

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 53rd WDCAG Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference hosted March 10-12 by the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University has probably broken the all-time attendance record with 270 delegates. More than 65% of them (about 190) were students (undergraduate and graduate) from 14 different Alberta, BC and Northern Washington universities and colleges. A record 140 paper and poster presentations were delivered during the Saturday sessions, the bulk of which given by students. Geography is alive and well in the West and its future appears to be in very good and capable hands.

At the AGM the Executive announced that the Graduate Paper Presentation Award was to be renamed the Ineke Dijks Graduate Presentation Award to honour Ineke's memory, her humanity, as well as her dedication to geography and to the WDCAG. As usual, the selection of the recipients for the student paper and poster awards was a very difficult task. After much deliberation, the following winners were announced at the banquet:

Best Graduate Poster

Megan L. Hendershot and **Jeremy G. Venditti**, Simon Fraser University. "Qualifying Flow Resistance Due to Clusters in Gravel-Bed Rivers."

Honourable mention

Leah M. Vanden Bush, **Ellen L. Petticrew**, and **John F. Rex**, University of Northern British Columbia. "Seasonal Storage and Retention of Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Hyporheic Zone of the Horsefly River, British Columbia."

Best Undergraduate Poster

Amy Ganton, **Rosaline Canessa** and **Peter Keller**, University of Victoria.

"Comparing Spatial Analysis Methods of First Nations and Recreational Access Closures on the Commercial Dungeness Crab (Cancer Magister) Fishery in British Columbia."

Honourable Mention

Kess A. Vanleeuwen, University of the Fraser Valley. "University of the Fraser Valley U-Pass Program: Success or Failure?"

Ineke Dijks Graduate Presentation Award for best graduate paper presentation

Jamison Miller, Simon Fraser University. "Vancouver's Auratic Geographies: Photography at the Vancouver Art Gallery."

Honourable mention

Rheannon N. Brooks, **Terry D. Prowse** and **Ian J. O'Connell**, University of Victoria. "Quantifying Freshwater Ice Across the Northern Hemisphere Using GIS and a Degree-Day Ice Growth Model."

Best Undergraduate Presentation

Cail Smith, University of Victoria. "The Benefits of Non-Visual Mapping for Individuals and Communities."

Honourable Mention

Christine LoScerbo and **Michael Tripp**, Vancouver Island University. "Intensive Urban Polyculture Agroforestry on Vancouver Island."

A new executive was elected and consists of Craig Coburn (Secretary-Treasurer – UofL); Barb McNicol (Councillor – MRU); Zoë Meletis (Councillor – UNBC); Fes de Scally (Councillor – UBC-O); Justine Cullen (BC Student Rep – UFV); and Sirina Hamilton-McGregor (Alberta Student Rep – UofA). Jim Windsor (Awards Officer – UNBC), Ken Brealey (Archivist – UFV), and Claire Beaney (Newsletter Editor – UFV) remain at their post for another year while Tom Waldichuk (TRU) was appointed BC Education Chair for a 2

year term. Finally, Theresa Garvin (UofA) moves from the Vice-Presidency to become the Division's new President for 2012-2013 while I shift into the Past President's chair.

I am sure most will be interested to learn that a change has taken place at the helm of the Division's journal. Damian Collins (human geography - UofA) and Darryl Carlyle-Moses (physical geography - TRU) are now *Western Geography's* new co-editors. Most sincere thanks to Neil Hanlon (UNBC) for his excellent leadership as editor of the journal since 2006.

The Division was also very pleased to present the J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the WDCAG to Dr Dan Smith from the University of Victoria. The following citation was read by Neil Hanlon at the AGM:

Dan Smith is Past President of the Canadian Association of Geographers and has been a tireless promoter of ours and other regional divisions. He continues to maintain the national and Western Division list-serves, which have been a tremendous medium for showcasing geographic research and teaching, exchanging viewpoints, and keeping members abreast of important issues and developments affecting our discipline. He has also maintained our Division's website for several years now. These communication forums rarely encounter delays or hiccups, and this is only possible because of Dan's unwavering attention and expert stewardship. Finally, Dan is a constant presence at the Division's annual meetings, and can always be counted on to mobilize van loads of University of Victoria undergraduate and graduate students to come out to our meetings and make their presence known. What is most remarkable is that Dan has given so generously of his time and talents to our Division while juggling a very busy and highly productive research career, not to mention the many years he served as chair of the Geography Department at the University of Victoria. He is without reservation a most worthy and deserving recipient of the Lew Robinson Award for Meritorious Service.

On the same topic, taking note that the Division has presented its three awards only sporadically over the last few years (J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service; William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction; J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence), a challenge was issued at the AGM by Jim Windsor, Chair of the Awards Committee, to all WDCAG members to nominate one or more of their peers in time for next year's conference. To use Jim's exact words: *"it is obvious to all that this organization is blessed with a membership that includes some of the finest geographers in all of Canada (and, yes, beyond). There are so very many of our peers who are eminently deserving of recognition that, I confess, it is disappointing that so few nominations are received each year."*

To conclude on the AGM, if we judge by the attendance at the conference and by the publication of two newsletters this year (thanks to Claire Beaney), the WDCAG is in good shape and is as relevant to western geographers as ever. This year, however, the Division was able to allocate only \$2000 in Student Travel Grant to those travelling to the conference from outside of the Vancouver Lower Mainland region. The loss of the CAG Rebate and of the CAG Travel Grant has seriously impacted our capacity to finance future activities. Without the reinstatement of these grants the Division may only be able to finance one more year of student travel to the conference and perhaps two more publications of *Western Geography*.

