



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Mount Allison U's Colin Laroque awarded a 3M National Teaching Fellowship: In 1986, the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada joined to reward exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities. The community of 3M National Teaching Fellows embodies the highest ideals of teaching excellence and scholarship with a commitment to enhance the educational experience of every learner. Awarded with a 2013 3M National Teaching Fellowship was Dr. Colin Laroque of the Department of Geography and Environment at Mount Allison University. Colin's teaching and leadership are both traditional and radically new. He absorbed wisdom from his parents and Elders, men and women for whom "experiential learning" would have been a fancy way of saying, "being alive," and "problem-based learning" would have meant "staying alive." Through his stories, hands-on observation, site visits, circles of questions, and radical contemplation, Colin's students feel a powerful sense of community and exploration—wide and deep. "This was the best course I have ever taken." A curious student himself, Colin continually seeks out pedagogical research to improve his teaching. His excitement is contagious. His humility is potent, inspiring colleagues and students alike. Colin Laroque's work as an educator is perfectly encapsulated by the 3M Ethos. [2013 3M Teaching Fellows](#)

How backyard rinks can change the world: Skating on an outdoor rink is the most natural expression of Canadianness. Environmental scientists now tell us that outdoor skating is under threat. A small army has come forward to defend it; they're called RinkWatchers. Based at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo and directed by geographers Haydn Lawrence, Colin Robertson and Robert McLeman, they're at the forefront of what we hope will be a new golden age of citizen science in North America. The enthusiasm for RinkWatch shows there's a fourth opportunity: to start a new era of citizen science. In our daily lives, we observe many things that, were the observations pooled, would be valuable scientific resources for understanding the environment. Skating rinks are just one of many. A smartphone is a powerful data collection, analysis and communication device that makes every person carrying one a potential citizen scientist. challenges we face this century? It's time to look past the doom and gloom and do something about it. [Globe and Mail](#)

U Saskatchewan's Scott Bell receives grant from Fedoruk Centre: The Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation at the University of Saskatchewan was founded with a \$30-million, seven-year contribution from the provincial government. It hopes to eventually put out at least two calls a year for research proposals to fund. Among the first to receive support was U of S geography and planning Prof. Scott Bell who, along with political studies Prof. Loleen Berdahl, will establish a nuclear industry policy research unit to neutrally explore public and business attitudes about the industry. [The StarPhoneix](#)

Memorial Geographers Trevor Bell and Kelly Vodden get 'Engaged': Trevor Bell and Kelly Vodden participated in Engage Memorial, a week of events that launched Memorial's new Public Engagement Framework. Trevor is partnered with Bruce Gilbert to discuss "Responding to community-identified needs" where they covered topics including identifying mutually beneficial goals, setting out workplans collaboratively, and managing expectations. Kelly worked in conjunction with Jennifer Browne to discuss "Building public engagement into the curriculum", where the focus was on identifying ways to integrate public engagement into learning environments, linking public engagement to educational outcomes, and service learning. [MUN Geography News](#)

Concordia U's Damon Matthews advocates using less fossil fuel to save outdoor hockey: After weeks of swings between deep freeze and rainy thaw here in Montreal, and an emerging pattern in recent decades of erratic weather in most of the country, I can't help but be reminded that nothing is sacred in the face of global warming. Not even hockey. Warming winters mean that it is becoming more difficult to create and maintain outdoor rinks. In a study that I co-authored with colleagues at McGill University this past spring, we found that we have already lost part of our outdoor skating season. This is particularly true in the southwestern Prairies, but there is a consistent trend toward a shorter and more variable season across most of southern Canada. We can't say we didn't have it coming. Shamefully, Canada is one of the last bastions of political inaction and denial of the climate problem. We have obstructed international negotiations trying to set emissions targets, and remain one of the highest per-capita emitters on the planet. We need to come up with innovative solutions to the climate challenge, and take steps to decrease our carbon footprints — both as a country and as individuals. The NHL may have recovered from its hiatus this past fall. But there will be no going back for outdoor hockey if we don't start to take global warming seriously. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Trent U invites you to reimagine your world within the Department of Geography: Celebrating 45 years of teaching and scholarship, the department invites web viewers to meet some current BA and Bsc Geography students. [Meet some geographers](#)

