

# GE<sup>o</sup>GRAMME

A newsletter for Friends of UBC Geography

Spring, 2002

## From the Head (and Heart)

Graeme Wynn, Head  
Department of Geography

Change, it has been said, is the only constant. This is certainly so in the affairs of the department of Geography and its alumni. As I conclude my term as department head, we begin a new relationship with our graduates. Forced upon us, in some sense, by budget restraints within the UBC Alumni Association, these evolving arrangements hold promise as they provoke lament. With the elimination of such locally-based groups as the former Geography Alumni Division from its organizational chart, the Association no longer requires such groups to have a constitution, officers and annual meeting. Some of the support that the Alumni Association used to provide the Geography Division has also been withdrawn. Thus we are at a crossroads.

The Geography Division executive, which has done so much to sustain links between the department and its graduates over the years is no longer a legal entity, and its members faced a shortfall in the funding that had previously supported the production and distribution of this newsletter. Ongoing discussions involving representatives of all interested parties have produced the following resolution. The Geography Alumni Division will be replaced by a new organization to be known as the "Friends of UBC Geography." All graduates of the department will become members, but others will be welcome to support and to participate in the activities of the "Friends."

The newsletter will continue. Janis Connolly, a UBC urban geography grad and Branches Manager with the Alumni Association, is our new editor and has already made her mark with this issue. The

newsletter will still be produced by Alumni Association staff, though the department will now pay the printing and mailing costs. Ms Connolly will also have the support and assistance, within the department, of Sally Hermansen (of whom more below). Initially we will continue to distribute the newsletter in hardcopy. In the longer term, I would urge that we build a full e-mail list of alumni and that we notify Friends of the posting of the newsletter on the department website. (You can find a copy of this issue of the newsletter and lots more information about the department at [www.geog.ubc.ca](http://www.geog.ubc.ca)). In this way we should be able to provide more frequent and more timely bulletins of interest to our graduates. For those who wish to, we may continue to provide a hard copy bulletin. But please take a moment to respond to the request elsewhere in this newsletter to provide us with your e-mail address.

As the Division evolves into the Friends, I would like to extend sincere thanks to those who have contributed time and vision in serving on the Division executive over the years. They are too many to mention all by name, but I think it appropriate to identify and thank Jim Smerdon, through no fault of his own the last President of the Geography Alumni Division, who (with the help of his executive) facilitated the changes necessary for the Division to move forward. The other person well known to us all who deserves special mention for his contributions over many years and through this time of transition is Lew Robinson. Although he indicated, some time ago, his desire to hand over responsibility for the

newsletter and other tasks that he undertook on behalf of Geography graduates, Lew has continued through the last months to suggest options and to prod us (gently) into action on several fronts. So thanks again, one and all.

The department, too, is in a time of transition. In the last six months we have seen the retirement of three long-time colleagues whose contributions to the department, to the university and to the discipline of Geography have been very significant. Bob North and Terry McGee retired on June 30th and Cole Harris on December 31st.

Bob was a true departmental and university citizen. In addition to teaching economic geography and courses on Europe and the former Soviet States, he served as associate (and for 1997-8 Acting) head of the department. He was also at one point acting head of Slavonic Studies, and played important roles on many committees over the years. He and Margaret (who retired a couple of years ago) are planning to divide the next few years between Vancouver and Britain.

Terry McGee probably had more


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The UBC Alumni Association and  
Friends of UBC Geography. Questions?  
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## From the Head (and Heart)

from page one

“retirement” parties than anyone I know, not least of which because he retired from the directorship of the Centre for Asian Research some years ago, only to be recalled to that office and to retire again. On his official retirement from the university, his many important contributions as an administrator and as a world-leading scholar of Asian cities and societies were well recognized. Happily for the department, Terry continues his research and is still seen in the halls.

The same is true of Cole Harris, who has had less time to acclimatize to his new status. His distinguished career as a leader in historical geography, captivating teacher and thinker about Canada will be further distinguished soon by the appearance of his latest and important book, *Making Native Space*, on the native land question in British Columbia. Look for it from UBC Press later this year.

