



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 254, August 11, 2013
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Carleton U grad students win ACUNS and CNST awards: Department of Geography & Environmental Studies PhD students Brendan O'Neill & Erica Oberndorfer and MSc student Sarah Quann recently won 3 prestigious awards from the scholarship program of ACUNS (Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies). ACUNS established its scholarship program, the Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) in 1982 to advance knowledge and understanding of Canada's North. The purpose of the CNST is to develop a cadre of scholars and scientists with northern experience and, at the same time, to enhance the educational opportunities available for northern residents. Erica Oberndorfer was awarded the Canadian Polar Commission Scholarship. It is valued at \$10,000 and is offered to a doctoral candidate in any discipline conducting northern research with an interdisciplinary focus. Brendan O'Neill and Sarah Quann won the W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research. This award is valued at \$50,000 (over 2 years) at the doctoral level and \$15,000 (one year only) at the master's level. These awards are offered to candidates engaged in a natural science program leading to a thesis who demonstrate exceptional promise, academic excellence, and leadership, a strong commitment to northern research. [gLoeb Xpress](#)

U Saskatchewan's Ryan Walker on how better transit will help build city: The development of rapid transit is one of the most important exercises in citybuilding that Saskatonians will undertake in the next several years and is central to the city's Integrated Growth Plan. Saskatoon is pursuing bus rapid transit (BRT), which has been effective in many cities and implemented at lower cost and shorter time frame relative to light rail. BRT development leaves the prospect open for future light rail service in parts of the network if and when it becomes desirable. If done correctly, rapid transit will transform our urban land market around stations and dedicated travel corridors. In addition to changing the way people move around the city, it will enhance public spaces and accessibility to shops, services, work and leisure. Imagine the potential on Idylwyld Drive, where rapid transit and associated zoning, property value uplift, and streetscape improvement could trigger the kind of re-development that would knit the Riversdale, Caswell Hill and Mayfair neighbourhoods back together with downtown. Saskatoon's future neighbourhoods, developed around "complete" main streets with rights-of-way dedicated to transit, cycling and private vehicles, will connect neighbourhoods on both sides with wide sidewalks and quality streetscapes. Rapid, comfortable and reliable transit service can cultivate civic commitment and pride in ways that rival the attachment people feel to their private automobiles. Transitional change is needed in order to shift tracks and get out of the residual service provided by public transit and achieve many of the goals for citybuilding that are included in the city's new strategic plan. [The Star Phoenix](#)

U Guelph's Linnaea Jasiuk is a geography superstar: Linnaea Jasiuk is currently a U of Guelph undergraduate student in the final year of her Honours Bachelor of Environmental Science (Co-Op) degree. Her major is in Environmental Biology. Over the past five years Linnaea has been a member of varsity lacrosse team, the Environmental Sciences Symposium executive board, and worked in Student Housing Services. In addition to these on-campus activities, opportunities to work with U of G faculty and researchers have allowed for unique travel and learning experiences, and have helped her to develop a unique set of research and professional skills. In the summer of 2012, Linnaea travelled with Tristan Pearce, U of G graduate and former postdoctoral fellow, to the small Inuit community of Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories. Their work in the community was part of a large interdisciplinary research initiative funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research. The purpose of this project is to combine scientific research and Inuit traditional knowledge and to build a base of evidence to be used as Inuit communities adapt to the health effects of climate change. [UGuelph Geography](#)

Memorial U's Geography Department releases research report for 2012-13: Geography's first research report has just been published ([available to download](#)) to coincide with the Canadian Association of Geographers conference, which starts on the 11th of August 2013. Five projects under each of these research clusters are profiled including: Rodolphe Devillers' research on volunteer geographic information; Evan Edinger's work on corals; Trevor Bell's contribution to sustainable communities in the Canadian North; Josh Lepawsky's project on electronic waste; and Ratana Chuenpagdee's 'Too Big To Ignore' partnership. Under the keyword 'talent', our report introduces two new faculty members to the Department - Carissa Brown (biogeographer) and Cedric Brunelle (economic geographer). In addition we profile some of the outstanding work being undertaken by our graduate students on a range of topics. In future reports we will provide new profiles on some of our outstanding graduate students. [Memorial Geography](#)

