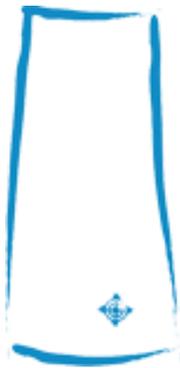




**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 71, February 27, 2010**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<caq@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)

---



**The Prairie Summit**  
**La sommet des Prairies**  
**Regina 2010**  
**June 1-5**

**AG 2010 Annual Meeting / Prairie Summit:**

The Department of Geography at the University of Regina is hosting the first joint meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), the Canadian Cartographic Association (CCA), the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group (CGRG) and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS), June 1-5, 2010. A reminder that the abstract submission deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> and that the early registration deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. [Prairie Summit Webpage](#)

**UBC's Simon Donner Talks About Vulnerability of Coral Reefs to Climate Change:** NSERC-funded researcher Dr. Simon Donner, an assistant professor in the department of geography at the University of British Columbia, will be talking about the vulnerability of coral reefs to climate change due to higher ocean temperatures. Given the hundreds of millions of people living in the tropics who depend on coral reefs for food, income, tourism and shoreline protection, the loss of reefs is a serious issue. In order to see what the future of reefs might be, Dr. Donner is pursuing fieldwork in the central equatorial Pacific, to understand how the reefs are biologically different, and how that has allowed them to persist through warm water events that would kill coral in other areas of the planet. [EurekaAlert!](#) | [NSERC Newsbulletin](#) |

**Queen's University's Carl Bray Discusses Orillia Downtown Heritage Designation:** The community is being called on for input on whether the city's downtown core should be designated as a heritage conservation district. "Some would argue that the downtown is the city's heart and I think that is the way it is in Orillia," said Carl Bray, a consultant retained by the city to determine if there's enough heritage architecture to warrant pursuing the designation. Bray interviewed various stakeholders throughout the community to discuss the merits of the designation and has assessed each building on the main street, some dating as far back as the 1800s. [Orillia Packet & Times](#)

**U Toronto's Nathan Basiliko on Why American Like Us Canadians:** A Gallup poll published last week asked Americans for their perceptions of 20 nations that figure prominently in the news or U.S. foreign policy. For the second year running, Canada ranked first, with 90 percent of Americans viewing us favourably. Nathan Basiliko, a geography professor at the University of Toronto, says that because Americans pay so little attention to Canadian affairs, Canada would have to be pretty bad to tarnish its reputation in Americans' minds. "Over a long term, Canada has retained its progressive political image so for Americans, Canada would have to keep on doing something bad over a long term in order for their feelings to change," said the 11-year Canadian resident. [Before It's News](#) | [The Epoch Times](#)

**University of Lethbridge MSc Students Awarded Scholarships:** Dan Koenig and Owen Brown, MSc students in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge have both been awarded the Keith and Hope Ferguson Memorial Scholarship. The award value is granted to students who have lived within the City of Lethbridge or within a radius of approximately 120 km for a period of ten years or longer. It is valued at \$10,000 per year to a maximum of \$40,000. [UL Notice Board](#)

**Memorial U's Geography Department to Celebrate GIS Day:** On Monday, March 8, 2010, MUN will celebrate Geographic Information Science (GIS) Day with a host of informational booths, presentations, and poster displays to show off the exciting work that MUN researchers, staff, and local and federal government agencies and private businesses are doing with GIS. There will be GIS-related project demonstrations, displays, and will meet other researchers and potential employers. [GIS Day 2010](#)

**UBC Geography Newsletter - February 2010:** Included in this month's newsletter are sabbatical stories from Karen Bakker, the UBC tree ring laboratory, and a feature on geographer Juanita Sundberg - whose favourite book is [The Long Night of White Chickens](#) by Francisco Goldman. [UBC Geography Newsletter](#)

