

# Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers



## Newsletter

Spring 2005

---

### Message from the President

This is my first communication with the group since taking over as president in March, and I wish to begin by thanking outgoing president Ben Moffat (Medicine Hat College) for all his efforts and contributions over the past two years.

I also want to extend to the organizers of the 2005 Annual Meeting in Lethbridge a big show of appreciation for organizing a most unique, memorable and successful event. The conference was well attended and featured high quality paper and poster presentations from a wide swath of our membership. Once again this year, competition for the Student Presentation Awards was fierce, particularly in the undergraduate category. I am very pleased to announce that this year's award winners are Becs Cumming (Victoria) in the undergraduate student competition, Jacqui Stephens (UNBC) in the human geography graduate student category and Eric Van Gaalen (Lethbridge) in the physical geography graduate student category. Congratulations to all student presenters for an excellent showing.

### Highlights from the AGM

The Certificates of Merit have been renamed the J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the Western Division. This year's Robinson Awards went to Robert Rogerson (Lethbridge) and Jim Windsor (College of New Caledonia). Mugs of Distinction were awarded to Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers University) and Valerie Shoffey of the CAG Main Office in Montreal.

It was decided that the CAG Travel money would be divided evenly between University of Victoria, Thompson Rivers University, University of Northern BC and the College of New Caledonia, based on distance travelled and student registrants.

New members of the Executive include Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers) and Ian MacLachlan (Lethbridge) as Members-at-Large (2 years), Rachael Clasby (UNBC) and Casey Vandenberg

(Lethbridge) as Student Representatives (1 year). Several members of the previous Executive are staying on for another year, including Craig Coburn (Lethbridge) as Secretary-Treasurer, Ineke Dijks as Newsletter Editor, Ken Favrholt (UNBC) as Archivist. Gilles Viaud (Thompson Rivers) and Glen Hvenegaard (UofA) have 1 year remaining as Members-at-Large. Ben Moffat is now Past President and the VP post is vacated until next year's AGM. We were unable to fill the position of BC Education Chair, and will be discussing what should be done with this position at next year's AGM (e.g., one suggestion is to change the role to that of Western Liaison with the Canadian Council for Geographic Education).

Jim Windsor (CNC) reported that volume 13/14 of *Western Geography* was printed and distributed in December 2004. Jim suggested that members consider submitting ideas for single themed "Special Editions" as a way to generate more manuscript submissions.

After 11 years, Jim has decided to step down as Editor of *Western Geography*. Our heartfelt thanks go out to him for all of his hard work and achievements!

Finally, I want to pass along a message from Chris Sharpe (CAG President): "I'm writing to ask for your help in an interesting new initiative. The Education Study Group will be sponsoring a number of special sessions at this year's AGM under the general title of Projecting Geography in the Public Domain. The Group is hoping to be able to generate some media interest in these sessions, and the results of a CAG-sponsored Test of Geographic Literacy will be offered as the 'hook.'"

I hope to see everyone at the CAG Annual Meeting in London, ON (30 May to 4 June 2005), and mark your calendars for the next WDCAG Annual Meeting, 11-12 March 2006 in Kamloops, BC!

Neil Hanlon (UNBC)



Travelers to WDCAG at Crowfoot Glacier along the Icefields Parkway

## University of Northern British Columbia

The 2005 WDCAG Meeting Faculty and students from UNBC and CNC attended the WDCAG Annual Meeting in Lethbridge in force. The Prince George contingent included 25 geography students, 1 Resource Recreation & Tourism student, and 4 Geography faculty from UNBC.

### WDCAG presentations by UNBC students and faculty:

**Clasby, Rachael, Hanlon, Neil, Halseth, Greg and Pow, Virginia** (Dalhousie University). Systems of informal support among older residents in Mackenzie, BC: a profile of current conditions and future implications.

**Durkee, Shiloh, Halseth, Greg and Ryser, Laura.** Shopping patterns and behaviours in Northwestern BC: comparing baby boomer consumers with older consumers.

**Grubb, Melanie and Menounos, Brian.** Late-Pleistocene glacier fluctuations in the middle Coast Mountains, British Columbia.

**Halseth, Greg, Hanlon, Neil, Clasby, Rachael and Pow, Virginia** (Dalhousie University). Resource frontier aging: trends and questions from a mature industrial town in northern BC.

**Lindsay, Vera, Wheate, Roger, and Menounos, Brian.** Mapping of glacier retreat through remote

sensing: Lloyd George and Great Snow Mountain Glaciers, northern British Columbia.

**Parsons, Sarah.** Locally based criteria and indicators of sustainable forest co-management.

**Ryser, Laura, Halseth, Greg and Bruce, David** (Mount Allison). Economic development framework for interpreting local housing markets in small town Canada.

**Stephens, Jacqui.** Conflicting perspectives: Q'eqchi' communities, land grabs, and a Canadian mining company. (Awarded Best Presentation by a Graduate Student in Human Geography)

UNBC Geography is also well represented on the Executive of the WDCAG, with Neil Hanlon beginning a two-year term as President and Rachael Clasby elected to a second consecutive one-year term as a Student Representative.

### Faculty News

**Gail Fondahl** spent sabbatical during the fall semester at the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. While there, she gave several invited lectures:

University of Aberdeen (4 November): "Law Producing Space in the Russian North," as part of the Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural Studies Research and Graduate Studies Seminar

University of Edinburgh (22 November): "Law Located: Aboriginal Land Reforms in the

Russian North” as part of the Institute of Geography Seminar

University of Leeds (9 December): “Legal and Local Constructions of Indigenous Geographies in Russia,” hosted by the Russian Department.

Upon her return to UNBC, **Gail Fondahl** presented a paper in Atlanta, Georgia, "Building a Collective 'Northern Identity' from the Bottom Up: Constructing New Geographies of Cooperation", Conference on "The Challenges for a Northern Dimension Foreign Policy in International Relations," Atlanta Georgia, 5 March 2005, co-authored with **Greg Halseth**.

