MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a very busy and productive period for the WD-CAG since our last Newsletter, culminating in a very successful meeting in Kamloops (11-12 March 2006). The students, staff and faculty of Geography at Thompson Rivers University are to be commended for a superb job as hosts. The surface appearance of a calm and seamless operation belied the many months of careful and effective preparation, not to mention hard work and determination, necessary to make things happen on the day. A particular note of thanks goes to Gilles Viaud and the rest of the Organizing Committee for service above and beyond the call. In all, there were 205 registrants (141 of whom were students) and 87 paper or poster presentations spread over 23 sessions. We had a total of 35 students entered in the annual student presentation competition. This year’s award winners were Kelly Penrose (MSc candidate, University of Victoria), Krista Simpson (MA candidate, Simon Fraser University) and Matthew Summerskill (BA candidate, University of Northern British Columbia). In addition, two awards were presented on behalf of the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group. The awardees were Rebecca Cumming (MSc candidate, University of Victoria) and Melanie Grubb (BSc candidate, UNBC). Congratulations to all of the student presenters for yet another excellent showing.

This year’s J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service was presented to Ivan Townsend (University of Lethbridge) in recognition of years of commitment to our division. The coveted Mug of Distinction went to Patrick Buckley (Western Washington University) in recognition of his ongoing commitment to cross-border exchanges between his department and geographers at the University College of the Fraser Valley.

In addition to Patrick, I was very pleased to see and meet a contingent of US-based geographers present at the meeting. David Rossiter (Western Washington University) and Terry Simmons (Center for Global Policy Studies and SFU) extended invitations to the 2006 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Meeting in Eugene, Oregon (6-9 September). The deadline for abstracts is 15 July. More information is available on the conference website (http://apcg.uoregon.edu).

We premiered two new awards at this year’s AGM that will become regular features of our Annual Meetings. The inaugural Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence went to David Gibson (UCFV) and the first ever William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Activity was presented to Dan Smith (Victoria). Jim Windsor (CNC) was the prime mover and shaker behind the creation and naming of these awards and we owe a great debt of appreciation for his efforts.

There was a good deal of turnover on the Executive at this year’s AGM.
Robert Rogerson (Lethbridge) is our new Vice President, a post he will hold for a little over one year before taking over as President at the 2007 CAG Meeting in Saskatoon. Other new members include Sandy Vanderburgh (UCFV) and Barb McNicol (Mount Royal College) as Members-at-Large (2 years). Hester Jiskoot (Lethbridge) will be a Member-at-Large for a one-year term to replace Ian MacLachlan (Lethbridge), who has stepped down in order to assume new responsibilities as a CAG Councillor. This year’s Student Representatives are Don Iwanicka (Lethbridge) and Leifka Vissers (UCFV). Ken Brealey (UCFV) is our new Archivist and Claire Beaney (UCFV) is taking on the Editorship of the Newsletter. In the midst of many changes, we still have a few individuals remaining on the Executive. Craig Coburn (Lethbridge) is staying on as Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Waldichuk (TRU) has one year remaining as Member-at-Large and I have one year remaining as President.

Jim Windsor is stepping down after twelve years as Editor of Western Geography following the release of volume 15/16 (expected later this month or next). I am pleased to report that Ross Nelson (TRU) will take over as Editor upon his return from sabbatical in 2007. I will step in as Interim Editor to bridge the transition. My sincerest thanks and appreciation go out to Jim for all of his years of service to the journal and to Ross for stepping forward to take on this important role.

Many regular readers of the Newsletter will note that there has been a change in Editorship this issue. Ineke Dijks is taking a one year leave from this role for health reasons. We wish her a full recovery and look forward to seeing her next year in Abbotsford.

The 2007 WD-CAG Meeting will be hosted by the University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at the CAG Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay, ON (29 May to 2 June 2006).

Neil Hanlon (UNBC)

AUGUSTANA FACULTY, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

At Augustana, we offer a minor in geography and the geography instructors coordinate an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science and 2 streams in Environmental Studies (general and outdoor education). Next fall, there will be a search for another faculty member to teach in the areas of GIS, environmental management, and statistics.

Faculty member, Glen Hvenegaard, wrapped up a biogeography study on the potential use of birds as indicators of biodiversity on rural farmland in parkland and prairie Alberta. He gave conference talks on this topic to the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network meeting in Penticton and Alberta’s Partnership for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. He continues his research work conservation issues such as wildlife festivals and the biogeography of birds. His service work has concentrated on urban greenspace stewardship (through the City of Camrose and LEAD Canada) and watershed management in the Battle River region.

Bethany Loates completed an undergraduate thesis on the influence of management efforts and preferred habitat on beaver density and distribution in the Camrose Creek watershed. This past winter, sessional instructor, Brian Sawyer, taught our Introduction to Geographic Information Systems course.
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Camosun Geographers have enjoyed another good term. There was immense concern last summer and autumn regarding falling enrollment within the Arts and Science faculties and, as the dust settles it looks like Geography has experienced a 1% slip in enrollment. This slip has not resulted in any section cancellations but it has increased our interest in marketing and promotion of our discipline. We have created a promotional brochure, are in the process of establishing a Camosun Geography Web page, and are planning to really step it out for the upcoming college Open House.

