

Canadian Women
and Geography
Study Group
Newsletter

CWAG

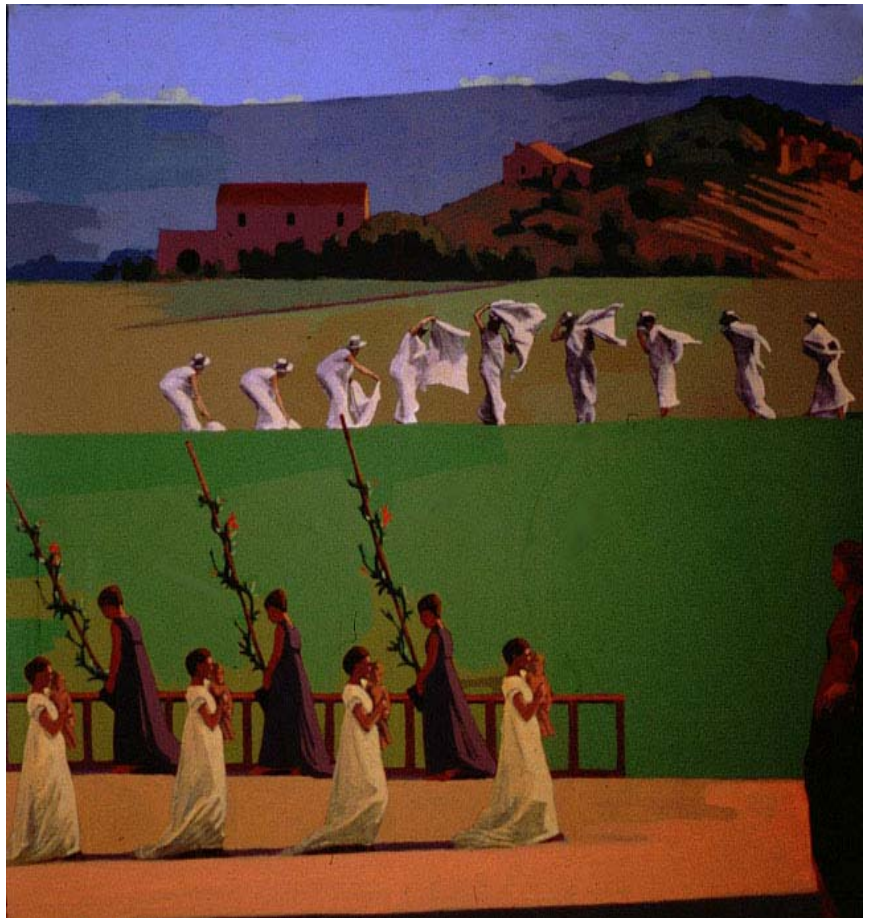
THIS ISSUE

Editor's Notes ~ 1
CWAG Chair
Notes ~ 3
SWIG Ottawa
Update ~ 5
Student Profiles ~ 6
Department
Updates ~ 8

CAG 2005 Sessions
To Note ~ 17
New Publications ~
18
WebLink~18
**CWAG Website
Goes Online!**
CG Call for
Papers~19

Editor: B. Hallman
hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.
ca

Newsletter February/March 2005



Editor's Notes

Bonnie Hallman

I'm writing this from the tundra...no not the actual tundra, though some could easily argue that Winnipeg in March is about as close to that arctic landscape as they ever want to experience! No, I'm borrowing a metaphor from *Women in the Canadian Academic Tundra: Challenging the Chill* (2002) edited by Elena Hanna, Linda Paul and Swani Vethmany-Globus. Why am I doing this? Because of my very recent experience in the promotion process here at the University of Manitoba (which is in part why this is the February/March 2005 issue – apologies to all of you for the delay).

The process of seeking promotion is a long one, as many of you know. An impressive package (if I do say so myself!) was submitted and unanimously, and very positively assessed as worthy of promotion to associate professor by the departmental committee, head of department and dean. However, all came to a halt at the level of the VP Academic. Why? Because work done at the assistant level, but not at my current university, was not to be counted, or at least would be weighted far less than

accomplishments over the last 3 ½ years at the University of Manitoba. This negated 4 years of my career at a California State University campus – 4 years of my life. In addition, I was to understand that all that counts is publications. Not only was it 'teaching doesn't count' (Litner 2002), neither did the scholarly work of course and program development, nor service work to formulate all the regulations and bylaws needed in a new department (Geography merged with an Environmental Science and Studies program in Sept. 2004) and in a new Faculty (The Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources was officially created in 2001, and began enrolling students in Sept 2003). But as we all know, this is precisely the sort of work that women academics disproportionately find themselves contributing to. I certainly did, in no small part because of the knowledge and experience gained in program development and administration in my previous appointment.

