

GeogNews



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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SFU's Valerie Crooks on Medical Tourism for Patients Without Borders: The medical tourism industry is booming. But there is a surprising lack of academic research into the industry's size, the ethics and risks of medical tourism, and the effects it can have on developing countries' local health services. That's why SFU health geographer Valerie Crooks established the SFU Medical Tourism Research Group. In 2008, she was the first Canadian researcher to receive a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant to study the subject. "We found that many Canadians are relying on informal testimonies and anecdotal information from the Internet to make important decisions for surgical care," says Crooks. "People believe Canadians are going abroad because of waiting lists and Americans are going because it's cheaper, but our research shows that it's more complex than that," says Crooks. "There are issues of procedure availability and procedures not covered under Medicare, while others go because they're concerned about the quality of care here in Canada." [SFU Online](#)

U Waterloo's Jean Andrey Wins WOW Teaching Award: Longtime geography and environmental management professor Jean Andrey has been honoured again for her exceptional teaching abilities. On March 28, she received a Women of Waterloo Region (WOW) award in the education category. Andrey also received an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award in 2004, a Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography in 2000, and a University of Waterloo Distinguished Teacher Award in 1995. "I feel very honored to be recognized in this way," says Andrey. "Teaching really is its own reward; the way that students' eyes light up when they understand something for the first time or question something that they had previously accepted." In a nomination letter, Brock University geography professor Marilynne Jollineau called Andrey the most outstanding and most influential teacher she ever had. [UW FE News](#)

SFU Geography Alumni Gary Pooni Improving Village Life In India: Gary Pooni's business may be planning large urban projects, but his passion is development of a much smaller but more crucial kind: improving the infrastructure of rural villages in India's Punjab region. Pooni is vice-president of the Indo Canadian Friendship Society of B.C., and more than a decade ago the group launched a charity initiative called the [India Village Life Improvement Project](#). Their aim is improving villagers' health, so rather than merely setting up clinics to treat diseases, they decided to go straight to the source of most illnesses: drinking water polluted with raw sewage. "We thought, instead of just putting all this money into health care and hoping things would be better, it would be so much easier if they just had clean living conditions," said Pooni, an SFU alumni who studied geography and international development. [The Province](#)

U Ottawa Department of Geography's 60th Anniversary: The Department of Geography of the University of Ottawa is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Alumni, students, friends, and current and

former support staff and professors of the department are invited to celebrate this event and share memories on Saturday, May 12, 2012. Details at [60th Anniversary Celebration](#).

UBC's Simon Donner Discovers That Some Corals Like It Hot: A team of international scientists working in the central Pacific have discovered that coral which has survived heat stress in the past is more likely to survive it in the future. The study paves the way towards an important road map on the impacts of ocean warming, and will help scientists identify the habitats and locations where coral reefs are more likely to adapt to climate change. "We're starting to identify the types of reef environments where corals are more likely to persist in the future," says study co-author Simon Donner, an assistant professor in UBC's Department of Geography and organizer of the field expedition. "The new data is critical for predicting the future for coral reefs, and for planning how society will cope in that future." Donner has conducted field research in Kiribati since 2005 and will return this year to conduct follow-up research with the local government. He says the findings suggest that Marine Protected Areas – conservation areas designed to protect marine life from stressors like fishing – may be more effective in areas with naturally variable water temperatures. [UBC Media Release](#)

WU's Jason Gilliland on "Why our Schools Flunk on Junk Food": Traffic, bullies and strangers are a parent's typical concerns over their child's walk home from school. But it could be fast food that eventually kills them. An inordinate number of fast food restaurants and convenience stores surrounding elementary schools could be contributing to childhood obesity and poor diet, according to Western University researchers. "We need to create healthy food oases, like farmers' markets, and limit junk food sites," said Jason Gilliland, director of the university's urban development program. "Do we really need more than 20 junk food sites within a five-minute walk of an elementary school?" Gilliland's research found that more than two dozen elementary schools in London are within walking distance of six to 23 sources of junk food. Gilliland found density and proximity of junk food sites to youths' schools and homes in London contributed to poor nutrition. [London Free Press](#)

