



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. Lavender Harris of York University Imagines Toronto

<http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/article/631552>

Doors Open promises to focus on the relationship between Toronto's literature and the city's buildings and neighbourhoods. "I don't know that the output is more prodigious than it has been in the past," says Amy Lavender Harris, a York University geography professor and author of the forthcoming book *Imagining Toronto*. "The difference is that we're paying more attention to it.

2. McGill Geography answers "What career can I get with a geography degree?"

<http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/other/jobsingeoq.html>

A geography degree is a fantastic opportunity to get a career in a diverse range of fields. Our students have gone on to become United Nations field researchers in Laos, environmental consultants in Toronto, science teachers in the US, geography professors in many parts of the world, UNHCR volunteers in Malaysia, policy analysts in Montreal, English teachers in Japan, firefighters in Ontario, health and social policy researchers in Montreal, and so on, and so on!

3. UBC Geographer Olav Slaymaker Elected as Senior IAG Fellow

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/people/index.php?action=2&cat=emeriti&memberID=300016>

Olav Slaymaker has been elected as a Senior Fellow of the International Association of Geomorphologists. This is yet another well-deserved recognition of Olav's important contributions in both scholarship and service to the field of Geomorphology, and more generally to the discipline of Geography, over a long and continuing career. He is a former President of the IAG, and co-editor of an IAG book on 21st Century Landscapes. He will be honoured as a newly-elected Senior Fellow of that organization at the 7th International Conference on Geomorphology in Melbourne in June 2009.

4. U Saskatchewan Offers Two New Undergraduate Courses in 2009

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/geography/news.php>

The Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Saskatchewan is offering two new courses. The first is Geography 329.3: Watershed Planning and Management instructed by Dr. Bob Patrick. The second course is Geography 398.3: Advanced Techniques in GIS: Hydrologic Applications taught by Dr. Mohammad Kamal.

5. U Lethbridge Geographer Tom Barchyn Wins Olav Slaymaker Award

<http://cgrq.geog.uvic.ca/oslay1.html>

Tom Barchyn, an MSc candidate in the Department of Geography, recently won the Olav Slaymaker Award for best student oral presentation at the joint meeting of the Canadian Quaternary Association and the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group. Tom presented preliminary results on his MSc research involving the "Surface controls on Aeolian sand transport in a cold-climate dunefield". This is the first time a ULeth student has won this national award.

6. Saint Mary's University Geography Honours Research Projects

<http://www.smu.ca/academic/arts/geography/research.html>

The Geography Department at Saint Mary's University has an impressive on-line listing of Honours Research Projects completed from 1979-present. Each listing links to the project title and an abstract.

7. University of Manitoba Ecotoxicology Research Group

<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~hansonm/Welcome.html>

The ecotoxicology program in the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba is focused on helping students better understand the nature and scope of environmental impacts from such common stressors as pesticides, metals, excess nutrients, and personal care products, to name but a few.

This involves characterizing their effects on organisms and ecosystems of interest, and being able to describe their behaviour in these ecosystems, to best understand the risk they pose. Their work and expertise is primarily in the field of freshwater ecosystems, though they do some terrestrial work at times.

8. Carleton's Geographers Participate on Climate Change and Renewable Energies Roundtable

<http://www2.carleton.ca/newsroom/psa/climate-day/>

Mike Brklacich and John Stone of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, are participating as panelists at a Climate Day roundtable on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Climate Day will feature a special lecture and roundtable entitled Climate change and renewable energies: Canadian, German and European perspectives from 6 to 8 pm in Room C164 of the Loeb Building. These events are supported, in part, by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany (see www.transatlantic-climate-bridge.org), the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, and a grant from the European Commission.

9. McMaster U's Lesley Warren Links Bacterial Resistance to Heavy Metals

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090423.campusGREENRESEARCH042209/BNStory/campus/>

Bacteria, the billions of microscopic creatures that live almost everywhere on the planet, are showing a dangerous step forward in their evolution, says Dr. Lesley Warren, professor of geography and earth sciences at Hamilton's McMaster University. They are increasingly becoming immune to even the most advanced antibiotics. Toxic, antibiotic-resistant strains are proliferating in waterways across Ontario, and their appearance in clinical settings is on the upswing, she says. Unless we find ways to prevent this strange mutation, the situation will get worse, she says.

10. Concordia U's Damon Matthews Recognized as Emerging Researcher

http://news.concordia.ca/main_story/014741.shtml

Louise Dandurand, Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies, at Concordia University announced that Damon Matthews of the Department of Geography as being recognized as the 2009 University Research Award Recipient in the Emerging Category. The University Research Awards were first created in 1998, to recognize and promote excellence in research and creative activity at Concordia University. Each awardee received a \$5,000 research grant and the privilege of holding the title of "Concordia University Research Fellow" for one year.

