



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All 170 participants who attended the 52nd WDCAG Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference hosted by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta in Edmonton last March, can attest that this year's gathering was once again a great success. On behalf of all WDCAG members I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank Theresa Garvin, her departmental colleagues and the horde of student volunteers from the University of Alberta, for putting together such a well run, engaging and stimulating event. I am sure that our host for next year, the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, will continue in this long and successful tradition.

The participation at this year's conference was excellent considering the long distances most had to travel in order to reach Edmonton. More than 60% of the participants (about 100) were students (undergraduates and graduates) from 9 different Alberta and BC colleges and universities. Colleagues who regularly attend the WDCAG agree that student participation is what gives our conference its unique character. This is why at the AGM the WDCAG membership voted to add \$2015 in student travel grant to the \$2500 it already receives from the CAG.

Eighty five paper and poster presentations were delivered during the Saturday

sessions, the bulk of which were delivered by students. The high standard of student participation was duly noted by all, which is interpreted as being a clear sign that the future of our discipline is in good hands. Once again, it was very difficult to select the winners for the student paper and poster awards. This year's awards went to Winter Moon (SFU), Rheannon Brooks (UVIC), Eric Kopetski (UNBC) and Samantha Brennan (UBCO), with honourable mentions to Jeff Suter (UofA), Pearce Sanders (TRU), Sarah Poirier (UVIC) and Tracy Thompson (VIU). On the faculty side, the J.A. McVey Award for Teaching Excellence went to Pam Shaw from Vancouver Island University. Sincere congratulations to all award winners.

A new WDCAG executive was elected at the AGM and it consists of Theresa Garvin (Vice-President – UofA); Alistair McVey (Councillor); Barb McNicol (Councillor – MRU); Zoë Meletis (Councillor – UNBC); Winter Moon (BC Student Rep – SFU); Sirina Hamilton-McGregor (Alberta Student Rep – UofA); and Jim Windsor (Awards Officer - UNBC). Hester Jiskoot (Secretary Treasurer – UofL), Ken Brealey (Archivist – UFV), Claire Beaney (Newsletter Editor – UFV), Neil Hanlon (Western Geography Editor – UNBC), and myself as President remain as Officers for one more year. The BC Education Committee Chair is still vacant (anyone interested?).

Overall, the WDCAG is in good shape: attendance at its AGM and conference

remains strong; it is in good financial health; and thanks to the work of Neil Hanlon of UNBC, Volume 17/18/19 of the *Western Geography* was published in December 2009, and printed and distributed in February-March 2010.

The only expression of concern raised during the AGM came from Alistair McVey, former BC Education Committee Chair. As noted in his report, enrolment in Geography 12 in BC has declined by almost 25% between the 2002/2003 and 2008/2009 academic years, where it went from a high of 11,586 students to a low of 8,748. This trend should be of great concern to Geography Departments and Programs across the Division. The lack of teachers with sufficient background for teaching this course seems to be one of the main reason behind this worrying trend. McVey recommends that "each Department in the BC institutions make a determined effort to liaise with the secondary system both to make the case for the values of geographic education" and to offer assistance to teachers who may want to teach geography but may not feel able to do so. He also recommends "that the Committee continue with efforts to participate in curriculum reviews with the BC Ministry of Education." In order to start a dialogue on this issue, I would like to ask that in the Fall 2010 WDCAG newsletter, Departments and Programs share what type of activities they organize, if any, in order to liaise or engage with high school geography students and teachers in their region. We could certainly benefit at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) from learning what other institutions are doing in that regard. This is just a suggestion!

Finally I am off to the CAG meeting in Regina at the end of the month. I hope to

have the pleasure to meet some of you there and perhaps share a few stories over a beer or a glass of wine. One issue I know will be discussed in Regina is the decline in CAG membership in recent years. Please encourage your colleagues that are not members of our professional organization to join the CAG. Graduates and undergraduates students should also be encouraged to become members. You can suggest that they browse the CAG website (www.cag-acg.ca/en/index.html) to discover the many benefits associated with joining the CAG.

Gilles Viaud Ph.D.

2010-2011 President, WDCAG

Chair, Department of Geography

Thompson Rivers University

AUGUSTANA CAMPUS 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). In 2009, our campus opened its beautiful new library, and in 2010, will open a student forum.

In terms of teaching, Glen integrated community-service learning into an intro environmental science course, parks and wilderness course, and a capstone course. Students volunteered in a variety of community and parks agencies, integrating both theory and practice. One of his directed studies students, Shawn Banack, finished a study on the motivations of landowners practising biodiversity-friendly farming. He published this study in *Human*

Dimensions in Wildlife and presented at the 2010 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. Another student, Taylor Woolley, studied population trends of nocturnal owls around Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, and presented at the 2010 WDCAG conference. In 2009, Glen and colleague Liz Demers led a for-credit Arctic geography canoe expedition along the Hood River in Nunavut. They portaged around the famous Wilberforce Falls, highest in the world north of the Arctic Circle.