We are most fortunate that we have been able to renew and invigorate the department by appointing new faculty members. In the last couple of years we have added Lori Daniels, a biogeographer with special interests in dendrochronology and gap-dynamics in coastal forests, Matthew Evenden, an environmental historical geographer whose research focuses on rivers, especially the Fraser and the Bow, and Sally Hermansen, who teaches cartography and GIS courses and has already assumed a significant outreach role in connecting the department to schools, the faculty of Education, and through the Friends, to graduates. We also await the arrival, next summer, of two colleagues whose appointments were finalized last year. They are: Karen Bakker an environmental geographer who completed her doctorate at Oxford University as a Canadian Rhodes scholar. Her research focuses on water and especially efforts to privatize the resource. Philippe LeBillon, also a graduate of Oxford, works on resource exploitation in conflict zones. His appointment is in part with the Liu Centre, where he will work alongside former Canadian External Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy.

# My Icelandic Saga

by Jim Smerdon, Past President,  
Geography Alumni Alliance

I don't know many people who have been to Iceland. If you don't include the people who stopped in at Keflavik on a charter flight to Europe, I could probably count them on one hand. So, it was with very little success that I polled my friends and acquaintances for first-hand accounts of what I could expect when I arrived in Iceland in August 2001. However, I doubt that anyone else's Icelandic stories would be similar to what I was to experience. After all, none of the people I know who have been to Iceland went looking for 1000 year-old Viking treasure.

First, a bit of background. Much of



what Icelanders know of the history of their country comes from The Sagas: epic stories of Vikings and their travels, their lives, and (in retrospect) how their actions were the foundations for modern Icelandic society. One such Saga is the story of Egil Skallagrimsson, a Viking, poet, and mercenary who lived about 900 AD in Norway and Iceland. It's the type of story which, if it were American, would have been made into a mini-series, a comic book, several video games, and a feature film starring Kevin Costner. One of the passages, near the end of Egil's life, describes how one evening he took two chests of silver coins and rode on horseback into a ravine near his farm. In the morning his family found him stumbling in a field – without the silver. The Saga also tells about silver coins washing out in a ravine and a riverbed near the farm after heavy runoff

A friend of mine read Egil's Saga and decided that he would go to Iceland and look for Egil's silver (which must still be in the hills near his farm!). Knowing that I was a geographer, he felt I could be an asset to the project's technical department, as I could research the farm site, find its current location a thousand years afterwards, and use clues from the ancient text to further narrow our search. Our research began at the UBC map library, and six months later, in August of this year, culminated in a two-week trip to Iceland, and a full-scale treasure hunt in the windswept hills north of Reykjavik.

After all of my preparations, including aerial photograph analysis, mapping, and

In addition, we are currently in the midst of searches for four new colleagues with specializations variously in Urban; Population Health/GIS; Asia; and Europe, and we hope to have a second Canada Research Chair appointed to the department later in the year. So these are exciting and busy times. The department IS changing. But much remains the same. We have our usual large group of highly

impressive graduate students. The Undergraduate Student Association has a large and pro-active executive who have introduced exciting new initiatives. And the building is much as ever, spruced up here, with new computers in new labs there, but fundamentally the same space and place as you once knew. Do come by and pay us a visit if you are on the campus.

some rudimentary geology, we managed to find the current site of Egil's farm (which is still a farm). We even found the ravine and the riverbed that coins would likely have been found in. It was a great feeling to devise a plan with the other team members, to do the research, and end up within a 500 meter radius of where old Egil stumbled several centuries before us. I imagined that some of my geography profs would have been proud!

We took some time away from the treasure hunt and drove around the perimeter of Iceland. For such a small country, with such a desolate and remote reputation, Iceland had more to offer than I ever would have expected. If you are going to Iceland call me, but I really have the feeling that everyone's Icelandic Saga will be quite unique.

The rest of the treasure hunt has been recorded online, at [www.VikingTreasure.com](http://www.VikingTreasure.com).

## A Magical Geographical Tour

March 9, 2002. Sign up now!