My lesson? – to do such work is of no value to central administrations, no matter how important this work is to the long term functioning, even existence, of your work environment, nor how much it speaks to your own sense of community building and

commitment to university and discipline. This is a hard, cold lesson to learn, and one which leaves me feeling like I've been left out there on the tundra with only the thin cloth of similar stories of other women academics as some small comfort and protection.

Why am I taking advantage of this space to share this with you? Because I have been reminded once again how easy it is to be debilitated by this chilly environment. That is, until we recognize that it is not just us, not just the idiosyncrasies of the bureaucracies our own institutions, but systemic problems which we as women battle against in the pursuit of our careers. I am also reflecting on how we have learned to share our stories with each other (the above mentioned edited volume is a shining example), but we have been far less successful as women academics working to **change** the institutions that are such a 'cold climate' for women academics.

And it is this necessity to draw attention to these issues beyond ourselves, to let the larger community see what it means for our students (their children), for the operation of these institutions (that their tax dollars help support), when the labour of women academics is undervalued, underestimated

and discounted, not because it is not necessary, important or interesting, but because it does not fit the narrow, patriarchal, corporate model of what a university is about and how it should function. Perhaps this communication to the wider community is something that, in light of the recent survey conducted by CWAG on the role of this group that we can consider as we assess the role and place of this study group within the CAG, and beyond. I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Thank you,
Bonnie Hallman

Hopefully Associate Professor
Department of Environment and
Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of
Environment, Earth, and
Resources
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
MB

REFERENCES

Hannah, E., L. Paul and S. Vethamany-Globus (2002) Women in the Canadian Academic Tundra: Challenging the Chill. McGill-Queen's University Press: Montreal and Kingston.

Litner, B. (2002) 'Teaching Doesn't Count', in Hannah, E., L. Paul and S. Vethamany-Globus (2002) Women in the Canadian

Academic Tundra: Challenging the Chill. McGill-Queen's University Press: Montreal and Kingston. Pgs 129-132.



CWAG Chair Notes

Margaret Walton-Roberts
Wilfrid Laurier University

Well here it is, my first column as the new chair of CWAG. Firstly, I am sure you will all want to join me in offering our sincere thanks to Jennifer Hyndman, who has excelled in this position for the last two and a half years. As the new chair I hope I can emulate, however partially, her level of efficiency and collegiality, and continue the good work she has set in motion.

Over the last few weeks, as I thought about taking over the chair from Jennifer, I was preoccupied with my own changing circumstances and what role CWAG has played for me, as an early career academic, and what role it might play for other women (or men) who share many of the concerns of CWAG. My own reflections in the closing months of 2004 were heavily shaped by the fact that I was on maternity leave after having my second child in April 2004. Thanks to a supportive partner, I was able to return to my duties as assistant professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in January

2005. This transition has encouraged me to ponder how women in the academy deal with the contradictions and tensions that exist between our personal and professional realms.

During my maternity leave I morphed into a full time mother of two boys under 4, and inhabited the traditional role of stay-at-home mother with a partner who journeyed out to the world of work each day. Despite my enjoyment at the time I was able to spend with my sons, any 'free' time was spent resuscitating my professional self. My academic persona struggled to reassert itself as I tried, sometimes in vain, to keep abreast of departmental politics, academic trends, and my own research. As I struggled to reconcile my conflicting identities as mother and academic, my sons were thankfully oblivious to the maelstrom that I occasionally contended with; my spouse, unfortunately, was not so lucky.

At times I chastised myself for not relishing the temporary reprieve from the pressures of my professional world, but I recognized that this was a period that might operate as a deficit to my 'career' in a job sector where reputation (built as it is on public performances be they written, oral, or rumour), precedes and defines us. Indeed our reputations feed and/or destroy our egos as we prostitute ourselves on the academic personality circuit. It

goes without saying that such circuits are masculinist in that the more we can become the ideal institutional subject—bereft of any other responsibilities than those to the academy—the more successful we can potentially become. In this long saga of the overworked academic (graduate student or professor), we often become our own worst enemies. Certainly institutional pressures are important aspects of the intensity of the work we increasingly face, but we do constitute those institutions, and we can have an effect on the conditions of work, even if it seems miniscule at times. I think we can start by being easier on our colleagues and ourselves, and by giving ourselves credit for the work we do. In this regard I see CWAG as playing an important role.