11. Dr. Richard (Dick) Irwin Ruggles, Founder of Queen's Geography Department

<http://geog.queensu.ca/Ruggles/index.htm>

Richard Irwin Ruggles was born in Toronto on 27 June 1923. In 1960, he was appointed to the Headship of the new department of Geography at Queen's, a position he held until 1969, and as Acting Head for two subsequent years. He retired in 1988 with the rank of Professor Emeritus. By this date, the department he had founded had grown from his original corporal's guard of half a dozen dedicated pioneer geographers into one of Canada's top departments with a complement of 20 or so faculty.

12. Top University of Manitoba Grad Recognizes Pivotal Geography Instructor

<http://myuminfo.umanitoba.ca/index.asp?sec=40&too=100&dat=5/14/2009&sta=3&wee=3&eve=8&npa=19311>

For Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources graduate Jeffrey Willows it was the constructive criticism that he received from human geography professor William Norton that he appreciated the most. Willows said when he hit university he fell into the habit of trying to impress his teachers with long wordy submissions. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, Norton called him to task on the habit. "He said, 'You are inebriated by the exuberance of your own verbosity,'" Willows recalled with a laugh. The point was made, elegantly.

13. University of Guelph Centre for Hydrogeomatics

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~hydrogeo/>

The Centre for Hydrogeomatics is a research centre based in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph, Canada. The Centre focussed on the development and application of geospatial technologies for studying hydro-geomorphic phenomenon. The research team includes faculty researchers, graduate students, and research associates.

14. Geographer of the Week: Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld, Simon Fraser University

http://www.sfu.ca/~ilja/CV_Ilja.html

Dr. Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University. Before coming to SFU Ilja completed a BSc and a MSc in Physical Geography at Vrije Universiteit, an International Masters Program in Environmental Science at the

University of Greenwich, a PhD at Oregon State University, and was a Post-doctoral Research Assistant at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Her research focuses on hillslope and watershed hydrology. Most of her work is field-based with active research projects in the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest and the the Panola Mountain Research Watershed.

15. Other “Geographical” News

Huntsville Learning Facility for Environmental and Ecological Sustainability

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Industry-Canada-987380.html>

The Town of Huntsville and the University of Waterloo, in co-operation with the federal government, announced the creation of a world-class research and learning facility for environmental and ecological sustainability, to be built in Huntsville, Ontario. The UW centre will deliver undergraduate and graduate courses and workshops on related topics. It will also offer training programs for mid-career professionals in such areas as ecosystem restoration, strategic environmental assessment, sustainable tourism, environmental planning and green business. The centre's research program will involve ecology, climate change, tourism, land-use planning and local economic development. The centre will service students, government agencies, universities, consultants and non-governmental organizations. The university anticipates that up to 3,000 researchers and students will use the facility annually. Many of them will work with a new Centre for Ecosystem Resilience and Adaption, which will be housed in the facility.

Vancouver Island Brain Bank Formed

<http://ring.uvic.ca/09may07/brainbank.html>

In April, the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (VICRA) was established with a formal agreement among the five publically funded Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions to come together in mobilizing research and knowledge to help local communities. The partners will identify priority research issues with an island-wide focus and people in the community who can help with that research. They will also develop research partnerships and share information on best practices; encourage their students to participate in the research; and build on each other's experiences and expertise, drawing on lessons from local, national and global networks/projects.

ESRI GIS Bibliography

<http://training.esri.com/campus/library/index.cfm>

This free bibliography is one of the world's largest online repositories for information about geographic information science and GIS technology. The bibliography covers the literature of geographic information systems, science, and technology. It indexes journals, conference proceedings, books, and reports from the origins of GIS to the present. There are currently 78,467 entries in the bibliography.

Blue Whales Re-establishing Former Migration Patterns

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090511140953.htm>

The planet's largest animal may be returning to pre-whaling feeding grounds. Scientists have documented the first known migration of blue whales from the coast of California to areas off British Columbia and the Gulf of Alaska since the end of commercial whaling in 1965. Scientists are still not certain exactly why blue whales are now beginning to migrate from southern California to the north Pacific Ocean although changing ocean conditions may have shifted their primary food source of krill further north.

Melting Threat From West Antarctic Ice Sheet May Be Less Than Expected; But U.S. Coastal Cities At Risk

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090514153032.htm>

While a total or partial collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet as a result of warming would not raise global sea levels as high as some predict, levels on the U.S. seaboard would rise 25 percent more than the global average and threaten cities like New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Victoria?, Vancouver?)

16. Some not so “Geographical” News

Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2009: Q&A with Michèle Laframboise

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/afterword/archive/2009/05/05/toronto-comic-arts-festival-2009-q-amp-a-with-mich-232-le-laframboise.aspx>

Michèle Laframboise's comics work includes comics work includes: *Ruego*, *Séances de signatures*, and *La Plume japonaise*. Michèle is another example of what becomes of folks with geography degrees.

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