We have also continued with on-line course development; we’re hoping the flexibility of this option with increase our student base. Geography 222 (Economic Geography) and Geography 216 (Quantitative Methods) are nearly uploaded and Geography 214 (Digital Geomatics) and Geography 102 (Human Geography) are slated to follow this coming year. We recently received approval from the College to offer an Associate Degree in GIS and, with Tim Elkin as the lead on this, we look forward to accepting our first batch of students soon.

Barry Weaver has been busy this term facilitating workshops on teaching innovation – a by-product of his 2005 Teaching Excellence Award. Barry is toying with the idea of retiring in 2007 but we continue to assign him courses in the hopes that he reconsiders.

Francis Yee has been very busy both in the classroom and in the wider college. His involvement with the African Awareness Committee and his amazing World AIDS Day project captivated both student and faculty acclaim.

Chris Ayles has returned from parental leave and is choosing to see his young son Noah’s 6am wake up time as an opportunity to increase his productivity rather than a reason to be bleary-eyed. Chris continues to teach physical and environmental geography, supervise student projects related to acid mine drainage at Mount Washington, and generate content for the soon-to-be Camosun Geography web page.

Michelle Bennett, is pregnant with her second child and will be spending the next year at home with Charlie and the new babe. We’re all looking forward to the new arrival and to Michelle’s return in 2007/2008. Catherine Griffiths has shown her iron-core has she taught Geography 216 (Quantitative Methods) this term while undergoing radiation therapy and becoming a first-time Grandma. Nothing stops that woman.

Hilary Sandford and Bernard Henin will be the geographers-on-campus this spring offering Geography 100 and Geography 102, respectively. All other faculty will be conducting their professional development activities and will reappear in August ready for another term to begin.

CAPILANO COLLEGE

The Geography Department continues on with the “core” instructors including Karen Ewing, Charles Greenberg, Sheila Ross, Jeanne Mikita, Cheryl Schreader, and Brett McGillivray. We
were fortunate in having Heidi McDonald (physical geography) and Bob Patrick (human geography) join the Geography team as part-time instructors this past year. Chris Gratham and Scott McLeod are other Cap Geographers, but Chris continues to serve the College as Manager of Education Technology, whereas Scott remains at the East West University in Hawaii teaching and doing research for two geography books. Karen Ewing has also been given half-time release for two years to serve as co-chair of an institutional self-study. The self-study is part of the College's application for accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in the United States.

Our College generally is going through a number of challenges in relationship to declining enrolment. What this has meant for Geography, which is housed within the Social Sciences, is that there are fewer sections for 2006-2007, but huge pressure on all sections to be 100 percent full (preferably more). For our regional campuses – Sechelt and Squamish – which have always had less than full enrolment, there appears to be a new policy for educational delivery. The college has encouraged a “mixed-mode” format for any number of academic courses at all campuses. “Mixed-mode” means that an instructor only meets the class once a week instead of two times and the “missed” time would be accomplished through WebCT or Moodle delivery. This approach has been promoted mainly to save classroom space. Mixed-mode has always been an option for instructors; however, for the low enrolled satellite campuses it now appears that mixed-mode is not an option. The College will now expect students from the regional campuses to enrol in a main campus mixed-mode course at a concurrent time. It will be interesting to see how this “double-pairing” will work in the future.

For all the cut backs to programs at the college as well as reductions in sections for Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences, there continues to be the ongoing struggle to have rooms available in the preferred time slots. For those attending the Geography Articulation Meeting at UBCO in May one discussion may be on the challenges to declining enrolment.


On the field trip front, the Department (lots of organizing by Jeanne Mikita) ran a field trip in the Fall term through the Fraser Valley with stops at Chilliwack with a former counsellor and then across the river to a hot house pepper farmer in Agassiz. The Othello caves near Hope, the Hope slide, and finally a visit to the former Japanese internment camp of Tashme, near the slide rounded out the day.

Bob Patrick has been doing some interesting field trips with his classes including the management of water within the Chapman Creek watershed in the Fall and then a field trip to the Greater Vancouver Water District this Spring. And then for his section on Urban Geography at the Sechelt campus: “the course highlight came with a class presentation to community leaders and invited guests on the application of Smart Growth principles to the town of Sechelt. Topics included
solar aquatics and greening the community to traffic calming and public transit. After the presentation the deputy Mayor invited the class to present a second time at a Special Council meeting. This experience was hugely empowering for the students, and showed one of many applied applications of geographic knowledge.”