**Kevin Hall** is on sabbatical from July 1st, 2004 until June 30th, 2005 undertaking research on the weathering of San cave art in southern Africa. He has also been actively engaged in conferences and lectures, including the plenary presentation, "Perceptions of rock weathering: Some thoughts on scale," and "Stone runs on the Falkland Islands: Periglacial or tropical?" (with M-F. Andre), at the recently attended "Shifting Lands - New insights into periglacial geomorphology" Conference in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

His fieldwork with the Italian National Antarctic Program is now confirmed for October to December 2005 to study rock and lichen thermal regimes at Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica.

Kevin's upcoming events include: an invitation by the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) for a funded visit to give PhD lectures at their university and to undertake fieldwork in both Spain and in the high Andes of Argentina with them. He is also invited to present a paper on his new findings on rock weathering at the '16th European Conference on Fracture' : "Fracture and Failure of Natural Building Stones - Applications in the Restoration of Ancient Monuments" to be held in 2006 at the Department of Mechanics, University of Athens, Greece. Speakers at the conference are "by invitation only" and are chosen from around the world to represent key attributes of the conference theme.

Kevin Hall's many achievements are highlighted in "UNBC Professor Dr. Kevin Hall a True Explorer," an article in the UNBC student newspaper, *Over the Edge* (15 September 2004, p. 4).

**Greg Halseth** is acting director of the new Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. The CDI is to serve the outreach and research needs

identified in UNBC's mandate to be "a university in the north, for the north." To do this, the CDI has a mission to support the research, information, and development needs of rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy. In November, the CDI held a series of events at UNBC to get faculty input into how the Institute should develop its mandate. These events started with a set of brown bag lunchtime talks describing the background of the CDI and progress to date. This was followed by a set workshops designed to help further the establishment of the CDI. Each of the workshops focused upon one of the main theme areas of the Institute: Research, Capacity Building, and Information Sharing.

**Neil Hanlon** is the new President of The Canadian Rural and Remote Health Association, a non-profit organization working with individuals, organizations and communities to create a national network of information and communication concerning rural and remote health issues. As President, Neil's role is to raise and maintain the profile of the Association amongst policy makers, health providers, and concerned citizens, and to promote the values and priorities of the Association through an integration of research, advocacy, and communication activities.

Neil's recent presentations include: The BC Aging Research Network (BCARN) Consultation Meeting in Prince George on population aging research that he is currently undertaking in northern BC. The BCARN is one of eight research networks being supported by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (29 September 2004).

Neil was also invited to give a presentation on his research in northern BC at the "Workshop for Northern Health Authorities in Western Provinces." The workshop was held on 21-22 January 2005 in Saskatoon and was organized by the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health.

In September, **Catherine Nolin** was elected to the Board of Directors for the Prince George Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS) for a 2-year term.

She has also been busy traveling and presenting her research at a number of conferences: Catherine was invited to present her ongoing research on immigration and settlement in BC's northern communities at the 3rd Annual Steelhead Seminar in Smithers, BC, which is organized by

UNBC's Political Science program. This year's seminar brought together academics, regional mayors, municipal and regional government representatives as well as immigration service providers and community organization representatives (16 October 2004). She recently traveled to Guelph, Ontario with graduate students Jacqui Stephens and Jenn Reade (MA Inter-disciplinary Studies) for the Congress of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS) -- October 27-31-- to present the following three papers in two linked sessions entitled: "Guatemala: Scenarios of War and Peace, I and II:"

Nolin, Catherine and Finola Shankar (2004) Geographies of insecurity: Socio-spatial dynamics of transnational migration at the Guatemala-Mexico border.

Stephens, Jacqui (2004) Conflicting perspectives: Q'eqchi' communities, land grabs, and a Canadian mining company

Reade, Jenn (2004) Community development in Guatemala: Bringing women in.

Catherine also traveled to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, AB on 3 December 2004 at the invitation of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University and colleagues at the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration (PCERII). The Centre for Refugee Studies has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to form a strategic cluster of researchers working on refugee issues and to identify research opportunities for potential future projects.

And, most recently, Catherine traveled to Denver, Colorado on 6- 9 April to participate in the annual meetings of the American Association of Geographers, where she presented the paper, "Spaces of Insecurity: Migration and Militarization along the Guatemala-Mexico Border." This paper was part of two linked sessions on "Borderline Contradictions: Neoliberalism, Unauthorized Migrations, and Growing Immigration.

**Ellen Petticrew** is on leave in Plymouth, England.

**Debra Straussfogel** was Acting Chair of the Geography and RRT programs during Gail Fondahl's sabbatical in Scotland, from 1 July to 31 December 2004. Deb was also appointed as the UNBC representative to the Pacific Northwest

Consortium for Canadian Studies. The PNWCSC involves representatives for 16 universities and colleges in the Pacific Northwest of the US and Canada to facilitate the development of Canadian Studies at institutions of higher education in the Pacific Northwest, and to enhance cooperation, joint programming, and information sharing among Canadian Studies programs and faculty in the Pacific region. <http://www.pnwcsc.org/>

In May, Deb will represent UNBC at a roundtable at the Université de Montréal sponsored by the Canada-US Fulbright Program to discuss the role of Canadian universities in promoting cross border understanding through US Studies research and education agenda.

Welcome to **Deborah Thien** (UNBC MA Gender Studies, 2000) who returns to UNBC in February to undertake post-doctoral work with Dr. Greg Halseth. Deborah was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Geography at the University of Edinburgh, one of the world's foremost departments in feminist geography. Recently, Deborah successfully defended her PhD at the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh entitled "Intimate Distances: Gender, Geography, and Emotion in Shetland" which examines the spatial dimensions of women's emotional well-being in the Shetland Islands.

**Roger Wheate** presented a paper and chaired a session at the International Cartographic Association workshop on high mountain cartography in Vall de Núria, Catalunya (Catalonia, Spain), 29 September to 2 October 2004.

