

Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



Newsletter

Spring, 2004

March 18 to 20, 2004, Medicine Hat College organized a highly successful WDCAG Conference and Annual General Meeting, with field trips, paper presentations and the Annual Scavenger Hunt. There were also many opportunities to meet fellow geographers at the Friday evening social and during the Saturday banquet where Dr. John Everitt from Brandon University presented "A tasty tale of pies and cheese: place and place-name imagery from the rural heart of England." The conference was well attended, with people from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and B.C. UNBC and the College of New Caledonia rented a bus together and came with a large number of students and faculty to participate. Their two day trip south took them from Prince George to Jasper the first day and, with some bonus sightseeing, to Medicine Hat the second day. They are to be commended for their show of institutional cooperation which could be a model for other institutions to follow: get together and give students a taste of participating in the conference. The WDCAG is always a good conference for students to present a paper for an interested audience. Student presentations are evaluated and the best ones in the BA/BS, MA/MSc and PhD student groups are rewarded. Thank you to Ben Moffatt and the many people at Medicine Hat College that made the conference a success.

Ineke Dijks, Editor

Report of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, May 2004

The Western Division's Annual general meeting marked the business end to a conference hosted by the Division of Arts (Geography) of Medicine Hat College. The meeting was the 46th time that Geographers of Western Canada have formally met. At the meeting Dr. Lew Robinson

(Professor Emeritus - University of British Columbia) was awarded a Certificate of Service from the Division for his lifetime of contributions to the Division throughout its history. It is hoped that by next year the Division will annually award a special certificate for such service honouring Dr. Robinson's influential role in Western Canadian Geography.

Additional certificates of service were given to Dr. John Hodgson, University of Alberta and Dr. Greg Halseth, University of Northern British Columbia. The Division's "Mugs of Merit" were awarded to Clifford Raphael of the College of New Caledonia, Ineke Dijks, Coquitlam, B.C. (and the University of Groningen, the Netherlands) and Dr. Tom Johnston, University of Lethbridge.

Next year's meeting - held during Alberta's centennial - will be hosted by the University of Lethbridge, although the location is not yet known. Potential sites include the Crowsnest Pass, Waterton Lakes National Park or Kananaskis Country.

The Annual Business Meeting, not only saw the election of new Divisional Officers (see below) but touched on a number of concerns that members have about clarifying awards granted by the Division, cleaning-up aspects of the Division's Constitution, the potential for the CAG to encourage attendance of students at regional meetings by instituting travel grants at the regional level and the certification of geo- and bio-scientists involved in environmental assessment in B.C. Of note were messages of thanks to Dr. Len Evenden for his continued support, a get-well message to our Past President, Rod Fowler and special "thank yous" to out-of-division visitors from the east: University of Regina and Brandon University both sent contingents, among them our banquet's speaker Dr. John Everitt who entertained us all with "A tasty tale of pies and cheese. Place and place-name imagery from the rural heart of England".

The following are the new Executive of the Division:

Past President:

Rod Fowler, Kwantlen University College

President:

Ben Moffat, Medicine Hat College

Vice-president:

Neil Hanlon, University of Northern British Columbia

Secretary-Treasurer:

Craig Coburn, University of Lethbridge

Members-at-Large:

Cliff Raphael, College of New Caledonia

Debra Straussfogel, University of Northern British Columbia

Gilles Viaud, University College of the Cariboo

Glen Hvenegaard, Augustana University

Student Member (B.C.):

Rachel Clasby, University of Northern British Columbia

Student Member (AB):

Shawn Mueller, University of Calgary

B.C. Education Committee Chair:

Lyle Courtney Kwantlen University College

Publications Editor:

Jim Windsor, College of New Caledonia

Newsletter Editor:

Ineke Dijks, Coquitlam, B.C.

Students who were awarded CAG memberships for the quality of their conference presentations include:

Shawn Mueller (University of Calgary) – PhD

Aaron Kingsbury (Simon Fraser University) - Master's

Clive Lovett (University College of the Cariboo) - Undergraduate

Submitted by Ben Moffat

News from the Departments

Medicine Hat College

What a pleasure it was hosting the 46th Annual AGM of the Division but finally that event has been and gone and it is back to the end-of-semester grind. Realizing just how far some of you had to travel, we were gratified by the attendance. All went well with the conference (I think) and the college has returned to normal.

Here, in Alberta, most colleges are in the process of perusing the new provincial legislation that has encouraged the granting of degrees (in

some specialized areas) by institutions apart from the four major universities. We here in The Hat have often thought an education degree could be offered here and our department is actively pursuing such a scenario - the degree would probably be one in "rural" education - but that still lies well in the future.

