

# GEOGRAMME

A newsletter for geography alumni

Fall 1999

## President's Report

Jim Smerdon

As we enter a new century, the alumni division has begun a new era of technology. The goal for the past year has been to establish a presence for the division on the Internet. Thanks to the efforts of Rodney Cottrell and Geography department staff, anyone can now go to [www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni) for recent issues of the *Geogramme*, updates on alumni events, or to find out how to contact alumni executive and other former classmates.

The plan for the next year is to continue to keep alumni connected to each other. This will take several forms and has already begun with a walking tour. It will continue with the web site, the Annual General Meeting, the *Geogramme*, and other events. One of the most promising tools for us to maintain contact is e-mail. I have been working for the past year to develop an e-mail database of geography alumni. Many of you are already receiving my occasional bulletins. Anyone with an e-mail account is welcome to add themselves to the list (free of charge!), by writing to [alumni@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:alumni@geog.ubc.ca). And while you're at it, give us an update of what you've been doing. Where has your geography degree taken you? We want to know.

During the past Spring, we sponsored the geography graduation class' final dinner-dance at Cecil Green Park (so they didn't have to pay rental charges), and had a reception at International House after the official graduation ceremony to welcome them as members of the Geography Alumni Division. One of

our aims is to let present undergraduate students know what past geography students are doing.

I have been told that Geography has one of the most active and committed alumni divisions at UBC. We rely on your support in order to maintain this reputation. Get involved with alumni events, see old friends or make new ones. Send us your e-mail address so we can keep you informed, and help out with a donation to our Geography Alumni operating account. The *Geogramme* is a great way to stay in touch, but unfortunately, an expensive one.

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of this year's Geography Alumni Executive for their advice and comments at our Executive meetings. We need a few new members for next year, so let us know if you can help. Finally, join us on October 14th at Cecil Green House UBC for the Annual General Meeting, especially if you graduated 10 or 25 years ago. Meet Dr. Charles Forward, retired Professor of Geography at the University of Victoria, who will receive our Distinguished Geographer Award and speak about his past work.

## Donations

J. Lewis Robinson

As in previous years, please use the *Keep in Touch* insert page to send personal or professional news for your classmates and to donate cheques for our two alumni accounts. The Operating Account is the source of funds for producing and mailing the *Geogramme*. The Scholarship Fund produces revenue for three \$1,000 scholarships for the leading third-year Geography students.

Again, donations to the Operating Account were not sufficient to meet mail-

ing costs and our reserve will be depleted after this year. From October '98 to July '99 there were 68 donors who contributed \$1,600. Three people contributed \$100 or more: John Stibbard, Jim Whitehead, Bert Farley, and nine people each gave \$50. As noted on the Financial Report (p. 8) we need more than \$2,000 to mail the *Geogramme*, or further reduce the mailing list.

Donations to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund increased again to a record high \$10,000 from 95 donors. This will permit us to increase the number of scholarships to four next year. I have written a personal letter of thanks and appreciation to each donor and want all of our graduates to know that their generosity helps Geography students. Seventy of these donors sent their cheques directly to the UBC Development Office (reducing my paperwork).

*Continued on page 2*

### AGM

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 pm  
Cecil Green Park, north end of  
UBC campus

#### AGENDA

Jim Smerdon, President's Report  
Distinguished Geographer Award to  
Dr. Charles Forward, BA'49, MA'52,  
retired head of the Geography Dept.,  
University of Victoria  
Greetings from Graeme Wynn, Head  
of UBC Geography Dept.  
Presentation of 10 and 25-year  
alumni lapel pins by  
Dr. Lewis Robinson  
Drawings for door prizes  
Refreshments and socializing

# Department News



*Dr. Graeme Wynn*  
Head, Dept. of Geography

There were many highlights for 1998-1999. Several colleagues were recognized beyond the Department for skills and accomplishments that many of us have appreciated. Among those honoured were Cole Harris, recipient of the Dean of Arts Prize for his excellent research and teaching and his "service" contributions; David Ley, who received one of the two new Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Prizes for his excellence in the education and supervision of graduate students; Derek Gregory, one of the Teaching Prize winners from the Faculty of Arts, was also honoured for his contributions in undergraduate and graduate teaching; and Walter Hardwick, who received the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto Distinguished Educator Award for 1998 for his many contributions to the development of post-secondary education in BC.

