

# FIELD NOTES

The Geography Students' Association Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue 2

October, 2008



## Bad Latitude News from the GSA Sports Team

BY LAUREN ENGLISH

Bad Latitude Rocks UBC REC Urban Challenge

This past Thursday, six brave Geography souls went out to battle UBC Campus and the surrounding area with everything they knew – maps, compasses et al. Bad Latitude was represented by three teams made up of: Jackie Peat & David Jameson, Chad Siemens & Marilyn

Tse, and Matt MacDonald & Antony Kwok.

This was the GSA's first involvement in a sporting event this year – know of something else you and your Geo friends would like to get involved in? Come talk to us about getting half your fees paid for by the GSA! Many thanks to GSA Sports Rep Michelle Cheong for helping organize the event and our six lovely contestants! Go Bad Latitude!

## What's Up with the GSA? Upcoming Events

**Come on out to our meetings, every other Thursday at 1pm in Room 215. All are welcome!**

<b>GSA Team Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, October 16th, 1-2pm</b>	<b>GEOG 215 D/E</b>
<b>Wynn &amp; Cheese</b>	<b>Friday, October 17th</b>	<b>12 noon</b>
	Join Department Head Graeme Wynn, Undergraduate Committee Chair Sally Hermansen and the GSA for a fun (free!) lunch and thoughtful discussion. This is your chance to find out what's going on in the department and give your feedback on the Geography experience.	
<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>	<b>Friday, October 17th</b>	<b>Main Hall outside the undergrad lounge</b>
	Bring your own plates and utensils and take advantage of the GSA's talented chefs as they serve up a delicious breakfast!	
<b>Gladiator</b>	<b>Thursday, October 23rd, and Friday October 24th (Registration Deadline Friday October 17th)</b>	
<b>Grad School Info Sessions</b>	<b>Thursday, October 23 1pm - M.Sc. with Dr. Ian McKendry (Room TBA)</b>	
	<b>Week of October 27th - M.A. in Planning with Dr. Tom Hutton (Date and Room TBA)</b>	
	<b>Thursday, November 6 1pm - M.A. in Human Geography with Dr. David Ley (Room TBA)</b>	
<b>GSA Team Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, October 30th, 1-2pm</b>	<b>GEOG 215 D/E</b>
<b>Halloween Bzzr Garden</b>	<b>Friday, October 31st</b>	<b>4-9PM</b>
	<b>Geography Undergrad Lounge</b>	
	Too old to trick or treat? COME TO THE HALLOWEEN GEOPIT! Hang out in our spooky lounge with scary beer and have some creepy fun! Come in your best, most creative costume and compete for a sweet prize!	
<b>Prof Trick-or-Treat</b>	<b>Friday, October 31st</b>	<b>9:30AM-3:30PM</b>
	Looking for a way to get to know the Geography faculty better? Are you a fan of free candy? You're in luck! Throughout the day, professors will be available in their offices for visits from students, and will hand out Halloween treats to visitors who ask about their research.	

## TRAIL SIX: AN UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**The deadline for submissions to Trail Six is January 1st, 2009!**

Looking to beef up a grad school application? Want to add that extra professional touch to a resume? Have your paper published in Trail Six, the Geography department's very own undergraduate journal. Trail Six publishes undergraduate essays that touch on themes in human or physical geography. In its third year of publication, Trail Six is now being circulated through libraries across Canada, showcasing the best and brightest work by UBC geography undergrads on a national scale. Be part of the legacy and give your work the recognition it deserves!

Submissions can be sent in a word document to [geog\\_journal@hotmail.com](mailto:geog_journal@hotmail.com).

# CONTINENTAL DRIFT

## Haida Gwaii

BY QUINN PETERS

We arrived in Haida Gwaii just before dawn, a dim blue light beginning to trace the edges of the thick grey clouds that spotted the horizon, ravens swirling overhead. The overnight ferry ride from Prince Rupert across Hecate Strait to Skidegate (I quickly learned the proper pronunciation: Skid-uh-git) had been choppy and Gravel-filled. Driving "Sparkle", my friend's 1979 gold Volvo, we only five days on the islands—our trip sandwiched between Summer and Fall terms. We stayed on Graham Island, the largest and most populous, leaving the remote Gwaii Hanaas Reserve on Moresby Island as incentive to return.

Our destination was Agate Beach Campsite at North Beach, the northern most tip of the island. The beach extends into Rose Spit, overshadowed the basalt columns of Tow Hill. The drive up-island along the Yellowhead, which darts in and out of Naikoon Provincial Park, is a modest two hours and some newly met friends from the ferry were making the ride exclusively by bike. Queen Charlotte City—with its tiny houses, eclectic shops—was still asleep at 6 AM, so we headed back north. In Port Clements we found the local fishers along the municipal dock, trying their luck at catching "pinks". The scenery changed quickly: rocky shorelines, majestic forests, misty bays, boggy thickets, sandy beaches. The (bio)diversity for which the islands are famous was unmistakable.