In terms of research, Glen received a SSHRC SRG to study the potential conservation benefits of wildlife festivals in Canada. He is finishing up a joint project on the relationship between protected areas and sustainable forest management. He and 3 colleagues also received U of A funding to study the benefits and barriers of undergraduate directed studies courses. He and colleague Morten Asfeldt are investigating and writing about their teaching philosophies and learning outcomes on this extended wilderness expedition.

In the fall, Glynnis Hood developed and taught a new course in Freshwater Ecology and Management, which provided students the opportunity to explore water bodies within the nearby boreal and parkland regions. The course used field experiences to help integrate the more complex theoretical aspects into labs and lectures. In addition, her Introductory Geographic Information Systems class once again had students “map their world” through the use of handheld GPS units in the field. These data are then integrated into the GIS by the students to create maps that are unique to their daily experiences. Inspired by a prize-filled competition, students find that by using their own data to create a personal,

self-directed project, they become more engaged in GIS and its applications. One of her senior students, Curtis Stratmoen, successfully adapted a 1986 paper-based habitat suitability model for blue-winged teal into a GIS format, where it can now be applied at finer spatial scales with more powerful results. He presented his results at the 2010 WDCAG conference in Edmonton. Another student, Leanna Trefry, conducted a study of the effects of active beaver lodges on ice development and persistence and winter water chemistry.

The 2009 research season was very busy. One research project was based in the Miquelon Lake area and focused on the effects of land use and climate on wetland biodiversity, while another examined the potential effects of industrial water withdrawals on semi-aquatic mammals downstream of the Alberta oil sands operations. Glynnis continues to work closely with Alberta Parks and the Beaver Hills Initiative to help assess biodiversity and wetland health in the Cooking Lake Moraine. She was the catalyst behind a research agreement between Alberta Parks and the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus.



This fall, sessional instructor, Pam Stacey, taught a course in introductory environmental science.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or Dr. Glynnis Hood glynnis.hood@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

CAMOSUN COLLEGE

In 2009, longtime Camosun Geographer Barry Weaver retired from the department. This left a gaping hole in that has been ably and permanently filled by the arrival of Trisha Jarrett. Trisha returns to Camosun after completing her M.Sc. at UVic in dendro-climatology. Also joining us this past term has been Dr. Thiago Silva, also from UVic, who skillfully took on a section of Geography 210 at the last minute. Last year, Dr. Francis Yee was the well-deserved co-recipient of the Camosun 2009 Community Impact award for his on-going work with the African Awareness Committee. Also in 2009, Dr. Tim Elkin received long-term funding from the College to research carbon neutrality in organizations: rationale and implementation methodology.

Chris Ayles, Hilary Sandford, Catherine Griffiths, Dr. Bernard Henin and Barbara Von Sacken round out the Geography Department and, with such a large group, we are able to provide a full suite of both Arts and Science geography to an ever-growing number of students.

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

The Department of Geography has been busy over the last year. Susan Smythe successfully participated in a study abroad program to Wales in May – June 2009 and will be returning this May – June 2010. Mike McPhee will be participating in a study abroad program to Belize in May – June 2010.

The department continues to explore higher level course offerings and linkages with other institutions.

Submitted by Earl Noah

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

It has been an exciting and dynamic year at newly renamed Mount Royal University and the Department of Earth Sciences/Geography. Our department and curriculum continue to expand as we shift to the University model. Beginning in Fall 2010 we will formerly be offering our students a Geography Minor. The Minor will consist of three streams: Human; Physical; and Spatial Techniques.

The department also welcomed a new faculty member—Lynn Moorman. Lynn comes to us from the University of Calgary where she is completing her Ph.D. Lynn's research interest is in spatial literacy, particularly pertaining to geospatial technologies. This interest stems from her background in physical geography, spatial analysis and current Ph.D. research in educational technologies. While she loves exploring with GIS and remote sensing, even better is the field work - especially if it is skiing, hiking, or climbing!

Dr. Troy Burnett has been active in an ongoing research project on the changing geographies of post-socialist Europe. In 2009 he presented his research at the AAG annual conference in a paper titled: The Elusive Search for Slovak National Identity in the Dynamic Post Socialist Context.

Dr. Barb Mcnicol returned to the department from a sabbatical in Australia, exploring the countryside and wine regions in both a professional and social means to further her research on tourism geography. As Chair, she has also been quite busy and active in helping to usher the department into the University model.

Long time department stalwart Pam MacQuarrie has been very active in her efforts to develop the Geography Minor and in adapting a former tutorial room to a GIS/RS lab. She has also succeeded in having many of the physical and techniques courses included in the MRU General Education suite of courses, including the first year course: Introduction to Mapping, and second year courses: Weather and Climate, and GIS. She is extremely excited to have another full-time Physical Geographer on board - welcome Lynn!