Submitted by Brett McGillivray

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

The Department of Geography is continuing to adapt to the decreasing student enrolments of the last two years. The Department is reviewing its offerings and information systems in order to stabilize the trends. The Department is considering offering an Associate of Arts Degree in Geography.

Kathy Runnalls has returned from maternity leave and will be assuming the duties as Chair of the Department.

Submitted by Earl Noah

MALASPINA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The Geography Department, in cooperation with the Center for Continuing Studies, commenced delivery of its Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (ADGISA) program last fall. This eight-month intensive program has been designed to provide GIS skills training and practical GIS project experience to graduates from technology and degree programs. The ADGISA curriculum has been designed to strengthen a student’s understanding of basic geo-science and cartographic principles, while at the same time, gaining hands-on experience in applying these techniques using GIS and remote sensing software. Graduates from the program are solidly grounded in spatial analysis, geomatics, cartography, geodatabases, remote sensing, GPS, GIS programming, web map development and GIS project management.

Michael Govorov, Dave Cake and Brad Maguire were hired in mid-2005 to deliver the ADGISA program. Michael Govorov holds a PhD in Technical Science from the Siberian State Academy of Geodesy, as well as a Post-doctoral Research Certificate in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems from Wuhan Technical University of Surveying and Mapping. Michael has extensive international teaching, research and consulting experience in GIS, digital cartography and remote sensing. Between 2001 and 2004, Michael was Senior Lecturer and Director of the GIS Unit at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji Islands. Before coming to Malaspina, Michael provided GIS instruction and technical support to faculty and staff at the University of Guelph. He has over twenty years of experience as an educator, engineer and consultant.

David Cake has twenty years of applied GIS experience in the public and private spheres in Canada and abroad. He holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science and a M.Sc. in Geography from the University of Victoria. Prior to his appointment at Malaspina, David was a GIS Specialist with AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd., Victoria. Here he was responsible for providing senior technical leadership on complex and challenging GIS applications’ projects in planning and environmental management.

Brad Maguire provides technical and instructional support to the ADGISA program. He holds a B.Sc. in Geography (Hons) from the University of Victoria and a M.Sc. in Geography from the University of British Columbia, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Systems from
Nova Scotia College of Geographic Sciences. Besides his GIS background, Brad has a background in spatial statistics, database management, modeling and remote sensing.

For further information on Malaspina’s face-to-face ADGISA program and the distributive, international UNIGIS program, visit our website at: http://www.mala.ca/gis/index.asp

This fall, the Geography department will launch its new B.Sc. Minor in Geography. Enrolment in the B.A. Major and Minor programs in 2005-06 exceeded 150 students. With the addition of three full-time GIS faculty the department now has 9.5 FTE. Four part-time instructors assisted in the delivery of the geography programs in 2005-06.

With the addition of the major’s program in fall 2004, the number of geography students remaining at Malaspina University-College has risen. One distinct advantage of delivering a major’s program is the opportunity for students to engage in more advanced geographic research and present their findings at local and regional conferences. In March, five Malaspina University-College students, accompanied by two faculty members, attended this year’s WDCAG conference at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. Driving through a blinding snowstorm was a memorable experience for coastal folks. Students Katherine Cruickshank, Sarah Marcan, Regan Purdy and Maria Stinchcombe presented papers. The hospitality of the organizers, hosts and co-attendees was outstanding. Faculty members, Michael Tripp and Hannah Wilson, returned home full of enthusiasm and so invigorated by the TRU experience that they offered to host a WDCAG conference at Malaspina in the near future.

Geography will be offering three courses in Summer Session 2006 – two introductory courses in physical geography and an advanced course in urban social geography.

On April 5th, the Geography Department, in cooperation with the Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council (MISTIC), the Malaspina Faculty of Science and Technology and the Malaspina Faculty Association, hosted a public lecture by Dr. Olav Slaymaker, Professor Emeritus (UBC), on “The role of snow, ice and permafrost in global environmental change”. Over 60 attended Olav’s engaging and informative presentation.

For further information on the Geography and GIS programs at Malaspina University-College, please visit our website at: http://www.mala.ca/gis/index.asp

Submitted by Don Stone

SELKIRK COLLEGE

Selkirk College geography welcomes Rory Crowley as a maternity leave replacement for Allison Lutz. The college has also seen the retirement of Lesley Anderton, longtime geology and physical geography instructor at the college.

A number of first year geography students from Selkirk College will be transferring into University program throughout the province. With a limited second year course offerings many students choose to do their second year geography at degree granting institutions. However, a new course, Map and Air Photo Interpretation, jointly offered with the Colleges Renewable Resource Program, was successfully piloted this winter semester. Future partnerships between the similar Geography and Renewable Resources may allow for further second year
geography offering in the future. Lastly, the post degree Geographic Information System program will graduate a second cohort of students this year.

Submitted by Rory Crowley

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Two Geographers at Simon Fraser University will be actively serving the Canadian Geography community in the coming years. Roger Hayter is the new Editor of the Canadian Geographer. Alison Gill will become the new President of the CAG at the upcoming meeting at Lakehead in June 2006.

