



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Western U's Brian Luckman shows climate change causes unusual tree growth patterns in the Southern Hemisphere: New findings from an international research team led by Western University geography professor Brian Luckman, based on tree-ring patterns, show unusual patterns of tree growth in the Southern Hemisphere relating to recent changes in the atmospheric circulation. This study, published by [Nature Geoscience](#), is part of an international collaborative project funded by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, which includes scientists from Argentina, Chile and the United States with colleagues from Australia, New Zealand England and Switzerland. Based on data from over 3,000 trees in Chile, Argentina, Tasmania and New Zealand, the study shows unusual decreases in tree growth over the last 50 years in Patagonia but increased growth in Tasmania and New Zealand. According to Luckman, the primary cause of this global-scale transformation is related to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns driven by the circum-polar atmospheric circulation. This atmospheric phenomenon is known as the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) or the Antarctic Oscillation (AAO) and changes at decadal (decade-long) and longer timescales. [UWestern Daily News](#)

U Guelph's Patrick Gough remembered: Patrick Gough stayed on daylight savings time all year, preferring not to change his clocks in the fall. "Why lose all that sunlight?" he'd say. Pat was a lover of maps and any road leading somewhere new. He spent years travelling in the 1950s, hitchhiking around North America and canoe tripping in northern Ontario. After teaching high-school math for six years, he changed fields – to geography. He did graduate work in Madison, taught at Kent State, then at the University of Guelph until retirement. He was known to his students as the "Jimmy Stewart professor" because he looked like the actor and had his drawn-out, friendly delivery. Geography professor, baseball lover, hitchhiker, grandfather. Born June 20, 1926, in Toronto, died Aug. 2, 2012, in Guelph, Ont., of a stroke, aged 86. [Globe and Mail](#)

U Waterloo's Richard Kelly creates citizen scientists with #Snowtweets: University of Waterloo Geography professor Richard Kelly is using the power of social media to bolster weather data from satellites with on-the-ground reporting from everyday people. In order to truly understand how much precipitation is trapped in earth-bound snow Dr. Kelly has asked anyone interested in volunteering to put on some boots, grab a ruler and head to their backyard to measure the amount of snow on the ground. That information can then be transmitted back to Kelly using #snowtweets on Twitter. The anecdotal information can help researchers monitor changing weather and offer advanced warnings for potential hazards such as spring flooding. #snowtweets has also become a way for people to discuss climate change online. [National Post](#)

U Guelph's Jackie Cockburn at Hudson River Watershed Alliance Conference: [Jackie Cockburn](#), Department of Geography at the University of Guelph, was the keynote speaker at the [Hudson River Watershed Alliance Conference](#) in New Paltz, NY to over 100 people from academics to county and town planning boards to NY State Dept of Environmental Conservation scientists to local watershed volunteers to artists and philanthropists. Jackie's talk was titled "*Sediment mobilization within the Schoharie Valley: Recent work and lessons from extreme northern climates.*"

U Fraser Valley geographers introduce courses on *Geography of Food and Paleoecology*: UFV Geography introduces two new courses this year: GEOG 314: *Geography of Food* and GEOG 419: *Paleoecology*. Both will be offered in winter 2013. Dr. [Lenore Newman](#), the Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment, designed and will teach the Geography of Food, based on her research into Canada and global food cultures and security issues. Dr. [Jonathan Hughes](#) will deliver Paleoecology, a course that will explore past environments and metrics for environmental change.

U Victoria's David Atkinson speaks to CFX1070 about Hurricane Sandy: David Atkinson, a climatologist in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, recently spoke to Adam Stirling about the science of large-scale weather systems. [Listen to CFX podcast](#) (go to 20 min)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Alison Bain and Heather McLean. 2012. [The artistic precariat](#). Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society. doi: 10.1093/cjres/rss020

Huaxia Yao, Christopher McConnell, April James and Congsheng Fu. 2012. [Comparing and modifying eight empirical models of snowmelt using data from Harp Experimental Station in Central Ontario](#). British Journal of Environment & Climate Change 2):259-277.

