Looking Back with a Hopeful View Forward

After his 3-year term as Head of Department, Dr. David Ley reflects on the changing state of UBC Geography.

Recently, that shrinking violet, Tony Blair, reflected on his leadership of the UK government, observing that when he started in office he knew little and was widely admired, but when he came to the end of his term he knew much more but was significantly less popular. The Blair Axiom (he would like that!) probably has considerable truth, for unrealistic expectations are typically associated with limited knowledge at the start of a term in office, while the steady recognition of impassable barriers to full goal achievement results in some levels of disappointment all around.

Certainly I have become aware of barriers to departmental objectives as my 3-year term comes to an end. But at the same time the department is continuing to make significant forward progress. Last year, in this column, I detailed many of the individual accomplishments; this year I take a longer view.

A significant milestone of the past three years was an external departmental review in 2011, the first for a decade. In preparing documentation for the review panel, I looked back at earlier reviews in 1999 to 2000 as well as 1992. The 1992 review revealed a department already achieving at very high levels, among personnel largely recruited some years earlier. The panel identified the department as a ‘model of accomplishment’, ‘displaying credentials of considerable distinction’ and ranked it among the top 5 in the world. Twenty years on, with a substantially different faculty complement, the 2011 review panel reached the same conclusion, ranking UBC Geography as the best department in Canada and among the top 5 in the world.

Reviews are not just celebratory of course. In 1992 (as in the first review in 1986), the abysmal condition of laboratories was noted, illustrated by the trenchant comment of an undergraduate that his high school labs were superior to what he found in the Geography building. But, finally, substantial progress has been achieved, and an entire floor of a building now under construction on West Mall is dedicated to lab space for physical geography, an immense improvement. Expect a photograph in this column next year!

Meanwhile, what of the Geography building itself, that most functional of structures beloved by many of us, but somewhat lacking in ‘mod cons’? The 2011 review was critical of the inadequacies of the building, portraying it in the language of a Dickensian poor house as ‘shockingly unacceptable’. Certainly substantial renovations are required and possibly in the future there may be a new building. This past term, a departmental committee has been meeting with a building consultant and UBC staff, and has established a comprehensive analysis of necessary activities and associated space needs. The back of the envelope estimate of the new structure is $27 million, a bridge too far in current economic conditions, unless Geography (like the Faculty of Law) can find generous off-campus donors. But, at the very least, the Dean has promised significant renovations in the near future.

From the 1992 report we can also see the growth in student numbers over the past 20 years. The 299 Geography Majors (and Honours) students in 1992 have grown to 420 in 2012. (Reflecting the dynamic growth of the new Environment and Sustainability major, the back of the building now includes...)

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GeoGramme: a Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of UBC Geography

Summer 2012

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Graduate Student Updates

For the month of June, Lin Heath attended the Natural Disaster Management Course at the Engineering Research Centre in Seoul, Korea. The course was one month long during which time she led a team to work under the UN’s International Strategy for Disaster Relief, to develop preparedness and planning frameworks for institutions in the town of Seoul. Frameworks were developed based on magnitude and probability and risk assessment of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and flooding. The final presentations, held at the research centre, had attendees from the university, emergency services and the dairy plant. Question and answer periods followed each presentation. The success of the presentation was reiterated at the end of the course when two awards were presented. One was for the presentation that most captured the essence of the program and effective planning strategies, which was awarded to Liisa Helinä’s team. Not only was she the course a success, but the plans developed over the month will be sent to, and reviewed by, the UN and cooperating stakeholders. This unique and unforgettable experience in Korea is not only a geologist’s dreamland, but provided the opportunity to learn and develop management skills within the UN framework for disaster management.

Human Geography

Lise O’Dwyer has received a 2011-2012 Canadian Studies Doctoral Student Research Award for her dissertation research: “Icebergs Dead Ahead: Policies Anticipating Increased Maritime Shipping in the Canadian Arctic.” The award is funded through the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC and the Department of Foreign Affairs. It will support his fieldwork in Ottawa and the territorial capitals to interview civil servants and key individuals in non-governmental agencies.

Geotextiles

“Geotextiles is in the final phase of its PhD, Capital G in geotextiles report writing and presentation skills, design engaging and educational materials; and practice public engagement and communications skills with stakeholders. He also learned how to work with orthophotos, census data, community planning documents and the City’s internal GIS.

