

WHAT'S NEW @ UNBC GEOGRAPHY
APRIL 2005

UPDATE ON WD-CAG IN LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA:

Once again this year, the Geography Programs of UNBC and the College of New Caledonia sent a bus load of faculty, students and research assistants to the Annual Meetings of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WD-CAG). This year's meeting was held at the University of Lethbridge, 11-12 March 2005. UNBC Geography was well represented, contributing a total of eight paper presentations and one poster display. Below is a list of presentations by UNBC participants, which include a number of contributions by undergraduate and graduate students. Of special note, **Jacqui Stephens** (MA Interdisciplinary Studies, Candidate – Supervisor: **Catherine Nolin**) received the award for Best Presentation by a Graduate Student in Human Geography.



UNBC & CNC Geography contingent at Crowfoot Glacier, Icefields Parkway

UNBC paper presentations:

Clasby, Rachael, Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth, and Virginia Pow (Dalhousie University). *Systems of informal support among older residents in Mackenzie, BC: a profile of current conditions and future implications.*

Durkee, Shiloh, Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser. *Shopping patterns and behaviours in Northwestern BC: comparing baby-boomer consumers with older consumers.*

Grubb, Melanie and Brian Menounos. *Late-Pleistocene glacier fluctuations in the middle Coast Mountains, British Columbia.*

Halseth, Greg, Neil Hanlon, Rachael Clasby and Virginia Pow (Dalhousie University). *Resource frontier aging: trends and questions from a mature industrial town in northern BC.*

Lindsay, Vera, Roger Wheate and Brian Menounos. *Mapping of glacier retreat through remote sensing: Lloyd George and Great Snow Mountain Glaciers, northern British Columbia.*

Parsons, Sarah. *Locally based criteria and indicators of sustainable forest co-management.*

Ryser, Laura, Greg Halseth and David Bruce (Mount Allison). *Economic development framework for interpreting local housing markets in small town Canada.*

Stephens, Jacqui. *Conflicting perspectives: Q'eqchi' communities, land grabs, and a Canadian mining company.*

UNBC Geography is also well represented on the Executive of the WD-CAG, with **Dr. Neil Hanlon** beginning a two-year term as President and **Rachael Clasby** elected to a second consecutive one-year term as a Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Deborah Thien (UNBC MA Gender Studies, 2000) returned to UNBC in February to undertake post-doctoral work with **Dr. Greg Halseth**. Dr. Thien was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Geography at the University of Edinburgh, one of the world's foremost departments in feminist geography. Recently, Deborah successfully defended her PhD at the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh entitled "Intimate Distances: Gender, Geography, and Emotion in Shetland" which examines the spatial dimensions of women's emotional well-being in the Shetland Islands. Deborah can be reached in Rm. 4-432 and at 960-5935 or thiend@unbc.ca

Dr. Kevin Hall has been invited by the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) for a funded visit to give PhD lectures at their university and to undertake fieldwork in both Spain and in the high Andes of Argentina with them.

Drs. Brian Menounos, Roger Wheate, and Peter Jackson (Environmental Science) hosted a proposal-writing workshop for the 'Western Canadian Cryospheric Network' (WC²N) on 18-20 March 2005 at UNBC. Workshop participants included faculty from six Canadian and two American universities, and scientists from Environment Canada, the Geological Survey of Canada, and BC Hydro. WC²N will examine the relation between the North Pacific climate system and past, present and future changes in western Canadian glaciers. Funding for the workshop was provided by the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) and the UNBC office of research. In December, WC²N was invited by CFCAS to submit a proposal for network funding.

Congratulations to **Jessica McGregor** (soon-to-be BA GEOG 2005) who recently was awarded a SSHRC Graduate Scholarship (Master's Program).

Congratulations to **Morgan Cranny** (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies – Biology) and his supervisor, **Dr. Roger Wheate**, on his successful thesis defense on 10 January 2005. Title: "Unsupervised Landcover Classification in a Topographically Diverse Region of North-Central British Columbia."

Congratulations to **Adrian Walton** (Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and his supervisor, **Dr. Roger Wheate**, on his successful thesis defense on 8 February 2005. Title: "Application of Bayesian Networks to Large-Scale Predictive Ecosystem Mapping."

Geography student **Greg Maund**, along with Biochemistry/Molecular Biology student Thomas Scully, is a skilled archer. These two Team Canada members headed to Denmark in March to compete at the World Indoor Archery Championships.

Several Geography faculty members and graduate students are involved with the following: Tl'azt'en Nation-UNBC Community University Research Alliance, *Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management March Newsletter* -- biannual project updates in the research areas of Improved Partnerships, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and Aboriginal Education. March 2005 Newsletter: (<http://cura.unbc.ca/pubs/NewsletterMarch2005.pdf>)

FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS' FIELDWORK:

Dr. Kevin Hall's fieldwork with the Italian National Antarctic Program is now confirmed for October to December 2005 to study rock and lichen thermal regimes at Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica.

