GeogNews

Ryerson U's Wayne Forsythe receives Faculty of Arts Service Award: Wayne Forsythe received a 2012 Faculty of Arts Service Award for valued contributions to the Department of Geography, the Faculty of Arts, Ryerson University and the Profession of Geography. He currently serves as Vice President of the Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT). Webpage

U of T's "global cities" collaboration with University of São Paulo: Geographer Meric Gertler, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science, was in São Paulo to take part in planning for the global cities & innovation collaboration. Gertler explains the key interests shared between U of T and USP, and what the global cities & innovation collaboration might look like. We were struck by a lot of parallels between cities in Brazil and Canada, and especially those between São Paulo and Toronto. Although São Paulo is much larger, with the metropolitan region approaching 20 million in population, the two cities are quite similar in being very socially diverse. We were struck by the realization that these are probably two really noteworthy examples of metropolitan regions around the world where this very high level of social diversity has indeed been accommodated very successfully. U of T News

U Calgary Geography launches new undergraduate streams: The Geography Department at the University of Calgary has launched new Geography Undegraduate Streams. The suggested streams were designed by the department to help geography students focus their courses within their degrees. The undergraduate streams were also compiled to be compatible with the University of Calgary's Calendar, bearing in mind that the calendar is subject to change. Download PDF

Memorial U Geography welcomes Arnaud Vandecasteele as postdoctoral fellow: Arnaud Vandecasteele is starting a two-year postdoctoral fellowship and will be working with Dr. Rodolphe Devillers and the Marine Geomatics Research Lab. Previously Arnaud was at the Center for Research on Risk and Crises at Mines ParisTech, where he completed his PhD thesis in November 2012. His dissertation explores the use of spatial ontologies for detecting abnormal vessel behaviour, focusing on the use of spatial reasoning and spatio-temporal semantic information in order to classify and analyze vessel's behaviour. One of the big challenges of his PhD research was to integrate the spatio-temporal heuristics used by maritime experts in an expert system. His general research interests include, but are not limited to, geographic information systems (GIS), spatio-temporal analysis, semantic information, and the study of spatial patterns. Arnaud will extend his PhD work for his postdoc by continuing to work on the spatial analysis of maritime behaviour, in addition to conducting research in the field of geocollaboration and Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI). The funding for this fellowship comes from Rodolphe's NSERC Discovery Accelerator Supplement Grant. Memorial Geography News

Mark your calendars: The Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT) and the East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers (ELDAAG) have scheduled a Joint Annual Meeting for 2013. It will be held at the University of Toledo from October 24-26, 2013. Further information will follow as the conference approaches.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Lisa-Jen Ferrato. 2012. Comparing hyperspectral and multispectral imagery for land cover classification of the lower Don River, Toronto. Unpublished Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe

John Floroff. 2012. Creating a wildfire model from remote sensing of boreal forests in northern Ontario. Unpublished Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe

Christian Krnic. 2012. Spatial distribution of contaminant concentrations in the St. Marys River. Unpublished Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe

Tony Wu. 2012. Monitoring land cover change in Ontario's Greenbelt Region from 1985 to 2005. Unpublished Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe

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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

K. Wayne Forsythe, Barbara Schatz, Stephen J. Swales, Lisa-Jen Ferrato, and David M. Atkinson. 2012. Visualization of Lake Mead surface area changes from 1972-2009. ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information 1:108-119.

Daniel L. Peters, David Atkinson, Wendy A. Monk, David E. Tenenbaum and Donald J. Baird. 2012. A multi-scale hydroclimatic analysis of runoff generation in the Athabasca River, Western Canada. Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9699

Other "Geographical" News

The End of the Map: Apple Maps stands at the end of a long line of cartographic catastrophes. Say goodbye to the Mountains of Kong and New South Greenland—the enchanting era of geographic gaffes is coming to a close. The Wall Street Journal

GeoEye 2013 calendar desktop wallpaper: GeoEye is inviting you to download their desktop wallpaper for your computer, which features a full-year calendar with some of their favorite images. GeoEye looked back at their favorite satellite imagery that captured historic and iconic moments that changed our view of the world, and selected one image from each year since 1999 that captures an important moment in history or was simply arresting enough to capture their imaginations. Download @ GeoEye

Most scientific paper retractions due to misconduct: Two-thirds of all journal retractions around the world stem from acts like fraud, suspected fraud or plagiarism. A detailed review revealed that only 21.3% of retractions were attributable to error. In contrast, 67.4% of retractions were attributable to misconduct, including fraud or suspected fraud (43.4%), duplicate publication (14.2%), and plagiarism (9.8%). Incomplete, uninformative or misleading retraction announcements have led to a previous underestimation of the role of fraud in the ongoing retraction epidemic. The percentage of scientific articles retracted because of fraud has increased ~10-fold since 1975. The relevant paper is the Fang et al. (2012).

Students' online and offline social networks can predict course grades: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's has developed a method to predict how well or badly a student will perform in an academic course. The researchers analyzed data from a BGU course that included assignments submitted online and Web site logs to construct social networks of explicit and implicit cooperation among the students. The implicit connections are used to model all the social interactions that happened "offline" among the students: e-mails with questions, conversations in the lab while preparing the assignments and even course forums. ScienceDaily

Spatial patterns of the USA gun lobby: The National Rifle Association gives members of Congress a grade ranging from A to F that reflects their voting record on gun rights. But in response to the school shooting, some pro-gun Democrats have signaled an openness to new restrictions on guns, and the N.R.A. released a statement that said it was "prepared to offer meaningful contributions to help make sure this never happens again." How the National Rifle Association Rates Lawmakers

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Some not so "Geographical" News

Wild thing makes Trent University hearts sing: Bagnani Hall was packed for the world premiere of Trent University's "Wild Thing" lip dub video produced by the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program (ELS). The ELS is an interdisciplinary program offering both masters and doctoral degrees. Students are supervised by faculty members from Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Resource Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Geography, and Psychology, as well as by scientists at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Health Canada, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. See the video: **Wild Thing lipdub**

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