A recent issue of *Geographical Review* (Vol 91, #s 1&2) aimed to "reveal something of how geographers really work in the field." If you want to find out without doing all the reading (500 pages!), sign up for the great UBC Geographical Excursion on March 9, 2002.

The brainchild of the undergrad Geography Students Association, the trip will explore the urban, historical, environmental, economic and social geographies of the Lower Fraser Valley. It will also include long intervals of convivial discussions in salubrious settings about "doing fieldwork" and other things. The itinerary has yet to be decided, but the trip will certainly range through Surrey, Cloverdale and Langley, and as far east as Chilliwack.

Alumni are warmly encouraged to join the throng. We will fill a bus with undergrads, faculty and friends. Further details are available from Sally Hermansen [sallyh@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:sallyh@geog.ubc.ca) or 604-822-5970.

Sign up early! Seats are limited and demand is likely to be strong.

## Geography Students Association Update

by James O'Neill, GSA President/Fall

The Geography Students Association has been active since the beginning of the year in many events in the department and around campus. We embarked on a rigorous recruiting campaign this year as we only had five returning members from the previous school year. Our recruiting efforts paid off as we now have about 30 active, participating members. This year promises to be more exciting than others, as we are planning many different and new events.

On November 8, we held our popular club night fundraiser. The Geo crowd and their friends partied it up at the Roxy on Granville Street.

Thursday morning bake sales continue with tantalizing smells helping hugely to build revenues. All the money raised goes toward the year-end Geo Gala, the annual celebration at Cecil Green Park for graduating Geography students.

This year, the GSA has put together a field trip (see details this page), which involves professors, grad students, undergrads and possibly alumni. We hope the trip will increase the interaction among the different levels of the department.

This field trip will be more academically focused than the annual ski trip which took place on the weekend of January 11-13 at Silver Star in Vernon.

The ever-popular Geo Pit Bzzr Gardens have been taking place regularly in the lounge. Word has spread about the fun atmosphere created by the Geography folks and many groups from around campus have been frequenting these events.

And look for Career Night on March 13, when geography grads come back and talk about their geography-focussed jobs. If you're a grad and interested in telling current students about your geo-job, contact Geoff England (GSA President/Spring) at [geoffengland@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffengland@hotmail.com).



*Doing what Geographers do best (having a good time) are members of this year's Geography Students Association executive during the annual ski trip to Vernon. The Magical Geographical Tour, also organized by the GSA, is planned for March 9. Sign up now by calling Sally Hermansen, 604.822.5970.*

# Geography Graduate Student Society

## Social and academic activities combine to build esprit de corps!

by Arn Keeling, PhD Candidate

UBC's Geography program is a recognized world leader, attracting students from around the world each year. Perhaps less well known is the wide variety of activities grads take on outside their classrooms and offices, from seminars to softball and from professional development to parties. Graduate life at UBC provides the double benefit of a challenging and stimulating intellectual atmosphere, as well as camaraderie, support, and the chance to form lasting relationships.

A glance down the list of graduate students reveals people hailing from such diverse locales as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Iceland, and India. There are even some Canadian students! This built-in diversity creates a stimulating educational atmosphere, and allows grads to share ideas from their divergent intellectual and social backgrounds.

Although coursework and research takes up most of their time, graduate students have developed a full slate of extra-curricular activities. These include active reading groups on topics such as environmental history, women in geography, and social theory. Grads also convene to discuss methodological techniques such as interviewing, using Geographic Information Systems, and conducting archival research. An annual "Comps Café" provides a forum to share strategies and experiences to help doctoral students prepare for their comprehensive exams.

These professional development activities complement the long-standing UBC tradition of home seminars. Both physical and human geographers have busy home seminar series planned again this year, where students share research findings or practice conference presentations with their colleagues (faculty included!) in an informal setting. Some have even spotted human geographers at physical presentations, and vice versa,

contributing to disciplinary dialogue.

Developing this intellectual interchange between the "two solitudes" of physical and human geography within the department and the discipline as a whole was the subject of a special departmental colloquium in October. Organized by graduate student Alison Mountz (PhD), the colloquium featured a student and faculty panel, generating a wide-ranging discussion amongst the more than 50 attendees.

