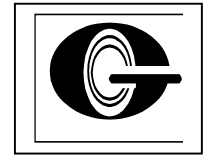


# **Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers**



## **Newsletter, Spring 2008**

### **WDCAG Annual President's Report**

More than 200 registrants attended the WDCAG Annual Meeting, March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2008; a great turnout, especially since it was held a little outside our home region in Bellingham, Washington where we were well hosted by the geographers at Western Washington University. As usual, the meeting opened with a Thursday evening social event, and a Friday dedicated to local field trips, which ranged from the Port of Bellingham to the high-level ski slopes on Mount Baker. Friday evening, John Robinson of UBC presented the Keynote Lecture, sponsored by the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, on the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability Centre in Vancouver. On Saturday there were over 80 presentations and two panel discussions, dominated by a very high standard of student participation. Two WWU students ran away with student paper and poster awards while the other two were won by far-travelled students from University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George. At the AGM on Saturday afternoon, the W.C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction went to Graeme Wynn of UBC; the J. A. McVey Award for Teaching Excellence to Calgary Secondary School teacher Don McLaughlin, and the J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service went to Patrick Buckley of WWU who, as well as being an assiduous builder of links between Washington geographers and the WDCAG, was the chief organizer of the meeting.

It is our annual meeting that puts flesh on the bones of our regional association. Without it we would be modestly successful, with a quality publication, *Western Geography*, now under the Editorship of WDCAG Past President Neil Hanlon who was appointed by the Executive during the winter and has replaced long-serving Editor Jim Windsor. We also enjoy some fine reporting in the twice-a-year Newsletter where Ineke Dijks has returned to be Editor, replacing Claire Beaney who had filled in while Ineke was on sick leave. In Neil and Ineke we have two hard-working geographers who clearly love their discipline and rise to the challenge of serving their colleagues and keeping us all active and alive. Craig Coburn as Secretary-Treasurer has successfully manoeuvred us into a sound financial condition and this year we were able to increase awards for the student-winners of presentations, and add to the generous allocation of travel funds received from the CAG to support student travel to the Annual Meeting.

Next year's annual meeting will be in Nanaimo BC, hosted by Malaspina University College, and the year after we will assemble in Edmonton AB, hosted by University of Alberta. In the meantime we continue to try to positively influence High School curriculum with respect to Geography in BC, especially through our BC Education Chair Alistair McVey. We are trying also to maintain a complete archive of our past activities through our archivist Ken Brealey. Gilles Viaud from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops BC was elected Vice President of WDCAG: he will take over as President in June of 2009. We are optimistic that our Division will continue to

sponsor vibrant activities and grow in numbers and level of interest within our region, and as this year's meeting demonstrated, even beyond our national boundary.

Robert Rogerson

### **Capilano College**

The past two terms have resulted in a number of changes. Karen Ewing, who has been teaching in Physical Geography for a long time at the college, retired at Christmas. As well, we have had a number of regular faculty members on leave – Sheila Ross, Jeanne Mikita, and Cheryl Schreder – however; we were fortunate in having Leonard Tang (from Langara), Kirsten McIlveen, and Diane Tanner to fill in.

Our room availability at Capilano is like hospital beds – acute shortages. The college is expanding into many programs, including 4-year degree ones; however, there has been no expansion of facilities. The result is considerable competition for classrooms, especially in prime times. For University Transfer courses (which are already suffering from declining enrolment) the “solution” to classrooms is Infosilem, which is a computer program that appears to be programming more sections on Fridays. There is a general sense that UT may be seeing even fewer students.

The “big” news is that Capilano is now a university, which will result in the development of Bachelor degrees in niche markets (e.g. Early Childhood Education, Music Therapy, etc.), and it will likely assist in attracting more foreign students, but with no more physical space the status is not likely to improve UT enrolment.

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, especially with university status. 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* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2005 – 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](mailto:bmcgilli@capcollege.bc.ca).

Submitted by Brett McGillivray

### **Douglas College**

Mike McPhee is participating in an interdisciplinary field school to China from May to June 2008. Susan Smythe, Kathy Runnalls and Don McPhee have been conducting research into the characteristics and perceptions of contemporary college learners as part of the SOTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning).

The Department continues to explore options for higher-level course offerings and has been adjusting to contemporary fiscal realities.

Rory Crowley has been hired to teach three sections during the summer semester.

Submitted by Earl Noah

### **Simon Fraser University**

Nine graduate students completed and successfully defended their thesis work in 2007 and 2008. Their theses span a wide range of topics within geography:

**Krista Caroline Simpson**, “The Distribution and Magnitude of Health Disparity in the Vancouver CMA”

**Kathryn Elizabeth Wuschke**, “Sentinel Conditions: Estimating Risk of Residential Burglary Victimization Using Socio-Economic Proxies”

**Cristina Temenos**, “Talking Trash: The Politics of Sustainability and Waste Management in Whistler, British Columbia”

**Verda Kocabas**, “Toward Integration of Bayesian Networks with Geographic Information Systems and Complex Systems Theory for Urban Land Use Change Modelling”

**Lisa Nicole Oliver**, “Examining the Influence of the Neighbourhood Environment on Childhood Obesity”

**Robert Lee Huish**, “Going Where No Doctor Has Gone Before: The Place of Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine in Building Health Care Capacity for Ecuador”

**Agnieszka Leszczynski**, “Critique and its Discontents: GIS and its Critics in Postmillennial Geographies”

**Christina Neudorf**, “Relationships Between the Macroscale Sedimentology and Micro-morphology of Glacigenic Diamictos in South Central British Columbia”

**Tami Jo-Allen Nicoll**, “Planform Geometry and Kinematics of Confined Meanders on the Canadian Prairies”

Submitted by Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld

### **University (College) of the Fraser Valley**

It has been an exciting few months here on the *former* UCFV campus. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Premier Campbell granted UCFV status as a regional, special-purpose university for the Fraser Valley and formally renamed the institution as University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). While we are busy adjusting to the new name and developing a new brand, the institution and the Geography Department can’t wait to welcome new and returning students to UFV in September 2008.

