

# Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



## Newsletter

Spring 1999

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### Augustana University College

Students in the Parks and Wilderness course travelled to Elk Island National Park in March to learn about ungulate and vegetation management in a fenced protected area. This summer, as part of a combined course on the Canadian North and Outdoor Pursuits, ten students will take part in a 3-week arctic canoeing trip on the Ellice River (in the new territory of Nunavut!).

Glen Hvenegaard is faculty advisor for the environmental studies program and is trying out administration as acting chairperson for the division of interdisciplinary studies and international programs. In November, Glen gave a paper on community ecotourism at the 2nd Summit on Ecotourism and Adventure Travel. He is on the Tourism task force for IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas. He and a recent student published research on media coverage of environmental issues in *Encompass*.

Sessional instructor, Pam Stacey, is teaching in the biology department this term, and has recently published papers on Irrawaddy dolphins in *Mammalian Species* and *Asian Marine Biology*.

To learn more about our program, email [hveng@augustana.ab.ca](mailto:hveng@augustana.ab.ca) or visit us at <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/departments/geography>.

Glen Hvenegaard, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Geography

Faculty Advisor, Environmental Studies  
Program, Augustana University College

### Capilano College

The teaching faculty in Geography include: Karen Ewing, Charles Greenberg, Brett McGillivray, John Meligrana (summer only), Jeanne Mikita, Sheila Ross, Cheryl Schreder. Scott McLeod and Chris Gratham are both at Capilano, but presently in other areas of the college.

Our regular courses go well with some expansion due to non-base funding and a new Latin America program which is about to begin in Sept.

In January, 1999 the Geography Department launched a new course, Urban Field Studies (Geog. 202). This 1.5 credit course is designed to engage students into the practical application of urban planning. Urban Field Studies is organized jointly by the Geography Department and the District of North Vancouver's Planning Office. The course has two component programs; the Academic program involves lectures and readings. The District program involves meeting and working with a range of planning professionals and other significant stakeholders in the North Vancouver planning scene.

The students' term research projects will act as contributions to the District's Official Community Plan. For example, students are working on projects that strike a balance between the needs of the District of North Vancouver, and their own wants and interests. Some of the projects in this first semester include: traffic calming strategies, assessing the need for

community gardens in North Vancouver, and the role of citizens in the planning process.

The highly successful Asia Pacific Management Co-op Program (APMCP), which gives post-graduate students one year of an Asian language; a background in Geography, political studies, etc.; and a co-op placement in Asia, is headed by Scott McLeod. This program is about to have a twin -- LAMP, or Latin America Management Program. A similar format to APMCP, but obvious change in geographical concentration. It will be starting in Sept. 1999, with Geography as one of the main components.

Finally, Karen Ewing, who does teach one Geography course, has been spending a great deal of time on developing the Geography component of "Online Educational Resources". It is a searchable database on the web that compiles, annotates and evaluates in four discipline areas: Geography, Culinary Arts, Business, English as a Second Language. It includes descriptions of exemplary practices using learning technologies and has annotated links to meta sites that include online teaching resources. The website also provides information on how to build a collection of web-based resources. It provides developers with:

- \* models that outline different methods for collecting, validating, annotating useful web-based resources.

- \* resources required for developing a website.

- \* options for sustainability, scalability and site maintenance.

This project is a collaborative effort by the Office of Learning Technologies, the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. More information can be obtained by contacting Karen: [kewing@capcollege.bc.ca](mailto:kewing@capcollege.bc.ca)

## University College of the Cariboo

A large contingent of Kamloopsians travelled to the WCAG conference in Kelowna. Four UCC faculty members -- Ross Nelson, Heather Nicol, Gilles Viaud, and Tom Waldichuck -- attended and presented papers. The faculty were accompanied by 15 students, one of whom -- Vanessa Britain -- received an honourable mention for her paper on the social geography of Bogota, Colombia. Other attendees and presenters from Kamloops included Ken Favrholt (curator of the Kamloops Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park), Ted Fuller (Ministry of Environment), and Martin Whittles, an anthropologist at UCC.

This has been an active year for field trips at UCC. Tom Waldichuck has led several trips to Chase Creek. Students and faculty have observed and helped out in the rehabilitation of one of the major sources of turbidity and giardia in Kamloops watershed. Heather Nicol took cultural geography students to Chinatown and other sites in Vancouver. Keith Broersma, a graduate of UCC and currently a MA student at SFU helped lead the tour. Mary Miller has also lead local field trips for a new geology/geography course. Jim Miller and Roland Neave are coordinating a fall trip to Wells Grey Park. The trip, which may become an annual event, will be subsidized by funds from a major donation by the Neave family to UCC geography.

Geography is now one of the best endowed disciplines at UCC. We plan to offer nine scholarships to promising 1st through 4th year students next year.

