

GE GRAMME

A newsletter for geography alumni

Fall 1998

President's Report

Arthur Ng, BA '85

Hello again fellow alumni. It's been another year already. As I get older, it feels like time goes by that much faster and we have more and more work to accomplish!

Aside from assisting with annual undergraduate events such as Career Night, Graduation Dinner and a Convocation reception, a few changes have been made. The executive discovered that the Geography Dept. has had a web page for more than two years and that a portion has been allocated to the alumni. By October you should be able to read last year's newsletter, answer questionnaires, and e-mail information to us. We look forward to your responses and encourage you to forward articles, pictures, and the like for future newsletters. Our website address is: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca>, and our e-mail address is: alumni@geog.ubc.ca.

We want to hear more from you and hope that you will respond to the questionnaire enclosed in this newsletter. We want you to be involved with on or off campus activities, such as hiking the Grouse Grind or canoeing at Pitt Lake. Family is welcome and members can exchange past UBC stories and experiences. Any ideas would be appreciated.

I will be retiring as president this Fall at our AGM. After three years at the helm, and last year being chair of Divisions Council, I feel that my alumni work should come to a close. I will still be involved with alumni and Division activities; however my workload will be more manageable. We have gone through

many challenges, but we also have some accomplishments well. This being said, there is always room for improvement. For our division to flourish, we must continue to be actively involved, enthusiastic in our work, and care about and participate in alumni events. Contributions to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund continue strong, but the operating budget is a problem.

This year's AGM will be held at Cecil Green Park on October 20, 1998. We will be honouring Dr. Jon O'Riordan, B.C. Deputy Minister of Environment with our Distinguished Geographer Award, and Dr. John Chapman with our award for Service to Geography. Please join us to take part in the festivities and to say hello to fellow alumni.

1997 Distinguished Geographer Award

Alfred H. Siemens spent most of his academic life in the UBC Geography Department, encouraging, leading and inspiring students. His personal roots are in the Lower Fraser Valley and his academic research interests, field work and publications have been mostly in, and about, Mexico.

Alf received his BA in Geography from UBC in 1956. After a year of teaching secondary school, he returned to complete graduate work for an MA in 1960 with a thesis on the Mennonites in the Lower Fraser Valley. Alf decided to specialize on Latin America for his PhD work in Geography at the University of Wisconsin. Before he could complete his dissertation on southern Vera Cruz, UBC decided to add Latin America to its regional academic interests. In 1962 the university called back Alf to be the first regional specialist on the geography of

Latin America.

In the following years, Alf made numerous field trips, often with students, to the east coast of Mexico, and other parts of Latin America. His research and many publications have made him one of the leading world authorities on prehistoric subsistence agriculture on the tropical lowlands wetlands of Mexico. Alf has written and/or edited six books mainly on Latin America, ten different chapters in other books, plus 15 separate articles in professional journals.

He has received many awards and honors from organizations involved in Latin America studies for his leadership, including the Highest Distinction Award from the International Congress of Americanists in 1991, an organization of which he was president in 1995.

Locally, Alf will be remembered for his courses on Cultural Geography, for his interesting local field trips, and for his encouragement of student photography. Alf retired a year ago after 35 years of lectures which opened academic doors to geography and other students. For these contributions, we are pleased to name Dr. Alfred H. Siemens as the recipient of the Distinguished Geographer Award for 1997.

AGM

**Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 pm
Cecil Green Park, UBC**

Agenda

President's report
Nominations of new Executive
Distinguished Geographer Award
Service to Geography Award
10 and 25-year lapel pins to attending
geography alumni
Refreshments and conversation
Drawing for door prizes



Department News

Robert North, Acting Head

A year ago, Graeme Wynn left for a well-deserved year of administrative leave in England — a reward for several years service as associate dean of Arts. I took over as acting head and it's been an interesting year in many ways. A multi-year salary agreement for faculty members introduced an element of stability into UBC's financial planning for the first time in years. That and a new president determined to involve the whole university community in the planning process, gave us months of visioning and eventually the Trek 2000 document. The Geography Department will be affected in various ways: for example, we can't expect all retirements to be replaced automatically. Neither Alf Siemens nor Walter Hardwick has been replaced, and three more retirements are due in 2001 — all on the human-geography side of the department. There is also

a batch of physical-geography retirements whose replacement will be uncertain. We will be expected to pursue any opportunities for external funding of positions. In sum, we can expect the face of geography at UBC to change considerably over the next decade.