Finally, on behalf of all WDCAG members I would like to sincerely thank Valorie Crooks and Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld, the Department of Geography and the horde of student volunteers from Simon Fraser University, for putting together a most convivial and wonderful conference. There is no doubt that next year our colleagues from the University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus will continue in this long and successful tradition.

In closing, let me assure you that it has been a real pleasure to serve you as President these past two years. I wish to extend my appreciation

and gratitude for the support I received during that time from division members and especially from my colleagues on the executive.

Have a great summer,

*Gilles Viaud Ph.D.
2010-2011 President, WDCAG
Chair, Department of Geography
Thompson Rivers University
Kamloops, BC*

CAMOSUN COLLEGE

This spring Camosun Geography is embarking on a review and renewal process our course offerings. Full department meetings are scheduled with the college renewal team throughout the spring and the results of this consultative process are expected for the 2011-2012 calendar year. In addition to anticipating course changes, we saw a change to our permanent staffing this past term as Dr. Bernard Henin converted to a Continuing faculty member. Bernard has worked part-time at Camosun for a decade and it was great to have his position formally secured. Hilary Sandford took two months leave to recover from a skiing accident in January and it was a relief to have sessional instructors, Catherine Griffiths and Lisa Kadonaga, able and willing to step in as substitute instructors. A further change to our staffing will result when Chris Ayles assumes the role of Social Science Chair, effective this summer. He continues to be our articulation representative and, in that capacity, he is organizing the annual Geography Articulation Meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The meeting will be preceded by two days of local field trips; contact him if you will be around Victoria and have an interest in joining in.

Submitted by Hilary Sandford

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

The department has been experiencing strong enrolments over the last two semesters. Mike McPhee will be participating in the study abroad program to Belize in May and June. The Department is exploring the possibility of a field school to Scotland.

Laura Day has been hired as the replacement Geography Lab Technician while David Godfrey is on leave.

Submitted by Earl Noah

LANGARA COLLEGE

Geography and geology continue to thrive at Langara. Our prime focus continues to be on the delivery of high quality first and second year level geography and geology instruction to university transfer students.

Enrolment and Courses

Total enrolment in geography and geology classes at Langara for the Summer 2010, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters was about 1800, up from about 1650 in the previous year. Our repertoire now consists of 19 courses (17 geography, 2 geology) 8 of which are second year. We are offering about 47 first year classes a year and 8 second year classes. These include 26 classes that are designated as lab science. Although demand for our classes is high (particularly for first year classes) a hiring freeze for both faculty and lab demonstrators has limited our ability to increase our offerings.

Faculty Activity

The department currently has ten regular faculty, six of whom are full-time, and two lab demonstrators. Eric Grass is now on long term disability and not planning on returning to teaching. We wish him well. Judy Wright is also on disability leave and we are hoping for her return in the Fall of 2012. While Judy has been away Rory Crowley and Andrew Egan have

picked up the torch. We have also had the pleasure of having Nicholas Lynch (a Ph. D. candidate from UBC) teach a second year urban geography course this spring as Gillian Aubie-Vines is on maternity leave. Gillian and her new daughter Zetta are doing well. Jim Bowers has been serving as department chair since May, 2009. Mark Smith has been teaching geology and geography in the Department of Geography, serving as Chair of Langara's Interdisciplinary Studies Department and serving on Langara's Board of Governors. Colin Mills has been participating in Langara's public lecture series held at the main branch of the public library. In February he presented a lecture entitled "What if Community Ended?" based on Yi-Fu Tuan's paper "Community Society and the Individual". The previous September he kicked-off the lecture series with discussion entitled "Seeing Globalization" which used photographs to help attendees visualize some of the central themes of Globalization.

Submitted by Jim Bowers

KINGS COLLEGE

The King's University College is a dynamic liberal arts institution located in Edmonton, AB. King's employs two full-time geographers even though it does not presently offer a major or a minor in Geography. Geography is linked to King's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program, which offers students the opportunity to choose one of ten concentrations including Biology, Chemistry, Business, Sociology, Social Science, Psychology, English, Theology, Philosophy or History. You can read about the program at <http://www.kingsu.ca/academic-programs/majors/environmental-studies.html>.

This spring the Environmental Studies Director, Dr. Michael Ferber, will bring his students enrolled in Human Geography to the WCAG in Burnaby. Please welcome these students to their first CAG meeting.

Dr. Harry Spaling, Academic Vice-President and Professor of Geography

Harry Spaling is gearing up for a sabbatical in 2011-12 focused on community-based approaches to assessing environmental



sustainability of development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This research examines the potential for enhancing environmental sustainability through people-centered, community-based environmental assessment (EA) of rural development projects in Kenya. Projects such as water supply and food production are studied to identify the characteristics of environmental assessment that enhance community awareness about, participation in, and action on environmental sustainability. Findings should help implement federal policy by providing guidance to Canadian development NGOs conducting EAs of humanitarian aid initiatives. Kenya should benefit from increased capacity for environmental assessment through an evaluation of EA practice, application to actual cases, student training and community seminars. We are looking for undergraduate and graduate students for this international project. As members of the research team, students carry out literature reviews, conduct field work in Kenya and present their findings in various forums (theses, conferences, publications). Co-investigators for this project are Dr. John Sinclair (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Jesse Njoka (University of Nairobi). The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada provides financial support for this research.

Dr. Michael Ferber, Assistant Professor of Geography and Director of Environmental Studies

Though an interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Ferber is a Human Geographer specializing in the



Geography of Religion. He defended his dissertation on Scale in the Geography of Religion last year at West Virginia

University in the United States. He recently received a NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment) grant to produce a web-based historical digital atlas of the Edmonton River Valley – the largest interconnected parkland in North America. Dr. Ferber has been published in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *GeoCarto International*, *The American Religious Experience*, *Ending Poverty in America*, *Geographic Education of the Islamic Culture Region*, the *Dictionary of Critical Realism* and the *Encyclopedia of Geography*.

