



NRESi Bi-WEEKLY NEWS

Mar 6 - Mar 17, 2017

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

NRESi NOTES

Hello everyone,

Happy St Patrick's Day. The 2017 winter semester is slowly winding down but there are still a number of upcoming NRESi events. Today, March 17, Andrew Adams, Hope Farm Organics, will be the NRESi Friday colloquium presenter and he will be talking about local adaptive organic agriculture.

Next week is a busy week with three NRESi events. On Wednesday, March 22nd, the third and final **Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (PFWCP)** sponsored presentation for 2016/17 is taking place in room 8-166 at UNBC. Dr. Steven Cooke, Carlton University, Ottawa, Ontario is the invited speaker. He will be talking about "Integrating Behaviour, Physiology, and More to Facilitate the Conservation of Freshwater Fish."

The **UNBC graduate student conference** is taking place on March 23 and 24, 2017. In conjunction with that is the Canadian Institute of Forestry's sponsored Master's night (Thursday, March 23rd) during which five NRES graduate students will make presentations on their research projects.

On Friday, March 24th, the UNBC student chapter of The Wildlife Society sponsored NRESi colloquium will be presenting Dr. Evelyn Merrill, University of Alberta who will be speaking on Chronic Wasting Disease.

On April 10th, NRES undergraduate students will have an opportunity to present their thesis results to students, faculty and guests. Students who present on that day will also be eligible to win the **Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena Memorial Undergraduate Thesis Prize**. Presentations will be judged by a panel of three NRES faculty members.

The **NRESi 2017 Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th from 11:30 am—1:30 pm in the Gathering Place. More details to follow soon.

Al Wiensczyk, RPF

Research Manager, NRESi

FROM THE RESEARCH MANAGER

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

Below is the tentative speaker line-up for the winter colloquium series. The lectures for the winter semester will be held 3:30—4:30 pm in the Canfor Theatre—Room **6-213**.

WINTER SEMESTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

Presentation Date	Tentative Presenter and/or Topic
Mar 17, 2017	Local adaptive organic agriculture; A means to self-preservation in a changing climate. Andrew Adams, Hope Farm Organics
Mar 24, 2017	Chronic wasting disease. Where is it leading us? Dr. Evelyn Merrill, U of Alberta
Mar 31, 2017	From coast to clouds: managing forest carbon in Papua New Guinea. Dr. Michele Venter, UNBC

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

Andrew Adams
Hope Farm Organics
Newlands Station, BC



Local adaptive organic agriculture; A means to self-preservation in a changing climate.

Organic production methods and plant breeding in the local region can mitigate the transportation umbilical cord of the north which is easily severed via extreme weather events. When the grocery stores contain less than three days of food, and one, if there is a panic, it is time to begin thinking about the fundamental needs and pillars of society, food and water being the utmost important. Local, organic, adaptive agriculture seeks to remove the inputs required to produce food locally and therefore making it more sustainable and less susceptible to blips in the supply chain.

Friday, Mar 17, 2017

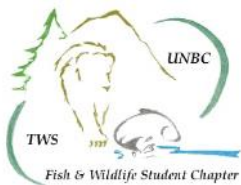
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Canfor Theatre Room: 6-213

To participate remotely: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-webcasts>

UPCOMING EVENTS

TWS/NRESi COLLOQUIUM



Dr. Evelyn Merrill
Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Alberta



Chronic Wasting Disease: Where is it leading us?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that is host specific to cervids, including deer, elk and moose, and is 100% fatal. Although CWD has been detected in 25 different states in the USA, Alberta is one of only two provinces in Canada where chronic wasting disease has been detected in the wild. CWD was first detected in free-ranging deer in Alberta in 2005 and to date over 340 cases have been reported in eastern Alberta. An early, aggressive program to contain the spread of CWD by reducing deer numbers in areas around infected individuals in 2006-2008. The program met with political resistance and the selective herd reduction was stopped despite initial evidence it was slowing the rate of increase in population prevalence. Nevertheless, Alberta has maintained one of the longest and most consistent hunter-based CWD surveillance programs in North America. In support of CWD management, our research has addressed 3 issues. First, we have developed a weighted surveillance approach to assess the adequacy of sampling to detect the disease. Second, using surveillance data collected in Alberta and Saskatchewan, we developed a risk assessment model to predict the probability of a hunter-harvested deer being CWD-positive based on deer species and sex, landscape characteristics of where it was killed, and a metric of connectivity to known sources of CWD based on deer movement. The model has been used to inform landowners and hunter of areas of high risk, where the disease is likely to spread, and guide where a change in voluntary to mandatory surveillance is warranted. Third, CWD can be transmitted animal-to-animal and through the environment, yet little is known about which is the major transmission pathway as the disease progresses. We derived a mechanistic epidemiological model to identify the transmission routes most likely to produce the observed male: female ratio of 3:1 prevalence in hunter-harvested deer. Although we found several mechanisms that may produce this result, segregation of the sexes was a key process across mechanisms. I will also describe evidence for how the age/sex structure of various harvest strategies may influence population-level CWD prevalence.