Submitted by Mark Troy Burnett

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

After eight years of successfully leading the Department, Graeme Wynn stepped down as Head and was replaced by David Ley. The new academic year went off with a bang as the Department celebrated its 50th. anniversary as a separate unit – though a course on Physical Geography was taught as early as 1915. A two-day celebration began with a symposium led by six former PhD students from three continents who gave lectures on broad issues associated with

their research fields. The event was kicked off by an encouraging speech from UBC President Stephen Toope. The undergraduate Geography Student Association celebrated its own 40th. anniversary with a special Geopit. An evening dinner followed, with one of the highlights an address by the Dean that included a gift of \$50,000 to the Department. [We are inviting the Dean to our 51st anniversary dinner!]. On the second day, field trips and a graduate/faculty barbeque rounded out a great birthday party. A legacy of the event, prepared by Graeme Wynn and cartographer Eric Leinberger, is a large illustrated wall poster laying out faculty and graduate student research trajectories over the past half-century. Check it out – your name may be there! There's also a new and more informative departmental web site at www.geog.ubc.ca

Other UBC news includes the opening of the stream channel flume lab, thanks to the hard work of Marwan Hassan and Graeme Wynn and the support of the Dean of Arts, Nancy Gallini, who broke a bottle of champagne over the flume to inaugurate the first stream flow. Among award winners, Gerry Pratt won the Sam Black Award in the Visual Arts as her innovative play *Nanay* -- an animation of transcripts of her research with Filipina domestic workers -- was shown in Vancouver and Berlin. Brett Eaton was awarded a Killam Teaching Prize in 2010, following the success of Juanita Sundberg in 2009, and Karen Young received the very first President's Staff Award for her exemplary undergraduate advising. New books have been published by David Edgington, *Reconstructing Kobe*, following the destructive earthquake, by Matthew Evenden and two co-authors (*The*

River Returns) on the environmental history of the Bow River, and by David Ley (*Millionaire Migrants*) on the wealthy migrants who have moved between Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vancouver/Toronto since the 1980s.

Submitted by David Ley

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – OKANAGAN

Congratulations to two of our fourth year students, Samantha Brennan and Aidan Whiteley, who took first place for their paper presentation at the WDCAG Conference in Edmonton. Their research, on the use of Geolive to map and share people's personal accounts of every forest fire in the Okanagan Valley over the last 25 years, was also featured on CHBC, our local television station. The pair came up with the idea for this project in a new course taught by Dr. Jon Corbett – Cartography and Society. Check the project website at: www.geolive.ca/firehistory.

The rising concerns for the sustainability, quality and security of our food supply prompted Dr. Mary Stockdale, our adjunct professor, to create a new course, GEOG 421: Geography of Food Systems. This course incited a fourth year student, Raja Wariach, to create a website that directly connects people in need of food with farmers and orchardist who have excess to give. The website, <http://www.gleanok.com>, was originally intended to be Okanagan specific, but Raja is currently in the process of expanding the website to include the entire country. He decided to do so after learning the concept was unique to Canada.

Our students were not the only ones to attract media attention in the last few months. Dr. Carlos Teixeira **was** interviewed by CBC about his research on housing and immigrants in Canada. His research has looked at how housing availability impacts the opportunities for immigrants coming to Okanagan communities. The interview aired April 26 around the world on RCI's The Link, a daily radio show aimed at connecting new immigrants to Canada and Canada to the world. A French-language story aired on RCI on April 28. Listen to the English interview on [The Link](#) (podcast MP3).

If wine is more your cup of tea so to speak, Dr. Donna Senese recently co-authored (with W. Wilson and B. Momer) a book chapter on the wine region of the Okanagan. The book, entitled *The Geography of Wine* will be available this summer. It is edited by P. Dougherty and published by Springer Publishers.

Prof. Bernard Momer just completed an economic impact assessment of the creative sector in Kelowna. Two key findings of the report are that the creative sector generates \$37.8 million in wages annually and has an annual economic impact of \$143.8 million. *The Creative Sector in Kelowna, British Columbia: An Economic Impact Assessment* follows up on a 1998 assessment of the contribution of arts and culture to the economy of the wider Central Okanagan region. The full report is available at https://people.ok.ubc.ca/publicaffairs/news/2010_momer/creativesector.pdf.

Our enrolment this past year increased as it has consistently over the last five years. We now have 74 majors enrolled and 23 of them will be graduating this year. On the graduate side of the equation, we have 7

Masters and 7 PhD students supervised by Geography Faculty members.

Submitted by Bernard Momer

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Department News:

It has been a busy year or so here at UFV with many student and faculty accomplishments to report as well as many study tours and other department activities taking place.

The department has established a Discoveries Seminar Speaker Series. Speakers from last year include Dan Smith (UVIC), Kevan Edinborough (SFU), Brian Atwater (USGS), and Lori Daniels (UBC).

