



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

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**NOTICE:** Distribution of GeogNews is being temporarily suspended while I undertake fieldwork at remote sites in the BC Coast Mountains. The hope is that I'll return unscathed and be able to start sending out the digest again by mid-August.

**Trent U Graduate Timothy Shah to Spend Summer Interning in Hong Kong:** Justin Chiu is supporting international learning by sponsoring two Trent students for a summer 2010 internship in Hong Kong. The two interns, Timothy Shah and Dean Howley, have been outstanding students during their time at Trent. They will be provided an apartment in Hong Kong, and will be employed full-time in the property development division of Cheung Kong (Holdings). Timothy Shah, a graduate of the Environmental & Resource Studies and Human Geography programs, was heavily involved as a student at Trent. A member of the student group, Sustainable Trent, he also started a blog ([www.enviroboys.com](http://www.enviroboys.com)) about the environment and current affairs with a friend and classmate. [Trent University Daily News](#)

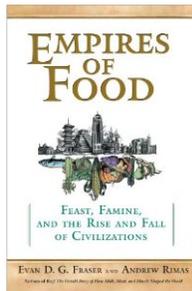
**U Toronto Geography's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** This year marks the University of Toronto Department of Geography's 75th anniversary. To celebrate the events, UTAGA and the department have a number of activities planned, from book exhibits to alumni mapping projects. Activities will peak during a weekend of celebrations (September 17th to 19th), which will bring together alumni, current students, faculty and staff for three days of events and field trips. The 75th celebration weekend is intended to connect and reconnect hundreds of alumni with each other. To find out more, visit [75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#).

**U Guelph Geography MSc Graduate Graham Clark Receives Slaymaker Award:** MSc Graduate Graham Clark was awarded the Slaymaker Award for best student presentation by the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group at the Prairie Summit, 2010: 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).

**SFU Geography Graduate Chris Bone Celebrates Two Degrees and a Baby:** Chris Bone has much to celebrate. The recent geography PhD grad is not only receiving a graduate dean's convocation medal for academic excellence, but he also became a new father in May. And during June's convocation ceremonies he'll share the stage with his wife, Beth Richardson, a New Westminster high school English teacher who defended her thesis for the Master of Arts for Teachers of English program just one week before delivering their baby girl, Mavis. Chris is now working as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alaska at Anchorage studying how natural resource management decisions impact climate change. [SFU News Online](#)

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## New Book by U Guelph's Evan Fraser Explores How, Why Food Shapes the World



Well-meant initiatives such as Barack Obama's Feed the Future and "Buy Local" efforts will not be end the world's food crisis, according to a University of Guelph professor. Evan Fraser, a new University of Guelph geography professor and agricultural expert, explores why such one-solution plans historically fail in his just-published book, *Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilization*. Written with U.S. journalist Andrew Rimas, the book looks at how and why human culture depends on food, what happens when a culture runs out of it and what can be expected in years to come. For example, Fraser says the U.S. president's plan and others focus on struggling countries reliance on crop specialization and exportation. "It's a dangerous strategy," he said, adding that over-specialization damages land, producing less bountiful harvests. [Guelph News](#) | [Globe and Mail](#)

**U Winnipeg Geography Welcomes New Remote Sensing/Urban Professor Dr. Christopher Storie:** Dr. Christopher Storie will be joining the U Winnipeg Geography Department this fall as a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor. Chris obtained his PhD in Geography from Wilfred Laurier University in 2009, but for the last five years he has been teaching Geography at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He will be joining the department as of September 1, 2010. His wife, Joni, will be moving to Winnipeg at the end of the fall term; she has a PhD in Geography from the University of Waterloo, and specializes in geomatics. [U Winnipeg Geography](#)

**U Guelph Geography PhD Candidate Phil Mount Wins Top Graduate Student Paper Competition:** U Guelph Geography PhD candidate Phil Mount was recently selected as the winner of the competition for top graduate student paper at the annual meeting of the International Association for Agriculture and Human Values in Indianapolis, Ill. [Mount@Guelph](#)

