

# Geogramme



## Striking Gold: Geography Hits Fifty

*The Department makes headway. The Head makes way.*

Graeme Wynn, *Department Head*

This is an important year. It marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, the 150<sup>th</sup> year since the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, and Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. It is the centenary of many significant events including the founding of the Montreal Canadiens, the first Grey Cup game, the first powered flight in Canada, and claims to have located the South Magnetic Pole (by Ernest Shackleton) and to have come within a few kilometers of the North Pole (by Robert Peary and companions). More importantly, it marks the 50th year of Geography's existence as an autonomous department on the UBC campus and the 40th anniversary of the Geography Club, now known as the Geography Students Association.

This is cause for celebration, and we intend to mark the occasion in fine style on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see the insert for details and plan to join us at one or more of the events. You will be welcomed warmly, and we hope this will be an occasion for the renewal of old friendships as well as an opportunity to see how the department and your old haunts have changed over the years.

Much has been accomplished by the department and its graduates in the last half-century or so, and the pattern of stellar

achievement has continued unabated through the last twelve months. Before reviewing some of these accomplishments, however, honesty and graciousness require acknowledgement that although UBC did not have a professional geographer on faculty until Lew Robinson was appointed in 1946, the first geography course offered at the university (taught by S. J. Schofield) appeared in 1915 in the department of Geology and Mineralogy. That course – Geography 1: Physical Geography – has been offered every year since then (first as Geography 101, then Geography 102 and 103), making it the longest continuously offered Geography course at a Canadian university. Thus we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a separate, lively, and world-ranked department conscious of a substantial pre-history that provided robust foundations for growth.

The energetic, committed and highly able members of our UBC Geography community have attracted numerous accolades during the past year. Remarkably, and happily, junior and senior faculty and graduate students have shared these honours.

Dr. Simon Donner has been selected as a Leopold Leadership Fellow by the Leopold Leadership Program at the Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University. This program advances environmental decision-making by providing chosen academic researchers with the skills and connections needed to be effective leaders and communicators. We are also delighted to report that Dr. Juanita Sundberg is the latest colleague to receive the esteemed Faculty of Arts Killam



Graeme Wynn

Teaching Prize. Professor David Ley's outstanding scholarship was recognized by the Association of American Geographers (he is the first Canadian to be granted Distinguished Scholarship Honors, the highest award offered by the Association since 1985). Professor John Robinson was elected a Trudeau Fellow, and one of our graduate students, Lawrence Santiago was awarded a Trudeau Scholarship (the third of these highly sought-after awards held by current students). Luna Vives achieved equally impressive heights when chosen as one of the first recipients of the new Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships introduced explicitly to attract and retain world-class doctoral students. Several emeritus faculty members continue

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Geogramme is produced by UBC Alumni Affairs for the Dept. of Geography. Send submissions/comments to Sally Hermansen: [sally.hermansen@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:sally.hermansen@geog.ubc.ca) (mailing address on reverse)

*“Striking Gold...” Cont. from Page 1*

their careers as active researchers and they too continue to receive recognition internationally (see page 3). Late breaking news, as this publication goes to press, is that I have received the Canadian Association of Geographers’ Award for Scholarly Distinction in the discipline and Professor Michael Church is the 2009 recipient of the Massey Medal awarded by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to recognize “outstanding career achievement in the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada.” Remarkably, this department now numbers five Massey medalists, seven Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, a corresponding member of the British Academy, three Members of the Order of Canada, and eight recipients of the CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction among its faculty and emeriti.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Michele Koppes, whose appointment as an assistant professor commences on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Koppes has spent the last two years as a teaching post-doctoral fellow in the department, and we are excited to add her research specialization – the impact of climate and ice dynamics on glacial erosion rates – to our mix of competencies. She is a gifted teacher and congenial colleague. On the other side of the ledger, we face the loss of much of the considerable energy and dedication that Sally Hermansen has brought to our teaching program, departmental administration, and undergraduate affairs since her appointment in 2000. Her talents have been recognized by those on high and she begins a three-year appointment in July as Assistant Dean of Arts, with responsibility for the Centre for Arts Student Services. We shall miss her many contributions, although we are delighted she will continue to teach at least one Geography course each year and wish her well in this richly-deserved role.

