

Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



Newsletter

Spring, 2000

President's Column

I'd like to take this opportunity to summarize our recent annual meeting for those who were not able to attend, and to offer a commentary about the status of our journal.

Conference 2000

Western Division's annual conference was held in Abbotsford, British Columbia from March 9th to 11th, 2000. The meeting was hosted by the Geography Department of the University College of the Fraser Valley, and congratulations are in order for its faculty and students for a job well done. John Belec, the conference organizer, and those who organized and led field trips in particular deserve recognition. Over 200 people attended the conference, including a number of faculty and students from UCFV's "sister" institution in Bellingham, Washington (University of Western Washington). This is the sixth year in a row that the Annual Meetings have attracted more than 175 registrants. The conference featured 46 papers and 8 posters, including two special sessions on geographic education.

The University of Victoria cleaned-up in the student presentation awards. The winners were:

- 3) Undergraduate: C.Day, N.Elmieh, L. Huisman, C.Larsman, C.Wood, D. Smith, and C. Laroque, UVIC, Tree Ring Laboratory, for "Neoglaciatiion at Saskatchewan Glacier, Banff National Park";

- 2) Masters: D.H. Lewis and D.J Smith, UVIC, Tree Ring Laboratory, for "Tree Rings as a Proxy Mass Balance Record: An Example Using Three Glaciers in Strathcona Provincial Park, Vancouver Island, BC";

- 3) PhD: James A. LeClair, UVIC, for "Children's Behaviour and the Urban Environment: Do Census Tracts Matter?".

U Vic was not able, however, to regain the coveted SOGS scavenger hunt trophy. It went to the UCFV students.

The WDCAG Coffee Mug of Distinction - a small token for the significant contributions individuals have made to the WDCAG over the years - were presented to Leah Skretkowicz of Kwantlen University College, Jim Windsor of CNC, and Lewis Robinson, professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia. Len Evenden presented the award to Lew Robinson. Lew, a founder of the Division and its annual meetings, was honoured with a standing ovation. Len Evenden was the featured speaker at the Friday banquet. He led a virtual field trip through southern Ontario and Michigan as he retraced a trip taken by Wreford Watson many years before.

Next year's conference will be hosted by the University of Calgary, March 8 to 10, 2001. The organizing committee, led by Clarence Woudsma, has already begin preparations. Their conference web site is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/GEOG/WDCAG/welcome.html>.

Western Geography

The Division's journal, Western Geography, was recently published and mailed to members and subscribing institutions. You will note that this issue is a combined volume (8 and 9), a situation that reflects a recent and ongoing shortage of submissions. At present the editor does not have any submissions in hand for the next volume. The editor and the executive are well aware of the need of many of its members to publish in widely circulated and subject specific journals, and thus of the challenges faced by general interest, and regional focussed journals such as our own.

Several of our sister publications have gone under (Albertan Geographer) or have amalgamated with other journals (Ontario Geography and East Lakes Geographer). We would like to encourage members, nevertheless, to consider Western Geography as a outlet for their research.

Western Geography, as Len Evenden documents in the current volume, has a long lineage. It began in 1960 as an occasional series that published papers presented at the Division's conferences. The name was changed several times over the years and the geographical scope changed to reflect the addition of Alberta into the Division. The present name was adopted in 1991. The editorial policy of the journal was also broadened at this time. Western Geography's mandate is to "publish original scholarly work on geographical themes or topics that emphasize western Canada and adjacent areas, or that are written by western geographers from this region". Members should also be aware that Western Geography is a refereed

journal and that it will accept, and encourages, proposals for theme issues. Volume 7, for example, featured papers on Alberta. Other examples of possible theme issues might be Fluvial Processes in BC, Trends in Geographic Education, Border Landscapes, or the Okanagan. Theme issues provide members with a means for publishing a set of related papers, and provide focussed teaching resources. The editor also encourages students to submit papers. Submissions can be sent to:

Editor, Western Geography
Department of Geography
College of New Caledonia
3330 - 22nd Avenue
Prince George, BC
V2N 1P8

Submission guidelines appear at the end of each volume (and soon on the Division's web site:

<http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/wcag.htm>).

