



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Carleton U's Stephan Gruber named Canada Research Chair:** Carleton's Stephan Gruber, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, has been named Canada Research Chair in Climate Change Impacts/Adaptation in Northern Canada. Gruber's research involves measuring and simulating permafrost environments to understand their current state and likely future development. Permafrost is hidden beneath nearly 50 per cent of Canada's landmass. Thaw of this frozen material affects natural and man-made systems. Better insight resulting from his research will help manage the North amid climate change and economic development. "We are entering an era of widespread permafrost thaw," said Gruber. "Measuring, simulating and communicating this better is important for supporting an economically and ecologically wise development." As Canada's North undergoes economic and environmental change, accurate measurement and reliable simulations of subsurface properties, such as temperature, ice and water conditions, can help Canada to make appropriate and timely decisions. Prior to his appointment at Carleton University, Stephan Gruber was a senior researcher at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. His research group has been involved in a number of large collaborative research programs, bringing together engineering, geoscience and government agencies. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**Philip Marsh named Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Water Science at Laurier:** Philip Marsh has been awarded Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Water Science at Wilfrid Laurier University. Marsh joins Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies after 30 years as a Research Scientist with Environment Canada at the National Hydrology Research Centre in Saskatchewan. Marsh completed both his master's and doctoral degrees in geography at McMaster University. Marsh's research has been carried out in Canada's far north with the goal of understanding water cycle processes and the environmental impacts of climate change and northern energy development. His research has informed policy development at a federal level and helped develop operational models used by Environment Canada. Building on his past work, Marsh's Canada Research Chair program will use an integrated approach, involving the often separate disciplines of hydrology, ecology, and climatology. Working in existing long-term research sites at Trail Valley Creek and Havikpak Creek near Inuvik, NWT, he will examine the effects of interrelated changes in climate, boreal forest and tundra vegetation, snow, and permafrost on streamflow and lake levels. Marsh joins two other CRCs in cold regions and water research: Bill Quinton, Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Hydrology, and Jennifer Baltzer, Canada Research Chair in Forests and Global Change. Marsh becomes Laurier's 10th Canada Research Chair. He has also joined the ranks of researchers in the Laurier Cold Regions Research Centre and the Laurier Institute for Water Science. [WLU Headlines](#)

**U Fraser Valley geography takes you into their Paleoecology Lab:** Directed by Jonathan Hughes, research in the UFV [Paleoecology Laboratory](#) focuses on the response of vegetation to past earthquakes, fires, floods, climate change, and anthropogenic modification of the landscape. Techniques used in the lab pertain mostly to palynology (identification and quantification of pollen and other organic-walled microfossils) and dendrochronology. A principal function of the Paleoecology Lab is to train undergraduate and graduate students on a continuous basis in a variety of field and laboratory techniques useful for paleoecological reconstructions of environmental change. Understanding how environments changed in the past helps refine predictive models and risk management. Get an inside look at the research and activities taking place in [UFV Geography's Paleoecology Lab on YouTube](#).

**U Regina's Emily Eaton awarded *Prairie CAG Early Career Award*:** Emily Eaton, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Regina, was awarded *Prairie CAG Early Career Award* at the [37th Annual Conference](#) of the [Prairie Division](#) of the Canadian Association of Geographers held in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. Emily recently published a book entitled [Growing Resistance: Canadian Farmers and the Politics of Genetically Modified Wheat](#). (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press) and is currently conducting research titled "What Sustains Saskatchewan's Oil Economy?" as part of a 2-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant. The goal of the research is to round out government and industry representations of oil extraction that are too narrowly focused on technical problems. [Emily Eaton Homepage](#)

**Rodolphe De Koninck @ Université de Montréal - La vulnérabilité des Philippines:** Haiyan, l'un des plus puissants typhons jamais enregistrés par les météorologues, avec des rafales atteignant 380 km/h, a presque tout détruit sur son passage vendredi dernier dans les îles du centre des Philippines. Cinq jours après le drame, l'ampleur du cataclysme est encore difficile à saisir. La trajectoire du typhon est cartographiée depuis longtemps, explique le professeur Rodolphe De Koninck. « Ce phénomène des typhons, sans vouloir le banaliser, c'est un peu comme les tempêtes de neige, en plus dramatique, mais inévitable. » Par ailleurs, le problème de la déforestation rend les îles des Philippines plus vulnérables aux catastrophes naturelles. « Les îles sont très densément peuplées, cultivées, mais aussi très déboisées, ce qui les rend vulnérables aux vents et à la pluie. Les collines et les montagnes ont subi la déforestation, surtout illégale, à cause de la corruption. C'est connu et documenté. » Rodolphe De Koninck est un spécialiste de l'Asie et dirige plusieurs étudiants qui connaissent bien les Philippines, la situation du pays et l'impact des phénomènes météorologiques. Il est professeur au département de géographie de l'Université de Montréal et titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada en études asiatiques. L'un de ses étudiants, Justin Veuthey, est chercheur associé à l'Observatoire canadien sur les crises et l'aide humanitaires de l'UQAM. Ce dernier a vécu 22 mois aux Philippines dans la région qui a été touchée. Son doctorat porte sur la vulnérabilité de la population des Philippines face aux catastrophes naturelles. Rodolphe De Koninck explique que la corruption est un énorme problème aux Philippines. Il encourage les gens à donner, mais d'utiliser les voies officielles comme la Croix-Rouge. [Radio-Canada](#)

