



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

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1. Geographers from Guelph and Waterloo Examine Water Resource Vulnerability in Chile <http://www.tiemocyberclimate.org/newswatch/feature081124.htm>

Gwen Young , Barry Smit, Johanna Wandel and Humberto Zavala are analyzing the vulnerability of water resources to climate changes in the semi-arid Elqui Valley, Chile. Data inputs for the study included participant observation, interviews, focus groups, climate and hydrological records and projections and administrative and historical documents. This study demonstrates that, while moisture is desperately needed in an agriculturally productive dryland area, excessive moisture can sometimes be "too much of a good thing."

2. Dr. Yohong He joins the Geography Department at University of Toronto Mississauga

The Geography Dept at UTM is delighted to announce that Dr. Yohong He (PhD Saskatchewan, 2008) will join the department as a Remote Sensing assistant professor as of July 1, 2009. Dr. He is currently a post- doctoral fellow at the Environmental Remote Sensing Laboratory at the University of Saskatchewan where she is studying the small-scale disturbances of Grizzly Bear habitat in the foothills forest of Alberta. She has also just completed a post-doc position with Parks Canada in which she worked on a project to monitor northern natural ecosystems.

3. UNBC Geographers Report on Nutrient Delivery by Spawning Salmon <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v1/n12/abs/ngeo364.html>

UNBC Geography Professor Ellen Petticrew and PhD student John Rex report that streams often more than 1000 km inland are nourished by nutrients delivered by spawning salmon. They suggest that bacterial aggregation of salmon organic matter and inorganic particulate matter delivers nutrients to streambeds, and thus plays an integral role in nutrient cycling in Pacific salmon streams.

4. University of Ottawa Geographer Marie Lefebvre wins AUFC scholarship

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/UniversityOfOttawaNewsReleasesAndAnnouncements?format=xml>

Marie Lefebvre, a PhD candidate in geography at the University of Ottawa, was selected as one of the first-ever recipients of the Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne (AUFC) scholarships in support of field research on minority Francophone communities in Canada. Valued at \$7,500, the scholarship was introduced to increase research capacity and opportunities among the AUFC's 13 institutional members.

5. University of Trent Geographers Participate at Health Studies Day

<http://www.trentu.ca/newsDetails.aspx?Channel=%2fChannels%2fAdmissions+Content&Workflow>

On January 15, the Centre for Health Studies at Trent University held its seventh annual Health Studies Day. Hosted by Dr. Deborah Kennett, director of the Centre of Health Studies and psychology professor, the event included a presentation by Dr. Mark Skinner and Gavin Andrew entitled "Geography and Gerontology: Mapping a Disciplinary Intersection".

6. University of Calgary Geographer Julia Linke Awarded ESRI Canada Scholarship

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=announcements&style=1&this=103>

Julia Linke is the University of Calgary's winner of the 2008 ESRI Canada Scholarship Award. She is currently working on her PhD research, which deals with monitoring large scale landscape changes and examining the impact of human disturbance on forest ecosystems.

7. Trend in Canadian Faculty Delaying Retirement

<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/faculty-postpone-retirement-across-canada.aspx>

A number of institutions across Canada are reporting more and more faculty postponing retirement. For example, in 2007 and 2008, just 6 University of Western Ontario professors retired out of an estimated annual cohort of 30 to 40 faculty members turning 65.

8. UWO Budget Update Signals Several Cuts, Potential Layoffs

http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/stories/budget_cuts_driven_by_economy_200

In its campus-wide budget update, the University of Western Ontario asks faculties and departments to cut more from their budgets due to the economic downturn. Layoffs may be necessary, and "only mission-critical positions will be approved." UWO, which has seen significant losses in both its endowment and non-endowment funds, will postpone some capital projects, as well as temporarily withdraw \$6 million set aside to match any Canada Foundation for Innovation awards.

9. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Conny Davidsen, University of Calgary

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=people&style=2&this=272>

Dr. Davidsen joined the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary in 2006. Her research focuses on the political process behind changing environmental policies, especially from a political ecology perspective. This involves a wide range of issues from the international policy discourse on conservation and sustainable resource management to the local organization of resource use in communities, including aboriginal tenure rights. Her regional focus is on Latin America and Canada.

GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>