UBC PhD candidate Justin Tse examines how Chinese Christians wrestle with gay debate: Justin Tse is a self-described "PK," a preacher's kid. He's the son of a Hong Kong-raised father who became an evangelical Christian pastor and is now chaplain at Richmond Hospital. Tse was born in Vancouver but lived here only six weeks before his parents moved to the San Francisco Bay area. He returned to Canada in 2004 for his undergraduate studies at the University of B.C. His research in human geography zeros in on the kind of Chinese Christian churches in which he grew up and attended, including his own evangelical congregation in Richmond. At age 26, Tse is becoming a unique cross-cultural voice in Canada. And he is not shy about his faith. In the acknowledgments to his brilliant, award-winning master's degree thesis. The PhD thesis that Tse is working on looks into how Chinese Christians in Metro Vancouver, San Francisco and Hong Kong "engage the public sphere." [The Vancouver Sun](#)

Memorial U's "Toxic Legacies" partnership to investigate communicating toxic hazards to future generations: Arn Keeling (MUN geography) and John Sandlos (MUN history) are traveling to Yellowknife in July to launch a public engagement and research partnership focusing on the "perpetual care" of a toxic mining waste site in the Northwest Territories. Working with academic partners, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Alternatives North, a Yellowknife NGO, Keeling and Sandlos received a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to study the toxic waste disposal plans at Giant Mine. The project, entitled "Toxic Legacies: Community Perspectives on Arsenic Pollution at Yellowknife's Giant Mine," seeks to generate both public engagement and deeper understanding around the challenges posed by long-term environmental contamination. With their partners, Keeling and Sandlos will co-ordinate research into the historical legacies and future challenges posed by Giant Mine. The project aims to produce an oral history volume documenting the environmental and socio-economic changes experienced by the Yellowknives Dene as a result of mineral development. [Memorial Geography](#)

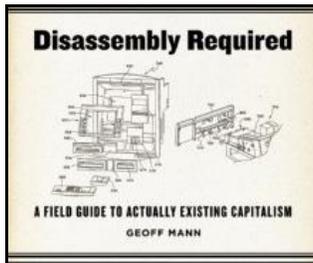
Recent Carleton U PhD grad awarded NSERC Visiting Fellowship: Peter Morse a recent Department of Geography & Environmental Studies PhD graduate, was awarded an NSERC Visiting Fellowship in April to work with Stephen Wolfe and team members of the Transportation Risk in the Arctic to Climate Sensitivity (TRACS) project, which is part of the Climate Change Geoscience (CCG) program. Previously, he had been working at NRCan under contract while finishing his Ph.D. with Chris Burn on permafrost at the outer Mackenzie Delta. Peter's research for TRACS is primarily focused on establishing relations between ecological setting and the ground thermal regime in the Great Slave Lowland (GSL) ecoregion, which is within the discontinuous permafrost zone. Permafrost distribution has been associated with peatlands and black spruce and paper birch forests, but there are few data on permafrost temperatures in the region. In addition to their scientific interest, the results will contribute to risk management and adaptation solutions for land-based infrastructure in GSL. Peter is also working with the TRACS team to: (i) help establish relations between land cover, surficial geology, and seasonal surface displacement, derived for Yellowknife and the surrounding area from Differential Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (D-InSAR) data; (ii) generate a Predictive Surficial Geology map for Wecho River (NTS 850); and (iii) map icings that have occurred in the region since 1984 using Landsat data, which will assist with determining the controls on their distribution and development and allows for improved route planning. [gLoeb Xpress](#)

U Waterloo's Geoff Wall recognized as most influential tourism scholar: Dr. Geoff Wall, a retired Geography and Environmental Management (GEM) professor in the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Environment, is the subject of a publication titled, The "Great Wall" in tourism research – a portrait of Geoff Wall by P. F. Xie in the journal "Anatolia – An International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research." The piece, examining Wall's pioneering work, comes from a recent study hoping to answer the simple question: who are the most influential scholars in the study of tourism? The study placed Dr. Wall at the top of the list of tourism scholars by being among the most-cited in the field. With close to 200 journal articles, 100 book chapters and more than 20 authored or edited books and monographs, Wall has been as prolific a scholar as he has been influential. Specifically he explores the implications of different types of tourism for destination areas with different characteristics. [UW Environment](#)

