



## Rosemary Cann, GIC Curator, Retires After Almost 36 Years of Service

By Lisa Dam



To reiterate some highlights from a story written in the November 2005 newsletter by Jennifer Hamilton, Rosemary Cann was hired in the Department of Geography on July 7th, 1975 by Professors Robinson, Mackay, and Farley who were initially concerned by the possibility that she would not stay in the position for more than a year. Little did they know that Rosemary would end up staying for more than 35 years!

Rosemary grew up in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England and attended the University of Hull where she graduated with a BSc Honours degree in Geography, specializing in Physical Geography, Biogeography and minoring in Geology. Her first position was at the University of London as a research assistant where she intended to undertake a PhD using biogeography as a tool in diamond exploration in Botswana, but instead decided to travel around the world. She was also employed as a research geologist in Sydney, Australia for 3 years and in Vancouver for 1 year before returning to England and eventually re-emigrating back to Vancouver.

In her 35 plus years at UBC, Rosemary has seen the department undergo many changes. One was the merging of two departmental libraries because Geography had a Reading Room which was separate from the Map and Air Photo Library. In 1988, the two libraries became one creating the Geographic Information Center (GIC!). Another change that affected both Rosemary and the GIC was Expo '86. This world fair escalated the need for historical information in regards to environmental problems in BC and so the demand for air photo research services in-

creased. Thus, in 1992, the GIC began charging environmental and engineering companies for such services, which Rosemary liked because it provided contact with companies and people outside of the university.

Aside from these two major events, Rosemary has also witnessed changes in technology and its effect on staff and students. She's seen typewriters turn into computers, manual security turn into bar codes and paper copies turn into electronic files. Some strange occurrences that she has encountered include all sorts of animal visitors to the GIC: squirrels eating atmospheric journals (she was not sure whether they enjoyed them or really hated the item), and humming birds flying in and not being able to find their way out. On one of Rosemary's class introductions to air photos, in the 1990's a student fainted 40 minutes into the tour and Rosemary still believes to this day that that student was so bored that she opted out of the tour.

So, just what does Rosemary have planned for her retirement? She is of course planning to return to her passion to travel. She's been to about 65 different countries so far, and would love to visit Peru, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Russia, China, and Tibet. She also has a passion for genealogy and photography and will continue to research her and her daughter's family history. Rosemary will also be found

riding around Lynn Valley on her horse, as well as jogging and hiking. Gardening, going to the gym, going out with her friends, camping, spending time with her daughter, are just a few other things she has planned!

How does she feel about retirement? She is looking forward to it though she says this in a very modest way. She is happy to have the time to do what she wants to do, all the things she has been putting off while working and raising her daughter. She will have more time and won't have to feel so rushed, but "the best part", she says, "is not having to wake up to an alarm clock".

Needless to say, Rosemary's abundance of knowledge, contributions, and kindness will be greatly missed!

### What people have to say...

"During the transit strike back in the early 2000s, I lived on the Sunshine Coast and had no way of getting to work. Thankfully, Rosemary came to my rescue and gave me rides!" -Karen Young

"I enjoyed Rosemary's chats when she came to pick up her mail in the Main Office." -Jeanne Yang

"My first impression of Rosemary was her kindness and intellect. She is a highly accomplished woman and a great contributor to the Department." -Suzanne Lawrence

"She is probably one of the nicest, sweetest persons I know." -Sandy Lapsky

"Through joy and pain, sunshine and rain Rosemary has always been here. She is a pillar of this Department and she will be missed but not forgotten." -Kevin Gillard

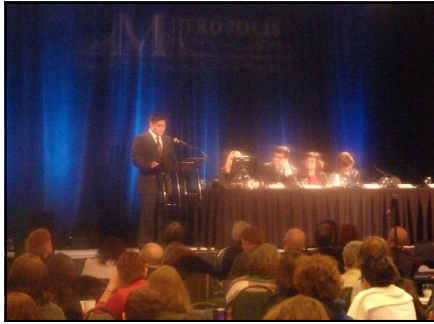
"Rosemary and I have always had horses in common, and would often swap stories about how the rain or a dog had spoiled our ride, or about where we had ventured out. Maybe now that she is retired we will get a chance to hit the trail together. I will miss Rosemary dearly; her warmth, knowledge and sense of humor will not easily be replaced." -Jennifer Hamilton



