



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith [<caq@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)

Making an Historic Record of Sounds of Toronto: Bass-heavy Top 40 hits rattle an old Honda Civic idling curbside on Bloor West. In the street, brakes whine and engines growl as traffic creeps forward. A diner door opens and a brief blast of conversation wafts out before it thuds shut behind a departing customer. These and more snippets of sound are sucked into Greg Smith's digital recorder as he walks briskly past pedestrians and storefronts, capturing every buzz, hum and whir he encounters. Smith, a web designer, is co-creator of the Urban Sound Ecology project, an online archive of non-narrated walks recorded on the streets of Toronto and Vancouver. He and his partner, Max Ritts, a Vancouver-based geographer, want to create a historic record of their cities' soundscapes. [The Toronto Star](#)

CAG Member Austin Uduogu Okezie Denis on Impacts of Irrigated Legume-Based Cropping: Range assessment in the past involved the monitoring of the growing condition of natural vegetation, and thus prospect for yield of animal products. This approach in range management came under scrutiny in Africa in the 1980s due to a better appreciation of the multifunctional use of the range. What is needed now is a total assessment of range conditions using approaches that reflect the current rangeland uses. Where mixed farming is practiced, an overall range assessment must look at the total sustainable yield of grains and animal products. Clearing and cultivation together with the biodiversity implications must now be put on the same level as burning and grazing as factors of range assessment. [Social Science Research Network](#)

National Geographic National Geographic's Explorer-in-Residence Speaks at Bishop's University: Wade Davis recently spoke at Bishop's University. Davis is the National Geographic Society's Explorer-in-Residence. His recent book, [The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World](#), examines the juxtaposition of our technologically advancing world and the decline of the "ethnosphere," the cultures, religions and ways of life at risk of disappearing. Davis is Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and in 2009 received the [Gold Medal from the RCGS](#) for his work in raising public concern about the plight of indigenous peoples. [BU News Release](#)

Brock U's Alun Hughes Debunks Bicentennial Celebration of Commercial Wine-Making: There's a movement afoot to celebrate the bicentennial of commercial wine-making in the province next year. The making and selling of bottled bingo by Johann Schiller in 1811 led to him being championed as the operator of Ontario's first commercial winery. Brock University geography professor and indefatigable local historian Alun Hughes has debunked the Schiller tale, calling into serious question the legitimacy of any anniversary celebrations next year. [The Standard](#)

U Lethbridge MSc Student Dave Dixon Featured at U of L's GIS Day: MSc student [Dave Dixon](#), from the Dept of Geography's [Mountain Hydrology Lab](#), was featured on the front page of the Lethbridge Herald presenting his research at the U of L's GIS Day. [UL Notice Board](#)

UWO Urban Geographers ‘Take to the Streets’ with Kids for Geography Awareness Week: This is awesome!” exclaimed one 5th grader as he marched along Oxford Street in London, Ontario clipboard in hand, working on an ‘environmental audit’ of his school neighbourhood. The student was one of 45 eager Grade 4 to 6 students from Blessed Sacrament school who participated in Geography Awareness Week (GAW)/GIS Day exercises. Led by a Dr. Jason Gilliland, a professor in UWO’s Geography Department and his team of graduate students from the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (HEAL) spent the day working with the children on a number of exercises to assess and map their local school environment. [UWO Geog News](#)

UBC-O’s Robert Young on Why the Prairies Don’t Have any Great Lakes: The Globe’s Collected Wisdom finds out why glaciers on the prairies didn’t create ‘Great Lakes’, Robert Young, an associate professor of physical geography at the University of British Columbia, says the Great Lakes exist at the edge of the Canadian Shield, where gently dipping bedrock of varying types has been eroded. “The varying rocks eroded at different rates, so that large basins developed that later filled to become lakes.” However,” he says, “because the Prairies are a plain over a vast sedimentary basin composed of rock types that are different from the Canadian Shield and its boundary rocks, the lake basins can’t form there.” [The Globe and Mail](#)

University of Toronto’s Minelle Mahtani Comments on “Canadian media: It’s time to cover the uncovered”: Minelle Mahtani, an associate professor of geography and planning at the University of Toronto met a small group of international scholars and journalists at Stanford University to look at new trends in diversity and journalism. She writes “We concluded that journalists globally are scrambling to figure out how to cover rapidly changing patterns of demography. Journalists are no longer simply truth-tellers. They’re sense-makers. And one need only turn to the great journalism success stories of our generation to see that all audiences want in-depth, complex coverage that holds up a mirror in which all Canadians can see themselves reflected.” [The Globe and Mail](#)

Mount Allison Students Cooking-Up Food Security Awareness: Members of Mount Allison geography and environmental studies professor Dr. Brad Walters’ Seminar in Environmental Issues class have been stirring the pot and making headlines in their efforts to promote local agriculture and food security. Walters says, “Food is a topic we all can relate to, yet few of us give much thought as to how food is produced and the challenges facing the farming community in New Brunswick and elsewhere.” The experiential, action-oriented course divided students into three working groups in response to opportunities seen by the class to support local food and agriculture initiatives. [MTA News](#)

