

Alison Gill
CAG President's Award

I am greatly delighted to nominate Professor Emerita. Dr. Alison Gill for the CAG President's Award for 2020. Enclosed please find Dr. Gill's CV, and CAG Award nomination form.

Dr. Gill has had an outstanding career in higher education that has spanned four decades, of which 32 years has been as professor at Simon Fraser University. She is a well-known tourism geographer, specializing in mountain and small towns. Her more than two decades of research on the mountain resort of Whistler in British Columbia has had tremendous influence in tourism and geography scholarship. She has been a prolific researcher and is well-known internationally in her field of expertise. In fact, I became aware of her research on mountain tourism as far back as in 1995, when I was just getting started on my PhD studies. In addition to her numerous peer-reviewed papers, she has co-edited five books.

In addition to her research, Dr. Gill has had a distinguished teaching record, and has supervised many graduate students. She has been invited as external examiner of 13 graduate theses in Canada and overseas.

Dr. Gill's record of service is exemplary. Among her three-decades long services to SFU in various capacities, she served five years as the Chair of the Geography Department, and three years as the Associate Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Among her many services to scholarly organizations, her tireless work on behalf of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), and International Geographical Union (IGU) are very commendable. As the former President (2006-2008) and Vice-President (2005-2006) of Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), she has made significant contributions to making Canadian geography strong and known to the international community. The high level of services she has provided to the geography community are too many to list here. She was honoured in 2012 as the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for outstanding contributions to geographic education and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, by the Governor General of Canada.

She is actively engaged with geographers from all over the world; a quick read of her conference attendances, invited talks, etc., shows her extensive collaborations with colleagues and students from around the world. In my own communications with several prominent geographers around the world, Dr. Gill is remembered fondly as a great colleague, collaborator, researcher, and most important of all, a decent human being. Her friendliness, and her welcoming and inclusive attitude is what sets her apart from many other accomplished people.

Given her high level of scholarly achievements, and services to higher education and professional organizations, I am a bit surprised that Dr. Gill has never been considered for a CAG Award. Therefore, I strongly recommend her name for the CAG President's Award, she truly deserves this recognition.

- Sanjay Nepal, CAG President (2018-2020)