Professors Bovis and Church help with merging the two libraries

# The 2011 National Metropolis Conference

By Molly Kraft; Photograph by Vicky Baker



This March, the 2011 National Metropolis conference brought to Vancouver over 1,000 policy officials, researchers, and representatives of intergovernmental and

non-governmental organizations from all over the country to discuss the important place of immigration in Canada. The Metropolis Project has built research capacity in the areas of immigration, multiculturalism, and cultural diversity, and continues to support and facilitate researchers in studying these areas. The conference, "Immigration: Bringing the World to Canada", included plenary sessions, workshops and roundtables on topics covering all aspects of migration and integration in the country; a few highlights included discussing the economic impacts of migration to Canada, the changing face of di-

versity in the country, as well as research on improving settlement services for new immigrants to Canada. Many of our very own faculty and students presented their work and it was great to see them there.

Congratulations to Jenny Francis who was awarded the 2010-11 Chris Taylor award for her paper "Missing Links: Youth Programs, Social Services and African Youth in Metro Vancouver." As well, a big thanks and congratulations goes out to Daniel Hiebert for his role in organizing the conference and Vicky Baker for her amazing work throughout.

# A Fancy Affair at the GSA GeoGala

By Sam Landa



David Ley congratulates the graduating class on their accomplishments

Wednesday, April 6th was the annual GeoGala celebration at Cecil Green Park House. GeoGala is a dinner/dance event celebrating graduating students, marking the

end of another successful year, and thanking students, staff and faculty for their contributions in 2010-2011.

The GSA Grad Committee spent the last eight months fundraising with food sales, a craft fair and the Mardi Grad bzzr gar-



The Grad Committee gets ready for the big night



VP External, Cheryl Tam, shows off three GeoGala tickets

den in order to help subsidize GeoGala ticket costs while keeping the event a formal affair.

Sixty-five guests attended the evening

event—15 of whom walked away with door prizes from the GSA and Alumni Affairs—and enjoyed a fabulous Mediterranean-themed buffet provided by Westcadia catering.

Students, staff and faculty listened to speeches from the department head, Dr. David Ley, outgoing GSA president, Eli Heyman, and incoming GSA president, Brittany Morris (via video messaging sent from her exchange in France). Also, this year's official Trail Six journal (now available online at: <http://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/trailsix/index>) was unveiled before everyone danced the night away to music by DJ Oker Chen.

Thank you to everyone who attended! We hope you had a fantastic night!



Dinner is served!



Outgoing GSA president Eli Heyman



Geography student, Javier Landaeta, breaks it down on the dance floor

## Research Spotlight: Junjia Ye



Jia's fieldwork with the Bangladeshi men

### What is your research about?

I am interested in understanding how social class is reproduced in Singapore's cosmopolitan labour force. I want to find out how certain groups of workers are led towards particular jobs, while being systematically kept out of others. In other words, through the analysis of labour market segmentation I investigate the experiences of workers – both migrant and local, comprised of different genders, races, sexualities and languages – in different positions in the division of labour.

### What led you to your research focus?

My doctoral work builds upon my Masters work where I looked at class reproduction among middle-class financial professionals. I broadened the theoretical and empirical framework of class by looking at a group of workers who are not only thought of as "migrants": commuter workers from Southern Malaysia who travel into Singapore to work everyday. But then I almost stumbled upon the group of Bangladeshi male migrant workers who have been rendered jobless and homeless by employment disputes by chance when I started volunteering with Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) – an

NGO in Singapore that works with migrant workers. I started volunteering on a daily basis with them in the neighbourhood of Little India and eventually I came to realize that I cannot tell the story of class reproduction in Singapore without including these men. It was thus in part design and in part serendipity that I came to incorporate the men into my work. And since I started this work, the issue of class reproduction has become both a political and intellectual passion of mine.

### What is the most interesting discovery you have made?

That I had a very fulfilling time in the field (I say this with, while recognizing the limits of, self-reflexivity!). The interactions and conversations I experienced during my 15 months of fieldwork taught me a lot of things – not least of which is that I am not my respondents. There were many moments during my fieldwork where I felt the unfamiliar very palpably, whether it was in hyper-masculine, Bangladeshi space like a particular park in Little India or when a financial trader offered me some of his expensive bottle of whisky or the commuting rush at the border-crossing between Singapore and Malaysia. During this time, I learnt a lot about my respondents; I learnt a lot *from* them as well. Research is also about the writing of the dissertation and I learnt how difficult it was to write about experiences, in particular, of chaotic lives. I still struggle with organizing data about the precarious lives of the Bangladeshi male migrants – a struggle which I will continue to engage in during my post doc.

