



Volume 13, numéro 4

juillet/août 2006

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Volume 13, Number 4

July/August 2006

Editor: Valerie Shoffey

CHRONIQUE DU PRÉSIDENT

Réflexions préliminaires

D'entrée de jeu, permettez-moi de vous dire combien je suis heureuse de vous servir à titre de présidente de l'Association canadienne des géographes (ACG). Ma première chronique réunit certaines de mes réflexions sur la discipline et l'ACG. Je développerai certains de ces thèmes dans de futures chroniques.

Il convient de débiter en nous reportant à l'assemblée générale annuelle de juin dernier à l'Université Lakehead. Comme vous le savez sans doute, nous faisons alterner les rencontres de sorte qu'elles coïncident avec le congrès (encore désigné « les savants ») seulement une année sur deux, ce qui nous permet de tenir nos rencontres dans des universités de plus petite taille. Bien que les opinions divergent quant à savoir si nous devrions nous en tenir à cette pratique, nombreux sont ceux qui conviennent que de telles rencontres sont plus intimes et qu'elles permettent de mieux faire connaissance. Celle de Lakehead ne fait pas exception, grâce au travail assidu du comité organisateur qui, malgré divers défis (comme l'annulation tardive du lieu du banquet), a réalisé tout un exploit. La rencontre a toutefois réuni moins de membres qu'à l'habitude, ce qui a incité certains d'entre nous à spéculer quant aux raisons en cause. Était-ce l'emplacement? Certes, Thunder Bay n'est pas l'endroit le plus accessible – partie de Vancouver, j'ai dû passer par Toronto. Avait-on la perception que c'était trop au nord? Vérifiez sur vos cartes – nous a rappelé Robert Dilley, à titre de directeur du département, Thunder Bay est au sud du 49e parallèle – mais, évidemment, le nord et le sud sont des termes relatifs.

La réponse à la question de la participation plus faible à la réunion reflète-t-elle des changements dans la culture de la discipline? On s'est perdu demandé si l'une des raisons possibles ne pouvait pas être la réunion de l'Association of American Geographers (AAG) qui s'est tenue à Chicago en mars et à laquelle ont assisté de nombreux géographes canadiens (des professeurs et des étudiants des cycles supérieurs). Certains croient qu'il semble exister une tendance à encourager les étudiants des cycles supérieurs à assister à la réunion de l'AAG, mais pas nécessairement à celle de l'ACG. L'AAG possède-t-elle plus de prestige en raison de sa

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Some Introductory Thoughts

First, let me say how delighted I am to have the opportunity to serve as your CAG President. My first column consists of my random reflections on the discipline and the CAG. Some of these thoughts and ideas I will develop further in future columns.

A good place to start is to reflect back on the Annual Meeting at Lakehead University in June. As you are likely aware we alternate our meetings to coincide only every second year with the Congress (still referred to by many as "the Learned's"), which gives us the opportunity to hold our meetings at smaller universities. While there are varying opinions on whether or not we should continue this practice, many agree that such meetings are more intimate and better for getting to know one another. Lakehead was no exception, thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee who despite various challenges (such as the late cancellation of the banquet venue) put on a grand show. The meeting was however smaller than usual in terms of attendance. This led some of us to speculate on the reasons. Was it the location? Well, Thunder Bay is not the easiest place to get to – my routing from Vancouver took me through Toronto. Was it perceived as too far north? Check your maps – as the Department Chair, Robert Dilley reminded us, Thunder Bay is south of the 49th parallel – although of course north and south are relative terms.

Does the answer to the question of lower attendance at the meeting reflect changes in the culture of the discipline? There was speculation that one reason might be competition from the Chicago AAG meeting in March, which was attended by a substantial number of Canadian geographers (faculty and graduate students). It was perceived by some that there seems to be a trend of continued...

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CHRONIQUE DU PRÉSIDENT

taille et parce qu'elle oeuvre en pays « étranger »? Tandis que certains se trouvent intimidés par sa taille, d'autres estiment que cela permet une masse critique de personnes et de communications dans leur domaine de spécialisation. J'estime que les professeurs devraient inciter leurs étudiants à assister aux deux réunions, ce qui n'est pas impossible, car l'ACG consent de généreux fonds de voyage aux membres étudiants qui présentent une communication. En particulier pour les étudiants au doctorat qui aspirent à une carrière d'universitaire au Canada, la réunion de l'ACG est l'endroit tout indiqué pour réseauter avec les membres des départements du pays. L'an prochain, notre assemblée annuelle se tiendra à Saskatoon, en même temps que le congrès; on discute de la possibilité d'organiser des sessions conjointes AAG et ACG à l'occasion desquelles le discours sur les questions limitrophes pourrait débiter à la réunion de l'AAG et se poursuivre à l'ACG. Il me semble qu'une telle interaction est réciproquement avantageuse et je la recommande. Peut-être les chefs de groupes d'études pourraient-ils étudier de telles possibilités de collaborer avec leurs homologues du sud de la frontière.

Dans la même veine, le rôle du Canada et de l'ACG au sein de l'ensemble de la collectivité des géographes a également été l'objet d'une discussion lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle. L'Union géographique internationale (UGI) a communiqué avec l'ACG et le Conseil national canadien de l'UGI (qui est présidé par la présidente de l'ACG) afin d'étudier la possibilité d'accueillir l'assemblée générale de l'UGI qui a lieu tous les quatre ans, la prochaine date en lice étant 2016. La dernière s'est tenue au Canada en 1972, l'assemblée générale ayant lieu à Montréal, tandis que les excursions sur le terrain et les réunions des commissions étaient disséminées partout au pays. Dans la chronique de la présidente du bulletin de l'AAG sur l'internationalisation de la géographie à l'aube du XXI^e siècle, Victoria Lawson (ex-présidente de l'AAG) a suggéré (vol. 40, no 2, 2005) que l'intensification des participations et des collaborations dans l'organisation des conférences internationales constitue une voie d'accès vers l'apprentissage international. À titre de géographes canadiens, nous devons réfléchir à la place que nous souhaitons occuper dans le tableau d'ensemble. À l'assemblée générale, nous avons voté en faveur d'une contribution aux frais d'une étude de faisabilité sur l'organisation de la réunion de l'UGI.

