

Clayton H. Riddell

Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

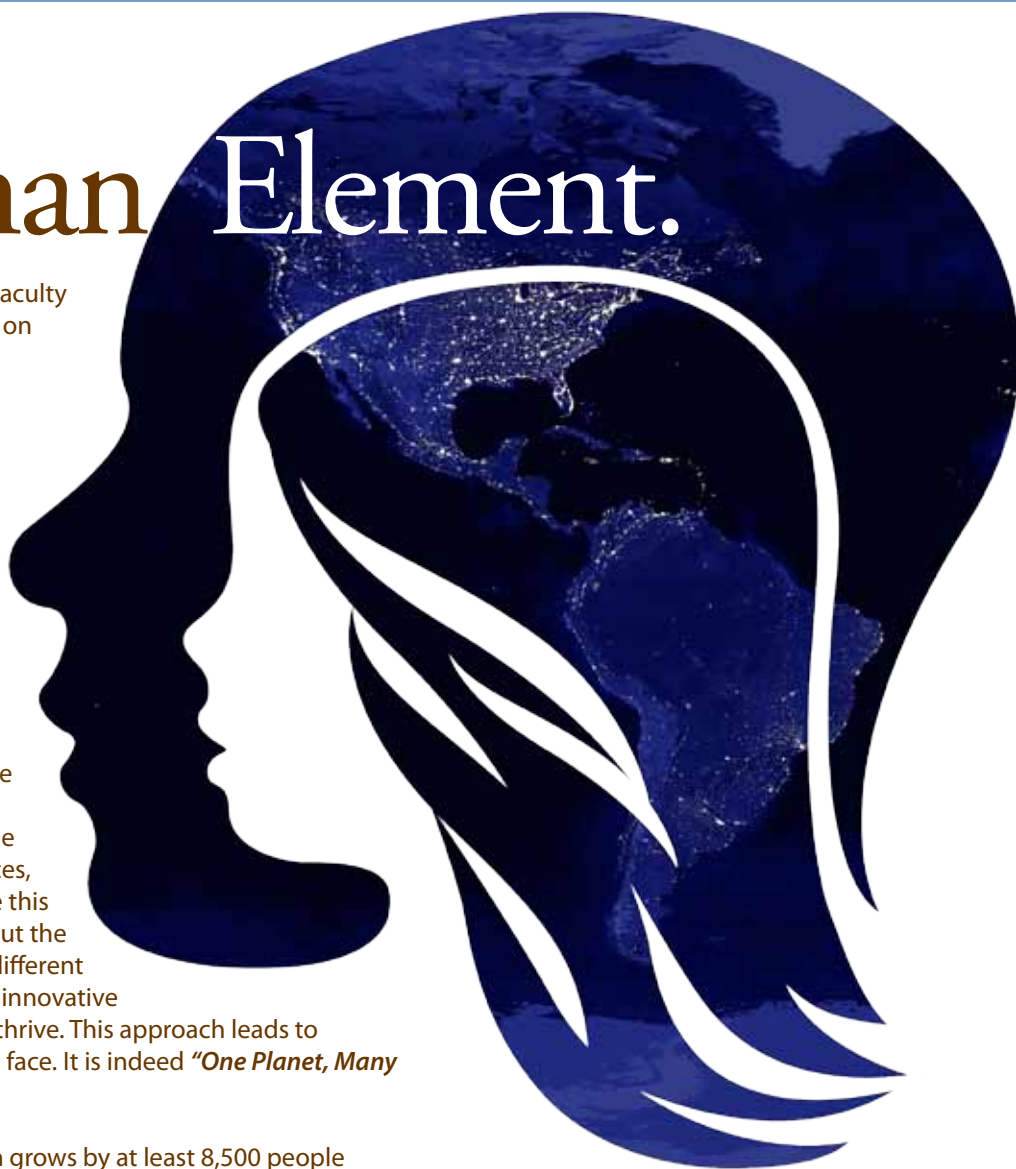
NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 | Number 1 | Summer 2011

The Human Element.

This is the first special issue of the Riddell Faculty newsletter and its aim is to focus attention on the research, teaching, and outreach done by our faculty and students in the social sciences. The activities, outcomes, and achievements presented here provide just a snapshot of all of the work in the social sciences going on in the Riddell Faculty. The social sciences provide vital context to our understanding of the Earth, its environments, and its resources. Knowledge of the human element, whether in cities or rural areas, at home or abroad, affords us the means to make the important decisions required for living sustainably on our planet. Human existence requires the use of resources, whether water, food, minerals, or energy, and it is the diversity of human perspectives, experiences, and knowledges which allow us to balance this with reasoned and informed decisions about the Earth's future. By integrating across these different points of view, we can determine new and innovative ways for humanity to not only survive but thrive. This approach leads to multiple solutions to the problems that we face. It is indeed *"One Planet, Many Perspectives"*.

Every hour the human population on Earth grows by at least 8,500 people and every one of them is hungry, thirsty, and needs resources to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. However, without progress few will be able to achieve the extraordinary potential of the human experience. The imprint of humanity on Earth all too often is negative and ways to mitigate or even reverse these effects is vital. The effects of humans on their environment can also be positive, and research from the social sciences is crucial to resolving inequities, breaking down barriers, and solving the complex problems societies face locally, regionally, and globally.



