



# Faculty Profile: Patricia Fitzpatrick

by Morrissa Boerchers

Growing up, Dr. Patricia (Trish) Fitzpatrick, had dreams of becoming a primatologist like Dian Fossey. She attended the University of Waterloo because of their anthropology undergraduate program. It was during a co-op placements in anthropology that Trish was introduced her true calling of geography, environmental assessments, natural resource planning, and the Canadian north.

Dr. Fitzpatrick completed her Masters of Natural Resource Management at the University of Manitoba and her Doctorate at the University of Waterloo, where she studied environmental assessment public participation and organization learning. She joined the U of W geography department in 2006.

Trish, as a principal investigator, is now in the middle of a three year SSHRC (Social Sciences and Human-

ities Research Council) project which looks at the relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility policies and government regulations for fostering sustainability in the mining industry. This project has case studies in both Brazil and Canada.

Another project that Trish is working on looks at independent oversight models and development follow-up programs. She is studying the use, efficiency, participation in, and perception of different models of independent oversight models across Canada and the US as an alternative or in conjunction with governmental monitoring. Research has included independent oversight organizations in Alaska, Nova Scotia, and the North West Territory.

Trish is also working on a project concerning place attachment characteristics in the Canadian north. She is compelled by the questions “why do people want to live in the North” and “what values do they hold that are important.” The answers to these questions will help others to understand the appeal of the north as well as help communities build on their strengths.

If students are interested in resource management, particularly in northern communities or related to hydro, go knock on Trish’s door (or make an appointment, she is quite busy these days) and talk to her about research opportunities. Dr. Fitzpatrick has funding and is always looking for bright and enthusiastic students. Trish’s advice to students is “to find a topic that is truly interesting to you and pursue it”.



Dr. Trish Fitzpatrick: a long way from northern Canada

The feedback and comments to our initial issue of **GeoMatters** was overwhelmingly positive! Thanks for commenting and we hope this issue is just as enjoyable.

This issue highlights northern maven Trish Fitzpatrick, alumni profile of Greg Keller, undergrad research, G.E.S.A., Institute of Urban Studies and Geography field trips.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter to anyone with an interest in geography. Individuals can also see **GeoMatters** at the Geography website, or keep up with us on Facebook (Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg) or on Twitter (@UWGeography).

If you have any suggestions for future newsletter articles, please feel free to contact us at: [geography@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:geography@uwinnipeg.ca)

Editors: Joni Storie & Weldon Hiebert

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# Undergrad Research

by Meg Sawka

“Without geography, you’re nowhere”—Jimmy Buffet

Research at the Dept. of Geography has been the most fun I could possibly imagine in my short university career. It allows me to explore my own interests and seek answers to those questions on which I dwell. It is something that causes minds to grow and expand. Geographical research, in particular, broadens horizons and stretches thoughts into territories previously unknown.

Any geographer knows that geography is all-inclusive—anything and everything can be studied from a geographical point of view. Geographers study many things: migration patterns, climatology, urban morphology, meteorology, sense of place, cryo-geomorphology and the geography of food, just to name a few. This is the beauty of being a geography student with an interest in research—there is plenty to choose from! I have presented my research, working with Dr. Lehr, titled “Writing on the Stall”. Whereas Matt Morrison, a physical geographer, is doing research on “Modeling Groundwater Flows at York Factory National Historic Site, Manitoba, Canada” with Dr. Blair.

Geography students here at the University of Winnipeg are particularly fortunate in terms of research opportunities. The department is small



Meg’s research took her into the deepest bowels of the UofW.

enough that professors are able to see which students are capable and ready for their own research project, thereby providing students with valuable experience that puts these students at the top of resumé piles. The department’s faculty members are also extremely encouraging as well as open to suggestions and new ideas for research from students. This opportunity to undertake original research has led to the great success of graduates of the department.

Students, if you have an idea for a thesis topic, just have a new idea or spin on current research, do not hesitate to go to your professor’s office hours. You never know what will come out of it!

# Happy Retirement Dr. Salah Hathout

On Thursday March 8th, the department honoured the retirement of Salah Hathout with a reception at the Faculty and Staff Club. This was quite a momentous occasion as it has been two years since his retirement and we had to work around Salah’s travels to his native Egypt. Nevertheless we were able to coordinate with Salah and a grand time was had by all!

An eclectic mix of current department members and retirees were on hand to wish Salah well and imbibe in some wine and of course Jeanne’s cake. Special thanks to Weldon for arranging the reception and to Massimo (Faculty & Staff Club catering) for the selection of wines and snacks which were enjoyed by all.

Salah spoke fondly of his years teaching geography and dearly misses us all, particularly the students. Salah has spent much of his time in Cairo where he witnessed first-hand the Arab Spring Tide transforming much of Egypt and the Middle East.

Congratulations, Salah, on your retirement and also congratulations on your recent marriage. We wish you and your bride the best of luck in your life together. We also look forward to meeting her!

## Geography Students COLLOQUIUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
Friday, March 23, 2012  
2:30 - 4:30 pm  
Staff and Faculty Club  
(4th Floor Wesley Hall)

<http://geography.uwinnipeg.ca/colloquium.html>



# Alumni Profile: Greg Keller, Modeller/Data Manager – Class of 1997

Greg Keller obtained his four-year B.Sc. in physical geography from the University of Winnipeg and was a recipient of the departmental gold medal for sciences. He worked briefly with the Geological Survey of Canada out of Winnipeg, but has been with the Manitoba Geological Survey for the last 14 years as a Modeller/Data manager.

