiger Reserve. On their final day of the field course the students presented their observations at the PRIA headquarters in New Delhi. A highlight for students was having the PRIA staff and visitors from the Canadian High Commission attend.

"Field school success is defined largely by the quality of the students," says Dearden. "We could not have wished for a more engaged and perceptive group and this resulted in an experience that many of them will remember for the rest of their lives."

Since 1982, PRIA has focused on key initiatives including participatory research, citizen-centric development, capacity building, knowledge building and policy advocacy.

Excerpt from the Ring Wed, 09/28/2011

Grants

Dr. Trisalyn Nelson receives three grants for spatial analysis research projects:

June 8, 2010

1. British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC) awards **Dr. Trisalyn Nelson** (UVic Geography) and Nicholas Coops (UBC) \$287,500 over 2010-2013 from the [Natural Resources and Applied Sciences Endowment](#) for their project **Development of BC-wide Biodiversity Indicators using Earth Observation Data**.
2. International Development Research Centre (IDRC) awards **Dr. Trisalyn Nelson** (UVic Geography) with Craig Stephens (U of Alberta) and others \$923,230 over 2010-2012 from [The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund](#) for their project **Social Learning in Rural Aquaculture to Break the Cycles of Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Unsustainable Practices in Sri Lanka**.
3. [The Ivey Foundation](#) awards **Dr. Trisalyn Nelson** (UVic Geography) and Nicholas Coops (UBC) \$100,000 over 2010-2011 for their project **Development of Pan-boreal Indicators of Environmental Diversity for Assessing Current Protected Area Representativeness and Future Protection Initiatives**



Community maps empower grassroots change

June 13, 2010

Times Colonist writer Steve Carey speaks with UVic Geography's community mapping expert **Ken Josephson**:

'A **community map presents a collective view of a community**, of what they value and treasure.

Traditional maps present the world view of government administrators or businesses, and community maps bridge that power structure, and give a method for communities to **self-discover and self-identify**,' Josephson says.

'Ideally, it becomes a tool for engagement, and **empowers people to make change in their communities**.'

We have new Faculty:

Michele-Lee Moore is a new Assistant Professor as of July. She is teaching Geog 539 *Advanced Seminar in Resource Management*, this semester and 357 *Parks and Protected Areas* and 371 *Water Resources Management* in January. Her main research interests are in water resources and governance.

Dan Shugar is a new post-doc, and is currently teaching Geog 376 *Process Geomorphology*. Dan Shugar joined the Department of Geography in September as a Post-Doctoral Fellow working with Dr. Ian Walker on post-glacial sea level change on the central BC coast. Dan's research background ranges from permafrost and ground ice conditions in Yukon, fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport in Argentina, and glacier-dammed lakes, Holocene environmental change, and landslides in Alaska. His current research interests lie at the intersection between landscape evolution and climate change. He is also currently teaching Geog 376 *Process Geomorphology*.

Banting Fellow @UVic GEOG!

Nikolaus Gantner has joined our Department this fall as an inaugural winner of a Banting

Fellowship. The Banting Post Doctoral Fellowship is a new, highly competitive fellowship program which is designed to position its winners to become Canada's next generation of leaders in research excellence. The fellowship is named after Sir Frederick Banting, a Canadian scientist who discovered Insulin some 90 years ago and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr Gantner was honoured to be one of 23 recipients selected from of a total of 289 applicants in his category (NSERC). Our Department provided Dr. Gantner with an appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor to enable him to involve graduate students in his upcoming research activities. Additional support for the Fellowship comes from Environment Canada, an important collaborator for the upcoming project.

This new interdisciplinary research brings together scientists from multiple Canadian Universities, Canadian Federal and Territorial Government agencies through collaborations. Dr Gantner's research team will investigate climate-food web-contaminants interactions in Arctic lakes in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories, with a focus on mercury in edible fishes. It provides opportunities for graduate students and offers local employment and training. The latest addition to the research team is Shannon McFadyen, who will be conducting her MSc research in conjunction with Dr. Gantner's program in our Department. The strenuous fieldwork in the Western Arctic is set to commence this fall and will be conducted in close collaboration with Northern partner organizations such as the Aurora Research Institute and local people of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. This research is made possible through the generous contributions from the Northern Contaminants Program, Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, and logistical support through the Polar Continental Shelf Project as well as all collaborators.

Noteworthy: MSc student Shannon McFadyen got off to a great start, winning the poster award for an overview poster she presented at

the Northern Contaminants Program's 19th Results Workshop in Victoria in September.

We are always innovating and co-operating, and as a result there is a new course being offered through the department:

Geography 391 A03 - Aging Explored Through Film

Instructor - Dr. Holly Tuokko, Professor in Psychology and Director, Centre on Aging

Aging Explored Through Film: how we live and understand our lives

Exploration, through the use of feature films, of the unique challenges that confront older adults and the energy, resourcefulness and determination with which they address them. The films selected depict important issues pertaining to this period of life, and will promote discussion of relevant social science research from multiple theoretical and interdisciplinary perspectives. For a more detailed course description, see the syllabus.

The course is offered as a Psych 391 A03, Geog 391 A03, and Soci 390 A01 class in the UVic calendar (course credit of 1.5 units).

