



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 40, July 29, 2009
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Contents

1. Jim Dunn Joins Dept of Health, Aging & Society at McMaster University
2. Canadian Geographers in Book on Agrarian Transformations in SE Asia
3. Joe Leydon Joins UT Geography as Full-Time Lecturer
4. Four Generations of Wetlands Research Leads to U of T Mississauga
5. Mayan Gold at What Cost? UNBC's Catherine Nolin Comments
6. Prairie Division Annual Meeting in Russell, Manitoba, Sept 18-20, 2009
7. UNBC Geography Student Delegation to Guatemala
8. Master of Environment (Environmental Assessment) at Concordia University
9. UW Geographer Rob de Loë on Water Shortages in Waterloo
10. Geography Network Canada
11. U Calgary's Maria Strack Receives Alberta Ingenuity Fund Award
12. UBC Okanagan Geographer Carlos Teixeira Honoured by Azores Government
13. U Alberta Geography Grad Rebuilding Communities in Afghanistan
14. Geographer of the Week: Emily Eaton, University of Regina
15. Other "Geographical" News
16. Some not so "Geographical" News

1. Jim Dunn Joins Department of Health, Aging & Society at McMaster University
http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/has-dept/Faculty_Staff/Dunn.cfm

Jim Dunn has accepted a tenured position with the Department of Health, Aging & Society, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University, effective July 1, 2009. He will maintain his 'status only' appointment with the UT Department of Geography for the foreseeable future and maintain his affiliation with St. Michael's Hospital, where some of his research will continue to be housed. You can continue reach him at jim.dunn@mcmaster.ca

2. Canadian Geographers Contribute to Book on Agrarian Transformations in Southeast Asia
<http://www.routledgeeconomics.com/books/Agrarian-Angst-and-Rural-Resistance-in-Contemporary-S>

Agrarian transformations, market integration and globalization processes are impacting upon rural Southeast Asia with increasingly complex and diverse consequences. Dominique Caouette, Université de Montréal, and Sarah Turner, Geography, McGill University have co-edited a new book that examines these transformations entitled "*Agrarian Angst and Rural Resistance in Contemporary Southeast Asia* - co-edited by, Canada is now available from Routledge. With over half the contributors being geographers or development specialists from Canada, this book examines different forms of contemporary resistance - from the very covert, every day forms, to overt social movements - to agrarian transformations in Southeast Asia, across a range of scales.

3. Joe Leydon Joins UT Geography as Full-Time Lecturer

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/people/faculty/leydon/outline-ij>

Joe Leydon has joined the UT Geography & Program in Planning department as a full-time lecturer. He will be teaching half of his courses downtown and half at UTM. Downtown, he will be taking over Robert Lewis' old office during 'the big move' and sharing it with one other faculty member. His primary office will be at UTM.

4. Four Generations of Wetlands Research Leads to U of T Mississauga

[http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/361.0.html?&tx_mininews_pi1\[showUid\]=3646&tx_mininews_pi1\[backPid](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/361.0.html?&tx_mininews_pi1[showUid]=3646&tx_mininews_pi1[backPid)

On Thursday July 23, thirty years of academic history came together in a West Virginia wetland. U of T Mississauga master's student Varun Gupta and Professor Nathan Basiliko of the Department of Geography conducted field work at Big Run Bog in the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia, with Professors Joe Yavitt from Cornell University and Gerry Lang from the University of West Virginia. Gupta is currently supervised by Professor Basiliko, Basiliko was supervised by Professor Yavitt in the 1990s and Yavitt was supervised by Professor Lang in the 1980s.

5. Mayan Gold at What Cost? UNBC's Catherine Nolin Comments

http://acpserv1.camosun.bc.ca/publishing/liz_mcarthur/pdf/2008/Mayangold%20Villager%20Fall%2020

Tropical jungles, ancient ruins and a multilingual culture don't seem to go hand in hand with human rights violations, but these are some of the many faces of Guatemala. Catherine Nolin is concerned with the role Canadian resource companies play in Central America. "One only has to be there to witness the environmental destruction, the social problems that accompany this type of development and the health impacts that people allege they are experiencing because of mining operations," she says.