This past year has seen the continuation of UFV Geography's many study tours introducing students to many unique environments both in Canada and internationally. Last September, **Garry Fehr** and **Olav Lian** took 12 students on an 'Adventures in Geography' tour of Interior British Columbia. This five day trip visited sites along the Sea to Sky corridor, Clinton, Quesnel Forks, and Wells Gray Provincial Park, (among other areas). In February 2010, **Garry Fehr**, **Cherie Enns** with colleague Satwinder Bains led 21 students through India on the 2nd India Study Tour. Spending 4 weeks travelling through Delhi, Chandigarh, Shimla, Amristar and Bhopal, students focused on issues associated with rural-urban migration, environmental sustainability and resource management and child friendly cities.



As this newsletter goes to press, **David Gibson** (Professor Emeritus), **Garry Fehr** and colleague Stephen Piper are in Mexico with 18 students. They are travelling throughout Mexico studying markets, public spaces and religious festivals in Mexico City, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tlaxcala. Watch for photos in the Fall newsletter. **Carolyn Atkins**, **Steven Marsh** and **Michelle Rhodes** will be leading 15 students to the Alberta Rockies in September 2010. This year's Adventures in Geography will visit the Icefields Parkway, Kananaskis and Banff area where students will have the opportunity to investigate issues associated with tourism, water, wildlife management and the climate and geomorphology of the region.

Student News:

Justine Cullen was recently awarded the prestigious 2010 Farouk El-Baz Student Award from the Geological Society of America (GSA). The award is for students conducting fundamental research in desert and dryland environments, and Justine's application was based on her proposed honours research in our Luminescence

Dating Laboratory, which is on developing dating protocols for sand dunes in the Canadian prairies that serve as proxies for long-term environmental (climate) change. This is an amazing accomplishment as the GSA only gives out two such awards every year, the competition is international, and Justine is the first undergraduate student to win this award.



UFV Geography was well represented by student presentations at the recent WDCAG annual meeting in Edmonton. The following student presentations and posters were made:

Erin Murphy (with Claire Beaney) *“Seasonal Beach Profile Morphology in Boundary Bay, British Columbia”* (presentation);

Justine Cullen (with Olav Lian) *“A Comparison of Dating Methods used for the Interpretation of a Significant Lithostratigraphic Unit Overlying the Last Interglacial (MIS 5e) Muir Point Formation, Southwestern British Columbia”* (presentation);

Rachel Chapman (with Gary Fehr) *“Health Care is Child’s Play”* (poster);

Michael Thiessen *“Subsistence Swept Away: Restructuring Municipal Solid*

Waste Management in India” (poster);

Ashleigh Graham *“Sambhavna Clinic: Competing Against Union Carbide’s Legacy with Community Development”* (poster).

At the same meeting, **Winter Moon** received the Best Graduate Poster award for her poster *“A study in the comparison of two radiometric dating methods for the reinterpretation of a key lithostratigraphic section, Lynn Valley, southwestern British Columbia “* in collaboration with her master’s supervisor, **Olav Lian**.



Over the past year, 2 UFV Geography students have completed projects for their Honours designation. **Erin Murphy** investigated seasonal changes in beach morphology at Boundary Bay Regional Park in Tsawwassen, BC to complete her BSc Honours. **Melissa Kendzierski** completed her BA Honours with a project investigating sustainability at UFV.

The department is also home to three students funded by NSERC USRA’s this summer: Justine Cullen, Emily Helmer, and Lee van Ardenne. Other research students include Alanna Schuurmans (supported by a GEOIDE grant in collaboration with

researchers at Simon Fraser University). Emily also held an NSERC USRA in fall 2009

UFV Geography is also pleased to announce this year's award winners: **Annette de Vries** (CAG award); **Melissa Kendzierski** (AAG award); and **Ashley Peters** (UFV Geography Doug Nicol award). **Justine Cullen** was this year's department winner for the University Research Excellence Award for her project on the dating of the Muir Point Formation, southern Vancouver Island.

Faculty News:

Former lab technicians, **Carolyn Atkins** and **Kathy Peet** have been hired into new positions as Lab Instructors in the Geography Department where they are responsible for the continued instruction of labs for the 1st year physical geography courses.

Cherie Enns continues to research urban and suburban planning and the development of child-friendly cities in India, Kenya and Abbotsford and Surrey. Cherie has received and supervised six additional Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC) Internships in Kenya and India and two Work Study positions in planning in rural Kenya. Cherie has also given several presentations which included: a) 'Child friendly communities for orphan and vulnerable children in Africa' at the Children's Rights at a Crossroads Global Conference for the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child November in Addis Ababa; b) an invited lecture on 'Teaching in a global milieu: Graduate Program in Planning' at Portland State University in October 2009; and c) 'Rethinking development' for the Global Development Institute at Abbotsford in October 2009. Cherie also participated in

the Forum on The New Africa: Redrawing the Blueprint for the Canada-Africa Partnership in Ottawa in October 2009; and presented 'Interim findings of international development' to the Center for Research and Design Grant in Western Kenya.

