



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5p.m. -- Guatemala 2006 Information Session:** All interested students are invited to attend an information session on the Geography Field School to Guatemala tentatively planned for August 2006. Please meet on September 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) in Rm. 6-305 at 5:00 p.m.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30 p.m. --** Please join us at our **Annual Geography Welcome BBQ:** Please join us for a gathering of faculty, staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students. Weather-permitting, the gathering is planned for the Shane Lake BBQ shelter. We will meet between 5:15 and 5:30 p.m. in the main foyer of the New Lab Building opposite lecture theatre 8-164 (also our rain-out location).

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:00 p.m. --** GEOGRAPHY/RRT **Graduate Student/Faculty/Staff (& families) BBQ.** Anne Hardy (RRT) is hosting this year's welcome BBQ at Ness Lake.

**October 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. (Senate Chambers) --** Melissa Baxter (MA NRES-Geography Candidate) will defend her thesis, 'Devolution and Post-Secondary Education: Challenging First Nations Geo-Legal Spatiality.' In the thesis, Melissa, an Anishnawbe, questions the geographical imaginations behind devolution, and how they have ignored the geographical realities of urban First Nations persons. Supervisor: Dr. Gail Fondahl. All are welcome to attend.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 12:00 p.m. (Senate Chambers) --** Jennifer Reade (MA Interdisciplinary Studies Candidate) will defend her thesis, '*Mujeres Autorizadas: Women's Empowerment Programs as a Form of Community Development in Guatemala.*' Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin. All are welcome to attend.

### NEW ARRIVALS:

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Sarah Boon** (PhD, University of Alberta) who joined the Geography Program in August for an 18-month appointment. For a profile of Sarah's work, please see the FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS' FIELDWORK section. Sarah can be found in Rm. 8-417 and reached at [boon@unbc.ca](mailto:boon@unbc.ca)

Welcome also to **Chunhua Zhang** who joins us for the Fall semester in the GIS lab. Chunhua can be reached at [zhangc@unbc.ca](mailto:zhangc@unbc.ca)

Welcome to **Courtney Jermyn** (MSc NRES candidate) who arrived in September from the Geological Survey of Canada to begin graduate work under the supervision of **Dr. Brian Menounos** and with **Dr. Roger Wheate** serving as a committee member. Courtney's thesis will examine the history and causes of landslides in Nahanni National Park.



*Pam Prior.* Photo: Pam Prior

Welcome to **Pam Prior** (MA Interdisciplinary Studies candidate) and **Jessica McGregor** (MA NRES Geography candidate) who start their graduate programs this September under the supervision of **Dr. Neil Hanlon**. Pam is a recent graduate of the UNBC Anthropology Program and Jessica recently graduated from the UNBC Geography Program.

Welcome to **Domenico Santomauro** who recently arrived to begin an MA NRES (GEOG) degree under the supervision of **Dr. Gail Fondahl**. Domenico is interested in First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge and its potential role in sustainable resource management. He will be working with the Tl'azt'en and UNBC on the CURA project.

Welcome to **Don Morgan** (MSc NRES candidate) who arrived in September from the Ministry of Forests Research Branch in Smithers, BC to pursue graduate studies under the supervision of **Dr. Debra Straussfogel**. His thesis work will focus on methods for describing and analysing social-ecological systems with an emphasis on wildlife habitat supply. Don is a planning researcher developing collaborative frameworks that integrate data, information, spatio-temporal models, domain expertise and decision making. He is a Registered Professional Biologist (BSc Wildlife Biology & Computational Mathematics, Trent University & BSc honours Quantitative Ecology and Computer Science, Carleton University).

### CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Dr. Kevin Hall** who was invited by a multi-national mining consortium to be part of the team to undertake the environmental impact assessment in regard to permafrost in the high Andes of Argentina/Chile. Additionally, in late-August, **Kevin** was asked to be a co-leader of a Swedish international project proposal for the [International Polar Year](#) undertaking in northeast Svalbard - to coordinate a team of 19 international scientists to work on permafrost and periglacial processes as part of the Polar Year science projects.

Congratulations to **Michael Mitchell** (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and his supervisor, **Dr. Roger Wheate**, on his successful thesis defence on 24 August 2005. Title: "Montane Landscape Heterogeneity and Vegetation Change in Jasper National Park, Alberta (1949-1997)."

