



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UVic's Jutta Gutberlet on Social, Environmental Benefits of Bottle Depots

<http://www.timescolonist.com/business/fp/Bottle+depot+social+environmental+benefits/1369574/story>

Why are we concerned about the proposed closure of Victoria's downtown bottle depot? The people who are involved in collecting cans and bottles call themselves "binners." They are resource recoverers who are both housed and unhoused citizens, who usually live and shop in this neighbourhood. Their work contributes to reducing the amount of waste, which would otherwise go into the landfill and would cost more money to the city.

2. McMaster PhD Graduate Lisa Zhang Receives Best PhD Thesis Award

McMaster PhD Graduate Dr. Yongqin (Lisa) Zhang Zhang was selected for the Canadian Remote Sensing Society Best PhD Thesis Award. Lisa is currently NSERC post-doctoral fellow at York University. CRSS at: <http://www.casi.ca/canadianremotesensingsociety.aspx>

3. 46th Annual Geography Conference at University of Calgary

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=announcements&style=1&this=105>

The Department of Geography at the University of Calgary is hosting the 46th Annual Geography Conference on Friday, March 20, 2009. Ten thesis and three MGIS presentations are tentatively scheduled. Steve Adam is presenting a key note address on "How to work less and make more money using your geography degree".

4. McMaster's School of Geography and Earth Sciences Weather Station

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/story.cfm?id=5976>

McMaster University unveiled its new weather station, which sits on top of the Burke Science Building. The McMaster Weather Station will provide up-to-date weather information, such as temperature, humidity, precipitation, radiation, atmospheric pressure and wind data. The station is operated by the Hydrometeorology and Climatology Lab in the School of Geography and Earth Science. Current weather at: <http://geomedia.mcmaster.ca/muws/index.php>

5. Lethbridge U Geography Hosts Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing

<http://people.uleth.ca/~remotesensing/csrs-sct2009/>

The 30th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing will be held at the University of Lethbridge, June 22-25, 2009. The conference will feature a number of high profile national and international speakers, several Plenary Forums, or "Firesides" to encourage discussion and exchange on key topics of current interest.

6. U Waterloo Grad Tom Arnold Wildlife Rescue Team Manager for WWF

<http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/cooljobs/arnold01.html>

Tom Arnold graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Geography. He is now the Wildlife Rescue Team Manager for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada. His job includes everything from designing fundraising campaigns and appeals for key conservation projects, to overseeing the administrative processes related to monthly giving.

7. UNBC/UBC Geographer appointed to National University of Singapore

http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats_new/alumni_news.html

Simon Springer (UNBC BA Geography '03) has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. In February 2009, Simon finished writing his doctoral dissertation, "Neoliberalizing Violence: (Post)Marxian Political Economy, Poststructuralism, and the Production of Space in 'Postconflict' Cambodia" for the Department of Geography at UBC

8. U Calgary Geographer on Mall Report that Enrages Chinese Calgarians

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Mall+report+enrages+Chinese+Calgarians/1363592/story.html>

Members of Calgary's Chinese community are enraged after a consultant's report commissioned by the city said Calgary should avoid the development of "Asian" malls that serve only one ethnic group. Byron Miller, a geography and urban studies professor at the University of Calgary, said it's often up to ethnic communities themselves -- not the city -- to decide whether to isolate themselves.

9. McMaster's Susan Elliott on Whether "To Endorse Naturopathy is to Reject Science"

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Health/endorse+naturopathy+reject+science/1330623/story.html>

In BC a debate is brewing around expanding the scope of practice of naturopaths to allow the prescription of

drugs and the diagnosis and treatment of allergies, including potentially life-threatening food allergies. Do we want a system based on scientific principles that can be counted on to be reproducible and predictable, or one based on anecdote and belief?

