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Dalhousie U's Kate Sherren travels to first Falkland Islands Science Symposium: Kate Sherren adventured into rugged terrain, penguin colonies and sheep farms on a delegation to the Falkland Islands in January. The Assistant Professor with the School for Resource and Environmental Studies was one of 12 Pan-American scholars invited to participate in the first Falkland Islands Science Symposium. She was the only social scientist invited to participate in this event that mixed science and diplomacy. With interests in cartography and in the connection between landscapes and people, Dr. Sherren was thrilled to be part of the delegation. "I have a thing about islands," she says, noting that in a cartographic sense, they are appealingly discrete and self-contained. Off the map, the residents of the Falklands have responded to this isolated aspect of the Islands for generations. "The Falklands has an authentic commitment to sustainability," explains Dr. Sherren. "They have to." She describes the Falklands as a "microcosm" of social and environmental systems. "It's kind of like a sustainability lab," she says. "It's a country of several thousand with the need to develop and carry out legislation and policy in very close proximity to all of its citizens and industry." She also wrote guest blog posts about the experience for SAERI, the host institute; the British Embassy in Washington who organized the event; and Ideas for Sustainability, a popular blog about sustainability and global change. Dalhousie Faculty of Management News

Western U's Jason Gilliland mapping the causes of obesity: Over the past 10 years, Jason Gilliland and his team at the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (HEAL) at Western University have been conducting studies into what causes obesity in southern Ontario. They have created maps, such as those pictured here, to help them do so. Gilliland, director of HEAL, explains how his research is being used to identify the geographic and socioeconomic links to healthy eating. Gilliland says that public health officials from counties in southwestern Ontario are his map in the development of policies and strategies that will improve the access to supermarkets in some regions. In London, Ont., for example, his research will be used to help achieve the city's goal of eradicating food deserts by 2020. Gilliland and his team looked at how far Middlesex County homes were from parks, arenas and other public facilities to determine the recreational opportunities in the region. He says that the importance of this kind of mapping — one of 400 similar maps he and his team have created — is that it shows where child obesity is more likely to be present. He hypothesizes that people in the darker green areas and within the yellow lines (closest to recreational spaces) are more likely to be physically active and less likely to be overweight. Canadian Geographic Magazine

U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson mapping bike-vehicle crashes on Galloping Goose in Victoria: The founder of a website that maps cycling routes says the number of bike-vehicle crashes along the Galloping Goose trail has prompted a new study. Trisalyn Nelson, a University of Victoria professor of geography who founded BikeMaps.org, said cyclists are reporting to the website a number of incidents along the Galloping Goose where the trail meets the road network. Many incidents go unreported to traditional data sources, such as Insurance Corporation of B.C. claims, said Nelson, an associate professor in the spatial pattern analysis and research lab in UVic's geography department. "As a result of citizen reports, we are launching a study of the safety along the Galloping Goose," said Nelson, who is also a Lansdowne research chair of spatial sciences. "In B.C. only about 30 per cent of cycling incidents are reported through ICBC," Nelson said. "It's only crashes that happen with vehicles that result in insurance claims that are reported." Residents map directly on the BikeMaps website, noting hot spots for cycling safety, risk and crime. They identify the location, then provide details of a crash, for example, through drop-down menus and comments, Nelson said. Website administrators analyze the data. "We really have no other comprehensive data on cycling safety," Nelson said. "So we have started to try and crowd-source that data, because most people who ride their bikes have a sense of where it's safe and problematic." The website has gone global, with participation from 15 countries, but CRD mappers account for about 50 per cent of what's been mapped and have reported more than 400 new incidents, Nelson said. Times Colonist

McGill U geography alumna Jamie Lundine one of "30 Top Thinkers Under 30": Jamie Lundine is from the tiny, bucolic town of Errington, on Canada's Vancouver Island. "My home is one of the most beautiful places on Earth," she says. Today her life is anchored in Nairobi, Kenya. Friends often ask why she left such a tranquil part of the world to live in one of its most frenetic spots. "I recognize the irony," she says, "but I love living in the city and, through my work, attempting to understand the patterns in the chaos." The seeds for her work were planted when she was a freshman at McGill University, unsure of what she wanted to study. She was leaning toward majoring in international development when she took a human geography class and got intrigued by the way geographers see the world. While still at McGill, Lundine traveled to Africa to do field studies relevant to her geography degree on a scholarship from Canada's prestigious National Science and Engineering Research Council. After she graduated with honors in 2009, she took an internship with the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium and Ushahidi. In 2012, Lundine started her own company, Spatial Collective that deploys a team of on-the-ground researchers to collect data for a variety of do-gooder clients like non-profits. Lundine's company then delivers that crucial information, alongside an expert interpretation of what it means. Lundine's motivation comes, in part, from "the excitement we generate when we speak to development professionals, academics, and community members about our work," she says. "Everybody understands the importance of data and maps for generating insight about how to understand the world as it is. And then we use that data to improve development work." "My colleagues and I have already helped to put over one million people on the map," she adds, "and in the past five years, we have contributed to the rising importance of geographic data in international development work." Pacific Standard

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Recent Theses and Dissertations

Simon Greenland-Smith. 2014. Farmer perceptions of wetland ecosystem goods and services. MES, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Supervisor: Kate Sherren.

