

Canadian Women
and Geography
Study Group
Newsletter

CWAG

Newsletter

September 2005

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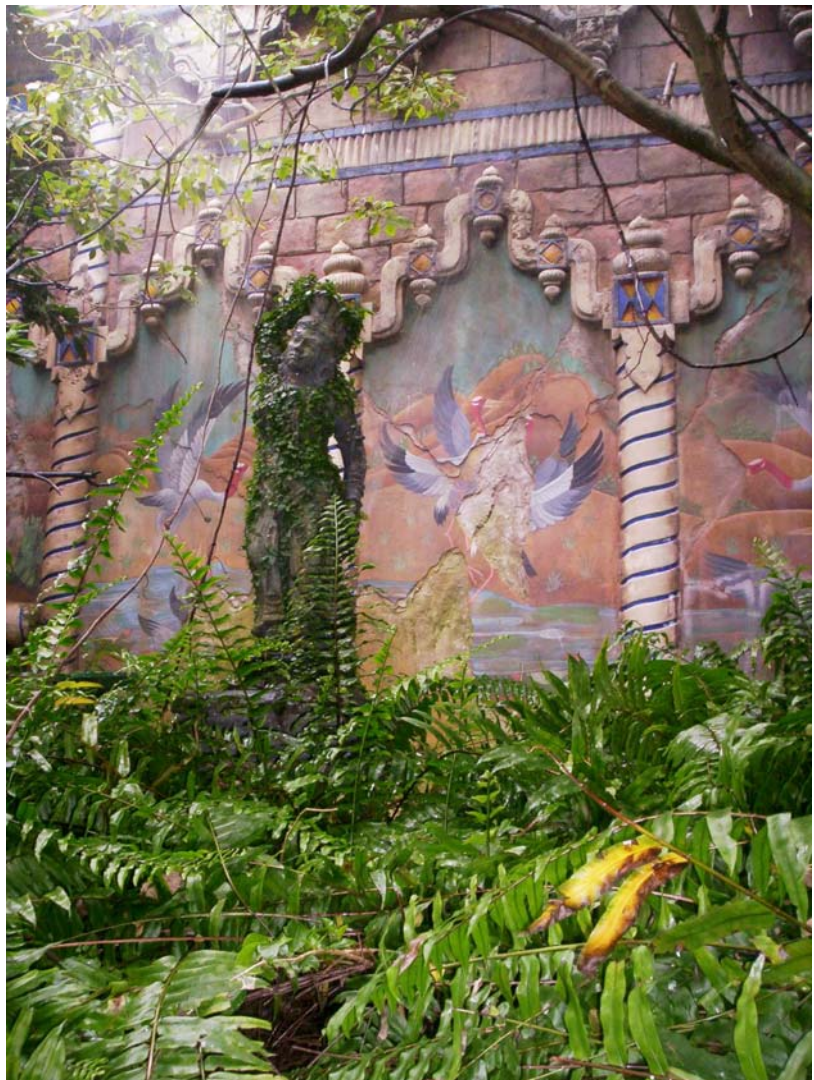


Photo credit: S. McWhirter, 2005.



Editor's Notes

Bonnie Hallman

**Department of Environment and
Geography**

University of Manitoba

Hello to one and all. Hopefully the new academic year is looking to be full of promise and, like me, you hold out the hope that perhaps this year you will finally find that elusive balance between work and family life ☺

Let me say thanks to all the contributors to this latest edition of the newsletter. As you will see, we have announcements here for a couple of very interesting conferences, updates from several departments and graduate students, and some new ideas as well. In particular, I hope you will all consider making a submission to the 'Getting to Know Ourselves' survey on page 13. Both new, and more 'established' CWAG members ~ please consider sharing not only the usual academic or work-related profile information (though that's good too!) but also some of the things that, for instance, make you interested in that work, or that you do to rest and relax so you can pursue that work. In other words, let's learn a bit more about who we all are, in part to learn from each other's experiences, but also to help put a set of human faces and

experiences on the countenance of CWAG. Please send your submissions to me at:
hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.ca

Until next time.
Bonnie

p.s. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my sister, Sara McWhirter, who has provided the cover image for this issue of newsletter. This female figure is in the tiger enclosure area of Disney's Animal Kingdom, Walt Disney World in Florida. Comments on gender/nature/culture issues that this may generate are very welcome!
B.H.





