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**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

**No. 004, December 13, 2008**

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### **1. Geography Department at SFU to join new Faculty of the Environment**

[http://www.sfu.ca/pamr/media\\_releases/media\\_releases\\_archive/media\\_release05300801.html](http://www.sfu.ca/pamr/media_releases/media_releases_archive/media_release05300801.html)

As part of a university wide restructuring, Geography at Simon Fraser will be the flagship Department of a new Faculty of Environment as of April 1 2009. Geography will be joined by Resources and Environment Management (REM), a graduate programme that Geography sponsored in the early 1980s. Development Studies, the Centre for Community and Sustainable Development and the Environmental Science Programme will also be part of the new Faculty.

### **2. Queen's University Geography Department "stellar six" receive recognition**

[http://qnc.queensu.ca/campusnews\\_article\\_loader.php?id=4937e53db33d9](http://qnc.queensu.ca/campusnews_article_loader.php?id=4937e53db33d9)

During Staff Appreciation Day the Queen's University Geography Departmental dream team was recognized for their capacity to respond with helpful assistance to the urgent needs of faculty and students; as well as for their many voluntary contributions that have enhanced the social life of the department.

### **3. University of Guelph Professor Barry Smit explores human dimensions of climate change**

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/publications/Assets/PDF/ResearchMagazine/cfi.pdf>

Prof. Barry Smit, Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and geography professor at the University of Guelph is exploring the human dimensions of climate change in the Arctic as part of the Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions (CAVIAR) program. It's a global research network of universities, communities and Inuit organizations working collaboratively in eight countries near the Arctic Circle to come up with solutions to the problems created by climate change (pages 28-29).

### **4. UBC Geography Professor Tim Oke on CBC's Sounds Like Canada radio show**

[http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/slc\\_20080923\\_7750.mp3](http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/slc_20080923_7750.mp3)

Tim Oke is known as a leading expert on urban microclimates. Tim Oke has been called an 'urban weather decoder' - the world's leading expert on urban microclimates. His work has been used to towards developing highly accurate weather forecasts (to the scale of city blocks), predict how a dirty bomb or chemical spill could blow through urban areas, investigate road accidents, and plan the reforestation of cities. On July 1, he was named to the Order of Canada. Kevin Sylvester speaks to Tim Oke on CBC's Sounds Like Canada radio show.

### **5. University of Toronto Professor Emeritus Larry Bourne receives Honorary Degree from the University of New Brunswick**

<http://www.unb.ca/news/view.cgi?id=1649>

Professor Emeritus Larry Bourne FRSC received an Honorary Degree from the Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick at Fall Convocation on Friday, October 24th in Saint John. This was Larry's second honorary degree. His first was an honorary Doctorate of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, awarded in 1999.

### **6. Thompson Rivers University and University of Gävle offer degree in geography and geomatics**

[http://www.tru.ca/\\_shared/assets/Double\\_Degree\\_Brochure12807.pdf](http://www.tru.ca/_shared/assets/Double_Degree_Brochure12807.pdf)

The Geography Department at Thompson Rivers University has a new double degree in Geography and Geomatics offered in partnership with the University of Gävle. Students can now earn two degrees or two diplomas, one from each institution. The Geomatics program at the University of Gävle is one of the largest and most comprehensive in Sweden. It offers courses in cartography, computer mapping, geographic databases, photogrammetry, remote sensing, land surveying, construction surveying, geodetic instruments, spatial analysis, and web mapping. The double degree requires 5 years of full-time study: 4 at TRU and 1 with Gävle.

### **7. Book release – Griffith Taylor: Visionary, Environmentalist, Explorer**

<http://www.utppublishing.com/pubstore/merchant.ihtml?pid=10337&step=4>

Thomas Griffith Taylor (1880–1963) was a geographer, anthropologist, and world explorer. His travels took him from Captain Scott's final expedition in Antarctica to every continent on earth, in a professional life that stretched from the Boer War to the Cold War. Taylor's research ranged from microscopic analysis of fossils to the 'races of man,' the geographic basis of global politics, while his work as a professor led him from his Cambridge education to the Universities of Chicago and Sydney, as well as Harold A. Innis' recently-founded geography department in the University of Toronto.