In addition to the university-status announcement, the Minister of Advanced Education formally approved the Geography Department’s proposal for a BSc in Physical Geography (major and minor) in February 2008. This new degree will begin accepting students for the Fall 2008 semester. Students are already showing interest in our new degree and we hope to start the 2008-2009 academic year with a healthy complement of science students studying alongside students in our successful BA program. We are also currently developing a BSc (Honours) in Physical Geography to complement existing programming. The new degree also involved the development of 2 new upper-level courses in the areas of soils and hydrology to be offered in upcoming semesters.

UFV’s Geography Department joined many colleagues from the Western Division at the WDCAG Annual Meeting in Bellingham, WA in March. In total, 39 students and 7 faculty attended the conference and associated field trips. While the trek from Abbotsford to Bellingham is only a short one (compared to those from other institutions!!!), the opportunity to explore our ‘greater backyard’ was an interesting one and enjoyed by all. A number of students presented papers or participated in panel sessions during the conference:

**Shawna M. T. Erickson**, “Clayburn Creek Watercourse Assessment: Development and Stream Management in an Urban Residential Area” (co-authored with Steven Marsh)

**Jeremy Toews**, “Seeing the Forest Under the Trees: The Pine Mushroom Harvest of British Columbia”

**Melissa Kendzierski**, Co-coordinator and Facilitator of Workshop and Panel Discussion: “Sustainable Spaces Sustainable Places – on the Efficacy of Student-led Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in Community Development”

**Leifka Vissers**, Panelist for Workshop and Panel Discussion: “Sustainable Spaces, Sustainable Places – on the Efficacy of Student-led Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in Community Development”

Various UFV Geography faculty also presented their research at the annual meeting including.

**John Belec**, Field trip leader for Borderlands Field Trip

**Ken Brealey**, Panelist for Panel Discussion: "Indigenous Geographies and Indigenizing Geography"

**Garry Fehr**, “Putting the Ecology back into Political Ecology.”

This June, at the 2008 Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in Vancouver, UFV Geography faculty member Garry Fehr presented his paper, “Balancing Conservation and Livelihood Objectives: Assessing India’s Medicinal Plant Ex-Situ Cultivation Scheme”, as part of the annual meeting for the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development. UFV undergraduate Melissa Kendzierski presented her paper, “Service-Learning, Environmental Advocacy and Community Development: Students Lead the Way”, at the 2008 Environmental Studies Association of Canada annual meeting, part of the Congress.

In February, UFV Geography and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies ran a successful study tour to India led by Cherie Enns and Satwinder Bains (Centre Director). The tour included 11 students from Geography, Indo-Canadian Studies and Anthropology and 8 community members who visited New Dehli, Agra, Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Shimla, and Amritsar.

At submission, UFV Geography faculty David Gibson and Garry Fehr are in Mexico co-leading the highly successful Mexico Study Tour in collaboration with Stephen Piper (UFV Sociology instructor). Visiting various sites in Mexico along with David and Garry are 16 Geography, Sociology and Latin American Studies students. The study tour is visiting Oaxaca, Chiapas, Tlaxcala and Mexico City.

Steven Marsh and Carolyn Atkins (along with fellow adventurer Sandy Vanderburgh) are busy planning for another installment in the Adventures in Geography study tour program. In September 2008, they will be accompanied by 16 students as they head to Mt. St. Helens and the Channeled Scablands of Washington. While an eruption isn’t promised this time around, all are eagerly looking forward to investigating these interesting and diverse landscapes. Check out the fall *WDCAG Newsletter* for stories and photos from both the Mexico and Mt. St. Helens field schools.

While there have been no changes to our faculty and staff over the past semester, the department passes along its best wishes to Claire Beaney and her partner, Ian, as they eagerly await the birth of their first baby due in early August.

### **Student Accomplishments:**

It has been a successful semester here at UFV Geography as we look to graduate 56 students from our BA honours (2 students) major (29), extended minor (8) and minor (17) programs at the June convocation ceremonies. A number of our graduates (past and present) have recently been accepted into post-graduate programs around BC and beyond. Winter Moon (graduating in June 2008) has been accepted into a MSc program at SFU’s

Department of Earth Sciences to work under the supervision of our own Olav Lian (also adjunct professor at SFU) and John Clague. In addition, Winter is the recipient of the prestigious Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship worth \$17,500. This award is from the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and is given to the most outstanding applicants to the NSERC masters postgraduate scholarship program. Winter has also received a number of SFU Entrance Scholarships; she starts her studies in September. Ashleigh Gilbert (graduating in June 2008) has been accepted into an MSc program in Environmental Science at Thomson Rivers University and will be studying wetland hydrology. She also begins her studies in September. Leifka Vissers (a 2007 graduate) is heading to Dalhousie University's School of Planning to pursue her Master's degree beginning in September. Amy Rossa (a 2006 graduate) has also been accepted into a postgraduate program at Portland State University this September to complete a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP). Carl Nienhuis (a 2007 graduate with minor in Kinesiology) has been accepted into a Sports Psychology program at Carleton University in Ottawa also starting in September. And finally, Dawn Adams, a former UCFV student who transferred to Memorial University two years ago, but who has continued to volunteer as an orientation leader at UCFV, recently was accepted to Wilfred Laurier University.