Sur la scène nationale, il semble clair que nous devons également tâcher de faire connaître et apprécier notre discipline. Souvent, nous donnons l'impression de souffrir d'un complexe d'infériorité lorsque nous nous présentons comme « géographes »; Chris Sharpe a abordé cette question dans une précédente chronique du président cette année (vol. 13, no 2, 2006). Cela semble tenir en

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

encouraging graduate students to attend the AAG but not necessarily the CAG. Does the AAG have greater cachet because it's larger and in a 'foreign' country? While some find the size intimidating, others find that this allows a critical mass of individuals and papers in one's own specialized area. I suggest that faculty members should be encouraging their students to attend both meetings, which is not unfeasible because the CAG provides substantial travel funds for student members presenting a paper. Especially for PhD students who aspire to an academic career in Canada, the CAG meeting is the best place to network with members of departments across the country. Next year our annual meeting will be in Saskatoon, along with the Congress, and there has been some discussion about arranging joint AAG/CAG sessions in which discourse on border issues might begin at the AAG meeting and continue at the CAG. It seems to me that such interaction is mutually beneficial and I would encourage it. Perhaps study group leaders could explore such possibilities for collaboration with their counterparts across the border.

In a related vein, the role of Canada and the CAG in the global geographic community was also an issue of discussion at the AGM. The International Geographical Union (IGU) has approached the CAG and the Canadian National Council for the IGU (which is chaired by the CAG President) to consider hosting the IGU General Assembly which takes place every 4 years, with the next available date being 2016. It was last held in Canada in 1972, with the General Assembly in Montreal, but with field trip and commission meetings held across the country. Victoria Lawson (Past-President of the AAG) in a President's Column in the AAG Newsletter on "Internationalizing Geography at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century" (Vol. 40, No. 2, 2005) suggested that greater participation and involvement in organization of international conferences is one avenue for international learning. We need to consider where as Canadian geographers we want to position ourselves in the global arena. We voted at the AGM to contribute to the cost of a feasibility study on undertaking a host role for the IGU meeting.

On the domestic front it seems clear that we also must work to raise awareness and appreciation of our discipline. We often seem to suffer from an inferiority complex when identifying ourselves as "geographers" and Chris Sharpe wrote about this in an earlier President's Column this year (Vol. 13, No. 2, 2006). In part this seems to stem from a recognition that neither our colleagues in other disciplines nor the general public understand what geographers do. With so many distinct sub-disciplines within geography it seems easier to label ourselves as specialists. In doing so we are in danger of losing our core identity. The problem of our identity is

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La criminalité sur l'île de Montréal

Un rapport récent par Statistique Canada révèle que la criminalité à Montréal est liée à des facteurs démographiques, socioéconomiques et de l'utilisation du terrain. Il s'agit de la deuxième étude d'une série consacrée aux données sur la criminalité analysées au niveau du quartier, au moyen d'une combinaison d'analyses statistiques et de techniques de cartographie de la criminalité élaborées d'un SIG.

L'étude est fondée sur de l'information démographique et socioéconomique du recensement, des données de zonage de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal et des données sur la criminalité déclarées par la police pour 2001, afin d'examiner les modèles de la criminalité dans les différents quartiers.

L'approche analytique sert à déterminer comment les actes criminels déclarés par la police se répartissent entre les quartiers de la ville (secteurs de recensement) et s'il est possible que le taux de criminalité d'un quartier donné soit lié à des facteurs propres à celui-ci, tels que les logements, l'utilisation du terrain, et les caractéristiques démographiques et socioéconomiques. Une analyse descriptive, réalisée à l'aide d'un SIG, de la distance parcourue par les personnes inculpées vers le lieu d'infraction est aussi présentée.

Trois facteurs clés semblent liés à la variation des taux de criminalité avec violence et contre les biens au niveau des quartiers : le faible revenu, la proportion de célibataires et l'utilisation du terrain à des fins commerciales.

Les quartiers présentant les densités relatives les plus élevées de crimes avec violence se situent dans les zones du centre-ville, de Verdun, de Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, de Montréal-Nord, de Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie et de Villeray-St-Michel-Parc-Extension. Les crimes contre les biens affichent une concentration accentuée et presque exclusive dans le centre-ville. Les "points chauds" à l'extérieur du centre-ville se situent notamment dans les grands centres commerciaux ainsi qu'à l'aéroport international Pierre-Élliott-Trudeau.

Le rapport *Caractéristiques des quartiers et répartition de la criminalité sur l'île de Montréal* fait partie de la *Série de documents de recherche sur la criminalité et la justice*, et on peut le télécharger gratuitement à <http://www.statcan.ca/francais/research/85-561-MIF/85-561-MIF2006007.pdf>.

Pour plus de renseignements sur ce sujet, communiquez avec Statistique Canada à 1-800-263-1136.

Crime on the Island of Montreal

A recent report by Statistics Canada reveals that crime in Montréal is associated with demographic, socio-economic and land use factors. This is the second in a series of studies that examine crime data at a neighbourhood level using a combination of statistical analyses and crime mapping based on GIS.

The study uses demographic and socio-economic information from the census, zoning data from the Communauté urbaine de Montréal and police-reported crime data for 2001 to investigate neighbourhood-level crime patterns.

The analytic approach examines such questions as how police-reported crimes are distributed across city neighbourhoods (census tracts), and whether the crime rate in a given neighbourhood is associated with factors specific to that neighbourhood, such as housing, land use, demographic or socio-economic characteristics. A descriptive analysis of charged persons' travel distance to the location of the offences using GIS technology is also provided.

Three key factors were relevant to explain the variation of violent and property crime rates at the neighbourhood level: low income, the proportion of single people and commercial land use.