**UBC's Geraldine Pratt Wins Sam Black Award:** Geraldine Pratt, a Professor in the UBC Department of Geography, has been awarded the [Sam Black Award for Education and Development in Arts](#). Inaugurated in 1999, the award recognizes faculty members who have made outstanding education and development contributions to the fields of Art, Music, Creative Writing, Theatre and Film and outstanding accomplishment in scholarship in the fields of the Fine and Creative Arts. Dr. Pratt's performances are notable for the breadth of issues covered, the degree of integration with her long-term research program, and for her close collaboration with community groups. She has integrated scholarship into performance with such works as *Nanay* (based on interviews with Filipino domestic workers and their children, and Canadians searching for childcare or employing live-in caregivers), and text-based art piece [Not Sheep: New Urban Enclosures and Commons](#), and a collaborative performance, with members of the Philippe Women Centre, at [WACK!: Art and Feminist Revolution](#) held at the Vancouver Art Gallery in the fall of 2008. Geraldine previously received the CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography. [UBC This Week](#)

**Geographers Featured at Trent's Annual Health Studies Day:** Rural health & well-being, sex in the modern age, and representations of illness engaged the audience at the eighth annual Health Studies Day (held Wednesday January 20). The afternoon opened with Ann MacLeod's and Rachel Herron's presentations on their respective community-based research in rural communities; MacLeod's on the social determinants of health in the 'bush-rural' communities of Haliburton County (co-authored with Dr. [Mark Skinner](#)) and Herron on Farmwomen's care-giving in Peterborough County (also co-authored with Dr. Mark Skinner). [Trent Geography News & Events](#)

**Memorial U's Ahmed Khan Co-Authors Science Paper on Seafood Trade and Food Security:** Lack of governance threatens global seafood supplies and the food security of billions of people who rely on fish for protein and livelihoods, according to a policy paper by an international seafood working group in the Feb. 12, 2010, Special Issue of the journal *Science*. According to Ahmed Khan, a PhD candidate at Memorial University and co-author of the *Science* paper, "this analysis provides a bigger picture of global seafood concerns in relation to some of the fisheries research we are doing in Newfoundland and Labrador." In their *Science* article, Mr. Khan and his co-authors (comprised of economists, marine scientists and seafood experts) examined the complex environmental, political and economic factors that jeopardize global seafood supplies and livelihoods. [Memorial News](#)

**York University Geography Offers Maui Field Trip:** Kathy Young and Peter Vandergeest are offering two field courses on vulnerability of tropical island environments, August 20-29, 2010. [Information PDF](#)

---

## **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Heather Nicol, Trent University**

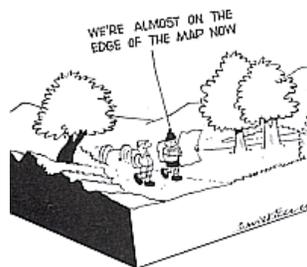
Dr. [Heather Nicol](#) is a political geographer with interests in the Canada-US Border, The circumpolar North, and Canada-Cuba relations. Her work explores the structure and operation of the Canada-US border, with special emphasis on the impacts of security. She is also interested in the circumpolar North as a geopolitical and geo-economic space, and the relationship between the interests of nation-states and indigenous peoples in the North. Dr. Nicol is currently the principal investigator for a SSHRC-funded project on the implications of security along the Canada-US border for American hegemony. She is also investigating the veracity of corporate claims to socio-economic development in the Canadian North.

---

## **Other “Geographical” News**

**Ancient DNA Reveals Caribou History Linked to Volcanic Eruption:** DNA recovered from ancient caribou bones reveals a possible link between several small unique caribou herds and a massive volcanic eruption that blanketed much of the Alaskan Yukon territory in a thick layer of ash 1,000 years ago, reports research published today in [Molecular Ecology](#). Tyler Kuhn, a Whitehorse native and Simon Fraser University graduate researcher, was able to coax short bits of ancient DNA from caribou bones found in 6,000-yr-old ice patches scattered across an area just north of the British Columbia border. He and his colleagues were surprised to discover that DNA from bones older than 1,000 years in the Whitehorse area did not match with the local caribou grazing nearby. The modern caribou also turn out to not be related to caribou herds to the North, East or West. They represent new arrivals, possibly from farther south. Critically, the 1,000-yr-old replacements coincide with the eruption of a huge volcano in nearby Southern Alaska that deposited a thick layer of ash called the White River Tephra. [EurekAlert!](#) | [SFU News Release](#)

## **Some not so “Geographical” News**



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