



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Guelph geography student superstar Joanna Salsberg: Joanna is a student that is both passionate in her academic studies as well as in contributing to the Guelph community. Joanna was the Department of Geography's 2014 nominee for the University of Guelph Winegard Medal, recognizing her outstanding academic achievement and extra-curricular contributions. In her academic work, Joanna is interested in understanding the connections between both natural and human environments and how these relationships shape the world. She is fascinated by how both of these 'environments' can be incorporated within urban planning to create successful cities. She first gained an appreciation for human-environment relationships in 2007, when she won a trip to the Canadian Arctic sponsored by Canadian Geographic and the National Capital Commission. It was here that she discovered her interest in researching how human and physical environments merge to create complicated issues such as climate change. Her four years at the University of Guelph have fostered this interest and allowed it to grow even deeper. Through a fourth year geography field course, Joanna was able to study human-environment interactions through the Town of Canmore's relationship with its substantial and invasive feral rabbit population. Joanna graduated with a Bachelors of Arts (Honours) in Geography with a minor in Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Analysis. Joanna looks forward to starting her Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University in the fall. [Guelph Geography](#)

F³GISci Workshop "Remote Sensing of Alberta's Dynamic Landscapes" Draws Large

Audience: An F³GISci workshop on the use of remote sensing and other geospatial technologies for environmental monitoring and biodiversity assessment drew close to 200 attendees in Edmonton this past January. Marking the end of a three-year Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada Collaborative Research and Development Grant with industry partner Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc, the workshop featured conference-style presentations from researchers and graduate students involved with various aspects of the project. Conducted within the framework of the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), the research involved the creation of the province's first wall-to-wall, medium-resolution landcover map; an analysis of landscape changes within the province from 2000 to 2010; and other related research topics. Complete video coverage of the event can be found at U Calgary, Department of Geography Foothills Facility for Remote Sensing and Geoscience. [Watch.](#)

McMaster U's Ed Reinhardt studying microfossils Hoyo Negro: The pristine skeleton of a teenaged girl who lived about 13,000 years ago, discovered in a deep, water-filled underground cavern in the sprawling cave system in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, is providing archeologists with an unprecedented glimpse into the history of the early inhabitants of the Americas. Given the name Naia, Greek for "water nymph," the remains of the 15- or 16-year-old girl were found at the bottom of the boulder-strewn, underwater chamber dubbed Hoyo Negro — "black hole" in Spanish — along with the scattered bones of 26 large animal species. After the divers reported their find to the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico, a consortium of scientists was formed to photograph and document the site, and to collect fossilized flora and fauna samples for testing. "A big part of it has just been trying to map the locations of things and get the shape of the tunnels and cavern, and mapping locations of human bones and animal bones," said Ed Reinhardt, a professor of geography and earth sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton who is part of the research team. His role is studying microfossils, such as those of single-celled animals, and water salinity, within Hoyo Negro. [CBC News](#)

Memorial U geography graduate Kevin Sheppard, Aggregates Supervisor for Ontario Ministry of Transportation: Kevin Sheppard graduated with both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Department of Geography – focusing on physical geography, particularly glacial geomorphology and sedimentology. He earned his B.Sc. (Hons) in 1997 under the supervision of Dr. David Liverman and continued his studies with supervisor, Dr. Trevor Bell, graduating in 2000 with an M.Sc. His graduate project focused on past glacial and marine environments of southern St. George's Bay. Kevin enjoyed his time as a student in the Department of Geography. He attributes his positive experience to "having easy access to expert faculty, being able to contribute to academic publications and participate in appropriate conferences, small class sizes, and a family-like atmosphere". Kevin also noted the importance of internal employment opportunities in his field of study (through Dr. Bell), and direct links to adjunct professors from the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Survey for other employment opportunities. An alumnus for 14 years, Kevin maintains a strong connection to the department and drops in on faculty and staff when on vacation home with family. Kevin enjoyed his time as a student in the Department of Geography. He attributes his positive experience to "having easy access to expert faculty, being able to contribute to academic publications and participate in appropriate conferences, small class sizes, and a family-like atmosphere". Kevin also noted the importance of internal employment opportunities in his field of study (through Dr. Bell), and direct links to adjunct professors from the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Survey for other employment opportunities. [Memorial Geography](#)