In a recent piece in the *Annals* Michael Solem and Kenneth Foote (2004) focus on the challenges facing early career Geography faculty and contribute to a wider literature that emphasizes the importance of building supportive structures to assist in advancing graduate students and junior faculty. In particular I was drawn to one of their findings that correlates opportunities for professional networking with enhanced self-esteem (page 900). The positive power of various networking opportunities for enhancing student and faculty confidence

at all levels is something often overlooked. Of course not all networking opportunities accord the same level of support (I remember my first AAG conference as an extremely intimidating experience), but the importance of building professional networks in an atmosphere of safe and supportive cooperation and collaboration can provide vital encouragement to women and other 'non-traditional' groups who want to create a place for themselves within the discipline. Indeed these suggestions coincide with the survey findings Shannon Stunden-Bower and Sharmalene Mendis reported on in the September 2004 CWAG newsletter. They found that the students surveyed desired greater personal and professional networking opportunities, and CWAG was seen as providing an important venue for such interactions.

As the new chair of CWAG, I would like to highlight what it is I hope our association can continue to do for geographers, not just women, but all those who subscribe to CWAG's aims. As chair I would like to see CWAG continue to focus on the following areas: **Support** (through networks of exchange and information sharing); **Advocacy** (by promoting women geographers officially through nomination processes and through our institutional presence within the

CAG); the provision of a **Forum** for interaction (through our newsletter and other gatherings at local, regional and national conferences); and in the promotion of **Equity** (in continuing to provide a place to communicate equity issues in our newsletter and through CWAG's overall presence and activities). I hope the word **SAFE** might sum-up what CWAG can be for its members, be they male, female, student, postdoc, faculty, human or physical geographers. In this regard CWAG can operate as a safe space for all its members. As to the confusion reported in the CWAG survey (September 2004 newsletter) regarding what CWAG stands for and represents, I am inclined to see this vagueness as something to be embraced. Personally I am all for ambiguity if it can permit novel intersections and collectives to emerge that work toward making geography a safe space for all its practitioners.

References:

Solem, M. and Foote (2004)
"Concerns, attitudes, and abilities of early career geography faculty." *Annals of the Association of the American Geographers*, 94(4): 889-912.



SWIG Ottawa Update

Rebecca Zatalan
University of Ottawa

This is the first SWIG group that has been organized at the University of Ottawa.

SWIG member descriptions:

Susan Zabenskie:

Studying vegetation changes through time in lake sediments in the Canadian Arctic in order to predict future vegetation changes, relating to climate change. Expected completion date: August 2006.

Shannon Christie:

An exploration of the capacity of the United Nations' Environment Programme's Regional Seas Programme to evaluate its own progress in improving the state of the marine and coastal environment. The Wider Caribbean Region is used as a case study. Expected completion: June 2005.

Bhavnita Mistry:

Risk and Drinking water: An analysis of drinking water risk perception in Ontario, Post-Walkerton.

Expected completion: May 2006

Pauline Favero

Shallow active-layer detachments in a fire-impacted permafrost region, Dawson, Yukon Territory.

Expected completion: May 2006.

Joan Bunbury

My project is a long-term, high-resolution reconstruction of environmental change in the southwest Yukon using lake sediments. This project will address regional climate changes over the past 2,000 years and will also assess how a volcanic eruption that occurred 1,200 years ago impacted aquatic ecosystems in the region.

Expected completion: May 2008



Student Profiles

Karen Lind

*Master of Environment candidate
Department of Environment and
Geography
University of Manitoba*

Winnipeg, Manitoba is home to over thirty community gardens operating through a variety of organizations such as horticultural societies, neighbourhood associations, church groups, daycares and schools. Such popularity suggests these gardens are a valued and beneficial landscape feature. However, like many other cities, Winnipeg's community gardens face an assortment of challenges threatening their continued existence and expansion, such as land tenure and water accessibility; requiring the

attention of city government. But in comparison with other Canadian urban centres, Winnipeg's community gardens are generally not recognized amongst government or the general public, consequently limiting the potential of these unique greenspaces.

As part of my master's project through the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba, I chose to focus on the role of food security in women's community garden experience. I was motivated to validate community gardens beyond their hobby status believing if I could illustrate how they were contributing to women's personal and household food security, both the policy makers and public would realize the importance of the existing and future gardens in our city. As I began speaking with more and more gardeners throughout the city I quickly acknowledged that focusing specifically on food security would undermine all the other associated benefits participants are attributing to the gardens. Clearly these gardens are valued for a variety of different reasons not necessarily related to the production of food or food security, but equally, if not more, significant.

