



Geogramme

Under New Management

David Ley has come out of hiding to call the shots on West Mall

I'm never quite sure what to make of that sign, "Under New Management," placed prominently outside restaurants and gas stations. Does it commemorate the most recent failed restaurateur to try a bad location that any smart geography major would know could never support an eatery? Or does it mean that the special deal I bought from the gas station last month for a year's discounted fuel prices has subsidized instead the previous owner's get-out-of-town-fast fund?

Well, this shop too is under new management, for my hiding place was discovered at long last and I became the face of new management in July 2009. True to those images above, we're at the same location with the perilous address 1984 West Mall, a ready point of reference for graduate students aggrieved at big brother decision-making. And we are in the same precious building, condemned in the 1970s, where so much money has been spent on renovations since that we fear a demolition order must be around the corner.

Joking aside, this has been a year of celebration and stock-taking for the Department. In last year's Geogramme Graeme announced the GEOG@50 weekend to celebrate the Department's half century as a separate unit – though other measures, for example the first geography course taught, would take us back as far as 1915. In any case, we had a great couple of days last September. Although

officially on sabbatical, Graeme did more than anyone else to organize the event and make it a striking success. UBC President Stephen Toope introduced an all-day symposium featuring six former graduate students from different decades – Kay Anderson, David Demeritt, Sue Grimmond, Barbara Kennedy, George Lin and Matt Sparke. They each presented a big-topic lecture based on their research fields and chaired by their former degree supervisor. After a rousing day, the Geography Student Association cooled us down with a special Geopit commemorating the association's 40th anniversary.

The final event was a gala dinner for faculty, emeriti, students and alumni. It was a delightful evening with short speeches looking back and looking forward, with forward motion facilitated by a gift of \$50,000 announced from the podium by the Dean of Arts, Nancy Gallini.

How much Lew Robinson would have enjoyed the event. In his absence his children, Patricia and David, graced us with their presence and earlier the family generously established a graduate scholarship in Lew's memory, for which the first winner is PhD student Markus Moos.

A legacy of GEOG@50 that some of you will enjoy is a large illustrated wall poster at the north end of the second floor of the geography building setting out faculty and graduate student research paths over the past half century. It was ably compiled and produced by



1984 West Mall – a perilous address

Graeme Wynn and cartographer Eric Leinberger. The poster can also be viewed online at: www.geog.ubc.ca/department/history.

One of the benefits of being shop manager is the lateral vision and broader networks it leads one into. I have much more immediate knowledge of, and gratitude for, the fantastic staff in Geography, so effectively led by Sandy Lapsky. Characteristic of their spirit was the initiation of a new project, Geography Cares, supporting eight different charities over two semesters. It is entirely fitting that Karen Young, our outstanding undergraduate advisor, was the first recipient of the President's Staff Award.

The Geography Student Association has been another bright star. With a far-sighted executive, the association has added to important community-building activities a number of academic events. This includes the third annual publication of their *Trail Six* journal of undergraduate articles, and a trip to

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Edmonton (in March!) to participate in the annual conference of the Western Division of the CAG. In their range of activities, accomplishments and ambitions they are an impressive group of young Canadians.

Our graduate students continue to excel in professional development, scholarship success, and job placement. We recently held the annual spring symposium where members of the graduating MA/MSc group each presented a conference paper on thesis results. This year's program was by all accounts the best ever, with fascinating content professionally presented for a discipline-wide audience.

As usual, the faculty has not been loafing either. Physical geography has been greatly enriched by the January arrival of Michele Koppes, a specialist in glacial processes. Brett Eaton followed Juanita Sundberg's success last year in winning a Killam Teaching Prize. Geraldine Pratt received the Sam Black Award in the Visual Arts, in part for her innovative play, *Nanay*, an animation of selected research transcripts with Filipina live-in caregivers that has been performed in Vancouver and Berlin.

Research publications are vast and varied – and accessible on the Department's new web site ably constructed by Andreas Christen. New books have been published by David Edgington (*Reconstructing Kobe*, on response following the destructive earthquake); Matthew Evenden and two co-authors (*The River Returns*, on the environmental history of Alberta's Bow River); and me (*Millionaire Migrants*, on the wealthy migrants who landed in Vancouver and Toronto from Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea since the 1980s).

