



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC Geographer Simon Donner on Working Around Alberta on Climate Change: The first high-level discussions about a federal policy to combat climate change began in the mid-1990s. Fifteen years later, we are no closer to a resolution. The Harper government's approach has been to wish the problem away. Despite Canada's international reputation as a laggard on climate change, a large majority of the provinces are in fact prepared to increase energy efficiency and to transition to less carbon-intensive forms of energy production and consumption. The problem comes when Alberta is included in the equation. [The Mark](#)

Saint Mary U's Danika vanProosdij Puts Tidal Power Under Scrutiny: A Saint Mary's Geography professor has been awarded \$65,000 to lead a two year study assessing at how tidal power initiatives may impact sedimentation patterns in the Bay of Fundy. Dr. Danika vanProosdij and her team will use the funding from OEER (Offshore Energy Environmental Research) and OEER (Offshore Energy Environmental Research) OETR Associations to examine how the dynamics of sedimentation change when energy is extracted from the tides by special turbines. Dr. vanProosdij is a Coastal Geomorphologist specializing in the ecosystems of inter-tidal zones, salt marshes and muddy coastal dynamics. She is just one of a handful of researchers in the world analyzing marshes in such a way. "Few researchers have the suite of instruments I do, instruments that allow me to deploy a broad study of an estuary all at one time" she says. [SMU Media Release](#)

Saint Mary U's Cathy Conrad and Students Document the Changing Environment in Gambia: This is the second year that Saint Mary's students have visited The Gambia. Both trips were made possible through a \$100,000 grant from the Canadian International Development Agency's Public Engagement Fund. The goal of the fund is to increase the awareness, understanding and engagement of Canadians in international development issues and programs. Current plans are to create a video and submit it to festivals, showcase it on campus, and post it on both YouTube and SMUTube. "I think opportunities like these are enormously important for students," said Dr. Cathy Conrad, one of two professors accompanying Garner to The Gambia. The geography professor will be conducting similar research that may be incorporated into the documentary. "It's not just the experience they gain, but also because they return feeling like ambassadors for the people they encounter." [SMU Media Release](#)

SFU's Warren Gill Interviewed on Toronto's Competitiveness: Warren Gill, SFU geographer (and V-P of university relations) did an interview for CBC-TV on a report by the Toronto Board of Trade on Toronto's competitiveness, which raised some transportation issues and allowed a comparison with Vancouver.

CAGONT

Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division
Annual Meeting - October 15-16, 2010



Carleton U's Chris Burn Investigates the Origin of Herschel Island: A renowned expert on permafrost, Burn is using his expertise to determine when Herschel Island actually became an island. Herschel Island has many claims to fame. It is Yukon's northernmost point. Before the Klondike Gold Rush, it was the centre of a whaling rush, with more than 1,000 people staying at the island from 1894 to '96. The first court case held in the Canadian Arctic took place on the island in 1924. Burn is currently editing a 34-chapter volume on its natural and cultural history. Burn is one of 10 recipients of this year's Carleton Research Achievement Awards. The recipients are being honoured today at a special event as part of Carleton's Research Days celebration. [Carleton University Newsroom](#)

Queen's George Lovell Receives John Carter Brown Fellowship: George Lovell who has been awarded a 2010-2011 [John Carter Brown Fellowship](#) that will allow him to carry out two months of funded research in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. [Lovell@Queen's](#)

U Toronto's Scott Prudham Receives Ashby Prize: Scott Prudham, a professor in the University of Toronto Department of Geography & Planning, is one of two recipients of the Ashby Prize from the journal *'Environment and Planning A'* for his 2009 paper '[Pimping climate change: Richard Branson, global warming, and the performance of green capitalism](#)'. The prize is awarded for the year's most innovative paper published in the journal. [Scott Prudhma@UT](#)

Memorial U's Josh Lepawsky asks "What makes a great city?": What makes a great city? used on the preliminary findings of a Canada-wide project, many factors contribute. The Innovation Systems Research Network (ISRN) project is part of a \$2.5 million SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative exploring the social dynamics of economic performance in 15 cities across Canada. The work covers three major themes: the social dynamics of innovation; talent attraction and retention; and governance and inclusion. The Newfoundland and Labrador section of this project is led by Dr. Rob Greenwood, director of the Leslie Harris Centre. In St. John's, Dr. Greenwood, Ann-Marie Vaughn, and Dr. [Josh Lepawsky](#) (Department of Geography), assisted by Crystal Phan and Seamus Heffernan, conducted a total of 76 interviews within a variety of sectors, including creative workers, government and community actors across the three themes. [Today@MUN](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Denise Fay Brown, University of Calgary

Dr. [Denise Fay Brown](#) joined the University of Calgary Geography Department as Assistant Professor in July 2000 in a joint appointment with the Faculty of Communication and Culture where she is coordinator of the Latin American Studies Program. Prior to accepting her position, Denise completed her B.A. degree at McGill University, an M.A. degree at the University of Calgary, and her Ph.D. at the University of California.

Denise returned to Calgary in 1997 with a SSHRC Postdoctoral fellowship after living for 14 years in Mexico. From 1991 to 1997 she was a faculty member in the graduate program in Social Anthropology and Cultural Ecology at Mexico City's Universidad Iberoamericana. She collaborated with the University of Calgary on Latin American Studies Field Schools in Mexico during the 1980s and 1990s, and currently directs these annual Field Schools in coordination with the Latin American Studies Group on campus. Her current research interests focus on sociospatial analysis, cultural landscapes, ethnic spaces, tourism, community, and Mexico. [Geography@ Calgary](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Inuit Forecasters Living in the Canadian Arctic Combine Knowledge with Science to Shape Weather Insights: Using skills passed down through generations, Inuit forecasters living in the Canadian Arctic look to the sky to tell by the way the wind scatters a cloud whether a storm is on the horizon or if it's safe to go on a hunt. But in the past 20 years, something has run amok with Inuit forecasting. Old weather signals don't seem to mean what they used to. The cloud that scatters could signal a storm that comes in an hour instead of a day. Now researchers are combining indigenous environmental knowledge with modern science to learn new things about what's happening to the Arctic climate. [EuerkAlert!](#)

A Case for the Return of Geography: The discipline of Geography, beside studying man in relation to his environment, is a bridge between physical and social sciences. This makes Geographers the most informed citizens of the world. When children learn Geography and History at primary school level, they learn about their immediate environment, the nation and different countries of the world. That makes them open minded, tolerant and wise. That understanding about one's country diversity helps to create strong awareness of the different parts of a nation and the implications for that. However, at a point, Nigerian educational policy makers decided to dump the teaching of Geography for something called Social Studies, because the US does so. That was the beginning of our problems in Nigeria. [next](#)

Commercial Fishing Estimated to Kill Millions of Sea Turtles: The number of sea turtles inadvertently snared by commercial fishing gear over the past 20 years may reach into the millions, according to the first peer-reviewed study to compile sea turtle bycatch data from gillnet, trawl and longline fisheries worldwide. The study, which was published in the journal [Conservation Letters](#), analyzed data compiled from peer-reviewed papers, government reports, technical reports, and symposia proceedings published between 1990 and 2008. All data were based on direct onboard observations or interviews with fishermen. The study did not include data from recreational fishing. Six of the world's seven species of sea turtles are currently listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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