



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

UBC geography graduate student Rosemary Collard documents illegal trade in exotic pets: His name is Stevie. An orphan who is a long way from home, he has already been through a lot. So why would Rosemary Collard spray him in the face with water? Stevie is a juvenile spider monkey living at *Asociación de Rescate y Conservación de Vida Silvestre* (ARCAS), a wildlife rehabilitation centre in northern Guatemala where Collard, a graduate student in UBC's Dept. of Geography, conducted some of the fieldwork for her doctoral degree. Part of her job at ARCAS involved spraying animals with water to sever their bonds to humans, giving them their best chance to re-enter their natural habitat. It's a difficult task for an animal lover like Collard, but one that is necessary to reverse the damage caused by the illegal trade of exotic animals. Collard's work looks at the commodification of wildlife, focusing on animals traded as exotic pets. During her research, she heard detailed accounts of capture strategies in Mexico and Belize. She also had to steel herself not to react as she watched endangered species being sold at auctions in the U.S. There she saw trade in large snakes, zebras, camels, baboons and even a giraffe. It's uncertain what policy or enforcement changes could best curb the illegal trade of wildlife. But according to Collard, any solution has to be rooted in the idea that people can no longer treat animals as inferiors and commodities. "We buy these creatures for novelty and status but at what cost?" As for Stevie, it appears that the tough love has paid off. He is now the dominant monkey in his troop and is set to be released into the Guatemala forest sometime next year. Collard graduated from UBC this year and will soon be an assistant professor of Geography at Concordia University. [UBC News](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's James Hamilton studying effects of karst on Bruce Peninsula: Karst -- it's a term that is applied to landscapes that have features such as sinkholes that are formed when bedrock is dissolved by circulating water. South Bruce Peninsula councillors have come to learn that karst is quite prevalent in the municipality, particularly in the Hepworth area. James Hamilton of the department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University has been studying the effects of karst in the region and what it ultimately means to the area. Hamilton says the most important aspect of karst is the hydrology. He says karst features a window into bedrock aquifers so when water enters through a small sinkhole, the aquifer has the capability of storing and then transmitting high quantities of high quality water for the municipality. Hamilton says that coveted water can ultimately be extracted through ground water wells or the water makes its way back to the surface through a network of springs which then feed and maintain high-quality cold-water streams which will support the sport of fishing of all types. Hamilton says there is value for the municipality to have information on the distribution of karst so that more accurate land use planning and zoning can take place. [Bayshore News Centre](#)

SmartAPPetite project featured in Business London: The June 2014 edition of Business London magazine features an article about the SmartAPPetite project! The primary goal of the SmartAPPetite project is to develop a research evidence-based smartphone app and website to connect consumers with local farmers, producers, processors, retailers and restaurateurs. The SmartAPPetite team includes Dr Jason Gilliland of the Geography department at Western University, Dr Colleen O'Connor from the Food & Nutritional Sciences Division at Brescia University College, and Dr Sean Doherty from the Geography department at Wilfrid Laurier University, as well as several research associates from the HEALab at Western, and David Corke from the London Training Centre, among many other student volunteers and community collaborators. With funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities, this interdisciplinary project aims to support the local food economy and promote healthy eating and population health through improving food literacy and strengthening connections between app users and the local food community. [Business London](#)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomery finds link between wetlands destruction and flooding: Saving wetlands, which include potholes, sloughs, ponds and marshes, helps a lot more than ducks: it may save roads and communities from flooding and reduce damage to one of Canada's great lakes, according to a multi-year measurement and computer modelling study done by the University of Saskatchewan Centre for Hydrology. "Our results show a direct link between wetland drainage and peak streamflows during a flood," said John Pomeroy, director of the Centre for Hydrology and Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change. "By restricting wetland drainage in the future, or restoring wetlands, we could reduce infrastructure costs from floods, such as washed-out roads and flooded communities." Pomeroy led the research team that simulated wetland storage and runoff for the Smith Creek watershed located about 60 km from the city of Yorkton in southeastern Saskatchewan. The area covered by wetlands in this watershed has decreased from 24 to 11 percent between 1958 and 2008. Using a U of S-developed computer model and detailed measurements collected from 2007 to 2013, the team tested several scenarios, including what runoff would look like if wetlands were restored to their historic 1958 levels, and if they were drained completely. [U Saskatchewan News](#)