Western Geography, as noted, is circulated to all members of the Canadian Association of Geographers who reside in BC and Alberta and the adjacent states and territories. People who do not want to become a member of the CAG, but want to subscribe to Western Geography, can obtain a membership in the Western Division only. The current cost is \$20 (\$10 for students). An application is available on our web site. Members also receive our newsletters and can take advantage of lower registration fees for our annual conference.

We also need to increase our circulation among institutions in BC and Alberta. Many of the institutions at which our members work, and who participate in and host our meetings, do not subscribe. In fact, according to the Outlook subscription database, twice as many BC post-secondary libraries do not subscribe as do. Two of the non-subscribers, furthermore,

are university libraries. The situation is appears to be similar in Alberta, although all of its major universities subscribe. The institutions that do subscribe are: Alberta, Calgary, CNC, Lethbridge, Malaspina, Selkirk, SFU, UBC, UCC, and the Vancouver Public Library. If your institution is not listed, please follow-up: check to see if your library does not subscribe, and if it does not, ask the librarians to consider a subscription to Western Geography.

Not only will you get a great resource at a good price for researching and teaching about our region, you will also help our bottom line and increase the status of our journal (and thus help address the submission situation). Institutional subscription enquiries can be directed to the Editor at the address above.

Dr. Ross Nelson, University College of the Cariboo

Augustana

The geography department continues to contribute heavily to the Environmental Studies program which is growing. Proposals are in the works for a Environmental Science major.

Glen Hvenegaard attended LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) Canada session in Ottawa in October. He will also attend a LEAD International session in Brazil in late March. He is looking forward to the field trip to the Atlantic rainforest and international contacts. Future sessions will be held in Ottawa and Russia.

Glen will be on sabbatical during the next academic year. He will continue research on the human dimensions of whale

watching, economic benefits of wildlife festivals, and the environmental background of university students.

We will post advertisements for a sessional replacement (to teach courses in intro geomorphology, intro climatology, parks and wilderness, and intro environmental science).

To learn more about our program, email:

hveng@augustana.ab.ca or
visit our website:

<http://www.augustana.ab.ca/departments/geography>.

Glen Hvenegaard, Ph.D.
email: hveng@augustana.ab.ca

Douglas College

Elizabeth Peerless has retired. Don McPhee has been hired as regular faculty member.

The Department of Geography is reviewing its program and redeveloping the Geography Web Pages. Hopefully, both projects will be completed by the fall.

Earl Noah

Kwantlan University College

The department will be offering two new second year courses next year (00-01) as part of the two year Associate of Arts (Geography) Degree.

The two courses, Geog 2390 Geographic Information and Data Analysis, and

Geog 2395 Cartographic Techniques, serve to fill a gap in our present curriculum regarding geographic techniques. Our traditional first and second year offerings remain intact and well subscribed.

The department is also planning a two-day retreat this spring to address the future direction of the department in terms of an expansion of our present second year offerings as well as the progress of our applied degree development.

On the faculty watch, Rod Fowler was elected as Vice President of the WDCAG at the recent UCFV meeting. Leah Skretkowitz will serve as member at large. Kwawu Agbemenu will return from an educational leave in September.

Leah Sketkowitz

geography programmes, the department has a dedicated computer lab with six computers with IDRISI and ARC-Info software, scanners and printers. We hope to add one computer (and upgraded software) per year to make up a full complement of 10.

Daniel Lee presented a paper at the recent WCAG meetings at UCFV and will be upgrading his skills in GIS in a part-time programme next year while serving as our Lab Co-ordinator. David Jordan and Cherie Ens will both continue next year as sessional instructors. Carl Tracie has completed the bulk of research on Doukhobor village settlement in British Columbia and has begun a rough draft in the preparation of a book.

Carl Tracie

Trinity Western University

The Department of Geography is in a state of transition with the resignation of Dr. Lance Werner last summer. He left an 18-year teaching career at TWU and is sorely missed. Fortunately we were able to cover his departure plus Carl Tracie's sabbatical leave in the fall semester with qualified people in the area. Ron Geddert, Ph.D. (U. of Sask.), David Jordan, M.A. (U. of Victoria), Daniel Lee, M.A. (U. of Calgary), and Cherie Ens, M.A. (S.F.U.) filled in admirably as sessional instructors.