Broadening my research scope enabled this work to speak to a diversity of community gardening

benefits while identifying those similar to and unique from other gardening practices. Employing a semi-directed interview approach, twenty-one urban and suburban women gardeners participated and analysis of these transcripts is currently underway. The role of food security in women's community garden experience appears to focus on increased accessibility to what they identify as quality, very often organic, food ('not the hard rubber balls you buy in the store'). Some women reported spending less money on food or else having more money to spend on 'extras' due to their garden participation (especially those preserving their produce). However, it is the social benefits or the renewed sense of community that frequently come as a surprise to the participants themselves. A number of testimonies identify their community garden as a personal and community sanctuary, not only from life's hectic pace, but also from social prejudice and marginalization. Very often these gardens are acting as informal learning spaces, where distinct value and respect is placed on experiential knowledge. This appreciation for experiential knowledge appears to be very empowering for many women, especially those with limited formal education.

Upon hearing so many amazing and inspiring stories I realized I

would never be able to portray the true essence of what these gardens offer to individuals and their communities; therefore failing to effectively increase public awareness and support. This did encourage me, however, to pursue public awareness initiatives, which could not of happened without the help and support of some keen community gardeners. Last summer we facilitated Winnipeg's first community garden tour geared towards community gardeners and the general public. Proving to be an excellent way to introduce many citizens to the existence and beauty of these gardens this tour allowed community gardeners across the city to share experiences, successes and techniques. Many tour participants commented on the diversity of gardens and ingenuity employed to deal with the unique challenges of community gardening. .

Ensuring this work will leave a lasting impression and reach a wider audience we are currently producing a community garden video. This video is meant to allow the gardeners to play a direct role in educating the public about community gardening by introducing the variety of reasons they believe it is an urban activity deserving more recognition. The intention for this video is to illustrate both the

positive outcomes as well as the challenges associated with community gardening for a wide range of audiences. This video will be made available to neighbourhood groups, schools, libraries, government and any other interested organization or individual for the purpose of education and paying tribute to these encouraging landscapes.

For more information or comments please email Karen Lind at umlindkm@cc.umanitoba.ca

Sharmalene Mendis

*Doctoral Candidate in Geography,
University of Waterloo
Webpage: www.mendis.ca*

In October 2004, Sharmalene successfully defended her thesis, *Assessing Community Capacity for Ecosystem Management: Clayoquot Sound and Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserves*, at the University of Saskatchewan, under the supervision of Maureen Reed. Currently, she is developing her doctoral research on some of the social implications of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. She proposes to examine the differential vulnerabilities of communities within selected protected and non-protected areas of Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami. Sharmalene is nearing the end of her two-year

term as one of CWAG's student representatives, but looks forward to being involved in future CWAG activities. She welcomes submissions or ideas for the CWAG website at srmendis@fes.uwaterloo.ca.



Department Updates

Department of Geography, University Of Toronto

The Department of Geography at the University of Toronto has been fortunate and successful at attracting some outstanding Geography faculty and graduate students over the last five years. UofT is a three campus graduate department (St. George, Mississauga and Scarborough) and since 1999 has conducted 28 searches and recruited 20 new faculty – eleven of these are women. This has substantially enriched our research and teaching breadth and has allowed us to build critical expertise in both existing and emerging areas. Some examples of the latter include: the cultural economy, environment and health, traditional environmental knowledge, transnationalism and biogeochemical cycling. It is interesting to note that in 1999 the department had 18% women faculty (7 of 39) and as of 2004

now stands at 36% (16 of 45). Given the depth and quality of the applicant pools in recent years there is every indication that this trend will continue. The increase and the upward trend are welcomed especially considering that our current graduate student population of 134 students is more than 50% women. Of particular importance for the future professoriate is the gender balance in PhD students which for our department over the last two years has stood at approximately 50%. As our senior colleagues retire and as we continue to recruit new faculty and graduate students we will continue to face the exciting challenges of pursuing high quality geographic research and securing the necessary funding to achieve these goals.

Joe Desloges, Department Chair

A sampling of female faculty and graduate student projects and research interests:

Jo Ashley is a Research Associate in the Geography Department's Cartography Office. She has just started a Masters in Spatial Analysis (a joint degree program between U of T and Ryerson University) part-time. Her research interests include the inventory and management of renewable resources, green power (wind, solar), urban ecosystems, public

participation, mapping ecological footprints.

Alana Boland is a faculty member, whose research focuses on urban environmental issues in China. Building on her previous study of urban water supply management, she is now involved in a project exploring the relationship between environmental and social change in the context of China's socialist urbanization strategies of the 1950's and 1960's. She is also working on a project that focuses on the provision of environmental amenities in contemporary China, with the aim of understanding the ways that the scale and models of provision are intertwined with the changing political economy of cities.

