



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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York U's Kathy Young Awarded 2012 CGU Meritorious Service Award: Professor Kathy Lynne Young, of the Department of Geography at York University, was recently awarded the 2012 Canadian Geophysical Union Meritorious Service Award. Kathy obtained her undergraduate and Master degrees from the University of Toronto. Her Master research was on the hydrology of late-lying snow banks in Melville Island, supervised by Professor Antoni Lewkowicz. Her doctoral degree was from McMaster University under the supervision of Professor Hok Woo, and her research was on hillslope hydrology carried out on Ellesmere Island. She continues to work in the Arctic Islands since securing a teaching position at York University in 1995 and is heavily committed to advising undergraduates and training graduate students. [CGU Elements Newsletter](#)

UNBC's Brian Menounos Presented with 2012 CGU Young Scientist Award: Dr. Menounos obtained his BA and MSc degrees from the University of Colorado. In 2002, he received his PhD from the University of British Columbia. His early research, under the supervision of Nel Caine at the University of Colorado, was on the character and chronology of debris flows in the Colorado Front Range. Brian completed his PhD degree under the tutelage of Dr. Olav Slaymaker on the relations between climate and sediment delivery to alpine lakes in the southern Coast Mountains of British Columbia. Dr. Menounos is recipient of several awards that demonstrate the esteem with which he is held by his peers and employer. They include the J. Ross Mackay Award from the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group (2008) for a significant contribution to geomorphology by a younger Canadian earth scientist and the UNBC Research Excellence Award (2009). [CGU Elements Newsletter](#)

UBC's Simon Donner Travels to Gilbert Island to Examine Response of Coral Reefs to Ocean Heat Waves: The long-term survival of coral reefs will depend on how well they can deal with rising ocean temperatures. In May Simon Donner, of the UBC Department of Geography traveled to the Gilbert Islands, part of the island nation of Kiribati, in the central equatorial Pacific. They offer a unique natural laboratory for studying how coral reefs respond to frequent ocean heat waves. When an El Niño climate event sets up in the Pacific, the ocean around Kiribati—in the heart of the El Niño zone—warms up. By studying changes in the coral community after El Niño events, he hopes to evaluate what types of corals and reef habitats are most likely to survive in a warmer future. [Scientific American](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U Welcomes Simon Dalby: After 19 years in Ottawa, Simon Dalby has left Carleton to take up a Wilfrid Laurier University position as CIGI Chair in the Political Economy of Climate Change in the Balsillie School of International Affairs. His home department will be Geography at WLU but his primary responsibilities will be to the School. Simon will remain an adjunct prof at Carleton for the next few years.

UBC Geography Student Alex Pysklywec Examines Implications of Militarization along the U.S.-Mexico Border: Alex Pysklywec, graduating Geography student and recipient of an Arts Undergraduate Research Award, currently works with Dr. Juanita Sundberg to examine the implications of militarization along the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition to internet based research, Pysklywec traveled to Brownsville, Texas three times to observe the border wall, to carry out archival research at local institutions, as well as to interview policymakers and local citizens. [UBC Arts Undergraduates](#)

Western U's PhD Candidate Chuiqing Zeng Awarded 1st Place: Chuiqing Zeng, Western Geography PhD Candidate, for receiving 1st Place for his oral presentation at the 33rd Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing (CRSS) held in Ottawa, Ontario last month. His presentation was titled 'An Object Matching Method for Stereo Satellite Imagery for Building Height Extraction'. [CCRS Symposium](#)

Geography at McMaster U within Top 100: In subject-area grades for universities, QS World University Rankings places McMaster among the world's top 200 institutions in 20 of its 25 subjects. The rankings analyze disciplines in arts & humanities, engineering & technology, life sciences & medicine, natural sciences and social sciences & management. McMaster earned its highest ranking in medicine. It also earned high placement in history, psychology, geography and materials science. Geography at McMaster is ranked within the top 100 geography programs according to the QS Rankings. [McMaster Daily News](#)

Trent U Graduate Student Margaret Carson Awarded CIHR Scholarship: Geography Graduate student Margaret Carson recently won a \$18,000 CIHR-funded Public Health and the Agricultural Rural Ecosystem (PHARE) scholarship for her research on "Rural Food Systems, Older Farmers and Sustainable Communities" supervised by Geography Professor Mark Skinner. [Trent Geography News](#)