John Belec continued his research on cross-border issues and the Borderlands Initiative, the only one of its kind in western Canada. With Patrick Buckley at Western Washington University (WWU), he conducted research on the Trade Corridor Project on the Cascade Gateway Region, and continued his work on the challenges of environmental management in the trans-49th parallel region. He is also researching micro-scale cross-border educational ventures in the Lower Mainland for publication in 2010.

Ken Brealey finished his research from the previous year on the cartographic reconstruction of five specific claims on Douglas Treaty reserves for the Snuneymuxw First Nation, and the documentary historical cartography for the Okanagan Indian Band. He researched the historical geography and cartography of, and served as secondary researcher/writer on ten specific claims for, the Nlha7káp̓mx Nation Tribal Council (NNTC). He also researched and mapped Aboriginal title and rights in the area of the proposed Cache Creek Landfill Extension for the NNTC.

Steven Marsh, in collaboration with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute is investigating water quality in the Fraser River. He is also involved in a project researching urban forest management in Abbotsford and is continuing his work on flood control initiatives in the Clayburn Village area of Abbotsford.

Olav Lian has continued to collaborate on several research initiatives, including: a) understanding the nature and timing of aeolian activity on the Canadian prairies and its link to long-term climate change with colleagues at Geological Survey of Canada and University of Lethbridge; b) understanding subglacial thermal conditions in the Cordillera of British Columbia during the last glaciation with a colleague at University of Western Ontario; c) studying long-term climate change in southwestern British Columbia during the lengthy period that preceded the last glaciation with a colleague at Royal British Columbia Museum; d) understanding the timing of the mega-floods that formed the Channeled Scablands in Washington state with colleagues in the Earth Sciences Department at SFU and the Geological Sciences Department at Montana Tech of the University of Montana; e) understanding the glacial history of northeastern British Columbia with colleagues at British Columbia Department of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources and University of Victoria; and f) looking at the timing and character of postglacial landscape adjustment in the Fraser River valley following the last glaciation. This last project is now being carried forward under his supervision by former UFV Honours Geography student, **Winter Moon**, as part of her MSc research in the Department of Earth Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Olav also continues to direct the UFV Luminescence Dating Laboratory in which he is currently supervising or co-supervising 4 undergraduate research students, 2 masters students, and 3 doctoral students. Olav and his students continue to present their research widely, with 12 conference abstracts published in the last year.

Garry Fehr has continued his research in political ecology issues in southeast Asia. Garry hired four work study students to help with this research, and secured an AUCC Internship to fund student research for Amnesty International. As noted below, he also supervised a student working with a British Columbia Social Policy Research Grant. Garry was also active on the conference circuit in recent months. Presentations at academic conferences included: a) 'Local management strategies for unregulated resources' at the American Association of Geographers Annual Conference in March 2010 at Las Vegas; b) 'Unintended consequences of non-timber forest product deregulation in central India' at the Canadian Asian Studies Association Conference in Vancouver in October 2009; and c) 'Sustainable Rural Livelihoods' at the Cooperative Development, Peace and Security: Indo-Canadian Cooperation at the Center for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh India, in December 2009. Garry also gave a presentation 'Geography and International Development' to Abbotsford Learning Plus in March 2010; and an invited talk 'Political ecology of India's non-timber forest product sector' at the Geography Speakers Series at SFU.

Claire Beaney is wrapping up her research on the hydrology of the Nathan Creek in collaboration with Environment Canada. In addition, Claire supervised Erin Murphy for her BSc Physical Geography with Honours project investigating beach morphology in Boundary Bay, BC.

Jonathan Hughes continued to develop a research program focusing on environmental change and natural hazards, and increasingly intensive use by himself and his students of the now completed

Paleoecology (formerly Biogeography) Laboratory. He is currently supervising 7 undergraduate students on a variety of research projects. Jonathan co-authored a paper with five other scholars on the 'Saddle Mountain fault deformation zone, Olympic Peninsula, Washington: Western boundary of the Seattle up-lift' which is published in *Geosphere*. He has also co-presented two conference papers at the Canadian Quaternary Association and the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group biennial meeting in May 2009; a) 'Submerged forest and near-surface magnetic anomalies record Holocene slip along the Saddle Mountain fault, Olympic Peninsula, Washington; and, b) 'Intertidal sedimentation, peat accumulation and vegetation community analysis at the head of Rivers Inlet, British Columbia, Canada'. Jonathan also gave three separate research seminars: a) 'Cascadia earthquakes' to the Raincoast Education Society in Tofino January 12; 'Olympic Peninsula earthquakes' to the Department of Geology at Western Washington University, March 2010; and c) 'Langley Bog paleoecology' to Metro Parks Fall Fest at British Columbia Institute of Technology in November 2009.