Dr. Randolph Haluza-Delay, Associate Professor of Sociology

Though technically a Sociologist, Randy is more a nondisciplinary environmental social scientist. His edited volume “Speaking for Ourselves: Environmental Justice in Canada” was described by Maureen Reed in *Progress in Human Geography* as “pushing the conceptual frontiers of environmental justice, and not just for Canada.” Randy presented at the AAG last year and is a regular contributor to conversations on the CAG listserv.



Submitted by Michael Ferber

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

We were extremely pleased with attendance and participation at the Annual Meeting of the Division on March 10-12. Everyone enjoyed themselves and Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld and Valorie Crooks, and their team of helpers, deserve our warm congratulations for organizing the event so successfully. We are also hosting two more conferences in the near future. In early August, Jeremy Venditti is organizing a conference on Coherent Flow Structures in Geophysical Flows at the Earth’s Surface while Suzana Dragicevic is co-organizing the 4th ICA Workshop on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling; the theme is ‘Our complex world: representation, analysis and modeling’. Both are on Burnaby main campus.

Several colleagues have performed as keynote speakers recently. Alex Clapp talked about “Open data: Diagnosis, prognosis, and prescription in climate science”, in the Public Lecture Series organized by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solution (PICS), held at UBC’s downtown campus in January. In February Kirsten Zickveld gave an invited plenary talk at “Our Changing Oceans” conference in Washington DC organized by the US National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). There were over 1,000 attendees (<http://communities.earthportal.org/ncseoceans2011/>). In April, Nick Blomley gave an invited talk in the Distinguished Lecture Series in Victoria, called the ‘The City Talks’, and then presented the Urban Geography Plenary Lecture at the Seattle AAG Meetings, entitled “Sidewalks, Police Powers, and Public Space: Rethinking the Purification Thesis”.

There have been some noteworthy publication awards too, including Lance Lesack’s paper published in the prestigious Water Resources Journal that was selected by the editors as an American Geophysical Unions’ Research Spotlight, papers chosen for their importance and wide appeal. Lance’s paper is entitled: “River-to-lake connectivities, water renewal, and

aquatic biodiversity in the Mackenzie River delta". Last month a Geoff Mann paper, entitled "Hobbes Redoubt: Towards a Geography of Monetary Policy" was chosen as the best essay in 2011 in *Progress in Human Geography* (34 (5): 601-25). On the book front, Eugene McCann co-edited *Mobile Urbanism: Cities & Policymaking in the Global Age* (Minnesota), and Roger Hayter and Jerry Patchell published *Economic Geography: An Institutional Approach* (Toronto: Oxford).

In August we welcome two new colleagues, Meg Krawchuk (Landscape Ecology) and Anders Knudby (Remote Sensing).

In the past few months, several graduate students successfully defended their theses. Congratulations are due to: Priya Vadi, MA (October 2010); Ryan Midgley, MA (November 2010); Lisa Brunner, MA (December 2010); Sean Robertson, PhD (December 2010); David Hendrickson, PhD (December 2010); Liliana Pèrez, PhD (April 2011); and Maciej (Matt) Kurowski, MSc (April 2011).

Submitted by Roger Hayter

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Another semester is now coming to an end. Our numbers have held relatively firm, but we are still attempting to recruit more Majors and Minors to Geography. As in other 'new' universities in British Columbia we are in the process of "re-envisioning" the institution. This has so far involved many sessions and committees and meetings, which is keeping most of us busy.

We have instituted a departmental "Coffee Time" where everyone can get together informally once a week to have some discussions and keep current. It has worked

out quite well in keeping everyone informed and caffeinated.

We will have a new department head as of January, 2012. Darryl Carlyle-Moses, who will be on Sabbatical until that time, will return to take over the day-to-day operations of the department. Gilles Viaud will remain as the acting head until that time. Gilles, who has tenure, has been promoted to Associate Professor, while Darryl now has tenure and promotion to Associate Professor status. He has also received an award for research in the Faculty of Arts.

Congratulations are in order for Ross Nelson, who won the university award for "Excellence in Internationalization" for his efforts in improving exchange programs with universities abroad. Ross was particularly instrumental in organizing our successful double degree program in GIS/Geomatics with Gavle University in Sweden.

Tom Waldichuk will be spending part of the summer in Japan doing fieldwork and research.

We are now preparing for our September Field School – one week based out of Hat Creek Ranch – being organized by Crystal Huscroft. We shall attempt several geographic studies relating to Ashcroft at that time. Crystal and Darryl are also planning a field school excursion to Hawaii this summer.

Finally, we will graduate our first MA student, Adam McKee, from Darryl's Hydrology program.

Submitted by Brian Goehring

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – VANCOUVER

The undergraduate Geography Students' Association remains very active, with 25 attending the recent WDCAG conference at Simon Fraser. The staff are busy organizing the second year of 'Geography Cares' a monthly fund-raising effort for a local charity. A current project is a fund-raiser for Japanese earthquake relief.

Among the faculty the past few months have been a golden period for awards. Karen Bakker was appointed a Canada Research Chair for 5 years; our new fluvial and glacial geomorphologist, Michele Koppes, received the J. Ross Mackay Award from the Canadian Geomorphological Research Group; Michael Church has been honoured with the Mel Marcus Distinguished Career Award from the AAG; Simon Donner has been selected as a Google Science Communications Fellow; Graeme Wynn will hold the UBC Brenda and David McLean Chair in Canadian Studies from 2011-2013; and Derek Gregory has been appointed as one of the two Peter Wall Distinguished Professors at UBC.