With Jim Glassman, Dan Hiebert, Elvin Wylie and Graeme Wynn all returning from sabbaticals, expect even more new product from the store manager next year!



Alumnus David Demeritt with Angela Gregory and faculty members Derek Gregory and Graeme Wynn at the GEOG@50 gala dinner

Water Security in Canada?

Water security may be defined as sustainable access, on a watershed basis, to adequate quantities of water of acceptable quality, to ensure human and ecosystem health. How well is Canada doing?

By Karen Bakker

The truth about Canada's water might surprise you. According to Environment Canada, 25 per cent of Canadian communities experienced water shortages during the latter half of the 1990s. Water quality in more than a thousand small and rural communities – some just a 30 minute drive from major cities such as Vancouver – can be as bad or worse than that in developing countries. This does not include the more than 100 First Nations communities living with permanent boil water advisories.

The effects of decades of under-investment in water treatment networks are now apparent; over the next two decades, it will cost an estimated \$100 billion to replace Canada's aging sewage networks. More than 10 million Canadians depend on groundwater for drinking, but our groundwater reserves are not even completely mapped, and groundwater quality monitoring is variable, to say the least.

To help address these issues, the Program on Water Governance (PoWG) is working with a team of researchers and end users throughout Canada to help develop a water security framework. The objective of this framework is to improve water security in Canada, specifically through improving governance for water

protection and land use. In addition, the project aims to link research, policy, and stewardship through the development of a suite of tools that will assist communities move towards the goal of water security. The four year project is funded through the Canada Water Network, and runs from 2008-2012.

As part of this project, the PoWG facilitated an end-user workshop, which brought together more than 70 end users and water managers throughout Canada to discuss issues related to water security. The researchers have also produced two key policy reports, *Water Security: A Primer* and *Canadian Approaches to Assessing Water Security: An inventory of indicators*, and several articles engaging with the topic of water security. To learn more about PoWG and download the most recent reports and papers, please visit www.watergovernance.ca.

Karen Bakker is an associate professor and director of the Program on Water Governance.

Geography Website



www.geog.ubc.ca/

An Invasive Species with Deadly Consequences

Cryptococcus gattii was discovered in BC a decade ago. Researchers are paying close attention.

By Brian Klinkenberg

Cryptococcus gattii is a pathogenic fungus that, until relatively recently, was known only in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, where it is primarily associated with Eucalyptus tree species. In 1999, it was discovered for the first time in a temperate region, appearing in a provincial park near Nanaimo on a variety of native tree species.

While many introduced and invasive species have made their way to British Columbia, few have become as well-known and studied as *C. gattii* because of its potential to cause harm. In fact, by 2008 more than 240 humans and 360 animals (including dogs, cats, horses and porpoises) with *C. gattii* infections had been identified in BC. Nineteen people and more than 11 Dall's porpoises are known to have died from it.

After its discovery in BC, and because of the potential for this deadly fungus to spread, the BC Centre for Disease Control quickly became interested in further study of the outbreak. As a result, our research team (which included graduate student Sunny Mak) embarked on a project to assess potential spread of the fungus using ecological niche modeling.

The results of our predictive modeling, recently published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 188 (5) May 2010, showed that warming January temperatures would likely favour the expansion of this fungus in BC, and potentially throughout the Pacific Northwest. These results were recently proven correct - as noted in the latest US CDC report - MMWR, 59 (28) July 2010 - when a hypervirulent strain of the fungus was identified in Oregon. To date, 60 cases have been identified in the Pacific Northwest states and 15 people are known to have died.

Grad Student Research

John "Nez" Nesbitt (MSc candidate)

Nez's research investigates the roles of topography and land use as controls on fire frequency and severity in the montane conifer forests surrounding Nelson in southeastern British Columbia, from 1700 to the present.

During the 2009 field season, he and members of the tree lab research team sampled sites for direct and indirect evidence of fire to capture the longest record of fire history. To estimate tree ages, they removed increment cores - pencil thin tree samples generally taken perpendicular to the line of the tree. To date fire events they collected cross-sections from fire-scarred trees. Nez used dendroecology to reconstruct a history of fire based on fire dates and patterns of stand establishment.