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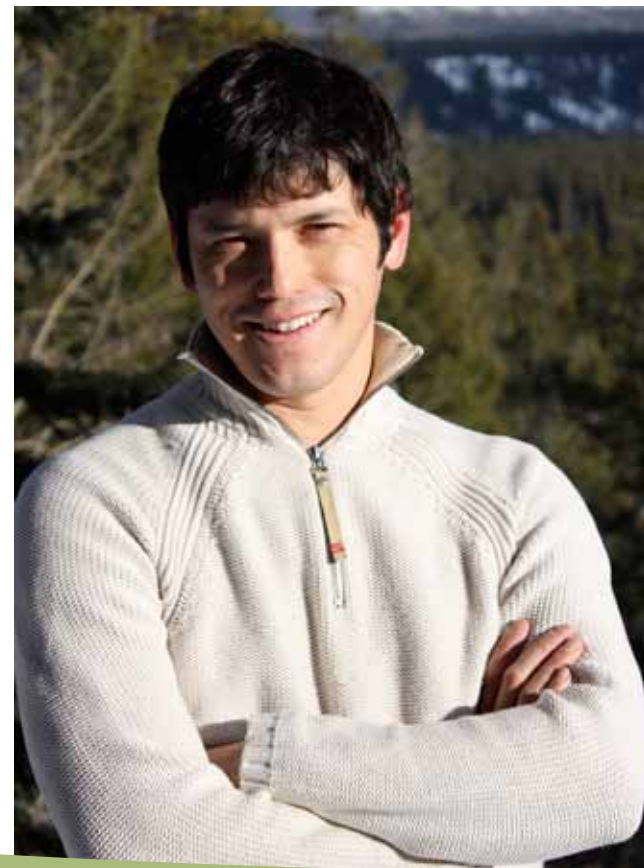
Awards.

Dr. Jeff Masuda (Department of Environment and Geography) is the 2011 recipient of the *Julian M. Szeicz Award for Early Career Achievement in Geography*. The award is presented annually by the Canadian Association of Geographers, in recognition of research achievement and career potential by a Canadian geographer at an early career stage. The purpose of the award is to foster the development of geographical studies of Canada and to provide recognition of recently established geographical practitioners.

Dr. Cynthia Neudoerffer, Postdoctoral Fellow with the Centre for Community-based Resource Management (Natural Resources Institute) won one of the three poster awards at the Resilience 2011 Conference, Arizona State University, March 2011. Her poster was entitled, *"Cross-scale Arena for Collaborative Learning for Watershed Research and Co-Management"*.

Emily Skinner (MA student, Department of Environment and Geography) is the recipient of the Affiliate Student Award, Western Regional Training Centre for Health Service Research (\$5000/year starting 2010). She has also received a Graduate Student Award, Network Environment for Aboriginal Health Research. Emily is currently organizing an event as part of her Masters focused on urban aboriginal youth, hip hop, and environmental health. Former Governor General Michaëlle Jean is the event's guest of honour.

Pictured below right is **Dr. Jeff Masuda**.



Funding.

Dr. Jeff Masuda (Department of Environment and Geography) has been successful in a recent Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) competition (ranked #2 out of 50 applicants). The grant is for a two-year, \$200K project focused on knowledge translation (KT) in the area of children's environmental health equity. He will be collaborating with two national organizations including the Canadian Partnership for Children's Environmental Health and the Canadian Environmental Law Association. The project entails developing, implementing, and evaluating an 80-hour face-to-face and online national KT training program for 'emerging' research, policy, and community leaders from across Canada. For further details see the story on page 8.

Dr. Jeff Masuda is also the recipient of a CIHR New Investigator Award (2010-2015). The purpose of the New Investigator Salary Award program is to provide new investigators with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their independence in initiating and conducting health research through provision of a contribution to their salary.

Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt (Natural Resources Institute (NRI)) was awarded a SSHRC International Opportunities Fund Grant with Dr. Daniela Kalioski and Dr. Cristiana Seixas of Brazil entitled *"Building an International Research Network for Collaborative Coastal Management: Sharing Experiences from Brazil and Canada."* As part of the effort in sharing experience between Brazil and Canada Ms. Carolina Contato of Dr. Kalioski's lab in Brazil spent the winter at the NRI learning about collaborative management, exchanging with students working on Canadian collaborative management projects, and visiting projects in northwestern Ontario and Manitoba. Funding for this exchange was provided by the Canadian Bureau for International Education - Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP).

Pictured below is **Carolina Contato** (front row second from right) with NRI students, international collaborator Dr. Patrick McConney, from the University of the West Indies (front row second from left), and NRI Director **Dr. Emdad Haque** (front row far left) at the Collaborative Coastal Management Workshop during December 2010 in Paraty, Brazil.



Undergraduate Student Experience.

Vicki Latter is graduating with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Honours Co-op Degree. Through the co-op program Vicki has completed research on food security in West Africa as a junior agricultural specialist with CIDA in Hull, managed a remediation project at Grasslands National Park as a junior environmental specialist with Public Works and Government Services Canada, and assisted with the socio-economic environmental assessment study of Bipole III as an environmental planner. As a student Vicki was the lead for the report of a student volunteer waste audit and national pollutant reporting project with Boeing Technology. She took her education outside of the classroom and completed many independent courses in the area of environmental health

and safety and also attended the travel study course in Churchill, Manitoba. Vicki was very active in environmental organizations including the planning committee for ECO Canada's Manitoba launch and as a student representative with the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA).

"the number one thing is the people"

Through her involvement with the co-op program, Vicki was nominated as University of Manitoba's Co-op Student of the Year in 2010. She also was one of three undergraduates from the Riddell Faculty to participate in the first ever Japan-Canada Consortium Forum in Tokyo and also participated in a summer think tank about international

issues (Summer Institute for Student Leadership and Global Citizenship). As her undergraduate academic career is coming to an end Vicki will travel to Blantyre, Malawi to complete a summer internship as an environmental management assistant to a local NGO.

Reflecting on her time in the Riddell Faculty she recalls *"my amazing mentors, the networking opportunities, the invaluable skills both academically and personally, all the opportunities I have had. But the number one thing is the people, without the wonderful people especially in the Riddell Faculty and in the Manitoba environmental industry I would not have enjoyed my undergraduate experience as much as I have."*

Pictured below is **Vicki Latter** (right).



University of the Arctic Students Forum.

Colton Inkster (Masters student in the Department of Environment and Geography) recently attended the second annual University of the Arctic students forum held in Inari, Finland and Kautokeino, Norway. Both of these locations are situated in Lapland (Sapmi), which spans across the north of Scandinavian Europe. The theme of the forum this year was *"Challenges to Research and Education: Indigenous and non-Indigenous Communities in the North"* with seventeen students participating from an array of nationalities and disciplines. They engaged in several discussion periods to determine the most important issues for the University of the Arctic Rectors forum.

