

Canadian Federation
of Earth Sciences

The unified voice of Earth Science in Canada

Fédération canadienne
des sciences de la Terre

La voix unifiée des sciences de la terre au Canada

NEWSLETTER no. 8

CFES 2011 Mentorship Medal to Dr. Douw Steyn

The 2011 CFES Mentorship Medal has been awarded to Dr. Douw Steyn of the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Douw Steyn received his undergraduate degree in Physics and Applied Mathematics from the University of Cape Town (UCT), after which he spent 6 years working for UCT. Some of that time was spent in the School of Environmental Studies, a foray that sparked a life long interest in atmospheric sciences.

In 1976, Douw came to UBC to pursue a PhD; under the supervision of Prof. Tim Oke in the Department of Geography he studied atmospheric turbulence over coastal cities. He subsequently joined the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences where he

joined a multidisciplinary group working across the entire spectrum of the Earth Sciences.

Dr. Steyn's main scientific interest has always been urban air pollution and he has never shied from going public with sometimes unpopular conclusions. In doing so, he inspired colleagues and students alike.

His students have described him as a model supervisor. He understands their diverse talents and how these skills can be useful in a diverse work environment. Douw Steyn describes mentoring as engaging with students on as many levels and within as many spheres as they are prepared for.

These former students now work in all levels of government in Canada, as well as for foreign companies and institutions

Dr. Steyn is currently on sabbatical leave at the African Institute of

Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Cape Town. He will return to Canada in the late summer. The award ceremony is therefore still being planned and will be announced at a later date.

In the photo: Douw Steyn celebrating (photo of the mentorship medal in hand) at AIMS with his wife Margaret



Special point of Interest

IGC2020: Vancouver won the venue bid



Promoting Earth Science for Society

www.networkyes.org

The YES Network started as a direct consequence of the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth / IYPE. It is a global network of early career earth scientists, now with members in more than 85 countries. Membership is free! Just sign up on the website.

The American Geological Institute (AGI, the American equivalent to CFES) supports YES with staff resources, as 'the next generation' is an important component of the

IUGS Global Geoscience Workforce Task force in which AGI takes the lead (see also page 3 for more about 'Generations')

The YES network is dedicated to:

1. fostering collaboration between early-career geoscientists;
2. Improving professional resources and increasing opportunities for early career geoscientists,
3. Creating bridges between early career scientists and policy makers

4. Raising awareness of the importance of geosciences for society
5. Promoting scientific and professional collaboration between early-career and senior geoscientists.

National chapters have been established in several countries and a **Canadian chapter** is in the making. CFES strongly supports the a Canadian YES Chapter and aims to work closely with it.

So do sign up as a Canadian member!

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CFES/FCST Council meeting in Calgary, May 7 & 8, 2011

www.geoscience.ca/management

CFES meets twice a year with its Council of member organization representatives, a gathering of ca. 20 people who sacrifice a weekend of their free time for the benefit of helping to build CFES. Our Fall meeting was held Nov 6 and 7 in Ottawa and we reported on it in the last Newsletter.

This Spring's meeting will be held at the Department of Geoscience of the University of Calgary, the same venue where we met a year ago. Whereas we would like to be accessible to representatives in other parts of the country, the financial reality is that it is cheaper to meet in association with major Conventions; this year's meeting takes place just prior to the Convention of CSPG, CSEG, and CWLS.

We are currently building the agenda, but here are two important agenda items:

1. Outreach

Each member society is active in public education through a host of varied activities. The Canadian Geoscience Educators Network (www.geoscience.ca/cgen) is an independent network that is linked to CFES (the CGEN president is the CFES Outreach director). CGEN carries out its own outreach activities (among others EdGeo, summer workshops for teachers across the country) but also coordinates outreach activities through the *Outreach Liaison teleconference* that takes place four times per year; an interesting and inspiring way to learn of each others new ideas and initiatives, to give each other feedback and to arrive at new ideas.

Canada has a new opportunity for public education through **Geoparks**. There is much interest after the approval of Stonehammer Geopark (NB) last Fall.



2. IGC2020 Bid: Vancouver it is

CFES is leading a Canadian Bid to host the 2020 (36th) International Geological Congress. The chair of the Bid Committee is CFES Past President Bill Mercer (bmercer_cfes@magma.ca)

CFES has partnered with the National Research Council Conference Service Organization and called for a bid for venues. The competition was won by Vancouver.

Council of Canadian Academies

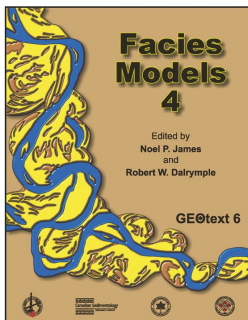
The CCA is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that supports science-based, expert assessments to inform public policy development in Canada. Decisions on topics such as climate change, pandemic preparedness, energy, and innovation can only benefit from a sound understanding of the science behind the issues.

In 2010, the CCA published the well-received assessment on *Sustainable Management of Groundwater*.