Drs. Greg Halseth and **Neil Hanlon** are putting together a team of research assistants to begin work on a five year initiative that looks at the role of informal systems of support as a determinant of health and wellbeing for individuals and households under stress in rural and remote communities across BC. Four study sites have been chosen to capture a range of demographic, economic and geographic contexts. The four communities are Terrace, Fort St. John, Mackenzie and Williams Lake.

TRAVELING:

Dr. Gail Fondahl traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, 3-5 March, to participate in a conference on Northern Dimensions of Canadian Foreign Policy, where she presented a paper, co-authored with **Dr. Greg Halseth**, on "Building a Collective Northern Identity from the Bottom Up: Constructing New Geographies of Cooperation."

Dr. Kevin Hall recently attended the "Shifting Lands - New insights into periglacial geomorphology" Conference in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Kevin presented the plenary paper, "Perceptions of rock weathering: Some thoughts on scale," and "Stone runs on the Falkland Islands: Periglacial or tropical?" (with M-F. Andre).

Dr. Neil Hanlon was invited to give a presentation on his research in northern BC at the "Workshop for Northern Health Authorities in Western Provinces." The workshop was held on 21-22 January 2005 in Saskatoon, SK and was organized by the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

M-F. Andre and **K. Hall** (2005) Honeycomb development on Alexander Island, glacial history of George VI Sound and palaeoclimatic implications. *Geomorphology*, 65, 117-138.

Hanlon, Neil and **Greg Halseth** (2005) The greying of resource communities in northern British Columbia: Implications for health care delivery in already under-serviced communities. *The Canadian Geographer* 49(1): 1-24.

Persaud, D.D., Jriege, S., Skedgel, C., Findley, J., Sargeant, J. and **Hanlon, N.**, 2005, An incremental cost analysis of telehealth in Nova Scotia from a societal perspective. *Journal of Telemedicine & Telecare* 11(2): 77-84.

Nolin, Catherine (2004) "Book Review: Rigoberta Menchú and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans" (by David Stoll), *Journal of Latin American Geography*, 3 (1), 120-122.

ALUMNI NEWS:

Mike Davis (minor in Human GEOG 2003) operates the successful Triple Double Clothing Company (sports apparel) and is the Public Relations Manager for the Prince George Cougars Hockey Team. Mike can be reached at md1978@hotmail.com

Kevin Milos (BA GEOG 2002) recently moved from Vancouver, BC to San Diego, California to work as a Geographer / GIS Software Developer with a company called The Omega Group where they design, install, and support custom software for crime analysis, fire support analysis, and school district planning. Kevin mentions that he draws on what he learned about community geography at UNBC, especially with the criminal and school planning software and developing/proposing new ideas for the GIS integration of different "community-type" analysis algorithms. Kevin can be contacted at kevin@theomegagroup.com

Since graduation, **Andrew Merilees** (BA GEOG 1997) has traveled extensively to such far-flung countries as Australia, Argentina, Chile and Antarctica. Andrew's employment has been within the recreation sector, administering and managing Public and Private Lands. After remaining in Prince George for two years (working for Mariah Recreation Management), Andrew moved to Haida Gwaii where he has been for the past 5 years. Currently, Andrew is the Parks Coordinator for the Old Massett Village Council, Economic Development and Heritage Resources Department which administers the Provincial Park Recreation areas on Haida Gwaii in addition to many Reserves under the authority of the Old Massett Council. Additionally, Andrew is a Director on the Chamber of Commerce and Vice-President of the Haida Gwaii Tourism Association involved through his ownership of a small operator based tour company run during the summer (See: www.northwestrecreation.com). Andrew can be contacted at andrewm@mhtv.ca

LOCAL & REGIONAL NEWS:

Prof to talk demographics, *Prince George Citizen*, 6 December 2004, p. 3

Excerpt: "UNBC professor **Neil Hanlon** will give council a summary of the demographic change underway in northern B.C., how these trends will play out in Prince George and possible options for the way council may want to respond."

City population aging quickly, *Prince George Citizen*, 7 December 2004, p. 1 [by Mark Nielsen]

Excerpt: "Prior to the PGCOS presentation, UNBC professor **Neil Hanlon** gave a presentation also showing the proportion of seniors living in Prince George but in contrast to some other areas of the province, the rise is gradual as opposed to drastic."

Rural studies book, *Prince George Citizen* [In a nutshell], 8 December 2004, p. 13

Excerpt: "UNBC geography professor **Greg Halseth**, a Canada Research chair in rural and small town studies, has, with his wife, Regine, recently edited *Building for Success: An Exploration of Rural Community and Rural...*"

"Mackenzie starting to grey," *Prince George Citizen*, 23 December 2004, p. 3

Excerpt: "Copies of the study by UNBC professors **Greg Halseth** and **Neil Hanlon** on seniors' issues in Mackenzie have been distributed to the District, the local library, community organizations and is available on the internet at web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/print_research.shtml."

Compiled by Catherine Nolin

To submit items for inclusion in the May update, please email: nolin@unbc.ca