While attending the forum, Colton was able to experience some of the local culture. In Inari he attended the annual reindeer games, the most important event of the year, took

guided tours of the Sami Siida museum in Finland and the Sami parliament building in Norway, and toured two schools. The forum also included Yoiking (traditional Sami folk music & singing) performances by local Sami and the opportunity to attend a variety of panel presentations.

"The trip enabled me to network with so many different people from all over the Arctic. I am excited to get involved further in these events"

The next University of the Arctic forum will be hosted by the University of Manitoba. Colton will be helping to organize this event, which promises to be an enjoyable and enriching experience for all who attend. Colton, reflecting on his Forum experience noted that *"one of the most interesting parts of the experience was learning about the University of the Arctic and what it has to offer. The trip*

enabled me to network with so many different people from all over the Arctic. I am excited to get involved further in these events".

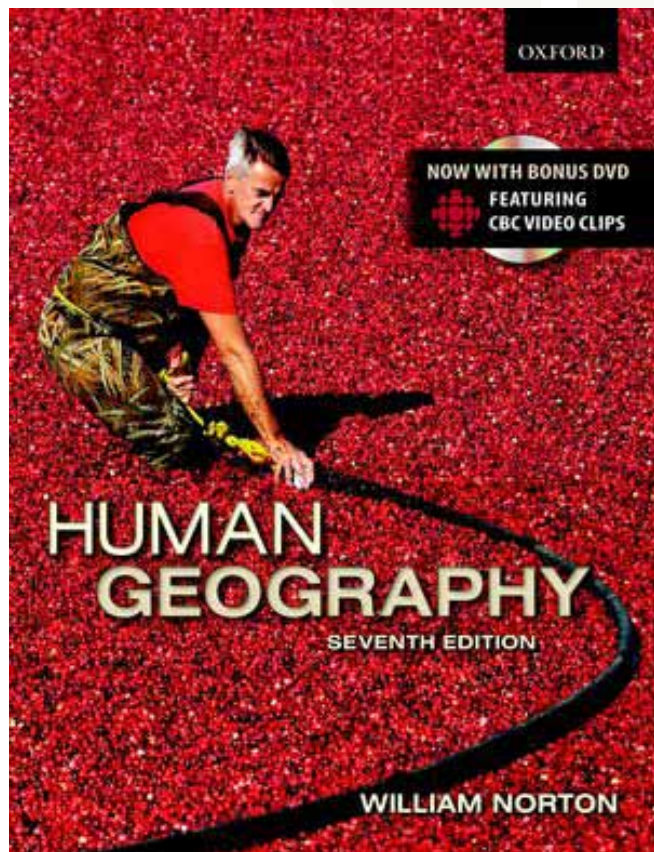
Pictured below (Left photo) is **Colton Inkster** (back row first from left) with colleagues from the University of the Arctic forum group. Pictured below (Right photo) forum participants at Sami University College in Kautokeino, Norway.



Publishing.

Dr. William Norton (Department of Environment and Geography) is the author of *"Human Geography"*, the only Canadian authored text aimed at first year university and college students. Published by Oxford University Press, Canada, the 1st edition appeared in 1992 and the current 7th edition was published in 2010. An 8th edition is planned for 2013. For many university faculty members in Canada, this is *the* text. In the almost 20 years since 1992 the book has played a leading role in the geographic education of Canadian undergraduate students. Consistently capturing about one-third of the market, recent sales figures from Oxford show that about 10,600 copies of the 6th edition were sold and that more than 4,000 copies of the 7th edition were sold in the first year since publication in 2010. An especially noteworthy feature of the text that

distinguishes it from all other introductory geography texts is the substantial content that informs students about the history of geography and about the strategies geographers employ in their studies. In short, the text discusses why geographers do what they do. With this text, students begin to understand the distinctive and essential contributions that geographic approaches make to the understanding of our world—they acquire a geographical imagination. A US adaptation of this text is currently being developed by Oxford New York with publication expected in 2012. The distinguished American geographer, Dr. Barney Warf, is the American co-author. Based at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Dr. Warf has a wide range of teaching and research interests in social, economic, and political geography.



Spotlight on Courses.

Cultural Landscape Field School. The cultural landscape field school is a course developed by members of the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Department of Environment and Geography, Department of Geological Sciences, and Landscape Architecture as a joint undergraduate and graduate course administered by Extended Education as part of their summer travel course offerings. The course ran as a pilot in the spring of 2010 with students from Environment and Geography, NRI, and City Planning and focused on a transect from Venice to the Upper Dolomite Mountains. If you would like more information, contact **Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt** at davidso4@cc.umanitoba.ca as we plan to offer the course again in 2012 if sufficient interest is expressed.

Dr. Shirley Thompson, of the Natural Resources Institute, teaches film making and participatory video methods in a graduate class offered in the fall of 2011 called *"The Role of Information Management in Sustainable Use"*. There are limited places to ensure cameras and computers for all students so please contact Dr. Thompson at s_thompson@umanitoba.ca as soon as possible if you are interested.

Social Geography of the Environment is a new course, designed for third and fourth year students in geography, environmental studies, and other social sciences, which provides a foundation in critical social theory as it has been applied to the analysis of human-environment relations (broadly defined) in a wide range of topical areas from local to global levels. Developed by **Dr. Jeff Masuda** (Department of Environment and Geography) the classes are structured around a combination of introductory readings in social geography and academic discussion of key readings in the social geography of the environment. For the major assignments, students will have the choice between an in-depth academic exercise and a community-based service learning experience consisting of a real-world opportunity for social engagement in environmental praxis within a Winnipeg-based organizational setting.



Seeking Environmental Health Equity in the City.

As a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator in knowledge translation, **Dr. Jeff Masuda** (Department of Environment and Geography) maintains an expansive program of research in which he works within socio-economically marginalized communities across Canada to harness powerful local knowledge of social and environmental determinants of health. Over the past four years, Dr. Masuda and his students have been working alongside teams of community researchers – inner-city residents who know first hand the challenges of living in under-resourced neighbourhoods – to investigate the consequences of inequitable urban social and environmental investment.