This activity is indicative of how grads are taking on a larger role in departmental affairs. This year will also see grads participate in such activities as search committees and candidate evaluation for new hires (including the new department head), curriculum review, and various departmental committees. To co-ordinate their departmental activities and to act as

a liaison with the departmental administration, grads have created the Grad Forum, now in its third year.

But if that all sounds like too much work, rest assured that the grads can also let their hair down. For the second year in a row, game grads and faculty took to the field in the Graduate Student Society softball league. The team's record wasn't all that great, but a solid turnout promises to make this a regular summer activity.

Social activities throughout the year help build esprit de corps. These begin with the fall retreat and field trip, which introduce new students and welcome back returnees. This year's event was held in town, at the Vancouver Yacht Club, which prompted excellent attendance by faculty and students alike. Grads also organized an overnight retreat to the UBC lodge in Whistler later in the month. The holiday potluck in December rounds out the formal social schedule, but grads often gather at GeoPit beer gardens or outside the department for refreshments and socializing.

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## Report on the National Council of Geographic Education Annual Meeting, August 1-4, 2001

by Margaret North, Instructor Emeritus

The 86th annual meeting of the largest North American geography educators association was held at UBC during the first week of August 2001. The National Council of Geographic Education (NCGE) has a membership of over 2,000 mainly US-based teachers. The meeting was attended by 700 delegates. The local arrangements committee was made up of 12 geographers, primarily from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island and mainly recently retired geography teachers from the secondary and post-secondary systems in BC.

We had started planning for this meeting three years ago and had essentially completed all the arrangements by May of 2001 so the actual four-day event was very relaxed. We opened with a very elegant reception in the Student Union Building, sponsored by UBC Faculty of Arts, the Geography Department, the

Canadian Association of Geographers and the Western Division of the CAG. The AMS caterers did us proud!

The opening session was addressed by Audrey Kobayashi, who welcomed the NCGE to Canada on behalf of the CAG and WCAG. The main speaker was Mario Runco, Jr., an astronaut from NASA. His talk addressed the theme of the conference, Space Odyssey 2001, and his slides were quite spectacular as he took us around the world with views from various space shuttles and satellites. We closed four days later with what had been planned as an outdoor salmon BBQ but was relocated in the SUB Ballroom. The Museum of Anthropology had been booked for conducted tours before the dinner. Despite the rain, about 200 delegates did avail themselves of this opportunity. The dinner was catered by UBC Food Services and won them rave reviews! Awards for service are traditionally given out at this final banquet and the

NCGE were generous in rewarding the local arrangements committee as well as their own members.

Between these two social events the main purpose of the annual meeting is to inform the members of developments in geographic education. The meeting is composed of plenary sessions, workshops, paper sessions and field trips. All sessions have a practical pedagogic outcome; many are lesson plans, evaluations of teaching strategies, presentation of new curricula, and new texts. Books, atlases, CD-ROMs, websites and other teaching resources are workshopped by their authors and publishers. An increasing number of computer workshops are given at these meetings and the Geography Department's GIS lab was used for three days, as was one of the Buchanan labs. The entire department's technical staff was generous in assisting both the set-up and the instruction of these workshops.

Twenty fieldtrips had been arranged to support several workshops that focussed on developing field studies with community partners. All trips were well attended despite the unseasonable weather. In fact the NCGE has never run so many field trips, nor made so much money on them! The two-day Vancouver Island trip sold out within four days of being advertised. Day trips went out to Fort Langley, Whistler, Lillooet, Mount Baker, Fraser Valley, Fraser Delta, the Borderlands; half day trips took in the North Shore parks, Pacific Spirit Park, Vancouver Neighborhoods, Downtown, Port, Granville Island and the Point Grey Cliffs. And every trip included teaching materials as well as general descriptions of the routes. These trips were all led by volunteers from the local schools and colleges. We thank you all for your time and expertise; it was greatly appreciated.

