



Star Cartographer: Eric Leinberger

By Katie Kinsley

When I asked Eric Leinberger what he is working on, the answer is a bit overwhelming: "graphs and maps for Marwan, editing maps, figures, photos for David's book, printing a quick map for Olav, updating maps for Cole... in longer term projects: the BLC book for Andreas and Tim, figures for Mike Church...figures for Tim's Urban climate book,...a figure for Derek... maps for Matthew..." Clearly, Eric, winner of the 2009 Geography Stellar Staff award, is one hard-working member of the Geography Department! Eric is the department's Resident Cartographer, although that hardly describes the extent of his work, which has included everything from maps, charts, and diagrams to pamphlets, power point presentations and posters. His job pivots on translating information into a clear and pleasing visual format. Passionate about communicating effectively Eric enjoys helping people to present their information as concisely as possible and removing what he describes as "noise" to make the vital points stand out. Faculty say Eric's "cartographic work shows off the research output of the faculty in the best possible way and at a very high level of expertise".

Eric's path to UBC began with one astute geography teacher, Mr. Goth, who kept Eric's interest by illustrating his points with colourful drawings. Eric remembers thinking "that was neat." In testament to Mr. Goth's impact, Eric still has his grade 8 notebook! Later, inspired by growing environmental concerns Eric decided to pursue geography at Waterloo, but soon realized that car-

tography was where his real interests lay. He quickly enrolled in a map making program at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Upon graduating Eric was lucky enough to land a job, the only catch: it was in Vancouver. In the spring of '89 he boarded a train and made the five day journey west, where he would spend the next two years making maps for Canadian Cartographics and growing accustomed to the rainy Vancouver climate. In 1992, hard times hit and Eric was laid off. Determined to continue working in his field he started to "pester" people at UBC and SFU. At UBC Eric met Paul Jance and Angus Weller (Resident Cartographers), who in turn introduced him to Cole Harris and Graeme Wynn. At the time Cole and Graeme were working on *Vancouver and Its Regions* and they decided to hire Eric on a two month probationary contract to help with the book. By that fall Eric was a full-fledged member of Geography, where he quickly became an indispensable part of the department.

Eric's role in Geography can't be limited to his visual productions. His quiet and easy manner and his willingness to take on any project enhance the work place for all. In terms of projects, Eric takes particular pleasure in those that involve working with others in ways that bring together and utilize each person's skills. He also thrives on the "challenge of creating a challenging illustration" and although he describes his job as more of a science than an art his colleagues consider him to be incredibly "creative." To date, Eric has contributed thousands of maps, graphs and other visual aids to



hundreds of books, journals and publications. Some of his favorite projects include: *The Cryosphere and Global Environmental Change*, *The Reluctant Land*, *The Colonial Present*, *BC Natural History*, *Physiography of BC*, *Canada and Arctic North America*, *The Geography of Crisis and Opportunity*, *Birds of BC Vol. 3 & 4*, and *Island Timber*.

Although he has worked on thousands of projects few can compete in magnitude with the GEOG@50 posters (on display in upper north wing). Eric devoted several months to the data collection, fact checking, designing and finally production of these elaborate celebrations of UBC Geography history. According to his nomination letter, "the creativity and research work that went into the posters were extraordinary... Eric made an outstanding contribution to the Department and demonstrated enthusiasm, integrity and dedication... Eric has produced a fabulous legacy for this department to display, keep and add to in the future." Congratulations Eric on this well-deserved recognition!

The GEOG Event of the Year: A Tree Trimming Extravaganza!



The next generation of geographers: Brett with son Simon, grads Christie and Sarah with Sarah's son Austin and Michael.



The new crew Marc, John, Alyssa, Sophie, Emily, Alan and Michelle in a catalogue quality pose!



Classy in black, ladies of geography, Priya, Gerry and Liz.

On December 4th the GIC hosted the 11th Annual Trim the Tree and kicked off the holiday season. There were several door prizes and a 50/50 draw won by Albert Teng, who generously donated his winnings to the food bank! Thanks to the efforts of the GIC staff: Jennifer, Kevin and Rosemary the spread was again superb, the atmosphere festive and the wine poured with pizzazz!



Despite Howard's (middle) efforts at caroling Craig and Ben wouldn't join in!



Jenn in action at the bar (above), Anchors of Geography Sandy and Rosemary (upper middle) Grads: Wes, Joanna, Andrew, Rosemary and John keeping cozy while they enjoy the party! (upper right) A staff family photo: Jenn, Rosemary, Katie, Stephanie and Kevin (bottom Right). Familiar faces: geography graduate Beth with Chris, Junnie (previous grad sec) and Josh.



Terrific TA Annual Q&A

Congratulations to Sarah Zell (Human) and Christie Andrews (Physical), this year's recipients of the Departmental Teaching Assistant Award! GEOG@UBC asked these gifted grads a few questions to learn how they do what they do!



Christie accepting the TA award at the GIC Trim the Tree Party.

Q: What is the most challenging aspect of being a TA?