The Geography Student Association, led this year by six young women who eschewed the hierarchical administrative model of former years, continued its many-fold and valuable contributions to the life of the department. From beer gardens to the publication of *Trail Six* (a journal of undergraduate student research), through the organization of a careers

night and a 15-strong expedition to the Western Division CAG meetings in Nanaimo, they again exhibited the energy, curiosity, excitement, intelligence, joie de vivre, and basic goodness that make it such a privilege to be engaged, year upon year in the education of such persons. They continue to be a source of inspiration and fulfillment.

Not content to rest on accumulated laurels, nor inclined to believe that good cannot be better (and better best), we are embarking on a concerted effort to re-think and improve our graduate programs. This follows the introduction of our revised undergraduate programs – featuring majors in Geographical Biogeosciences (BSc), Environment and Sustainability (BA), and Human Geography (BA) – all of which include a substantial research and methods emphasis. After a faculty retreat this spring to discuss needs, aims, and principles of the graduate program, a committee will be working through the summer to provide recommendations before the end of the year.

These recommendations will be implemented under the stewardship of a new head. At the end of my second term in this always interesting and mostly gratifying position, I am delighted to be handing over the headship to Professor David Ley, one of Canada’s most distinguished geographers and scholars. I am confident that under his thoughtful leadership the department will move from strength to strength.

## Donations

Endowment Fund: ..... \$625  
(expenses: 2 TA awards at \$500 each)

Scholarship fund: ..... \$17405

Newsletter Operating Account: ..... \$1030  
(last issue cost \$4437)

Jared Stanley Memorial Prize: ..... \$6993

J. Lewis Robinson Memorial  
Scholarship ..... \$37907

Geography Scholarship Fund  
(Mar-Dec 2008) ..... \$9733

Geography Alumni Scholarship ..... \$10902

Many thanks to all who contributed.

## Faculty Research

### Taking Research to the Stage

With an eye to bringing her research on temporary foreign domestic workers to a wider audience, Dr. Gerry Pratt and PhD student Caleb Johnston wrote a testimonial play based entirely on the former’s interviews with Filipina domestic workers, their children, their Canadian employers and nanny agents.

The play is entitled *Nanay*, which is a Tagalog word meaning mother, and was performed in February at Vancouver’s Chapel Arts Theatre to sell-out audiences as part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. In June, it is being restaged at Berlin’s Hebbel Theatre (HAU1), a location *Time Out Berlin* describes as “one of the leading venues for young, international, experimental and innovative performing arts.”

### Improving Canada’s water Security

The mission of the Program on Water Governance (PoWG) at UBC is to conduct basic research on water management, engage the wider community in outreach and education on water issues, and facilitate dialogue on water governance between universities, communities, government, NGOs and the private sector. The program is co-hosted by the Department of Geography and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, and its lead researcher is Dr. Karen Bakker.

In 2008, the Canadian Water Network awarded PoWG a four-year grant to lead a team of researchers from five Canadian universities on a project to improve water security in Canada. PoWG defines water security as “sustainable access on a watershed basis to adequate quantities of water, of acceptable quality, for human and environmental uses.”

The overall objective is to create a Water Security Framework (WSF) to improve water security by improving governance for source protection and land use. The WSF will be a toolkit composed of a Water Security Index and associated decision-support tools. It will be user-friendly and employ data already available to many communities. For information, please visit our website: [www.watergovernance.ca](http://www.watergovernance.ca)

## Green Beam: Lidar's First Year

If you live close to campus, you may have been wondering about the green beam that can be seen nightly emanating from Totem Field. In fact, it is a state-of-the-art mobile lidar (light detection and ranging) instrument that is the first of four to be deployed nationwide as part of CORALNet (Canadian Operational Research Aerosol Lidar Network).

The lidar facility has operated since April 2008 and was developed jointly by Environment Canada, the BC Ministry of Environment and UBC Geography to monitor layers of aerosol (suspended particles) in the bottom 10-12 km of the atmosphere. Of particular interest are layers of desert dust and pollution that travel across the Pacific mostly from Asia, but also from as far away as the Saharan Desert. Dr. Ian McKendry and collaborators are also interested in the plumes from forest fires that may be local, regional (California/Oregon) or as far afield as Siberia. It is hoped that the lidar will aid understanding of the impact of long range transport of pollutants on Canada's air quality.

During operation, the instrument shoots a beam of laser light (in 532 and 1064 nm wavelengths) directly upward and captures the light that is backscattered from aerosols in a large telescope. The resulting images are plotted in real-time on the Internet. The



Dr. Ian McKendry climbs onto the lidar trailer to clean the rooftop optics (window).