Preliminary results reveal that fire-tolerant species and fire-scarred trees varied inversely with elevation. Fire-intolerant trees outnumbered fire-tolerant trees in regeneration plots across all elevations. These findings will equip managers with area-specific understandings of the historic natural variability of fire to help them plan treatments of ecological restoration and hazard mitigation and evaluate the consequences of climatic change on forest ecosystems.

Geoff Hill (PhD candidate)

It seems as though Geoff may have taken the common slang for PHD, "Pile-it Higher and Deeper," too literally. His research project strives to address the dearth of on-site human waste management solutions for

small remote establishments in alpine and Arctic environments.

The establishments of interest are backcountry huts and lodges in the alpine and research camps in the Arctic. These locations experience extreme weather and climate, have limited power and sanitary services, and generally operate seasonally. Geoff intends to evaluate two alternatives to the standard (and polluting) alpine barrel-fly-out and Arctic ocean-dump methods of waste treatment. These alternatives are aerobic composting in a Phoenix Composting Systems Toilet and a trio of sequential treatments in my INDYss™ toilet system. This trio consists of source separation of urine, solar dehydration of solids, and cyclonic incineration of solids in an Elastec Smart-Ash Incinerator.

Lab scale experiments have shown that dehydration and incineration together can reduce the total mass of saturated horse manure by 87% (horse manure is safer to handle than human waste for experimental purposes). LCA analysis indicates that the INDYss™ treatment system emits less than half the CO2 equivalent emissions associated with helicopter barrel-fly-out and municipal sewage treatment.

Phoenix composting toilets will be visited in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, AB, Yoho National Park, BC, and Mount Shasta, CA. The INDYss™ toilet system will be tested at a road-accessible backcountry site prior to installation and testing in Bugaboo Provincial Park, BC.

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John Nesbitt collected cross-sections from fire-scarred trees

The Art of Teaching

Killam Teaching Prizes are awarded to UBC faculty who demonstrate exceptional dedication to their students. Geography's Brett Eaton and Juanita Sundberg were recipients in 2010 and 2009 respectively. The *Geogramme* asked them about their approach to teaching.



Brett Eaton

Where are you from? Born in Vancouver, I lived in Point Grey, Boulder (Colorado), White Rock, New Haven (Connecticut), Toronto, Palo Alto (California) and West Vancouver, all before I was old enough to drive. So I guess I am from the West Coast, primarily, but my roots are widely spread rather than deep.

Why geography? I became interested in geography at an open house held prior to registration for my first year of university at Queen's. It was a human geography course that first caught my interest, since it covered the broadest range of topics that I could find. But geography majors were also expected to take a first year course in physical geography, and I very quickly fell in love with the process-land-form linkages evident in the course I selected. Once I discovered that people could make a living studying the processes that have shaped the landscapes of the earth, I was sold, and I knew I wanted to make my living in that field.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of teaching? On one hand, I am tempted to say that what I like most about teaching is that it does not really feel like work. On the other, it is fascinating to witness the moment of insight, during which an idea crystallizes or the roadmap of linkages between apparently disparate ideas suddenly materializes in a student's mind. I really enjoy those "ah ha!" moments in the classroom.

What do you find to be the most challenging aspect of teaching? The most difficult aspect of teaching is the degree of fear I encounter in the classroom. Students are often afraid to express their ideas or ask questions, but more importantly they are afraid to fail. This fear leads to a preoccupation with marks and studying for tests, while leaving little room for intellectual exploration and reflection. While this fear makes a great deal of sense in the context of the educational system, since it is by one's marks that one is measured, fear is a tremendous impediment to learning, since our successes merely confirm what we knew already while our failures point out our errors in reasoning.

Do you have any special strategies to keep students engaged? I try to read the class and respond to the general mood. Often that involves replacing the typical lecture with something more interactive and challenging for the students, or following an idea arising from a student's question. Basically, I try hard not to be bound by schedules, outlines and lecture plans. Instead, I rely on the combination of my enthusiasm for and curiosity about the subject area with the students' reactions to the material to define the scope and content of the course.

