



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UWO's Jeremy Schmidt Trudeau Foundation Scholarship recipient

http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/community.igloo?r0=community&r0_script=/scripts/folder/view.script&r0_pathinfo=/3ebb02c1-4f13

Jeremy Schmidt, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, has been awarded one of 15 Trudeau Foundation Scholarships. The goal of the Trudeau Scholarships is to accelerate the careers of the recipients and enable them to make a significant contribution to Canada and to Canadians. Jeremy's research is focused on the ethical values of water users to inform an updated water policy in Alberta, in a context of potential water crisis.

2. UT Geographer Paul Hess on Public Realm Improvements in Suburbs

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario/making-room-for-foot-traffic-in-the-inner-suburbs/article1128235/>

The pedestrian-friendly push comes as independent researchers carry out a major study, believed to be the first of its kind in North America, on walking conditions in the so-called inner suburbs. "It is a very exciting time in Toronto if we can make it all work," Paul Hess, University of Toronto geographer and study author, said of new city initiatives such as transit expansion, fighting climate change, and "tower renewal" (integrating suburban high-rises into their local neighbourhoods), to promote alternatives to driving.

3. U Guelph's Tristan Pearce Wins Vanier Graduate Scholarship

http://www.uoguelph.ca/news/2009/05/post_199.html

Tristan Pearce is in the Geography PhD program and calls his SSHRC-supported award "an ultimate honour." Working with geography professor Barry Smit, he will be studying the transmission of environmental knowledge and land skills among Inuit in adaptation to climate change. As an associate researcher with U of G's Global Environmental Change Group, Pearce has been conducting research in Ulukhaktok, a small coastal Inuit community on the west coast of Victoria Island, analyzing the vulnerabilities of the people and their livelihoods to climate change.

4. UWO Geography's Chantelle Richmond Focuses Aboriginal Diets

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2009/05/15/9464211-sun.html>

Chantelle Richmond of the Department of Geography and First Nations studies is surveying the food habits of 300 aboriginal people living in urban settings and traditional reserves. Richmond said the study could help researchers understand why native populations have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

5. University of Canada West Offers Online Geography Courses

<http://ucan.ca/>

University Canada West is the only fully private and independent university established in Canada. There are two ways to complete an undergraduate and graduate degree at University Canada West. Students who want to study on campus can attend UCAN classes in Victoria or Vancouver, while students who are looking for flexible course schedules or distance learning can enrol in online studies.

6. UBC Okanagan Geographer Mark Santiago Receives Trudeau Scholarship

<http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/publicaffairs/mediareleases/2009/mr-09-050.html>

Mark Lawrence Santiago (Human Geography) is one of three UBC Students Receiving a 2009 Trudeau Scholarship. Mark aims to contribute to improved policies for an ethical and sustainable recruitment of Filipino health workers in Canada, while considering the social implications of such migrations for the Philippines. The Trudeau scholarships are given to Canadian students at home or abroad who are expected to become national and international leaders and whose studies advance four areas: human rights and social justice, responsible citizenship, Canada and the world, and humans and their natural environment.

7. Memorial Geographer Arn Keeling on Volatile Mining Industry

<http://www.thewesternstar.com/index.cfm?sid=239878&sc=26>

Arn Keeling says some events happening to Newfoundland and Labrador's mining industry are symptomatic of the "cyclonic" nature of that business. The industry has been characterized as "cyclonic" because of the hustle and bustle that comes with the sudden interest and development of an area, the relative instability of the development's life and the potential for a rapid decline of the development. Often, all that is left behind is environmental degradation and people — usually First Nations people — who have been displaced from their traditional way of life or have to leave to find employment elsewhere.

8. University of Guelph Geography Society Posts "Old Exams"

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~geogsoc/OLDEXAMS.htm>

The Geography Society is a club organized under the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Student Alliance (CSAHS-SA). Organizing events throughout the year, the Executives and Year-Representatives facilitate and aim to create a community within the Geography program. The society has posted exams submitted by students for view.

9. Memorial Geography Hosts Provincial Finals of Geography Challenge

<http://www.mun.ca/geog/about/geographychallenge/results.php>

The Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial finals of the National Geography Challenge were held in the Memorial University Geography Department on April 18. Provincial coordinator Karyn Butler and quizmaster Richard Beaton assisted in the competition that led to the top two finalists in the province: Alan Baikie from Mealy Mountain Collegiate, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador; and Christoph Pike from Lakecrest Independent School, St. John's.

10. UBC's Greg Henry Comments on Need for "Human Infrastructure" in North

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/build+heat+Arctic+centre+told/1563379/story.html>

A sub-Arctic research station, deemed so valuable by the Harper government a few weeks ago that it received \$11 million in infrastructure funding, has now lost a federal grant that helps keep its lights and heat on. Geographer Greg Henry, at the University of B.C. who runs a large polar research project that takes him across the Arctic, applauds the government's \$85-million investment to upgrade the often "dilapidated" northern facilities. But Henry says the infrastructure money needs to be coupled with an investment in "human infrastructure" and operating funds. "It can't just be 'Build it and they will come,'" says Henry.