Geography along with Biology and Chemistry are co-operating in a newly-introduced Environmental Sciences/Environmental Studies programme.

Reflecting the increasing emphasis on GIS skills for both the environmental studies and

Simon Fraser University

We have just completed the hiring of three new faculty members in the Department of Geography. Nadine Schuurman, who successfully completed her PhD at UBC in mid-April, will join us as an Assistant Professor on July 1.

Nadine has been working at SFU since last September as a limited term instructor in GIS and we are delighted to welcome her into a tenure-track position. Also joining us in September will be Bill Quinton and Jennifer Hyndman. Bill is currently a Research Scientist with the National Water Research Institute, Environment Canada in Saskatoon and will join us as an Assistant Professor in the area of hydrology. Jennifer, who has a PhD from UBC and is currently an Assistant

Professor at Arizona State University, West Campus in Phoenix is a specialist in political geography and gender. Her book entitled "Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism" has just been published by the University of Minnesota Press.

In other faculty and staff newsalthough Tom Poiker and Shue Tuck Wong have now officially retired we see both of them regularly as Tuck is still teaching some course for us and Tom is busy with his distance education course in UniGIS. Bob Brown officially retires this May and although currently on leave is busy with his graduate students. Ted Hickin is serving as the Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences, in the Faculty of Science and Mike Roberts is spending a study period in Regensburg, Germany. Roger Hayter is also in Germany for much of this summer at the University of Cologne and will be participating in a field course in the UK along with Dieter Soyez. Paul DeGrace, our cartographer and SIS lab coordinator, has left to take up a position as coordinator of the Co-op program for Geography and Earth Sciences. He replaces Matt Ferguson (SFU-MA), who pioneered the position, but has now moved to the university Industry Liaison Office.

Faculty and graduate students have participated in numerous conferences including the Western Division CAG. At this meeting the following five SFU faculty members singly or jointly made presentations; Ben Bradshaw, Ian Hutchinson and John Clague, Margaret Schmidt and Len Evenden. Len Evenden gave the keynote address at the banquet on the topic of "Making Geography Personal". Presentations were also made by graduate students Audric Beauchesne, Janet Boxwell, Laura Carlson, Alistair MacDonald and Todd Redding. Faculty and graduate students were also well represented at the

Pittsburgh AAG meeting with Bev Pitman, Nick Blomley, Shue Tuck Wong, Mark Roseland, Tom Poiker and Nadine Schuurman presenting papers. Graduate students, Adrienne Burk, Damian Collins and Tim Reiffenstein also presented papers. At a BC Studies Conference graduates students Sean Markey and Kelly Vodden participated in a panel presentation organized by John Pierce entitled "Promoting Community Economic Development for Forest-based Communities in BC" .

Since the last newsletter, Csaba Ékes (Radar Facies And Architecture Of Alluvial Fans And Related Sediments In High-Energy Alpine Environments, British Columbia), Brian White (Authoring The Tourism Landscape of Clayoquot Sound), and Kevin Rees (Innovation In the Periphery: Networks Or Fragments In The High Technology Industries Of Greater Vancouver) have successfully completed the Ph.D..

Theresa Ashford, Ian Linning, Solvej Patschke, and Kelly Vodden have completed their masters' degrees.

Other news Len Evenden arranged for the donation to the Burnaby School Board of approximately fifteen class sets of his edited book on Burnaby, originally compiled for the city centennial. It was accompanied by a new teacher's guide, developed under the guidance of Professor Roland Case of the Faculty of Education

Alison Gill

University College of the Cariboo

It has been a busy year for UCC geographers. Robert MacKinnon returned to UCC as Chair of the Department of Social and Environmental Studies in

August, 1999 after a nine month stay at the University of Bonn's North America Studies Program.

Tom Waldichuk, Ross Nelson and Heather Nicol represented UCC at the CAG in Lethbridge in June, 1999. Heather Nicol (currently at Okanagan University College) also organized a very successful international conference held at Simon Fraser University's downtown campus in August, 1999. The conference, entitled "Permeable Boundaries and Borders in a Globalising World" was jointly sponsored by The International Boundaries Research Unit at Durham University, the Arts Division at UCC, SFU and UBC, and featured multidisciplinary presentations and a fabulous Georgia Strait field trip (from the deck of the HMCS Vancouver).