UFV Geography would also like to recognize our 2008 award winners. Winter Moon is the recipient of the CAG award and our internal Doug Nicol award (named in memory of our colleague Doug Nicol who passed away in 2003; it is given to a student with a high GPA and who has made significant departmental contributions). Winter is also a recipient of UFV's Research Excellence Award for her Honours research project on refining our understanding of character and timing of preglacial sedimentation in mountain valleys bordering the Fraser Lowland in southwestern BC. Jeremy Toews is this year's recipient of the AAG award for his high academic achievement.

Four UFV Geography students each received a BC Social Policy Research Grant, worth up to \$1000. The grants funded individual research projects into areas where specific policy recommendations may be made to BC Ministries in areas of social policy. David Dunster's research project focused on developing province-wide policies that supported community gardens, and he devised a specific proposal for a new garden to be located in downtown Chilliwack. Melissa Kendzierski conducted research into BC provincial policies and the need to support undergraduate service-learning initiatives in environmental change, particularly at the regional colleges and universities in the province. Jeremy Toews conducted research into the potential for regulation of the pine mushroom in BC mapping Clayburn Creek. Shawna Erickson received a similar grant to map the Clayburn Creek watershed in Abbotsford.

UFV Geography student, Michelle Hoogland, is currently interning in Kenya with Rubina Haroon who is Regional Director for the Africa Regional Office of the World Scout Bureau.

### **Research News:**

Olav Lian has been continuing his research on the character and timing of postglacial landscape adjustment in B.C., and two intervals of fieldwork are planned for this summer. Olav also worked on writing up the principal findings from his collaborative work on paleo-ice flow characteristics in the eastern Canadian Arctic; two papers were published from this work in 2008, and several more are in the works. Olav is also busy

working on establishing funds through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program to enhance UFV undergraduate student involvement in leading edge environmental research. Olav also continues to serve on graduate student supervisory committees (currently 3 at SFU and 1 at UVic), and was the external examiner for a PhD thesis at McMaster University. He also continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science* and the journal *Quaternary Geochronology*, and he is a member of the organizing committee for the 2008 CANQUA conference which will be held at SFU.

UFV Geography faculty member Michelle Rhodes has served for the past year as the facilitator for the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) task force, whose purpose it is to create a new, community-focused environmental research nexus at UFV.

Cherie Enns continues to be actively involved in her research interests in child-friendly cities. In February, Cherie was at Panjab University in Chandigarh, India and co-organized a Child Friendly Cities Forum which included UNICEF's former director of child-friendly cities as the keynote speaker. The forum was co-sponsored by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. In addition, Cherie is currently working on urban planning and design related to community integrated and sustainable care for OVCs (orphans and vulnerable children) with an NGO that has orphanages in 4 African countries and with a University in Kenya. Cherie has also been integral in organizing a CIDA funded forum with the City of Abbotsford on Child Friendly Cities, which also included a number of our planning students, which was held in March 2008.

Submitted by Claire Beaney

## **University of Lethbridge**

This Spring, the Alberta Quality Council and the Alberta Minister of Advanced Education & Technology approved our new *B.A. Major in Rural and Urban Planning and Design*, which we can start this coming Fall. Further, the Government of Canada supported the University of Lethbridge's water research program through a \$3 million federal grant that facilitated the purchase of leading-edge equipment for the Alberta Water and Environmental Sciences Building (AWESB). Our department was able to purchase a diverse array of equipment, including a full weather station, spectrometers and photosynthesis meters, and multispectral, DGPS, GPR and seismic systems.

After the Spring semester we said goodbye to our long-term archaeology colleague Professor Walter Aufrecht, who is an epigrapher specialized in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures and Syro-Palestinian Archaeology. Walter had a prolific career with numerous publications and Near East excavations. He has taken many students to excavations in Israel and Turkey, led tours to Jordan and Egypt, and played an important role in ASOR and the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. In his 35+ years as a professor he has taught well over 9000 lectures in a style that was unique, intellectually stimulating, and very well liked by students. Walter's humour, intelligent criticism and collegiality will be missed. However, we are very happy to have filled the void that Walter left behind by appointing Dr. Kevin McGeough, who is specialised in Bronze and Iron Ages of the Near East/ Eastern Mediterranean, as our new archaeology faculty member next to geoarchaeologist Shawn Bubel. Kevin is not new to the University, and was previously appointed in the departments of Geography and History as well as in the Liberal Education Program.

Other news about our faculty: Wei Xu returned from his sabbatical leave to his homeland China, where he did research on Economic Restructuring, Rural Development and Labour Geographies. Stefan Kienzle and James Byrne received, with PI Adjunct Prof. David Sauchyn, EPCOM and NSERC funding to predict the impacts of climate change on water resources. Stefan Kienzle was further invited by the New Zealand National Institute for Water and Atmosphere to continue his collaborative research on impacts of irrigation on streamflow in the Canterbury plains on the South Island, using the ACRU agro-hydrological modelling system. Derek Peddle is currently the National Chair of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, and Hester Jiskoot was invited by the Canadian Consulate in Seattle to do a speaking tour of 6 universities in Oregon as part of the Fall 2007 Canada Weeks. A large number of our faculty and students presented at the annual AGU (San Francisco), CGU (Banff) and Plains Anthropological Conference (South Dakota) this year.

