



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 171, April 21, 2012
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UBC Okanagan's Bernard Bauer's Class Critiques Studies on Osoyoos Lake: A group of students from UBC's Okanagan campus have looked at issues from every angle, and have come up with several recommendations for the future of Osoyoos Lake, the BC body of water that straddles both the U.S. and Canada. Professor Bernard Bauer says his studied the hydrology and flow problems with Osoyoos Lake and they believe a happy medium can be found to satisfy multiple users and interests. Management of the outflow of water from Zosel Dam (in the State of Washington) has been covered under an order of approval for the past 25 years, but the agreement expires in 2013 and the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control is developing a new agreement. "Of the eight studies that were commissioned and studied, most provided really good scientific input," says Bauer. By carefully examining all of the studies and historical flow records, the students determined this was not in the best interest of the lake or the stakeholders on both sides of the border. "It's all one river system," says student Adam Farr. "If you start requiring more water out of the Okanagan River on the Canadian side, it may have severe consequences for water resources management in places like Kelowna and Vernon." [UBC's Okanagan News](#)

UNBC's Roger Wheate Meets Under the Lights: University of Northern British Columbia geography professor Roger Wheate and UNBC geography student Shane Doddridge meet under the the new LED lights at the Thirsty Moose in Prince George, a campus pub that has undergone a lighting retrofit. While conservation measures such as energy efficient lighting and turning off unnecessary illumination are second nature for Canada's Greenest Employers, some companies go above and beyond. [The Globe and Mail](#) | [UNBC Media](#)

UBC Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira Heads to Romania and Bulgaria with Students: A group of UBC students will be heading off campus to advance their education – way off campus. The 20 students and two faculty members will head to Romania and Bulgaria in mid-May to spend six weeks studying various issues and interacting with local residents. Carlos Teixeira, associate professor of geography, and Manuela Ungureanu, associate professor of philosophy, will lead the contingent of 15 Okanagan campus students and five students from UBC's Vancouver campus. Teixeira, who specializes in the study of communities and urban centres, will take the students to some of the most densely populated and poorest neighbourhoods in the two former Soviet Bloc countries. Teixeira's teaching will be done in the community where he will encourage the students to think critically about housing, barriers to housing, housing policies and other issues. The advantage of the trip is they can be in the field and talk to the people and see for themselves," says Teixeira. "This is a hands-on experience. They may forget my name in 10 or 15 years, but they will never forget a field trip with me." The excursion has been organized under the Go Global Group Study Program. [UBC's Okanagan News](#)

U Winnipeg Geography Retirements and Appointments: Dr. Bill Carlyle and Dr. Jock Lehr are retiring from the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg. [Dr. Carlyle](#) taught regional and cultural geography specializing in the geography of Manitoba. [Dr. Lehr](#) taught cultural and tourism/recreation geography specializing in Ukrainian and Hutterite settlement of the Prairies. Best wishes in your future endeavours. The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome Dr. Gina Sylvestre and Mr. Matthew Dyce to the department (effective July 1).

U Calgary PhD Student David Laskin Wins NSERC Vanier Award for Research on Grizzly Bear Habitat and Climate Change in Alberta: David Laskin, a PhD student in geography, has won an NSERC Vanier award for his research on grizzly bear habitat and climate change in Alberta. In collaboration with the Universities of Alberta, British Columbia, and the Foothills Research Institute, Laskin is mapping out grizzly bear habitat using phenology, the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena. "Currently, most habitat maps depict species' ranges as static, unchanging blobs," Laskin says. "Phenology allows a more dynamic approach. It's not where grizzly habitat is, it's when." Laskin's team is using satellite imagery and time-lapse camera networks to study when areas first begin to green up, and to monitor the cycles of key nutritional plants, such as alpine sweetvetch, Canada buffaloberry, and cow parsnip. Laskin's data will help not only those working toward grizzly conservation, but teams working with other species that also depend on seasonal vegetation. Laskin is also analyzing the predicted effects of climate change on plant phenology, and grizzly habitat. The resulting phenology maps will help industry make environmentally informed decisions about when to take on development projects around the province. [UC Today](#)

WDCAG Student Award Winners: A number of award winning student presentations were made at the recently [Annual Meeting at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#) held at UBC-O in Kelowna, BC. Included among the award winners was: **Kira Hoffman** (UVic Honours Geography) for best undergraduate presentation; **Jessica Blewett** (UNBC NRES candidate) for best Master's oral presentation; **Brandi Newton** (UVic MSc candidate) for best masters poster presentation; **Alex Koiter** (UNBC PhD NRES candidate for best PhD poster; and, Jonathan Cinnamon for best PhD oral presentation (SFU PhD candidate). The First Annual "[Life of a Geographer](#)" video competition was won by the [Society of Geography Students](#) at the University of Victoria.