On his overall experience, Victor says, “Engaging and interacting with the public was enjoyable as a chance to meet and speak with many people of a variety of ages and backgrounds. Particularly, practicing my communication skills when speaking with people who did not approve of the research, and learning how to represent my employer by complements and diplomatically was a very valuable learning experience. As a result, I am now much more confident in public speaking and education, and how to successfully engage people on a variety of issues.”

When asked if he had tips to share with fellow students about Co-op, he said, “The most difficult aspect of Co-op is the job search. ...be persistent in your search and be open to working in fields you may not necessarily be interested in the first round. Nonetheless, you may be surprised and find yourself learning very relevant skills. Co-op is what you make it.”

As a result of his placements, Victor gained a job as a research assistant at UBC SCARP. He is currently working on a research project investigating the capacity of social and digital media as a public engagement tool for climate change policy to catalyze sustainable behavior. The upcoming 2012-2013 academic year will be Victor’s fifth and final year before graduating.

Arts Co-op a Wealth of Experience

By Lise Dam, Editor of GeoGramme & Victor Ngo, Undergraduate Student

Because Victor was involved with the City’s pilot study from the beginning, he gained and enhanced a variety of skills that was beneficial to his education and future career path, which is currently to pursue an MA in Planning at UBC SCARP (School of Community and Regional Planning). He was able to learn about research methodologies, literature reviews and survey designs; exercise his GIS and cartographic visualization skills; perform both qualitative and quantitative data analysis; practice report writing and presentation skills; design engaging and educational materials; and practice public engagement and communications skills with stakeholders. He also learned how to work with orthophotos, census data, community planning documents and the City’s internal GIS.

Human geography undergraduate student Victor Ngo took on two Co-op placements in 2010, one at the Arts Club Theatre Company where he did market share mapping and geo-spatial data mining for the UBC’s CTTL (Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology) where he assisted in engaging the UBC community on what makes an ideal teaching and learning environment. Having gained what he deemed as useful practical experience relevant to his education and career goal, Victor took up a third placement in the summer of 2011 at the City of Vancouver in the Engineering Department where he worked as a water conservation program assistant. Here, along with a fellow Co-op student, he was responsible for conducting and drafting a pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of using community-based social marketing for public engagement and education to promote and inspire water efficient behavior. His work contributed to the City’s Greenest City 2020 Action Plan and made progress in achieving the Plan’s target of reducing per capita water consumption by 33% from 2006 levels.

Initially, Victor chose to do Arts Co-op because he wasn’t sure what he could do with a geography degree, he adds, “Learning (in a classroom) about interesting and critical issues affecting the environment and cities is great, but being able to actually do something and have a meaningful impact in the real world is far more valuable.”

Geographers Get a Green Thumbs Up

By Sarah Lene, Undergraduate Student & GSA VP Sustainability 2011-2012

Wander into Geography back in April, coinciding with the beginning of the spring semester, you would have noticed the fresh vegetables of the undergraduate-inspired GeoGarden. The high-quality graduate program is at least 20% larger than it was in 1992. Yet faculty numbers of around 26, when Dr. Jennifer Williams arrives as our new biogeography professor in January 2013, have not risen from the numbers who were instructors in 1992. This has created significant capacity problems, and one of the casualties has been the offering of too few graduate courses. As such, we have been obligated to cover high-demand undergraduate courses. As a top UBC department, in terms of international standing, and with the pressure of student numbers, we badly need 3-2 additional appointments to sustain our high quality programs. This is one of the cases made in UBC’s current Capital Campaign. The University of British Columbia is in full bloom with a large assortment of initiatives to learn about urban agriculture and forearmed, he may refute it. My warmest confidence to my successor, Marwan Hassan, I wish to thank the team at ubcgeogarden@gmail.com and check out their blog at ubcgeogarden.wordpress.com.

Emeritus Update

At the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Geographers held at the Universities of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier, Professor Emeritus Olav Slaymaker gave a paper entitled “Norway’s polar presence.” The paper explored some of the possible connections between Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian Polar Institute and the University of British Columbia. The project was supported by the 2011-2012 year marks the sesquicentenary of Nansen’s birth and the centenary of Amundsen’s trek to the South Pole.

Find us on Facebook.

