



Canadian Women and Geography New sletter

Winter/Spring 2002

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

“On Changing Women’s Places in the World”

When I last wrote to CWAG members, women everywhere were trying to make sense of a world that in some ways seemed to have become more ruthless, violent and destructive than ever before. Now, in February 2002, the events of September 11, 2001 seem a little less immediate and perhaps disturbing as we go about our ‘normal’ day to day lives. Slipping back into routine, taken-for-granted practices and ways of life in North America – echoing news reporters’ short-hand references to the terrorist acts of September 11th as simply ‘9-1-1’ or buying into representations of U.S. military action as not ‘war’ but merely ‘seeking justice’ for instance– has a way of taking the ‘edge’ off of our fears.....

I wonder, if this easing back into the apparent normality of our places and routines in the world doesn’t also help to ‘numb’ us to the importance of continuing to dream about and work toward a better world for women. Consider, for example, the toll that the professional demands of our lives continue to take: in terms of time spent (or usually not spent) with children and family, stress and poor health, and just maintaining some sort of life that is about more than just ‘work’. Most of the time, we put up with these demands as ‘just the way things are’ if women are to succeed or as ‘something that will pass’ (once we finish graduate school or land our first ‘real’ job or find a partner who will actually share unpaid domestic work). But, once in a while, events in our lives forcefully remind us that something is not quite right about these seemingly ‘normal’ aspects of women’s professional places in the world.

For me, the most recent reminder of this came just before Christmas when my father was rushed to hospital in Arizona for emergency surgery for an aortic aneurysm. For two weeks we didn’t know whether he would survive (many don’t). As I kept in daily contact with family and medical specialists by phone, I wondered if I would ever see my Dad again and I was horrified to realise that we had not spent time together in over 5 years.... not so much the result of geographic distance as

of 'work' absorbing so much of my time and energy. Miraculously and fortunately for me my Dad pulled through and I was able to spend almost 2 weeks in Arizona helping him and his wife with his recovery at home. It was good to be there.... but it also reminded me of the toll my 'work' had taken on my personal life. Of course, as a woman conditioned to the demands of working life in academia, I also remained paradoxically aware of research work that wasn't getting done while I was away.

If there is a lesson to be drawn from such experiences I think it is that, as women working in Geography, we cannot afford to ever regard our 'normal' routines and ways of life as 'the way things are and must be'. Put simply, when it takes startling events, such as the near death of someone we love, to remind us that women's places in our own immediate work environments are not 'the way things are and have to be' then we can be pretty sure that ways of challenging those places are beginning to recede from our view.

How can we ensure that we never forget to dream about and work toward a better world for women? And that we do so in our own immediate work environments, as well as through our research and political activism? Bringing women at different career stages together to discuss ways of improving our places as women working in Geography in Canada, through for example involving women students and professionals in planning professional development sessions as a regular part of CWAG activities at the CAG, is one way of ensuring that we never become 'numb' to the importance of questioning and challenging our places in the world. Another is developing local support groups for women working in Geography such as chapters of SWIG (Supporting Women in Geography) established in the U.S. and Canada. These can become 'safe' local spaces in which women can share their concerns about their workplaces, and work to make those places more supportive of women through rewarding positive mentorship or holding professional development workshops for instance. I was recently delighted to learn of one Canadian SWIG's plans to assist with funding for the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture and reception at this year's CAG; a creative way of organizing locally to help support CWAG and women in Geography nationally!

Celebrating the work that women have done and are doing in Geography in Canada is another way of making our work environments more supportive and nurturing of the women in them. The poster sessions at last year's CAG, showcasing the work of women in Geography at the University of Saskatchewan, McMaster University and Carleton were a joy to read and savour, and an important reminder of just how active women in Geography in Canada are! The poster prepared on women's work in Geography and Geology at McMaster now hangs proudly on the bulletin board by our School's elevator; so that women at all different stages of their careers can learn more about the wonderful work women are doing. I hope these poster sessions will become a regular CWAG event and represent women's work in Geography in academic and non-academic workplaces. They are projects that bring women together, remind us how far we've come, and of where we might yet go!

