



SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy and productive year in the Western Division of the CAG. Our 54th Annual General Meeting and conference was held at UBC Okanagan Campus in March and boasted 268 attendees, just a few bodies shy of our record of 270 attendees last year. The Kelowna gathering was a great success and on behalf of all the WDCAG members and conference attendees, I would like to thank Fes de Scally, his organizing committee, and the great group of student volunteers for their hard work in making the meeting such a great time. A slate of exciting field trips, and lots of social activities provided many opportunities for us to enjoy the Okanagan. Meanwhile a full day of concurrent oral presentation sessions, plus two sets of poster presentations provided an overview of the excellent research being conducted in our regions by undergraduate, graduate and faculty scholars. Geography is alive and well in the west! Next year's conference venue is University of Lethbridge, so start making plans now for making your way to southern Alberta in 2013.

Evaluating student contributions at our conference is always difficult because there is such a high standard, and this year was no different. Thanks to our student evaluation coordinator Tom Waldichuk and all of the faculty evaluators for their hard work as there were many excellent posters and presentations to oversee. Because of the high numbers of students in the competition this year, we awarded prizes at the undergraduate, masters, and PhD level for both posters and presentations. The following are the winners from this year's competition. Congratulations to all of them.

Undergraduate oral: Kira Hoffman (UVIC)
Undergraduate poster: Leah Rempel and Amanda Aldrich (TRU)
Masters oral: Jessica Blewett (UNBC)
Masters poster: Brandi Newton (UVIC)
PhD oral: Jonathan Cinnamon (SFU)
PhD poster: Alex Koiter (UNBC)

The AGM in Kelowna was a lively one this year and covered a number of important issues. First, our publication editors will be exploring the option of moving *The Western Geographer* to an online format. It is hoped that this might ensure more timely publication and increase distribution. The discussion at this stage is simply one of options and the journal will remain in print format while this option is under consideration. Second, despite some cutbacks, our Division remains financially stable. Given our financial viability, Craig Coburn and Tom Johnston (Lethbridge) will explore the options for setting up a trust fund for the division in the future. They will report back at next year's meeting. We also acknowledged the contribution of the executive at the national office the CAG who agreed to provide us with additional funding in support of student attendance. With this additional funding we were able to provide money to support the participation of 170 students this year. Third, we discussed the challenge of continuity among the executive and membership in terms of maintaining a paper trail in the digital age. The online version of the Division's constitution is also undated and does not include some of the recent changes voted on by the membership. The Division agreed to look into updating the constitution, as well as posting annual meeting minutes and conference programs on the division website. I am currently looking into this and hope to have more to report in the next few months.

Fourth, Mr. Ian Gibson and Mr. Barrie Reid, both high school teachers in the Kelowna were congratulated as recipients of the 2012 J.A. McVey Award for Teaching Excellence.

Student members of the Division initiated a discussion about student award evaluations. At the 2012 meeting a new process was put in place where student abstracts were vetted in advance of the conference and student representatives reported that there was considerable concern over this process. After some discussion, the group concluded that this practice might be revisited or, if continued, greater transparency provided for students regarding the competitive process.

Finally, the Division elected a new Executive for 2012-13:

President – Theresa Garvin (University of Alberta) 2011-2013

Acting President – Ben Moffat (MHC/Athabasca) July 2012- May 2013

Vice-President – Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers University) 2012-13

Members at Large AB – Barb McNichol (Mt Royal) 2011-2013; Hester Jiskoot (Lethbridge) 2012-2014 – also incoming conference chair for 2013

Members at Large BC – Zoe Meletis (UNBC) 2011-2013; Fes de Scally (UBC-O) 2011-2013

BC Education Chair – Pam Shaw (Vancouver Island University) 2012-2014

Treasurer: Craig Coburn (Lethbridge) 2011-2013

Newsletter – Claire Beaney (UFV) 2012-2014

Archivist – vacant

Students: TBD (Lethbridge) & Carolyn Emon (UNBC)

Western Geographer Editors – Damian Collins (University of Alberta) & Darryl Carlyle-Moses (Thompson Rivers University) 2011-2013

As classes wind down for the year and we all start looking forward to summer vacations and field seasons, I'd like to take a moment to thank all the conference organizers and Divisional executive members (both old and new) for their contributions over the past year. Without the contributions of our members, the Division would not be the vital and exciting group it is. I'd also

like to take a moment to thank, in advance, Ben Moffat for agreeing to step in as Acting President while I am on sabbatical in the next year. I hope that you all have a wonderful time in Lethbridge next year, and I look forward to catching up with everyone when I get back to Canada in Fall 2013.

*Theresa Garvin, PhD
President, WDCAG
Human Geography Program
University of Alberta*

AUGUSTANA CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Augustana campus offers a minor in geography and an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies (2 streams: general and outdoor education).

Glynnis Hood is on sabbatical this winter, conducting research on wetland biodiversity and methods to reduce human-beaver conflicts through adaptive management. This May, she will also be working in the Knapdale Forest in Scotland with the Scottish Beaver Trial, an ongoing initiative of the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Glynnis received the 2011 Distinguished Academic Early Career Award from the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations and the Augustana Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award. She continues to co-supervise a MSc student who is investigating the effects of the modification of wetlands by beavers on breeding and dispersal success of amphibian populations in east-central Alberta.

This past fall, Glen was an Adjunct Research Fellow at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia. He worked several on projects, including recreational specialization of fishers in Queensland, tourism-related best practices in protected areas, and natural history of the Barking Owl. Now he's back to a reduced teaching load while he is acting department chair until June. He continues his research on conservation benefits from ecotourism, learning dynamics of experiential learning expeditions and independent studies courses, and interpretation

in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. He recently had a paper on wildlife festivals published in *Event Management* and a chapter on birding for rare birds published in the new book, *Last Chance Tourism*.

In terms of sessional instructors, John Pattison, an Augustana alumnus in Environmental Science and MSc graduate in Environmental Economics, is teaching introductory environmental geography and parks and wilderness this semester. Last fall, Brian Sawyer taught the introductory course and geomorphology and this semester, he is teaching Geographic Information Systems.

Glen, Glynnis, and John actively use community service-learning in their environmental studies courses, resulting in many beneficial projects on campus and in the community, including a local NGO examining gravel pit restoration options, campus-wide environmental education, and support for a province-wide dialogue on climate change.

For more information, contact Dr. Glen Hvenegaard at glen.hvenegaard@ualberta.ca or Dr. Glynnis Hood glynnis.hood@ualberta.ca. Check our websites at <http://www.augustana.ca/programs/science/geography/> and <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/programs/science/envscience/>



Submitted by Glenn Hvenegaard

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

The department is experiencing strong enrolments in the winter semester. Gillian Aubie Vines and Dr. Daniel Nnane were hired as contract faculty this semester. The Scotland field school will commence in May.

Submitted by Earl Noah

KINGS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Special accreditation another environmental first for The King's University College

Edmonton – It's the *only* post-secondary institution in Canada to receive such professional recognition for an environmental studies program that includes BA and BSc degrees. The King's University College Environmental Studies (ENVS) program has been granted professional accreditation from Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) Canada, the certifying body of the Canadian Environmental Accreditation Commission (CEAC). This Professional accreditation is in addition to the academic accreditation already granted by the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

The Eco Commission's granting of accreditation to King's encourages all future and past graduates of the ENVS program to apply for the designation "Environmental Professional" and put the letters "EP" behind their names, along with their degrees.

"We are delighted at this recognition of the quality of our environmental program," says President Harry Fernhout. "Doubly so as it came only after an accreditation team from across the country visited us for two days, reviewed all our material, and interviewed numerous faculty and students. They were impressed with what they saw and heard, and confident our program truly measured up to their rigorous professional standards."

"For our graduates, accreditation of King's ENVS program will mean increased employment opportunities---employers will know the program

meets national standards,” says Dr. Michael Ferber, Director of Environmental Studies for the university. “The site evaluation team had no knowledge about King’s before their arrival, and were quite taken by the quality of our programs, professors and students overall. This is just another example of what a hidden gem we are, and the high quality of what we do here.”

