



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 118, February 19, 2011**  
**Compiled by Dan Smith <[cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)>**

---

**CAG Elections Update:** The CAG Executive Nominations Committee announces that the following individuals have been elected to executive positions: Vice President: Jean Andrey; Secretary-Treasurer: Virginia Maclaren; National Councillor: Kathi Wilson and Patricia Wood; Student Councillor: Jodi Axelson. On behalf of the association, congratulations are offered. These individuals assume their roles following the [Annual General Meeting in Calgary](#). A collective and heartfelt thanks is extended to the unsuccessful candidates in this election. Your willingness to serve the association is acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

**J. Ross Mackay Award to Michele Koppes of UBC Geography:** The Canadian Geomorphology Research Group has announced that this year's winner of the J. Ross Mackay Award is [Dr. Michele Koppes](#), Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Koppe's was nominated for a body of work she has produced over the last decade, establishing the controls on the relative rates of erosion by fluvial and glacial processes, and disentangling these contributions from tectonic and dynamical ice contributions over a range of timescales, and placing these within the context of anthropogenic influences. Dr. Koppes joined UBC originally as a teaching Post-doctoral Fellow, and joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography in January 2010. A profile of her research was included in the [CGRG Newsletter last July](#).

**U Guelph's Evan Fraser on Rising Food Prices:** After decades of stable, low food prices, your grocery bills are set to climb within the next few years. Evan Fraser, a University of Guelph geography professor and the holder of the federally funded Canada Research Chair in global human security, said Canadian consumers can expect food price increases of 5% to 10% over the next year or so. "Food bills over the last 20 or 30 years have to a large extent been dependent on pretty good weather and pretty cheap oil. There is a fair bit of evidence oil prices are likely to rise into the future and as climate changes, it is likely to make harvests at a global level less predictable," he said. "Food might get a little bit more expensive but it is not going to be a revolution on our hands, not like Egypt," he said. [lfpress.com](#) | [Toronto Sun](#)

**U Waterloo's Rob de Loe Honoured for Graduate Supervision Excellence:** Rob de Loe, professor in environment and resources studies and University Research Chair in Water Policy and Governance, was recently announced as one of four winners this year of the Award of Excellence in Graduate Supervision. Students of de Loe "greatly appreciate his supportive advice and guidance throughout their graduate studies and the launching of their careers. He offers the perfect blend of support, encouragement and high expectations to ensure a positive graduate experience and the foundation for lifelong success. [UWaterloo News](#)

**Wilfrid Laurier U Geography and Environmental Studies Plans 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** The 2010-2011 academic year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department as a degree granting discipline at Wilfrid Laurier University. It also marks the 100th Anniversary of Wilfrid Laurier University. To celebrate the occasion, Department Faculty and Staff invite you to attend a day-long 50th birthday party at Laurier on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The festivities will focus on where we have come from, who we are and where we are going. [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration](#)

**Royal Military College's Lubomyr Lucluk Receives Shevcheko Medal:** Lubomyr Lucluk, a professor of political geography in the Department of Politics and Economics at the Royal Military College of Canada, recently received the Shevcheko Medal for his distinguished service as a researcher, educator and advocate to the Ukrainian-Canadian community. The Shevcheko Medal is the highest form of recognition that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. [UCC Announcement](#)

**SFU's Janet C. Sturgeon Looks at Future of Rubber Plantations in China:** The blogsite of ChinaDialogue.net ("Where China and the world discuss the environment") carried a column from Janet C. Sturgeon, assistant professor in SFU Geography, looking at the impact and future of rubber plantations in China. "Along with economic benefits, rubber plantations have taken a toll on the environment. . . . In response to these concerns, researchers . . . have developed plans to turn certain rubber areas into natural forests. . . . But farmers report that no efforts have been made to consult them on their willingness to reforest, their choices of sites for forest restoration or the species they would prefer." [ChinaDialogue.net](#)

**Presentation by Tracey Laurent to Standing Committee:** Tracey Laurent was an invited witness at the Federal Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics to speak about access to public data for community based and university based geographic research. The session was live streamed and is available by [clicking here](#). The main geography recommendation was to get government to recognize local geographies and aggregate data accordingly. Tracey's submission is available at [Standing Committee Submission](#)

**York U's Rick Bell and Students Participate in Toronto Evaporation Project:** For Glenn MacMillan, Senior Manager of Water and Energy Management at the TRCA, it became clear that the ability to forecast and avert incidents like the 2005 flood would involve both improved hydrological monitoring and modelling. He contacted Dr. Rick Bello, a climatologist in the Geography Department at York University who confirmed that in natural systems typically 60% of the water falling from the sky directly returns there in the form of evaporation. The idea of setting up a long-term evaporation monitoring network in an urban environment was not a straightforward one. As Bello outlined, "To begin with, you can't buy the technology to measure evaporation off the shelf. And secondly, the options out there include a large amount of data post processing which relegates the measurement of evaporation rates in the natural environment to the highly trained specialist." [York U Geog Evaporation Project](#)

**U Toronto Mississauga Geography Mourns Loss of Professor Shiu Luk:** Shiu was a soil scientist who was a pioneer in international research at our campus. His research was well funded by both IDRC and CIDA. Shiu was leading numerous projects in China including work on the Three Gorges project and soil management in Inner Mongolia. A very active and engaged academic, Shiu had over 30 peer-reviewed publications in top soil science and hydrology journals and was the editor of Chinese Geography and the Environment. He was a very active member of the department and a strong advocate for environmental education. His presence and contributions have long been missed. [UTM News](#)

J. Tobias Gardner and Peter E. Ashmore. 2011. [Geometry and grain-size characteristics of the basal surface of a braided river deposit](#). *Geology* 39(3):247-250.