### Did anything out of the ordinary arise?

I learnt to speak Bengali, but am still trying to acquire the taste for chewing paan (betel leaf).

### Most significant lesson learned?

That people's lives are very different from, yet not so far removed from one another's. My experiences, possibilities and geographies as a Singaporean-

Chinese, middle-class woman are very different from the Bangladeshi male migrant's and the Johorean commuter's. Yet at the same time, our lives are intertwined by the same larger processes of neoliberalism and multiculturalism that have created these differences and that we continuously reproduce daily in our differentiated lives. I also learnt that as different as our lives might be, our goals are not so opposed: the banker, the Bangladeshi migrant worker, the Johorean commuter and I are all seeking a stable livelihood so that we can sustain ourselves and our families. The poignance, however, comes through when I realized that in the pursuit of this happiness, some have to face more severe challenges than others. It is, perhaps, a pursuit that is more elusive for some.

### Future plans?

I am taking off to Germany (3 days after my defense!) to start a postdoctoral fellowship with Max Planck Institute in Göttingen for the next three years. This job will take me back to Singapore to continue working with the Bangladeshi male migrants.

## Undergraduate Stats

A breakdown of Geography's undergraduate students for the 2010/2011 academic year:

### Human Geography

Majors: 231  
Honours: 15  
Minors: 15

### Environment and Sustainability

Majors: 156

### Physical Geography

Majors: 47

### Music and Geography

Double Major: 1

## Graduate Home Seminar Recaps

### Physical Geography Home Seminars

By Jason Leach

Photographs by Kim Bryson & Natasha Cowie



Experimental warming work done in the Arctic

At least once a month, physical geographers gather outside the campus setting to hear about fresh new research by one of their colleagues during the physical home seminar series. The physical home seminar has a long tradition in the department, providing an informal environment for graduate students to present ongoing thesis research to their peers and faculty. This informal environment is ideal for sharing initial findings, data analysis challenges and pretty pictures of field sites. The seminars are usually held during the evenings and hosted at the homes of graduate students. Although, to accommodate long distance commuters, a few seminars were held during late afternoons in our collective home at 1984 West Mall.

Seminars presented in this academic year reflected the diversity in research programs within the Department of Geography. Topics ranged from avalanches to gold mines, research was conducted in flumes and from helicopters, and students travelled up mountains and across the Arctic, all in the hopes of furthering our understanding of the planet.

The following were presenters and their topics for 2010-2011:

- Sarah Davidson presented findings from her flume work that explores the relationship between large wood, sediment transport and channel morphology.
- Tom Maertens discussed helicopters, bogs, orchids, and dead trees, specifically whether yellow-cedar mortality is related to changes in climate.
- Andrew Nelson discussed environmental history and geomorphic impact of placer mining along the Fraser River and on some of its tributaries.
- Chris Borstad presented lab and field research on snow physics associated with avalanches. He also shared his expertise on the beauty that is open source software.
- Natasha Cowie presented on the trajectories of proglacial channel development in coastal British Columbia and Washington.
- Kim Bryson and Marc Edwards conducted a joint seminar on experimental biogeographic research that aims to understand how tundra vegetation in the Canadian High Arctic is likely to respond to climate change.

The home seminars this year were typically

intimate affairs, with attendance usually around eight to twelve people. Despite the humble turnouts, discussions were lively and those in attendance left with newly gained knowledge and presenters left invigorated with fresh feedback.

While finding willing presenters was a continuous challenge, the same cannot be said about securing hosts. Fortunately, the department is full of generous students willing to have a screen, projector, and a group of peers invade their homes for an evening of scientific debauchery.

The physical home seminars are valuable for providing graduate students the opportunity to share their research, practice presentation skills, gain feedback, and maintain momentum on completing their thesis. The Physical Home Seminar Committee looks forward to continuing this series next aca-



Natasha Cowie's field work looking at glaciers in BC and Washington

### Human Geography Home Seminars are Good for You (and Canadian Families)

By Rosemary Collard (with Emily Rosenman and Alyssa Stryker)

Basement suites! World Bank climate change adaptation! War! Law! Stories! The contested Coast Salish Sea! Only in geography could these diverse topics be assembled under one banner: the human geography home seminar series. Besides geography, what unites these seminars? They all show how practices often accepted as “natural” or “normal” – like basement dwelling, war, and naming – are actually caught up in and made by histories, politics, economics and societies. These practices are not inevitable, which is to say, they could be otherwise.