Two of our graduate students received prestigious graduate scholarships: **Tammi Mills** received an SSHRC for her MA studies in Archaeology, and **Mike Nemeth** received an NSERC for his MSc studies in Geography.

Two of our undergraduate students, **Samantha Darling** and **Leslee Shenton**, were nominated for the Gold Medal in the Sciences at the University of Lethbridge.

Two students completed their MSc degrees since Fall 07: **Katharine Forbes**: "Simulating the Hydrological Response to Climate Change in a Southern Alberta Watershed" (supervisor Dr Stefan Kienzle) **Robert Larson**: "Modelling Climate Change Impacts on Mountain Snow Hydrology, Montana-Alberta" (supervisor Dr James Byrne).

We will have a suite of new graduate students starting in the next academic year, but students interested in MA, MSc, or PhD studies in geography, archaeology or environmental science are always welcome to apply by contacting any of our faculty directly (<http://www.uleth.ca/fas/geo>) or by contacting the School of Graduate Studies (<http://www.uleth.ca/sgs>).

Submitted by Hester Jiskoot

### **Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina University-College)**

The designation of Malaspina University-College to university status, announced by Premier Gordon Campbell in late April, will have no bearing on the Geography and GIS programs offered at Vancouver Island University. The B.A. Major in Geography remains the key undergraduate program. Students in this program may opt to take a General stream or a specialized curriculum in Natural Resource Management or Urban Growth Management. This spring, twenty-one students graduated with a Major in Geography and eleven with a Minor. Information about VIU's undergraduate program in geography is available at: <http://www.viu.ca/geography/>.

VIU's Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications program is now offering face-to-face and online options. The face-to-face program commences every September and involves four months of intensive hands-on learning in a classroom followed by a four-month GIS applications project in the spring semester. There is currently a waiting list for the face-to-face program in September 2008; however, there are still spaces in the eighteen-month online program starting again in January 2009.

Over 90% of graduates in the face-to-face program found jobs as GIS technicians or analysts upon graduation. Most students in the online program are currently working

in the field of GIS and are seeking an accredited post-graduate diploma in GIS applications. Information about VIU's ADGISA program is available at: <http://www.viu.ca/adgisa/>.

ADGISA faculty Michael Govorov, Dave Cake, and Brad Maguire, with assistance from other GIS professionals, recently completed a 9-modular GIS training program for delivery to over 100 Lithuanian public officials, geologists, planners, and engineers under the auspices of the Lithuanian Geographic Information Infrastructure (GII) program. Employing a combination of face-to-face and online curricula, the program was funded by the European Union and the Republic of Lithuania. Delivery of the program was carried out by geomatics professionals at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and Lithuanian University of Agriculture over the past year. Graduates from each of the 9 courses received a "Certificate of Completion" from Malaspina University-College. Brad Maguire and Dave Cake visited Lithuania last year to meet with the prime contractor, HNIT-BALTIC, and instructors responsible for delivering of the first 6 courses. Students have now completed all 9 courses. Michael Govorov and Don Stone, Chair of the ADGISA program at VIU, completed a final quality control visit to Vilnius, Lithuania in May.

The Geography Department is planning to offer another summer field school in Belize in May-June 2009. This will be VIU's second Belizean field school. Larry Wolfe is the key organizer. For further information about this opportunity, contact Larry at [LDSWolfe@telus.net](mailto:LDSWolfe@telus.net).

Pamela Shaw recently traveled to the Philippines where she met with the Dean and officers of the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (U.P. SURP) on possible academic and institutional linkages with VIU. The two universities intend to explore and eventually pursue tie-up activities in the areas of faculty exchange and joint research and academic programs. Pamela Shaw recently completed a textbook for Oxford University Press entitled *A Field Guide to Communication*. Publication is anticipated this fall. The textbook is based on curricula Pamela prepared for GEOG 322 - *Geographic Communication*.

### **Faculty News:**

Alan Gilchrist and Michael Tripp return from professional development leaves and Hannah Wilson returns from maternity leave this fall. During his 6-month leave, Alan devoted much of his time to "Enhancing Teaching and Learning in Physical Geography". He spent time reviewing the literature on the scholarship of teaching and learning, and reassessing his own teaching practices. Part of the leave was spent gaining an international perspective in the United Kingdom, where he interviewed geographers at the Universities of Dundee, Edinburgh, and Gloucestershire. He also gave an invited seminar while in the UK, "Using active learning to better understand the behaviour of complex natural systems: A case study from the teaching of hydrology".

This spring, Jeff Lewis, a PhD graduate in UVic's Earth and Ocean Sciences program, accepted a full-time regular position in the department. Jeff delivered courses in atmospheric environments, environmental geography, climatology, and research methods for the department in 2007-08. Over the past year, Jeff installed a weather station at VIU's Nanaimo campus as part of a network of local weather stations installed in a number of schools across Vancouver Island. Funded by the NSERC's Promo Science



program, in partnership with several Island school districts and AChannel television, the program is designed to peak interest in atmospheric science among Island students and the general public. Information about the program and weather reports for each of the weather stations is available at: [nanaimoweather.ca](http://nanaimoweather.ca).