Concordia U's Damon Matthews awarded President's Media Outreach Award: On June 6, 50 faculty, staff and students gathered to celebrate the winners of this year's President's Media Outreach Awards. Established in 2013, the awards recognize members of the Concordia community who represent the university in the media by lending their voices to stories, taking part in media interviews or publishing opinion pieces on their areas of expertise. Damon Matthews, an associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, received the award for Research Communicator of the Year (International) for his work in identifying the world's greatest contributors to climate change. Matthews's research was covered in a range of scientific and general-interest publications, including *New Scientist*, *The Atlantic Cities* (now known as *CityLab*), *The Times* and *CleanBiz Asia*. Many were from the locations named as "top offenders" for global warming in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Matthews also participated in a talk on climate change organized in partnership with The Walrus magazine this spring in Ottawa. [Concordia News](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki asks why do infrastructure projects always go over budget? In recent weeks, the Toronto news has been filled with stories about major infrastructure development projects that have not gone according to plan. In Toronto, there are reports that the redevelopment of two important civic buildings, the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts and Union Station, are way over budget. These can be added to the list of other high-profile projects such as the redevelopment of Nathan Phillips Square, the building of the St. Clair streetcar right-of-way, and the development and rollout of the Presto fare card, which all had cost escalations and implementation delays. Individually, each of these stories may appear unconnected. However, a growing body of research says otherwise. [Toronto Star](#)

Western U's Jason Gilliland Interviewed for CTV News about Growing Food District: Jason Gilliland was featured in a story on CTV news about how the Old East Village neighbourhood in London, Ontario is becoming a destination for local foodies, with over a dozen new food retailers in recent years. Jason has been a board member and advisor to the Old East Village Business Improvement Area for over a decade. About 10 years ago, he began researching urban "food deserts", or socio-economically disadvantaged areas of a city where people do not have easy access to healthy and affordable food. [Watch](#)



U Victoria Geography announces David Atkinson has achieved tenure and has been promoted Associate Professor.

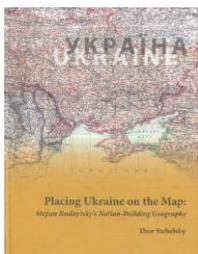
U Saskatchewan Geography reports Nicolas J.S. Kinar won the 2013 – 2014 University of Saskatchewan Graduate Thesis Awards – Ph. D. (Social Sciences A) for his PhD Thesis "*Acoustic Measurement of Snow*" and Phillip S. Harder won the 2013 – 2014 University of Saskatchewan Graduate Thesis Awards – Master's (Social Sciences A) for his M.Sc. Thesis "*Precipitation Phase Partitioning with a Psychrometric Energy Balance: Model Development and Application*". [UofS News](#)

UBC Geography presents Franklin Po's interpretation of GEOB 472: [Cartography & Game of Thrones](#)

Western U Geography announced that Peter Ashmore is the inaugural President of the newly-formed Earth Surface Processes Section of Canadian Geophysical Union for 2 years.

New Books

Ihor Stebelsky. 2014. **Placing Ukraine on the Map: Stepan Rudnytsky's Nation-Building Geography**. Kingston, Ontario: Kashtan Press. Hard bound, 54 pp., colour illustrations, 3 fold-out maps. ISBN 978-1-896354-07-1



Who and when decided where Ukraine starts and ends? If one would look for a person most responsible for defining ethnographic boundaries of Ukraine and putting it as a nation on the map of Europe, it would be difficult to find a better candidate than Stephan Rudnytsky, an alumnus of Vienna University, the founder of Ukrainian geographic school and a victim of Stalin's Gulag. How he did that in an age carved by imperial borders, defined by wars and revolutions and ruled by ruthless dictators is researched and explained with great expertise in this new book by Ihor Stebelsky. He places Rudnytsky's work in the broad context of Ukrainian nation-building, explaining the geographer's vision of Ukraine and its realization on the maps which we continue to use today.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dan H. Shugar, Ian J. Walker, Olav B. Lian, Jordan B.R. Eamer, Christina Neudorf, Duncan McLaren and Daryl Fedje. 2014. [Post-glacial sea-level change along the Pacific coast of North America](#). Quaternary Science Reviews. DOI:10.1016/j.quascirev.2014.05.022

Other “Geographical” News

Universities 'get poor value' from academic journal-publishing firms: Top universities are paying too much for scores of academic journals provided by major publishing companies, an investigation has found. Even with the hefty discounts universities earn when they subscribe to bundles of journals, commercial publishers offer worse value for money than journals published by the major non-profit professional societies. The analysis found that for leading universities, journals published by non-profit organisations were two to 10 times better value than those published by commercial companies. For a fair comparison between commercial and non-profit publishers, the economists looked at value for money. One measure of a journal's quality is the number of citations it gets in the academic literature. Among the commercial publishers, Elsevier's "price per citation" was nearly three times that charged by the non-profit publishers. Other commercial publishers, namely Emerald, Sage, and Taylor & Francis, had prices per citation roughly ten times those of the non-profits. [The Guardian](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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