What are you currently researching? My current research interests include the processes involved in stream channel response to disturbance by such things as forest fire and various forms of resource extraction; studying the factors controlling landscape evolution over geologic timescales; and the impact of hydropower generation on aquatic ecosystems.

What is your strangest geography experience? A Saturday in mid October, 2007, spent in a helicopter, starting from the Okanagan valley and flying over the Monashee, Columbia and Rocky mountain ranges at about 100 metres above the ground surface. Helicopters offer a unique perspective on the terrain, and this (very long) day gave me an up-close-and-personal look at a huge variety of geomorphic features and, more importantly, the way in which those

features relate to each other in space. The various pieces of geomorphic understanding that I had were re-arranged to form a more complex but informative bigger picture. I have been fascinated with the bigger picture ever since. Perspective is everything.



Juanita Sundberg

Where are you from? The child of missionaries, I was fortunate to grow up in Panama and Guatemala. My family lived with many communities, including Ngöbe forest dwellers, peasant farmers, coffee plantation workers, and city residents. The year I turned 13, my family moved to San Antonio, Texas. I now consider the United States-Mexico borderlands my home.

Why geography? If truth be told, I had always wanted to be an anthropologist because of my profound respect for indigenous societies in Central America. As a grad student at the New School for Social Research, I loved reading classic ethnographies about herding societies and the intricate relations people had with animals. However, when I discovered geography at the University of Texas through cultural ecologist Barbara Brower, I found my true love. The interdisciplinarity of geography gives me the inspiration and freedom to study human-land relations from many perspectives. My recent work in post-humanist geographies has brought me back to the world of animals.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I am inspired by students' energy, excitement, and desire to push at the boundaries between academe and community, mind and body, and the personal and political. Students motivate me to develop teaching strategies that connect scholarship to their everyday lives. This search, in turn, informs my research methodologies.

Do you have any special strategies that you use to keep students engaged?

My teaching builds on concepts and tools from critical pedagogy that encourage students to see themselves as critical thinkers and engaged citizens rather than passive recipients of knowledge. Pedagogical models like community service learning and exercises and assignments that link individual practices to collective arrangements (sexism, racism, nationalism, capitalism, transnational solidarity) all work to engage students' hearts, bodies and minds.

What do you find to be the most challenging aspect of teaching?

Achieving my pedagogical goals depends upon creating a safe space in which both instructors and students may interact as learners and knowers. Respect, compassion, and tremendous facilitation skills are required, which makes teaching an emotionally intense and tiring practice. The intellectual and emotional benefits, however, outweigh the costs.

What are your current research interests?

My current research focuses on the environmental dimensions of US border security measures. I am especially intrigued by the ways in which nonhumans constitute the borderlands and border security.

What is your strangest geography experience?

As a graduate student in the Geography Department at the University of Texas, I learned about the concept of wilderness. The concept was completely new, but also foreign to me. My childhood was spent with people whose cosmologies (ontologies) do not separate nature from culture. I had been taught to see tropical forests as homes, orchards, and gardens – places inhabited and created by people.

What is your favorite research destination?

Although I do not have a research project in Panama, I am absolutely captivated by the variety of cultural formations and the proliferation of diverse flora and fauna.

Community Service Learning Dishes Up New Experience for Students

Taught by Juanita Sundberg, GEOG 495 takes a hands-on approach to learning. Undergraduate Dru Yates shares his experience as a class member.

Community service-based learning (CSL) is on the rise at UBC as an experiential learning model to supplement traditional classroom techniques. I had already taken a couple of CSL courses prior to GEOG 495, and figured I knew what it was all about. But GEOG 495 takes CSL one step further – to the international community.

The course focused on issues of food sovereignty and solidarity-building in the context of Canada and Oaxaca, Mexico. What sets it apart is the fact its objectives are achieved through direct class participation in a real-life solidarity relationship.

Every week, we sat down with members of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Oaxaca-Vancouver (CIPO-VAN) and our honoured guest, Doña Vicky, who represented the Oaxacan Women's Cooperative Margarita Magón. Together we experienced the realities of forming relationships across borders and cultures.