Sharing our hopes and dreams about ways of making women's places in the world better, and striving together to make those dreams a reality, are among the most important activities we can and should incorporate into our normal 'everyday' working lives and routines. If we can learn to do this well in our immediate work environments, so that dreaming and challenging women's places

becomes a vital part of our working lives and identities, then we will also be better able to challenge the less privileged and more disempowered places that so many other women in the world endure. By keeping 'the edge' that passionate commitment to change provides, possibilities for improving women's lives will remain more clearly in focus as we go about our daily lives, as will the dangers of failing to work together to bring a better world for women into being. We can start 'small' and 'close to home' with projects aimed at making our own workplaces more supportive of diverse women – working in solidarity with female support staff to improve working conditions, developing a support group for women in Geography, or demanding that workplace events such as receptions be held in locations which are accessible for disabled women (and men), for instance. From there, there is no telling how far we can go in helping to change women's places in the world – the possibilities are truly endless so long as we are willing and able to question our worlds as 'they are' and dream of alternative futures for diverse women– individually and together, every day, and everywhere we go.

Vera Chouinard, CWAG Chair
chouinar@mcmaster.ca

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Book Release!

Women in the Canadian Academic Tundra: Challenging the Chill

Linda Paul (Geography, University of Regina), Swani Vethamany-Globus (Biology, Waterloo), and Elena Hannah (Psychology, Memorial) have co-edited a juried book through McGill-Queen's Press entitled: "Women in the Canadian Academic Tundra: Challenging the Chill "

This book has nearly fifty articles, comprising contributors from across Canada, disciplines, and academic rank. The topic is of interest to geographers but is also useful to academics in other disciplines. *The book is now at the printers and will be available in the spring.*

Update on the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture at the CAG 2002

Evelyn Peters at the University of Saskatchewan has agreed to give the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture this year at the CAG in Toronto. This is exciting news, given her recent CRC appointment and focus on aboriginal urban issues, especially those related to women.

Some Biographical Information on Evelyn:

Evelyn Peters grew up in a farming community in southern Alberta. During her junior high years, her family moved to Winnipeg, and in high school to Hepburn, Saskatchewan, just 30 miles north of Saskatoon. She completed her B.A. (Honours) at the University of Winnipeg, and a Master's and Ph.D. in Geography at Queen's University. Between 1990 and 1993, she held a post-doctoral Canada Research Fellowship. Evelyn taught at Carleton University for one year, before taking up a tenure stream appointment at Queen's University in Kingston. In 1994-5, Dr. Peters worked as policy analyst on urban Aboriginal issues with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In 2001, she moved to the Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan, to take up a prestigious Canada Research Chair position.

Notices From Carolyn Whitzman

Doctoral Candidate, School of Geography and Geology, McMaster University

- Carolyn Whitzman (PhD Candidate, McMaster University) recently completed her certification as a registered professional planner, and encourages other Ontario women in geography who might be interested in getting the letters RPP or MCIP after their names to contact her at carolyn_whitzman@canada.com
- Just a reminder that the First International Seminar on Women's Safety ("Making the Links") will be held in Montreal Quebec from May 9 to 11, 2002. Making the Links will bring together women's groups, community organizations, cities and local governments, national and international agencies to review current knowledges and consolidate international exchanges on increasing women's safety in communities and integrating a gender perspective into local and international crime prevention practices. For more information or to register, visit www.femmesetvilles.org.
- Also, there will be a field trip and panel on Women Creating Safer Space at the IGU Seminar on Women and Public Policy, to be held in conjunction with this year's CAG in Toronto, from May 30 to June 1, 2002. *Carolyn Whitzman*