Part-time instructors Stefan Bjarnason and Lorraine Gibson taught in the department in spring 2008. Dave Cake, Brad Maguire, and Michael Govorov, instructors in the ADGISA program, each delivered one course in the Geography Department this spring.

In the fall, Larry Wolfe will be delivering two upper-level courses in resource management and planning and in spring 2009 Lynda Patterson will be delivering a course on the regions of Canada. Lauren Walker will be teaching environmental geography at VIU's Powell River campus in fall 2008.

After eighteen years at Malaspina, Don Stone is retiring. Faculty and students in the Geography and ADGISA programs hosted a lunch-time retirement party for Don in early April and a few weeks later an institutional retirement party was held with colleagues, administrators, staff, and students present. Don will be relocating to Vancouver this summer.

Michael Tripp was recently elected Chair of the department. Michael assumes these duties July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Conferences and Meetings:**

The Department attracted a number of keynote speakers this year, including Randall Arendt (author of *Rural by Design*) and Gerald Hodge (author of *Planning Canadian Communities*). The Second Annual Urban Issues Film Festival was held in mid-November, co-sponsored by the Planning Institute of British Columbia. Both events were well attended by students, planners, citizens, and the development community.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Malaspina University-College participated in its first International GIS Day – a worldwide event to celebrate the power and promise of GIS. Established by the National Geographic Society in 1987, International GIS Day is a global grassroots event that promotes geographic literacy in schools, communities, and organizations. ESRI Canada's Scott Stafford-Veale, the City of Nanaimo Development Services' Pauline Hackwood, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Sally Bertram (former graduate of Malaspina's Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications Program), and representatives from the BC Ministry of Transportation, along with faculty from Malaspina's ADGISA program, gave presentations at this well-attended event. VIU plans to host its second GIS Day this November.

Michael Tripp accompanied Sue Wells, a fourth-year geography student, to the Annual WDCAG Conference held at Western Washington University in Bellingham in early March. Sue delivered a paper entitled "Smart Growth: Can there be an African version?" Vancouver Island University hosts the next annual meeting of the WDCAG next March. Michael Tripp is the key organizer.

In early May, Don Stone chaired the annual meeting of BCCAT's Geography Articulation Committee at the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook.

In late May, Jeff Lewis presented a paper at the Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) annual meeting in Kelowna. The paper, "Snowball

versus slushball Earth: Dynamic versus nondynamic sea ice?,” was also authored by A. J. Weaver and M. Eby.

Don Alexander presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Environmental Studies Association of Canada, part of the Learned's conference, held at the University of British Columbia in early June. In mid-July Don will be delivering another paper at the annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

**Faculty Publications:** \* not a member of the department

Alexander, D. 2008 ‘Review of City Making in Paradise: Nine Decisions That Saved Vancouver by Mike Harcourt, Ken Cameron, with Sean Rossiter’ *Planning West* 50 (1).

Alexander, D. 2007 ‘South Wellington Community Process: An Experiment in Service Learning’ *Planning West* 50 (1), 10

Alexander, D. and \*Natrasony, S. 2007 ‘The Rise of Modernism and the Decline of Place: The Case of Surrey City Centre, Canada’ *Proceedings of the Environmental Design Research Association* 38, 96-100

\*Tomalty, R., Alexander, D., and \*Anielski, M. 2007 *The Ontario Urban Sustainability Report 2007: Measuring the Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability of Ontario’s Municipalities* (Toronto: Pembina Institute)

Alexander, D. 2007 ‘First Annual Film Fest A Rousing Success.’ *Planning West* 49 (1), 20

\*Gienko, G, Govorov, M., Maguire, B., \*Khmelevsky, Y., and Gienko, A. 2007 ‘A virtual professional community to support effective use of remotely sensed imagery’ *The South Pacific Journal of Natural Science* 25 (1), 47-52

\*Beconyte, G., Govorov, G., \*Ningal, T.F., \*Parseluinias, E. and \*Urbanas, S. 2008 ‘Geographic Information E-Training Initiatives for National Spatial Data Infrastructures, Technological and Economic Development of Economy’ *Baltic Journal on Sustainability* 14 (1), 11–28

Govorov, M.O., \*Kosharev, A.V., \*Serapenas, B.B., and \*Tikunov, V.S. 2008 ‘Cartographic Visualization’ in *Geo-Informatics* ed V.S. Tikunov (Moscow, Academia) 246-298

Lewis, J.P., Weaver, A.J., and Eby, M.E. 2007 ‘Snowball versus slushball Earth: Dynamic versus nondynamic sea ice?’ *Journal of Geophysical Research* 112

Jollineau, M.J., Wilson, H.G., \*Howarthe, P. Heterogeneity characteristics of an inland wetland environment through spatio-spectral analysis, *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing* (In Press).

**Student Accomplishments and Activities:**

Malaspina University-College geography graduate **Parker Krog**, received the CAG’s undergraduate award for 2008. Parker has been accepted into the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria this September.

**Lisa Zetterberg**, a 2008 graduate from the ADGISA face-to-face program, was awarded this year’s Carto Cup by VIU President Ralph Nilson. The cup is awarded to any VIU student who produces a cartographically excellent representation of spatial data. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of effective communication of the intended

information, cartographic quality, innovative design, and overall attractiveness of the finished product.