U Waterloo Geography Student Emma Nussli Wins CUPE Award: Life-changing experiences are confirming CUPE award recipient, Emma Nussli's future aspirations. Her dream of helping people around the world is beginning to take shape. Emma is a student in the Geography and Environmental Management program at Waterloo and has been using what she's learned in communities abroad already. This past summer, she spent five weeks in Guatemala working with the Mennonite Central Committee to carry out work in disaster relief, sustainable community development, justice and peace-building. "I had the opportunity to live with indigenous people, witness first-hand the devastating effects of mudslides, and gain a comprehensive knowledge of Canadian mining practices abroad." [U Waterloo Office of Development](#)

Vancouver Island U's Don Alexander on Cities Rethinking Their Economic Strategies: Nanaimo is looking to attract more of the creative class, from artists and architects to chefs and computer programmers. According to experts, there has been a national shift from a resource based economy to a knowledge based one and cities with intellectual capital have the advantage. Creative professionals have significant spending power, but they also motivate companies to relocate and help stimulate jobs and foreign investment, they say. "These people are going to communities with funky urban settings and a strong sense of place," said Don Alexander, a geography professor at VIU. "And companies that want to hire these (creative) people are following." [Nanaimo Daily News](#)

WLU's Ken Hewitt Searches for Answers in Avalanche Country: At 21,000 feet, the Siachen glacier is 77 kilometres long, three kilometres wide and is located on the strategic tri-junction between India, China and Pakistan. A ceasefire in 2003 was unable to deter the militaries of India and Pakistan from patrolling the treacherous piece of ice and both countries have been engaged in one of the costliest deployments on either side of the Saltoro Ridge. Last week, 135 people were buried alive in an avalanche in the Gayari sector of the snowy region. Kenneth Hewitt, a professor emeritus in geography and environmental studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada, tells Dawn.com that there are very few and limited parts above the elevation of 3,500 metres which are not prone to avalanches, especially in spring. He calls the Himalayas an "avalanche country in the most extreme sense". Until the time better sense prevails and troops are called back, it would be wise to make a concerted effort and get expertise to deduce where and when avalanches may occur. "That would be a minimum requirement to safeguard troops although it would be too large a task to do more than the main bases and heavily used routes, since avalanches can occur everywhere. Preparing for and safeguarding against such accidents is relatively easier in ranges with lesser mountains, such as the European Alps or the Canadian Rockies. "In this region (Siachen), the terrain makes it difficult or impossible to deploy similar avalanche protective works," Hewitt adds. "Half the snow feeding the Siachen Glacier is from avalanches, and two-thirds from the Baltoro." Dawn.com

Concordia U's Damon Matthews Helps Kick Off Sustainability Week: It was standing room only when close to 250 people filled the auditorium to hear keynote presenters, MP and Green Party leader Elizabeth May and Damon Matthews, associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, kick off the Sustainability: Rio +20 conference. In an emotional speech, May expressed concern that while Canada was once at the forefront of global efforts to reducing emissions and setting international goals for a greener planet, the country is now falling far behind other industrialized nations. Canada's decision to opt out of the Kyoto Protocol was only one example she cited in a litany of regressive steps. She also made it clear that addressing environmental issues was lacking in the recent federal budget, presented in the House of Commons. Concordia Events

UBC Geography Student Joins Battle Against Enbridge Pipeline: Students from the University of B.C. and local high schools plan to go door to door in Christy Clark's Vancouver-Point Grey riding Saturday in an attempt to convince the premier to oppose Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline. The UBC group gives the provincial government credit for instituting some progressive climate change policies, but it's what the pipeline represents that troubles third-year geography student Quinn Runkle. "Ultimately climate change is a global issue and if we're exporting all of our carbon, it still makes the same difference on a global scale," said Runkle, one of the organizers of Storm the Riding. "Students and the younger generation care about this issue because it's our future at stake." Global BC

Memorial U Geographers to Participate in Final International Polar Year Conference: Dr. Trevor Bell, together with graduate students and collaborators in the Department of Geography, will make a total of 13 presentations. Wide-ranging in scope, interdisciplinary in context and pan-Arctic in geographical focus, these multi-authored presentations represent both remote and community field research supported by Canada's IPY program, ArcticNet, and federal and provincial governments. Graduate student Rudy Riedlsperger's project examines the vulnerability of winter trails in northern communities, most specifically Nunatsiavut. "Winter trails are critical to the livelihoods of northern communities," said Mr. Riedlsperger, who recently returned from four weeks of field work in Labrador. "Dr. Arn Keeling, also of the Department of Geography, will be presenting a jointly authored paper that examines how contemporary ideas about "cultural adaptation" shaped federal government policies around settlement life, industrial labour and social relations at Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Today.MUN.Ca

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jean-Sébastien Boutet. 2012. An Innu-Naskapi ethnohistorical geography of industrial iron mining development at Schefferville, Quebec. MA, Geography, Memorial University. Supervisor: Dr. Arn Keeling and Dr. John Sandlos

Beatrice Frank. 2012. [The conflict-coexistence continuum: a human dimension case study on wild boar management in Italy](#). PhD, Geography, Memorial University. Supervisor: Dr. Alistair Bath.

