

# Matt Dyce Awarded Journal of Historical Geography Prize

from the University of Winnipeg News Centre

Department of Geography Assistant Professor Matt Dyce says he was humbled and delighted to learn the *Journal of Historical Geography* selected his paper as the best it has published in the past 12 months. The article titled “Canada between the photograph and the map: aerial photography, geographical vision and the state” draws evidence from the emergence of aerial photography in Canada to examine how the new technology influenced, and changed, the role and perspective of geographical surveyors, and how use of the technology progressed between 1880 and 1960.

“The Department of Geography and, indeed, the University as a whole, is absolutely delighted that Matt Dyce has been awarded this scholarly prize. He is yet another example of the high calibre of the professors at the University of Winnipeg. We congratulate him for earning this prestigious prize,” said Dr. Danny Blair, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science.

Dyce joined UWinnipeg in September of 2012 after teaching at UBC. He currently teaches classes related to historical, regional, and cultural geography in Canada.

The panel decision to award Dyce the JHG Prize for his paper was unanimous. It is given annually to the paper

judged as having “...made the greatest contribution to the advancement of scholarship in historical geography in the previous year, primarily on the basis of the significance and originality of the research but also taking into account the career stage of the author.”

Dyce is also pleased that as a result of the award, his paper will be available to the public online free for the next year. You can find a link to the article, and find out more about the award, by visiting the *Journal of Historical Geography* (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305748812000916>).



Matt Dyce (photo credit: University of Winnipeg News Centre)

Despite winter’s continued icy grip we hope you enjoy this spring issue of **GeoMatters**. Your hearts will be warmed with the news of Matt Dyce’s recent journal award; congratulations, Matt! We are saddened to announce that Dr. Bill Rannie will be leaving us this summer but happily, Bill is joining our legion of Senior Scholars. Warm wishes on your retirement, Bill. Watch for our Fall 2014 **GeoMatters** issue which will highlight Dr. Nora Casson, our new hydrologist. This issue includes profiles on an illustrious alumni (Prof. Guigné), and up-and-coming researchers (Cameron Hunter and Rebecca Wilks) who are making plans for graduate school.

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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THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

<http://geography.uwinnipeg.ca>

# News in Geography

by Dr. Marc Vachon (Chair)

The Department of Geography celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2013. Last September, Dr. Bruce Mitchell was the very special guest speaker to celebrate our 60th anniversary celebration. Dr. Mitchell presentation was very well attended and covered the history of water resource management in Canada. Also in September, faculty and 6 students attended the annual Prairie Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) in Esterhazy, SK. The PCAG was a successful event hosted by the University of Regina with Dr. Mitchell also the guest speaker for the conference.

In the last few years, due to retirement, attrition and sabbatical, our physical geography program has lost some faculty members who have shaped this program. After 40 years of outstanding and dedicated service, Dr. Bill Rannie joins these members with his retirement after this term. We wish him a wonderful retirement and he will be greatly missed.

The good news is that we welcome two new faculty members this year: Dr. Ian Mauro and Dr. Nora Casson. Dr. Mauro started in January 2014 and his cinematography work on climate change in Canada has already made a national and international impact. Dr. Mauro is a welcome addition to our human geography program.

In turn, Dr. Nora Casson, who will join us in July 2014, is a hydrologist and her research focus is understanding climatic and landscape controls on variability in biogeochemical processes, with particular interest in hydrochemistry. Her work has been largely conducted in temperate forested ecosystem across Ontario and Wisconsin. Dr. Casson has just finished a post-doc in Wisconsin where she was investigating landscape drivers of the sensitivity of seepage lakes to acid deposition in northern Wisconsin. Also, Dr. Jacques-

line Benjamin, climatologist, will be back from her sabbatical in September 2014 and we will be able to offer our complement of courses in climatology.

The Department of Geography will now offer two Minors, one in physical geography and one in human geography. Minors require 18 credits hours, and it is our hope that this will help further the cause of creating greater awareness of geography's importance for students majoring in other fields of study. This is particularly important in the wake of the 2013 Canadian Association of Geographers St-John's Declaration for Advancing Geographic Education in Canada. The Declaration aims to inspire Canadians to value geography and spatial thinking; to promote geography as a discipline; provide leadership in geographic education across Canada; enhance support for geographic educators; and support geographic research (<http://spatialinformation.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/st-johns-declaration-nov-13-2013.pdf>). The Department of Geography is also consolidating its 4 year BA joint program in geography/geographic information systems with the Red River College (see article by Chris Storie in this issue). Finally, the department purchased eighteen (18) field tablets for student use. The tablets are an excellent tool given their capacity for mapping, recording, photography, presentations, etc.