Fortunately, we are well placed to face the expected pressures. We are considered one of the two strongest departments in the Faculty of Arts, and several events during the year further strengthened our reputation. First, Dave McClung was appointed to the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Snow and Avalanche Science, the only chair awarded to a geography department in Canada, and the first chair in Snow and Avalanche Science in the world. Second, David Ley was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, the fifth member of the Department to be honoured. Much of his time this year was spent managing the UBC/SFU component of the international Metropolis project, which will bring \$2.8 million into the joint Centre of Excellence over six years and employ ten research assistants. Lastly, our present graduate students captured 9 per cent of all the University Graduate Fellowships awarded at UBC, about double our previous share. Competition for entry is fierce: only a fifth of firm applicants were accepted in 1997-8, exactly half of them women and a third non-Canadian. Among many links with business and government, one of general interest is the

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Donations

J. Lewis Robinson

Please use the enclosed **Keep in Touch** insert to send personal or professional news for the next *Geogramme* and to donate cheques for our two alumni accounts: the Operating Account to meet the costs of producing the Newsletter, and the Scholarship Fund for three leading third-year geography students.

There weren't enough donations to the Operating Account in the past year to cover the increasing costs of producing and mailing the *Geogramme*. We add about 100 new graduates each year, for a total of about 2500 on the mailing list, while the number of donors is only about 50 people. This past year 49 donors gave \$1565. More than half of this came from three large donations: Doreen Mullins, \$500, John Stibbard, \$200, Katie Eliot, \$100. Most of this was donated last fall after alumni received the *Geogramme*. We know that most grads do not become professional geographers but we hope they are still interested in department news and donating to keep the newsletter coming. If not, it seems probable that it will cease.

On a happier note, your donations to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund have increased greatly over the past two years, allowing us to increase the number of \$900 scholarships to three. From October 1997 to July 1998, 85 donors gave about \$9,000 to the endowed Scholarship Fund (from Oct. – Dec. 1996, 51 donors gave \$5,000). In the past year, an additional donations appeal was sent out to previous donors from the Dean of Arts office, resulting in increased donations. However, this also caused confusion for alumni who directed their donation to a new Dept. of Geography Fund (special expenses for guest lecturers, field trips, equipment, etc.), thinking that this was the Scholarship Fund. In the past year, 25 donors sent cheques to me, along with their Keep-in-Touch form, and 60 persons donated directly to the UBC Development Office — which means that I did

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UBC Geography team at the Day of the Longboat Competition, 1995.

Where Are They Now?

compiled by J. Lewis Robinson

1940s

We continue to receive helpful donations to both the Operating and Scholarship Funds from many of our earliest geography graduates. A few are noted in the Donations lists (see p. 7)

Edward G. Eberlein, BA'47, a retired teacher living in Burnaby, was a new and major donor to the Scholarship Fund ... **Peter Cumberbirch, BA'48**, has married again and moved to Victoria ... **Arthur J. Dieno, BA'49**, was lost from our Geography mailing list. After graduating from UBC, he received an MA in Geography from the University of Washington and then became a secondary school teacher in BC, including the Okanagan. He took early retirement to a farm near Langley, and now lives in White Rock.

1950s

The geography graduates of 40-plus years ago are retired, and many are still sending donations to the Operating and Scholarship Funds. Their activities have been reported in previous *Geogrammes*. They include: **Marion Shirley, MA'50**, Nelson; **Ches Brown, BA'50**, Victoria; **Owen Kerley, BA'53**, Williams Lake; **Don Pearson, BA'54**, Victoria; **Roy Officer, BA'55**, Nelson; **Jack Wallis, BA'55, MA'63**, Comox.

1960s

Howard Hurt, BA'60, took early disability retirement from the Faculty of Education Library due to a stroke last winter ... **Ralph McKittrick, BA'60**, continues to operate his Educational Publishing company in Saskatoon and still plays Oldtimers tournament hockey at age 65 ... **Peter L. Fournier, BA'61**, has a new position in Ottawa as executive director of the Industrial Gas Users Association, representing more than 50 companies in Quebec and Ontario who are major users of natural gas ... **Nigel Godfrey, BA'62**, recently retired from the

Federal Government Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade after more than 32 years of service. He now lives in Kanata, Ontario ... **Robin Lyons, BA'63**, lectured in geography at the college level for more than 25 years in Hawaii and recently moved to the Geography Dept. at San Joaquin College in Stockton, California ... **Dr. J. Richard Peet, MA'63**, has been Professor of Geography for 30 years at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was editor of the radical geography periodical, *Antipode* for many years. Dick has authored seven books, mainly about geography as a discipline. His latest, just published, is called *Geographical Thought*. He visited the UBC Geography Dept. in mid-August while touring through the Northwest ... **John Stibbard, BA'64**, has sold his import business, Capilano Trading Co., and retired to his home in West Vancouver. He designed (often in East Asia) a variety of handicrafts and "things" for the BC and Canadian tourist retail industry. John was president of the Geography Alumni Division in 1989-91 ... **Bill Wolferstan, BSc'64**, retired from the BC Government and enjoyed the past year exploring the inland waterways of Western Europe on a 65 ft. Dutch barge ... **Dale Gregory, BA'64**, taught geography in two secondary schools in the Vancouver area. He was president of the Coquitlam Teachers Association in the late 70s and was on the Executive for 25 years. Dale was active in the Ministry of Education, particularly with exams and revisions of the Geography 12 course. He retired in 1995, has an educational consulting business which provides workshops for BC geography teachers and a web page. Dale was also director for the Canadian Council for Geographic Education Institute for 22 geography teachers at UBC this past August (see p. 8) ... **Jim W. Young, MA'66**, took early retirement from the Geography Dept. at Concordia University, and now lives in the southern Laurentians at Lakefield, Quebec ...