The King’s evaluation team concluded all the criteria have been met and there were no specific recommendations for changes to the programs or their implementation. King’s ENVS program is now listed on the ECO Canada website as having national accreditation:

<http://www.eco.ca/public/services/educator/accreditation-environmental-programs/331/>

Submitted by Michael Ferber

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

2012 saw about 180 students take classes in six different Geography courses. In the Fall semester Introductory Physical Geography, Environmental Problems & Management and the Regional Geography of Canada were taught while this Winter, Introductory Human Geography, Map & Air Photo Interpretation and The Circumpolar North comprised the course list. These six represent a decline from the nine courses offered only four years ago. Changes in the Environmental Science Programme (Diploma and/or Certificate) at Lethbridge College (a destination for many of our first-year students) precluded both Remote Sensing and Introductory GIS, while the cost of travelling throughout the Western USA contributed a lot to re-thinking our annual field course (that ran every year from 1992 – 2007). Add to this the rather fortuitous (for him) full-time employment of Ivan Shukster at CFB Suffield (as the base’s Environmental Officer) and MHC’s offerings have been pared back considerably. We still try and offer Introductory Geography at our Brooks Campus (Maggie Romuld teaches these classes) but in any

one year there is no guarantee that these classes will “fly”.

Recently the college has been negotiating with Mount Royal University to create a degree programme (entirely undertaken here in Medicine Hat) to replace a recently expired agreement that created an Education degree under the auspices of the University of Alberta. Oddly that U. Of A. Degree (in rural, elementary education) excluded Introductory Human Geography (while including Introductory Physical Geography) in its course recommendations so it’s hoped the MRU degree will encourage enrolment in that course since it has recently seen some comparatively low numbers.

On the other hand, Geography has remained an essential component of the College’s degree programme in Eco-Tourism Management and maintains important roles in both Environmental Science and in a new MHC Certificate/Diploma programme, Reclamation Technician. The college will remain a feeder for Albertan, Saskatchewanian and B.C. institutions for the foreseeable future (despite Calgary & Edmonton colleges both becoming universities –the college system still exists in Alberta) and we continue to send out students who find their ways into MA, MSc & PhD programmes throughout the continent as well as some who go on to fill a variety of supportive non-academic departmental roles.

On the personnel front, there have been no major changes in the make-up of the employment characteristics, no new emphases in hiring & no new philosophical directions for the department. Despite my recent injuries I persist in forcing students to roam both Cypress Hills Interprovincial and Dinosaur Provincial Parks as part of their degree/certificate experiences, I continue to tutor both Physical & Human Geography courses at Athabasca University and I keep plugging away on *The Historical Atlas of Medicine Hat*.

While we Rattlers (me Rattler??) will not be hosting the WDCAG-AGM in the near future (2019??), I do suspect that I will be cajoled into

helping with the upcoming (2013) meeting at the University of Lethbridge, meanwhile the eastern-most institution of the WDCAG will continue to ensure the security of our eastern boundary, further I will conduct a foray even further east next Fall & will again act as an unofficial representative to the PCAG-AGM, September 2012 in Morden, Manitoba (an hour east of Boissevain) – I'll report on my adventure in an upcoming Newsletter.

Submitted by Ben Moffat

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

The past few months have been busy and active, as the Department continues to settle into its institutional home in the new Faculty of Environment. This has meant a lot of institutional retuning, as well as our involvement in several new initiatives (such as a Certificate in Environmental Literacy, and an Ecological Restoration program). The number of majors in our various programs has also seen a welcome increase.

Some items of note: Meg Krawchuk was awarded the Faculty of Environment Endowed Research Fellowship. Ryan Midgley, MA, has also been awarded the John Bradbury Award for his research in economic geography. Cristina Temenos, Phd student in the Department, was awarded the 2012 American Association of Geography Specialty Group Graduate Fellowship. Emily Macalister, a third year human geography major, was awarded the first Warren Gill Memorial Endowment Fund award. This award recognizes the recipient's leadership and/or service within the University community or representing Simon Fraser University to the community at large. The Fund was established in 2010 at SFU by generous donations from friends, family and colleagues in memory of Warren, a member of SFU's Geography Department since 1977, also active in multiple roles within the University, including the establishment of the downtown Vancouver campus. A popular geography teacher, an accomplished researcher, and a mean bass player, he passed away in

September 2010. The award is given on the basis of good academic standing and leadership and/or service within the community. Nicholas Blomley has won the Hart Socio-Legal Studies Association book prize for his book, 'Rights of Passage: sidewalks and the regulation of public flow' (Routledge 2011).

Eugene McCann was invited to present in the SFU President's Lecture series and did a great job in outlining his research, as well as providing an accessible introduction to urban geography. Many students and faculty participated in the recent Cascadia Critical Geography workshop (initiated by Paul Kingsbury) at the University of Washington. Several grad students and some faculty (Valorie Crooks and Eugene McCann, who helped organized) participated in a graduate proposal workshop (jointly with UBC and UVIC) at Friday Harbor just before the UW workshop. Paul Kingsbury will be the Keynote Speaker at the Sixth Annual Graduate Conference in Landscape Studies at Indiana University. The title of his keynote is "The FIFA World Cup's Landscapes of Community, Belief, and Anxiety", March 22-24, 2012. On March 22 the Department will welcome David Montgomery, Professor, Department of Earth & Space Sciences at the University of Washington who will present the 2nd Annual Distinguished Lecture in Geography - 'Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations'

A quick sampling of some active areas of research within the Department:

The Landscape and Conservation Science Research Group, led by Dr. Meg Krawchuk, is beginning research focused on disturbance interactions in British Columbia's central interior pine forests. This initiative will include a focus on the ecological resilience of forest vegetation communities to compounding effects of perturbation from mountain pine beetle, wildfire, and forest harvest, in the context of a changing climate.

Gretchen Hernandez, Phd student, Department of Geography, SFU notes the following: 'My field research in Bolivia (2011) explores indigenous-led local development in the Bolivian highlands. In

particular, the research provides a comparative example of the conceptualization and practice of the social economy, with emphasis on indigenous peoples' experience. While a sectoral approach is presented (i.e., identifying the types of organizations/enterprises), the research also contributes to an *interactive view* of the social economy--its interaction with government policy, international cooperation, and social organizations. Initial findings show that while there are multiple forms of social economy present in Bolivian communities that these emerge from multiple factors and can be internally or externally driven. Further, there is significant potential for social forms of economy to support indigenous-led local development in Bolivia, but also significant obstacles to overcome including a lack of informed policy by national government, and lack of capacity at the local level'.

The Department of Geography at SFU has an active Health Geography program with research in population health, health service and global health. Nadine Schuurman and Valorie Crooks supervise a combined 10+ graduate students in their respective labs. The health geography group has published in a range of Geography, Health and Medical journals and both faculty and students participate in a number of related networks.

The paleoglaciology group at SFU, lead by Tracy Brennand, is currently investigating: controls on esker sedimentary architecture during the last glaciation of Canada; the deglacial history of the Thompson and Fraser plateaus and environs; and the evolution and drainage of glacial Lake Purcell, BC.

Geoff Mann's research focuses on political economy, democracy, and environmental and economic macropolicy. He is working on a book project concerning the many lives of Keynesianism.

Kirsten Zickfeld is co-author on a paper in Nature Climate Change which will be published online on March 4, 2012. The paper explores the climate implications of eliminating all anthropogenic

emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols. It shows that eliminating all emissions leads to an immediate warming of a few tenths of a degree over about a decade, followed by a gradual cooling that returns global temperature to close to present-day levels after about two centuries. It further shows that the magnitude of the peak warming depends strongly on the uncertain strength of present-day levels after about two centuries. It further shows that the magnitude of the peak warming depends strongly on the uncertain strength of present-day aerosol forcing, but in none of the cases examined exceeds 2 degrees C warming relative to pre-industrial temperature. The paper concludes that it is still possible to maintain global temperature below the 2 degree C target, in stark contrast to previous analyses which concluded that warming of greater than 2 degrees C is likely unavoidable even with extremely aggressive mitigation efforts.