Congratulations to **David Arkinstall** (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and his supervisor, **Dr. Ellen Petticrew**, on his successful thesis defence on 7 September 2005. Title: "Influence of Dissolved Organic Carbon on Aggregation and Aggregate Characteristics."

Congratulations to **Rachael Clasby** (MA NRES Geography candidate) who accepted a part time position as Regional Liaison Officer in the North for the *BC Network for Aging Research* (BCNAR). The BCNAR is funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Networking Program and its aim is to bring together individuals from various disciplines, research streams, institutions, community based organizations and health authorities interest in aging research. Rachael is responsible for helping facilitate aging research in northern BC, liaising with other BCNAR Network sectors and fielding inquiries from the general public, potential new members and the media. These responsibilities will occupy Rachael's time when she is not writing her thesis, which she expects to complete by December 2005.

### APPOINTMENTS:

**Dr. Kevin Hall** has also been appointed to the BC Degree Quality Assessment Board to evaluate the Geography degrees of a new BC university.

### LEAVES:

**Dr. Catherine Nolin** will be on maternity/parental leave from late-October 2005 though to August 2006.

**Dr. Roger Wheate** is on sabbatical leave until the end of December 2005.

## CURRENT STUDENTS' NEWS:

Congratulations to **Chelan Hoffman** (BA undergraduate student) who was awarded the Vancouver International Airport Authority Scholarship from UNBC valued at \$2000 for the 2005/2006 academic year.

Australian exchange student **Michael Pullinger** recently arrived at UNBC for a semester of study in GIS. Michael, a 22-year old survivor of testicular cancer, cycled from Vancouver to Prince George and hopes that his trip raises awareness of testicular cancer and funds which will be donated to the [Lance Armstrong Foundation](#). For more details, see: [Cancer survivor biking from Vancouver to P.G.](#), *The Prince George Citizen*, 24 August 2005, p. 3 [by Alwynne Gwilt]



*Michael Pullinger,  
Australian exchange  
student. Photo: UNBC*

## FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS' FIELDWORK:

Update from **DR. NEIL HANLON** on the 2005 field work activities of the "Understanding Systems of Support in Remote BC Community Settings" project (**Drs. Greg Halseth and Neil Hanlon**):

We had a very successful field season thanks to the outstanding efforts of our research team of **Mollie Cudmore, Beckie Goodenough and Pam Prior**. Over 80 interviews were conducted in our four study sites (Mackenzie, Williams Lake, Fort St John and Terrace) and the team has summarized and coded all of these data. We were also fortunate to have Anne Burrill (Master's of Social Work at UNBC candidate) provide assistance in Williams Lake and Carla Martin (BSc in Agriculture at UBC and Research Assistant with the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology at UBC) helping us at various stages in each of the four study sites.

The team is undergoing a transition this Fall Semester as **Mollie** welcomes the arrival of her first child, Maddie, in September. Best wishes to Mollie and her husband, Tim! We are pleased to announce that **Andrea Procyk** will be taking up a full time position this Fall to help us prepare reports and presentations based on findings from the first wave of data collection. Andrea completed a BA in Human Geography at Simon Fraser University and most recently worked as an Information Officer with the Recycling Council of BC. We are also very pleased that Beckie Goodenough and Pam Prior are staying on with us on a part-time basis as they return to their studies. **Beckie** is pursuing a Bachelor's of Planning at UNBC focusing on rural and northern community planning and **Pam** begins her Master's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies under the supervision of Neil Hanlon. Pam will be looking at issues of food security in a remote First Nations' community in northern BC.



*Research Team:  
Beckie Goodenough, Mollie  
Cudmore, and Carla Martin, in  
Terrace, BC.  
Photo: Pam Prior*

This summer, **SARAH PARSONS** (MA NRES-Geography candidate) began her field work for her research on developing a participatory method to evaluate forest co-management. She conducted interviews with 9 members of Tl'azt'en Nation in preparation for focus groups she will be conducting this fall. To assist with transcribing, data management and literature analysis, Sarah employed Stevie Anatole, a Tl'azt'en post-secondary student. In August, Sarah and Beverly Leon (Tl'azt'en CURA coordinator) taught a module at the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Field Camp where students interviewed Tl'azt'en community members and natural resource management professionals about forestry issues (read the upcoming [CURA newsletter](#) for more details).