Finally, in late August 2014, the Department of Geography will hold its bi-annual field course in Churchill. Eighteen (18) students from Geography, Biology and Education along with staff and faculty members will spend ten days at the state-of-the-art research facility, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. The students gain field experience in meteorology, urban and cultural studies, biogeography, geology and hydrology.

## A Flood of Praise for Dr. Bill Rannie

by Dr. Danny Blair

After 40 years of exemplary service to the University and its Department of Geography, Dr. William (Bill) Rannie is retiring this summer. Bill arrived in the department as a Lecturer in



Photo credit: W. Hiebert

1974; on the completion of his Geography PhD (*An Approach to the Prediction of Suspended Sediment Rating Curves*) from the University of Toronto in 1976, he entered the professorial stream, if you will. In 1968 Bill earned his MSc (*Sediment Movement in Graburn Watershed, Cypress Hills, Alberta*) from Queen's University, where he also received a BA Honours degree. He teaches (no past tense...he's not gone yet!) a wide range of courses in the Geography program related to geomorphology, hydrology, geology, and atmospheric science, and is especially well known for regaling students in the Arctic Environments course with stories about his experiences in the high Arctic. His research into the environmental history of the southern Prairies—using instrumental and historical sources of information—is known far and wide; indeed, Bill has long been recognized as the 'go-to-guy' regarding the flood histories of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Bill is also well known for his service to the University. He was department chair for 16 years, and has made significant contributions to virtually every University committee and administrative unit. In short, Bill is, and has been, a model citizen of the University community. Thank you for your much appreciated contributions, Bill: enjoy your retirement!

Dr. Rannie was lecturing on map reading. After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees, minutes, and seconds he asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for dinner at 49 degrees, 52 minutes, 18 seconds north, latitude and 97 degrees, 10 minutes, 46 seconds west longitude...?"

After an awkward silence, a student muttered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."

## Dead Horse Creek

by Rebecca Wilks (Geography BSc 2014)

For the last 3 years I've had the opportunity to conduct research with Dr. Bill Buhay, on Dead Horse Creek (DHC) in Winkler Manitoba. The field work involved in the study of the creek's water quality included retrieving water samples from various sites along DHC and testing water parameters. I was also able to visit the University of Waterloo, where I saw the analysis of our water samples first hand. This experience has been a significant factor in realizing how much I enjoy academic research as well as work in the field and lab. Pursuing an honours thesis was a result of being part of this study; after three field seasons of collecting data, the idea of being able to conclude this chapter of my university career with an honours thesis appealed to me.

I've decided to focus on sourcing the origins of excess sulphate in DHC for my honours thesis. DHC is used to drain the sewage lagoons of both

Winkler and Morden. The Creek is also susceptible to agricultural runoff since the area is highly cultivated; this runoff can contribute significant amounts of sulphate to the creek from artificial fertilizers. The goal of this study was to determine whether the primary source of sulphate loadings to DHC is anthropogenic (artificial fertilizer runoff, sewage effluent discharge) or natural (groundwater input, atmospheric deposition, sulphide oxidation).



Photo credit: Rebecca Wilks

## Prairie Climate Patterns

by Cameron Hunter

I started working on this project in the summer of 2013 with Dr. Danny Blair by completing a literature review on prairie climatology. The project, which is almost completed, asks two main questions. How do upper-level pressure patterns affect summer precipitation patterns on the Prairies? And, how do teleconnections (like the El Niño-Southern Oscillation) alter these upper-level pressure patterns and change the precipitation we experience.

The project was broken down into 3 main sections; the first is a synoptic classification of the summer 500mb patterns over the prairies. We used Synoptic Typer Tools to analyze and classify the daily 500mb surfaces throughout the summer period into 16 different "types". I then looked at the surface climatic conditions associated with each of the synoptic types. After that I looked into how three prominent

teleconnections (El Niño-Southern Oscillation, Pacific Decadal Oscillation, and Pacific North American) change the 500mb patterns, and what are the effects on the precipitation the prairies receives. Finally I explored if/how these teleconnections work in combination with one another to further alter upper-level pressure patterns, by exploring the 500b pressure patterns during ENSO-PDO, ENSO-PNA, and PDO-PNA events.