The neighbourhoods with the highest densities of violent crime were in the city centre, Verdun, Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Montréal-Nord, Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie and Villeray-St-Michel-Parc-Extension. Property crimes were highly and almost exclusively concentrated in the city centre. "Hot spots" outside the city centre included the Island's large shopping malls and the Pierre-Élliott-Trudeau International Airport.

The report *Neighbourhood Characteristics and the Distribution of Crime on the Island of Montréal* is part of the *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*, and can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/85-561-MIE/85-561-MIE2006007.pdf>.

For more information on this topic, contact Statistics Canada at 1-800-263-1136.

CAG COMMENTARY SERIES Submissions

Submissions to the CAG Commentary Series (800 words max.) which address an issue of public interest from a geographical perspective are invited, in English or French, and should be sent to the editor at: cag@geog.mcgill.ca. Where material that has already appeared in the press is submitted, the author must ensure that permission has been obtained from the original publishers for the CAG to reprint their commentary. Submission does not guarantee publication.

student ZONE d'étudiant

CAG AGM 2006 - Lakehead University, Thunder Bay *Student-oriented Session on Academic Job Preparation*

The 2006 AGM in Thunder Bay was small and intimate, providing many opportunities for interaction between graduate students and faculty. Two student-oriented sessions were made possible by faculty members who volunteered their time and expertise as panelists. The panel session on *Publishing Your Work – How, What, When and Where?* will be summarized in a future newsletter. A summary of the session on *Academic Job Preparation* follows.

The Presenters

Two faculty presenters provided students and other attendees with diverse and valuable insights about the process of finding and landing an academic position.

Dr. Ben Cecil, Ph.D. (Western) focuses on financial and corporate geography research, with additional specializations in cooperative business behaviour and technology partnerships. He holds concurrent Headships in the Geography Department and the School of Journalism at the University of Regina. He is the former co-editor of the *Great Lakes Geographer*, and a member of six professional associations. Prior to joining the academy, Ben was the Executive Director of the Centre for Advanced Management Education, Leadership and Organizational Training with 10 years experience in strategic business planning, corporate analysis and restructuring.

Dr. Ian MacLachlan, Ph.D. (Toronto), whose research interests focus on the current and historical geography of the beef and cattle industry in Canada and the United Kingdom, is currently an Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Lethbridge. Prior to joining his current institution in 1989, he taught in geography departments at the University of Toronto (Mississauga), University of Windsor and Carleton. During his career he has also taken up positions as either a visiting faculty member or research associate at Universities in Japan, Mexico and Scotland.

Both presenters have kindly posted their presentation slides on their respective faculty websites:

- Dr. Ben Cecil: "Success Strategies for Academic CVs, Covers and Interviews" <http://uregina.ca/~cecil11b/> (bottom of page)
- Dr. Ian MacLachlan: "Resumes: How to Get Shortlisted" <http://people.uleth.ca/~maclachlan/> (under 'Recent Presentations')

Some main points from the two presentations are:

Academic Job Advertisements and Application Packages

It is important to spend time deciphering what kind of candidate the hiring committee is looking for.

Spend time carefully reading each job advertisement, as the wording has been carefully considered. Job ads will tell you the following:

- Thematic area of the position (physical, human, economic, urban, etc.)
- Position rank, start date and name of institution
- The needs of the department (teaching, research, service): the priorities of the hiring institution will be noted by a) the order in which these needs appear, and b) how many times each need is referred to in the job ad
- Application package requirements: ensure that you provide (only) what is asked for
- Closing date: don't miss it! Furthermore, submitting applications early shows that you are organized and interested
- Contact information
- Equity considerations: make sure to declare whether you belong to a recognized minority group, e.g. female, disabled, visible minority, Aboriginal.

When putting together an application package, put yourself in the position of the hiring committee. They must rank candidates from a large number of files, the most qualified of whom are shortlisted for further consideration. A high quality cover letter and CV are key to successfully moving past this stage.

Good application packages include the following elements: a cover letter, a complete CV, reference letters, and supporting documentation. Make sure that these documents collectively show that you meet all the requirements of the job ad. Below are some guidelines to think about when developing an application package.

Cover Letter

Cover letters are important for catching the attention of the hiring committee members. Keep in mind that reviewers want to feel a personal connection with the applicant through the cover letter, which is then reinforced through the CV. Covers should be 2 pages long, and include the following:

- Brief introductory statement including the position title
- Your major interests within the discipline
- Your academic highlights: awards, publications, presentations – this is a very brief summary of the CV
- Your potential connection to the Department and University: how you could fit in with regards to research themes, people (e.g. potential collaborators), centres and institutes
- A personal note indicating why you want to work at that institution (e.g. small class sizes, collaborative research opportunities).

Curriculum Vitae

CVs take a lifetime to prepare! They require good ingredients arranged in a thoughtful and accessible manner. Make sure your CV is clean, error free, well organized, and easy to read. Also, make sure to account for any educational and employment gaps, such as time

off for family reasons. For academic jobs, CVs should contain the following:

- Your full name and contact information on the first page
- Academic credentials: educational history back to high school, including your degrees and thesis titles
- Evidence of success: scholarships, grants and prizes
- Employment experience: include professional employment, part-time jobs and voluntary work experience
- Research achievements: include all publications
- Teaching history: include courses taught or TA'ed, and number of semesters/years
- Conference presentations: include titles, dates and locations
- Community involvement: membership in professional organizations, academic service and committee work
- List of references with full contact information.

Dr. Cecil provided some advice regarding teaching dossiers, noting that they can do more harm than good if not properly prepared. You should only consider including a dossier in your application package if teaching is emphasized in the job ad. If it is well organized, a dossier provides the opportunity to showcase your teaching evaluations, course syllabi, exams and course notes in a comprehensive manner. However, if you opt to include it, make sure not to overload it with excessive information – reviewers are busy and do not have time to go over everything in detail.