Although we followed typical course structure and discussed readings and concepts, the classes were unlike any I have attended before; the discussions were student-led and not lecture-driven. Unconventional methods of learning included making posters and using our bodies to engage with concepts. We would

even partake in a delicious Mexican snack during our class break.

For the second half of the semester we worked on real-world projects such as planning a fundraiser and creating a Mexican cookbook. These projects took us out of the classroom and encouraged students to come together as friends and colleagues, not just as peers.

There was enough academic material to have kept us wrapped up in theorizing and debating for the entire semester. But it was only by taking the understanding gained in class and applying it to working in collaboration with real people that we saw the gaps in the concepts. Reality exposed the flaws in our theories and challenged our ideas.

It was through this process that we learned how to face unexpected challenges. It also gave us a taste of real-life successes. In the end, this CSL class prepared me more for the real world than any other class I have taken and connected students to the world in an exciting and meaningful way.

If you would like to read more student reflections on the course and know the details about our class work, please visit our blog site at:

<http://solidarityspeaks.wordpress.com/about/>



Doña Vicky of the Oaxacan Women's Cooperative Margarita Magón

Grad Student Research, continued from page 3

Tommy Thomson (MA candidate)

Master's student Tommy Thomson is completing a thesis on the redevelopment of the Little Mountain Housing Project in Vancouver, the first public housing community in BC. The redevelopment is government-led and involves relocating the community. It is being carried out with two objectives in mind: 1) raising money from the sale of land to be reinvested back into affordable housing assistance, and 2) creating mixed income communities that integrate public housing tenants.

Based on qualitative interviews with Little Mountain tenants and municipal politicians, Tommy's research suggests that, although significant funds have been raised for supportive housing, there are few benefits for Little Mountain tenants who found the community well integrated before redevelopment. Although the government has justified redevelopment, in part on the basis that it will integrate tenants, relocation has broken apart existing social networks, resulting in increased social isolation for many. Tenants have also experienced negative health, emotional, and financial impacts due to relocation. Although the redevelopment is being carried out in a neoliberal context of privatization, strong similarities with the urban renewal policies of the 1950s and 1960s were uncovered.

Luna Vives (PhD candidate)

Luna Vives spent 2009 doing multi-sited ethnographic work in Spain, Senegal, and Morocco. Her research focused on the experiences of a group of Black Senegalese female migrants in Spain.

An offshoot from her research was a photo exhibit, *Women Through the Border*, which took place last November in Granada. The photos trace the routes these women have followed from their home towns and cities in Senegal to the new homes they have made for themselves in Spain. The goal was to promote Senegalese culture and bring the experience of these migrant women closer to the public.

With the help of a group of volunteers, Luna also organized a concert, story-telling sessions and movies, all anchored by 38 photos. The photos were taken by Luna and Javier Acebal, a volunteer for an EU program in Senegal. *Women Through the Border* will be on display at the Liu Institute for Global issues at UBC next spring. If you would like to learn more please visit: <http://migraciones.ugr.es/mujeresyfronteras/>

GSA Update

By Michelle Cheong

To celebrate the Department's 50th anniversary, the GSA hosted one of its largest and most successful Geopits to date. Students, staff, faculty and alumni from all over the world gathered to commemorate Geography's incredible milestone. Setting the bar high from the outset, the GSA executive strived to maintain an inclusive and informed community throughout the year.

With more than 100 members and nine executives, the GSA's presence was stronger than ever. We launched a brand new website (www.ubcgsa.com), continued our monthly newsletter, *Field Notes*, and added a new position to the executive team: the vice president of sustainability. The GSA also participated in the new Geography Cares Committee by helping with events and raising funds for relief efforts in Haiti.

Our presence at the Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers Conference continued this year when 11 delegates travelled to the University of Alberta. Eight of them presented and were well received.

In an effort to connect alumni and students, the GSA held its first annual Careers Speed Dating Evening. Third and fourth year students benefited from the wisdom of alumni over light refreshments.

The GSA ended the year with Geogala and the launch of our annual undergraduate academic journal, *Trail Six*. Final celebrations included an outdoor BBQ and Geopit.

The GSA would not have been able to host any events without the help and support of students, staff and faculty. We thank everyone who helped make this year a success!