Peggy Ward, BA'68, is the ecosystem mapping coordinator for the Canadian Wildlife Service on the Little Qualicum River estuary on Vancouver Island. Her unit recently published a major mapping report on the "Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory" of East Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands ... **Graeme Stamp, BA'68**, senior vice-president of Marathon Developments, recently accepted the position as chair of the board of directors of Tourism Vancouver ... **Bill and Linda Keate, both BA'69**, live in Richmond with their daughter. Bill is manager of corporate scheduling for Air BC and Linda is a secondary school teacher ... **Richard Lundeen, BA'69**, lives in Toronto and is an assistant deputy minister for the Government of Ontario, currently responsible for the restructuring of internal administrative services across the government. He has worked for the Ontario government since 1973, initially in energy and environmental policies and then in human resources and labour relations. Richard fondly recalls work he did for the Geography Club on employment possibilities and would like to hear from any classmates of 30 years ago. One of his many pleasant memories is of Walter Hardwick's urban field trips to San Francisco.

1970s

Richard M. Corbett, BA'71, now a banker in Toronto, stopped in the Geography Dept. last year to say hello ... **Angus E. Robertson, BA'72, MA'77**, Assistant Deputy Minister for Treaty Negotiations for the BC Government, moved to Whitehorse as assistant deputy minister for Intergovernment Relations for the Yukon government ... **Martin Taylor, MA'72, PhD'74**, Professor of Geography for many years at McMaster University, recently became vice-president of Research at the University of Victoria ... **Larry Killick, BA'73**, has been teaching in secondary schools in Vancouver since graduation. He is

currently focusing on education for gifted students ... **Dan Matsushita, BA'73**, headed his company of landscape architects for 20 years and then became a planner for the GVRD Parks Dept. He has volunteered with the Canadian Executive Service Overseas, advising on resort planning and city beautification in China and India ... **Ian Thomson, BA'75**, continues to teach Earth Science and Geology in secondary school in Gibsons ... **Michael Thorne, BA'75**, has been in the Financial Services business for many years. He designs and produces financial maps to assist personal retirement and estate objectives ... **Catherine Hohmann, BA'75**, works in Vancouver for the Nichiel Canada Corp. and lives in Metrotown Burnaby. She visited the Eastern Mediterranean last year and Australia this year ... **Paul Kariya, BA'75**, Executive Director of the BC Treaty Commission for several years, recently became chief executive officer of Fisheries Renewal BC ... **John D. Miller, BSc'76**, lives in Calgary where he is portfolio manager for Natural Gas Marketing for Petro Canada. He manages the west Rockies area for the buying and selling of natural gas across North America ... **Lorna Seppala, BA'76**, has been manager of Environmental Affairs for BC Gas Utility Ltd. since 1990. Her section advises senior management on all environmental issues, develops corporate policy and management systems, and deals with third-party environmental performance reviews. Her staff includes a physical geographer responsible for environmental impact assessments. Lorna serves on several BC environmental committees including the BC Business Council ... **Bob Cowin, BA'76**, has been in secondary and post-secondary education since graduation. For the past eight years he has been director of Institutional Research for Douglas College in New Westminster. Among other projects, he tracks the changing multicultural characteristics of the communities served by the college. He is a member of the research committee for the BC Council on Colleges admissions and transfers ... **Gary Metz, BA'78**, kicked field goals for the Thunderbirds when he was a UBC student. Employed by Westcoast Energy Inc. in Vancouver for the past 18 years,

