

WHAT'S NEW @ UNBC GEOGRAPHY
JUNE/JULY 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Congratulations to **Jacqui Stephens** (MA Interdisciplinary Studies – Geography/Anthropology/Political Science) and her supervisor, **Dr. Catherine Nolin**, on her successful thesis defense on 14 June 2005. Title: "Conflicting Perspectives: Neoliberal Resource Development, Indigenous Communities and Modern Canadian Imperialism in Guatemala."



Congratulations to **Dr. Deborah Thien**, a feminist geographer, and a post-doctoral researcher in Geography at UNBC, who received her doctorate at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland on 24 June 2005. Deborah says that she was very honoured to have eight family members from Canada in attendance at her convocation.

Deborah has investigated emotional well-being as a social, spatial, and gendered aspect of health in the Shetland Isles. She is now applying her research interests in gender, care and northern environments to work with **Dr. Greg Halseth** on Canada's new rural economy.

Deborah's office is located in the Lab Building 4-432 and also can be reached at 960-5935 or thiend@unbc.ca

For UNBC current students, faculty and staff: **UNBC theses and dissertations** may now be freely downloaded in PDF format from ProQuest Digital Dissertations. Instructions: On library's home page click on "Indexes & Databases," then click on "Multidisciplinary," scroll down and click on "ProQuest Digital Dissertations," and perform a search for the desired thesis/dissertation. If the item is a UNBC thesis/dissertation, you will see a FREE DOWNLOAD button. Click on this, and you will be able to download the thesis in PDF format.

The June 2005 edition of the **CURA Update** is now available at:

<http://cura.unbc.ca/pubs/UpdateJune2005.pdf>

TRAVELING:

Chris Jackson traveled with **Sophia Raby** (CURA researcher – BA GEOG 2004) and Bev Leon (Ti'az't'en Nation CURA coordinator) to Winnipeg, June 1-3, to participate in the first annual *Aboriginal Education Research Forum: Shawane Dagoziwin* (which means being respectful, caring and having passion for Aboriginal research). Here, representing the partners in the CURA project: *Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management* (<http://cura.unbc.ca/>), we presented a session introducing the work of the CURA.

Drs. J.J. Clague and **Brian Menounos** presented the following invited talk at the *Canadian Quaternary Association 2005 Conference* at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, MB, June 5-8: "The last days of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet. Water, Ice, Land, and Life: The Quaternary Interface."

Drs. Greg Halseth, Neil Hanlon, and Deborah Thien, along with researcher Laura Ryser, traveled May 30 to June 5 to the annual meeting of the *Canadian Association of Geographers* (CAG) at the University of Western Ontario in London, ON, where they presented the following research and participated in several of the Association's meetings:

Halseth, Greg (2005) "Looking Back, Looking Ahead: A Political Economy Approach to Identifying the Foundations for Rural Revitalization." In special session: *Adventures in Agricultural and Rural Change (II)*

Hanlon, Neil (2005) Health care restructuring and informal systems of support in Mackenzie, BC: where does the voluntary sector fit? In special session: *Voluntarism, Health and Health Care (I): Geographical Perspectives*

Nolin, Catherine, Finola Shankar, and Jacqui Stephens (2005) New Geographies of Migrant Insecurity at the Guatemala-Mexico Border. In special session: *From War to Peace: Geographical Transitions in Guatemala* [presented by Finola Shankar]

Ryser, Laura (2005) 'Burdening the overburdened': understanding the rural and small town voluntary sector in health care reform. In special session: *Voluntarism, Health and Health Care (I): Geographical Perspectives*

Thien, Deborah (2005) 'Placing the self' in the Shetland Islands. In special session: *Health in Context (I): Making Connections*

Dr. Greg Halseth served as the keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Rural Communities Summit on June 16th - 18th in Merritt, BC (see: <http://www.bcruralsummit.ca/>).



From June 5th – 10th, **Dr. Deborah Thien** (centre of photo) was an invited participant at the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Summer Institute, 2005. The Institute's overarching theme was "Rural and Remote Health Research: Rhetoric and Reality" and its main goal was to bring together researchers, decision-makers and community learners from across Canada and from a variety of disciplines. The Summer Institute, held in beautiful Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland (photo), provided an excellent opportunity to discuss rural and remote health research with knowledgeable people in a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector environment. This was also Deborah's first time to the East coast and she thoroughly enjoyed both people and place.



Dr. Neil Hanlon traveled to the 11th International Medical Geography Symposium in Fort Worth, Texas for July 6th -9th and presented the following paper co-authored with Dr. Mark Rosenberg (Queen's University) and **Rachael Clasby** (MA NRES Candidate):

'From third sector to shadow state? Recent experiences of voluntary service provision in one community in the interior of British Columbia, Canada.'

Western Brook (top) & CIHR Summer Institute participants (Deborah Thien, middle)

FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS' FIELDWORK:

Gail Fondahl spent a sunny three weeks in July at the north end of Lake Baykal (eastern Siberia) with a colleague from Moscow, carrying out an ethnographic assessment of local/aboriginal views regarding the impending construction of an oil pipeline across their traditional territory. Most work was in a native village where Gail worked previously in 1992 to 1994.

