



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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University of Saskatchewan Planner in Residence Prof Larry Beasley

University of Saskatchewan, Department of Geography and Planning, recently hosted Prof Larry Beasley as 2013 U of S Planner in Residence. After more than thirty years leading initiatives to transform Vancouver's inner city, its neighbourhoods, and development approvals, Larry Beasley now teaches and advises on urbanism around the world.

The University of Saskatchewan Planner in Residence is a planner of significant national or international reputation who can add to the training capacity of the Regional and Urban Planning program through their residency and invigorated public discussion on issues of planning and design. The Planner in Residence program is funded by a generous gift from Dr. H.D. (Dewell) Linn. The 2013 Planner in Residence was generously co-sponsored by Urban Systems and other local organizations.



During the week of March 18, 2013, Planner in Residence Dr Larry Beasley gave guest lectures and planning studio project feedback to students in the Regional and Urban Planning program at the U of S. In addition, Prof Beasley spoke in city council chambers, gave a public lecture at a local theatre, and

was opening keynote for a 2 day U of S planning student's conference, CurioCity: An Urban Idea Symposium.

Dr. Beasley chairs the 'National Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty' of Ottawa's National Capital Commission; is on the Board of the Canadian Urban Institute; is Senior Advisor on Urban Design in Dallas, Texas; serves on the International Economic Development Advisory Board of Rotterdam in The Netherlands; and has just completed five years of service as the Special Advisor on City Planning to the government of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. For three years he was the vice-president of a major Canadian development company, Aquilini Development and is now Special Development Advisor to Concord Pacific Developments. Among his recent primary projects, he has completed an award-winning plan for the City of Moscow, Russia.

Dr. Beasley has a master's degree in planning and has also studied architecture, geography and political science. He has been awarded two honorary doctorate degrees, is Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Honorary Member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, and an "Advocate for Architecture" of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Beasley is a recipient of the Kevin Lynch Prize from MIT, the most prestigious award in American planning. He is a Member of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honour for lifetime achievement, and was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

It was a great week for planning in Saskatoon! With over 100 undergraduate declared majors the Regional and Urban Planning program is one of the oldest fully accredited programs in Canada. In addition to this year's Planner in Residence and CurioCity, a large group of U of S planning students also attended the Canadian Association of Planning Student's conference in Montreal hosted by McGill last February.

U British Columbia's Daniel Hiebert reports Chinese numbers in Vancouver, Toronto to double by 2031: The Chinese populations of Vancouver and Toronto are set to double by 2031, helping push whites below 50 per cent of the population in both cities, says a report for Canada's immigration department. The study, released this week, is titled "A new residential order?". It predicted that the populations in both cities would be more prone to segregate into racial enclaves with time. Daniel Hiebert, a geographer at the University of British Columbia, concluded his report by saying that the two cities "are likely to have a social geography that is entirely new to Canadian society". He said the degree of racial segregation in both cities would approach that of between blacks and whites in America. Both cities have a long history of immigrant populations, but it was only in the late 1990s that they developed what Hiebert called "ethnocultural enclaves" and a "new residential order". [South China Morning Post](#)

Lucky Grade 8 class from Saskatchewan wins Canada's coolest school trip: Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today announced that a grade 8 class from Saskatchewan has won Canada's Coolest School Trip contest of the My Parks Pass program. The lucky class will be travelling to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, to visit Parks Canada's Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site and Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Before receiving the good news, the winning class had the opportunity to be the very first students to try out the new Parks Canada: Places and Spaces for Everyone program. This program includes a giant floor map created with Canadian Geographic Education and brings to life important Parks Canada stories and places through exciting educational activities. Schools are invited to request, free of charge, the giant floor map which is a fun way to learn about Canada's nature and history. [The Sacramento Bee](#)

U Western's Phil Stooke and the Mars Exploration Rovers: Phil Stooke along with other MER science team members headed to Texas for the 44th annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. Stooke's Early Traverse Mapping: MOC VS HiRISE Localization, was like a course in Cameras on Mars 101, revealing how far orbital cameras, now routinely used by Mars rovers, have advanced since the days of the Mars Orbiter Camera onboard the Mars Global Surveyor. [Philip Stooke Homepage](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

A. Boivina, P. Laib, C. Samsona, E. Cloutisc, S. Holladayd and F.A. Monteiro Santose. 2013. [Electromagnetic induction sounding and 3D laser imaging in support of a Mars methane analogue mission](#). Planetary and Space Science. doi.org/10.1016/j.pss.2013.03.005

C.P. Borstad and D.M. McClung. 2013. [A higher-order method for determining quasi-brittle tensile fracture parameters governing the release of slab avalanches and a new tool for in situ indexing](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20065

Peggy Ann Desserud. 2013. [Promising results in central Alberta with rough fescue \(*Festuca hallii*\) seeding following disturbance](#). Native Plants Journal 14:25-32.

Clive Finlayson. 2013. [The Water Optimisation Hypothesis and the human occupation of the mid-latitude belt in the Pleistocene](#). Quaternary International. doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2013.03.040

Francisco Flores-de-Santiago, John M. Kovacs and Francisco Flores-Verdugo. 2013. [The influence of seasonality in estimating mangrove leaf chlorophyll-a content from hyperspectral data](#). Wetlands Ecology and Management. DOI 10.1007/s11273-013-9290-x

Amrita Hari, Susan McGrath and Valerie Preston. 2013. [Temporariness in Canada: Establishing a research agenda](#). CERIS – The Ontario Metropolis Centre. CERIS Working Paper No. 99

Marianne Hatzopoulou, Scott Weichenthal, Guillaume Barreau, Mark Goldberg, William Farrell, Dan Crouse and Nancy Ross. 2013. [A web-based route planning tool to reduce cyclists' exposures to traffic pollution: A case study in Montreal, Canada](#). Environmental Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2013.03.004

Chris H. Hugenholtz, Ken Whitehead, Owen W. Brown, Thomas E. Barchyn, Brian J. Moorman, Adam LeClair, Kevin Riddell and Tayler Hamilton. 2013. [Geomorphological mapping with a small unmanned aircraft system \(sUAS\): Feature detection and accuracy assessment of a photogrammetrically-derived digital terrain model](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.03.023

Cameron Proctor, Yuhong He and Vincent Robinson. 2013. [Texture augmented detection of macrophyte species using decision trees](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 80:10–20.