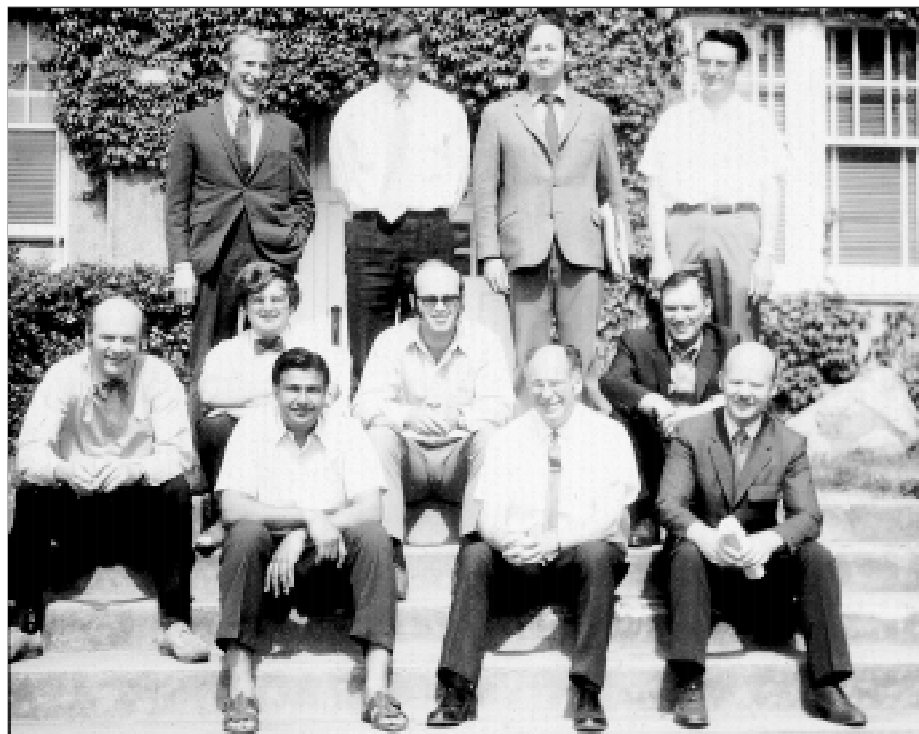
he is now team leader in their Lands Dept. Gary is responsible for the acquisition and maintenance of land tenure holdings of natural gas pipeline and processing facilities throughout BC. He is also involved in an enterprise-wide GIS system for the company ... **Philip W. J. (Joe) Alcock, BA'79**, is district earth scientist for the BC Ministry of Forests and lives in Golden.

Class of 1973: It is time for your 25th year reunion at the Annual Meeting of the Geography Alumni Association on Tuesday, 20 October at Cecil Green Park. Come and meet your classmates of that year and receive your 25-year alumni lapel pins.

1980s

Arthur Fallick, MA'80, PhD'88, is manager of Field Development for the Open Learning Agency in Burnaby which includes responsibility for First Nations Learning Centres throughout BC ... **Louisa Gradnitzer, BA'80**, is a location manager in Vancouver. She has completed five years with the *X-Files*. Previously, she worked in Planning at UBC and for MacLaren Plansearch ...

Katie Eliot, BA'80, has returned to UBC as program assistant in the English Language Institute, where she assists visiting students and academics ... **Ian Abercrombie, BA'80**, has been a practicing architect in Vancouver for many years. He was most helpful on the Geography Alumni Executive in the early '90s ... **John Knox, PhD'81**, is retired and living in Toronto. Before enrolling at UBC, John served for 34 years in the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service. After graduating in Climatology, he was a consultant with the National Hydrology Institute in Saskatoon studying wet and dry periods on the prairies as related to large-scale atmospheric modes. He also did similar studies on the Red River Basin. After 1981, he authored 17 professional articles dealing with atmospheric trends and interannual variability ... **Vicki Wilton-Gray, BA'82**, has worked as a paralegal secretary for many years. She lives in Delta with her two children ... **Richard Morden, BA'83**, moved from Toronto to Vancouver to be vice-president of Asset Management for Beutel Goodman Real Estate Group ... **Francis Yee, MA'83, PhD'92**, is Professor of Geography at Camosun College in Victoria ... **Mark Callow, BA'83**, has his



Some of the UBC Geography Department faculty, 1972. Can you identify them?

own insurance company in Vancouver. His wife, **Kathleen Bednard**, BA '86, is a planner with UMA Engineering. They have two children and live in North Vancouver ... **Brad Jackson**, MA '84, is director of the Special Sections Office at the University of Calgary, which oversees Spring and Summer Sessions and Credit Travel programs. He helped to launch a new program, *Weekend University* for adult students to complete degrees while working. He also teaches in their Master of Continuing Education program ... **Jacqueline McIntosh**, BA '83, is Brad's wife and mother of their two children, 10 and 7. Jacquie has been with Canadian Airlines International for 10 years and is now director of Corporate Properties and Facilities ... **Robert Nissen**, BSc '84, is a scientific researcher working on weather-radar facilities and lives in Aurora, Ontario ... **Wayne Wilson**, BA '84, MA '89, is assistant director of the Kelowna Museum and curator of the BC Orchard Industry Museum and a new Wine Museum there ... **Denise Mills**, MSc '84, is administrator of the Remedial Division for the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality in Helena. She directs remedial action at sites with environmental contamination ... **Jack Lotzkar**, BA '88, has moved from Montreal to Calgary where he is manager, Marketing Support, for Trimac Transportation Services, one of Canada's largest trucking companies involved in chemical, petroleum and dry bulk transportation ... **Stephen Choo**, BA '88, lives in Vancouver and is in retail administration for Sony of Canada. He still plays recreational hockey in Delta with several members of the former Geography Friday afternoon hockey group — **Alan Paige**, BSc '90, **Mike White**, BA '93, **Steve O'Kane**, BSc '93, **Tony Roberts**, BSc '94, **Mark Myskiw**, BA '87 (see page 8 for picture).