### Graduate Student News

Congratulations to **Morgan Cranny** (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies – Biology) and his supervisor, **Dr. Roger Wheate**, on his successful thesis defense on 10 January 2005). Title: Unsupervised landcover classification in a topographically diverse region of North-Central British Columbia.

**Joanna Kafarowski** (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies-Geography, Ph.D. candidate) secured formal support of the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee and Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association -- the two partners for her doctoral research -- and is currently negotiating with potential fieldwork communities in Nunavik.

Joanna presented a paper on "Indigenous research methodologies in a Canadian context" at the Northern Feminist University in Steigen, Norway earlier this summer and will be presenting another paper entitled "Valuing local knowledge in the Canadian North: How the involvement of local peoples results in relevant resource management decisions" in Penang, Malaysia in November.

**Kyle Kusch and Falk Huettmann** (2004)

Using predictive modelling in order to investigate large-scale shorebird migration in Russian Far East for Great Knot, Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit. Poster presented at Global Flyways Conference, 3-8 April, Conference Centre of the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland.

(<http://www.wetlands.org/GFC/Info.htm>)

Conference proceedings to be published in 2006.

Kyle is a new UNBC graduate student working with Dr. Greg Halseth.

On 25 November 2004, **Jennifer Reade** (Interdisciplinary Studies, MA Candidate) presented preliminary findings to the UNBC community based on her fieldwork and UNBC First Nations Studies internship with a women's development organization in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

### Recent Publications

Andre, M-F and K. Hall 2005. Honeycomb development on Alexander Island, glacial history of George VI Sound and palaeoclimatic implications. *Geomorphology*, 65, 117-138.

Andre, M-F, K. Hall and V. Comte 2004. Optical rock properties and weathering processes in polar environments (with special reference to Antarctica). *Polar Geography*, 28, 43-62.

Arocena, J.M. and K. Hall. 2004. Dark and light lichen coloration and basalt weathering in a cold environment: Preliminary results from Northern Canada. *Polar Geography*, 28, 32-42.

Hall, K. 2004. Weathering in cold environments with special emphasis on polar regions. *Polar Geography*, 28, 1-3.

Halseth, Greg 2003. Attracting growth 'back' to an amenity rich fringe: Rural-urban fringe dynamics around metropolitan Vancouver, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Regional Science* 26 (2 & 3), 297-318.

Halseth, Greg and Regine Halseth (eds.) 2004. *Building for Success: Explorations of Rural Community and Rural Development*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Hanlon, N. and G. Halseth 2005. The greying of resource communities in northern British Columbia: implications for health care delivery in already under-serviced communities. *The Canadian Geographer* 49 (1): 1-24.

Persaud, D.D., S. Jriege, C. Skedgel, J. Findley, J. Sargeant and N. Hanlon 2005. An incremental cost analysis of telehealth in Nova Scotia from a societal perspective. *Journal of Telemedicine & Telecare* 11(2): 77-84.

Nolin, Catherine 2004. "Book Review: Rigoberta Menchú and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans" (by David Stoll), *Journal of Latin American Geography*, Vol. X, p.X.

Nolin, Catherine 2004. A cup of social justice. *UNBC Update Magazine*, (Fall), 6. [www.unbc.ca/update](http://www.unbc.ca/update)

Koch, Johannes, Brian Menounos, John J. Clague, and Gerald D. Osborn, 2004. Environmental change in Garibaldi Provincial Park, Southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia. *Geoscience Canada* 31 (3), 127-135.

McConnachie, J.L. and E.L. Petticrew, 2004. Hydrological and biological event based variability in the fine-grained sediment structure of a small undisturbed catchment, *In Sediment Transfer throughout the Fluvial System*. V. Golosov, V. Belyaev and D. Walling (Eds). International Association Hydrological Sciences 288: 459-465.

Information compiled by D. Straussfogel and C. Nolin

### Capilano College

We presently have an "active" department that includes: Karen Ewing, Charles Greenberg, Jeanne Mikita, Cheryl Schreder, Sheila Ross, and Brett McGillivray. On the "inactive" list we have Chris Gratham who has been seconded as Manager of Education Technology, and Scott McLeod, who is on a paid educational leave and is about to have two books published – one on Economic Geography and the other a Geography of Asia.

The department offerings have remained stable with the exception of a second year Weather and Climate course by Sheila Ross. Our introductory Human Geography is being offered as a core course in the new Global Stewardship program at the college.

Our fall enrollments have been full across the spectrum, but spring enrollments are down,

which is the situation for all Social Science courses within the college. There is some question as to whether this will be a trend. As well, since the college is increasing its summer school offerings, there is some question as to whether these trends are not related.

### Of general interest

**Cheryl Schreuder** was one of those in Thailand (on her honeymoon) who experienced the Boxing Day tsunami. Fortunately, no injuries, but they were evacuated to higher ground and they also had a close up view of a major geophysical hazard.

**Brett McGillivray** has completed a second edition of *British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition* (UBC Press) and a first edition of *Canada: A Nation of Regions* (Oxford U. Press); both should be out this year.

For the next Fall/Spring terms **Sheila Ross** is taking a reduced load and **Charles Greenberg** is spending some of his time in the McRae Institute (Asia Pacific Management Co-op Program). As a consequence we are advertising for part time positions for someone to teach Introductory Weather and Climate sections and someone else to teach Introductory Environmental Geography sections.

**Karen Ewing** continues to play a leading role in the College's plans to expand Internet learning. She is exploring the relationship between pedagogy and technology.

Submitted by Brett McGillivray

### Camosun College

It has been a term at Camosun College with lots of proposed changes to the scope and delivery of our existing courses. The college administration has recently approved a three-year plan to develop most of the existing Geography courses in a distributed education (on-line) format and a funding request has been submitted to BC Campus. Using the distributed on-line format will be advantageous to students who wish to transfer to most major universities in B.C. or to receive an Associate Degree. In companion to this proposal, an Associate Degree in Geographic Information Science, in partnership with the Computer Science Department, has also received approval by the School Curriculum Committee at Camosun. This additional offering still requires the approval of the Education Council and, once approved, it is

expected to be marketed for first in-take this September.

