



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo's Paul Parker to Receive Award of Excellence in Graduate Supervision: The Graduate Studies Office "in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association, established this Award to recognize exemplary faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in graduate student supervision". Paul Parker of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management is to be recognized for having "successfully launched or participated in a number of research groups and networks, such as the Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP), and he actively engages his students in all aspects of these projects." The nominator noted the many letters of support accompanying the nomination demonstrating that he is "deeply appreciated as a graduate supervisor by students and colleagues alike." Many students "spoke about Paul's sensitive and dedicated interactions, the time and attention that he devotes to individual and group meetings, and of his timely review of written material. Students clearly felt that they were being treated as individuals when interacting with Paul, and colleagues recognized that he takes the time to get to know each student's strengths and weaknesses before deciding what supervisory approach is best." [Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

U Alberta's John England, a Scholar and Stewart of the North: As the University of Alberta's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences celebrates its 100th year, one of its longest-serving professors is looking back at his 47 years of Arctic research. Professor Emeritus John England and a revolving team of graduate students put together a diverse record of environmental change in the Arctic, including the history of former ice sheets, related sea level changes. England's nearly 50-year commitment to Arctic research was recognized by Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. A Northern Research Chair (2002–2012) enabled him to complete a transect of environmental change across the entire Arctic Archipelago. The latest recognition for England's career comes this November with his induction into the Royal Society of Canada, the country's oldest and most prestigious scholarly institute. "Part of stewardship in Canada is intellectual stewardship. And the research that's being done at the University of Alberta in northern science—including the work I've done on paleo- environmental change—is all part of Canada's responsibility for the Arctic." [U Alberta News and Events](#)

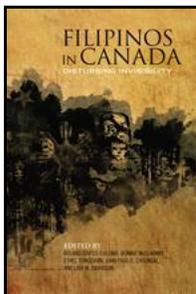
U Calgary's Shawn Marshall Watching the Seas Rise: Geography professor Shawn Marshall is focused on a most consequential timeline. Not his own timeline but, rather, the one he and his team are scientifically mapping out, charting the rate at which the world's sea levels will rise as glaciers in the polar regions and the world's mountain ranges melt due to global warming. "My aim is to come up with the whole story about global glaciers and sea level, because we've only got parts of the story now," Marshall says. "We'd like to put specific numbers and estimates to it. Is it a meter or a half-meter of sea level rise by the year 2100, and what's our confidence in that?" While the land-based ice sheets Marshall studies are only shrinking gradually, as opposed to Arctic sea ice, which is literally "melting before our eyes," land ice is also important to investigate because glacier retreat is now the major factor driving global sea level rise. [UC Faculty of Arts](#)

U Waterloo's Ellsworth LeDrew Leading Innovation in Data Management: The recent focus on big data and its potential applications has proven that data management, far from being boring or just nice-to-have, is becoming wildly relevant and useful in everyday life. Dr. Ellsworth LeDrew, Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, is one of the scientists leading the cultural shift in the way that researchers discover, share, and preserve their research data. "Data management is no longer just about the data," Dr. LeDrew remarks. "It's about how to convert the data into something people can use in their lives." Using his own research in polar studies as an example, LeDrew describes how radar imagery of polar waters can be converted into a map of sea ice to help individuals navigating to know where the ice is and how hazardous it may be, and, how polar information on snow cover and vegetation and whale migration might be used one day to immediately communicate transportation and tourist information. [Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

GeoMatters - U Winnipeg Department of Geography Newsletter: The fall 2012 issue of GeoMatters presents a 60 year history of the Department of Geography, welcomes Gina Sylvestre and Matt Dyce to the department, and says goodbye to Bill Carlyle and John Lehr. [GeoMatters Fall 2012](#)

New Book

Roland Coloma, Bonnie McElhinny, Ethel Tungohan, John Paul C. Catungal and Lisa Davidson. (Editors). 2012. [Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility](#). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.