Scott Shupe continues his collaborative research with the State of Arizona on GAP Analysis vegetation maps for biogenic emissions modeling. Scott is also working on refining a Java program for classifying homogenous image objects and is researching the use of GIS to create watershed boundaries and land cover analysis.

Michelle Rhodes continues to be involved in recreational planning research for the Mission Municipal Forest. She has also supervised **Melissa Kendzierski** on her honours project investigating sustainability

on the UFV campus. Michelle continues to spearhead the development of an Environmental Studies degree at UFV.

Submitted by Claire Beaney

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

New People

We are excited to announce the faculty appointment of Zoe Meletis as an Assistant Professor in the Geography Program. Her work has focused on tourism and ecotourism development; local perceptions of environment and place; the politics, impacts, and alternative forms of consumption; international development and conservation; and justice issues related to inadequate planning and environmental management.

The Geography Program wishes Jim Randall well as he moves to Prince Edward Island to take up his new Vice-President post at UPEI.

We are pleased to welcome Joe Shea who joined us in January 2010 to work as a postdoctoral fellow with Brian Menounos (UNBC) and R. Dan Moore (UBC).

Faculty News

Brian Menounos and a team including John Pomeroy (U. of Saskatchewan), Ron Stewart (U. of Manitoba), and E. Johnson (U. of Calgary) received an \$80,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences for research on "Western Water Security: Threats from Climate Change and Extreme Weather".

Roger Wheate delivered the keynote presentation at the University of Calgary Geography Department's Annual Conference on March 12, 2010. Dr.

Wheate's talk was entitled "The Power of Geography, the Magic of the North."

Greg Halseth and Neil Hanlon were recognized for their research collaborations with the Northern Medical Program on critical health research by appointment as Adjunct Professors in the Northern Medical Program. Neil was already an Adjunct Professor in UNBC's Health Sciences Program.

Greg Halseth recently published his co-edited book *The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies* (2009) which developed from presentations at a Community Development Institute-hosted conference at UNBC in May 2008.

Neil Hanlon and former graduate student Pamela Tobin (MA IDIS '07) recently published work from Pam's thesis research: *Food Security in the Takla Lake First Nation: Informing Public Health* (2009).

Brian Menounos and his colleagues recently published in *Nature Geoscience*, *Contributions of Alaskan glaciers to sea-level rise derived from satellite imagery*.

Catherine Nolin will again lead a class of UNBC students to Guatemala in spring 2010 to study geographies of culture, rights, and power. This will be the 4th Geography field school to Guatemala that Catherine has led.

Kevin Hall is visiting Slovakia to work with a team of researchers on issues related to the weathering of ancient buildings and monuments. Later this summer he will continue his work with San rock and cave art in South Africa.

Ellen Petticrew was a co-editor (with Phil Owens, UNBC and Marcel van der Perk, U.Utrecht) for a special issue of *Journal of Soils and Sediments* on the theme of

"Sediment response to catchment disturbances" which stemmed from a special hydrological session at the 2009 European Geophysical Union. The special issue is due in June 2010.

Ellen Petticrew and Phil Owens will be hosting researchers and graduate students from several European Geography Departments this summer. Dr Klaus Kuhn from the University of Basel and Dr Richard Jones, (University of Exeter) will be evaluating carbon budgets for forest soils and lake sediments in the Quesnel watershed. In early July, Dr Christine Embleton-Hammon (University of Vienna) and 20 students will visit the QRRC as part of a larger BC field tour. Dr Marcel van der Perk and two graduate students from University of Utrecht will conduct field work on riverine fine sediment and flume studies in August of 2010. The field station is used by UNBC graduate and undergraduate students over the full year and details about the resources at the station can be found at <http://www.unbc.ca/qrrc/>

Graduate Student News

Incoming PhD student Kelly Giesbrecht (MA NRES- Geography, UNBC '04) recently published a book based on her MA thesis research: "*Community Control in Resource Management: The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board.*" The new book is available through Amazon.com.

Courtney LeBourdais (MA NRES-Geography, Supervisor: Dr. C. Nolin) who was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Master's Graduate Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Malysa Maurer (MSc NRES-Geography, Supervisor: Brian Menounos) won a graduate student grant for \$1424 from the Geological Society of America for her proposal entitled, 'Terrestrial and Lacustrine Evidence of Holocene Glacier Fluctuations in Southernmost Patagonia'. Malysa will use this money to help defray costs associated with her laboratory analysis of her thesis.

