



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 101, November 2, 2010
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

Université du Québec à Montréal's Jean Carrière Creates Interactive Maps for Cities: Jean Carrière, a geography professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal, uses public statistics on a wide range of social factors, including poverty levels, reported cases of child abuse, language ability, addiction rates and even insect infestations in dwellings and local pollution. He compiles it all into interactive maps for cities to use to prevent the conditions that lead to child abuse. He has made child abuse maps for Rivière des Prairies, St. Eustache, Laval and Deux Montagnes. [Montreal Gazette](#) | [The Vancouver Sun](#) | [theconcordian](#)

Jim Randall Joins UPEI as Vice-President Academic: Dr. Jim Randall was a professor of geography and planning at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) before joining the University of Prince Edward Island in July 2010. He received his PhD in economic geography from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1987. He has an MA in economic and urban geography (1981), and a BA in human geography (1979) from York University. His research interests combine his professional roots in economic and urban geography with his experience in administration and in fostering community-university research partnerships. [UPEI](#)

University Winnipeg Department of Geography Student Guidebook: Anyone with a natural curiosity about the world around them, who desire a combination of theory and practice with a balance between lectures and laboratory, library and field research, should consider the options presented by a program in geography at the University of Winnipeg. Check out [Geography. A Student's Guide 2010-2011](#).



Simon Fraser University's Department of Geography is delighted to host the WDCAG annual meeting. The conference will take place March 10th-12th on the main campus in Burnaby. The conference theme is 'Habitat for Diversity.' The plenary evening will feature a talk by Alisa Smith, co-author of the 100-Mile Diet and co-host of the 100-Mile Challenge show from FoodNetwork. Abstracts for papers and posters are due by February 1st, 2011.

Details regarding abstract submission and all other aspects of the conference can be found at the [WDCAG 2011 Conference website](#).

UBC Geography Newsletter, October 2010: The monthly departmental newsletter from UBC profiles the new graduate students who joined the department this fall, features photographs from the 2010 ‘Welcome Back’ reception, describes the grad getaway at Whistler, and welcomes a host of visitors and post-docs. For details, check out the [newsletter](#).

Royal Canadian Geographical Society Honours Alex Trebek for Dedication to Geography: Alex Trebek needs no introduction to the millions of Jeopardy! fans who have watched him host the quiz show over the past 26 years. But what they may not know about him is his singular dedication to geographic education. Trebek has hosted many student geography competitions over the years, including the Society’s Geography Challenge in Canada. For Trebek, geography is more than just a school subject. Recent events such as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico show that understanding geography is more important than ever before. “These are geographic events,” he says, “and they affect people directly.” [RCGS News](#) | [Northern Life](#) | [Canada.com](#) | [Edmonton Journal](#)

U Winnipeg’s Danny Blair on Impact of Climate Change on Weather Bomb: They’re not about to draw a direct link between this week’s weather bomb and a changing climate, but local experts say the powerful storm system is just the sort of thing Manitobans should start getting used to under climate-change predictions. University of Winnipeg geography professor Danny Blair said it’s impossible to attribute a single weather event to climate change, but this is the type of thing the province can expect down the road. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Memorial U’s Chris Sharpe and Jo Shawyer Tell Story of War at Home: During the Second World War the landscape of St. John’s was reshaped dramatically by two occupying forces – the Canadian and American armies. Chris Sharpe and Jo Shawyer of Memorial University’s geography department recently told a full house at the Johnson Geo Centre of the impact of 16,000 armed forces on the city of St. John’s. In what was described as a very conservative estimate, more than 200 families were affected by property requisition. [The Telegram](#)

UBCO’s Bernard Momber on Attracting High Tech Industry to Kelowna: UBCO Geography Professor Bernard Momber says there is a number of things about Kelowna that appeal to people from outside the area. “We’re talking about the lakes, the mountains, the parks,” Momber said. Although most business people and politicians seem to like the idea of attracting more high tech industry, there has been some debate about whether continual growth is in the city’s best interests. [Global News](#)

UWO Geography Research Funding Success: The University of Western Ontario’s Department of Geography has for the third year in a row exceeded \$1 million in research funding. The majority of these funds support graduate student research in the areas of physical geography, environment, development and health, urban studies, and geographic information science. Find more about the Department’s research programs at <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/research/>.