UBC Geographer Newsletter, Volume 7, Issue 6: The March 2012 issue of the UBC Department of Geography Newsletter notes that many of UBC's Department of Geography members attended the Annual AAG Meeting in New York; Geography Cares continued their initiatives in January by collecting used eyeglasses to donate to Third World Eye Care Society of Canada; and, MSc student Jenna Keane attended the 92nd Annual American Meteorological Society in New Orleans earned a "2nd Place Student Poster Presentation" award. The newsletter also features a report from Andrea Marston, a UBC Geography MA student, on her research experiences in Bolivia; as well as offering congratulations to Gerry Pratt and Trevor Barnes who inducted as Fellows by the Royal Society of Canada and to Derek Gregory who was honored for his appointment as a Peter Wall Distinguished Professor. Insights into the new mentorship program for graduate students in the department are described, as is the expertise of visiting scientist John Gallant. [UBC Geographer, March 2012](#)

McMaster U's Darren Scott and Antonio Páez Comment on Grey Gridlock and how Car Advances Should Ease Commute for Aging Workforce: Traffic-injury research shows seniors account for the second-highest proportion of road deaths, behind only 15- to 24-year-olds. And based on kilometres driven, the Canada Safety Council reports that older drivers have more collisions than any other age group. McMaster University's Antonio Paez says the seniors who continue commuting by choice aren't likely a threat, as they tend to be physically able. By contrast, Canadians obligated to remain in the labour force, despite declines in their health and mobility, are cause for concern. The transportation industry is working to ease the transition. Darren Scott, an associate professor in the Transportation Research Lab at McMaster University in Ontario, says automation is among the options being explored. [Canada.com](#)

WU's Jason Gilliland Receives Western's Faculty Scholar Award: [Jason Gilliland](#), Associate Professor and Director, Urban Development Program in the Department of Geography at Western University, has received a Western's Faculty Scholar Award. This award recognizes his significant achievements in teaching and research. The recipients of this award are considered all-around scholars and will hold the title of Faculty Scholar for two years. [Western News](#)

New Book:

Gregory J. Levine. 2012. [Ombudsman Legislation in Canada: An Annotation and Appraisal](#). Carswell.



This book provides a detailed and comparative interpretation of Canadian ombudsman legislation across Canada. It outlines key subject areas, analyzes each legislative section and compares each across provincial, territorial and municipal statutes and bylaws. The book also contains key full text legislation and a detailed analytical index.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jane Assini and Kathy L. Young. 2012. [Snow cover and snowmelt of an extensive High Arctic wetland: spatial and temporal seasonal patterns](#). Hydrological Sciences Journal. DOI:10.1080/02626667.2012.666853

Ryan Bullock. 2011. [Reframing forest-based development as First Nation-Municipal collaboration: Lessons from Lake Superior's North Shore](#). Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development 7(2):78-89.

David Dixon and Sarah Boon. 2012. [Comparison of the SnowHydro snow sampler with existing snow tube designs](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9317

Hilary A. Dugan, Scott F. Lamoureux, Ted Lewis and Melissa J. Lafrenière. 2012. [The impact of permafrost disturbances and sediment loading on the limnological characteristics of two High Arctic lakes](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.1735

Paul Plummer, E. Sheppard and Robert Haining. 2012. [Rationality, stability, and endogenous price formation in spatially interdependent markets](#). Environment and Planning A 44(3):538–559.

Daniel Scott, Stefan Gössling and Michael Hall. 2012. [International tourism and climate change](#). Climate Change. DOI: 10.1002/wcc.165

Sonia Simard, Hubert Morin, Cornelia Krause, William M. Buhay and Kerstin Treydt. 2012. [Tree-ring widths and isotopes of artificially defoliated balsam firs: A simulation of spruce budworm outbreaks in Eastern Canada](#). Environmental and Experimental Botany. DOI.org/10.1016/j.envexpbot.2012.02.012

Matthew Tonts, Paul Plummer and Michael Taylor. 2012. [Power, enterprise and employment growth in Australian small- and medium-sized manufacturing firms](#). Journal of Economic Geography. DOI:10.1093/jeg/lbs004

Nicholas Utting, Ian Clark, Bernard Lauriol, Martin Wieser and Werner Aeschbach-Hertig. 2012. [Origin and flow dynamics of perennial groundwater in continuous permafrost terrain using isotopes and noble gases: Case study of the Fishing River, Northern Yukon, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.1732

Some not so “Geographical” News



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