In The Hat, full-fledged spring has arrived and trees are budding, garden centres are busy and the grounds crew is busy trimming, raking and watering. The "new" college continues with its facelift, with the front entrance being the focus of most major renovations.

Our Knob and Kettle Club prepares for Geography 379: Regional Geography of the U.S.A. trip through America's Southwest, travelling through Idaho and Utah before travelling around and about Southern Nevada, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, the Grand Canyon and back home through the sagebrush lands of central Nevada. This year is the eleventh time we have offered the course, but this year sees us head further south, earlier - perhaps even with a brief sojourn into Mexico.



June 2003 saw the Knob and Kettle Club brave the tremors of Mt. St. Helens, Washington.

Dr. Laurie Milne's workload in geography has been reduced (she has added further Anthropology classes to serve our degree students in Ecotourism) but Ivan Shukster continues to teach both Introductory lab sections and our Introductory GIS class. He is very close to defending his project en route to getting his MGIS Programme through the University of Calgary.

Ben Moffat's summer will include the trip with students into the USA, travel east to Moncton

for the CAG Meetings as well as the completion of a chapter (Saskatchewan's political environment) intended for publication in 2005's Geography of Saskatchewan text. With both Alberta and Saskatchewan celebrating centennials in the next year, there should be many retrospective a publications being issued. While this year saw slight decline in enrolments in geography, we expect those numbers to rebound next fall. With the new building and entrance (if it is finished), new students, new facilities and "new" (or at least retooled) courses will probably boost our profile and continue to make our little institution a satisfying place to work. As always, you can virtually visit us at

<http://www2.mhc.ab.ca/geog/geography.html>

Submitted by Ben Moffatt

Augustana University College

The upcoming academic year at Augustana will bring many changes. Pending final approvals, Augustana University College will merge with the University of Alberta. In practical terms, Augustana will become a faculty of the University of Alberta, and will continue to offer its current selection of liberal arts and sciences degree programs. Plans are being developed to construct a new multi-purpose building, housing a library, office space, and science labs. New and expanded programs are being considered as well.

Faculty member, Glen Hvenegaard and Physical Education colleague, Morten Asfeldt, are co-editing a special issue of Pathways: Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education on the impacts of technology in outdoor education's goal of developing personal relationships with nature. They wrote a piece on this topic for the same journal last year. Glen has a paper coming out in Recent Advances and Research Updates.

Glen and six other students attended the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Calgary in February, at which he gave a presentation on species-area relationships for birds in Alberta's aspen forests. He is assisting with the Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Project and co-supervising the summer coordinator. He assisted in the Battle River Community Foundation's conference on the Battle River watershed, entitled "Water for Growth and Life".

He continues to serve on the board of its Community Environment Initiative.

For more information look at our website

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

Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard

University of Victoria

Geography Grad Student Receives UVic Community Service Award.

Brandy Patterson, UVic Geography MA graduate student was one of eleven UVic students who combined good marks with good works in the university and wider community were honoured March 16 with Blue and Gold Circle awards. Each student received a certificate, a pin and a cash award. The awards recognize those who combine solid scholastic achievement with community involvement and activism.

Brandy has, according to her official citation, "contributed to the university and the broader community in ways that exemplify her versatility, diversity and creativity. She is a respected teacher and mentor, a tireless fund raiser and a dedicated student. Patterson was an active volunteer with the Canadian Association of Geographers annual conference, and is also a member of the Society of Geography Students. Patterson is a highly respected teaching assistant, having received numerous awards in her short time at the university. As a community volunteer, Patterson devotes much of her time to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, coordinating events and organizing new campaigns. Revitalizing Shinerama activities at UVic after years of inactivity, Patterson has infused the organization with a sense of energy and reconnected the university with the cause. Now, as vice-president of the Victoria Chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Patterson will continue to positively impact the efforts of this organization".

Cartography Students Maps Now Online

See this selection of student thematic maps from our just-completed Cartography course (GEOG323)

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/images/cartography/maps/cartography.html>

New Geomatics Program at UVic.

Geography and Computer Science: A joint program by the departments of Geography and

Computer Science leading to a combined BSc Major Degree for students whose interests span the fields of Computer Science, Geography and Geomatics. For more information:

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/geomatics/>

UVic Geography Grad Wins Fulbright Scholarship

UVic alumnus Ian Scott (BSc Geography Honours' 99) has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright-OAS Ecology scholarship.