## Professors Emeriti

**Professor Church**, one of our 'retired' geomorphologists, has started a parallel career in historical geography (sort of). For many years he has studied the sediment budget of lower Fraser River. His estimates of gravel influx into the Lower Mainland are the basis for the provincial government's program to mine gravel from the river in order to prevent the riverbed from rising to the point that it aggravates the annual flood hazard. But Professor Church is worried the gravel that has arrived in the river during the 20th century may represent an unusually large volume, originating in the placer mining activities upriver in the 19th century and the major rail and road projects of the 20th century. Such volumes may not continue to be delivered today. If he is right, then gravel removal in the 21st century may change the morphology of the river and do great damage to the habitat in one of the world's great salmon rearing streams.

Professor Church has joined forces with Professor Harris (also nominally retired) to map and survey the mine sites in order to estimate the volume of gravel delivered by the placer mining. Professor Church and his students will then mathematically "route" the sediment from source into the Lower Mainland to see whether or not the timing is reasonable to assign the mining as the source of a significant charge of sediment.

pencil-thin green beam is visible at night (but not during the day) and may produce a green glow when passing through low clouds. The equipment is housed in a trailer and is protected by a high locked fence. A radar is installed to shut off the laser when birds or aircraft are in its vicinity.

This safety precaution was an important part of approval by Nav-Canada. The instrument also shuts off when it is raining. Webcams are installed to monitor the instrument, sky conditions and the immediate trailer environs. In addition to interpreting the wealth of data that streams from the facility, I have the important job of cleaning the rooftop optics (window) once every two weeks.

To learn more about the lidar and see the data it produces in real time go to: [www.coralnet.ca](http://www.coralnet.ca).

**Margaret North** has completed two chapters for *A Biophysical Inventory and Evaluation of the Lulu Island Bog*, published last December. The print version contains 356 pages; hopefully an electronic version will also be available soon. The book has been a long-running project of the Richmond Nature Park Society Ecology Committee and is edited by Neil Davis and Rose Klinkenberg. The contributions of our department can be seen in the list of authors, cartographers, and graphic and production editors, which includes Dr. Brian Klinkenberg, Dr. Lori Daniels, Jose Aparicio and Rachel Wiersma.

Margaret and Robert have been travelling the world in their retirement, as geographers should.

**Professor Terry McGee** has been awarded the Vautrin Lud International Geography Prize for lifetime contribution to geography. The prize is considered the top international award in geography and is named after the French scholar Vautrin Lud who is credited with naming the New World America after Amerigo Vespucci. The award is given each year at the International Geography Festival held in France in October in the birthplace of Vautrin Lud. Terry is the first Canadian to be awarded the prize since it was established in 1991.

## Geography Website



[www.geog.ubc.ca](http://www.geog.ubc.ca)

## Grad Student Research

**Sara Koopman** has recently returned from 15 months of fieldwork in Colombia, South America, where she was researching internationals involved in a method of human rights activism known as protective accompaniment. Sometimes referred to as unarmed bodyguards, these volunteers literally walk alongside Colombian peace workers who are under death threat.

The idea is that the Colombians are less likely to be attacked if it is made clear that the world is watching. Most accompaniers come from the global north, and are using the fact that geopolitically their lives "count" more than the Colombians' to try to build a world with human rights where everyone's life counts.

But can you use racial privilege to build a world of equality? How do you use that system of domination without reinforcing it? These are the questions with which Sara will continue to grapple over the next year as she writes up her dissertation. Her ongoing thoughts are posted regularly at [decolonizingsolidarity.blogspot.com](http://decolonizingsolidarity.blogspot.com).

**John (Nez) Nesbitt's** research seeks to quantify the historic variability of fire frequency and severity in the montane conifer forests of southeastern BC. Through tree-ring analyses he aims to reconstruct local fire regimes by comparing fire histories within and across watersheds. Research sites will be stratified by elevation to test the hypothesis that fire frequency decreases and fire severity increases along a gradient from valley bottoms to ridge tops. Composite chronologies will identify major fire years to detect the overarching influence of regional climate through comparisons of widespread fire years to climatic indexes (PDO, ENSO, AMO).

While climate may synchronize fire at inter-annual to decadal scales, local variations in topography will likely filter the severity of fire at fine spatial scales. The goal is to build a local fire chronology that predates European settlement to examine possible impacts of land-use changes and climatic variability on fire frequency and severity. Field sampling will be completed this summer at sites surrounding Nelson, BC, a wildland-urban

interface community in the West Kootenays. Study data will complement similar research in the East Kootenays to assemble a regional network of fire history reconstructions.