York U's Bill Found Donates Maps Dating Back to 16th century to York: Maps have a fascination that brings people together in a common admiration of their technical and artistic quality, and for the information that can be revealed by them through careful analysis, says geography Professor Emeritus William Found, a Fellow of York's Centre for Research on Latin America & the Caribbean. Found, of the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, would know. He has been collecting maps for years. In fact, he donated a valuable collection of 141 historical maps and prints to the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections of York University, making them available to an even larger audience. Accompanying the collection are detailed descriptions of each map or print, a thumbnail image and sources where researchers can obtain their own personal copies. The original maps and prints date as far back as the 16th century. [yFile](#)

U Toronto's Danny Harvey on Dealing with Toronto Heat Waves: Hot weather in July had air conditioners, as much as people, were feeling the heat. For a person taking a quick stroll through the thick air up Yonge St., there were more than a few brief moments of respite on the sidewalk, as some businesses chose to keep their doors open, allowing the cool air to flow out into the hazy outdoors. But University of Toronto geography professor Danny Harvey said allowing the AC to blast air outside will simply "increase a business's energy requirements. . . . It increases the need for dirty fossil fuel energy." Instead, he suggested trying to cool the establishment down overnight with the air conditioner, and to use a fan during the day when customers are in the building. If the AC must be used, Harvey stressed that doors and windows must be shut. "The reason so many businesses still keep their doors open is because we're spoiled with cheap electricity in this country, and businesses think that by allowing the cool air out, people walking on the street will be more tempted to come in and buy something," he said. "We also feel that we should never be the slightest bit uncomfortable, so in the summertime we freeze our buildings. It's just not normal." [Toronto Star](#)

McGill U's Sherry Olson and Patricia Thorton, Concordia Awarded Sir John A. MacDonald Prize in Canadian History: *Peopling the North American City, Montreal 1840-1900* co-authored by Profs Sherry Olson, of the Department of Geography at McGill University, and Patricia Thorton, Concordia was awarded Honorable Mention for the coveted Sir John A. MacDonald Prize in Canadian History. This large scale study seeks to understand how Montreal, and beyond it, urban centers in North America grew in the second half of the nineteenth century. Using a subpopulation of individuals bearing a dozen surnames as representative of the three communities that made up Montreal between 1840 and 1900, the authors trace their marriage and reproduction patterns as well as their social and geographic mobility in and around the city. By so doing, the authors disentangle the impact of structural and cultural factors shaping people's life courses. Contrary to economists and demographers, who explain the demographic transition in structural terms, the authors conclude that culture played a significant role in people's demographic choices. Their very quantitative and structural approach does not prevent the authors from displaying a high degree of empathy towards their subject, which allows them at times to re-enact the decision-making process of individuals when confronted to the choices available to them. Combined with sensitivity to the urban environment in which the individuals in question lived, this empathy enlivens the description of the population under consideration, which would otherwise be very abstract. [Canadian Historical Association](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Margaret E. Andrew, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Michael A. Wulder, George W. Hobart, Nicholas C. Coops and Carson J. Q. Farmer. 2012. [Ecosystem classifications based on summer and winter conditions](#). Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. DOI: 10.1007/s10661-012-2773-z

Thuan Chu and Xulin Guo. 2012. [Characterizing vegetation response to climatic variations in Hovsgol, Mongolia using remotely sensed time series data](#). Earth Science Research 1(2).

Valorie A. Crooks; and Nadine Schuurman. 2012. [Interpreting the results of a modified gravity model: examining access to primary health care physicians in five Canadian provinces and territories](#). BMC Health Services Research 12:230.

Jagvijay P.S. Gill and John J. Yackel. 2012. [Evaluation of C-band SAR polarimetric parameters for discrimination of first-year sea ice types](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 38(3):306-323.