The award, valued at more than US \$30,000 over two years, recognizes Scott's outstanding academic achievement and extraordinary contribution to the fields of sustainable development and environmental protection.

Scott currently works for Ecotrust Canada, where he co-ordinates community resource management and planning projects within B.C.'s Georgia Basin region. He holds a UVic bachelor's degree in geography with a minor in environmental studies.

Every year, one individual from each country in the Western Hemisphere is awarded a Fulbright-OAS Ecology scholarship. Scott is the second Canadian to win it.

The scholarship supports exceptional individuals throughout the Americas who have contributed in important ways to sustainable development in their own countries. Scholars have the opportunity to pursue advanced academic degrees in the U.S.

Scott will pursue a master's in community and regional planning at the American university of his choice. His research will focus on participatory planning and its application to regional and community economic development, with particular reference to First Nations communities. His interest lies at the intersection of economics, community development and environmental protection.

"Communities on both sides of the border are facing similar challenges, such as environmental degradation, changing economies and social upheaval," he says. "I'm excited by the opportunity to study how planners and communities in the U.S. are dealing with these.

Dr Ian O'Connell is presently the Senior Instructor for Geomatics for our Department.

Ian's qualifications in Geomatics are founded in a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Computer Studies and a Master's degree (1st Class Honours) in Urban Historical Geography from University College Cork, Ireland. His Master's research involved the application of computers, computer mapping and GIS to historical documents, and the creation of a social geography for an Irish Town from Viking times to the beginning of the 20th Century. After completion of the masters, Ian worked as a research assistant on a European-funded GIS and Coastal Zone Management project, in which he was responsible for database design and the integration of multiple and diverse datasets.

Ian's experiences employing GIS in this context encouraged him to further his academic career at the University of Victoria, where he was the recipient of a Three Year Doctoral Fellowship.

Doctoral research focused on the application of GIS and geomatic technologies to land valuation, exploring the development of a Web-based Collaborative Spatial Decision Support System to enable local stakeholders to participate in planning initiatives.



Dr. Ian O'Connell

Graduate and Honours Theses Defended Recently - PhD:

Jonathan Corbett: Empowering Technologies? Developing Participatory Geographic Information and Multimedia Systems in Two Indonesian Communities

Sonya Larocque: Glacial and Climatic Fluctuations During the Little Ice Age, Mt. Waddington Area,

Southern Coast Mountains of British Columbia, Canada

Christopher Malcolm: The Current State and Future Prospects of Whale-Watching Management, with Special Emphasis on Whale-Watching in British Columbia, Canada

MSc/MA:

Ian Baird: Dipterocarpus Wood Resin Tenure, Management and Trade: Practices of the Brao in Northeast Cambodia

Cynthia Marven: Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis to Support Maritime Search and Rescue Planning

Alexis Johnson: Snow Avalanche Impact Landform Geomorphology in the Southern Canadian Cordillera

Michele-Lee Moore: Effectiveness of a Commercial Probiotic for Water and Sludge Management on an Inland Shrimp Aquaculture Farm in Thailand

Carrie Steckler: Using Radarsat to Detect and Monitor Stationary Fishing and Aquaculture Gear on the Eastern Gulf of Thailand

Kristin Lunn: Building Small-Scale Fish-eries into Marine Park Zoning Plans: A Case Study of Ko Chang Marine National Park, Thailand

Rochelle Campbell: Multicentury Historical Patterns of Western Spruce Budworm Outbreaks in Interior Douglas-Fir Forests Near Kamloops, British Columbia

Nina Fancy: The Potential of Mangroves in the Treatment of Shrimp Aquaculture Effluent on the Eastern Coast of Thailand

Jason Miller: Geographic Information Literacy in British Columbia's K-12 Education Curriculum

Sarah McDonald: Hyperspectral Remote Sensing of Conifer Biochemistry in the Greater Victoria Watershed District, British Columbia

BA/BSc:

Kirsten Brown: In Search of A Cause: Spatial and Temporal Variations of Autism on Vancouver Island

Courtney Campbell: Port Renfrew Community Perceptions of the Management Of Botanical Beach

Matthew Cavers: The Privatization Agenda of BC's Provincial Parks: The Case of Contracted Visitor Services

Eric Druyts: Temporal and Spatial Trends in Avoidable Hospitalization Rates Among Older

Adults in Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum
Anders Erickson: Geography, Diet and Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer: A Research Proposal
Adelle Gatzky: Human Security and Indigenous People: Damming Their Fate?