Weather insights from some Canadian geography department weather stations

1. Department of Geography, University of Victoria - [Weather](#)
 2. Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta - [Weather](#)
 3. Department of Geography, University of Regina - [Weather](#)
 4. Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg - [Weather](#)
 5. Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo - [Weather](#)
 6. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University - [Weather](#)
 7. Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga - [Weather](#)
 8. Department of Geography, Trent University - [Weather](#)
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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi and Konrad Gajewski. 2013. [Holocene sediments from a coastal lake on northern Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. doi:10.1139/cjes-2012-0143

Jesse C. Vermaire, Michael F.J. Pisaric, Joshua R. Thienpont, Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi, Steven V. Kokelj and John P. Smol. 2013. [Arctic climate warming and sea ice declines lead to increased storm surge activity](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI: 10.1002/grl.50191

Bradley Walters. 2012. [Do property rights matter for conservation? Family land, forests and trees in St. Lucia, West Indies](#). Human Ecology 40:863-878.

Bradley Walters. 2012. [An event-based methodology for climate change and human-environment research](#). Danish Journal of Geography-Geografisk Tidsskrift 112:135-143.

Ian J. Walker and Dan H. Shugar. 2013. [Secondary flow deflection in the lee of transverse dunes with implications for dune morphodynamics and migration](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3398

Bradley Walters and Lisa Hansen. 2013. [Farmed landscapes, trees and forest conservation in St. Lucia, West Indies](#). Environmental Conservation. doi.org/10.1017/S0376892912000446

55th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

The Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge is excited to host the 55th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG), 7-9 March 2013.

The WDCAG2013 Annual Meeting program includes an icebreaker on Thursday 7 March, field trips and a keynote speaker on Friday 8 March; and, an all program of oral papers and poster presentations on Saturday 9 March. Conference highlights include the AGM and the conference banquet.

Conferences details @ [WDCAG 2013 55th Annual Meeting](#)



Other “Geographical” News

Creating and managing your online presence: As you move from being a graduate student to the next stage on your career path, employers will be searching for people like you. Telling your own academic story – and curating the breadth and depth of that information – will be an important way to catch their eye. One strategy to let employers know who you are and what you are about is to create an online academic profile. What you share in this academic profile is up to you. You need to decide whether to keep it strictly professional, with just your publication record and teaching philosophy statement, or whether to make it more personal. [University Affairs](#)

Four volcanoes erupt in 360-degree fly by: For sheer drama, nothing beats an erupting volcano, except maybe ... four erupting volcanoes. A Moscow-based documentary film crew created some spectacular footage of four active volcanoes on Russia’s Kamchatka Peninsula using 360-degree camera gear. [DNews](#)

How well do Canadian universities follow best practices? The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asks first- and senior-year students dozens of specific questions about how they spend their time in and out of the classroom. NSSE is a study of best educational practices and an assessment of the degree to which each university follows those practices. The NSSE results are headlined by the Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice, created by NSSE to compare performance across all universities—Canadian and American. [Macleans.ca on campus](#)

Trend to measure learning outcomes gains proponents: Canadian universities have been slow to move but may have to keep up with the international trend. A growing number of universities are adopting student learning outcomes as a means of ensuring the quality of their degrees, as well as helping students move between institutions within Canada and abroad. “It’s ... an issue for professors is that they don’t want to “give up sovereignty over what happens in the classroom,” said Alex Usher, president of Higher Education Strategy Associates. [University Affairs](#)

