

Carmen Wong Receives Canon National Park Scholarship

Congratulations to Carmen Wong on receiving the Canon National Park Science Scholarship. Carmen is very excited about the Scholarship since she will be using the \$80,000 U.S. award to fund her Ph.D. research. Carmen explains that much of the logistics of her work has been inhibited by long three plus hour dangerous bushwacks to treeline sites; thus a good portion of this money will be used for helicopter access. The Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program is developing the next generation of scientists working in the fields of conservation, environmental science and park management. It is the first and only program of its kind to encourage doctoral students to conduct innovative research on scientific problems critical to national parks. Established in 1997 and expanded in 2002 to include students and national parks throughout the Americas, the program supports scientists who will learn, discover, invent and create solutions to preserve national parks in the region.



The following is a brief explanation of Carmen's innovative research:

Hikers often breathe a sigh of relief when coming across whitebark pine – these trees signal that they are nearing their alpine goal. Unfortunately, these flagships are in significant decline across interior mountain ranges in western North America due to mortality from disease, insects and the effects of the absence of wildfire. While the extent of mortality has been well documented, we still do not know how subalpine forests respond as a whole to these impacts. Do other tree species take over? Or can seedlings of whitebark pine establish in the gaps in the forest created by dying trees? Do these responses happen ubiquitously over the landscape or can we use environmental conditions to predict different responses? To answer these questions I am using patterns in tree rings to determine how trees are growing after the decline or death of neighbouring whitebark pine. I am sampling many forests of whitebark pine in Jasper and Waterton Lakes National Parks in the Canadian Rockies to understand how growth responses may vary in different landscapes. My goal is to provide information to help park ecologists make strategic decisions on where prescribed burning is most likely to improve whitebark pine and where other restoration techniques may best emulate ecological processes.

It's That Time Again.....



"TRIM THE TREE IN THE GIC"

Friday December 1, 2006

Time: 4:30pm to 8:00pm

Enjoy food, wine & Christmas festivities

****The GIC is now excepting Food Bank Donations****

Faculty, Staff, Graduate Students & GSA Executive Welcome



The University of British Columbia - Department of Geography

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The University of British Columbia - The Department of Geography

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Those Were The Days. Or Were They? UBC Geography in the Early Years

The following was written for the Newsletter by Dr J. Lewis Robinson, founding professor of Geography at UBC, on the sixtieth anniversary of his appointment on 1 September 1946.

Unlike modern appointments, I was appointed directly by President Norman Mackenzie after he interviewed me in Ottawa where I was a consultant for the Federal Government, Northwest Territories Administration. The same procedure was followed the next year when John Chapman was interviewed at Oxford University in England by President Mackenzie. In 1946 Mackenzie informed the Department of Geology and Geography of my appointment and I was welcomed warmly by Dr. Vladimir Okulitch, geologist and paleontologist, [a world expert on trilobites and later UBC's first Dean of Science] who was temporarily in charge of supervising the Geography course in the joint Department.

This was a different direction for Geography because President Mackenzie informed me that I was the first professional geographer to be appointed and my instructions were to develop a geography program. The next appointments and all that followed during my time in the department were of faculty who had graduate degrees in Geography. But as the joint name indicates, Geography was not new to the joint Department. The University Senate approved courses in geology, mineralogy and geography to be given in the Department of Geology and Mineralogy when the University opened in 1915-1916. A half course listed as "Geography 1: Physical Geography" was given by S.J. Schofield in the fall of 1915. The course, later listed as "Principles of Geography" and then "Physical Geography" is the oldest Geography course given continuously in a Canadian university. In 1920 a new course, Geology 12 "Meteorology and Climatology" was introduced and seems to be the first Climatology course to be given continuously at a Canadian University. In 1922 the Department's name was changed to the

Department of Geology and Geography, and it thus became the first academic unit in a Canadian university to use the name "Geography" in its title. (The claim of the University of Toronto to have the "first" Department of Geography in Canada, founded in 1936, is only half-right!).



In 1925, when the University moved to the Point Grey Campus site, the Department of Geology and Geography was placed in the "temporary" Applied Science Building because R.W. Brock, the Head of the Department was also the Dean of Applied Science. This building, currently the home of Geography, is now 80 plus years old.

Through the 1920's the joint department consisted of four Geology Professors. A Geography course was given in summer sessions and the first faculty member with an academic geography degree to teach one of these was J.B. Appleton, a summer visitor in 1928 from the University of Illinois. In 1930, a new course, Geography 5, Economic Geography was introduced by J. Friend Day of the Economics and Commerce department.