Mount Rainier was the research destination of Jim and Mary Miller last summer where they collected information and photographs for their Introduction to Geomorphology and Climatology courses.

During the third weekend in September fifteen UCC students and four faculty members participated in a weekend field trip to Wells Gray Park. The trip was led by former UCC student Roland Neave, who has written a guide book on Wells Gray Park and is owner of Wells Gray Tours Ltd. Mr. Neave and his family have recently established a substantial scholarship fund at UCC which permits the distribution of seven scholarships per year for UCC geography students.

Five faculty members and 16 members of the UCC Geography students' Club attended the W.D.C.A.G. meeting held at University College of the Fraser Valley recently. Papers were presented by Tom Waldichuk ("The Production of Japanese Culture as Mediated Through Changing Countryside Landscapes Near Tsukuba Science City"), Robert MacKinnon ("Biography of a Building

Project: Doing Geography Outside the Classroom"), Martin Whittles ("Making the Circle Complete Once Again: Original Peoples, Permeable Boundaries, and Globalisation in the Circumpolar North"), Ken Favrholt "The Impact of the International Boundary on the Hudson's Bay Company and Indian Tribes along the 49th Parallel from the Rockies to the Pacific between 1846 and 1871") and Bill Gilroy ("Xeriscape: The Reluctant Emergence of a Residential Landscape in Kamloops". A special session entitled "Geographic Education in the Schools: Recent Developments, Opportunities and Challenges" was organized by Ross Nelson, who is also serving as President of our association for another year and our representative on the Canadian Council for Geographic Education.

Some of the results of Ross Nelson's research on socioeconomic determinants of health in Kamloops have recently been published in *Western Geography*, Vol. 8/9, (entitled "Low Birthweights: Spatial and Socioeconomic Patterns in Kamloops") while Gilles Viaud's research has recently appeared in *Francophonies Minorities in Canada: L'état des lieux*, edited by Joseph Yvon Thériault (Moncton: Les Éditions d'Acadics, 1999), chapter 4, entitled, "La géographie du peuplement francophone de l'Ouest".

Finally, the Social and Environmental Studies Department is very pleased to announce that Tom Waldichuk has been appointed to UCC's geography program on a full-time contract.

Robert MacKinnon, Ph.D.

University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge is growing rapidly and it is developing in exciting new

directions. In September the university's enrollment exceeded 6,000 for the first time, doubling in just ten years, growing faster than either of its big sisters to the north, and soon to account for ten percent of total full time university enrollments in the province of Alberta. A new 400,000 square foot academic building was completed and occupied over the Christmas holidays and day-by-day the \$37 million Library-Information Centre is emerging from the coulees to provide the university with a new "front door" and foyer to the information age.

Geography is in the vanguard of all this growth with a new "Concentration in Geographic Information Sciences." This program will complement existing participation in Urban and Regional Studies, Environmental Science and Agricultural Studies programs in addition to the traditional B.A. and B.Sc. majors in Geography. We are in the final stages of hiring three new faculty which will increase our Professoriate to 13 members and enable us to expand our offerings in GIS, Remote Sensing, Environmental Modelling and to integrate GIS into the curriculum.

Students are having unparalleled success on the buoyant Alberta job market. When employers come calling we have to say, "sorry, all of last year's graduates are professionally employed, give us a call next spring." That's the U of L difference!

On the teaching front, Bob Rogerson is waiting for the arrival of the first copies of *Forever Better: Continuous Quality Improvement in Higher Education* which he coauthored with two Education faculty members. Tom Johnston and Ivan Townshend are experimenting with a new team teaching approach to the ever popular Canada course. Jim Byrne is looking forward to yet another "south-west trip" that sees his now legendary field course tracing the Colorado River from Utah to California

over a 25 day odyssey in May. Ian Kuijt, who joined our department last summer, will direct a field school at Slocan Lake in the interior of British Columbia. Dennis Sheppard's years of dedicated service and devoted teaching as our Academic Assistant and GIS Laboratory Demonstrator were recently rewarded when he was awarded a Continuing Appointment in the department.