10. Cities, Aboriginals Linked says U Saskatchewan Geographer Evelyn Peters

<http://www.leaderpost.com/Cities+aboriginals+linked/1326806/story.html>

With Saskatchewan's aboriginal population growing at a fast pace, people seem to recognize that the future of cities on the Prairies is closely linked to the future of aboriginal people, says a University of Saskatchewan geography professor. "They can make a tremendously positive contribution to Prairie cities, both in terms of the future labour force and in terms of diverse and creative cities with different cultures and different perspectives".

11. McMaster U Hosts 13th International Symposium in Medical Geography

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/~img/index.html>

The School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University is co-sponsoring the 13th International Symposium in Medical Geography, July 12-17, 2009. The symposium is aimed at the global health community in general and medical geography and other social sciences related to health, in particular.

12. Toronto Star's Unique Map of Toronto Neighbourhoods

<http://www.thestar.com/article/598502>

In all great cities, neighbourhoods matter. They're part of our mental geography, where we live, shop and play – where, no matter how old we are, something formative happens to us. That's why, with the help of its readers, the Star has been developing what they hope will be a comprehensive map of Toronto's 170 neighbourhoods.

13. York University's Lucia Lo Heads York Infrastructure Project

<http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=12161>

A team of York University-led experts investigating the availability of infrastructure and services to recent immigrants, low-income residents and seniors in York Region is finding that funding for services is not keeping pace with growth in the area. The findings have implications for suburbs across Canada, according to principal investigator and York geography Professor Lucia Lo.

14. UT Geographer Uncovers How Military Shapes Canadian Culture

<http://www.news.utoronto.ca/social-sciences-business-law/geography-professor-uncovers-how-militar>

While the Canadian military seems remote from many of our lives, geography professor Deborah Cowen has shown that it has, in fact, played a major role in shaping our social landscape. After combing through restricted files and interviewing past and present policy-makers, Cowen discovered that this unspoken civilian-military connection has influenced Canadian identity for decades, with many of Canada's social programs stemming from the armed forces.

15. Geographer of the Week: Alison Blay-Palmer, Wilfrid Laurier University

http://www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=2229&ct_id=1919&f_id=149

Dr. Alison Blay-Palmer is an Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University where she does research in alternative food systems and sustainable economic development. Dr. Blay-Palmer has over a decade of research experience related to sustainable food systems. While her early research focused on innovation and policy in sustainable food systems, more recent work uses the broader lens of food systems as a vehicle

for building healthy communities. The last three projects she completed were directly related to healthy food systems.

16. Recent Theses/Dissertations: McMaster University

http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/geo/graduate/graduate_thesis.html

Benson, A. 2009. Concentrations of combustion derived contaminants in the sediments of remote lakes. Recent trends and implications for site assessment. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Bonin, J. 2008. Individual shopping trip durations. is there a metropolitan/non-metropolitan divide? Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Cowie, B. 2008. Elucidation of microbial carbon cycling in contaminated environments using compound specific isotope analysis. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

DeMiglio, L. 2008. Sense of place, sense of time: a mixed methods study of two neighbourhoods in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Ferdous, F. 2008. Characterization of nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide ambient concentrations over an urban area through land use regression modelling: an application to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Haddad, C.B. 2008. Assessing the long-term health effects of childhood exposure to adverse air quality: case study from Hamilton, Ontario (1975 - 2005). Unpublished PhD dissertation. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Krezoski, G. 2008. Paleo-environmental reconstruction of pre-historic submerged shorelines and coastal environments of Liman Tepe/Clazomenae, Turkey. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Lee, M. 2008. Limitations and alternative mitigation procedures in potential field interpretation and processing: An investigation through three Canadian case studies. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Luchese, M. 2009. Peatland Resoration: An Ecohydrological Assessment. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Neligan, D. 2008. Smoking prevalence and cessation amongst immigrants in Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

Ryan, J. 2008. Population Synthesis Techniques: Creating Input Data for Microsimulation Models. Unpublished MA thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

van Hengstum, P. 2008. Paleoenvironmental analysis using thecamoebians and foraminifera in Mexican phreatic anchialine caves: a focus on Carwash (Actun Ha) Cave System, Mexico. Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography & Earth Sciences, McMaster University.