Fri, Mar 24, 2017

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Canfor Theatre Room: 6-213

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UPCOMING EVENTS

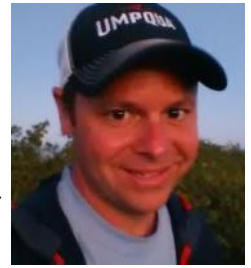
PFWCP/NRESi Presentation

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

7:30—9:00 pm

Room 8-166, UNBC

Working across boundaries - Integrating Behaviour, Physiology, and More to Facilitate the Conservation of Freshwater Fish—Dr. Steven Cooke, Canada Research Chair in Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario



Conservation problems are inherently complex with effective solutions dependent on the ability to integrate and apply diverse concepts, approaches, and tools. Here I describe how we have used behaviour, physiology, hydraulic engineering, and social science to inform our understanding of issues related to the conservation of freshwater fish. Case studies related to fisheries bycatch and fish-hydropower interactions are used to emphasize the benefits of integrating different perspectives to advance mission oriented research. I conclude with a broader discussion related to the benefits, risks, and challenges of working across and between traditional academic disciplines.

This project is funded by the **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program** on behalf of its program partners **BC Hydro**, the **Province of BC**, **First Nations** and the **public**, who work together to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Forestry Master's Night

Thursday, March 23, 2017

7:30 pm

Northern University Student Centre (NUSC), UNBC

Once again the CIF - Caribou section is hosting a Master's Night to highlight the research being undertaken by graduate students in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program at the University of Northern British Columbia.

Student Speakers/topics:

1. **Habitat and population ecology of Haida Gwaii marten**—David Breault—MSc Student.
2. **Fibre response to temperature and precipitation variation in natural and planted stands of pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) and spruce (*Picea glauca* x *Engelmannii*) in northern interior British Columbia**—Anastasia Ivanusic—MSc Student
3. **Susceptibility of nestling tree swallows to parasites**—Ilsa Griebel—MSc Student
4. **Comparing the functional characteristics of oxidative stress proteins between *Dendroctonus ponderosae* populations**—Luke Spooner—MSc Student
5. **Using LiDAR to meet landscape level biodiversity objectives – A preview**—Colin Chisholm—MSc student

UPCOMING EVENTS

THESIS DEFENCES

Ms. Laura Grant

Candidate for the degree: Masters of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Monday, April 10, 2017— 9:00 am

Conference Centre 6-306, UNBC

Laura will be defending her thesis entitled: "Spatial Factors Influencing Northern Mountain Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) Survival and Distribution in the Telkwa Range"

Mr. Eric Vogt

Candidate for the degree: Masters of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Monday, April 10, 2017—9:30 am

Conference Centre 6-307, UNBC

Eric will be defending his thesis entitled: "Seasonal Behaviours of Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii*) in the Kitimat River Watershed: Observations and Influences"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Forestry E-lectures

Date/Time	Title	Presenter(s)
Mar 22, 2017 10:30 am PST	Fire management in Parks Canada—Using fire as a tool to restore our forests	Jonathan Large and Derek Bedford —National Fire Management Officer, and Derek Bedford —Fire and Visitor Safety Coordinator, Parks Canada.

All electronic lectures are free. Your consideration of CIF/IFC membership would be appreciated. To become a CIF/IFC member: www.cif-ifc.org/membership-content/become-a-member/
www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/

For additional information or to register, contact the Ronnie Huang (CIF-IFC)

E-mail: electures@cif-ifc.org Tel: 705-744-1715 ext. 630

UPCOMING EVENTS

Association of Professional Biologists Conference

2017 Annual Professional Biology Conference and AGM

The Final Frontier: Bridging Social, Political and Scientific Worlds in Professional Biology.