Thesis defenses since January 2010:

Marc Steynen (MSc NRES, Geography):
The Consequences of Forest-Dependence for the Economic Growth and Socioeconomic Development of Houston, BC

UNBC Graduate Students were well represented at the recent WDCAG meetings in Edmonton. We were all pleased that Eric Kopetski won the Graduate Student Presentation Award. Participants included:

Poster Session

Re-thinking Indigenous Land Values and Mining Development, Catherine Nolin, UNBC and **Claudette H. Bois, UNBC**

Paper Sessions

Evaluating the sediment retention function of wetlands in central British Columbia, Canada, **Katrina Caley, UNBC** and Phil Owens, UNBC

You Want Me to Grow Trees? The Social Implications of Agroforestry amongst Ranchers in the Quesnel Area, **Erik Kopetski, UNBC**

Planning for Resilience: A case-study of Kitimat, BC, **Jennifer Herkes, UNBC**

The consequences of forest-dependence for the economic growth

and socioeconomic development of Houston, BC, **Marc Steynen, UNBC**

Suitable Intervention? Senior government involvement in rural regional development, **Chelan Zirul, UNBC**

Terrestrial and Lacustrine Evidence of Holocene Glacier Activity in Southernmost South America, Brian Menounos, UNBC, Gerald Osborn, U of Calgary, John Clague, SFU, **Malysa Maurer, UNBC**

Come out and play! Assessing the Social and Spatial Barriers to Children's Physical (In)activity in Prince George, British Columbia, **Brooke Eschuk, UNBC** and Neil Hanlon, UNBC

"Before you could always see the end, but this one is different": The recent recession and its implications for forestry-dependent communities in British Columbia's Northern Interior, **Alex G. Martin, UNBC**

Other Conference News

Several UNBC geographers travelled to the American Association of Geographers Annual conference in Washington, DC from April 13-18, 2010. The following papers were presented:

Kate Hrinkevich (PhD student NRES), *Historical mountain pine beetle outbreak dynamics in north-central BC*

Alex Martin (PhD student NRES), *Confronting a Changing Economic Landscape: The Challenge Facing Forest-Dependent Communities in British Columbia's Northern Interior*

Sarah de Leeuw (Assist. Prof, NMP, with Jessica Place), *Waiting for a Saint: Understanding the Annual Rose Prince Pilgrimage as a Geography of Response*. Sarah also served as a panelist on "A Deeper Sense of Place: New Geographies of Indigenous-Academic Collaboration" panel

Zoe Meletis (Assist. Prof, GEOG) *Dealing with post-dissertation gender guilt: An exploration exercise in searching for gender in the data*

Catherine Nolin (Assoc Prof, GEOG), Anisa Zehtab-Martin, and Greg Halseth, *Hidden Avenue(s) of (Im)migration: Transnational Experiences of Mail-Order Brides in Northern BC*

Submitted by Greg Halseth

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

1. Dr. Ian O'Connell wins Excellence in Teaching Award 2010.

Geography Senior Instructor, Dr. Ian O'Connell wins award for excellence in teaching from the Faculty of Social Sciences. Ian's habit of winning teaching awards goes right back to his days as a grad student TA at UVic, where he also won the best TA award.

2. Nathan Bennett, PhD student in UVic's Marine Protected Area Research lab, has just been awarded a prestigious Trudeau Fellowship for the next 3 years.



3. Geography alumnus Evan Wood: BMJ "Junior Doctor of the Year"

Evan Wood (UVic Geography BSc 1997) has received the British Medical Journal "Junior Doctor of the Year" award, in part for having written more than 300 peer-reviewed papers, supervised 37 graduate students and on editorial boards of eight scientific journals. Getting his PhD Epidemiology from UBC, and then MD from the University of Calgary, Evan has done important research in HIV treatment guidelines, and most recently, joined the public debate about injection facilities, Evan is currently a clinical associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine's Division of AIDS, chief medical resident in the Dept. of Medicine and co-director of the Urban Health Research Initiative at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.



4. UVic Geography's Ole Heggen Wins Two Awards for Editorial Cartoons

Ole Heggen, a staff member in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, won a silver medal for his editorial cartoon at the BC Yukon Community Bell Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards ceremony. The Canadian Community Newspapers Association earlier presented Ole with a second place award in the category of Best Local Cartoon. (GeogNews, 26 April)

5. Geography soccer winners:

The geography team won the league in the fall (2009). The team was called Geography FC (for Geography Football Club). The championship game was won 1-0 on a goal scored seconds before the final whistle. The team is about 50/50 grad students and undergrad students.

