



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Saskatchewan's Maureen Reed and Jeff McDonnell receive honours at Fall Convocation:

[Maureen Reed](#) was the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award in recognition of her excellent mentorship. Over her career, she has directly supervised 35 graduate students and has served on almost 80 graduate student committees. Maureen is a passionate teacher and dedicates an enormous amount of time and effort to ensure the success of her graduate students. She works to instill in them the values of meaningful and equitable scholarship through role modeling, facilitating networks and helping maintain relationships with academic and community partners. She challenges students to think differently and to push past their comfort zones, while tailoring strategies to their changing needs and professional development. The award nomination was driven by her students – past and present – which is a testament to the relationships she forms with students whom she considers her colleagues and peers. [Jeff McDonnell](#) was the recipient of the J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award for his dedication to enhancing the university's international visibility and for cultivating a global perspective in our students. He seeks to ensure that his students have a global perspective of their research field, by giving them opportunities to interact with leading researchers and to study and conduct field work abroad, while making considerable contributions to strengthening international linkages with other institutions. Whether it is here at SENS with the Breakthroughs in Water Security Research course and lecture series, or with the short courses he teaches at other institutions around the world, Jeff is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to learn from the best and brightest in water research. He gives his students access to his international field sites and encourages them to participate in research abroad. He places emphasis on mentoring and launching the research careers of his students and postdoctoral fellows and making sure that have the skills to succeed. In addition, Jeff has received countless international awards in recognition of his service

U Calgary's Shelley Alexander studying fear of coyotes in Alberta foothills: We are far more afraid of coyotes than we ought to be, according to one University of Calgary geography professor. Shelley Alexander has found that urbanites have a fear of the animals that is far out of proportion to the actual rate of attacks on humans — less than three per year on average over 12 years — and now she wants to see how rural communities compare. "It won't be an urban-rural kind of split. I think there is a lot of diversity in each community and that's what I'm looking at capturing — a broader understanding of how people relate to coyotes — and I think there will be a lot of surprises that emerge through the interviews," said Alexander. She's hoping to change attitudes and find ways for humans and coyotes to co-exist. Anyone wanting to participate in the study can contact Alexander through the U of C, or online at the [Foothills Coyote Initiative](#). [CBC News | Calgary](#)

U Waterloo's Susan Elliott co-leads new study that sets first baseline of food allergy prevalence in Canada: One in 13 Canadians, or 2.5 million people, are affected by a food allergy, according to new prevalence estimates from the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen). The research represents the largest survey to date on the prevalence of food allergies in Canada, and will be used as a baseline to gauge if allergies are rising or falling. The research found that 7.5 per cent of Canadians—7.7 per cent of adults and 6.9 per cent of children under 18 years of age—self-report having at least one food allergy. The research was conducted by a team of AllerGen investigators in partnership with Health Canada, and co-led by Susan Elliott, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. AllerGen trainee Lianne Soller was first author of the paper. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

Simon Fraser U's Meg Holden and the urban future: SFU Geography assistant professor, Meg Holden, speaks to the urban future of Metro Vancouver. "Our region is growing. More people are coming — a million of them between 2011 and 2041 — adding to our regional population of 2.5 million today. This is not an unprecedented growth rate (our regional growth rate was 14.3 per cent between 1991-96, faster than any other city in Canada). But it may be unprecedented growth in terms of the socioeconomic diversity of the newcomers. Many of them will be filthy rich. Fair numbers of them will be excruciatingly poor. We will continue to be told, as we are told today, that we need development, for the sake of these newcomers, and for the sake of maintaining our quality of life. The coming decades will prove that this is more of a co-dependent relationship. Developers need the region, its underlying infrastructure, its governance, and us, its public, at least as much as the inverse is true. In very basic ways, the functioning of the habits and expectations of our daily lives depends upon the existence of the surrounding region — the way we travel, the goods we buy, consume and dispose of, the homes we rent, buy, renovate and sell to others, the people we share our workdays with, our gas and electricity and the infrastructure that gets those to our homes, workplaces and vehicles." [Vancouver Sun](#)

Saint Mary's U's Cathy Conrad helping communities from Nova Scotia to West Africa clean up their waterways: Every time Cathy Conrad travels with students to Africa, she's awestruck anew. "It's amazing to be with students experiencing it for the first time'. Approaching by air, their first vision is of the Sahara desert. Even at 40,000 feet, the surface is perfectly clear, unobscured by haze or moisture, spreading to the horizon. Three hours later, still flying over that huge and desolate landscape, students begin to understand: this place is enormous. Cathy's work focuses on helping communities act as their own environmental stewards. But these journeys are also bringing students into contact with places and people they've only imagined, making an on-the-ground difference and dispelling stereotypes. [SMArts Newsletter](#)

Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury studies UFO, ghost and Big Foot hunters: On the eve of Halloween, Simon Fraser University professor Paul Kingsbury and two graduate students were along for a search for the mysterious, inside a heritage house in the Fraser Valley. Unlike those who hunt for ghosts, Kingsbury hunts for the apparition hunters themselves. The associate professor in human geography is in the early days of a four-year-long study into why people set off in search of the paranormal in B.C. and across North America. Kingsbury said he is studying three groups: those who investigate ghosts or spirits, those who study UFO phenomena, and "cryptozoologists" — those who search for animals whose existence has not yet been proven (like Big Foot). Kingsbury said there has been an increasing "paranormalization of popular culture" — even the History and National Geographic channels play a lot of paranormal-themed shows. "The point of the project is not to prove or disprove paranormal phenomena but it is to take seriously the cultural fact that there has been a paranormal turn in popular culture, arguably the paranormal is no longer counter-cultural," he said. [CBC News | BC](#)



The [Canadian Women and Geography Study Group](#) has just set up a new listserv. If you are not already on the list, and would like to be on it, please visit: <https://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/cwag>
Subscription information available at this link.

Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury awarded a four-year SSHRC Insight Grant: "Situating the Growth of Paranormal Investigation Cultures: A Critical Study of the Lived Spaces of Organizations and Conferences". [SFU Geography](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Catherine Nolin recognized with a Community Advancement Award by the [Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute](#).

Carleton U MSc student Jill Rajewicz receives a [W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research](#) (Masters) for 2015-2016. [Carleton Geography News](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Ellen Petticrew and Phil Owens recognized as Distinguished Scholars by the [Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dominic A. Alaazi, Jeffrey R. Masuda, Joshua Evans and Jino Distasio. 2015. [Therapeutic landscapes of home: Exploring Indigenous peoples' experiences of a Housing First intervention in Winnipeg](#). Social Science & Medicine 147:30–37.

Belinda Dodson and Jonathan Crush. 2015. [Migration Governance and Migrant Rights in the Southern African Development Community \(SADC\): Attempts at Harmonization in a Disharmonious Region](#). United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva. Research Paper 2015-3. ISSN: 2305-5375.

Md. Azharul Hoque and Wayne H. Pollard. 2015. [Stability of permafrost dominated coastal cliffs in the Arctic](#). Polar Science. DOI:10.1016/j.polar.2015.10.004

P.A. Johnson, J.M. Corbett, C. Gore, P. Robinson, P. Allen and R. Sieber. 2015. [A web of expectations: evolving relationships in community participatory Geoweb projects](#). ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies 14:827-848.

Alan McConchie. 2015. Hacker Cartography: [Crowdsourced geography, Openstreetmap, and the hacker political imaginary](#). ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies 14:874-898.

Liam Riley and Belinda Dodson. 2015. ['Gender hates men': untangling gender and development discourses in food security fieldwork in urban Malawi](#). Gender, Place and Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2015.1090407

Jeremy G. Venditti, C.-Y. Martin Lin and Moslem Kazemi. 2015. [Variability in bedform morphology and kinematics with transport stage](#). Sedimentology. DOI:10.1111/sed.12247

Rebecca Whitmore, Valorie A. Crooks and Jeremy Snyder. 2015. [A qualitative exploration of how Canadian informal caregivers in medical tourism use experiential resources to cope with providing transnational care](#). Health & Social Care in the Community. DOI:10.1111/hsc.12302

Yu Zhang, Stephen A. Wolfe, Peter D. Morse, Ian Olthof and Robert H. Fraser. 2015. [Spatiotemporal impacts of wildfire and climate warming on permafrost across a subarctic region, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research. Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/2015JF003679

Xi Zhu, Tiejun Wang, Roshanak Darvishzadeh, Andrew K. Skidmore and K. Olaf Niemann. 2015. [3D leaf water content mapping using terrestrial laser scanner backscatter intensity with radiometric correction](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 110:14–23.

Other “Geographical” News

Arctic snow not darkening due to soot, dust: A new study shows that degrading satellite sensors, not soot or dust, are responsible for the apparent decline in reflectivity of inland ice across northern Greenland. [Science Daily](#)

Cattle ranchers says proposed South Okanagan National Park threatens their livelihood: "It will change our landscape, it will put ranchers out of business, and it will have a negative impact on the economy of the area," said Dave Casorso with the Southern Interior Stockmen's Association. [CBC News | British Columbia](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



Ryerson denounced for toilet paper system that provides students with one-ply, administrators with two-ply: A controversy over who gets better toilet paper at a Toronto university has critics denouncing what they call a two-tier system. An investigation at Ryerson University showed the floors housing the president’s office and other administrative departments got two-ply toilet paper, while students received one-ply. Three other Ontario universities say everyone there gets the same treatment, toilet paper-wise. The University of Toronto, the University of Guelph and the University of Ottawa all say they make no distinction between students, faculty and administrators. [The Province](#)



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