17. Other “Geographical” News

Small Classes Won't Count at the University of Waterloo

A memo from University of Waterloo provost Amit Chakma this week tells faculty members that university is taking steps to discourage small classes — those with fewer than 10 students — at the undergraduate level. "To that end, the Deans' Council endorsed the following: 'Beginning fall 2009, undergraduate courses of 10

or fewer students will not be counted in the teaching load of any faculty member.'

Let's play Cut the Granting Councils!

<http://blog.macleans.ca/2009/02/23/lets-play-cut-the-granting-councils/#more-38265>

In a series of e-mails sent to stakeholders last month, the presidents of SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR provide details of cuts mandated by the recent federal budget.

Canada's Earth Scientists Need Funding: Letter to PM Harper

http://www.thehilltimes.ca/html/cover_index.php?display=story&full_path=/2009/march/9/letter8/&c=1

The Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (which includes the CAG) is quite concerned about the announced budget cuts for the three granting councils. An open letter to Prime Minister Harper was submitted to the Hill Times.

Rising Sea Levels Set To Have Major Impacts Around The World

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090310104742.htm>

Research presented at the Climate Change Congress in Copenhagen shows that the upper range of sea level rise by 2100 could be about one metre. In the lower end of the spectrum it looks increasingly unlikely that sea level rise will be much less than 50 cm by 2100.

No More Glaciers in Glacier National Park (USA) by 2020?

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/03/090302-glaciers-melting.html>

"It's an oft-repeated statistic that the glaciers at Montana's Glacier National Park will disappear by the year 2030. But Daniel Fagre who works at Glacier, says the park's namesakes will be gone about ten years ahead of schedule, endangering the region's plants and animals."

How to Ask for a Reference Letter

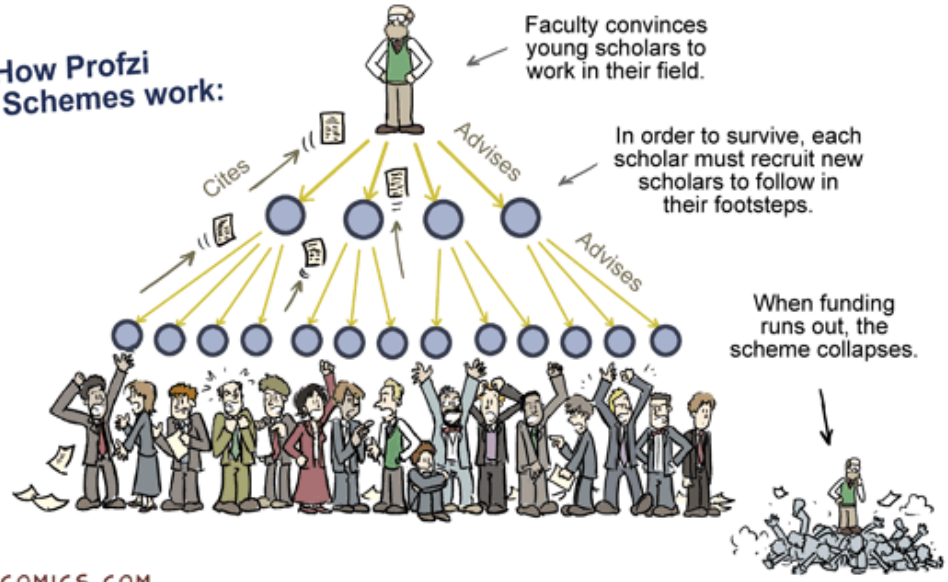
<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/how-to-ask-for-a-reference-letter.aspx>

It is one of the most critical steps in a graduate student's path to permanent academic employment, yet ironically it's also one of the most mysterious. Asking a professor for a letter, or more likely many letters, of reference can be stressful, and rarely are students instructed on proper etiquette. Fortunately, the process doesn't have to be intimidating.

18. 'Geographical' Humour

BEWARE THE PROFZI SCHEME DON'T GET SCAMMED!

How Profzi Schemes work:



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WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

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