Submitted by Alison Gill

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

The Geography Department at the Thompson Rivers University hosted the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of The Canadian Association of Geographers on March 10-11. We had approximately 220 participants with 160 students. 84 papers and 5 posters were presented in 5 to 6 concurrent sessions, and the banquet was, of course, a blast.

Ross Nelson, Tom Waldichuk, and Gilles Viaud are among the 27 researchers from the Thompson Rivers University and another 28 local, regional, and provincial community partners who have been awarded a 5-year (2006-2011) SSHRC grant entitled "Mapping Quality of Life and the Culture of Small Cities". Thompson Rivers University acts as the lead partner.

Darryl Carlyle-Moses as the principal investigator with Rita D. Winkler, Lorraine E. Maclauchlan, and David L. Spittlehouseand from the BC Ministry of Forests as co-investigators has been awarded a 2-year British Columbia Forest Science Program Grant. The project is titled "Measurement and Modelling of Mountain Pine Beetle Impacts on the Annual Forest Water Balance". The project will also give opportunities to undergraduate and graduate student research.

Tom Waldichuck is on a busy sabbatical in Japan. He has worked on a textbook, interviewed greenhouse growers, and attended the Japanese Association of Geographers spring conference. He is also on the organizing committee for the Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference, October 12-15, 2006 to take place at Thompson Rivers University. More information at http://buna.arts.yorku.ca/jsac/jsac2006/jsac2006_call2.pdf.

Ken Favholdt will be heading north to Fort Smith, NWT, at the end of April to teach Geography 120 (Physical Geography) at Aurora College. Then he’s back to teach Geography 222 in Lillooet from May through June. He has also been busy revising 70 BC places for The Canadian Encyclopedia. As well, he has completed an entry on The Dalles Trading Area for the Encyclopedia of American Indian History to be published in 2007.

Submitted by Maija Heimo

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Department News:

The 2005-2006 academic year has again been a successful one for UCFV Geography. In June we will be graduating 46 majors, 5 minors and 4 extended minors from our program. UCFV continues to grow as an institution with the Geography Department being no exception. We currently offer 80 sections at 3 campuses, with 2200 students in course seats. Things are very exciting here in terms of our future, UCFV has applied for regional, comprehensive University
status, and the institution continues to receive strong support from the Friends of UCFV Society. In addition, we are still negotiating on an 85 acre parcel of land on the old CFB Base to develop a new Chilliwack campus.

It is with fond farewell that we say goodbye to two of our colleagues who are retiring after long and distinguished careers at UCFV. **David Gibson** came to UCFV (then Fraser Valley College) in 1980 and can be described as a traditional cultural geographer with interests in Latin America. David has been instrumental in organizing the Mexico Study Tour which will be venturing south this May for the 7th time since 1993.

**Don Tunstall** is also retiring after 31 years here at UCFV (he joined the faculty in 1975). Don was the first Geographer hired to the college teaching physical and human geography. His research & teaching interests include the regional geography of British Columbia and Australasia. Don has also taught in the Business program. During his career here at UCFV, Don was actively involved in administration and was Dean of Arts and Applied Arts from 1987 to 1999. We wish Don and David all the best in the future and hope they visit often.

We are pleased to announce two new hires at UCFV Geography. We welcome **Jonathon Hughes** who comes to us from the University of Washington where he is a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow with the US Geological Survey. He completed his PhD in 2002 from Simon Fraser University in the Department of Biological Sciences. Previously, Jonathan completed a MSc in the Department of Botany at the University of Wyoming and a BS in the Department of Forestry and Geology from the University of the South. Jonathon will be responsible for developing courses in Biogeography. His research focuses on understanding environmental change using paleo-ecology, specifically tsunamis-induced changes in the Pacific Northwest.

We also welcome **Scott Shupe** to UCFV who will be responsible for expanding our offerings in GIS. He comes to us with a PhD in Renewable Natural Resource Studies from the University of Arizona, a M.Eng in Surveying Engineering from University of New Brunswick and a BSc. from Dalhousie University. Following his doctoral work, Scott was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Research Associate with the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Centre in Denver, Colorado. His research is focused on understanding land-cover change using remote sensing and GIS.

A keystone of our Geography program at UCFV is a focus on field-based learning. In May, approximately 17 students will be participating in field schools to Mexico. **David Gibson** and Stephen Piper, a colleague from the Social Cultural and Media Studies department, will be traveling throughout Mexico studying markets, public spaces and religious festivals while travelling around Mexico City, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tlaxcala.

Last fall, 16 students joined **Claire Beaney**, **Steven Marsh** and **Sandy Vanderburgh** for “Adventures in Geography III: Vegas or Bust.” This was a 5-day trip to the American
Southwest visiting Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Sunset Crater National Monument, Mojave Desert and Las Vegas. This adventure highlighted the diverse morphology of the region and discussed many of the issues associated with development in arid environments.