6. Stan Tuller Retirement Social

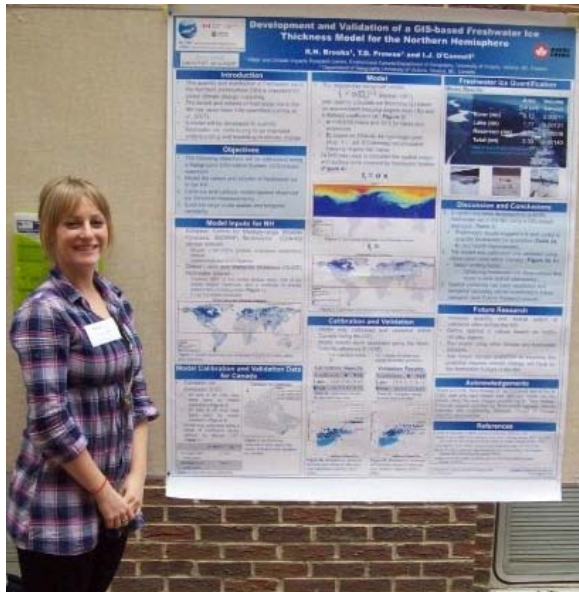


Dr. Stan Tuller is retiring from UVic with a career here that spans forty years of teaching and researching and very able administrative duties. At our recent social for Stan and co-retiree John Newcomb, we all enjoyed the musical entertainment of Trisalyn's Allstar Geogband (on Youtube as Stan, Boundary Layer Man).



Dr. Dan Smith also showed a presentation, the Stan Tuller You Never Knew (geog.uvic.ca/dept/uvtrl/StanT/).

7. SOGS' WDCAG 2010 Delegation did well with Rheannon Brookes



A small but enthusiastic undergrad student delegation made their way to Edmonton, and we're happy that one of our delegates, Rheannon Brookes, won best undergrad poster award.

8. New SOGS co-chairs 2010-2011, Skye Augustine and Rachel Elliott have been elected as Society of Geography Students co-chairs and are ready to take up their duties in September. Fall 2010 seems like a long way off, but SOGS are carrying on the fine tradition of finding such terrific, active geography students for leadership, and then starting the term with several events that get the course union quickly recognized as one of the most active organizations on UVic campus.

9. Field Courses Initiated This Summer

This summer, UVic Geography undergrads will be travelling to the remote village of Ahousaht, a First Nation on the west coast of Vancouver Island for Geography's Coastal Field School. Our new program consists of three courses: GEOG 453 Coastal and

Marine Resources II, GEOG 457 Marine Protected Areas: Management Challenges, GEOG 474 Advanced Biogeographical Concepts. Students learn in gumboots and life vests and supplement their days in the field with seminars in the evening, stationed in Dr. Dave Duffus' Whale Research Lab. Successful applicants have applied early to this popular program, because spots have been filling up fast. This new Field Course emphasis is an exciting addition to our roster of UVic Geography courses.

10. First Annual Geography Welcome BBQ

In September, our Geography Dept hosted a First Year Students Welcome BBQ. Weather cooperated and we were able to inform a good-size group of our first year students about the opportunities in pursuing a degree in Geography.

11. SOGS display table at clubs and course union days in September brought many new members to SOGS. Annual university Clubs Day proved to be another great opportunity to communicate with a large number of students about our Geography program, and to get their email addresses for our weekly e-zine news.

12. Recent Grad defences:

Jeffrey Anderson: "Morphodynamics of Beach-Dune Systems Laden with Large Woody Debris: Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), BC".

Bethany Coulthard: "Dendroclimatological and Dendroglaciological Investigations at Confederation and Franklin Glaciers, Central Coast Mountains, BC".

Celeste Dempster: "Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems (SESs): A Case Study of Water Management in the Iraqi Marshlands".

Eric Druyts: "Regional, Temporal and Age Trends in Avoidable Hospitalization Rates Among Other Adults in BC, 1991-2000".

Jason Howes: "Application of a Bayesian Belief Network to Model Black Bear Intertidal Habitat Quality".

Angela Hunter: "Why Volunteer for the Environment? An Explanation of Environmental Volunteer Motivation, Satisfaction and Retention".

Eduardo Loos: ""Optical Properties of the Waters of the Strait of Georgia, B.C."

Brandy Patterson: "A Good Investment: Women and Property Ownership in a Mid-Twentieth Century Canadian Suburb, Oak Bay, BC, 1940-1960".

Sarah Poirier: "Sea Otter Tourism in BC: The Effects of Interpretation on the Conservation Attitudes and Behavioural Intentions of Boat-Based and Aquarium Visitors".

William Roush: "A Substantial Upward Shift of the Alpine Treeline Ecotone in the Southern Canadian Rocky Mountains".

BOOKMARK OUR NEW UVIC GEOGRAPHY HOMEPAGE FOR MORE BREAKING NEWS:

<http://geography.uvic.ca/>

...AND VIEW OUR NEW UVIC GEOGRAPHY VIDEO:

<http://www.youtube.com/uvic#p/a/f/2/jrll2fPWcXE>

Submitted by John Newcomb

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

To view back issues of the WDCAG Newsletter check our website at:

<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wcag/publications.htm>

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter!!

Claire Beaney, Newsletter Editor

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Drumheller Badlands and Hoodoos (photo by Steve Marsh)