Recent graduate dissertations:

September 13, 2010: Sonja Aagesen, MA: The Determination Of Paleo-Indian Territoriality Through The Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis Of Paleo-Indian Fluted Points And Their Lithic Sources

August 2, 2011: Ofer Amram, MSc: A Web- Based Model To Support Triage Location Allocation In Mass Casualty Situations

April 21, 2011: Elizabeth Baird, MSc: Controls On Sediment Generation From Forest Roads In A Pacific Maritime Watershed

December 14, 2010: Lisa Brunner, MSc: "From Protracted Situations to Protracted Separations: Acehnese-Canadian Refugee Settlement in Vancouver, BC"

August 22, 2011: Yue-Ching Cheng, MSc: The Ins And Outs Of Burns Bog: A Water Balance Study

April 21, 2011: Natalia Domarad, MSc: Flow And Suspended Sediment Transport Through The Gravel-Sand Transition In The Fraser River, British Columbia

December 8, 2010: David Hendrickson, PhD: The Belly Of The Beast: Post-Occupancy Assessment Of Sustainable Consumption In Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

April 11, 2011: Maciej (Matt) Kurowski, MSc: Visualizing The Wave: How Pacific Northwest Communities Use Tsunami Hazard Assessment Information To Design Evacuation Maps For Public Education

August 25, 2011: Terence Lai, MSc: Modelling the Spatial Dynamics Of Landslides: Integration Of GIS-Based Cellular Automata And Multicriteria Evaluation Methods

June 30, 2011: Martin Lin, MSc: Bedform Migration in Rivers

November 19, 2010: Ryan Midgley, MA: BC Sawmills Under Siege: Industry Responses to the US-Canada Softwood Lumber Dispute 2001-2008

April 26, 2011: Jamison Miller, MA: Vancouver's Auratic Geographies

December 19, 2011: Cameron Owens: PhD: Contesting Sustainability in the Valley of the Grizzly Spirit: Models of Justice in Environmental Conflict and Assessment

April 4, 2011: Liliana Perez, PhD: Approaches For Modeling Spatial Dynamics of Forest Insect Disturbance: The Integration Of GIScience, Complex Systems Theory And Swarming Intelligence

October 18, 2011: Jesse Proudfoot, PhD: The Anxious Enjoyment of Poverty: Drug Addiction, Panhandling, and the Spaces of Psychoanalysis

December 14, 2011: Sean Robertson, PhD: Post-developmental properties in the age of the exception: the political and affective lives of the traditional environmental knowledge of Plateau peoples in British Columbia

May 24, 2011: Annamarie Ruelle, MA: The Human Gateway: Economic Development Planning, Geographic Knowledge, and British Columbia's Asia Pacific Initiative

October 5, 2010: Priya Vadi, MA: Rights, Rituals, and Repercussions: Aboriginal Participation in the 2010 Olympic Games Planning Process.

Submitted by Nicholas Blomley

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Our department is now down to 3.6 permanent faculty members. Gilles Viaud is on long-term leave. Ross Nelson has moved to a faculty position at Gavle University in Sweden. This is a "sister" university department: for several years we have offered both exchange programs and a unique double degree program in Geomatics/Human Geography with Gavle.

We are now in the process of facilitating two hirings. One is a tenure track position in GIS/Remote Sensing, which is well on its way. The other is a limited term one-year position in Human Geography. Both positions should be filled by July.

Gordan Titchener and Terry Macdonald have been conscripted into sessional instructor roles within the department, while several of our top senior students are filling in as lab demonstrators. Even with our reduced instructional resources our student numbers within Geography are up, and our cohort of majors has increased. We are all working at full steam at the moment, and are managing to do more with less.

Darryl Carlyle-Moses is now the Head of our Department. He continues with his active research program in Hydrology/Mountain Pine Beetle and Canopy Interception Studies. He has pioneered our nascent Graduate Program in Geography – through the multidisciplinary Masters of Environmental Science program, and has several MSc students in the academic pipeline. He has a full committee load, and has been active in our University and Faculty 5-year plans to transition from the past role of University College to become the full fifth member of the research-intensive universities alliance of British Columbia.

Tom Waldichuk continues to work harder than most within his areas of interest and expertise. He offers a broad range of undergraduate courses, with a specialization in Environmental Studies and the Geography of Japan, among others. He is again offering his "Geography of Japan" field course in the summer of 2012. He continues to be active in the field of Japan-Canada academic studies, and has pioneered innovative research studies in the area of Japan-style "walking tours" and "accessibility" in the local region. He is the incoming Vice-President of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, to become the next President.

Crystal Huscroft is on a partial leave but continues to draw large numbers of students to the Physical Geography program, and to convince a few to continue their studies into the Geomorphology stream we presently share with Geology. There is a possibility that Geography may inherit this program in the near future into our academic realm. Both Crystal Huscroft and Tom Waldichuk have been heavily involved in developing and implementing our mandatory Field Course (Geography 3700) for Geography majors at Hat Creek Ranch and our adjunct campus in Ashcroft in recent years.

Brian Goehring continues to teach a wide spectrum of classes within Geography. His specializations include large 1st year classes, Historical Geography (a long-standing tradition at TRU), and the Regional Geography of the Canadian Arctic. As well, our department has pioneered a movement toward First Nations education, and now offers a 4th year seminar, Geography 4850: The Geography of First Nations Issues in British Columbia (co-taught by an "elder-in-residence" at TRU) which is unique in British Columbia, and in Canada. We continue to explore the possibilities of furthering our departmental and university-wide offerings in the area of Aboriginal Studies.

Our entire faculty presented academic papers at the recent WDCAG Conference at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna. Some of our faculty were involved in several presentations, had student posters, adjudicated and chaired sessions, and were

conscripted into evaluating student participation. Our thanks go out to the UBC Okanagan Organization Committee for a superb effort, and Fes de Scaley in particular, for his efforts.

Our student society, the TRU Geography Society (TRUGS) continues its tradition of being one of the most active student groups on the campus. It is active in organizing field trips (one of our "hallmarks"), outdoor adventure activities, and the use of our TRU cabin at Wells Gray Provincial Park. TRU Geography had a prominent role in the WDCAG conference in Kelowna, UBC Okanagan, in 2012. TRU students were awarded the top prize in the Undergraduate poster competition, as well as winning the "Scavenger Contest" trophy again, now prominently displayed in our dedicated lab room. The students themselves organized their participation in this conference, the participation of all faculty members, and paid for it from their own fund raising activities. Beyond this the TRUGS group also participated in several local service activities. In 2012, we must recognize the exceptional organizational capabilities of Megan Cullinane, our President this year, and her executive in the TRUGS for contributing to the survival and success of the department. We have also been instrumental in placing several of our recent graduates and graduates-to-be in employment within the field of Geography in the past several months.

It must be, in conclusion, reported that we are in the process of officially changing our name from the "Department of Geography" to the "Department of Geography and Environmental Studies" at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Submitted by Brian Goehring and Darryl Carlyle-Moses

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (HUMAN GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM, EAS)

The University of Alberta will be launching a new Planning program alongside of the existing Human Geography and Environmental Earth Sciences Program. The new undergraduate

program has been in the works for the past four years and will have between 60 and 100 students at maturity. Bob Summers is currently the Acting Director of the program while hiring takes place for the program director as well as two other tenure track positions.

Master's Student Fujie Rao will be beginning his fieldwork on investing processes of retail planning in relation to urban revitalization projects in Edmonton, Manchester, and Luzhou. Fujie is working on the project with his supervisor, Bob Summers.

Six Human Geography undergrad students attend the WDCAG in Kelowna. Kevin Whitmarsh, Stephanie Mah and Keegan Brooks presented posters at the event.

