

SHANNON FARGEY CAG Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography

Dr Fargey is a resourceful and confident teacher with an outstanding sense of responsibility to her roles as teacher, colleague, mentor, and leader. She continues to excel as a teacher and maintains a significant passion for continuing professional development. Faculty, Staff, Students and beyond our department are truly privileged to learn and teach with her.

Shannon's teaching excellence is recognized by her ability to effectively teach a diverse array undergraduate courses in Physical Geography and Geomatics topics. She is responsible for courses with variable enrollments, large (190+ students) to more intimate field schools (12 to 20 students). Most of the courses she teaches are considered 'core' to the Geography Program and required for graduation in our BSc Stream. Since joining the University of Victoria, she has taught more than 3900 students, 60 course offerings of 20 different courses, which for reference is approximately 25% of available program courses for the UVic Department of Geography. Of special note to her passion, hard work and the innovation she demonstrates in her teaching is that of the 20 different courses taught, she developed six new courses (four were field schools); re-designed eight courses; and taught six courses developed by her colleagues where she spent her efforts updating delivery modes, in-class examples, and resources to support student learning. All of this in the just the last 5 years since her appointment. *Field Studies in Mountain Meteorology (GEOG 313)*, one of the new field courses she developed, is the first of its kind in Canada. Her teaching not only includes large classes but also mentoring and supporting students on a one-to-one basis. To that end she has supervised six Directed Studies, three Geography Honours' Thesis Students and two Computer Science Interdisciplinary Projects.



One of her many strengths is that she prioritizes field-based and experiential learning in her classrooms. Further, her teaching dossier provides the evidence underlying her consistent delivery of course content in an inclusive, engaging, and above all a respectful manner. She has high expectations of her students and employs challenging but fair assessments to evaluating their performance. Her students respond to this, and their learning and understanding is subsequently of the highest standards.

Shannon's support of teaching and pedagogy goes well beyond the classroom. She also demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities. Her service to teaching includes curriculum development for the Geography Program at UVic, but she also plays important roles supporting program articulation beyond the discipline and campus. She is the *Chair* of the Geography Articulation of British Columbia Committee (Provincial), where she facilitates curriculum and course discussion between Universities and Colleges with Geography programs in British Columbia. Just a few examples are The Faculty of Social Sciences (*Curriculum Committee*), Faculty of Engineering (*course evaluation for the Renewal of Civil Engineering Accreditation*) and the University (*K-12 Modernization of Curriculum*) that support undergraduate curriculum

and pedagogies. She is also engaged in regional outreach (*Raincoat Education Society Community Lecture Series, Secondary School Science Fair Judging*).

Shannon's continuing growth as a phenomenal teacher and colleague is based upon her continuing efforts to improve and make the learning experience exceptional for everyone. She regularly participates in professional development. As we work towards reconciliation and decolonizing the Academy Shannon has completed both *Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training* and *Racialization and Privilege in the Classroom* from the University of Victoria as well as the *Indigenous Canada* course from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. This demonstrates her passion for her classrooms and teaching to take place in inclusive and welcoming spaces.