Angela Hunter: Improving Quality of Life in Squatter Communities: A Case of Pedra Sobre Pedra, Brazil

Peryy Hystad: Tourism's Response to Disaster: A Case Study of the Okanagan Mountain Park Forest Fire

Danielle Jmieff: Response of Sea Bluff Erosion to High-Energy Events at Witty's Lagoon and Spit, Vancouver Island, BC

Gary Mallach: Water Hardness and Heart Disease in British Columbia: A Spatial Analysis

Emily Nixon: Disaster and Emergency Management: The Quicksilver Chairlift Incident

Reilly Nord: Historical Trends in Available Water for Sooke Lake and the Georgia Basin 1910-2003
Michael Wilson: Snow Avalanche Risk Management: Decisions Causing Disaster
Submitted by John Newcomb.

University of Northern British Columbia Faculty News:

In mid-April, Gail Fondahl attended the British Universities Siberian Studies Seminar in Houston, Texas, where she co-chaired a session on 'The Numerically Small Peoples of the North' with colleague Sergei Savoskul (Moscow State University), and gave a paper on "Legal Constructions of Aboriginal Geographies".

Kevin Hall has recently received three significant honors: (1) Kevin was inducted as a Fellow into the Explorer's Club, a group of 3,000 explorers and scientists that include such notables as Roald Amundsen and Neil Armstrong. (2) Kevin was also made a member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. (3) He has also been appointed to Visiting Lecturer (adjunct) status at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Greg Halseth has also been the recipient of honors. The BC Minister of Forests, Roger Harris, appointed Greg to the Minister's Community Advisory Group related to the Ministry's Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan. Members are appointed for a two year term, April 2004 – April 2006. Greg

was also the recipient of the 2004 Meritorious Service Award from the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. On the research front, Greg's northern development strategy project has taken him around northern BC for community workshops and presentations to municipal, business and tribal leaders.

Neil Hanlon has been asked to participate in a Delphi Panel to test the reliability and validity of a rating scale for assessing how effective Community Health Boards in central and western Nova Scotia have been at incorporating the population health approach into their Community Health Plans. This is part of a larger research project conducted by Dr. Thomas Rathwell and others at the School of Health Services Administration at Dalhousie University, and funded by the Canadian Population Health Initiative of the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Neil was also invited to present a paper, "Establishing a Network of Excellence for Rural and Remote Geriatric Services: Lessons from Northern BC," at the 3rd Annual Conference of the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health, held 12-14 March 2004 in Vancouver. Neil's paper in *Healthcare Management Forum* (Summer 2003) was chosen Lead Article. Finally, a team of researchers led by Greg Halseth and Neil Hanlon will be busy this summer conducting focus groups and a survey questionnaire to assess the service needs of seniors in Mackenzie, BC.

Congratulations to Brian Menounos on his successful NSERC application. Brian (with 5 co-applicants from a number of Canadian universities) also was successful in his application to NSERC for research equipment purchases. Brian has been awarded \$36,188 for purchase of a submersible vibracoring system with his co-investigators. On February 2, Brian also attended the workshop, "Floods and Landslides in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor: The Future" held at Simon Fraser University.

Catherine Nolin traveled to Guatemala City to present the invited paper "Transnational Ruptures: Understanding the Geographies of Transnational Social Networks" at the "Hemispheric Integration & Transnationalism in the Americas" conference co-hosted by FOCAL and the Canadian Embassy, February 16-17, 2004.

Ellen Petticrew returned from a half year sabbatical which she spent at the University of

Exeter, UK. New field projects include an investigation of sediment sources and delivery to streams in burnt BC watersheds. This work will be done jointly with British, UBC and Ministry of Forest colleagues. She is currently helping to organize the 10th International Meeting on the Interactions between sediment and water which will be held in Lake Bled Slovenia, in August 2005 <http://www.iasws.com/>

Debra Straussfogel will travel to Fairbanks, Alaska May 1 -7 to deliver the paper "A Proposed Integrative Framework for Considering Regional Livelihoods in Boreal Forest Ecosystems" at the 12th Annual International Boreal Forest Research Association Conference, Climate Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems.

Roger Wheate is part of a triumvirate (a.k.a. the three amigos) with Peter Keller (UVic) and Cliff Wood (MUN), that has assumed the editorship of *Cartographica* from Brian Klinkenberg (UBC). They will introduce themselves to the Canadian Cartographic Association membership at the annual meeting at Feling College, Lindsay, Ontario, June 7-10. Roger will also present "Feature Extraction from Landsat images for Map Updating", focusing on changing glacier extents.