Students in the face-to-face ADGISA program presented their practicum projects to fellow students, faculty, administrators, and sponsors at a two-day session in mid-April. A wide variety of student projects were presented, including "Okanagan Region Foreshore Habitat Analysis," "Conservancy Map Atlas and Seral Stage Analysis for the Central Coast Planning Area," "Traffic Sign Project for the City of Nanaimo, SEI/SAR Regional Mapping Template for the South Okanagan," "Snowpack Modeling in the Englishman River Watershed, Pacific Sardine Migration as Related to Sea Surface Temperature and Chlorophyll Concentration," "Digital Stand Mapping and Stand Structure Analysis for Old Growth Permanent Plots in the CWH," and "Forest and Land Use Planning Using GIS and 3D Visualization Software."

For further information on the Geography and GIS programs at Vancouver Island University, please visit our website at: <http://www.viu.ca/gis/>

Submitted by Don Stone

## **Camosun College**

A quick update from Camosun College...we offered two courses this Spring Session, Geography 100 – taught by Catherine Griffiths - and a new course, Geography 250: Geography of Latin America taught by Bernard Henin. Bernard is offering G250 as both a classroom and an online offering over May and June and that drew enough student interest that we were able to offer a second-year level course in the spring for the first time. We also had successful enrolment in our new winter offering: Geography 111: Natural Hazards.

Chris Ayles developed and ran this new course for us and the student feedback was extremely positive.

Barry Weaver has decided to continue teaching for 2008-2009 and he will have a full suite of courses here at the college plus his additional courses at UVic where he is teaching as a sessional instructor.

Both Francis Yee and Tim Elkin have received BC Campus funding to develop further online courses for Camosun College Geography. They will each be taking partial leaves over the next academic year to adapt existing courses to an online format.

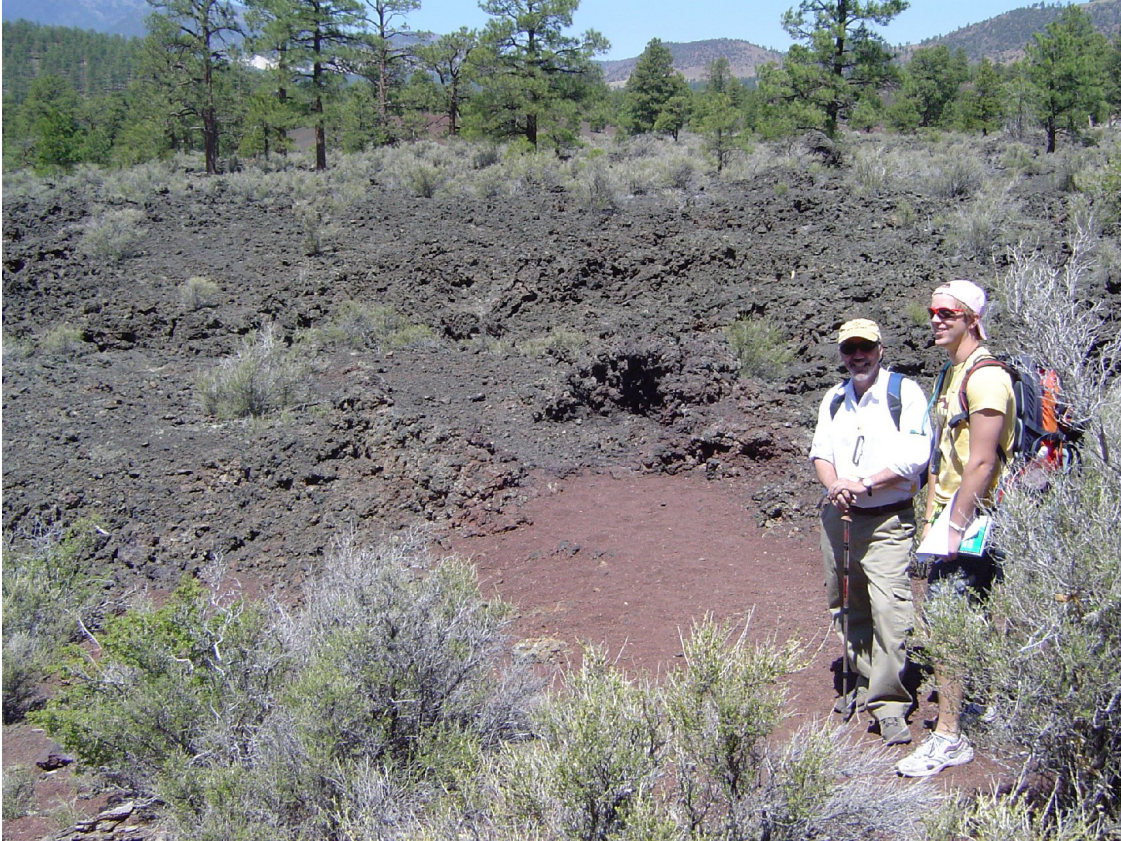
Chris Ayles will be taking paternity leave in January '09 to spend time at home with his new son, Callum, and older boy, Noah.

We are currently recruiting sessionals to teach our Geography 220: Natural Resource Systems and Geography 206: Lithosphere and Hydrosphere courses which will be available over the next terms due to the above-mentioned leaves.

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

## **Okanagan College**

The merged Geography and Earth & Environmental Science Departments at Okanagan College are part of the Faculty of Arts and Foundational Programs. Full-time faculty, Stephanie Bunclark, Leif Burge, Steve Doyle and Kathleen Jagger were joined by Terence Day, appointed full-time, effective August 2007. Kathleen Jagger is now the proud parent of a baby boy, Evan, and is on maternity leave. Peter Rotheisler took over her courses in Penticton and Kelowna.



