



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UBC's Simon Donner Selected for 2009 Leopold Leadership Program

<http://www.simondonner.com/>

Dr. Simon Donner, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, was one of 19 academic scientists selected to participate in the Leopold Leadership Program. He will take part in intensive leadership and communications training designed to hone his skills in delivering scientific information to decision makers, the media, and the public. See:

<http://www.leopoldleadership.org/content/>

2. University of Western Ontario Geographers Strut Their Stuff(?)

<http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/images/UnitedWayDressup.pdf>

Karen Van Kerkoerle, the Department of Geography Cartographic Specialist, ran a terrific United Way talent show. Along the way some of her volunteers displayed hitherto hidden talents. If you don't immediately recognize these two guys, you best check out their *alter egos* at: <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/faculty/>

3. Memorial Adjunct Professor Andrée Bolduc Takes New Position

http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/dir/index_f.php?id=85

Dr. Andrée Bolduc, an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography at Memorial University is now the Director of the Canadian Hydrographic Surveys (CHS) for the province of Quebec. Dr. Bolduc was working as a research scientist for Geological Survey of Canada in Quebec, mapping terrestrial and then marine Quaternary geology.

4. University of Waterloo's Department of Geography has a New Name

http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/geography/about/name_change.html

Clean water, sustainable energy, and climate change are crucial issues facing Canada and countries around the world. To better reflect its strong record of research and teaching in these areas of environmental management, the Department of Geography became the Department of Geography and Environmental Management.

5. Adventure Tourism at the University of Calgary

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=announcements&style=1&this=104>

The Department of Geography at the University of Calgary is offering a block course on Adventure Tourism. Once dominated by sports such as downhill skiing and scuba diving, adventure travel has expanded to include activities such as wildlife watching, rock climbing, mountain biking and extreme adventure challenges. Participants will become familiar with equipment preparations, customer orientation, safety planning and risk management, food preparation, and transportation logistics.

6. A Grain of Sand Reveals a Lot to University of Fraser Valley's Olav Lian

<http://www.ufv.ca/MarCom/newsroom/luminescence.htm>

The poet William Blake mused about seeing all the world in a grain of sand. For University of the Fraser Valley geography professor Dr. Olav Lian it's more a case of seeing how the world has changed over time by analyzing long-buried grains of sand. Lian established a luminescence dating laboratory, the only Canadian laboratory of its kind west of Ontario, at UFV when joined the geography department in 2005.

7. IGU: Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems at McMaster

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/~igu-cmqs/index.html>

The IGU:Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems act as a focus for those members of the international community who share an interest in using mathematical and statistical models in geographical systems analysis, geographical systems theory, geographical systems dynamics, geographical decision (or decision support) systems, GIS and remote sensing. This synthesis will aid and enhance research on mathematical modelling, statistical methods and other technological advances.

8. GIS Day at Memorial University March 4, 2009

http://today.mun.ca/rss/readmore.php?news_id=4446

Memorial University students with a background in Geographic Information Systems are employable before they even hit the streets. Courses in GIS are growing in popularity at Memorial University and Dan Duda, Map Librarian at Memorial University's Queen Elizabeth II Library, agrees employers are jumping at the opportunity to snap up the students. As a way of connecting students with potential employers, an annual GIS Day was organized to showcase some of the businesses and organizations that use GIS.

9. Honours Received by Queen's University Geographers

Leela Viswanathan won the Julian Szeicz Award for Excellence in Teaching at the annual Geography banquet.

<http://geog.queensu.ca/faculty/viswanathan.asp>

Congratulations also went out to Melanie Bedore and Hilary Dugan who won the Geography DSC Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance.

Melanie @ <http://geog.queensu.ca/grads/bedore.asp>

Hilary @ <http://geog.queensu.ca/grads/dugan.asp>

Dr. Brian Osborne has won The Jim Bennett Achievement Award. This award is presented annually by the Kingston Branch of the Queen's University Alumni Association to honour Kingstonians who have made outstanding achievements in careers, sport, the arts, or volunteer endeavours.

<http://geog.queensu.ca/faculty/osborne.asp>

10. U Waterloo Geographer Named One of 40 Under 40

<http://news.therecord.com/article/493618>

Dr. Daniel Scott, a professor in Geography and Environmental Management, has been named one of Waterloo Region's 40 Under 40 for his research into climate change and its effects on tourism. Scott, who did a master's degree in geography at UW before going to York for a PhD, chairs an expert team on climate and tourism in a partnership between the World Meteorological Organization and the World Tourism Organization.

11. Queen's Undergraduate Geographers Present at "Inquiry@Queen's"

<http://library.queensu.ca/inforef/inquiryprogram.pdf>

Inquiry@Queen's is the 3rd Annual Undergraduate Research Conference. Presentations made by geography students include: Thomas Beck, "Defining, Constructing, and Communicating Heritage at a "Living History" Museum: The Case of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village"; Yolanda Weima, "Algonquin Provincial Park as Policed Space"; Allison Neil, "Vegetation Effects on Soil Properties in the Monteagle Sandy Loam Series: Implications for Land-use Change Presenter"; Anthony Bassutt, "An Examination of the Use of Salix arctica for Dendrochronological Studies in the Arctic"; and, Evangeline Fisher, "Temperature Dependence of Carbon Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide and Methane Exchange in High Arctic Mineral Soils: Implications for Feedbacks to a Warming Climate Presenter".