**Claire Wooton's** research objectives are to determine the distribution and extent of yellow cedar decline in BC and how the pattern is related to landscape level biophysical variables. The project will use a combination of GIS and remote sensing technologies to map and analyze the pattern of decline. Investigating the underlying abiotic factors and their relation to the proposed climatic mechanism will lead to a more thorough understanding of the decline of yellow cedar and how this species should be managed in the context of a warming climate. This research is being conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Accurate venue-specific weather forecasts will be important to the success of the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler. Environment Canada has assembled a team of top-notch forecasters for this task and has greatly enhanced the region's meteorological observing network.

Two MSc students working under the supervision of **Ian McKendry** are taking advantage of the wealth of weather data now available from on and near Whistler Mountain, where the alpine skiing events will be held. In addition to automated weather stations at several different elevations on Whistler Mountain, observations are also available from weather balloons, a Doppler radar, two ceilometers, and a microwave profiling radiometer. One of the students, **John Gallagher**, is studying the mountain meteorology of Whistler with a focus on what's happening at the summit. His research is aimed at helping Environment Canada scientists interpret their air chemistry data from the peak. The local weather patterns on the mountain are being investigated to determine when the air on the mountaintop is representative of the free atmosphere versus when it is influenced by planetary boundary layer air from the valleys. This distinction will help researchers separate

## Teaching

Community Service Learning extends education beyond the classroom by providing students with experiential learning opportunities in local communities. This method of learning emphasizes the need to work with communities on issues their members deem important, and to pay attention to the knowledge existing within those communities.

In April, students taking PLAN 515: Qualitative Methods and Research Design in Planning (taught by Christopher Harker) and GEOG 371: Research Strategies in Human Geography (taught by Gerry Pratt) teamed up to host a community presentation evening. It was an opportunity to report back on research projects based in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES), and to further develop their analyses through conversations with members of that community.

One student group talked about the research it conducted with Crabtree Corner Family Resource Centre, examining food security among single mothers who use the hot meals program. Another group discussed the potential of branding as a strategy for revitalization in the DTES. The themes of resilience, openness and home were key starting points. The theme of safety – both actual and perceived – was the most important focus for the next group's analysis in their investigation of the role improved street-level lighting could play along Hastings Street. Another group, interested in the role urban community festivals play in this context, presented a poster depicting Hastings Street and different objects relating to their research. The presentation of the research was followed by a discussion of United We Can and the role social enterprises play in the DTES economy. Perhaps most popular presentation of the evening was a short student-made film about the recently closed Save on Meats.

Although the projects were modest in scope, they demonstrated the many forms of knowledge and creativity that exist in the DTES and will hopefully serve as first steps in the process of building more affirmative relationships between that community and UBC.

*Continued on next page*

## Grad Student Life

From reading groups, to Geostorm soccer matches, to vigorous debates, to passing hellos in the hallway – grad students have continued to contribute to the department’s intellectual and social animation.

September arrived with the Welcome Back Potluck BBQ at UBC Farm and a hike- and chili-filled weekend retreat to Whistler. Teaching Assistant awards were handed out at the department’s December bash in the GIC, with Jason Leach and Joanna Reid taking the honours.

Both work and fun played out in Home Seminars, which provoked productive

discussions on themes ranging from positional-ity and power and multi-sited ethnography to muskox grazing, gravel river-bed dynamics, and glacier meteorology. The talks were complemented by colloquia, a special highlight of which was Dr. Lori Daniels’ talk, *Dying Trees in Our Old-Growth Forests*, based on her work recently published in *Science*.

The Social Committee staged a series of gatherings to embrace Canadian winter pastimes and boost energy levels in the lingering winter doldrums. Grads “hurried hard” at the Marpole Curling Club in a human versus physical geography curling bonspiel. We

also took to the ice for a St. Paddy’s day skating celebration, exhibiting diverse athletic ability – figure-skater jumps amid pick-up hockey that would have put the Mighty Ducks to shame!

This year has seen the completion of existing initiatives as well as some new proposals. 1) The Graduate Student Society and Faculty of Arts have worked to develop and secure long-term funding opportunities for incoming graduate students. For example, UBC will be replacing the University Graduate Fellowship with a Four Year Fellowship that guarantees funding for PhD and master’s students for the extent of their tenure at the university. 2) Safety workshops run by Dr. Lori Daniels and Dr. Juanita Sundberg, will now be run each spring for all graduate students heading to “the field.”