**Steve Doyle and student at Sunset Crater on the Southwest Studies field class, May, 2008.**

We now teach 100-, 200-, and 300-level courses in Kelowna, and a selection of first and second year courses in our Salmon Arm, Kelowna, and Vernon campuses. New courses being offered next year on the Kelowna campus include “Introduction to Urban Studies” (Geog 250), to be taught by Stephanie Bunclark. We plan to change our current first year Human Geography courses of Geog 117 (Human Geography I) and 127 (Human Geography II) to Geog 128 (Human Geography: Space, Place and Community) and 129 (Human Geography: Resources, Development and Society), so that it will be possible for students to take the courses in any order, which may help increase Winter enrolments.

We recently began offering directed studies courses to allow students to gain wider experience while at the college. Student feedback on these courses has been positive and one directed studies student won a national student award for his project. We are continuing to develop our environmental offerings, and have received provincial funding to consult with First Nations in this area. Bonnie Watts was hired for this consultation.

This summer Stephen Doyle is leading a group of students to Arizona to participate in three courses collectively termed “Southwest Studies”. This program will allow students at some of the smaller campus to access 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses that are not usually available to them. Steve has been working in the US Southwest for the past

several years where he has completed several instructional videos. Next year Stephanie Bunclark will be leading a similar initiative to Vanuatu.

Enrolments have been respectable and are increasing. This is related to the growth in the number of Arts students who take our courses for lab science credit. We expect that this trend will continue with the increase in the number of Arts students in the College. Student interest is high and is reflected in the establishment of an Environment Club on the Vernon and Kelowna campuses.

We have acquired new lab and field equipment for granulometry, soil moisture, shear strength, snow sampling etc., and have upgraded our GIS. A new learning center that will provide new faculty offices and much needed classroom space is currently under construction in Kelowna. Our Kelowna library will receive a makeover at the same time.

Submitted by Terence Day

### **Mount Royal College**

Degree programs are now being implemented at Mount Royal College. In the Department of Earth Sciences we are offering a Bachelor of Science-General Major and a Geology Major degree in Fall 2008.

Welcome to Dr. Troy Burnett who has been hired to teach economic, political and development courses in geography. Troy comes to us from the University of California Los Angeles and is adjusting to life around the Rockies although he finds the skiing very distracting. In October, Troy sat on a panel at the Pacific Coast Geographer's Annual Meeting in Los Angeles as a discussant about 'Teaching Urban Geography'.

Barb McNicol is working in cooperation with Alberta Provincial Parks (Kananaskis Country and Fish Creek Park) and three other instructors at Mount Royal College to develop a web-based decision-making prototype for recreational group use with emphasis on school group activities. Presentations about this research were given at the Southern Alberta Intellectual Property Conference in April and at the Parks and Protected Areas 2008 Conference in May. Both were held at the University of Calgary. Barb is on sabbatical next 2008/2009 academic year (Acting Head of the Earth Science Department will be John Cox) and is heading to Australia.

Jennifer Hird, a recent graduate from the University of Calgary, is a new part-time member of the department and is teaching our Remote Sensing course. Susan Hunt continues to teach World Regional Geography and, with Aaron Williams, has just returned with thirteen students from a successful Geography Field School to Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Sumanti Kulatilake has moved to the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Mount Royal College and into a full-time tenure track position.

Submitted by Barbara McNicol

### **University of Victoria**

#### **Dan Smith gets his life back...Phil Dearden now in the hot seat of Chairpersonship**

Dr. Dan Smith, our UVic Geography chair for seven years, has now handed over the reins to Professor Phil Dearden to carry on.



Dan Smith

### **UVic Geographers among Nobel Prize-winning researchers**

Two UVic Geographers were among several UVic researchers who shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice President Al Gore and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The researchers wrote the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 Assessment Report. Dr. Terry Prowse, one of the Report's lead authors, is a professor and Chair in Climate Impacts on Water Resources in the Department of Geography and a research scientist with our Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC), and Dr. Fred Wrona, one of the contributing authors, is a professor in the Department of Geography and also a research scientist with W-CIRC. W-CIRC is a joint initiative of UVic and the National Water Research Institute of Environment Canada.

### **New UVic Geography program: "Coastal Studies Options"**

Starting with the 2008-09 academic year, UVic Geography undergraduate programs will include a BA or BSc with a very complete Coastal Studies option. The keystone courses for this new Option include Geography of the Coastal Zone, Coastal and Marine Resources I Protected Areas: Principles and Concepts, Coastal Communities, and a fourth-year Seminar in Coastal Studies, while fourth-year Option electives include

Coastal and Marine Resources II, Coastal Community Health, Marine Protected Areas II, Field Studies in Coastal Geomorphology, Aquaculture in BC, and Marine Aquaculture: Social, Economic and Environmental Dimensions.

### **Moving into our New Building**

February Reading Break brought our Geography Department into a well-planned but intense moving experience. First one in forty-two years! However, its great to now be settled into this fantastic new building, the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, which has much better office and lab spaces. Just prior to our move, a photo album went online: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/faculty/smithd/building/progress.html> Most recently, our "futuristic" SSM home has just finished in a starring role in a made-for-tv movie, *Impact*, about an asteroid hitting the earth!



