

## Across the Division

### Brandon University

In fall 2018, Brandon University Department of Geography and Environment welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Alexandra Giancarlo, on a one-year appointment, and Dr. Kristen Lowitt, on a five-year appointment. Dr. Giancarlo brought a specialization in historical geography and critical race theory. As Dr. Lowitt brings research expertise in food geographies, the department was able to offer a new 'Food, Communities, and Justice: Geographies of Food' course in winter 2019. Also, for the first time in several years, Dr. Derrek Eberts and Dr. Christopher Malcolm offered a field studies course in spring 2019 in which five students participated and travelled to Mexico. They hope to offer the course on a more regular basis in future. Also of note, the department underwent a recent name change from 'Geography' to 'Geography and Environment' to better reflect the interdisciplinary nature of our work spanning natural and built environments. Lastly, the department congratulates several of its members on securing research grants. Dr. Alexander Koiter and Dr. Peter Whittington were each awarded a NSERC Discovery Grant. Dr. Lowitt was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant. Dr. Rachel Herron has received substantial support to establish a new Centre for Critical Studies of Rural and Remote Mental Health. Rachel was also the recipient of PCAG's Early Career Award for her "Significant Scholarly Contributions to the Discipline and Demonstrated Exceptional Achievement in Teaching." Not least, long-serving Emeritus Professor Roderick McGinn was honoured with the Warkentin Award for his "Outstanding Scholarly Contributions to the Geography of the Western Interior."

### Lakehead University

In the past year the Department of Geography and the Environment warmly welcomed a new faculty member. Dr. Muditha Heenkenda was hired as a full-time tenure-track professor in geomatics. Muditha received her Master's degree in Geo-information Science from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, and her PhD degree in GIS and Remote Sensing from Charles Darwin University, Australia. Muditha joins our team of geomatics professionals in the delivery of undergraduate and graduate-level curriculum, our Certificate in Geomatics, and geomatics-based research programs, and in steering the direction of our Geospatial Data Centre. In September 2019, the department hosted the Climate Con 2019 Climate Change Symposium. The theme of this year's event was "Climate change impacts and adaptations in the Lake Superior Basin: Insights and perspectives from the North Shore of Superior."

### University of North Dakota

The Department of Geography and GISc experienced an eventful year. Career changes saw Dr. Chris Atkinson depart for Melrose, Minnesota, and Dr. Michael Niedzielski return to Warsaw, Poland. Our thanks and best wishes were extended to Cindy Purpur who retired after 30 years' service as departmental administrative assistant. In Cindy's place we welcomed Pam Nielsen, formerly of the Anthropology Department. Dr. Bradley Rundquist, a former chairperson of the department, was appointed Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Over the academic year, 14 undergraduates received baccalaureate degrees. Master's degrees were awarded to Dana McVeigh (MA), Jacqueline Amor (MSc), Nels Anderson (MSc), Earl Klug (MSc), and Eliot Peltier (MA). Eliot is now a doctoral student in UND's Earth Systems Science and Policy Department.

Dr. Douglas C. Munski and Dr. Laura B. Munski attended the PCAG Hecla Island meeting where they presented co-authored posters including one with Dana McVeigh. Faculty and students of the department attended the AAG Great Plains-Rocky Mountains meeting at Manhattan, Kansas. The department is pleased to report that Phoebe Eichhorst and Zachary Seeger received the top undergraduate poster prize for their co-authored poster on rural food deserts of North Dakota. Phoebe and Zachary were supervised by Dr. Enru Wang, the department's new graduate director and graduate GISc certificate director.

Sadly, Dr. Roland (RD) Mower, a past chairperson and emeritus professor of the department, passed away on July 8, 2019 at the age of 90. Dr. Mower's life experiences included service with the US Navy at the end of World War II and a commission in the US Air Force during which he served in Vietnam. He was a recipient of geography degrees from University of Utah (BSc), Oklahoma State

University (MSc), and University of Kansas (PhD). Upon retiring from the USAF, Dr. Mower joined the faculty at Grand Forks and remained there for 14 years before starting the third phase of his professional life as the Academic Dean at Embry-Riddle University in Prescott, Arizona. Dr. Mower remained engaged in promoting the study of geography throughout his retirement.

The department is now handling the administration of UND's Environmental Studies degrees (BA and BSc), reflecting the ongoing evolution of the department in emphasizing human-environment interaction. Also, a GIS minor for undergraduates has been approved, thereby demonstrating continuing attention to provide geospatial technology education on campus. Finally, the university has a new president and is undergoing a period of administrative and structural change. How the department will be affected by these changes remains uncertain. Stay tuned!

### University of Regina

During the 2018 to 2019 academic year, the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies celebrated the convocation of 23 undergraduate and graduate students in our Geography, Environmental Studies, and Environmental Geoscience programs. The department responded to students' desire to have greater recognition of their geospatial studies by introducing a new minor in GIS. The department continued to apply the recommendations contained in the Academic Unit Review of 2017, focusing particularly on restructuring programs and their requirements to reflect changes in our faculty and recent trends in geography and environmental studies. In June 2019, long-serving department member Dr. Randy Widdis retired and moved back to his native Ontario.