Photographs included fenced yards separating atomized homes, ample but under-used green spaces devoid of community gardens and other forms of collective life, and pedestrians-enter-at-your-own-peril automobile strip malls. The findings tell us something about how urban problems - environmental health inequities - are really everyone's problem, not just for those in the inner city and that citizens and politicians need to find ways to cut across socioeconomic and racial divisions if we are to build a city where all residents benefit from sustainable, crime-free, fun and family-friendly communities. Dr. Masuda's research website, called the Centre for Environmental Health Equity, can be found at www.cehe.ca.

Pictured above Community Gardeners in Parkdale, Toronto, pictured left balcony gardens at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba, pictured below Art City in West Broadway.

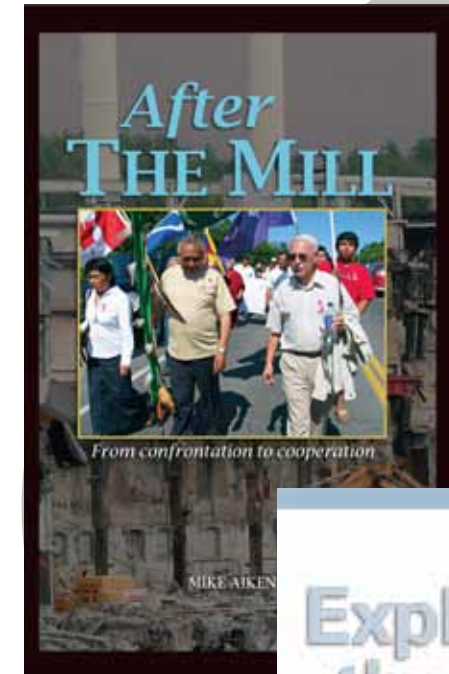


Their research, which involved a unique combination of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and photography-based neighbourhood assessments, speaks to the contrasts between more affluent areas of Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto and the inner-city neighbourhoods in each community. What they found might be surprising to some. It turns out that signs of urban inequality are actually to be found in all neighbourhoods. Just as the inner city suffers from stigma and underinvestment, inner-city researchers observed that wealthier neighbourhoods suffer from a culture of individualism that has eroded a sense of community.



Aboriginal Issues Press.

The Aboriginal Issues Press has recently had three successful and diverse book launches. *"After the Mill"* by Mike Aiken describes what happened after the Abitibi paper mill closed in Kenora, Western Ontario. The book launched on March 16, 2011 at the Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora. When the mill closed, the changing economy led to a series of historic exchange visits between the Grand Chief of Treaty 3 and Kenora's mayor. It was the first time in a century the leaders of these two entities had formally sat down together, but they needed to find ways to fill the void created at Confederation. Confrontations between the federal government and First Nation leaders in 2003 turned into a show of cooperation in 2007 and 2008. This collection of news articles from local newspapers tracks this unique transition.

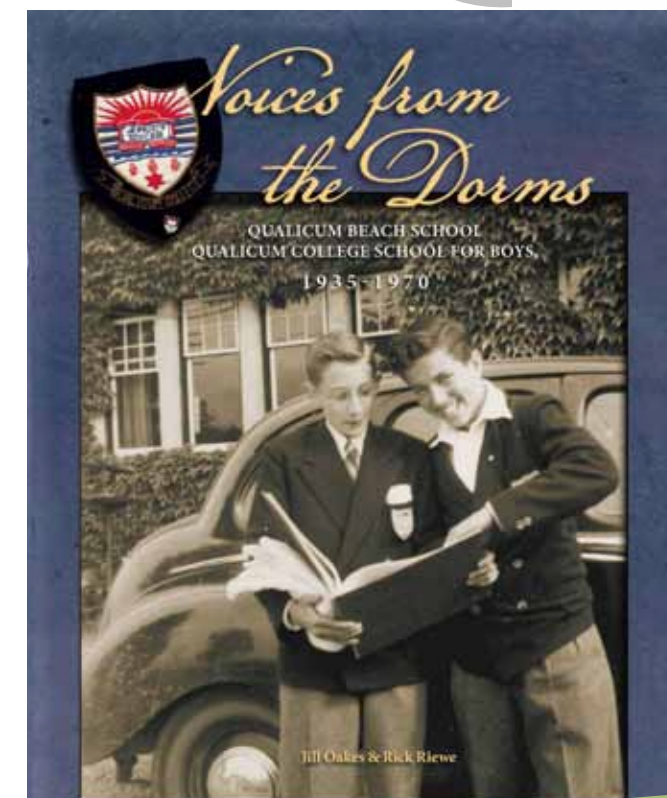


"Exploring the Sacred", a compilation of fifteen chapters edited by Suzanne Galbraith and **Leigh Bryant** was launched on March 29, 2011. Leigh graduated this Spring with a BA in Geography and Suzanne is an editor for the Canadian Military and a colleague of Leigh's who volunteered as a guest editor. The book explores the concept of "sacred" from a variety of perspectives, beginning with the individual, expanding into the local, and concluding with the international scale.



"Voices from the Dorms: Qualicum Beach School for Boys, 1935-1970" is

written by **Dr. Jill Oakes** and Dr. Rick Riewe. The book, launched on April 30, 2011 examines life at Qualicum College told entirely in the voices of the boys (reflections plus direct quotes from letters written while they attended the school), staff, and family members. Many alumni now live in the Vancouver Island and Mainland area, and fondly recall some amazingly complicated pranks, extreme loneliness, and innovative challenges to the establishment during their boarding school days. The authors contacted almost 200 alumni and staff or descendants of staff and soon realized the college itself had an important story to tell about a unique form of education. The book covers all aspects of life at Qualicum College from the boys' perspectives, including the academic program, sports, drama, discipline, antics, and daily life. It may be valuable to First Nations as a comparison to their own residential school experiences.



Cultural Landscapes.