The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> overshadow all the good news of this meeting. We heard with great sorrow of three geography students, their teachers and two members of the National Geographic Education program who were killed when their plane was used to target the Pentagon. These people were on their way to participate in an NGS sponsored workshop in California. May God rest their souls.

## Geographic Information Centre Undergoes Facelift

**T**he Geographic Information Centre underwent major renovations in 1999 and 2000. A significant weeding of the book and journal collection freed up space for the development of a better-structured working area for students. This included a major reorganization of the map cabinets to create more space for students and a better reference area for the GIC staff. An electronic gate was purchased and the books and journals were tattle-taped. The reserve readings were made available on a self-serve basis close to the new photocopier.

A new reception counter and the connecting counter by the electronic gate were installed in the GIC in 2000 to finish off the entrance area. The old study carrels were disposed of and more round tables were purchased to create more study space for students. Six new computers were purchased in the GIC for student use. The computers provide access to the Internet, the UBC Library and e-mail. The computers were installed in Room 114 and access to the Computer labs was linked through the GIC enabling students to use materials in the GIC and the Computer Labs.

The GIC has two full time employees, Rosemary Cann and Kevin Gillard, and two part time employees, Nina Sidhu and Ren Lusterio (from Jan. 8, 2002). Access to the GIC was restricted to the GIC staff's working hours and the hours of operation were extended from 8:30am to 7 pm from September to April.

Over the past 10 years the GIC has been working towards an online GIS Air-photo Index. Progress was made and in December 2000 a working model of the 92H block was almost completed. This project is still in progress.

In December 1999, Kenne Allen donated a collection of oblique aerial photographs, taken by Allen Aerial Photography Ltd. of Vancouver, to the GIC. Allen Aerial Photography was owned and operated by Kenne's father, George Allen, and was taken over by Kenne in 1957. This donation of approximately 90,000 negatives and

10,000 prints includes oblique aerial photographs of many major capital projects in the Lower Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, as well as many projects in northern British Columbia. The list of typical projects includes: the PNE and construction of the roller coaster, Second Narrows Bridge, Expo '86, Canada Place, False Creek, Ioco, Roberts Bank, Vancouver Harbour, Vancouver (and other municipal airports), and the Coquihalla Highway. The oblique aerial photographs in black and white and colour were valued at around \$176,000 and will be an excellent addition to the Air Photo Collection located in the GIC.

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## Geography Computing Facilities Overhauled

**S**purred by the latest departmental review, the undergraduate computing facilities underwent a significant overhaul as mentioned in the last **Geogramme**. The renovations included new hardware for the main computing lab, the renovation of the space adjacent to the Geographic Information Center into an overflow computing facility with 17 computers, and additional workstations for the general service lab.

For 2001, the increased lab capacity and the appointment of new instructors in the past two years allowed more scheduling of popular undergraduate courses such as GIS, Statistics, Cartography, Remote Sensing, and Spatial Analysis, as well as the creation of a new course in Advance Cartography/Data Visualization.

The improvement of the lab facilities and the adoption of industry standard software packages, such as ArcView as the main teaching tool in GIS and Spatial Analysis, Corel Draw in Cartography, and SPSS in Statistics, have given students marketable skills for today's workforce, especially important for those wishing to take advantage of the new directed studies course (G447) with off-campus organizations.

# Arts Co-op Program Reaps Big Career Benefits for Geography Students

by Katherine Muncaster

I remember the day I decided to take the Arts Co-op program. It was a few hours after the applications were due, and I was cursing myself for forgetting the deadline. I spent an hour trying to convince myself that I didn't really want to do co-op after all. No, I don't need career experience or contacts. And I don't have time to improve my resume-writing skills. I'd certainly rather pummel through my university years without the variety of working in different organizations and possibly different countries. Extra cash to cover tuition? Who needs it!

It progressively became clear to me that I'd better darn hand in that application and beg as required to get in. Needless

to say, they accepted my late application, albeit with a stern frown. (I wouldn't recommend being tardy; being on time will vastly improve your chances of getting in.)

Four co-op terms later, I've had the opportunity to craft online newsletters and printed publications for other students, and participate in a leading edge interactive website by an acclaimed high tech company. And, as the pinnacle of my co-op career, I am now a core member of a team at the Sustainable Development Research Institute that is creating a computer game to engage the public in decisions about the future of our region.