Although this relationship between, synoptic patterns, teleconnections, and surface precipitation we proving to be a very complex one, we have found these teleconnections are indeed altering the synoptics of the Prairies. Hopefully this research will allow us to better understand some of the complex relationships that govern summer precipitation patterns and can lead to the development of droughts and floods on the Prairies.

by Lena Yusim (co-President)

GESA has had a fun, busy and successful year! As the Geography and Environmental Students Association looks back on this year, we recall the fun that was had between new and old friends at our various fundraisers. The most notable would have to be our very first Beer Tasting night that was co-hosted by Garbonzo's Pizza Pub. GESA members, faculty and staff, and folks just passing by sampled an array of beers from around the world, and help us raise money for next year's Eco-Grant. It was a huge hit and we have had many requests for a second annual beer night for next year.

Another notable fundraising event is GESA's Annual Trivia Night. Each spring GESA organizes this major fundraising event, and this was our second time having it at Garbonzo's. We had a lot of fun putting together all the silent auction prizes and the trivia questions. We cannot thank enough those who donated prizes, GESA appreciates your support and attendance! Trivia Night is an event that we look forward to all year, and it is always nice to see GESA alumni come out and support our events.

Throughout the year we catered the Geography Department's lecture series as another way to fundraise for the group. This was a great way for GESA students to attend interesting lectures, meet with like-minded individuals, and hone up on our cooking skills!

All of this fundraising goes towards the GESA Eco-Grant, which has been awarded three years in a row, with the funds successfully raised for the fourth grant thanks to GESA's amazing events. This year's grant was awarded to The Winnipeg Pantry Project lead by sustainable foodies Adrian Werner, Jeremy Sewell, and Nicola Schaefer. Their goal is to create a cookbook that provides recipes for seasonal and sustainable dishes that can be made with Winnipeg-based ingredients. Maybe GESA's catering team will use it in future catering endeavors!

As many of our long-term members are about to graduate this year, there is already an overwhelming feeling of nostalgia in our meetings. That being said, the new faces we see in our meetings and in the GESA lounge are what make being part of this student's association even more fun (look for GESA on Facebook).

Thanks for a great year everyone!

# Alumni Profile: Professor Jacques Yves Guigné (Class of 1975)

Prof. Jacques Yves Guigné says that the Department of Geography remains fresh and alive for him, "It was during my early years as a student of geography (at U of W) that a lot of my interests in the geosciences were formulated". Currently, Jacques holds high ranking positions (Founder, CEO, Executive Director, Chief Scientist/Geophysicist) for Acoustic Zoom Inc., PanGeo SubSea Inc. and Intelligent Sciences Ltd. His role is to design and oversee the companies' intellectual property, geoscience activities with specialization in coastal, offshore and seabed seismic data, protocols, analysis, and high value geo-interpretations. Jacques has conducted research seabed explorations in the Bristol Channel, Baltic Sea and North Sea along with off the east coast of Canada specifically on the Grand Banks and Canadian Arctic. Examples of his work include periglacial geomorphology research during three Juneau Icefield expeditions and mass balance modelling of Cathedral Glacier in northern BC. He conducted large scale oil gas blowout experiments in the Beaufort Sea, imaging the behaviour of an oil and gas plume under ice sheets. He was the Chief Scientist leading an underwater investigation using a five men submersible to work on the seafloor with unique probes to quantify the geotechnical impact on seabeds that large iceberg keel incursions would produce. This was carried out in the northernly waters off the coast of Labrador and that of the Davis Straits.

Prof. Guigné is also a visiting professor with the University of Bath (England), holds 30 patents, has a significant publication record, and will be publishing a textbook called "Acoustic Investigations of Complex Seabeds"



Photo credit: Jacques Yves Guigné

(Springer; summer 2014). Although there are too many awards to mention all of them here, his research contributions have been recognized by the scientific community including the Deryck Chesterman Medal of Physics (Ph.D at the University of Bath), President's Award for Outstanding Research (Memorial University), and the 2013 Rayleigh Medal by the Institute of Acoustics. Recently Jacques wrote and submitted a comprehensive Doctor of Science thesis and has had this successfully and internationally examined for its scholarly content. As of February 5th 2014 the Senate at the University of Bath has officially acknowledged and awarded him with this rare and prestigious degree.

Jacques has a long history of encouraging students to the sciences and geosciences. "I am pleased to say that the tradition continues as my niece is currently taking a class with Dr. Bill Rannie, who I remember fondly as an excellent mentor and dedicated teacher".