Tenley Conway was recently appointed as a faculty member in Geography. Her research attempts to integrate insights from environmental geography and landscape ecology with geo-spatial technologies to improve our understanding of the relationship between human activity and the physical environment. It is driven by questions surrounding the ecological health of human-dominated landscapes and the efficacy of current management approaches. She is currently focusing on the representation and quantification of the spatial and temporal dynamics of land

cover changes and the impact of urban development on habitat connectivity. Her research spans several locations in North America, including southern Ontario's residential landscapes.

Amrita Daniere is an Associate Professor in the department. She is currently working on a co-edited book with Mike Douglass (U Hawaii) that explores the relationship between civic spaces in Asian cities - that is spaces that are not controlled by the government or private entities - and community activism or grassroots democracy. Each chapter is co-authored with a western academic and a researcher from the city itself. She herself is working on a chapter that looks at this relationship in slum communities of Bangkok.

Miriam Diamond's research focusses on chemical contaminants by examining sources, environmental fate, and potential adverse human impacts. By means of mathematical modelling, field studies and chemical analyses, her research has investigated impacted systems, and in particular, aquatic systems and urban areas. Many of the research projects are conducted with regulatory partners which facilitates the incorporation of the research in the policy arena. Miriam is the Associate Director of the Centre for Urban Health

Initiative, a CIHR-funded research network.

Xiaojuan(Yvonne) Feng is a Master's student in the department. She is working on the sorption of hydrophobic organic compounds to humic-mineral complexes in Dr. Simpson's lab at the Scarborough campus. Her study involves characterizing the conformation of humic acids at mineral clay surfaces and examining its influence on the interaction of organic contaminants at the solid-aqueous interface.

Emily Gilbert's is a faculty member in Geography, and is cross-appointed to Canadian Studies. Her research interests are broadly in the area of cultural and political geography, with ongoing research projects on monetary organization, governance, citizenship and globalization. A paper on the Canadian proposals for deeper continental integration in the post-9/11 era is forthcoming in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers. She also has pieces on money forthcoming in Economy and Society, The Routledge Encyclopedia of Social Theory, and The Oxford Companion to Canadian History.

Tanya Labenki recently defended her Master's thesis entitled "Characterization of washoff from

urban impervious surfaces". Her research looked at atmospherically-derived surface films on impervious surfaces, and the subsequent washoff of these contaminants. More specifically, she investigated PAH and PCB washoff yields from 7 prevalent urban impervious surfaces to better understand mechanisms of washoff and urban contaminant dynamics.

Gita Laidler is a third year PhD candidate. Her doctoral research focuses on learning about sea ice from an Inuit perspective. Working with the Nunavut communities of Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, and Igloolik, she is asking questions about the local importance, uses, Inuktitut terminology, and characterizations of sea ice. The ultimate goal is to link local and scientific expertise to expand our understanding of sea ice, both culturally and environmentally.

Deborah Leslie is an Associate Professor in the department and a Tier II Canada Research Chair in the Cultural Economy. Her recent research interests center around creativity and urban economic development. In particular, she is currently conducting research on the design sector in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, and on arts clusters and cultural policy.

Vanessa Mathews is entering the PhD program in Geography. Her

research will explore the Distillery District through a cultural perspective. She is interested in how ideas about heritage and industry led to the current use and (social) construction of the site, and how artists and art groups are positioned "within" this festive space.

Virginia Maclaren is an associate professor in the department. Her main research focus at the moment is the social, economic and policy aspects of waste management in SE Asia. For more information, see the website at <http://www.utoronto.ca/waste-econ/>. Her second research interest is urban sustainability indicators in North America.

Minelle Mahtani is a critical cultural feminist geographer. Her research interests include critical "mixed race" theory, geographies of media, the representation of marginalized groups in the media, the experiences of women in newsrooms around the world, and the challenges facing women of colour in geography. She has a PHD from University College London, a Killam postdoctoral fellowship from the School of Journalism and Department of Geography at UBC, and has recently left her position as assistant professor in Cultural and Media Studies at the New School for Social Research

to join the University of Toronto geography department.

Julie McGuire is beginning her M.Sc. in Planning, focusing on Urban Design. Her interests are in urban design and environmental sustainability.