Class of 1988: Join your classmates for your 10-year reunion at the Geography Alumni Annual General Meeting on October 20 at Cecil Green Park, UBC. Ten-year alumni lapel pins will be given to all who attend.

1990s

David Bruce, MA '90, is a senior research associate in the Rural and Small Towns Programme at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. He is also chair of the Canadian Housing Magazine editorial committee ... **Winnie Shiu**, BA '92, is responsible for branch development and multicultural banking for the Bank of Nova Scotia. She lives in Richmond ... **Christina Margellos**, BA '94, is a film production manager living in Vancouver. She finished coordinating the Disney film *Mr. Magoo* last summer and hopes to produce her own movie this year ... **Andrew Telfer**, BA '94, is in the sales management training program with General Mills Canada in Kitchener, Ontario. He would like to get in touch with graduates of that time. (We can give you Andrew's address) ... **Scott Weston**, BSc '95, is a consulting geoscientist and lives in Abbotsford ... **Betsy Waddington**, MSc '95, is a surficial geologist who recently formed her own consulting geoscience company in Vancouver ... **Kim Ferguson**, BA '96, received an MA in Geography from the University of Toronto and returned to Vancouver to work in real estate. She volunteered to serve on the Geography Alumni Executive this year ... **Cary Holt**, BA '97, was president of the Geography Students Association last year and enrolled in a one-year GIS program in Nova Scotia this past year ... **Andrew Ramlo**, BA '95, **James Smerdon**, BA '96, and **Bruce Gauthier**, BA '97, formed their own company, *Urban-Eco Consultants* to assist and direct urban planning projects in Vancouver. Andrew and Jim have been most helpful on the Geography Alumni Executive, particularly in trying to establish a website.

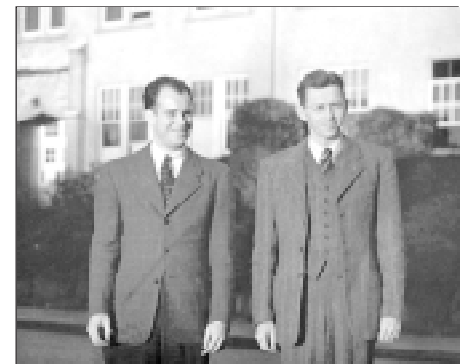
A final note from Dr. Robinson:

It has been my pleasure to receive and compile personal and professional news from our geography alumni for more than ten years, ever since we started this newsletter. This year I also assumed the full editorship of the newsletter when none of the current executive were able to do so. It's time for someone else to take over, so I am asking for a local alumnus

*volunteer(s) to edit the next Geogramme. I have reached the milestone of 80 years and had an emergency operation last September to clear a 97 per cent blocked neck artery. I also have minor heart problems and marginal diabetes — all of which make me aware of my mortality. I have enjoyed hearing from so many of our graduates over the years, many of whom became personal and/or professional friends. Most of you know that I enjoyed teaching and helping students for 38 years and one of the satisfactions of academic retirement was keeping in contact with the nicest people in the world — UBC geography graduates! For the coming year I hope that you will continue to send me your news (and cheques!) and that someone else will compile the **Where Are They Now** section for the next Geogramme.*

Obituaries

Thomas R. Weir, BA '41, was one of six students to receive the first BA with a Geography major at UBC in 1941. Tom took most of his geography courses from visiting American professors during the late 30s summer sessions, while he was a teacher in the interior of BC. After receiving an MA in Geography from Syracuse University, Tom returned to UBC in 1945 as an instructor and the first person with a geography graduate degree to teach in the Dept. of Geology and Geography. He was joined by Lew Robinson the next year, and Tom and Lew became the core of the future Geography Division at UBC. Tom left



Lew Robinson and Tom Weir (right) at the beginning of Geography at UBC, 1946.