6. Prairie Division Annual Meeting in Russell, Manitoba, Sept 18-20, 2009

<http://geograph.uwinnipeg.ca/PCAG2009/welcome.htm>

You are invited to the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) to be held Friday, September 18 through Sunday, September 20, 2009 at The Russell Inn, Russell, Manitoba. The Geography Department of the University of Winnipeg is proud to host this meeting and extends an invitation to all geographers, educators, students and persons in related disciplines. A number of presentation sessions are planned along with field trips, social functions, a photo competition, and student paper presentations and an address by conference guest speaker, retired Environment Canada meteorologist, Jay Anderson.

7. UNBC Geography Student Delegation to Guatemala

<http://web.unbc.ca/~nolin/>

Catherine Nolin, an associate professor of geography at the University of Northern British Columbia, led a delegation of students to Guatemala. A 2-hour presentation of the UNBC Geography Field School to Guatemala (May 2008) is available to view on Blip.TV:

Video Part I: <http://unbc.blip.tv/file/2277818/>

Video Part II: <http://blip.tv/file/2277451>

8. Master of Environment (Environmental Assessment) at Concordia University

<http://gpe.concordia.ca/programs/menv/>

The Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, at Concordia University, offers a Master program in Environmental Assessment (EA) which integrates both the human and biogeophysical aspects of EA in a transdisciplinary context. The Program is designed to develop a sound and critical understanding of the processes and methodologies of EA, to expose students to the range of public policy and social science considerations involved in environmental planning, sustainable development and resource decision-making, to enhance students' existing knowledge of the biogeophysical environment and provide students with a thorough understanding of GIS applied to environmental decision-making.

9. U Waterloo Geographer Rob de Loë on Water Shortages in Waterloo

<http://imprint.uwaterloo.ca/2009/jul/24/features/strongwaterstrong-shortage-strongwaterstrongloo/>

It is a common perception that Waterloo Region has plenty to drink in a thirsty world, but already our municipalities are searching for new drinking water sources and it may require building a pipeline. Rob de Loë, professor and research chair in water policy and governance at the University of Waterloo says that "The pipeline suggests that we are not prepared to change our existing ways of water use. I don't feel that it is necessary right now. Just because we can take water from Lake Erie doesn't mean we should."

10. Geography Network Canada

<http://www.geographynetwork.ca/about/index.html>

The Geography Network Canada is an online resource for finding and sharing Canadian geographic content, including maps and data from many of our country's leading providers. It provides the infrastructure needed to enable the sharing of geographic information between data providers, service providers, and users around the world. Through the Geography Network Canada, you can access content including live maps, downloadable data, and more advanced service.

11. U Calgary's Maria Strack Receives Alberta Ingenuity Fund Award

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/utoday/july21-09/ingenuityawards>

University of Calgary Assistant Professor Maria Strack, in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Science, has received a 2009 Ingenuity New Faculty Award. Worth \$300,000 over three years, the award will assist her research into the fate of Alberta's peat soil carbon stock under climate change. Using a controlled field experiment, soil temperature and water table will be manipulated in a northern Alberta peatland and the response of ecosystem hydrology, vegetation productivity and exchange of carbon dioxide and methane will be determined.

12. UBC Okanagan Geographer Carlos Teixeira Honoured by Azores Government

<http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/publicaffairs/mediareleases/2009/mr-09-055.html>

He's the toast of all of Portugal, and now his home region, the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores has officially recognized Carlos Teixeira with its highest honour. Teixeira, associate professor of geography at UBC Okanagan, traveled to Toronto for Day of the Azores in May, where he received the Insignias do Governo Regional dos Açores -- Medal for Professional Merit. It's one of the most distinguished honours given by the government of the autonomous region of Azores. Presenting the medal was Carlos Manuel Martins do Vale Cesar, President of the Azores.