Reference Letters

When deciding on whom to approach as a referee, consider the type of product that would most benefit you. The best reference letters are done by someone who knows you and your work well, who can provide an honest assessment of your abilities, who is able to rank you against other students, who can provide a critical assessment of your research and teaching potential, and who writes concisely and objectively. Unfortunately, most reference letters are typically treated as a formality, and they tend to be overly positive about applicants. Thus, apart from their general tone (positive or lukewarm) they may provide little real substance to reviewers, making the cover letter increasingly important.

Nonetheless, having positive reference letters in your file is essential, and achieving this requires some preparatory work. It is important to contact your referees well in advance of each application. Provide them with your CV and transcript, and a description of the position(s) you are applying for. If possible, tell them when to expect a call or email, so that they will be more prepared to respond. Make sure to thank your referees afterwards; they appreciate being valued, and will be more willing to provide future references.

Supporting Documentation

Be sure to check the job ad to ensure that you have included all the necessary documentation in your application package before sending it off. Remember that

more information is not always better; include a representative sample of your teaching and research only if asked. Also, recheck your documents for typos, since “Nothing says your a professional like a well edited Cv..” Make sure that reference letters arrive on time (or early), that any web links mentioned are still active, and that your personal website (if available) is up to date and includes a photo of yourself.

The Academic Interview

Once your application package has made its mark and you have been shortlisted, you have the chance to elaborate on your credentials, and to evaluate whether the institution in question offers a viable workplace. Interviews will generally include: a meeting with the Chair to talk about the Department’s directions, a meeting with the Dean to talk about Faculty directions, and a meeting with a senior administrator (e.g. VP or President) to talk about University directions. Assess whether all three of these organizational levels are moving in the same direction; if not, this could impede job satisfaction and career development.

A good interview will also have the following elements:

- A teaching presentation: be prepared with visuals and handouts
- A research presentation: be prepared with visuals and handouts
- A formal interview with set questions: make sure to do your homework so that you know what kind of institution and people you are engaging with
- Meetings with faculty and students: this is a good time to probe about the departmental culture, especially with students
- Social interaction times: meals provide a good opportunity for more personal interaction.

From the standpoint of the hiring committee, they look for candidates who are relaxed, enthusiastic and polished, but not over-confident; who take their time answering questions; who are flexible, adaptable, and have a desire to make a meaningful contribution; who have an understanding about the institution; and who can handle stress and technological glitches in style. Also, remember these few last words of interview advice:

- Do not talk about money until there is an offer on the table
- Indicate examples of grants for which you will apply to support lab and/or fieldwork and student assistance (try to look beyond the tri-council)
- Feel free to ask detailed questions during the social events/meals
- If you have time to return to the hotel before dinner, you may wish to change outfits and even take a short nap.

In closing, remember that communication skills and professionalism are essential to marketing yourself for an academic position. Beyond triple-checking for errors in documents and interview presentation notes, make sure that your contact information is valid and

professional; e.g. consistently use either your university e-mail address or another professional address, and ensure that your voice mail has an appropriate message for would-be callers.

May the above ideas provide input for many successful application packages and subsequent interviews. Best of luck in your job search!

Sonia Wesche, CAG Student Councillor (2005-07)

Email: wesc3156@wlu.ca

Thank you to Jackie Dawson, PhD Candidate in Geography at the University of Waterloo, who submitted the following piece to The Student ZONE des Étudiants. Her efforts are greatly appreciated, and I welcome other members to contribute opinion pieces at their convenience, especially those of relevance to students (in English or French).

-Sonia Wesche, CAG Student Councillor (2005-07)

ON A CONFERENCE TOUR: CONFESSIONS OF A GRADUATE STUDENT

From May 29th to June 8th this year I had the opportunity to attend and present at both the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay and the International Symposium for Social Sciences and Resource Management (ISSRM) in Vancouver. Despite having to curb a serious case of nerves, the experience was absolutely fantastic. I attended many helpful sessions, was provided with positive and useful feedback on my work, met numerous key contacts, played a bit of Twister, ate a lot of sushi, and drank an acceptable and professional amount of beer! This article is meant to outline the importance of attending conferences early on as a graduate student (MA or PhD) through a discussion about my conference experiences this past spring. I will outline some of my reflections and highlight a couple of personally inspiring research presentations that I attended.

There were both similarities and differences between the two conferences. CAG was small and intimate, whereas ISSRM was big! This significant distinction meant that the experience I had at each was very different. I really enjoyed CAG because I had the opportunity to meet, converse with, and really get to know a number of people which has led to some very exciting side projects and future papers. The ISSRM on the other hand, provided the opportunity to attend numerous excellent presentations including many which were specifically useful in my subject area. In fact, there were two full sessions (over 10 speakers) that discussed material directly related to my work: climate change and tourism.

Going to conferences, big or small, during the early stages of an MA and especially a PhD, seems to me a very important and pivotal experience. First, it gets you

out of your isolated abode (otherwise known as your own head) allowing you to realize that there are other people out there who are thinking about and who are passionate about the same things you are. Second, it is a great experience to speak in front of peers, colleagues and if you are lucky perhaps even in front of your 'plutonic theory crushes'. My friend Matt Bowes who is now doing his PhD at the University of Victoria coined this term. 'Plutonic theory crush' refers to the people whose articles, chapters, papers, and books you have been reading for many years which have been inspirational in your work. They are the people who consistently write things that make sense to you, or perhaps spark ideas or force you to think about things from a totally different or new angle. Their ideas create excitement and enthusiasm for a topic that you are familiar with or are just being exposed to. Perhaps 'plutonic theory crushes' dwindle as you establish yourself in the world of academia and begin to meet more and more people. However, as a graduate student 'plutonic theory crushes' certainly exist and are likely to be quite important in our growing stages.

Admittedly, I myself have a few 'plutonic theory crushes' none of which attended either of my presentations! I did however, attend one of my 'crushes' presentations at the ISSRM. Dr. Riley Dunlap has long been writing about environmental values, ethics, behaviour and theory. I have enjoyed, praised and criticized his many ideas. Indirectly I believe his writing has in some way shaped the ways in which I approach some topics and experiences despite having never met him before. He looked totally different than the picture I had developed in my head. He is a very short, spry, white-haired man who, as expected, is full of energy and enthusiasm.