It is often assumed that when the term “*landscape*” is used that it automatically applies to natural landscapes, untouched by humans. There are few examples of wild landscapes remaining in the world and with the impact of climate change it seems likely that all of Earth’s landscapes will to some degree exhibit the presence of humanity. For some researchers, landscape is the human modification of physical landscape, including such features as farms, fields, fences, buildings, roads, railway lines, industrial plants—in short, the visible landscape that can be understood as an ever-changing outcome of human and land relationships. For others, cultural landscapes are more than we can see as all landscape features are imbued with meaning and thus need to be read as we might read a text; for example such very different landscapes as elite residential areas and urban slums speak to us about power, inequality, oppression, exclusion, and privilege. As you can see from the following descriptions of researchers’ projects, the Riddell Faculty’s interests in cultural landscapes are extremely diverse.

Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt (Natural Resources Institute) currently holds a SSHRC Standard Research Grant focused on understanding cultural landscapes in the every day life of people who harvest foods and medicines from landscapes and seascapes. He is currently producing a cultural landscape atlas for the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in support of their world heritage site nomination that will celebrate the cultural landscape of five Anishinaabe communities in eastern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario (www.pimachiowinaki.org). He recently published the Pikangikum Cultural Landscape Documentation Guide with co-author and adjunct professor (NRI) Dr. Michael O’Flaherty based upon six years research with the Whitefeather Forest Initiative of Pikangikum First Nation in northwestern Ontario (www.whitefeatherforest.com) and available from the Aboriginal Issues Press. He has Ph.D. students currently working in northwestern Ontario and coastal Brazil to further develop a conceptual framework that links cultural landscapes and seascapes to well-being of local harvesters.

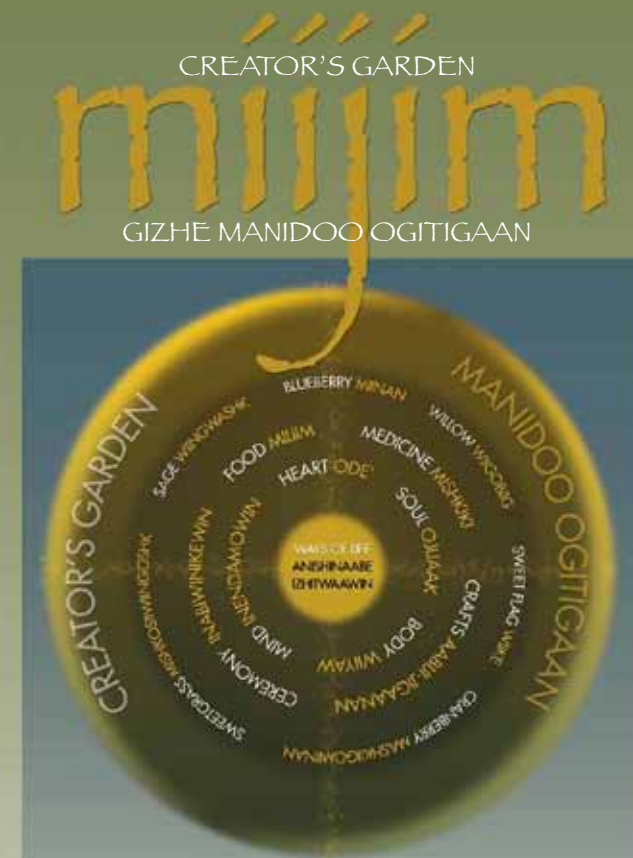
Dr. Bonnie Hallman (Department of Environment and Geography) is a human geographer whose research focuses on the relations individuals and families have with the spaces and places of their everyday environments. This means examining their communities and the services, agencies, and activities with which they engage in order to negotiate the needs and wants of family members, and to form the very notion of what ‘*family*’ and ‘*community*’ mean to, and are remembered

by, them. Recent publications, some in collaboration with **Dr. Mary Benbow**, (Department of Environment and Geography) have examined the role of zoos as ‘family-friendly’ and therapeutic places of family leisure, and the use of family photography as a means of capturing and memorializing the construction of familial and parental identities in the zoo leisure/educational space. This work led to the 2010 publication of Dr. Hallman’s book, *Family Geographies: The Spatiality of Families and Family Life*, by Oxford University Press. Current research with Dr. Roberta Woodgate (Faculty of Nursing, and funded by CIHR) examines the local geographies of families with heavily medically dependent children.

Dr. William Norton, (Department of Environment and Geography) has a principal interest in contemporary cultural geography concerning the interpretations of identity and place. He is continuing to conduct research on the development of a set of concepts concerning the human geographic analysis of behaviour, and on the application of the concepts to problems of landscape evolution. Dr. Norton has identified areas of religious settlement and “*ethnic islands*” as locales on which to base this research, and focuses in particular on the Mormon settlements at Nauvoo (Illinois) and Voree (Wisconsin).

Dr. Fikret Berkes (Natural Resources Institute) works with **Dr. Jim Robson**, a recent Natural Resources Institute graduate, in Oaxaca, Mexico, and with Dr. Sebastien Boillat, Postdoctoral Fellow, in Bolivia, on biocultural diversity and multifunctional landscapes. Dr. Robson’s findings, some of them jointly published with Dr. Berkes, indicate that rural depopulation in Oaxaca State is affecting the functioning of commons institutions, the social institutions by which land management, administration, and social services are carried out in indigenous communities. Rural depopulation is also resulting in the resurgence of the forest cover, but (paradoxically) along with a decline in biodiversity. This is because multifunctional land use results in a species and habitat-rich landscape mosaic. Decline in land use practices causes a simplification of this mosaic and hence a decline in biodiversity.





Anishinaabe ways of life, the centre point of the illustration, are sustained by the Creator's Garden. The whole being—mind, body, soul, and heart—are fed by the Garden. It is through the whole being that the person relates to their environment through ceremonies, crafts, foods, and medicine. There is recognition that some things in the Garden may have many roles. For instance, the blueberry is "food" when it is eaten; "craft" when it is used as a dye; "medicine" when used for healing; and "ceremonial" when used in a feast.