**CHRIS JACKSON** and **SOPHIA RABY** conducted 4 focus groups this summer for their research project, *Strengthening Science Literacy through Traditional Ecological Knowledge*. They worked with Tl'azt'en educators, parents/adults, youth and children to learn about their educational philosophy. An Elders' focus group will be held this fall. Preliminary results will be reported in the September [CURA newsletter](#).

**DR. SARAH BOON** shares some of her research and teaching interests:

I am a glaciologist, with interests in glacier hydrology and hydrometeorology, and in the relationships between glaciers and other cryospheric processes within watershed hydrology. I use a combination of field and modelling techniques to examine glacier melt and mass balance responses to climate variability and change. While I'm at UNBC I'll be teaching Geog 100: Environments and People, Geog 310: Hydrology, and Geog 405: Fluvial Geomorphology.

My interest in glaciers as a research topic instead of a photo subject started during my undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria. For my final project, I studied the hydrology of a small cirque glacier at the north end of Banff National Park, and its links to local meteorology. I then attended the University of Alberta for my PhD, as I was able to spend three summers at a glacier on Ellesmere Island studying glacier melt and hydrology, and their impacts on glacier mass balance and responses to climate change. After my PhD I decided to branch out from glaciology and learn a bit more about paleoclimate research. I returned to the University of Victoria to work in the Geography Department's Tree-Ring Lab, using tree-rings to reconstruct both long-term climate, and glacier mass balance variations, in British Columbia's north-central Coast Mountains.

My research plans while at UNBC are to continue my postdoctoral research, and to supplement it with glacier hydrometeorological studies in the same region. I plan to monitor melt, runoff and local meteorology at the Andrei Glacier, in BC's north-central Coast Mountains. This research is a collaborative effort with the Geological Survey of Canada, the University of Victoria Tree-Ring Laboratory, and **Brian Menounos** here at UNBC. The data will be used to determine some of the micro-meteorological and synoptic controls on glacier melt in the region, and may also give insight into the proxy glacier mass balance record I plan to develop from my postdoctoral work. I'm hoping to include one or two students in this project, as we'll be in grizzly country and I need something to distract any aggressive bears while I run the other way!



*Teresa Carlson (L) and Melanie Grubb (R), Lillooet Lake, BC.  
Photo: Brian Menounos*

**DR. BRIAN MENOUNOS** conducted fieldwork throughout BC this summer. The photo (left) highlights the work of **Melanie Grubb** (UNBC GEOG undergraduate student) and Teresa Carlson (UNBC ENVS undergraduate student) while coring on Lillooet Lake in SW BC. The pair assisted Brian in testing out recently-acquired NSERC equipment used to recover 6 m long sediment cores from deep lakes (up to 6000 feet).

**Brian**, along with incoming graduate student **Courtney Jermyn**, also plans to complete a landslide inventory in [Nahanni National Park Reserve](#) (park office located in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories) funded through a \$25,000 contract from Parks Canada. In 1978, Nahanni National Park Reserve became the first site in the world to be granted World Heritage status by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

**DR. CATHERINE NOLIN** and York University graduate student Erika Fuchs del Carmen recently completed fieldwork and 25 in-depth interviews with Guatemalan refugees and immigrants in Vancouver on issues of transnational family ruptures & connections, integration & barriers to settlement, employment, education, and civic participation in Canada & Guatemala. Erika and UNBC graduate student **Jennifer Reade** also conducted 19 organizational interviews with immigrant settlement service providers who work with the Latin American population in the Lower Mainland. This SSHRC-funded research project is part of a 12-team, cross-Canada initiative headed by the [Centre for Refugee Studies](#) at York University titled: "[Social Cohesion and International Migration in a Globalizing Era: Transnational Solidarities and Newcomer Incorporation in Canada.](#)"

## TRAVELING:

**Dr. Kevin Hall** was one of a few in Canada (the invitees come from all over the world) asked to write his background to exploration and what it means to him for the book *Lives Dreams Are Made Of* to be published by the [Explorers Club of New York](#).