**The moss hides the mud below. Imagine how muddy my boots were after 6 hours of hiking with intermittent downpours.**



**An almost-finished totem pole at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay 'Ilnagaay, Skidegate: the centre is a museum, a community and cultural centre. (Photo by Christie Little)**

The 'settler' town of Masset provided us with a breakfast joint and some weather advice: "If you don't like the weather here, wait 30 minutes." Into the Tow Hill Ecological Reserve, the trees were draped with arms of moss, a presence lurking, guiding us through the forest.

The campsite was literally next to the beach, an expansive band of light grey sand and cobbles that framed the Spit; at this point of the Dixon Entrance, there was nothing separating us from the open ocean. The weather advice came true: as we set up camp 80 km/h winds rolled in, rain blanketed the sky, and waves roared only meters away. We took refuge in the picnic shelter, where other campers had gathered, fashioned a fire, a clothes line and a make-shift door from a tarp.

On a budget, we spend most of our time hiking through amazingly muddy trails, up Tow Hill, and

*Quinn's story is continued on page 5*

## SPOTLIGHT

# The Vancouver Campus Planning process and the UBC Farm

**BY FRIENDS OF THE UBC FARM**

**An AMS Club Club comprised of students and UBC residents**

UBC is currently in the 4th stage of the Vancouver Campus Plan (VCP) review, a review that we have come to realize lacks transparency, especially around issues relating to the 24 hectare UBC Farm.

In a spring 2008 UBC news release, Campus and Community Planning's (CCP) Nancy Knight stated "Consideration of UBC Farm is an important part of our planning process"; however it was never explicitly mentioned in CCP documents until that point during the preceding three phases. Furthermore, CCP and Stephen Owen, UBC's VP legal, external, and community relations, have implied in recent media articles and communications that the farm is only 4.6 hectares in size and that they have committed to "doubling" its size to 8 hectares. The 4.6 figure represents only the intensively cultivated field areas of the farm. It does not include the 19.4 hectares of classroom spaces, both indoor and outdoor, hedgerows, roadways, tractor turnaround spaces, forested buffer areas or any built facilities that make the farm the unique educational and agro-ecological system that it is.

The current stage of the planning process involves identifying what land is needed for future academic and student housing needs. The way it is shaping up, student housing needs are being pitted against the farm's needs, seemingly in an effort to drive a wedge between these two important issues. In contrast, Friends of the UBC Farm is putting forth a win-win "no-net loss" option which would see the farm's 24 hectare footprint and location preserved, and UBC's student housing, population, affordability, and endowment targets met through strategic densification, rather than through sprawling onto cherished agricultural land. Three of CCP's development op-



tions that include the farm will be offered up for consultation with the on and off Campus Community members in October 2008. See the CCP website sidebar at [www.campusplan.ubc.ca](http://www.campusplan.ubc.ca) for dates, times and locations of consultation events.

Friends of the UBC Farm feels that so far the consultations have not proceeded in good faith or with the intention to



Please come out and voice your opinion on the future of this unique academic and community resource. Be vocal about holding CCP accountable for acting on your concerns about the UBC Farm. Consultations begin October 16.

Make your voice heard!

**Sign the save the UBC Farm petition and tell your friends: [www.ubcfarmpetition.ca](http://www.ubcfarmpetition.ca)**

**Sign up for the consultation workshops: [www.campusplan.ubc.ca](http://www.campusplan.ubc.ca)**

**Come to the Friends of the Farm meetings: Thursdays 6 pm in SUB room 206**

meaningfully incorporate participant feedback into subsequent stages of the process. During CCP's June 25 Food Policy Forum Blake Frederick of the AMS asked Joe Stott, director of CCP whether he would commit to acting on any unanimously expressed feedback from the floor, Mr. Stott replied "no." There was indeed a unanimous expression from well over 100 people (in the summer, no less)

filling the GSS ballroom with overt and loud support for keeping the UBC Farm at its current location, and size. We have not yet seen the summary report of that workshop, nor do we have any indication that the three options CCP is presenting in the October reflect any of the feedback of faculty, staff, students, and community members who attended that forum. All three options consider a farm of 8 hectares – a size which would severely limit the farms ability to deliver its innovative research and learning. Even worse, two of the options suggest moving the farm to locations that have limited or no agricultural capability. We should also note that the consultation moderation is being carried out by a PR firm: Kirk and Co., the same PR firm working with the B.C. government on the Gateway Project.