With these changes imminent, we have been able to hold our staffing of five continuing full-time faculty with an additional three part-time sessionals. Gone are the days when there were only two geographers on campus! The greater number of geographers has led to regular monthly "coffee chats" and from these gatherings new energy and ideas have resulted. One recent initiative has been to institute a Geography Faculty Award of \$500 to a student who has a minimum of A- in three 2nd year Geography courses and intend to have Geography as his/her academic or career goal. This, combined with our hiring of a part-time Geography lab assistant, Barb Von Sacken, is intended to raise the profile of Geography within Social Sciences and the college as a whole.

Out-and-about in the province you will meet the new face of Camosun Geography as Barry Weaver takes over from Tim Elkin as our new Articulation representative. Tim has shifted from articulation responsibilities to serving on the Arts and Science Curriculum Committee. Francis Yee is busy with union Negotiation work as well as serving on the College's Education Council and Chris Ayles is busy as a new father (to Noah, born in January) while starting a new continuing joint appointment in both Geography and Environmental Technology.

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

### Malaspina University-College

It has been a momentous year for the Geography Department at Malaspina University-College with the implementation of a new B.A. Major program, faculty retirements and replacements, and new full-time and part-time faculty appointments. The Geography Department, in cooperation with the Center for Continuing Studies, has also been involved in planning two post-graduate programs in GIS – one face-to-face; the other involving online delivery.

After a number of years in the planning stages, the B.A. Major in Geography was launched in September 2004. Students majoring in Geography have the option of specializing in the fields of natural resource management or urban growth management or pursuing a general degree with a balanced mix of physical, human, and

techniques courses. Students in all three streams are required to complete fundamental courses in physical and human geography, as well as statistics, geographic communication, spatial analysis, and geographic information systems (GIS). Currently, approximately 40 students are enrolled in the B.A. Major's program. Malaspina continues to offer a Minor in Geography. Over 100 students are registered in this program.

**John Fairfield** and **Julian Fox** retired from the Geography Department in 2004. After 35 years of dedicated service, John taught courses in physical, human and economic geography and held various administrative positions, including Chair of the Department of Geography and Geology and Area Chair of the Division of Science and Technology. Julian spent 16 years teaching courses in physical geography and natural resource management. He served as Chair of the department and contributed to the introduction and delivery of the Global Studies program at Malaspina.

With the retirements of John and Julian, and the introduction of the new B.A. Major in Geography, the department hired three new full-time faculty members: Don Alexander, Hannah Wilson and Martin Andresen.

**Don Alexander** (PhD, Waterloo) delivers courses in urban growth management and urban land assessment – compulsory courses in the urban growth management stream of the major's program. Prior to joining Malaspina, Don taught at Simon Fraser University, Langara College and Coquitlam College. Don is in the process of completing a \$30,000 research project for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with Ray Tomalty on the state of Smart Growth policy and practice in six urban regions across Canada. A study of the evolution of urban form and current quality of life/design issues in the Kitsilano neighbourhood of Delamont, funded by the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., has also kept Don busy the past few months. Don was project manager and lead author for *The BC Sprawl Report* 2004, commissioned by Smart Growth B.C., which received extensive media coverage. A similar study for Ontario, for the Pembina Institute, is currently underway. Don is working on completing a book manuscript for UBC Press entitled *Place: Reweaving the Fabric of Human Experience*. Recent publications include: *Capable Cities* [report for the United Nations 2006 World

Urban Forum], Vancouver: International Centre for Sustainable Cities, 2004; *The BC Sprawl Report* 2004, and "Smart Growth and Sustainable Development: Challenges, Solutions and Policy Directions", *Local Environment* 7:4 (2002). "The Rise of Modernism and the Decline of Place: The Case of Surrey City Centre, Canada", co-authored by Don and Shawn Natrasony, has been accepted for publication in *Planning Perspectives*.

**Hannah Wilson** (PhD, University of Waterloo) joined the department in January 2005. Her background is in climatology, landscape ecology, biogeography, remote sensing, spatial analysis and GIS. Hannah's doctoral work concerned the application of local spatial statistical techniques to satellite imagery for the purpose of quantifying spatial patterns in a variety of forested environments. Many of the techniques that have traditionally been used to measure the relationship between landscape spatial patterns and ecological processes are geometric in nature. Hannah is instead exploring the inferential benefits that a statistical approach offers. Although most of her research pertains to Northern Ontario geographical study areas, she has collaborated with Trisalyn Nelson and Mike Wulder (Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria) to apply satellite data analysis techniques for identifying the nature of five-year changes occurring to harvested Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) regions in the Nadina Forest District of B.C. This research appears in a February issue of the *International Journal of Remote Sensing* (Vol. 26, No. 3).

**Martin Andresen** joined the department from a PhD program in Geography at the University of British Columbia in January 2005. His research interests are in international trading patterns and the geography of crime. Martin delivers courses in economic geography, spatial analysis, research methods and spatial statistics. Martin's various research findings on criminal activity have been published in such journals as the *British Journal of Criminology*, the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, and the *Western Criminology Review*. His PhD dissertation focuses on international trade flows, especially between Canada and the United States. Quantitative methodology underlies the majority of Martin's research. His research on international trade and trade blocs,

though theoretically grounded, primarily involves the application of exploratory spatial data analysis and spatial statistical techniques through the use of geographic information systems. The geography of crime also employs these methods, but involves the development of new techniques, particularly in the testing of spatial point patterns.