In terms of research, René Barendregt will have another exceptionally busy summer with paleomagnetic surveys planned in exotic locales such as the Yukon, Brazil and the midwestern U.S. In his capacity as Adjunct Professor in Geography at the University of Calgary, he is working with a number of graduate students as well. Sue Dakin will celebrate her successful PhD Thesis defence with a summer of writing to repackage her research on landscape assessment for environmental management. Derek Peddle is back from a very productive six month study leave as an International Fullbright Scholar doing remote sensing work in conjunction with the Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and University of Maryland. Derek has planned many summer research activities in forestry, agriculture and mountain terrain analysis. Walter Aufrecht is nearing the end of a full year study leave and the completion of a major project on Near Eastern archeology. Ian Kuijt is developing a new research program dealing with the interface of human cultures and the environment and will be directing excavations at a neolithic agricultural village site in Beidha in southwestern Jordan later in the summer. Ian MacLachlan will be finishing the long awaited book on the cattle and beef processing industry and plans some new research initiatives with Ivan Townshend looking at social and economic indicators in First Nations Communities. In addition, Ivan is completing a nationwide study on ethnic income and family

segregation in Census Metropolitan Areas. Dan Johnson, one of our outstanding Adjunct Faculty from Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge Research Station, is employing GIS in his research on alternative methods for controlling large scale insect infestations. Bob Rogerson is in the midst of some fascinating geomorphology research on the alignment of coulees in Southern Alberta. Tom Johnston will be concluding three years of dedicated service as Chair of the Department with a well deserved six month study leave that will see him extending his interests on agricultural adaptation to climatic change and the adoption of water conserving strategies and technologies by irrigation farmers. Tom will spend some of this research time at the Geography department at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Jim Byrne will continue his research on alpine snow hydrology and the microbial ecology of the Oldman River basin. In addition, Jim has become responsible for Science Content of a video series on Global Climatic Change which will be produced by Access, Alberta's public education television network.

We conclude on a sad note. Professor Emeritus Chester (Chip) Beaty, our department's first geomorphologist and author of the classic *The Landscapes of Southern Alberta*, passed away in early January. He will be missed.

University of British Columbia

This has been an extremely active year for the UBC Department of Geography. By July 1, 2000, six new faculty members will have been added while one will be retiring, several members have received well-deserved recognition for their efforts, both within the Department and in the academic community at large, and others have accepted new responsibilities. In addition,

we have embarked on a number of new outreach programs. The details are presented below.

Lew Robinson was awarded a special mug at the recent WDCAG conference in Abbotsford. He was recognized for being the 1st President of the WDCAG (1958) and for all his years of service to the discipline. The announcement was greeted with a standing ovation. Margaret North will be retiring this summer—her presence will be missed by all, faculty, graduates, staff and undergraduates. Both Margaret and Michael Bovis received an Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by our Geography Students Association, at this year's GeoGala.

At Geography undergraduate Gala held March 24, 2000, the following awards were presented:

Dr. Cole Harris, Geography Arts Professor of the Year

Dr. Michael Bovis, Geography Science Professor of the Year

Mrs. Margaret North, Award of Outstanding Service and Achievement

Two of our staff—Catherine Griffiths and Karen Young—are being recognized by the undergraduate students at their annual GeoGala for service to the undergraduate community. Another staff member, Elaine Cho, our Graduate Secretary, has recently been awarded the Graduate Student Service Award, presented annually by the Graduate Student Society of UBC—a well-deserved recognition of the care, time and effort that Elaine contributes to the well-being of graduate students (and many others) in our Department.

Three new faculty members have joined the Department over the past year. As previously announced, Dan Moore (FRBC

Chair in Forest Hydrology) and Juanita Sundberg (a Latin American specialist) were appointed July 1/99. On Jan. 1st, 2000, Jim Dunn was appointed to the Department as an Assistant Professor, jointly with the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at UBC. On Feb. 1st, Jim was awarded a B.C. Health Research Foundation Career Scholar Award. Jim adds to the department a concentration in health geography, and he will be continuing his research on urban health inequalities and housing and health. In addition, two new appointments have just been announced. In the Canadian Historical Geographer search Matthew Evenden (son of Len!) has accepted our offer, and Sally Hermansen was the successful candidate in the GIS Lecturer search. The Applied Physical Geography search is still in progress. All three of these new positions will officially start July 1/00.