11. Order of Canada Geographer Austin Martin Has a Near-Normal Love Story to Tell

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/near+normal+love+story/1624486/story.html>

Austin Mardon has suffered from schizophrenia for the past 16 years. In 2007, Mardon was awarded the Order of Canada for his advocacy work for those with schizophrenia.

12. McMaster's Allison Williams on Critical Role of Family Caregivers in Canada

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2009/07/c9173.html>

Allison Williams (Associate Professor, School of Geography and Geology, McMaster University) and Neena L. Chappell (Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology) were present at a luncheon for Parliamentarians, jointly hosted by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Caregiver Coalition, about the critical role of family caregivers in Canada. Family Caregivers contribute an astounding \$25 to 26 billion of unpaid labour to the health care system, providing care and assistance for immediate and extended family and friends who are in need of support because of age, illness or long term conditions.

13. UBC Geography's Mark Lawrence Santiago Awarded Trudeau Scholarship

<http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/media/releases/2009/mr-09-060.html>

Mark Lawrence Santiago, a PhD candidate in the UBC Geography Department has received 2009 Trudeau scholarship, Canada's largest social sciences and humanities doctoral award. Mark's research aims to contribute to improved policies for an ethical and sustainable recruitment of Filipino health workers in Canada, while considering the social implications of such migrations for the Philippines. See: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/people/index.php?action=2&cat=graduate&memberID=800284>

14. Geographer of the Week: Martha Dowsley, Lakehead University

<http://geography.lakeheadu.ca/dowsley/dowsley.html>

Dr. Martha Dowsley holds a joint Appointment in the departments of Geography and Anthropology at Lakehead University. Martha completed an HonBSc at the University of Toronto, anMFC (Master of Forest Conservation) at the University of Toronto and her PhD Geography at McGill University. Her research examines the interactions of Indigenous people with renewable natural resource management regimes from the perspective of common property theory. She is currently focused on Nunavut and examines the interaction of Inuit Traditional Knowledge (Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit) and wildlife management at various governance levels from the local to the International.

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Marcus Letourneau. 2009. Holy Mount: Identity, place, religion, and narrative at New Lebanon Shaker Village, 1759-1861. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Anne Godlewska.

John Rex. 2009. The flocculation feedback loop: Delivery of marine derived nutrients in Pacific salmon streams. Unpublished PhD dissertation in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES), University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, British Columbia. Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Petticrew. http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats_new/graduate_and_undergraduate_student_news.html

Andre Zimmermann, A. 2009. Experimental investigations of step-pool channel formation and stability. Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. 336 p. Supervisor: Dr. Mawan Hassan. <http://cgrg.geog.ubc.ca/abstracts/ZimmermannExperimentalThe.html>

16. Other "Geographical" News

Royal Geographical Society Charts New Course for 21st Century

<http://www.canada.com/Royal+mapping+society+charts+course+21st+century/1609706/story.html>

A recent vote at the society's London headquarters has quashed the bid by a "rebel group" of RGS members - including some of the world's best-known explorers - to revive the grand Victorian-era tradition of sponsoring large, headline-grabbing expeditions of discovery, which have given way in recent decades to smaller, quieter, university-based research projects. In a contest cast as a battle between heroic adventurers and nerdy academics, the society's 10,000 members voted 62 to 38 per cent against steering more RGS funding to "Single Large Research Programs".

Climate Change Odds Much Worse Than Thought

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090519134843.htm>

The most comprehensive modeling yet carried out on the likelihood of how much hotter the Earth's climate will get in this century shows that without rapid and massive action, the problem will be about twice as severe as previously estimated six years ago - and could be even worse than that. The new projections indicate a median probability of surface warming of 5.2 degrees Celsius by 2100, with a 90% probability range of 3.5 to 7.4 degrees. This can be compared to a median projected increase in the 2003 study of just 2.4 degrees.

Meet the ancestor: Ida, the 47-million-year-old human link

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/posted/archive/2009/05/19/meet-the-ancestor-47-million-year-old-human-link-revealed.aspx>

Scientists the skeleton of what they said could be the common ancestor to humans, apes and other primates. The tiny creature, officially known as *Darwinius masillae*, but dubbed Ida, lived 47 million years ago and is unusually well preserved, missing only five percent of the skeleton. Although bearing a long tail, she had several human characteristics, including an opposable thumb, short arms and legs, and forward facing eyes.

17. Some not so "Geographical" News

Wikipedia Defines What is a "geographer"

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographer>

A geographer is a scientist whose area of study is geography, the study of Earth's physical environment and human habitat. Though geographers are historically known as people who make maps, map making is actually the field of study of cartography, a subset of geography. Geographers study not only the physical details of the environment but also its impact on human and wildlife ecologies, weather and climate patterns, economics, and culture. They are often especially focused on the spatial relationships between these elements. Physical geographers identify, analyze, and interpret the distribution and arrangement of landforms and other features of the earth's surface. Modern geographers are often involved in resolving environmental problems. Many modern geographers are also the primary practitioners of geographic information systems and cartography. They are often employed by local, state and federal government agencies as well as in the private sector by environmental and engineering firms.

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