**Alan Gilchrist** joined the Geography Department in 2000, after teaching at Northwest Community College in Terrace, BC. Upon completing his PhD in Earth Sciences from the University of Liverpool, Alan moved to Canada to work at Dalhousie University as a post-doctoral research Fellow. Here he studied how erosional processes help form high mountains and using numerical models to simulate how landscapes evolve through time. His recent research is of a more practical nature, and involves assessing the historical stability of small streams in watersheds of northwestern BC that have been extensively logged, and also looking at the role of beavers as agents of geomorphic change in coastal BC. He teaches courses in GIS, hydrology, geomorphology and natural resource assessment. He is actively involved in developing online education through Malaspina and BC campus, and offers two courses annually in an online setting. He has also worked as a Registered Professional Geoscientist (APEGBC) in the field of watershed restoration for government, First Nations and private industry. His particular expertise is the risk assessment of landslide and flood hazards, and the design of instream structures to rehabilitate degraded fish habitat. His current research interests include: assessing the role that erosion and isostasy play in the long-term evolution of continental scale landscapes and integrating field and thermochronologic (AFTA) data into numerical models of landscape evolution. Study areas include southern Africa, east Africa, eastern Australia, eastern USA, European Alps, Himalayas, Andes and the Transantarctic Mountains. His recent work looks at how regional patterns of erosion may influence the intrusion of Kimberlite pipes. Alan recently supervised a Master student's thesis on "The Influence of Beaver on Sustainable Resource Management" at Royal Roads University. GIS was used in this study to identify how patterns of beaver activity change in response to forest harvesting in the Kitimat valley of northwestern British Columbia

and its implications for sustainable logging practices.

Long-standing members of the department, **Don Stone** and **Michael Tripp** complete Malaspina's the full-time Geography roster. Don (PhD, Saskatchewan) teaches courses in physical and cultural geography, regions of Canada, historical geography of Canada, and environmental aesthetics. In his capacity of Chair of the Department, Don piloted the new B.A. Major in Geography program through various internal and external program review and assessment processes over the past two years. Currently, Don is working with the Centre for Continuing Studies, and colleagues in the Geography Department, on mounting an eight-month, cost-recovery, post-graduate program in GIS applications. This Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications program is scheduled to commence this September. Two full-time instructors and one full-time GIS technician will be hired into the Geography Department to deliver this program. Don was recently appointed Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Victoria.

**Michael Tripp** (PhD, University of Victoria), combines research interests in cultural and political geography with protected areas management and a regional specialization in Russia. He experienced firsthand the rapid re-configuration of the Soviet Union while writing his dissertation on "The Emergence and Development of the Russian National Park System." Resulting from and paralleling this research were contract projects with the World Bank, USAID and CIDA, as well as lecture programs with the Smithsonian Institute and other international organizations. Since joining the Department in 1994, Michael has been teaching courses ranging from physical, cultural and urban geography to natural resource management and environmental aesthetics, as well as team teaching two courses in the Global Studies Program. He continues to work in Russia through CIDA regional development programs – the most recent being a five-year project involving integration of forestry, tourism, native cultures and national park development. He is also active as a consultant and facilitator in Vancouver Island native treaty side-table processes.



**Doug Corrin**, a full-time faculty member in the Forest Resources Technology program at Malaspina, teaches GIS applications in natural resource management in the Geography Department, on a part-time basis. Doug has been instrumental in securing the transfer of Simon Fraser University's UniGIS program to Malaspina University-College. The transfer of this online, post-graduate program in GIS, is intended to be complete by September 2005. The UniGIS is expected to enroll approximately 30 students per year (two intakes) and additional faculty will be needed to deliver this program. Malaspina University-College will be acquiring a site license from ESRI to support both the UniGIS (online) and the Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (face-to-face).

At the moment, the Geography Department has one GIS technician, **Tim Naegele**, who provides faculty and students with technical assistance in GIS-based course preparation and delivery.

The Geography Department currently employs three part-time faculty: Pam Shaw, Rochelle Campbell, and Larry Wolfe. **Pam Shaw** is the former director of community planning for the Regional District of Nanaimo. Since joining Malaspina University-College on a part-time basis in 2002, Pam has been responsible for delivering courses in human geography, geographic communication, urban and regional planning, urban social geography and issues in urban growth management. After spending 20 years in the planning field, Pam has chosen to pursue her PhD in Geography at the University of Victoria. **Rochelle Campbell**, a PhD student in the Geography program at the University of Victoria, delivers a course in atmospheric environments at the Nanaimo campus. **Larry Wolfe**, a professional planner with over 30 years experience in the fields of community and regional planning, natural resource management, environmental impact assessment and conservation planning, delivered an advanced geography course in issues in natural resource management in Spring 2005. Larry is a founding partner of Quadra Planning Consultants Ltd., an environmental and land use consulting firm and is currently president of the Galiano Institute for Environmental and Social Research – a non-government professional service organization. As

well as degrees in planning and political science, Larry holds a MBA (UBC) and a PhD in resource and environmental management (SFU).

**Dolores Funk**, one of our first B.A. Major graduates, presented a paper entitled "Interface Fire Mitigation" at a conference on Emerging Issues along Urban/Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society held in Atlanta, Georgia in March 2005. The conference was sponsored by the Auburn University Center for Forest Sustainability. Dolores received support to attend the conference from the National Science Foundation and Malaspina University-College. **Matthew Fitzgerald**, a third-year geography major, presented a paper on "Rethinking the Suburbs: The Creation of Viable Public Transportation" at the annual meeting of the Planning Institute of British Columbia in Victoria in April 2005. Funding to support Matthew's participation came from the Jessica Wilde Fund at Malaspina University-College.

For further information on the Geography Department at Malaspina University-College's Geography program, please visit our website at:

<http://www.mala.ca/geography/>

Submitted by Don Stone

## Northern Lights College

Wim Kok will be on sabbatical from Sept 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. He will be working on a research project on the "Changing Geography of the Peace-Liard Region." The focus will be on the region's incorporation in the world-economy and its subsequent development as a resource periphery.