Vancouver Island U Geography Department introduces 'Geography of Music' course: Listed as GEOG 433, this course is worth 3 credits and is open to all students with third year or higher standing. This course will examine several different genres of music: big band, jazz (including the "gypsy jazz" of Django Reinhardt), blues, rhythm and blues, rock n' roll, reggae, hip-hop, and will consider them in the context of the following themes: migration (forced or otherwise) and diasporas; cross-cultural fertilization; dialectics of globalization; and, music as a vehicle for cultural identity and resistance. [VIU Geography](#)

U Toronto Mississauga undergraduate geographers featured in interactive map: Students featured in [interactive map](#) highlighting outstanding 2013 graduates going on to exciting placements in the working world and beyond. **Gurveer Bains** (BSc in Biology, Geography and Environmental Science) worked with Kathi Wilson as a Research Assistant on several projects in Geography, in addition to my honours thesis, which was co-supervised by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Daniel Harrington. This experience definitely inspired me to pursue health-related research on the Master's level after the completion of my undergraduate degree. Joanne Wincentak (BA in Biology and Geography) is the top graduating student from UTM's Geography Department and, in addition to excelling in her studies and winning the Canadian Association of Geographers Award, she also served as a research and teaching assistant within the department and as a member of the student association. [UTM Geography](#)

New Book: Geoff Mann. 2013. [Disassembly Required: A field guide to actually existing capitalism](#). AK Press



Capitalism is a complex, dynamic, and extraordinarily robust way of organizing human life; it is also a system that achieves prosperity for the few, impoverishes the many, and depletes the commons for all. We know that capitalism is a broken system, in desperate need of change. But, to imagine a different system, we first need to understand how capitalism actually exists today—and be able to explain to others how it works, and why change is needed. *Disassembly Required* is an attempt to meet these challenges. It offers an anti-capitalist analysis of capitalism, and, even more important, it explains why it is anti-capitalist. It does not stop at claiming that the present way of organizing the “economic” aspects of our lives is politically indefensible and ecologically unsustainable, but digs into the details of capitalist institutions and the economics that justify them. From money and markets to the subprime crisis, it explains the fundamental features of contemporary capitalism and how they contribute, sometimes in surprising ways, to overall capitalist dynamics.

Geoff Mann teaches political economy and economic geography at Simon Fraser University, where he directs the Centre for Global Political Economy. His current research concerns the politics of macroeconomic policy, and he is presently completing a book on the many lives of Keynesianism.

Carleton U’s Department of Geography & Environmental Studies welcomes new academic appointments Stephan Gruber and Jennifer Ridgley. [gLoeb Xpress](#)

Stephan Gruber’s research interest (Associate Professor and CRC Tier II Research Chair) concerns the cryosphere and its interactions with climate, geomorphic, ecologic, and human systems. He likes fieldwork and measuring phenomena in order to find out how they function—and to complement this with extensive computer simulation and experimentation. This is necessary, as it is important for studying and anticipating the behavior of complex systems. It also means that most of his research projects interface with other disciplines such as Engineering, Geodesy, or Statistics. In the past, most of Stephan’s research was focused on permafrost in mountain areas but here in Canada this will likely broaden to also include areas with less pronounced topography. Stephan’s background is in Physical Geography (University of Giessen, Germany) and his education included one year in northern Finland (Arctic Studies at the University of Lapland/Arctic Centre) and more than one year in the Netherlands (Environmental Systems Monitoring and Analysis at the ITC). During this time he also worked as an intern for a gold mining project in the Solomon Islands and for the natural hazards group of the Munich Reinsurance for some time. During his PhD (permafrost modeling and hyperspectral remote sensing) at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, Stephan spent some time at UNIS on Svalbard and at the National Snow and Ice Data Centre in Boulder, Colorado. After one year as a postdoctoral fellow in Cambéry, France and a trip to the maritime Antarctic, Stephan went back to Zurich as a Senior Researcher and Lecturer for more than six years. And now to Carleton and the forested hills of Chelsea, Quebec