There are another three new books just out by Departmental members: Jim Glassman's *Bounding the Mekong: The Asian Development Bank, China, and Thailand* (University of Hawaii Press), Karen Bakker's *Privatizing Water: Governance Failure and the World's Urban Water Crises* (Cornell), and Jamie Peck's *Constructions of Neoliberal Reason* (Oxford).

The Department has a review in process, the first since 2000. A committee of reviewers visited in February and we await their report. Alumni or others who want to keep in touch with departmental events can download the monthly departmental newsletter available at: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/department/newsletters.html>

Submitted by David Ley

UNIVERSITY OF FRASER VALLEY

With a decade of rapid change behind us, there is a sense that the Geography Department at UFV, at least in terms of personnel, has stabilized. With ten regular faculty members and two lab instructors, Geography has emerged as one of the largest Departments on campus. We've had a commensurate growth in student numbers: total enrolments for the 2010/11 academic year numbered 1,784, making for a 95% "utilization rate"

With growth in faculty numbers, has come expanded opportunities for student engagement. The Department made "field study" consciously central to its identity a decade ago. Continuing in that tradition, this summer and fall, several faculty are leading two different field experiences. The first is a 12-day trip to western Montana, where 15 students, along with faculty members **Michelle Rhodes**, **Steve Marsh**, and **Ken Brealey**, will travel to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and points in between. The focus will be on past and present human-environment relationships and ecological change in the Northern Rockies ecosystem. The second trip, led by **David Gibson** and **Garry Fehr**, will be to the BC Interior, with two days in Kamloops and two days in the Wells Gray area. David and Garry will take 10 students this September.

Opportunities for field study have also expanded with the creation of our two faculty-directed labs, and expansion of Instructor ties with India and Africa. **Jonathan Hughes**, for example, supervised six students in 2010/11 in support of his research programme in natural hazards and environmental change. **Garry Fehr** is continuing to expand the Geography Department's research ties with India. Three projects there this year fall within the broad areas of rural livelihoods and community development and provide further opportunities for students to function as research assistants and interns. Student interns are also a central component in **Cherie Enns**

study of sustainable human settlements in Tanzania, recently funded by CIDA.

Beyond personnel, the Geography programme, as described in previous newsletters, has also expanded. Student interest in our newly minted GIS Certificate is high and enrollment in our recently created B.Sc is growing. Geography has also played the leading role in establishment of an Environmental Studies programme.

Growth in Geography has occurred in tandem with transition to a university governance model at UFV. Important decisions are looming on a faculty ranking model and the role of research in hiring and promotion. In closing, we bid farewell to our out-going Head, **Ken Brealey**, whose term ends in August and welcome to incoming Head, **Michelle Rhodes**

Submitted by John Belec

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

The geography program at the University of Lethbridge has grown by leaps and bounds this past year, especially our graduate program with almost 30 students currently enrolled and 6 master's degrees granted in the past year alone. Part of this recent success is the result of the remote sensing group being awarded an NSERC CREATE grant titled AMETHYST. The Advanced Methods, Education and Training in Hyperspectral Science and Technology program is providing unique opportunities for students at every stage of their career. The UofL was the only Alberta university to be granted an NSERC CREATE last year (an award of \$1.65 million over 6 years) and we are very pleased that this program is for funding student education in geography and related disciplines. More information is available at <http://www.uleth.ca/fas/amethyst/>.

Other remote sensing research keeps our group very busy with an international field-based research agenda including sites across Canada and this year we were invited to conduct field

research in China (Dr. Coburn can now explain how NOT to import scientific gizmos into foreign countries or cause international incidents over the importation of said devices). As a department we are pleased to be offering several new and interesting field courses this year in a variety of locations across Southern Alberta.

Submitted by Craig Coburn

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

WDCAG 2011 – Simon Fraser University, 12 March 2011.

Once again, the UNBC Geography Program sent a group of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty to the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers hosted by Simon Fraser University March 10-12.

Congratulations to Leah Vanden Busch (MSc candidate), who was awarded Runner Up in the Best Graduate Student Poster competition.

Papers Presented

Blewett, Jessica (MA candidate) and Hanlon, Neil, "Towards a socio-spatial framework for understanding physical barriers to services and amenities for people with mobility issues."

Brewis, Teresa (MSc candidate) and Menounos, Brian, "Twentieth century glacier change and surface runoff modeling, Canoe Basin, BC."

Ehlers, Nick (MA candidate) and Meletis, Zoë, "The motors of ecotourism rev in Tortugero, Costa Rica."

Garraway, Leana and Hanlon, Neil, "Knowledge to action: A framework for engaging First Nations in environmental health research."

Tennant, Christina (MSc candidate), Menounos, Brian, Wheate, Roger, and Clague, John*, "Nine

decades of glacier change in the Rocky Mountains, Canada.”

Schwamborn, Julia, “Joint management in protected areas: What is in it for First Nations in British Columbia?”

Panel Presentation

Ryser, Laura, Halseth, Greg, and Markey, Sean*, “Community engagement methods.”

Posters Presented

Joe-Strack, Jocelyn (MSc candidate) and Petticrew, Ellen, “Mercury methylation and sulphur-reducing bacteria in Sub-Arctic lake sediments.”

Vanden Busch, Leah (MSc candidate), Petticrew, Ellen, and Rex, John, “Seasonal storage and retention of marine-derived nutrients in the hyporheic zone of the Horsefly River, British Columbia.”

* denotes faculty not affiliated with UNBC



The UNBC Geography group at Chasm, BC.



