



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Victoria's Ian O'Connell presented with J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence: [Dr Ian O'Connell](#), a Senior instructor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, was presented with J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence at the recent 55th Annual General Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. The J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes a geography instructor known for the quality of their teaching. This is in recognition of the central importance of teaching excellence in geographic education. The recipient is intended to be a teacher in a university, college or secondary school in BC or Alberta. This award is named after Alistair McVey, a well known and highly-respected geography instructor in the BC college system for more than 35 years. [WDCAG Awards](#)

Mount Allison U students focus on community adaptation to climate change: Mount Allison students are taking their learning outside the classroom and into the community with a new class devoted to climate change adaptation. Team-taught by geography and environment professors Drs. Mike Fox and Georgia Klein, this is the first year Community Adaptation to Climate Change has been offered. In addition to Fox and Klein, the class meets with and hears from a number of local researchers and knowledge holders examining different parts of the climate change picture. Fox says, "We've really drawn on our regional resources to help address and illustrate what the local community will face with regards to climate change. Many of our colleagues in geography and environment, as well as individuals from local organizations such as planning commissions, municipalities, schools, and politicians have been guest speakers in the class. It's been wonderful to have so many voices and resources in the class, making for a very unique experience for our students." [Mount Allison News](#)

U Victoria's Ken Josephson is 2012 Staff Sustainability Champion: Ken Josephson, Department of Geography was celebrated as the 2012 Staff Sustainability Champion at the opening reception of the Connect U all-staff conference. In his 30 years at UVic, Josephson—a cartographer in the geography department—has made sustainability the guiding principle behind everything he does. He is perhaps best known for his work to spearhead community mapping projects, including the UVic Green Map [mapping.uvic.ca/]. Community mapping incorporates citizen engagement to help create a sense of place and a collective vision for sustainability. Josephson was intimately involved in the design of some of the key sustainability features of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building in which he works, including the green roof and the community mosaic project. On a smaller scale, he researched and arranged for the purchase of compostable plates, cutlery and cups for the geography department, and maintains the office composting program. Josephson also ensures the cartography department uses 100-per-cent post-consumer waste recycled paper, and biodegradable vinyl for printed banners and posters. [The Ring](#)

Memorial U Geography team mobilizes climate change science for decision-making in Nunavut:

The Arctic is experiencing significant changes in environmental conditions; for example, reduced sea-ice, permafrost thaw, and rising sea levels. These changes, alongside rapid social, economic, and political transformation, are posing significant challenges to the culture, livelihood and health of Northerners. Governments, communities, industries and individuals facing these changes need access to scientific information to better prepare for the impacts of change. Led by Trevor Bell and Philippe LeBlanc from the Geography Department at Memorial, and supported by a regional Steering Committee, the Eastern Arctic team is composed of ArcticNet scientists, Inuit organizations and local government representatives working together to prepare a Regional Impact Assessment that draws on scientific and Inuit knowledge to inform regional issues. The Assessment's key findings and conclusions will convey an integrated vision of the impacts of climate change and modernization on the Eastern Canadian Arctic. [MUN Geography News](#)

U Victoria undergraduate students complete review of the BC Environmental Assessment Office website:

Students in Geography 301 ([Environmental Impact Assessment](#)), offered by Cam Owens at the University of Victoria, conducted a critical review of the BC Environmental Assessment Office website in terms of availability of information, lay-out and usability. The students' observations were sent on to the Director, Client Communications and Engagement who felt the students' thoughtful and detailed comments would be "extremely useful" as they redesign their website. Any efforts to make EA more responsive and accountable to citizens may be viewed in a positive light.

Memorial U's Ratana Chuenpagdee provides keynote speech at Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute meeting:

Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee was a keynote speaker at the most recent annual meeting of the [Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute](#) (GCFI), an organization that promotes information exchange on marine resources use and management through the organization of an annual meeting devoted to technical presentations and workshops on issues relevant to marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region. This meeting was hosted by the Instituto de investigación y evaluación ecológica pesquera at the Universidad del Magdalena, and supported by the "Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible" and FAO among others. Ratana's keynote speech, entitled "How big is small? Understanding small-scale fisheries for what they are", is linked to her current SSHRC Partnership Grant project, [Too Big To Ignore: Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research \(TBTI\)](#). Two TBTI events were organized during the GCFI meeting, to explore issues concerning small-scale fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean. While in Santa Marta, Ratana was interviewed with Alejandro Acosta by El Campustv, Universidad del Magdalena. You can [see this interview on YouTube](#) (in Spanish). [MUN Geography News](#)



Twitter feeds from Canadian geography departments

[@UVic Geog](#) - Department of Geography, University of Victoria

[@UBCgeog](#) - Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

[@UNBCGeography](#) - Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia

[@UWGeography](#) - Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg

[@SGESmedia](#) - School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University