U Manitoba’s John Hanesiak Presents Discovery Evening on Severe Prairie Thunderstorms: Dr. John Hanesiak, Dept. of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba presented a Nature Discovery Manitoba talk on “Severe Prairie Thunderstorms, Tornadogenesis and Storm Chasing” on November 1. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

U Waterloo’s Susan Elliott Transdisciplinary Geographer: Waterloo’s “can-do attitude” was the big attraction, says Susan Elliott, when she came from McMaster University in Hamilton to become dean of Waterloo’s faculty of applied health sciences, effective July 1. Her original academic discipline is geography, a field that in this university is based in the faculty of environment. At Mac, where she was director of the school of geography and earth sciences, it’s in the faculty of science. Most recently at Mac, she served as dean of the faculty of social sciences. [University of Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

Trent U's Steve Franklin Showcased in November 1 Broadcast of Mindfield: Trent University president Dr. Steven E. Franklin's Remote Sensing Research was at the centre of a national production aired November 1, 2010. On the heels of publishing his third book in November 2009, *Remote Sensing for Biodiversity and Wildlife Management*, Dr. Franklin participated in a production focusing on researchers who explore the effects of urbanization and industrial development on wildlife and the environment. [Trent Daily News](#)

UNBC News:

Titi Kunkel (PhD Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) candidate, co-supervisors: Drs. Bob Ellis and UNBC geographer Ellen Petticrew) along with the Fraser Basin Council organized and hosted 43 people at a [Cariboo-Chilcotin First Nations Energy Forum](#) in Williams Lake on Oct 25, 2010. Council members, community members, economic development officers and Chiefs representing 13 Cariboo-Chilcotin bands and two tribal councils participated in the presentation and discussion of approaches to alternate energies. Link to [additional information](#).

Dr. Catherine Nolin & Grahame Russell of Rights Action (along with the great UNBC students who accompanied them) share our most updated Formal Human Rights Violation Complaint that we submitted on October 18, 2010 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs Critics, MPs, Canadian Ambassador to Guatemala Leeann McKechnie, and many others. This is not a casual letter of concern but a demand for action and accountability related to crimes and human rights violations related to Canadian mining in Guatemala. Links to [the letter](#) and [more information](#).

NRES MA candidate JP Laplante (supervisor: C. Nolin) remains in Guatemala conducting his research on Canadian mining, corporate social responsibility, and community resistance efforts. JP was recruited in his community of Santa Cruz del Quiché to serve as the coordinator of international observers for the historic community "consulta" / referendum (Consulta Comunitaria de Buena Fe) where more than 27,000 people in 87 communities vote 'no' to the following question: "Are you in favour of the intervention of transnational corporations / private Guatemalan interests regarding hydroelectric projects & mining?." The consulta took place on October 22nd.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Wayne Forsythe, Ryerson University

Dr. [Wayne Forsythe](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Ryerson University. Wayne received his BSc from the University of Saskatchewan, his MSc at the University of Calgary and his PhD from the Universität Salzburg. He is the current Vice-President of the [Ontario Division](#) of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Wayne's research and teaching interests focus on remote sensing, spatial technologies and management, and field courses held in [Austria, Germany and Italy](#).

Wayne was nominated to receive "Geographer of the Week" notoriety by participants at [CAGONT 2010](#). There is broad scale appreciation for his role in ensuring that the annual meeting was one of the most successful ever. Great work Wayne!

Correction: Diligent GeogNews readers (and departmental colleagues at York University!) made note of the fact that [Alison Bain](#) was identified as an Assistant Professor in the last issue. Fear not geographers, Alison has not been demoted. She is, of course, an Associate Professor and also serves as the departmental Graduate Program Director.