CWAG Chair Notes

Margaret Walton-Roberts

Geography: Linking disciplinary anxiety and professional ethics.

Recently there has been much discussion in both the CAG and AAG newsletters regarding the strength and significance of geography as a discipline. The president of the CAG has expressed concern over the position of geography in school curricula and how the weakening of geography as a core subject in grades 10 and 11 is impacting enrolments at the university level, as well as undermining the importance of geography in the public's perception. The AAG's past President Victoria Lawson encouraged geographers to think more about increasing our internal interaction and sharing our research so that we can organize ourselves to serve society more broadly. These concerns have been echoed in more recent exchanges between professional geographers in regard to the role we *could* play in national policy circles if our public profile was elevated.

These concerns are certainly important, but we must always be cautious about enthusiastically throwing our lot in with the current public policy debate of the moment without taking time to consider not just *adding* our voices to the debate, but *reframing* the debate itself. Global terrorism is one obvious example of how geographers have contributed to the public debate. Harm De Blij's recent book, "*Why Geography Matters*" makes

increasing the public profile of geography within the USA its central aim, and uses two of its chapters to highlight how the *lack* of geographical knowledge in US policy circles contributed to the problems the US administration faced in Afghanistan and Iraq (De Blij, 2005). Cutter *et al* (2003) in a reaction to calls from the NSF for academic responses to the September 11th attacks produced a book that documents how geographers can help fight the war on terror and respond to increased terrorist threats. In a very different approach Gregory (2004) critically assesses how previous US administrations contributed to creating the political and cultural geographies that now inform the current 'war of terror'. These divergent perspectives on the issue of terrorism indicate how rich geographers' contributions can be. So, if this is the case, how do we achieve greater visibility of our work and increase our public profile?

Our public contribution depends on how we as a discipline advance, and this depends upon how we operate institutionally through our varied departments and research institutes. As concern over the future of geography rages on (and lets be realistic this is hardly a new debate), it is accompanied by calls for defining the subject more thoroughly by identifying core themes. The down side of this anxiety to contain and define the discipline, however, is that we risk losing the best aspects of geography: its breadth, its synthesis and its ability to offer a location through which to connect divergent approaches and perspectives. The ability of the

discipline to contribute to wider public concerns about environment, social justice, public security, just to name a few, will be based on our ability to build networks that connect scholars with different approaches, skills and experiences, and foster working relationships built on trust, appreciation and respect. This is where groups like CWAG can have an important role.

Organizations like CWAG and initiatives such as the AAG's diversity clearinghouse can encourage diversity and support scholars who may feel marginalized within their own particular institutional 'mainstreams'. We know that scholars have been isolated because of both their research approaches (Dear, 2001) and aspects of their personal identities (Valentine, 1998). To advance the discipline and its public relevance we need to be sure to offer an inclusive environment where diverse and divergent voices from across geography's sub-disciplines feel they have the moral and physical support they need in order to make their contribution. By promoting a feeling of belonging that spans institutional or disciplinary cliques we help build self-esteem and confidence, and create energetic and innovative spaces that encourage research exchange, dissemination and advancement. Such intellectual and personal support is a valuable gift that can assist geography to increase internal scholarly interaction, increase the subject's potential contribution to society at large, and continue to raise the profile of geography into a discipline that matters.

Cutter, S. Richardson, D. and Wilbanks, T. (2003) *The Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism* New York: Routledge.

Dear, M. (2001), "The politics of geography: hate mail, rabid referees, and culture wars." *Political Geography*, 20, 1-12

De Blij, H. (2005) *Why geography matters: three challenges facing America, climate change, the rise of China, and global terrorism*. New York: Oxford University Press

Gregory, D. (2004) *The Colonial Present* Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd

Valentine, G. (1998) "'Sticks and stones may break my bones:' a personal geography of harassment." *Antipode*, 30, 305-332.