3) Grad Forum members organized a Human Methods Seminar in collaboration with faculty facilitators. Each week’s session inspired fruitful discussion on a particular methodological technique or approach. An ad-hoc committee was formed to develop a proposal for a mandatory methodology seminar that students would take in tandem with GEOG 520.

From curling to bear spray to methodology – it’s been a busy year of wrapping up and looking to the future for graduate students.

*(Submitted by Sarah Zell et al)*

## Geography Student Association

The undergraduate presence in the department surged this year as GSA membership grew to nearly 140 students. This large crew was organized under the new executive structure, helmed by this year’s council of six vice presidents. The GSA executive kept students, staff and faculty in the know with our monthly newsletter, *Field Notes*, and regular updates on our revamped website.

While the tradition of high-spirited Geopits was maintained, the GSA also focused on the academic side of the undergraduate experience. Fifteen members attended the annual conference of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Nanaimo and, for the second year in a row, the GSA organized a community service-learning project for Geography students; members of GEOG 207 and GEOG 472 joined together to map native trees and invasive species in Jericho Park for the Jericho Stewardship Society.

A Sustainability Committee was established this year, which hosted clothing swaps, information sessions on eco-friendly cleaning, and a tour of the UBC In-Vessel Composting facility. Our green team also worked to reduce the environmental impact of GSA events. Such strong appreciation for the environment prompted a series of outdoor field trips, including a nighttime

nature tour on snowshoes. The GSA’s sports team, Bad Latitude, also made its mark.

We continued to focus on increasing engagement between undergraduates and faculty, and the support of Department Head Professor Graeme Wynn (who hosted monthly lunch sessions for students and faculty) and Undergraduate Chair Sally Hermansen has been invaluable. They will be sorely missed when they step down from their posts.

More than 40 faculty, staff, and graduate students participated in our trick-or-treat event on Halloween, and faculty and staff were regular fixtures at GSA social events – scoring points for the Faculty Cup, which the Arts professors took by a razor-thin margin. Faculty members worked with the GSA to facilitate valuable information sessions about graduate studies. We also reconnected with alumni, who returned for a careers night to share their insights. Our regular bake sales and pancake breakfasts helped to fund the production of our undergraduate journal, *Trail Six*, the delegation to the WDCAG conference, and Geogala, our end of year celebration. The GSA had a lot of fun contributing to the geography community, this year. We thank everyone who took part in our events and look forward to seeing what next year has in store.

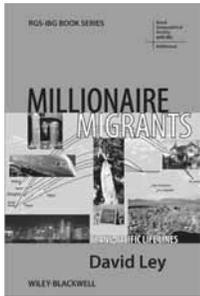
*(Submitted by Kate Liss)*

*“Grad Student Res...” Cont. from Page 4*

local and/or regional pollution events from episodes of trans-Pacific transport of pollution from Asia.

In addition to the instrumentation that has been deployed by Environment Canada, John and fellow student **Lisa Erven** have installed five temperature/humidity sensors on Whistler Mountain. These extra sensors have been strategically placed to fill in some gaps in the vertical data profile. The instruments and dataloggers are compact and nearly maintenance-free, but occasional trips to Whistler are required to download data and adjust sensor heights. These instruments add to the already rich data network in the Whistler area, which researchers from around the world are using to improve the understanding and forecasting of mountain weather.

## Books



### **Millionaire Migrants: Trans-Pacific Life Lines**

By David Ley  
To be published by Blackwell-Wiley early in 2010

The book examines the experience of the

wealthy migrants who left Hong Kong and Taiwan and moved to Canada, particularly Vancouver, from the mid 1980s onwards. It examines why they moved to Canada, their wealth and its impacts on the Vancouver housing market, and their modest success as business families in the very different economic culture of Canada.

Ley considers differential experiences of migration among men, women and children, especially with the adoption of the astronaut strategy, which saw husbands and fathers remaining in East Asia – separated from their families in

Canada. For many, the astronaut arrangement anticipates family re-unification and a return to Asia; a significant brain drain takes many well-educated children back to Hong Kong and Taiwan to work. But return is not necessarily final. The population is highly mobile, moving repeatedly across the Pacific and, as a new stage in the life cycle approaches, Canada may once again appear to be a desirable destination.