Einbinder, Nathan and Catherine Nolin. 2010. "Voices from the edge: A Mayan community shares stories of its struggle to avoid forced eviction by a nickel mine". [Cultural Survival Quarterly](#) 34(3) Fall, 28-33.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Katie Burles. 2010. "Snowmelt energy balance in a burned forest stand, Crowsnest Pass, Alberta." Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta. Supervisor: Sarah Boon.

Other "Geographical" News

Researchers Use Math, Maps to Plot Malaria Elimination Plan: Researchers have used mathematical models and maps to estimate the feasibility of eliminating malaria from countries that have the deadliest form of the disease. The data suggest that Plasmodium falciparum malaria, the deadliest parasite, could be eliminated in most parts of the world in 10 to 15 years, including most areas in Asia and the Americas, if transmission could be reduced by 90 percent from 2007 rates. [Science Centric](#)

Lead Poisoning Maps in Rhode Island Reveal Huge Disparities: Rhode Islanders under six years of age who lived in the state's lowest income areas or in neighborhoods with lots of pre-1950 housing faced a threat of lead poisoning several times higher than average, according to a new study of data from 1993 through 2005. Looking at the striking sociological disparities in the data, as well as its usefulness in mapping those disparities, researchers should be eager to apply geographic analysis in other such studies. [Science Daily](#)

Expanding Croplands Chipping Away at World's Carbon Stocks: Nature's capacity to store carbon, the element at the heart of global climate woes, is steadily eroding as farmers expand croplands at the expense of forests. The tradeoff between agricultural production and maintaining nature's carbon reservoirs -- native trees, plants and their carbon-rich detritus in the soil -- is becoming more pronounced as more and more of the world's natural ecosystems succumb to the plow. The problem is most acute in the tropics, where expanding agriculture often comes at the expense of the tropical forests that act as massive carbon sinks. [Science Daily](#).

Global Map of the Sickle Cell Gene Supports 'Malaria Hypothesis': Geographers, biologists and statisticians at the University of Oxford, together with colleagues from the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Programme in Kenya, have produced the first detailed global map showing the distribution of the sickle cell gene. The study showed that the sickle cell gene is most common in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and India, and that the areas of high frequency of this gene are coincident with historically high levels of malaria, thus confirming that the malaria hypothesis is correct at the global scale. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

The ‘Hottie’ Factor: Why Some Profs Out-Earn Others:

On ratemyprofessors.com, students rank their professors for clarity, helpfulness, easiness and “appearance (just for fun): __Hot __Not.” If a professor receives more hots than nots, a chili pepper appears beside his or her name.

There’s lots of evidence that, in general, good looking people earn higher salaries. But why would hotness pay in academia? A professor’s salary is largely determined by what he or she teaches (Engineering pays better than English), rank (full professors earn more than associates or assistants), where he or she teaches (University of Toronto pays better than Trent), and his or her research productivity.

Yes, being good looking might make it easier to get an academic job in the first place. But surely, once a person has an academic job, intellectual ability - the ability to do original research - matters more than looks?

Indeed we found that female professors rated as “hot” by their students earn no more - and might even earn less - than the “not.” We included controls for age and a host of other factors, so our results are not due to the fact that that younger women are simultaneously more junior and more likely to be rated hot.

Other research has found that women who are more demanding in negotiations are rated as less attractive. Perhaps the personality traits that prompt a woman to negotiate a higher salary just aren’t seen as sexy in the classroom.

For men, however, we found a startlingly high pay-off to hotness. True, not many male professors are rated as hot, but those that are, earn much more. Controlling for age, rank, university, and research productivity, hot male economics professors are almost 20 per cent more likely to be earning more than \$100,000 a year. Conditional upon earning more than \$100,000 a year, being hot increases a male professor’s predicted salary by more than \$3,000.

We do not know exactly why hot male professors earn more. One possibility is hot men are those who are more assertive, and this leads to successful salary negotiations.

Another possible explanation comes from the comments students write on ratemyprofessors.com. “I absolutely loved Professor _____. He’s one of the busiest people in the Economics department and yet he never sees it as an inconvenience to do what he can to help,” or he’s a “a semi-retired superman.” Perhaps hot professors earn more because charisma, likeability, and good organizational skills are rewarded in the labour market.

[Carleton University News](#)

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