U British Columbia's Karen Bakker on why transboundary water governance needs new approach: A treaty renegotiation process for water management in the Pacific Northwest fell this month back into the hands of the federal government from regional actors. If terms are not agreed on by all parties, the Columbia River Treaty could be terminated in 2024, leaving many people concerned, particularly those in British Columbia and Washington, who rely on the river for their energy needs. What will happen if we fail to reach constructive agreement about the Columbia? One real possibility is a communication breakdown. Devils Lake is an example of how badly things can go wrong: The lake became the focus of intense concern in Canada in 2009, when dramatic flooding led North Dakota to divert potentially polluted flood waters into the Sheyenne River, which flows north into Canada via the Red River. For this optimistic scenario to come to pass, three key areas require immediate attention: 1) inclusion of Aboriginal treaty rights, land claims, and self-governance in the negotiations of transboundary waters; 2) consideration of environmental provisions that were almost entirely excluded from the original treaty; 3) aligning governance mechanisms with increased public expectations for public involvement and regional representation. [Vancouver Sun](#)

Western U's Chantelle Richmond receives Early Researcher Award: Western Geography Professor Chantelle Richmond, who is also cross appointed with First Nations Studies, has received an Early Researcher Award (ERA) from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. Worth \$100,000 each, the award will support Chantelle's ongoing research program that examines the social and environmental determinants of Indigenous health, and to better understand the dimensions linking health and place among Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world.

UNBC Research Group awarded grant for research in Nechako River basin. UNBC's Integrated Watershed Research Group has recently been awarded a four year grant for research in the Nechako River basin. The proposal from the four UNBC faculty (Petticrew, Owens, Parkes and Déry) was approved and funding awarded from the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund (NEEF). This four year, 1M\$ project will focus on integrating aspects of water security in a changing climate, riverine fine sediment sources and tools for integration to inform watershed governance in the Nechako watershed.

UBC PhD candidate Rosemary Collard talks global exotic animal trafficking: We laugh at the antics of monkeys at the zoo. We admire the beautiful plumage of tropical birds in the local pet shop. But how many of us think about where those monkeys and birds came from? Along with hundreds of other species, they may have been recently captured from their natural habitat and then transported and traded to locations on the far side of the planet, sometimes through channels of dubious legality. That's no laughing matter. Rosemary Collard chose to focus her doctoral research on trafficking in exotic pets, a study that is not for the faint-of-heart. It was her Master's degree research into how cougars are hunted on Vancouver Island that solidified her commitment to animal welfare. Through that experience, she began to question the relationship between humans and animals. Then she turned her attention to the exploitation of exotic animals by people who care more for the profits to be made than the well-being of those animals. It was the encouragement she received at UBC to focus on "the big, critical questions of our time" that inspired Rosemary to pursue her study. One of the most demanding places to engage in research was at the animal auction halls in the U.S. Although these auctions are legal, some of their animals were illegally imported but have acquired false papers that show they were captive-born and raised in the U.S. Once they have papers they can be legally bought and sold. Rosemary explains: "I had to really contain and try to hide my emotions because they would have betrayed my politics in situations where that would have been inappropriate." [UBC News](#)

U Lethbridge student Jason Beaver majors in 'Google Earth': When asked what his major is, University of Lethbridge student Jason Beaver jokingly replies "Google Earth." Remote sensing certainly isn't the easiest subject to explain at a party. Through the acquisition of images, people like Jason are able to pull out important information having to do with things such as forestry mapping or crop health. It's a multidisciplinary field that utilizes geography, environmental science and physics. Jason has found himself among a select few students helping to chart out the U of L's unique remote sensing program – the only undergraduate major of its kind in Canada. As a remote sensing student at the U of L, Jason is also able to participate in the Advanced Methods, Education and Training in Hyperspectral Science and Technology. The program tries to get students working in several different environments, from on-campus to international placements. On his first work term, Jason worked with U of L geography professor Dr. Craig Coburn and got a taste of what he might do outside of the classroom. "By experiencing the actual research environment, I could really know: 'Alright, this is still something that I'd like to do'," explains Jason. While he's only in his second year, Jason plans to finish his undergraduate degree and then go on to get his master's and potentially even his PhD in the field. He has two more AMYTHYST work terms to look forward to in the meantime, and a lot of fantastic equipment to explore. With the growing relevance of remote sensing to our modern society, Jason will have plenty of opportunities to apply his work both inside and outside of the classroom. [Lethbridge Geography](#)

Western U geography M.A. candidate Kevin Vuong named Canada's top under 30 Pan-Asian leader: Western Geography M.A. candidate, Kevin Vuong was awarded Ascend Canada's RBC Rising Star Award in recognition of exemplary leadership, performance, commitment to professional, volunteer, and educational endeavours as Canada's top under 30 Pan-Asian leader. Kevin was also recently recognized as an outstanding teaching assistant with the Western SOGS Graduate Student Teaching Award, the PSAC610 Scholarship for Community Involvement, and the Western Green Award for sustainability leadership. He has been appointed to the President's Advisory Council for Environment and Sustainability where he will be working to build a stronger sustainability agenda for Western.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Phil Mount and John Smithers. 2014. [The conventionalization of local food: Farm reflections on local, alternative beef marketing groups](#). Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development 4. doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2014.043.002