The Philippines became Canada's largest source of short- and long-term migrants in 2010, surpassing China and India, both of which are more than ten times larger. The fourth-largest racialized minority group in the country, the Filipino community is frequently understood by such figures as the victimized nanny, the selfless nurse, and the gangster youth. On one hand, these narratives concentrate attention, in narrow and stereotypical ways, on critical issues. On the other, they render other problems facing Filipino communities invisible.

This landmark book, the first wide-ranging edited collection on Filipinos in Canada, explores gender, migration and labour, youth spaces and subjectivities, representation and community resistance to certain representations. Looking at these from the vantage points of anthropology, cultural studies, education, geography, history, information science, literature, political science, sociology, and women and gender studies, Filipinos in Canada provides a strong foundation for future work in this area.



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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kara J. Pitman and Dan J. Smith. 2012. [Tree-ring derived Little Ice Age temperature trends from the central British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada](#). *Quaternary Research* 78:417-426.

Marie-Ève Vadnais, Ali A. Assani, Raphaëlle Landry, Denis Leroux and Denis Gratton. 2012. [Analysis of the effects of human activities on the hydromorphological evolution channel of the Saint-Maurice River downstream from La Gabelle dam \(Quebec, Canada\)](#). *Geomorphology* 175-176:199-208.

Other “Geographical” News

UVic Centre Opens Portal to BC Weather Data: Detailed information on British Columbia weather—past and present—is now just a mouse click away, thanks to a new data portal launched today by the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) at the University of Victoria. The PCIC Data Portal gives the public access to weather observations from more than 6,000 locations around the province, including records of temperature, precipitation, wind speed and humidity. The data dates from the present to as far back as 1872. [PCDS Portal](#)

Connection Between Hawaii's Dueling Volcanoes Explained: A new study finds that a deep connection about 50 miles underground can explain the enigmatic behavior of two of Earth's most notable volcanoes, Hawaii's Mauna Loa and Kilauea. The study explains how a link in Earth's upper mantle could account for Kilauea and Mauna Loa's competition for the same deep magma supply and their simultaneous "inflation," or bulging upward, during the past decade. [ScienceDaily](#)

Is Pretenure Interdisciplinary Research a Career Risk? Despite initiatives to promote interdisciplinary research, early-career academics continue to perceive professional risks to working at the interface between traditional disciplines. Suggestions that interdisciplinary work can go unrewarded in academia foster a concern that targeting interdisciplinary questions will pose problems for acquiring and succeeding in a tenure-track position. If self-preservation limits the questions posed by early-career academics, a perceived career risk is as damaging as a real one. [Eos](#)

Scientists Paint a Glacial Picture: Blending the disciplines of art and science, Bern University geographers combed through thousands of old paintings and photographs of the Alps to understand exactly when each glacier was at its height and when it began to retreat. The project primarily examines photos and paintings of the Lower Grindelwald Glacier in the Bernese Oberland and Mer de Glace on the Mont Blanc massif. [Swissinfo.ch](#)

Where to Study: As more and more condos stud the skyline, the need to make the most of our remaining green space – and figure out alternative ways to increase oxygen, decrease carbon and keep the city moving – is of utmost importance. Think you have what it takes to make Toronto a better place? A degree in architecture or geography is a good first step to becoming an urban planner. How much will it cost you at some Ontario universities? [Now](#)

Not-So-Permanent Permafrost. 850 Billion Tons of Carbon Stored in Frozen Arctic Ground Could Be Released: As much as 44 billion tons of nitrogen and 850 billion tons of carbon stored in arctic permafrost, or frozen ground, could be released into the environment as the region begins to thaw over the next century as a result of a warmer planet. For context, this is roughly the amount of carbon stored in the atmosphere today. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Geography. My Kind Adversary: I don't know when I started addressing Geography in the masculine form. For some petty reasons, I never really got to like him. But one thing is for sure, he was one of the few that I tried avoiding every semester. Quite frankly, he came third after Mathematics and Statistics. Among the striving students in the university, I was one of those who continuously asked for miracles. All I can do best is to endure, hoping my actions will let fate smile and let me pass the subject. When I graduated from college, I said goodbye to Geography forever. I was hoping we could be friends and maybe one day; he will have a change of heart and be kinder to me. [eTN Global Travel](#)



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