**CLOTHING DRIVE, MENDING PARTY AND CLOTHES SWAP**

**BY CAPTAIN PLANET**

The GSA sustainability crew is organizing a Clothes Donation/Mending Party/Clothes Swap! Mark your calendars for November 7th 2008. Leading up to this event we will have bins in the Geography lounge throughout the week, one marked science, one marked arts. If you have any clothing donations put them in your bin and we will total the bins on Friday to determine which faculty donated the most stuff. That Friday, the 7th bring the clothes you still love but need fixing to our mending party. Or come for the clothes swap to see what you may find!

# CONTINENTAL DRIFT

## A Tour of Europe

BY CHELSEA DUPUIS

Schilthorn Mountain. Start by walking through fields while listening to jingling cow bells, then eventually climb above the clouds. This hike is a fourteen hundred meter elevation gain or two gondola rides if travelling the easy way.

Envision soaking up the French culture, climbing the intricately designed Eiffel tower. Upon reaching the top, you see the Louvre, Arc de Triumph

Travelling around Europe this last summer was nothing but amazing exciting times! We visited six countries in seven weeks, a good amount of time to see each country well. Everyone keeps asking what my favorite country was, and every time I repeated that each area was unique and offered completely different experiences, so different that they can not be compared.

Imagine the bustling streets of London where there are so many things to see while Big Ben ticks away. At Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour is an annual site not to be missed; Westminster Abbey houses endless hours of entertainment; the Tower of London displays thousands of weapons and the crown jewels; and the Parliament is in session discussing cutting Carbon emissions.

Contemplate walking on history, travelling along cobblestone streets to the Blarney Castle, Trinity College Library of Dublin (which is 300 years older than UBC), and the Old Jameson Distillery. All of these are extraordinarily important to Irish culture.



Chelsea and Gordon walking along Cinque Terre, Italy paths

and Notre Dame. Continue touring through the numerous castles of the Loire Valley, visit EuroDisney, and eat crêpes along the streets.

Each country offered something different. Some were relaxing, while others were energetic and jam packed with entertainment. Which vacation sounds most appealing to you?

*Chelsea Dupuis is a 4th year Physical Geography Student, and leads the GSA's Sustainability Committee as Captain Planet. In the summer of 2008, she spent six weeks exploring the sites in Europe*



View along Schilthorn Mountain, Switzerland

Next, imagine spending every day lying on a toasted beach of fine black sand, soaking up the Greek sunshine with nothing to do but go swimming and eat baklava. Once evening comes, you eat at restaurants that always have fabulous views of the sunset and serve authentic Greek cuisine.

Then, consider a whirlwind tour of twelve Italian towns; seeing trees on top guard towers in Lucca, hiking through vineyards and orchards along the Mediterranean coast through Cinque Terre and seeing the classics. The David, the leaning tower of Pisa, the Rialto Bridge, the Roman Coliseum and Vatican City are all must sees. Not forgetting intermittent cool downs which always include Gelato.

Now jump into the outdoors. Once reaching the small town of Murren, Switzerland (situated on the mountain's edge), gearing up and hiking the



Kombitherite Beach on Paros, Greece

## STAFF PROFILE

### JENNIFER HAMILTON GIC Assistant

#### **Describe your background. How did you become involved with Geography?**

I grew up in West Flamborough, Ontario approximately 60km East of Toronto on a small family farm. After completing high school I enrolled in a two year diploma program at the University of Guelph, majoring in Horticulture. After completing my diploma I continued on in a degree program in Geography. Intrigued by the landscape of BC described in physical geography courses, I applied to complete my final 24 credits at UBC. In 2003, I graduated from The University of Guelph with a Bachelors Degree in Geography with Honours.

#### **Describe a typical day working in the GIC.**

Working in the GIC is not your typical library job. The GIC specializes in maps and air photos. In fact, the GIC holds the largest collection of air photos in the lower mainland. Thus the GIC staff is continuously providing reference for air photos and teaching students how to search indexes for aerial photography. We also cater for over 70 environmental engineering companies that request searches. This part of my job is very rewarding because it allows me to employ my geography skills that I have been trained in. I am also in charge of the reserve reading collection for the GIC. I work with instructors in the Department to make sure reading material is available for students. When time allows; there are a number of projects I engage in that are on going. These include processing new air photos, updating index maps and re-creating new air photo indexes from old and illegible ones. During the school year students keep us busy with projects, questions and as many may know – printing problems.

#### **What's something that most students might not know about the GIC?**

The GIC is a unique place that functions like a library however is not considered part of the UBC library system. The centre is classified as a reading room, which means funding must come from within the Department of Geography rather than UBC. In order for the GIC to continue to provide such great resources for the department it is necessary for the centre to generate revenue. In 1992, the GIC began to charge environmental and engineering consultants (private companies) for air photo search services. The GIC charges companies for a site search service and to loan the photos for one week. On busy days the GIC has seen a request for up to twenty five sites in one day.