We appointed two new colleagues during the year. Dr. Dan Moore, who graduated with a BSc in 1979 before taking his PhD as a Commonwealth Scholar from the University of Canterbury, joins us as the FRBC Chair in Forest Hydrology. Dan was formerly in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University. He joins us with established research programs on the Stuart-Takla watershed and on Place Glacier. Dr. Juanita Sundberg, a specialist in Central America, comes to us from the University of Texas, where she recently completed her PhD on Guatemala. Juanita will teach courses on the geography of Latin America and Feminist Geography.

Both graduate and undergraduate programs remain vigorous. On the graduate front, 1998-1999 was a bumper year, with a large intake of new students and record success levels in University Graduate Fellowship and other funding com-

petitions. Current enrolment in the graduate program is approximately 100. Undergraduate numbers showed a slight increase over the previous year. With approximately 275 majors and honours students in our programs, we graduate about 100 students each year. Undergraduate life in the Department continues to be lively and rewarding. Another committed group of leaders in the GSA organized many successful intellectual and social events, and their efforts were rewarded by Maclean's recognition of the Geography Lounge as one of the "places to be" on campuses across Canada.

"Administrative rationalization" has led to the formal transfer of three colleagues in Atmospheric Science to the Faculty of Science. However, Phil Austin, Douw Steyn, and Roland Stull will continue to teach one Geography course a year and will have closer links with their colleagues in Oceanography. The Department will continue its highly reputed graduate and undergraduate programs in Climatology.

The year ahead promises to be just as eventful. The Department will be reviewed this year, in the cycle of regular reviews conducted by the university. We are also looking forward to conducting searches for three new colleagues in GIS, Physical Geography, and Canadian Historical Geography. These are welcome opportunities at a time when faculty numbers are declining.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank alumni for their ongoing and generous support of the Geography Scholarship and Geography Department Endowment Funds. Funds from the Geography of Vancouver book royalties and donations from Geography faculty and alumni have established this new Dept. of Geography Endowment Fund. The De-



*The old Cartography lab with its drafting tables is now the GIS lab.*

partment has now been given control of the interest from these funds for activities "to enhance the intellectual life of the Department and its students." As the fund grows, we will use it for special projects that cannot be met from the departmental budget. With support in part from the Endowment Fund we were able to mount a successful undergraduate field course in Normandy, France and Yorkshire, England in June 1999. These are immeasurably helpful contributions to our students, our programs and our Department in general. We encourage you to contact the Department. You can reach me by e-mail at: [wynn@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:wynn@geog.ubc.ca)

---

## Donations

*Continued from front page*

As a result, I didn't receive their news from the *Geogramme's Keep in Touch* form. We always like to hear from, and about, you.

Twenty-three people donated \$100 or more, and we wish to thank publicly 10 graduates who donated more than \$200: Anna Sumpton, '47, Edward Eberlein, '47, Eleanor Hoeg, '50, Mildred Rugles, '53, Ann McAfee, '62, Vivian Glyn-Jones, '64, Jane Fleming, '67, Heather Kendrick, '93, John Stager and Tim Oke, UBC Geography.

About 40 per cent of the 120 donation cheques from last year came from graduates living in Metro Vancouver, 15 per cent came from Victoria and 15 per cent from the rest of BC. About 10 per cent of donors lived in Ontario. There were no donations from overseas countries and only three from the USA.

In addition, 18 donors gave \$1700 to the new Department of Geography Endowment Fund for special projects and lectures. More than half of this amount came from a generous donation from David Lyall, '79. I understand that some of these donors sent cheques to the Development Office for the Dept. of Geography Fund thinking that they would go into the Scholarship Fund. This is not so. Cheques for the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund and Operating Account should be marked as such.

# Where Are They Now?

compiled by *J. Lewis Robinson*

## 1940s

**Brooke Cornwall**, BA'49, MA'50, died of cancer in Ottawa in April 1999 at age 82. He was raised in Victoria and was at UBC for one year before World War II. He served with the Royal Canadian Artillery from 1941-46 in Britain and Europe, and came back to UBC after the war with hundreds of other veterans. Brooke was one of several UBC Geography graduates employed at the newly established Federal Geographical Branch in Ottawa starting in 1950. One of his major tasks was editor of the 1974 Atlas of Canada, 4th edition. He retired from the Branch in 1976 and travelled within Canada and worldwide from his home in Ottawa ...

**Gordon D. Taylor**, BA'49, MA'50, retired several years ago as a senior administrator with the Federal Parks Service, and continues to live in Ottawa. He recently served as president of the British Isles History Society.