This is a selection of some of the assessments that that CCA is currently working on. The first 3 assessments were requested by the Minister of Industry:

- *The State of Science and Technology in Canada*; this assessment will build on the CCA's inaugural report on the same topic in 2006.
- *Science Performance and Research Funding*. There is no straightforward approach for measuring research outputs. Policy makers and researchers are interested in developing a
- *Women in University Research*. This assessment was deemed necessary after the appointment of 12 male "Canadian Excellence in Research Chairs (CERC)" (www.cerc.gc.ca)
- *Sustainable management of water in the Agricultural Landscape* (requested by the minister of Agriculture)

www.scienceadvice.ca



The new "Facies Models" is out! Order your copy from www.gac.org

CanGeoRef

www.geoscience.ca/cangeoref



180,000 references and growing!

CanGeoRef will launch in late 2011. Launch events will take place at the Fall Open Houses of the Provincial and Territorial Geological Surveys. It is estimated

that about 300,000 Canadian Geoscience References exist, ca. half of which were in GeoRef at the start of this project, which CFES carries out as a joint venture with AGI (which hosts GeoRef).

A license for CanGeoRef will be available

to users for a significantly reduced fee compared to a full GeoRef license.

CFES and AGI will have adjacent booths at the JAC in Calgary (May 8-11), where we will start our joint marketing efforts for CanGeoRef.

www.geoscience.ca / www.earthsciencescanada.com



FUTURE GENERATIONS

This article is a summary from the report 'Generations in Project Management', that was commissioned by the Project Management Institute (www.pmi.org) in August 2010. The entire article can be downloaded from the CFES website at <http://geoscience.ca/index.php?page=human-resources>

In 2011 the oldest of the Baby Boomer generation will turn 65 and presumably begin to leave the workforce. An uncertain economy and the fact that many people now work well beyond the age of 65 will likely slow the impact of the loss of this significant generation from the workforce; nonetheless in the not-too distant future Boomers will retire en masse. This will

give way to a new generation of leaders with a style of their own. Generation X and Y are by and large more consensus-oriented and global-minded in nature. Their leadership styles and expectations are different than those of previous generations.

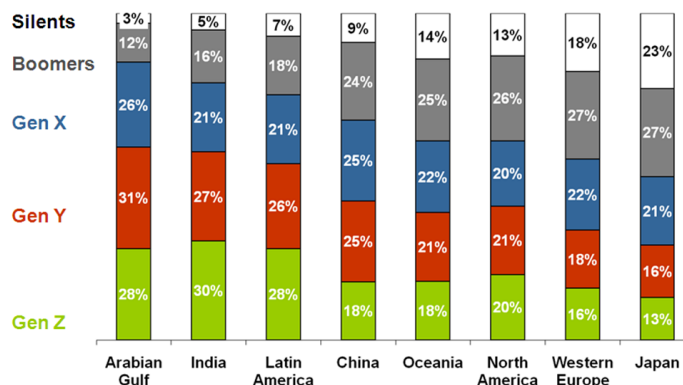
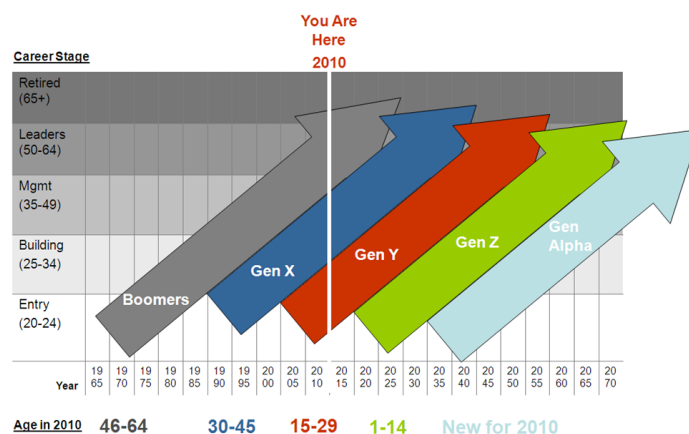
Making generalizations about any cohort based on age, culture or any other demographic variable is tricky at best.

(reproduced with permission from the Project Management Institute)

This is especially the case when trying to generalize a cohort that spans the entire globe. As globalization brings distant cultures closer together, the experiences of different cultures be-

come increasingly shared, more so within generations across the globe than between generations of the same region or culture

"As globalization brings distant cultures closer together, the experiences and values of different cultures become increasingly shared" (Generations report, Project Management Institute)



More on Future Generations and the need for properly trained Personnel

MiHR / Mining Industry Human Resources Council

The **Virtual MineMentor Program** provides students from post-secondary mining programs with positive, virtual mentoring relationships with exceptional workers from the industry. Students will engage in a virtual relationship with a positive role model to have ready access to advice and guidance that will support them in developing employment opportunities in the Canadian mining sector. The program is becoming popular and more 'virtual mentors' are needed!

<http://minementor.acareerinmining.ca>

PHRCC / Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada

The Petroleum Industry too will face massive retirement and resulting skills shortages in the coming years. The PHRCC's tackles this issue through various projects, a.o.