Alison Cheesbrough has been admitted to start her Masters in the fall co-supervised by Candace Nykiforuk (Centre for Health Promotion Studies) and Theresa Garvin. Alison will be working on Community Health and Built Environments.

Theresa Garvin was in Ontario in January and gave a series of invited presentations to University of Toronto Mississauga, University of Waterloo, and University of Western Ontario on her ongoing work related to Aging in Suburban Environments.

In March, Amy Christianson was awarded the 2011 Samuel H. Prince Dissertation Award by the International Research Committee on Disasters.

This fall, Chaka Zinyemba (4th year BA) and Marc Parsons (3rd year BSc) won the award for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Alberta's Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Submitted by Robert Summers

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Faculty News

This past August, UFV welcomed Dr. Lenore Newman, Canada Research Chair, Tier II, in Food

Security and Environment. Dr. Newman will be housed in the Geography program, and has already developed a course in her research specialization on the geography of food. She will be working with other programs in the institution, notably Agriculture, in order to advance research in food security, and will spend the summer travelling eastern Canada, exploring regional cuisines.

In other news, Claire Beaney is on maternity leave with her second child, Ross, born in June 2012 (see photo below). Dr. Olav Lian is on sabbatical until December 2012. Dr. Michelle Rhodes assumed the Department Head role in September.

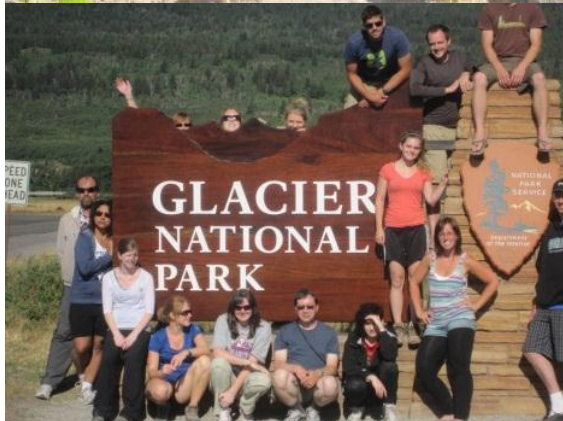


We also welcomed four new adjunct faculty members in the past year: Dr. John Clague of Simon Fraser University; Dr. Dan Selbie of DFO's Cultus Lake Fisheries Research Laboratory; Dr. Tom Forge of Agriculture Canada; and Dr. Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. They join Dr. Lionel Pandolfo, who became an adjunct member in 2010.

Field Schools

Field study is a hallmark of Geography at UFV. Shorter week-long excursions ("Adventures in Geography") and longer Study Tours occur during spring, summer and fall. This past August 2011, 14 UFV students and 3 instructors: Ken Brealey, Steve Marsh, and Michelle Rhodes, spent 12 days in the Yellowstone-to-Glacier NP (MT) corridor, investigating natural and cultural resource

management challenges inside and outside of protected spaces in western Montana. In addition to spending time in the parks, they also visited the mining cities and communities of Butte and Virginia City; the state capital, Helena; Gates of the Mountains; the National Bison Range in Moiese; and the regional centres of Browning, Kalispell, and Missoula. (see photos below).



Michelle Rhodes, Steven Marsh and Ken Brealey and 14 students spent 2 weeks 'adventuring in geography' in western Montana.

Garry Fehr and David Gibson guided 12 students on a five day Adventures in Geography to the South Central Interior of British Columbia, also in late summer 2011 (see photo, below). Students learned about the roles of glaciation and volcanic activity in the shaping of the physical landscape of Wells Grey Park and the Thompson-Okanagan region. Students also used economic geography concepts of Central Place Theory and Core/Periphery to understand the importance of natural resource extraction and processing in the history and evolution of the City of Kamloops.



Garry Fehr and David Gibson guided 12 students on a five day Adventures in Geography to the South Central Interior of British Columbia

In May 2012, David Gibson, Garry Fehr and Sociology Instructor Stephen Piper will be taking 16 students for a three week study tour to Mexico City, Chiapas and Oaxaca. The tour will survey Mexico's wide variety of landscapes, economies and cultural features. This is an intensive introduction to Mexico and the Mesoamerican world.

Internships

Cherie Enns, on behalf of UFV, received a three year AUCC grant through their Students for Development program to place 16 students at Ardhi University (Institute of Human Settlements Students) and in exchange 4 students from Ardhi to spend a semester at UFV, affiliated with Global Development Institute, largely under the umbrella of the Geography program.

The key development activities of the Canadian student internships in conjunction with the Institute of Human Settlements Studies of Ardhi University focus on research related to informal settlements, policy and sustainability issues that are linked with rural to urban migration, pollution, climate change (flooding) poverty, environmental degradation, and include:

1. Settlement upgrading;
2. Environmental training;
3. Sustainable schools and education for sustainable development for children and youth;
4. GIS mapping and computer technology; and
5. Urban agriculture

In addition to the funded internships over the last 12 months, UFV has placed an additional 20 students in Africa based internships with several going in May 2012 to work with various NGOs on research and service learning placements. UFV is also running a field course in Tanzania in May where the project focus will involve child friendly communities in an area recently affected by a ferry disaster.

By integrating funded and non-funded student opportunities, the geography program is able to provide on-the-ground supervision, further research and exchange collaboration as well as increase opportunities for students interested in proposed Global Development Studies degree, also to be housed in Geography.

In March the Tanzania students working collaboratively with UFV students placed in Tanzania will present at WDCAP and the UFV students will present at Canadian HC offices to CIDA and other staff on their research related to recent flooding in Dar es Salaam and impact on informal settlements.

Geography students at UFV also have internship opportunities in India, under the guidance of Garry Fehr. Heidi Buhler and Kylie Thomas are currently completing Global Development Studies internships at Prem Sewa Shikshan Sangh in Manzri, India. They are engaged in training

teachers in English education, music and computer skills.

Research activities

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals through Child to Child Training

Garry Fehr is working with the NGO Developing Indigenous Resources in Janta Colony bustee in Chandigarh India to expand their program of community health promotion through the creation of health training modules. These modules use skits, games, songs and puppet shows to train teenage community health workers basic health promotion strategies to improve the health and livelihoods of children. This past year's special project focused on improving nutrition in chronically underweight children under the five years of age. Currently, the project has received funding from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to pilot an urban agriculture project in the colony to promote a supply of inexpensive nutritious food. Forty initial participants have learned how to grow eggplant, tomatoes and mint in winter conditions.

Assessing India's Joint Forest Management Program

Garry's forest policy research investigates the manner in which the decentralized Joint Forest Management program attempts to decentralize government control of forest resources to village committees. In many districts of the state of Madhya Pradesh forest access has been re-territorialized, government control of timber products has been strengthened through the role of Forest Guards and the liberalization of the high-value low-volume Non Timber Forest Product sector has been transferred to wealthy traders and farmers. The research has produced the paper, noted below.

During 2011 Olav Lian began collaboration with Darlene Lim, and her research team, at the NASA Ames Research Center in California. Darlene's NASA research group has been studying microbialites in deep lakes in south-central B.C. (Pavilion and Kelly lakes) that resemble some of

the earliest life to become established on earth. These lakes are situated in a region where Olav Lian has been studying the Quaternary geology for the past 20 years. Olav's interest in the lakes is their sediment record, which is expected to record environmental change in the region from the end of the last glaciation, and perhaps even before that. With additional collaboration from Brian Menounos (UNBC), it is hoped that sediment samples will be collected from Kelly and Pavilion lakes in the summer of 2012, and that some of these samples will subsequently be dated in UFV Luminescence Dating Laboratory.

Patagonia

For 3 weeks in January and February 2012 Olav Lian and former UFV honours students Justine Cullen and Rachel Chapman joined John Clague and students from SFU for field work in Patagonia (southern Chile and Argentina) to understand the nature and timing of the advance and retreat of glaciers from the southern Andes mountains into the eastern steppe. Aspects of this work will form Justine Cullen's MSc research at SFU (supervised by Olav Lian and John Clague) which will involve establishing a chronology for the area by dating, using luminescence, sand wedges developed in glacial sediments.



