Message from the President

As many of you can attest, our annual meeting in Abbotsford, BC this past March was yet another great success. The faculty and students of Geography at the University College of the Fraser Valley are to be commended for putting together such a well-run, collegial and engaging event. Once again this year, there were more than 200 registrants in attendance, including over 150 graduate and undergraduate students who played a major part in the proceedings.

This year’s student paper presentation awards went to Heather Castleden (University of Alberta), Kellie Leedham (UBC-Okanagan) and Derek Turner (Simon Fraser University). Other highlights include a riveting keynote lecture about past and future climate change by Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator of Botany and Earth History at the Royal BC Museum and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria. At the close of proceedings, banquet participants were treated to a guest presentation from Dr. Hugh Brody, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies at UCFV and an internationally renowned scholar and filmmaker of aboriginal land issues and the intimate connections between indigenous cultures and traditional lands.

Following Dr. Brody’s talk, we gave out our three Annual Awards. Alistair McVey was on hand to present the Award for Teaching Excellence that bears his name to Jim Windsor of UNBC. The William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Activity was awarded to J. Douglas Porteous of the University of Victoria (although Dan Smith was last seen holding the prize!). Finally, the J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service was awarded to Craig Coburn of the University of Lethbridge.

This year brings both continuity and change to the Executive: Craig Coburn (UofL) is staying on as Secretary-Treasurer; Barb McNicol (Mount Royal College) and Sandy Vanderburgh (Douglas College) have one year remaining as Members-at-Large; Hester Jiskoot (UofL) and Claire Beaney (UCFV) begin two year terms each as Members-at-Large; Ken Brealey (UCFV) is staying on for another year as Archivist; Chelan Hoffman (UNBC) and Steven Vincett (UofL) are this year’s Student Representatives; Ross Nelson (TRU) takes over as Editor of Western Geography upon his return from sabbatical leave this September; and Alistair McVey has stepped forward to fill the post of BC Education Chair.
I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to outgoing members Donald Iwanicka (UofL), Leifka Vissers (UCFV) and Tom Waldichuk (TRU).

I am delighted to welcome back Ineke Dijks in her role as Newsletter Editor. My special thanks to Claire Beaney for doing such a wonderful job filling in for Ineke this past year.

Finally, Robert Rogerson (University Canada West) takes over as our President in early June, immediately following the CAG Annual Meeting in Saskatoon. Of course, I remain on the Executive for one more year in the capacity of Past President, where my principal duty will be to solicit nominees to fill the position of Vice President at next year’s AGM and eventually to succeed Robert in 2009. So you have not seen the last of me yet!

Our next annual meeting is our 50th and it will take place in Bellingham, Washington from 6-8 March 2008, hosted by the geographers at Western Washington University. Mark your calendars and be sure that you have a valid passport, which is soon to be required by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for land-based entry to the USA.

I am also pleased to announce that the Executive has passed a motion to accept an offer from the geographers at Malaspina University-College to host the 2009 meeting. My thanks to Michael Tripp and his colleagues for making the job of the Executive that much easier in the coming year!

In closing, it has been a pleasure to serve you as President these past two years. Have a safe, relaxing and rewarding summer. I hope to see you all at the CAG Annual Meeting in Saskatoon (29 May – 2 June 2007).

Neil Hanlon (UNBC) 3 May 2007

News from the University of Victoria

Faculty Awards
Dr. Doug Porteous received the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction from the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers.
Mr. Ole Heggen has recently been recognized with an award for Meritorious Staff Contribution, Faculty of Social Sciences.
Mr. Ken Josephson has been recognized for Outstanding Community Outreach, Faculty of Social Sciences.
Ms. Kinga Menu has been awarded the Andy Farquharson Award for Teaching Excellence, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Faculty Learned Associations Boards
Dr. Ian O’Connell is Vice-President, Canadian Cartographic Association and Dr. Dan Smith is Vice-President, Canadian Association of Geographers.

New Geography Faculty Member
Dr. Terri Lacourse will be joining the Department of Geography as a faculty member effective July, 2007. Terri has been awarded an NSERC University Faculty Award, an NSERC Discovery Grant, and an NSERC RTI award. Dr. Lacourse is interested in the development and dynamics of plant communities and how climate, environment, and life history affect colonization, succession and species abundance.
through time. Her research program will focus on testing classic ecological questions in coastal BC using paleoecological tools such as pollen and plant macrofossil analysis.

**New Courses and Programs**

New courses include Aquaculture in British Columbia, and new programmes for September 2007 include a BA and BSc Major in Geography with a Geomatics Option.

**Focus on Research**

An air emission study is underway to evaluate the environment near Victoria's Ogden Point docks, within a few hundred metres of residences. UVic Dean of Social Sciences and Geography Department professor, Dr. Peter Keller, is leading the air emissions study, working with the harbour authority, the James Bay Neighbourhood Environment Association, the Capital Regional District, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, and the provincial environment ministry.

**NETHRN-BC (New Emerging Team for Health in Rural and Northern BC)**

Dr. Aleck Ostry is directing this initiative, pursuing research on the social determinants of health in rural and northern Canada in general and in BC in particular. The team is based in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Victoria and directed by Canada Research Chair, Dr. Aleck Ostry (MA, MSc, PhD). Funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) through to 2011, this program is multidisciplinary and guided by leading investigators including historians, epidemiologists, geographers, psychologists, sociologists, and statisticians. While based in BC this project has links to rural health projects, academics, and institutions in other provinces and internationally. We have structured NETHRN-BC around several linked research projects which provide opportunities for the development of Masters and PhD degrees and post-doctoral work broadly directed towards enhancing analysis of the social dimensions of rural health.