Our Graduate students are busy with their research

Tyson Carswell

As a first step, Tyson is working on developing an operational method to retrieve accurate water surface chlorophyll distribution from satellite imagery as a tool to aid in defining the fish stocks status and the environmental factors that may affect them. The second step comprises of pairing long-term (2002 to present) MODIS imagery with DFO Fisheries data, for the purpose of relating spring bloom metrics such as; time of initiation, duration, amplitude and spatial distribution, with both juvenile salmon condition and cohort returns.

Justin Del Bel Belluz

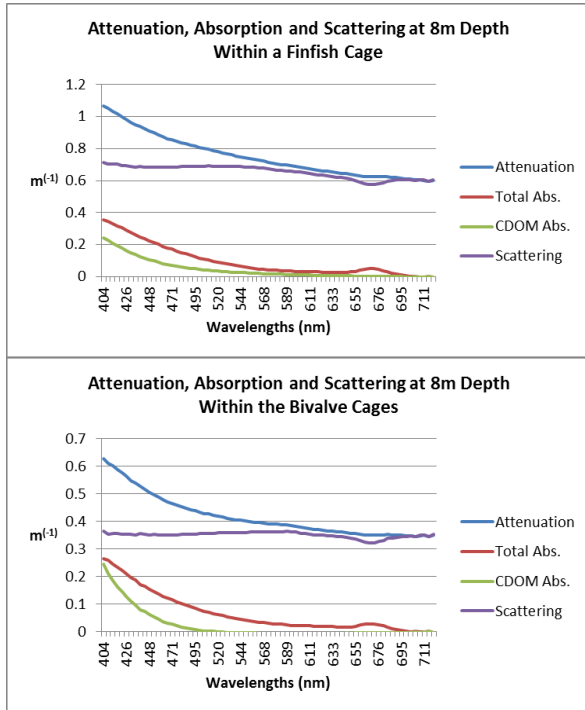
WDCAG – West Coast IMTA Research

In the Spectral Lab at the University of Victoria, we are working to quantify and characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of the particulate waste plume produced by the finfish at the west coast Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) site, in Kyuquot Sound, British Columbia. To do this, we are using an array of cutting edge optical equipment including a hyperspectral attenuation and absorption meter, a backscatter sensor, CDOM and chlorophyll fluorometers, in-water radiance and irradiance sensors, and a nutrient profiler. All of these sensors in conjunction with analysis of discrete water samples will give us an in depth view of the characteristics of the water around the site and the constituents within the plume. In effect, this knowledge will aid in the determination of where secondary species should be placed for maximum waste uptake.

In July, 2010 we spent nearly three weeks at the west coast IMTA site collecting data on a daily basis. The preliminary results from this data collection campaign have been very promising. This data will guide our future data collection trips which will have a greater focus on delineating the waste plume from the background environmental signals. Data from the July field campaign (Figure 1 and 2) show the variations in the attenuation, absorption (total and CDOM) and scattering coefficients at 8 m depth within a finfish cage and the corresponding down-current bivalve cages. Attenuation and scattering are both used as proxies for particulate matter, and total absorption describes the absorption by particles in the water. Notice the reduced values for attenuation, total absorption, and scattering within the bivalve cages. Also, take note of the peak in total absorption at 670nm indicating a phytoplankton bloom in the area.

The future collaboration of our data with other research done on the west and east coasts of Canada will surely create a far more comprehensive understanding of how IMTA

systems operate in the environment. It is very exciting to be part of the Canadian IMTA network and to be working on a project which will change how the aquaculture industry is operated in Canada.



Small gold mining activities are important to the region, and with the price of gold rising daily, mining operations will likely continue for some time. Thus, this research will provide valuable precise data to Brazilian institutes so that gold mining practices can be improved.



Impact of Gold Mining in Brazilian Amazon

By Felipe Lobo and Dr. Maycira Costa

Spectral Lab, Geography Department, UVIC

Dr. Maycira Costa and PhD student Felipe Lobo of the Department of Geography, in collaboration with Dr. Evlyn Novo of the Brazilian Institute of Space Science, are exploring the impact of small gold mining activities in the Tapajos river basin in the Brazilian Amazon.

The Tapajos area has been mined for over 100 years, causing the water to become turbid during the gold extraction process. Costa and Lobo are using field based optical equipment and satellite imagery to measure the water turbidity and compare it to measurements in pristine rivers.

In other news:

Professional Specialization Certificate in Population Health Data Analysis

This fall, Population Data BC in partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies and the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, launched a new on-line Professional Specialization Certificate in Population Health Data Analysis.

This non-credit professional specialization certificate program is designed to meet the need for certified training and qualifications in the analysis of Population Health Data primarily for health professionals, researchers, students and faculty. The program offers a unique opportunity to learn a diverse set of skills from multiple disciplines. The overall goal of the

program is to provide participants with strong foundational knowledge and practical experience that will support their work within the field of population and public health.

For more information or to apply to the program visit the UVic Division of Continuing Studies website:

www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/population/ or call 250-721-6477

Submitted by Kinga Menu

MESSAGE 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**, WDCAG Newsletter Editor (claire.beaney@ufv.ca).



Sunset Crater National Monument, Flagstaff, Arizona