Perhaps Riley Dunlap holds the highly esteemed position of 'plutonic theory crush' for numerous people other than me considering the large number of people who attended his session at the ISSRM this year. Or perhaps I am leaning too heavily on the theory of 'plutonic theory crushes' and people were simply interested in the topic of discussion! His presentation was about environmental skeptics and their role as 'independent seekers of truth'. In his session, Dunlap was trying to squash the image of environmental skeptics as 'Davids' battling the 'Goliaths', of environmental scientists and environmentalists (Dunlap, 2006).

Environmental skeptics deny the authenticity of environmental problems and react accordingly, e.g., ignoring efforts to reduce global warming, maintaining biased perspectives regarding nuclear power, or denying the importance recycling plastics because it is cheaper to produce new plastics from oil etc. The environmental skepticism perspective does not suggest that human impacts on the environment are negligible, but it does put forth the idea that our impact is much less significant than many environmentalists or scientists have come to

believe. Such a position might be taken by a large money making corporation whose profits would be negatively affected by government regulations which attempt to protect the environment.

Riley Dunlap presented the notion that these environmental skeptics are in fact not ultimate truth seekers but instead tend to latch onto agendas that suit large independent and 'rich' research institutes (think tanks). Conservative think tanks are 'institution[s] in which scholars pursue research in public policy. Largely funded by endowments and grants, think tanks work to improve public awareness of policy issues (through publications) and to influence the government to act upon issues of national importance'. They are generally highly influential groups often with much political power.

In Dunlap's paper, 'The organization of denial: support for environmental skepticism by conservative think tanks', he presents the results of an analysis of over ninety published environmental skepticism books, which he says is representative of almost the total population of books on the subject. He links the publications directly to conservative think tanks, suggesting that over 91% of the books have overt ties through either the author or publisher. Many of the books analyzed by Dunlap had direct ties to the CATO institute located primarily in the United States.

In conclusion Dunlap suggested that 'the visibility and legitimacy given to environmental skepticism by influential conservative think tanks has contributed to the deterioration of U.S. domestic and international environmental policy since the 1990s' – a significant claim! I still have a small 'plutonic theory crush' on Riley Dunlap and certainly admire his enthusiasm and well presented research. Unfortunately, the topic left me feeling unoptimistic that the environment will claim any kind of importance in political and economic realms.

The presentation that preceded Riley Dunlap, by James Gibson of California State University, brought some of my youthful environmental optimism back. Gibson's presentation, 'Bush's war on the environment: business and conservative evangelicals join forces to exercise dominion over nature', left many pondering environmental and religious politics. Gibson spoke well and held the attention of the packed audience finishing the session with some contagious optimism; it was the perfect way to end a conference which was packed full of discussion on environmental problems and human deficiencies. He concluded that recent developments point to the decline of religious rejection of environmentalism and recognized a weakening of the anti-environmental coalition. In short he believes that we will see a stronger environmental ethic coming out of the American political stage in the near future. Considering the evident ties between religion, environmentalism and the influential power of the conservatively religious USA, this turn of

theoretical events was just what I, a young perhaps naive aspiring academic, needed to hear.

When all was said and done and I sit here, back at my computer in my small dingy little graduate student office, I feel lucky and privileged to have had the opportunity to attend the CAG and ISSRM this past spring. The experience has left me buzzing with optimism, excitement, enthusiasm and motivation for my future research projects and further collaboration with many of the exciting people I have met along the way.

Jackie Dawson, PhD Candidate,
Geography, University of Waterloo

The <geog-grad-research@sfu.ca> is a tool for graduate students to interact if they do not want to send messages to the entire CAG list-serve

To subscribe: send an e-mail to <owner-geog-grad-research@sfu.ca> and include "your first name, e-mail address, affiliation" in the message body example: Paul Smith, pauls@address.ca, University of Barbados

Study Group News

The Economic and Social Change Study Group is pleased to announce the outcome of this year's student paper competition. The winner is Gary Fehr, for his paper entitled "The political ecology of safed musli: the ups and downs of India's natural viagra."



Gary Fehr in India doing fieldwork.

Mr. Fehr completed his BA at the University College of the Cariboo (now Thompson Rivers University) and presently is a PhD Candidate at the University of Guelph. His research is investigating the combined impacts of India's liberalization reforms and increased global market integration of the Non Timber Forest Product sector on the livelihoods of the traditional forest collectors in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, India.

Congratulations Gary! And as always, thanks again to all the students who entered for their excellent papers.

For more study group news link directly to their websites from http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/study_groups.html

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partie à la reconnaissance du fait que ni nos collègues d'autres disciplines ni la population ne comprennent ce que font les géographes. Les sous-disciplines sont tellement nombreuses en géographie qu'il semble plus facile de nous étiqueter comme spécialistes. Ce faisant, nous sommes menacés de perdre notre identité de base. Dans de nombreuses écoles secondaires, le problème de notre identité se trouve en outre aggravé par le retrait de la géographie comme matière distincte, car elle est souvent noyée dans le domaine général des sciences humaines. Nous ne sommes toutefois pas les seuls incompris. Récemment, je faisais partie d'un groupe d'experts en orientation à l'intention des nouveaux étudiants. Ma communication devait faire suite à celle d'un économiste et d'un linguiste, et j'avais prévu de commencer en disant combien la géographie était une discipline mal comprise. J'ai été décontenancée lorsque l'économiste m'a « volé » mon entrée en matière et a enchaîné en décrivant la science économique comme ressemblant étrangement à la géographie humaine. De plus, le linguiste a également revendiqué le fait que sa discipline était la plus mal comprise, bien qu'il n'ait que partiellement empiété sur « notre » domaine.