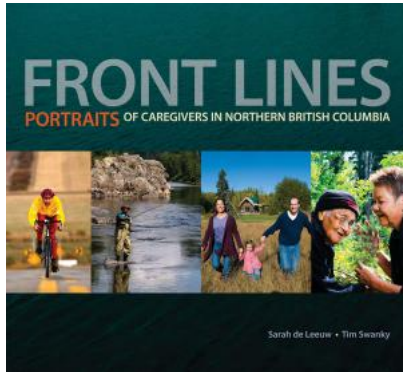
Faculty News

Dr. Gail Fondahl was appointed as the Canadian Representative to International Arctic Science Committee's Social and Human Working Group, where she now serves as elected vice-chair.

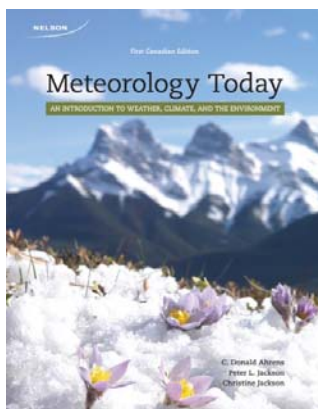
Dr. Gail Fondahl was appointed to the Joint IASC/SCAR Bipolar Action Group on Science Cooperation (International Arctic Science Committee/ Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research)

Dr. Gail Fondahl was the keynote Speaker: “Where is Indigenous? State Productions of Indigenous Space (Using Examples of the Russian and British Columbian North)”, Workshop on Nomadic and Indigenous Spaces: Productions and Cognitions, Universities of Leipzig and Halle-Wittenberg, Leipzig, 3 February 2011

Book Launch - UNBC Geographer Dr. Sarah de Leeuw and photographer Tim Swanky have just published “*Front Lines: Portraits of Caregivers in Northern British Columbia*”



Book Launch, currently in press: Ahrens, C. Donald*, Peter L. Jackson, and Christine E.J. Jackson. 2012. *Meteorology Today: An Introduction to Weather, Climate, and the Environment* (1st Canadian ed.). Toronto: Nelson Education.



Dr. Zoë Meletis attended the workshop "Fostering Sustainable Behaviour (with Dr. McKenzie-Mohr) on November 22 & 23 in Prince George as part of UNBC's 'Green Team' that includes faculty members, staff, undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Brian Menounos traveled to Ottawa (November 23-25) to participate in meetings with several MPs. These meetings are part of the [Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences' \(CFCAS\)](#) 'Scientists on the Hill' campaign. The objective of this campaign is to encourage the Government, and members of the opposition parties to support science on

climate change, extreme weather, and air pollution.

Dr. Brian Menounos and his colleagues published [Contributions of Alaskan glaciers to sea-level rise derived from satellite imagery](#) in *Nature Geoscience*, January 17 2011.

Recent publications:

Crooks, V., Castleden, H., Hanlon, N., and N. Schuurman (2011) ["Heated political dynamics exist ...": Examining the politics of palliative care in rural British Columbia, Canada.](#) *Palliative Medicine* 25(1): 26-35

Hanlon, N., Halseth, G., and A. Ostry* (2011) [Stealth voluntarism: An expectation of health professional work in underserved areas?](#) *Health and Place* 17(1): 42-49.

Heikkilä, K. and G. Fondahl (2010) Indigenous toponyms as pedagogical tools: reflections from research with Tl'azt'en Nation, British Columbia, *Fennia* 188(1): 105-122 (Karen Heikkilä was former MA NRES (GEOG) grad student).

Laplante, JP* and C. Nolin (2011) Snake oil and the myth of corporate social responsibility. [Canadian Dimension \(Special Issue: "Bad Neighbours: A Focus on Canadian Mining Abroad"\)](#), 45 (1), January/February.

Place, J. and N. Hanlon (2011) Kill the lake? Kill the proposal: Accommodating First Nations' environmental values as a first step on the road to wellness. *GeoJournal* 76(2): 163-175.

Russell, G.** (2011) Military coups, mining and Canadian involvement in Honduras. [Canadian Dimension \(Special Issue: "Bad Neighbours: A Focus on Canadian Mining Abroad"\)](#), 45 (1), January/February.

* not at UNBC ** Adjunct faculty member

Field Courses:

Planning is underway for Geography Field Courses to Guatemala and to South Africa in 2012. See:

http://www.unbc.ca/geography/southafrica_2012.html and http://www.unbc.ca/geography/guatemala_2012/

Graduate Students:

News

Jessica Blewett started as a MA NRES (Geography) student in January 2011. This UNBC Geography Alumni is working with Dr. Neil Hanlon on *Mapping Barriers to Access in the Built Environment for Persons with Physical Limitations*.

Som Pun started as a MNRES (Geography) student in January 2011. This UNBC Forestry Alumni is working with Dr. Greg Halseth on *The Opportunities and Limitations of First Nations' Forest Tenures in British Columbia: The Key Issues, Challenges and Future Recommendations for Community Management of Forests in Tl'azt'en Nation*.

NRES PhD candidate Matt Beedle's work on glaciers and climate change (along with supervisor Dr. Brian Menounos) is featured in a new segment of the UNBC News channel on Youtube. See: http://www.youtube.com/user/UNBCnews#p/u/3/OtxrQ7g_j-o

Recent thesis defenses:

Kara Przewczek successfully defended her MSc thesis: "Assessment of Optimum Snowmelt Model Complexity, Cariboo Highlands, British Columbia, Canada," on January 7, 2011. Co-supervisors were Drs. Brian Menounos and Stephen Déry.