“Like” us and you will receive updates about the Department in your news feed. Find us on Facebook.com/ubcgeography.
Community Service Learning in Action

By Anna Sparks and Molly Clarkson, Former Students of Geography 495

It’s a tough job but someone’s got to do it. GEOG 495 (Geographies of Social Movements in the Americas) held a rocking water station https://crowdrise.com in Strathcona. The event focused on educating attending family members, friends and community groups about the politics of Canadian mining operations in Latin America. It was also a forum for the students to present projects they had been working on all semester, including a letter writing campaign in support of Bill C130, a mobile mural, and a music video Delicious food, margaritas and a salsa lesson by Mas made the event fun as well as educational.

The course, based on a community service model, is designed in conjunction with a community organization under the supervision of Professor Juanita Sundberg. Students research flows between Latin America and Canada and present their findings to the class, discuss readings on solidarity, history and theory and decide collectively on the projects they wish to pursue with their community partner. This year, the class worked with Mining Justice Alliance, a broad-based, grassroots alliance of activists in Vancouver working in solidarity with communities affected by the operations of Canadian-based mining companies. Past community partners of Geography 495 have included COPO-Van and Jolom Mayawit (Mayan Women Weavers).

The first project was a portable canvas mural, facilitated by Melanie Schambach of the Mining Justice Alliance and painted by the students of GEOG 495. The mural, which depicts people from the North and South pushing up a metaphorical “curtain” of lies told by mining corporations, was the product of several weeks of concep- tion, brainstorming and a week of late, paint-splattered nights. After the painting stage, we wrote personal messages to people affected by Canadian mining developments on the Mestiza-inspired speech scrolls on the mural. A month later we saw the mural again via Skype; this time, however, it was in a radio station in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, a community in Guatemala directly affected by the Marlin Mine, an operation owned by Vancouver-based Goldcorp. This type of connection to subject matter is what community service learning courses are meant to promote - laterally, through individual connections rather than vertical or hierarchical relationships between observer and observed. This immediate and visceral connection to the challenges of solidarity work, and working with marginalized groups to find justice was not easy. As students, we struggled to put our class experiences into the context of academia and the rest of our lives. We, the authors cannot speak for the entire class, an eclectic mixture of students of Human Geography, International Relations, and Latin American Studies.

However, if the level of commitment and enthusiasm we saw in our classmates is anything to go by, this course is a unique and rewarding example of the value of community-based learning.

Anna Sparks and Molly Clarkson are former students of Geography 495. Anna is in her final year in Latin American Studies and is looking forward to life on the other side. Molly graduated from UBC with an honours degree in Human Geography in April 2012 and will be returning as an MA student in September.

Visit the class blog for more details at http://blogs. ubc.ca/geog495/2012.

Students Gain Community-Based Research Skills

by David Brownstein, Sessional Instructor

On March 28th, the 21 students of GEOG 419 (Research in Environmental Geography) presented their term’s work at a small conference held on campus at the University of British Columbia. The students of GEOG 419, along with students from other classes, presented their work on a wide range of topics, including the impact of mining on the environment, the effects of climate change on ecosystems, and the role of indigenous peoples in environmental decision-making. The conference provided an opportunity for students to share their research with peers and receive feedback from faculty members and guest speakers.

New Home for Première Air Photo Collection

The proposed renovated and expanded Geographic Information Centre (GIC) at UBC, will house the largest and most comprehensive collection of air photographs documenting BC. Industry professionals, researchers, student and community members will be able to access the collection of approximately 2.3 million air photos.

From an aircraft or elevated position, air photos serve as essential tools for site and regional investigations for engineers, geoscientists, foresters, biologists and planners in the field. Since the Provincial Air Photo Warehouse closed in April 2010, the collection of approximately two million high-resolution air photos has been moved into storage, eliminating access to this vital resource. Over the past two years, digital copies have been available for purchase, but at a relatively high cost and with a significant wait time. In addition, digital copies are not a standard industry practice and do not provide the same value as original hardcopy images.

With support from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC), the Province of British Columbia is in the process of transferring the Provincial Air Photo Collection to UBC, renewing public access to this valuable resource. The GIC will merge the province’s collection with the University’s air photo collection of 368,000 images including some of the earliest air photos of British Columbia.

While a nominal fee will be charged to cover the expense of scanning the collection, searching for images and organizing loans, academic users in provincial educational institutions can access the collection free of charge, as well as the general public for non-commercial use. The GIC currently loans photos for one-week periods with approximately 2000 loans each year; it will continue to provide convenient access to photos within one day.

The Department of Geography anticipates that the number of loans will increase once the two collections merge. Alongside this impressive collection, the GIC will continue to house maps specializing in BC and Canada, geospatial data, digital recordings and course reserves on geograph- ical topics.

