



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 89, June 20, 2010
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UVic Graduate Student Course Projects in Qualitative Research Methods: In Spring 2010 graduate students enrolled in [Geography 523](#) (Advanced Qualitative Methods) offered by Dr. [Jutta Gutberlet](#) in the UVic Department of Geography completed research projects as part of the course requirements. The project outcomes are available on the web and focus on: 1) [Understanding Risk Perception and Personal Preparedness: An assessment of storm surge events at high tide in the community of Oak Bay, BC](#); 2) [Tide of Opinion: Perceptions of water quality and its consequences in consumption trends among University of Victoria Students](#); and, 3) [Water Matters: Awareness, Perceptions and Practices of University of Victoria students concerning Water and Water Conservation](#).

U Calgary Alumnus David Reynolds Graduates with PhD in Environmental Management: David Reynolds, BSc'74, MSc'76, MBA'04, will graduate this May with his PhD. Between completing his master's degree and MBA, David worked for 30 years, 16 of those with the City of Calgary. Like his MBA, David's PhD research was environmental management and tourism-related but it had a science component as well—the effects of climate change on snow conditions ski hills between 2020 and 2050. His PhD supervisor, Dr. Dianne Draper, a professor in the Department of Geography, was excited about his topic. "By integrating his work experience, and training in Geography and Business, Dave has positioned his research uniquely in the interdisciplinary intersection of social science, climate science and business, says Draper. [University of Calgary Alumni](#)

UBC-O Geography Student Lauren Bytelaar Wants to Use \$10,000 Prize to Help Women in Need: UBC student Lauren Bytelaar, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography, is the first recipient of a \$10,000 prize created by Pushor Mitchell LLP, awarded each year to a top graduating student in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Okanagan campus. Bytelaar says she plans to use the money to pursue her dream of establishing a career in urban development that focuses on the creation of affordable homes for women living on the streets. [UBC-News](#)

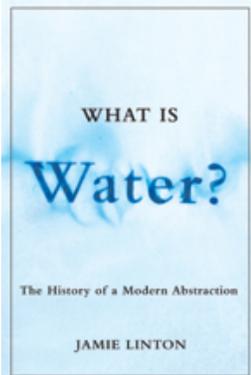
Mount Allison University Geography Student Use GIS Course to Help Hometown: Mount Allison University geography student Emily Thomas says when you grow up on a small island you learn to be careful about water usage. Thomas, from the Cranberry Isles in Maine, turned her summer job into a research project on water quality and availability for the Islands. Dr. David Lieske, a professor of in Mount Allison's department of geography and environment, recalls the moment when Thomas approached him with this project. "Emily was taking my course ... and she approached me with an idea to turn her summer job with the Town of Cranberry Isles into a formal GIS project." says Lieske. Thomas' project marked the first time anyone had conducted a water quality/availability study and the Town plans to use her analysis a guide for monitoring water usage over the next five years. [Mount Allison News](#)

Trent University Geography Student Shares 2010 Robert W.F. Stephenson Prize for Excellence in Student Governance: Announced at the Alumni Awards celebration at Trent University on Saturday, June 12, the 2010 Robert W.F. Stephenson Prize for Excellence in Student Governance has been awarded to three student leaders – Miranda Wilson, Jennifer Kimball and Julie Kimball. Miranda graduated with a joint degree in Geography and History. The three recipients were selected for demonstrating extraordinary skill in their shared leadership and coordination of the Trent University Penpal Program that, under their leadership, the Penpal Program for the 2009/10 academic year involved approximately 650 penpals (325 Trent students and 325 children in grades one to three) writing monthly letters to each other. [Trent Daily News](#)

U Ottawa’s Luke Copland Examines Melting Ice on Northern Ellesmere Island: Narrated by David Suzuki, CBS’s Nature of Things [Arctic Meltdown](#) series documents the drastic changes the Arctic has seen over the last few years. *Episode 1: A Changing World* features the ice shelf research of [Luke Copland](#), a professor at the Department of Geography in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ottawa. Watch Arctic Meltdown Episode One: [A Changing World](#).

Mount Allison University Graduate Finds One of Labrador’s Oldest Tress: University researchers think they’ve found one of the oldest, but certainly not tallest, black spruce trees in Newfoundland and Labrador. Standing just over two metres tall, with a trunk barely 10 centimetres thick, the spruce looks more like a bush than a tree of distinction. But it’s already 370 years old — and still growing, says [Ryan Jameson](#), a Memorial University graduate student who found the spruce above the treeline in Labrador’s Mealy Mountain range. Ryan was a member of the MADLAB while he was at Mount Allison. [CBC News](#)

New Book: **What is Water? The History of a Modern Abstraction.** By Jamie Linton, UBC Press



Every water issue is a social issue. And yet, in contrast to almost every other culture, we define water in the modern West as a substance entirely devoid of social content. How is it that we have come to think of water in this way – as an abstract compound of hydrogen and oxygen - and what are the consequences? These questions underlie Jamie Linton’s *What is Water*, a history of the particular way of conceptualizing water that predominated in the twentieth century. In this wide-ranging study, Linton shows how scientific practice, the modern state, technology and politics produced an idea of water that helped permit its manipulation and control on a vast scale, with corresponding effects on human society. That much of the world is engulfed today in what many describe as a “water crisis” suggests the need to rethink the nature of water. By reinvesting water with social content – by considering water’s “social nature” - Linton suggests a fresh approach to a fundamental problem. [UBC Press](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Julia Siemer, University of Regina

Dr. [Julia Siemer](#) is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Regina. She obtained her Ph.D. in geography/cartography from the University of Potsdam, Germany. Prior to her position at the University of Regina she was the map editor and chief cartographer of the GIS-based Demographic Atlas of Albania. Her research interests lie in the field of thematic cartography, GIS, and atlas cartography. Dr. Siemer has held positions as cartographer in publishing houses in Germany and Switzerland. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in cartography, GIS, and geography at University of Potsdam, University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Germany, and the University of Regina.

Other “Geographical” News

Map Kibera Creates an Infrastructure for Health Care: Map Kibera is an open-source project started in 2009 in response to the lack of information available for the Kibera district of Nairobi, Kenya – one of the world’s largest slums. The majority of Nairobi is geographically documented for health, education, and sanitation purposes, but these basic requirements are neglected without any mapping to guide the municipal infrastructure. Health geographers Jamie Lundine and Joshua Goldstein of the Map Kibera team share their insights on the project. [Map Kibera](#)

Can painting a mountain restore a glacier? Slowly but surely an extinct glacier in a remote corner of the Peruvian Andes is being returned to its former colour, not by falling snow or regenerated ice sheets, but by whitewash. It is the first experimental step in an innovative plan to recuperate Peru’s disappearing Andean glaciers. The World Bank clearly believes the idea - the brainchild of 55-year-old Peruvian inventor, Eduardo Gold - has merit as it was one of the 26 winners from around 1,700 submissions in the "100 Ideas to Save the Planet" competition at the end of 2009. [BBC News](#)

ESU Loses Geography Majors in Review Process: The geography major at East Stroudsburg University as part of a sweeping realignment of class offerings ordered by the state that left many faculty members chafing. The decisions capped a yearlong process of review of some 185 academic programs across the state's universities with low enrolments and few majors. [Pocono Record](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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