Calling new researchers: GIS and spatial analysis at Simon Fraser University

GIS and spatial analysis are a burgeoning part of the geography program at Simon Fraser. Dr. Suzana Dragicevic joined Arthur Roberts and me (Nadine Schuurman) to complement our faculty in the summer of 2001. Since then, Suzana and I have collaborated with medical geographer Mike Hayes to successfully apply for a large grant from the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI). The goal of the project is to develop infrastructural capacity to support spatial analysis of health status within urban metropolitan regions of Canada. The work is dependent on the creation of data sets for urban areas through the integration of census, health region, municipal and miscellaneous data sets including tax assessments, municipal land use, environmental factors, and real estate values. The integration of these data will allow the team to (i) analyze the distribution of health status; (ii) analyze differences in quality of life between sub-regions based on established indicators; (iii) develop neighbourhood profiles that describe factors of everyday life in relation to health status and quality of life indicators; and (iv) assess the effect of public policies including taxation programs on health equity.

An important component of this project is the training of graduate students. In addition, there are several other exciting projects in GIS underway at SFU. These include: (i) groundwater modelling of sub-surface data; (ii) data standardization and interoperability in GIS, (iii) feminism and GIS; (iv) use of GIS and fuzzy logic and multicriteria approaches for predicting spatial change; and (v) development of Web-based GIS collaborative tools for environmental decision-making. We encourage interested GIS students to apply to our program at either the Masters or Ph.D. level. For more information contact Nadine (nadine@sfu.ca) or Suzana (suzanad@sfu.ca)

Nadine Schuurman
Department of Geography
Simon Fraser University
January, 2002

Doctoral Research Opportunities at the University of Saskatchewan

Students interested in pursuing a Doctoral degree with a focus on environment/space and health, are encouraged to contact Allison M. Williams at the University of Saskatchewan. Research experience and/or interest in health/medical geography and cultural geography are emphasized, as is research and/or work/life experience in the area of health care, and specifically home care and/or palliative care. Research funding would be available for candidates commensurate with their background and qualifications. Interested candidates have the option of beginning their degree in September or January. The University of Saskatchewan campus houses a medical and nursing school, a school

of community health and epidemiology, as well as the province's Health Services & Utilization Research Commission and the new Saskatchewan Population Health & Evaluation Research Unit. Please contact Dr. Williams at *williams@sask.usask.ca* or via phone at (306)966-5659.

GENDER, PLACE AND CULTURE

Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography has a new managing editor. Linda Peake took over from Lynn Staeheli at the beginning of January: Gill Valentine continues as co-editor. The journal aims to provide a forum for debate in human geography and related disciplines on theoretically-informed research concerned with gender issues, as well as highlighting the significance of such research for feminism and women's studies. Linda has long been involved in feminist scholarship focusing on political, urban and post-colonial geographies in the Caribbean and Canada. As editor she welcomes Canadian submissions to the journal, which can be sent to her at:

Division of Social Science
Faculty of Arts
York University
Faculty of Arts
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA
E-mail: lpeake@yorku.ca

The journal also has two new book review editors, Karen Morin and Claire Dwyer, who encourage potential reviewers to volunteer or suggest books that may be of interest to the journal's readership. They can be contacted at:

Karen Morin
Department of Geography
Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA 17837
USA
E-mail: morin@bucknell.edu

Claire Dwyer
Department of Geography
University College London
26 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AP
UNITED KINGDOM
E-mail: cdwyer@geog.ucl.ac.uk

Have you ever wondered what makes feminist research feminist?

Visit
“What makes Feminist Research Feminist? The Structure of Feminist Research within the Social Sciences”
at <http://www.unb.ca/web/PAR-L/win/feminmethod.htm>

CWAG Business Information

Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture Fund:

Donations are urgently needed to maintain funding for future Memorial Lectures in honour of Suzanne Mackenzie's contributions to feminist geography and to supporting women working in Geography.

Those who can afford to do so may wish to commit to an annual contribution. When you forward your cheque to the CWAG treasurer simply include a note that you wish to be a sustaining supporter and what you would like to contribute. Your name will be entered on our sustaining supporters list. Please contribute what you can to help ensure that this celebration of women's work in Geography is a long-term one!

Donations to the Fund should be sent to CWAG's treasurer, Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, kobayasi@post.queensu.ca, (613) 533-3035 x33035.