The renewed GIC at UBC is a key part of the university’s fundraising and alumni engagement campaign, start an evolution, which aims to increase student financial support, promote research excellence and new facilities.

To achieve this $400,000 expansion project, the Department of Geography seeks support from alumni, donors and industry leaders. To learn more about the GIC and how you can get involved, please contact: Lisa Fratpietro, Associate Director Development and Alumni Engagement, Faculty of Arts, 604.822.9213, lisa.fratpietro@ubc.ca.

One Month in Madrid

Urban climatology PhD student Scott Krayenhoff reports on his time spent in Madrid, Spain.

In late February, I sat off to Madrid for several weeks of collabora- tion with Dr. Alberto Martílli and his colleagues Dr. Jose Luis Santiago and Andres Simon at the Centre of Investigaciones Ener- geticas, Medioambientales y Tecnologicas (CIEMAT). The Spanish capital is a lively place despite obvious signs of economic downturn and stories of young adult unemployment hovering near 50%.

The centre of Madrid is dense and exceptionally walkable, with excellent metro service. Even in late winter, temperatures reach 20°C and sunny skies abound. The madrileños are friendly people, yet their daily schedule takes some getting used to: departmental starts around 10pm, even on weekdays, and weekend partners continue until sometime around sunrise. Workdays at CIEMAT include a four-hour lunch at the cafeteria with the whole research group. Eating at your desk is unheard of, and to the extent that you understand the notion of "sharing".

I first met Alberto in 2002 when he was a post-doctoral fellow in Atmo- spheric Science at UBC. He helped me make headway on a rather challeng- ing project I had been tasked with at the time: how much cooler would Toronto be on a hot summer day if every second building had a greenroof? Alberto had recently completed one of the first state-of-the-art urban climate models for his PhD. Since then, he and his group have become renowned in numerical modeling of air pollution transport and microclimate formation in cities.

How cities are designed and built impacts their climate. This, in turn, af- fects how much energy they use and how comfortable and healthy they are. The best-known urban effect on local climate is the urban heat island (UHI), the characteristic warmth of cities relative to the surrounding countryside. In many regions urban heat exacerbates air pollution, energy use (for cooling), and heat-induced discomfort and mortality.

One of the most effective antidotes to urban heat is believed to be the re-addition of vegetation to urban landscapes; however, at present, we lack models capable of assessing the impacts of vegetation on different neighbour- hoods. Moreover, many cities already boast numerous trees, many of
During my last week in Madrid, I was especially touched by the friendly flourishing tapas scene, traditional Moorish baths, and Flamenco shows. While distractions: top-notch art museums, nearby medieval towns, a fast-tracking development.

Leagues have tools and expertise that are indispensable in this endeavor to assess the impacts of trees on city climates. Alberto and his colleagues have good relationships with many of my current UBC Geography students?

Describe your undergraduate experience at UBC Geography?

I lived in the Geography building with its many ancient quirks, and the GIC was my study hall. I had good relationships with many of my professors and I worked closely with a few of them on special projects. Undergraduate advisor Karen Young saved my sanity more than once over the years it took me to finish my degree part-time.

Why did you choose Geography?

I have always been fascinated with physical geography. I think it’s amazing to look around, no matter where you are, and explain why the natural environment looks the way it does. My program of study allowed me to explore a multitude of my fascinations, including marine biology, petrology, natural disasters, atmospheric science, ecology, oceanography, etc.

Describe your role at Callinex Mines Inc.

I work at the head office in Vancouver as well as in the field in northern British Columbia and Manitoba. I am a GIS analyst and a corporate social responsibility manager. I am responsible for maintaining a healthy and safe environment for employees and contractors; I build relationships with First Nations and other communities surrounding our projects; and I implement and manage policies to protect the environment.

New Geography Professionals Leadership Network

In December, the Department of Geography, in consultation with student representatives, surveyed the graduate student body on ways to enhance their learning experience in Geography. One of the key findings was a need to increase opportunities for students to network with individuals outside of academy.

After careful review, the Graduate Committee is launching a Geography Mentorship Program under the umbrella of a new Professionals Leadership Network. It will be the first graduate professional networking program of its kind in the Faculty of Arts. In its first stages, graduate students will be matched with individuals from government, NGOs, and industry. Mentorship will provide an opportunity for participants to share workplace experiences and expectations with students. It is a not-a-finding program; however, it is an excellent occasion for students to expand their networks and gain insight.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to participate, please contact Suzanne Lawrence at gradprogram@geog.ubc.ca.

