



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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1. SFU Constructs Interactive Research Map

<http://www.sfu.ca/geography/research/index.html>

The Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University is constructing an interactive map that shows the various locations past and present where people in the department conduct their research. Mouse activated links provide a brief description and access to a website link.

2. U Saskatchewan Geographers Create First Institutional Green Roof

<http://www.usask.ca/communications/ocn/05-sep-09/news12.shtml>

In a unique joint project, the U of S Facilities Management Division has teamed up with geography professor Bill Archibold and students to create the first "green roof" on any institutional building in the province. A series of 16 shallow 10-ft-square planter boxes now adorn the rooftop of the University's Dentistry Building – and the high-flying vegetation is intended to be a three-year experiment to test the effects and feasibility of green roofs on the Prairies.

3. Retired UT Geographer Judith Stamp at York U Climate Change Conference

http://www.excal.on.ca/cms2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7164

The idea of the conference originated in Brazil, when those people living in the southern hemisphere wanted a way to share their local experience regarding climate change with people living in the northern hemisphere. Also discussed was how climate change will affect everyone. “The planet is one and humanity is one and huge differences, whether it is in consumption or in differences between north and south, are not sustainable and we need to do something about it,” said **Judith Stamp**, a retired ecologist and geographer from University of Toronto.

4. U Waterloo Geographer Alexander Brenning Warns of Threats to Rock Glaciers

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46619>

An assistant professor of geography at the University of Waterloo, **Alexander Brenning** gave a lecture this week on the little-known rock glaciers to geology students at the University of Chile. Brenning explained that rock glaciers are important natural sources of frozen water that contribute to the availability of water supplies during the southern hemisphere summer. He found that they are threatened not only by mining operations, but by climate change as well.

5. Nipissing U Geographer Named Carleton U Provost and Vice-President Academic

<http://www2.carleton.ca/newsroom/news-releases/ricketts-named-pr ovost-and-vice-president-ac>

Carleton University’s Board of Governors has named Dr. Peter Ricketts, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost. Dr. Ricketts, who is Vice-President Academic and Research and professor of Geography at Nipissing University, will take up his post at Carleton on July 1, 2009. Dr. Ricketts is an expert in ocean and coastal management and strategic environmental assessment. He earned a BA (Hons) from the University of Nottingham and a PhD from the University of Southampton.

6. McGill Geographers Provide Google Portal to Show Where They Work

<http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/research.html>

The mix of research interests of professors in the Department of Geography at McGill University reflects a wide range of expertise. Field work is an important component of many research programs, and the department is features a Google map showing where this is undertaken.

7. UVic Geographers are Creatures of Habitat Participants

<http://mapping.uvic.ca/node/619>

A number of UVic geographers involved with community mapping took the Campus Community Green Map project final event. Seven hundred Grade 6 students, their teachers and TA’s blasted through the green map station in groups of 15, 10 minutes per group. In that 10 minutes, each student identified sites on the Saanich Peninsula that were special to them in four themes: green spaces (inland), coastal habitats (ocean), wildlife viewing (location and species) and special places (family historical significance, special memories).

8. UT Mississauga Department Chair Appointments

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/geo.0.html>

Amrita Daniere has been re-appointed for one year as Chair of the Department of Geography, UTM, 1 July 2009-30 June 2010. She will also be serving as Vice-Dean, Graduate, during this period.

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/6692.html?fid=153>

Kathi Wilson begins a five year term as Chair of the Department of Geography, UTM, effective July 2010. Kathi will be on sabbatical leave 1 July 2009-30 June 2010.

http://eratos.utm.utoronto.ca/wilson/index_files/index.htm

9. Mount Allison's MAD Scientists

<http://www.mta.ca/news/index.php?id=1984>

At Mount Allison's Dendrochronology Lab, or MAD lab, in the Department of Geography and Environment, science and history go hand in hand. Trees can relay a wealth of historical information, according to dendrochronologist Dr. Colin Laroque. You just have to know how to read them. Even in parts of Canada with long histories of European settlement, such as the Maritimes, weather records only go back approximately 100 years. But says Dr. Laroque, "Some trees have been here for 400 years, so if you want to know climate conditions, you can go back and get an approximation of what it was like then."

