UPDATE ON WD-CAG IN KAMLOOPS, BC:

Dr. Neil Hanlon provides this report on UNBC Geography’s participation at our regional meeting:

Once again this year, UNBC and CNC sent a bus load of students and faculty to attend the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. This year’s conference was hosted by Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, 9-11 March 2006. In addition to taking home the coveted trophy for the Annual Scavenger Hunt (UNBC’s first victory!), Geography was well represented by paper and poster presentations.

Below is a list of presentations by UNBC participants, which include a number of contributions by undergraduate and graduate students. Of special note, congratulations to Matthew Summerskill who was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation at the conference. At the same conference, Melanie Grubb was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation in Geomorphology by the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group. Well done!

Boon, Sarah. Impact of mountain pine beetle infestation on snow accumulation, melt and peak flows.

Clasby, Rachael. Networks and partnerships in a remote resource town: A case study of adapting to an aging population in Mackenzie, B.C.

Fondahl, Gail. Development discourses in Southeastern Siberia: Oil, environment, subsistence, jobs, survival.
Grubb, Melanie, Menounos, Brian and Clague, John. Late Pleistocene glacier advance in the Middle Coast Mountains, British Columbia.

Krauskopf, Philip, Menounos, Brian and Gilbert, Robert. Patterns of recent sedimentation, Kitumkalum Lake, British Columbia, Canada.


Menounos, Brian, Wheate, Roger and Smith, Dan. Understanding the outlook for glaciers in the Western Canadian Cordillera under future climates – a new research opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students.

Parsons, Sarah. Aboriginal measures of success in forest co-management: A test of participatory methods.

Porter, Stacy, Wheate, Roger and Menounos, Brian. Volumetric changes of Kwadacha Glacier, Northern Rocky Mountains, British Columbia, Canada.

Ryser, Laura and Halseth, Greg. Building social cohesion and social capital under stress: Examples of innovative services and voluntary organizations in small communities.

Summerskill, Matthew. The geographies of Maori Mormonism and the creation of a cross-cultural hybrid.

Poster presenters:


Welsh, Cedar, Lewis, Kathy, Woods, Alex and Jackson, Peter. The relationship between climate and outbreak history of dothistroma septoporum in Northwest B.C.

UNBC Geography students Melanie Grubb and Matthew Summerskill earned top prizes at the recent conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG).

Melanie was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation in Geomorphology by the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group for her research which uses lake sediments to study climate change.

For his presentation which explores the effects of missionaries on indigenous populations in New Zealand, Matthew was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation by the WDCAG.

Photo: Rob van Adrichem, UNBC
WDCAG PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP:

Dr. Sarah Boon submitted these photos from the physical geography fieldtrips organized at the WDCAG:

L - UNBC students standing in front of slope slumps caused by groundwater seepage.
R - Students examining regional stratigraphy in an attempt to find two tephras (ash layers) described in a journal publication

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UPCOMING EVENTS/INFO:

South Africa 2007 Field School: Following the successful 2002 field trip, Drs. Kevin Hall and Greg Halseth are planning another for 2007 (April/May or August). The field school will focus mainly in the area of the Drakensberg Mountains in Zululand and the Free State. Studies will concentrate on small communities and the physical and cultural aspects of San (‘Bushman’) rock art. If you are interested in participating in this Geography Field School please contact Dr. Kevin Hall at hall@unbc.ca or 960-5864.

Dr. Deborah Thien's plans continue apace for the symposium Caring for the North: Gender, Care and Northern Places, featuring international keynote speaker and renowned feminist geographer, Liz Bondi of the University of Edinburgh. Any students interested in participating and/or volunteering at the symposium, June 7-8 2006 at UNBC please contact Deborah Thien at thiend@unbc.ca.
Website in progress: http://www.web.unbc.ca/geography/whatsnew/

APPOINTMENTS:

Congratulations to Dr. Debra Straussfogel who is a Co-Director of the newly established UNBC Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESI).