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It was a required course for the B. Comm. degree and was an elective in the B.A. program as a Geography course. This course under various titles was administered directly by the Economics Department from 1933 but returned to Geography in 1947 and was taught by Lewis Robinson thereafter. Faculty numbers were reduced during the Depression years of the 1930's and in 1935 only one Geography course, "Principles of Geography" was given.

After Brock's tragic death in an airplane crash in 1935, Gordon Davis was appointed and took over Brock's lectures in the "Principles" course. He also gave a new course "Physiography" (Geology 22), in 1935. Davis expanded the Geography program in 1936, "Meteorology and Climatology" (Geology 12), became Geography 2; a new course "Human and Regional Geography" became Geography 3. Geography returned to importance in Summer Sessions (mainly for lectures) in the late 1930's when three visitors with Geography degrees and faculty appointments in Geography Department elsewhere in USA came to UBC each summer, including Dr. Eric Faigle of Syracuse University, who attracted Lew Robinson and Tom Weir to graduate work in Geography at Syracuse in the early 1940's.

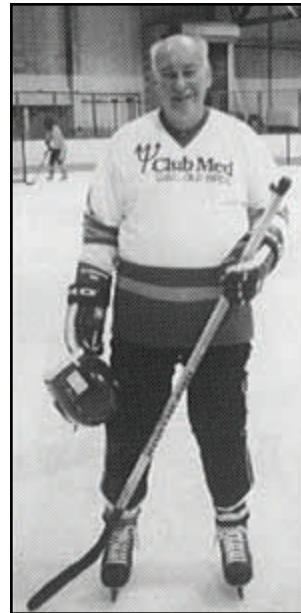
Major progress in Geography came in 1941 when it became possible to graduate with a Geography major (9 units only). Five students were the first Geography majors in 1941 and three more students called themselves "minors". Among these was Don Kerr, who much later became Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto. Tragedy struck the Department in 1943 when Gordon Davis died of a heart attack in the field. He had been in charge of the Geography program at UBC for eight years. He was replaced by Mrs. Gwendolen O'Brien, a war refugee living temporarily in Vancouver, who had a Geography degree from the University of London. She was replaced in 1945 by Tom Weir who had an M.A. in Geography from Syracuse University

and who was teaching school in Vancouver. In addition, Dr. Vladimir Okulitch took over other Geography courses. There were eight Geography courses offered in 1945-1946.

After Lew Robinson's appointment to develop and expand Geography, UBC offered twelve full-year Geography courses in 1947, with a total undergraduate enrollment of seven hundred and fifty. In 1948 the first two students with Honours degrees in Geography graduated and nine students registered in a Graduate degree program. In 1953 the joint Department was split into two "Divisions" with Lewis Robinson as Chairman (not head) of the Geography division. In 1958 the divisions were split into separate departments, and J. Lewis Robinson became the first head of Geography. In that year there were twelve independent courses with a total enrollment of 1250 students – more undergraduate students than in any other Canadian university. Although in those years Heads of Departments were appointed for life (i.e. without term), Lew Robinson had to resign in 1968 when he had a serious heart attack. With the agreement of the other Geography faculty, and no Search Committee, John Chapman was appointed the second head of the Geography Department.

Note: More information is available in J.L. Robinson, "History of the UBC Department of Geography" in the GIC, 28 pages, and in Robinson, "Geography at the University of B.C.," *Yearbook of Pacific Coast Geographers*, Vol 53 (1991), pp. 199-216.

Photo courtesy of: http://www.abcbookworld.com/tate=view_author&author_id=7129



Dr. Robinson on the Hockey Rink

Dr. Cole Harris — The Reluctant Land



By: Jennifer Hamilton

The Department would like to congratulate Emeriti Professor Cole Harris on the completion of the manuscript of a book on early Canada, with the working title "The Reluctant Land". We look forward to the appearance of the book in due time. Faculty and grad students gathered at Cole's house in late October to celebrate the manuscripts completion. Dr. Harris and his wife prepared snacks and graduate students Emily Jane Davis and Joanna Reid made a cake of Canada.