Robert MacKinnon is on an extended field trip this year. He is working for the Canadian Studies and Geography Departments at the University of Bonn. He has travelled and lectured extensively and has helped coordinate conferences in Germany. Ross Nelson took a brief leave from his 4 month sabbatical to

assume the presidency of the WCAG in Kelowna. Last summer he travelled to Tempe to participate in an teaching workshop sponsored by the University of Arizona State and to Seattle for a GIS workshop.

Dr. Ross Nelson, President, WCAG, The Globe Stops Here!!  
University College of the Cariboo  
WCAG:  
<http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/wcag.htm>

### **Douglas College**

Since the last newsletter, Elizabeth Peerless has been offering Geography 213 (Social Geography) via videoconferencing. Ian Joyce has an article coming out soon in the Canadian Geographer on the Cuban Fishery. Finally, we hired a new part-time lab technician, Sabrina Henwood for our David Lam campus.

Earl Noah  
Douglas College

### **Simon Fraser University**

At SFU we are beginning to feel the edge of the wave of upcoming retirements. This year in August, Tuck Wong will retire, as will Tom Poiker - who is taking early retirement. Tom will continue to run the very successful 'UniGIS' certificate program, a distance education program in GIS run through Continuing Studies. Also taking administrative leave before early retirement next year is Bob Brown who has just stepped down as President of the Burnaby Mountain Community Corporation. This Corporation is in charge of planning development around the SFU campus that would include housing for up to 10,000 people. Mark Roseland has recently been elected to serve as Chair of the Advisory Committee (see [www.sfu.ca/bmcp](http://www.sfu.ca/bmcp)).

Also leaving SFU is Dan Moore, our hydrologist, who will take up an FRBC Chair at UBC in Geography and Forestry. Amanda James, who has been with us for the past four years as a limited term instructor is leaving to move with her husband, Richard, to Kingston, Ontario. While it may be a couple of years before we have replacements for some of our departing colleagues, we do have one new appointment beginning in the fall. As the paperwork is not yet complete, you will have to wait until the next newsletter to get more details. On the good news side we are also pleased to announce that in Janaury our soils specialist, Margaret Schmidt and her husband, Franz, had a baby girl called Petra.

We spend considerable time preparing for an external review of our Department scheduled for March, but this has now been postponed until the Fall semester. Faculty members from human geography were well represented on the program at the AAG in Hawaii which meant that fewer attended the WCAG meetings in Kelowna. However, a few faculty members and a number of graduate students did attend and Natalie Tashe, who has recently received her MA, was presented with the best student paper award.

Since the fall the following graduate students have obtained their degrees:

- \*Brian White PhD "Authoring the Tourism Landscape of Clayoquot Sound"
- \*Georgina Regeczi, MA "An Investigation into the Diffusion of Virtual-U"
- \*Linda Wilson MA "The Re-imagining of Place Identity: Tourism, Totems and the Totem Pole Project in Duncan, BC"
- \*Kathleen Fitzpatrick MA "Hidden Spaces, Hidden Workers: Revealing Homeworking within Soutwestern British Columbia"
- \*Natalie Tashe MSc "The Impact of Vine Maple on the Biochemical Nutrient Cycle of Conifer-Dominated Coastal Forests in Southwestern British Columbia"

## University of Lethbridge

The Department of Geography is in a phase of growth, and will soon be offering a complex of courses leading to a concentration in Geographical Information Sciences within our Geography BSc and BA majors. As part of this expansion, we are hiring two new professors and an academic assistant, and augmenting lab facilities. To complement existing courses in GIS, remote sensing and others we are adding several new courses to our offerings in this area, and we are also exploring linkages with NAIT, Olds College and University of Calgary (Masters in GIS). Our program will be further enriched with the recent addition of an undergraduate thesis option. The Department and the University of Lethbridge as a whole are excited by these developments. Many of us are busy arranging for what we hope will be a very well attended Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, June 1st -5th. If you are still undecided, take a look at our program (<http://home.uleth.ca/~cag99>). The field trips will likely all go ahead, providing a great opportunity to really get to know some parts of southern Alberta. We are currently wading through abstracts, organizing them into sessions and building a timetable. The CAG has asked us to extend the deadline (to April 15) for abstracts for posters and student web-based research presentations, and is providing extra money for travel grants. We are glad to do this because it is consistent with our desire to include and encourage as many young Geographers as possible. If you're a student, don't miss this opportunity to rub shoulders with other Geographers from across Canada at budget prices!, we have created some incentives in low student registration fees, inexpensive dormitory accommodation or free billets, an inexpensive banquet, and the possibility of being a prizewinner (cash, yes, CASH prizes!). If you're a faculty member, increase your credibility with your students by telling them about this opportunity! You may already know that the

RCGS Distinguished Speaker will be Dave Sauchyn of the University of Regina: we are really excited to feature Dave in our program - there is probably no other geographer so well-equipped to talk about Palliser's Triangle, or "polygon" as he prefers, the semi-arid area which spreads from Lethbridge to Regina across the south. He is also a great speaker, so come expecting to be both entertained and informed!