Like field work in western Canada, field work in Patagonia often involves the hazard of interacting with wild animals, as MSc student Justine Cullen has just discovered.

Woods Hole Project

Geography's involvement with the Woods Hole Project continues under the guidance of Steve Marsh. The research initiative is known as the Global Rivers Project and the plan is to create a Global Rivers Observatory where data collected from the sampling (both synoptic and time series) will be shared online.

Students from Geography (roughly seven in total) and from Biology (4 students) have participated in the time series sampling at Fort Langley. The main focus is to sample to determine the carbon flux (inorganic and organic) in both dissolved and particulate form. We have sampled one to two times per month. The samples are shipped to Woods Hole, MA and to Switzerland for analysis. We have initiated some analysis here at UFV. Colleagues from WHOI have conducted synoptic sampling along the Fraser River in August 2009, October 2010, and May 2011.

In addition to this, the Geography students have been sampling at Kanaka Creek in Maple Ridge and Silver Creek in Mission since January 2010 and at Clayburn Creek and Willband Creek in Abbotsford since spring 2011.

Faculty (Steven Marsh from Geography and Sharon Gillies from Biology) along with six students (Jenna Fanslau, Bryce Downey and Brayden Wiebe from Geography and Helena Fraser, Jocelyn Herbert and Garrett Macklam-Harron from Biology) traveled to Woods Hole to participate in the Global Rivers Project Annual Workshop. Four of these students traveled early and had the opportunity to analyze some of the samples collected at Fort Langley in the WHOI (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) and WHRC (Woods Hole Research Center) labs.



Participants at the Woods Hole Global Rivers Project Annual Workshop

Jenna Fanslau and Bryce Downey presented posters on aspects of the project at the Annual Conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers hosted by Simon Fraser University in March 2011. Jenna, Bryce, Helena Fraser and Jocelyn Herbert presented posters at the annual conference of the American Association of Geographers in New York City in February 2012.

Recent Publications:

Veron, R. & Fehr, G. (2011). State power and protected areas: Dynamics and contradictions of forest conservation in Madhya Pradesh, India. *Political Geography* 30, 282-293.

BA Honours completions:

Cassandra Brien, 'An Analysis of a Minority's Influence in Urban Planning and Community Development'. This project investigated the direct and indirect ways that the Indo-Canadian diaspora influences community planning and development in the city of Abbotsford.

Submitted by John Belec

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

Hello fellow members of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, it is my pleasure to invite you all to our Annual Conference hosted by the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge in

2013 (March 8-10). The geographers at the University of Lethbridge have been a very busy group this past year with many ongoing research efforts and a rapidly growing graduate program. Congratulations to Dr. Wei Xu who was promoted to Full-Professor and to Drs. Christopher Hugenoltz and Sarah Boon who were granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Working in alphabetical order: Dr. Rene Barendregt has returned from a productive study leave with more pins on the travel map than many will get in a lifetime. Rene continues his efforts in the Dean's office and has a very active research career. Dr. Sarah Boon continues her hydrology research and Dr. Shawn Bubel spends more time digging up bones and broken pottery in Israel (part research, part undergraduate course) than any two people could. Dr. Jim Byrne (our outgoing chair) continues to diversify his global change research with a recent SSHRC grant. Dr. Craig Coburn (who is responsible for this text) continues his efforts with new remote sensing techniques and technologies with a growing fleet of autonomous sensing systems to be launched this coming summer. Dr. Chris Hugenoltz continues to be busy with his research efforts in many different wind related fields. Dr. Hester Jiskoot is currently enjoying a hard-earned study leave, though why anyone would prefer glaciers to solid ground is beyond me. Dr. Dan Johnson has one of the most diverse research programs in Canada and has spent enough time in China lately to pick up Mandarin in his "spare" time. Dr. Tom Johnston continues to investigate agricultural systems and has recently been offering our department's first regular field research course in the Cypress Hills. Dr. Stefan Kienzle tirelessly models hydrological systems in both Southern Alberta and South Africa. Dr. Matthew Letts is the coordinator of our Environmental Science program and has continued his research into plant physiological acclimation to environmental stress. Dr. Ian MacLachlan is currently enjoying his study leave in Australia and will return to Lethbridge in late summer of 2012. Dr. Kevin McGeough studies ancient texts and has made another major contribution in his editing of an encyclopedia of archaeology. Dr. Derek Peddle and Dr. Karl

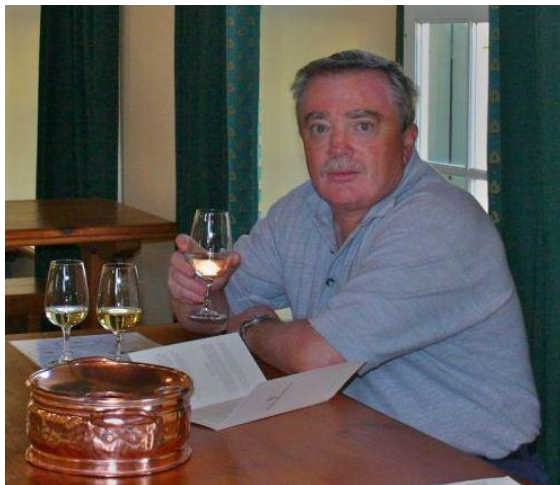
Staenz are busy pushing back the frontiers of remote sensing science and keeping our NSERC CREATE grant for training graduate students in hyperspectral remote sensing moving forward. Dr. Ivan Townshend has recently received the largest SSHRC grant ever held at the University of Lethbridge! Dr. Wei Xu, aside from being promoted this past March, holds a number of important research grants and was a recent recipient of a Tecterra grant to investigate GIS and Social Science integration for assisting in the evaluation of food security issues in the developed and developing world.

Submitted by Craig Coburn

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty News

Professor Kevin Hall – in June 2012, Kevin will be made a Fellow of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG). Since 1970 there have been but 24 Fellows, and this award will be only the second to a non-South African. In the written notification, Cecil Seethal, the SSAG President, wrote that the award was for "inter alia, the indelible mark you have made on Geography in South Africa through globally respected research and a legacy of students who are now leaders in the discipline in the country....and for your prolific and sustained publication record."



José Pablo Baraybar – The Geography Program has a new Adjunct Faculty Member in José Pablo Baraybar. José Pablo is Executive Director of the [Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team / el Equipo Peruano de Antropología Forense \(EPAF\)](#) which is a non-profit organization that promotes the right to truth, justice, and guarantees of non-repetition in cases of forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution. He sends these photos from: (1) Bungoma, Kenya where the EPAF is starting a new project in the area and in partnership with Western Kenya Human Rights Watch to assist in recording gross Human Rights violations in the area of Mount Elgon; and (2) Somaliland where the EPAF signed an unprecedented MOU with the Government of Somaliland related to training of the Somaliland War Crimes Commission.



EPAF in Kenya (February)



EPAF in Somaliland (March)

Dr. Brian Menounos appeared on CBC on 13 January 2012 to discuss how time-lapse images of glaciers are revealing 'epochal' changes.

Dr. Greg Halseth is working with the community of Kitimat to prepare for the transformative change that will accompany one of the largest industrial expansions in the history of northern B.C.

Dr. Zoë A. Meletis participated as a panelist in the *Getting Your First Academic Job* Panel organized by the Graduate Student Affinity Group, the AAG Jobs in Geography Center, the Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education group, and the Geography Faculty Development Alliance at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York, NY. February 2012. She also presented the paper *Fieldwork, friendship, Facebook, and friction of distance: Reflecting on real and virtual friendship in international fieldwork* at that meeting as well.