CWAG Student Travel Grants Available:

Students presenting papers in CWAG sponsored sessions at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, or who are CWAG members presenting in other sessions at the conference, are encouraged to apply for CWAG travel grants.

To request travel support contact Dr. Audrey Kobayashi at kobayasi@post.queensu.ca or (613) 533-3035 x33035 with your paper's title and abstract and the name of the session in which you are presenting. Please note that a term and condition of this grant is that a complete conference paper be submitted to the CWAG treasurer no later than at the CAG conference meeting, and that notes or overheads will not be accepted as fulfillment of this term and condition.

"Placing Gender/Making Policy", a three-day IGU Gender and Geography Commission workshop, will be held in Toronto between May 31st and June 2, 2002 in Toronto. The workshop is being co-sponsored with the Canadian Women and Geography Study Group and there will be a one-day overlap with the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers. The workshop will explore place-specific aspects of creating gender-inclusive public policy. 'Gender-inclusive' recognizes that women and men's experiences emerge from the intersections of gender with 'race', class, ability, sexual orientation and other markers of identity. Social, economic, cultural and political processes affect public issues and policy-making in different ways at various geographical scales. Workshop Organizers: Fran Klodawsky (fran_klodawsky@carleton.ca) and

Valerie Preston (vpreston@yorku.ca). For further information about the workshop, please contact Ebru Ustundag at geogendr@yorku.ca. The deadline for abstracts is February 15 for those individuals who wish to be part of the overlap day with the CAG, or March 1 for all others. Students, please note: - some funds are available for travel subsidies for those who are not eligible through the CAG; - we welcome the help of student volunteers and will be very pleased to waive your registration fees in exchange for your help during the workshop.

C-SWIG, C-SWIG ...

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS ON SUPPORTING WOMEN
IN GEOGRAPHY, T-SHIRTS, EVENTS, AND MORE...**

C-SWIG, a local BC-based group of women in geography, will have a presence at the upcoming CAG (exact details yet to be worked out), and hopes to connect with other women in geography at the meeting.

Jennifer Hyndman, hyndman@sfu.ca

Greetings from Vancouver, BC! We're writing to announce that a group of women called C-SWIG has been meeting monthly in Vancouver since November 2000 to support women in geography. We join an increasing number of "SWIG" groups that have formed in recent years.

We are all women connected to geography departments at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. We are grad students, postdocs, professors, and sessional instructors. We meet at each other's homes to discuss a variety of issues, including experiences in the classroom, time management, financial planning for women, gendered spaces of academic departments, masculinist practices in academia, and women's experiences at conferences and with the academic job market.

We would like to connect with other groups out there working to support women in geography. We know some of you, but we have a hunch and a hope that there are more.

If you are part of a group that meets to support women in geography, we'd be interested to hear from a contact person among you. Please write to us and tell us what you've been up to.

We have been collaborating with other SWIG groups to plan activities for the upcoming annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles. There will be a panel discussion, a reception for SWIG groups (organized by women at UCLA), and information distributed regarding women in geography.

We would also like to plan activities for the upcoming annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Toronto. If you are interested in collaborating, please send messages to Alison Mountz (mountz@interchange.ubc.ca) or Shelly Rayback (rayback@interchange.ubc.ca). We look forward to corresponding.

Carleton University's Recent Female Graduates (2001-2002)

Anita Violetta Muller, M.A.

"Cartographic Iconography and the Internet: A Study of the Use of Colour in Icon Design"

Kathleen-Flynn Dapaah, M.A.

"Rethinking Ambiguity as an Asset: Gender and Land Struggles in the Peri-Urban Area of Accra"

Mary Anne Strong, M.A.

"Municipal Climate Change Action: A Case Study of the City of Ottawa's "Task Force on the Atmosphere Action Plan"

Shannon Jean Drew, M.A.

"Flying in Ground Proximity: Thirteen Case Studies of Aircraft Flight Routes in Canada 1918-1926"

Barbara Eva Myslinski, Ph.D.