**Carleton U's Fran Klodawsky Studies Those Living 'on the edge':** As an associate professor of geography, Fran Klodawsky spends a lot of her time looking beyond Canada's borders and at issues that affect people. But really, she need not look further than her own backyard for genuine stories of struggle. In 2008, there were 7,045 people using Ottawa's shelters and thousands of others on the edge; living in poverty and fighting to keep their homes and families together. Klodawsky, together with a colleague at the University of Ottawa and in partnership with the Alliance To End Homelessness, recently studied a sample of Ottawa's homeless population, discovering that about half claimed eviction and an inability to pay rent as their prime reasons for being homeless. Alcohol and drug abuse accounted for just eight per cent. [Carleton Now](#)

**Thompson Rivers U's Ken Favrholt on who Discovered or Mapped the Thompson River:** According to Ken Favrholt, a geography instructor at Thompson Rivers University, "It was Simon Fraser, in 1808 on his journey downstream on the river named after him, who was the first white man to identify the river flowing into the Fraser at Camchin (Lytton), which he named the Thompson after his fellow Nor'wester who was exploring the Columbia watershed". [Kamloops Daily News](#)

Heather Castleden, Valorie A. Crooks, Nadine Schuurman, and Neil Hanlon. 2010. [‘It’s not necessarily the distance on the map...’: using place as an analytic tool to elucidate geographic issues central to rural palliative care.](#) Health and Place 16(2):284-290.

Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth and Alec Ostry. 2010. [Stealth voluntarism: An expectation of health professional work in underserved areas?](#) Health and Place doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2010.05.005

Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth and David Snadden. 2010. [“We can see a future here”: Place attachment, professional identity, and forms of capital mobilized to deliver medical education in an underserved area.](#) Health and Place doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2010.04.016

Raktim Mitra, Ron N. Buliung and Guy E.J. Faulkner. 2010. [Spatial clustering and the temporal mobility of walking school trips in the Greater Toronto Area, Canada.](#) Health and Place 16(4): 646-655.

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### **Geographer of the Week: Kate Ploeger, PhD Student, University of Ottawa**

[Kate Ploeger](#), a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Ottawa, is a self-confessed disaster guru. She has worked on numerous projects related to natural disasters including volcanic hazards (undergraduate), forest fires (undergraduate), drought (graduate) and earthquakes (graduate). For her PhD Kate is continuing her research in seismic risk assessment working under the supervision of Dr. Mike Sawada (Dept. of Geography at U of O), and Dr. Murat Saatcioglu (Dept. of Civil Engineering at U of O). Her research focus is using applied geomatics to identify high risk and vulnerable regions, and to present damage projections in both rural and urban settings within Canada. Her PhD research will expand further on her MSc research in building disaster projections for the City of Ottawa in the event of an earthquake. [U Ottawa Geography Department](#)

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### **Other “Geographical” News**

**Melting Permafrost Threatens Arctic Housing Projects:** An Arctic community that has seen its fire hall sink and roads buckle in the melting permafrost is now shifting future building projects away from town. The effect of vanishing permafrost -- soil normally frozen year round -- is now being felt across Canada's North, and the Quebec village of Salluit is just one of many Arctic towns trying to adapt to an increasingly warmer climate. Rising temperatures are being blamed for natural disturbances in the North, such as the rapidly eroding coastline of Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., and unprecedented floods that knocked out two bridges in Pangnirtung, Nunavut. One of Quebec's northernmost communities, Salluit saw its local fire station sink into the softening ground a year after it opened. [CTV News](#)

**U Oregon Geographer Susan Hardwick Finds Older Well-Educated Immigrants Prefer Canada to U.S.:** With age and wisdom, Canada looks better than the United States as a destination for potential immigrants, new research suggests. Jack Jedwab, executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies, and Susan Hardwick, a University of Oregon geographer, argue that although Canada trails the United States as the most desirable global destination, the situation is reversed among those who are well-educated and slightly older. Among those who have completed only elementary education, the U.S. outstrips Canada by a considerable margin. But among those who have completed secondary education, Canada leads by 59% to 51%. [Globe and Mail](#) | [Canada Visa Bureau](#)

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

### **Rogue peacock patrols UBC's Okanagan campus**



A rogue peacock has been strutting his stuff at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus, but nobody seems to know where he came from or who's responsible for making sure he comes to no harm. The fully grown male bird has caught the attention of students and staff alike, who generally agree that he's a lively addition to the Kelowna campus. Petey, as he has been named, has been patrolling the grounds for a couple of weeks, creating quite a spectacle

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