### University of Saskatchewan

This has been a very busy and productive year in the Department of Geography and Planning. Dr. Alec Aitken took over as Head in July. New faculty member Dr. Martyn Clark was welcomed into the department. Dr. Clark's research focuses on developing innovative approaches for simulating hydrological processes; methods to improve streamflow forecasts; and understanding the impacts of climate change on regional water resources.

Awards were received by faculty and students in numerous areas. Dr. John Pomeroy received the Miroslaw Romanowski Medal awarded by the Royal Society of Canada for "Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Science." The award recognizes his exceptional contribution to snow research and the cold-season hydrology of mountain regions. Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) Executive Director, Dr. Jay Famiglietti was honoured with a Distinguished Achievement Award from Tufts University Alumni. Dr. Ehab Diab, who joined our faculty last year, was awarded a NSERC Discovery Grant in the field of transportation network planning.

Student award recipients included Carolyn Aubry-Wake, PhD candidate, the first recipient of the newly created IACS-IGS Graham Cogley Award for best presentation at the IUGG conference in July 2019. The award is given annually to recognize excellence in cryospheric research. Zhibang Lv, PhD candidate, received the Wiesnet Medal for his presentation at the 76th Annual Eastern Snow Conference in June 2019. Dr. Daniel Karran received the Graduate Thesis Award – PhD Social Sciences for his thesis titled "The Engineering of Peatland Form and Function by Beaver (*Castor spp.*)." Peter Lawford, PhD candidate, received a College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Graduate Scholarship and the departmental J. H. Richards Graduate Award. Nipa Dutta, MSc candidate, received the International Association for Impact Assessment Award. Jeff Harder, MSc candidate, received a NSERC CGSM scholarship for his thesis topic "Drivers of Wildfire Occurrence in Saskatchewan's Boreal Plain Ecozone." Rhys McMaster, MSc candidate, received a College of Arts and Science Aboriginal Graduate Scholarship.

The past year has also witnessed a number of achievements in providing service to the community and the discipline. Dr. Pomeroy co-chaired the World Meteorological Organization's High Mountain Summit in Geneva, Switzerland. He also met with climate activist Greta Thunberg to discuss glacier decline. At the University's first globally broadcast TEDx conference, Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace presented a talk titled "Building Bridges to Improve Maternal Health: A Water Story" which focused on how academics can work with universities and NGOs in East Africa to enhance capacity and improve practice for better maternal health outcomes. Dr. Bram Noble became a co-director of the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) project. This is a \$2.5 million SSHRC funded USASK-led northern energy planning partnership tasked with researching ways to transition northern communities to energy self-sufficiency. Dr. Robert Patrick and Dr. Krystopher Chutko, received financial support from Crown Indigenous Services Canada, to assist numerous First Nations install a dozen climate stations as part of an Indigenous climate monitoring network across Saskatchewan. Dr. Chutko and Dr. Aitken have been instrumental in establishing a new hydrology program which will become operational in 2020.

### University of Winnipeg

The Geography Department congratulates Dr. Matt Dyce for his leadership organizing the successful Canadian Association of Geography's 2019 annual meeting held on our campus. We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Nora Casson has been awarded the Canadian Research Chair II in Environmental Influences on Water Quality (2019–2024). With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, Dr. Danny Blair and Dr. Ian Mauro of the Prairie Climate Change Centre are developing health-related

content for their *Climate Atlas of Canada* (2019). Dr. Patricia Fitzpatrick has received a research grant from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to collaborate with the Public Interest Law Centre of Manitoba on the role of public participation and consumer engagement in regulatory proceedings. A total of 13 undergraduate Geography students were awarded \$9,000 in UW scholarships. There were also opportunities for student summer research internships with Kayla Villebrun-Normand participating in the UW Indigenous Summer Scholar Program, and collaborating with Dr. Gina Sylvestre on the project, "Aging in a Food Desert: Exploring the Role of Community Meals in Winnipeg's North End." With funding through QE-II, Mitacs Global Links and a UW Student Travel Grant, Brent Murray spent three months at CSIRO in Melbourne, Australia, supervised by Dr. Joni Storie and Dr. Neil Sims (CSIRO), mapping mangroves in Fiji. Other research activities include Dr. Joni Storie as the Principal Investigator for the new project, "Automated Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) Mapping and Change Detection for the High North Regions of Canada and Norway." Dr. Bill Buhay is a co-investigator on a project examining the cultural diversity of Cuba's early inhabitants to determine processes of migration and interaction amongst these agricultural Indigenous groups, as well as their status at the time of colonial contact. With the appointment of Dr. Chris Storie as the Director of the UW Institute of Urban Studies, new collaborative synergies are being explored between this research unit and the department to enhance expertise and provide research opportunities for both faculty and students. Finally, Mark Krawetz retired after 33 years of dedication to Geography education.