



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

April 20 - 24, 2015

A newsletter for faculty, staff, students and the community
who participates in the
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute
and NRES Graduate Programs

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

I hope this message finds you all well!

Next week is the **Undergraduate Thesis Presentation Day on Thursday, April 30th from 9:00am to 2:30pm in 6-205/211**. At this event, we will hear presentations from fourth-year undergrad students across campus, including those in: Natural Resources & Environmental Studies, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Biology, Chemistry, and Health Science. The schedule is posted on page 2 of this week's newsletter. All are welcome to join us, to learn some of the research taking place and support our students! In that vein, we are asking that attendees to stay for the day and hear all of the student presentations or at minimum, a full session (leaving at a break). To help with planning, please RSVP to me. The event is organized by NRESi, in partnership with the Northern Medical Program and the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Program.

For those of you in colloquium withdrawal, there's a lecture today at 3pm, organized by the School of Environmental Planning, that may be of interest. The topic of the presentation is visualizing the industrial north and ways to engage the public on footprint and scale of projects of large scale natural resource extraction. More details are on page 3.

Have a great weekend!

Leanne Elliott
NRESi Research Manager



Signs of spring are everywhere! Here's another beautiful one!
Photo Credit: Colin Chisholm

REMINDER: Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in future NRESi issues.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

We're on the web at : www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PRESENTATION DAY

Thursday, April 30th, 2015 in 6-205/211

All are welcome to attend this year's Undergraduate Thesis Presentation Day. This is an opportunity to see what students have been doing for their thesis research and to learn what undergraduate theses are about if you are considering one yourself.

To embrace the diversity of research at UNBC and the learning opportunity this event provides, we strongly encourage participants to stay for the full day or at minimum a full session (leaving at a break). Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Time	Presenter	Thesis Title	Supervisor(s)
9:00	Viktor Slat	Determination of U6 snRNA secondary structure using optical tweezers	Dr. Stephen Rader
9:20	Kirsten Reimer	Investigating the interaction between the small, nuclear RNA U6 and the LSm complex in <i>Cyanidioschyzon merolae</i>	Dr. Stephen Rader
9:40	Alex Rudecki	Characterization of PACAP in Sympathetic Outputs to Adipose Tissues	Dr. Sarah Gray
10:00	Preety Nijjar	The Role of Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase Activating Polypeptide (PACAP) in Vascular Function	Dr. Sarah Gray
10:20	Break		
10:40	Ahsen Chaudhry	Lipotoxicity and Diabetes: The Role of Oxidative Stress in PPAR-Induced Changes of Pancreatic β -cell Function	Dr. Sarah Gray
11:00	Katia Hartwig	Fluorescent assay substrate optimization for <i>Haloarcula marismortui</i> RNase E	Dr. Andrea Gorrell
11:20	Seamus Hogan	The Quasiclassical Trajectory Method: Comparing Standard and Gaussian Binning Methods on H+H ₂ Results	Dr. Margot Mandy
11:40	Daemon Cline	Phylogenetics of <i>Skwala</i> specimens using DNA barcoding	Dr. Danie Erasmus
12:00	Linda Horianopoulos	Expression of sex-linked <i>inhibitor of apoptosis</i> alleles in Mountain Pine Beetle (<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>)	Dr. Brent Murray
12:20	Lunch		
12:50	Katherine Benny	Once Upon a Moose: Conservation Messaging in Children's Picture Books	Dr. Zoe Meletis
1:10	Nick Dormaar	The Effects of Agitation, CO ₂ , and Time on Hardening Ash	Dr. Hugues Massicotte & Dr. Mike Rutherford
1:30	Emily Yurkowski	Taxonomic Classification of the Trichoptera of the Crooked River, British Columbia	Dr. Danie Erasmus & Dr. Dezene Huber
1:50	Eleanor Duifhuis	Effects of hatching asynchrony on reproductive performance of mountain bluebirds breeding in a disturbed landscape	Dr. Russ Dawson
2:10	Hannah Zimmerman	Cultural evolution in white-throated sparrow songs in western Canada	Dr. Ken Otter