- Alberta Immigrant Integration
- Harmonize education programs with employer needs
- Identify essential skills gaps

For more, see www.petrohrsc.ca

CFES and AGI will co-convene a session at the AGU Convention in San Francisco, Dec 5-9, 2011 (www.agu.org).

CFES and AGI will jointly convene a session on improving retention of students in Earth Science programs and on reducing the loss of Earth Science graduates to the profession. Both patterns are a reason for concern when so many new jobs will need to be filled in the next 10 years.

We hope to come with a strong Canadian contribution to this session, so that we can start a North American dialogue on this important topic. If you want to contribute, contact Elisabeth Kusters at ekusters_cfes@magma.ca



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ON THE WEB

International

International Union of Geosciences www.iugs.org. Subscribe to its monthly newsletter through this link. IUGS celebrated its 50th anniversary at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on February 21, 2011. On this occasion, a beautiful anniversary video was produced, which is on the IUGS home page.

Young women in Science careers: <http://careerwise.asu.edu>

The Network of **Young Earth Scientists**: www.networkyes.org. A Canadian chapter is in the works. See elsewhere in this Newsletter

International Geological Congress 2012, Brisbane. First Circular is out. www.34igc.org/

The **American Geological Institute** publishes regular briefs on the environment at www.agiweb.org/environment/earthnotes and on workforce issues at www.agiweb.org/workforce/currents.html

www.geoscience.ca

New website!

Subscribe to RSS feed!

Canada

Partnership Group for Science and Engineering: www.pagse.org Science Media Centre of Canada: www.sciencemediacentre.ca

Council of Canadian Academies: www.scienceadvice.ca; Canadian Science Policy: <http://sciencecanada.blogspot.com/> and <http://sciencepolicy.ca/>

Recent news from the **Mining Industry Human Resources Council** is at www.mihrc.ca/en/news/MiHR_enews_Nov2010.asp and from the **Petroleum Industry Human Resources Council** at www.petrohrsc.ca/homepage.aspx

CALENDARS

Canadian Earth Science events:
www.gac.ca/activities/calendar.php

International Earth Science calendars:
www.agiweb.org/calendar/index.php
<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar>

CANADIAN CONFERENCES

2011

CSPG, CSEG, CWLS, Annual Convention,
May 9-13, 2011, Calgary:
www.geoconvention.org.

CIM Annual Conference and Exhibit, May 21-25, Montreal. <http://www.cim.org/montreal2011/>

GAC-MAC, May 25-27, 2011, Ottawa -
www.gacmacottawa2011.ca

CAG May 31-June 4, 2011, Calgary -
www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag_annual_meeting.html

21st Canadian Paleontology Conference,
August 19-22, Vancouver, BC,
<http://132.156.108.208/cpc/index.htm>

CNC-IAH and CanQwa, August 28-31,
Quebec City - <http://geohydro2011.ca>

CGS, October 2-6, 2011, <http://panam-cgc2011.ca/index.php?lang=en>

2012

International Polar Year Convention,
Montreal 2012, www.ipy2012montreal.ca

MEMBER SOCIETY PORTRAIT



Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada
L'Association canadienne des prospecteurs et entrepreneurs

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) represents the interests of the mineral exploration and development industry. Its mandate is to protect and promote mineral exploration and to ensure a robust mining industry. The association also encourages the highest standards of technical, environmental, safety and social practices in Canada and internationally.

The PDAC is supported by its 7,684 individual members (prospectors, geoscientists, consultants, mining executives, government officials, students and people working in the drilling, financial, legal and other supporting fields). Its 1,081 corporate members comprise major and mid-size producing companies, junior exploration companies, and organizations providing services to the industry.

The work of the PDAC is undertaken by a cadre of volunteers representing the range of professions associated with mineral exploration providing their services on the board of directors and committees, and by 20 full-time staff.

The PDAC is perhaps best known for its International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange, today the world's largest annual mineral industry convention. In March 2011, the event attracted 22,714 participants from 120 countries. A quarter of attendees were from outside Canada.

A high proportion of the association's time and resources is spent advocating for conditions that will further mineral exploration and the discovery of new mineral wealth. These advocacy activities include informing governments, institutions, and communities of interest about the economic and social contributions of the industry and by representing the industry in consultations, meetings, missions, and forums.

Current advocacy areas include: Aboriginal affairs; corporate social responsibility; environmental issues; finance and taxation; geosciences; health and safety; human resources and student affairs; international issues; land access and mining regulations; and securities regulations.

PDAC programs are designed to support or promote the mineral exploration industry. The association's latest major initiative is *e3 Plus: A framework for responsible exploration*, containing corporate social responsibility principles and guidance for exploration companies wherever they are working.

Other programs include an aboriginal toolkit, created with partners to inform aboriginal communities about exploration and mining practices; PDAC Mining Matters, a resource to help teachers with curriculum development and to educate primary and secondary school students about the value and importance of minerals in their everyday lives; an annual, all-expenses-paid, student-industry mineral exploration workshop to give university geoscience students practical exposure to the mineral exploration industry; business insurance specially tailored to the needs of the mineral industry; and the PDAC's annual awards that celebrate excellence and achievement in the mineral industry.

Saley Lawton