Student Profiles

Joanna Kafarowski
Doctoral Candidate
Natural Resources and
Environmental Studies
University of Northern British
Columbia

Joanna Kafarowski, a doctoral candidate in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies program at the University of Northern British Columbia (and a human geographer in disguise!), completed her fieldwork and data analysis earlier this year and will begin writing her thesis in September. In June, she presented a paper entitled, "What the Land Tells Us: Eastern Labrador Through the Eyes of Mina Hubbard and Alexandra Pratt" at the Labrador Explorations Symposium in Northwest River, Labrador. She recently contributed a submission on gender and traditional knowledge in the circumpolar North to the UNEP Convention on Biodiversity Report - Biodiversity in the Arctic Status and Trends and her paper on gender, decision-making and environmental policy in the Canadian Arctic was recently accepted by Canadian Woman Studies.

Cynthia Jones
Doctoral Candidate in
Geography
Waterloo-Laurier Joint Program in
Geography
Wilfrid Laurier University

Following a career as a high school Geography teacher, I entered the PhD program in January 2005. Under the supervision of Dr. Jody Decker, I was approved to fast-track directly from the Master's Program and, as a result, my research is two-thirds completed. This fall semester will be focused on comprehensive examinations.

I am also the mother of four children, ranging in age from 16 down to 4 years old. Stimulation seems to trump stress... I highly recommend furthering education somewhat later in life.

My doctoral research involves two gendered waves of Russian-Mennonite immigrations and the Niagara Region of Ontario to which they moved. The focus of this work is partly to assess how well the traditional term 'diaspora' fits with the groups, and to explore the outcomes and opportunities that have resulted from the traumatic upheaval of these ethno-religious groups from their natal land to a new space. The methodology is guided by feminist, post-structural and post-colonial tenets and is a qualitative approach involving interviews and focus group

discussions. This is an examination of how diaspora theory is lived out on the ground over three generations in a specific place and time period. Videos of interviews are made to preserve untold stories.

I look forward to sharing the joint Student Representative position for CWAG for 2005/2006 with Heather Castledon, University of Alberta. Any suggestions in this regard would be appreciated:
cajones@rogers.com



Academic Jobs

Lecturer

Division: University of Toronto at Mississauga

Department: Women's/Gender Studies

Deadline: October 15, 2005

Job Description: Women's/Gender Studies at the University of Toronto at Mississauga invites applications for a full-time teaching-stream appointment at the rank of Lecturer. The successful candidate will be expected to make a strong contribution to the interdisciplinary Women's/Gender Studies Program. In addition to teaching introductory and senior level courses, the occupant of this position will coordinate the program. Teaching expertise in one of the following areas is desirable but not required: Gender and Violence, Sexual Diversity, Popular Culture, and Women and Health. Information about the program is available at:
<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/826.0.html>

Candidates must have a PhD. with specialization in a pertinent academic field and demonstrated excellence in teaching at the university level. Administrative experience, particularly within a university setting, is an asset. The appointment is effective July 1, 2006 and is initially for a term of one year with a possibility of renewal and the ultimate possibility of a continuing appointment. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Address inquiries and applications to Professor Amy Mullin, Women's/Gender Studies Search Committee, North Building, Room 227, University of Toronto at Mississauga, 3359 Mississauga Rd. N., Mississauga, ON, L5L 1C6. E-mail:
philgen@utm.utoronto.ca. All documentation must be in writing and should include a CV and teaching dossier. Three confidential letters of recommendation should be sent by referees directly to Professor Mullin. Applications should be received by October 15, 2005.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.



Research Profiles / Updates

SSHRC Stand Research Grant, 3 year,
\$167,000: *A Critical Inquiry into the
Construction of Contested Illness:
Gender, Medicine and Culture*,
**Pamela Moss, PI and Michael Prince,
Co-PI.**

By contested illness we mean illness that is dismissed as illegitimate – framed as “difficult,” psychosomatic or even non-existent – by researchers, health practitioners and policy-makers operating within conventional paradigms of knowledge. Family members, friends, acquaintances and co-workers of the person diagnosed with a contested illness, although a strong source of support, often reinforce the illegitimacy of the constellation of symptoms by holding onto and reproducing the culturally popular and medically hegemonic definitions of what it is to be ill. Contested illness is often chronic rather than acute, inveterate rather than curable, endless rather than finite. Yet even in its ever presence there are still fluctuations, remittances and variability in the wave of symptoms, which then leads



further to the questioning of the existence of illness. Examples of contested illness include environmental illness, sick building syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivity syndrome, fibromyalgia, depression, chronic fatigue syndrome and war neurosis. The focus of the proposed research is on the latter two, both of which are known by various names: neurasthenia, myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), chronic fatigue and immune deficiency syndrome (CFIDS) and Florence Nightengale disease; and shell shock, battle fatigue, operational exhaustion, Gulf War Syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The objectives of the proposed research are: to explore gendered dimensions, medical explanations and cultural representations of contested illness; to identify processes through which illness becomes contested, including policy, state regulatory apparatuses and ideologies; and to offer an account of the strategies and practices persons diagnosed with contested illness employ to challenge conventional and established notions of what it is to be ill.