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OTHER UNBC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Visualizing the industrial north: exploring new ways to engage and inform the public on the physical footprint and scale of very large resource extraction projects such as the Alberta tar sands open pit mines and associated pipelines

Dr. Petr Cizek - Candidate for a Faculty Position in ENPL

Friday, April 24, 2015

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Canfor Theatre, 6-213

Using the Alberta tar sands open pit mines and associated pipelines as a case study, the effectiveness of maps and landscape visualization displayed within virtual globes in informing public perception of large-scale landscape disturbance and associated impacts is evaluated. While controversy swirls around the tar sands, this proposed “gigaproject” has never been assessed, mapped, or visualized in its totality. Comprehensive mapping and landscape visualization of this “gigaproject” may be essential for the public and practitioners to understand, debate, and discuss the full scope and scale of this “gigaproject”. Focus groups with a total of 32 members of the general public were conducted in Vancouver and Edmonton. In a typical computer lab setting, participants viewed a Google Earth project showing the cumulative development of the scale and physical footprint of tar sands open pit mines on individual computers. Participants completed an initial and follow up questionnaire as well as engaged in discussion and presentations that were facilitated by the researcher. Based on the results of the focus group study, after viewing using interactive multi-scale media, participants experienced significant learning; perceived the geographic area of the projects as larger than before viewing; in some cases over-estimated the spatial extent and growth of the projects; became significantly more opposed to future projects but not to existing projects; and expressed emotional reactions due to disclosure of key aspects of the project enhanced by the benefits of the display medium. Significantly more participants found 2D maps to be more believable than 3D visualizations. Most participants found interacting with Google Earth virtual globes to be useful in displaying the tar sands project. Major implications of this study are that using virtual globes, such as Google Earth, that allow for seamless transition between multiple scales to visualize very large but poorly understood projects, can increase people's awareness of scale and other environmental implications and may affect peoples' perception and opinion of those projects negatively. The study suggests that visualization of large irregular disturbances may lead to some overestimation of actual spatial extent, but this does not appear to be related to the negativity of opinions.

TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Catherine Nolin travelled to the American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual conference in Chicago this week where she presented a paper, participated in a panel, and served as discussant for a special session:

Presentation: Nolin, C., F. Peccerelli, and E. Henderson (2015) Memory-truth-justice: The crisis of the living in the search for Guatemala's dead and disappeared. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Special Session: Central American Crises Revisited, Chicago, IL, 22 April.

Panel: Nolin, C. (2015) Grief, suffering, pain & trauma: Bearing witness to genocide's legacy and Guatemala's neoliberal present. Presented at the AAG, Special Panel: Grieving Witnesses, Chicago, IL, 23 April.

Discussant: Special Session: Histories in the Making of Place-in-the-Present II: Violent Legacies, 24 April

Ken Otter will be attending the Society of Canadian Ornithologists' meeting in July, to present research on sparrow migration and song evolution. As the current VP/President-Elect of the Society, Ken will also be attending council meetings and chairing the Society's Annual General Meeting.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The news in this section and next is from NRESi's social media connections to UNBC and others. See the original posts and hear the latest first by [following us!](#)

The Arctic Human Development Report was covered in the media, a report in which Gail Fondahl was one of the editors. See the article [here](#).

Greg Halseth was involved in a couple of media articles this week about small town growth and "amenity migrants". See articles in [The Province](#) and [The Times Columnist](#).

Brian Menounos was also interviewed this week, exploring climate change impacts on glaciers. Read the article [here](#).

*As an aside, this week NRESi reached 100 Twitter followers! Thanks for being part of the conversation. We love sharing our news with you!

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

Earth Day was on April 22nd and UNBC had some Green achievements to celebrate! For the fourth year in a row, UNBC has been listed as one of Canada's Green Employers. Read the [UNBC press release](#) and [Globe & Mail](#) article where UNBC is included with other recipients of the award. CKPG was also at the UNBC campus in PG on Earth Day, where the new solar panel project was discussed and other Green achievements. Check out the article and video [here](#).

GRAD STUDENT ONLINE WORKSHOP

Practical Tips on Growing your Network - Online Workshop

Start Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 End Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 **More details and registration** [here](#).