Student Award Recipients

With generous support from donors, alumni and friends, the Department of Geography is able to provide students with financial assistance through student awards. Here are some of the recipients:

Doctoral candidate Matt Dyce is investigating environmental science, archival knowledge and state formation in Canada from 1860 to the present. He received the 2011 J. Lewis Robinson Memorial Scholarship established in honour of the founding head of the department. Matt has taught Regional Geography of Canada at UBC for three years, and in 2012, he was appointed to the Department of Geography at The University of Winnipeg.

“This award is especially meaningful because part of my doctoral research looks at the development of geographical theory in the 20th century. J. Lewis Robinson was central in developing a regional approach useful for explaining large geographical patterns across Canada and also accounting for unique expressions of belonging to place.”

Anees Hafizani (MSc’09), a doctoral candidate investigating the consequences of climate change on plant communities in the Canadian High Arctic, was an inaugural recipient of the J. Lewis Robinson Memorial Award In Geography.

“I was extremely honoured to receive the Jimmy Grewal Memorial Award in 2011. This award has provided valuable funding for my thesis work at UBC and my final summer of fieldwork on Ellefson Island. I am immensely grateful to Mr. Grewal and the other donors for their generosity.”

Liam O’Callaghan, Geography Alumni Scholarship recipient

Lam O’Callaghan, Geography Alumni Scholarship recipient

Alumnus Profile In-Depth

Angela D’Amato (BA’11) graduated from UBC Geography’s Environment and Sustainability Program. She went on to work for Callinex Mines Inc., a mineral exploration company.

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How has UBC Geography helped you shape your career path?

Many of the courses I took helped me to understand the issues that my company and I face every day; however, my GIS and cartography training is, by far, what I use the most on a day-to-day basis. My degree, in general, taught me to be professional and it helped me to become an effective business writer and communicator. As much as I hated class presentations, those exercises helped me to develop my presentation skills, which I use on an ongoing basis. Since graduation, I have been asked to speak at several conferences and I am very lucky to have a job that uses so much of my educational background.

What are some tips or advice would you like to share with current UBC Geography students?

Figure out what your true interests are and focus your efforts on them. Be confident and choose a concentration that makes you happy. To Environment & Sustainability students, know that we are in a time of change. Companies are looking for a way to become more environmentally and socially sustainable, but they don’t know how to begin. You are a perfect fit for this scenario – let them know that!

Any last words?

One of the best pieces of advice I received while I was a student was from Dr. David Brownstein. He told us to become members of student associations that we were interested in. Amazing tip! But I still belong to all of my associations and most of them at a reduced price. The events are great for networking, and the newsletters and updates are always relevant.

Alumnus Featured in AAG Career Resource

Alumnus Andrew Telfer (BA ’94) is currently the manager of sustainability for Walmart Canada, and a program mentor for business students interested in careers in the green economy at the Universities of Ottawa and Western Ontario. He was recently profiled in a comprehensive new resource from the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and Pearson entitled “Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment.” Funded by the National Science Foundation, this book discusses workforce needs, expectations, and core competencies in professional geography, profiling the professional applications of, and opportunities in, geography today.

More details can be found here: http://www.aag.org/cs/education/edge/books

Lam O’Callaghan, Geography Alumni Scholarship recipient

Alison Franks, Geography Alumni Scholarship recipient

Alumnus Andrew Telfer (BA’94) recently worked with Dr. Juanita Sundberg on investigating the social impacts of increasing militarization along the United States-Mexico border by focusing on the community of Brownsville, Texas. Pysklywec plans to continue this research in his master’s program in Geography.

“Receiving the Geography Alumni Scholarship was an honour. It strengthened my confidence as a student and scholar, and it served as a validation of my hard work. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the alumni of Geography. Thank you.”

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Undergraduates Attend National Conference

By Joanna Yang, Undergraduate Student and GSA Member

Deconstructing a Housing Crisis

Sage Ponder, doctoral student along with Pier-son Nettling, Bosco Ho, Tiffany Adler, Lia Dengler, Dian-e Harvey, Lawrence Bookmack, Joanna Yang, Kevin Chan, Ivan Cheon, Yidong Ngu, and Victor Ngo

With an open and engaging academic atmosphere, the WOAC Conference is ideal for our current conference. Last year, fourteen undergraduate students formed the UBC Vancouverscience club, and actively participated in academic discourse with professors and fellow peers. Multiple posters and paper presentations were featured, and four students from the delegation were selected to represent the UBC Geography Department. Congratulations to Lauren Chang, Lia Dengler and Victor Ngo for their successful presentations/ posters!