[@GPEConcordia](#) - Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Philip P. Bonnaventure and Scott F. Lamoureux. 2013. [The active layer: A conceptual review of monitoring, modelling techniques and changes in a warming climate](#). Progress in Physical Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309133313478314

Francesca S. Cardwell and Susan J. Elliott. 2013. [Making the links: do we connect climate change with health? A qualitative case study from Canada](#). BMC Public Health 2013, 13:208 doi:10.1186/1471-2458-13-208

Jordan B.R. Eamer, Ian B. Darke and Ian J. Walker. 2013. [Geomorphic and sediment volume responses of a coastal dune complex following invasive vegetation removal](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3403

Yuting Fan, Yaning Chen Yongbo Liu and Weihong Li. 2013. [Variation of baseflows in the headstreams of the Tarim River basin during 1960-2007](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2013.02.037

Sean W. Fleming and Dave J. Sauchyn. [Availability, volatility, stability, and teleconnectivity changes in prairie water supply from Canadian Rocky Mountain sources over the last millennium](#). Water Resources Research 49:64-74.

Stephen P. Meyer. 2013. Chapter 18. [Evaluating the geography and the visibility tendencies of acupuncture treatment locations in Metropolitan Toronto](#). In: Medicine » Complementary and Alternative Medicine » "Acupuncture in Modern Medicine". Edited by Lucy L. Chen and Tsung O. Cheng, Intech Open Science.

Alison Mountz. 2013. [Political geography I. Reconfiguring geographies of sovereignty](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132513479076

Denis Lacelle and Yuriy K. Vasil'chuk. 2013. [Recent progress \(2007–2012\) in permafrost isotope geochemistry](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.1768

Hugh G. Smith, William H. Blake and Philip N. Owens. 2013. [Discriminating fine sediment sources and the application of sediment tracers in burned catchments: a review](#). Hydrological Processes 27:943-958.

Other "Geographical" News

Causes of 2011 Arctic ozone hole determined: A combination of extreme cold temperatures, human-made chemicals and a stagnant atmosphere were behind what became known as the Arctic ozone hole of 2011. A new study shows that, while chlorine in the Arctic stratosphere was the ultimate culprit of the severe ozone loss of winter of 2011, unusually cold and persistent temperatures also spurred ozone destruction. [ScienceDaily](#)

Glaciers will melt faster than ever and loss could be irreversible: Canada's Arctic Archipelago glaciers will melt faster than ever in the next few centuries. Research by European funded scientists has shown that 20 per cent of the Canadian Arctic glaciers may have disappeared by the end of this century which would amount to an additional sea level rise of 3.5 cm. [ScienceDaily](#)

Building owners responsible for bird deaths, judge rules: A verdict handed down in Toronto establishes that building owners and managers must take action to prevent their buildings' windows from causing excessive death or injury to migratory birds. Ecojustice charged that "contaminants harmful to wildlife" should be interpreted to include reflected light that confuses birds or lures them toward reflected sky or trees, resulting in collisions and injury or death. Judge Melvyn Green of the Ontario Court of Justice ruled the interpretation valid, meaning that the Ontario Ministry of Environment will now regulate buildings reflecting light that leads to bird fatalities. BuildingGreen.com

Gender geography. Where's the best place in the world to be a woman: It's Iceland, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report for 2012. The country has claimed the top spot in the report since 2009. Finland, Norway and Sweden round out the top four. (Canada fell three spots to land in 21st place out of 135 countries, one above the United States. [The Globe and Mail](http://TheGlobeandMail.com)

Impacts of postdoctoral training on scientists' academic employment: This article examines the dynamics of postdoctoral training affecting scientists' academic employment, focusing on timing and prestige dimensions. Postdoc training proves beneficial to academic employment—more so in less prestigious departments than in top ones. Postdoc duration is subject to diminishing returns. The benefits of training vary across scientists with different demographic characteristics. [Project Muse](http://ProjectMuse.com)

Some not so "Geographical" News



Geography Teacher's geek chic style: The hottest trend men can flaunt this season is the geography teacher look. The trend has come as a shocker with numerous people including celebrities swearing by clothes that personify geek-chic. Sales of outfits like tweed blazers with elbow patches, geeky sweaters in darker shades and corduroy trousers, typical of a teacher's ensemble, have been skyrocketing. "Seeing the dress styles favoured by your old Geography teacher suddenly being paraded along the latest catwalks has created a grade 10 earthquake in the fashion world," "The appearance of old fashioned leather elbow pads alone is a major seismic event – everyone thought they had disappeared during the last Ice Age." [Beauty World News](http://BeautyWorldNews.com)



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