Joanna Kafarowski's (PhD NRES, co-supervisors Drs. Deborah Poff and Leslie King) northern fieldwork is highlighted on SSHRC's "Winning Research" (http://www.sshrc.ca/web/winning/stories/kafarowski_e.asp) website. The site notes that "with the help of a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Kafarowski has been studying how Inuit women, who have traditionally been responsible for maintaining the health of their families, have become leaders in the fight against pollution."

Lynn Wilson (MA International Studies candidate, co-supervisors **Drs. Catherine Nolin** and Fiona MacPhail) spent the month of June at the Educación para Todos (Education for All) Spanish-language school in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala before traveling to the other side of the country to the community of Rabinal where she began a 2-month CIDA-funded internship with the Fundación Nueva Esperanza (New Hope Foundation). Lynn spent the summer months assisting in the development of indigenous Maya educational tools and the creation and facilitation of programs designed for the empowerment of Maya women, girls and boys. Lynn will return to Guatemala next summer to conduct her own SSHRC-funded research project on the necessity of indigenous women's empowerment in post-conflict Guatemala.

LOCAL & REGIONAL NEWS:

Delegates try to find ways to build consensus, Daily News [Prince Rupert], 19 April 2005, p. 1 [by Leanne Ritchie]

Excerpt: "Building strong relationships is one way residents in northwestern B.C. can build themselves up in order to be better equipped to handle potentially divisive issues, said **Greg Halseth**, associate professor of geography at the University of Northern B.C. Halseth was the keynote speaker at the Oil and Gas Community Dialogue Project, which wrapped up in Prince Rupert yesterday afternoon.

Wanted in Rural BC: Politicians Who See Potential, TheTyee.ca, 26 April 2005, [by Chris Tenove]
<http://www.thetyee.ca/News/2005/04/26/WantedinRuralBC/print.html>

Excerpt: "There are also strong economic arguments for small communities, says **Greg Halseth**, the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia. "There are lots of ways that business can be done more efficiently in small towns," he says. These go beyond having a stable workforce for resource extraction.... Rural places have these desirable elements — and these are also marketable elements at the start of the 21st century," says Halseth."

Quebec, B.C., laws similar to Quebec's, *Prince George Free Press*, 15 June 2005, p. 1 [by Arthur Williams]

Excerpt: "**Professor Neil Hanlon** of UNBC is a keen observer of health care policy changes in the country, especially those effecting northern B.C. "The ruling leaves open the possibility to similar-type challenges in other jurisdictions," Hanlon said. "It potentially has quiet far-reaching implications. Potentially we are looking at a parallel private system." The decision will certainly force politicians and the public to examine the ideas of public and private health care, he said."

Huge economic impact forecast from beetle plague, *Prince George Citizen*, 17 June 2005, p. 1, 3 [by Gordon Hoekstra]

Excerpt: "UNBC geographer **Greg Halseth**, an expert on community economic development, says reports like this should be a starting point for discussion and planning, not an end point. The information, which gives a broad-stroke view of the implications of the beetle epidemic, can be used to make decisions on where communities should head in the future, said Halseth, who has read the report."

On a clear day, Prince Rupert can see the future, northword magazine, Summer 2005, [by Larissa Ardis]
<http://www.northword.ca/issues/summer05/html/features/princerupert.php>

Excerpt: "**Greg Halseth**, research chair of Rural and Small Town Studies in UNBC's newly created Community Development Institute, is a big fan of such thinking. That's why he's led the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, a year-long process that convened diverse interests from more than 50 communities to articulate priorities for regional economic development.

ALUMNI NEWS:

SIMON SPRINGER (BA GEOG 2003) went on to graduate studies in the Department of Geography at Queen's University and recently defended his MA thesis ("Cambodia's Fractured Crucible: Democratic Development, Political Violence, and the Contestation of Public Space"). His MA supervisor, Dr. Barry Riddell, indicates that the committee was unanimous in calling it superb. Simon recently won a prestigious SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and starts his PhD in Geography at UBC this fall under the supervision of Dr. Philippe Le Billon. To top off this exciting year, Simon married fellow UNBC alumnus Marni Hewett (BA General 2004) on August 5th in Vancouver. Congratulations! Simon can be contacted at simondspringer@yahoo.ca



BRIAN STAUFFER (BA GEOG 1996 & MA NRES 2002) returned to UNBC in 1998 for graduate studies after completing a BA in Geography and working for two years with Canfor at their Fort St. James sawmill as a GIS Technician. Brian's research, supervised by Dr. Greg Halseth, focused on the historical geography of the British Columbia salmon canning industry, the goal of which was to better understand the processes that shape the development of resource-based industries. One of the highlights of Brian's graduate research is an animation of maps that illustrates the changing distribution of the canneries over time and is now part of the fishing industry display at the [Royal BC Museum](#). After obtaining his Master's degree and working with several UNBC research groups, Brian was employed for two years as a Digital Projects Manager at [Exploration Place](#) in Prince George, where he helped to create the [Settlers' Effects](#) and [The Opening of New Caledonia](#) websites. More recently, Brian can be found in the IT department at Duke Energy in Fort St. John, where he says that "being at the centre of the regions booming oil and gas development has me asking research questions about resource development and geography." Brian can be reached at stauffeb@unbc.ca