Anishinaabe ezhi pimaajii'itizad nisawaya'ii ozhibii'iganan mii onowe aabatakin Gizhe Manidoo ogitigaan. Pimaatiziwin—inendamowin, owiiyaw, ojichaak zhigo ode onji wiisini gitigaaning. Wa'awe pemaatizid omaa pimaajii'itizo gii izhitwaad gaa izhi pimaatiziwineng, gaa izhi mazinichigewaad, miiijim, zhigo mashkikiwan. Inawe gaa nisitawenijigaategin imaa gitigaaning niibiwa kego taa nisitawenijigaatewan. Taabshkoo, miinan "miiijim" miiijigaatewan, gii ozhitoot awija kego atisigan; "mashkikiwan" gii andawi'ayin zhigo gii ando pimaatiziwineng gii wiikonding.



Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg.

Lake of the Woods Museum and Partners of the CURA Common Ground Research Forum Management.

Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg was a six-week exhibit at the Lake of the Woods Museum. Planning for the exhibit began in December 2009 with partners from Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation, the Natural Resources Institute, and the Lake of the Woods Museum.

The exhibit ran at the Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora. This was the first in a series of exhibits in which the Museum will investigate the multi-cultural makeup of their community. Miijim explored the cultural, social, health, and spiritual connections between the area Anishinaabeg and their traditional foods through video and visual displays, hands-on workshops, lectures, field trips, and a community feast.

The exhibit and programming provided opportunities for learning about and understanding food from another culture's perspective. Through the planned programming there were opportunities for First Nation, non-First Nation, urban Aboriginal, and Métis communities to engage and participate together in teaching and learning experiences. Miijim also provided a means of educating young Anishinaabeg about the benefits of returning to traditional foods to improve health and sustain cultural practices.

The Miijim exhibit is a travelling exhibit and is being shared with museums, schools, and other organizations throughout the region. The project is part of the Common Ground Research Forum (CGRF).

Dr. John Sinclair (Natural Resources Institute) is Principal Investigator, with **Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt** (Natural Resources Institute) as co-investigator. This project, however, is a community-initiated undertaking led by the museum.

NRI Research Supporting First Nation Natural Resource and Environmental Management.

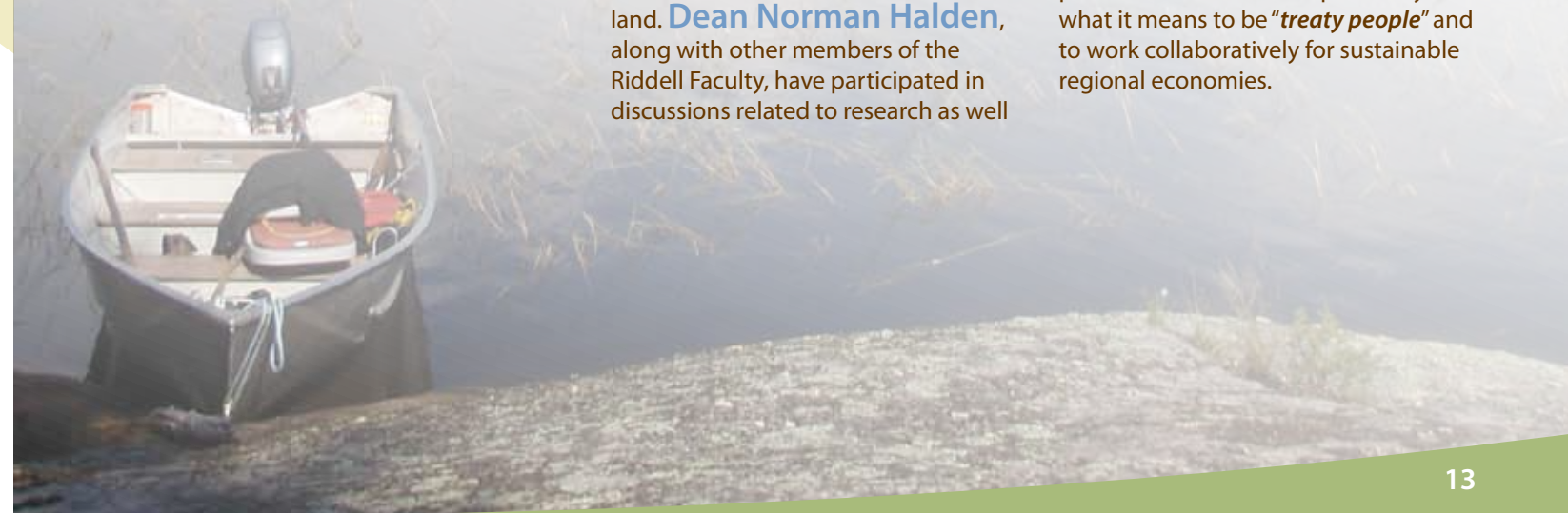
First Nations in Canada are increasingly becoming involved in the management of lands and waters in their traditional territories. In some places this is occurring through the advent of modern treaties, some like eastern Manitoba and the Far North of Ontario through new policy and legislation, and in others it is through various co-management arrangements being negotiated with provincial or federal governments regarding customary uses, resource development and protected areas. In others it may take the form of partnerships with businesses. In all cases this is leading to the establishment of units within First Nations with increasing responsibility for natural resource and environmental management. The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) has established a significant research portfolio that supports emerging First Nation organizations with mandates to manage lands and waters within their traditional territories.

A long-standing partnership (since 2003) has been with Pikangikum First Nation and their Whitefeather Forest

Management Corporation (www.whitefeatherforest.ca) through support received from the Sustainable Forest Management Network and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Five Master of Natural Resource Management (M.N.R.M.) and three Doctoral students have been trained through that research partnership. A related project has been with the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in which five First Nations have been leading a nomination for a World Heritage Site (www.pimachiowinaki.org) that spans the Manitoba/Ontario boundary. More recently, discussions have been held with Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN), Iskatewizaagegan Independent First Nation (IIFN), Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council (AKRC) fisheries unit and Miitigoog/Miisun Forest Management Corporations. A key area of concern noted by First Nation resource agencies is in finding ways to manage natural resources and environments in a way that sustains community economies through innovative community-based enterprises while allowing people to continue their activities on the land. **Dean Norman Halden**, along with other members of the Riddell Faculty, have participated in discussions related to research as well

as training that can support these emerging First Nation Natural Resource and Environmental Management agencies. M.N.R.M. students will begin projects with OCN, IIFN and AKRC this summer.