Geography Cares

Students, staff and faculty earn Karma credit by helping out in the community

By Katie Kinsley

This fall the Geography Department started a new initiative, Geography Cares, which seeks to inspire a greater sense of community within the Department and promote new connections beyond the bounds of the university. For each month of the 2009/10 school year Geography Cares promoted a different charitable cause, asking either for participation or donations of goods.

The initiative got off to a great start with participation in the Walk for Ovarian Cancer, and in October the Ride for Refugees. This was followed by a blanket drive for the BCSPCA and a Christmas Food Drive for the Vancouver Food Bank that resulted in four boxes of food and more than \$250.00 in monetary donations. In January a candy drive benefited street workers in the downtown eastside and donations were collected for relief efforts in Haiti. For the month of February, Geography Cares collected used eyeglasses for the Recycle for Sight Program run by the Lions Club of Canada and in March held a book sale to raise funds for Literacy BC.

The Geography Cares committee is composed of staff members Jennifer Hamilton, Katie Kinsley, Sandy Lapsky and Stephanie Lambiris along with undergrad GSA representatives Max St. Maurice and Jeremy Sanbrooks. They have been pleasantly surprised by the year's success and look forward to next year's events. If you have any suggestions for ways to help in the community, please don't hesitate to contact us at: geogcares@geog.ubc.ca.

Grad Student Life

Geography graduate students had a busy and successful year. It started with a busy fall filled with orientation activities, including the September Welcome Back BBQ and a meet and greet for new students in the GIC. The Social Committee organized the annual Whistler Weekend and a spring social with SFU graduate students. The ever-busy committee also gave us Bowling Night, Board Game Night and

By Anne Bjorkman and Lindsay Turner

numerous Friday evenings at Koerner's Pub.

On the academic side of things, a new graduate program was reviewed and adopted by the Faculty Committee, which will apply to incoming students this fall. Popular physical and human geography home seminars were given by Iain Stewart, Ben Crawford, Colette Wabnitz, Ted Rutland, and others. All in all, another great year for UBC Geography!

Awards & Recognition

Karen Young: President's Staff Award Tireless undergraduate advisor Karen Young is the first recipient of a President's Staff Award for Enhancing the UBC Experience. She greets every student with patience and a healthy dose of humor and supports them throughout their degree program, helping to navigate co-op study, prepare for exchanges and much more. For many undergraduates, Karen is the keystone of their Geography experience.

Gerry Pratt: Sam Black Award This award recognizes UBC faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to the fields of art, music, creative writing, theatre and film. Over the years Gerry has demonstrated a strong commitment to linking her research to the arts and is the first geographer to win this award. Gerry created the course GEOG 456, Film and the City, encouraging students to consider the intersections between urban theories, film techniques and viewing practices. In 2008, along with members of the Philippine Women Centre, she coproduced a collaborative performance for the WACK! Art and Feminist Revolution exhibit at VAG. She followed up with *NANAY: A Testimonial Play*, co-written with Caleb Johnston, based on verbal testimonies given by Filipino workers in the Live in Caregiver Program.



Rosemary Cann: 35 Years of Service

As curator of the Geographic Information Centre (GIC), Rosemary Cann is a veritable storehouse of information. She was originally hired in 1975 as curator to the Map Library, which in 1988 amalgamated with Geography Reading Room to create the GIC – home to a superb aerial photo collection. Under Rosemary's care the GIC has grown into an indispensable resource to faculty and students as well as the greater public. UBC Geography is lucky to employ such a talented and committed individual.

Emeriti in the News

Dr. J. Ross Mackay, who retired in 1980, continues to have an active research program and spends between one and two weeks conducting fieldwork in the Western Arctic during the summer. He received the International Permafrost Association's first Lifetime Achievement Award at a ceremony held in Norway this June. Way to go, Ross!

Dr. Olav Slaymaker is also making his golden years productive. Olav will be the acting principal of St. John's College at UBC in 2010-11. He has been elected a senior fellow of the International Association of Geomorphologists, and co-edited *Geomorphology & Global Environmental Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Dr. Mike Church continues a full NSERC-funded research program, with 10 publications in the 2009-2010 academic year on fluvial geomorphology. Mike was also awarded the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's coveted Massey Medal by the Governor-General in Ottawa.