*If any members of the UBC Geography Class of 1949 are in Vancouver on October 14, please come to our Annual Meeting and receive your 50-year alumni lapel pin.*

## 1950s

**A. Rhys Smith**, BA'50, died in Calgary in 1993, and I just heard of it now. Rhys was one of those veterans who graduated in the late 1940s with whom I had maintained friendly personal correspondence for about half a century. Rhys became director of Planning for Calgary District during the 1970s and was greatly responsible for the orderly expansions of urban functions outside of the city of Calgary. Rhys had Alzheimer's disease in his final years and lived in a home ... **Jim Carter**, BA'54, retired from senior administrative positions in Education with the BC government to live in West Vancouver. He is chair of the BC Gaming Commission and Chair of Sport BC ... **Robert M. Bone**, BA'55, has been Professor of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon for many years. His latest book on

the Regional Geography of Canada was published in the summer of 1999. He wrote an earlier book on the Canadian North ... **James R. Gibson**, BA'57, took early retirement in 1995 from the Department of Geography at York University where he lectured for many years. Jim was one of Canada's leading historical geographers and wrote several books ... **Charles W. Dick**, BA'59, retired from senior administrative positions with Education in Vancouver. He has won many competitive races as a senior athlete, and was a leader last year in the Cross-Canada Cycle Tour in the Yukon and one in South Africa. Chuck is a member of the Geography Alumni Executive and prepared the membership questionnaire (p. 7).

## 1960s

**Ann McAfee**, BA'62, MA'67, PhD'75, is co-director of Planning for Vancouver, responsible for citywide and community plans. She is also chair of the Board of Trustees of Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre ... **Peter M. Foggin**, BA'63, was raised in the Lower Mainland, and after graduating, he moved to Quebec, became fluent in French and then became professor of Geography at the University of Montreal. Currently, he is treasurer for the Canadian Association of Geographers ... **Ross D. MacKinnon**, BA'64, received his PhD in Geography from Northwestern University and then joined the Geography faculty at the University of Toronto. He then moved to the University of Buffalo where he was professor of Geography and later dean of Social Sciences. Three years ago he became dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He visited BC last summer en route to China ... **Harry Swain**, BA'64 and wife, **Julie**, BEd'65 (*Geography*), were one of the couples who met in UBC Geography courses and were omitted from my couples list in the last Geogramme. Harry is part of senior management of the Sussex Circle financial

consulting firm in Toronto. His important contributions as a senior civil servant in Ottawa for many years were noted in the 1997 Geogramme ... **George Oike**, BA'66, has been an Elementary School teacher for more than 30 years. He now lives in Surrey ... **Colin Campbell**, MA'67, completed 25 years of service with the BC government. He started in research for the BC Parks Service and then became director of Recreation in that Branch. Later he became executive officer of the BC Heritage Trust and director of Planning of BC Parks and Ecological Reserves, where his main task was to implement a doubling of BC's Protected Area System. Colin says the skills that he acquired as a geographer were of great value as a senior manager in government ... **Richard C. Haworth**, BA'67, taught Geography and Social Studies for 30 years in Vancouver and Coquitlam and is now retired and living in Oyama ... **Jane Fleming**, BA'67, was reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Airport Authority. She runs her own consulting company, emphasizing project management for real estate projects for large companies ... **Charley Hampton**, BA'69, is lumber sales manager for the Crestwood Division of Tolko Industries in Vernon.

## 1970s

**Ken Tunnicliffe**, BA'70, is manager of Property and Development on Granville Island, and lives in Burnaby ... **Tom Hall**, BEd'70 (*Geography*), taught Geography and Social Studies for many years, and then became an Elementary School principal in Port Alberni where he retired. He is chair of the Board of Governors of North Island Community College, which has 12 centres serving northern Vancouver Island ... **Heather Forbes**, BA'71, is owner and manager of a golf course in Sardis, and also a housewife ... **Sharon Beedle**, BA'71 and husband Robert BA'73, moved from Kitimat to Terrace where Sharon is acting superintendent of the North Coast School