Sam Albers successfully defended his MSc NRES thesis: "The Salmon Disturbance Regime: Effects on Biofilm, Sediment and Water" on December 2, 2010. Supervisor was Dr. Ellen Petticrew

Submitted by Greg Halseth

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

As always, the geography department at UVic has been a busy and vibrant place. It is impossible to cover everything in this format, but some of the highlights are:

1. Many successes in the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers, including:

Meritorious Service Award - Dan Smith

Best Graduate Presentation (runner up) - Rheannon Brooks

Best Undergraduate Presentation - Cail Smith

Best Undergraduate Poster - Amy Ganton

2. Jed Long, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at UVic, was recognized at SKI (Spatial Knowledge and Information Canada) 2011 for his award winning presentation on *Sports, Time Geography, and Mobility Data*. SKI brings together researchers of GIS and the geoweb who live and work in Canada. <http://rose.geog.mcgill.ca/ski/system/files/fm/2011/Long.pdf>

3. UVic geographers publish *The British Columbia Atlas of Wellness* online:

November 23, 2010 - Dr. Leslie Foster and Dr. Peter Keller publish *The British Columbia Atlas of Wellness* online (<http://geog.uvic.ca/wellness/>). The atlas includes maps and discussions of wellness behaviours and indicators across British Columbia.

4. Some very exciting field study programs:

Geography 477 Field Camp: Fall 2011

The Department of Geography holds an undergraduate field camp as part of the requirements for Geography 477. The focus of the camp is on the mountain geomorphology of the Rogers Pass Area.



India field school: Summer 2011

In August 2011, we are mounting our first overseas field school and will take a group of 20 students to India. Professor Philip Dearden, the Chair of the Department of Geography, who has extensive development and conservation experience in Asia, will lead the field school.



Coastal and marine field school: Summer 2011

Clayoquot Sound, Ahousaht, BC. From May 6th to May 29th, students will live and work out of the [Society for Ecological and Coastal Research Field Station](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/whalelab/searc-facts.html) (<http://www.geog.uvic.ca/whalelab/searc-facts.html>), a century old house across the bay from the Ahousaht First Nation village on Flores Island.



5. UVic Undergraduate Research Scholarships: Geography winners

October 19, 2010

UVic's Learning and Teaching Centre, Office of Student Awards & Financial Aid, and the Senate Committee on Awards gave three Geography students [Undergraduate Research Scholarships \(URS\)](http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/urs.php) (<http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/urs.php>) this year. The winners:

URS Scholar – **Skye Augustine**
URS Supervisor – Dr. Philip Dearden

Abstract of Project:

“Historically, First Nations people constructed clam gardens to augment food supplies. I will explore the opportunities and challenges of building a clam garden in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR). I will investigate the biophysical parameters, the sociocultural interests of the Hul'gumi'num people and the implications for park management.”

URS Scholar – **Mathieu Bourbonnais**
URS Supervisor – Dr. Trisalyn Nelson

Abstract:

“My research will involve the utilization of GIS and Remote Sensing technologies in the analysis of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and its effects on forest fire regimes in the province of British Columbia. Understanding changes to forest composition, and fire ignition numbers and intervals is of great importance in effective

forest management. This project is particularly relevant given current impacts of both beetles and fire on provincial forests and economics.”

URS Scholar – **Amy Ganton**
URS Supervisor – Dr. Rosaline Canessa and Dr. Peter Keller

Abstract:

“In conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Nanaimo, I will use GIS to determine the potential impacts of proposed closures by the Sports Fishing Advisory Board in 2009 and First Nations groups in 2001 to 2009 on the commercial Dungeness crab (Cancer magister) fishery in British Columbia. My thesis will question whether resource management decides which stakeholder group or species will be negatively impacted, or if there is a possibility that all groups can benefit.”

Darren Boss (4th Year Undergraduate) won the *2010-2011 AAG Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Award in Geographic Science*.

October 12, 2010

Laura May, a MSc student working with Dr. Terri Lacourse, won the *Best Student Poster Award* for her poster “**Morphological differentiation of *Alnus* pollen from western North America**” presented at the Joint International Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, the Geological Association of Canada Paleontology Division, and the Canadian Association of Palynologists in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

6. We have had many graduate students defending in many exciting areas

Liston, Mary, MA (November, 2010)
Building Resilient Coastal Communities in BC: A Case Study of Climate Change and Adaptability in Ucluelet, BC

Muirhead, Kyle, MSc (November, 2010)
Marbled Murrelet Foraging Ecology: Spatial and Temporal Characteristics of Habitat Use in Clayoquot Sound, BC

Quinn, Geoffrey, MSc (December, 2010)
Towards an Operational Root Disease Mapping Methodology Through Lidar Integrated Imaging Spectroscopy

Robertson, Colin, PhD (December, 2010)
Space-time Surveillance of Emerging Infectious Disease

Vinke, Candace, MA (December, 2010)
Social and Environmental Risk Factors for Trachoma: A Mixed Methods Approach in the Kembata Zone of Southern Ethiopia

Ziegler, Jackie, MSc (December, 2010)
Assessing the Sustainability of Whale Shark Tourism: A Case Study of Isla Holbox, Mexico

Harrison, Daniel, MSc (April 2011)
Effects of Intensive Fertilization on Soil Nutrient Cycling in Lodgepole Pine and Interior Spruce Forests in the Central Interior of British Columbia

Nunn, Neil, MA (April 2011)
Gender, Empowerment, and Masculine Hegemonies: Analyzing Social Relations Among Cooperative Recyclers in Sao Paulo, Brazil

O'Neill, Jennifer, MSc (January 2011)
Mapping of Eelgrass, *Zostera marina*, at Sidney Spit Marine Park, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Using High Spatial Resolution Remote Imagery

Park, Sookuk, PhD (February 2011)
Human-Urban Radiation Exchange Simulation Model

Tattrie, Kevin, MSc (May 2011)
Groundwater Surface Water Interactions in a Wetland Rich, Low Relief Boreal Environment

Weldrick, Christine, MSc (April 2011)
Spatial-temporal Influence of Integrated
Multi-Trophic Aquaculture-derived Organic
Effluent on Adjacent Marine Communities

7. Faculty notes:

From Denise Cloutier-Fisher

We have just received \$ 200,000 from the Fraser Health Authority to work with the Fraser Health Authority and evaluate their new Nursing-Staff Model. This project will be funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The project principal investigators are Karen Kobayashi, Sociology and Heather Cook, Fraser Health Authority. Myself and Kelli Stajduhar are co-Investigators.