Valentina Radić, Andrew Bliss, A. Cody Beedlow, Regine Hock, Evan Miles and J. Graham Cogley. 2013. [Regional and global projections of twenty-first century glacier mass changes in response to climate scenarios from global climate models](#). Climate Dynamics. DOI 10.1007/s00382-013-1719-7

Jamie E L Spinney and Hugh Millward. 2013. [Investigating travel thresholds for sports and recreation activities](#). Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design. doi:10.1068/b37161

Other “Geographical” News

Victoria’s Chinatown. Gateway to the Past and Present of Chinese Canadians: A new online resource provides visitors with access to hundreds of digital images illustrating Chinese experiences in Victoria and Pacific Canada. It includes historic photos and documents relating to Chinatown’s landscape changes, heritage buildings, community associations, numerous historic figures, the Chinatown Newsletter since 1993, and paintings of Chinatown by Victoria artist Robert Amos. The digital collection is complemented with recorded interviews with a number of residents and contemporary community leaders. [Victoria’s Chinatown](#)

Heading to graduate school? Seven tips from a master's grad and PhD candidate: 1. Pick the program that scares you most. When deciding where to complete my master’s degree, I had to choose between two very different programs. One was a single year and seemed cutting edge and fun, with classes on quality television and popular fiction. The other, a traditional two-year master’s, was more rigorous, with course work of a highly theoretical nature. The primary factor in my decision was my relative level of fear. I chose the university with the more fun program and came to regret that decision. The experience was a good one in many ways—my supervisory team was wonderful, and I was able to continue working part time—but by making the safe choice, I didn’t set the bar high enough. Instead of leaping into new and challenging work, I ended up rehashing much of the same material I had been exposed to in my undergraduate degree. If I had it to do over, I’d take the bigger risk. [Macleans.ca](#)

Survey asks: Who is the Canadian postdoctoral fellow? In 2009, the newly created Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars undertook its first survey of postdoctoral fellows, or PDFs. The results revealed that the average fellow in Canada was between 30 and 35 years of age, earned under \$40,000 and had limited access to extended health coverage or other benefits. Before the 2009 survey, there was only limited evidence about the plight of Canadian PDFs. The survey, which was completed by nearly 1,200 PDFs, gave substance to the arguments of researchers that they weren’t being adequately supported. This was followed by several negative reports, such as in [Nature magazine](#), on Canada’s lack of support for PDFs and also led the formation of groups such as CAPS and the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators. [University Affairs](#)

Mapping for results: The World Bank: The effective visual representation of key demographic data through the use of dynamic maps is a powerful tool for policymakers, journalists, and others. The World Bank developed such a program in 2010 as part of the apping for Results website. So far, their team has analyzed over 2,500 World Bank-financed projects and geo-coded more than 30,000 locations spanning 144 countries. [World Bank](#)

Western researchers acquit the tins in mysterious failed Franklin expedition: New research from Western University challenges long-held beliefs regarding the demise of Sir John Franklin’s ill-fated Northwest Passage expedition that departed from England in 1845. A landmark study from 1981, led by Owen Beattie (a since-retired anthropology professor emeritus at the University of Alberta), concluded that while the British crew most likely died of pneumonia and tuberculosis, lead poisoning – a result of poorly soldered tin cans – was also a contributing factor. More than 30 years later, technology and scientific advancements have provided a new team of researchers, led by Western chemistry professor Ron Martin, evidence that faulty solder seals in tinned meat cans were not the principal source of lead found in the remains of the Franklin crew members. [Western Media](#)

(Scientific) life is not fair: Recently I was "volunteered" to deliver a seminar at my institute, to explain what the major criteria are for submission of a competitive PhD student fellowship application. I pointed out to the PhD students (and post-docs) that if their mentor was not currently funded by a large national grant, there would be no point in even submitting an application – it simply would not be funded, no matter how strong the proposal. One of the students, apparently shocked by the idea of "discrimination" on the basis of the mentor, noted to me that this wasn't fair. There were a lot of replies that flitted momentarily across my brain. Ultimately, though, my answer was: "I agree – but remember, life isn't necessarily fair." What is the moral of this story? Well, there may not be "morality" in scientific careers – life is certainly not fair, and all are not born with equal opportunities or abilities. But to make the most of what one has, a wise selection of a PhD mentor will go a long way to opening the right doors, and leaving all career options on the table. [The Guardian](#)

Can crowd funding pay your tuition bill? Crowd funding websites are used to raise cash for everything from charitable causes to music projects. Such successes raise an interesting question: Can crowd funding be used to pay for university or college? The founders of two Canadian startups—Greenlight and FundUni—believe so. FundUni, based in St. John's, Nfld. is the creation of Kyle Hickey and his brother Trevor, who both attended Memorial University. Though in its infancy, FundUni aims to help both current and prospective students launch tuition funding campaigns. [Macleans on campus](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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