So, to state the obvious, I heartily recommend the Arts Co-op Program to all geography students!

## 'Hire' Education: UBC's Arts Co-op Expands

by Karen Young, Geo. Advising Office

A dozen Geography students are currently taking part in Arts Co-op Program that couple academic learning with relevant work experience. Geography students have critical thinking and effective communication skills and hence are valuable additions to a diversity of workplaces.

Geography faculty work directly with co-op students before, during and after their work terms, lending their expertise to the organizations. Arts Co-op staff are the essential link between employers, faculty advisors, and students, and are responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the program are met.

Co-op programs have tripled in size at UBC in the past six years and 91% of them have job offers when they graduate.

Co-op students are selected on their academic excellence and personal strengths, and they quickly become productive, highly motivated workers in the companies in which they are placed.

Students are available for four or eight month work terms and prove their worth as cost-effective employees to staff peak periods or complete special projects bringing current skills and knowledge to the workplace.

For more information contact [arts.co-op@ubc.ca](mailto:arts.co-op@ubc.ca) and/or see <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/co-op/>

## New Directed Studies: Off-Campus Research Course Complements Co-op Program

A new course that allows students to apply geographic skills in the workplace was recently introduced to the Geography course offerings. *Directed Studies - Off Campus Research* originated from a Geography Students' Association proposal and was inspired, to some extent, by the "storefront" undergraduate research programs initiated in Europe and recently encouraged by SSHRC. The advantage to students is that they gain work experience and have the opportunity to build up contacts in an area of possible employment post graduation.

## Stay In Touch Online!

As Graeme Wynn mentioned in his Words from the Head, we would like to start setting up an electronic mailing list of Geography alumni e-mail addresses for announcements such as the field trip, special lectures and the **Geogramme** (which would save us mailing costs). Please go to the Friends of Geography Alumni web site ([www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni)) where you will see the option to enter in your email address to receive Geography announcements and the **Geogramme** online.

The proposal provides an alternate form of workplace experience to other Co-op programs and complements, rather than competes with them. It opens important possibilities for Geography students to apply their discipline-specific skills (and more general Arts or Science education) to a particular problem or project, to the benefit of both the external sponsor and the student. The external sponsor (who may be an officer of a non-profit organization, a bureaucrat or in a private-sector business) will obtain the services of a geography student in exchange for acting as mentor.

Geography students can offer general skills of data gathering, analysis and writing. In addition, they may be able to offer GIS and mapping services and undertake archival research, site selection for businesses, analyses of store locations, transportation analyses, terrain analyses, biophysical inventories and environmental impact assessments.

If you are aware of projects that could benefit from the application of geographic skills or analysis please contact Karen Young at 604-822-2020 or [young@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:young@geog.ubc.ca)

# Donors Support Geography Department

by J. Lewis Robinson, Professor Emeritus

**G**eography alumni continue to make donations to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund. More than 110 donors gave \$14,000 to the fund from October 2000 to December 2001, raising the endowed capital to more than \$100,000. Even with low interest rates, we should be able to award six scholarships to our leading third year Geography majors.

Many donors are Geography grads who have given frequently and generously. These include **Ann McAfee** BA'62, MA'67, PhD'75 and **Ian Hayes** BA'72, MBA'78, **Dr. John Stager**, UBC professor emeritus; **Don** and **Joan South** BA'48, founders of the scholarship; and **Dr. Ming Ko Woo** of the McMaster University Geography Department.

All these donations go directly to the UBC Development Office. The disadvantage with this system is that we receive no news and no "Keep in Touch" form from these departmental friends. However,

## Help Keep the Geogramme Afloat!

This issue of the **Geogramme** cost more than \$2,000. Donations to the Operating Account would be gratefully appreciated. Support this and future issues by donating to the operating account.

when Development reports these donations to me, it has been my pleasure to send a note of thanks and appreciation to each donor. Many of these Geography grads have become personal friends over the years and I hope that I can carry on with this tradition for many more years.