Graduate Student News:

Rachel Clasby (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies - Geography, MA Candidate) will use the results of the Mackenzie Seniors' Needs project (led by Hanlon and Halseth) as a springboard to examine the community's preparedness for population aging. Supervisor: Neil Hanlon

Karen Heikkila (MA NRES candidate) is currently carrying out field work on Tl'azt'en toponomy, under the aegis of a CURA project, for her thesis, "Teaching Through Toponymy: Using Indigenous Place-Names in Outdoor Science Camps." Supervisor: Gail Fondahl.

Joanna Kafarowski (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies - Geography, Ph.D. candidate) was recently awarded the Canadian Federation of University Women's "Alice E. Wilson Award," an Arctic Institute of North America Grant-in-Aid and funding from the Northern Scientific Training Program. Joanna is organizing a gender issues session and presenting a paper at the upcoming *International Congress of*

Arctic Social Sciences in Fairbanks, Alaska and will be conducting fieldwork for her thesis in Nunavik in late summer. Co-supervisors: Dr. Deborah Poff and Dr. Leslie King (University of Manitoba)

Sandra Paradis (Interdisciplinary Studies, MA Candidate) travels to El Salvador after participation in the Geography Field School in Guatemala to conduct preliminary research on issues of transnational labour solidarity between Canadian and Salvadoran workers. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin

Denis Pelletier (MNRES Candidate) will begin research examining the differences in forest values between Canada and the US as they impact the softwood lumber dispute. Supervisor: Debra Straussfogel.

Jennifer Reade (Interdisciplinary Studies, MA Candidate) is conducting field work in Guatemala on the issue of indigenous women's community development participation in post-conflict communities. Jenn's fieldwork runs January 28 – June 18, 2004. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin

John Rex recently completed his candidacy exams for the PhD and will now commence work on his thesis research. He will be working on the influence of salmon on the transport of fine sediment in BC streams. Supervisor: Ellen Petticrew

Jacqui Stephens (Interdisciplinary Studies, MA Candidate) will also travel to Guatemala, May 12-June 18, 2004, to participate in the Geography Field School and conduct research with a Q'eqchi Maya organization on issues of resource development and indigenous rights. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin

Field Schools: Students and Coffee

UNBC students will be participating with Catherine Nolin in a Geography field school to Guatemala this May to learn about human rights, the local effects of trade agreements and the impacts of development projects. To fund their trip the students were involved in a relevant fundraising project. Since the students will be traveling to various coffee communities as part of their education, the participants sold fair trade coffee from the region they will be visiting. The sale provided a fair price for the farmers, while also supplying some funds to offset the cost of the

field school for the students. The field school will run from May 3-26.

UNBC and the University of Pretoria

Students and faculty from UNBC and the University of Pretoria, under the direction of Kevin Hall will participate in a three week field school through British Columbia from June 1 to 19. The trip will begin in Vancouver, travel north through the Okanagan, Jasper, Quesnel and Barkerville to Prince George. The group will then continue west along the Highway 16 corridor visiting Smithers, Terrace, the Naas Valley and ending in Prince Rupert on the coast.

Recent Publications:

Lazebnik, O.A., Fondahl, G., Savvinova, A.N., Fillipova, V.V. (2003). Geoinformatsionnoe kartografirovaniye v izuchenii korennykh narodov Severa [Employing GIS Cartography in the study of indigenous peoples of the North], in *Geografiya I okruzhayushchaya sreda*, eds. V.V. Dmitriev, N.S. Kasimov, and S.M. Malkhazova, pp. 668-678. St. Petersburg: Nauka.

Hall, Kevin (2004). Evidence for freeze-thaw events and their implications for rock weathering in northern Canada. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* (29), 43-57.

Hall, K. and André, M-F. (2003). Rock thermal data at the grain scale: Applicability to granular disintegration in cold environments. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, 28, 823-836.

Hall, K. and Lamont, N. (2003). Zoogeomorphology in the Alpine: Some Observations on Abiotic-Biotic Interactions. *Geomorphology*, 55, 219-234.

Arocena, J.M., Zhu, L., and Hall, K. (2003). Mineral accumulations induced by biological activity on granite rocks in the Qinghai Plateau China. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* (28)1429-1437.

Halseth, Greg, Ryser, L, and Sullivan, L. (2003). Service provision as part of resource town transition Planning: A case from northern British Columbia. In "Opportunities and Actions in the New Rural Economy", D. Bruce and G. Lister (Eds.), 29-56. Sackville, NB: Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University.