Past members of the Department continue to receive recognition for their lifetime of achievements. Ross Mackay was awarded the 1999 Chair's Award for Career Achievement from the Science Council of BC for his work on permafrost in the Arctic. The award was presented to Ross at the BC Science & Technology Awards Dinner, held on Oct 18/99 in Vancouver. Ross Mackay will also be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Helsinki. The degree is the highest honour given by the University of Helsinki. The conferment ceremony will take place in Helsinki on June 2/00. Walter Hardwick will receive an Honorary Doctorate from UBC at the Spring 2000 Congregation Ceremonies.

Olav Slaymaker was appointed Director of the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues effective Jan 1/00, and continues his travels around the world as President of the International Association of Geomorphology promoting geomorphology. Several faculty members continue to work as editors for a

variety of journals. The two most recent additions to this group of overworked individuals are David Edgington, who is now a co-editor for *The Canadian Geographer*, and Brian Klinkenberg, who recently become editor for *Cartographica*. A reminder to all that we are always on the lookout for quality articles! Brian Klinkenberg was also awarded an Earth Sciences Sector Merit Award by Natural Resources Canada, for his contributions to the geomatics sector across Canada. There are four post-doctoral Fellows in the Department this year: Harald Bauder (SSHRC PDF), Jim Glassman (Killam PDF), Scott Prudham (SSHRC PDF), and Paul Villard (NSERC PDF). At the Fall 1999 Congregation Ceremonies, MA degrees were conferred to T. Bester, N. Genoway, D. Gibbons, E. Gilchrist, and N. Walter; an MSc degree was conferred to J. Torcolini; and a PhD degree conferred to T. Davis (who is now a faculty member at the University of Utah teaching GIS).

As part of the Department's outreach program, several public lectures have been held at the Richmond Nature Park, in cooperation with the Richmond Nature Park Society: Sept 22/99 Michael Church - "Natural History of the Fraser River Valley - Why does it flood, anyway?"; Oct 20/99 Margaret North - "Presettlement Vegetation of the Fraser River Delta"; Nov 17/99 Ian McKendry - "The Air we Breathe"; Jan 19/00 Cole Harris - "Colonizing an Estuary"; Feb 23/00 Dan Hiebert - "The Changing Face of Vancouver and Richmond"; Mar 15/00 Jim Dunn - "Can Housing affect your Health? - Yes, and in ways you probably wouldn't guess"; Apr 19/00 Graeme Wynn - "A River, a Delta, A Place in Time".

A GIS Workshop was held on Saturday, November 20th, co-sponsored by the Department and the Canadian Council of Geographic Education. Demonstrations of various GIS programs took place during the workshop, organized in part by Margaret

North. Geography 450 students organized and participated in a "CityVision" event that took place on the evening of Monday, November 15, 1999. The event, which included presentations on current urban issues in Vancouver by the students and a panel discussion with representatives from provincial and civic political parties, was well attended and received very favourable coverage from the Vancouver Sun.

The undergraduates have, as always, fostered many events contributing to the life of the Department. From the BBQ to kick off the school year, the numerous Geo-Pits throughout the year, a couple of early-morning pancake flippings, the annual Career Day and social, the Geo-Gala graduation event, through to the year-end BBQ (Wed. April 5th), the undergraduates have added considerably to the life of the Department. A number of Geography students have also visited their former high schools in order to talk about Geography at UBC. They have also produced a "Geo-Brochure" describing the skills and abilities of geographers. This brochure is to be mailed out to public and private companies throughout the Lower Mainland. Another event associated with the undergraduates is the Alumni Walking Tour, hosted by either Alumni, Students or Professors. These well-attended events start off with an educational walk with a specialist commenting on the geography of the surrounding area, and are followed by a meal at a local restaurant.