My graduate students are beginning their Master's data collection:

Harpreet Jaswal is studying hospital preparedness to the threat of earthquakes in Victoria and she will soon begin interviewing.

Kathryn Bills is studying the impact of Seniors Community Parks on health and physical activity patterns of older adults.

Kyle Plumb will talk to multiple stakeholders at the Broadmead Lodge in Victoria to learn about person-centred care and the role of the environment in supporting older adults living with dementia.

From Reuben Rose-Redwood

I was awarded a SSHRC research grant in the amount of \$38,872 for a project entitled "Spaces of Toponymic Inscription: Rethinking the Politics of Place Naming in the Era of Globalization." The project will explore the political, economic, and cultural implications of the recent naming of the Salish Sea as a new 'transnational space,' as well as the commodification of naming

rights in Winnipeg as part of the neoliberalization of urban space.

My research on the history of New York City's grid street plan was featured in the New York Times as well as the BBC World Service Newshour in March 2011 as part of the commemoration of the 200-year anniversary of the city's 1811 grid plan.

From Ian Walker

In addition to my NSF Cape Cod project, my NSERC Discovery Grant was renewed to explore morphodynamic and sediment budget implications of dune restoration for removal of invasive marram grass in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and driftwood on beaches of Haida Gwaii. I'm also starting a new 3 year project funded by the Hakai Beach Institute with collaborators Jonathan Hughes and Olav Lian at University of the Fraser Valley to reconstruct past sea levels and coastal landscape evolution.

From Dennis Jelinski

Jelinski, D. E. 2010. Habitat selection and spatial separation of wolves in relation to threatened mountain caribou. \$50,000. BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

Jelinski, D. E. 2011. Purcell South Mountain Caribou transplant and species at risk recovery. \$130,000. BC Ministry of Environment.

Proctor, C., G. Kuzyk, D. E. Jelinski, and D. Jury. 2011. Habitat Use of Mule Deer Bucks in the Fraser River Basin of the Southern Interior of BC. \$128, 240. BC Habitat Conservation Foundation Trust.

From Aleck Ostry

Some of the most recent grants won include a BCFMS grant entitled "Food Security & Health of British Columbians Living in Remote Communities"; a CIHR grant entitled "Translating Insights from Research on Social Determinants of Rural health";

and a SSHRC grant entitled “Local Food Security and Climate Change in Canada”.

8. UVic geographers Dr. Philip Dearden and Laura Joan Feyrer with the Society for Conservation Biology are organizing the second International Marine Conservation Congress (<http://www.conbio.org/IMCC2011>).



9. Some words from the field:

Whale Tails and Braille – A new teaching frontier

The Whale Research Lab in the Department of Geography at UVic recently co-developed and hosted a unique project. When Lynn Kent, a graduate student in UBC’s special education faculty and former UVGeography and ducation graduate, proposed the creation of a summer camp for blind or visually impaired students to take part in the Lab’s long term gray whale ecology research, it created a pause. On the surface this might not sound likely, but whale researchers don’t spend a lot of time worrying about things on the surface anyway.

The core of Lynn Kent’s work stems from her “day” job with the Provincial Resource Cent for the Visually Impaired, where she is a specialist co-ordinator for teachers of students with visual impairments. Lynn was concerned that students who are blind or visually impaired did not get a fair chance to participate in science education, partially due to a lack of imagination in the

education system. As part of her MA program at UBC, Lynn, with her advisors, Drs. Kim Zebehazy and Cay Holbrook, devised a pilot program to try to understand how to teach in a field training setting, and how students learn using other senses, such as sound, smell, and touch.

What happened next was that Kent, Orientation and Mobility Instructor Cathy Bell (a co-worker from Calgary), Dr. Zebehazy, and three students arrived at the UVic Whale Research Lab field centre in Ahousat, about 40 minutes north of Tofino by boat. At the dock to greet them were the whale research crew, Ty Lawson, a UVBiology Co-op student, Rianna Burnham (now a new UVic Geography grad student), and Dr. Dave Duffus, from UVic Geography.

The ensuing week was intense as students moved through orientation, while their assistance dogs took a break for the most part, and kept the crew in stitches with their “dogs on holiday” routine. In the initial couple of days we were busy, as we built an understanding of boating safety, the local environment, and the science project for the new students, which included building a life-sized gray whale. Reciprocal teaching from the students included braille lessons, and insights into the unsighted world and learning processes. By the last day of the field study, the crew zipped through morning rituals, hauled the research gear down the dock ramp, listened to the day plan, and departed early to head out to where humpback whales had been recently foraging. While humpbacks are not part of our general research work, they did give us an ideal opportunity to do ventilation timing, a technique the Lab students have used extensively in the past.

By the time we slid up to the dock back at home it had been more than 5 hours of intense work. A couple of hours of cleaning and stowing gear, prepping samples, and transcribing data still lay ahead. If no one

mentioned it, or you didn't see the collapsible canes break out while unloading the boat, you would not have suspected these people were anything but an ordinary crew of student research assistants.