**Population Health Data Access and Analysis Platform, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research**

Dr. Peter Keller is the UVic Geographer on the team for this platform, which aims to improve the ability of researchers and the health system to access a range of data sources for the purposes of tracing and evaluating the effectiveness of strategies to treat disease and promote health at the community level. The proposal outlined a plan for providing coordinated and effective access to population health databases (including
training), along with the development of integrated data standards and data management processes across BC. This includes support for technologies and methodologies that apply to the analysis of spatial (geographic) and non-spatial datasets. Successful implementation of the platform would position BC as a world leader in the use and protection of health data, and for the production of analyses to support public policy development.

**UVIC Geography Honours Theses, 2006-2007**

Blacklaws, B. The Effects of Hospital Downsizing: A Case Study of Hope, BC.
Collard, R. Tracking the Timber: Geographies of Forest Certification in BC.
Douglas, C. Volunteers in Conservation: More Trouble Than They are Worth or a Valuable Resource?
Farmer, C. Mapping the Effects of the Modifiable Areal Unit Problem on Local Measures of Spatial Autocorrelation.
Guy, K. Challenges Faced by Sustainably Managed Protected Areas in Latin America: Six Case Studies.
Hollands, S. Simulations of Oil Spill Trajectories Along the South Coast of Vancouver Island and Sampled Shorelines.
Hutchins, B. Ladysmith Water Consumption Survey: A Study of Residential Water Use Patterns in Ladysmith, BC.
Kearns, L. Discourses of Creative Destruction: The Hudson Condominium Project.
Patterson, A. Benthic Ecology and Gray Whale Foraging in Clayoquot Sound, BC.
Pope, N. Mapping the Settlement Experience: Community Mapping with ESL Students in Victoria, BC.
Poplawski, K. Interpretation on the High Seas: Do Marine Protected Areas Use Education and Outreach to Encourage Sustainable Fisheries?
Tryon, C. Public-Private Partnerships: An Assessment of the Associated Risks and Benefits with Applications to the Greater Victoria Water Supply System.
Tudge, P. The Lekwungen Camas Harvest: Ecocultural Restoration as a Method to Restoring the Camas Harvest in the Traditional Territory of the Songhees Nation.

**UVIC Geography Graduate theses, 2006-2007**

Allen, Sandra, MSc. Late Holocene Glacial Activity of Bridge Glacier, BC Coast Mountains.
Bennett, Katrina, MSc. Regional Hydrologic Controls on Acid Sensitivity of Lakes in Boreal Canada: An Isotopic Perspective.
Biagioni, Karla, MA. The Negative Impact of Abandoned Coal Mine Workings on Drinking Water Quality and the Health of Residents on Vancouver Island.
Dai, Sulan, PhD. Socioeconomic Restructuring and Health: A Multi-Method Study of Coastal Communities in BC.
Dalton, Lindsay, MA. The Place of Women: Exploring the Role of Place in Shaping Self-Employment as a Livelihood Strategy for Women in the Resource Dependent Community of Gold River, BC.

de Rham, Laurent, MSc. Spatial and Temporal Variations of River-ice Break-up, Mackenzie River Basin.

Dibert, Corinne, MA. Moving Towards Coordinated Accessible Transportation for Older Adults: Identification of Barriers and Incentives to Implementation in the Capital Regional District, BC.

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

Harvey, Jennifer, MA. Home Beyond the House: Later Life Experiences of Place in a Small Community.


Johnson, Laura, PhD. Fire, Seasonally Dry Evergreen Forest and Conversation, Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand.

Kelman, Scott, PhD. Hazardous Legacy: Urban Grey Zones and Vancouver’s False Creek Redevelopment.

Langford, Jaden, MSc. A Systematic Approach for Using Lidar Intensity to Detect Forest Structure.

Leatherbarrow, Kate, MSc. Monitoring Environmental Impacts of Recreational Boat Anchoring on Eelgrass (*Zostera marina* L.) and Benthic Invertebrates in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Loos, Sarah, MSc. Exploration of MARXAN for Utility in Marine Protected Area Zoning.
McCallum, David, MA. Use and Protection of the Gulf Islands Marine Environment: Residents’ Attitudes, Perceptions and Values.

O’Brien, Erin, MSc. Carrying Capacity for Sustainable Tourism Development: Tofino, BC.

Olsen, Stephanie, MSc. Gray Whales (Eschrichtius robustus) and Mysids (Family Mysidae): the Predator Prey Relationship and a New Approach to Prey Quantification in Clayoquot Sound, BC.

Penrose, Kelly-Anne, MSc. Radial-Growth Response of Mountain Hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana) Trees to Climate Variations Along a Longitudinal Transect, Northwestern BC.

Sturge, Jodi, MSc. Everyday Geographies of Stroke Survivors: A Case Study Examining the Relationship Between Activity Space, Health and Well-Being.

Swerhun, Kristina, MSc. Assessing Climate-Induced Threats to Alpine Biodiversity in Southwestern BC: Establishing the First Canadian Sites of the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) Project.


Tremblay, Crystal, MA. Binners in Vancouver: A Socio-Economic Study on Binners and Their Traplines in Downtown.

Ysue, Mai, PhD. The Breeding Ecology and Potential Impacts of Habitat Change on the Malaysian Plover Charadrius peronii in the Gulf of Thailand

Submitted by John Newcomb

News from the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta

The Augustana campus offers a minor in geography and an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science and 2 streams in Environmental Studies (general and outdoor education), coordinated by the geography instructors. This spring we hired a new faculty member, Glynnis Hood, to teach in the areas of GIS, environmental management, natural science statistics, and other specialty areas. Glynnis holds a PhD from the University of Alberta and an MSc from UNBC. She has been working with Parks Canada for the past several years at Elk Island, Wood Buffalo, and the mountain National Parks.

This winter, sessional instructor Geoff Hill taught courses in climatology and introductory environmental science.

This winter, Glen and former student Maurice Samm coordinated the Caring for our Watersheds: Battle River student awards competition, with an exciting array of proposals to improve management in our watershed. One of Glen’s senior students, Candice Tremblay, won best presentation at the Augustana Student Conference, on the topic of motivations for volunteer conservation. Glen also gave biodiversity presentations at conferences in Viking and Regina.