"Architectural Reconstruction in Heritage Conservation: Divergences and similarities as illustrated by case studies of Canada and Poland"

Some recent publications by Carleton's full-time female faculty:

KLODAWSKY, F. "Images of Homelessness: Implications for Local Politics" (with S. Farrell and T. Aubry), in *The Canadian Geographer* (forthcoming 2002)

_____ "Recognizing Economic and Social Rights in Neo-Liberal Times", in *The Canadian Geographer*, 45(1) 2001, pp. 120-126.

MACKENZIE, A.F.D. 'Re-claiming place: the Millennium Forest, Borgie, North Sutherland, Scotland', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* (forthcoming 2002, vol. 20, no. 5).

_____ 'Language, land and processes of cultural recovery: the Millennium Forest, Borgie, Scotland', in *Trees are Company: Social Science Research into Woodlands and the Environment*, ed. L. O'Brien (forthcoming 2002, Forest Research).

LUNDBERG, J. "Stable isotope stratigraphy of interglacial speleothem from Rana, northern Norway" (with H. Linge and S.E. Lauritzen), *Quaternary Research*, 2001, pp. 155-164.

_____ "Stable Isotope stratigraphy: Holocene speleothems: examples from a cave system in Rana, northern Norway" (with H. Linge, S.E. Lauritzen, and I.M. Berstad), *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 167 (3-4), 2001, pp. 209-224.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM UPDATE

Information as of November 2001

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/geography>

Submitted by Dr. Bonnie Hallman

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/geography/staff/hallman.html>

Recently completed graduate students and their projects/theses:

Alison Baker, M.A. (October 2001)

Postmodern Perspectives on Organic Farming in the State of New Mexico

Marlene Roy, M.A. (October 2001)

The Rhetoric and Reality of Allotment Gardens and Sustainable Development: The Care of Allotment Gardens in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Valerie Hwacha, M.A. (October 1999)

From Disasters to Development: Forest Fire Management in God's Lake – A Community Development Perspective

Alexandra Morrison, M.A. (October 1999)

Preserving Biodiversity in the Exurban Region: Barriers and Opportunities for Landscape Ecological Planning in the Rural Municipality of Springfield

Current graduate students, subject areas and emails:

U of M currently has 12 women graduate students (40% of total). Five women are in the doctoral program (38.5% of doctoral students) and seven (41.2% of M.A. students) are in the master's program.

Irene Hanuta, Ph.D. candidate, hanuta@mb.sympatico.ca

B.A., M.A. (Manitoba); holds NSERC

Subject area: dendrochronology and dendroclimatology

Kim Morris, Ph.D. candidate, Unmorri4@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.A., B.Sc., M.Sc. (Alaska)

Subject area: Sea ice

Alexandra (Alex) Morrison, Ph.D. candidate, amorrison@linnet.ca

B.Sc. (Winnipeg), B.A., M.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: Land use Planning

Karen Stock, Ph.D. candidate, Umstock2@cc.umanitoba.ca

Vordiploma (Trier, Germany), M.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: aboriginal land use in Manitoba

Gina Sylvestre, Ph.D. candidate, gsylves@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.A., M.A. (Manitoba); holds SSHRC

Subject area: Elderly, housing and transportation

Isabelle Harouche, M.A. candidate, umharouc@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.Sc. (Rio de Janeiro State U.)

Subject area: thermophysics/microwave interaction on sea ice

Jocelyn Leger, M.A. candidate, Jocelyn-Leger@Pch.gc.ca

B.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: landscape preservation in SW Manitoba

Jill Ogston, M.A. candidate, umogston@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: natural hazard perception and community awareness, Red River Valley

Tracy Rigaux, M.A. candidate, trigaux@hotmail.com

B.A. Sociology (Manitoba), Pre – M.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: monitoring aspen burn frequencies in Manitoba

Wendy Thorgilsson, M.A. candidate, umthorgi@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: variability for site-specific agriculture

Janet Vander Kruys, M.A. candidate, Jvdk2101@hotmail.com

B.A. (Brandon), Pre-M.A. (Manitoba)

Subject area: climate

Janna Wilson, M.A. candidate, Umwils46@cc.umanitoba.ca

B.A. (Winnipeg) holds NSERC

Subject area: phenological development of canola; est. from weather data

We would like to thank the School of Geography and Geology at McMaster University for funding the production and distribution of this newsletter since 2000.