## ...Speaking of Geography

by Matt Dyce

Every few weeks, students and faculty file into room 5L24 to have lunch, meet new people, and listen to some of the new and exciting research from various areas of our discipline. The reason we come together is the Geography Speakers Series which features an impressive group of scholars. The series began with **Jessica Adelman**, a former UW student and recent McGill graduate, who spoke about her Masters of Engineering research relating to arsenic waste stabilization in mining. We also welcomed **Stewart Cohen** addressing the question of 'Where do People Fit into Adaptation?' Dr. Cohen's lecture was aimed at understanding how mid-level employees and community groups could be empowered to make decisions that can mitigate and cope with climate change. Finally University of Manitoba, Women's and Gender Studies professor **Jocelyn Thorpe** discussed the historical geography of the Teme-Augama homeland in northern Ontario. Dr. Thorpe's lecture drew students from different UW departments to hear how colonialist ideas about gender and race influenced government views of Temagami's geography and how best to manage its resources.

The Geography Speakers Series is also a chance to showcase the work of our own practicing geographers. **Dr. Gina Sylvestre** spoke about her research into seniors' mobility geography and the snow-covered sidewalks in the city. Her lecture drew a large crowd including planners and community organizers interested in the policy implications of her talk. Our longest-serving faculty member, hydrologist **Dr. Bill Rannie**, shared his thoughts on the wandering Assiniboine River. He dispelled the idea that the river has always met at the Forks, showing us how the geomorphologic record finds the river at times emptied into Lake Manitoba and even been part of the Souris. We also were introduced to new faculty member **Dr. Ian Mauro** through his multi-media presentation on climate change knowledge in Canada. Ian uses film as a research tool to learn about people's relationship with shifting environments.

The Geography Speakers Series is always a fun event. It wouldn't be possible without the catering assistance of the GESA, the work of the Geography Communications Committee, and the help of Tania Guevara. The Speakers Series will resume in September 2014. Look forward to seeing you there next year. Thanks to all our 2013-2014 guests!!!

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*Old cartographers never die, they just become legends.*

# The UW-Red River College Joint Program in Geography & Geographic Information Systems

by Christopher Storie, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Geography, The University of Winnipeg

Back in 2008, members of the Department of Geography and the GIS program at Red River College got together to discuss the possibility of developing a joint degree/diploma program between the two institutions that focused on geographic information systems. These discussions led to a proposal being put forward at the University of Winnipeg that eventually led to the creation of the new program on our campus. Unfortunately due to challenges of “getting the program off the ground” at Red River College the actual program did not come into official existence until 2010. Since 2010 we have had 4 students go through the program successfully with more planning to register for upcoming years.

The program was designed to allow students to attend the University of Winnipeg and pursue a 4-year de-

gree (Arts or Sciences) for the first two years. Students would then attend and successfully complete the Geographic Information Systems Technology Program and transfer the earned credits back to the University of Winnipeg. In essence students complete their third year of study at Red River College before returning to the University to complete the remaining requirements of the 4-year course of study. This program is unique in the fact that after the successful completion of all course work at both institutions, students have earned a Bachelor of Arts or Science and a Post-Graduate Diploma in one year less than if they did to programs separately.

This joint program is meant to allow students interested in geomatics to advance both their technical and theoretical training and ensure that they have a

strong overall background in the areas of geographic information systems, remote sensing, statistics, and cartography *in addition* to a strong theoretical and applied foundation in the various subareas of geography the department specializes in.

Students who are interested in more information about this program are encouraged to contact Dr. Christopher Storie ([c.storie@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:c.storie@uwinnipeg.ca)).

Information Links:

**Red River College:**

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/catalogue/ProgramInfo.aspx?ProgCode=GEOIF-AD&RegionCode=WPG>

**The University of Winnipeg:**

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/factsheets/factsheet-joint-geo-info-systems.pdf>

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## 2014 Geography Award Winners

The Department of Geography has a number of bright and talented students and we like to recognize these students every year. The winners of this years' Susan L Rogers Scholarship in Geography is **Andrew Curtis**; Victor Dolmage Memorial Scholarship in Geography is **Rebecca Wilks**; Brian Evans Memorial Scholarships in Geography are **Cameron Hunter, Rebecca Wilks, Hillary Beattie, Ruth Dickinson, Robert Bruce, Rachel Atiomo, Keshia Carriere, John Huillery, Heather Reeves, Samantha Fraser, Jillian Swan, Brett Letkeman, Sharla Regan**; Marcia Anne Fauer/Peter Bennet Memorial Scholarship in Geography is **Andrew Curtis**; Humbolt Scholarship in Geography - **Cameron Hunter**; and Anna Rikkelman Scholarship in Geography is **Hillary Beattie**. Congratulations everyone!

