



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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1. U Waterloo's Niina Luus Earns Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

Niina Luus, a PhD student in Geography and Environmental Management, has earned a prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, valued at \$50,000 per year for up to three years. "I am excited to be staying at Waterloo for my PhD, and will be studying Arctic land-atmosphere greenhouse gas exchange using atmospheric modeling, field work and remote sensing. It's an incredible honour to receive the Vanier scholarship. It will allow me tremendous freedom in conducting research," she says. Niina is spending the summer at an agricultural research institute in Germany, using remote sensing and spatial statistics to study projects ranging from greenhouse gas emissions and fertility of German soils to identifying regions of Mongolia that are sensitive to overgrazing-induced wind erosion.

2. Memorial's 'Godfather of Geography' Norm Catto Honoured

http://today.mun.ca/rss/readmore.php?news_id=4685

Last Friday in Ottawa, Dr. Norm Catto of the Geography Department in the Faculty of Arts received

the Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Excellence in Teaching Geographer at the CAG's annual conference. This is the first time a Memorial University faculty member has been so honoured. The award, which was established in 1997, is given annually to a member of the CAG who teaches in a recognized university, college, CEGEP or high school and who has distinguished herself or himself in courses with small and large enrolment, at different levels of instruction and over several years of teaching in the nominating institution. Dr. Catto's achievements are many and varied and include research, committee work, outreach, editing and organizing. But according to Professor Karen Butler of the Geography Department, "It is in the teaching of geography that Norm really shines. He regularly teaches at all levels of the curriculum here at Memorial: first year to PhD, spanning a range of specific topics from general introduction to geomorphology to hazards to quaternary environments.

3. U Waterloo Geography Grad George Ross Wins Competition Among Provincial Ministries

<http://envblogs.uwaterloo.ca/blogs/?p=236>

Geography graduate and provincial Deputy Minister George Ross (BES '82) of the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation and his staff won a friendly competition among provincial government employees. The competition was to encourage Ontario public servants to complete a major employee survey. The deputy minister with the lowest participation rate would make a donation to the scholarship fund of the winning deputy minister's alma mater and wear a shirt from that university.

4. McGill's Ford on Global Responsibility to Help Vulnerable Communities Adapt

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090526094612.htm>

For one international community – the 165,000 strong Inuit community dispersed across the Arctic coastline in small, remote coastal settlements in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Siberia – it is already too late to prevent some of the negative effects of climate change. James D. Ford from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, is presented a paper published in IOP Publishing's Environmental Research Letters on May 28 entitled, "Dangerous climate change and the importance of adaptation for the Arctic's Inuit population," at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences annual conference.

5. UVic Geography's Denise Cloutier-Fisher Examines Myths and Mysteries of Aging

<http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/release.php?display=release&id=1035>

As people age, how do they cope with changes in their health, their relationships and their finances? That's what researchers at the University of Victoria's Centre on Aging (COAG) are hoping to discover as they take part in a national 20-year study of 50,000 Canadians aged 45 to 85. The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)—one of the world's largest and most comprehensive studies on the topic—will enable researchers to move beyond providing just a snapshot of the adult Canadian population. "The multidisciplinary approach to this study is unusual, it brings together the biology of aging along with the social, psychological and other aspects of aging to see how they intersect over time," says Margaret Penning, who is a co-investigator on the study along with COAG researchers Neena Chappell, Denise Cloutier-Fisher and Holly Tuokko.

6. U Toronto Geography PhD Student Clair Oswald Wins CGU's Don Gray Award

http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/6691.0.html?&tx_geofacultyprofiles_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=159&ch

Claire Oswald, a University of Toronto Geography PhD student won the Canadian Geophysical Union's Don Gray Medal. This is the highest student award in the Hydrology Section, and was made in recognition of her short paper and oral presentation at this year's Joint Assembly with the American Geophysical Union in Toronto. She will receive an engraved medal and a \$1,000 prize for her efforts.

7. SFU Geographer Sai Soe Win Latt Wins Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

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

Sai Soe Win Latt from SFU Geography is one of the Vanier recipients. His research is focused on the Tasang Dam under the Asian development bank: depoliticization of resource extraction, violent accumulation and transnational governance of resource regions.

8. U Toronto's Jim Dunn Named William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/people/faculty/dunn>

Jim Dunn has been named William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. He will be based in the Harvard School of Public Health and the Center for Population and Development Studies.

9. Lakehead-Orillia Geographer Reg Horne Keynote speaker at Doors Open Orillia

<http://www.orilliatoday.com/>

Lakehead University professors Reg Horne and Todd Stubbs provided an engaging look back at the Tudhope Motor Company, during a pair of presentations culled from their research into the car and the people who produced it.

10. Geographers Mapping Cinematographic Territories

<http://www.atlascine.org/iWeb/Site/atlasen.html>

Geographers from the Université de Montréal and Carleton University are collaborating on the mapping of cinematographic territories. This collaboration (supported by SSHRC) has led to the recent publication of a special issue of The Cartographic Journal on Cinematic Cartography (Guest editors : S. Caquard and D.R.F. Taylor) <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/caj/latest>, and the development of a Cybercartographic Atlas of Canadian Cinema (<http://www.atlascine.org/iWeb/Site/atlasen.html>).