### **Retirement of Harry Foster**

The Department of Geography gathered to celebrate a career well-served on Friday, May 30, 2008, at the University Club. After 41 years as a faculty member at the University of Victoria, Harry Foster is retiring. This celebratory party was an opportunity for friends and colleagues, old and new, to gather and honour the contributions that Harry has made to the University over his career at the university. Pictures of the event: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept2/faculty/smithd/foster2008/index.html>

### **Significant Grants**

Incoming Chair Phil Dearden received \$134,000 from SSHRC to continue his marine conservation work in SE Asia, with a grant entitled "Assessing the Sustainability of Incentive-Based Conservation Mechanisms for Marine Conservation". Dearden is also a Co-Investigator with Wolfgang Haider from SFU and Sabine Jessen from CPAWS on a SSHRC Northern Strategic Grant entitled "Institutional arrangements in support of developing a marine protected area network for the Canadian Arctic."

### **Convocating Students:**

On 3 June, our Spring convocation brought 130 graduating geographers and 6 graduate students their degrees. The graduate student thesis topics included

**Deirdre Bruce**, MSc - "Production and Quality of Sap from Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum* Marsh) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia"

**Pat Jarrett**, MSc - "A Dendroclimatic Investigation of Moisture Variability and Drought in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, Vancouver Island, British Columbia"

**Tim Mots**, PhD - "Spatial Analysis of Residential Break and Enter"

**Chris Pasztor**, MSc - "The Dynamic Relationship Between Foraging Gray Whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) and Their Mysid Prey (Mysidae), Along the Southwest Coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia"

**Andrew Pinfold**, MSc - "Lower Selenium Status Among Adult White American Males: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Identification of Augmentation Strategies. A Potential Approach to Reduce Prostate Cancer Incidence"

**Emma Taylor, MA** - "Building Community with Recycling: A Case Study of Two Small Islands in British Columbia, Canada"

**UVic faculty and students presenting at CAG 2008:**

**Heather Castleden:** "Hishuk Tsawakł (Everything is Connected): A Huu-ay-aht worldview for seeing forestry in BC, Canada"

**Jutta Gutberlet:** "Expanding spaces of empowerment through participation"

**Lynn Koehler and Dan Smith:** "Dendroglaciologic evidence for late-Holocene advances at Manatee Glacier, Upper Lillooet Provincial Park, southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia"

**Sonya Laroque and Dan Smith, Sandy Allen, Scott Jackson, Lynn Koehler, Sarah Laxton and Dave Lewis:** "Holocene glacial history in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia: a review"

**Colin Laroque, et. al.:** "Detecting spatial connections within a dendrochronological network on Vancouver Island"

**Jessica Miller:** "Indigenous Geographies and Indigenizing Geography"

**Jessica Miller:** "Affordable Housing for First Nations"

**Dan Smith and Dave Lewis:** "Dendroglaciological investigations at Scud Glacier, northern British Columbia Coast Mountains"

**Stanton Tuller:** "Temporal Variations in Human Thermal Climate: A Preliminary Analysis"



**Congratulations to Trisalyn and Ian on their baby!**

Finlay James Nelson-Walker - born on Mother's Day to faculty members Trisalyn Nelson and Ian Walker.



### **Indigenous Geography Study Group**

Several faculty, staff, grad and undergrads met in January to informally discuss how we can meet the goals and challenges of building a greater commitment to Indigenous geography studies and to encouraging First Nations students to build geography study programs in our Department. Starting this fall, we are offering a special senior undergraduate Indigenous Geography field course, and we are exploring ways that our Department can cooperate with UVic Administration, the Office of Indigenous Studies, and other faculties. As part of the IGSG objectives to build an interest for Indigenous geography, they hosted a terrific presentation by Ken Brealey, of UCFV.

Submitted by John Newcomb

### **University of Alberta, Augustana Campus**

Faculty at Augustana campus are Glen Hvenegaard and Glennis Hood. Terra Birkigt, and Andra Bismanis are sessional lecturers.

#### **Recent Publications** \*not a member of this department

Hood, G.A. and \*Bayley, S.E. 2008. The effects of high ungulate densities on foraging choices by beaver (*Castor canadensis*) in the mixed wood boreal forest. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 86(6): 484-196.

Hood, G.A. and Bayley, S.E. 2008. Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) mitigate the effects of climate on the area of open water in boreal wetlands in western Canada. *Biological Conservation* 141(2):556-567.

Hood, G.A., \*Bayley, S.E. and \*Olson, W. 2007 'Effects of prescribed fire on habitat of beaver (*Castor canadensis*) in Elk Island National Park, Canada' *Forest Ecology and Management* 239(1-3), 200-209

Hvenegaard, G.T. 2007 'A novel approach to deepen understanding of undergraduates' environmental backgrounds' *International Research In Geographical and Environmental Education* 16(4), 327-337

Hvenegaard, G. 2007 (co-editor). *Four Seasons Environmental Centre Interactive CD of the Natural History of Camrose* (Camrose, AB, Rotary Club of Camrose and Four Seasons Environmental Centre)

Hvenegaard, G.T. and \*Manaloor, V. 2007 'A comparative approach to analyzing local expenditures and visitor profiles of two wildlife festivals' *Event Management* 10(4), 231-239

Hvenegaard, G. and \*Asfeldt, M. 2007 'Embracing friluftsliv's joys: teaching the Canadian North through the Canadian wilderness travel experience' in *Nature First: Outdoor Life the Friluftsliv Way* ed B. Henderson and N. Vikander (Toronto, ON, Natural Heritage Books), 168-178

Submitted by Glynnis Hood

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For more information and back issues of the newsletter go to the website  
<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wcag/index.html>

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.  
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