**Dr. Deborah Thien** traveled to London, UK to attend the annual conference of the *Royal Geographical Society* (RSG) & the *Institute of British Geographers* (IBG), 31 August – 2 September. Deb presented the following two papers:

Thien, Deborah (2005) "Doing a Geographical": Women's Experiences of Depression in the Shetland Isles. In special session: *Healthy Natures*

Thien, Deborah (2005) *Femme-Maison: Embodying Intersubjectivity in the work of Louise Bourgeois*. In special session: *Embodying Feminisms*

During his sabbatical leave, **Dr. Roger Wheate** plans to present the following paper: "Glacier retreat in the Northern Rockies of British Columbia, 1850-2005" at the Conference on global change in mountain regions being held in Perth, Scotland, 2-6 October 2005.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS:

**McGregor, Jessica, Neil Hanlon, Scott Emmons**, Don Voaklander, and Karen Kelly (2005) If all ambulances could fly: Putting provincial standards of emergency service accessibility to the test in northern British Columbia. [The Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine](#) 10(3): 163-168.\*\* [full text available at link]



Jessica McGregor  
Photo: Pam Prior

\*\* This article is based on **Jessica McGregor's** GEOG 428-3 term project (Advanced Medical Geography) and was done in partnership with **Dr. Neil Hanlon, Scott Emmons** in the GIS lab at UNBC and members of the BC Rural and Remote Health Institute. The results were presented at the 2004 WD-CAG meeting in Medicine Hat, AB before being turned into a manuscript for peer review. Jessica is starting a Master's of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (specializing in Human Geography) this Fall Semester under the supervision of **Dr. Neil Hanlon**. She will be looking at health concerns among First Nations' communities affected by mining and forestry activities and has received a Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Congratulations, Jessica!!

**Thien, Deb** (2005) "Intimate Distances, or How to answer the question of 'us'" in J. Davidson, L. Bondi and M. Smith (eds.) [Emotional Geographies](#), pp. 191-204. Aldershot: Ashgate.

## LOCAL, REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS:

**Dr. Kevin Hall** was recently interviewed by "[Outpost Magazine](#)" (winner of Canada's top magazine award) for an article on his work on San rock art in southern Africa.

[Lack of choice cited as reason shoppers leave](#), *Daily News*[Prince Rupert], 21 July 2005, p. 1 Front

**Excerpt:** "A study of local shopping patterns shows while most Prince Rupert residents shop locally, limited selection is among the top reasons why people leave the community to shop. The report, called Shopping and Commuting Patterns in Prince Rupert, B.C., was prepared under the direction of **Dr. Greg Halseth**, Geography Program at the University of Northern B.C. and released in early 2005."

**Study questions Liberals' 'facts'**, *Prince George Free Press*, 10 August 2005 [by Arthur Williams]

Excerpt: "A new study published in the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine shows that northern B.C. residents are not as close to emergency medical treatment as the Ministry of Health claims. The study, titled "If All Ambulances Could Fly," was spearheaded by UNBC undergraduate student **Jessica McGregor** and co-authored by **UNBC professors Neil Hanlon**, Don Voaklander, Karen Kelly and student Scott Emmons. 'In 2002 the Ministry of Health Services claimed that 98 per cent of northern residents were within the 'golden hour,'" Hanlon said. 'We believed that was rather optimistic. When you actually factor in the roads people have to travel, it's more like 89 per cent.'

**Chewing through the forest; B.C. will speed up logging**, *Toronto Star*, 13 August 2005, p. F01 [by D. Girard]

Excerpt: The federal government announced in March it was committing \$100 million to the pine beetle fight, although B.C. Forests Minister Rich Coleman said earlier this month that was little more than a 'down payment' and the province wants \$1 billion over 10 years. **Geography professor Greg Halseth** says while the pine beetle infestation is massive, will eventually result in job losses and threatens the survival of some communities, it's not going to wipe out the B.C. forest industry. 'It's not about to become a past tense in our economy,' says Halseth of the University of North British Columbia in Prince George, 800 kilometres north of Vancouver. 'It's still going to be huge, but there are some serious questions that have to be answered about it.'

## LOST GEOGRAPHERS:

We are 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. We appreciate your assistance in this endeavour. We listed those with last names beginning with A – H in the July issue & include H-L in this issue:

Anderson, Kristina (1999)  
Bowker, Samantha (2004)  
Croquet, Eryne (2005)  
Desharnais, Drew (2005)  
Gibson, Janelle (2000 or 2002)  
Hamilton, Shelley (2001)  
Hankins, Tabitha (2005)  
Harrop, Laura (2005 mHG)  
Hayre, Amandeep (2000)  
Hemmerich, Harmony (2002)  
Henderson, Fiona (1998)  
Henderson, Mandy (2002)  
Hermann, Angela (2004)