Halseth, Greg and Sullivan, Lana (2003) "The Bright Lights of the City: Intra-regional migration and the challenge for resource-

dependent towns, *Geography Research Forum*. Vol. 23, pp. 138-168.

Halseth, Greg and Booth, Annie (2003) "What worked well - what needs improvement - Lessons in public consultation from British Columbia's resource planning processes, *Local Environment*. Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 437-455.

Hanlon, N. (2003). Measuring aspects of devolved health authority performance: Nova Scotia patients who travel further than necessary to obtain hospital care. *Healthcare Management Forum* 16(2): 8-13

Luider, C., Petticrew, E.L. and Curtis, P.J. (2003). Scavenging of dissolved organic matter (DOM) by amorphous iron hydroxide particles Fe(OH)₃(s). *Hydrobiologia* 494, 37-41.

Forsythe, W.K. and Wheate, R.D. (2003). Utilization of Landsat TM and digital elevation data for the delineation of avalanche slopes in Yoho National Park (Canada). *Transactions in Geosciences and Remote Sensing*, 41, 11, 2678-2682.

Submitted by Debra Straussfogel.

Camosun College

It is a year of significant growth in Geography enrollment this year. We offered an unprecedented 46 sections of classes for a total of about 1,400 seats, more than 50% increase from two years ago. The growth was due primarily to high demands for Geography classes and additional funding for cost-recovery sections.

Despite two of the continuing faculty, Hilary Sandford and Francis Yee, were on full and partial leaves respectively, the classes were successfully run due to the dedication and hard work done by both Tim Elkin and Barry Weaver as well as several sessional instructors, including Chris Ayles, Catherine Griffiths, Paul Miller, David Bean, Lisa Kadonaga, Anette Thingsted, Michelle Bennett, and Bernard Henin. A big thanks to all of them.

In addition to offering two new courses, Quantitative Methods and the Geography of Asia-Pacific, we also offer one section of Geography of British Columbia in distributed education format through BC Campus for the first time. It was a complete success with close to a 95% completion rate, based on 45 students. In the meantime, Hilary is fully immersed in preparing materials for her

teaching assignments in September after a year of maternity leave. Francis is still busy serving on the search committee for a new Dean. Barry is again contemplating a new course for the First Nations Community Studies Program and Tim is getting excited about his upcoming articulation meeting. Submitted by Francis Yee.

Capilano College

Capilano College has had a great year. Over the year, 36 sections were fully subscribed. The Geography department offered three classes in the new "mixed mode" format recently introduced to the college. Students in mixed mode courses of *Introduction to Earth Environments and British Columbia: A Regional Analysis* split their instructional time between the classroom and on-line components. The format seems promising, and we will offer another section of the BC geography this summer.

We will also be offering *Geography 214*, a second year course in weather and climate, in the spring term of 2005. We are happy to be offering this course again after not doing so for about twenty years! Geography will offer one of the key courses in the new *Global Stewardship Program* being launched this fall at Capilano. The program has been tailored for students interested in international work with NGOs, and a special section of *Human Geography: People, Places and Culture* will be a core course in the first term.

Various sections of *Environmental Geography: Perception and Change* were offered this year. Next year we are going to offer it along with *Environmental Geography: Global Concerns* in the spring term, a course that hasn't been offered in quite some time. The hope is that more students will be enticed to take both of these courses.

We ran two field trips this past year, one in the fall and one in the spring. A busload of students and instructors traveled up the Sea-to-Sky Highway visiting communities of Britannia Beach, Squamish and Pemberton. We met with Cameron Chalmers, Manager of Planning Services for the District of Squamish and also with Steve Olmstead, Manager of Planning and Development for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District in Pemberton. Lively discussions focused on the 2010 Olympics and various land use issues.

A local field trip around False Creek also

took place this spring. A handful of keen geography students joined Charles Greenberg on a four hour, 10-kilometer walking tour of False Creek on a chilly wet Friday in February. They examined the creek's current, changing and past landscapes. The tour ended at a Yaletown brew pub - where the wet participants turned their attention to 'a landscape of libatious consumption'. Submitted by Cheryl Schreuder.