Department / Program Updates

York University

Geography Department

Milestones in the Department of Geography at York University

Patricia Wood - first female Chair

Valerie Preston - first female to be promoted to the rank of Full Professor

News from our Graduate Program

Since August 2004, the following female graduate students have successfully defended:

Vanessa Mathews, MA (August 2004)

ΔThe Art of Ideology: Theorizing Artists and Gentrification in the Space of Yorkville, Toronto@

Lisa Oliveira, MA (October 2004)

ΔHousing Trajectories into Homeownership: A Case Study of Punjabi Sikh Immigrants in the Toronto CMA@

Tamao Kasahara, PhD (May 2005)

ΔDo stream restoration projects enhance hyporheic functioning?@

G. Ebru Ustundag, PhD (July 2005)

ΔTurkish Republican Citizenship and Rights to the City@

Focus on Faculty - a representative sample of the work being conducted by female faculty members in the Department of Geography at York University

Ranu Basu is a social and political geographer with a particular interest in rationality and power in public decision making and the use of critical GIS in exploring these themes. She is currently working on projects entitled *Mapping the Politics of Education Reform in Ontario: Examining Public Elementary Schools in Transition (1993-2005)* [funded by SSHRC]; and *Maintaining >Spaces of Integration= in an Era of Devolution: Exploring the Geographies of Language and Education Policy in Toronto=s Elementary Schools* [funded by CERIS].

Lucia Lo's current research takes on two directions. Her work on Canada focuses on immigration adaptation and integration, including ethnic entrepreneurship and ethnic economy; acculturation, identity and immigrant consumer behaviour; participation and performance in the labour market; and access to immigrant settlement services. She has studied the Chinese in Toronto extensively. Her work on China is primarily on consumer behaviour, especially the impact of retail internationalization, such as the entry of Wal-Mart into China, on local consumption and use of consumption spaces.

Robin Roth's research interests include the political ecology of conservation with a particular focus on mountain environments of Asia, rural livelihood change, indigenous knowledge and spatiality, integrated social-ecological analysis and park-people conflicts. Her current project investigates the ways in which rural residents in highland Thailand, both individually and collectively, use emerging markets to reorganize their livelihoods in response to protected area establishment and explores the implications for social equity and environmental conservation.

Patricia Wood's current research focuses on diversity, citizenship and urban space, particularly public space. She has two main projects: one on aboriginal citizenship and the relationship between Calgary and its neighbour, the Tsuu T'ina Nation, and another comparing representations of diversity and experiences of immigrant communities in several Canadian cities.

University of Calgary Geography Department:

On July 1, 2005, **Dr. Geoffrey Hay** joined the Geography Department (as an Assistant Professor) at the University of Calgary. Dr. Hay is an Alberta Ingenuity New Faculty and a co-director (with Dr. Greg McDermid) of the Foothills Facility for Geographic Information Science (UofC). He participates in a number of inter-disciplinary projects related to multiscale remote sensing analysis of landcover and landuse with colleagues at the Universities of Alberta, Lethbridge, Salzburg (Austria), and Castilla La Mancha (Spain). He is also collaborating in an NSERC-BIOCAP Strategic Project with colleagues at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS). Their objective is to develop multiscale object-based methods with LiDAR, photogrammetry, and satellite data to automatically delineate individual trees and forest stands for estimating forest biomass and carbon stocks in support of the Canadian National Forest Inventory (NFI).

University of Alberta Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences:

Dr Theresa Garvin is Associate Professor and Director of the Community, Health, and Environment Research Centre in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Theresa was awarded tenure and promotion in the past year. She is currently on sabbatical and plans to spend her time reading, writing and playing with her kids (ages 3 and 7).