10. Saint Mary's Catherine Conrad to Help Communities Protect Watersheds

<http://www.smu.ca/newsreleases/2009/09-04-27.html>

Dr. Catherine Conrad of Saint Mary's University will receive \$46,636 from the federal government to help create a sustainable community-based watershed monitoring program in Nova Scotia. According to Dr. Conrad, a Geography professor, there are already more than 50 community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the province of Nova Scotia, but their efforts are often frustrated by a lack of user-friendly monitoring tools, training manuals and workshops and integration into a decision-making or management structure.

11. Carleton's D.R. Fraser Taylor Brings Multi-Sensory Cartography Online

<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/newsletter/2009spring-printemps/taylor-eng.aspx>

D.R. Fraser Taylor of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University has begun groundbreaking work to produce a Cybercartographic Atlas of Antarctica and a cybercartographic product on Canada's Trade with the World. Taylor and his researchers are also working with Inuit communities in Nunavut and aboriginal communities in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence area, who are using the "living atlases" to pass on knowledge and information in ways tailored to their cultures.

12. University of Ottawa Geography Student Volunteering at Nepalese Orphanage

<http://www.standard-freeholder.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1541739>

St. Lawrence College students and faculty and a University of Ottawa geography student, will be volunteering in a destitute neighbourhood of Katmandu, Nepal. The volunteers are coming to help care for about 250 orphans at the Child Haven International site and a nearby hospital. The mission, which leaves Canada on May 7, was born out of interest in a previous St. Lawrence College mission to Ghana organized by Child Haven co-founder Dr. Nat Shaw.

13. U Windsor Geographer Hongcheng Zeng on Climate Effects of Tree-Killing Hurricanes

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/43244/description/Climatic_effects_of_tree-killing_h

Since 1851, hurricanes or tropical storms have caused damage along the Atlantic seaboard or Gulf Coast in every year except one. These storms have repeatedly pummeled wide swaths of coastal forests as well as large numbers of inland trees, says Hongcheng Zeng, an ecological geographer at the University of Windsor in Canada. During that time, hurricanes and tropical storms killed or damaged about 97 million trees annually and caused forests to lose about 53 million metric tons of biomass each year. That wood and vegetation will eventually decompose and release about 92 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

14. Geographer of the Week: Godwin Arku, University of Western Ontario

<http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/faculty/arkug/index.html>

Dr. Godwin Arku is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario. After graduating from the University of Ghana with a bachelor's degree in geography in 1998, Godwin studied economic geography at the University of Toronto before completing his PhD at McMaster University in 2005. Godwin's research spans 'urban' and 'economic' sub-division of human geography, especially as they relate to the transformation of urban systems in a changing global environment. He is also interested in issues of third world development. Also see:

http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/profiles/in_profile:godwin_arku_20080117440996/

15. Other "Geographical" News

Fossil Evidence of Missing Link in Canadian Arctic

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/090422132832.htm>

Researchers have found a fossil skeleton of a newly discovered carnivorous animal, *Puijila darwini*. New research suggests *Puijila* is a "missing link" in the evolution of the group that today includes seals, sea lions, and the walrus. Portions of the specimen were in deposits that accumulated in what was a crater lake in coastal Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada.

(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8012322.stm>)

Arctic Institute attends sovereignty operation in Nunavut

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/utoday/april22-09/sovereignty>

For the second year in a row, the University of Calgary was invited to participate in a sovereignty patrol on Ellesmere Island by the Canadian Armed forces. U of C Arctic experts play a critical role exploring the changes taking place in the North, and attending events such as Operation Nunavut the university, demonstrates its continuing commitment to the North.

16. Some not so "Geographical" News

Britney Spears no geographer

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/showbiz/2009-04/14/content_7675236.htm

Britney Spears forgot what city she was in on Sunday. The 27-year-old singer left the crowd at her show in San Jose, California, confused after greeting them with the words: "What's up Sacramento?" 40 minutes into her set.

'Geographers' debut album Innocent Ghosts

<http://www.myspace.com/geographermusic>

Innocent Ghosts, Geographer's debut album, kicks off with a killer single- 'Can't You Wait.' Powerful yet soft vocals from Michael Deni set a silky smooth, mornful tone. Lush synths, intense cello, and no frills percussion swirl around Deni's voice. Of course the band is also on YouTube for you to experience @ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMBphdmP8eU>

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