Sharlene Mollett is a fourth year PhD candidate. Her dissertation is entitled "Miskito Natural Resource Access: Race and Property Rights in the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve". This work looks at indigenous natural resource control in the face of state-led protected area management in the Honduran Mosquitia. From placing in conversation political ecology and postcolonial studies, in the Latin American context, she examines and discloses the ways in which race and property rights are mutually constituted in Honduras.

Kate Parizeau is in the second year of her Master's in Planning. She is currently working to assess the feasibility of implementing a community based waste management program in an area of Siem Reap, Cambodia that does not currently receive waste collection services. This project is in collaboration with research efforts at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and is administered through the Waste-Econ program, which receives CIDA funding.

Katharine Rankin is Associate Professor of Geography and Planning. Her broad research interests include gender and development, comparative market regulation, financial restructuring, planning history and theory, South Asia. She is currently conducting comparative research on the gender politics of development institutions in Nepal and Vietnam. She is author of *The Cultural Politics of Markets: Economic Liberalization and Social Change in Nepal* (2004, Pluto Press and the University of Toronto Press), as well as recent journal articles in *Economy and Society*, *International Planning Studies*, *Journal of Feminist Economics*, *Gender, Place and Culture*, and *Progress in Human Geography*.

Kate Swanson is a graduate student in the department. Through an empirical study on rural indigenous women and children who beg on the streets of urban Ecuador, her research explores geographies of race, ethnicity, gender and childhood and how these play out in both the rural and urban sphere.

Laura Taylor is a 4th year PhD student. Using case studies from the edge of the rapidly urbanizing region of Toronto, her research explores how contemporary attitudes toward growth and conservation are informed by the

symbolic landscapes of country and city and how they are implicated in the production of real landscapes and places.

Elisa Tseng is a 4th year PhD student in Environmental Geography. The title of her thesis research is: Defining Urban Groundwater Management Capacity with a Case Study in Beijing, China. In general, her research seeks to identify social (perceptual/behavioral), economic, and institutional parameters which contribute to the development of a successful urban groundwater management framework. Elisa permanently relocated to Washington, DC this past summer.

Sarah Wakefield has been a faculty member in the department since July 2003. Her research investigates the geographies of urban environmental health, including perceptions of urban environmental health risks, and civic action around environmental health issues at the local level. She is also interested in exploring the mechanisms which lead to the concentration of environmental and social risks in particular places, and the implications of this phenomenon for health and well-being in disadvantaged communities.

Natasha Webster is a 2nd year planning student. Her current

research is on heritage planning and policy in China. She is examining a case study in Beijing, situated within the greater context of social and economic changes that are occurring rapidly in China.

Jill Wigle is a registered urban planner and third-year PhD student. Her research interests include urban development, housing and planning issues in Latin America and Canada. Jill is currently conducting her doctoral field research in two low-income communities in Mexico City with the support of a doctoral fellowship from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Kathi Wilson is a faculty member whose research explores the cultural and gendered dimensions of health. Her main research interests focus on the health determinants of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, Aboriginal peoples' perceptions of the links between environment and health, and access to health care services within Canada's broadening system of public and private health insurance. Other interests include the geographies of social exclusion and the health effects of local neighbourhoods.

Lisa Zhang is a Ph. D candidate. Her research specialization is retrieving forest biophysical and biochemical parameters using

hyperspectral remote sensing technology.

Women Geographers Move Ahead at the University of Saskatchewan

At the University of Saskatchewan, women in the geography department have continued to reach impressive milestones this past year. In fact, the first women receiving a PhD out of our department successfully defended her dissertation this year and we are proud to say that we finally have a female professor at the rank of full professor. There are more achievements ahead, as over one-half of the present graduate student body is female. These students and professors are working on exciting and diverse research initiatives spanning the spectrum of geographical sub-disciplines. Please let us introduce ourselves to you.

Topics of human geography are of interest, and many women in our department have been active in the wider university community. Dr. Kim Naqvi's research focus is development geography, and she is a member of the administrative committee of the International Studies interdisciplinary degree program. While her focus is international, others study urban forms. Oksana

Starchenko is finishing her PhD research on the form and structure of the Canadian urban-rural fringe, and will defend this March. Karen Lynch is researching urban park systems and their influence on the health of residents, and Megan (Holte) McLoughlin has recently defended her Master's thesis on the decay and revival of Saskatoon's south downtown.

Another group of graduate students are taking a behavioural approach. Amy Goodall is examining the role of spatial behaviour in navigational tests for her MA. Two others are focusing retail behaviour. While Jun Ji is conducting her PhD research on spatial interaction modeling in retail analysis, Angela Wagner is looking at the role of co-operative membership on consumer behaviour in her Master's research.