Randal Green, Joan E. Luther, Rodolphe Devillers, and Brian Eddy. 2010. [An approach to GIS-based multiple criteria decision analysis that integrates exploration and evaluation phases: Case study in a forest-dominated landscape](#). *Forest Ecology and Management* 260(12):2102-2114.

J.A. Leach and R.D. Moore. 2011. [Stream temperature dynamics in two hydrogeomorphically distinct reaches](#). *Hydrological Processes* 25(5):679-690.

---

### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Cuff, A. 2011. Dual-frequency acoustic seabed classification on the Scotian Shelf, Canada. MSc thesis. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Supervisor: Rodolphe Devillers.

Greene, R. 2010. Addressing accessibility challenges of GIS-based multiple-criteria decision analysis for integrated land management: Case study in the Humber region of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. MSc thesis. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL. Supervisor: Rodolphe Devillers.

---

### Geographer of the Week: Dr Juanita Sunberg, University of British Columbia

Dr [Juanita Sunberg](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia. Juanita completed her BA at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas; an MA in Anthropology at the New School for Social Research, NY; an MA with a Geography Major at the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas, Austin; and her Ph.D. in the Department of Geography, University of Texas, Austin. At UBC Juanita is a Faculty Associate with the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies and the Institute for Resources, Environment & Sustainability.

Juanita's is interested in political ecology. As the daughter of missionaries, she spent ten years in tropical forests, rural villages, and cities in Panama and Guatemala. Following women and men through these areas enriched and enlarged her understanding of human-land relations. Her current interest in the cultural politics of nature conservation stems from the realization that she did not share similar ideas about nature -- the wilderness ideal in particular -- with her North American colleagues. Her current project examines the environmental dimensions of United States' border security policies in the US-Mexico borderlands, with a specific focus on protected areas like national wildlife refuges.

Sundberg, J. 2008. [Trash-Talk' & the Production of Quotidian Geopolitical Boundaries in the United States-Mexico borderlands](#). *Social and Cultural Geography* 9(8):871-890.

Sundberg, J. 2008. [Placing Race in Environmental Justice Research in Latin America](#). *Society & Natural Resources* 21(7): 569-582.

---



---

## Other “Geographical” News

**B.C. Wine Industry Facing Tough Times:** Although B.C.’s wine industry has flourished and become a major tourist attraction over the past decade, a new study shows the industry’s long-term success faces numerous challenges. The question for the future is, can B.C.’s wines improve their quality and value to expand their markets or are we at the peak for the wine industry now? [SFU News](#)

**New ARMAP 2D Web Mapping Application:** The Arctic Research Mapping Application (ARMAP) includes a new ARMAP 2D. This interactive mapping solution joins a suite of online maps and services that support Arctic science. The new ARMAP 2D is available as a beta release. The “old ARMAP 2D”, which is based on outdated IMS technology, is still available. Other resources include ARMAP in Google Earth, ARMAP 3D, a variety of web services, and spatial datasets customized for arctic research. [ARMAP.org](#)

**Climate Projections Show Human Health Impacts Possible Within 30 Years:** A panel of scientists unveiled new research and models demonstrating how climate change could increase exposure and risk of human illness originating from ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems, with some studies projecting impacts to be felt within 30 years. In several studies funded by NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative, findings shed light on how complex interactions and climate change alterations in sea, land and sky make ocean and freshwater environments more susceptible to toxic algal blooms and proliferation of harmful microbes and bacteria. [EurekAlert!](#)

**Relationship Found Between Ancient Climate Change and Mass Extinction:** In the Late Ordovician Period of Earth's geologic history, about 450 million years ago, more than 75 percent of marine species perished and Earth scientists have been seeking to discover what caused the extinction. It was the second largest in Earth's history. Employing a new way to measure ancient ocean temperatures, a team of researchers discovered a link between ancient climate change and the Late Ordovician mass extinction. The team found the extinction event occurred during a glacial period when global temperatures became cooler and the volume of glacial ice increased. [NSF Discoveries](#)

**Human Activity Linked to Extreme Heavy Rainfall:** A new study suggests that human-induced global warming may be responsible for the increases in heavy precipitation that have been observed over much of the Northern Hemisphere including North America and Eurasia over the past several decades. The connection between human influence and more-extreme precipitation events has been previously suggested, but rigorous statistical detection techniques had not been used to make the connection before this study. The researchers used such methods to show that observed changes in extreme precipitation from 1951 to 1999 correspond with climate model-predicted changes in extreme precipitation when those models are influenced by historical changes in greenhouse gases. [UVic News](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

## THE PHD COMICS GUIDE TO T.A. OFFICE\* HOURS

\*ASSUMING YOU HAVE AN OFFICE

**ATTENDANCE IS EXPONENTIAL:**

JORGE CHAN © 2011

**BEST TIMES TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS:\***

- FRIDAY AFTERNOONS
- CLASS TIME
- DAY AFTER HOMEWORK IS DUE

\*SO NOBODY WILL SHOW UP

**BEWARE THE PRE'S:**

LIVES WILL DEPEND ON ME.

PRE-MED

MY TUITION PAYS YOU. AS YOUR CUSTOMER, I DEMAND AN "A"!

PRE-BUSINESS

I CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MATERIAL COVERED DURING CLASSES I SKIPPED.

PRE-LAW

YES, BUT WHY???

PRE-PHD

**NEVER REVEAL TO STUDENTS...**

~~☒~~  
YOUR CELL-PHONE #

~~☒~~  
YOUR HOME ADDRESS

~~☒~~  
YOUR PERSONAL LIFE

~~☒~~  
YOURSELF

**BEING THE "EVIL" T.A. IS IT A BAD THING?**

CON	PRO
students won't like you	students won't talk to you

ANSWER: NO.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM