



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo's Geoff McBoyle Acting VP, Provost: Prof. Geoff McBoyle will serve as VP Academic & Provost until the search for our next President is complete and the Interim President can return to the VP Academic & Provost position." McBoyle served as dean of what was then called the Faculty of Environmental Studies from 1997 to 2004. He is a long-time faculty member in the geography and environmental management department, and was winner of a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989. He became associate VP, one of the top academic administrative positions, in 2007. The associate VP (academic) is responsible for activities focused generally on UW's undergraduate education, including academic program reviews. UW Daily Bulletin

U Guelph's Barry Smith on CBC Radio: Geography Prof. Barry Smit was featured on the popular CBC Radio program The Current. He was part of a story on climate change and global food production. Given the crop losses this year associated with extreme weather around the world, and the fact that this year is being on track for the warmest year on record, Smit was asked to discuss the implications of climate change for global food production. He discussed how developing countries will cope and whether Canada is expected to be a major beneficiary of a warmer climate. This summer, Smit represented Canada at the 2010 Federation Dialogue in Canberra, Australia, which was hosted by the Canadian High Commission. [UG News](#) | [CanadaViews.ca](#)

Carleton U's New Geographer Derek Mueller: Derek Mueller is a new faculty member in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. His research focuses on extreme ice features along the northernmost coastline of Nunavut. Over the past decade he has documented a striking 30 per cent loss of Canada's remaining ice shelves. These ancient ice features are breaking up and drifting off into the Arctic Ocean as the climate warms. These changes have implications for vulnerable aquatic ecosystems that rely on this thick ice for survival, as well as for the petroleum industry which must contend with the threat of large drifting ice masses in the Beaufort Sea. [Carleton University Newsroom](#)

U Winnipeg Geography Welcomes Drs Evelyn Peters, Robert Stock and Christopher Storie: The Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg has announced that three professors will be joining its faculty this year. Dr. **Evelyn Peters** is a specialist in urban social geography, especially as related to urban First Nations and Métis communities; Dr. **Robert Stock** is an expert on international development and African geography (he is the author of Africa South of the Sahara); and, as previously announced, Dr. **Christopher Storie** will be joining the department in September. [UW Geography News](#)

U Trent Alumni Kingsley Hurlington Publishes Children's Atlas: As General Editor, Kingsley Hurlington, geography alumni, PhD candidate in Canadian Studies and Research Associate at the School of Education and Professional Learning, recently published the first edition of the [Oxford Atlas 1 Project](#), aimed at helping primary school students become familiar with maps and basic map-reading skills.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Catherine Nash, Brock University

Dr. [Catherine Nash](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Brock University. Catherine has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Ottawa, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University, and a PhD in Geography from Queen's University. She recently received SSHRC funding for her research project on a the newly emerging 'queer' neighbourhood located on Queen Street West, west of Dufferin St. in downtown Toronto. The research considers the social, political and economic implications of the formation of a self-stylized 'queer' district that positions itself as an alternative community location for those looking beyond Toronto's so-called traditional LGBT village at Church and Wellesley Streets. The research explores not only the spatial formation and organization of 'queer' identities, practices and ways of being but positions these within the larger questions of urban planning and politics; urban cosmopolitanism; sexual citizenship and tourism; and identity politics and difference. She is the co-editor of the recently published book entitled [Queer Methods and Methodologies. Intersecting Queer Theories and Social Science Research](#).

Other "Geographical" News

The End of the Line: Geographers have identified the site of Columbus's landing as the town of Baracoa at Cuba's eastern end. Diego Velasquez de Cuellar made it the capital of Cuba in 1511 until the Spaniards realised where it was: the first stop if you are arriving from Spain but the last stop from anywhere else in Cuba. Barricaded behind a confusion of mountains, Baracoa is a place apart. Until a road was built over the passes in 1964, the only way to reach it was the way Columbus had come, by sea. [The Australian](#)

New Brunswick Bids for North America's First UNESCO Geopark: Geologists from Germany and Ireland are in southwestern New Brunswick this week to evaluate a proposal to create North America's first United Nations geopark. The designation would cover an area from Lepreau Falls to Fundy National Park and inland to the Norton Fossil Field. It would also include popular tourist attractions such as the Saint John River's Reversing Falls, where the stream forces its way through a narrow opening in billion-year-old rock. The designation would highlight important geological features and the stories related to them. In order to get the project running, the group needs United Nations approval through UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. [CBC News](#)

New Study Shows that Oilsands Mining and Processing are Polluting the Athabasca River: Inorganic elements known to be toxic at low concentrations are being discharged to air and water by oilsands mining and processing. The 13 elements being discharged include mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium and several other metals known to be toxic at trace levels. The results are not surprising according to David Schindler given the huge amounts of many of the same elements that the industry has reported discharging. "The study was deliberately designed to test claims by industry and Alberta politicians that all contaminants in the river are from natural sources," said Schindler. Elevated concentrations were in Lake Athabasca, near Fort Chipewyan. "The releases are in clear violation of section 36, subsection 3 of the Fisheries Act, which prohibits discharge of toxins in any quantity into fish-bearing waters." [EuerkAlert!](#)

Innovative System for Producing Vegetables in Drought-Prone Sahel: With a major famine unfolding in Niger and other countries of West Africa's dry Sahelian region, an agricultural scientist announced an innovative system for irrigated vegetable production. Referred to as the African Market Garden, the new system will be implemented with about 7,000 small-scale farmers at 100 locations.

The centerpiece of the new system is a, low-pressure drip irrigation unit, which is installed in a field that comprises clusters measuring 500 square meters. The African Market Garden drastically reduces one of the main limitations of traditional vegetable growing—its excessive labour and energy requirements, which account for three-fourths of the operating costs of traditional market gardens. [EuerkAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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