Nipissing U’s April James Discusses CRC in Watershed Analysis Modelling: April James, an Assistant Professor and CRC holder in the Department of Geography at Nipissing University is featured in an online faculty profile video. April’s research interests include watershed and hillslope hydrology and modelling, groundwater-surface water interactions, and integration of different data types in testing model representation. [Vimeo Faculty Profile](#)

U Saskatchewan’s John Pomeroy has CRC Water Resources and Climate Change Renewed: John Pomeroy, a professor in the Department of Geography and holder of Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, will receive \$200,000 per year for seven years. Pomeroy is one of Canada’s foremost authorities on water resources and related climate issues, working to better understand and predict the role of droughts and wetland drainage on prairie water systems. [UofS News](#)

WLU's Margaret Walton-Roberts Reports on National Association of Geographers India Congress:

This November I was invited to give a paper at the National Association of Geographers India (NAGI) congress held at Panjab University (PU) in Chandigarh. It was the first time I have attended a Geography conference in all my visits to India. It was reassuring to mingle with so many geographers at my field sites. I was invited to be a panel with a number of Indian population geographers including Prof. Surinder Aggarwal (University of Delhi), and Prof R.C. Chandna (ret'd formerly of Panjab University). The conference was attended by over 600 delegates (considered a record for NAGI). One interesting aspect of the conference was the involvement of India's recently created National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The NDMA is a central government ministry created to deal with all aspects of disaster management and responsiveness.

Amit Jha the assistant secretary of the NRDA made a presentation to the conference attendees and commended Panjab University for its dedicated MA program in disaster management, one of the only universities in India with such a program. The conference also contained a number of very good research papers presented by students, many of which dealt with climate change adaptation, case studies of disaster response, and various population issues.

I was very pleased to have been invited to the NAGI 2010 Congress, to meet so many fellow geographers, and to be able to get a sense of the esteem the discipline enjoys in India. Geography is an important core topic taught in the high schools, and the NAGI organisers invited local school pupils and teachers to the conference for a special map reading quiz, with awards made to the best students, and teachers. This is something we may want to replicate in 2012 when we host the CAG meeting.

After the NAGI congress I went to Delhi to attend "the Politics, Culture and Economics of Migration" conference organised by the Indian Formation Collective (IFC). This is a pro-people organization that works theoretically and practically to understand the nature of the current situation in South Asia and how it can be changed through collective action. The level of papers and debate was excellent, with a number of community activists speaking about issues of caste violence, Tribal community displacement and the status of internally displaced communities in the NE of India. This was the third conference organized by the IFC, the theme of next year's conference will be announced in the New Year.

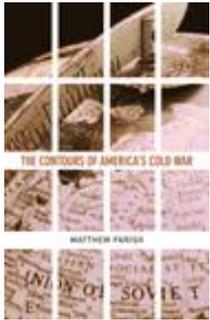
[Margaret Walton-Roberts](#)

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Recent Theses and Dissertations

Lynne Bosquet. 2010 "The Effects of Observed and Experimental Climate Change and Permafrost Disturbance on Tundra Vegetation in the Western Canada High Arctic." Unpublished MSc thesis. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Scott Lamoureux and Greg Henry (Geography, UBC).

[The Contours of America's Cold War](#), by Matthew Farish



In [The Contours of America's Cold War](#), Matthew Farish explores new ways of conceptualizing space as part of post–World War II American militarism. He demonstrates how the social sciences were militarized in the early Cold War period, producing spatial knowledge that was of immediate use to the state as it sought to expand its reach across the globe. Geographic knowledge generated for the Cold War was a form of power, Farish argues, and it was given an urgency in the panels, advisory boards, and study groups established to address the challenges of an atomic world. He investigates how the scales of the city, the continent, the region, the globe, and, by extension, outer space were brought together as strategic spaces, categories that provided a cartographic orientation for the Cold War and influenced military deployments, diplomacy, espionage, and finance. Farish analyzes the surprising range of knowledge production involved in the project of claiming and classifying American space. Backed by military and intelligence funding, physicists and policy makers, soldiers and social scientists came together to study and shape the United States and its place in a divided world.

[Matthew Farish](#) is assistant professor of geography at the University of Toronto.



REMINDER: 2011 CAG Awards - Call for Nominations

We invite you to nominate individuals for the following CAG Awards:

- Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography
- Award for Service to the Profession of Geography
- Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business
- Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography

A description of the awards can be found at http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag_awards.html

A list of former recipients can be found on our website as well as the complete nomination procedure at http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/nominations_procedures.html

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received electronically by January 31, 2011.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Glen T. Hvenegaard, University of Alberta, Augustana Campus

Dr. [Glen T. Hvenegaard](#) is a Professor of Geography University of Alberta, Augustana Campus. Glen received a BSc at the University of Alberta, an M.Sc. at the University of Alberta, and his Ph.D. from the University of Victoria. Glen has taught at the Augustana Campus since 1994 and teaches in the areas of physical geography, parks, environmental conservation, and the Canadian north.