Dr Tara McGee is Associate Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Tara's research is on individual and community responses to risks and hazards; risk perception and communication; and public participation.

Dr Karen Tomic is Associate Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Karen's research is interdisciplinary, involving both human and physical geography. She focuses on different types of

environmental health issues.

Heather Castleden, CWAG graduate student representative, is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Her supervisor is Dr. Theresa Garvin. Heather resides in Victoria with her husband and son (age 2). Her research involves working with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation on Vancouver Island on environment and health issues. ✨



NOTICES & NEWS

**Second International & Interdisciplinary Conference on
Emotional Geographies**

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, 25-27 May 2006

<http://www.geog.queensu.ca/emotionalgeog/>

Speakers to include:

Liz Bondi, Ed Casey, Avery Gordon, Mike Hepworth, Audrey Kobayashi,
Kay Milton & Nigel Thrift,

Clearly, our emotions matter. They affect the way we sense the substance of our past, present and future; all can seem bright, dull or darkened by our emotional outlook. Whether we crave emotional equilibrium, or adrenaline thrills, the emotional geographies of our lives are dynamic, transformed by our procession through childhood, adolescence, middle and old age, and by more immediately destabilizing events such as birth or bereavement, or the start or end of a relationship. Whether joyful, heartbreaking or numbing, emotion has the power to transform the shape of our lives, expanding or contracting our horizons, creating new fissures or fixtures we never expected to find. But how do we articulate and negotiate such complex emotional landscapes?

From the introduction to *Emotional Geographies* (in press), edited by Joyce Davidson, Liz Bondi and Mick Smith (Burlington, VT & Aldershot: Ashgate).

For additional information, see the website or contact:

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In April 2005 **Nicole Yantzi** successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis entitled "Balancing And Negotiating the Home as a Place of Caring: The Experiences Of Families Caring for Children With Long Term Care Needs". Currently (January 2005 to December 2006) she has a postdoctoral fellowship in the Health Care, Technology and Place Program (University of Toronto) and the Department of Population Health Sciences (Hospital for Sick Children). Her current e-mail address is:
nicole.yantzi@utoronto.ca

Pamela White is now the Head of the Demography Division at Statistics Canada. Congratulations on this impressive achievement!

CAG Nominating Committee, 2005-2006

Damaris Rose (damaris_rose@ucs.inrs.ca) is on this committee this year. Two CAG Councillors have to be replaced (Pamela White, Greg Halseth). **Please send suggestions to Damaris BY 15 OCTOBER** so that she can forward them to the other committee members. You can also send nominations directly to the CAG . The call for nominations will go out in the Sept-Oct. CAG newsletter.

Research Workshop: November 10-12, 2005: *Illness and the Contours of Contestation: Diagnosis, Experience, Policy*, University of Victoria
Organisers: Pamela Moss, Katherine Teghtsoonian and Maya Gislason
Funding: SSHRC and CIHR

One key purpose of the workshop is to bring together researchers and scholars with diverse academic backgrounds and training in order to facilitate interdisciplinary thinking on the social, political, and cultural dimensions of illness and health. Each participant is working at the cutting edge of research and scholarship about contested and contesting illness in the areas of diagnosis, experience, and policy. Collectively, their research is representative of a wide range of scholarship across the social sciences and humanities – history, geography, media, culture and communications, political science, policy studies, psychology, sociology, and women's studies. **Joyce Davidson** (Queen's) and **Pamela Moss** (Victoria) comprise the geography contingent at the workshop.

CALL FOR PAPERS

GENDER INTERVENTIONS IN RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND/OR PRACTICE

Session for the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Chicago Illinois, 7-11 March 2006

Organizer: Deborah Thien, Geography, University of Northern BC, Canada

thiend@unbc.ca

Discussant: Helen Jarvis, University of Newcastle, UK

Certainly, gender is no longer an unfamiliar concept -- within geography, the substantial and long-term efforts of feminist geographers have been particularly effective in addressing the array of gender-related concerns. But, despite this sustained feminist attention to gender conceptually and theoretically, there are still few resources for practical teaching or fieldwork exercises which address gender in geographical contexts (exceptions include Madge 1994; Oberhauser 2002). Galvanized by the organizer's recent experience with designing and implementing a 'gender intervention' for a large-scale research project including student and senior researchers, this session seeks to stimulate a critical discussion of existing and proposed interventions in research, teaching and/or other forms of practice. Up to twenty minutes will be allotted for presentation and discussion of each paper and the session will close with comments by the discussant.

