U British Columbia’s Jamie Peck inducted into the Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada: Jamie Peck, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Urban & Regional Political Economy and is a Professor of Geography at UBC, inducted into the Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) – the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences in Canada. An economic geographer, Jamie’s research interests include the political economy of neoliberalism, the politics of policy formation and mobility, economic governance, labor market theory and policy, and urban restructuring. Jamie’s current research is concerned with the reproduction of transnational policy norms and questions of metropolitan governance. UBC News

U Victoria’s Maycira Costa examining underwater light in the Amazon River: Maycira Costa, Geography Department, is starting a new research program aiming to investigate the spatial-temporal and vertical properties of the in-water light field, water bio-optical properties and satellite ocean colour reflectance, and their relationships with biogeochemical variables and light availability for primary production in the waters of the Western Tropical Atlantic Ocean under the effects of the Amazon River plume. This research program includes a strong component of in-situ bio-optical and biogeochemical data acquisition, ocean color satellite products, radiative transfer modeling, and light-coupled biogeochemical modeling, in collaboration with the Oceanography Department at the Universidade de Pernambuco, Brazil. This collaboration is one of the new programs under the bi-lateral government initiatives, Brazil-Canada Collaboration on Ocean Science and Technology, and it is in part funded by the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation. UVic Research News Letter (p.4)

Dalhousie U’s Heather Castleden working with Aboriginal and Indigenous communities: Heather Castleden, associate professor, Faculty of Management, is currently involved in a number of research projects taking place in Aboriginal and Indigenous communities with other researchers at Dal, including those in the Faculties of Health Professions, Dentistry, Arts and Social Sciences, Medicine, Science and Engineering. “In my experience, research involving Indigenous peoples on issues that are important to them requires interdisciplinary approaches. Unlike western - by this I mean White/scientific - ways of thinking, most Indigenous world views that I have come into contact with do not silo research problems into one category or another. Instead, they embrace the whole-ness of problems, taking into consideration history, present conditions, and the future – from the individual to the universe. For these reasons, I want to connect with my colleagues across campus because they bring fantastic content expertise in areas that I do not have and together we can endeavour to do research involving Indigenous community partners in respectful, relevant, and responsible ways.”, says Heather Castleden. Dalhousie Media Centre
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship - Dr. Hannah Tait Neufeld: The Department of Geography would like to congratulate Hannah Tait Neufeld on her recent award of a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship and welcomes her to the Department. Hannah is beginning a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. Chantelle Richmond focusing on contemporary health inequalities related to traditional food knowledge as they are associated with the inter-generational impacts of the residential school legacy. Her research interests in health inequities and community engagement began while undertaking the MSc program in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, where she studied pre-natal dietary change among two generations of First Nation women living on-reserve.

UNBC welcomes Glen Thielmann’s Middle Earth 12 graduates: Students at D.P. Todd Secondary in Prince George are learning English and Geography in a "fantastic" new way with Glen Thielmann in Middle Earth 12, one of the first locally developed courses UNBC is allowing high school students to use as academic requirement for admission. “Last April the school started doing some brainstorming over what new courses we could offer,” Thielmann said after the course had received board approval. “Over the years you dream up ideas, but so often you’re limited by the timetable requirements.” In this case, the school came up with a different way to get around the timetable restrictions: offer the course as credit for two courses. “As a fan of Tolkien for years, it wasn’t hard for Thielmann to use the author as the focal point for the course. “He not only created worlds for his works, he also came up with about six different languages – and he did it while he was still a lecturer at Oxford as his day job.”

U Guelph’s Ben Bradshaw on future of new NWT mining projects: Ben Bradshaw, Department of Geography, was interviewed by the CBC for a story on mining in the Northwest Territories. The story, “Future Uncertain for New N.W.T. Mining Projects,” discussed impact benefit agreements and two proposed major mining projects. Bradshaw studies corporate social/environmental responsibility, agricultural trade liberalization and community-based resource management.

Western U Geographers host Canadian Association for Girls in Science: On September 25 the team from the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (HEAL) in the Department of Geography at Western hosted an event for several dozen girls (aged 7-16 years) on behalf of the Canadian Association for Girls in Science (CAGIS). The event entitled: “Around the World in 60 Minutes” incorporated the use of GPS technology for a fun and interative Geocaching event.

U Northern British Columbia’s Sarah De Leeuw writes about her ‘hood: The Crescents: UNBC Affiliate Geographer Dr. Sarah De Leeuw (UNBC NMP) writes about her Crescents neighbourhood & favourite spots around PG for British Columbia magazine: Cimo Mediterranean Grill, Books and Company, PG Farmer's Market, Two Rivers Gallery, Zoe's Java House, & the PG Native Friendship Centre, among many others. Thanks, Sarah, for highlighting the beauty found in Prince George.
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N. Nunn and J. Gutberlet. 2013. Cooperative recycling in São Paulo, Brazil: towards an emotional consideration of empowerment. Area. DOI: 10.1111/area.12052


Carolyn Prouse. 2013. Harnessing the hijab: the emergence of the Muslim Female Footballer through international sport governance. Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2013.832664


Jeremy Snyder, Valorie A Crooks, Rory Johnston and Shafik Dharamsi. 2013. “Do your homework... and then hope for the best”: the challenges that medical tourism poses to Canadian family physicians’ support of patients’ informed decision-making. BMC Medical Ethics 2013, 14:37


Other “Geographical” News

The pros and cons of MOOCs: What’s a MOOC? It stands for Massively Open Online Course. We’ve been hearing a lot about MOOCs in the last couple of years, and hearing how they will revolutionize, or destroy, higher education as we know it. Are MOOCs worth all that hype? Are they something we should be excited about, or dread? Will the future of higher education be defined by massive online classes filled with students you’ll never meet, and who will never meet each other? University Affairs

How to successfully complete a PhD: Choose your area of concentration because it blows your hair back, not because of trends in job postings. When you sit down with a potential supervisor, ask questions to ascertain their suitability to mentor you. Strongly reconsider before declining any invitation. If a faculty member offers you an opportunity and you say no once, you may not get asked again. Join at least one professional association related to your area of concentration. Read its publications. Attend the annual meeting. It’s a chance to physically plant yourself in the big picture. University Affairs
Athabasca Glacier gives up 12-year-old secrets: It happened so fast Robert Maiman lost all sense of time and continuity. In May, 2001, he and his partner, D.S., were skiing up Athabasca Glacier on approach to the Columbia Icefield when suddenly Maiman's world turned dark. “I saw the bottom of the crevasse rushing up to meet me and then I slammed into the crevasse wall about five metres above a ledge”. By the time Maiman was pulled from the dark, cold depths of the glacier, five hours had passed. An Icewalks.com guide had found his name printed in permanent ink on a backcountry shovel she found on the Athabasca Glacier in 2013. Through Facebook, she tracked him down. Photos she took helped Maiman realize his pack had indeed melted out. The following weekend he discovered the contents of his pack, lost in the glacier for 4,489 days, strewn in a three-metre debris trail on the rubbly surface. The debris was about 500 metres downslope from where he had fallen in. Rocky Mountain Outlook

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