Three faculty and half a dozen students made the trip to the WDCAG conference in Kelowna and had a great time: thanks Kelowna for being such gracious hosts!

Susan Dakin  
Assistant Professor, Dept of Geography

## Univ. College of the Fraser Valley

The Geography Department at UCFV continues to attract sizeable numbers of students in all subject areas. The Winter term has been a very busy one, and the University College has planned a Spring semester as well. Geography will be offering four courses for May/June - our entry physical lab courses, Canada regional, and - for the first time in a while - our Human Impact course. Kathy Peet, our new (UNBC B.Sc. Grad) Department Lab Assistant has settled in and students seemed to have arrived at a good working arrangement with Kathy. Certainly the student lab and project preparation spaces are very busy as the Winter semester winds down.

A good contingent of faculty and students went off to Kelowna for the annual WDCAG meetings in March. Initial reactions were very positive - and our people felt they learned a lot that would enhance our own WDCAG meetings at Abbotsford next year. The UCFV Geography website, as well as our Department newsletter, Benchmarks, will carry a short introduction to our Year 2000 meetings, and a special WDCAG site

will be online in a few weeks. Anyone with questions about next year's meetings in the Fraser Valley should contact department head, John Bäleć (email: [Balecj@ucfv.bc.ca](mailto:Balecj@ucfv.bc.ca)).

The research and field season looks busy for this year. Sandy Vanderburgh is off to south western Washington again this year, for continued work on coastal processes. He and Cherie Enns are also heading to Hawaii this May, leading a sizeable group of senior students on field courses in the Islands. David Gibson flies to Latin America after the regular semester to continue his studies and research in Mexico. Ian Okabe will be taking a course on numerical weather prediction at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, and is also awaiting word on a summer project in Florida. Doug Nicol is off to Ontario in August to complete work in Toronto on the origin and diffusion of landscape elements in Chilliwack's downtown. John Bäleć will be working on a trip to Lithuania in order to study the issue of housing market reform in the "new" Europe, particularly the introduction of privatization to formerly centrally planned economies.

The Department plans an annual retreat sometime over the summer and hopes to continue its new relationship with Western Washington University at Bellingham. John Bäleć and Doug Nicol at UCFV, together with Pat Buckley at WWU, plan to offer a new Borderlands course jointly at our two universities in the winter term, 2000, and have some of our senior students present papers at a special borderlands session at the WDCAG meetings next year. Another major development at UCFV is the offering of a new one-year Certificate in Community Planning, to be available beginning this fall. Students with second year standing, including some specific courses, will be able to complete the program. Institutional, community and professional support has been enthusiastic for the new certificate

which is available to students both in and outside of Geography.

### **University of Northern B.C.**

A large group from UNBC attended the WCAG meetings in Kelowna and took the drive down as an opportunity to tour the Highland Copper Mines Processing facility near Kamloops.

UNBC faculty and students made presentations in eight sessions. Gail Fondahl & Antonina Avvakumova gave joint presentations on "Local Attitudes Towards Aboriginal Land Claims in Three Northern Russian Villages" and "Evolving Geographies of Aboriginal Land Claims in Three Northern Russian Townships." Allan Gottesfeld spoke on "Tunnel Valleys and Eskers West of Prince George, BC" and Reg Horne spoke on "A Multifaceted Approach to Downtown Revitalization."

Poster presentations were made by Greg Halseth and Lana Sullivan "Community 'Maturity' in Resource-Based Instant Towns: Examples from Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge, BC", and by Kevin Hall "Some Observations and Thoughts Regarding Cryogenic Weathering." Graduate student posters included Laura Ryser "Challenges and Issues for Incorporating Climate Responsive Planning in the Urban Design Process of Outdoor and Interconnected Spaces in Winter Cities" and Cheryl Pierre "First Nations Forestry from a First Nation's Perspective."

Presentations included Christine Callihoo "Linking Forestry and Community in Tl'azt'en Nation: Lessons for Aboriginal Forestry." Phillip Morris "Negotiating the Production of Space in Tl'azt'en Territory." Garnet Whyte "Using a Supervised Unsupervised Classification to Characterize Drumlin Terrain." Chris Spicer "Statistical Evaluation of Forest Harvesting on Lake Sediment Yields" and Simon Bickert

"Harnessing Digital Data Capture and Analysis: An Application in Settling Rate Analysis." Kevin Driscoll (Forestry) presented a paper co-authored with Kevin Hall and Jan Boelhouwers (Univ. of Western Cape) on "Animals as Erosion Agents in the Alpine Zone: Some

Observations from the Canadian Rocky Mountains."