12. SFU's Jennifer Hyndman on Canada's Refugee System

<http://www.thestar.com/article/592978>

Jennifer Hyndman, associate professor of geography at Simon Fraser University, explained that anyone can make a refugee claim, but not all claims are accepted. If it can be proven that a person has a serious criminal record or has participated in war, they are ineligible, said Hyndman by email. She also explained that the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) tends to favour people who are "coming from a country with a government known to violate basic human rights ... such individuals have a higher chance of being accepted."

13. UVic Geography Summer Course on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS: Human Responses and the Politics of AID is a course designed to critically introduce students to the impact and influence of the myriad human responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The course will run for six weeks in July/August 2009, and is open to upper-level undergraduate and graduate students. Queries can be directed to Professor Jutta Gutberlet, Department of Geography <jutttag@uvic.ca>

14. Geographer of the Week: Suzanne Briggs, Ryerson University

http://www.ryerson.ca/news/news/General_Public/20090206_RamsAthleti.html

Suzanne Briggs, at 4th year geographic analysis student in the Department of Geography was honoured at

Sports and Recreation's Platinum Student-Athletes Breakfast hosted by Ryerson's President Sheldon Levy. Briggs has been named a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Academic All-Canadian every year she's been at Ryerson. In 2008 she won the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) East Division's Community Service Award for making outstanding contributions to her community church, organizing a charity soccer tournament to raise funds for the food bank at Ryerson and volunteering as a student academic mentor for three years.

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations:

Nathaniel Aguda. 2009. 'Bringing Food Home: A Study on the Changing Nature of Household Interaction with Urban Food Markets in Accra, Ghana'. Unpublished PhD. Dissertation. Department of Geography, Queen's University. Supervisor: Dr. Barry Riddell.

16. Other "Geographical" News

Queen's University the Latest to Report Budget Cuts

<http://www.queensu.ca/principal/speech/reporttocommunity09-02-26.html>

Queen's University announced there will be a 15% budget cut across all academic and administrative units over the next 3 years. The cuts will mean salary freezes and constrained hiring. For example, 47 faculty positions will be reduced from the university's arts and science faculty.

Ontario Announces \$52 million for New Graduate Spaces

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/CanadaWorld/2009/02/27/8557306.html>

The Ontario government announced \$51.6 million in funding to create 1,925 new masters and 1,373 new PhD spaces at the province's universities. 75% of the new spaces will be awarded to Ontario's 7 largest research universities.

British Explorers Begin Survey of Canada's Arctic Sea-Ice Cap

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/03/01/north-seaice.html?ref=rss>

Three British explorers have launched an international scientific expedition to the North Pole to measure how quickly the Arctic Ocean's sea-ice cover may be melting. The explorers left Resolute Bay in Canada's Arctic by plane on Saturday on the way to the North Pole ice cap. The data the team gathers will be sent back to scientists in the United States for analysis, the scientists said.

BC Terrain, Soil, and Ecosystem Mapping Databases Online

http://www.forrex.org/publications/streamline/ISS40/Streamline_Vol12_No2_art3.pdf

The Soil, Terrain, and Ecosystem Mapping Project Boundary Index was published to the LRDW—the provincial data repository managed by GeoBC. This layer shows project boundaries and attributes for terrestrial ecosystem, predictive ecosystem, sensitive eco systems inventory, and terrain mapping projects.

Earth-Observing Landsat 5 Turns 25

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090302112924.htm>

Like a trusty watch counting up the minutes, the Landsat 5 satellite keeps on ticking, orbit after orbit around Earth. Well beyond its design lifetime of 15,000 orbits, the satellite is still observing the Earth after 25 years -- 22 beyond its three-year primary mission lifetime. Some attribute the satellite's longevity to over-engineering. Others say it's a long run of good luck. Whatever the reason, no one who attended the satellite's March 1984 launch could have expected it would still be working today.

UArctic Atlas Launched

<http://atlas.uarctic.org>

The UArctic Atlas provides a visual and geographic overview of the Arctic region, including its physical environment and sociocultural life. The atlas is organized into five general categories, such as Natural Resources; Climate, Environment, and Ecosystems; and People, Cultures, and Societies. Within each category, one will find various map layers which can be viewed either in a map viewer, in a browser, or opened in Google Earth.

“All About Frozen Ground” Web Site Released

<http://nsidc.org/frozensground/>

All About Frozen Ground offers comprehensive information about the importance of frozen ground. Frozen ground and permafrost (or ground that stays frozen for at least two years) are key to our understanding of climate, frozen ground ecosystems, and the interaction between land and atmosphere.

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