This summer, Glen Hvenegaard and outdoor education colleague Morten Asfeldt will take 12 students on an Arctic geography and canoe expedition course to the Mara and Burnside Rivers in Nunavut. When Glen returns, he’ll take a one-year sabbatical leave in Europe, primarily in Denmark, Norway, and France. This summer, he’ll be presenting at conferences in Kananaskis (on environmental education; with student Kim Macklin and Drama colleague Paul Johnson) Saskatoon (on bird monitoring), and
Norway (on friluftsliv in outdoor education, with Augustana colleagues Ingrid Urberg and Morten Asfeldt). For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or check our websites at http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/ and http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/

Submitted by Glen Hvenegaard

News from Camosun College

Geographers at the college have lots of new initiatives in the works right now, partially in response to reduced enrolments throughout Social Sciences and mostly due to invigorated faculty. We will be offering a new course, Geography 111: Natural Hazards, for the first time this coming year and it will serve to broaden our first-year physical offerings. We are also in the final throes of approval for our Associate Degree of Science in Geography – a slow follow-up to our existing Associate Degree of Arts.

We are still pursuing an on-line Associate Degree of Arts which is only a small stretch from our current alternative delivery offerings which include three full on-line courses and three hybrid courses (partially on-line and partially in-class). We are still offering our $500 Geography Faculty Award and the Social Sciences Scholarship has followed our lead and upped their ante to $500 as well.

Professional development activities have taken our faculty to the U.S., to Cuba, to Whistler and to Saskatoon this year and this spring will see us travelling again. Francis Yee and Hilary Sandford will be teaching the Spring term this year and enrolments so far (touch wood) look good!

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

Capilano College Department of Geography Report

Our department is in need of a full time physical geographer (Introductory Weather and Climate) for the Fall 07 and Spring 08 terms because of a number of faculty changes: Karen Ewing, who has been at the college for 34 years is retiring, Sheila Ross is off on an educational leave, and Cheryl Schrader is on maternity leave. Fortunately, we have hired Diane Tanner, but we need one more instructor. For all interested the position will be posted on the Cap College web site around the middle of May and an ad will go in the newspaper as well. We will also consider hiring a part-time instructor if applicants don’t wish a full-time position.

Lower enrollments continue to be a concern for the college overall. A strategy that may at least keep some of our students for two years is a recent agreement with Griffith University in Australia. Students that complete their Associate of Arts Degree (60 credits) can transfer to Griffith and complete their B.A. in two semesters in Australia. It appears to have plenty of appeal, but there are international fees involved.

Another interesting direction for the department has been the on-going link fostered by Jeanne Mikita with Sherbrooke College in Quebec. Jeanne is taking a group of Cap students to Quebec this May and a group of Sherbrooke students will be coming here in June.

Geography continues to be a service course to a number of other programs, one of which is Global Stewardship, which is on its way to being a degree-granting program.
The excitement for Geography is developing some third and fourth year courses for this program.

For those geographers interested, I have made up seminar questions for each chapter of *Geography of British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition* (2nd Ed. – UBC Press) as well as *Canada: A Nation of Regions* (2006 - Oxford). If anyone wishes a copy, please e-mail me at: bmcgilli@capcollege.bc.ca.

Submitted by Brett McGillivray

**News from Douglas College Department of Geography**

Enrollments have stabilized in the last two semesters, after experiencing declines over the previous years. The Department has expanded its facilities in the Geography labs in preparation for possible third year courses. The Department is currently negotiating a joint BA degree with UCFV.

Wendy Hales will be on maternity leave from June 2007 until June 2008.

Submitted by Earl Noah

**News from Mount Royal College, Calgary**

Degree programs are now being implemented at Mount Royal College. In the Department of Earth Sciences we are proposing to implement a Bachelor of Science degree beginning Fall 2008. This B.Sc. will offer a major in Earth Sciences which will include streams in (1) Geosciences, (2) Archaeology, and (3) Geography. The geography concentration places an emphasis on courses that fit into the theme of ‘Environment, Resources and Development’ and will complement the direction our Earth Sciences program is taking. We are in the process of hiring a new fulltime position for the Geography Program which will bring our fulltime tenured positions to three.

Pam MacQuarrie will be returning from sabbatical for the 2007-2008 academic year. Pam has completed her year at COGS in Nova Scotia and has been using her GIS skills in the Maritimes for the past year. We have added Geography 3357, Geographic Information Systems, to our offerings for winter term 2008. Barb McNicol is now Chair of the Earth Sciences Department and recently received an Alberta Conservation Grant to work in cooperation with Alberta Provincial Parks and three other instructors at Mount Royal College to develop a web-based decision-making prototype for both management and public use. Barb is presenting at the Geography in the Americas Conference in Chile this May 2007: work that is on national parks and the role of education and curriculum development for environmental and tourism issues. Her partnership with the Town of Canmore is going strong with data analysis completed that looks at second home ownership in Canmore by Canadian, American, UK and other international markets.

Shawn Mueller is heading to Memorial University for the 2007-2008 year and will be teaching Mapping, GIS and Remote Sensing for them. Susan Hunt continues to teach World Regional Geography and, with Aaron Williams, is planning a travel study field course for spring 2008 to Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Aaron will be teaching in Thailand for the fall 2007 semester and will return to the college in winter 2008. Susan, once again, was actively involved with the Alberta Great Canadian Geography Challenge sponsored by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Sumanti Kulatilake has published a chapter in *The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia* which is an inter-disciplinary text of studies in Archaeology, Biological
Anthropology, Linguistics and Genetics. Sumanti teaches courses in both physical
geography and archaeology at Mount Royal College.

