

**Subject:** [Caglist] GEOGNEWS, Number 005, December 19, 2008

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

**No. 005, December 19, 2008**

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### **1. Trading Places: Department of Geography, Lakehead University**

<http://geography.lakeheadu.ca/>

The Department of Geography at Lakehead University is on the move. Following receipt of a unanimously supported request from the department, the CAG Executive has agreed to transfer the department from the Ontario Division to the Prairie Division effective January 1, 2009. Geographically isolated from the majority of departments affiliated with the Ontario Division, the geographers at Lakehead have been making pilgrimages to PCAG meetings for several years.

### **2. McMaster University GIS Day draws over 250 high school geography students and teachers**

[http://sciwebservice.science.mcmaster.ca/qislab/documents/gisday\\_2008\\_success\\_story.pdf](http://sciwebservice.science.mcmaster.ca/qislab/documents/gisday_2008_success_story.pdf)

For the 10th year in a row over 250 high school geography students and teachers got a special hands-on look at geographic information systems (GIS) and GPS technology at McMaster University. Hosted by the School of Geography & Earth Sciences and the Centre for Spatial Analysis, this event fulfills part of the Ontario geography curriculum for grade 9, 11 and 12 students. Six high schools from Burlington, Grimsby and Oakville participated in this daylong workshop.

### **3. University of Western Ontario Professor Desmond Moser receives CFI Funds for Nanobeam Materials Analyzer**

[http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western\\_news/stories/western\\_researchers\\_receive\\_%241.3\\_mil](http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/stories/western_researchers_receive_%241.3_mil)

University of Western Ontario Professor Desmond Moser received \$310,051 in Canadian Foundation for Innovation Funds for to purchase a Nanobeam Materials Analyzer Probing Planetary Evolution and Resources (NanoMAPPER); an Innovation in Planetary Materials Science. Dr. Moser holds a joint appointment in the departments of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science and Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences. His active projects include investigations of crustal cross-sections, kimberlite xenoliths, sedimentary basins and impact structures in the Americas, Europe and southern Africa.

**4. UW Geography grad superintendent of Algonquin Provincial Park**

<http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/cooljobs/winters.html>

John Winters (BES '71, Geography, University of Waterloo) is the superintendent of Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario's first provincial park and one of Canada's most popular parks. Although much of the work is administrative, the best part of his job is in a canoe or working with a world class research team on the study of wolves, moose, black bears or brook trout.

**5. Brock researcher funded to remotely sense vineyards**

<http://www.brocku.ca/geography/projects.php>

Dr. Marilynne Jollineau received Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) funding for her research project on the integration of remotely sensed data into a precision agriculture system for improved vineyard management in the Niagara Region. This project involves the development of image-derived information products using high-resolution airborne and spaceborne remote-sensing data, correlated with ground-based data, to assess vine condition.

**6. SFU geographer studies effects of forest practices watershed hydrology**

<http://www.sfu.ca/geography/news/MKRFTreeSpeciesResearch.html>

Dr. Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld and her students are studying the effects of vegetation on the spatial dynamics of soil moisture in a small watershed in the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest near Haney, British Columbia. Weekly field visits are underway to monitor soil moisture at more than 200 locations, as well as to measure throughfall and stemflow amount at both hillslope and catchment scales to assess the effects of trees on intercepting rainfall.

**7. Kwantlen Polytechnic University introduces BA Minor in Geography**

<http://www.kwantlen.ca/calendar/programs/arts-bc-dm.html#geog>

The Minor in Geography at Kwantlen Polytechnic University aims to provide a coherent focus on the interconnection between the social world and the natural world. In the first two years of the program, students take courses that introduce the main sub-fields in human and physical geography, a course in data analysis or GIS and a course in regional geography. At the end of year two, students who have completed the appropriate courses will qualify for an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science in Geography. In year three of the BA Minor in Geography, courses focus on the integration of physical and human geography, further sub-areas of human geography, and in research methods or geographic theory. Year four entails more advanced courses in applied geography.

**8. Announcing Atlas of Urban Aboriginal Peoples**

[http://gismap.usask.ca/website/Web\\_atlas/AOUAP/index.htm](http://gismap.usask.ca/website/Web_atlas/AOUAP/index.htm)

The Atlas of Urban Aboriginal Peoples attempts to make some information about Aboriginal people in urban areas in Canada available to a wide audience. The initial phase maps Aboriginal settlement patterns in large cities and their changes over time, using a data base created from Census information collected by Statistics Canada. The Atlas is part of the research on Aboriginal people and cities associated with the Canada Research Chair on Identity and Diversity: The Aboriginal Experience held by Dr. Evelyn J. Peters at the University of Saskatchewan.

#### **9. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Elisabeth Levac, Bishops University**

<http://www.ubishops.ca/multimedia/videos/new/niten-new2.html>

Dr. Levac completed a B.Sc. in Physical Geography and a M. Sc. in Earth Sciences at the Université du Québec à Montréal, and a Ph.D. degree in Earth Sciences at Dalhousie University. She taught at St. Francis Xavier University, Dalhousie University, and St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia before coming to Bishop's University. Dr. Levac conducts research in paleoceanography and paleoclimatology, more specifically on abrupt climate changes during the Holocene, on interactions between climate systems and human cultures, and on pollen monitoring and allergies.

#### **10. Report and Newsletter Links**

a) The U.S. Climate Change Science Program has released a new report on Abrupt Climate Change. A pdf version is available at the following:

<http://www.climatescience.gov/default.php>

b) Polar Access is the newsletter of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute at the University of Alberta

<http://www.ualberta.ca/polar>

c) GEOLOG is the quarterly newsmagazine of the Geological Association of Canada.

<http://www.gac.ca/publications/geolog.php>

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