Expressions of interests directed to Deborah Thien (thiend@unbc.ca) welcomed and encouraged in the first instance. Please send final abstracts (250 words max.) and PINs by *30 September 2005*. Please see the AAG website (www.aag.org) for online registration and abstract submission instructions.

Dr. Bonnie Hallman, Department of Environment and Geography, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, University of Manitoba, was recently promoted to Associate Professor. As of July 1, 2005 she has also become a Research Affiliate of the Centre on Aging, and an adjunct faculty member of the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba. She has also, and far more traumatically (!) become the mother of a high-school student. ☺





NEW FEATURE: Getting to Know Ourselves

One of the things that a newsletter can do is help our members get to know one another. And in the spirit of truly making the academy, or at least our area of it, a bit more welcoming, this doesn't need to be limited to our professional, academic lives/selves. We are all so much more than that, and of course who we are as people shapes what and how we approach our working lives.

What I'd like to launch here is a regular feature where one or two of our members are profiled, based on their responses to a series of questions. This is a sort of interview, done in part as a fun way to get to know ourselves as people, and in part in seriousness to address / discuss issues, research etc., that face many of us, now or at some time in our lives.

What follows are a series of questions that are posed to each and every one of you. Answer as many, or as few, as you'd like. Your responses will be shared with the CWAG membership here in the newsletter. I'm hoping to feature at least two per issue.



Getting to Know Ourselves Survey

'Serious' Questions:

1. How would you describe your research program?
2. Who has been the most influential writer in your work?
3. How has your work changed over time?
4. What do you see as the most important Canadian political issue today?

'Less-serious' Questions:

1. What do you do to relax?
2. Who is your favourite author?
3. What is your favourite food?
4. What might you do if you didn't work in your current position?

Please email your responses to hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.ca. And please, if there are additional questions you'd like to see included, send those to me as well.





Recent Publications

Benbow, S. Mary P. (2004) Death and Dying at the Zoo. The Journal of Popular Culture. 37(3):379-398.

Rose, Damaris and Anne Gilbert (2005) Country Report: Glimpses of social and cultural geography in Canada and Québec at the turn of the millennium / Aperçu de la géographie sociale et culturelle au Canada et au Québec au tournant du millénaire. *Social and Cultural Geography* 6 (2): 271-298.

You'll find plenty of references to the work of feminist geographers in this article.

Thien, Deborah (2005) "Intimate Distances, or How to answer the question of 'us'" in J. Davidson, L. Bondi and M. Smith (eds.) *Emotional Geographies*, pp. 191-204. Ashgate.

Thien, Deborah (2005) "After or beyond feeling?: a consideration of affect and emotion in geography". *Area*. Forthcoming, December 2005.



Web-Links

This section is reserved for links to websites and/or articles that are thought to be of interest to the CWAG membership. Please forward your suggestions for consideration! (hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.ca)

LINK: <http://chronicle.com>

Article: Figg, P (December 2003) *So many committees, so little time*. The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Professor's growing service obligations make advancement tougher for many of them, particularly women and minority-group members.



Massey Medal Nominations Royal Canadian Geographical Society

The Massey Medal is awarded to recognise outstanding career achievement in "the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada". The medal has been awarded every year since 1959, **but has only been awarded to a woman once!** This was Isobel Moira Dunbar, of the Defense Research Board, in 1972.

This can be an important role for CWAG – ensuring that the numerous outstanding female geographers in our midst receive their due recognition.

Please go to the RCGS website to obtain nomination forms.

<http://www.rcgs.org>



Call for Submissions

Content is needed for the next edition, which will be produced in early May (before CAG). Please consider making contributions to any section of the newsletter. Profiles (student, research, professional, teaching), articles and notices of publications or websites that you think would be of interest to the CWAG membership. Please consider contributing to the new "Getting to Know Ourselves" section as well. Send your contributions to the Editor at:

hallmanb@ms.umanitoba.ca

or by mail to:

Dr. Bonnie C. Hallman

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