Submitted by Wim Kok

## Douglas College

The Department of Geography at Douglas College is adjusting to cutbacks due to low enrollments. The department is in the process of revising the curriculum in light of a low enrollment environment. Wendy Hales will be going on maternity leave effective June 2005.

Submitted by Earl Noah

## University of Victoria

### UVic Geographer Phil Dearden's Work in Tsunami-Ravaged Asia Recognized in press.

Dr. Phil Dearden's research focus on South East Asia brought him public attention after the Boxing Day Tsunami. Dearden and his research team have worked on many coastal conservation

projects on Thailand's Andaman coast. They were doing an assessment of tourism impacts on reefs for the Thai government when the tsunami struck. Under Dearden's supervision, UVic Geography grad students are working in Thailand to understand some of the environmental impacts of the tsunami and how to rebuild livelihoods in a way that doesn't further erode the natural environment. Dearden has also been involved in coastal and development projects in Sri Lanka, including field surveys of the heavily damaged Tamil-controlled territory on the east coast and extensive work in the national park system, including the hard-hit Yala National Park. He is now returning to Sri Lanka to assist in the reconstruction effort, focusing on the country's national parks and the redevelopment of ecotourism businesses that were leveled by the tsunami. (Thanks to Patti Pitts for original article in The Ring)

### **Two UVic Geographers Share in \$23.8M for Research Support**

Thanks to the Canada Foundation for Innovation's New Opportunities Fund, faculty members in UVic's Geography Department will soon be equipping labs that will further their research. The fund provides infrastructure support to UVic's newly recruited academic staff. It also helps UVic attract high-calibre researchers in areas that are essential to its research objectives. The researchers who received CFI New Opportunities Funding today include Dr. **Rosaline Canessa**, who received \$149,159 to create a marine visualization and spatial analysis laboratory for marine resources. The lab will test how geographic information systems (GIS) and other spatial technologies can be used to help decision-makers manage resources, resolve user conflicts and protect key habitats in coastal areas. The other Geography recipient is Dr. **Jutta Gutberlet**, who receives \$60,154 to establish a facility on sustainable community development. Using a variety of research tools, Gutberlet and her colleagues will conduct empirical studies and research theoretical frameworks for community development and how they can be translated into public policy. The primary focus will be on communities in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

### **New Building for Geography to Address Future Teaching, Research Needs**

A new building for Geography planned for the University of Victoria will help address a serious shortfall in teaching and research space. Recently, the BC Minister of Advanced Education, Ida Chong announced \$60.4 million in provincial government funding for new science and social sciences/mathematics buildings. The remaining \$20.5 million required for the new construction will be raised by UVic. The \$30 million, 8,600 square meter social sciences/mathematics building will include four tiered lecture theatres and will house several departments, including Geography. The two new buildings are part of an extensive \$120.5 million building program at UVic to help the university meet the needs of growing student enrolment and research programs recognized as among the best in the world. UVic is planning to complete the social sciences/mathematics building by January 2008.

### **WDCAG Success for Becs Cumming and all the UVic Delegation!**

UVic Geography BSc undergrad Becs Cumming won best undergrad award for her presentation on "Spatial Variation in Grain Size Distribution in the Nearshore of Witty's and Spit, BC: A Test of the McLaren & Bowles and the Gao & Collins Net Sediment Transport Models." You can see Becs - she's the curler in the fancy blue dress! Our soggie "formal wear" was a hit at the curling rink! Otherwise, several Uvic Geographers enjoyed the "Dead Cow Tour"

Dead cow tour



### **UVic Geographer Terry Prowse On Arctic Climate Impacts Research Team**

UVic Geographer Dr. Terry Prowse is a member of this team and one of the lead authors of the Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment, which this month publishes its full scientific report detailing the

impacts and consequences of climate change in the Arctic. Terry is a hydrologist who holds the research chair in climate impacts on water resources and heads the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC), jointly sponsored by UVic and Environment Canada. The centre conducts interdisciplinary research on the impact of climate on Canadian and global water resources. Prowse has enlisted UVic graduate student Megan Thompson to work on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line for climate change, an Environment Canada-funded project that will monitor 22 lakes across the Canadian Arctic. The team will track changes in temperature, nutrient availability, water budgets and lake ecosystems, creating a permanent record of how the lakes respond to changes in the regional environment. The DEW Line project is a first for Canada and will provide valuable insights into how northern ecosystems and water resources react to environmental stresses such as pipeline construction, dam-building and, of course, climate change.

This article was written by Shannon McCallum, a student in the faculty of graduate studies, as a participant in the UVic SPARK program (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge).

W-CIRC: <http://office.geog.uvic.ca/w-circ>.

Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment: <http://www.itk.ca/environment/climate-change-acia.php> (thanks to UVic grad student Shannon McCallum for original article)



Terry Prowse and Megan Thompson



Soggy curlers

### **V-P Research and UVic Geographer Martin Taylor Appointed to Michael Smith Foundation**

UVic Geography Professor Dr. Martin Taylor, who is also UVic's Vice-President, Research, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research for a three-year term ending September 2008. Taylor's research and teaching interests focus on environmental health and health promotion. His current and recent projects include the psychosocial effects of environmental contamination, community-based health promotion, and the impacts of economic restructuring on population health in B.C. coastal communities.

### **UVic Geography Grad Student Jaden Langford Elected to Senate (of UVic!)**

Jaden Langford, a first-year UVic Geography grad student (MSc Remote Sensing) has recently been elected by acclamation to the UVic Senate. Jaden's agenda for serving on the Senate is to provide a student's perspective in University governance, to participate in the decision making process, and to work to improve the University. He'll be joining other UVic Geographers, including V-P Research Martin Taylor, Dean of Social Sciences, Dr. Peter

Keller, and Geography professor Dr. Olaf Niemann, whose Senate term extends to 2007.