Timothy W. Haltigin; Wayne H. Pollard; Pierre Dutilleul; and Gordon R. Osinski. 2012. [Geometric evolution of polygonal terrain networks in the Canadian High Arctic: Evidence of increasing regularity over time](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.1741

Elizabeth Heller; Jeanine M. Rhemtulla; Sharachchandra Lele; Margaret Kalacska; Shrinivas Badiger; Raja Sengupta and Navin Ramankutty. 2012. [Mapping crop types, irrigated areas, and cropping intensities in heterogeneous landscapes of southern India using multi-temporal medium-resolution imagery: implications for assessing water use in agriculture](#). Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing.

Karen A. Kowalchuk; and Richard G. Kuhn. 2012. [Mammal distribution in Nunavut: Inuit harvest data and COSEWIC's species at risk assessment process](#). Ecology and Society 17(3):4.

Kundan Kumar and John M. Kerr. 2012. [Territorialisation and marginalisation in the forested landscapes of Orissa, India](#). Land Use Policy 30(1):885–894.

Cedar Morton, Thomas I. Gunton and J. C. Day. 2012. [Engaging aboriginal populations in collaborative planning: an evaluation of a two-tiered collaborative planning model for land and resource management](#). Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 55(4): 507-503.

A. Pérez-Alberti; A.S. Trenhaile; A. Pires; J. López-Bedoya; H.I. Chaminéc; and A. Gomes. 2012. [The effect of boulders on shore platform development and morphology in Galicia, NW. Spain](#). Continental Shelf Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2012.07.014

Emilie Robert; Suzanne Brais; Brian D. Harvey; and David Greene. 2012. [Seedling establishment and survival on decaying logs in boreal mixedwood stands following a mast year](#). Canadian Journal of Forest Research 42(8):1446-1455.

Simon Springer; Anthony Ince; Jenny Pickerill; Gavin Brown; and Adam J. Barker. 2012. [Reanimating anarchist geographies: a new burst of colour](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.01038.x

Gaute Velle, Richard J. Telford, Oliver Heiri, Joshua Kurek and H. John B. Birks. 2012. [Testing intra-site transfer functions: an example using chironomids and water depth](#). Journal of Paleolimnology. DOI: 10.1007/s10933-012-9630-5

Kathy L. Young; Jane Assini; Anna Abnizova; and Elizabeth A. Miller. 2012. [Snowcover and melt characteristics of upland/lowland terrain: Polar Bear Pass, Bathurst Island, Nunavut, Canada](#). Hydrology Research. doi:10.2166/nh.2012.083

Tracy Ying Zhang. 2012. [Factory 'nuns': the ethnicization of migrant labor in the making of Tibetan carpets](#). Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2012.709830

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Rianna Elizabeth Burnham. 2012. [The importance of the mid-trophic layers in ecosystem structure, process and function: the relationship between the Eastern Pacific Gray Whale \(*Eschrichtius robustus*\) and mysids \(order Mysidacea\) in Clayoquot Sound](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. Supervisor: D. Duffus.

Other “Geographical” News

The Geography of James Bond: As any fan knows, you can learn quite a bit about the world's cities just by watching James Bond movies. The franchise has featured 41 cities in its 22 films, beginning with London and Kingston, Jamaica, in 1962's Dr. No, and only a few cities have been featured more than once. The all-time leaders, besides London, are Venice and Hong Kong, which Bond has visited three times. Cairo, Istanbul, Tokyo, St. Petersburg and Miami each make two appearances. There are also a number of surprising places to which, as the films approach their 50th anniversary, Bond has never traveled: Moscow, Washington D.C., Beijing, Rome, and the U.A.E., to name a few. The map contained in a recent issue of *The Atlantic Cities* tracks James Bond's film travels over the last five decades. [The Atlantic Cities](#)

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts: Watch as Florida is submerged by rising sea levels. The purpose of this data viewer is to provide coastal managers and scientists with a preliminary look at sea level rise and coastal flooding impacts. The viewer is a screening-level tool that uses consistent data sets and analyses. Data and maps provided can be used at several scales to help gauge trends and prioritize actions for different scenarios. [NOAA](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

[Get Your Glacier Hugging Suits While the Ice is Still Around:](#) Help heal a glacier.



This suit explores the avenue of "body" language and non-verbal communication. Intended for awkward introductory glacier encounters, it acts as an "ice breaker", better enabling a person to lie prone on the surface of the glacier and give it a hug. Worn on the front of the body, the reflective padded material serves to mediate the difference in temperatures between the human body and the glacial ice.

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