UPCOMING EVENTS/INFO:

Winter Semester: The course GEOG 310 (Hydrology) is being offered on Tues/Thurs 8:30 am – 9:20 am, with a lab on Wed 11:30am – 2:30 pm. Space is still available for students who have not yet registered. The prerequisite is ENVS 201.

January 6th @ 2:30 p.m. -- Guatemala Field Course 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 January 6th (Friday) in Rm. 6-306 at 2:30 p.m. Students who participate in the field course will receive credit for GEOG 426-3 (Geographies of Culture, Rights, and Power – formerly GEOG 498) and GEOG 333-3 (Geography Field School).

February 1st – REMINDER: Applications due for the Guatemala Field Course: All interested students are required to submit an application form to be considered for participation in the field course to Guatemala. To receive an electronic copy of the application form, please contact Dr. Catherine Nolin @ nolin@unbc.ca

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Melissa Baxter (MA NRES 2005) and her supervisor Dr. Gail Fondahl on her successful defence on October 11th. Title: ‘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.

Congratulations to Jennifer Reade (MA Interdisciplinary Studies 2005) and her supervisor Dr. Catherine Nolin on her successful defence on October 21st. Title: ‘Mujeres Autorizadas: Women’s Empowerment Programs as a Form of Community Development in Guatemala.’ Based on many months of fieldwork in Guatemala, Jenn argues for the need to see ‘capacitation’ development (or empowerment) as a critical step in community development in post-conflict Guatemala.

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Hall who was recently elected to the UNBC Board of Governors as a Faculty Representative for the College of Science & Management (CSAM).

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Boon who recently received a $35,000 grant from the BC Forest Sciences Board to study the impact of pine beetle infestation on snow accumulation and melt. The study will be conducted this winter with a report due in April 2006. Sarah will work in the Quesnel River watershed.
looking at differences in snow accumulation, and conditions contributing to snow melt, between an uninfested, infested, and salvage-logged basin.

Congratulations again to Dr. Kevin Hall whose photo submission, which was taken on the 2002 Geography field school in South Africa, made the cut for the top 100 photos (out of 2,600 submitted) for the Banff Mountain Photo Competition - but did not get in to the 'winners circle'. The photo was taken in the Drakensberg Mountains of KwaZulu-Natal.

Drs. Catherine Nolin and Neil Hanlon are the proud parents of new daughter Finola born on 22 October. Catherine is on leave until the Field School to Guatemala in August 2006.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Kevin Hall has also been appointed to the Editorial Board of the prestigious journal Antarctic Science.

CURA PROJECT:

Several Geography faculty members and graduate students are involved with the Tl'azt'en Nation-UNBC Community University Research Alliance. Their research partnership’s most recent newsletter is now available at: http://cura.unbc.ca/pubs/NewsletterFall2005.pdf or http://cura.unbc.ca/

TRAVELING & PRESENTATIONS:

OCTOBER:

In mid-October, Dr. Kevin Hall left for his 12th Antarctic expedition - to work at Terra Nova Bay (75degS) on the edge of the polar ice cap with the Italian National Antarctic program until mid-December. Upon his return, Kevin marveled at the great scenery and experience:

"... lots of penguins, visits to many, many sites, almost personal helicopter usage and some of the best and most exciting data yet (especially on light penetration in to rock). Also saw some of the most perplexing and unusual landforms in my 37 years of research travel! Great to work with Europeans, especially the Italians as they have good food, excellent wine and real cheese and coffee!"

Dr. Roger Wheate presented a seminar at the University of Bergen (Norway) on October 14th: "Glacier retreat in the Northern Rockies- integrating map, photo and satellite image data."

Drs. Sarah Boon and Brian Menounos attended the 2005 Northwest Glaciology meeting held at UBC in Vancouver on October 21st and 22nd. Brian presented a talk: "DEM-derived changes in glacier thickness, Southern Coast Mountains."

NOVEMBER:

Dr. Sarah Boon attended the 'Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and the Future of Communities and Ecosystems Workshop Series' here at UNBC, November 9th & 10th. Dr. Greg Halseth's presentation: "The connected North: The need for economic and community renewal" was part of the session "The Implications of the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic for the BC Interior. For details, see http://www.forrex.org/events/mountainpinebeetleforum/"

Drs. Gail Fondahl and Debra Straussfogel traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark to attend the second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) November 10th to 12th. The conference included poster and working group sessions from approximately 500 international scientists to prioritize research on the Arctic for the next decade. Gail's poster presentation was entitled Identifying Local Values for Sustainable Resource Management: A Methodology. The title of Deb's poster presentation was The Arctic’s Interaction with the Global Economy: Defining Sustainable Development as Resilience
to Global-Local Dynamics. Gail also participated in a working group discussing establishment of criteria and indicators for the Arctic Human Dimensions Report that came out earlier this year.