In other news, Greg Halseth has plans to give papers at the CAG in Lethbridge, AAG in Hawaii and the IGU commission on sustainable rural systems in Vancouver. This reflects the completion of FRBC grant work on public participation in natural resource planning and a Toyota Foundation grant on new information technology in rural BC. Greg's next project is on community change in Tumbler Ridge and Mackenzie funded by a CMHC grant on housing transition in company towns.

Ellen Petticrew is taking a sabbatical leave beginning in July. The majority of her time will be spent at the University of Exeter (UK) working out of Des Wallings laboratory. She will also spend time at the Queen's University (Kingston) Paleolimnology lab and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography Particle Dynamics lab.

Gail Fondahl travelled to Finland in February to participate in a Human Dimensions of Arctic Grazing Systems workshop. The group included academics, herders and hunters from around the Circumpolar North to identify research priorities from the users' perspectives. Grad student Phil Morris is completing his MA thesis (see paper above). Melissa Baxter is working on "Self Government and Urban Aboriginals: Issues of Representation and Sovereignty" She will travel to Whitehorse, Juneau and Yakutsk, Siberia over the summer. Antonia Avvakumova has finished her GIS training at UNBC and will return to Yakutsk to finish

her degree. Reg Horne will spend his summer in Manitoba converting his WCAG talk into a book chapter and working on two cultural geography projects, one of which will be presented at the CAG meetings.

### **Society for Canadian Studies in German Speaking Countries**

Western Division members Len Evenden (Simon Fraser University) and Robert MacKinnon (University College of the Cariboo) recently attended the 20th Conference of the Society for Canadian Studies in German Speaking Countries held in Grainau, Bavaria between February 19 and 21, 1999.

Focussing on "Work and the World of Work", this conference attracted nearly 300 participants from Europe and Canada and included sessions on Geography, Language and Literature, Women's Studies, History and Political Science. The Geography section included plenary presentations by Damaris Rose of Université Quebec on "Some Implications of Recent Canadian Labour Force Restructuring for Gender Dynamics among Inner City and Suburban Households", and by Roland Vogelsang of Universität Augsburg, on "Regional Economic Disparities in Canada: Traditional Patterns and Current Changes".

A special Geography Section meeting on recent research work included the following presentations: Joachim Härtling (Universität Freiburg), "The Condition of the Great Lakes: Illustrated by Recent Research completed on the Kingston basin of Northeastern Lake Ontario", Robert MacKinnon (University College of the Cariboo), "Agriculture and Rural Change in Nova Scotia", Dominik Prock (Universität Salzburg), "Quality of Life in a Mid-Sized Canadian City: The Example of Kelowna,

B.C." and Hiltrud Weddeling (Technische Universität, Berlin), "Growth Management Strategies in British Columbia: The Return of Regional Planning Through the Back Door".

Immediately following the Grainau meeting, many conference participants also attended the "Canadian Studies in German Speaking Countries Workshop" hosted by the Institute for Canadian Studies at the University of Augsburg between February 21 and 23. Professor Len Evenden's presentation, entitled "Geography: of Canada, in Canada, and in Canadian Studies", was complemented by a review of "German Geographical Research on Canada Since the 1980's" by Professor Axel Wieger of the Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule, Aachen. The commentator for this session was Professor Dietrich Soyeze of Universität Köln.

Other sessions examined recent research work in Germany and in Canada in the following fields: History, English Canadian Literature, French Canadian Literature, Political Science, Native Studies and Women's Studies. Presenters included: David Cameron (Toronto), author of the Cameron Report on Canadian Studies (1995), Marcelle Chabot (Laval), Elke Nowak (Stuttgart), Smaro Kamboureli (Victoria), Wallace Clement (Carleton), Margery Fee (U.B.C.), Albert-Reiner Glaap (Düsseldorf), Leslie Pal (Carleton), René Durocher (Laval), Martin Kuester (Augsburg), Konrad Gross (Kiel), Wilfred v. Bredow (Marburg), Peter Bischoff (Ottawa), and Ursula Lehmkuhl (Erfurt).

Overall, these research assessments highlighted the tremendous range and scope of Canadian Studies research underway on both sides of the Atlantic. A common problem identified was the lack of recognition in Canada of Canadian Studies research in Germany and in German speaking countries.

The participation of so many Canadians in these conferences this year is a positive step towards improving communication between German speaking "Canadianists" and geographers and others involved in "Canadian Studies" in Canada.

Robert MacKinnon (Visiting Professor, Nordamerikaprogram, Universität Bonn, 1998/99).  
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