

Annual Report, Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) – June 14, 2018

The 60th WDCAG Annual Meeting (*WDCAG-2018*) was held on March 9/10 2018 at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta, co-hosted with The King's University. The conference had an attendance of 255, including 194 (under)graduate students. In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Division, the theme of the meeting was *Looking Back, Moving Forward: The Continued Role of Geography in Learning and Discovery*. The meeting began on Friday with excellent field trips highlighting the diversity of Edmonton region. The keynote address by Dr. John England on “*Physical and Human Geography are Inseparable: unexpected Lessons from a half-century of Arctic research*” was followed by an ice-breaker. On Saturday, a diverse conference program was interwoven with the WDCAG-Executive and AGM meetings, lunch, and banquet dinner. The evening was concluded by a dance. Thanks to all at U of A and King's who made this meeting successful. In particular a huge thanks to JoAnne Moyer and Harry Spaling for their dedication to ensuring the entire meeting went off without a hitch. Additionally, a very special thank you to the student volunteers, without whom this conference wouldn't be possible.

Student and faculty participants from BC, AB, SK, and ON warranted +100 oral presentations in six concurrent sessions and over 40 poster presentations. Student presentations were judged by faculty, and the winners and runners up announced during the banquet. A special thank you to chief judge Dr. Theresa Garvin for all of her organizational help.

Best oral presentations

Undergraduate: Travis Gingerich (UFV): *Optical Dating of the Postglacial Marine Regression, Savary Island, British Columbia*

Masters: Rebecca DeLorey (UNBC): *There's no meaningful communication when it's just on paper: Problematizing Aboriginal Consultation on Nadleh Whut'en First Nation Territory*

PhD: Darcy Reynard (UofA): *Beg Buttons: Public Participatory GIS and Open Data in Community Engagement*

Best poster presentations

Undergraduate: Kendra Hutchison and Kailyn Wiebe (KU): *Saving the Swamp? An Evaluation of the Alberta Wetland Policy*

Masters: Darcen Esau, Eva-Lean Lang, Chea Elton (UBC-O): *The Landscape Identity of the North Okanagan: Using Physical Geography, Climate, and History to Create a Distinctive Wine Region*

Ineke Dijks Award for best graduate student presentation: Bryan J. Mood (PhD, UVic): *A dendrohydrological analysis of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's water supply*

The *WDCAG-2016* AGM attendance was 30, and a new executive was elected.

President – Leith Deacon (UofA); *Vice-President* – Claire Hay (UFV) ; *Secretary-Treasurer* – Hester Jiskoot (UofL); *Members-at-Large* – Sinead Earley (UNBC), David Jordan (TWU), Gilles Viaud (TRU), Steven Marsh (UFV); *Student Representatives [Alberta]* – Holly Clayholt (UofL); Kyla Rushton (UofL); *Student Representatives [British Columbia]* – Brandon Turner (TRU) ; Travis Gingerich (UFV); *Western Geography Human Editor* – Tom Waldichuk (TRU); *Western Geography Physical/GIS Editor* – Craig Coburn (UofL); *Archivist* – Ben Moffat (Medicine Hat College & Athabasca University); *Awards Officer* – David Jordan (TWU); *BC Education Chair* – Pam Shaw (VIU) ; Tom Waldichuk (TRU); *Newsletter Editor* – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic); *Webmaster* – Dan Smith (UVic).

The *J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence* Glen Thielmann, DP Todd Secondary School, Prince George.

The 61st WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the University of Victoria.

For updates on our division, our constitution and our annual newsletter, check: www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/.

Leith Deacon
President WDCAG 2017-2019