**Dr. Neil Hanlon** was invited to give the inaugural presentation of a research seminar series hosted by the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network on November 18th. The title of Neil’s talk was "Reconsidering care at the margins: Rural and remote services as the frontlines of health care reform in BC." The BBRHHN is supported by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, with assistance from UNBC, UVIC and UBC.

**Dr. Brian Menounos** traveled to Simon Fraser University on November 24th to serve as an external thesis examiner for "Fluvial response to Holocene glacier fluctuations in the Nostetuko river valley, southern Coast Mountains, BC."

Stephen Dery and **Dr. Brian Menounos** were invited to give presentations at Environment Canada's workshop: "Hydrology for the Orographically Challenged” in Manning Park (28-30 November).

**DECEMBER:**

**Dr. Brian Menounos** presented two papers at the American Geophysical Union’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco, December 6th – 9th.

**FALL SEMESTER FIELD TRIPS:**

**GEOG 403/603: Dr. Gail Fondahl** took the Geography 403/603 (Aboriginal Geography) students to visit the Tl’az’t’en community of Tache, and the John Prince Research Forest, co-managed by Tl’az’t’en Nation and UNBC, on 28 September. Gail explains the day:

"Morris Joseph addressed students on the traditional land management system; then a 3 km walk through the woods allowed a visit to a mineral springs, and discussion of access issues (what a new road might mean to wildlife, job opportunities commuting, etc.). At the Cinnabar Research Station, we heard about the JPRF co-management process from Sue Grainger, research forest manager. Then a trip into the forest acquainted students with a revitalization project in which Tl’az’t’en youth constructed traditional pit-houses and produced interpretive signage. We enjoyed more discussion over fresh-baked bannock and tea around a fire in the pit-houses."
GEOG 101: Dr. Neil Hanlon took a group of 40 Geography 101 (Human Geography) students on a field trip to Mackenzie, BC on 6 November. Neil describes the trip:

"The group toured Canfor's large sawmill operation in the morning and met with Mayor Tom Briggs in the afternoon. Mayor Briggs spent the better part of two hours talking to students about the town's history and its present social and economic challenges as BC's most forestry-dependent community. Many students have since commented on how helpful the field trip was in making sense of various topics and concepts discussed in the course (e.g., core-periphery relations, demographic change, urban planning, regional economic development, service range & threshold and settlement systems)."

GEOG 405: September 16th-18th, Dr. Sarah Boon took her Geography 405 (Fluvial Geomorphology) class on a weekend field trip to UNBC's Quesnel River Research Station. See photos below:

Above: (L to R): Tim Woolnough, Aaron Koning, Christina Lohfert (on exchange from Denmark), Melanie Grubb, Lindsay Sahaydak, Neil deHoog. Photo: Sarah Boon

Photos: Sarah Boon
CURRENT STUDENTS’ NEWS: Students, please send us your news & updates for inclusion in this section.

2nd year geography student Jolene Jackson organized UNBC Fair Trade Day on October 25th with displays, resources, a scavenger hunt, and a Fair Trade Movie Night.

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):

Greg Halseth and Neil Hanlon hosted a two-day conference and workshop to showcase research findings and collaborations to date on the New Emerging Team for Health in Rural and Northern BC. The event was supported by a New Emerging Team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The conference included presentations from rural health researchers from UBC, Thomson Rivers, Guelph University and UNBC and a keynote address from Michael Ackland of the Victoria Department of Health and Human Services in Australia. UNBC was well represented by Andrea Procyck, Rebecca Goodenough and Pam Tobin, who presented preliminary findings from research conducted this summer in Mackenzie, Williams Lake, Fort St John and Terrace.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

G. Fondahl (2005) Diskussiya [Discussion of N. Novikova’s article, Customary law of the peoples of the North: Possibilities and limitations of the state legal system], Etnograficheskoe obozrenie 5:15-18. (In Russian)


LOCAL, REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS:


EXCERPT: The mountain pine beetle epidemic is only the most obvious effect of mismanaged forests, according to Greg Halseth who holds the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies at UNBC. “Even without the pine beetle we are going to have to pay for bad behaviour,” he said. But like Len Fox, Halseth sees a silver lining to the ever-rising sea of red that engulfs B.C.’s interior as more and more pine trees succumb to their miniscule foe. “It shouldn’t be read as a doomsday scenario,” said Halseth. “It should be read as putting some pressure on the things we need to do.”