2010-2011 has been an exceptional year for human home seminars: we probably set records for the number of seminars held *and* the size of the audiences! But who's counting. What really matters is that the home seminars have continued a trusty tradition (the wisest among grads, who shall not be named, suspect it began sometime in the last millennium): graduate students presenting critical research over food and drink in the comfort of other grads' living rooms, with lively discussion ensuing.

Being a human home seminar committee member has a high cost-benefit ratio. We (this year, Alyssa Stryker, Emily Rosenman, and I) put in a small amount of work (the “cost” – not very costly, because it's easy and fun) that generated a huge return! Why

am I writing in capitalist metaphors? Because the current federal election demonstrates it is the language of the people! Like Steve I'm campaigning for re-election – home seminars are good for “Canadian families”! (Unlike Steve I'm alive and love animals.)

The best thing about grad school (besides postponing a “real job”) is the curious, supportive, engaged, and thoughtful collection of brains wandering the halls. We spend a lot of time alone, muttering to ourselves. Periodically, though, we venture out, blink in the bright light, jump at the sound of another person's voice, and then remember the wider world by sharing our work and ideas with each other. Home seminars: keeping us sane since the 1900s!

## Q and A with Ley

By Dr. David Edgington

With another academic year just behind us, let me tell you about some of the work of the Undergraduate Committee, which I have had the honor of co-chairing. I have enjoyed working closely with the 4th year students, especially Knut Kitching, who has been VP Academic for the Geography Students' Association (GSA).

One of our regular events was arranging a monthly 'Q and A with Ley'. As it might suggest, this took the form of a lunch (pizza or sandwiches or sometimes sushi!) in the room of the Head of the Department, hosted by Dr. David Ley, and it was designed as an informal discussion between geography major students and our faculty. Generally, I was the one who invited my colleagues to attend sessions – usually with the lure of a free lunch – while Knut and the rest of the GSA advertised the speaker and encouraged inquisitive undergrad students to come along. As an 'out of the class-room experience', it made for an enjoyable and informal way for a group of eight or so students to

gather around the Head's large meeting table to talk with a faculty member, and to learn about their current research – and their other passions! Typical questions fielded by faculty from students were 'So, what exactly brought you into teaching geography?'. 'What do you do on your days' off? (we have days off?)

In the fall term, Dr. Dan Hiebert chatted about his experiences working as the co-Director of the Metropolis British Columbia Project, a policy research group dealing with immigration and cultural diversity. In October, Dr. Jim Glassman described how he combined an interest in 'bee-bop' jazz (yes, he was a drummer in a band!) with academic interests in both philosophy and political geography. Dr. Brett Eaton led the discussion in January, together with his graduate students, Holly Buehler and Sarah Davidson. He raised a number of issues surrounding his work on likely future floods in the Fraser Valley. "Did you know there is a 30 per cent chance of a major flood here

in the next 50 years?" The series ended with Dr. Philippe Le Billon talking about his research in resource politics, Africa, and his joint position with UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Our Graduate students have also contributed to the 'Q and A' sessions. During the year we invited PhD students, Rosemary Collard (political ecology) and Pablo Mendez (migration and urban geography), to share their thoughts on 'graduate life' in our department. Both Rosemary and Pablo have extensive knowledge of the graduate program here and were able to pass on various tips to students about applying for graduate school, and the pros and cons of conducting graduate research at an institution where you studied as an undergraduate student.

I hope that 'Q and A with Ley' will continue next year, and if the Undergraduate Committee calls upon faculty, students and grads to share a lunch, then do please come along!

## Julian Yates's Success Story



Recently, Julian Yates, one of our Human Geography PhD students, has not only received the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, but was also presented with two awards at the recent American Association of

Geographers (AAG) Conference in Seattle: the "Outstanding Paper Award", administered by the Cultural and Political Ecology (CAPE) specialty group, for a paper entitled "Institutional Complexity in Governing the Scalar Politics of Livelihood Adaptation in Rural Nepal"; and, the "Gary Gaile Travel Award", administered by the Development Geographies Specialty Group (DGSG), for some reconnaissance research to be undertaken this summer under the title of "Diverse livelihoods and institutional assemblages in the Peruvian Andes (Cusco region)". Please read on for a description of the scholarship and research provided by Julian.