April 20-21, 2017

Richmond, BC

As one of Canada's largest natural resource specialist events, the APB conference in Vancouver's lower mainland is an event not to be missed. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn from leaders in various applied biology fields, and build connections across industry, government, conservation organizations. In addition to our great speaker lineup, delegates will be able to take advantage of networking with various vendors at our tradeshow and distinguished banquet keynote.

This conference will focus on Industry Practices and Social License, Effective Collaboration with First Nations and Local Communities, Species and Ecosystems at Risk, and New and Traditional Sampling Technology and Protocols.

For more information and to register: <https://professionalbiology.com/professional-development-networking/annual-conference/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference

Minerals North: Crossing Paths

April 25-27, 2017

Prince George Civic Centre, Prince George, BC.

Minerals North 2017 will be hosted in Prince George April 25 - 27 in Prince George, BC. Sponsorship and Tradeshow information is now available, and program information will be updated soon.

For more information: <http://mineralsnorth.ca/conference/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learning Forum

Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum

May 17-19, 2017

Vancouver, BC.

Join us at Global Learning Forum 2017 to participate in a solutions-focused dialogue on the transition to 100% renewable energy in cities. 400+ leaders from local governments, the private sector, utilities, and the NGO and research communities will gather to engage and learn.

Free registration is available to **First Nations Community members** and **Northern local government staff** on a scholarship basis. For more details and to apply see this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_epMFdMjU_E_XQBA1jTPEmsynihfyVWk9huOwJpe-BLgyA/viewform

For more info on the forum go to: <http://www.renewablecities.ca/dialogues-projects/global-learning-forum-2017#1480950093346-17c9190b-c5b0>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Invasive Species Research Conference

Invasive Species Research Conference: Turning Science into Action

June 20-22, 2017

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops BC

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and the Invasive Species Council of BC are co-hosting this conference which will bring together scientific researchers and practitioners and features two renowned keynote speakers, Dr. Daniel Simberloff & Dr. Anthony Ricciardi. The conference agenda includes a series of oral and poster presentations, lightning talks, invasive species field trips and more - all in the beautiful, sunny location of Kamloops, BC. Invasive species researchers and practitioners from across the Pacific North-West are invited to attend and to submit scientific research abstracts for presentations at the Invasive Species Research Conference.

For more information go to the conference website. <http://events.bcinvasives.ca/about-invasivespeciesresearchconference/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference

Forest Genetics 2017: Forest Health and Productivity in Changing Environments

June 26-29, 2017

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

The hosting organizations for this conference are CFGA and WFGA, which represent academics, researchers, tree breeders, seed biologists, students and forestry practitioners involved in genetics and tree breeding in Canada and western North America. Their joint, biennial conference series provides a forum for sharing research results, technology transfer, and broadening the scope of their activities to cater for emerging economic and environmental challenges.

Visit the Conference website for more information and to register: <http://forestgenetics2017.ca/>

Aleza Lake Research Forest (ALRF) news

Aleza Lake Research Forest staff foresters, including **Mike Jull** and **Colin Chisholm**, and forest projects supervisor Sam Gonzalez, have been busy this winter on strategic planning for this 9,000-hectare UNBC research and teaching forest, including preparing both a new 10-year forest management plan, and undertaking a detailed timber supply review to ensure long-term sustainability. Significant elements of this planning have been the identification of a network of long-term (no harvest) reserves for old-growth forest and natural areas on > 30% of the ALRF area, and updated biodiversity and riparian-area planning. This planning has been greatly assisted by new high-resolution LiDAR imagery for the land-base, facilitated in collaboration with **Dr. Brian Menounos** and colleagues from the UNBC Geography Department. More information on this planning (and upcoming opportunities for review) is available from ALRF Manager Mike Jull (jullm@unbc.ca).

As the snow melts and the weather starts to warm, the Aleza Lake Research Forest (<http://alrf.unbc.ca/>) is now gearing up for the upcoming field season and your UNBC research projects and education events. We are hiring on four 2017 summer students, and will be welcoming as summer staff, UNBC undergraduate students John Mainville, Kailee MacKinnon, Alicja Muir and Keaton Freel, from the Forest Ecology and Management, and Biology Programs.

The ALRF is also currently building a new website for the new Aleza Field Education Centre. This website will be up and running by the end of April this year. This website will provide a "one-stop" site for information, scheduling, rental, and general enquiries for use of the Field Centre UNBC and other groups. Stay tuned !



