AWARDS & HONOURS

Reid Staples received a MITACS award.

Karin Fecova received a scholarship from Geoscience BC.

Chris Henry, a new grad student this fall, is receiving an NSERC.

Nathalie Vigouroux-Caillibot has been awarded the University Women's Club of Vancouver Trust Fund Graduate Scholarship in Earth Sciences.

Jessica Leggett has received the Allan Dakin Annual Graduate Award in Hydrogeology.

John Clague has been named the 2008 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. The Association of Engineering Geologists and the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA) jointly established the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship in 1988 to commemorate Jahns and to promote student awareness of engineering geology through a series of lectures offered at various locations around the country throughout the year. Richard H. Jahns (1915-1983) was an engineering geologist who had a diverse and distinguished career in academia, consulting, and government.

FIELD SCHOOLS/FIELD TRIPS

John Clague ran the Department of Earth Sciences' fourth-year field school (EASC 406) in New Zealand in April and May 2007. He led a group of 15 undergraduate and graduate students on an epic, 4000-km tour of the North and South Islands. Although a small country, New Zealand has an incredibly diverse and interesting geology, including two subduction zones, a transform plate-boundary fault, the most active silicic volcanic belt in the world, spectacular shorelines, fiords, and glaciers. New Zealand is also home of bungy jumping (which two of the students and instructor tried), the best Savignon Blancs in the world, and Tim Tams!
Derek Thorkelson led field for mineral exploration geologists in northern Yukon.

Derek has taken on the role of field trip coordinator for the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference. It is a collaborated effort between SFU and UBC which will be held at UBC in July of 2008.

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**Fun in the Sun:** Boundary Bay, Tsawassen, June 2, 2007.

Aaron, Cameron and Cindy followed the Utah trip with a very enjoyable Saturday engaged in a “just-for-fun” project at Boundary Bay. Working from the shoreline at low tide, they set up stations every 50 meters. At each station the sediment characteristics (grain size, colour, relative water saturation, etc.) was noted, in addition to the epifaunal (surface) and infaunal (burrowing) organisms. One of the more interesting finds was this 50+ cm long *Nereis* worm occupying a burrow about 15cm below the surface.

Aaron holds up a *Nereis* worm, dug up in the intertidal zone of Boundary Bay.
CLASSES

The Department is experiencing record first-year enrollments. At the moment, we have 120 students enrolled in EASC 101 and 167 students enrolled in EASC 104. Glyn Williams-Jones will be teaching both classes.

BIG EVENT!

Marit Heideman - a PhD student in Earth Sciences - and her husband Pieter welcomed the Department's first “grad baby” on Friday, 20-07-2007 - a beautiful daughter, Noor.

RESEARCH

Dr. Lambertus (Bert) Struik, a Senior Scientist from the Geological Survey of Canada, is a Visiting Scientist in the Department until March 31/08. To date at SFU, Struik’s research time has been spent on scoping a national land-use guide for risk reduction, one day a week on tectonics of the Cordillera and developing a national lifelines spatial dataset proposal.

Research for a national land-use guide included looking for examples of the use of land-use codes in English speaking countries, starting a database of players and institutions in the Canadian hazard mitigation network, and reading about natural risk evaluation and the use of legislative frameworks for natural hazard risk reduction, within the context of the International Hyogo Framework for Action (2005). June and half July were spent reading the legislation of the Canadian territories and provinces, while continuing some reading on general legislative frameworks. The search for examples of land-use codes was not very fruitful. It required weeding through numerous “codes” that were actually land-use plans. It is clear from the Hyogo document, and other reading, that legislative frameworks are the missing links in many efforts to efficiently reduce risk.

From the reading on legislative frameworks, and Struik’s desire to understand how to add land-use guides or codes to the Canadian framework, it became important to document the complete Canadian hazard mitigation framework. That is why he started to read the legislation. Done are the territories, the maritime provinces and half of the voluminous legislation in Quebec. After completing the legislation and summarizing the mitigation intent and structure, the next step is to catalogue all the players and institutions and how they interact. That work may need to be abridged to actually get a document this year. The
documentation of the Canadian mitigation network is turning into a tome and it would be good to publish it.

_Tectonics Research_: Friday is reserved for tectonics (+/-). There are four distinct tectonics efforts on the go, of which Struik concentrates on two: 1) Tertiary tectonics of western North America with Tom Anderson of the University of Pittsburgh and Jim Ryan and 2) Tertiary drainage history of central Cordillera with Lisel Currie and Alejandra Duk-Rodkin. Some samples of Paleocene gravel from Alberta were collected in July to determine provenance from the isotopic dates of enclosed muscovite. In addition, the Nechako Project (1995-2000) compilation CD review needs completion, and Struik wants to finish a paper on the Tertiary palinspastic reconstruction of the Canadian Cordillera.

_Lifelines_: In addition Struik is working with Steve Irwin, Head of the Vancouver Office of the GSC, and others at GSC, on a proposal for a national program to create a seamless, living, geomorphological digital dataset and data sharing infrastructure for the critical transportation corridors in Canada. The first task is to analyse the economic, social and environmental benefits of such a dataset.

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**RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

_Ichnological Applications to Sedimentological and Sequence Stratigraphic Problems_.
_Price, Utah, May 20-26, 2007._

A large portion of the SFU applied ichnology and sedimentology crew descended on the town of Price, Utah, attending a research conference hosted by SFU prof Dr. James "Jambo" MacEachern, adjunct prof Dr. Kerrie Bann, and U of A profs Dr. Murray Gingras and Dr. S. George Pemberton. Jambo's M.Sc. students Cindy Hansen, Aaron DesRoches, and Cameron Thompson, as well as SFU prof Dr. Shahin Dashtgard presented at the two-day conference. This was followed by three days of outstanding field trips to deltaic (prodelta and delta front) and nondeltaic (offshore to shoreface) outcrops. An amazing time was had by all.
Kerrie and James make their way along the top of a scree slope in Muddy Creek Canyon, Utah.

ABOUT GEOCETERA

Full details about items in GEOCETERA are available from Wendy Bourke TASC 1 7207. The Editorial deadline is the 25th of each month. Where feasible, please submit items electronically to Wendy at wendyb@sfu.ca