Kabir Rasouli, John W. Pomeroy, J. Richard Janowicz, Sean K. Carey and Tyler J. Williams. 2014. [Hydrological sensitivity of a northern mountain basin to climate change](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10244

Gregory J. M. Rickbeil¹, Nicholas C. Coops, Mark C. Drever and Trisalyn A. Nelson. 2014. [Assessing coastal species distribution models through the integration of terrestrial, oceanic and atmospheric data](#). Journal of Biogeography. DOI: 10.1111/jbi.12340

Thoreau Rory Tooke, Michael vanderLaan and Nicholas Coops. 2014. [Mapping demand for residential building thermal energy services using airborne LiDAR](#). Applied Energy 127:125-134.

Other "Geographical" News

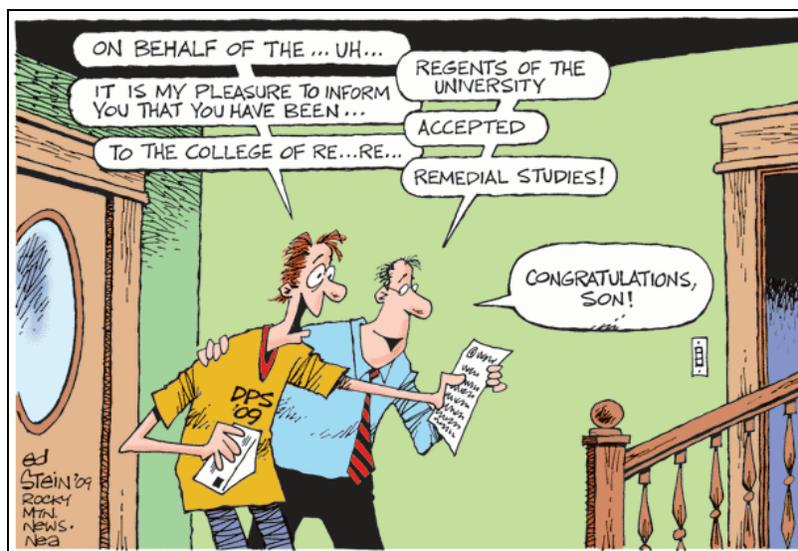
Experts call for urgent defense of deep-ocean: An oceanographer is working with experts from around the globe to warn against lasting damage to the deep-ocean, caused by fishing, oil and gas development, industrial-scale mining, waste disposal and land-based pollution. The world's deep-ocean spans more than half the planet and holds vast quantities of untapped energy resources, precious metals and minerals. But as advancements in technology enable greater access to these treasures of the deep, experts are urging caution, highlighting the potentially irreversible damage that extracting such materials can cause. [ScienceDaily](#)

Academics should stop moaning – university life has many perks: There are structural problems in the academic workplace and many seem to be getting worse, not better. Having worked on bad research projects outside academia, I really understand and value the freedom we have to define what we research and teach. In fact, the relentless moaning surrounding every chat with colleagues doesn't just risk putting off promising young academics, but distracts attention from the really unacceptable things that happen, such as when a previous contributor's university refused to pay for maternity leave on an externally funded grant. There are things we need to try to change, but there are things to be grateful for, too. [The Guardian](#)

How to quash cheating on campus: Students cheat. A lot. Ask any professor. Or look into research on the subject. When people discuss how to reduce plagiarism, one common suggestion is to increase education on how to cite sources properly. But such advice, though useful in a limited way, misses the larger point. First, citation is not that hard—it's the easiest part of writing an essay—and generally well covered in university classes where research is required. Second, talking to students reveals that plagiarism is rarely an honest mistake. Rather, the student has decided that they will likely do badly if they don't cheat and might do very well if they do cheat. That might come as a result of a cold calculation or in a fit of panic, but it amounts to the same thing—they are knowingly breaking the rules and hoping they don't get caught. [Maclean's](#)

What Happens to Shipping Containers Lost at Sea? Ninety percent of the world's goods are transported by ship, and inevitably hundreds, maybe thousands, of containers fall overboard each year. Lost containers have caused some strange objects from Legos to hockey gloves to wash ashore on beaches around the globe. But not all containers hold such innocuous goods. Some carry batteries, pesticides and industrial chemicals that could be toxic to marine life. The boxes themselves might even be made of hazardous materials. [DNews](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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