

Annual Report, Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) – April 10 2017

The 59th WDCAG Annual Meeting (*WDCAG-2016*) was held on March 3/5 2017 at the University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, BC. Originally the conference was scheduled to be held at Western Washington University but was relocated to UFV because of the American political climate. It had an attendance of 225, including 183 (under)graduate student. The meeting started on Friday with field trips, a film, and a keynote address by Dr. Tzaporah Berman on “This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge”, followed by an ice-breaker. On Saturday, a diverse conference program was interwoven with the WDCAG-Executive and AGM meetings, lunch, and banquet with keynote by Sidney Atkins titled “Ethnic Mosaic of the Border Area”. The evening was concluded by a dance. Thanks to all at WWU and UFV who made this meeting successful. In particular a huge thanks to Claire Hay and Garry Fehr for agreeing to host on such short notice but also thanks to Patrick Buckley from WWU and to the student volunteers and fieldtrip organizers, without whom this conference wouldn’t be possible.

Student and faculty participants from BC, AB, WA, SK, and ON warranted 37 oral and 44 poster presentations. Student presentations were judged by faculty, and the winners and runners up announced during the banquet.

Best Undergraduate Paper Presentation: *winner:* BA Melanie Stammeler (UNBC); BSc (two winners) Colleen Fish (University of Victoria) and Branden Turner (Thompson Rivers University)

Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation: *winner:* Severine Rolland-Bege (Trinity-Western) and Madelaine Bourdages (University of the Fraser Valley)

Best Masters Paper Presentation: *winner:* Sasha Nasonova (University of Victoria)

Best Masters Poster Presentation: *winner:* MSc Josh Montgomery (UofL)

Ineke Dijks Award for Best Overall Graduate Student Presentation: Jillian Harvey (University of Victoria)

The *WDCAG-2016* AGM attendance was 30, and a new executive was elected. *President:* Leith Deacon (UofA); *Vice-President:* No VP needed 17-18, *Secretary-Treasurer:* Hester Jiskoot (UofL) (1 yr); *Members-at-Large:* Sinead Early (UNBC), David Jordan (TWU), Gilles Viaud (TRU), Crystal Huscroft (TRU); *Student Members:* Holly Clayholt (UofL), Kyla Rushton (UofL), Brandon Turner (TRU), Madelaine Bourdages (UFV); *Western Geography Editors:* Tom Waldichuck (TRU) and Craig Colburn (UofL); *BC Education Chair:* Pam Shaw (VIU) & Tom Waldichuk (TRU); *Newsletter editor:* Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic); *Archivist:* Ben Moffat (MHC); *Awards Officer:* David Jordan; and *Webmaster:* Dan Smith (UVic).

The following meritorious awards were presented at the AGM: the *J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service* to Tom Waldichuck (TRU), the *J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence* to Cindy-Ann Rose-Redwood (UVic), and the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction to Harry Spalding (KingsU).

The 60th WDCAG Annual Meeting and Conference will be held March 10/11 2018 at the University of Alberta co-organized with Kings University.

For updates on our division, our constitution and our annual newsletter, check: www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/.

Leith Deacon
President WDCAG 2017-2019