District ... **Ian Dawson**, BA'72, is director-general of the Physical Resources Bureau of the Federal Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa. He says that it is "an ideal urban geography job" being responsible for construction, leasing, purchasing and sale of Canada's diplomatic property, including embassies abroad in more than 100 countries. Ian has held several senior decision-making positions in the Federal Government bureaucracy. After graduation, he worked for the Federal Urban Affairs Ministry (1972-78, 1983-88) in Ottawa, the Urban Environment Program with OECD in Paris (1978-83), and Treasury Board and Finance (1988-92) with responsibility for all urban and transport Crown Corporations ... **Chris Brangwin**, MA'72, visited UBC and the Geography Dept. last December from his home in New South Wales, Australia. Chris is the Australian representative on the International Baccalaureate Organization and the UBC Alumni Association representative in Australia ... **Warren Sommer**, BA'73, MA'77, is the historian at the Fort Langley Historical Site. Among other duties, he gives summer tours of the Fort Langley and other local cemeteries ... **Allan Newell**, BA'73, MA'77 is the founding partner of Opal Sky Inc., a consulting company in Toronto. He works on marketing database systems with specialization in the travel industry. Previously, he was director of research for the Campusearch organization ... **Hugh Gayler**, PhD'74, is professor of Geography at Brock University. He will be in charge of arrangements there for the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers in June 2000 ... **Don Howes**, MSc'75, is manager, Resource Analysis, Inventory and Information, in the Land Use Coordinator Office of the BC Government in Victoria. His responsibilities include developing multimedia information systems for coastal resource development and protection, including oil spills. He received an award for his innovative use of GIS in coastal environmental planning for oil spills. He was recently on leave teaching and training for oil spill response and environmental mapping in China ... **Ian Thomson**, BA'75, teaches secondary school in Gibsons and sent the

*Geogramme* an interesting story about Olav Slaymaker at the Geography field camp in Oliver in 1975. He has not forgotten how Olav helped him and three other students to pack their gear up a mountain trail in scorching Okanagan heat with his parting words, "to cherish every hour that you are above treeline because the percentage of your lives to do this will be very small." ... **Holger Burke**, BA'76, has moved to a new position as development coordinator in the Urban Development Division, City of Richmond ... **Peter Ostergaard**, MA'76 is another of our UBC Geography graduates who has important responsibilities in the BC Government senior administration. Peter is now chair and CEO of the BC Utilities Commission after serving for seven years as assistant deputy minister in the Energy and Mines Department ... **Keith E. Cross**, BA'77, received an MBA from UBC in 1981 and then took a planning and analysis position with Rogers Communications. In 1985, he and four partners formed a management consulting company in North Vancouver called RLG, specializing in performance improvement in business. The company now has 135 professionals and staff working in Canada and around the world ... **Bill Whyard**, BA'75, and wife **Karen**, BA'77, have lived in Powell River for nine years where Bill is a barrister and solicitor. They have three children, all boys, aged 10-16 ... **Pat Teti**, MSc'79, is a research hydrologist with the BC Ministry of Forests and living in Williams Lake.

*Class of 1974: As part of your class reunion marking 25 years since UBC graduation, try to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Geography Alumni Division on Oct. 14 at Cecil Green Park, receive your 25-year alumni lapel pin and meet your classmates of that year.*

## 1980s

**Allison Bell**, MSc'80, went from Geography to Medicine and was often quoted on Vancouver TV in stories related to infectious diseases here. She recently moved to Anchorage, Alaska, with her husband ... **May Chow**, BA'80, was transferred back to Ottawa two years ago by Agriculture Canada. She is a trade policy analyst there studying policies of our trading partners particularly in Europe, and advising government on international trade policies as related to agriculture. She was a Canadian representative twice at World Trade conferences in Geneva. May was most helpful to the Geography Alumni Executive for several years when she served as division secretary here ... **Ken Beresford**, BA'81, did demographic analysis for the Pacific regional office of the Toronto-Dominion Bank as a branch location officer. As some of these functions were automated, he became more involved in advising about provincial markets ... **Jean Gillis Francoeur**, MA'81 and wife **Kristi**, BA'81, have lived in Ottawa for many years. They have fond memories of Friday afternoon hockey for geography grads and the following Geopits. "J-J" works for the Federal Official Languages Support Programs and often visits Western Canada and BC, advising on education funding for French programs in schools and support for French minority community organizations. Kristi is an elementary school teacher in Ottawa. They have two boys, 9 and 12 ... **Scott Austin**, BA'81, is manager of Art Knapp's Nursery in Penticton and lives in Summerland. He writes a weekly garden-



*The first four heads of the Geography Dept. (l-r): Bob Smith, Lew Robinson, Olav Slaymaker, John Chapman.*

ing column in the Penticton newspaper and a bi-monthly one for the Summerland newspaper. He also has a radio program with gardening advice for eight summer months. He also completed his first running marathon last year ...

**S. Warner, BEd'82** of West Vancouver was the only person to return our questionnaire with bitterly negative comments. He said that the Geogramme was "an irresponsible use of paper resources" and "funding was wasted on such drivel"... **Rodney Cottrell, BA'82**, received an architecture degree from Carleton University in 1990, and now practices holistic design in Vancouver. He volunteered to join the Geography Alumni Executive and is now our webmaster and also chair of the UBC Alumni Council ...