In addition, over the past several years, our Geography alumni have donated more than \$2,000 annually to the Geography Operating Account to cover the costs of printing and mailing the **Geogramme**. They have done this with many small amounts and without receiving income tax receipts as these donations are channeled through the department, which is not a charitable organization. Unfortunately, donations for **Geogramme** costs have not come in as in previous years (there were 44 donors to the Operating Account this past year, compared with 80 the previous year) and thus we have only \$1,100 in the account to produce newsletters through to the year 2005. Depending on how many **Geogrammes** are printed (we may elect to mail none to overseas or US alumni because of mailing costs), the department has agreed to pay the difference for this year.

Please do keep donations to either fund coming! They are very much appreciated. Sincere thanks.

# Warren G. Gill: Distinguished Geographer for 2000

by J. Lewis Robinson

**D**r. Gill was a Geography major at UBC during the revolutionary years of the late '60s, graduating with a BA in 1970. He continued into graduate studies at UBC and authored an intriguing master's thesis titled "Urban Nightclub Locations in Vancouver." In his thesis Gill claims that his fieldwork was most interesting and somewhat exhausting! After 1972, Gill entered a new Interdisciplinary Program at UBC in Urban Studies and Geography and was a teaching assistant in these programs for several years.

Gill joined the Geography Department at Simon Fraser University in 1977 as an instructor and in 1979 became Program Director for SFU's Continuing Studies Division at their downtown campus. In 1981 he completed his PhD program at UBC with another socially aware dissertation on "Mainstream Urban Lifestyles."

For the past 20 years Warren has held two positions at SFU: as an urban geography professor at the hilltop campus and Associate Vice President, Programs at the Harbour Centre campus.

Throughout these years, Gill has been actively involved in civic matters in Vancouver. He has been a member of several downtown business associations and speaks frequently on local TV and radio programs on a variety of urban topics, especially on transportation. He always emphasizes that he is speaking as a geographer. Gill's CV has a long list of the public and civic positions from which he has given leadership to cultural and business matters in Vancouver.

For these contributions to civic well being in Vancouver and for his favourable public image as a practicing geographer, the executive of the UBC Geography Alumni Division recognized Dr. Gill with the Distinguished Geographer Award for the year 2000.

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Answers to the 70's Quiz:  
1. Gordon Wilson, former MLA, Sunshine Coast  
2. Adrienne Carr, leader, BC Green Party

# Where are they now?

Compiled by Janis Connolly, editor

## 1940s

**Gordon Taylor** BA'49 MA'50 credits his studies in geography and history with fuelling his interest in family history and genealogy. Gordon and wife Jan became great grandparents last year. **Don Kerr** BA'44, retired Geography professor from the University of Toronto, continues to support the Geography operating account and scholarship fund.

## 1950s

"Life is good," says **Julie Southerst** BA'56 of Garden Bay. And no wonder: she's trotted the globe over the last few years, from Europe to the Maritimes to New Orleans. Julie would have had trouble keeping up with fellow '50s grad **Charles Dick** BA'59. In 2000 Chuck canoed Utah's Green River and several lakes, walked 275 miles along the Cotswold and Thames trails, the Avon-Kennett canal and Solent Way in England, and spent a month in China as a guest of its Dept. of Education.

## 1960s

After 34 years with the Surrey School District, **Nick Parker-Jervis** BA'65 retired in June 2000. His most recent position was principal of Enver Creek Secondary School. Nick is also past president of the Canadian Association of Principals. The mild winters of Oakville, Ontario lured **James Young** MA'66 away from his home in the Laurentians. **Keith Crowe** BA'60 MA'69 recently donated his unique collection of periodicals printed wholly or partly in Inuktitut to the National Archives. He and his wife recently participated in a canoe race – upstream and upwind – on Ottawa's Rideau River, the only

ones in the over 60 years class. "We finished, but only just," confided Crowe. Geography professor **Robin Lyons** BA'63 hosted the annual meeting of the California Geographical Society in May 2000. Robin teaches at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton California. **Harry Swain** BA'64 was Chairman of the Research Advisory Panel for the Commission of Inquiry into the Walkerton incident.