Submitted by: Barbara McNicol,

**News from Langara College**

Over the summer and fall semesters, the Geography Department has experienced
slightly lower enrollments, which is typical of the College as a whole. Overall, the
estimate is that we are operating at about 95% capacity at the present time. Fortunately,
Geography suffered no reductions in sections, as was the case in some other Social
Science Departments, and we are optimistic that the Spring offerings will go ahead as
scheduled. At the present time, our Department consists of 7 full-time instructors, and 2
sessional instructors. Mark Smith is currently in the process of developing a Natural
Hazards course, which we hope to offer for the first time in the Spring semester of 2007.

Submitted by Katrina Erdos

**Okanagan College, Department of Geography & Earth and
Environmental Science.**

There have been many changes to our department and college over the last two
years. You may notice that the department has undergone a name change. This is part of
the aftermath of the transition from Okanagan University College to Okanagan College
and UBC Okanagan. Following the transition, only one member from the departments of
Geography and Earth and Environmental Science was left at Okanagan College. So the
job to rebuild the departments fell to Kathleen Jagger. Stephen Doyle and Leif Burge
were hired in 2005 and Stephanie Bunclark was hired in 2006. We are now up to four
faculty members and plan to bring on another person this year. The two departments
were recently merged into a single department because of their small size. This new
department, called Geography & Earth and Environmental Science, is in the Arts and
Foundational Programs Portfolio.

We teach Geography and Earth and Environmental Science Courses to first and
second year associate of arts and associate of science students. We offer first year and a
small selection of second year courses in our Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Vernon, and
Penticton campuses. Students transfer to university to complete their degrees. We began
offering directed studies courses to allow students to gain wider experience while at the
college. Student feedback on these courses has been positive. One directed studies
student won a national student award for his project. Enrolments in Geography & Earth
and Environmental Science have been respectable and slowly increasing. This is related
to the growth in the number of Arts students at the college and we expect that this trend
will continue.

Geography & Earth and Environmental Science is working on developing our
laboratory facilities as Okanagan College grows. We have set up a new lab and have
purchased field equipment for our growing program. We began with little to no
equipment from either department for our Kelowna Campus. We have experienced
numerous challenges over the past year and we are still trying to work out some of the
bugs but as long as our enrolment trends continue the future looks bright for Okanagan
College.

Submitted by Leif Burge
News from the University of Lethbridge

We had our record student attendance at the WDCAG Annual Meeting March 2007 in Abbotsford: 8 undergraduate and 4 graduate students, of which 9 presented papers. Our department also sponsored the well-attended reception on Friday night, and Ian MacLachlan had prepared a brochure to promote graduate studies in geography and archaeology at the UofL. For more information see http://www.uleth.ca/fas/geo/research.html and http://www.uleth.ca/sgs/. Our representation in the WDCAG remains strong: Craig Coburn will stay on as secretary-treasurer and received the 2006 J. Lewis Robinson award for meritorious service, Hester Jiskoot has been reappointed as member-at-large, and Steven Vincett is our new student representative.

Some of us had an epic 19 hour drive back to Lethbridge due to torrential BC rain and landslides causing major road closures, unexpected ferry-rides and sudden halts because of crossing deer. We witnessed a truck getting stuck on its driveshaft with its rear wheels suspended over the ditch when the impatient driver attempted a U-turn on the narrow road leading towards the Upper Arrow Lake ferry. We, on the other hand, waited patiently for 3 hours with 7 bodies in a steamed-up van, and were jubilant to be the last car to squeeze onto the ferry. The entire trip we retained our expedition-style high spirits, and the students were inventive and made their own pack of cards from the WDCAG conference program. Unfortunately, singing is not a prerequisite for geography majors.

Students Colleen Curran and Sam Darling in high spirits on their way back from the WDCAG-2007 meeting in Abbotsford. (photo H. Jiskoot)

This past year, we have seen some major shifts in our ranks. Bob Rogerson retired from Geography at the UofL and took on the position of vice–president academic at the new University Canada West in Victoria. He remains with one foot in Geography though, as he was elected WDCAG President at the Spring 07 annual meeting. Our department thanks Bob for his years of service and for keeping geography an undivided subject. Some of our faculty also just received long service awards: 25-years for both Walter Aufrecht and René Barendregt. Recent promotions in our department include Ian Maclachlan (Full Professor), Shawn Bubel (Associate Professor) and Craig Coburn (extension of probation). Hester Jiskoot was awarded an NSERC University Faculty Award (UFA) and was appointed as tenure-track Assistant Professor. Stefan Kienzle will return from his sabbatical in July, which he spent partly in South Africa and partly in New Zealand, while Wei Xu will remain on his sabbatical in China until the end of the year. Both were promoted to Associate Professor last year. Dan Johnson, our Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Grassland Ecosystems, has expanded his research group with Research Assistant Suzan Entz who will be continuing her graduate work in entomopathogens as an alternative to traditional insecticides.

Five of our faculty were successful in getting research grants from the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research (AICWR). Three different research projects will
focus on the water-related issues in the Rocky Mountain watersheds, and their effects on southern Alberta. René Barendregt, who disappeared into the dungeons of university administration in 2002, remains active in his palaeomagnetics research, and saw field trips to the English East Coast and good collaborations pay off in a publication in *Nature* (Parfitt et al., 2005), as well as the 2nd most cited and accessed publication in the *Journal of Quaternary Science* (Lee et al., 2006). Shawn Bubel has now collected over 50,000 bones and artifact fragments from the Fincastle Bison Kill site (DIOx-5) in southern Alberta, and has years of work for herself and her students in processing and analyzing these. She is in the field again at this site this Spring, and will also be leading her other field school in Israel later this Summer. Finally, Ivan Townshend (Chair) and Ian MacLachlan received a large grant to work on the “Social and economic impacts of TSE’s” (mad-cow like diseases in animals).