**Front row** (left to right): John Huillery, Andrew Curtis,  
Heather Reeves

**Back row** (left to right): Hillary Beattie, Samantha Fraser,  
Cameron Hunter, Sharla Regan

**Missing:** Ruth Dickinson, Robert Bruce, Rachel Atiomo,  
Keshia Carriere, Rebecca Wilks, Jillian Swan, Brett Letkeman

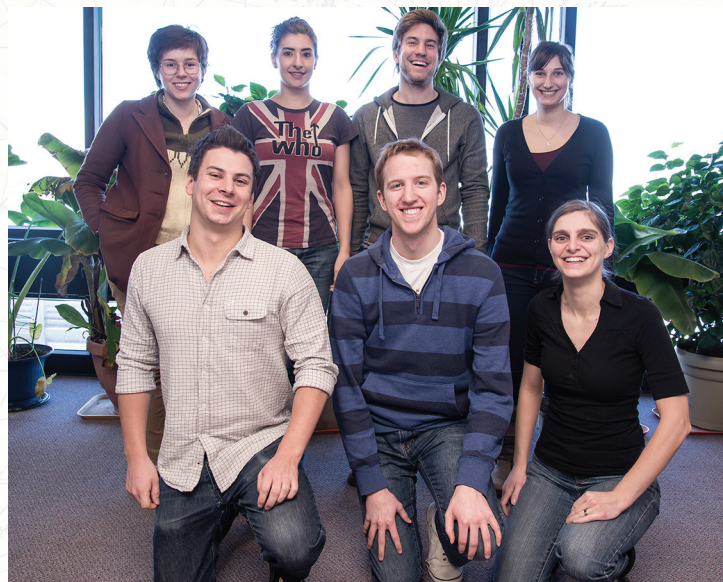


Photo credit: Weldon Hiebert

# A Day in the Life of Geography

## MGUG Spring Meeting

UW students and graduates presented papers at the Manitoba GIS Users Group meeting held in mid-March:

***GIS in the City: A Year of Maps from the Institute of Urban Studies*** Adrian Werner, Research Assistant, Institute of Urban Studies

***The Application of GIS to Evaluate Physical Constraints in Land Use Planning*** Jeremy Sewell, Manitoba Department of Municipal Planning

***Mapping Potential Wetland Sites for Flood Mitigation using Geospatial Indicators in Southern Manitoba*** Samantha Fraser, U of Winnipeg Student

(Photo credit: Christopher Storie)



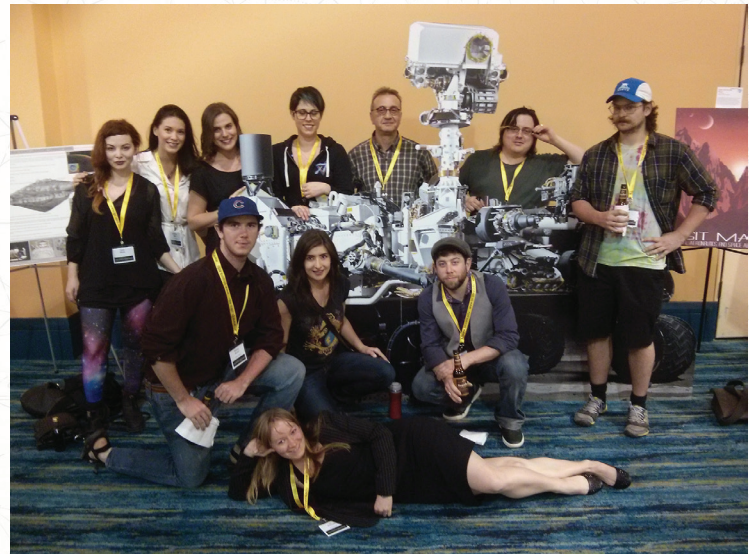
## Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

UW students and grads joined Dr. Ed Cloutis at the 45th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, an annual international gathering of planetary scientists held in Houston. Shown in the photo are:

**Back row** (from left): Tesia Rhind, Samantha Smyth, Rebecca Wilks, Genevieve Berard, Ed Cloutis, Matthew Izawa and Daniel Applin;

**Front row** (from left): Matthew Morison, Samantha Fraser, Paul Mann and Jennifer Ronholm

(Photo credit: Paul Mann)



## Canadian Space Agency visit

Dr. Ed Cloutis of the Department of Geography recently hosted a visit by officials from the Canadian Space Agency who came by the University of Winnipeg to view Dr. Cloutis' lab facilities and discuss current and future space-related research projects. Shown in the photo are, from left to right: Dr. Ed Cloutis, General (Retired) Walter Natynczyk, President of the Canadian Space Agency; Mr. Eric Laliberté, Director General of Space Science and Technology; and Ms. Renée St-Amant, Analyst, Policy and External Relations.

(Photo credit: Paul Mann)