



Bulletin



NETWORKING is the single most powerful professional marketing tactic to accelerate and sustain success for any individual or organization.

Networking is about making connections and building enduring, mutually beneficial relationships. The PLN operates as a catalyst to ensure you meet the right people to include in your network and stand out in the world.

To succeed you must continually connect with new people, cultivate emerging relationships and leverage your network.

PLN Receives Funding!

The Department of Geography is happy to announce that the PLN has been granted funding by the University of British Columbia's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund to pilot the **Professional Leadership Network**.

The Network provides membership to graduate students and professionals including industry, Government, and NGO representatives. Professionals participate as mentors as well as members.

Welcome to our project team's new members: Kate Castelo, Project Director, and Elanna Nolan, Program Coordinator!

The PLN aims to enhance alumni and community relations, provide relevant and integrated educational opportunities for graduates, foster knowledge exchange, and establish important research and community partnerships.

It connects graduate students with professionals in their field, in a relationship

that directly links their research and career interests. The Network offers annual teaching and learning programs that incorporate members into graduate educational experiences, including the Geography Department's weekly guest lecture series, research partnerships, and regular networking events.



Kate Castelo, Project Director

Kate Castelo, serves as the Project Director. She comes to the PLN with a solid background in establishing professional networks and also currently works as the Communications Strategist for the Geography department's TSAS Network. She will be working with Elanna Nolan, a doctoral student within the department. We

look forward to meeting you all at the upcoming exciting PLN events!

The success of the PLN is dependent on your desire to engage with these professionals who will be volunteering their time.



Elanna Nolan, Program Coordinator

Send us your event!

Do you know of a speaker, conference, or event which may be of interest to the PLN or Department members?

Email the event details to:
Geography.PLN@ubc.ca

Meet Zool Suleman, PLN Member



UBC Human Geography Alumnus, immigration lawyer and policymaker, **Zool Suleman** has served as a graduate mentor and has joined the PLN. Zool values the establishment of the PLN, as he sees the network as a two-way street benefiting both professionals and students. “For the mentor it’s a way to pass on information to the mentee, but the mentor also gains from new ideas that are being developed in the academy as well as from a broadening of their own network.”

The PLN opens the door for students, not only into one mentor’s network but affords them access to many networks. “It allows them to reach out to other people safely, and permits an entrée.”

“As a professional I could see what other professionals are members of the network with whom I’d like to connect. And it allows me to reach out to them in a casual atmosphere. It simply gives individuals another pool of resources from which to draw, and allows students a bridge to yet another network that wasn’t available to them before.”

He will be reaching out to his network to join the PLN and hopes to introduce our students at some of these events.

2012-2013 Geography Graduate Mentorship Partners

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Scott Babakaiff, BC Ministry of Environment - Jason Leach, PhD Student
 Karen Campbell, Ecojustice - Dawn Hoogeveen, PhD Student
 Leigh Greenius, BC Housing - Lisa Dumoulin, MA Student
 Darren Ham, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants - Michael More, MSc Student
 Deborah Harford, Adaptation to Climate Change Team - Doris Leong, PhD Student
 Dan Hogan, BC Ministry of Environment - Ilana Klinghoffer, MSc Student
 Dawn Paley, Journalist - Paige Patchin, MA Student
 Kathy Sherrell, ISS of BC - Sarah Przedpelska, MA Student
 Elisa Scordo, B G Engineering - Lisa Henault, MSc Student
 Zool Suleman, Suleman & Co. - Jenny Francis, PhD Student
 Claire Wooton, Environmental Youth Alliance - Sam Robinson, MSc Student
 Yuen Pay Woo, Asia Pacific Foundation - Nicholas Byrne, MA Student
 Andre Zimmerman, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants - Joel Trubilowicz, PhD Student

The Benefits of Joining a Network

When Professionals Volunteer their time and efforts to enhance the student experience, they also forge relationships that span the professional disciplines and create new experiences for themselves and the student body.

Volunteering to join a network and mentor student allows professionals to build their careers and add value to their work while giving to students and the broader community. By attending PLN events professionals will learn about the most current research in their field. It also affords them the opportunity to deliver presentations at colloquia to students and faculty members in the Geography department and will serve their own career. Connect, Engage and coach with tomorrow’s leaders, urban planners, policymakers, and climate specialists.

Lisa Dumoulin: MA Student, PLN Member

Lisa Dumoulin has a large smile when she relays her experience with her mentor, Leigh Greenius, a professional working with BC Housing and who knows the power of networking through her volunteer capacity connecting environmental professionals. Lisa relays the value of receiving feedback from her mentor on her public presentations and CV.

Lisa believes that “having conversations with the professional community is a good idea as often we in academia are divorced from the applied world. The Network is a good opportunity to examine and talk about what a non-academic career might look like after graduate school. The PLN is a good complement to the professional development workshops that the geography department has put on.”

The PLN creates important partnerships and opportunities for the students as well as the department. “The graduates here are doing some exciting work that could be put into practice by the professional members once they learn about it through the PLN.”



Lisa Dumoulin, MA candidate