News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC's Simon Donner on extreme weather: The latest series of extreme weather events around the world are not abnormal, says UBC geography professor Simon Donner. "Broken records are a normal thing in a stable climate," he says. "Atmosphere and oceans dynamics mean that low and high surface air temperature records are broken in some locations every year." But Donner's research shows that extreme weather significantly impacts people's attitudes towards climate change. His 2013 study found that public and media skepticism about global warming increases during cold snaps and concern about climate change grows during hot spells. "A cold winter is unfortunately enough to make some people, including many newspaper editors and opinion leaders, doubt the overwhelming scientific consensus on the issue of global warming," he says. Donner says the polar vortex that gripped parts of North America earlier this month is not uncommon. "What today seems remarkable and unprecedented was actually not that unusual in past winters. We just have short memories." UBC News

Laurier research project RinkWatch making headlines once again: In the winter of 2013, RinkWatch — a popular project run by Laurier researchers — burst on to the scene, gaining attention from media outlets and outdoor rink makers from across North America. Now in its second season, the citizen-science initiative, which asks for anyone with a backyard or outdoor rink to help track the effects of climate change is once again making headlines. Not even two months into the 'skating season', the project has once again received considerable attention from media outlets across Canada in both English and French. RinkWatch.org was launched Jan. 8, 2013 by Associate Professor Robert McLeman, Assistant Professor Colin Robertson and graduate student Haydn Lawrence from Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. WLU Headlines

Concordia U's Damon Matthews identifies gobal warming's biggest offenders: When it comes to global warming, there are seven big contributors: the United States, China, Russia, Brazil, India, Germany and the United Kingdom. A new study conducted at Concordia under the leadership of Damon Matthews, an associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment shows that in a straight ranking, the U.S. is an unambiguous leader, responsible for a global temperature increase of 0.15 C. That's close to 20 per cent of the observed warming. Matthews's study highlights how much individual countries have contributed to the climate problem, as well as the huge disparity between rich and poor with respect to per-person contributions to global warming. Acknowledging these disparities, and then moving to correct them, may be a fundamental requirement for success in efforts to decrease global greenhouse-gas emissions. Concordia News

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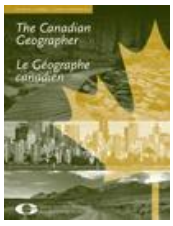
York Geography Professor Qiuming Cheng has received the Chinese National Science and Technology Award: This prestigious award recognizes the significant innovation and advancement of science and technology of his research project "Development of nonlinear theory and methods and applications in prediction of mineral resources." He was invited to the ceremony held in the People's Great Hall of Beijing on 10 January 2014.

Professor Cheng has received several notable awards on his research within the last few years. In 2008, he received the William Christian Krumbein Medal, the highest award given by the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG) to senior scientists for career achievement. He was honored and acknowledged by the association as an international leader in the application of non-linear mathematics and geoinformatics in geosciences. He has single-handedly advanced solid earth application of non-linear processes including multifractal modeling. Cheng has introduced novel ways of analyzing geological, geochemical, geophysical and remote sensing data. These methods have been successfully applied worldwide in mineral exploration and study of geochemical pollution patterns. Significant new mineral resources have been discovered in several districts of China with the aid of the prediction models and geoinformatics techniques developed by Dr. Cheng's projects. Dr. Cheng is now heading the IAMG as its current President.

New in The Canadian Geographer



Karen Laberee, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Benjamin P. Stewart, Tracy McKay and Gordon B. Stenhouse. 2014. Oil and gas infrastructure and the spatial pattern of grizzly bear habitat selection in Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12066

Margaret Walton-Roberts, Roderic Beaujot, Daniel Hiebert, Susan McDaniel, Damaris Rose and Richard Wright. 2014. Why do we still need a census? Views from the age of "truthiness" and the "death of evidence". The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12065

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

A Bevington and L Copland. 2014. Characteristics of the last five surges of Lowell Glacier, Yukon, Canada, since 1948. Journal of Glaciology. doi: 10.3189/2014JoG13J134

Michelle Buckley. 2014. On the work of urbanization: migration, construction labor, and the commodity moment. Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2013.858572

Caroline H. Fox, Rana El-Sabaawi, Paul C. Paquet and Thomas E. Reimchen. 2014. Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* and wrack macrophytes subsidize semi-terrestrial detritivores. Marine Ecology Progress Series 495:49-64.

Audrey Kobayashi and Valerie Preston. 2014. Being CBC: The ambivalent identities and belonging of Canadian-born children of immigrants. Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2013.862133

Sarah de Leeuw, M. Parkes and Deb. 2013. Questioning medicine's discipline: the arts of emotions in undergraduate medical education. Emotion, Space and Society. doi.org/10.1016/j.emospa.2013.11.006

Ryan J. MacDonald, Sarah Boon, James M. Byrne and Uldis Silins. 2014. A comparison of surface and subsurface controls on summer temperature in a headwater stream. Hydrological Processes 28:2338–2347.

Catherine J. Nash and Andrew Gorman-Murray. 2014. LGBT neighbourhoods and 'new mobilities': Towards understanding transformations in sexual and gendered urban landscapes. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. DOI: 10.1111/1468-2427.12104

M. Stone, A.L. Collins, U. Silins, M.B. Emelko and Y.S. Zhange. 2014. The use of composite fingerprints to quantify sediment sources in a wildfire impacted landscape, Alberta, Canada. Science of The Total Environment 473–474:642–650.

Ming-ko Woo and Kathy L. Young. 2014. Disappearing semi-permanent snow in the High Arctic and its consequences. Journal of Glaciology 60(219):192-200.

Other "Geographical" News

How to organise an academic conference: Organising a conference is a really super thing to have on the academic CV. As the organiser you get to see papers early in their development stage, be part of the future direction of your field, and get to (hopefully) bask in the glory of a well run event that sticks in the minds of your peers. Be picky about your speakers and location, and make sure you run to budget, time and free, working wifi. The Guardian

Sell no manuscript before its time: The great scientist of fluid mechanics, G. K. Batchelor, once wrote, "Reading a paper is a voluntary and demanding task, and a reader needs to be enticed and helped and stimulated by the author." Your job as an authour is to make the job as easy on the readers as you can. Peer reviewers help you improve your manuscript without pay or recognition. Reviewers, editors and publishing staff do not have the time available to edit manuscripts that require extensive grammatical changes. Eloquent Science

Meltwater from Tibetan glaciers floods pastures: Glaciers are important indicators of climate change. Global warming causes mountain glaciers to melt, which, apart from the shrinking of the Greenlandic and Antarctic ice sheets, is regarded as one of the main causes of the present global sea-level rise. Tibet's glaciers are also losing mass clearly, as scientists reveal using satellite-based laser measurements. Over the last decade, the research team has detected a "clear loss in mass of around 16 gigatons a year in around 80 percent of the Tibetan glaciers," says a glaciologist. ScienceDaily

Doing a doctorate puts you in the thick of the action: Far from being a purely theoretical pursuit, PhDs can enhance practical skills and involve you in high-profile research. If you want to pursue your own research interests it is important to find an academic in the field to supervise your work, says Jonathan Lloyd, head of the doctoral research office at the University of Reading. "We encourage students interested in a PhD to talk to a department or academic to make sure their ideas are aligned". The Guardian

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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

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