While the analysis of Lynn's data about the educational process is not complete, her initial thoughts include, "yes, this was a success, but we can tweak this thing, and make it work better." Lynn Kent and her colleagues demonstrate a strong drive to overcome barriers to a broad spectrum of educational opportunity for students with visual impairment. The results speak highly for what can be accomplished when the usual barriers are ignored. Prior to this week, a number of grant proposals were written, and two keen groups stepped forward to support the camp. The largest supporter was the Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired, along with funding support from the Military Police Fund for Blind Children.

Dr. Duffus credit's his research group with another week of highly skilled and professional work. It initially felt "new," but by the end of the week it was a bona fide working crew. He notes "to have Lynn come back and devise this project with us is not rare for past UVic Whale Research Lab students. The people here work hard and build on each other's accomplishments."

10. Some research

Sanderson Disaster Response and Transfusion Medicine

In his research project, MA candidate **Bruce Sanderson** has been examining ways to strengthen the disaster response and recovery processes of the Transfusion Medicine function of the Vancouver Island Health Authority. The goal is to help make Transfusion Medicine operations, especially within the Greater Victoria transfusing hospitals, better able to deal with the

impacts that they would likely face as a result of any of three types of damaging earthquakes. Especially in a damaging shallow earthquake, there could be a significant reduction in supply—plus an immediate, significant increase in demand—for blood products at Greater Victoria transfusing hospitals. In addition, decisions regarding the alternatives of (1) rapidly relocating a facility for the storage and/or transfusion of blood products within Greater Victoria or (2) transporting some of the people injured in an earthquake directly to a transfusing hospital(s) outside Greater Victoria, or (3) both 1 and 2, may need to be made within the first few hours following a locally destructive earthquake. In a better case scenario, the Transfusion Medicine function at Greater Victoria transfusing hospitals may merely face reductions—in telecommunications, access to blood analysis equipment and the blood inventory database, and in the supply of reagents, medical gases, electricity, and water—following a damaging earthquake.

A component of this project involved projecting the numbers of local injuries and hospitalizations that likely would result from each type of earthquake, of at least magnitude 7. The consultation with players who process, ship, store, monitor, re-supply, redistribute and allocate blood products will help identify some of the measures that could help maintain the flow of required blood products and associated materials to Greater Victoria transfusing hospitals in post-quake circumstances. The research will contribute to the Transfusion Medicine function being better prepared to operate effectively under difficult circumstances at transfusing hospitals in Greater Victoria or/and in other areas of the province that are subject to significant seismic hazards.

Atkinson Alaska field work

David Atkinson, a recent (fall 2010) addition to UVic Geography, recently got the go-ahead to deploy a buoy into the waters of the Bering Strait. The buoy, part of a project funded by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is currently being built by Axys Technologies here in Sidney. It will measure wind speed and direction, air and ocean temperature, and wave direction and energy. Atkinson uses computer models and field observations to determine how storm winds drive the ocean in the coastal areas of the Arctic, with principal focus on Alaska. There are few measurements of waves in this area because sea-ice limits the time during which observations can be taken and increases logistical burden in an area with few logistical options. In the case of a buoy, a large ship with a solid crane is required to manoeuvre the 500kg buoy with heavy chain and mooring into the water. The Coast Guards of Canada and the US will be offering valuable assistance to launch and recover the buoy. This work augments the other efforts Atkinson has had ongoing in the region since 2004, principally north of the Bering Strait, where with help from Teck Alaska Inc. he has deployed several bottom-mounted Doppler Current Profiler instruments to measure waves and ocean currents. This work has included a major component that moves beyond physical issues of waves and erosion, and addresses impacts to the small, vulnerable coastal communities in Alaska. Buoy deploy timeframe is early July.



11. A change

- You may have noticed a change in style of the UVic presentation in this year's Newsletter. John Newcomb, our long time Senior Lab Instructor who had taken the newsletter submission on as part of his endlessly energetic commitment, has retired. He is missed greatly, especially by Kinga Menu who is scrambling to fill his excellent shoes. She has been associated with UVic's Geography Department in various roles for several decades, starting with completing her BA here. After teaching high school up north, she returned to divide her passions between TA-ing, teaching elementary and middle school, and raising her very well loved, but definitely eccentric family, mostly all at the same time. Now she can be found balancing the responsibilities and joys of being a Senior Lab Instructor in Geography and continuing her role as mum to teen-aged daughters.

Submitted by Kinga Menu

CAG 2011 CALGARY: OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

The University of Calgary Geography Department is hosting the CAG's 2011 annual conference and meeting, May 31 - June 4, 2011. UofC Geography is also celebrating 50 years of research, teaching and service, and the Department of Earth Sciences - Geography Program at Mount Royal University is celebrating 100 years of the school's existence as well as its new University status. It's a great time to look at what Geographers have accomplished, look at the big and small changes, and celebrate the New Geographies emerging today. We will be meeting in conjunction with the [Canadian Cartographic Association \(CCA\)](#), who are old friends, and also with the first Canadian meeting of the [Association of Canadian University Planning Programs \(ACUPP\)](#). Welcome to all!

If you're not already registered, find more information and register online at <http://geog.ucalgary.ca/cag2011>. Any questions contact cag2011@ucalgary.ca. We hope to see you there.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to all WDCAG Geographers and associated departments who submitted news items for this edition of the WDCAG newsletter. The WDCAG newsletter is published in the Spring and Fall of each year and aims to provide WDCAG members and the broader geographical community with updates from Geography departments within the region. For an archive of previous newsletters, please visit <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/publications.htm>. The newsletter serves you, the members, so if you have any suggestions, ideas or news items, please contact **Claire Beaney**, WDCAG Newsletter Editor (claire.beaney@ufv.ca).