UBC the next year to begin PhD studies in geography at the University of Wisconsin. He returned to Canada in 1949 to head a new department at the University of Manitoba, where he spent the rest of his academic life. Tom had a productive and stimulating career as a geography professor, published many articles and atlases, and was president of the Cdn. Assoc. of Geographers. His life and achievements were recorded in his obituary in the *Canadian Geographer*, Vol. 42, No. 1 1998, p.100. Tom retired in Nanaimo and died there in Sept. 1997 at age 85 ... **Florence M. (Mollie) Nye**, BA'42, another of our first Geography majors, died in North Vancouver in Sept. 1997. Mollie's father received one of the first land grants in Lynn Valley in North Vancouver. Like many students of the late '30s, Mollie took her geography courses during Summer Sessions, 1939-42, and then became a Social Studies teacher at North Vancouver secondary schools. She retired from teaching in 1972, and in 1991 a street in North Vancouver was named after her and her pioneer family ... **Dr. Harry V. Warren**, Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at UBC, died in March 1998 in his 94th year. Dr. Warren taught the first Economic Geography courses at UBC, starting in 1937, which later became *Economic Aspects of World Geography* in 1945. Harry was a popular and provocative lecturer known to geography students throughout the '50s for his course on World Geography and Natural Resources. He retired in the mid-'60s ... **Rona H. (Drinnan) Larsen**, BA'50, died at her retirement home in Parksville, BC in Sept. 1997. Rona first worked for the Federal Geographical Branch in Ottawa, and after raising her two children, she returned to professional work in Saskatoon and Calgary in Northern Studies and in Planning. Rona's son, Chris, is with the Dept. of Geography at

G R A M M M E

UBC ALUMNI The *Geogramme* is published once a year by the Geography Alumni Division with assistance from the UBC Department of Geography and the UBC Alumni Association. Layout and design by Shari Ackerman of the UBC Alumni Association Communications Department. Editor, **J. Lewis Robinson**.

the University of Buffalo ... **Alistair D. Crerar**, BA'48, MA'51, died in Victoria in July 1998. Alistair's significant contributions to geography in Canada were recognized by our Alumni Division in 1991, when we honoured him with our Distinguished Geographer Award. His career was also outlined in the 1991 *Geogramme*. He was a pioneer in Planning in BC with the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board (1950-62) and with the Toronto Planning Board (1962-65). Alistair was also a senior administrator with the Atlantic Development Board and the Dept. of Regional Expansion in Ottawa (1968-73), and the Environment Council of Alberta (1978-88). He returned to BC to become the executive secretary for the government Environment and Land Use Committee (1973-76). He died of cancer at age 73, survived by his wife of 51 years **Mary Lou Crerar**, BA'50. Alistair's contributions were an example of how geography's coordinating viewpoints about people, environment and resources can assist planning and administration at regional and national levels ... **A. L. P. (Joe) Horsman**, BA'61, MA'74, died suddenly in Vancouver in Sept. 1997 at age 66. Joe was active in union organizing in BC mining camps before coming to UBC. He did research and writing at both UBC and SFU before settling into a career of driving taxis in Vancouver. One of Joe's sons, Al, graduated from UBC in Geog-

raphy in 1979 ... **W. Gordon Fleet**, BA'63, died in Penticton last spring at age 97. He came to UBC as a mature student after working for many years in the RCMP in BC. He then taught geography at Revelstoke secondary school until retirement. In his will, Gordon left \$4,000 to the UBC Geography Dept. to establish a bursary of \$400 a year for the next ten years to a deserving Geography undergraduate student. He was a frequent donor to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund, in appreciation for the friendliness and help he received as a student ... **Victor O. Morgan**, BA'53, died in September 1998. He was a planner for the city of West Vancouver for many years until his retirement.

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.geog.ubc.ca>
E-mail us at:
alumni@geog.ubc.ca



1997-98 Geography Alumni Executive

Arthur Ng, BA'85, President
Andrew Rambo, BA'95, VP
Alastair Ross, BSc'86, Treasurer
Jim Smerdon, BA'96, Secretary

Members at large:

Bruce Dagg, MSc'87
Charles Dick, BA'59
Kenneth Martin, BA'64
Kim Ferguson, BA'96
Jim Carter, BA'54

Honorary President
Dr. J. Lewis Robinson

Ex-Officio, Faculty
Dr. Olav Slaymaker

The Animal Heads in Room 100

We hoped that the comments about the decoration and loss of the stuffed animal heads lining the walls of lecture room 100 in the Geography building would bring back some stories from our alumni, but only **Bruce Dagg, MSc '87** replied.

As a student in Geological Engineering in 1978, Bruce learned about two animal heads in the student Club Room in the geology building: Waldo the moose and Leon the caribou, which had been previously liberated from the geography building. He was told that it was tradition for these two student groups to raid, or protect, the animal heads.

His class was assigned the task of freeing Elmer the elk from the side wall of room 100. They prepared well for a late night illegal entry with a truck, ladder, ropes, screwdrivers, etc. Unfortunately, Elmer was so firmly attached to the wall studs that part of the wall crashed down with the elk head.

A few months later geography students planned a rescue mission. On the night of the annual Engineer's Ball, when no one would be in the geology building, a group of geographers entered the locked building (through a skylight, it is rumoured) and brought back the three animal heads to their rightful home.

As stated in the story in last year's *Geogramme*, these activities were repeated several times until the heads were removed in 1985. What did you do for fun in the geography building when you were a student? We'd love to hear your stories.