En matière « d'identité », il y a des leçons à tirer du monde « réel ». En qualité de géographe spécialisée en tourisme, je m'intéresse au concept de « la définition d'un lieu », qui gagne en importance dans la planification et la promotion des destinations touristiques et, d'une façon plus générale, des environnements urbains. En fait, la vente d'un « lieu » nous interpelle quotidiennement lorsque nous regardons des publicités sur des lieux où habiter, se divertir et travailler. Lors d'une récente conférence sur la recherche en tourisme à laquelle j'ai assisté à Dublin, un spécialiste du marketing a expliqué comment l'Irlande était traditionnellement positionnée sur le marché international en fonction de la population, du rythme de vie et du lieu – des images paisibles de champs verts et d'une population amicale (qui consomme de la Guinness). Plus récemment, alors que l'économie de l'Irlande connaît une expansion fulgurante, on a modifié l'image de marque de l'Irlande pour souligner la « culture » comme lien réunissant les gens et le lieu. Il va sans dire que de tels principes fondamentaux sous-tendent la pensée géographique, mais peu nombreux sont les spécialistes du marketing qui reconnaîtraient l'existence de ce lien! Des spécialistes du marketing, nous pouvons tirer la leçon suivante : dans la société de consommation qui est la nôtre, nous devons entretenir notre image et, au besoin, adopter une autre « image de marque. » Je ne crois pas que nous excellions lorsqu'il s'agit de promouvoir notre discipline. L'ACG cherche à soutenir l'initiative de la « Semaine de la sensibilisation à la géographie », un projet déjà bien en place aux États-Unis. À titre individuel, vous pouvez collaborer en attirant l'attention des médias sur les

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN continued from page 2

further aggravated by the loss in many high schools of geography as a distinct subject as it is often subsumed under the general domain of social studies. But we are not alone in being misunderstood. Recently I was part of an orientation panel for new students. My presentation was to follow that of an economist and a linguist and I had planned to begin my presentation by saying what a misunderstood discipline geography is. I was rather taken aback when the economist 'stole' all my lines and indeed went on to describe economics as sounding very much like human geography. Further, the linguist also claimed that his discipline was the most misunderstood - although he only partially infringed on 'our' domain.

There are lessons about 'identity' to be learned from the 'real' world. As a geographer specializing in tourism I have been interested in the concept of 'place-making', which is gaining prominence in the planning and promotion of both tourism destinations and urban environments more generally. Indeed, the selling of 'place' confronts us daily as we see advertisements for places to live, play and work. At a recent tourism research conference that I attended in Dublin, a marketing specialist was explaining how Ireland had traditionally been positioned in the international market place on the basis of people, pace and place – tranquil images of green fields and friendly (Guinness-drinking) people. More recently as Ireland's economy has exploded, they have re-branded Ireland to emphasize 'culture' as the overlapping link between people and place. Of course, such fundamental principles underlie geographic thought but few marketing experts would credit that connection! The lesson we can learn from marketers is that in our present-day consumer society we need to maintain our image and if necessary "re-brand". I don't think we're very good at promoting our discipline. One initiative that the CAG seeks to advance is "Geography Awareness Week" – an initiative that is well-developed in the US. At an individual level you can do your part by seeking greater media attention about the research that you do – a strategy increasingly encouraged by our national granting agencies – and if you are interviewed, please identify yourself as a 'geographer'.

Debate on the nature of geography seems to be an integral and on-going characteristic of being a geographer. While it may at times seem as if we are rehashing old rhetoric, it is nevertheless important as the world around us is in constant flux and we need to adjust to changing circumstances. An important change that we need to address is changing technology and its effect on how we teach, conduct research, interact with our colleagues and generally organize our time and space. One specific issue in the area of knowledge management that the CAG has to address is "Open Access" – that is the free availability of on-line journals to anyone. This is a

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recherches que vous effectuez, une stratégie qu'appuient de plus en plus les organismes qui nous subventionnent; si vous êtes interviewés, veuillez vous identifier comme « géographe ».

Le débat sur la nature de la géographie semble faire intégralement partie de la fonction de géographe et en être une caractéristique permanente. Bien qu'il puisse parfois sembler que nous ressassions d'anciens discours, cela est néanmoins important, car le monde ambiant fluctue continuellement; nous devons nous adapter à une conjoncture en évolution. Un des changements importants que nous devons envisager est l'évolution de la technologie et ses effets sur notre façon d'enseigner, de mener nos recherches, d'échanger avec nos collègues et, de façon générale, d'organiser notre temps et l'espace que nous occupons. Dans le domaine de la gestion du savoir, il est un enjeu particulier que l'ACG doit aborder, le libre-accès, c'est-à-dire l'accessibilité en ligne des revues savantes à l'intention de tous. C'est là une question complexe, et j'en traiterai de façon approfondie dans une prochaine chronique. Le Géographe canadien est actuellement accessible en ligne aux membres de l'ACG grâce au portail de Blackwell, et on peut également le consulter dans de nombreuses bibliothèques universitaires qui sont abonnées à des ensembles de publications. Cependant, nous considérons Le Géographe canadien comme un des principaux avantages offerts aux membres. En plus de régler certaines incidences financières et questions d'accessibilité avec notre éditeur, Blackwell, nous devons également trouver d'autres avantages à offrir aux membres. À titre de géographes, nous comprenons très bien que « il est impossible de ne faire qu'une chose » et que ce changement entraîne de multiples répercussions.

En guise de conclusion, je remercie mon prédécesseur, Chris Sharpe, de tout son dévouement et du travail acharné qu'il a consenti au cours de son mandat à titre de président de l'ACG. Je crois qu'il nous a lancés sur la voie de la réflexion quant au rôle que jouent l'ACG et la discipline de la géographie dans un monde qui évolue rapidement. Heureusement, surtout pour moi, il demeure membre de la direction à titre de président sortant. Je me réjouis de travailler avec Chris et le comité exécutif au cours des deux prochaines années pendant lesquelles j'espère avoir l'occasion de connaître un plus grand nombre d'entre vous. En outre, évidemment, je suis heureuse de collaborer avec Valérie Shoffey, notre très compétente secrétaire de direction à McGill sans qui je serais désespérée!