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Northern Analytical Laboratory Service (NALS) Update

The **UNBC-NALS** is home to an extensive suite of analytical science instrumentation that enables a broad spectrum of biological, chemical and physical analyses. NALS has a mission to contribute to the development and application of sound, well-documented science-based knowledge to support faculty research and client based analytical services. NALS is committed to providing analytical services, the pursuit and advancement of scientific knowledge, and the training of students aimed at creating highly qualified professionals capable of contributing to industry in their future careers. One of our main mandates is to make the lab services more responsive to the needs of researchers and corporate clients throughout Northern BC. As a state-of-the-art education and research facility, NALS develops analytical methodologies at UNBC for both on campus and off-campus clients.

NALS analytical services are available to the private, public and non-profit sectors to help meet their research, development and quality assurance needs.

Need more information?

<http://www.unbc.ca/northern-analytical-lab-service>

To arrange a tour please contact Hossien Kazeman at hossein.kazemian@unbc.ca or Phone: 250-960-5168

Quesnel River Research Centre Update

The QRRC web pages have been overhauled, with the aim of providing a more succinct representation of activities and opportunities here in the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains. The Centre is keen to encourage faculty, post-grads and under-grads from across the NRES community and related programs to spend time here, and to use the centre as their base for exploring the fascinating watershed in which it's located. The hope is that the updated pages will provide a useful array of information to help develop these plans.

Visit the QRRC website at: <http://www.unbc.ca/qrrc>



IN THE NEWS

(Government press releases)

Kemess underground project granted environmental assessment approval

Mar 15, 2017. Environment Minister Mary Polak and Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett have issued an environmental assessment certificate to AuRico Metals Inc. for the Kemess Underground project, an underground copper-gold mine, which is located approximately 250 kilometres north of Smithers, and 430 kilometres northwest of Prince George in the Peace River Regional District. [For more details...](#)

FACTSHEET. Softwood lumber dispute

Mar 10, 2017. Why weren't you able to reach a new agreement with the U.S.? B.C. worked closely with the federal government which is responsible for representing Canadian interests in trade negotiations. While the federal government engaged extensively with their U.S. counterparts, there is not yet enough common ground to support an agreement. [For more details...](#)

FACTSHEET: Grants and Loans for B.C. students

Mar 9, 2017. British Columbia offers a mix of grants and loans to help ease the cost of post-secondary education and encourage students to further their studies regardless of their personal financial circumstances. [For more details...](#)

Special Envoy: Softwood trade update

Mar 8, 2017—Washington, DC. Special Envoy to the United States David Emerson has issued the following statement following productive meetings in Ottawa and Washington D.C. where he advanced British Columbia's interests in softwood lumber: [For more details...](#)

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PhD Opportunities

The School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph is looking to fill two graduate student positions studying soils in riparian buffer systems. The two Ph.D. student positions, starting Summer 2017, within a project entitled “*Riparian buffer plantings: An agroforestry land-use for multiple benefits including greenhouse gas mitigation in Canadian agricultural systems*”, being funded through the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. This multidisciplinary study involves researchers from the Universities of Guelph, Waterloo, Toronto and Sherbrooke, as well as extension specialists associated with partnering NGOs that have the capacity to execute technology transfer to the agricultural sector. It will engage world-renowned extension agencies including the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and the Biomass North Development Centre.

Position #1: *Characterizing the variability and dynamics of soil hydromorphism within riparian agroforestry systems ecosystems.* This research will involve the application of infield multi-temporal surveys using geophysical proximal sensors, as well as laboratory determination of soil magnetic susceptibility and the characterization of iron oxides.

Position #2: *Characterizing the variability and dynamics of topsoil structure within riparian agroforestry systems ecosystems.* This research will involve multi-temporal infield assessment of soil morphology, as well as the collection of intact cores for quantitative characterization of structure using high-resolution x-ray computed tomography.

For further information, interested individuals should contact:

Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag., Associate Professor (Soils and Landscape Processes),

Tel: 519-824-4120 x52450; Email: rheck@uoguelph.ca

www.uoguelph.ca/~rheck

Job Opportunity

Research Scientist: Terrestrial Systems Ecology

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Application deadline: Monday, April 24, 2017

Do you have a demonstrated advanced knowledge of terrestrial systems ecology? If so, consider this opportunity with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, where you will use your research and leadership skills to examine the multi-scale cumulative effects of land use policies and practices and help ensure the sustainability of Ontario's natural resources.

Go to the following website to apply and to find online job description: <https://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/Apply.aspx?Language=English&JobID=105352>

Course offering

Field Course in Human Ecology (HHSC760/NRES760). Spring semester (May-June).