New in [The Canadian Geographer]

Xavier Leloup. 2015. La fluidité de l'espace montréalais : étude sur la diffusion de la diversité ethnoculturelle à Montréal entre 2001 et 2006. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12172

Nathaniel M. Lewis. 2015. Placing HIV beyond the metropolis: Risks, mobilities, and health promotion among gay men in the Halifax, Nova Scotia region. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12173

GeogNews Bites

U Victoria graduate Kira Stevenson guides whale-watchers from Canadian Princess Fishing Lodge in Ucluelet to catch glimpses of grey whales off B.C.'s coast during their spring migration. Kira is a specialist in grey whales with a Master's degree from the University of Victoria's Whale Research Lab. The Province

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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kate Goodale, Yoko Yoshida, Karen Beazley and Kate Sherren. 2015. Does stewardship program participation influence Canadian farmer engagement in biodiversity-friendly farming practices? Biodiversity and Conservation. DOI:10.1007/s10531-015-0872-1

Benjamin A. Hook, Jochen Halfar, Jörg Bollmann, Ze'ev Gedalof, M. Azizur Rahman, Julito Reyes and Daniel J. Schulze. 2015. Extraction of α-cellulose from mummified wood for stable isotopic analysis. Chemical Geology. DOI: 10.1016/j.chemgeo.2015.04.003

Liliana Perez, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Mathieu Bourbonnais and Aleck Ostry. 2015. Modelling the potential impact of climate change on agricultural production in the Province of British Columbia. Energy and Environment Research 5:49-62.

Maryam Shekarrizfard, Marie-France Valoisc, Mark S. Goldberg, Dan Crouse, Nancy Ross, Marie-Elise Parent, Shamsunnahar Yasmin and Marianne Hatzopoulou. 2015. Investigating the role of transportation models in epidemiologic studies of traffic related air pollution and health effects. Environmental Research 140:282–291.

Doerthe Tetzlaff, Jim Buttle, Sean K. Carey, Marjolein H. J. van Huijgevoort, Hjalmar Laudon, Jim McNamara, Carl P. J. Mitchell, Chris Spence, Rachel S Gabor and Chris Soulsby. 2015. A preliminary

assessment of water partitioning and ecohydrological coupling in northern headwaters using stable isotopes and conceptual runoff models. Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10515

L.M. Wake and Sean. J. Marshall. 2015. Assessment of current methods of positive degree-day calculation using in situ observations from glaciated regions. Journal of Glaciology 61(226):329-334.

Corey M. Wells and Jonathan S. Price. 2015. A hydrologic assessment of a saline spring fen in the Athabasca oil sands region, Alberta, Canada – a potential analogue for oil sands reclamation. Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10518

Ellen Whitman, Kate Sherren and Eric Rapaport. 2015. Increasing daily wildfire risk in the Acadian Forest region of Nova Scotia, Canada, under future climate change. Regional Environmental Change. DOI:10.1007/s10113-014-0698-5

Other "Geographical" News

Mountain of electrical waste reaches new peak: A record amount of electrical and electronic waste hit the rubbish tips in 2014, with the biggest per-capita tallies in countries that pride themselves on environmental consciousness. Last year, 41.8 million tons of so-called e-waste -- mostly fridges, washing machines and other domestic appliances at the end of their life -- was dumped. That's the equivalent of 1.15 million heavy trucks, forming a line 23,000 kilometers (14,300 miles) long, according to the report, compiled by the United Nations University, the UN's educational and research branch. L Less than one-sixth of all e-waste was properly recycled, it said. In 2013, the e-waste total was 39.8 million tons -- and on present trends, the 50-million-ton mark could be reached in 2018. DNews

Climate connections. Examining climate changes of the past: Global climate has undergone periods of stability, but also instability, with abrupt, rapid and substantial climate changes occurring as a consequence of natural processes scientists still don't understand. A paleoceanographer has contributed to the field in a recent paper, which demonstrates the influence of rapid climate change on marine ecosystems near Venezuela tens of thousands of years ago and shows how changes there were accompanied by simultaneous changes globally. ScienceDaily

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Some not so "Geographical" News

The CAG works for geographers on Twitter. Keep up-to-date by following @CanGeographers
GeogNews Archives: http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html
@CanGeographers Weekly: https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315