University of British Columbia New Hires

A major event in the UBC Department this past winter has been a successful search for the tenure-track position in Physical Geography occasioned by the forthcoming retirement of Olav Slaymaker on June 30 of this year. Owing to an unusual set of circumstances, and a truly excellent pool of applicants, we were able to make two appointments at the rank of Assistant Professor, both commencing July 1, 2004. The first is Marwan Hassan, a world-renown fluvial geomorphologist with a strong international profile in sediment transport and drainage basin studies. We were also able to hire Brett Eaton, a UBC Ph.D pending working under the direction of Michael Church. Brett will complete his thesis in the next few weeks. His appointment is bridged to the retirement of Michael Bovis in 2005. Brett's forte is theoretical and flume studies of alluvial channel stability. This is only the third time in 35 years that the Department has hired one of its own Ph.Ds. With these two hires in complementary areas, we have greatly strengthened our teaching and research capabilities in fluvial geomorphology. Our new hires, together with the expertise of Michael Church, will ensure that we maintain a pre-eminent position in fluvial studies for the foreseeable future. We are of course all very excited about these developments.

We also welcomed to our department this term Dr. Markus Weiler, who holds one of the FRBC Endowed Chairs in Forest Hydrology. Markus commenced his appointment on January 1 of this year and is cross-appointed to the Department of Forest Resources Management. His research specialty is hillslope hydrology in steepland forested basins, and his expertise will nicely complement that of Dan Moore, who holds the other FRBC endowed chair.

Research Grants.

UBC Geography fared brilliantly well in both the NSERC and SSHRC research grants competition this past winter. Ian McKendry, David McClung, Tim Oke, and Markus Weiler all won five-year Discovery Grants from NSERC, and Mike Buzzelli, Jim Glassman, Derek Gregory, Merje Kuus, and Philippe LeBillon all secured three-year Research Grants from SSHRC. We are especially pleased that all of our new appointees over the past two years have now secured Tri-Council research funding.

Books in Print

Several new books by our faculty have recently appeared in print with major publishing houses:

Karen Bakker, 2004: *An Uncooperative Commodity: Privatizing Water in England and Wales*, Oxford University Press.

Trevor Barnes et al., (eds), 2003: *Reading Economic Geography*, Blackwell.

Matthew Evenden, 2004: *Fish vs. Power: An Environmental History of the Fraser River*. Cambridge University Press.

Jim Glassman, 2004: *Thailand at the Margins: Internationalization of the State and the Transformation of Labour*. Oxford University Press.

Awards and Prizes

We note the following awards and prizes won by our faculty in the past few months. David Ley received a Distinguished Scholar of Ethnic Geography award from the Association of American Geographers in April 2004; Trevor Barnes received a prestigious Distinguished University Scholar Award from UBC last fall, the second such award accorded to our Department – well done Trevor! Brian Klinkenberg received the Davidson Award from the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing for the best paper in their Journal in 2003; Matthias Jakob (UBC Ph.D 1996) received the 2004 J. Ross Mackay Award of the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group; Lori Daniels and Matthew Evenden both received Professor of the Year Awards from the Geography Students' Association; and both Sally Hermansen and Mike Bovis received citations in the Popular Professors

section of the Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities, 2004.

Professional Activities

In terms of chairs, editorships, and other important professional activities, the following list should be noted (arranged alphabetically by faculty name).

Trevor Barnes continues as Editor of *Environment and Planning A*, and this past year has served as Advisor for Canada Research Chairs for SSHRC; Michael Bovis continues as BC Provincial Representative to the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board;

Michael Church is a Member of the inter-governmental Hydroriparian Working Group, Central Coast Land Resource Management Plan;

Lori Daniels is serving on the Board of the Biogeography Specialty Group of the AAG and is editing a special issue of the tree-ring journal *Dendrochronologia*;

Ken Denike has just concluded his term as Board Member of the BC Public School Employers' Association;

David Edgington is completing the second year of a three-year term as Director of the Centre for Japanese Research at UBC, is Chair of the Asian Geography Specialty Group of the AAG, and President of the Canadian Regional Science Association;

Greg Henry continues as Chair of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX);

Dan Hiebert is now serving on the Advisory Committee for CIC, Pacific Region, and continues as Co-Director and Financial Officer of the Metropolis Project (RIIM);

David Ley has just completed a one-year term for the College of Advisors, Canada Research Chairs;

Ian McKendry has commenced a term as Member of the Research and Grants Committee, RCGS;

Dan Moore is now Past President, Canadian Geophysical Union Hydrology Section;

Tim Oke served last year on the Scientific Advisory Team on urban atmospheric monitoring for the US Dept. of Homeland Security and continues on the editorial boards of *Progress in Physical Geography and Theoretical and Applied Climatology*;

Geraldine Pratt is Chair of the Honors Committee of the AAG, is Chair of the Urban Geography Specialty Group of the AAG, and continues to

serve with distinction as Editor of *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*;

John Robinson has been appointed to the Minister's Advisory Panel on Sustainability, Public Works Canada;

Douw Steyn was appointed as Associate Dean Research, UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies; and

Roland Stull continues as Member of the Science Committee, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.