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Drs. Kevin Hall and Ian Meiklejohn (University of Pretoria) who have received a $200,000 grant from the South African National Research Foundation for a three year study of rock art weathering.

Many congratulations to Drs. Brian Menounos, Robert Wheate, Stephen Déry, and Peter Jackson, who have received $2,130,590 from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) to establish a “Western Canadian Cryospheric Network (WC2N)”. This network is a collaborative research project with faculty from UBC, SFU, UofA, U of Calgary, Uvic, U of Washington, federal and provincial governments and BC Hydro. Cash contributions from participating universities, the Columbia Basin Trust and BC Hydro total $293,000. The WC2N aims to understand the behaviour of the climate system and its effects on glacier mass balance in the mountain ranges of British Columbia and western Alberta. Using historical and contemporary datasets combined with satellite imagery, the network is establishing past and present glacier extent over the past 400 years; documenting contemporary meteorological and climate processes and their importance for glacier nourishment; and modeling changes in glacier cover and glacier runoff, based on possible future climate scenarios. Over the next five years, WC2N will involve a number of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom will be trained at UNBC. See the WC2N site at: http://wc2n.unbc.ca

Congratulations to Dr. Deborah Thien who has accepted a job offer as Assistant Professor (Feminist Geography) in the Department of Geography at California State University, Long Beach. This tenure-track post begins in August 2006. Good luck!

Dr. Thien also was recently awarded a prestigious 2-year SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship for research into the emotional geographies of the Royal Canadian Legion in rural and northern BC. Deb will start this fellowship on April 1, 2006 but will finish early due to the job in California.

CURA PROJECT (DR. GAIL FONDAHL):

The winter update on the CURA project is now available. Three different research projects are highlighted – Aboriginal Education, Research ethics in Aboriginal communities, and Sarah Parson’s project on measuring co-management success. Visit the link to download in pdf at: http://cura.unbc.ca/pubs/UpdateWinter2006.pdf
TRAVELING & PRESENTATIONS:

DECEMBER:

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


FEBRUARY:

On February 7th, Drs. Sarah Boon and Paul Sanborn (ESM; Forestry) attended the AGM of the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management in Smithers, BC.

In February, Dr. Brian Menounos participated in the Vulnerability of Cryospheric and Socio-economic Systems workshop at the Peter Wall Institute of the University of British Columbia and presented the following paper: "Vulnerability of Western Canadian Glaciers" (click for PDF).

During Reading Break, Dr. Deborah Thien travel to Iceland to visit her geography colleagues (below). Deb writes that: "Iceland is the perfect blend of human and physical geography: fascinating social and cultural history (think Icelandic sagas) AND an equally amazing physical landscape (the volcanic terrain features glaciers and geothermal hot pools). I was there During Thorrablot, the annual midwinter Viking Feast, but did not sample any rotten shark!"
MARCH:

Guatemala Human Rights and Development Challenges
In collaboration with several UNBC programs & the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), the Geography & Anthropology Programs presented a series of open lectures on post-conflict Guatemala. Alan Robinson and Fredy Peccerelli of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG) presented a total of 7 talks ranging from 'Contextual Analysis Investigation of Guatemalan Forensic Cases' to 'Redressing the Past, Addressing the Future: The Work of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation' and 'Antemortem Trauma as an Indicator of Torture.' Participants on the Geography Field School to Guatemala in 2004 met with members of the FAFG and want to thank UNBC Anthropology Program's Dr. Richard Lazenby and Cristian Silva for arranging this visit.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Peccerelli currently work to exhume the truth of mass burial sites in Guatemala. Mr. Robinson previously spoke at UNBC in November 2004. The FAFG is the main organization working on the exhumation of mass graves throughout the Guatemalan countryside. The forensic work is providing new clues about the genocide and is part of a long-term process of community healing and recovery.

