Message from the Chair...

It is with great pleasure that I am able to address alumni, students, faculty and staff through our newsletter Geocetera. Over the past several years our department has enjoyed great success, with many graduate and undergraduate students completing their degrees and moving on to new challenges. Our faculty have developed well-funded, energetic research programs and our staff have provided excellent technical and clerical support. From this secure foundation, and after a decade as a full department, we look forward to becoming a more mature academic unit with stronger ties to other departments at SFU, other universities in Canada and abroad, and the private sector.

Our desire to grow and reach outward comes at an opportune time, as we embark on an external departmental review. External departmental reviews take place every seven years, and our last one took place in the spring of 2004. We look forward to the review process, and anticipate that the advice of the review panel will evoke responses by the department and the university to strengthen our role in the Faculty of Science and enhance our position at the university and abroad.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry holiday season.

Derek Thorkelson
Congratulations to incoming student **Meghan Hewton** for receiving a 'PPD' top-up award for being a national scholarship recipient from NSERC.

**Geoscience BC**

Congratulations to **David Sacco** on receiving the 2010 Geoscience BC Scholarship for on his project: Surficial geology and Quaternary history of the McLeod Lake map area (NTS 93J), central BC.

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada**

Our NSERC recipients are:

- Meghan Hewton,
- Reid Staples
- Andrea Wolter

Congratulations to all!

**Canadian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy**

Congratulations to **Megan Jamer** and **Jerry Holmes** who were awarded the CIM student book prizes in November.

**Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC**

**Timothy Peters** was awarded the APEGBC Undergraduate Scholarship.

**SFU**

**Travel & Minor Research Award**

The purpose of the Travel and Minor Research Award is to support the travel component of the scholarly activity of a graduate student related to their research. Congratulations to **Rafael Cavalcanti de Alburquerque** and **Reid Staples**

**University Women’s Club Scholarship**

Congratulations to **Francesca Furlanetto** on receiving the University Women’s Club Science Award.
**AWARDS & HONORS**

**Bill Stolte Student Paper Award**

The Bill Stolte Student Paper award is presented each year at the CWRA National Conference to the student whose paper contains the following qualities: originality, contribution to water resources knowledge, technical and analytical quality, and clarity of their presentation. Congratulations for Laurie Neilsen-Welch.

![Laurie Neilsen-Welch](image1)

**MacKenzie King Open Scholarship and Steele Memorial Scholarship**

Typically one MacKenzie King Scholarship is granted each year. This year two Open Scholarships were given as neither of the top-ranked applicants could accept the full amount due to a cap on total scholarship support implemented by the Mackenzie King Scholarship Trust.

Steele Memorial Scholarship is awarded for travel, accommodation and research expenses for graduate students.

Congratulations Nick Roberts on both his awards!

![Nick Roberts](image2)

**Jerome H. Remick Poster Awards**

The purpose of the Remick Poster Awards is to acknowledge the growing use of posters as a legitimate geoscience communication vehicle, and to encourage higher standards by recognizing the best. Congratulations to Kristi Medig receiving the Silver Award.

![Kristi Medig](image3)

**Rafael Cavalcanti de Alburquerque** was awarded the Allan Dakin Hydrogeology Award.

![Rafael Cavalcanti de Alburquerque](image4)

**Andrew MacDougall** was awarded a Graduate Fellowship.

![Andrew MacDougall](image5)

**Jerry Holmes** was winner of CIM Turnbull cup Best Photo Award for the photo below. Stop by and see Jerry’s trophy on top of the faculty & staff mailboxes in our front office.

![Jerry Holmes](image6)

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STUDENTS

GRADUATE DEGREES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Brown (PhD)</td>
<td>Geology and geochronology of the southern Okanagan Valley shear zone, southern Canadian Cordillera, British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Frey (MSc)</td>
<td>Sedimentology and hydrodynamics of strait-margin sand-and-gravel beaches and shorefaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthieu Sturzenegger (PhD)</td>
<td>Multi-scale characterization of rock mass discontinuities and rock slope geometry using terrestrial remote sensing techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Westberg (MSc)</td>
<td>The Tectonometamorphic and Structural Evolution of the Yukon-Tanana and Cassiar Terranes in the Mendocina Creek Area: Implications for the Tectonic Framework of South-Central Yukon</td>
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DEFENSES & COLLOQUIUMS

Andrew Wolter will be presenting her PhD Oral Comprehensive Exam on Tuesday November 23, 2010. Title: "An engineering geomorphological characterization of large rockslides using an integrated field-based and numerical modeling approach."

Jeff Zurek will defend his MSc Thesis on "Characterizing the Plumbing Systems of Active Volcanoes through Potential Field Studies" on Monday, November 15th, 2010.

Andrew MacDougall defended his MSc Thesis on "Distributed energy-balance glacier melt-modelling in the Donjek Range of the St. Elias Mountains, Yukon Territory, Canada: model transferability in space and time" on Wednesday, October 20th, 2010.

Yabing Zhang presented his PhD Oral Exam on Tuesday July 13th, 2010. Title: "Characterization of brittle fracture in mine pillars: An integrated numerical modeling-field characterization approach."

Oscar Nielsen presented his MSc colloquium on May 17th, 2010. Title: "Petrology, Geochronology, and Geochemistry of the Bonnet Plume River Intrusions: Constraining the Age and Source of Igneous Clasts in the Wernecke Breccias, Yukon Territory, Canada"

On Thursday September 2nd, Cindy Hansen (Earth Sciences Laboratory Instructor) gave brief talks to two groups of incoming science students at the New Student Orientation. Each group included about 250 students entering SFU Science for the Fall 2010 semester. Cindy provided a faculty perspective on student success, giving a "top-ten" style list of things that students can and should do to not only pass their courses, but to live up to their academic potential. An Earth Sciences presence at the New Student Orientation increased our visibility amongst this potential pool of students; and with any luck, perhaps even swayed a few to enroll in our introductory course during their first year.

VISITORS

We are pleased to have the following visiting students this fall:

**Prince Ofori Ampensah**
Working in Structural Geology with Dan Gibson

**Marco Bacenetti**
Working in Quarternary Geology/Natural Hazards with John

**Cheibany Ould Elemine**
Working in Hydrogeology with Diana Allen

**Laura Superchi**
Working in Engineering Geology with Doug Stead

**Kyl Horner**
Working in Groundwater Geochemistry/Hydrogeology with Diana Allen
The 2010 Canadian geoNatHaz field school was run in August, following the successful European field course in the Italian Alps. The Canadian field school, taught by John Clague and organized by Carie-Ann Hancock, focused on landslide hazard and risk in the southern Cordillera. Highlights of the field school included a visit to the Capricorn Creek landslide, which occurred one week before our visit, and field mapping at the Frank Slide, Canada’s most deadly landslide. Students who participated in the field school were from Canada, France, Italy, and Greece.