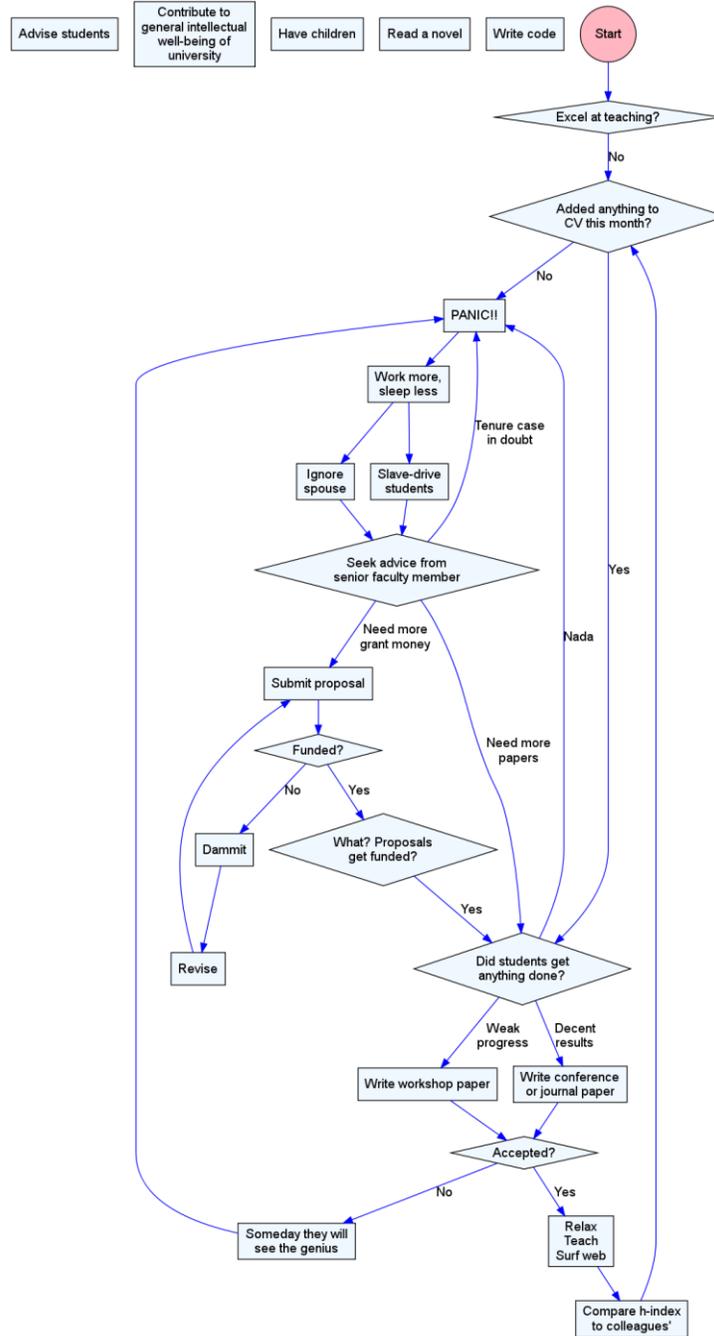
The deep roots of catastrophe: partly molten, Florida-sized blob forms atop earth's core: A university seismologist analyzed seismic waves that bombarded Earth’s core, and believes he got a look at the earliest roots of Earth’s most cataclysmic kind of volcanic eruption. But don’t worry. He says it won’t happen for perhaps 200 million years. [ScienceDaily](#)

Spring flowering trends in Alberta, Canada: response to climate change, urban heat island effects, and an evaluation of a citizen science network: A PhD dissertation by Elisabeth Beaubien that reports on climate trends and corresponding changes in sequential bloom times for seven plant species in the central parklands of Alberta. The data span seven decades (1936–2006), drawing on historic Agriculture Canada data, observations by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, and the Alberta PlantWatch program in both urban and rural areas of central Alberta. [Beaubien PhD](#)

The Editor’s Royal Flush: Lately, I’ve been seeing quite a few manuscripts sent out for review that receive one of the following sets of reviews: reject, accept, major revisions; or, reject, minor revisions, major revisions. I guess these are the equivalent of a royal flush in cards, although I’m not sure the result is as hoped for by the author. How can three reviewers reading the same paper come to three entirely different conclusions. In particular, how can one author recommend rejection when others see the value in eventual publication after revisions? [Eloquent Science](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

A Flowchart for Untenured Faculty Life



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