The trip was a logistical success – and feedback from students who attended was overwhelmingly positive. As an intellectually and socially stimulating experience, the GSA is eager to organize next year’s delegation!

Of course, this trip would not have been possible without the support of Dr. David Lai, Sandy Lapidus, Catherine Aislan, and Karen Young. The GSA would like to thank the Geography Department, the AMS, AUS and SUGS for supporting the group financially.

Jeanne Yang Joins 25 Year Club

On May 15, 2012, Jeanne Yang, Geography’s Departmental Assistant, attended the annual 25 Year Club Dinner where she was inducted into the University of British Columbia’s 25 Year Club. This club acknowledges UBC staff members who have worked at the university for 25 years. The club has grown to over 1,000 members. Her heartfelt thanks go out to Porsche Donnelly, Housing Manager of the University Centre, Rony Cancio, Paul Jance and his wife, Sue, who were at the dinner to celebrate with her.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1990s

Charles Dick BA’79, BE’82, MA’94 (Otago) is retired, and for the last 5 years, has been working on a project for the Living Archives in the Timberland/Lumber/Timberland Development Company from 1990 to 1999 with specific interest in the period 1909-1929.

1990s

Upon retirement in 1997, Victor Warren BA’80 travelled to Fiji and farmed sugar cane for 15 years. Since then, he has sold his sugar cane operation and now grows hemp, which he considers a wonderful thing for the people. Ryan MacKinnon BA’84 currently lives in Tucson, Arizona after retiring in 2009. Prior to retirement, he held academic geographic positions at the University of Toronto, SUNY University at buffalo (Dean of Social Sciences) and the University of Connecticut (Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences) … Rob Logan BA’83, MA’86 is retired and living on Capital Hill in North Burnaby … David Tuchschneider BA’83 is working on rural development, decentralization and indigenous issues in the World Bank, Washington … Matthew Baldwin BA’84 is the Director of Planning for BC’s fastest growing city, Langford, on Southern Vancouver Island … Andrew Francome BA’85 is the Vice President, International Programs at the Institute of Urban Studies, Toronto … Blair Robertson BA’85 is a professor of Geography at Queen’s University and an Adjunct Research Professor in History and Geography at Carlton University … Philip Sukching PhD’88 is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at Texas State University … David Vitamin, a position he has held since 2005. Prior to joining Texas State, Philip served as professor and head at the University of Northern Iowa for 14 years … David Phipps BA’87 currently spends his time between Vancouver, Lake Erie and San Joaquin de Flores, Costa Rica.

Adrian Care BA’74, MA’80 took 12 years at Langara College and was Chair of the Department of interdisciplinary Studies. Adrian left teaching to join the executive team at Western Canadian Business Services before being elected to Vancouver City Council in 2011 … Andrew Lee BS’80 became a Chartered Accountant and is a partner with Morgan & Company, Chartered Accountants, After graduating, Andrew spent time with the Geological Survey, Ministry of Environment, and purchased a location-based public consultation platform … Jason Ryle BA’84 won the Vance Cup with UBC in 1983 and went on to play professional football in the CFL for 11 years winning the Grey Cup with the Hamilton Tiger Cats in 1986. Jason is currently teaching religious studies and social science at a secondary school in Burlington, Ontario … Chris Sommersen BA’86 returns to UBC in 1984 to finish graduate studies. He is currently working for the University of Toulouse as project manager for French National University Campus Renovation Project. He has been married since 1983 and has three sons … David Tuchscherer BA’88 is working on rural development, decentralization and indigenous issues in the World Bank, Washington … Matthew Baldwin BA’84 is the Director of Planning for BC’s fastest growing city, Langford, on Southern Vancouver Island … Andrew Francome BA’85 is the Vice President, International Programs at the Institute of Urban Studies, Toronto … Blair Robertson BA’85 is a professor of Geography at Queen’s University and an Adjunct Research Professor in History and Geography at Carlton University … Philip Sukching PhD’88 is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at Texas State University … David Vitamin, a position he has held since 2005. Prior to joining Texas State, Philip served as professor and head at the University of Northern Iowa for 14 years … David Phipps BA’87 currently spends his time between Vancouver, Lake Erie and San Joaquin de Flores, Costa Rica.

