



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 203, November 16, 2012
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McMaster U's Bruce Newbold awarded the David E. Boyce Award for Service: Bruce Newbold, Professor/Director, School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University, was awarded the David E. Boyce award in recognition of service to the field of Regional Science at the Ottawa meetings of the [North American Regional Science Council](#). The award honours Professor David Boyce, a prominent figure in Regional Science who promoted the Regional Science Association for a number of years and was instrumental in its long term success. [NARSC Awards & Prizes](#)

UNBC's Sarah de Leeuw first Northern recipient of an MSFHR scholar award: In partnership with the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCA), the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) has awarded its first scholar award to a researcher based in northern British Columbia. Dr. Sarah de Leeuw is also one of the first recipients of a partnered scholar award in the province. De Leeuw is an assistant professor in the Northern Medical Program at the University of Northern BC and a research associate with the NCCA. Her research seeks to address health inequalities lived by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in northern BC, especially compared to people in urban areas in southern BC. She is examining how creative arts and the humanities can resolve health inequities and attend to social determinants of health, particularly as they manifest in specific geographies. [UNBC News](#)

UBC geography graduate corrects Vancouver Sun geography: Ian D. Thomson (BA in Geography 1975, UBC) pointed out in recent correspondence to the Vancouver sun that geographically there is no actual Cypress Mountain. The original ski area developed rather by accident in that the Cypress Bowl area was logged in the late 60s without the idea of it being a ski area. The three mountains that form the bowl are Hollyburn to the east, Mount Strachan on the north and Black Mountain to the west. Some years ago the name Cypress Bowl didn't sound glamorous enough. The idea of skiing in a bowl didn't quite have the advertising appeal that Cypress Mountain evokes, so the name was invented. [Vancouver Sun](#)

Western U's PhD candidate Nati Bergman wins conference best poster award in Colorado: [Nathaniel Bergman](#), Geography PhD Candidate at Western University, who received the Best Poster Award from the [Association of State Dam Safety Officials](#). Nati's poster titled, *'The Nahal Oz Reservoir Dambreak Flood: Geomorphic Impact and Channel Hydraulics in a Small Ephemeral Loess-Channel, Negev Desert, Israel'* was presented at the 2012 Dam Safety Conference held in Denver, Colorado in September. [Poster 1](#) & [Poster 2](#).

U Calgary's Sean Marshall watching the seas rise: Researching global sea level rise and glacier response to climate change, Sean Marshall, Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, has established himself as a leader in his field. He made headlines with recent scientific findings, which indicate that within 1,000 years the West Antarctic ice sheet is likely to experience a complete collapse, causing a rise in the global sea level of at least four metres. Now, with his Canada Research Chair renewed, he plans to expand the boundaries of his work. "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?" [UC Arts Now](#)

Memorial U Geography Master's student Beth Cowan charting the Canadian North: Geography Master's student Beth Cowan began her fieldwork last month along the eastern coast of Baffin Island, NU aboard research vessel, MV Nulijuk. "My fieldwork provided me with many once-in-a-lifetime experiences, as well as remarkable seabed bathymetric imagery to kick off my research," explained Beth. "I met many friendly people and learned as much about the Arctic and Newfoundland culture as I did about the seabed. Much of this was gleaned from the crewmembers, who willingly shared their knowledge of fishing and exploring the uncharted waters of the North." Beth is co-supervised by Drs. Trevor Bell and Don Forbes, Geography Department, and ArcticNet funds her MSc research. [Memorial Geography News](#)

U Winnipeg's Danny Blair on changing climates offer opportunities for Canadian agriculture: Global corn demand has outstripped supplies three of the last four years. That shortfall, along with the more hospitable growing weather and the introduction of seed varieties that make plants mature faster, is transforming Canada's grain mix, says Danny Blair, a professor of geography at the University of Winnipeg. "The winters have warmed and shortened dramatically," accompanied by more rainfall that allows for earlier planting and greater soil moisture that helps crops. Global warming will increase the frequency of drought and erratic rainfall even in Canada, says Blair, who notes that the weather creates more opportunities for Canadian agriculture, despite the risks. [Bloomberg Businessweek](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Brian Mosley. 2012. [Estimating health determinants and outcomes in rural Ottawa: An integration of geographic and statistical techniques](#). Unpublished Masters of Arts, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Michael Sawada.

Communications from the CAG Executive...