Jennifer Ridgley (Assistant Professor). completed her PhD in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto. From 2010-2012, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Place, Culture and Politics in New York City. Her current research explores the convergence between the management of migration and the criminal justice system in the United States, focusing on the history of the U.S. Immigration Service. Her first book manuscript, *Cities of Refuge: Citizenship, Legality, and Exception in U.S. Sanctuary Cities*, documents the evolution of city sanctuary policies in the United States, highlighting the significance of the city as a site through which to understand the bordering practices of state institutions.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Chris Bisson. 2013. *Forests for the People: Resisting neoliberalism through permaculture design*. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Kara Hayne. 2012. *Applying GIS to program performance measurement and evaluation: The case of children's community-based public health promotion programs*. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Anita Kushwaha. 2013. *The Significance of Nuna (the Land) and urban place-making for Inuit living in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Peter Morse. 2013. *Near-surface permafrost conditions, Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary, western Arctic coast, Canada*. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

William Parkinson. 2012. *Random forest classification for surficial material mapping in northern Canada*. MSc thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Aldous Sperl. 2013. *Climate denial in Canada: An evaluation of the Friends of Science and Fraser Institute Positions*. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Courtney Steele. 2013. *The impact of a large arctic storm surge on chironomid community assemblages, Mackenzie Delta, Northwest Territories, Canada*. MSc thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Carmelle Sullivan. 2013. *Integrating culturally relevant learning in Nunavut high schools: Student and education perspectives from Pangnirtun, Nunavut, and Ottawa, Ontario*. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Ravinder Virk. 2012. *Impacts of cattle grazing on spatio-temporal variability of soil moisture and above-ground live plant biomass in mixed grasslands*. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Ryan Zanatta. 2012. *Stream-subsurface exchange and hyporheic zone influence on reach-scale water budgets within a boreal shield catchment of Quebec, Canada*. MSc thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kathleen Conlan, Ed Hendrycks, Alec Aitken, Bill Williams, Steve Blasco and Eric Crawford. 2013. [Macrofaunal biomass distribution on the Canadian Beaufort Shelf](#). Journal of Marine Systems. doi.org/10.1016/j.jmarsys.2013.07.013

Ewan Eberhardt, Scott Mitchell and L Fahrig. 2013. [Road kill hotspots do not effectively indicate mitigation locations when past road kill has depressed populations](#). The Journal of Wildlife Management. DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.592.

Maureen G. Reed, Allison E. Henderson and Sharmalene Mendis-Millard. 2013. [Shaping local context and outcomes: the role of governing agencies in collaborative natural resource management](#). Human Dimensions of Wildlife: An International Journal 18:292-306.

Richard C. Sadler, Jason A. Gilliland and Godwin Arku. 2013. [A food retail-based intervention on food security and consumption](#). International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 10:3325-3346.

Kelly Kalei Wong and Yuhong He. 2013. [Estimating grassland chlorophyll content using remote sensing data at leaf, canopy, and landscape scales](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. 10.5589/m13-021

Arnaud Vandecasteele, Rodolphe Devillers and Aldo Napoli. 2013. [A semi-supervised learning framework based on spatio-temporal semantic events for maritime anomaly detection and behavior analysis](#). CoastGIS 2013 - The 11th International Symposium for GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management, Victoria.

Other “Geographical” News

A 12,000-year-old loss still stings: Most of us stopped grieving over the loss of giants sloths and armadillo-like glyptodonts and other megafauna of the last ice age a few days after we picked the last bits of their flesh from our teeth some 12,000 years ago. But the Earth is still recovering from the loss, according to a new study in Amazonia, where many of the giant beasts lived. When those big South American plant eaters died off, they appear to have taken with them a key method for spreading certain nutrients over Amazonia. Their disappearance could even account for why phosphorus, an important soil nutrient, is so scarce in the Amazon basin today. [DNews](#)

Tahiti: A very hot biodiversity hot spot in the Pacific: A collaborative biological survey that focused on the insects of French Polynesia has resulted in the discovery of over 100 tiny predatory beetle species in Tahiti. This adaptive radiation has evolved on an oceanic island less than 1.5 million years old, within an area of just over 1000 square kilometers. These beetles have diversified by speciating as fast as any animals worldwide, with each species estimated to last only 300,000 years before splitting into daughter species. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>