Drs. Debra Straussfogel and Deborah Thien traveled to the American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2006 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois from March 7-11:

- Straussfogel, D. The Softwood Lumber Agreement as Context for the Effects of Globalization on Resource-Reliant Communities [organizer & presenter]
- Thien, D. Best Practices in Graduate Supervision/Advising [panelist]
- Thien, D. Gender Interventions in Research, Teaching, and/or Practice [organizer, chair & panelist]

APRIL:

Dr. Greg Halseth is the invited guest speaker at the "Territorial Dynamics in Periurban Areas & Natural & Cultural Heritage Resources Colloquium," April 26-28, 2006. The Colloquium is hosted by the Département de Géographie at the Université de Montréal and sponsored by the Villes-Régions-Monde network (INRS-UCS), the Laboratory on Sustainable Development and Territorial Dynamics (directed by Christopher Bryant) of the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal, and by the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems.

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

CONTROL ARMS CAMPAIGN, March 22-24
Geography students Jolene Jackson, Camila Castellón, and others organized UNBC’s “Control Arms campaign” spearheaded by Oxfam, Amnesty International and IANSA (www.controlarms.org). Campuses across BC are taking part in supporting the campaign this semester in preparation for the UN’s Arms Review Conference this summer. The students organized 3 days of events in the Wintergarden:

March 22 - Day 1 introduced the campaign/issues
March 23- Day 2 focused on landmines; and
March 24 - Day 3 was about the corruption of the arms trade.
Two movies were screened on March 22 & 23: Lord of War and City of God
WINTER SEMESTER FIELD TRIPS:

GEOGRAPHY 310: January 25th, 2006, Dr. Sarah Boon and students in her Hydrology course on an afternoon field trip to Cranbrook Hill Greenway (behind UNBC), studying snow hydrology.

![Field Trip Photo](image1.jpg)

Photo: Percy Taker, 25 January 2006
L to R: Theresa Carlson, Lindsay Sahaydak, Tim Woolnough, Percy Taker, Jannine Gauthier, Raylene Otto, and Neil deHoog

FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENTS’ FIELDWORK:

DR. KEVIN HALL & ANTARCTICA

Dr. Kevin Hall recently returned from his Antarctic expedition last semester [see What’s New @ UNBC Geography – December 2005]. This photo (left), taken October 30th, is of an Emperor penguin colony at Cape Washington (a volcanic outcrop beneath Mt. Melbourne - where the fictitious Disney “-8 Below” is meant to take place in the Terra Nova Bay region of Antarctica (c. 75 deg S).

![Emperor Penguins](image2.jpg)

Photo: Kevin Hall, 30 October 2005

DR. BRIAN MENOUNOS & B.C.

February 17-20, Dr. Brian Menounos, Tom Lakeman (co-supervised student of Brian and Dr. John Clague - SFU), and Gerald Osborn (Calgary) traveled to Dease Lake to recover sediment cores in the vicinity of Mt. Edziza – one of BC’s active volcanoes. The sediment cores contain layers of ash which are used to constrain the eruptive history of the volcano.

![Sediment Cores](image3.jpg)
NEW PUBLICATIONS:


IN THE MEDIA:

**Dr. Kevin Hall's** research on San rock art is featured in the November/December 2005 issue of the award-winning *Outpost Magazine* in the p. 16-18 article “The Future of the Past: How a scientist is working to preserve 3,000-year-old San Bushman cave paintings in South Africa.” [by: Christopher Frey]
UNBC Geography faculty members and graduate students are well represented in the latest issue of the Canadian Women and Geography (CWAG) Study Group’s newsletter. Go to this site to access the PDF file: [http://www.umanitoba.ca/environment/envirogeog/CWAG/newsletters.htm](http://www.umanitoba.ca/environment/envirogeog/CWAG/newsletters.htm)

The future after forestry: Where will the area’s economy be once the pine beetle epidemic has run its course? No one is certain but many ideas are being considered, *The Prince George Citizen*, 4 February, p. 13 [by: Gordon Hoekstra]

**EXCERPT:** “Most predictions these days point to a marked decline in north-central B.C.’s timber supply in 10 to 15 years in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. That will have serious economic implications for the region’s forest-based economy, which accounts for more than 20,000 direct jobs…. Most of the new mining activity has focused on northwest B.C., which does not fall in the pine beetle-hit areas. The jobs that come from mines also don’t always fall to the local communities, explains UNBC geographer Greg Halseth.”