Alison M. Gill, agill@sfu.ca

Subscribing to CAGLIST - If you would like to join please go to <http://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/caglist> and complete the form.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN continued from page 8...

complex subject and I will write about it in-depth in a future column. The Canadian Geographer (TCG) is currently accessible on-line to CAG members through Blackwell's portal and is also available through many university libraries that subscribe to publisher's packages. However, we view TCG as one of our major member benefits. As well as working out financial implications and access issues with our publisher, Blackwell, we also need to consider what alternate benefits we can offer to members. As geographers we understand all too well that, 'you can never do one thing' and there are a lot of implications to this change.

In closing, I must thank my predecessor Chris Sharpe for all the commitment and hard work he put into his term as CAG President. I believe he has set us on the road to really reconsidering what role the CAG and the discipline of geography plays in our fast-changing world. Luckily, especially for me, he continues on the Executive as Past-President. I look forward to working with Chris and the Executive Committee over the coming two years – during which time I hope I have the opportunity to get to know even more of you. And, of course I look forward to working with Valerie Shoffey, our very able Executive Secretary at McGill without whom I'd be lost!

Alison M. Gill, agill@sfu.ca

GEOGRAPHERS IN THE NEWS

BARRY WELLAR

- Public hearings on light rail expansion
CBC TV (Ottawa) June 28, 2006
- Comment: Does Ottawa's light rail correct errors of road building program? If not, stop it now.
Ottawa Business Journal, Mon, Jul 10, 2006 2:00 PM EST
- RE: LRT 'Credibility Gap'
Ottawa Business Journal, July 17, 2006. Page 7.

JIM LEMON

- Steering clear of the ethanol bandwagon
Globe and Mail, 13 July 2006
- One on One: Jim Lemon, by Michael Vaughan

DIVISION NEWS

- **The Atlantic Division 18th Annual Meeting**
October 13-15, 2006, Saint Mary's University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia http://www.smu.ca/academic/arts/geography/acag/next_meeting.html
- **The Prairie Division Annual Meeting**
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2006, Rugby, North Dakota
<http://io.uwinnipeg.ca/~geograph/pcag/pcag.htm>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN GEOGRAPHY

CAGLIST Job Postings Webpage can be found at <http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/jobs.htm>

Job Opportunities in Geography

“*Job Opportunities in Geography*” must be submitted to the editor at cag@geog.mcgill.ca (**No formatting**) by the deadlines listed on the back page of this newsletter. Inclusion is subject to availability of space. *There is no charge to universities for this service.*

CAGLIST Job Postings Webpage

To list your job on the webpage of the “**CAGLIST Job Postings**” send your copy directly to Dan Smith at smith@uvic.ca.

* **NEW**

***UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

The Department of Geography invites applications for a tenure track position as a senior Associate or Full Professor in Transportation Geography. The Department is seeking expertise in the following areas of geography: transportation, urban studies, GIS, planning and economic geography. The successful candidate must have a PhD in Geography and an established international reputation and research program. The successful applicant will be expected to teach in the Geography Department and to contribute in a substantial manner to the newly established Transportation Studies Major in which the Geography Department plays a leading role. In addition the applicant would be expected to contribute to all Departmental Programs at the Undergraduate and Graduate levels.

The Geography Department, with 23 faculty members, offers PhD, MSc, MA, MGIS, BSc, and BA degrees. The Department plays a leadership role in, and has strong links with, interdisciplinary undergraduate programs including the Transportation Studies Major, Urban Studies, Environmental Science and Earth Science. State-of-the-art research, teaching, computing and analytical facilities are available in the Department. The successful candidate's duties would include undergraduate and graduate teaching (Masters and PhD levels).

Applicants should provide a letter of application that includes evidence of excellence in teaching and research productivity, a curriculum vitae, student teaching evaluations and reprints of recent publications. The position is open until filled, with applications reviewed on a continual basis beginning October 16, 2006.

Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference directly sent to: Chair, Search Committee, Department of Geography, University of Calgary,

2500 University Dr. NW Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
Please do not respond by email to this advertisement.
Fax 403-282-6561.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Calgary respects, appreciates, and encourages diversity.

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON

Il s'agit d'un poste régulier menant à la permanence d'emploi, à combler au rang d'adjoint ou d'adjointe à compter du 1er janvier 2007. Ce poste est rattaché au Département d'histoire et de géographie de la Faculté des arts et des sciences sociales.

Fonctions: Dans le cadre des fonctions universitaires d'enseignement, de recherche et de services à la collectivité, la personne qui occupera ce poste sera une ou un géographe spécialiste en aménagement du territoire ou en développement régional appliqué au contexte nord-américain, particulièrement en milieu maritime. Dans un milieu où le travail d'équipe est essentiel, la personne retenue devra assurer les fonctions d'enseignement et d'encadrement rattachées aux programmes de premier cycle en géographie, incluant la direction de mémoires de baccalauréat. La charge de travail comprend également la participation de la candidate ou du candidat à la contribution au Département dans le programme de maîtrise en études de l'environnement.

Formation: Vous possédez un diplôme de premier cycle en géographie et un doctorat en géographie (ou dans une discipline connexe). Vous maîtrisez également les méthodes quantitatives, les systèmes d'information géographique (S.I.G.) et les méthodes de recherche contemporaines, ainsi qu'une expérience en enseignement universitaire. Vous avez à votre actif un dossier de réalisations en recherche dans ce champ d'expertise. Une capacité à obtenir du financement externe de recherche et une possibilité de collaboration ou d'intégration aux équipes de chercheuses et chercheurs de l'Université de Moncton (Chaire d'études K.-C.-Irving en développement durable, Institut de recherche sur les zones côtières, Institut canadien de recherche en politiques et administration publique, etc.) sont souhaitables. La maîtrise de la langue française, tant à l'oral qu'à l'écrit, est essentielle.

Entrée en fonction et traitement : Le 1er janvier 2007. Le traitement annuel est établi selon la formation et l'expérience. Les critères servant à établir le rang

professoral et le traitement annuel sont régis par la convention collective.

