

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

ALL ABOUT THE NUMBERS

In 2018, the Department looked like this:

Faculty Complement: 23 Full-time, 8 Standing Appointment, 11 Limited Duties

Full-time Staff: 8, Research Staff: 5

In-Program Undergraduate Students: 172

Total Undergraduate Students: 2780

In-Program Graduate Students: 80

Total Graduate Students taught: 83

Total Students Taught: 2863

Research Expenditures: \$1,454,860.00 (April 1 - November 2018)



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BY JAMES VOGGT

This year we have moved our holiday newsletter into a format that allows us to include photos, as well as text to better showcase some of the activities we were engaged in over the past year.

The past year has seen a number of changes. Most notably, our faculty complement continues to evolve with the arrival of three new faculty members and the retirements of Dr. Milford Green and Dr. Phil Stooke. Joining us are Dr. Agnieszka Leszczynski and Dr. Jed Long, both as Assistant Professors in the area of GIScience, and Dr. Diana Lewis, who is a cross-appointed Assistant Professor with First Nations Studies. More details on their work are provided in the accompanying feature. And our own Dr. Chantelle Richmond was formally announced as a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health & Environment.

We opened a large new computing laboratory facility, currently referred to as the “Big Data” lab, in SSC 1059 that can seat 48 students. It replaces the temporary space used to hold lab sessions for a number of our courses for the past few years since the time the Map Library moved to Weldon Library.

In November, we hosted Dr. Paul Robbins (University of Wisconsin, Madison) as our inaugural Distinguished Lecturer. Paul gave an enthusiastic and well received lecture to a broad audience to kick off Geography Awareness Week.

Submission of our review documents as part of the 7 year cycle of Undergraduate Program Review was made in late October with external reviewers scheduled to visit us in March 2019. This follows a similar review last year of our Graduate Program, for which I am pleased to report that we received

approval in the highest category (‘good’).

I hope 2018 has been successful, healthy and happy for you, and that 2019 will be also. I invite you to stay in touch; come visit us – in person or virtually at <http://geography.uwo.ca> as your Geography allows.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for 2019 on behalf of everyone from Geography at Western!



GEOGRAPHY WELCOMES!



AGNIESZKA LESZCZYNSKI

Dr. Agnieszka Leszczynski joined the Department of Geography July 1, 2018, as Assistant Professor. She completed her PhD at the University of Washington and before that her MA and BA from Simon Fraser University. Most recently, she was Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Agnieszka's work focuses on GIS, Digital Geographies, and Social Geography. Beyond simply applying digital techniques to the subfields of geography, she considers how digital tools change the definition of geography itself. Her current work is examining how digital location technologies such as smartphones intersect with the social and economic transitions of the so-called 'platform economy'. Agnieszka is a co-editor of the journal, Big Data & Society and serves on the editorial boards for four other major journals. Agnieszka has welcomed the chance to return to Canada where she grew up in Vancouver.



DIANA LEWIS

Dr. Diana Lewis is a new Cross-Appointee between the Department of Geography and the First Nations Studies program. Diana completed her PhD at Dalhousie University, where she was the inaugural coordinator of, and lecturer in, the Indigenous Studies Program. She is Mi'kmaq from Sipekne'katik First Nation in Nova Scotia, and holds a Master of Resource and Environmental Management degree. Her PhD research focused on resource development, and the impacts of resource development on the health of Indigenous peoples, using a methodology that combines both Indigenous and western-based sciences. Diana's arrival at Western means she is closer to researchers here with whom she has established collaborations, including Chantelle Richmond and Jamie Baxter. Diana looks forward to establishing further collaborations with other Western researchers.



JED LONG

Dr. Jed Long will start with us as Assistant Professor on January 1, 2019. Jed completed his PhD in Geography at the University of Victoria and comes to us from the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of St. Andrews, where he was Lecturer in GeoInformatics. Jed uses GIS and other spatial analysis techniques in the study of movement. He is interested in applying GIS to study how human activity in natural environments impacts wildlife behaviour; including a project looking at how hikers influence the behaviour of deer, and a project focused on how hunters impact deer. Jed's work on GIS and spatial analysis to study movement permits a better understanding of the behaviour of individuals and allows us to make inferences about how movements influence spatial and temporal behaviour. Jed has an undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph so is no stranger to Southwestern Ontario.

OGS - Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Masters)

Kayla Goguen Rainer Hilland
Sarah McKenzie Matthew Roffey

NSERC Scholarship (Masters)

Erika Freeman

OGS - Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral)

Evan Cleave
Rosalind Ragetlie

SSHRC Scholarship (Masters)

Laura Peach
Jenny Tjhin

CGS/PGS (Doctoral)

Rebecca Doyle Heather Peacock
Rebecca Ellis Nolan Pearce
Kristen Painter

CAG Award

Drew Bowman
Merlin Chatwin

Promotion and Tenure

Adam Yates
(Associate Professor)



GEOGRAPHY 3901 CHINA FIELD COURSE

Led by Dr. Clare Gordon, and supported by funds by alumnus Cecilia Yau, our China Field Course (Geog 3901) invited students to explore various sites of interest in the provinces of Gansu, Sichuan, Qinghai, and Inner Mongolia.

Over 18 days the students covered 6000 kms and 48 cities. They experienced a wide range of landscapes, including the loess plateau, desert, glacier, sub-alpine ecosystem, saline lakes, the ancient Silk Road and modern built environment. Students were asked to reflect on change, growth and sustainable development throughout each unique community. Interviews for our 2019 field course are slated to begin mid-December.