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Adam Trister Bed'01, Med'05. They have a six-year-old boy and a four-year-old girl. Kevin McKenna BA’93, MD’05 is a family physician in Nelson.

Helen Cleugh PhD’90 is deputy chief of CSIRO’s Division of marine and Atmospheric Research (Canberra). She is co-editor of climate Change Science and Solutions for Australia (2011). Andrew Gay BA’92 practices law with the litigation firm Guttmuths Mickelson LLP in Vancouver. He fondly remembers the undergraduate Geography program. Since graduating, Mark LaFlure BA’92, BEd’95 taught in School District 57 (Prince George). He currently teaches math and social studies at Dunsford Secondary (grades 8-12) and has also coached high school volleyball since 1995, club volleyball since 2002, and the BC Volleyball Program for the past four years.

Kara (Thomson) Suberly is an archivist and team lead for Géant Canada in Basildon. She was working in the field of GIS/OGIS software projects for electric/gas/water/telco utilities across North America for the last 17 years. David Balderas BA’94, BEd’97, Med’06 is currently a vice-principal at Elgin Park Secondary in Surrey. He spent five years as Vice Principal at Queen Elizabeth Secondary in Surrey, and prior to that, he taught for 10 years. For six years, David taught BEd Geography High Level at semi-ahmoo Secondary and dedicated his degree to world! Chris Newham BA’84 is a publisher at Not Us Yet! Publishing. Michael Penalosa BA’94 is Managing Principal with Thomas Consultants Inc., a real estate development firm where he has worked for 14 years. Michael has participated in a wide range of real estate development consulting projects throughout North America, Asia and the Middle East, and has been part of the leading edge in defining successful approaches for viable retail and mixed-use projects. Suzanne Smyth, BA’94, MA’00, is a planner at the University of Victoria. Current projects include a focus on the integration of sustainability and energy in community planning, and reaching beyond the usual suspects in community engage- ment efforts to update the City’s Official Community Plan. Andrew Telfer BA’95 is currently the Manager of Sustainability for Walmart Canada, and is a program mentor for business students interested in careers in the green economy at the Universities of Ottawa and Western Ontario. Alex Cannon BA’95, Dip. Meteorology’96, MALP’06, PhD’09 is now working as a research climatologist at the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at the University of Victoria. He continues to keep ties with UBC as an adjunct professor in the Atmospheric Science Program. Jesse Bankley BA’97 completed her MA in urban planning at the University of California in 2002. She has been an urban planning consultant in Los Angeles for 12 years, working on mixed-use and affordable housing projects across coastal California. She currently works in Santa Monica. Chad Wadsworth BA’01 is currently the CEO of Typography Paper Ltd., a company he founded in 2007. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year award, pacific and manufacturing division. Kathleen Kelly BA’04, LLB’10 is a practicing lawyer and partner in the Vancouver office of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. Kathleen specializes in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, acting primarily for public companies in the mining and forestry sectors. Chris Raykoff MSc’97 is currently working in the Civil and Structural Engineering Department at the University of Sheffield, researching environmental flow. He continues to stay in touch with various UBC alumni in the UK, as well as several academic staff at UBC.

Megan Gilmour BA’10 is working as an elementary teacher with the Lions Club and Toastmasters. After completing her BA, Megan worked as a teaching assistant at UBC and is currently working as a research assistant at the University of British Columbia. She has been working on various projects related to human geography, with a focus on urban planning, environmental policy and the green economy at the Universities of Ottawa and Western Ontario. Alex Cannon BA’95, Dip. Meteorology’96, MALP’06, PhD’09 is currently working as a lawyer at the Knowledge. Kyra MacDonald BA’03 is the founder of One Red Paperclip Inc., an important world famous corporation that pulls off the most unlikely schemes of all time for personal profit and public good. Michael Brown BA’03 is a GIS specialist at International Northern Mining Ltd. Mark Stopp BA’05 is enjoying life as a new father of a baby girl with his wife, Lisa. He is working for ICBC in regulatory affairs after a stint in local government.