**John Radke, PhD'83**, and wife **Susan Lindell, MA'82**, live in Orinda, California, on the east bay of San Francisco. They moved there in 1991 from the University of Pennsylvania. John has a joint appointment in the College of Environmental Design and Geography Dept. at the University of California at Berkeley. He recently opened a university-wide GIS Center and is producing intense data-mining software. Susan has contracts with NASA to build a GIS application for children and produced a web site for student generated GIS data. They have three boys, 9, 7, 4, and are busy hockey parents in the winter. John was one of the organizers of Friday afternoon geography hockey when he was at UBC ...

**Colleen Nysted, BA'83**, is one of Vancouver's leading film producers. One of her recent films shot in Vancouver starred David Bowie ... After five years as director of Development Services for the town of Comox, **Robert Buchan, BA'83**, has moved to Victoria and is director of Planning for the District of Langford ... **Lois Enns, BA'83**, has moved from head of Bazooka Information Design to be Director of Operations at Lanyon Phillips Communications in Vancouver ... **Sue Grimmond, MSc'84, PhD'89**, has been Professor of Geography at Indiana University for several years ... **Catherine Trembath, BA'84**, is a part-time graphic designer in Victoria and the mother of two children. She credits geography for her skill in spatial relationships, which she uses frequently in

her design work ... **Jason Riley, BA'84**, who was a Canadian all-star defensive end for the UBC Thunderbirds, became an all-star offensive lineman for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. He retired from football in 1993 and took additional Geography courses at the University of Toronto to obtain an Honours degree. He teaches Intermediate level Geography in Burlington. Since 1996, Jason has also been a part-time offensive line coach at McMaster University. He and wife, Pamlette, have three children: 11-year-old identical twin girls, and eight-year-old Jason Jr. While in Coquitlam this August, Jason came to tour the UBC Geography Department ... **Jeff Crawford** and **Connie Liebholz**, both **BA'85**, were another of the couples who met in Geography classes. They have two children and live in North Vancouver. Jeff is assistant manager of Shipping at Neptune Bulk Terminals, and Connie runs a home-based business managing personal affairs for people who travel ... **Gavin Hainsworth, BA'85**, is a Special Education Secondary School teacher in North Surrey and a freelance writer. He has written many articles for educational and alternative publications. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Media Education, on the Editorial Advisory Board on the *BCTF Teacher Newsmagazine* and Education Editor for *SPARC News*. Gavin also travels the province as a BCTF facilitator in matters of human rights and anti-racism ... **Chris Le Tourneur, BA'88**, is senior consultant and town planner with Thomas Consultants in Vancouver and recently moved to Tsawwassen. He is a past president of the Geography Alumni Division and increased our activities with Geography undergraduate students ... **Devon Brooks, BA'88**, lives in New Westminster and recently became editor of two small local publications, *The Prospector* and *The Independent Senior*.

*Class of '89: It's been 10 years since your graduation. Do come to our General Meeting on October 14 to meet your classmates and receive your 10-year alumni lapel pin.*

## 1990s

**Stephen Frith, BA'91**, is a planning consultant living in Kamloops ... **Penni Leung, BA'91**, lives in Vancouver and is a freelance writer for local magazines on cultural and pop-culture topics. She is also editing a new online magazine ...

**Julie Orban, BSc'92** works for EVS Environment Consultants in North Vancouver, doing fish habitat assessment and bioassay testing. She is working toward as MSc degree in Forest Hydrology at UBC ... **Jeanette Chan, BA'92**, is a music instructor emphasizing music history. She is involved in the Richmond Music Festival ... **Karen Barclay, BA'93**, is an occupational therapist working in Rehabilitation Services at UBC Hospital ...