Higgins, Angela (2000)  
Hopkins, Tyson (2004)  
Houston, Angela (2002)  
Howard, Andrew (2002)  
Howard, Heather (2002)  
Hudson, Patrick (tba ?)  
Hultman, Holly (2001)  
Huxley, Nicole (2003)  
Ikuta, Kazuya (2000)  
Johnson, Crystal (2002)  
Johnston, Sarah (2003)  
Jones, Michael (2003)  
Khurance, Dev (2001)

Knechtel, Bryce (2004)  
Knox, Greg (2000)  
Kwan, Amelia (1999)  
Lance, Julie (2003)  
Lank, Shawn (2005 mHG)  
Latimer, Kenna (2002)  
Lefebvre, Lisa (2003/2004 ?)  
LeFloch, Christine (1998)  
LeRuez, Mark (2003)  
Lidder, Kuldip (2001)  
Lo, Jenny (2004)  
Lust, Patricia (1997)

## ALUMNI NEWS:

**STEVE ABBEY** (BA GEOG 2003) returned to South Africa for graduate studies after participating in the Geography Field School to South Africa, organized by Dr. Kevin Hall, and completing his BA in 2003. Steve writes that he will soon complete his thesis which focuses on desegregation within a low income, previously white area by examining community dynamics in a post apartheid, post industrial neighbourhood in Pretoria. The project was challenging since most residents speak Afrikaans while Steve is in the process of learning the language. To support his studies, Steve spent the past year teaching O-level geography part-time at a small private school, though he recently took up a position with a company which does environmental consulting and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Steve writes that apart from missing family, he feels that moving to South Africa was the best decision he has made and recommends that UNBC organize more opportunities for foreign travel to "give some of us 'slacking' students direction and goals to work to." Steve sends special thanks to Kevin Hall and Gail Fondahl for playing such an important role in providing him with an excellent education and the ability to think at a higher level. Steve can be reached at [sabbey10@hotmail.com](mailto:sabbey10@hotmail.com)

**KEN MISCOVITCH** (BA GEOG 1999): After completing his BA in Geography at UNBC in 1999, Ken completed a Civil and Structural Engineering Technology Diploma at BCIT. He then took a job with UDI-TETRAD Consulting Engineers near San Francisco, CA. He has since moved back to BC and now works as an Install Coordinator 1/2 for Terasen Gas. His work includes the layout and design of natural gas systems for Residential, Commercial and Industrial Installations throughout the Province. Ken can be reached at [kmiscovitch@hotmail.com](mailto:kmiscovitch@hotmail.com)

**JORDI NICKOLET** (BSc GEOG 2000) After graduation in 2000, Jordi moved to the Lower Mainland where he completed a 2-year program at BCIT and received a Diploma of Technology in Geomatics Engineering in the spring of 2002. In the fall of 2002, Jordi moved to Vancouver Island and now works at the local Engineering/Land Surveying Office in Nanaimo. Though out of school for only 3 years, Jordi indicates that he would like to return to university. He says: "who knows, you may find me walking the halls of UNBC once again!" Jordi can be reached at [jjnickolet@canada.com](mailto:jjnickolet@canada.com)

**VIRGINIA POW** (BA GEOG 2002) recently completed a Masters degree in Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia) and in July moved back across the country to start a new position at the University of Alberta. For the coming year, her placement is Public Services Librarian - Academic Library Internship Program in the Humanities and Social Science Library (Rutherford Library) and at the U of A's Data Library. Virginia says that she is "loving the job and Edmonton is a fantastic city." To top off an exciting summer, Virginia married Greg Hartman (UNBC BSc in Environmental Sciences & now completing an MSc in Earth Science at Simon Fraser University) on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Prince George. Congratulations! Virginia can be contacted at [ginnypow@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnypow@hotmail.com)



*Virginia & Greg*

**JACQUI STEPHENS** (MA Interdisciplinary Studies 2005) After her June 2005 thesis defence, Jacqui returned to Vancouver and is now working with the Coquitlam-based "[The History Group](#)," which offers a variety of historical and litigation research services. Jacqui joined their residential schools reconciliation research team. Jacqui can be contacted at [stephenj@unbc.ca](mailto:stephenj@unbc.ca)

Compiled by Catherine Nolin

To submit items for inclusion in the October/November update, please e-mail: [nolin@unbc.ca](mailto:nolin@unbc.ca)

Please re-distribute widely. If you want on-off this e-list: [nolin@unbc.ca](mailto:nolin@unbc.ca)