Finally, we are looking for new graduate students, as the following list of students completed their degrees in the Department of Geography in 2006-2007:

- Raven Caruso: Obstructions in Valley Glaciers. (MSc, 2007: supervisor H. Jiskoot)
- Faye Nelson: Late Cenozoic Magnetostratigraphy of Selkirk Volcanics and Associated Sediments, West-Central Yukon. (MSc, 2006: supervisor R. Barendregt)
- Rena Varsakis: Lithics of the Fincastle Kill Site. (MSc, 2006: supervisor S. Bubel)

Submitted by Hester Jiskoot

**Malaspina University-College**

**Programs**

Minor revisions to the B.A. Major and Minor in Geography will be implemented in Fall 2007, along with the introduction of a new B.Sc. Minor in Geography. In September 2005, Malaspina began delivering an Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications (ADGISA). This 30-credit post-graduate program involves four months of intensive hands-on learning in a classroom setting followed by a four-month GIS applications project. Over 90% of graduates from the program have found full-time jobs as GIS technicians or analysts. Beginning in January 2008, Malaspina will launch a sixteen-month online version of the ADGISA program.
Contracts
In February, instructors in the Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications program were awarded a $200,000 contract to prepare 9 comprehensive GIS training modules for delivery to the Republic of Lithuania’s civil service. Some 250 civil servants will receive training in GIS and its application in the state’s spatial data infrastructure program. This training program is funded by the European Union and the Republic of Lithuania. Malaspina University-College will award a Certificate of Completion for each course completed.

Faculty News
Michael Tripp and Alan Gilchrist have been granted 6-month professional development leaves next year. Michael will be on leave in the spring; Alan in the fall. Hannah Wilson gave birth to a son, Benjamin Johann Rainer, on February 19th. Hannah will be on maternity leave until September 2008. Temporary part-time instructors will be hired in 2007-08 to cover courses normally delivered by Hannah, Michael and Alan.

Faculty Presentations
Michael Tripp presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in San Francisco, California, entitled: “The Emergence of Soviet / Post-Soviet National Parks as a Socio-political Phenomenon” as part of the Post-socialism VII: Nations, identities, and environments paper session.

Faculty Publications

Departmental Events
Last November, the Geography Department hosted its First Annual Urban Issues Film Festival. Organized by professors Pam Shaw and Don Alexander, with assistance from the Nanaimo Chapter of the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC), the afternoon and evening sessions were well attended and generated great audience response. The films included: The End of Suburbia, a feature-length film that deals with the impact of peak oil on the viability of urban sprawl and contemporary suburban development; Subdivide and Conquer, a tongue-in-cheek examination of residential and commercial sprawl occurring on a massive scale in cities in the American West; Sustainable Urban Living, a film about the land use and social planning innovations pioneered in Curitiba, Brazil; Smart Growth, which profiled prominent new urbanists; Recycling City Space, focused on the adaptive re-use of old warehouse spaces; and Placemakers, a series of vignettes on how people have taken direct action to revive neighbourhoods by tapping hidden community spirit.
On February 8, 2007, Felice Mazzoni, Planner for the District of Ucluelet and former geography student at Malaspina University-College, along with Dave Robinson,
Heather Richards, and Richard Crowley of Malaspina’s Tourism Management program delivered an informative and lively presentation entitled, Building a Community-University Planning Alliance: The Experience of the District of Ucluelet and Malaspina University-College. This collaborative planning team explained how the District of Ucluelet and Malaspina University-College teamed up to undertake the development of an official community plan. Last year, this special planning team won a number of provincial, national and international awards, including three from the United Nations. They traveled to Hangzhou, China in fall 2006 to receive their UN awards.

Geography hosted the annual BCCAT Geography Articulation Meeting on May 4th and 5th. Eighteen representatives from geography departments at B.C.’s colleges, university-colleges, and universities attended. The all-day meeting on Malaspina’s Nanaimo campus was preceded by a one-day field trip of greater Nanaimo and Oceanside. The Campus 2020 report generated widespread discussion. The new Chair of the Geography Articulation Committee, Don Stone, was directed by the Committee to draft a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education expressing the Committee’s concerns about a number of the report’s recommendations and requesting clarification on a number of other recommendations in the report. Bernard Momer (University of British Columbia Okanagan) stepped down as Chair and Gary Clohan (College of the Rockies) becomes next year’s Co-chair and Secretary. Gary will host next year’s meeting at Cranbrook.

**Student Accomplishments and Activities**

Two geography graduates, Sarah Marcan and Matthew Fitzgerald, were accepted to graduate schools in September 2006. Sarah and Matthew both graduated with a B.A. Major in Geography (Urban Growth Management stream) in Spring 2007. Sarah is pursuing a master’s degree in Environmental Design, with a focus on planning, at the University of Calgary. Matthew is taking his masters in City Planning at the University of Manitoba. Both started their programs in September 2006.

Michael Tripp and Pam Shaw accompanied eight geography students to the WDCAG annual meeting hosted by the University College of the Fraser Valley in March. One student presented a paper on how to use ArcView 9.0 and Landsat7 ETM imagery to create a poster delineating significant geological sites in Alberta and British Columbia.

In May and June 2007, Dr. Larry Wolfe and Pam Shaw, both professional planners and instructors in the Geography Department, headed up a five-week community planning field school in Orange Walk Town, Belize. Nineteen students, mostly geography majors at Malaspina, were engaged in compiling environmental, social and economic data to be used to developing a community plan for Orange Walk, a town of 16,000 persons. In addition to providing valuable planning assistance to Orange Walk, the project allowed students to acquire 9 credits whilst experiencing the challenges of living in a developing country. The group spent a week at Indian Church Village and Lamanai archaeological site doing volunteer work, touring local ecosystems, and learning about local indigenous cultures. They stayed at the Community Baboon Sanctuary in Bermudian Landing. The group visited Belize City, Belmopan and the University of Belize. Dr. Wolfe, an international consultant and former instructor at the University of Belize, initiated the field school. A needs assessment for community planning in Belize was conducted in the previous year by Samantha Letourneau, a Malaspina student, under Dr. Wolfe’s supervision.
News from the University College of the Fraser Valley