Topics surrounding rural and remote communities are motivating the research of some graduate students. Focusing on the human impact in remote regions, Lesley McBain, with a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, is working on her dissertation *Nursing in Northern Provincial Space: The Contribution of Nursing Practices in Shaping a Remote Region*. She has recently been appointed to a Canadian Institute of Health Research newly

emerging team. On the rural side, Rebeka Kennedy-Pruehs is currently working on an M.A. thesis entitled *Identifying Rural Citizens' Perception of Community*. Her research is affiliated with the New Rural Economy 2 Project. Finally, we have had a grand reason to celebrate in our department this year. Rhonda Koster, the first woman Ph.D. recipient from our department, defended her dissertation, *Jumping on the Bandwagon: An Examination of Rural-based Tourism as a Strategy for Community Economic Development in Rural Areas*, in the Fall of 2004. She has taken up a tenure-track position at Lakeland University.

A strong research stream in our geography department is associated with Dr. Evelyn Peters, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Identity and Diversity: the Aboriginal Experience. In this past year she has been awarded a CMHC Research Contract to focus on the socioeconomic outcomes and residential settlement patterns of urban Aboriginal people; a SSHRC and NHS Research Grant to explore First Nations hidden homelessness in Prince Albert in a partnership with the Prince Albert Grand Council; has developed the online Atlas of Urban Aboriginal Peoples, with funding from CFI and Province of Saskatchewan; and has had multiple publications this past year. Currently, she

supervises three graduate students in the department. Pamela Irvine is working towards a M.A. that addresses the role of reserves in the mobility of First Nations people. Shauna Wouters, also pursuing a M.A., is working with the hidden homelessness study. She will explore the meanings and definitions of homelessness held by First Nations women. Finally, Suzanne Mills is inquiring into the regulation of labour in the forest sector of northern Canada by gender and Aboriginal identity. She holds a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and is also affiliated with a Status of Women project examining women in the agri-food and forest sectors.

Some of the women of the department research issues related to environmental geographies. Dr. Maureen Reed has been focusing on the environment, gender and rural sustainability in forestry and agricultural communities and protected areas. Her book *Taking Stands: Gender and the Sustainability of Rural Communities* won the K.D. Srivastava Book Prize of the UBC Press, and has recently published an introductory environmental textbook with Dianne Draper, *Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective* (3rd edition). She is also the first female professor in the department to be appointed as a full professor. Sharmalene Mendis and Jana Berman, have

been working on environmental topics with Maureen. Jana, with SSHRC funding, is focusing her MA research on property management regimes in the Frenchman River in Southern Saskatchewan. Sharmalene Mendis recently completed her M.A. thesis on community capacity for ecosystem management. She was awarded a SSHRC CGS - Canadian Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral Scholarship and is now pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo. In another vein, Yijun Zhang is doing her Master's research on natural resource management in protected areas. Diane Martz is completing a Ph.D. on gender and agricultural restructuring. She and Maureen are co-investigators on the Status of Women project that examines women in the agri-food and forest sectors. Lee Everts, also working with Maureen, is looking at cultural landscapes and the elderly in rural Saskatchewan. She is hoping her research will contribute to the commemoration of Saskatchewan's 100th Anniversary.

Another group of students is working on issues related to Environmental Impact Assessment. Jackie Bronson is currently completing her M.A. surrounding the integration of health into environmental assessment in the Canadian

North. Lisa Christmas is looking at social impact assessment and greenhouse mitigation in agriculture for M.A. research, while Jill Hanson is doing her Ph.D. on strategic environmental assessment. Sarah Macharia just defended her Master's thesis on follow-up in Environmental Impact Assessment related to diamond mining.

There is a remarkable segment of women in the department that are asking technical questions in geography. Xulin Guo, an assistant professor, is focusing her attention on remote sensing and grassland ecology. She has recently received a grant from the Parks Canada to measure grassland structure for the recovery of species at risk. She has attracted two new graduate students. Selena Black, pursuing a M.Sc., will use remote sensing techniques to understand the role of photosynthesis in the grassland ecological structure, and Yuhong He will also concentrate on remote sensing and grasslands for her PhD work. A second group of graduate students are undertaking research as part of the Grizzly Bear Research Project based out of the Foothills Model Forest. Alysha Pape' is working toward a M.Sc. thesis titled Multi Spatial Resolution Image Change Detection for Environmental Management Applications. Ame Wunderle is addressing the sensitivity of multi-scale satellite

imagery to regenerate cutover
age and site preparation for
wildlife habitat analysis.