Dr. Tim Oke is busier than ever with research activities and preparation of the third edition of his pioneering book, *Boundary Layer Climates*, this time with departmental colleague Dr. Andreas Christen joining him as co-author. Tim is also one of four authors of a forthcoming textbook, *Urban Climates*.

Clockwise from left: Paul Jance (retired department cartographer), Kevin Gillard (assistant curator, GIC), Sandy Lapsky (administrator), and Rosemary Cann celebrate the latter's 35 years of service to Geography

Where Are They Now?

1960s

Jimmy Carl Whitehead BA'62, MA'68, MSc(PI), PhD'87 is a tutor (property development) for the UBC Real Estate Division.

1970s

For the past 30 years **Garth Pinton** BA'72 has been in the executive search business and in 1992 established Pinton Forrest & Madden Executive Search. For more information, visit the website at www.pfmsearch.com

... **Ian Thomson** BA'75 retired from teaching high school two years ago but is substitute teaching and mentoring the new geology and earth science teacher at Elphinstone Secondary in Gibsons. He thoroughly enjoyed the festivities around the GEOG@50 celebration ... **Eric Vance** BA'75, MA'81 is still a professional planning, economics and management consultant based in Port Moody, and has been an adjunct professor at UBC's School of Community & Regional Planning for the past 11 years ...

Ed Grifone MCIP, BA'76 is now a partner and manager of Planning and Urban Design at CTQ Consultants Ltd., a full service engineering, planning, urban design and resource management consulting firm with offices in Kelowna and Kamloops. CTQ was awarded the Large Business Excellence Award by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce in 2009 ...

Keith Cross BA'77, MBA'81 is president and CEO of RLG International, a 180-person management consulting firm operating in 27 countries around the world.

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1980s

Jessi (Smith) Zielke BA'82, BEd'90 works for the BC Industry Training Authority as the senior lead for labour supply initiatives, and is responsible for targeted programming for immigrants, women and youth to encourage participation in the skilled trades ... **Donna Rodman** BA'84 is principal of Our Designs Inc., a Canadian landscape design and healthcare planning company, and is interning to become a registered landscape architect ... **Adam Brosgall** BA'89 went on to earn an MA in geography at the University of Leeds and an LLB at the University of Calgary. He now practices law in Vancouver, where he and wife **Erica Trister** BEd'00, MEd'04 are enjoying raising their two children – a four-year-old boy, and a two-year-old girl.

1990s

Andrew Telfer BA'94 is currently leading green efforts at Walmart Canada as their manager of sustainability ... **Darren Enns** BA'99, MA(Planning)'05 has given up the Caribbean for the Rocky Mountains. He is now senior planner with the Town of Banff ... **Paul Blessin** BA'95 is working for the Ministry of the Attorney General as Crown counsel in Chilliwack.

2000s

Katrina Ao BA'01 is now mapping at a different, but related, geographic scale as an acupuncturist in Vernon, BC ... **Julie Robinson** BA'02 has been working in the mining industry since 2006 as a GIS/database specialist and is managing data and creating figures for Endeavour Silver Corp ... **Geoff England** BA'02 is still working with international transportation planning consultancy Steer Davies Gleave, focusing on transit alternatives analysis and transit and land use integration. He and his partner are expecting their second child in September and recently adopted a one-year-old dog called Lexi ... **James O'Neill** BA(Hons)'03 is working in community planning at the City of Vancouver ... **Michael Wang** BA'03 is a geographic analyst for NAVTEQ ... **Frank Wong** BA'03 is a town planner in a private town-planning firm in Hong Kong. He is responsible for provision of inputs to new town development, infrastructure planning, public engagement and private development consultancy in Hong Kong and Mainland China ... **William Chan** BA'04 is a self employed personal financial advisor ... **Travis Macbeth** BA(Hons)'05, MA'07 (Turku, Finland), MES(PI)'09 (York) has just started as a land use policy planner for Ontario's Regional Municipality of Niagara ... **Jamie Sorensen** BA'06 is working as a GIS analyst for BGC Engineering, a geotechnical consulting company operating out of Vancouver ... **Julia Reckermann** BA'07 is in her first year of an MA in resource management and environmental studies at UBC's Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability under the supervision of Dr. John Robinson. Her research focus is occupant engagement in green buildings.