Department Publications Since July 1, 2006

- ◆ **Daniels, L.D.**, & Gray, R.W. (2006). "Disturbance regimes in coastal British Columbia." *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 7: 44-56.
- ◆ **Eaton, B.C., Church, M.**, & Davies, T.R.H. (2006). "A physical basis for slope minimizing behaviour in bedload dominated streams." *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 31: 875 - 891.
- ◆ **Eaton, B.C.** (2006). "Bank stability analysis for regime models of vegetated gravel bed rivers." *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 31:1438-1444.
- ◆ **Eaton, B.C.** (2006). "Predicting stream channel response to disturbances: the UBC regime model." *In/ Water Under Pressure: balancing values, demands and extremes.* Canadian Water Resources Association, B. C. Branch 2006 Conference Proceedings. Vancouver, BC.
- ◆ **Edgington, D.W.** & Hayter, R. (2006). "Higashi Ajia to Chugoku ni okeru Nihon no erekutoronikusu kigyou-koushouryoku, bunka shuutoku oyobi umekomi." (Japanese Electronics Firms in Southeast Asia and China: negotiation, learning and embeddedness), in Nishiguchi Kiyokatsu (ed.) *Higashi Ajia Kyodo tai no Kichiku (The Creation of an East Asian Community)*, Kyoto, Minerva Shobu , 143-169.
- ◆ **Evenden, M.**, (2006). "Twenty-first Century Magic." *Journal of Historical Geography* 32(4): 864-870. Review of Jared Diamond, *The Third Chimpanzee, Guns, Germs and Steel, and Collapse.*
- ◆ Gomi, T., **Moore, R.D.** & Dhakal, A.S. (2006). "Headwater stream temperature response to forest harvesting with different riparian treatments, coastal British Columbia, Canada." *Water Resources Research* 42, W08437, doi:10.1029/2005WR004162.
- ◆ Grimsdottir, H. & **McClung, D.** (2006), "Avalanche risk during backcountry skiing - an analysis of factors, Natural Hazards." 39: 127 -153.
- ◆ **McClung, D.** & Schaefer, P. (2006). "The Avalanche Handbook, 3rd Edition." 342 pp., The Mountaineers, Seattle, Wa.
- ◆ **McKendry, I.G., Stahl, K. & Moore, R.D.** (2006). "Synoptic sea-level pressure patterns generated by a General Circulation Model: Comparison with types derived from NCEP analyses and implications for downscaling." *International Journal of Climatology* 26: 1727-1736, doi: 10.1002/joc.1337.
- ◆ **Pratt, G.** & Rosner, V. (eds.) (2006). "The Global & the Intimate." *Women's Studies Quarterly.* The Feminist Press.
- ◆ **Stahl, K., Moore, R.D., Floyer, J.A., Asplin, M.G., & McKendry, I.G.** (2006). "Comparison of approaches for spatial interpolation of daily air temperature in a large region with complex topography and highly variable station density." *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 139: 224-236, doi: 10.1016/j.agrformet.2006.07.004.
- ◆ **Stahl, K., Moore, R.D. & McKendry, I.G.** (2006). "Climatology of winter cold spells in relation to Mountain Pine Beetle mortality in British Columbia, Canada." *Climate Research* 32: 13-23.
- ◆ **Sundberg, J.** (2006). "Field Note: Southern Arizona, U.S.A." *Women's Studies Quarterly: The global & the intimate* 34(1-2): 101-105.
- ◆ **Sundberg, J.** (2006). "Conservation, Globalization, and Democratization: Exploring the contradictions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala," in *Globalization and the New Geographies of Conservation*, Karl Zimmerer ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- ◆ Winkler, H., Baumert, K., Blanchard, O., Burch, S., & **Robinson, J.** (2006). "What factors influence mitigative capacity?" *Energy Policy* 35 2007, 692-703.
- ◆ Winkler, R.D. & **Moore, R.D.** (2006). "Variability in snow accumulation patterns within forest stands on the interior plateau of British Columbia, Canada." *Hydrological Processes* 20: 3683-3695.
- ◆ **Wyly, E. & Pearce, T.** (2006). "He Got Game." *Urban Affairs Review* 42(2): 258-266.

A New Edition of The Avalanche Handbook Released

By: Jennifer Hamilton

UBC Geography Professor **Dr. David McClung** (with Peter Schaefer) released the new edition of "The Avalanche Handbook" on October 31, 2006. The previous edition sold about 40,000 copies and has become a "must have" for back country enthusiasts. The new edition has 342 pages up from 271 pages in the previous edition. New chapters include: "The Elements of Applied Avalanche Forecasting". Dr. McClung explains that the chapter was the results from teaching about human factors in *The Geography of Natural Hazards* (Geog 316) in the Department over the last 15 years. Also included is a new chapter titled "The ABCs for Backcountry Avalanche Forecasting and Decisions". McClung also notes that Chapter 1, "Character and Effects of Avalanches" is almost all new.