**William Leung, BA'94**, was incorrectly listed as one of our "geography couples" in last year's Geogramme. He shares the same address with his SISTER (!) My apologies ... **Peter Penttinen, BA'94**, works for Geodata Company in Boulder, Colorado, developing computer software and doing implementations for telecom and utilities companies in USA and Canada ... **William Hamlin, BA'94**, lives in Richmond and is enrolled in the graduate program in Planning at the University of Waterloo ... **Jeff Greig, BA'94**, wife Andrea Madden, BA'97, and son Creedance, moved to Singapore in 1997 where Jeff is a planner under contract to the Singapore Urban Development Authority. Andrea is a vice-principal for a private childcare company there. They expect to return to Vancouver this Fall ... **Dan Hay, BA'95**, and **Erin Eburne, BA'96**, were married on campus at Cecil Green Park in May, 1999. They live in Kimberley and Dan owns and operates an adventure travel company in Cranbrook and Erin teaches Social Studies. They are two of the many Geography students who met their spouses in the Geography building. As I keep saying, "the nicest people in the world are in Geography" ... **Nam Phan, BA'96**, took a Computer Systems Technology Program at BCIT after graduation and is now programming web pages for Kabanero Studios in Vancouver ... **Ian Fisher, BA'96**, graduated with a masters degree in Community and Regional Planning at UBC and then joined the Traffic Management Branch of Vancouver Engineering

Dept. He recently became a planning analyst in the Vancouver Rapid Transit Office working on the proposed Broadway SkyTrain line ... **Jennifer Hyndman, PhD '96**, is assistant professor of Geography at Arizona State University in Phoenix, and had an article published in the February 1999 edition of the Professional Geographer on the geography of forced migration in Kenya and Somalia in the 1990s ... **Nina Broutigan, BA '96**, took her BEd degree at UBC after graduation and now teaches special needs students in Richmond ... **Michael Turner, BA '96**, received a degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University after UBC, and is now a financial analyst for a real estate firm in Toronto. He would like to hear from some of his classmates from the class of '96. (We can give you his address in Cambridge, Ontario) ... **Jane Syroid-Block, BA '96**, has been the receptionist in the UBC Alumni Office, and among other duties, guided the computer to print the address labels for this *Geogramme*. She left in September to go into Education at UBC ... **Chris Elkey, BA '97**, has been working in Chilliwack and plans to complete his degree in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Calgary ... **Elsie Chow, BA '97**, is a town planning consultant for a planning firm in Hong Kong. Her family home is in Coquitlam ... **Michael Mortensen, MA '97**, was one of the guest speakers at the geography undergrad "Careers Night" last February. He is portfolio management officer in the Assisted Housing Centre of the Federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. office in Vancouver. He helps co-op and non-profit housing societies manage their projects ... **John K.W. How, BA '97**, worked for the City of Richmond after graduation and then enrolled in the Master of Architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania.

**A note from Dr. Robinson:** Last year I asked for help to take over the editorship of our newsletter. Three persons volunteered to help if asked to. But because all personal news comes to my Geography office and all donation and other alumni records are there, I decided that it would be easier to do it myself again this year. I suspect the real reason is that I enjoy doing it and like the contact with former

# GEOGRAMME

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

students, many of whom became personal friends. And I guess at my age it is nice to feel that I am still useful to someone!

However, I realize that I have been retired for 15 years and there are now 15 years of geography graduates whom I do not know. Many of these have probably wondered who this "old guy" is they see in the halls of the Geography building. My whole academic and personal life has focussed on the UBC Geography Department since I came here 54 years ago. I am most grateful to the department, which still permits me to share an office for retired professors in our crowded building. Perhaps my work for Geography alumni justifies use of this space.

As I said last year, as the human parts begin to wear out, I am aware of my mortality, but I hope that I am able to continue to do this work for alumni for a few more years. And I hope to continue to be aware of your donations to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund (which is dedicated to me in the University Calendar) while I am still alive!

## Geography Goes Co-op

About a dozen third-year Geography students will be part of UBC's new Arts Co-op Program this fall. It aims to give about 70 students from a range of departments the opportunity to enrich their standard degree programs with paid work experience related to their studies. They will be available for four or eight months of employment, beginning January 2000. Geography students can work for environmental consultants, resource management firms, urban planning groups and cartographers, among others.

If you are interested in hiring one of our bright undergrads, call 822-1529.

## Tour of Mt. Pleasant

*Solomon Wong, BA '96*

The first in a series of neighbourhood tours was held in Mt. Pleasant in July, led by Jenna Perry, BA '99. Approximately 15 alumni and guests spent a sunny Sunday afternoon touring through neighbourhood streets and gaining a sense of history, place and socio-economic diversity of the area. Dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant followed the tour.

It started at Heritage Hall at Main Street and 15th Avenue – an ornate Beaux-Arts, former post office. Within the boundaries of Mt. Pleasant are beautiful floral gardens and interesting neighbourhood streets; in fact, a stretch along W. 10th Avenue won this year's "The Most Beautiful Block in Vancouver" competition. Main Street is the spine of Mount Pleasant. The growth of an artist community is fuelling an increase of cafes, sidewalk patio restaurants and retail stores in the vicinity of Broadway and Main.