Christie: Not talking for too long at the beginning of labs! That's when students start to zone out. Also, finding alternate ways to explain/illustrate a concept or idea when students don't understand. Not going over my TA hours is difficult as well. There are always better examples that can be provided the more preparation you put into it.

Sarah: For me it is finding as much time as I'd like to devote to each session or assignment – to give students the dedication they deserve while still maintaining boundaries for myself. I try to block off time to focus on teaching or marking with a fresh mind.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a TA?

Christie: The 'Ah Ha' moments. When students are able to link lab material to lecture material, course readings and/or

real life situations. This is usually obvious on their faces in labs, but can also be evident in their lab reports and projects. Seeing students grow and develop their technical and report writing/presentation skills.

Sarah: Those "ah ha" moments of connection – when students really connect with the material and engage with each other, especially in group contexts. I also love realizing how much I've learned and grown from working with them, and how reciprocal students' enthusiasm can be.

Q: Do you have any special tricks to keep students engaged?

Christie: Providing, simple, real life examples and pictures etc., so that students can relate more complex concepts and ideas to everyday life. Also, not talking too much, especially on Monday morning or Friday afternoon labs !



Sarah would have liked to come to the party but she had a prior engagement!

Sarah: I don't have any "tricks," per se, but I do believe that a certain degree of humility can go a long way. Taking ourselves (but not the material) a little less seriously really helps stimulate genuine conversation about ideas. A conscious reminder to myself to avoid monotone also helps!

An Official Welcome!



The Geography Department officially welcomes Stephanie Lambiris, our new graduate secretary! Stephanie started as a temp in late June and she did such a great job that the Geography Department invited her to be a permanent staff member. She officially joined the team November 25th! Since most of you know Stephanie already I thought perhaps you might want to see just how well you know her with a small quiz!

1. *Stephanie plays the:*
A) guitar B) piano C) trombone
D) all of the above
2. *Stephanie's middle name is:*
A) Rose B) Lee C) None
3. *Stephanie was born in:*
A) Australia B) England C) S. Africa
4. *Stephanie is a:*
A) Pescatarian B) Vegetarian
C) Vegan
5. *Before coming to UBC Stephanie worked at the University of:*
A) Glasgow B) Melbourne C) Sydney
6. *Stephanie's favorite author is:*
A) John Grisham B) Terry Pratchett
C) John Sandford

Answers: d, c, c, c, b, b

Conference on Japanese -Canadian Immigration and Foreign Workers

By David Edgington

This November David W. Edgington organized a three-day workshop between Japanese and Canadian social scientists examining recent policy-related research into immigration and the status of foreign workers. This meeting was supported by the

Japan Foundation and hosted by UBC's Centre for

Japanese Research. It brought together 12 experts from Japan and Canada to discuss a number of themes common to both countries, including local government planning responses to increasing numbers of migrants, national settlement programs, education and language policies as well as recent legislative changes relating to immigration and foreign workers.

The keynote address was made by Professor Glenda Roberts of Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies. She noted that while Japan often represents itself as a homogeneous population, it also has a sizeable minority of ethnic Korean and Taiwanese residents, a legacy of the Japanese colonial period in Asia. Furthermore, the 'bubble economy' of the late 1980s left Japan with a sub-



"David Edgington, international scholars and students visiting the Japanese Language School class rooms in Alexander Street, Vancouver."

stantial number of undocumented migrant workers, many of whom stayed long years and today continue to contribute to the economy. Together with documented workers of Japanese descent, students, "trainees" mostly from China and other Asian countries, international marriage migrants, skilled professionals, foreign "entertainers" who supply labor for the hostess bar industry, as well as undocumented overstayers, foreign residents now approach two percent of the population. She reported that Japan is currently battling low birth rates and an ageing population. It has some of the world's strictest controls on immigration, yet the new Prime Minister, Yukio Hatoyama, has stated that the country should make itself more attractive to migrants. While Japan has relatively few resident foreigners, in recent years it

has cautiously opened up its job market to nurses and care workers from some Southeast Asian countries. Gerry Pratt presented her research into Filipino workers in Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program. Gerry argued that Canada's temporary domestic worker program is symptomatic of a massive expansion of temporary foreign worker programs

worldwide. Her research focused on the family separation suffered by Filipino women in Vancouver and the sacrifices they and their children undergo, even after reuniting in Canada.

A distinctive dimension of the Workshop was the opportunity given to graduate students to participate. Nine students from Waseda University made short presentations on their thesis projects, and UBC students (many from the Department of Geography) acted as panel moderators. The final day involved a field trip led by David Edgington and Henry Yu (UBC History Department) to various 'ethnic districts' in the metropolitan region. This outing included a visit to the Japanese Buddhist Temple in Steveston as well as to the historic Japanese Language School building in downtown Vancouver.



Happy Holidays!



Check out GEOG @ UBC on the web: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/department/newsletters>

The University of British Columbia
The Department of Geography

GEOG @ UBC would like to thank everyone who submitted pieces for the newsletter. Please continue to support GEOG @ UBC by submitting your stories and ideas to Katie Kinsley: kinsley@geog.ubc.ca