Geography Service Award

John Stager is entirely suitable to receive our Distinguished Geographer Award except for one condition — he is not a UBC Geography alumnus, one of the requirements. However, the Geography Alumni Executive wanted to recognize his 36 years of entertaining lectures to geography students, his service to the Department and to the university in administrative capacities, and for his counsel and leadership on matters related to Northern Canada for the federal government.

John received a BA in Honours Geography from McMaster University in 1951. After working as a professional geographer at the Federal Geographical Branch in Ottawa, John enrolled for graduate work in geography at UBC in 1953-54. He was persuaded, however, to

enter directly into the PhD program in geography at Edinburgh University. John came back to UBC in 1957 as an instructor to expand our Physical Geography program. He brought to thousands of students a new love and appreciation of their physical environment, and for many, encouragement to become geography majors.

We also say thanks to John for his useful work in the UBC Administration. John was assistant dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, 1969-75; associate dean, Faculty of Arts, 1975-90, and at the same time director of Ceremonies for UBC, 1984-89. The geography profession in Canada is aware of his major contributions in research and administration, which continued after his retirement in 1993.

Scholarship Fund

Alastair Ross, Treasurer

We are proud and grateful to the many generous geography alumni who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund over the past years. With your continuing support, the Geography Alumni Scholarship has become one of the most successful of all alumni scholarships at UBC. On behalf of your executive, thank you for continuing to support this fund year after year.

1997 recipients of \$900 scholarships:

Karen Ayre
Matthew Farish
Alexander Vasudevan

Mailing Costs

J. L. Robinson

To reduce our mailing costs for the newsletter, the last two editions were sent by third class mail. If you've moved, these are not forwarded nor are they returned to the alumni office. We heard many didn't receive their *Geogramme*. This time we are depleting our Operating Account and sending the newsletter by first class mail. This is why we are making a plaintive request for donations to the Geography Alumni Operating Account: to enable us to produce and mail future *Geogrammes*.

Donations *cont'd from page 3*

not receive their news to report to you. Please continue to send cheques to the Development Office (to reduce my administrative paperwork) and I will continue compiling your "news" as long as I am able.

Donations to the Geography Scholarship Fund averaged about \$100 per person. We want to publicly thank the following graduates who donated more than \$150: Edward Eberlein, BA '47, Peter Cumberbirch, BA '48, Harry Kenney, BA '48, Don and Joan South, BA '48, Mildred Ruggles, BA '53, Jim Maxwell, BA '59, Ian Hayes, BA '72, David Lyall, BA '79; John Stager, Tim Oke and Walter Hardwick, geography faculty.

Financial Report

Alastair Ross, Treasurer

Balance		Food Services (AGM)	130.60
Operating account April 1, 1997		AGM Prizes	194.28
	\$3,518.60	Miscellaneous expenses	194.60
Revenues		Geogala March 20, 1998	
Newsletter Donations	1,625.75	(building rental)	125.78
1997-98 Newsletter Grant	496.00	Total Expenditures	2,552.44
Total Revenues	2,121.75	Balance	3,087.91
Expenditures		Operating account March 31, 1998	
Newsletter Expenses	1,907.18		

Find Your Spouse in Geography

In past years when I was invited to speak to geography students, I used to make the facetious comment that the Department was wrong in advertising its excellent teaching and useful courses; it should be telling students that the best place to find the ideal spouse was in the geography building. My evidence is that at least 40 geography students have spouses who are also geography majors, plus a few more couples who have different names and the same address.

Our geography mailing lists indicate that 20 of these couples live in metro Vancouver; ten elsewhere in BC; five elsewhere in Canada; and seven in foreign countries. I always say publicly that "geography students are the nicest people in the world," and therefore it is not surprising that such nice people would find similar compatible and lovable persons in the Geography Lounge. Fifty years ago Don South said this in another way: "We HAD to get married because we slept together during Lew Robinson's lectures."

Here are geography couples that I know about. There are likely others, so please let us know.

Don & Joan South, both '48
Alistair '48 & Mary Lou '50 Crerar
Mildred '53 & Dick Ruggles, faculty
Bruce '50 & Jillian '63 Chilton
Bill & Linda Keate, both '69
Robert '68 & Margaret North, faculty
June Ryder '70 & Michael Church '75
Marilyn Ford '72 & Gary Gates, faculty
Robert '73 & Sharon '71 Beedle
Keith '77 & Heather '77 Cross
Jim & Janis Connolly, both '73
Donald '72 & Marla '71 Tunstall
Gary '70 & Doreen '66 Mullins
William '75 & Karen '77 Whyard
Angus '75 & Sharon '78 Weller
Bill '76 & Frances '81 Broomfield
Tremaine '78 & Diane '80 Tanner
Brock '80 & Andre '82 Rowland
Jean-Gilles & Kristi Francoeur, both '81