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Vanier CGS) was created to attract and retain world-class doctoral students and to brand Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. Vanier scholars demonstrate leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health. The program supports up to 500 new students annually. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships are awarded after a competitive process that includes a two-stage peer review of nominees. All nominees are first evaluated by peer review committees from each of the three federal research granting agencies. These committees each select 70 nominations for the disciplines covered by that agency. These 70 nominations (for a total of 210) are then forwarded to the arm's-length interagency selection board, which makes the final recommendation. The selection board recommends approximately 55 recipients to the president of each of the respective agencies (for a total of 166 recommended recipients). The selection board also oversees the program-delivery process and results to ensure the program achieves

its objectives. UBC submitted a total of 18 applications to the 2010 entry for the Vanier CGS.

In my application for the Vanier CGS, I proposed a study entitled "Adapting to climate change policy implementation: The transformation of livelihoods and institutions in the Peruvian Andes". The research will contribute to a rapidly growing field that focuses on the relationship between institutions and the adaptation of livelihoods to climate change. I focus on adaptation by exploring the ways in which livelihoods in the Peruvian Andes are shaped, not by climate change *per se*, but by the neoliberal implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The research will build our understanding of adaptation, institutions, and the governance of resource-based livelihoods. The findings will have implications for both international and Canadian policy-making on climate change, as they will reveal the impact of changing modes of governance on remote communities. The research will also identify mechanisms that actively incorporate these communities into decision-making on climate change, mechanisms that can be applied to the Canadian context.

## Second Annual GSA “Career Speed-Dating” a Great Success

By Eli Heyman; Photographs by Javier Landaeta

On the 15th of March, the GSA hosted its second annual Careers Night in the Geographic Information Centre (GIC). This event is aimed at introducing undergraduate students, through conversation with departmental alums, to potential career paths and opportunities after graduation,



Students, Faculty & Alumni exchange thoughts around one of eight 'speed-dating' tables

and we are pleased to say that it was a great success! Unlike the more traditional career fairs on UBC's campus that involve two or three alumni standing up one at a time to tell their stories to students, through a “speed-dating” style, students were able to meet representatives of many different fields and post-graduation paths. The event was organized such that students circulated between tables each manned by alumni and members of the faculty. This format allowed for groups of 6-8 students to speak directly with individual alumni, resulting in many engaging one-on-one conversations. Represented were alumni from urban and regional planning departments, various consulting firms and cartography.

In the weeks following the event, we

have heard from many students that they have since been in contact with some of the alumni. As a result of these connections, there have been some lunchtime meetings between students and alumni so that they can continue to discuss some of the things that came up on the night of the event. We think it is great to see that students have been able to follow-up on the conversations that occurred around the tables in the GIC, because after all an evening of speed-dating is only successful if the relationships fostered there continues into the future. Who knows, maybe some students will even find themselves a new job as a result of the connections that were made here!

The GSA would like to thank all of the alumni and faculty who offered up their experiences and advice. This event was a great example of how the strengths of UBC Geographers can still be seen long after they have graduated and gone beyond the walls of the Building. We encourage students to attend next year's iteration of this event!



Alumni Adam Cooper (middle) answers some questions from students Dustin Everett (left) and Jeff Fong (right)

## Special Achievements

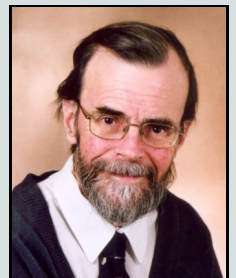
**Karen Bakker** is one of this year's Top 40 Under 40 Award recipients. Established in 1995, the awards are given out annually and celebrate the achievements and leadership qualities of young Canadians. Winners are selected based on vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, impact, growth and development and community work.



**Matthew Evenden** has been awarded a Killam Teaching Prize for his accomplished teaching at all levels from first year and onwards. Established University-wide, the prize is adjudicated within each of the twelve Faculties under procedures defined in the Faculty and approved by the Provost.



**Michael Church** has been named this year's recipient of the Mel Marcus Distinguished Career Award by the Association of American Geographers-Geomorphology Specialty Group. The original nomination was put forth by Judy Haschenburger and Frank Magilligan, and received enormous support from the geomorphology community. The award was conferred on April 13th in Seattle, WA.



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UBC on the web:  
[http://www.geog.ubc.ca/  
department/newsletters](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/department/newsletters)

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