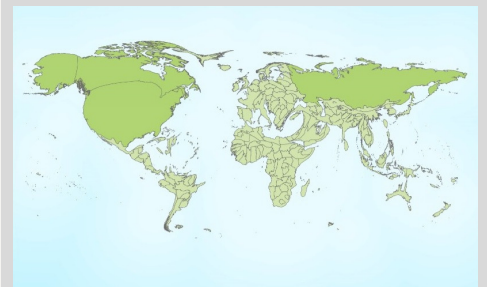
BIG DATA COMPUTING LAB

BY JAMES VOOGT

In September, we opened the 'Big Data' Computing Lab (SSC 1059). This lab seats up to 48, including two fully accessible stations plus an instructor station. Each student workstation is equipped with a PC suitable for processing large geospatial datasets and offers a range of GIS, remote sensing and statistical software packages. The lab will support our GISci and other computer intensive teaching needs, along with that of other Departments in the Faculty. The room's odd dimensions and supporting beams provided a challenge in designing the layout of the lab, but the Space committee (Jinfei, Jason, Isaac, Kathy, Lelanya, Joe and myself) along with help from SSTS (especially Kam Abado) and overseen by Facilities Management (Mike DeJager) rose to the challenge. They came up with a solution that sees student workstations arranged in tiered, arced rows with lots of space between rows and a wide central aisle to facilitate instructor and teaching assistant movement. To address sight line issues, the room is equipped with dual projection screens and some additional monitors along the side walls. A print station is located within the room, and space was left around the edges of the room to provide for collaboration where work involves groups of students. So far the response from users and instructors has been positive and bookings of the lab will increase substantially beginning in January 2019.

2018 RETIREES

The department saw the retirement of two faculty this year: Dr. Milford Green and Dr. Phil Stooke. As a parting gift, Cartographer Karen Van Kerkoerle created cartograms to showcase Milford and Phil's geographical areas of research. We will greatly miss their contributions to the department. We wish them great happiness in all their future endeavors and hope they continue to keep in touch.



Dr. Milford Green's Cartogram



Dr. Phil Stooke's Cartogram



Allen K. Phillbrick Scholarship
(Doctoral) Emmanuel Kyeremeh

The Edward G. Pleva Fellowship Award
Drew Bowman — Jordan Fuller

Michael J. Troughton Student Busary
(Masters) Moses Kansanga

ESRI Canada GIS Award
Daniel Kpienbaareh

The Brian Luckman Award
Maria Sia

E.G. Pleva TA Award
Oscar E-Senar — Kayla Guoguen

Professor Elaine Bjorklund Award
Yat Ho Cheung
David Chun Yin Lui

INAUGURAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURER - DR. PAUL ROBBINS



We were pleased to welcome this year Dr. Paul Robbins, Director of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison as our inaugural Distinguished Lecturer. Prof. Robbins is a Geographer and Political Ecologist who has worked on a range of topics related to human interactions with nature and the politics of natural resource management. This new event was supported by Dean of Social Science, Bob Andersen, in his goal to provide Distinguished Lecture series for all Departments in the Faculty of Social Science. We had the good fortune that Paul's visit coincided with the start of Geography Awareness Week (and that a possible Faculty Strike was averted at the last possible moment). Professor Robbins' talk was entitled "What does Conservation Look Like in the Anthropocene: Coffee, Frogs, and Workers in the Indian Aravalli" and addressed his most recent research that was examining biodiversity in commercial coffee plantations in Southern India. We scheduled the presentation as part of our first year course, Geography 1500F Environment and Development Challenges, to allow a full range of undergraduate, graduate and faculty participants. During his visit, Paul was also able to share with us some of his experiences as both a former chair of a Geography Department, and his role in leading the multi-disciplinary Nelson Institute.

ISAAC LUGINAAH NAMED FELLOW OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (AAS)

BY ROB ROMBOUTS

Dr. Isaac Luginaah, Professor in the Department of Geography, has been named as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). The AAS recognizes individuals who have excelled in their fields of expertise, and who have contributed to developing their fields in Africa. Fellows of the AAS are Africans who may live in or outside the continent, and are elected by AAS fellows based on achievements that include their publication record, innovations, leadership roles and contribution to policy. Isaac's research addresses the impact of environmental hazards and vulnerabilities in population health, and encompasses research in North America and Africa. Isaac's North American research focuses on health effects of environmental exposure, and Aboriginal health. "It's a real honour to be recognized," he said. "It's nice to have acknowledgement from your peers that they recognize you for your work." Luginaah is also a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and was Canada Research Chair in Health Geography (2007-2017).



THANK YOU

The Department of Geography is grateful to its alumni and friends for their financial support over the years. Our donors have had a big impact, making a difference not only to the Department as a whole, but also to the lives of many individual students. There is always a real need for funds to support academic departments. As we strive for higher standards and increasingly broader opportunities for our students, we depend on the caring and generous nature of alumni and friends like you to meet these ever increasing financial needs. Your gift to the Department of Geography can take many different shapes. If you're interested in giving a gift that best meets your needs, the impact you want, and the way you want to give, please contact Alumni Relations & Development at 519-661-4200 or 1-800-423-9631 for more information.

USC Teaching Honour Roll

Peter Ashmore Wes Kinghorn
Belinda Dodson Mark Moscicki
Jason Gilliland Chris Smart
Jeff Hopkins

Canadian Research Chair

Chantelle Richmond

Teaching Support Centre Fellowship

Michael Buzzelli

Western Staff Award of Excellence

Lori Johnson

Imran Jaffer Award in Urban

Development
Selina Phan

J.E. Kennedy Scholarship in Urban Development

Selina Phan

Faculty Association Scholarship

Abigail Jane Litchfield

McIntosh Prize in Geography

Victoria Barlow