



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. AAG 2009 Las Vegas Success Stories

UBC geographer **Sara Koopman** won the Ethics, Justice and Human Rights AAG Specialty group student paper competition.

Queen's University geographer Nathaniel Lewis placed 2nd in the AAG Population Specialty Group Paper Competition for "Dispelling the Big-City Myth: Location American Male Same-Sex Couples in the 21st Century" at the recent AAG Meetings. Nathaniel was also a "star" at World Geography Bowl and placed 4th in the individual category at the AAG World Geography Bowl competition.

2. Queen's Student Geographers Awarded Grants

<http://geog.queensu.ca/newsletter/13%20April%202009%20Newsletter.pdf>

Heather Hall, Nathaniel Lewis and **Giselle Valarezo** have been awarded the Graduate Dean's Doctoral Field Travel Grant. **Kirsten Greer** and **Heather Hall** were awarded 2008-2009 SSHRC CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements.

3. WLU's Margaret Walton-Roberts in Economist Intelligence Report

http://a330.g.akamai.net/7/330/25828/20080723140615/graphics.eiu.com/upload/WesternUnion_main_Jul10.pdf

Remittances from migrant workers are fast outpacing official aid flows and even foreign direct investment as a source of external finance for many developing countries. Margaret Walton-Roberts study in Punjab state in India found that many overseas Punjabis are from the third-tier Jat caste. Jat Sikh families tend to receive the majority of remittances, and the benefits of religious and community projects that these remittances support.

4. University of Ottawa's Barry Wellar Sounds Alarm Over OMB

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/fp/Expert+sounds+alarm+over/1493454/story.html>

Professor emeritus of urban planning, **Barry Wellar**, at the University of Ottawa, says if the OMB, a provincial agency whose members can override city planning decisions, can ride into town and repudiate elected representatives on growth that could cost taxpayers millions of dollars, there's no point in doing long-term planning in Ontario.

5. University of Toronto Faculty Receive SSHRC Awards

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/>

Faculty members in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto recently received the following SSHRC awards: Susannah Bunce (Standard Research Grant) "Planning for Urban Community Land Trusts", \$49,717; Tenley Conway (Standard Research Grant) "New Urbanism as Green Urbanism: Exploring Socio-Ecological Relationships in Toronto and Calgary", \$74,097; and Alan Walks (PI), Ron Buliung, Paul Hess and Matti Siemiatycki (Co-applicants) (Standard Research Grant) "Automobility and Urban Canada: Politics, Spatial Mismatches, & Implications for Citizenship", \$158,995.

6. McMaster U's Carolyn Eyles Awarded OUSA Teaching Award

http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/geo/faculty/eyles_c/index.html

Carolyn Eyles was awarded the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Teaching Award. The OUSA teaching award is presented to an outstanding professor who has displayed excellent teaching quality and an expert ability to engage their classroom in the learning process. Furthermore, recipients demonstrate an ability to foster learning in a variety of ways, demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence as one part of overall student success.

7. U Guelph's Carla Giddings Awarded the O.P. Dwivedi Graduate Prize

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/geography/>

Graduate student Carla Giddings has been awarded the O.P. Dwivedi Graduate Prize for International Development for her Masters Thesis entitled "Gender, Place and Transgression: Youth Negotiations of Gender Identities in Urban Botswana". The prize is awarded to an outstanding student based on their overall scholastic achievements and of the practical and social significance of their research, which applies social science theory and/or method to the study of development, administration or environmental issues in the Third World.

8. Brock U's Alun Hughes Comments on Thorold's First Cemetery

<http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1492134>

Long before it was flooded to serve as a reservoir for the Welland Canal, the property near Lakeview Cemetery was a burial ground for some of Thorold's earliest settlers. Local historian and Brock University geography professor **Alun Hughes** said one published report pegged the number of graves in the old cemetery "in the 900s."

9. Wilfrid Laurier University Retired Geographers Club

http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=149&p=14083

The WLU Department of Geography has grown and developed since its early beginnings. During any one year, it teaches over 4,000 undergraduate course students and has 500 full-time undergraduate majors. Since 1962 twelve faculty members have retired from the university.