Dr. John Sinclair (NRI) is principal investigator of a Community University Research Alliance grant (\$1 million over five years) that was undertaken with partners from the University of Winnipeg, Grand Council Treaty #3 and the City of Kenora. This project led to the formation of the Common Ground Research Forum (CGRF) (www.cgrf.ca) with the goal to understand and build sustainability for cross-cultural collaboration and social learning for sustainability in the Kenora region. The CGRF involves over thirty local partners who identify local projects to be undertaken by community organizations and students from the NRI. A number of projects by the community, students and a post-doctorate researcher are underway or have been completed. One of the distinguishing aspects of the CGRF is that aboriginal and non-aboriginal partners chose to focus specifically on what it means to be "treaty people" and to work collaboratively for sustainable regional economies.



Studying the politics of land use planning in the Ontario boreal region.

Catie Burlando (PhD Student) is working with **Dr. Davidson-Hunt** at the Natural Resources Institute. As part of her research, she has worked with the Anishinaabe community of Pikangikum First Nation, in northwestern Ontario, documenting the process by which international environmental organizations have shifted the terms for community-based land-use planning process completed by Pikangikum towards a more centralized approach. Her research shows that this shift has provided more power to large environmental organizations and scientific panels, while sidelining attempts by northern communities to have a greater say in decisions over their lands, be it through conservation or land-based enterprises.



Raised and educated in Italy, Catie first came to Canada to study Geography at McGill University. She returned to Europe to complete a Masters in Natural Resource Management at Stockholm

University. Her international research in the political ecology of conservation and a desire to return to Canada paved the way for her PhD research work. The Natural Resources Institute offered a well-grounded interdisciplinary curriculum, as well as a faculty team well vested in international and national research. As part of Dr. Davidson-Hunt's research program, Catie was introduced to Aboriginal issues in northern Ontario, participated in the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site nomination process, and has become a regular co-author to the newsletter of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. During her time at the University of Manitoba, she has also been involved with the organization and development of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources' "Cultural Landscape Field School" in northeastern Italy.



Research Tools: Video.

Participatory video can be used to help engage communities in sharing and reflecting on their circumstances, and then developing local and regional plans to improve their situation. This medium provides opportunities to explore issues, demonstrate creativity, communicate needs, problem solve, and express concern to decision makers. Multimedia technology can overcome the obstacle of geographic distance, extending and uniting communities across the country and the world. Participatory video is credited with enhancing individual and community confidence, self-esteem, creativity, and capacity to communicate with others. It provides a much more accessible product than journal papers, particularly for oral cultures.

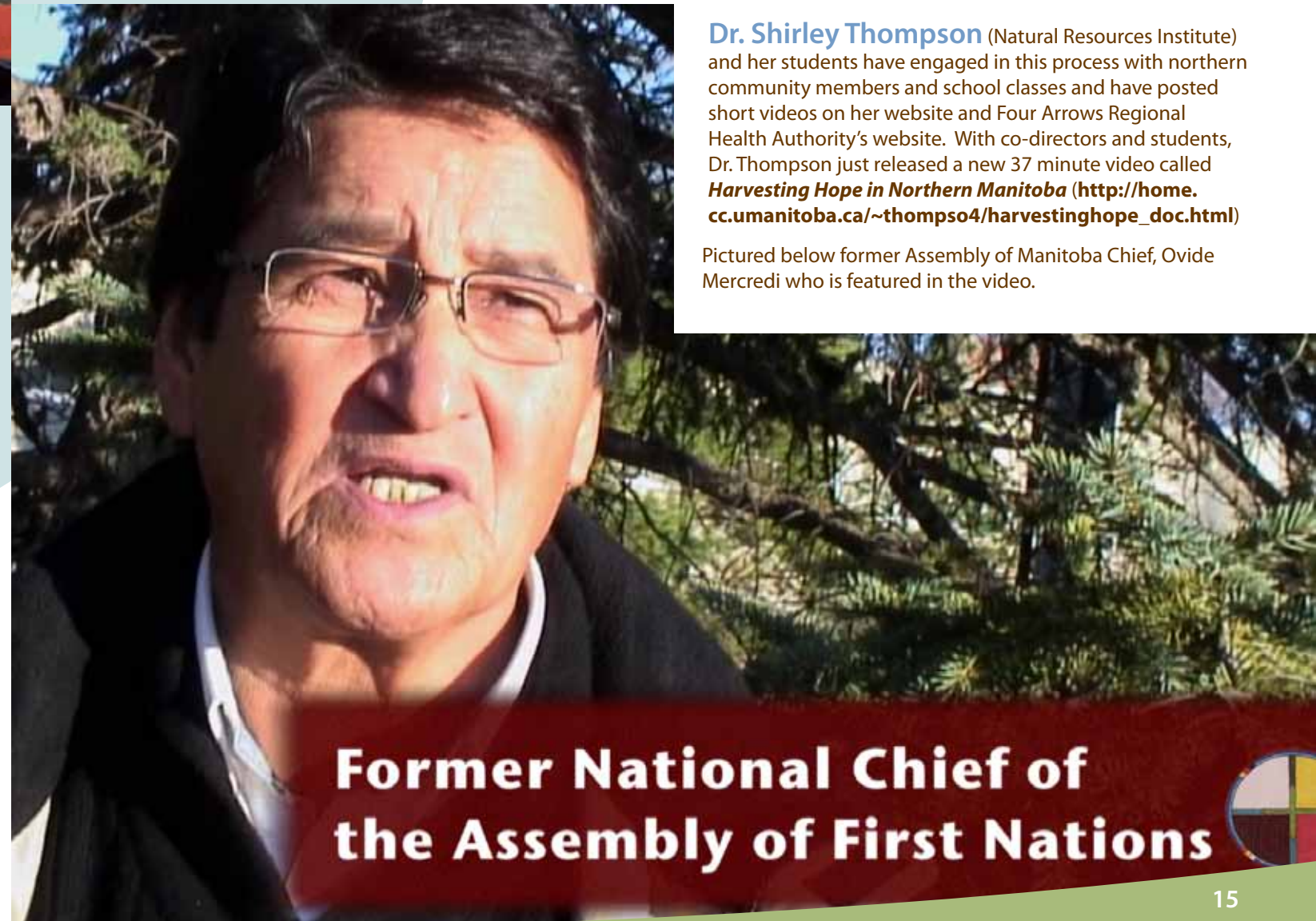
Participatory video is a highly effective research and community building approach. It has proven to be an

exceptional tool for engaging and mobilizing marginalized populations in developing solutions to meet local needs and utilizing local resources. Community members usually want to tell their story – especially when it is of deep significance. Community members can have their story told on the same level as experts in a participatory video.