13. U Alberta Geography Grad Rebuilding Communities in Afghanistan

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca/pdfs/42731-FACSCI-For%20Web2.pdf>

In 1986 Binod Shrestha (84 MSc Geog) opened the first official Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) office in Kathmandu. With no budget he resorted to borrowing a table and chair from the restaurant next door and then jerry rigged a makeshift phone line to come into the "office" from the same

building. Shrestha is currently employed as Chief Technical Advisor for the UN's Learning for Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP), a five-year project aimed at improving functional literacy levels in Afghanistan (see pages 14-15).

14. Geographer of the Week: Emily Eaton, University of Regina

<http://www.arts.uregina.ca/emily-eaton>

Dr. Emily Eaton has a broad interdisciplinary background including a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Saskatchewan, an M.A. in Social Justice and Equity Studies from Brock University and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Toronto. She is interested in the political economy and ecology of agriculture and food. Her Ph.D. research examined the producer politics of Roundup Ready wheat on the Canadian prairies juxtaposing the acceptance of Roundup Ready canola amongst farmers with the widespread rejection of Roundup Ready wheat. The research found that producer resistance to Roundup Ready wheat hinged on the specificities of local history, cultural conceptions of economic fair treatment, and the character of wheat as a commodity with particular biophysical properties. The research was also concerned with the ways that producers articulated their resistance with and through discourses of consumption.

15. Other "Geographical" News

Bay of Fundy Among Finalists in 7 Wonders Contest

<http://www.thestar.com/article/669460>

The Bay of Fundy, the Matterhorn and the Great Barrier Reef are competing with 25 other spectacular natural landmarks in the final phase of the global poll to choose the "New 7 Wonders of Nature." People can vote by Internet or phone. The winners will be announced in 2011 and share in the glory already enjoyed by the seven man-made wonders chosen two years ago. Over 1 billion people are expected to join in the voting.

Canada Unveils Arctic Strategy

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/07/26/arctic-sovereignty.html?ref=rss>

The federal government has promised to assert Canada's sovereignty over its resource-rich Arctic lands and waters while it addresses the need for jobs, housing and a clean environment in the North. Three federal cabinet ministers released the new spending and a public relations plan, called *Canada's Northern Strategy: Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future*.

Digital Directory of Major USA and Canada Malls Now Available

<http://www.directionsmag.com/press.releases/index.php?duty=Show&id=35207>

Spatial Insights is offering the Directory of Major Malls (DMM), the leading publication for detailed information on major shopping centers and malls in the US and Canada for over 30 years. The most recent June release boasts over 5,700 US and Canadian listings of which 5,155 are in the US. The map-ready data can be customized by geography or by centers with or without anchors only. DMM data are available in most commonly used GIS formats.

Arctic Seabed Mapping Renewed by Canada, U.S.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/07/29/cda-us-arctic-mapping.html?ref=rss>

Researchers for Canada and the United States are working together again this summer to map more of the Arctic seabed, gathering scientific data toward bolstering their own sovereign claims. The two countries are preparing for their second joint mapping expedition to map largely unknown parts of the Canada Basin,

north of the Beaufort Sea. A similar mission took place last summer. The joint mapping effort will not extend into areas of the Canada Basin where Russia is making sovereign claims, nor will it go into a disputed boundary area farther south between the Yukon and Alaska.

Linguist's Preservation Kit Has New Digital Tools

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/28/science/28prof.html>

S.O.A.S. is not alone in trying to document endangered languages. The Max Planck Institute in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, has been operating an archive for 10 years. Dagmar Jung, a linguist in Cologne, Germany, is working with the elders of the Beaver, or Dane-Zaa, tribe in the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta to gather material and make it accessible through a community portal. "It's there for later generations," Dr. Jung said. "But it's not user-friendly for the moment."

16. Some not so "Geographical" News

Beer and Science Productivity

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119394968/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

Using a survey from the Czech Republic, that has the highest per capita beer consumption rate in the world, the author shows that increasing per capita beer consumption is associated with lower numbers of papers, total citations, and citations per paper (a surrogate measure of paper quality). In addition he found the same predicted trends in comparison of two separate geographic areas within the Czech Republic that are also known to differ in beer consumption rates. These correlations are consistent with the possibility that leisure time social activities might influence the quality and quantity of scientific work and may be potential sources of publication and citation biases.

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