Glen's research focuses primarily on the conservation aspects of ecotourism, biogeography, and environmental education. He is seeking to understand the actual and potential roles of ecotourism in promoting conservation. Glen uses principles and practices of biogeography to examine local issues of biodiversity conservation. He conducts research on teaching and learning issues related to undergraduate research, environmental education, and outdoor education. In one project, his is examining the motivations, benefits, and barriers of Directed Studies from student and instructor perspectives. In another, he is examining the learning impacts of planning and executing a for-credit 3-week Canoe Expedition to the Canadian Arctic to study natural history and outdoor leadership.

Sirami, C., A. Nespoulous, J.-P. Cheylan, P. Marty, G.T. Hvenegaard, and J.-L. Martin. 2010. [Long-term anthropogenic and ecological dynamics of a Mediterranean landscape: Impacts on multiple taxa](#). *Landscape and Urban Planning* 96: 214-223.

Hvenegaard, G.T., J. Shultis, and J.R. Butler. 2009. The role of interpretation. Pages 202-234 In P. Dearden & R. Rollins (eds.) [Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Planning and Management](#), 3rd Ed., Oxford University Press, Don Mills, ON.

Caula, S., G.T. Hvenegaard, & P. Marty. 2009. [The influence of bird information, attitudes, and demographics on public preferences toward urban green spaces; The case of Montpellier, France](#). *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 8: 117-128.

Other "Geographical" News

What Makes a Good Professor at Memorial?: Students are performance evaluated every day, but the shoe is less frequently on the other foot. A research team at Memorial discovered that emotional connection plays a huge part in how effective instruction is – whether that's in the classroom or online. Derived from the study are student definitions of characteristics and sets of instructor behaviours that students perceive as essential to effective teaching. Those nine characteristics for on-campus students, in order of the number of the times they were mentioned in the survey results were: respectful, knowledgeable, approachable, engaging, communicative, organized, responsive, professional and humorous. [MunToday](#)

'No Fish Left Behind' Approach Leaves Earth With Nowhere Left to Fish: Earth has run out of room to expand fisheries, according to [a new study](#) that charts the systematic expansion of industrialized fisheries. It reveals that fisheries expanded at a rate of one million sq. kilometres per year from the 1950s to the end of the 1970s. The rate of expansion more than tripled in the 1980s and early 1990s. "The decline of spatial expansion since the mid-1990s is not a reflection of successful conservation efforts but rather an indication that we've simply run out of room to expand fisheries," says Wilf Swartz. [Science Daily](#) | [UBC Media Release](#)



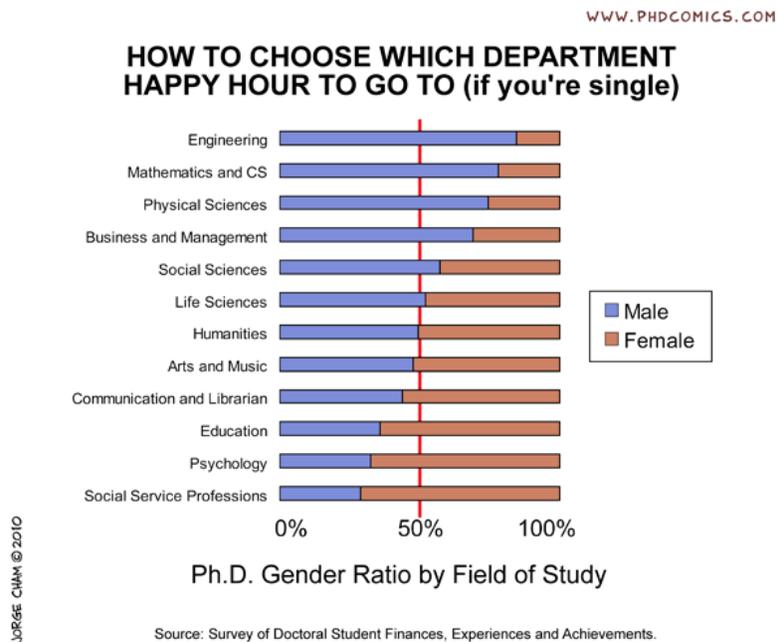
CAG Student Travel Grant Reminder:

CAG Student Members are eligible to apply for a CAG Travel Grant. See http://www.cag-acg.ca/files/pdf/Travel_E.rtf or for the French version, see http://www.cag-acg.ca/files/pdf/Travel_F.rtf

To be eligible students must have held CAG Student membership in the year prior to the meeting (2010) as well as the year in which the meeting takes place (2011). All 2010 membership application forms plus payment must be received by Dec. 30, 2010 in order to qualify to apply for the travel grant. Only a PDF copy of the 2010 membership application form is currently available. Click http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/pdf_version.html for a copy. The membership year runs from January to December.

The deadline for grant applications is the 15th of February. For complete travel grant details see our website at http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_travel_grant.html

Some not so “Geographical” News



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