Plans are underway for the next instalment of Adventures in Geography for the Fall 2006 semester. Claire, Steve and Sandy are planning a 5 day trip to Jasper National Park, Columbia Icefields, Kananaskis Country and the Alberta Badlands. Sixteen students will participate in this trip and will develop important field skills and experience a unique classroom opportunity.

Cherie Enns and Sandy Vanderburgh are planning another study tour to Hawaii in May 2007. This tour is in the planning stages but students will be visiting the Big Island and Kauai.

UCFV Geography students and faculty joined western geographers at the recent WDCAG meeting at TRU in March 2006. UCFV Geography students Alexander Gnes, Jacqueline Mulcahy, Jason Stower and Yvonne Spaeti all presented papers and posters. Faculty members Ken Brealey, Claire Beaney, Steven Marsh and Sandy Vanderburgh also presented papers and posters at the meeting.

To supplement our existing BA degree, the Geography Department is pleased to announce a new BA Honours option effective September 2006. This will increase the options available to our students. In addition, a proposal is being prepared for a BSc degree option that we hope to offer in September 2007.

UCFV and Western Washington University have been working collaboratively for several years on cooperative academic projects and courses, including the innovative Borderlands course, which was launched in 2000 and brings American and Canadian students together in a term-long class. Through continued efforts of John Belec and Patrick Buckley of WWU, the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining their intent to work together towards better long-term stewardship of our shared bioregion in February 2006. The UCFV/WWU partnership signals the launch of an independent forum — probably the first of its kind — to address resource management and other key borderland issues, such as security.

The UCFV Geography Department welcomes fellow geographers to the WDCAG 2007 meeting that will be held on 8-10 March 2007 at our Abbotsford campus. We hope to see you all then.

Faculty and Student Accolades:
At the recent WDCAG meeting in Kamloops, David Gibson was awarded the inaugural Alistair McVey Excellence in Teaching Award.

Jason Stower, a graduating Geography major, won an award for ‘Best Senior Undergraduate Poster’ at the recent
Association of Washington Geographers
Spring Meeting at Western Washington
University, Bellingham in April 2006.
His paper was titled ‘2004 Community-
Based Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer
Groundwater Nitrate and Bacterial
Project’. This paper was co-authored by
Steven Marsh and Yvonne Spaeti.

Geography Extended Minor student,
Jacqueline Mulcahy
was recently
awarded the Undergraduate Research
Excellence Award in Geography for a
paper entitled ‘Mass Tourism and
Terrorism: Identifying Motives in the
Renegotiation of Private Space’ that she
presented at the recent WDCAG
meeting. This paper presented a
theoretical argument that examines
potential motivations behind continued
airline travel, when travelers must
undergo increased surveillance of
personal space (a process that people
begin preparing for even before leaving
home) when such increased
surveillance is of only marginal
effectiveness.

Second-year Geography major, Kate
McBride,
will be representing UCFV at
the UN International Symposium as a
student delegate in New York in April
2006.

Research News:

Claire Beaney and Steven Marsh are
actively involved in many community-
based projects around the Abbotsford
area. New research projects include
hydrology mapping of a wetland in
Mission with Department of Fisheries
and Oceans; and, ditch classification in
City of Abbotsford, also in collaboration
with DFO. In Fall 2005, they were
involved in a sampling project of the
Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer in which
students collected well samples for
nitrate and bacterial analysis. This
project was undertaken in collaboration
with Environment Canada and BC
Ministry of Environment.

Steven Marsh is also a Director of
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay, Director of
the Little Campbell Watershed Society,
member of the Abbotsford-Sumas
Aquifer Stakeholders Committee, and
involved in the preparation of the
Georgia Basin Habitat Atlas.

Sandy Vanderburgh in collaboration
with Claire Beaney, Vesna Furtula at
Environment Canada, and Tony Stea
and Edith Camm of UCFV Biology are
developing a study of Nathan Creek to
investigate organic pollutant loading. A
NSERC Strategic Research Grant has
been submitted and the groundwork
for the project will begin in summer 2006.

The department is also a co-applicant
on a CFI Infrastructure grant with
biology, chemistry, and agriculture that
will examine the fate on agricultural and
urban waste on the Abbotsford Aquifer.

John Belec has been working on a
project with ICBC to integrate stolen car
information within a GIS environment.
This project has been undertaken in
collaboration with colleagues in
Criminology.

Ken Brealey recently presented a paper
at the first Indigenous Cartography and
Representational Politics Conference
held at Cornell University in March
2006. His current activities include
mapping traditional use data for the final
phase of the Tsilhqot’in litigation
Williams vs. HMTQ in the BC Supreme
Court. Ken is also mapping traditional
fisheries of the Hwulitsum for treaty
purposes and is in consultation on two
other land claims cases.