A new, greatly expanded edition of Roland Stull's textbook "Meteorology for Scientists and Engineers", 2nd Edition, was published in January 2000 by Brooks/Cole Thomson Learning (ISBN 0-534-37214-7, 502 pages, paperback). Designed for 2nd year university students, it covers quantitative aspects of meteorology without using any calculus or differential equations. For further information you can check out this web site:

<http://www.eos.ubc.ca/courses/atasc201/index.html>

Two meteorology conferences will be held in Victoria this summer, both at the University of Victoria. The annual congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, will be held during 29 May - 1 June. For further information see the CMOS web page <http://www.cccma.bc.ec.gc.ca/cmose2000/> During 2- 3 June, immediately following the CMOS congress, is the Western Canada Weather Workshop, a forum to bring together industry, government, and academic meteorologists on issues related to operational weather forecasting in western Canada. Information for this conference is at

<http://spirit.geog.ubc.ca/events/WCWW00/wcww00.html>.

Brian Klinkenberg

Univ. College of the Fraser Valley

If the size of course waitlists was some measure of potential growth, then Geography at UCFV is poised! Still, with no additional faculty anticipated in the immediate future and a new building in Abbotsford that is now filled more or less to capacity, we continue to enjoy the benefits of a popular program in modest ways.

Some of the enthusiasm which characterizes our students was evident during the recent Western Division meetings at our place in Abbotford, where one group volunteered to keep the traffic moving, another to organize and monitor registration, and still another to beat up on every other student group in the division and WIN THE SCAVENGER

HUNT!!! The trophy sits in the middle of the computer lab at the moment, and plans are being made for the trek to Calgary in March, 2001.

Geography is offering three courses in the upcoming Spring Semester, our version of an intersession in May and June. These courses will likely fill, as they have in the past. Next year we are looking forward to offering a new introductory course in GIS, to be taught by retiring Department Head, John Belec. The Geography Department, together with Latin American Studies at UCFV, is off to Mexico in the first week of May, maintaining a study tour tradition that started many years ago.

David Gibson was in Mexico at midterm break, and will lead the sizeable contingent of geography students on the tour. Cherie Enns is heading to Israel in May and Doug Nicol to the Maritimes in June. Sandy Vanderburgh will be back in southwestern Washington for ongoing research along the coast.

We hope all members of the Western Division enjoyed their stays in the Central Fraser Valley and that the conference afforded some opportunities for meeting colleagues and taking in some excellent papers and posters. We look forward to next year. The Department at UCFV is beginning to inquire about a charter bus from Vancouver, via Hwy 1, to Calgary; and is looking into the possibility of chartering a WestJet from Abbotsford to the prairie city as well. More news as prices and times are available.

Doug Nichol

University of Northern B. C.

Once again this year UNBC joined with CNC for a magnificent field trip to attend the WD-CAG meetings in Abbotsford.

The presentation day began with retiring Past-President of the association, Greg Halseth, chairing a session on Recreation and Conservation which featured a paper by UNBC undergraduate students Shiloh Durkee and Juergen Wry on "The West Coast Cruise Ship Industry: Is Prince Rupert Missing the Boat?"

In the next session Greg was as presenter of "An Historical Geography of the Upper Fraser Sawmill Communities: Introduction to a Research Program" which was co-authored by Gail Fondahl (Geography), Aileen Espiritu (History) and Tracy Summerville (Political Science). Gail was assigned to field questions at a poster on the "Upper Fraser Historical Geography Project" authored by the same four researchers.

The second paper in the session presented by grad student Lana Sullivan, and co-authored by Greg, was on "Government Funding of Community Based Organizations: Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge, B.C." Greg and Lana are also working on an "extra-community commuting project" looking at workers who live in Prince George and commute to Mackenzie. This is funded by UNBC's Northern Land Use Institute. They are also part of a "Rural Community Social Cohesion" project funded by SSHRC under one of their themes. The project is a cross-Canada collaboration with the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation and is funded at \$600,000 for three years.

Meanwhile, next door Environmental Studies graduate student Laura Ryser was speaking on "Institutional Barriers Impeding the Incorporation of Climate-Responsive Design in Commercial Re-Development in Prince George,

B.C." Across the hall, Kevin Hall spoke on "New Insights Into Rock Weathering as Deduced from High-Frequency Rock Temperature Data: An Antarctic Study." Dr. Hall also chaired a section in session three of the day.

In Session IV, Reg Horne found himself in a lecture theatre explaining "What Do Students Do With Their Spare Time." Later, in the same room, Greg summed up the discussion at the annual general meeting with the immortal words, "It's not my fault."

W. Reg Horne