Jennifer Sawka BA’02, BEd’03, MEd’12 is currently teaching grade one in Vancouver. She recently completed her master’s in the joint Graduate Certificate in Regulatory Affairs and Energy Management at the University of British Columbia. She is an energy engineer and works in Africa. She is interning with the Imagine Darbin long-range planning department, exploring women and youth’s involvement in the green economy. Judy Kasparovics MSc’97, PhD’97 has run her own consulting firm in Stefing, Rawdon, Ontario and continues to work in the area of oil and gas in north-eastern Canada. She works also focuses on issues of air pollution, climate, sustainable agricultural systems, waste to energy projects and with the City of North York. Anna-Cristina (Nina) Laureles BA’93, MSc’01, PhD’09 is currently a visual effects artist and creates computer generated dynamic simulations that represent natural phenomena in feature films (www.imdb.com/name/nm4215989). Lílía Lysenko BA’01, LLB’06 is currently working as a lawyer at the Law Society. ... Kristin MacDonald BA’03 is currently working as a lawyer at the Law Society. ... Kristin MacDonald BA’03 is currently working as a lawyer at the Law Society. ... Kristin MacDonald BA’03 is currently working as a lawyer at the Law Society. 

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governments and First Nations … Kathryn Furlong PhD’08 is an assistant professor in geography at the University of Montreal and holds the Canada Research Chair in Water, Urban and Utility Governance … Kristin Olson MA’07 is currently based in Toronto. She provides transportation policy advice to public and private sector clients … Deborah Tan BA’07 works for the BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure as an Area Manager. She ensures the safe and efficient operation of the highway network and manages various highway improvement projects. Her work has taken her all over the province from Nelson to Kamloops and now back to the Lower Mainland … Arli Valer BA’07, BED’08 is a kindergarten teacher in the Fraser Valley … After graduation, Alan Wiebe BA’07 worked for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and for the last couple of years, while completing an MSc in Rural Planning and Development (University of Guelph), he has been working as a planner for a rural municipality where he deals with all types of applications for development. While it might be five years old, he still proudly wears his UBC Geography hoodie … After graduating, Nicholas Gallant BA’08 completed a Master’s in Planning at the University of Toronto. Nicholas found his way into the office of Toronto City Councillor, Ana Bailão, where, as Special Assistant, he works on parks, communications and planning/development … Cameron McPhail BA’08, MMUS ’12 (Yale University) upon NOT being hired by his choice development consulting firm, he got into opera. His Carnegie Hall debut takes place on May 23, 2012. Cameron is still reading “Orientalism” from Dr. Derek Gregory … Henry McQueen BA’08 is working in Development & Portfolio Planning for the City of Toronto’s Real Estate Services Division where they find value in under-utilized land … Colin Sullivan BA’08 runs marketing and sales for custom mechanical equipment manufacturer, EM Manufacturing Ltd. And he is the owner of an apps development start-up, Evolved Software … Jacqueline Knoblauch (Marti) BA’09 is a financial planning consultant, taking people’s financial situations and making them better with the use of a personalized financial plan … Michael Kushnir BA’10 has been doing triple duty by working in entertainment, queer activism and progressive politics. By the time this goes to print, he will have moved to Toronto in search of exciting new opportunities and adventures … Emma S. Norman PhD’09 recently accepted a position at Michigan Tech University as Assistant Professor in geography and Research Affiliate with the Great Lakes Research Center … Ryan Schnell BA’09 spent a year and a half in South Korea teaching English and he is now an online banking analyst in San Francisco, California … Simon Springer PhD’09 will be returning to BC in July 2012 to begin an assistant professor position in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. Prior to this, he held the positions of lecturer at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and assistant professor at the National University of Singapore … Baoling Wang PhD’09 works in Beijing, China on regional planning and development … Creighton Connolly BA’10 is finishing an MA in geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland (St. John’s), which concerns the international trade/traffic in secondhand electronics. He is a national track and field team member, specializing in the 20km Racewalk event, and competed at the World Cup of Racewalking on May 12, in Saransk, Russia … Shannon Lambie BA’10 is completing an MA in international studies at Simon Fraser University. Currently, she is working in the office of La Asociación de Instituciones de Promoción y Educación en La Paz, Bolivia. She is writing her MA thesis on food sovereignty and will graduate in December 2012 … Jeremy Sanbrooks BA’10, BED’11 is currently completing his MSc at the University of Fribourg-Switzerland … Daniel Lai BA’10 is currently completing a Master of Public Policy at the University of Calgary and is a University of London LLB candidate … Kelly Si Miao Liang BA’11 is studying Sino-African relations at the School of International Studies, Peking University, China.