GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. 2009 WDCAG Meeting Hosted by Vancouver Island University

The Annual Meeting of the Western Division of Canadian Association of Geographers was held on March 4-7, 2009. Hosted by the Department of Geography at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, British Columbia, the conference was attended by almost 300 delegates from all corners of the Division. Some of the conference action is captured on the CAGView photo page address given above. Images from past CAG meetings can be found at: http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/cagview.html

2. Queen's Betsy Donald's “From Kraft to Craft” Working Paper
http://martinprosperity.org/media/pdfs/From_Kraft_to_Craft-B_Donald.pdf

Betsy Donald, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Queen's University, working paper "From Kraft to Craft: Innovation and Creativity in Ontario's Food Economy" was released as part of the University of Toronto Martin Prosperity Institute Working Paper Series exploring Ontario's Current Economic Challenges and Opportunities. Professor Donald's policy brief, “A New Menu for Ontario's Food Economy” was selected as a policy insight for the week of February 16th. See:
http://martinprosperity.org/insights/insight/a-new-menu-for-ontarios-food-economy

3. Mapping for a Better Tomorrow at UT Mississauga
http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/fileadmin/t3geo/files/Mapping_for_a_Better_Tomorrow.pdf

It's all about how you look at things. This is one lesson that third-year student Vnhson Tran learned by working on the project "Mapping for a Better Tomorrow: Geographies of Poverty and Prosperity in Mississauga," as part of U of T Mississauga's Research Opportunity Program, which allows students to collaborate with faculty on research projects for course credit. This project, supervised by geography professor Kathi Wilson, responded to the East Mississauga Community Health Centre's need for a study on the relationship between services and poverty levels in its vicinity and in Mississauga as a whole.

4. The Public Professor in Lethbridge
http://www.lethbridgeherald.com/content/blogcategory/33/92/9/9/

The Public Professor is a weekly column written by members of the faculty of the University of Lethbridge, on a wide range of topics from biology to history, geography to anthropology and more. It is the brain-child of Dan Johnson, professor of environmental science in the Department of Geography and a Canada Research Chair, and James Linville, an associate professor in the Department of
5. Ryerson Geography Professors Get in the Game

Their opponents may be younger, fitter and faster, but the RyeProfs have heart on their side. The faculty/staff team is the only one of its kind in Ryerson's student-dominated intramural ice hockey league. The RyeProfs roster includes Geography Professors Wayne Forsythe and David Atkinson.

6. Spaces, Places and Faces - Geographic Radio on the web at Carleton
http://spacesplacesandfaces.ca/

Spaces, Places and Faces is produced by students of the Carleton University Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. SPF digs a little deeper behind headlines you may not even have read or heard about in the mainstream media, examining issues of people and the environment, identity, climate change, and other topics that relate to the Earth as the home of humanity. SPF is broadcast Thursdays at 7 am live over the Internet at www.ckcufm.com

7. UWO Geographer Phil Stooke Has Asteroid Named After Him
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/172996_Stooke

Physics and Astronomy professor Paul Wiegert honoured Western's Geography professor Phil Stooke by naming a newly discovered asteroid after him. Asteroid "172996 Stooke" has an orbit between planets Mars and Venus. Professor Stooke has recently published a book "The International Atlas of Lunar Exploration".

8. Ryerson Geography Prof's Map Tool Lets Citizens Have Their Say
http://www.ryersonline.ca/articles/3026/1/Geography-profs-map-tool-lets-citizens-have-their-say/Page1.html

Claus Rinner, assistant geography professor and program director for the master of spatial analysis graduate program at Ryerson, created a tool which allows citizens to participate in a discussion-based online forum about environmental events occurring anywhere on a map. ArgooMap looks similar to Google Maps and the map itself serves as the foundation for discussions.

9. UNBC Haida Gwaii Field School May 2009
http://www.unbc.ca/assets/geography/2009_04_haida_gwaii.jpg

UNBC Geography professor Greg Halseth, along with ORTM faculty members Zoe Meletis & Pat Maher, is leading a group of students west of Prince George to Haida Gwaii in April & May 2009. The Geography Program is committed to offering a field school option every year.

10. University of Saskatchewan Offers Geography in Prague
http://www.usask.ca/geography/prague/

The Department of Geography and Planning is offering two Spring Intersession sections of a seminar/field class in architecture, urban design and planning in Central Europe. The field class involves an historical review and observation of architectural styles preserved at Prague, and also includes side trips to the southern Czech Republic, to Vienna and to Lower Austria. Students from other institutions wishing to participate in the field trip may apply for admission if their home institution allows for a transfer of credit.