Mount Pleasant is at a crossroads. It straddles between the east and west side of Vancouver, at the fringe of downtown and the intersection of three major thoroughfares. As a community, the area is becoming more aware of its place in the city.

Visit the new  
**Geography Alumni web**  
 site at:  
[www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/alumni)

# Awards

## 1998 Geography Service Award

The UBC Geography Alumni Division executive wishes to recognize the many administrative contributions of John Chapman to the UBC Geography Dept., the University of BC, and to BC Ministry of Education activities and responsibilities over 50 years.

John was recruited personally by President Norman Mackenzie from Oxford University in 1947 to become an instructor in the UBC Dept. of Geology and Geography. He gradually became the department's specialist in Resource Geography, particularly in Energy matters. John became the second head of the UBC Geography Dept. during 1968-74 and acting head again in 1979-81.



John Chapman in the Geography Dept., 1980.

John took on many leadership tasks for the university and broader BC educational activities. He served on

*Continued on page 8*

## 1998 Distinguished Geographer Award

Jonathon O'Riordan MA '66, PhD '69 received an Honours BA in Geography from Edinburgh University in 1964, and then emigrated to Canada to attend UBC. Mike Church, Olav Slaymaker and John Chapman guided him in water resources management. In 1968, Jon joined the federal government as a water resources planner with the Inland Waters Directorate, in what is now Environment Canada. He became co-chair of the Federal-Provincial Okanagan Basin Study, one of the first comprehensive river basin studies undertaken in Canada, completed in 1973. Jon was then asked to join the provincial government as assistant director of the Environmental Land Use Committee Secretariat, where his geographic viewpoint about environmental matters influenced many policy decisions.

In 1982 he moved to the BC Ministry of Environment as director of Planning and Assessment, and in 1989 he was appointed assistant deputy minister of the Environment Management Dept. The UBC Geography Department was proud that one of our graduates was leading discussions about environmental matters in the province.

Jon became assistant deputy minister, responsible for environmental operations for seven regions of BC, in 1994. He directed and administered programs and policies concerning fish, wildlife, habitat protection, water, and the Forest Practices Code.

Despite many changes in administrative names, it has been reassuring to our profession that someone trained in environmental understanding has been influencing decisions and policies about land and resources planning in BC. For his guidance and leadership in these environmental matters, the UBC Geography Alumni Division is pleased to present Dr. Jonathon O'Riordan with our Distinguished Geographer Award for 1998.

# Questionnaire Summary

Charles Dick

We were disappointed that only 30 alumni returned this questionnaire, thus giving little guidance as to what directions or work is expected from this Division. Several of the respondents were outside Vancouver and said that while they appreciated the newsletter, they could take no part in local activities.

There were 17 different professions, eight in Education and eight in Planning. One-third of respondents graduated in the last decade. Only one replied from the 1970-80 decade.

Nearly everyone was enthusiastic about the contents and purposes of the *Geogramme*. A few suggested greater use of our website and e-mail to inform local alumni of activities. Some wanted current information about the Dept. and the university, but recognized the limitations in a once-a-year newsletter. A few suggested local field trips or tours, and as a result, the executive organized a tour of Mt. Pleasant (p. 6). Some asked for reunions by specific years to meet former classmates. We do this at each AGM for 10 and 25-year graduates, but very few attend.

## 1998-99 Geography Alumni Executive

**Jim Smerdon**, BA'96, President  
**Andrew Rambo**, BA'95, Vice President  
**Alastair Ross**, BSc'86, Treasurer  
**Solomon Wong**, BA'96, Secretary

Members at large

**Rodney Cottrell**, BA'82, **Bruce Dagg**, MSc'87, **Charles Dick**, BA'59, **Kim Ferguson**, BA'96, and **Ken Martin**, BA'64.

Honorary President

**J. Lewis Robinson**, Prof. Emeritus

Ex-officio, Faculty

**Olav Slaymaker**

Undergraduate Representative

**Therese Gieselman**

# Communications

J. Lewis Robinson

This year we had about 2500 known alumni, but only had sufficient funds in our operating account (your donations) to mail about 1800 copies of the *Geogramme*. To reduce mailing costs, we had to cut off nearly all overseas alumni and most American residents. We no longer mail to BEd graduates with a Geography major and we had to omit many graduates across Eastern Canada if we had not heard from, or about, them in recent years. It was a policy decision to mail to all BC alumni, and most in Western Canada, as long the funds were available.