Dr. Zoë Meletis presented the paper *If 'a turtle is worth more alive than dead', why does poaching persist? A discussion of literatures on poaching, and the persistence of sea turtle poaching in Tortuguero, Costa Rica* at the International Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology (Huatulco, Mexico—March 13-16, 2012). She was also a Program Committee member, Activity Coordinator, and Session co-chair (Social Sciences, Environmental Education, and Outreach) for the conference.

Adjunct faculty member **Fredy Peccerelli** (Executive Director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation) - Fundación Antropología Forense Guatemala – will receive the Second ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism along with Kate Doyle of the National Security Archive – an award of \$100,000. The citation indicates that “Peccerelli is an innovative forensic anthropologist whose work has been instrumental to the first-ever conviction of Guatemalan military forces for crimes against humanity.” The award ceremony for this major human rights activism award will take place on May 13th at the Museum of the City of New York. See: <http://alba-valb.org/>

Dr. Catherine Nolin was invited to present three talks in March at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver and Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby on Violent Development and Canadian Mining in Guatemala. [The Department of Geography at UBC hosted one talk](#), SFU's First Nations Studies hosted another, and the 3rd talk was part of the "[Canadian Mining and the Universities](#)" series hosted by UBC Geograhly, SFU Geography, and SFU's Institute for the Humanities.

Recent publications:

Albers, Sam J.* and **E.L. Petticrew**. 2012. Ecosystem response to a salmon disturbance regime: Implications for downstream nutrient fluxes in aquatic systems. *Limnology and Oceanography*. 57 (1): 113-123. DOI: 10.4319/lo.2012.57.1.0113

Bouquey, N., Campbell, L.M., Cumming, G., **Meletis, Zoë A.**, Norwood, C., Stoll, J. 2012. Interpreting Amenities, Envisioning the Future: Common Ground and Conflict in North Carolina's Coastal Communities. *Geojournal* 77(1): (2012) 77: 83–101. DOI 10.1007/s10708-010-9387-1. (published online Nov. 24th 2010). <http://www.springerlink.com/content/q76777g5126156t2/fulltext.pdf>

Hall, K. and C. Thorn. 2011. The historical legacy of spatial scales in freeze–thaw weathering: Misrepresentation and resulting misdirection, *Geomorphology*, 130 (1-2) July: 83-90.

Hall, K., C. Thorn and P. Sumner. 2012. On the persistence of 'weathering'. *Geomorphology*, Vol 149-150 (May), 1-10. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.12.024>

Halseth, G., Dr. C. Helm and D. Price (2011) “The Rural Care Needs Index: A potential tool for ‘have-not’ communities”. *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*, 16 (4): 134-136.

Heikkilä, K., and **G. Fondahl**. 2012. Co-managed research: Non-Indigenous thoughts on an Indigenous toponymy project in northern British

Columbia. *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 29 (1), 61-86.

Petticrew, E. L., Rex, J. F. and S. J. Albers. 2011. Bidirectional delivery of organic matter between freshwater and marine systems: an example from Pacific salmon streams. *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* 30:779–786.

Ryser, L. and G. Halseth. (2011) “Mechanisms for Delivering Information to Seniors in a Changing Small Town Context”. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 6(1): 49-69.

Silver, Jennifer J., **Zoë A. Meletis**, and Priya Vadi. (published online Jan. 17th 2012; printed issue to follow in summer 2012). Complex Context: Aboriginal participation in hosting the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. *Leisure Studies*.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02614367.2011.645248>

Skinner, M., **N. Hanlon**, and **G. Halseth**. 2012. Health- and social-care issues in aging resource communities In *Health in Rural Canada*, eds. J. C. Kulig and A. M. Williams, 462-480. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.

* Adjunct faculty member

Field Courses:

Planning is just about complete for the Spring/Summer 2012 Geography Field Courses to Guatemala (Dr. Catherine Nolin), Peru (Dr. Catherine Nolin), and to South Africa (Dr. Kevin Hall, Dr. Greg Halseth, and Dr. Neil Hanlon) in 2012. See:

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

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

http://www.gis.unbc.ca/peru_web/

Graduate Students:

News

Geography graduate student JP Laplante (Supervisor: Catherine Nolin) and Stephen St. Laurent directed and produced the film [Amazay: A Film About Water](#) to highlight the battle against

the Kemess North development in northern BC during 2007-2009. The full film is now available through YouTube.

Giulliana Tamblyn started the MA International Studies (International Development Stream) graduate program (Supervisor: Catherine Nolin) to examine resource extraction and corporate social responsibility in Peru. Giulliana comes to us from the National University of Piura in northern Peru.

Nick, Ehlers (MA NRES) won the Archie Carr Student Award for Runner Up Best Conservation Oral at the International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, March 13-16 2012. Huatulco, Mexico. The paper he presented was: Nick R. Ehlers and Zoë A. Meletis. Thinking Outside of the Beach—An interdisciplinary study of turtle tourism-related motorboat use in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

Undergraduate Students:

News

Carolyn Emon (3rd year Geography Major) was elected as the BC Student Representative to the WDCAG Executive at the Saturday afternoon AGM of the Division’s Annual Meeting.

UNBC at the WDCAG Meetings:

Student and Faculty contributions to the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Kelowna, BC, 8-10 March 2012.

Paper Presentations:

Blewett, Jessica, Mapping with (dis)abled people: Towards a participatory, qualitative and holistic approach. (Awarded best paper presentation in the Master’s student category)

Garraway, Leana, and Hanlon, Neil, Knowledge to action: Using research with First Nations for community benefit.

Joe-Strack, Jocelyn, and Petticrew, Ellen, Sediment tracing: An investigation of the use of microbial DNA as a fingerprinting technique.

Reiffarth, Dominic, and Petticrew, Ellen, Tracing the Horsefly using compound-specific isotopes: Avoiding getting bitten.

Vanden Busch, Leah, and Petticrew, Ellen, Seasonal storage, tropic transport, and uptake of marine-derived nutrients in the hyporheic zone of the Horsefly River spawning channel, British Columbia.

Carolyn Emon (3rd year undergraduate Geography Major) Addressing Pros and Cons of Legalizing the Sex Trade Industry in Prince George.

Carolyn Emon (3rd year undergraduate Geography Major) Mental Maps and How Children Depict Place.

Poster Presentations:

Koiter, Alex, Lobb, DA, Owens, Phil, Tiessen, KHD, and Li, S, Assessing the sources of suspended sediments in the streams of an agricultural watershed in the Canadian Prairies using ¹³⁷CS as a tracer. (Awarded best poster presentation in the Doctoral student category).

Rose Loerke, Ellen Petticrew, Dominic Reiffarth and Philip Owens, Methods for identifying suitable biomarkers for soil and sediment tracing using compound specific isotope analysis (CSIA).

Submitted by Greg Halseth

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Here is a glimpse into the always vibrant world of geography at UVic.

In the last few months, UVic geographers have participated in several conferences.

The Department hosted "**Bridging the Gap**" - a conference especially designed for undergraduate geographers.

"Bridging the Gap" provides a friendly, low-pressure atmosphere for students to showcase their work, learn from their classmates, gain

valuable experience and build their CV's (adding a nice line-item).

Directed Studies and Honours Students were especially encouraged to participate - showcasing their efforts over the past term.

The conference looks to bridge gaps between undergrads and grads, human and physical geographers, students and faculty by bringing everyone together for an enjoyable and edifying experience.

Judges had an extremely difficult time choosing the best presentations but did manage to choose the following, under duress.

Sarah Brown for her work on Chinese immigration in the Victoria area

Kimberly House for her work on the effectiveness of parks for protecting avian species richness

Hilary Todhunter for her work on landscapes of death in Varanasi, India

Annie Markvoort for her examination of UVic's Community Green Map

Participants and presentations at Bridging the Gap:

Sarah Brown: Settlement Patterns of Chinese Immigrants in Victoria, British Columbia, circa 1900-Present

Kira Hoffman: A one hundred year resurvey and dendroglaciological investigation of the late-Holocene behaviour of the Bromley Glacier, northern Coast Mountains, British Columbia

Robyn Hutchings: "Meet Caamano Sound" Project Georgia Clyde Lunging it out with the Rorquals: Dynamics of lunge feeding, and the morphological adaptations that empower "the greatest biomechanical event in the animal kingdom".