### **UVic Geography Alumna Tracy Corbett heads Uvic campus planning and sustainability office**

After 15 years of planning experience in areas as diverse as Toronto and the Okanagan, UVic alumna Tracy Corbett is back at UVic, guiding implementation of the university's campus plan. As UVic's new director of campus planning and sustainability, Tracy sits on both the campus planning committee and facilities development and sustainability committee. Corbett holds an undergraduate degree from UVic in Geography (1982) and a master's degree in science in planning from the University of Toronto. She started out working for Metro Toronto and has done stints with the central Okanagan Regional District, the city of Calgary and the Capital Regional District. Corbett has also been employed in the social services field as a consultant in social research and program evaluation.

Submitted by John Newcomb

### **University of Lethbridge**

At the University of Lethbridge, we believe that Geography, as a discipline, is greater than the sum of its parts. With this in mind, we have embarked upon a new team-teaching strategy for our new first year offering, Introduction to Geography (Geography 1010). Our course co-ordinators introduce incoming students to the nature and breadth of Geography, and expose them to spatial reasoning and geographical techniques. Ten faculty members each then have a week to foster an understanding of the fundamentals of a selected geographical theme, with case studies from their individual research programs. Course modules include remote sensing, behavioural geography, cities as societies, regional economic growth, atmosphere and climate, hydrology, plate tectonics, natural disasters, geology, geomorphology, glaciology, biogeography, global change and archaeology. The new course structure has proven to be quite popular with students, and has led to an increase in the number of Geography majors in our program.

All indications are that Geography continues to thrive at The University of Lethbridge, with continuing growth in enrolments and the prospect of new research facilities which will involve at least

four of the department moving to a brand new Water and Environmental Sciences building still in the late planning stage. Closer links with Iunctus Geomatics Corporation will develop in that location. Iunctus was founded and is led by BSc, MSc graduate from Geography at Lethbridge, Ryan Johnson, and is now established as the sole marketing agent for SPOT satellite data in North America. A new SPOT satellite ground receiving station has been built on campus and is the first of its kind in North America.

The Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting was held in Lethbridge March 11-12th 2005. It was a different kind of meeting with all the usual enjoyment: instead of a banquet we had a curling funspiel with "Blazing Saddles" supper which seemed to go down well. Approximately 150 attended the conference and the majority of the papers presented were from students. Winners of the Outstanding Student Papers were Beccs Cumming, University of Victoria for undergraduate presentation, Jacqui Stephens (UNBC) and Eric Van Gaalen (Lethbridge) for graduate presentations. The scavenger hunt was won, once again, by students (and faculty) from UCC Kamloops, now Thompson Rivers University. At the AGM, Jim Winsor of Caledonia College and Robert Rogerson (Lethbridge) were both presented with J.L.Robinson Awards for Meritorious Service.

This year **Jim Byrne** has been on sabbatical and once again will feature in the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards as Water Under Fire produced by James Byrne & George Gallant (Gallant Productions Inc.) has been nominated for Best Educational TV Series. Gallant Productions hosted a free lunch and viewing of parts of the series at the WDCAG meeting in Lethbridge March 12th. Water Under Fire is a 7-part series exposing the Nation's water crises. Host Bob McDonald challenges our comfort level, as we do take water for granted, and calls us to take action by presenting potential solutions. Through a progression of interviews with top water scientists, this series explores the issues, the science, and the human impacts on water. This project is spearheaded by Dr. James Byrne and Dr. Rick Mrazek (University of Lethbridge), who have, for decades, been advocates of better water management. They are joined by internationally renowned aquatic

ecologist Dr. David Schindler, Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology, University of Alberta. The first six programs in the series explore regional concerns: Rocky Mountains, Prairie Waters, Northern Waters, Great Lakes Basin, Atlantic Canada, and Quebec. The 7th program covers national and international perspectives. Copies of Water Under Fire are now available on DVD or VHS. If you would like to make use of Water Under Fire in your classroom or for other public use, please visit the distributor, <http://www.filmwest.com/Catalogue/itemdetail/2870/> or email them at [info@filmwest.com](mailto:info@filmwest.com)

**Nicole J. Rabe**, an M.Sc. graduate supervised by **Derek Peddle**, has been awarded the National Best Thesis Award from the Canadian Remote Sensing Society and the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute for her thesis entitled "Hyperspectral Remote Sensing of Crop Biophysical Parameters for Site-Specific Agriculture." She is now working as a Research Associate on water-related projects with Peddle.

Dr. **Derek Peddle** has been appointed the PARC-WISE Research Professor in Climate Change, a 3 year appointment through the Water Institute for Semi Arid Ecosystems (WISE, based at the University of Lethbridge:

<http://www.waterinstitute-wise.ca> for which he is also Scientific Director), and the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC, based in Regina). He has also been appointed the University of Lethbridge Theme Leader of Watersheds in the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research (<http://www.albertaingenuity.ca>), a 5 year initiative involving the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary and Alberta. In Summer 2005 he will teach the Remote Sensing Field School using field sites at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Lethbridge Research Centre and crops supplied by AAFC Research Scientist and Geography Adjunct Professor Dr. Anne Smith. He is also Program Coordinator of the Multidisciplinary Major in Computer Science and GIS, a major that has exceeded initial enrolment expectations. Derek continues to serve on the Board of Governors and Senate of the University. Breaking news is that he has been selected as the 2006 Canada-U.S. Fulbright Research Chair in Fundamental and Applied Ecology at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the

University of California Santa Barbara USA, for a proposal entitled: "Satellites Span Borders ... Terrestrial Remote Sensing of Climate Change Impacts and Forest Fire Dynamics in North American Ecosystems"

**Matthew Letts** recently learned that he has been successful in getting a 3-year NSERC Discovery Grant for his work on Bio-climatology plus a substantial equipment grant to support his research.

**Hester Jiskoot** appeared as a witness before the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources to advise on water supply prognosis in western Canada in relation to glaciers.