Finally, two women are
inquiring more traditional physical
geographical topics. First, Gro
Lilbaek is seeking a Ph.D. in the
hydrological sciences. Her area
of research is snow chemistry and
the chemical changes that occur
during infiltration into frozen
ground. Shanshan Cai is working
on a M.Sc. thesis addressing the
paleoenvironmental
interpretation of fossil marine
molluscs during the last Glacial
Maximum in Eureka Sound,
Canadian Arctic Archipelagos.

Our research interests are
wide-ranging, but we are a close
knit group all looking towards a
bright future. We meet and learn
about each others work at our
weekly departmental colloquium
series, in the classroom and at
geography social events. The
women working as professors and
studying as graduate students
continue to grow. With initiatives
to increase graduate student
opportunities, it is certain that the
numbers can only keep
increasing. Visit our website at
www.arts.usask.ca/geography to
learn more about our projects
and publications. We are eager
to hear from other Canadian
women researchers with similar
interests.

---Compiled and written by
Angela Wagner and Shauna
Wouters



CAG 2005 Sessions To Note

CAG sessions that CWAG will
be sponsoring:

1) Special session on "Gender and
Violence Prevention: Exclusion,
Equity, and Environments" as part
of the CWAG stream.

Presenters will include:

Fran Klodawsky, Geography and
Environmental Studies, Carleton
University: Homeless women and
violence prevention in Ottawa

Margaret Walton-Roberts,
Geography, Wilfred Laurier
University: New migrant women
and family violence prevention in
smaller urban centres

Linda Peake, Geography, York
University: Red Thread in Guyana
and domestic violence
prevention

Carolyn Whitzman, Urban
Planning, University of Melbourne:
International women and safer
communities initiatives and
citizenship

Caroline Andrew, Political
Science, University of Ottawa:
Safer communities initiatives in

Canada

2. Gita Laidler and Heather Castleden are co-organizing a panel session at the 2005 CAG on the "academic interview" for the student body of the CAG.

Briefly, the panel session aims to demystify the process of applying and interviewing for an academic position. Invited panellists will be sharing their experiences with the hiring process. In particular, panellists will describe what candidates typically do in terms of CV, cover letter, and dossier preparation, how applicants are selected for short-lists, the interview process, questions to anticipate in the formal interview, the purpose and essence of informal collegial discussions during lunch/dinner meetings, and "how to" tips on how to negotiate an offer (i.e. start date, start-up funds, lab equipment, office space, course-release, etc).



Dyck, I., Kontos, P., Anjus, J. and McKeever, P. 2005 The home as a site for long term care: meanings and management of bodies and spaces. Health and Place 11(2) 173-18

Web-Link

This section is reserved for links to websites and/or articles that are thought to be of interest to the CWAG membership. Please forward your suggestions for consideration!

(hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.ca)

The CWAG Website is now up!

Please go to <http://CWAG.mendis.ca> to take a look at the completed site. Please send comments and suggestions to James Millard at j.millard@rogers.com

New Publications

McLaren, A.T. and Dyck, I. 2004 Mothering, human capital and the 'ideal immigrant'. Women's Studies International Forum 27(1)41-53

Call for Papers

The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien

The aim of *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* is to publish original writing of the highest scholarly quality on topics of interest to geographers and scholars in related fields world-wide. Philosophical, theoretical, and methodological topics from around the globe are emphasised in the journal as well as works by Canadian geographers, and materials on Canada and the wider world. Manuscripts may be submitted and published in either English or French. All materials except solicited book reviews are subject to peer review.

The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien is ISI ranked, has an exceptional international subscription base and is published simultaneously in hard copy and online at Blackwell-Synergy. The journal is abstracted or indexed by 39 different abstracts or index services.

The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien is currently accepting manuscripts. The editor is especially interested in obtaining submissions from women geographers, and/or submissions analyzing the relationship between gender and geographies, and submissions that draw on and develop our understanding of feminist theory in Geography. Please follow the journals' guidelines

for submissions, which can be found at the Blackwell website for the journal:

www.blackwellpublishing.com/cg

Send **four copies** of your manuscript to:

Lawrence D. Berg, Editor
The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien
Okanagan University College —
Kalamalka Campus
7000 College Way, Vernon, B.C.,
Canada, V1B 2N5

All copies must be typed, printed or photocopied. Manuscripts must be double-spaced with 2.5 cm margins.

Along with your manuscript, please send a cover letter that includes your address, telephone number, e-mail address, the title of the manuscript and other important information. Also please include a word count of your manuscript. Manuscripts should be roughly 35 manuscript pages in length.

The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien is published by Blackwell Publishing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG).