**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. We are re-issuing this list of ‘lost geographers’ and request your assistance in finding these graduates:

- MacLeod, Colin (?)
- Mahoney, David (2004)
- Marchuk, Katherine (1996)
- MacPhee, Shannon (2005 mHG)
- McConaghy, Kraig
- McCormick, Jonathan (2005 mHG)
- McDowell, David (2001)
- Miller, Lori (2000)
- Moore, Candace (2003)
- Morris, Phil (2003)
- Moutray, Helen (2001)
- Nipp, Marcus (1997)
- Nolan, Donna (1996)
- Pain, Mark (1999)
- Paulson, Craig (2004)
- Phillips, Cindy (1999)
- Prefontaine, Amanda (2003)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
JENN PAIGE (BA GEOG 2003)
Last April, I was accepted as a volunteer with the NGO Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW). I chose the Community Resource Development Program (CRP) in Uganda because I believed in its mandate that development should be grassroots and can be environmentally friendly and economical using low-tech/low-cost solutions.

Arrival in Uganda was followed by an intensive month long training program at various training centers throughout the country. Upon completion, I was placed in a village called Namasagali. Our group consists of two Ugandan volunteers and 1 other overseas volunteer from Britain. We work here as educators and trainers for both farming groups and in public schools.

Currently I am working with 39 farming groups totaling over 500 farmers. We meet the groups by district once a week. The farmers are eager and show up in the 100s to hear our lessons and take part in demonstrations. Here, we are promoting Organic Agriculture. Organic agriculture is not only environmentally friendly and sustainable but it is also easier on the farmers as chemical fertilizers and pesticides can be costly. By adopting organic farming practices, soil fertility will invariably rise as well as crop yields. Hopefully, with some time, farmers will be able to produce crops that will provide more than merely subsistence but also goods that can be sold at market. All of the farmers I work with are working on very small plots of land surrounding their dwelling. Therefore, by banning together in farming groups, farmers can pool their excess and sell it at market for profit. After a year or two, SPW assists these groups in registering as certified organic farmers. This allows goods to be exported as organic foods that can get a higher price at market. Since 1997 when SPW CRP started working in Uganda, several farming groups have been registered as organic farmers and have established income-generating businesses in organic foods.

As well as working with farming groups I am also teaching environmental studies at both the primary and secondary levels. Due to the Universal Primary Education (UPE) in Uganda, the primary schools are severely overcrowded. My P5 class has 110 students and my other class’s average 70-80. The Secondary School on the other hand is not government funded therefore very few students can afford to attend. The Secondary schools total population is 105 compared to the 2000 at the Primary level.

Environmental studies are also supplemented with practical exercises dealing with environment and health. Most practical exercises will be done in the environmental clubs we’ve established where we have plans for tree planting, school vegetable gardens, compost, pit latrines (with tip taps for washing hands), water harvesting and conservation, and health and nutrition.

Working here in Uganda has been exciting as well as a challenge at certain times. Putting into the practice the theoretical knowledge I gained at UNBC has been invaluable and I owe the faculty at the University for giving me the tools and motivation.

DAILE SMITH (BA GEOG 2004)
Daile is working Pemberton as an assistant to a project manager for a construction and development company which has just put in a bid for one of the Olympic contracts. Daile is contemplating a return to university for graduate studies. Daile can be reached at: dailelynn@hotmail.com

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