**Craig Coburn's** appointment will be converted from term to tenure-track beginning July 1st 2005 and on that date **Stefan Kienzle** and **Wei Xu** will become tenured Associate Professors. But perhaps most exciting; some time in the next month **Shawn Bubel** will bring forth a child: the first child born to a faculty member in Geography for many years!

Submitted by Robert Rogerson

## Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta

By now, most of you know that Augustana University College merged with the University of Alberta in the summer of 2004. The current Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta continues to offer many liberal arts and sciences undergraduate degree programs. We are planning to grow to about 2000 students, which requires construction of several buildings, including, in the short-term, a new library and classroom area.

The Augustana Faculty will continue to offer a minor in geography and contribute to the BSc in Environmental Science and BA in Environmental Studies (general and outdoor education streams). There will be a new geography/environment hiring next fall to expand our course offerings.

Faculty member, **Glen Hvenegaard**, has been acting chair of the Department of Science for the winter semester. He and Physical Education colleague, Morten Asfeldt, will take ten students on canoe expedition this summer to the Mara/Burnside Rivers in Nunavut, ending at Bathurst Inlet. This is part of 2 co-taught courses (Geography of the

Canadian North and Arctic Canoe Expedition). This summer, he is beginning a biogeography research project by using birds as indicators of biodiversity on rural farmland in parkland and prairie Alberta. He is also finishing off projects on aspen patch size dynamics with birds and the economic impact of wildlife festivals. Glen continues to be involved with the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Battle River Watershed Advisory Group.

Sessional instructor, **Andre Legris**, taught climatology labs last fall and taught a new course on biogeography this winter.

Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard

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

### University College of the Fraser Valley

Another academic year is wrapping up in the Fraser Valley and we are getting ready to say goodbye to another group of successful Geography graduates. This year we expect to see 40 students receive their degrees at convocation. Our program remains healthy with around 103 majors, 34 extended minors and 40 minor students currently enrolled.

This summer UCFV will be teaching a new summer semester running from May until the end of July. This summer semester is an attempt by the university college to better utilize space and meet the provincial government's FTE requirements. The Geography Department will be offering approximately 10 courses over this semester with about a 40% increase over our usual summer offerings.

A keystone of our Geography program at UCFV is our international field schools. In May, approximately 30 students will be participating in field schools to Hawaii and Spain. Students joining Sandy Vanderburgh and Cherie Enns in Hawaii will be visiting the Big Island, and Kauai. Meanwhile David Gibson and Stephen Piper, a colleague from the Social Cultural and Media Studies department, will be traveling throughout southern Spain with a group of UCFV students.

Plans are already underway for the next installment of Adventures in Geography for the Fall 2005 semester. Given the success of the trip to Mt St Helens last year, Claire Beaney, Steve Marsh and Sandy Vanderburgh are planning a 5 day trip to Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Mohave Preserve and Las Vegas in September. David Gibson is also planning a field school to Mexico in May 2006.

Geography faculty have also been busy pursuing their research interests. **Ken Brealey** completed a year and a half research project on the historical geography of the Tsilhqot'in (an Athapaskan First Nation in south central British Columbia) with a report and digital map series documenting traditional boundaries, village sites, land use patterns and important events. This Spring, Ken gave evidence for twelve days as an expert witness in the Xenigwet'in (Nemah Valley) First Nation's Aboriginal title action in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Ongoing since 2001, the trial court ruling is expected sometime at the end of 2006.

Our newest faculty member, **Olav Lian**, has recently received an NSERC Discovery Grant for a project entitled "The nature and timing of early postglacial sedimentation and landscape adjustment, Cordillera, British Columbia." This award is for 5 years and is one of the first NSERC Discovery Grants awarded to UCFV faculty. This summer Olav will be traveling to the Canadian Arctic researching the sediments and landforms associated with paleo-ice streams from the Laurentide Ice Sheet with colleagues from the UK and US. He is also actively working on projects in New Zealand and British Columbia researching climate change, glacial geology and geomorphic processes.

**Cherie Enns** is currently involved in the development of the Institute for International Cooperation and Community Development. This institute is seeking to provide a home for interdisciplinary research focusing on human sustainability and community development. Cherie is also actively involved in research focused on developing child-friendly cities. She recently presented her research at the Livable Cities conference in California in February.

Under the mentorship of **Steven Marsh**, UCFV Geography students continue to monitor creeks in the Little Campbell River Watershed in cooperation with the Little Campbell Watershed Society and The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay. Fergus Creek, McNalley Creek and Twin Creeks have been monitored over the past two years for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity, temperature, discharge, and pH. The data will provide the first consistent, longterm monitoring of threatened creeks in the watershed.

UCFV Geography students participated in the collection of data on ditches in Abbotsford to be used to classification scheme. The data will be available for all interested parties to view on the Community Mapping Network. This project is collaboration with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Our students have also been working with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Environment Canada, and the Fraser Health Authority to collect and analyze groundwater samples collected from domestic wells across the Abbotsford - Sumas Aquifer. Steven Marsh is responsible for these research projects that

independent studies. In addition to these ongoing environmental research projects, **Sandy Vanderburgh** and Steve Marsh are taking a lead in the development of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability alongside colleagues in Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture and a number of community partners. This centre hopes to promote collaboration with community partners to improve the living conditions in the Fraser Valley through environmental stewardship. The Geography Department continues to be a leader in promoting interdisciplinary research within UCFV and strengthening community linkages.

Submitted by Claire Beaney

The WDCAG newsletter is published two times per year, and is distributed electronically only. It is a compilation of contributions by members of geography departments in Alberta and British Columbia.

To view back issues of the WDCAG Newsletter check our website at:  
<http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/wcag.htm>

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter!

Ineke J. Dijks, Newsletter Editor  
 Email: [geoarch@telus.net](mailto:geoarch@telus.net)



Greenland from the air (photo by Ineke Dijks, 2005)

provide students with hands-on experience of field techniques through class assignments and