The GIC provides a space for student study and TA office hours, staff handle course material and graded assignments, provide assistance to students from geography and other disciplines at UBC as well as numerous inquires from the general public. The centre has numerous stereoscopes for lab work, six public work stations with internet access and high quality printing. The GIC has a reasonable selection of reference books, atlas, topographic and reference maps.

On occasion we host various Departmental receptions and have taken on the serving and catering of these events.

#### **What's your favourite part about working in the Geography Department?**

I love the people I work with including the undergrads, grad students, faculty and staff. I felt very welcomed when I started working here just over three years ago. I love the space and I find the air photos to be the most intriguing part of my job. Although my day to day routine is fairly consistent, working in the GIC is very dynamic which keeps things exciting!

**Jennifer Hamilton, along with GIC Curator Rosemary Cann and GIC Assistant Kevin Gillard, operates the Geographic Information Centre, in GEOG Room 112. The GIC hosts map and aerial photo collections along with reserve materials in Geography, Atmospheric Science, Geology, Planning and Sociology. Student study space and computer access is also available.**

## Continental Drift - Haida Gwaii - Continued from page 2



Friends walking along North Beach. I can see Alaska too, Ms. Palin!

along the beaches. We visited Old Masset (Haida), along with Skidegate, the only two Haida settlements left after the populations were decimated by smallpox. The new Haida Heritage Centre was amazing and narrated Haida history from a powerful and chilling first-person account. I couldn't help thinking that I needed more time here. On the way back to the ferry we stopped along the road at a fountain: The inscription claimed that whoever drank the water would return to the islands.



The Trout House, North of Masset on the road to Tow Hill. Locally grown food, literally: they have a giant garden in the back and they catch their own razor clams and salmon.

I guess I have no choice but to go back now!

### Catch the Continental Drift

Do you have a great story or photo from your travels that you'd like to share with the Geography Department?

Email [ubcgsa@hotmail.com](mailto:ubcgsa@hotmail.com) to submit to Continental Drift.

## SIMONS CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION RESEARCH

### Student Policy Research Program

The Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Research is pleased to announce the renewal of the Simons Student Policy Research Program in Peace and Disarmament. This program is intended to advance the understanding of disarmament and arms control issues among UBC students and to encourage attention to policy strategies to advance their resolution. This year the Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Research is continuing its partnership with the International Relations Students Association, which will publish the most meritorious papers in the UBC Journal of International Affairs (JIA).

Students selected for participation in this program will produce a policy-relevant paper on a specified topic. Upon the paper's satisfactory completion, the authors will be paid \$1000. The author of the top paper selected for publication will receive an additional \$200, and the paper will automatically get published in the JIA. Eligibility: The program is open to all full time UBC graduate students or undergraduate students of at least third year standing.

#### *Paper Topics:*

Paper topics should address issues central to the concerns of the Simons Centre, including nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation of unconventional weapons systems, the potential deployment of weapons in space, and related efforts to develop international cooperation and regimes on these matters. A complete list of eligible topics is available. Wider ranging topics may be considered on the basis of proposal quality.

#### *Deadlines:*

Applications must be received by the Simons Centre by October 20th, 2008.

Successful applicants will be notified by November 3rd, 2008.

Papers must be completed by January 5th, 2009.

Applications should be sent to: Wade Huntley, Director of the Simons Centre: [Simons.center@ubc.ca](mailto:Simons.center@ubc.ca)

Vanessa van den Boogaard, Editor-in-Chief, JIA: [UbcJia@gmail.com](mailto:UbcJia@gmail.com)

## URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

### Designing Cities for Human Health and the Environment

Professor Julian Marshall, University of Minnesota

When: Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 at 12:30 pm

Where: Liu Institute for Global Issues, 3rd Floor Boardroom

In 2008, for the first time in history, half of the global population will live in cities. Nearly all population growth this century is projected to occur in urban areas. This lecture will focus on urban air pollution to discuss steps we can take to ensure that the cities of tomorrow will be clean and healthy places to live.

Marshall will discuss three areas of his current research: (1) approaches for incorporating health and environmental justice into air quality management, (2) satellite-based evidence on the interplay between urban form and air quality, and (3) walkability and air pollution in Vancouver neighborhoods.



## WYNN AND CHEESE



Once a month, Department Head Graeme Wynn invites undergraduate students into his office for conversation over a delicious, free lunch. Meeting with Dr. Wynn, Sally Hermansen, and a rotating special guest from the faculty, students have the opportunity to share their thoughts and get to know the faculty better.

The first Wynn and Cheese is Friday, October 17th at 12 noon.

There are still a few spots left - email [ubcgsa@hotmail.com](mailto:ubcgsa@hotmail.com) to get on the guest list!