This field school is an intensive, interdisciplinary course addressing themes including social-ecological systems, human-environment relationships and ecosystem approaches to health. The hybrid course will combine northern BC field experiences focused on integrative approaches to health, environment and community issues, with real-time connections with students and instructors from four universities (UNBC, Guelph, U of T. & INRS). Field activities and inter-institutional learning will focus on the course theme of: “The role of universities in their watersheds”.

The hybrid course is supported by the Consortium for the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health: www.copeh-canada.org.

For more information about the UNBC course, please contact: Margot Parkes margot.parkes@unbc.ca

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Scholarship Opportunities

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship for graduate students in soil and related sciences

Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation

The Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship provides financial support to a student entering the second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science (in the areas of agriculture, environment, geology, agro-ecology or other related disciplines) at a Canadian university. Candidates must hold Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Residence status in Canada and be enrolled in their graduate program for at least one semester beyond the application deadline.

This scholarship was created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a gift to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation and is administered by the Foundation. 2017 Application Guidelines and Application Form can be found at www.aicfoundation.ca/ivarson-soils/.

Deadline for Application – March 27, 2017

2017 Bullitt Environmental Fellowship

The Bullitt Foundation will start to accept applications for the [Bullitt Environmental Fellowship](#) beginning January 1st. Each year, one graduate student attending a university physically located in British Columbia, Washington State, or Oregon is selected for this prestigious award of \$100,000, distributed over two years.

Eligible candidates will have a strong academic record, a demonstrated capacity for leadership, the promise of emerging as an environmental leader, and be nominated by a university faculty member. Students of color, those who come from a disadvantaged background, or who have overcome significant hardship are highly encouraged to apply for this award.

Application deadline: **April 1, 2017.**

Visit the website for more information, FAQ's, and complete application instructions.

LITO AROCENA STUDENT AWARDS

In December 2015, dear colleague and founding UNBC faculty member, Dr. Lito Arocena passed away after a short battle with cancer. In honour of his memory, a UNBC memorial fund was established to support three student awards, which have recently been instituted:

Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena Memorial Scholarship (\$1000). Available to a full time undergraduate student who has completed 90 credit hours and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science honours or majors degree in one of the following: Biology, Environmental Science, Geography, or Natural Resources Management. Criteria: Academic excellence

Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena Memorial Undergraduate Thesis Prize (\$250). Awarded for the best thesis presented by undergraduate students completing an undergraduate major or honours degree in one of: Biology, Environmental Planning, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, Natural Resources Management, or Nature-based Tourism Management.

Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena Memorial Graduate Prize (\$250). The Prize will be awarded to the student nominated by the NRES Graduate Program for the UNBC Governor General's Gold Medal.

Thanks to contributions from donors and UNBC, the fund is currently large enough to endow the \$1000 scholarship in perpetuity. However additional contributions are needed to permanently endow the two prizes, and to increase the amounts awarded over time. If anyone would like to contribute to this fund, through payroll deductions or otherwise, please go to www.unbc.ca/giving or www.unbc.ca/giving/employee-giving for more information.

SUSAN STEVENSON MEMORIAL AWARD

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) has established the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund, 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 ...

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SUSAN STEVENSON MEMORIAL AWARD (con't)

Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her.

Efforts have succeeded in reaching the goal of \$15,000 that will be matched by UNBC to allow for an annual award. Additional contributions to the fund are welcomed. The inaugural award will be presented in the 2016-2017 academic year. NRESi would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship!

The following award criteria for the **Susan Stevenson Memorial Award** have been developed:

Value: \$1,000

Eligibility: Available to a full or part time female graduate student enrolled in either the Masters (NRES) or PhD (NRES) degree programs with a research emphasis in one or more of: wildlife ecology, plant biology, forest ecology, or innovative silvicultural systems and practices that emphasize wildlife management and biodiversity objectives.

Criteria: Satisfactory Academic Standing (3.0 GPA)

Conditions: Student is unable to receive this award more than once.

Recipient Selection: Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries on recommendation of the NRESi Steering Committee. Applicants will provide a statement, not exceeding 500 words in length, explaining how their intended research fits within the areas specified for his award.

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture this semester? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! They can be found on the [NRESi Youtube channel](#). We are in the process of migrating the recorded talks to the UNBC video archive. The most recent colloquium and special presentation talks (2016/17) can be found at <https://video.unbc.ca/channel/NRESI/>



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