### **The River Returns: An Environmental History of the Bow**

By Christopher Armstrong, Matthew Evenden and H. V. Nelles  
McGill-Queen's University Press

Millions of tourists and residents know the Bow River as a picturesque part of the landscape tumbling through Banff's spectacular scenery or carving an elegant arc through the city of Calgary. Fewer people know the Bow as a heavily engineered and hard working river. The Bow

has been dammed and plumbed, made to spin hydro-electric turbines, drive logs, and cleanse Calgary. Artificial lakes in the mountains rearrange its flow; downstream weirs and ditches divert it to irrigate a parched prairie.

Far from being wild, the Bow is very much a human product: its fish are as manufactured as its altered flow, changed water quality and newly stabilized and forested banks. Yet it remains a widely admired natural phenomenon, one of Canada's iconic rivers.

This book brings the story of the Bow River's transformation through human use full circle by exploring the recent revolution in environmental thinking and regulation. New conceptions of nature and instream needs have recently imposed limits on what might be done with and to the river. This environmental history illuminates the ways in which humans have inadvertently and consciously acted with nature to make the Bow River.

## Where Are They Now?

### 1960s

**Jim Whitehead** BA'62 prepared a course text, *Real Estate Development* (2000), for the Sauder School of Business and Kwantlen University College, has acted as tutor for Business 445 and 446 and is involved in planning a new seniors housing project for the West Vancouver Kiwanis ... **Ann McAfee** (Pickard) BA'62, MA'67, PhD'75 (*Planning & Urban Land Economics*) "retired" in 2006 as co-director of Planning for the City of Vancouver to become president of City Choices Consulting, a firm specializing in international advice on city and regional planning and an adjunct professor of Planning at UBC ... **Ronald Boyes** BA'63 former director of Planning for the District of Maple Ridge, is now retired ... **Ted Manning** BA'67, MA'69, PhD'72 (*Victoria University of Wellington, NZ*) is president of Tourisk Inc., an international consulting firm based in Ottawa specializing in sustainable development planning worldwide of World Heritage sites and tourism destinations for UN agencies and the World Wildlife Fund.

### 1970s

**Bill P. Rapanos** BA'70, MA'74 (*Planning*) has retired after 32 years as a Burnaby City planner and hung his shingle out as a planning consultant. He recently worked with Interior Hearl on a livable community project workshop and prepared a development plan for Peace Island Park for the District of Taylor, BC ... **Deryck W. Holdsworth** MA'71, PhD'81 is the Ruby S. and E. Willard Professor of Geography at Pennsylvania State University, where he is complet-

ing his 21st year in the department ... **John Bottomley** MA'71, PhD'77 has retired from university life in Australia and is living in Peterborough, ON, where he is president of the local field naturalists club ... **Len Tennant** BA'71 worked as a city planner in Vancouver until 1983, then opened a neighbourhood pub and liquor store in Surrey ... After being a career banker for more than 30 years, **Eric Jamieson** BA'71 is now retired and has taken up writing full time. His recent book, *Tragedy at Second Narrows: The Story of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge* (Harbour Publishing, November 2008), has just been awarded the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal (first place) for historical writing ... **Al Harvey** BA'72 is a stock photographer with online collection of 30,000 images (many geographical) ... **Richard Lyle** BA'72 is manager of Course and Slope Rating for the British Columbia Golf Association ... **Dan Sage** BA'73 is completing 36 years with the Government of Canada as a project manager and project leader with Transport Canada and Public Works and Government Services Canada. He is soon to retire ... **Warren Sommer** BA'73, MA'77 is an author (*The Ambitious City: A History of the City of North Vancouver* and *Nothing Without Effort: A History of Langley*) and consultant based in Fort Langley. His firm, Legacy Heritage Consultants, provides services in the areas of community heritage, social research, and municipal cultural planning ... **Ian Thomson** BA'75 survived a three-week trek in the Himalayas last November during a visit to Kala Patar to view Mt. Everest, Gokyo Ri and Thami

Valley. With a high point of 18,500 feet, it was a physical geographer's dream ... **Sharon Mowat BA'75** is the UBC Library document service supervisor in the Ike Barber Learning Centre and an independent editor ... **Julie Ourom BA'77, MLS'79** is director of Public Libraries for the Government of Yukon.