The past semester has been a busy and interesting time at UCFV as the department has undergone some significant changes. As reported in the last edition of the WDCAG Newsletter, Ken Brealey became our new department head in January 2007 following the departure of Sandy Vanderburgh to Douglas College to take up the post as Dean of Science and Technology. We also welcomed Jonathan Hughes and Scott Shupe to our department. The next few months will also bring new changes to the department. John Belec has been granted a sabbatical leave, to commence in September 2007. His research will focus on the Fraser Borderland, and represents a continuation and expansion of work on borderland governance, that he has carried out with Dr. Pat Buckley (Western Washington University) since 2000. Amongst other activities, Belec and Buckley will co-edit an issue of UCFV’s online scholarly journal, the UCFV Research Review, on ‘Cross-Border Relationships in an Era of Globalization’. In other personnel news, Garry Fehr will be joining the department in July 2007. Garry comes to us from University of Guelph and his research interests features a strong India connection, and he looks forward to collaborating with UCFV’s Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. His PhD dissertation research activities are situated in central and northern India and focus on understanding how the combination of globalization, bureaucratic decentralization and economic liberalization are filtered through social institutions of class, caste, gender and corruption. More specifically, he seeks to understand how increasing national and global demand for herbal medicines, decentralized Joint Forest Product programmes and fuller economic integration of rural Non Timber Forest Product economies are impacting on commercial agriculture, the forest environment and the rural livelihoods of the indigenous peoples who rely on those forest resources. Professor Fehr is keen to develop a regional geography course on India and the potential exists for student study tours, in the future. We also welcome a number of new sessional instructors to the department this summer: Rory Crowley, Brett Gilley and Carl Johannsen.

We are also continuously reviewing our program in attempt to offer our students the best Geography program around. Recent changes include the development of a new BA Honours program that began accepting students in May 2007. The department is also streamlining the BA major by offering students a concentration designation to reflect their area of study within the discipline. Concentrations include physical geography, urban studies, environmental studies, international studies and geographic information science. We anticipate this program change to be effective Winter 2008. We are also continuing our work on establishing a BSc in Physical Geography.

Field-based learning continues to be a cornerstone of our program at UCFV. In addition to the heavy concentration of field trips offered in our courses there are several study tours and extended field courses currently underway or planned: 19 students, along with faculty members Cherie Enns, Stewart Brown and Sandy Vanderburgh, are participating in our highly successful Hawaii study tour in May. In Fall 2007, two Adventures in Geography trips are planned: Michelle Rhodes, Ken Brealey and Jonathan Hughes are leading a group of 16 fearless students to Yellowstone National Park to study...
water and fire; while Claire Beaney, Steven Marsh and Sandy Vanderburgh are heading south along the Washington and Oregon coastline with another group of intrepid geography students to investigate sunken forests and other evidence of prehistoric tsunami. In February 2008, Cherie Enns will be co-leading a university-wide study tour to India. Finally, another installment of the highly successful Mexico study tour is planned for May 2008 with David Gibson at the helm. Check back in the next edition of the newsletter for stories on these trips.

In early March 2007, UCFV Geography welcomed approximately 220 geographers to the Annual Meeting of the Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers. As part of the conference activities, approximately 100 participants took part in a variety of field trips looking at coastal management in Boundary Bay, Washington (led by Claire Beaney and Sandy Vanderburgh); the Quaternary geology of a region of the southern Coast Mountains (led by Olav Lian and Jonathan Hughes); cultural and social issues of the B.C. Lower Mainland (led by Cherie Enns); and the aboriginal geographies of the lower Fraser Valley (led by Ken Brealey). A total of 75 oral presentations and 18 poster presentations were given at the meeting. UCFV faculty and students presented the following papers at the meeting:

**Faculty**

P. Buckley and J. Belec: “Imagining the future of cross border environmental resource management with the Fraser Lowland: a Delphi study.”

O.B. Lian: “Insight into the subglacial thermal regime and the character of ice flow high on the sides of a valley that held an outlet glacier that drained the southern Cordilleran Ice Sheet.”

J. Hughes: “Meters of synchronous Holocene slip on two strands of the Saddle Mountain fault zone, Western Puget Sound Lowland, Washington.”

S.M. Shupe: “Land use/land cover mapping for emissions modeling along the US/Mexican border.”

S. Marsh: “2004 Community-based Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer groundwater nitrate and bacteria project.”

**Students**

J. Godfrey, O.B. Lian, and T.A. Brennand: “Dating sediments in the Bowmanville bluffs: a key to firming up the interpretation of Quaternary environmental change in the Lake Ontario basin.”


L. Vissers: “Providing social and non-market housing in BC.”

L. Vissers and C. Beaney: “Coastal and ice-free corridor theories of human entry migration to the Americas: a review.”

Leifka Vissers received an award for Best Undergraduate Student Poster for her presentation reviewing the theories on human migration to North America completed in collaboration with supervisor Claire Beaney. Jennifer Godfrey, a former UCFV physics major who worked as a research assistant for Olav Lian for most of 2006, and who is now an MSc student (Physics) at SFU, received an award for the Best Graduate Student Poster. Jennifer’s poster presented her work with Olav Lian and Tracy Brennand (SFU
Geography) on employing luminescence dating, in a rather unique way, to help understand the timing of Quaternary sedimentation in the Lake Ontario basin.

Over the past semester, a number of our students have been recognized for academic and research achievements. Leifka Vissers was awarded UCFV’s Undergraduate Research Excellence Award ($1000) for two projects: ‘Providing social and non-market housing in BC’ in collaboration with Cherie Enns and ‘Coastal and ice-free corridor theories of human entry migration to the Americas: a review’ with Claire Beaney. Leifka plans to present these projects at the upcoming CAG meeting in Saskatoon. In other student news, Winter Moon has been awarded one of the four NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards ($4500) allocated to UCFV for work with Dr. Olav Lian on establishing the new luminescence dating laboratory in the geography department; the award is matched by funds from UCFV and by funds from Olav Lian’s NSERC grant. Jeanine Pieper was also recognized for her poster on mapping aboriginal waypoints, receiving a Faculty Award at the recent UCFV Research Day.