The association has released the most recent quarterly [CAG Newsletter](#) containing communications from the CAG Executive. Volume 19(3) includes a column from CAG President Jean Andrey focused on Canadian geographers and the International Geographical Union, as well as providing a quick scan of post-secondary geography education in Canada. Included is a notice of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Sunday, August 11 – Thursday, August 15 hosted by Memorial University. [Newsletter 19\(3\)](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Godwin Arku. 2012. [Competition and cooperation in economic development: examining the perceptions of practitioners in Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Urban Affairs. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9906.2012.00647.x
- Arun Agrawal, Daniel G. Brown, Gautam Rao, Rick Riolo, Derek T. Robinson and Michael Bommarito. [Interactions between organizations and networks in common-pool resource governance](#). Environmental Science & Policy 25:138–146.
- B.C. Eaton, M.A. Hassan and S.L. Davidson. [Modeling wood dynamics, jam formation, and sediment storage in a gravel-bed stream](#). Journal of Geophysical Research 117, F00A05.
doi:10.1029/2012JF002385
- Brian Egan and Jessica Place. 2012. [Minding the gaps: Property, geography, and Indigenous peoples in Canada](#). Geoforum. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2012.10.003
- Michael Ekers. 2012. [‘Pounding dirt all day’: labor, sexuality and gender in the British Columbia reforestation sector](#). Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography.
DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2012.737768
- Ronald Kellett, Andreas Christen, Nicholas C. Coops, Michael van der Laan, Ben Crawford, Thoreau Rory Tooke and Inna Olchovski. 2012. [A systems approach to carbon cycling and emissions modeling at an urban neighborhood scale](#). Landscape and Urban Planning.
dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2012.10.002
- Fiona L. Lawson, Nadine. Schuurman, Lisa Oliver and Avery B. Nathens. 2012. [Evaluating potential spatial access to trauma centre care by severely injured patients](#). Health & Place.
dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2012.10.011
- Jeffrey R. Masuda, Cheryl Teelucksingh, Tara Zupancic, Alexis Crabtree, Rebecca Haber, Emily Skinner, Blake Poland, Jim Frankish, Mara Fridell. 2012. [Out of our inner city backyards: Re-scaling urban health inequity assessment](#). Social Science and Medicine 75:1244-1253.
- Jeffrey R. Masuda, Kerry Robinson, Susan J. Elliott and John Eyles. 2012. [Health promotion and the politics of scale: Lessons from Canadian health reform](#). Social Work in Public Health 27:639-657.
- D.S. McLennan, T. Bell, D. Berteaux, W. Chen, L. Copland, R. Fraser, D. Gallant, G. Gauthier, D. Hik, C.J. Krebs, I.H. Myers-Smith, I. Olthof, D. Reid, W. Sladen, C. Tarnocai, W.F. Vincent and Y. Zhang. 2012. [Recent climate-related terrestrial biodiversity research in Canada's Arctic national parks: review, summary, and management implications](#). Biodiversity 13:157-173.
- Maureen G. Reed and Felicitas Egonyu. 2012. [Management effectiveness in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Learning from Canadian periodic reviews](#). Environmental Science & Policy 25:107–117.
- Nicholas Utting, Bernard Lauriol, Neil Mochnacz, Werner Aeschbach-Hertig and Ian Clark. 2012. [Noble gas and isotope geochemistry in western Canadian Arctic watersheds: tracing groundwater recharge in permafrost terrain](#). Hydrogeology Journal. DOI: 10.1007/s10040-012-0913-8

Michael A. Wulder, Joanne C. White, Christopher W. Bater, Nicholas C. Coops, Chris Hopkinson and Gang Chen. 2012. [Lidar plots — a new large-area data collection option: context, concepts, and case study](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI: 10.5589/m12-049

Other “Geographical” News

Concordia student sues institution over lowered mark: A Concordia University student is taking the institution to court over grading practices. The student says he earned an A- in an energy policy class last year, but was arbitrarily marked down to a B+ as a quota of As in the class had already been reached. "The department had a hidden policy that the rule is no more than 25 per cent of any class gets an A," the student claims. "But they didn't bell curve it, they just eliminated some As -- and that's a biased policy." [Montreal Gazette](#)

For women in the climate sciences, a struggle to find a voice: In surprising numbers, women in climate science in particular and the physical sciences in general are abandoning academic careers. The reasons are as varied as the individuals - some leave for maternity issues or other family pressures, others give up in the face of subtle gender bias within the academic world. And others feel there are better platforms than a university position to apply the science they love and to speak out to a broader audience, with greater impact. [The Daily Climate](#)

The Publishing Dilemma: The further along I get in my doctoral program, the more I am thinking about publishing my research in scholarly journals. Like most PhD students hoping to land an academic job, I'd eventually like to see my research published in a prestigious journal in my field. These days, however, doing so is complicated not merely by the need to produce top-notch research, but also by a genuine moral quandary. [University of Toronto Magazine](#)

How to improve coastal cities climate resilience: Climate scientist Cynthia Rosenzweig has been studying the impacts of global warming on New York City since the 1990s, and was part of a group that analyzed the unique risks faced by the Big Apple way back in 2001. The group's report predicted what a once-a-century superstorm like Hurricane Sandy proved. [Scientific American](#)

Climate change threatens sweet smell of morning coffee: Researchers have found that 38-99.7% of the areas suitable for wild arabica coffee will disappear by 2080 if predictions of rising temperatures pan out. Because coffee is a highly climate-dependent crop, the increase of a few degrees of average temperature in growing regions can put at risk the future of Arabica coffee and the livelihood of millions of people who grow and produce it. [Reuters](#)

The do's and dont's of contacting professors for research: Professors can seem (and sometimes are) intimidating and oftentimes, it's difficult to understand the “etiquette” required when contacting them about the possibility of getting involved in research. Do: Introduce yourself; be polite; do your homework before contacting a faculty member.; and, sell yourself. Don't: Send generic emails; neglect proofreading; and, give up. [Life @ U of T](#)

Iceland Name Change? Iceland's tourism agency launched a contest over the summer to rename the country, but the results so far are not likely to appear on a placard at the United Nations. The tourism [naming page](#) lists such names as: Jump For Joy Land, Catch-A-Cloud Land, and OMGWTFland. The government however is under no obligation to change the country's name, which in Icelandic is Ísland. [Discovery News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

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YOUR THESIS COMMITTEE

Also known as: an impossibly difficult group to get together in one room but who nevertheless hold your future in their hands depending on their ability to reach a civilized consensus.



Your Professor

Simultaneously your biggest ally and your worst enemy. Will be the first to suggest you do more work.



The Guru

Only here for the free cookies. Don't forget to bring cookies.



The Adversary

Has bitter rivalry with your Professor and will argue the exact opposite view. Work this to your advantage.



The Strawman/woman

Nice guy. No opinions.



The Assistant Professor

Still doesn't believe just a few months ago they were on the other side just like you. Pretends to be an adult.

— X —
NONE OF THEM WILL ACTUALLY READ YOUR ENTIRE THESIS.

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