Greg has worked on a variety of projects from the creation and administration of large kimberlite indicator and waterwell database, Quaternary map compilation, and most recently, 3D geological modelling. He uses a combination of geography/geology



Greg Keller: Geography rocks!

skills with GIS, database and Geocad computer-modelling knowledge to co-developed methodologies for large-scale 3D modelling. These models have been adopted in many other jurisdictions around the world. In fall 2011, Greg was a co-recipient of the Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists medal for their innovative team based approach to 3D modelling.

It was the time Greg spent at the U of W that enabled him to become who he is today. Specifically, the instructors and professors in the geography department that took the time to make sure he actually understood the concepts presented and emphasized that understanding of the processes was what mattered. This has served him very well throughout his career, and still remains true today. According to Greg, *“The [department] put forth a sense of family, and encourage you to better yourself. For that, I am eternally grateful”*.

As part of his job, Greg does a lot of public outreach by way of interactive GIS maps, 3D models and hard-copy mapping. When asked what specific advice he would give to our current students, Greg said that was a difficult question as much of what he does takes skills from many different areas of his education. But if he had to pick something, Greg recommended that, *“if you’re interested in GIS or modelling, you [should] take a lot of courses from the Applied Computer Science department along with your geography courses”*.



**G.E.S.A.** stands for the **Geography and Environmental Students Association**. We are a collective of students at the University of Winnipeg from the two departments who came together because of similar interests and

goals. G.E.S.A. allows for students and faculty members within the departments to get connected and build relationships with one another, keeping students informed about available scholarships and job opportunities in the geography and environmental studies field. We also act as a student voice and provide feedback to the heads of the departments regarding the structure of the academic programs and what we would like to see be implemented into our education.

We host and promote various lectures from a wide array of related fields and raise awareness on campus about the activities of the Geography and Environmental Department. G.E.S.A. also contributes to the ongoing efforts for a more sustainable university through fundraising efforts aimed at supporting ecological projects on campus and in the community. By engaging in prolific acts of amusement on and off the university campus, G.E.S.A. creates a stronger sense of student community. We always welcome new members so come on down and check out a meeting! Meetings are held Fridays from 12:30-1:30 in the G.E.S.A. lounge on the fifth floor of Lockhart!

## Congratulations Matt!

Matt Morrison, featured in first issue of **GeoMatters**, was awarded the Sir William Stephenson Scholarship, named after the wartime intelligence hero Sir William Stephenson. The award is valued at \$6500. The purpose of the award is to encourage students at The University of Winnipeg, who combine outstanding academic achievement and exceptional leadership qualities, to pursue their studies at the University and to develop their potential to make a valuable contribution to Canada. Matt is the second Geography student to win this award, following Caleigh Christie who received the award last year. Interested students can apply for the award at:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/awards/stephenson%202011.pdf>



# Geography in the City

by Jino Distasio

Since 1969, The Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) has been conducting action oriented research that has helped support communities in Manitoba and throughout Canada. During this long history, IUS has had strong ties and leadership with Geography professors Ed Cloutis, Tom Carter and Jino Distasio all serving as Directors. This strong relationship has ensured that many Geography students have had opportunities to work on projects and learn valuable skills in all aspects of research. This has included completing interviews, taking part in data gathering and using GIS for our applications. Over the past decade, students from Geography have really been able to add significant expertise in the use of GIS in various projects. In one project, work on mapping Canadian urban distress required students working in Winnipeg to collaborate with students in Montreal to “ground truth” results in their respective cities.

IUS remains an important part of the University of Winnipeg, serving as an independent research centre with a mandate to conduct relevant research that has an impact on the community. Recent projects include the Mental Health Commission of Canada’s At Home Chez Soi project (a five city demonstration project looking at Housing First) or at

the smaller scale, a pending project will examine the unique character of the Central Park neighbourhood of Winnipeg to better understand the dynamics of the housing market.

With our new location in the Richardson College we look forward to another exciting era in research and continued strong partnership with Geography students and faculty. Over the next year we expect much more work to be done in many exciting areas. Stop by and see what we are up to!



# Churchill Field Course

by Mark Krawetz

The Department of Geography is pleased to announce that we will offer GEOG-4801: Geography Field Seminar, in Churchill, Manitoba during the last 10 days of August, 2012 (subject to budget approval). Geographers are continuously observing relations and making interpretations in the field.

Field studies are the primary means of obtaining geographic data. Fieldwork is the foundation upon which sound research in geography is built. The Churchill field course has proven to be a popular option for students in geography and related disciplines interested in gaining practical research experience.

The Churchill field course is designed to integrate aspects of both physical and human geography in Northern environments. Course participants will be exposed to the physical geography of the subarctic environment of the Churchill region - glacial and periglacial geomorphology, Quaternary geology, wetlands and biogeography. With respect to human geography, discussions will focus on population geography, Aboriginal culture, heritage tourism and rural planning of the surrounding area. GEOG-4801 may be considered to be the capstone course for geographers. This course is especially valuable to students intending to continue their studies at the graduate level, or to pursue careers in field research.



Geography students experiencing sub-arctic “weathering” along Hudson Bay.