Erin Doxsey-Whitfield. 2012. Extent and controls of microbial nitrate production in the streams and till of a glaciated alpine catchment, Canadian Rocky Mountains, Alberta. MSc. Geography, Queen's University. Supervisor: Dr. Melissa Lafrenière.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

L. Bissonnette, K. Wilson, S. Bell and T. Shah. 2012. [Neighbourhoods and potential access to health care: The role of spatial and aspatial factors](#). Health Place.

Graham Cogley. 2012. [No ice lost in the Karakoram](#). Nature Geoscience. doi:10.1038/ngeo1456

John Sandlos and Arn Keeling. 2012. [Claiming the New North: Mining and colonialism at the Pine Point Mine, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). Environment and History 18(1):5-34.

Raphael Worni, Markus Stoffel, Christian Huggel, Christian Volz, Alejandro Casteller and Brian Luckman. 2012. [Analysis and dynamic modeling of a moraine failure and glacier lake outburst flood at Ventisquero Negro, Patagonian Andes \(Argentina\)](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2012.04.013

Ming-ko Woo. 2012. [Chapter 3. Groundwater](#). Permafrost Hydrology. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. 73-118.

Ming-ko Woo. 2012. [Chapter 9. Rivers in cold regions](#). Permafrost Hydrology. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. 407-454.

Other "Geographical" News

Sharp Rise in Retractions Prompts Calls for Reform: No one claims that science was ever free of misconduct or bad research. But critics argue that science has changed in some worrying ways in recent decades. The journal Nature reports that published retractions increased tenfold over the past decade, while the number of published papers increased by just 44%. Several factors are at play here, scientists say. One may be that because journals are now online, bad papers are simply reaching a wider audience, making it more likely that errors will be spotted. But other forces are more pernicious. To survive professionally, scientists feel the need to publish as many papers as possible, and to get them into high-profile journals. And sometimes they cut corners or even commit misconduct to get there. [The New York Times](#)

Web Guide to Research for Undergraduates: Created via a partnership between the NSF and Northeastern University, the Web Guide to Research for Undergraduates is an "interactive web-based

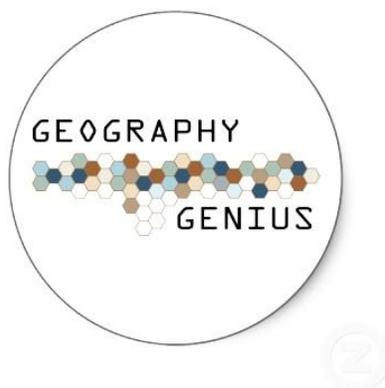
tool intended to assist undergraduates navigate the hurdles of an undergraduate research experience." The site offers primers for undergraduates seeking information on Professionalism, In the Lab, Communicating Science, and Mentoring Issues. Undergraduates new to the world of research should start by looking over the Getting Started section, where they will find articles on topics such as Questions To Ask, Negotiating Your Salary, and Getting Selected. [WebGURU](#)

Unintended Consequences of Choosing Coauthors: If you are hoping for your article to be found more frequently by search engines, then add more authors. Papers with longer titles will be retrieved more often than would be expected; they will be "over-retrieved," and papers with shorter titles will be "under-retrieved." From the results reported, it follows that multi-author papers will be retrieved out of proportion to their share of the bibliographic data base in question. [Elegant Science](#)

Where did the Prof Go? The Debate Over Whether to Put More Lectures Online: More are turning to blended format courses (partly online & partly face to face), especially for introductory courses. No university has implemented them widely, but that's about to change. In 2011-12, York University introduced 11 new blended courses. It is planning for 75 in 2013-14. Queen's University is adding sociology, gender studies, calculus and classics this fall which up to now included just first-year psychology and geography. Instead of 3 hours of weekly lectures, there is basic content online, a 1-hour in-person lecture in which the professor poses a question or discusses an aspect of research, and an hour-long "learning lab" in which teaching assistants guide small groups through hands-on activities. [Macleans.ca](#)

Ontario Court Rules Students May Sue Universities: A recent decision outlines the circumstance in which a student may sue a university for damages. The decision relates to claims of inadequate thesis supervision and over allegations of failure to accommodate a student with a disability. At the root of both cases is implied contract. Students may have a claim for damages if it can be shown that the institution did not deliver on its promises and if the claims refer to behaviour that exceeds universities' jurisdiction over their academic programs. The plaintiffs in both cases have been invited to amend their statement of claim to provide specific evidence of what the contracts and breaches were. [University Affairs](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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