The Joint Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT) / East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers (ELDAAG) 2013 Annual Meeting was held from October 25-26, 2013 at the Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. A total of 154 attendees came from 28 distinct CAGONT (9) and ELDAAG (19) institutions. This was the most recent Joint Annual Meeting following on the success of CAGONT/ELDAAG 2008 at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Student Presentation, Paper and Poster Awards at CAGONT/ELDAAG 2013

Colleen Middleton, a student in Ryerson University’s Master of Spatial Analysis (MSA) Program received a CAGONT Master’s Presentation award for her paper “The Use of GIS Analysis to Delimit a Protected Area of Old-Growth Red Pine Forest in Wolf Lake, Temagami, Ontario, Canada.” In addition, she also received the Undergraduate Paper Award in the CAGONT student paper competition.

Amber Silver, a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo received a CAGONT Ph.D Presentation award for her paper “Now we understand what 'community' really means: Exploring the positive and negative impacts of disaster on place attachments.”

Jerry Jien, a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto - Scarborough received the CAGONT Ph.D. Paper Award for his paper “The Influence of El Niño-Southern Oscillation on Tropical Cyclone Activity in the Eastern North Pacific Basin” and Yukari (Hannah) Hori (also a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto - Scarborough) received the CAGONT Ph.D. Research Paper Award for her paper “Trends in the Duration of Winter Road Season in the Western James Bay Region of Northern Ontario.”
Kinson Leung, a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto - Scarborough received the second place Graduate Poster Award in the Joint CAGONT/ELDAAG Poster Competition for his poster “The Influence of Synoptic Weather Conditions on Extreme Ground-level Ozone Events in the Downtown Areas of Toronto and Windsor, Ontario, Canada.”

New CAGONT Executive Positions at CAGONT/ELDAAG 2013

The University of Western Ontario’s Evan Cleave was elected the new CAGONT Student Representative for 2013-2014. Ryerson University’s Peter Kedron was elected as the new CAGONT Vice President for 2013-2015 while Marilyne Jollineau from Brock University moved into the position of Past President (2013-2014) and Wayne Forsythe (Ryerson University) moved into the position of CAGONT President (2013-2015).

U British Columbia’s Dan Hiebert wins UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award: Dan Hiebert received the Distinguished Alumni Award from University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni (UTAGA). This award is to recognize alumni who have led a career of exceptional distinction and brought honour to the department. Citation: Dan Hiebert, Professor of Social and Cultural Geography at the University of British Columbia, is one of Canada’s leading authorities on immigration, migration and socio-cultural change in our cities. Dan graduated with an Honors BA from the University of Winnipeg and received his Masters and PhD (in 1987) in Geography from the University of Toronto. His scholarly record is simply outstanding; his publications are always of high quality and are well regarded and widely quoted internationally. His research tracts the effects of recent immigration in transforming neighbourhoods - indeed entire cities - in Canada, with a specific focus on how immigrants are integrated into, and subsequently transform, housing and labour markets, and how these experiences in turn influence their residential choices, economic well-being and social relations. His laboratory is primarily Vancouver, a hyper-diverse metropolis, but he has also undertaken comparative research on Canada’s other large metropolitan areas that serve as prominent immigrant reception areas. In two of his most recent projects Dan has examined the rapidly changing social geography of Canadian cities through the evolution of ethnic enclaves with an emphasis on the role of visible minorities and distinct religious groups in shaping a new residential order in cities, and on the myriad of challenges faced by these groups in adapting to Canadian life. UBC Geographer

U Ottawa’s Luke Copland appointed University Research Chair in Ice Dynamics and Cryospheric Changes in Northern Canada: The central aim of this research program is to improve understanding of ice dynamics and the impact of climate change on ice masses in northern Canada. Glaciers and ice caps have lost substantial thickness in recent years, but little is currently known about how these ice masses move, and how this motion may vary over time. This study will therefore produce the first complete velocity map for all of the glaciers in this region, which will ultimately improve our understanding of the future evolution of ice masses in Canada and improve predictions of future sea level rise. UOttawa Media

Climate change and energy in Atlantic Canada with David Suzuki: The Department of Geography at Memorial University, along with the Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Network, is pleased to announce an evening with David Suzuki on November 23rd. The event will close the department’s annual Geography Awareness Week activities, and will include a screening of a documentary on climate change in Atlantic Canada produced by Dr. Ian Mauro of Mount Allison University, the documentary features interviews with several Department members including Trevor Bell, Norm Catto, Joel Finnis, and Kelly Vodden. The film reveals key aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador’s climatic future and specific climate vulnerabilities. Memorial U Geography
Trent U Urban & Regional Planning students visit Toronto: Trent University Urban and Regional Planning (GEOG 3710) students recently traveled to Toronto to see waterfront and post-industrial urban redevelopment in action. Waterfront Toronto led students through an extensive behind the scenes tour of the new George Brown campus, Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common, as well as the Lower Donlands redevelopment that includes Underpass Park (pictured below), Corktown Common, the Pan Am athletes village. Later students participated in a tour of the Evergreen Brickworks. The field trip provides students with an exposure to partnership based urban development projects in large cities and experiential learning experience to compliment in-class learning. Trent U Geography

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers


Other “Geographical” News

The best practices of graduate students: The best students often demonstrate common characteristics including purpose, working smarter (not harder) and disciplined habits. Collectively, these are known as best practices that can be employed by all graduate students to increase their overall productivity and performance. The best practices can be broken into four large categories. The survey found that the graduate students: 1. Were goal driven and highly organized; 2. Focused on their well-being; 3. Proactively managed their supervisors and supporting individuals; and, 4. Applied specific writing techniques. University Affairs

Students call for review of scientific paper co-authorship: Co-authoring practices are problematic, but no one dares say as much because everyone relies on the system in place. It’s the elephant in the room,” Authoring is the cornerstone of a researcher’s career development. The more articles published as lead author, the greater the chances of being awarded grants, becoming a tenured professor, being appointed chair, and so on. But students claim to have trouble raising their “chip’s” worth in the current system because of their low status in the university hierarchy. “There’s a power relationship between professor and student,” “so demanding our fair share is not easy.” University Affairs

Academic CVs: 10 irritating mistakes: Applications to academic jobs are notoriously convoluted, particularly to posts which combine teaching and research. Typically the CV will be one document among a groaning dossier that might well comprise a cover letter, a research statement, a teaching statement, sample courses or syllabi, and even a diversity statement. Where do you start? And with so many elements to worry about, how important is the CV? Higher Education Network

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