## 1980s

**Kathy Frost BA'80** has worked for Human Resources & Skills Development Canada in their Innovation, Information & Technology Branch in Vancouver for 27 years and lives in Abbotsford with her husband ... **Donald Golob BA'80** is principal of Donald Golob Consulting ... **Ellen Berry (Nightingale) MA'80** owns and directs the Nightingale Piano Studio in Cambridge, ON, using the Suzuki Method of music education ... **B. Terry Mulford BA'80 (Licentiate in Accounting '86, Chartered Accountant '88)** is manager of Taxation for West Fraser Mills Ltd ... **Richard Vetter BA'84** owns WealthSmart Financial Group and is busy helping people to plan, build and secure their wealth ... **Catherine Souch MSc'84, PhD'90** is head of Research and Higher Education for the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London, England ... **Cynthia Clerc (Crockett) BA'85, MEd'07** is teaching Grades six and seven (Language Arts, Social Studies, French) at Hillcrest Middle School in Coquitlam ... **Richard Walters BSc'86** retired from Environment Canada in 1999 after being hit with MS. He survived a horrific car crash in 2003 ... **Beth Sywulsky BA'87 Master's in International & Community Development'06 (Deakin University, Australia)** is director of Services for Australian Business Volunteers based in Canberra, Australia. She is responsible for managing government and private sector contracts in the international aid and development sector within the Asia Pacific region. Her interest in and love for geography, fostered at UBC, has enabled her to establish an exciting and beneficial humanitarian career working with people and organisations in developing countries ... **Andrew Sluyter BA'87, MA'90** is an associate professor of geography and anthropology at Louisiana State University and associate editor of *The Geographical Review* ... **Neil Simpson BA'88** is an environmental technologist and field manager for WorleyParsons in Burnaby, coordinating and carrying out environmental field activities throughout BC ... **Gregory Young BA'88, MArch'91 (Oregon)** is an associate director and project leader with Engineering Ministries International Canada. He will be conducting development projects this year in Haiti, Cambodia, Myanmar and DR Congo ... **Kevin McKechnie BA'89** is a family physician in Nelson, BC, where he lives with his wife and two young daughters.

## 1990s

**Shawn McMahon BA'91** is account manager Intermodal, International Sales, Sales & Marketing, for CN Railway ... **Tahra Jutt (Khan) BA'92** is an HR advisor at Westport Innovations, specializing in Recruitment and Talent Management in the high tech green energy sector ... **Andrew Gay BA'92** completed his master's of Environmental Studies and Law Degree and became a partner in the Vancouver litigation firm Gudmundseth Mickelson LLP ... **Graham Elvidge BA'92, MA'00**, husband to Kathleen and proud father of 10 month

old Charlotte, is working at Allan Diamond Architects and completing the restoration of a fabulous 1899 house in Strathcona ... **Francis Yee PhD'92** is in his 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching geography at Camosun College. He is still enjoying the art (and science) of teaching the subject ... **Karen Barclay BA'93** is an occupational therapist at NorthEast Mental Health Team, working with individuals living on the east side of Vancouver during their recovery from serious and persistent mental illness ... **Rachel Spronken-Smith PhD'94** is an associate professor in Higher Education and Geography at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. She teaches and researches in the Higher Education Development Centre, which supports the professional development of academic staff. She also continues to teach geography ... **Chris Kennedy BA'95** is the assistant superintendent of schools with the West Vancouver School District ... **Paul Blessin BA'95** is working as Crown Counsel in Chilliwack, BC ... **Ryan Hagerman BA'96** works with commercial printers Hewlett Packard in Paris, France, for the UK market ... **Ian Fisher BA'96** has been with the Planning division of TransLink for the last five and a half years and is currently overseeing regional rapid transit studies ... **Richard Koo BA'96, MScPI'98 (Toronto)** is a senior research analyst at the Canadian Television Fund and senior editor for the high school quiz program Reach For The Top. He was also a member of Mission Staff for Team Canada at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing ... **Mark Schmidiger BA'97** is traveling extensively with family and enjoying a second citizenship in Switzerland for 2009 and 2010 ... **Mike Marlatt BA'97** is entering his 12<sup>th</sup> year with BMO Nesbitt Burns as associate registered portfolio manager ... **Stephanie Brook (Zantingh) BA'97** is a middle school teacher (English & Humanities) at Colegio Anglo Colombiano in Bogota, Colombia ... **Brian Chow BA'98, MA(Planning)'04** is working as a planning technician for Comox Valley Regional District in Courtenay, BC ... **James Kilgour BA'98, MSc'05** is VP of Operations at the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness and lives in Ontario with wife Candace and daughter Charlotte, with another daughter on the way in July. Reach him at jkilgour@ccep.ca ... **Harminder Kailay BA'99, MEd (Organizational Development)** is the director of Kailay Land Development Corp. and LotusCoast.com ... Brent Galster, BA'99, is blogging on urban culture and North American continental travel. Read Brent G's Urban Blog on Yahoo Canada 360° ... **David Campbell BSc'99, MSc'05** is a research hydrologist-geomorphologist with the BC Forest Service and spends his spare time running after kids, climbing mountains, and serving on the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee ... **Majid Salehi BA'99** manages and schedules a staff of eight in a small department, acting as a liaison between staff and higher management to implement guidelines put forward by head office ... **Teresa Hanson (Durfeld) BA'99** is completing her master's of Urban Studies at SFU while on her second maternity leave (Mattea, three, and Seppi, eight months) from her job as a development planner for the Township of Langley ... **Mark Ciavarro BA'99 MScPI '02(Toronto)**, is manager of Investment Strategy and Projects at Metrolinx (Greater Toronto Transportation Authority). He is planning and implementing a 25-year, \$50 billion transit expansion for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