Ashley Hrenyk: The Growth of Aquaculture in Vietnam after Doi Moi and the Consequences for the Environment

Kimberly House: Evaluation of the effectiveness of Parks and Protected areas at representing avian species richness in British Columbia, Canada

Carley Coccola: Growing food security? An exploration of the role of the campus community garden in mitigating undergraduate student food insecurity at the University of Victoria, BC.

Jessica Fitterer: Predicting Avian Species Richness Using Landscape-Scale Indices in British Columbia, Canada

Nadine Baumer: Social Learning as a Means to Improve Sustainability Assessment Processes and Outcomes in Canada

Keith Holmes: Forecasting Shifts to British Columbia's Biodiversity due to Climate Change

Mika Ishizaki: The Changing Face of Retail: The Architecture of Lifestyle Stores

Jessica Pietrusiak: Late Holocene Glacial Activity at Scud Glacier, British Columbia Coast Mountains

Malcolm Maclean: Contesting Vancouver Island's "Wild Coast": Analysis of public discourse and civic engagement in land use planning

Laura Tassie, Sandra Arnold & Andrew Picard: Hornby Island Food Security

Erin Latham: First Nations Coastal Resource Management: A Bottom-Up Approach to Addressing Capacity Issues in Stewardship Offices

Kasha Janota-Bzowska: The Kondratiev Cycles

Kayla Cheeke: Stealing Wood and Water: An Exploration of Nuu-chah-nulth Concepts of Theft, Property, Generosity and Reciprocity

Annie Markvoort: An examination of the usability of the University of Victoria's Community Green Map: Comparing Digital to Paper Media

Hilary Todhunter: Landscapes of Life and Death in Varanasi, India

Melissa Robin: Land Use Regression Models for Air Quality

Sarah Buchanan: Exploring Spanish Influenza in the City of Vancouver, 1918-1919

Teresa Evans: Land cover Classification of the Nhecolândia Subregion of the Brazilian Pantanal Wetlands Using ALOS/PALSAR, RADARSAT-2 and ENVISAT/ASAR Imagery

Maral Sotoudehnia: What's in a Name? Neoliberalization and the Corporate Sponsorship of Public Naming Rights in Cities

Rhianna Nagel: Collaborative Waste Management in Tourism Dependent Communities in Uruguay

Lisa Willott: "Agroecology and Cuban small farmers: a path to food security?"

Also, many of our researchers attended and presented at the CAG:

Kaitlyn Burnett "Street food and vibrant urban spaces: Lessons from Portland, OR" in "Food and the City 1: Exploring Space, Place and Taste", Monday Feb 27th at 12:40pm in Gramercy Suite A, Hilton, 2nd Floor

Jessica Fitterer "Predicting Avian Species Richness and Guilds Using Landscape-Scale Indices in British Columbia" in "Geography of Epidemics", Monday Feb 27th at 8:00am in Murray Hill Suite B, Hilton 2nd Floor

Jutta Gutberlet "'Waste to energy' expanding the geography of despair and resistance" in "Geographies of Waste (5) The Remainder, Friday Feb 24th at 4:40pm in Riverside Suite, Sheraton Hotel, Third Floor

Keith Holmes "Forecasting Change in Biodiversity across British Columbia due to Climate Change: An Indirect Indicator Approach" in "Assessing climate variability and impacts in western North America IV: Terrestrial Ecosystems, Climate and

Disturbance" Sunday Feb 26th at 2:40pm in Madison Suite 5, Sheraton Hotel, 5th floor

Donna Jeffery "Critical Pedagogies? What Does On-line Social Work Education Do in the Neoliberal Moment?" in "Critical Geographies of Education V: Pedagogies of Liberation and Neoliberal Constraints", Sunday February 26th at 4:40pm in Madison Suite 6, Sheraton Hotel, 5th Floor

Jed Long "Towards a Momentum-Based Probabilistic Time Geography" in "Time-Geography: Theoretical Developments and Applications II", Friday Feb 24th at 2:40pm in Conference Room E, Sheraton Hotel, Lower Level

Lindsay Monk "First Nations' housing policy in Canada: privatization and implications for self-determination" in "Contemporary Transformations in Public and Market Housing", Friday Feb 24th at 2:40pm in Lenox Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, 2nd Floor

Pamela Moss "Exploitation of love-bonds among Second World War soldiers in the treatment of battle fatigue" in "Geographies of Love II", Sunday, Feb 26th at 10:00am in Lenox Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Second Floor

Cameron Owens "The place of place in environmental conflict and assessment" in "The controversial place of place in environmental governance", Saturday, Feb 25th at 2:40 pm in Beekman Parlor, Hilton, 2nd Floor

And as always, the highlight of spring term: The WDCAG conference

WDCAG 2012 in Kelowna



Geography at UVic chalks up another successful showing at the annual meeting of the Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers!

A good time was had by all...and there were prizes galore!

Geography MSc student **Brandi Newton** won *Best Masters Poster Presentation* for her poster titled "Methods in Synoptic Climatology: Principal Components Analysis and Self-Organizing Maps."

Kira Hoffman received the *Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation* prize for her paper titled "A One Hundred Year Resurvey and Dendroglaciological Investigation of the Late-Holocene Behaviour of the Bromley Glacier, Northern Coast Mountains, British Columbia."

And last, but not least, the First Annual "Life of a Geographer" video competition was won by our very own SOGS! See below for a link to the video.



Geography being a discipline that lends itself to synthesizing means that we work closely with other disciplines to bring together the best of multi disciplinary studies.

New Online Course in Population Health and GIS

Population Data BC in partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies and the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, is offering a new online course in Population Health and GIS starting May 7th, 2012. This course is as part of the Professional Specialization Certificate in Population Health Data Analysis. The flexible entry program allows you to start in any term and take up to two courses without applying to the full program.

The course concerns the geographic nature of population health research, key considerations and limitations in spatial analysis and the application of GIS in health research. Students will learn about linking administrative data to spatial data in order to analyze it spatially, with a particular focus on mapping variations in disease rates.

Course details can be found at: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/Course/PHDA-03-Population-Health-and-Geographic-Information-Systems/PHDA03/>

Two research projects highlighted

Evaluation of hydro-climatic drivers of contaminant transfer in aquatic food webs in the Husky Lakes Watershed (Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Northwest Territories) submitted by Shannon McFayden

This project proposes to investigate hydro-climatic effects on food webs and related contaminants transfer to top predators of lakes near the community Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. One component of this project will be to characterize and track the 'fingerprint' of mercury (Hg) through the food web. The Arctic has accumulated high levels of Hg, carried north by prevailing winds, ocean currents and rivers, where it can bioaccumulate and biomagnify up the food chain. This research aims to investigate variations in the stable isotope ratios (fingerprints) and concentrations of Hg in fishes from four Arctic lakes with different hydrological characteristics. We hope to characterize the mercury isotope fingerprint in water, sediment, zooplankton, and fishes. These will help us determine the spatial variability of isotopic fractionation of Hg in food webs and top predatory fishes in selected lakes. This research will contribute to a growing body of literature on the sources and pathways of the Hg biogeochemical cycle.

An important component of the project is the time spent and the relationships built with people in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. With them, we hope to help develop a locally run monitoring program for contaminants. To do this we have proposed that for every southern individual brought into the community to work, we hire an equal number of locals. On our first

field trip we were fortunate enough to work alongside multiple people from both communities, who shared with us their knowledge of the ecosystems. We will continue to develop these relationships as we work on this project.

This project is funded in part by the Northern Contaminants Project (NCP) and the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Project (CIMP), with additional support from the University of Victoria Geography department, and my advisor Dr. Nikolaus Gantner.



(Above) Chris Felix (Tuktoyaktuk) demonstrating the traditional under-ice netting in the fall of 2011 at Husky Lakes, NWT. A mix of species were caught and tissues were collected from selected specimen for contaminant analysis.