UCFV Geography faculty continue to be active in a number of research areas. Ken Brealey has continued his work on the geographies of Aboriginal land claims in British Columbia, completing at the end of 2006, the Lay Witness Land Use and Occupancy Map Series for the Final Argument phase of Williams v. HMTQ. A trial court decision is expected shortly. Current research includes the documenting and mapping of Traditional Hulquminum Fisheries along the Lower Fraser for the Hwlitsum First Nation’s submission to the British Columbia Treaty Commission; and both the documentary (historical geographic record) map series and report, and the Traditional Use Study of the Browns Creek watersheds, for the Okanagan Indian Band in HMTQ v. Wilson.

Claire Beaney is continuing an investigation of the Nathan Creek watershed in Langley Township. This multi-disciplinary project is concerned with determining the state of watershed and ecosystem health in Nathan Creek and involves a hydrological, chemical and biological approach to addressing this question. Project collaborators include Dr. Vesna Furtula and Dr. George Derksen from Environment Canada and Dr. Tony Stea from UCFV Biology. Claire’s role in this project is to determine the flow hydrology of Nathan Creek and develop a model of contaminant loading based on the creek hydrology.

Claire is also working alongside the Silverdale Creek Wetland Preservation Society to protect the Silverdale Creek Wetlands in Mission. Projects include GPS mapping of the creek and wetland area; this work is in collaboration with Steven Marsh and a number of UCFV students. Claire is also establishing a flow monitoring project on Silverdale Creek in collaboration with the District of Mission.

Cherie Enns continues to be involved in a variety of research initiatives involving Indo-Canadian and Child Friendly studies. She has recently been awarded a grant from the Shastri Indo Canadian Centre for $25,000 for a project entitled ‘Children in the City: A Partnership between the University College of the Fraser Valley and Panjab University’. The goal of this project is to build on existing relationships in order to bring together Child Friendly Community experts from both Canada and India with academics, business, government and non-governmental leaders at the proposed 2007 Forum. A further goal is to secure funding for a Child Friendly City Demonstration Project and the
ongoing relationship between the UCFV and the Panjab University in Chandigarh. Cherie also participated in a Child Friendly Forum at Panjab University.

Jonathan Hughes is actively developing a biogeography research laboratory in the geography department. Space has been secured and Jonathan is now busy equipping the lab with state-of-the-art microscopes for a variety of projects involving dendrochronology.

Olav Lian is continuing his NSERC-funded research on the nature and timing of postglacial landscape adjustment in southern B.C. He is also working on refining our understanding of the nature of environmental change during interstadials and interglaciations in southern B.C. This research is in collaboration with Dr. Richard Hebda (RBCM) and Dr. Stephen Hicock (UWO Earth Sciences).

Olav’s NERC and NSERC-funded work on understanding the nature of paleo-ice streams in the eastern Canadian arctic is now being written up, or has been submitted, for publication, and is in collaboration with Dr. C.R. Stokes (Durham University, UK), Dr. C.D. Clark (Sheffield University, UK), and Dr. S. Tulaczyk (University of California, Santa Cruz). In addition to that, Olav is collaborating with Dr. Tracy Brennand (SFU Geography) on understanding the stratigraphy and glacial geology of the Lake Ontario Basin. Olav continues to secure funding from both the federal and provincial governments for collaborative work on climate change and landscape evolution. On the international front, Olav is continuing his long collaboration with Dr. Scott Nichol (University of Auckland) on understanding Quaternary coastal evolution in New Zealand.

Olav has also been busy establishing the new luminescence research laboratory in the Geography Department at UCFV. As of May 2007, construction of the purpose-built state-of-the-art laboratory was completed. The principal instrument, which was funded by an NSERC RTI grant in 2006, is expected to be delivered by the end of summer 2007.

Olav continues to be on the editorial boards of the Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science and the journal Quaternary Geochronology. He was also recently guest editor of a special issue of Quaternary Science Reviews on “Dating the Quaternary: progress in luminescence dating of sediments”, and he is organizer of a special session at the 2007 CANQUA meeting on Quaternary dating methods and applications.

Scott Shupe and Steven Marsh have been working on the final phase of the Georgia Basin Habitat Atlas which is collaboration between university, community, federal and provincial organizations to produce a hard copy and online atlas of the flora and fauna of the Georgia Basin. Scott has been working on producing the multitude of GIS maps for the atlas while Steven has been working on information to be included in the atlas and has many editorial duties. Look for the atlas at a bookstore near you soon.

Scott Shupe is also being instrumental in developing a GIS research facility at UCFV. While space still needs to be secured, Scott has been successful in acquiring a large state-of-the-art digitizing table that can be used by faculty and student researchers on a variety of GIS applications in collaboration with the Department of Criminology. Scott has also been working with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on rural and urban land use/land cover mapping along the Southwestern United States/Mexican border using Landsat ETM and IKONOS satellite imagery, and is currently beginning landscape fragmentation research in the Okanagan region.

Submitted by Claire Beaney
Geography at the University of Northern British Columbia

For three weeks in the month of May, faculty members Sarah Boon, Kevin Hall and Greg Halseth are holding a Field School in South Africa for a group of lucky undergraduate students. This is the fifth international Field School we have run since 2002 and the second time in South Africa (the first was 2002). Other destinations included Guatemala (2004 and 2006) and Antarctica (2003).

We are making preparations to welcome our graduates and their families and friends to the Prince George campus as part of the 2007 Convocation Ceremony later this month (25 May 2007).

We are most pleased to welcome Philip Owens, who joins us from the U.K. Phil has physical geography degrees from UBC (MSc), and Exeter University, UK (PhD) and was working at the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University, UK, before taking this position at UNBC. He is currently in the Environmental Science Program. He has worked on sediment tracing techniques, large scale sediment fluxes, and sediment-associated nutrient transfers in catchments. While in the UK he was working extensively within the European Union on the process of developing guidance for an EU sediment management policy.