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## 2000s

**Kelvin Chiu BA'00** is working in Seattle treating cancer patients with radiation ... **Megan Koch (Stubbs) BA'00** is a graphic design apprentice in the marketing department at Glunz & Jensen in Ringsted, Denmark ...

**Mike Dumouchelle BA'00, Bed'01** is teaching geography and social studies in a Surrey secondary school ... **Gina McIntosh BA'01** is a high school teacher working for the Surrey School District ... **Craig McLaren BA'01** practices commercial real estate and mortgage underwriting for the Mandate Group of Vancouver ... **Geoff England BA'02** is employed with international transportation planning consultants Steer Davies Gleave and focuses on transit planning and land use integration. His current work includes the UBC Line Rapid Transit Study with TransLink and an LRT Expansion Plan with the City of Edmonton. He and wife Haley Borthwick (Geography minor '03) welcomed their first child recently. Oliver Thomas England was born on September 4, 2008 ... **Caroline Desbiens PhD'02** is an associate professor in the Department of Geography at Laval University. She is Canada Research Chair in Historical Geography of the North ...

**James Bryndza BA'02** is an urban planner responsible for submitting and tracking land development applications such as rezonings, official plan amendments, and subdivisions; researching and drafting reports or policy regarding disposition of land; and managing environmental and cultural resources and the existing built form of municipalities ... **Bill Burgess PhD'02** is an instructor of Geography at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, BC ... **Karla Ferrario (Kirmis) BA'03** teaches social studies and IB geography at Churchill Secondary in Vancouver ... **Ian Ponsford BA'03** is

assistant manager of Environmental Approvals for Vancouver 2010 and will start a PhD at SFU next May ... **Lilina Lysenko BA'03** is a lawyer in Fruitvale, BC, practicing primarily in the areas of Corporate / Commercial, Civil Litigation and Natural Resource law ... **Michael Wang BA'03** is a geographic analyst for NAVTEQ ... **William Chan BA'04** handles automotive claims at an insurance company ... **Lou Parsons BA'04** is writing heritage preservation précis for Sarawak Heritage Society, with respect to Padunang Street in Kuching, Malaysia ... **Tracy Yik BA'04** is a drafter and planning and design technician at Terasen Gas ... **Cocos Cheung BA'05** is a cabin crew member for Singapore Airlines and is based in Singapore ... **Michael Gunther BA'05** will be finishing his legal articles at Brownlee LLP in Edmonton in July 2009. Upon admission to the Law Society of Alberta in July, he will be continuing at Brownlee LLP, practicing law primarily in the areas of Municipal Law, Land Use Planning Law and Urban Development ... **Tejas Ewing BA'05** is a climate change consultant based in London ... **Marlon Richmond BSc'07** lives in Vancouver and works the graveyard shift in the restaurant industry ... **Amy Thai MSc'07** is Mount Royal College's sustainable transportation coordinator in Calgary. She develops and promotes programs to get staff and students out of their cars and onto a bike or a bus ... **Kathleen MacDonald BA'07** is the community services assistant for Cariboo Regional District ... **Terri-Lyn Higgs (Ker) BA'08** is returning to UBC in September to earn a degree in education ... **Henry McQueen BA'08** will be starting his master's degree in Urban Planning this fall at Queen's University in Kingston, ON.

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A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF UBC GEOGRAPHY

# Geogramme

Please return to:  
Geography Department, UBC,  
1984 West Mall,  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