Three years ago, we mailed the *Geogramme* by third-class mail to reach everyone at reduced mailing costs. But many did not receive their newsletter, and if they moved, it was not forwarded nor was it returned to the Alumni Office.

So last year and this year, we decided "to shoot the budget" and mail by first class rates. One of the surprises, and disappointments of last year was that 140 copies of the *Geogramme* were returned as "address unknown" or moved. I looked into this matter at the University Records Office and was amazed to learn that there are no known addresses for about 700 alumni (and thousands of other alumni). I was able to give addresses for about 30 that I knew. But a drop in a big bucket! No one has ever totalled the number of UBC Geography graduates every year, but now we know that in more than 50 years there are about 3,200. Approximately 100 new graduates are added each year, so if everyone donated \$5 a year, we could mail the *Geogramme* to everyone!

As you can see from our Financial report, postage is about \$1,200 to mail 2,000 *Geogrammes*; as well as additional costs. The Geography Alumni Executive and undergraduate volunteers stuff the envelopes. The Communications Dept. in the Alumni Office does the layout at no cost and the office gives us (and other divisions) a grant of \$500 annually towards newsletter costs. We receive no financial assistance (nor have we asked) from the Geography Dept.

Alumni receive periodic phone calls from volunteers in the Development Office asking for donations to university projects. Please consider asking for your donation to go to the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund or the Department of Geography Endowment Fund.

## 1998 Geography Service Award *continued from page 7*

the executive of the Faculty Association for six years in 1955-65, was a member of the UBC Men' Athletic Committee, 1959-63; a faculty representative on UBC's Senate, 1963-72, and the first academic planner in the President's Office, 1963-65. John was also an active field hockey player in Vancouver, and president of the Canadian Field Hockey Association in 1972-79. He was one of the original organizers of the BC Natural Resources Conference in 1952, president in 1956, and one of the editors of the first BC Resources Atlas. John was president of the Canadian Association of Geographers in 1965, and chair of the Canadian National Committee for Geography, 1972-76.

He helped the BC Ministry of Education as acting director of the Division of University and College Affairs, 1966-67, a member of the BC Academic Board for Higher Education, 1962-70, and later of the administrative organization called the BC Association of Colleges, 1984-89. He was a member of the VCC Board, 1984-90, a member of the Academic Council of the BC Open Learning University, and a member of the Interim Governing Council in the creation of the new University of Northern BC in 1990-93.

John retired from full-time teaching in the Geography Dept in 1988, after serving the university for 41 years, a record for faculty that is not likely to be surpassed.

## Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of Geography alumni, the capital endowment in the Geography Scholarship fund now exceeds \$65,000, permitting the UBC Awards Office to give three annual scholarships of \$1,000 each to leading third-year Geography students. We expect the possibility of four scholarships next year.

The recipients of the 1999 scholarships were: Emily Mak, Vancouver, BA, Helen Kim, Vancouver, BA, Eager Ip, Surrey, BSc. The new annual bursary of \$400 was established last year from the estate of the late **W. Gordon Fleet, BA'63**, and was given to a needy Geography student last winter. Because the award is based on financial need, the recipient cannot be named. We welcome more awards such as this.

## Financial Report

*Alastair Ross, Treasurer*

### Balance

Operating account April 1, 1998  
\$3,087.91

### Revenues

Subscriptions & donations	1,437.73
Newsletter Grant	505.00
Total Revenues	1,942.73

### Expenditures

AGM Expenses	111.90
Postage	0.49
Newsletter Expenses:	
Minuteman Press	991.72
Mail-O-Matic Services	1,213.95
Envelopes	154.90
Progressive Courier	16.65

Total Expenditures 2,489.62

Balance 2,541.01

### Operating account March 31, 1999





# KEEP IN TOUCH

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ P/CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE/YEAR OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (O): \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT OCCUPATION & EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS/EVENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE (USE OTHER SIDE OF PAPER IF NEEDED):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

## DONATIONS

---

---

### I ENCLOSE:

#### OPERATING ACCOUNT:

\$5.00 recommended minimum *Geogramme* subscription

or more (list amount) \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

List amount of cheque \_\_\_\_\_

#### DEPARTMENT ENDOWMENT FUND:

List amount of cheque \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to the University of British Columbia, and mail to: UBC Development Office, UBC, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2. Please note on your cheque that the donation is for the Geography Alumni Scholarship Fund or the Department of Geography Endowment Fund.

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

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

*Tax receipts can only be issued for Scholarship and Endowment Fund donations.*