Fermeture du concours : Le 4 septembre 2006. Les personnes intéressées à postuler sont priées de faire parvenir un dossier complet incluant un curriculum vitae détaillé, une copie des relevés des études universitaires et des diplômes obtenus, un texte décrivant les projets de recherche actuels et futurs et, aux fins de référence, trois lettres de recommandations confidentielles qui doivent être envoyées directement à: Mme Isabelle McKee-Allain, Faculté des arts et des sciences sociales Université de Moncton, Campus de Moncton Moncton(NB)E1A 3E9 courriel:mckee ai@umoncton.ca Téléphone: (506) 858 4018; Télécopieur: (506) 858 4166;

L'Université de Moncton souscrit à l'équité en matière d'emploi et encourage les candidatures de toute personne qualifiée, femme ou homme, y compris les autochtones, les personnes handicapées et les membres des minorités visibles. Conformément aux exigences relatives à l'immigration, ce concours s'adresse en priorité aux citoyennes et citoyens canadiens ainsi qu'aux personnes ayant obtenu le droit d'établissement au Canada.

***QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

Queen's University Department of Geography welcome applications from excellent scholars and teachers who wish to be considered for appointment under the Queen's National Scholar (QNS) Program. The QNS Program serves to enrich teaching and research in newly developing fields of knowledge as well as traditional disciplines. The main criterion for appointment is academic excellence. Preferences will be given to scholars in early or mid-career. However, success in the QNS competition requires a significant record of quality publications and external funding. The Department of Geography is eligible to nominate candidates for one of these positions, and will consider applications from candidates in any field of Geography. Applicants who take an exciting interdisciplinary approach to urban issues and who can build on existing faculty strengths are most welcome. Candidates would be eligible for a tenure-track or newly tenured appointment, depending on experience. Under the QNS program, appointments may be either tenure-track or special shorter-term appointments. A maximum of four QNS positions will be available for the 2007/08 competition in the areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Health. For further information go to: <http://www.queensu.ca/principal/specialp.html>.

In keeping with Queen's commitment to employment equity and diversity in the workplace, the department particularly welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, aboriginal people, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

Before submitting a formal application, prospective candidates should contact the Head of Department, Professor Anne Godlewska, at godlewsk@post.queensu.ca. Applications are to be sent to the Head of Department, Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6.

Applications should include curriculum vitae, statements of current and prospective research interests and teaching experience or potential and no more than three off-prints. Applications should also supply information concerning any interruptions in their academic careers or other factors that may have affected their capacity to complete scholarly work. Letters from at least three referees should be sent directly to the address above. The deadline for receipt of applications, including letters of reference, is October 13, 2006, for decision in January 2007.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Academic staff at Queen's University are governed by a collective agreement (www.qufa.ca).

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

The Department of Geography at Saint Mary's University invites applications for an entry-level tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor, in the area of Cultural and/or Historical Geography to be effective July 1, 2007. Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in Geography or be nearing completion of the degree at time of application, and have a record of teaching effectiveness at the undergraduate level. The successful candidate should demonstrate considerable promise in contributing to the Department through teaching, research and scholarly publication.

Course responsibilities at the undergraduate level will include: introductory human geography, cultural ecology, geographical theory, and other courses in the discipline of cultural and/or historical geography. The following attributes would be considered desirable assets: a research focus on a geographical region, and interest in contributing to curriculum development at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Letters of application accompanied by an up-to-date curriculum vitae, teaching dossier, research samples/reprints, and names and contact information for three references should be sent to: Dr. Philip Giles, Chair, Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed in the first instance to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Saint Mary's University encourages applications from all qualified people, including women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, and individuals with disabilities. Applications sent by e-mail will not be considered. Deadline for applications is November 1, 2006.

The Newsletter of The Canadian Association of Geographers

Publication Schedule 2006 l'Horaire de publication

<i>Number/ Numéro</i>	<i>Date of Publication/ Date de publication</i>	<i>Submission Deadline/ Date de soumission</i>
issue 1	10 February/février	15 January/janvier
issue 2	10 April/avril	15 March/mars
issue 3	10 June/juin	15 May/mai
issue 4	10 August/août	15 July/juillet
issue 5	10 October/octobre	15 September/septembre
issue 6	10 December/décembre	15 November/novembre

Canada Post Agreement No. 40032401
No de la convention-Postes Canada 40032401

The CAG Newsletter is published six times per year by *The Canadian Association of Geographers* Department of Geography, McGill University 805 Sherbrooke St. W, Suite 425 Montreal, QC H3A 2K6 tel: (514)398-4946 / fax: (514)398-7437 email: cag@geog.mcgill.ca

Le Bulletin de l'ACG est publié six fois par année par *l'Association Canadienne des Géographes* Département de géographie, l'Université McGill 805, rue Sherbrooke O, Suite 425 Montréal (QC)H3A 2K6 tél: (514) 398-4946 / télécopieur: (514) 398-7437 courriel: cag@geog.mcgill.ca

www.cag-acg.ca

CAG COMMENTARY SERIES Submissions

Submissions to the CAG Commentary Series (800 words max.) which address an issue of public interest from a geographical perspective are invited, in English or French, and should be sent to the editor at: cag@geog.mcgill.ca. Where material that has already appeared in the press is submitted, the author must ensure that permission has been obtained from the original publishers for the CAG to reprint their commentary. Submission does not guarantee publication.

“JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN GEOGRAPHY”

To list job opportunities in the newsletter your copy must be submitted according to the deadlines listed above (*electronically with no formatting*) to the editor at cag@geog.mcgill.ca. There is no charge to universities for this service, however inclusion is subject to availability of space.

CAGLIST-Electronic Subscription

You are NOT automatically entered on the CAGLIST when you become a CAG member. If you choose to join the CAGLIST, simply follow the instructions found at <http://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/caglist>

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Send all address changes to the CAG office at cag@geog.mcgill.ca

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Please see our website at www.cag-acg.ca

Le bulletin de l'Association Canadienne des Géographes