The Top 10 Lessons of the 2002 Winter Olympics

1. Sometimes, the number 1 is the biggest number there is.

Eleven countries in the 2002 Olympics were represented by a "team" of just one athlete. To these athletes, from countries like Cameroon, India, and South Africa, the glory was not just competing for the medals, but in representing their sport, and their countries with pride.

2. The leader of the pack is not always the winner.

There's a lot to be said for the smooth, measured pace towards the back as Australian Steven Bradbury knows: Trailing in the 1000-meter qualifying race, he'd make it to the finals after the other competitors collided on the track. Using the same strategy in the final proved effective, too. A similar collision took out the competition in that race and Bradbury stepped off the track as a Gold medalist (the FIRST winter Olympic gold medalist in Australian history).

3. We can't control what others think of us.

The pairs figure skating competition would prove that life, if nothing else, is very subjective. Jamie Salle and David Pelletier skated what many believed to be a gold-medal performance. The judges, however, awarded the gold to Russian skaters Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze. The pair would later be awarded a "second" gold medal (and share the gold medal award with Berezhnaya and Sikharulidze) but, judging improprieties or not, the truth remains: You must be confident in your actions as you can't control what others will think.

4. It's better to focus on doing one's best than on being the best.

Figure skater Sarah Hughes, in fourth place after the women's short program, went into the final program with the smallest chance of winning a medal. Rather than focus on winning, she decided to go out, have some fun, and do her best, which she did. It was a remarkable performance that led to her winning the gold medal.

5. "Down" doesn't mean "out".

Just a month before the games, speed skater Chris Witty was diagnosed with mononucleosis, jeopardizing her participation in the Olympics. Not only would she attend the games, she won the gold in the 1000 meter race... AND set a world record while doing so.

6. Life is consistently inconsistent.

Much as we'd like each of our days to be calm and trouble-free, there are so many things beyond our control that this just isn't realistic. Ask Apolo Anton Ohno. A favorite for each of the four speed-skating competitions he was entered in, Ohno would win the Silver medal in a race he was easily winning until a few players bumped each other and "wiped-out." Then he would win Gold in the 1500-meter race, after the S. Korean entrant was disqualified. In his 3rd race, he would be disqualified. In his 4th race, he did not make it into finals. And that's life.

7. Speed into the future, but remember your past.

With every new day, the future speeds upon us, but not so fast that we can forget those who came before us and paved the way. Jim Shea helped return the sport of skeleton to the winter Olympics; the sport last appeared in a winter olympics back in 1948. Along the way, Shea championed not just the sport, but the spirit of the Olympics, imparted to him by his father and grandfather, both winter Olympic medal-winners themselves. Sadly, Shea's grandfather died just two weeks before the Olympics, but his spirit lives on. --Jimmy Shea, carrying a photo of his grandfather in his helmet, crossed the finish line on his final run as the gold medal winner.

8. We get by with a little help from our friends.

As if a testament to the power of standing by one's friends, Jill Bakken and Vonetta Flowers won gold in the 2-person bobsled competition. Earlier in the week, Flowers had been asked by fellow U.S. competitor (gold medal favourite), Jean Racine, to partner with her, instead of Bakken. Flowers refused.

9. Everyone has a dream.

No matter who was interviewed -- coaches, athletes, family, or observers -- everyone brought with them their own Olympic dream of what could be. Every person has their own dream, whether it's to compete in the Olympics or to fly to the moon. Just as we support our athletes in the pursuit of their dreams, let us support each other for our individual dreams as well.

10. We can work it out.

In a world filled with war, terrorism, and territory disputes, the Olympics showed once more that - even while nations might not always agree with each other - they can come together, peacefully, to experience the beauty of sport and competition. It's a start.