Ricardo Villalba, Antonio Lara, Mariano H. Masiokas, Rocío Urrutia, Brian H. Luckman, Gareth J. Marshall, Ignacio A. Mundo, Duncan A. Christie, Edward R. Cook, Raphael Neukom, Kathryn Allen, Pavla Fenwick, José A. Boninsegna, Ana M. Srur, Mariano S. Morales, Diego Araneo, Jonathan G. Palmer, Emilio Cuq, Juan C. Aravena, Andrés Holz and Carlos LeQuesne. 2012. [Unusual Southern Hemisphere tree growth patterns induced by changes in the Southern Annular Mode](#). Nature Geoscience. doi:10.1038/ngeo1613

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Daniel Bednar. 2012. Geography, News Media Discourse, and Water Management: A Case Study of the Devils Lake Outlet. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Dan Shrubsole.

Kyle Clemens. 2012. Attracting and Retaining the Highly Skilled in Medium-sized City-regions of Ontario. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Mike Buzzelli.

Kassandra Kulmann. 2012. We shouldn't be listening to our Elders: Evaluation of transfer of Indigenous Knowledge between Anishinabe Youth and Elders. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Chantelle Richmond.

Spencer Macphail Barnes. 2012. The Spatiality of Housing Price Risks and Return in the Greater Toronto Area. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Diana Mok.

Oliver Squire. 2012. Examining atmospheric dust deposition and its effects on alpine lakes in the Uinta Mountains, Utah. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Katrina Moser.

Jeremy Schmidt. 2012. Ethical Enigmas in Modern Water Policy: The Albertan Example. Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Dan Shrubsole.

Maxwell Taabazuing. 2012. Economic Development in a Changing Global Economy: Examining the Perspectives of Practitioners in Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Godwin Arku.

Chad Walker. 2012. Winds of Change: Explaining Support for Wind Energy Developments in Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Baxter.

Other “Geographical” News

World earthquakes 2012 visualization map 6.0 and greater (Jan 01, 2012 through May 01, 2012): Earthquakes in 2012 = 2552 of 6.0 or greater in just the first 4 months. (The number given for 2012 does not list those less than 6.0, those will be given at a later time). [2012 Earthquakes](#)

The era of exponential growth in academic research is over: Even for those lucky enough to get an academic appointment, the bad news seems to be that it is getting harder to establish a research program. I’ve found these reports very troubling since, after over nearly fifteen years of slogging it out to achieve a “tenured” academic position, I am acutely aware of the how hard the tenure track is for junior scientists at this stage in history. On a regular basis I see how the current system negatively affects the lives of talented students, post-docs and early-stage faculty. My view is that the declining opportunities and increasing malaise among early-stage academics is a by-product of the fact that the era of exponential growth in academic research is over. [Blog – I wish you’d made me angry earlier](#)

Geospatial Cyberinfrastructure for Environmental Sensing: The GeoCENS project is an online platform that enables simplified searching, storing and sharing of environmental and other. Through GeoCENS, researchers have access to data from more than 60,000 sensors, 1,750 real-time sensors and 2,800 Web Map Servers - and many more are being added each month.georeferenced data. GeoCENS makes use of the [CANARIE network](#) and various international research networks to allow users to remotely and transparently access, interchange, understand and use heterogeneous sensor networks and their data. This is done independently from underlying network protocols, hardware, data models and formats. GeoCENS follows Open Geospatial Consortium standard information models to achieve sensor/data interoperability. [GeoCENS](#)

Digital atlas of human effects on the natural world: A team of UK-based developers has created an interactive app that enables users to explore a trove of global data on several critical issues, including how human populations are impacting the natural world and the production and consumption of energy resources. The atlas uses a series of 3D globes to illustrate seven topics, including energy, the

environment, politics, and population. The digital atlas contains data from every nation and more than 200,000 geographical sites, including cities, landmarks, and natural features. Users can compare trends in population, pollution, and forest loss, and trace the shifting dynamics of the distribution of energy resources. The app allows viewers to swipe across the planet's surface and click key points to zoom to street-level detail using Apple Maps and Google Maps technology. [Yale Environment360](#)

Teaching about climate change: Quaternary climate change is one of the most complex, yet relevant issues facing researchers and educators today. Not only is the topic scientifically complex, but there are economic, social and political ramifications as well. This site allows educators to locate and use the best resources for teaching about Earth's climate system and the changing climate over the past one million years. Here you will find climate data, visualizations, teaching activities, workshops and more. [On the cutting edge](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Q: HOW MANY PH.D.'S DOES IT TAKE TO GET A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO WORK?



ANSWER: $(n+1)$

WHERE n = THE NUMBER OF ACADEMICS IN THE ROOM WHO THINK THEY KNOW HOW TO FIX IT, AND 1 = THE PERSON WHO FINALLY CALLS THE A/V TECHNICIAN.



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