Participatory video has been applied to diverse situations and issues. There are a wide number of uses for participatory video and video documentary. Video documentation can provide a more credible message to a variety of projects as diverse as: 1) advocacy for disempowered populations; 2) therapeutic work; 3) experiential learning; 4) program monitoring and evaluation; 5) institutional capacity building; 6) knowledge creation and policy making; and 7) training in a technical aspect.

Dr. Shirley Thompson (Natural Resources Institute) and her students have engaged in this process with northern community members and school classes and have posted short videos on her website and Four Arrows Regional Health Authority's website. With co-directors and students, Dr. Thompson just released a new 37 minute video called **Harvesting Hope in Northern Manitoba** (http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~thomps04/harvestinghope_doc.html)

Pictured below former Assembly of Manitoba Chief, Ovide Mercredi who is featured in the video.



Former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

UPCOMING DATES

July 11

UN World Population Day

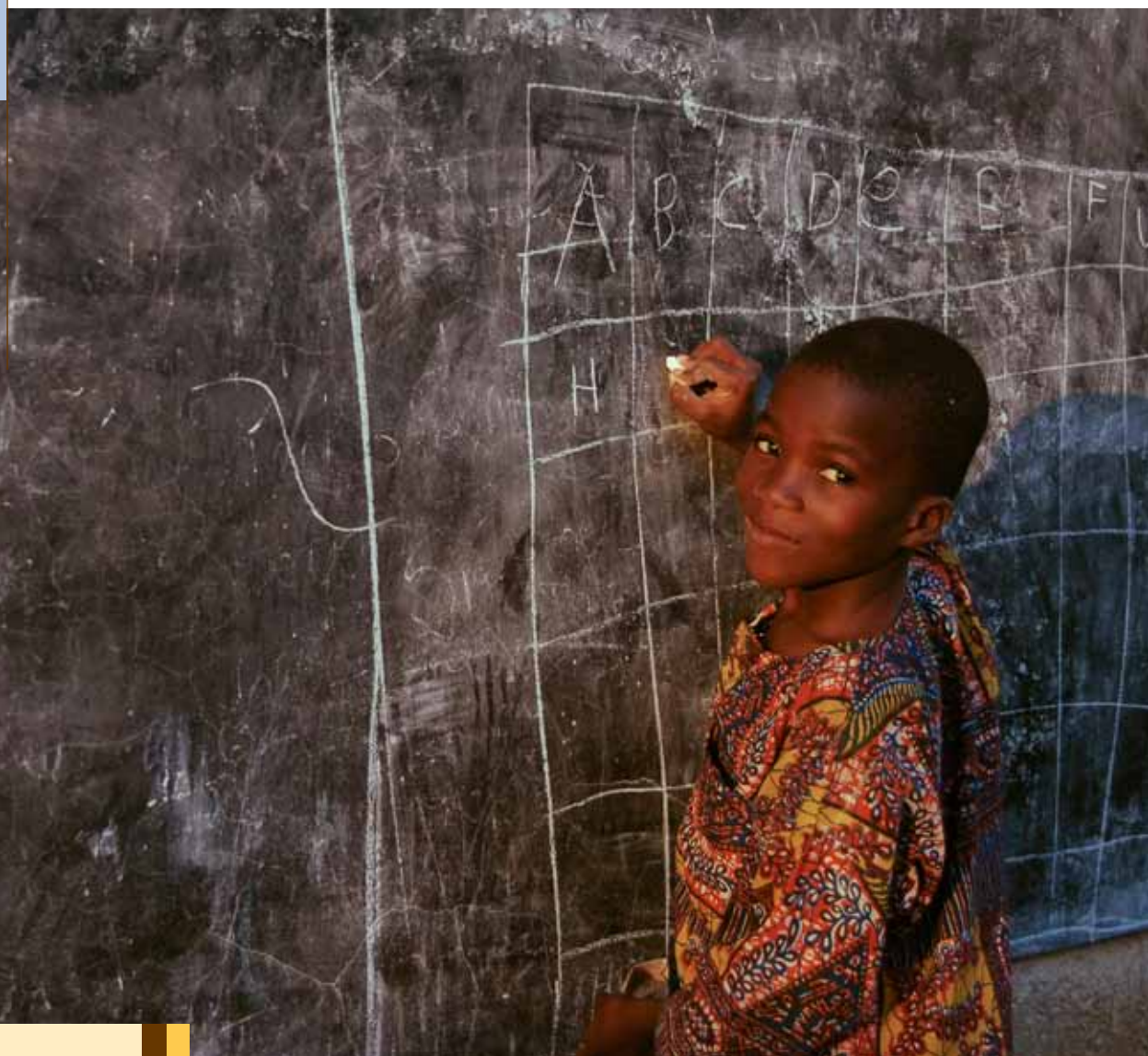
August 9

UN International Day for
the World's Indigenous
Peoples

Picturing the Planet.

Jonathon Ventura, undergraduate student in Environmental Studies, won 3rd place for this picture in the Global Colours competition organized by the International Centre for Students. Each year, this contest challenges University of Manitoba students to submit photos that represent cross-cultural experiences they have had at home or abroad.

Jonathon reflects: *"Volunteering and living in Benin, West Africa for 5 months made me realize that my perception of the world was so small. Volunteering at a children's rehabilitation centre was the most impacting and exciting experience of my life. I will never forget those children, and how much love they had. The centre had no 'modern' forms of technology, simply casting, and braces, but they performed miracles there."*



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