Region needs voice, economic forum told, The Prince George Citizen, 29 October 2005, p. 1 [by: Gordon Hoekstra]

EXCERPT: Participants in a northern economic forum Friday in Prince George agreed to move ahead on finding a way to give Northern B.C. a collective voice on economic development issues, which is needed, some argued, to ensure the vast but lightly-populated region is heard by governments and industry.... One of the recommendations that came out out of the 2004 report - - The Connected North: Moving from Northern Strength to Northern Strength -- was to have a discussion on creating some form of northern B.C. regional development council. It’s important to communicate and organize regionally in the North, because it will help locally, said UNBC geographer Greg Halseth. It’s also important because, as a region, the North has to decide how to react and take advantage of the rapidly-changing global economy, he said.
**Pine beetle forum planned**, *The Prince George Citizen*, 3 November 2005, p. 5 [Credit: The Citizen]

**EXCERPT:** UNBC is hosting a two-day forum on the mountain pine beetle, intended to link researchers with community advocates and forest managers. On Wednesday, the keynote address is being given by **UNBC professor Greg Halseth** on the need for economic and community renewal in the North.

**Beetle epidemic forcing change, forum told**, *The Prince George Citizen*, 10 November 2005, p. 3 [Credit: The Citizen]

**EXCERPT:** Communities must come first when it comes to finding ways to deal with the impact of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, says **UNBC professor Greg Halseth**. Lessons can be learned from the past since Northern B.C. has always dealt with change, and more is to come, particularly as the global economy speeds up that change, Halseth said Wednesday at the opening session of a day-two forum of the future of communities and ecosystems in the wake of the beetle epidemic.

Both Geography professor **Kevin Hall** (p. 12-13) and Geography field school to Guatemala participant **Cristian Silva** (p. 11) were featured in UNBC’s publication “Putting a Face to the Place” distributed as an insert in the Prince George Citizen on 22 October 2005.

**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 – L in previous issues and include M-Z in this issue:

MacLeod, Colin (?)
Mahoney, David (2004)
Marchuk, Katherine (1996)
MacPhee, Shannon (2005)
McConaghy, Craig
McCormick, Jonathan (2005)
McDowell, David (2001)
McLean, Sharon (2003)
Miller, Lori (2000)
Morris, Candace (2003)
Morris, Phil (2003)
Moutray, Helen (2001)
Nipp, Marcus (1997)
Nolan, Donna (1996)
Pain, Mark (1999)
Paulson, Craig (2004)
Phillips, Cindy (1999)
Ramsay, Ian (2001)
Robat, Terry (2001)
Ross, Selena (2003)
Sabatino, Donna (2003)
Sagert, John (2002)
Sanders, Jason (2003)
Schulz, Megan (2001)
Selver, Barry (2003)
Sewell, Travis (2003)
Sharples, Christine (1999)
Sidhu, Ranjit (2001)
Sidjak, Rob (1999)
Silje, Liane (2003)
Simmons, Sean (1997)
Smith, Trevor (1998)
Solotki, Raygan (2002)
Spicer, Chris (2000)
Squissato, James (2002)
Staplin, Sean (2001)
Stewart, Jenny (1998)
Strobl, Barb (2000)
Swan, Dana (2003)
Takahashi, Drew (2003)
Tayless, Emma (2000)
Tonge, Tanya (2001)
Toor, Sandip (2001)
Tunnicliffe, John (2001)
Useda, Martha (2002)
Vignel, Kathleen (2001)
Westwood, Adrienne (1998)
Wingerak, Bart (2003)
Wry, Juegen (2001)
Zoerb, Kristen (1999)

**ALUMNI NEWS:**

*** Geography Alumni: please contact us with your updates!***

Compiled by Catherine Nolin
To submit items for inclusion in the January/February update, please e-mail: nolin@unbc.ca
Please re-distribute widely. If you want on-off this e-list: nolin@unbc.ca

http://web.unbc.ca/geography/whatsnew/