



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Winnipeg's Matt Dyce awarded Journal of Historical Geography prize: Department of Geography Assistant Professor Matt Dyce says he was humbled and delighted to learn the *Journal of Historical Geography* selected his paper as the best it has published in the past 12 months. The article titled "Canada between the photograph and the map: aerial photography, geographical vision and the state" draws evidence from the emergence of aerial photography in Canada to examine how the new technology influenced, and changed, the role and perspective of geographical surveyors, and how use of the technology progressed between 1880 and 1960. Dyce joined UWinnipeg in September of 2012 after teaching at UBC. He currently teaches classes related to historical, regional, and cultural geography in Canada. [U Winnipeg](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser reports climate change could impact food security: An international report on climate change suggests that unless policies are put in place to help farmers, crop yields may decline and this could hurt food security around the world. Evan Fraser, Department of Geography, served as an expert reviewer for a chapter discussing food security in the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was published today in Japan. The report's chapter on food and farming predicts that climate change, population growth, increasing meat consumption and declining land available for agriculture will make feeding people a challenge, especially those in poor countries. Fraser, a Canada Research Chair, said even a slight change in temperature can have a tremendous impact on farmers, particularly outside of North America. "When we look at farmers in some African countries, they can have a bad year due to a small change in weather, just because they do not have the technology or support systems in place that we have. This can lead to devastation and even death." Referring to the 1983-85 Ethiopia drought, he said, "There were other political, economic and social factors, but it was only a small change in weather that triggered a severe food crisis and hundreds of thousands of people dying. That's not going to happen in Canada or the U.S. However, temperature extremes can have a negative impact on crops here and lead to higher food prices for consumers. Fraser points to 2012 as an example of how extreme temperature can play havoc with farmers' livelihoods. That year, a spring frost nipped Ontario apple production by 19.2 per cent compared to 2009, according to Ontario Apple Growers. "The profit margins for farmers can be very thin at times, and that kind of year can ruin families," Fraser said. "If we want farmers to thrive, and we want to eat food grown locally, there is a need to build a strong safety net, possibly involving affordable crop insurance or governmental loan forgiveness. This is particularly important in the developing world but is also relevant to Ontario." [U Guelph News](#)

Geomatters – Newsletter of the University of Winnipeg Department of Geography: The Spring 2014 issue of Geomatters has been released. Featured is the announcement of Matt Dyce's award and news that Bill Rannie is leaving the department to join a legion of Senior Scholars. The Department also welcomes new faculty members Drs. Ian Mauro and Nora Casson. Ian is a welcome addition to the human geography program and is known for his cinematography work on climate change in Canada. Nora will join the department in July 2014 as a hydrologist. Her research focuses on understanding climatic and landscape controls on variability in biogeochemical processes, with particular interest in hydrochemistry. The newsletter includes research profiles on undergraduate students Rebecca Wilks and Cameron Hunter. Class of 1975 Alumni Professor Jacques Yves Guigné is profiled and insight into the UW-Red River College Joint Program in Geography & Geographic Information Systems offered. Read more about these items and more at [GeoMatters](#)

York U geography alumni speaker Mark Terry connects the docs: Documentary filmmaker Mark Terry discusses his polar expeditions in Antarctica and across the Arctic's Northwest Passage and the new climate research and discoveries made along the way. These findings were reported by Terry in two documentary films, The Antarctica Challenge and The Polar Explorer. As the guest speaker for the Geography Department's Alumni Speaker Series, Terry explains how effective the medium of film is in reaching international policy-makers by making the data more accessible. His two films were presented at United Nations climate summits and helped create a new resolution on the imminent threat of rising sea levels. [YouTube](#)

U Lethbridge's AMETHYST, Remote Sensing right at home: Gordon Logie and Jolene Garber might be in different programs, but their many interests collide in remote sensing. These ambitious science students are both involved in [the NSERC CREATE AMETHYST](#) program at the University of Lethbridge. AMETHYST stands for Advance Methods, Education and Training in Hyperspectral Science and Technology. "Remote-imaging has many applications," explains Trevor Armstrong, AMETHYST program coordinator. "In geography, we can use it to determine vegetation health, in physics, they study atmospheric gases, and the health-science portion deals mainly with MRIs." Gordon is a fourth-year Geography student specializing in GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and Jolene is just finishing her third year majoring in Biology. Both have completed two work terms with AMETHYST and are planning to do their third term this summer. Their first work terms were spent at the U of L working with highly respected professors and cutting-edge lab equipment. "The U of L has the only calibration lab in Canada," says Armstrong, "and we offer some of the best opportunities for remote-sensing work in the world." For their second terms, Gordon worked at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) in Ottawa, and Jolene was placed in Germany. Jolene Garber, BSc Biological Science "I worked in a spectroscopy lab, converting the energies of light into computer matrixes," she explains. "Germany is such an amazing place for scientific research—it was definitely the highlight of my university experience." AMETHYST aims to give students practical skills with tools and also provides them with management experience, in the hopes of making them more employable. "Our goal is to develop well-rounded students, with practical experience before they enter the workforce," says Armstrong. [U Lethbridge Geography](#)

Brock U geographers to teach the new online version of Introduction to Human Geography: Brock University recently received a grant to expand its online course offerings and will fund the development of Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 1F90) as a fully online course. As part of a large bank of provincially-funded courses, GEOG 1F90 will be completed and available for students by Sept. 1, 2014. Michael Ripmeester, Chris Fullerton and Catherine Jean Nash in the Department of Geography will teach the new online version of Introduction to Human Geography, which had to be both "scalable" and of interest to students across the province - not just those at Brock. [Brock News](#)

