York U’s Elizabeth Miller Earns Weston Northern Research Scholarship: Elizabeth Miller, a graduate of York’s environmental science program and current physical geography Master’s student, applied for and received a $15,000 scholarship through the Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research. Miller said her original hypothesis focused on the idea streams that had vegetation (moss) had a higher ground ice content, and therefore the ground would take longer to melt. But that might not be the case, she said. "There is a reason why researchers take years and years to complete their work," Miller said. "It’s not like you just go up for a few months and find all the answers." Miller hopes to complete her Master’s this year and then will decide whether to pursue a PhD or find work, she said. [insideToronto.com]

York U’s Philip Kelly on Sewing Together Canada’s Multicultural Fabric: Canada’s experiment sewing a multicultural fabric might, in certain cases, be most successful if sewn in patches, York University geography professor Philip Kelly told an audience on Parliament Hill. Presenting research on social mobility amongst Filipino youth across the country, Kelly said mainstream assimilation of young immigrants does not always foster a positive environment for integration. Rather, “enclaved, culturally specific upbringings [are] actually correlated with better educational and occupational outcomes,” he said. While the long-term patterns of upward social mobility for children of Canadian immigrants are generally positive — they tend to outperform their own parents as well as the children of Canadian-born parents — Kelly warned against drawing broad conclusions. [iPolitics]

University of Toronto’s Charles Hostovský Receives CMHC 2011 Excellence in Education Award for Promotion of Sustainable Practices: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Ontario Region has established the Excellence in Education Award to honour outstanding educational contribution to sustainable practices. The award recognizes educators who have integrated sustainable concepts in housing and community development into the academic curriculum. University of Toronto’s Charles Hostovský will receive the 2011 award in recognition of his commitment to educate his students about sustainable practices. [CMHC Sustainable Practices Award]

University of Western Ontario Team Wins Clean Air Challenge: The team of Janet Loebach and Sarah McCans, PhD students working with geography professor Jason Gilliland, successfully competed in the London Community Foundation’s Clean Air Challenge. They were awarded $25,000 to further their work on improving children’s environments. With the support of numerous local organizations and other members of Western’ Human Environments Analysis Laboratory, they are creating a project to ‘green’ the spaces of local elementary schools. The process of greening these spaces will be embedded into the curriculum and students will be active participants in the projects. [Western News]
UBC Geographer, October 2011: The most recent issue of the UBC Department of Geography Newsletter features an article of Derek Gregory’s “The Everywhere War” public lecture; profiles of a number of new graduate students, sessional instructor Carlos F. Gaitan; and a look at this year’s Geography Students’ Association Executive. UBC Geographer

UWO PhD Candidate Frederick Armah Receives Ontario Trillium Scholarship: Trillium scholars are nominated by their graduate program due to their scholarly achievements and strong research potential, and receive $40,000 annually for up to four years of study. Frederick Armah is pursuing a PhD in geography, hail from Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana, and received his undergraduate training in chemistry at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and a master’s degree in environmental studies and sustainability science from Lund University in Sweden. Armah’s proposed thesis, Small-Scale Goldmining in Ghana: Adaptive Co-management and Human Health Risk Assessment, contributes to the understanding of the evolution of adaptive management systems in gold mining communities in Ghana. He hopes to bring a broader reflection on forms of local resource management institutions and the means to help improve these local institutions toward more efficiency, equity and co-operation with higher levels of resource governance. These issues, Armah contends, are ultimately central to human health and wellbeing. Western News

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Other “Geographical” News

Improved Processes, Parameterization and Prediction Network Closes: The network for Improved Processes, Parameterization and Prediction in cold regions hydrology, known as IP3, has now officially shut down after more than five years of activity. For anyone interested in the network's aims, participation and results the is information on the IP3 website, and summarised in its final newsletter (http://www.usask.ca/ip3/download/newsletters/ip3news_sep11.pdf). Outputs include greatly improved physically-based models for a range of processes in high altitude to high latitude settings, a long list of publications (including two books aimed primarily at a general public audience) and a comprehensive data archive.

NASA, Japan Release Improved Topographic Map of Earth: NASA and Japan released a significantly improved version of the most complete digital topographic map of Earth produced with detailed measurements from NASA’s Terra spacecraft. The improved version of the map adds 260,000 additional stereo-pair images to improve coverage. It features improved spatial resolution, increased horizontal and vertical accuracy, more realistic coverage over water bodies and the ability to identify lakes as small as 1 km in diameter. The map is available online to users everywhere at no cost. "This updated version of the ASTER global digital elevation model provides civilian users with the highest-resolution global topography data available," said Mike Abrams, ASTER science team leader at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "These data can be used for a broad range of applications, from planning highways and protecting lands with cultural or environmental significance, to searching for natural resources." ScienceDaily

Energy Map Initiative: The Energy Map initiative was designed to pioneer methods to bring affordable renewable energy to the 1.5 billion people around the world that don't have access to these resources. The materials on the site include the energy map, and sections that include "Technologies" and "Business Models". First-time visitors should check out the introductory video on the homepage that will help them learn how to use and interpret the map. The map gives users the ability to track and locate where different energy projects are underway and they can also use the map to see where the energy needs are most dire. Moving along, the "Technologies" area gives a bit of background about the new and interesting energy sources that may be most effective in providing energy access in the developing world. Finally, the "Business Models" area provides a rigorous look at different aspects of those businesses involved in these enterprises, such as affordability, financing, and scaling. Energy Map
Some not so “Geographical” News

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