Cherie Enns continues to be actively
involved in research in health, wellbeing,
community services, environment,
community dynamics, and sustainable
development. Over the past year, Cherie has presented at many speaking engagements including a recent trip (November) to Panjab University in India where she presented papers on city planning and child friendly communities. She has presented her work on downtown revitalization and child friendly cities in Hilo, Hawaii (February 2006), Saulte Saint Marie (May 2005), Vancouver (April 2005) and Carmel, California (February 2005).

During her trip to India, Cherie also participated in the Hope 2005 International Conference (November 2005 in Mumbai, India) which is a UN sponsored conference on Aids, Sustainability, and Population. Her work in progress includes the World Planning Congress, in Vancouver (June 2006) where she is organizing a workshop and presentation on Faith Communities and Role of the Church; and has been invited to participate in United Nations sponsored Session on Growing up in Cities, Vancouver 2006. Cherie also serves on the Advisory Board for the Social Housing Conference (October 2006, Vancouver); and Advisor for Downtown Planning Association in Hilo, Hawaii; Advisor for BC Society of Children and Youth-Child Friendly Communities; Advisor to Canadian National Crime Prevention project on children and youth. She is also involved in various committees and groups locally and internationally-including a MCFD-Early Childhood Development funded project on play space analysis in Chilliwack.

Olav Lian is continuing his research on understanding the character and timing of early postglacial sedimentation and landscape adjustment in the Cordillera. This research is being funded by an NSERC Discovery Grant that was awarded to Olav in 2005. His other principal on-going research includes understanding the nature and significance of paleo-ice-stream beds in the eastern Canadian Arctic, with Chris Stokes (University of Reading, UK), Chris Clark (University of Sheffield, UK), and Slawek Tulaczyk (University of California, Santa Cruz); refining the stratigraphy of the type sections for the last interglacial in western Canada, with Stephen Hicock (University of Western Ontario); investigating the paleoecology of the Stage 3 nonglacial interval in western Canada, with Richard Hebda (Royal B.C. Museum); understanding the patterns of eolian sedimentation and sea-level change in northern New Zealand, with Scott Nichol and Paul Augustinus (University of Auckland) and Matt Cupper (University of Melbourne). Olav is also busy building a new luminescence dating research laboratory in the Geography Department at UCFV which is being funded in part by UCFV and an NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) grant that was awarded to Olav in March 2006.

Liisa Cormode has been teaching in the department as a sessional instructor. She continues her research on international students as a source of immigrants and on immigration to smaller cities. She participated in an invitation-only national conference "Integrating Immigrants: Building Partnerships That Work" in Toronto in March. Liisa was a Co-Applicant in a successful grant application to SSHRC for Réseau stratégique sur l’immigration en dehors des grands centres / Strategic Network on Immigration Outside of Large Centres. (Harald Bauder of the University of Guelph and Margaret Walton-Roberts of Wilfrid Laurier are also Co-Applicants; Jennifer Hyndman of SFU is a collaborator). She has also relaunched a national list-serve on regional immigration, which provides a forum for researchers, policy makers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to discuss immigrant attraction and
retention outside of Canada's three largest cities.

Submitted by Claire Beaney

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dr. Neil Hanlon provides this report on UNBC Geography's participation at our regional meeting:

Once again this year, UNBC and CNC sent a bus load of students and faculty to attend the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. This year’s conference was hosted by Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, 9-11 March 2006. In addition to taking home the coveted trophy for the Annual Scavenger Hunt (UNBC’s first victory!), Geography was well represented by paper and poster presentations.

Of particular note, UNBC Geography students Melanie Grubb and Matthew Summerskill earned top prizes. Melanie was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation in Geomorphology by the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group for her research which uses lake sediments to study climate change.

For his presentation which explores the effects of missionaries on indigenous populations in New Zealand, Matthew was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation by the WDCAG.

Melanie Grubb and Matthew Summerskill (Photo: Rob van Adrichem, UNBC)

Faculty News:

Congratulations to Drs. Catherine Nolin and Neil Hanlon are the proud parents of new daughter Finola born on 22 October. Catherine is on leave until the Field School to Guatemala in August 2006.

Dr. Kevin Hall has recently been:

- elected to the UNBC Board of Governors as a Faculty Representative for the College of Science & Management (CSAM)
- invited by a multi-national mining consortium to be part of the team to undertake the environmental impact assessment in regard to permafrost in the high Andes of Argentina/Chile.
- asked to be a co-leader of a Swedish international project proposal for the International Polar Year undertaking in northeast Svalbard - to co-ordinate a team of 19 international scientists to work on permafrost and periglacial processes as part of the Polar Year science projects.
• appointed to the Editorial Board of the prestigious journal *Antarctic Science*,
• BC Degree Quality Assessment Board to evaluate the Geography degrees of a new BC university.

**Drs. Kevin Hall** and **Ian Meiklejohn (University of Pretoria)** who have received a $200,000 grant from the South African National Research Foundation for a three year study of rock art weathering.

Congratulations also to
• **Dr. Sarah Boon** who recently received a $35,000 grant from the BC Forest Sciences Board to study the impact of pine beetle infestation on snow accumulation and melt. The study will be conducted this winter with a report due in April 2006. Sarah will work in the Quesnel River watershed, looking at differences in snow accumulation, and conditions contributing to snow melt, between an uninfested, infested, and salvage-logged basin.

• **Drs. Brian Menounos, Robert Wheate, Stephen Déry, and Peter Jackson**, have received $2,130,590 from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) to establish a **“Western Canadian Cryospheric Network (WC2N)”**. This network is a collaborative research project with faculty from UBC, SFU, UofA, U of Calgary, UVic, U of Washington, federal and provincial governments and BC Hydro. The WC2N aims to understand the behaviour of the climate system and its effects on glacier mass balance in the mountain ranges of British Columbia and western Alberta. Over the next five years, WC2N will involve a number of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom will be trained at UNBC.

See the WC2N site at: [http://wc2n.unbc.ca](http://wc2n.unbc.ca)

Congratulations as well to **Dr. Deborah Thien** who has accepted a job offer as Assistant Professor (Feminist Geography) in the Department of Geography at California State University, Long Beach. This tenure-track post begins in August 2006. Good luck!

**Dr. Thien** also was recently awarded a prestigious 2-year SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship for research into the emotional geographies of the Royal Canadian Legion in rural and northern BC. Deb will start this fellowship on April 1, 2006 but will finish early due to the job in California.

**Dr. Catherine Nolin** was an organizer of **Guatemala Human Rights and Development Challenges**. In collaboration with several UNBC programs & the **Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS)**, the Geography & Anthropology Programs presented a series of open lectures on post-conflict Guatemala.

**Fredy Peccerelli, Dr. Catherine Nolin & Alan Robinson, 3 March 2006**

*Photo submitted by Catherine Nolin*

**Alan Robinson** and **Fredy Peccerelli** of the **Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG)** presented a total of
7 talks ranging from 'Contextual Analysis Investigation of Guatemalan Forensic Cases' to 'Redressing the Past, Addressing the Future: The Work of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation' and 'Antemortem Trauma as an Indicator of Torture.' Participants on the Geography Field School to Guatemala in 2004 met with members of the FAFG and want to thank UNBC Anthropology Program's Dr. Richard Lazenby and Cristian Silva for arranging this visit.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Peccerelli currently work to exhume the truth of mass burial sites in Guatemala. Mr. Robinson previously spoke at UNBC in November 2004. The FAFG is the main organization working on the exhumation of mass graves throughout the Guatemalan countryside. The forensic work is providing new clues about the genocide and is part of a long-term process of community healing and recovery.

CURA Project (Dr. Gail Fondahl):
Several Geography faculty members and graduate students are involved with the Ti'azt'en Nation-UNBC Community University Research Alliance. Please visit: http://cura.unbc.ca/

Graduate student news:
Congratulations to Rachael Clasby (MA NRES Geography candidate) who accepted a part time position as Regional Liaison Officer in the North for the BC Network for Aging Research (BCNAR). The BCNAR is funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Networking Program and its aim is to bring together individuals from various disciplines, research streams, institutions, community based organizations and health authorities interest in aging research.

Congratulations to Jessica McGregor (MA NRES Geography candidate) who has received a Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to study health concerns among First Nations' communities affected by mining and forestry activities (photo: Pam Prior).

Congratulations on successful thesis defenses to:
- Melissa Baxter (MA NRES 2005) and her supervisor Dr. Gail Fondahl.
  Title: 'Devolution and Post-Secondary Education: Challenging First Nations Geo-Legal Spatiality.'
- Jennifer Reade (MA Interdisciplinary Studies 2005) and her supervisor Dr. Catherine Nolin'.
  Title: 'Mujeres Autorizadas: Women's Empowerment Programs as a Form of Community Development in Guatemala.'
- Michael Mitchell (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and his supervisor, Dr. Roger Wheate. Title: "Montane Landscape Heterogeneity and Vegetation Change in Jasper National Park, Alberta (1949-1997)."
- David Arkinstall (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and his supervisor, Dr. Ellen Petticrew. Title: "Influence of Dissolved Organic Carbon on Aggregation and Aggregate Characteristics."
Current student news:

Australian exchange student **Michael Pullinger** recently arrived at UNBC for a semester of study in GIS. Michael, a 22-year old survivor of testicular cancer, cycled from Vancouver to Prince George and hopes that his trip raises awareness of testicular cancer and funds which will be donated to the Lance Armstrong Foundation. For more details, see: Cancer survivor biking from Vancouver to P.G., The Prince George Citizen, 24 August 2005, p. 3 [by Alwynne Gwilt]

Congratulations to **Chelan Hoffman** (BA undergraduate student) who was awarded the Vancouver International Airport Authority Scholarship from UNBC valued at $2000 for the 2005/2006 academic year.

2nd year geography student **Jolene Jackson** organized UNBC Fair Trade Day on October 25th with displays, resources, a scavenger hunt, and a Fair Trade Movie Night.

Geography students **Jolene Jackson**, **Camila Castellón**, and others organized UNBC’s “Control Arms campaign”, March 22-24 spearheaded by Oxfam, Amnesty International and IANSA (www.controlarms.org). Campuses across BC are taking part in supporting the campaign this semester in preparation for the UN’s Arms Review Conference this summer. The students organized 3 days of events in the Wintergarden:

New Publications:

**G. Fondahl** (2005) Diskussiya [Discussion of N. Novikova's article, Customary law of the peoples of the North: Possibilities and limitations of the state legal system], Etnograficheskoe obozrenie 5:15-18. (In Russian)


**Thien, Deb** (2005) "Intimate Distances, or How to answer the question of 'us'" in J. Davidson, L. Bondi and M. Smith (eds.) Emotional Geographies, pp. 191-204. Aldershot: Ashgate.

**Thien, Deborah**, (2005) "After or beyond feeling?: A consideration of


Submitted by Catherine Nolin and Deb Straussfogel

**UNIVERISTY OF VICTORIA**

*New building:*

New Geography building construction now underway! Sure, we'll be sharing with other members of the faculty of social sciences and with the mathematics department, but that doesn't diminish the excitement – and anxiety - of preparing for a big move in a few years. A big hole is now growing in the parking lot beside our old Cornett Building, soon to be filled with an architecturally-exciting design.

*Faculty News:*

**Dr. Holly Dolan** is completing her limited-term appointment in the faculty, for which we thank her for her contribution to the Department. Holly is still determining her future plans.

**Dr. Mike Edgell** retires from the University of Victoria on June 30, 2006. One of the departmental veterans, Mike served as the departmental chair for ten years before taking up the position of Assistant Dean for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Science.

**Dr. Dennis Jelinsky** confirms his acceptance as faculty member in the Geography Department, and position of Director of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

**Dr. Josh Lepawsky** held a Limited-Term appointment in the department and has accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

**Larry McCann** has been presented with the 2006 Merit Award from the Victoria Hallmark Society, recognizing Larry's outstanding teaching accomplishments in the urban historical geography field.

**Dr. Ian O'Connell**, Senior Instructor and co-ordinator, Geomatics Program, reports that Tadhg Jack Henchion O'Connell arrived at 11.52pm, 23rd March. All went well! Tadhg, which means poet or philosopher in Irish, is pronounced "Tiger", but without the er.

**Dr. Dan Smith** received many complements on his six-and-a-half year tenure as chair of our Geography Dept, at recent social evening. Faculty member Trisalyn Nelson wrote and sung, assisted by Ian Walker, an ode to the era. Wonderful seeing how beards looked on everybody in our Department: http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/news/dep_t_beards2.jpg

**UVic Geographers In The News:**

"Cross-Border Air Quality Study": http://ring.uvic.ca/06apr06/air-quality.html

"UVic prof helps Brazilians recycle to earn a living": http://www.martlet.ca/view.php?aid=38659
Awards at 2006 WDCAG Conference:

Kelly Penrose of UVic Tree Ring Lab won prize for best graduate presentation and Bec Cummings of UVic’s Boundary Layer Airflow and Sediment Transport Lab won CGRG prize for the best graduate geomorphology presentation.

Graduate oral defences:

Regional Hydrological Controls on Acid Sensitivity of Lakes in Boreal Canada: An Isotopic Perspective, Katrina Bennett.

The Negative Impact of Abandoned Coal Mine Workings on Drinking Water Quality and the Health of Residents on Vancouver Island, Karla Biagioni.

Socioeconomic Restructuring and Health: A Multi-Method Study of Coastal Communities in BC, Sulan Dai.

Governance of Private Protected Areas in Canada: Advancing the Public Interest? Linda Hannah.


Towards Managing Fire in Protected Areas in Mainland Southeast Asia: Understanding fire in seasonal evergreen forest in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand, Laura Johnson.

Monitoring Environmental Impacts of Recreational Boat Anchoring on Eelgrass And Benthic Invertebrates in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada, Kate Leatherbarrow.

Exploration of MARXAN for Utility in Marine Protected Area Zoning, Sarah Loos.

Use and Protection of the Gulf Islands Marine Environment: Residents' Attitudes, Perceptions and Values, Dave McCallum.

Airborne Hyperspectral Remote Detection of Water Quality Parameters in Inland and Coastal Waters of the Cowichan Watershed, BC; Christiaan Pillar.

Abstracts available at http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/grad/abstracts/abstracts.html

Submitted by John Newcomb
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/publications.htm

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter!!

Claire Beaney, Newsletter Editor
Email: claire.beaney@ucfv.ca

Bear Glacier near Stewart, BC (photo by Claire Beaney)