Note: Participants are required to complete their workshop within 2 weeks, and will have access to their account to review the content and exercises for one month following the end of the workshop.

Get the knowledge you need to build your network! Your Globalink Research Internship will be filled with opportunities to make connections in and outside of your field. This short online workshop will give you the information you'll need to make the most of each opportunity. Building a strong personal and professional network may be one of the single most important things you can do for your career. Learn how to plan, prepare, build and foster your network and watch opportunities unfold in front of you.

At the end of the session, you will:

- Have learned the importance of building a strong network
- Techniques on tapping into the existing network around you
- Have learned practical tips on identifying and planning networking opportunities
- Learn to strategically prepare for an upcoming event
- Have a better understanding of social networking tools available and tips on how and when to use them

Cost: This workshop, as with all Mitacs Step workshops, is free for both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. However, the preauthorization of a valid credit card is required as part of the registration process. A \$50 penalty will be applied to all late cancellations (cancellations that are not made 5 days or more before the workshop date), no shows, or incomplete attendance. These penalties are only charged after the completion of a workshop and no charges are ever made to students who participate in full. For answers to some frequently asked questions, please visit our help page: <http://step.mitacs.ca/faq>

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UPCOMING GRAD STUDENT EVENT

CTLT Instructional Skills Workshop for Graduate Students!!

The Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology invites all graduate students at UNBC to join us for a 3 day Instructional Skills Workshop on **May 19, 20, and 21st, 2015**. **Please note Registration Deadline is Monday, May 11th.** **To register please fill out the attached online form: <http://tinyurl.com/spring2015-GS-ISW>**

Join experienced ISW facilitators for an intense three day workshop designed to assist new and experienced educators be more effective teachers. Participants will discuss and practice a variety of teaching approaches in a supportive, peer-based atmosphere. This interactive workshop will cover the spectrum of instructional practices from lesson planning and delivery to gathering feedback.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Blanding at blanding@unbc.ca. Please note that the workshop can only allow 12 people, so early registration is highly suggested!

ISW Program Goals

* Widely recognized as a forum for peer-based instructional development, the ISW is designed to strengthen instructors' skills through intensive, yet practical exercises in learner-centered teaching.

Mixing small and large group interaction, the workshop will engage participants in:

- * generating effective feedback and discussion
- * planning and delivering "mini-lessons" (you will do 3 lessons)
- * developing participatory instructional techniques
- * listening actively
- * learning and teaching collaboratively

* Through the workshop, facilitators will provide constructive feedback, encouraging participants to experiment and attempt new methods not normally used in their discipline. A digital recording will be used to provide an individualized record of progress and participants will be actively engaged in the feedback process. A unique and rewarding experience, the ISW not only builds skills and confidence, but also enables participants to learn from and foster partnerships with colleagues from other disciplines.

* Participants successfully completing the entire 3-day program will receive a Certificate of Completion.

* ISW participants should note that in addition to the 3 days of "in-class" work, there is also some homework. In other words, participants are advised to reserve time outside of class time for this additional work and avoid scheduling other activities.

Participation: Your commitment to the workshop for the entire three days--attendance during the hours listed above is important for your success in the program. You will be working in small groups for most of the workshop. We have found that it is critical for the success of each small group's work together that participants do not have any other appointments during the workshop hours. Participants in previous workshops have also highlighted that it is important not to try to conduct regular university business during the 3-day program.

The ISW is dependent on group interaction and activity, requiring a certain number of participants per group. Last minute cancellations may cause the cancellation of the entire workshop. We require 5 days notice of cancellation if you change your mind and cannot participate. If you have to cancel before the workshop starts or if you are otherwise unable to complete the workshop once it has started, you will not receive a Certificate of Completion.

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SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems, collaborating with a diverse range of researchers, and gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her. The Institute invites you to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: www.unbc.ca/giving
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. ***Important*** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have a favourite photo, story or update from your research that you would like to share with your fellow members and the broader NRESi community in the newsletter? Send them to Leanne to include in an upcoming edition!

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! This can be found through the following link: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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