## 1970s

**Paul Kariya** BA(Hons)'75, CEO of Fisheries Renewal BC, says there is no better education than a geographic one. **Tom Walker** BSc'79 works for a company specializing in digital automation of hospital imaging departments as VP Sales and Marketing of Mitra Imaging in Waterloo. **Lorna Seppala** BA'75 was seconded from BC Gas to act as Environmental Project Manager for the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Olympics bid. It is difficult not to be envious of **Ian Thomson** BA'75 who reports that he married "a wonderful English lady" and then took a half-year sabbatical before returning to teach earth sciences and geology at Elphinstone High in Gibsons. Highlights of his sabbatical would make physical geographers drool: two weeks at his in-law's lodge in Scotland taking in the superb examples of glacial landforms in Glen Roy; a 10 day Antarctic cruise which took him as far south as 65 degrees 20' S and two weeks in Patagonia. For the last 20 years **Eric Vance** BA'75 MA'81 has practiced as a professional planner, economist and management consultant. He was Director of Planning for the City of Port Moody for three years prior to starting his own consulting practice in 1995. Eric lives in Port Moody and acts as an adjunct professor in UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning. **Joy Connelly** BA'77 is the Communications Coordinator for the Ontario Non Profit Housing Association. Joy is also a graduate of the University of Toronto's Planning School. Former NDP MP for Kamloops, **Nelson Riis** MA'70, indicates that he may run again. When **Hugh Gayler** PhD'74 ran out of gas in West Vancouver last summer the BCAA man sent to rescue him could have benefited from a Geography degree. It seems the poor fellow was dispatched to Cypress Street rather than Cypress Bowl!

## 1980s

**Bob Patrick** BA'80 recently switched from land-use planning to water conservation and water resource planning at Sunshine Coast Regional District. Bob is completing his masters in Geography at that other university on the hill. **Martin Cocking** BA'87 is the Communications Manager at UBC Commerce. After several years living and working in Toronto, **Richard Morden** BA'83 has returned to Vancouver with his wife and daughter. He is VP Asset Management for a Vancouver real estate group. In Redlands, California **Paul Trevillion** BA'84 is a development and support analyst for ESRI, Inc. Paul graduated from BCIT's Advanced Diploma Program in GIS in May 2000. **Cheryl Wirsz** BA'85 is a planner with the Cowichan Valley Regional District. **Donna Rodman** BA'84 is apprenticing in engineering technical support for Helipro, while continuing to consult in landscape architecture. Donna earned her Masters in Landscape Architecture in '99. **Connie** and **Jeff Crawford** (both BA'85), who met in the Geography building, took their daughters Heather and Jocelyn on a tour of the old haunts at UBC on their wedding anniversary.

## 1990s

**Jeanette Chan** BA'92 is a self employed music instructor involved with the new Richmond Music Festival Society. She has employed her locational analysis skills in uncovering appropriate venues for the Festival. Jennifer recently visited Hong Kong, her birthplace, and marveled at the traffic "solutions" which she later recommended to the Greater Vancouver Transit Frontroom Forum for Translink that she participates in. **Craig Nistor** BSc'90 MSc'96, a geomorphologist for N.W. Hydraulic Consultants suggests that his son, Charlie, may be following his career footsteps, apparently loving to walk in the wild and eat sand and stones! Currently working on a novel is **Penni Leong** BA'91. Tourism Management Studies was a natural segue from a Geography degree for **Teresa Rieth** BA'00. Teresa spent one of her co-op work terms in the Capilano College program working as a Visitor Information Counsellor at the Vancouver Airport for Tourism Vancouver.

**'70s QUIZ: Two well-known BC political figures received degrees in Geography from UBC in the '70s. Can you guess who they are from the titles of their MA theses? (answers on page 7)**

1. "Political Geographic Implications of Transnational Resource Management"
2. "The Development of Neighbourhood in Kitsilano: Ideas, Actors and the Landscape"



# GEOGRAMME

A newsletter for geography alumni

Spring, 2002

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