11. Live WebCam from the U Alberta Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
http://easweb.eas.ualberta.ca/page/82

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has installed a new Axis 223M camera on the University of Alberta's H.M. Tory Building. The camera records and stores visual weather and river conditions every 15 minutes. Images are archived at EAS Digital Imaging Facility and then transmitted to the EAS web-server and displayed on this web-page.

12. UWaterloo Alumni Fights Crime with Geomatics
http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/geomatics/admissions/profiles/janicelee.html

Janice Lee graduated from UW in 2005 with a degree in Geography and a Diploma of Excellence in Geographic Information Systems. She now works for the Durham Regional Police Service as a Crime Analyst. She works GIS and statistics to identifying areas of criminal activity and produce analytical reports for members to use in investigations and policing operations.

13. Student's Guide to Making Sense in Geography
http://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780195431384.html
The 4th edition of “Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing” has been published by Oxford University Press. The book outlines the general principles of style, grammar, and usage, while covering such issues as how to prepare research proposals and reports, how to carry out lab and field work, and how to illustrate one's work. Co-authored by Canadian geographers David Knight and Dianne Draper, this edition has new material on evaluating Internet sources and avoiding plagiarism.

14. WLU Geography Faculty 1955 to 2005

Geography has been a part of Wilfrid Laurier University since its earliest years. A few geography courses were offered already in the 1950s and students could get an honours degree in geography by transferring to the University of Western Ontario for their final two years. Dr. Helen Parsons has compiled a table listing the TWLU Geography Faculty from 1955 to 2005. An brief introduction to the departmental history compiled by Dr. Alfred Hecht is available at http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=149&p=12575

15. Geographer of the Week: Steven Tufts, York University
http://www.yorku.ca/geograph/Profiles/Tufts.htm

Steven Tufts is recognized for his role in working with community groups to convince the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) that large scale retail, as proposed by SmartCentres and Toronto Film Studios, was not appropriate for Eastern Avenue in Leslieville. The 58-day hearing lasted from May to October 2008, and the decision of the OMB Board was made public on March 4, 2009. The City Institute at York University was involved in the case via two expert witnesses who represented the interests of East Toronto Community Coalition, Steven Tufts as an economic geographer and Ute Lehrer from the Faculty of Environmental Studies. For details of the OMB ruling see: http://www.insidetoronto.com/article/64752

16. Mémoires de maîtrise et thèses de doctorat: Universite de Montréal
http://www.geog.umontreal.ca/recherches/memoirestheses/index.html


17. Other “Geographical” News

Eduroam: Access the Internet Securely at Other Canadian Universities
https://wiki.bc.net/atl-conf/display/CANEDUROAM/Canada+Eduroam+Participating+Institutions

If you are travelling to any one of more than 10 participating Canadian institutions, including Carleton, Western, UBC and others, your home university NetID and password will give you secure wireless Internet access when you are on those campuses. The Canada eduroam wiki provides a full list of participating member sites.

IGU Commission on Geographical Information Science C04.13 NEWSLETTER 1/2009
The mission of the Commission on Geographic Information Science (GISc) is to advance the study of geographical information science internationally, and to enhance the role and contributions of geographers in the development of Geographic Information Science and of Geographic Information Science in the development of geography. In this newsletter, in addition to details of conferences, details of the members of the in-coming steering committee and what the Commission’s objectives are for the next four years are outlined.

The Wild Side: Letting Scientists Off the Leash

Science at its most interesting is provocative, surprising, counter-intuitive and difficult to plan — and those are very difficult values to institutionalize in an organization or bureaucracy of any size. As we consider the monumental challenges facing our generation and look to science for solutions, it would behoove us to remember that it is almost impossible to predict where the next great discoveries will be made — and thus we should invest broadly and let scientists off their leashes.

Public Safety Canada Research Fellowships in Honour of Stuart Nesbitt White
These awards are available for PhD students who have completed their coursework and are conducting research in the area of Emergency Management. This includes work in the areas of one or more of the four pillars of Emergency Management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Studies focused on the all hazards approach with regard to EM are encouraged, with cross disciplinary / multi-disciplinary studies in these areas preferred. Preferred disciplines include regional planning, environmental studies, and geography.

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