We are also delighted to welcome back Ellen Petticrew, who spent the last two years as a faculty member in the School of Geography at the University of Plymouth (U.K.). Drs. Petticrew and Owens began positions as Joint Chairs of Landscape Ecology at UNBC in January 2007. Their research looks at the linkage between terrestrial and aquatic systems with sediment transfers, and their implications, studied at both the catchment and plot scales. Future (and some current) work will have an emphasis on sediment impacts from disturbance regimes such as fire, forest harvesting, pine beetles and agriculture. The majority of their future work will take place in the Quesnel River Watershed (~11,500 km²) based out of UNBC's Quesnel River Research Centre in Likely, BC (www.unbc.ca/qrrc).

In February, Greg Halseth and Catherine Nolin were invited to provide testimony to a standing Senate committee on agriculture and forestry looking at ways to reduce rural poverty in Canada. Drs. Halseth and Nolin provided information on rural immigration and increasing the capacity of rural regions to be more involved in shaping their futures. The committee will release its findings in a final report due later this spring.

Catherine Nolin’s new book, Transnational Ruptures: Gender and Forced Migration (Ashgate), was honoured at the recent AAG conference in San Francisco by the Geographical Perspectives on Women (GPOW) specialty group at an evening reception celebrating new works in feminist geography.

Brian Menounos returned in April from three (restful? relaxing?) months of parental leave looking after son Nathan. Brian is once again busy as ever with his fieldwork, travels and providing strategic direction to the Western Canadian Cryospheric Network (http://wc2n.unbc.ca/), a group that includes our own
Roger Wheate and several other scholars interested in the links between climate change and glacier fluctuations in western Canada.

Gail Fondahl was invited to give a keynote lecture at a conference on Communities and Sustainability in the North in Alta, Norway in early March, where she talked on community capacity building through university-community partnerships.

Neil Hanlon was appointed to the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network’s Oversight Committee in January 2007.

Kevin Hall has just had the "what made me do it" and "what does it mean to me" attributes of his research and exploration over the past 35 years published as one of 120 invited contributions from around the world in Adventurous Dreams, Adventurous Lives: Today's Explorers Recall the Youthful Dream Launching their Remarkable Lives by the Explorers Club of New York and Rocky Mountain Books. His own dreams and how they evolved are shared with such world notables as Buzz Aldrin, David Hempleman-Adams, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Louise Leakey, Colonel Blashford-Snell, Don Walsh, Robert Bateman, Sir Chris Bonnington, Jean-Michel Cousteau and a host of other explorers and scientists.

Scott Emmons and his team from UNBC recently won the Collaborative Research Award at the Northern British Columbia Business & Technology Awards for PlanMapper, an internet-based mapping and database query tool. For more details, see: www.planmapper.ca

Conferences
UNBC Presenters at the 103rd Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, 18-21 April 2007:
Gail Fondahl: “The ‘Ecological Path’ and the ‘Tree of Memory’: Challenging Place Annihilation through Landscape Performance in Southeastern Siberia.”
Gail was also a Panelist in the panel session “Geography and Indigenous Peoples: New Directions”.
Catherine Nolin: “We have to protect the investors: Development, indigenous social exclusion, and modern Canadian imperialism in Guatemala.”
Catherine was also a Panelist in the panel session “Research on ‘the colonial present’ in Guatemala”.
Jessica Place and Neil Hanlon: “Expanding the mine, killing a lake: a case study of competing environmental values, perceptions of risk and First Nations’ health.”

UNBC Presenters at the 49th Meeting of the WD-CAG, Abbotsford BC, 8-10 March 2007:
Catherine Fraser: “Placing violence in Guatemala: Historical and contemporary factors in the geography of Femicide.”
Eric Gallant: “The local scale of exclusion: Mexican migrant workers and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program in Ontario, Canada.”
Greg Halseth and Chelan Hoffman: “Burdening the burdened: Can social support networks make up for needed or lost services? A case study of the Peace River region of BC.”

Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser: “Student training through multi-disciplinary research teams.”

Kyle Kusch: “Historic migration patterns in the Upper Fraser region, British Columbia.”

Alex Martin: “Hands off! The changing nature of community-company relationships and the BC forestry sector.”

Lorraine Naziel: “Wet’suwet’en Treaty: Why extinguish Aboriginal title in order to promote neo-liberal interests?”

Phil Owens, Ellen Petticrew, W. Blake and T. Giles: “Tracing the sources of fine-grained sediment following a wildfire in British Columbia.”


Jamie Reschny, Donald Manson and Greg Halseth: “Lessons learned in community-based research: The Old Massett Village Council Five Year Human Resources Strategic Plan project.”

Dominico Santomauro: “The historical decline of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) and the appearance of moose (Alces alces) in the Fort St. James region, northern British Columbia.”

Cristian Silva: “The morning they took our men: Estrella Polar survivors are asking for justice.”

Laurel Van De Keere: “Landscapes of resistance: Graffiti in post-conflict Guatemala.”

**Graduate Student News**

The following successfully defended their Master’s Thesis:

**Darren Janzen (MSc NRES).** Title: The Impacts of Forest Management Activities on Carbon Stocks and Sequestration in the Aleza Lake Research Forest. Supervisors: Dr. Art Fredeen and Dr. Roger Wheate. November 2006.


**Other News**

Melanie Grubb (MSc candidate) was awarded a $1700 USD Geological Society of America Graduate Research Grant to support her MSc. research entitled, ‘Turbidity current dynamics and proglacial sedimentation in Kitsumkalum Lake, Central Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada’. Melanie is supervised by Brian Menounos.

Rachael Clasby (MA candidate) took up the position of Provincial Network Manager of the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network.
Recent Publications


Submitted by Neil Hanlon

Thank you to all the people who submitted their contributions.
Ineke J. Dijks, WDCAG Newsletter Editor.
Send your comments and contributions for the fall issue to: geoarch@telus.net