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF UBC GEOGRAPHY

Geogramme

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New Mountain Channel Hydraulic Experimental Laboratory Opens

By Katie Kinsley

October 8 marked the grand opening of the new Mountain Channel Hydraulic Experimental Laboratory. Spearheaded by Marwan Hassan, the MCHEL is a state-of-the-art facility for the experimental study of channel stability and sediment transport in steep mountain streams and the effects these processes have on stream channel ecology.

The MCHEL is the culmination of years of hard work lobbying, campaigning and searching. Talk of a new flume lab had been circulating for more than a decade, but it was the energy and devotion of Marwan Hassan and Graeme Wynn that brought it to fruition. Perhaps the biggest challenge to creating the MCHEL was finding a space that could accommodate the lab equipment needed. Thanks to the Dean of

Arts office and Campus Planning, Geography finally managed to secure the basement of the Ponderosa building for the lab. There, Ivan Liu, our innovative engineering technician, spent much of the past year coordinating renovations, assembling flumes and setting up equipment.

Today the MCHEL houses four flumes of varied sizes, the largest being 20 metres long and distinctive for its adjustable slope design (allowing researchers to simulate gradients up to 10%), and its relatively deep channel, useful to study the infiltration of fine sediment into the gravel bed. The MCHEL is currently the only facility with a flume with this particular combination of qualities in Canada. To see more images please visit: www.geog.ubc.ca/~mhassan/photos



Geography's Colloquium Series

By Brian Klinkenberg,

Over the past two terms the Department held a number of well-attended colloquia, with a wide range of interesting speakers and panel sessions. We were lucky to have ten speakers from outside of UBC, who provided insightful perspectives into a diverse array of subjects including biopolitics, borders, housing, microfinance, and climate impacts on fish. Two colloquia that were particularly well-attended were panel sessions organized around departmental research themes. In the first term research being conducted in the Department related to water, snow and ice was highlighted, while in the second term climate change was the focus of the panel session. These two colloquia in particular highlighted the depth and breadth of research being conducted within the Department. Another colloquium was organized to highlight how bringing human and physical geography perspectives to an issue (in this case exploring how the gold rushes in British Columbia in the 1800s continue to impact the Fraser River) result in a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Brian Klinkenberg is co-chair of the Colloquium Committee

A flume in the new MCHEL lab

New Books

Reconstructing Kobe: The Geography of Crisis and Opportunity

By David Edgington (UBC Press)

Six thousand people died and hundreds of thousands lost their homes when the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the largest disaster to affect postwar Japan, hit Kobe in January 1995. Although the media focused on the disaster's immediate effects, the long-term reconstruction efforts have gone largely unexplored.

Drawing on fieldwork and interviews with planners, activists, and bureaucrats, David Edgington records the first ten years of reconstruction and recovery efforts and offers detailed descriptions of the geography of crisis and opportunity. Which districts were most vulnerable to quake and why? Did policy makers and planners exploit opportunities to revitalize the city and make it more sustainable and disaster proof? Edgington's intricate investigation of Japanese urban policy, local governance, and land use in stricken neighbourhoods reveals that Japan's particular style of urban redevelopment hindered rather than hastened its ability to rebuild a devastated city.

Constructions of Neoliberal Reason

By Jamie Peck (to be published by Oxford University Press)

By combining genealogical analysis with situated case studies of formative moments throughout the world, *Constructions of Neoliberal Reason* dramatizes the rise of neoliberalism and its uneven spread as an intellectual, political, and cultural project. In tracing the movements of the free-market project from Germany in the 1920s through to the Obama Administration, this book explores how this adaptive regime of market rule was produced and reproduced, its logic, its faults and its fate.

Disease Maps: Epidemics on the Ground

By Tom Koch (to be published by University of Chicago Press)

Part of a series on medical geography/cartography, this book succeeds the earlier *Cartographies of Disease: Maps, Mapping, and Medicine* on which it is based.