10. UWO's Brian Luckman Presents Tree Rings as Temperature Proxies Webcast

<http://www.insinc.com/onlinetv/gussow2008/luckman/>

Brian Luckman from the Department of the Geography at the University of Western Ontario presented an oral paper at the 2008 Gussow-Nuna Conference in Banff, Alberta. In this podcast of his presentation, Brian describes how tree-rings are providing new, annually resolved and precisely dated proxy climate records for large areas of the earth's land surface and parts of the adjacent oceans.

11. U Guelph's Alice Hovorka Awarded Humboldt Research Fellowship

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/geography/faculty/hovorka.html>

Alice Hovorka, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph has been awarded the Humboldt Research Fellowship to be held at University of Freiburg, Germany during her sabbatical year 2009-2010. The fellowship will allow her to continue work on urban food security in Southern Africa, and pursue new research directions in the realm of critical animal studies.

12. McMaster U's Walter Peace Wins President's Award for Teaching Excellence

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/geo/faculty/peace/index.html>

Associate Professor Walter Peace of the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University has been awarded the President's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009. The award recognizes continuing excellence and achievement in classroom or personal instruction. It recognizes an individual whose personal teaching style and classroom activities are judged to have been of exceptional merit in promoting understanding, motivating students to learn, and/or enhancing student's skills, whether graduate or undergraduate.

13. University of Toronto Departmental AAG 2009 Trip to the Valley of Fire

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/about/2009-valley-of-fire/report>

Following an open departmental call in November 2008 to combine the March AAG conference in Vegas with camping in Nevada's Valley of Fire, a group of faculty and students from U of T descended on the desert and the oldest state park in Nevada, just a hour out of the city. The group stayed the week and hiked the valleys and many of the ridges of this extraordinary state park.

14. Geographer of the Week: James Abbott, Nipissing University

http://www.nipissingu.ca/geography/james_abbott.asp

Dr. James Abbott is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Nipissing University. He completed his BSc at Dalhousie University, an MSc at University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and a PhD at Duke University. He is interested in decisions people make (also known as livelihood strategies) to use resources in highly variable environments. James is specially interested in the role fishing plays as a source of food and income in sub-Saharan Africa.

15. Other “Geographical” News

CanMatrix - Print Ready, Digital Topographic Maps of Canada

<http://geogratis.cgdi.gc.ca/geogratis/en/product/search.do?id=34325>

CanMatrix - Print Ready was produced by scanning federal-government topographic maps at the scale of 1:50 000 and 1:250 000.

Geography Development Alliance Summer Workshop

<http://aag.org/GFDA/earlycareer.htm>

This workshop is for graduate students and faculty who are just beginning their careers in higher education. The one-week program focuses on topics which are frequently the source of the greatest stress in the first years of a college or university appointment. June 14-20, 2009. University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

Saoyú and Ehdacho National Historic Site in N.W.T. to be Protected

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/04/14/deline-sites.html?ref=rss>

The federal government is taking steps toward creating and protecting Canada's largest national historic site, on the shores of Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories. The site, to be called the Saoyú and Ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada, covers 5,565 square kilometres — roughly the size of Prince Edward Island — on two peninsulas at Great Bear Lake.

Guiding Principles for Graduate Student Supervision

<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/deans-podcast-episode-5.aspx>

In this podcast Carolyn Watters talks to Kevin Vessey, dean of graduate studies at St. Mary's University about CAGS's recently published Guiding Principles for Graduate Student Supervision. Dr. Vessey takes you through each of the 12 guiding principles and comments on steps that your graduate faculty may want to consider.

Divers hope to prove Lake Ontario shipwreck is flagship of War of 1812

http://qnc.queensu.ca/story_loader.php?id=49e619dd69b2c

Volunteer divers hope to resolve once and for all whether the remains of a 200-year-old shipwreck off the coast of Kingston is a flagship from the War of 1812. The shipwreck is lying in about 50 feet of water in the mouth of Navy Bay. Organizers expect that about three weeks of people diving almost daily will be required to accurately survey the wreck.

Why Do Men Like to Barbecue?

<http://www.trentu.ca/newsDetails.aspx?Channel=%2fChannels%2fAdmissions+Content&WorkflowItemID=6B04DFD9-0BAA-4134-A42>

Trent University history professor Dr. Christopher Dummitt has revealed how barbecuing was actually a way of renewing traditional inequalities between men and women for the suburban age. Professor Dummitt suggests that there is a lot more going on underneath the surface of this seemingly innocuous backyard ritual.

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