Jacque McIntosh '83 & Brad Jackson '84
Lance Alexander & Jane Winger, both '83
Mark '83 & Kathleen '86 Callow
John Radke '83 & Susan Lindell '82
Arthur '85 & Nancy '86 Ng
Stephen '86 & Kathleen '84 Hornsby
Anthony '87 & Jane '86 Walter
Michael Bradshaw '87 & Caroline Mills '89
Gordon '87 & Melanie '88 Clark
John Butcher '86 & Helen Clough '90
Keith Ayotte '86 & Jane Roots '85
Bill Crawford '83 & Connie Liebholz '83
Lionel '65 & Kathryn Parker '64
Douglas & Katherine Johnson, both '86
Peter '93 & Christine '87 Jackson
Farley '87 & Gloria '91 Lee
William '94 & Margaret '92 Leung
Robert & Nicole '96 Broadley
Ron Berry '97 & Shannon Moore '97
Peter '70 & Sheila '71 Midgely
John '95 & Nancy '96 Dear
Jeff Greig '94 & Andrea Madden '97
John '80 & Julie C. Cowan '80



Department News

cont'd from page 2

work of Roland Stull's research group to make Environment Canada's weather forecasting more reliable. Watch out for the improvements!

The number of undergraduates, which fell in the mid-1990s, has started to rise again, with an increase of 9 per cent this past year. The Department continues to rate well for teaching. A third of all courses taught received high ratings from students: at least 4.5 out of 5.0 for the instructor or course, or both. We had an active Geography Students' Association this year, led by an energetic and efficient executive. They were a pleasure to work with.

The Canadian Council for Geographic Education

gave a grant of \$10,000 for a one-week institute for 22 geography teachers at the UBC Geography building in mid-August. The theme of the workshop was *Explore Your World Thru Field Studies*. Each morning the teachers learned about field methods, maps and air photos, orienteering, computer technology and GIS; each afternoon was a different field trip. Margaret North was the UBC Geography organizer. Other leaders included Liz Dawson from Western CAG, Bruce Kiloh from BCTF and Greg Smith from Ministry of Education. Dale Gregory was director (see p. 3).



Friday afternoon Geography hockey, Spring, 1992.

KEEP IN TOUCH

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____ P/CODE: _____

WORK ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (H): _____ (O): _____ E-MAIL: _____

PRESENT OCCUPATION: _____

DEGREE/YEAR OF GRADUATION: _____

NEWS/EVENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE: _____

DONATIONS

I ENCLOSE:

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

\$5.00 recommended minimum *Geogramme* subscription

or more (list amount) _____

Please make Operating Account cheques payable to the **UBC Alumni Association** and send to: Dr. J. Lewis Robinson, Dept. of Geography, University of B.C., Vancouver, B.C. **along with your Get in Touch information.** Please note on your cheque that the donation is for the Geography Alumni Operating Account.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

List amount of cheque _____

Please make Scholarship Fund cheques payable to The University of British Columbia and mail to UBC Development Office, University of B.C., Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z2. **Please note on your cheque that the donation is for the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund.**

Or Please return this form and **separate** cheques to:

Geography Alumni Division
Department of Geography
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2

Tax receipts can only be issued for Scholarship Fund donations.

The Geography Alumni Survey

Dear UBC Geography Alumni,

Completion of this survey will require a few minutes away from your busy day. Being a united alumni means coming closer together in our ideas and thoughts, whether it be through physical presence, or electronically. Thanking you in advance, we are the Geography Alumni Committee.

C. W. Dick (BA '59; B.Ed '62; Ph.D.), Survey Coordinator

1. Being an alumnus of a department or particular university generates life-long feelings and memories. Is it important to you that you are an alumnus of one of the finest geography departments in the world? Please express the role the department has played in you and your family's lives.

2. We wish to provide better ways to help you feel closer to the university, to enable you to communicate with others with similar interests, to make you aware of geography functions, to provide you with news about former colleagues, and to keep you in touch as often as you wish. Help us identify ways that would suit you best to keep in touch.

3. Is the annual geography alumni newsletter, the *Geogramme*, an adequate way of keeping you informed? If not, please comment and offer your suggestions. Is once a year sufficient?

4. Would you consider becoming involved again with the university? Would you volunteer your time to help with alumni programs, or other university functions, if enough advance notice was given?

5. It has been suggested at alumni meetings that alumni-organized activities might interest you and your family. In addition to the Annual General Meeting, would you enjoy participating in group events? Some suggestions have been sporting events, theatre outings, field excursions or tours. Please make some comments and suggestions.

6. It is appreciated that we are all very busy with our daily lives. We would like to be an organization that alumni are eager to contribute their spare time to. Do you have suggestions on how you, personally, could be encouraged to participate?

7. If you have regular internet access, do you have any suggestions about what could be included on the geography website to keep you informed and active in geography alumni activities?