McGill U's Renée Sieber investigating how digital mapping technologies are reshaping interactions: On a Canada-wide scale, Renee Sieber, an associate professor in the McGill School of Environment and the Department of Geography, is investigating how new digital mapping technologies are reshaping interactions between citizens and their governments. Leading a cross-country team of researchers, Sieber is examining the much-hyped Geopatial Web 2.0, or Geoweb. The concept refers to the new form of mapmaking created by "mashing" together the mapping efforts of technology giants like Google and Apple with those of governments and ordinary citizens. "People contribute the data: they tweet street conditions or their mobile apps deliver directions to the nearest coffee shop, whose reviews also were contributed by individuals," Sieber explains. "Governments add to the data stream by increasing accessibility of their data, like real-time transportation". The aptly-named Geothink project examines both the promise and the perils of this technology. Geothink is also probing the potential perils of the Geoweb, which can be used by governments as a tool for repression rather than expression. The Philippine government, for example, has used geographic data to track the movements of political dissidents. Closer to home, Canada Post's 2012 lawsuit to stop Geolytica Inc., a one-person Ottawa firm, from distributing postal code data, by asserting copyright claim on postal codes, illustrates the challenges involved in democratizing geographic data. [McGill Headway](#)

Colin Laroque returns to his roots at the University of Saskatchewan: If you're Colin Laroque, wood has a tale to tell, whether it's the oldest hockey stick in Canada, a piece of the Titanic, a weather-ravaged scrubby spruce from Labrador or a Manitoba maple from a southern Saskatchewan farm yard. "People started planting shelter belts 100 years ago and they've been planting trees ever since," said Colin Laroque, who started his new position as professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the School of Environment and Sustainability at the beginning of January. "They've planted close to a billion trees." Laroque is a dendrochronologist, someone who examines the rings of trees to read the tale of climate change, history and industrial development. His lab – one of only about a dozen of its type in Canada – is sought out by environmental and climate scientists as well as archaeologists across the country. Laroque spent his formative years between the family's home in Riversdale and farm near Duck Lake, finishing high school at Bedford Road Collegiate before coming to the U of S for his BSc. He completed his MSc and PhD at the University of Victoria and spent the last 10 years at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, where he established the nationally recognized MAD Lab. The U of S offered Laroque a chance to return to his roots, plus access to a wide range of expertise and advanced analytical tools. [U of S School of Environment and Sustainability News](#)

University of Toronto – Scarborough celebrates the second year of "On the Move"



[On the Move](#) is an undergraduate journal of creative geographies and is produced as an online publication at the University of Toronto Scarborough. The [second annual reading of writings](#) of *On the Move* took place on April 1, 2014 in the Ralph Campbell Lounge. Read more on the [One the Move homepage](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Sébastien Caquard. 2014. [Cartography III. A post-representational perspective on cognitive cartography](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132514527039

Kiley Daley, Heather Castleden, Rob Jamieson, Chris Furgal and Lorna Ell. 2014. [Municipal water quantities and health in Nunavut households: an exploratory case study in Coral Harbour, Nunavut, Canada](#). International Journal of Circumpolar Health 2014, 73: 23843. doi.org/10.3402/ijch.v73.23843

Jan F. Gogarten, Tyler R. Bonnell, Leone M. Brown, Marco Campenni, Michael D. Wasserman and Colin A. Chapman. 2014. [Increasing group size alters behavior of a folivorous primate](#). International Journal of Primatology. DOI:10.1007/s10764-014-9770-8

Christopher E. Oxendine and Nigel Waters. 2014. [No-notice urban evacuations: using crowdsourced mobile data to minimize risk](#). Geography Compass 8:49-62.

P. Roy-Léveillé, C.R. Burn and I. D. McDonald. 2014. [Vegetation-permafrost relations within the forest-tundra ecotone near Old Crow, northern Yukon, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1805

Michelle Ruty and Jean Andrey. 2014. [Weather forecast use for winter recreation](#). Weather, Climate, and Society. doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-13-00052.1

Sylvain Tremblay, Najat Bhiry and Martin Lavoie. 2014. [Long-term dynamics of a palsa in the sporadic permafrost zone of northwestern Québec \(Canada\)](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2013-0123

Other “Geographical” News

Students – tweet your way to a job: The thought of graduating and finding a job can be daunting. The idea that our student bubble is going to be popped with the sharp edges of a graduation cap is enough to make us want to hibernate. But making yourself employable might be easier than you think – if you start thinking about social media as a key tool to help you stand out and get a job. Students currently use social media to text, call, Skype and WhatsApp our friends and family. So it makes sense to make all the thumb clicking worth it. [The Guardian](#)

The lost generation of university graduates: By now many of the students who completed studies in 2013 have had nearly a year of experience in the labour market. Sadly, too many had their dreams of landing a full-time job related to their studies shattered and many realize that choices made several years earlier have come to haunt them. Low grades earned because of decisions to hold two-part time jobs to minimize student loans, or so they could purchase the latest consumer products, become insurmountable barriers to a successful transition from school to work. Faced with dismal employment prospects, and the possibility of defaulting on loan payments, often recent graduates consider returning to school. However, for many the door to further education is barred. The dilemma for the large number of graduates with average grades is to demonstrate that indeed they have the potential and passion to hone their skills and can make valuable contributions. In other words, they need to convince employers and graduate programs that they have become more serious, focused and mature since graduation. [University Affairs](#).

