Welcome to the inaugural SFU Geography Newsletter in this SFU’s 50th anniversary year. The Department was a founding member of the University back in 1965 and has since then grown from 4 faculty with an enrolment of about 700 students in the first year class to around 22 faculty with 490 majors, around 40 minors and more than 50 graduate students. That is almost 600 students committed to the study of Geography across three graduate, four major, one joint major, two minor, two certificate, co-op and exchange programs, and, with large numbers of non-geography students sampling what geography has to offer, course enrolments exceed 4300 each year. We teach across the diversity of the discipline, our curriculum including more than 80 courses spanning human geography, earth system dynamics and geographic and spatial information science. This diversity mirrors our research strengths in geographical political economies, global environmental change, water sciences, the city, spatial health and spatial information theory.

We invite you to (re)connect with Geography through this newsletter and our new website, which was launched this week. And we hope to see many of you at the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting that we are hosting in Vancouver (Downtown Campus) next week (June 1-5) or at least at Andrew Weaver’s lecture on Intergenerational Equity and the Challenge of Global Warming. - Tracy Brennand, Chair

Events

Conference: Canadian Association of Geographers

CAG 2015 annual conference and meetings, to be held at Simon Fraser University, June 1-5, 2015. This celebration of Geographic Diversity and Dialogue will take place in Simon Fraser’s downtown locations, principally at Harbour Centre and the (adjacent) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Symposium - IMGS 2015

Simon Fraser University is delighted to host the 16th International Medical Geography Symposium in July, 2015. The IMGS international conference holds a special place in the sub-discipline of health/medical geography, serving as a meeting point for those interested in examining spatial and place-based issues in the context of health and health care.
**News**

**Forum of Community garden organizers**
In February, Terri Evans and Christiana Miewald, sessional instructors, convened a forum of community garden organizers in the Tri-Cities to learn about their structure and governance, the opportunities and challenges they face in advancing their work, and to discuss areas for future collaboration.

**Kirsten Zickfeld and Tyler Herrington**
Kirsten Zickfeld and her former student Tyler Herrington published an invited Perspective for Environmental Research Letters entitled "The time lag between a carbon dioxide emission and maximum warming increases with the size of the emission".

**GEOG 261 - Self-guided Tour**
Geography professor Eugene McCann's Geog 261 (Introduction to Urban Geography) students completed an innovative self-guided tour of the Lower Mainland, covering 25 sites in 5 cities, during the Spring semester.

**Kudos**

**SFU Geography Spatial Interface Research Team takes 3rd place in National 2015 App Challenge**
3 SFU Geography Spatial Interface Research Lab students took 3rd place in a national competition organized by ESRI to develop mobile applications.

**SFU Geography: Adding to our Bookshelf**
Faculty within the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University have combined to publish 22 books since 2010 - quite the accomplishment. Visit our Faculty Bookshelf [here](#).

**Jessica Place receives the Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal**
Jessica Place, Nick Blomley’s Ph.D. student, will receive the Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal. This medal will be presented at the June 2015 SFU Convocation.

**Jonathan Cripps receives research award**
Jonathan Cripps (Geography graduate student) won the Quaternary Research Association's New Research Workers' Award (GB£500) on February 14th, 2015.

**Blake Walker receives a first place students award**
Blake Walker (Geography graduate student) received the first place student award for his talk Painting the Town Red: Graffiti and Violent Injury in Vancouver, British Columbia at the Spatial Knowledge and Information Conference in Banff, Feb 27-28, 2015.

**Jeremy Venditti makes the front page of JGR**
Jeremy Venditti's paper entitled 'Morphology and controls on the position of a gravel-sand transition: Fraser River, British Columbia' in the Journal of Geophysical Research (JGR) was chosen by the editor of JGR to appear in the Research Highlights section of EOS, the weekly newspaper of the American Geophysical Union.