### **8. University of Toronto Professor Emeritus Larry Bourne receives the Lambda Alpha International President's Award of Recognition**

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/people/faculty/bourne-lambda>

Professor Emeritus Larry Bourne FRSC received the Lambda Alpha International President's Award of Recognition for his contribution to land economics in Canada through research, writing, teaching and mentoring. Professor Bourne is currently a senior scholar with the Global Cities Program and has just completed a term as Interim Director of the University's new Cities Centre. His current research interests include comparative urbanization and urban policy analysis, globalization and the Canadian urban system, demographic change, migration and immigration, the emergence of new urban and suburban forms, income inequalities and social polarization, urban housing markets and neighbourhood change, urban revitalization and the re-urbanization of the inner city, alternative models of metropolitan governance, new regimes of planning, and the changing nature of growth management.

#### **9. UVic Geographer Dr. Stephen Cross pioneers sustainable ecological aquaculture**

<http://ring.uvic.ca/08dec04/aquaculture.html>

Dr. Stephen Cross a University of Victoria marine scientist conducts research at a dedicated aquaculture research and development facility in Kyuquot Sound off northwestern Vancouver Island. It is the first licensed SEAFarm (Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture) in Canada. Cross founded a Coastal Aquaculture Research and Training (CART) multi-disciplinary network at UVic, along with co-director Dr. Mark Flaherty, a UVic geographer and expert on aquaculture's impacts upon governance and community issues in tropical regions.

#### **10. McMaster Professor Emeritus Ming-ko (Hok) Woo 2008 recipient of CGU J. Tuzo Wilson Medal**

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/story.cfm?id=5425>

Professor Emeritus Ming-ko (Hok) Woo in the the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University is the 2008 recipient of the Canadian Geophysical Union's J. Tuzo Wilson Medal. Professor Woo is known first and foremost for his contributions to cold region hydrology. The Canadian Geophysical Union has also honoured him by creating an annual lecture series in hydrology and his alma mater, McMaster University, is honouring him by introducing the Woo Water Lecture Series.

#### **11. GIS job puts University of Waterloo geography student in New Zealand**

<http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/e-newsletter/2008/dec/newzealand.html>

Honours Geography Co-op student Christina Miceli is working as an Assistant Tester in the Mapping and GIS Division Trimble Navigation Ltd. Christina was selected from a roster of 86 applicants, and was shipped off to Christchurch accompanied by a hefty allowance of \$3,000 NZD that was granted by the company. Her job is to design, run, and document results of testing experiments. It requires some serious technological know-how and a willingness to undertake outdoor and physical work when required.

#### **12. University of Guelph geography professor Aaron Berg receives funding to study climate change**

[http://www.uoguelph.ca/news/2008/09/prof\\_receives\\_f.html](http://www.uoguelph.ca/news/2008/09/prof_receives_f.html)

University of Guelph geography professor Aaron Berg received \$200,000 over two years from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences to support his research on water resources and the impact of climate change. For this project, he will be studying soil moisture as a way of enhancing seasonal climate predictions in Canada. This research will provide insight into the management of water resources at a time of looming climate change challenges.

#### **13. VIU Geography Professor Larry Wolfe tackles disaster management in Belize**

<http://www.mala.ca/mainly/page.asp?Story=&ID=1556>

Students and faculty from Vancouver Island University are heading to Belize to help the country become better prepared at coping with disasters. The project team, including 14 students, will be led by Geography professor Dr. Larry Wolfe and Dr. Victoria Macfarlane of the Psychology department. The four week field school will include opportunities for students to learn about Belizean culture and ecosystems. According to Dr. Wolfe "Students will help evaluate selected disaster programs, assess hazards and vulnerability and the adequacy of physical planning."

14.

**Geographers from McGill and MUN join International Boreal Conservation Science Panel Member**  
[http://www.interboreal.org/index2.php?option=com\\_content&do\\_pdf=1&id=65](http://www.interboreal.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=65)

A newly formed advisory group of top scientists from across Canada and the U.S., the International Boreal Conservation Science Panel is focused on providing scientific expertise useful to decision makers considering the future of one of the last great conservation opportunities; the protection of Canada's Boreal Forest region. Memorial University of Newfoundland Professor John Jacobs and McGill University Professor Nigel Roulet join the Panel to begin work on describing and mapping the full array of conservation values of Canada's boreal forests; one of the first such comprehensive assessments for a global scale ecosystem.

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