

# ***NRES / CSAM RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES***

***FRIDAY***

***NOV. 25, 2005***

***3:30 - 4:30 pm***

**LECTURE  
THEATRE  
9-200  
(Medical Building)**

**LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS  
SERVED AT 3:15 PM**

***\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*  
NO FOOD OR DRINK  
ALLOWED  
IN LECTURE THEATRE***

## **Dr. Nabla Kennedy**

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Ecosystem Science and  
Management Program  
UNBC**



### **Molecular approaches to microbial ecology: application to grasslands in Ireland**

Intensive agriculture is a worldwide trend focused on using technology to obtain maximum yield. Although intensification has been central to increased productivity in Ireland, there is concern about the sustainability of such practices. In order to increase sheep grazings, upland grassland areas containing a rich assemblage of plant species are often converted into high-yielding grassland containing very few plant species. The impact of this conversion upon soil microbes, which play a major role in grassland ecosystem processes such as carbon, nitrogen, and other nutrient cycles, was studied in order to fully understand their responses to grassland management. Approaches to analyzing environmental microbial communities will be discussed, including both conventional and nucleic acid-based techniques.