AMBER TEED (BA GEOG 2003) was recently in touch with UNBC Geography and is happy to report that she has landed the "perfect job" – Industry Services Manager – First Nations Programs at [BCIT](#). Amber feels that her BA in Geography not only helped in obtaining the position but gives her confidence in doing her job. This management position has the flexibility to address specific needs of industry and First Nations communities in dealing with BC's changing economic, political, and social challenges.



Amber notes that "the geography program at UNBC gives the student a great deal of flexibility ... [and] getting this broad base of knowledge equips individuals with skills necessary to fulfill positions that require them to be wide-ranging thinkers." Amber goes on to share that "I focused my Geography B.A. degree on Aboriginal issues, health, economics and natural resources all of which have helped me better understand British Columbia and the unique situations that are comprised within. In my position I feel very comfortable talking to a mining or forestry companies about their training needs because I have the underlying knowledge of what their business is about.... I am very grateful for the education that I received from UNBC. The education that I received was current and relevant to the job that I perform today. It most certainly helped that the instructors at UNBC take the time to know their students in a personal way, and that gave me the opportunity to use one of them for a job reference.... I market programs and services everyday and I always take advantage of the opportunity when a client asks what my background is. "A proud graduate of UNBC Geography program, do you have a minute I'll tell you about it!" Thank you for your update, Amber. Amber Teed can be reached at nuswhune@yahoo.ca

AMY WISHART (BA GEOG 2003) and her husband James recently became homeowners in Cranbrook, BC. They made the move after a couple of years of working in North Vancouver, BC. James now teaches at the College of the Rockies and, in July 2005, Amy completed her Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. Amy can be reached at wisharta@unbc.ca

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Fondahl, Gail (2005) 'Everything is as if beyond a boundary': Reflections on apprehensions regarding aboriginal re-territorialization in Northern Russia. In *Rebuilding Identities: Pathways to Reform in Post-Soviet Siberia*, ed. E. Kasten, pp. 89-107. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag.

Thien, Deborah (2005) "Recasting the pattern: Critical relations in gender and rurality" in *Critical Studies in Rural Gender Issues*, Jo Little and Carol Morris (eds.), pp. 75-89. Aldershot: Ashgate.

LOST GEOGRAPHERS:

The Geography Program is working to develop an up-to-date list of all Geography graduates (BSc/BA, majors and minors). The UNBC email accounts of many of our alumni are non-functioning and many people have changed their home accounts over the years. We are seeking your help to re-build our contact list. Over the next several Updates, we will include a list of "lost geographers" and request that you review the list and provide updated email accounts for anyone included on the list (send to nolin@unbc.ca). We appreciate your assistance in this endeavour.

Abbs, Betty (1999)
Adam, Zaraha (1998)
Allen, Cherie (1996)
Almgren, Erica (2001)
Andrews, Karen (2000)
Appler, Joy (2003)
Araki, Tobi (2002)
Bachmann, Karl (2003)
Bailey, Melanie (2002)
Barrett, Tanya (2003)
Bessant, Andrew (2003)
Bessler, Melanie (2000)
Beyrodt, Catherine (2004)
Bilkert, Simon (2000)
Bisanz, Dzaroy (2001)
Blanchet, Carolyne (2003)
Blood, Julie (2000)
Booth, Jamie (1999)
Botten, Shawn (2002)
Bourcier, Robert (2001)

Bradley, Christopher (2002)
Bremnes, Darcen (2003)
Brydes, Jonathan (1999)
Buljevic, Anita (1999)
Carpenter, Darren (2000)
Carreli, Christina (2002)
Chamberlist, Leslie (2000)
Chatterson, Kelly (2001)
Christie, Michael (2001)
Clements, Kathleen (2001)
Colbert, James (2002)
Daneault, Marc (2000)
Darney, Melissa (2003)
Davidson, Jesse (2002)
Delaney, Francis (2004)
Desimone, David (2000)
Dodderidge, Joanne (2000)
Donnelly, Lucas (2001)
Droettboom, Kurt (2004)
Dwyer, Scott (1999)

Engleson, Kristin (2003)
Escher, Valerie (1999)
Farnell, Kristina (2000)
Farrer, Alan (2003)
Feist, Jordana (2001)
Ferre, Clinton (2002)
Florell, Jasen (2002)
Francescutti, David (2001)
Friesen, Jason (2002)
Friesen, Sarah (2001)
Gagnon, Nicole (2002)
Garrett, Laura (2001)
Ghasemzadeh-Mojaveri, Arash (2005 mGIS)
Gauss, Barbara (2003)
Gibson, Karry (2000)
Glowa, Kevin (2000)
Greenough, Colin (2002)

Compiled by Catherine Nolin

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