(Below) In the field, working to process samples with Don Ross (Inuvik) collected in the field and sharing skills with a youth from Tuktoyaktuk (John Tediuk).



Relative risks to Parks regarding the proposed Enbridge pipeline.

A team of scientists from the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, the University of Victoria, and the University of Calgary has produced the first-ever peer-reviewed scientific paper about the risks posed by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline.

UVicGeography contributors Christina Service, a recent graduate, Dr. Chris Darimont, a newly appointed faculty member, and Dr. Trisalyn Nelson, director of the Spatial Pattern and Analysis Research Lab, explored risk posed to British Columbia's protected areas from the pipeline. Other contributing authors include Will McInnes of the University of Calgary and Paul Paquet, a Senior Scientist with Raincoast Conservation Foundation.

This research used GIS to develop a scientific model that ranked parks according to their relative risk. The model incorporates both the *probability* of spilled oil contaminating a park and the *consequence* of a park's exposure to oil. With this model the researchers were able to quantify what before were guesses among those concerned about the proposed pipeline's impact on BC's parks.

The analysis identified that thirty-four of British Columbia's protected areas are downstream from the pipeline (two within 50 metres) and potentially at risk from oil spills. Twenty-one parks are located within 200 km downstream.

The Fraser River watershed, which hosts British Columbia's most economically valuable salmon runs, contained the most parks at risk.

The paper is *in press* at the Natural Areas Journal.

We have a very active undergraduate society, the SOGS

The Society of Geography students (SOGS) are just finishing another fantastic year. With 33 elected executive members and many additional students involved in the society, the social momentum among undergraduate geography students this year is unprecedented. In the fall, SOGS organized a Field School Information Night with nearly 120 attendees and an Honours night with 30 participants. A panel of experts organized for a Geography Career Night brought out a crowd of close to 100 this spring. The Society runs a successful "Geography in Schools" program, where the secrets of Geography after grade 12 are shared with high school students around the Capital Region. SOGS students have sold out every social event this year, which alongside monthly bake sales helped to fund the delegation of 27

undergraduates from UVic to WDCAG at UBCO this March. This great year is surely preparing SOGS for many accomplishments in the future.

Research grant received

Reuben Rose-Redwood, Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Victoria, received a standard research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to support his research on the politics of place naming. Along with his graduate students, Dr. Rose-Redwood is currently exploring various contemporary trends in critical place-name studies, including the political economy of municipal naming rights policies as a spatial strategy of neoliberal urbanism as well as the recent designation of the 'Salish Sea' as an example of the performativity of toponymic rescaling.

Doctoral dissertation defended

UVic Senior Instructor Cameron Owens successfully defended his doctoral dissertation "Contesting sustainability in the Valley of the Grizzly Spirit: Models of justice in environmental conflict and assessment" completing requirements for his PhD from Simon Fraser University.

Field school

UVic has provided many field schools over the years for hands-on, practical learning. Students have explored glaciers, the West coast and India amongst others. This year a new field school has been added to the choices available:

This May, UVic geography students will be afforded the opportunity to travel down the west coast from Vancouver to San Francisco through the Cascadia Sustainability Field School. The group will receive credit for two courses while learning in the field from planners, activists and academics taking seriously the daunting socio-ecological challenges of twenty-first century cities. Upon return, the students will share what they have learned with regional government officials here in Victoria completing the cycle of teaching and learning.

Scholarships

Jessica Blythe has been awarded the \$10,000 Montalbano Scholars Fellowship given to outstanding PhD students in earth and ocean sciences or oceans-related fields such as maritime law, engineering, or natural and social sciences who are recipients of federal tri-agency scholarships (NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR).

There were also four recipients of the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) from the Geography department at UVic (listed with their abstracts):

Kira Hoffman, Geography

"I hope to describe historical changes in the extent and thickness of Bromley Glacier from

historical records, maps and aerial photography as well as describe Holocene behaviour of Bromley Glacier using dendroglaciologic research techniques to date advance and retreat intervals. Some of the earliest quantitative glaciological investigations undertaken in the northern British Columbia Coast Mountains are credited to Richard McConnell and his field assistant A.O. Hayes between 1910 and 1911. As part of their mineral exploration fieldwork, McConnell and Hayes made repeated visits to the Bromley Glacier, a large valley glacier spilling from the Cambria icefield into the Bitter Creek valley just east of Stewart, B.C. They placed four stakes at intervals across the glacier 2 km above the snout in September 1910 and completed resurveys in June and August of 1911, which demonstrated that glacier flow totalled 90 meters per day. The primary goal of my research is to document the 100 years of glaciological change since the last survey in 1911. I also hope to utilize the 100-year climate record from nearby Stewart, B.C to assess the historical behaviour of the Bromley Glacier."

Kimberly House, Geography

"For my research I will examine the relationships between parks in British Columbia and bird species richness. Previous studies have indicated that species richness is strongly correlated with latitudinal gradient. Coupled with individual bird metrics like occurrence and abundance, and other bird community metrics such as evenness, density, and diversity, species richness can provide significant insight into the value of an area as bird habitat.

I will use data available from the breeding bird atlas of B.C., a source of provisional data collected by volunteers throughout the province. Several hypotheses will be examined, and spatially analyzed using geographic information systems (GIS).

The following hypotheses are among those which will be verified:

- That smaller, southern parks in populated regions yield a higher bird species richness

- That coastal regions, important stops for migratory birds, have higher species richness
- That parks which are at risk in British Columbia may also support a higher species richness

I will conduct the research for this project by examining the species richness within each individual park, as well as looking at the difference between species richness throughout the entire park system compared with that in unprotected areas. Special attention will be given to bird species which are listed by SARA or COSEWIC. Characteristics of the parks which yielded higher or lower values of species richness will be further examined to identify potential indicators."

Malcolm MacLean, Geography

"Under the direction of Cameron Owens (Geography), I am undertaking a research project in an area of personal interest and great importance with respect to governance in BC. I intend to investigate the significance of civic engagement in the creation and implementation of community plans grounded in a comparative study of carefully chosen cases in the province. The project involves an extensive literature review in the fields of urban geography, planning theory and policy studies supporting a participatory/community based research component. Engagement in planning is understood to include both formal mechanisms such as those facilitated by local government and informal mechanisms such as community-based mapping, NGO strategic planning and direct action / protests. The Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research scholarship will provide the necessary resources to undertake a more significant and intensive approach to community-based research allowing me to consider a larger sample and to potentially host a focus group."

Alison Stockwell, Geography

For my Directed Study in September, I will be researching the role of South American private protected areas in reconciling the needs of indigenous communities with conservation goals

in ecologically sensitive areas. During field courses I took in Chile, I learned that private conservation initiatives spearheaded by International NGOs, small conservation organizations, and community groups are becoming more common in South America, especially in light of increasing development of ecotourism in the region.

Using historical data, current literature, and interviews, I will explore how the management and operation of a number of private protected areas interacts with local indigenous livelihoods, resource use, and inclusivity in conservation initiatives. I will have specific concentration on three Chilean case studies: the Mapu Lahual Network, the Cani Sanctuario, and the Chahuin Venecia Reserve. Each of these protected areas has a local indigenous population that is to some degree involved in the management of the protected area, and each is was established by different means: large NGO, small conservation organization, and community group. The research project may include other case studies as well, depending on the amount of literature available on other areas.

This project is a Directed Study, so affords me the opportunity to broaden my scope, and include study on the nature of private protected areas in the region, and how they are acquired, managed, and regulated in relation to local indigenous communities."

Community involvement

Jessica Blythe gave 3 talks at the Spectrum Community School here in Victoria as part of the UVic Speakers Bureau. The talk was entitled "Human Dimensions of Climate Change: Rural Fishing Communities in Southern Africa" and was very well received.

Submitted by Kinga Menu

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).



Sunset Crater National Monument, Flagstaff, Arizona