This is a truly remarkable range of professional activities for one department, and one which underscores the strength of our interdisciplinary contributions and very the high regard that geographers continue to command in many spheres of professional life, both within and beyond the confines of academia.

Happy News!

We have some happy news to report on non-academic matters as well. Karen Bakker delivered a bouncy baby girl named Solenne in November 2003, and both she and partner Philippe LeBillon are of course beaming with very wide smiles as they proudly parade their infant through the halls of the Department. And speaking of physical achievements, David McClung completed a ski ascent of Muztagh Ata (7,546 m), the third-highest peak in the Chinese Pamirs! Almost as difficult as his Geography 408 course!

Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

This year we have had an unusually large number of graduate applications – close to 150. We are able to make offers to about 26, an acceptance ratio of only 17%. Many theses were reported as complete in last October's report (The Fall Rush), but the following have been completed in the past few weeks:

Sharma, Tara 2004. Land-use modeling for exploring alternative agricultural futures: Linking choices and consequences. Ph.D

Whyte, Dion 2004. Hydrologic response during snowmelt in three steep headwater catchments: Ringrose Slope, Slocan Valley, British Columbia. M.Sc

On the teaching front, our enrolments are holding to previous levels, with about 4,700 3-credit equivalents enrolled during the Winter Session. Enrolments are notably up in second-year Science courses, and are holding fairly steady at

other levels. The pressure on 4th year seminars has been especially heavy this past year. For 2004-05 we will be offering 91 courses – 79 undergraduate and 12 graduate. We will be welcoming back from sabbatical leave in July Mike Church, David McClung and Tim Oke. In 2004-05 Trevor Barnes and David Edgington will be on sabbatical leave, which has opened up sessional teaching opportunities in Economic Geography and Pacific Rim courses.

Symposium Reminder

A final reminder that we are hosting an international symposium in honour of Olav Slaymaker's retirement here at UBC on June 27-30.. The general theme is Sediment and Geochemical Budgets in Geomorphology. We have some good field trips lined up and an excellent programme of scientific papers and posters by an international field of contributors. All are welcome to attend

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/olav2004/>.

Submitted by Mike Bovis

University College of the Fraser Valley

UCFV's Geography Department hosted the annual spring conference of the Association of Washington Geographers, April 23, 24. The conference brought together geographers from across Washington State and southern British Columbia. It provided a venue for faculty as well as graduate and under-graduate students to report on cutting-edge research in areas as diverse as climate change and glacier melt, to regional economic development and border related issues.

The conference began on Friday with a field trip of the Fraser Borderland region, led by John Belec from UCFV and Pat Buckley, Western Washington University, followed by a reception in the Library foyer. Paper and poster sessions began early on Saturday and ran for the entire day, with UCFV Geography students prominent as participants and volunteers. Geography faculty, including Ken Brealey, David Gibson, Steven Marsh and Ian Okabe, chaired the paper sessions.

In his welcome to conference participants, Don Tunstall noted the work of our deceased colleague, Doug Nicol, who originally volunteered UCFV as a conference site last year.

The AWG conference further expands Geography's successful Borderland initiative with Western Washington University. AWG President, J.W. Harrington (University of Washington) was especially pleased at the size of the conference, and the significant Canadian participation. He was particularly lavish with praise for the conference organizer, UCFV's Claire Beaney. Due to her efforts, the conference went off flawlessly.

Cherie Enns recently conducted a number of workshops for the City of Hilo, Hawaii Downtown Improvement Association and Hawaii County Planning Department. The workshops were aimed at helping the community realize their goal of reviving the once vibrant downtown commercial district. A paper on the outcome of this endeavor was presented at the AWG conference by UCFV Geography student, Grace Steyn. The relationship between the City of Hilo and the UCFV Geography Department developed as an offshoot of the Department's Hawaii-Pacific study tour to the Big Island, Oahu and Kauai.

UCFV Geography is pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the Department for the upcoming academic year. Dr. Olav Lian (PhD University of Western Ontario) and Dr. Michelle Rhodes (PhD Simon Fraser University) will further strengthen the Department's expertise in geomorphology and cultural geography, respectively. With the two most recent additions, the number of UCFV Geography faculty has reached eleven.

Submitted by John Belec

The Newsletter of the Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers is distributed electronically only. Thank you to those who contributed to this issue.

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