**SGES NEWS: School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University:** The SGES newsletter spotlights different research that is happening in the department, highlight departmental events and catches up with Alumni. The Fall 2013 issue features a Director's Corner column by Bruce Newbold, reflections on the contributions Susan Vajoczki and Bob Bignell made the School, research spotlights on Allison Williams and Sean Carey, and introductions to new department members Janok Bhattacharya and Alex Poulin. Attention then turns to alumni Simon Donato and Kimberly Devotta, reports on field trips to Iceland, Toronto and the Bahamas, and the presentation of an archival photo featuring department members in 1997. [SEG News, Fall 2013](#)

**Geography grad students take first place at Western's World's Challenge** Challenge! Western Geography Grad Students, Sepehr Pashang, Kevin Vuong and Joseph Kanmennaang took first place at the [World's Challenge Challenge](#) Their unique solutions to global issues entitled, 'Embracing Social Innovation: Implementing safe and inexpensive solar energy solutions to reduce dependencies on biomass fuels' was presented to Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Janice Deakin and a panel of academic leaders during [International Week](#).

**Christophe Kinnard, nouveau professeur de géographie-UQTR:** Les travaux du professeur Kinnard portent sur plusieurs aspects incluant la géomorphologie périglaciaire, la variabilité du couvert de glaces de mer dans l'Arctique, la paléoclimatologie glaciaire de l'Arctique canadien et, plus récemment, sur l'hydrologie glaciaire des Andes semi-arides du Chili. Ses travaux actuels visent à mieux comprendre la contribution hydrologique des bassins enneigés et englacés en milieux montagneux, et l'évolution de cette contribution en contexte de changements climatiques. Ses recherches se basent sur des mesures micro-météorologiques, topographiques (GPS, Lidar) et de bilan de masse glacio-nival réalisées sur le terrain en contexte arctique et alpin, combinées à des outils de modélisation glacio-hydrologique et des données de télédétection. [Géographie-UQTR](#)

**Geography field course nostalgia at University of Guelph:** For many geography graduates at the University of Guelph, the annual field course was the highlight of their undergraduate program. The department has compiled a set of photographs featuring the field camps back to 1976 that saw the participants travel to settings ranging from Nebraska, Wales, France, Devon, St. Kitts and beyond. The department is inviting participants of these adventures to click on the annual links to reminisce, and is looking for any missing information that you might know. [Geography Alumni Association](#)

**University of Alberta Planning Program:** The Planning program resides in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta, and is designed to educate students in the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic and social efficiency, health and well-being of communities. Planners work for all levels of government and in professional planning consultancies. Students interested in focusing on natural science elements of planning, including environmental management and the use of geographic information sciences, can enter the BSc Program and those interested in the aesthetic, economic, and social issues of planning can enter the BA program. The Planning Program was accepted into the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP) in September 2012. [UAlberta Planning Program](#)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kevin Gould and Alicia Ivonne Estrada. 2013. [Framing disappearance: H.I.J. @ S., Public art and the making of historical memory of the Guatemalan civil war](#). ACME13:100-134.

Koreen Millard and Murray Richardson. 2013. [Wetland mapping with LiDAR derivatives, SAR polarimetric decompositions, and LiDAR-SAR fusion using a random forest classifier](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-038

Nicholas J. Lantz and Jinfei Wang. 2013. [Object-based classification of Worldview-2 imagery for mapping invasive common reed, \*Phragmites australis\*](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-041

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## Other “Geographical” News

**PhD supervisor sadness - the empty nest:** To be truthful, the end of any supervision relationship is always a bit of a mixed thing – both happy and sad. There is a slow handover that goes on through the data analysis and the production of the big book. As supervisor, this must become not my research and not my thesis at the end point. The doctoral researcher is now the expert and I am not. But by this point I'm also very close to their work in an unexpert kind of way, and I sometimes find this can make it hard to get the necessary distance to still be helpfully critical. There is also the anticipation of the final result, and an expectation of the excitement that comes from being doctored. I share this anticipation with the doctoral researchers, of course, but it is always modified by the knowledge that I will miss the people I work with. [The Guardian](#)

**What a perfectly putrid poster can do for you:** When designing your perfectly putrid poster, your goal is to make it impossible to read, complicated beyond all comprehension, and as -soul--crushing as a grant rejection. Refine your presentation by implementing all (not just some, ALL) of the following tips: Start off with a title that is three lines long. Your audience's eyes will glaze over as they try to unpack your polysyllables. Use as many different fonts as you can (people will go bonkers trying to work out the logic that underpins each change in font). When else can you use Comic Sans in your title, Papyrus for your ab-stract, and some fun Wing Dings in your results?; Though your text should randomly vary in size, keep at least 75% of it smaller than 9 point. If people need a magnifying glass to read the text, they'll stay longer to talk with you; Along with random sizing, guarantee illegibility with random colors and text effects. Highlight important text by bolding, italicizing, underlining, or all three; Remember your poster is very wide, so use up that space with loooooong lines of text (narrow, orderly columns are for conformists!); Scatter fuzzy or pixelated images throughout the text so that people think they have developed cataracts; Include many data tables instead of graphs—they make the poster seem important and give the impression there's something to back up baseless assertions; and, finally—this is URGENT and KEY—stochastically intermingle your results, conclusions, and methods so that even those who just came for a quick look leave bewildered. [AGU Blogosphere](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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