Des géographes de l'université de Montréal et de Carleton University collaborent à la cartographie de territoires cinématographiques. Cette collaboration (financée par le CRSH) s'est récemment matérialisée par la publication d'un numéro spécial de la revue The Cartographie Journal dédié à la cartographie cinématique (éditeurs invités: S. Caquard et D.R.F. Taylor)

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/caj/latest> et le création d'un atlas cybercartographique du cinéma canadien (<http://www.atlascine.org/iWeb/Site/atlas.html>).

11. UWO Geographers Tune in for "Chuck" Watch

http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/stories/viewers_tune_in_for_%27chuck%27

Geography research associate Kevin Van Lierop set up a webcam to catch a visit from a groundhog, nicknamed Chuck, who lives outside his office window in the courtyard at the Social Science Centre. With a tiny workspace, Van Lierop sometimes wonders about the world outside his window, particularly the routine of a furry rodent nicknamed 'Chuck.' So to entertain himself and others with small or windowless offices, Van Lierop set up a webcam to watch the groundhog activity. Live footage is being streamed and viewed by hundreds of people.

12. UBC Trudeau Foundation Scholar Mark Lawrence Santiago Discusses Research

<http://www.thecommentary.ca/online/20090603b.html>

Trudeau Foundation scholar and PhD student at UBC's Department of Geography, Mark Lawrence Santiago discusses his research work on the sustainable and ethical recruitment of Filipino health workers for Canada, with Joseph Planta.

13. U Toronto's Evan Castel Awarded a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/people/grads/list/castel>

Evan Castel has been awarded a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Evan is a PhD student in Geography, and is supervised by Jim Dunn. The award begins in September 2009 and will run for 3 years.

14. SFU's Paul Kingsbury on Urbanites Fleeing City for the Sticks

<http://www.straight.com/article-223383/urbanites-flee-city-better-life-sticks>

Canada's ruralization pioneers: an economically and environmentally driven movement away from big urban centres. For some the marrow of life is found in Yaletown rather than Yarrow, according to Paul Kingsbury, an assistant professor of human geography at SFU. "People are not rationally predisposed to follow their economic interest," Kingsbury told the Straight. "They may be receiving psychosocial returns from the vibe of their neighbourhood."

15. Geographer of the Week: Paul Hackett, University of Saskatchewan

<http://www.usask.ca/geography/faculty/phackett/>

Dr. Hackett is interested in the historical and geographical patterns of the health of western Canada's First Nations. His graduate research examined the past diffusion of directly-transmitted, acute infectious diseases, leading to the publication in 2002 of his book, *A Very Remarkable Sickness*. His CIHR-funded postdoctoral research focussed on the changing public health of the Island Lake First Nations of northern Manitoba during the twentieth century. His current CIHR-supported research investigates the history of tuberculosis among the western First Nations. In keeping with his focus on the impact of cultural change on community health, an upcoming project will examine the factors that helped set the stage for the current epidemic of Type 2 diabetes among First Nations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

16. Study Group of the Month: CAG Tourism and Recreation Study Group

<http://tourismrec.googlepages.com/>

The CAG Tourism and Recreation Study Group exists to provide opportunities for members to

connect their research, work and/or learning pursuits in tourism and recreation with other geographers across Canada. Through regular meetings, newsletters, annual reports, a student award, and this website, the group serves as a forum for sharing knowledge, fostering scholarship, and creating a national research network for those with an interest in tourism and recreation.

17. Other “Geographical” News

Oceanographic Vessels to Conduct Canadian Banks Surveys

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=&special=&monthyear=&day=>

Researchers of the Spanish Oceanography Institute on board Spanish research vessels will carry out a series of studies evaluating the vulnerable state of fisheries resources and their ecosystems in the great banks of Newfoundland. The scientists will study the geomorphology of the marine bottom in search of singular structures, like submarine mounts and hydrothermal sources.

Canadian Geographic Names Dalhousie’s Ron O’Dor Environmental Scientist of Year

http://dalnews.dal.ca/2009/05/25/o'dor.html?utm_source=dalnewsRSS&utm_medium=RSS

Ron O'Dor has spent his life researching the oceans, working to understand marine life, and reversing this downward spiral draining our planet of its lifeblood. His dedication has earned him Canadian Geographic's Environmental Scientist of the Year award. It's a pleasure to be recognized for my scientific contributions,” says Dr. O'Dor. “I don't consider myself an environmentalist, just a scientist interested in the environment.”

Burnaby North Student is a Geography Champion

http://www.bclocalnews.com/greater_vancouver/burnabynewsleader/community/46859222.htm

Burnaby North Grade 9 student Chris Chiavetti will head to Mexico City this summer to compete with his Canadian teammates in National Geographic's world championship. Chiavetti won the B.C. Geography Challenge and finished second in the national competition.

InfoGeographics Joins Latitude Geographics' Business Partner Program

<http://www.gisuser.com/content/view/17722/2/>

InfoGeographics Inc. has announced that it has joined Latitude Geographics' Business Partner Program. InfoGeographics will serve as an Authorized Implementer and deliver services for Latitude's suite of ArcGIS Server generation products: Geocortex Essentials and Geocortex Optimizer. InfoGeographics recognizes the potential for increasing its customers' return on GIS investment with robust and ready made web-GIS infrastructure tools. The firm has selected Geocortex technology to help its customers rapidly meet their objectives with web-GIS in the most cost-effective and creative way possible.

18. Some not so “Geographical” News

Scientists Map Penguins from Space by Locating Their Poo

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090602122621.htm>

Penguin poo (guano) stains, visible from space, have helped British scientists locate emperor

penguin breeding colonies in Antarctica. Knowing their location provides a baseline for monitoring their response to environmental change.

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