



# NRESi Bi-WEEKLY NEWS

## January 4 - January 15, 2016

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

### NRESi NOTES

### FROM THE DIRECTOR AND RESEARCH MANAGER

I would like to extend to you my best wishes for 2016, I trust that you had a good holiday break. I sense renewed energy in the hallways this week as we make plans for our teaching and research during the winter term. We have a strong lineup of colloquium speakers this term, but please let us know if you have visiting scientists in your lab, we are always pleased to schedule special topic presentations.

On a more sombre note, we were shocked by the death of our colleague Lito Arocena just before Christmas. I still cannot believe that I will not see Lito chatting with students in his office down the hall from my office; he was always a bright note in my day. A reminder for us all to value what is important in our day to day life. Further details on his memorial service can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

I would like to thank NRESi members and supporters for their support of the institute in 2015. I am always humbled by the talent and enthusiasm our members and students have for making our world a better place to live in.

Darwyn Coxson,  
Director, NRESi

Hello folks

Happy New Year. I hope that everyone had a happy holiday season, with new opportunities and successes ahead in 2016!

Our winter colloquium series kicks off on Wednesday, January 13th with a special presentation by the new Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), followed on Friday, January 16th with our regularly scheduled presentation by Dr. Steffi LaZerte (UNBC Post-doc). Dr. LaZerte will be discussing the experimental work she did from her PhD on how the behavioural differences between two species of chickadees reflect the relative abilities of them to adjust their vocalizations in noise. The following week, Dr. David Connell will be sharing his thoughts on the protection of farmland in Northern BC through land-use planning. The full colloquium schedule can be found on page 3.

Al Wiensczyk, RPF  
Research Manager, NRESi

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**We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter](http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter)**

## IN MEMORIAM —Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena

The University community is deeply saddened by the news of the passing of one of our founding faculty members, **Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena**.



Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena was one of the original members of the former Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES) at UNBC, and was a driving force behind the establishment and success of a research institute that carries the same name. He was exceptionally passionate about fostering an environment that supported interdisciplinary research based on a strong disciplinary foundation and an ethos of inclusiveness. Lito held the first Canada Research Chair appointment at UNBC, a title that he used not to further his own impressive research record, but rather to establish research foundations and supports that benefitted many other researchers from undergraduate students to established faculty researchers. Lito published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, but what he was most proud of, was the fact that many of these resulted from collaborations with other members of the NRES Institute.

Lito's collaborations extended beyond UNBC, with individual and institutional linkages with universities in Spain, France and China. He was invited to give many talks at various universities in China, and was appointed an Adjunct Professor, with "high-end expert status" at Wenzhou University in recognition of his substantial research collaborations. His enthusiasm for research and his completely unselfish approach to supporting and inspiring young researchers crossed many boundaries – both disciplinary and geographical.

Lito's passion for interdisciplinary approaches to research problems lives on today, not only in the NRES Institute, but also in the structure of the NRES graduate programs. He led the development of a very successful model for delivery of NRES PhD courses, that ensured students understood the broader context and implications of their often highly disciplinary research project.

Lito was always upbeat, enthusiastic, fun to be around – whether it was in the lab, dancing at "sock hops", or Karaoke nights. In so many ways, Lito has left us with a long lasting and positive foundation upon which UNBC can continue to build as a research-intensive university, and a place of caring.

To celebrate his life, a **Memorial Service** will be held at **1:00 pm on Saturday, January 9th, 2016 at UNBC** in room **6-205/211**.

After a short memorial by Father Rector Tolentino Jr., there will be an open microphone for Lito's friends to share their feelings and thoughts.

The family request no flowers or gifts. Those who wish to do so, please consider donating to a charity in Lito's name or consider donating to a UNBC scholarship which will be established in Lito's memory.

Anyone wishing to provide photos of Lito for the memorial service, please send them digitally to Peter Jackson ([peterj@unbc.ca](mailto:peterj@unbc.ca) or [peter.jackson@unbc.ca](mailto:peter.jackson@unbc.ca)).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## NRESi COLLOQUIUM

The winter colloquium session will kick off on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 with a special presentation by the new Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), followed on Friday of the same week with our regularly scheduled presentation. Watch for announcements closer to the lectures confirming the presenter and topic. Lectures for the winter semester will be held in room 7-212.

## TENTATIVE WINTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

Presentation Date	Tentative Presenter and/or Topic
Jan 13, 2016	<b>Dr. Sybil Seitzinger—Executive Director—Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.</b> Paris: Next steps after COP21.
Jan 15, 2016	<b>Dr. Stefanie LaZerte, Post-doctoral researcher - UNBC.</b> Singing through the noise: How chickadees compensate for effects of noise on communication.
Jan 22, 2016	<b>Dr. David Connell, Associate Professor - Ecosystems Science and Management - UNBC.</b> Protecting Farmland in Northern BC through Land Use Planning: A Critical Assessment.
Jan 29, 2016	<b>Chief Roland Willson, West Moberly First Nations.</b>
Feb 5, 2016	<b>Christin Wiedemann, Director, Communications—Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology.</b>
Feb 19, 2016	<b>Dr. Nancy Turner, Distinguished Professor and Hakai professor in Ethnoecology, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria.</b>
Feb 26, 2016	<b>Dr. James Watson, President, Society for Conservation Biology, Climate Adaptation Lead, Wildlife Conservation Society</b>
Mar 4, 2016	<b>Craig DeLong, Senior Ecologist, Ecora Resource Group Ltd.</b>
Mar 11, 2016	<b>Dr. Graham Fairhurst, Post-doctoral fellow, Environment Canada/University of Saskatchewan.</b>
Mar 18, 2016	<b>Dr. Anne Salomon, Associate Professor and Hakai Professor, School of Resource and Environment Management, Simon Fraser University</b>
Mar 22, 2016	<b>Dr. Andrew Watson, Post-doctoral fellow, Department of History, University of Saskatchewan</b>
Apr 1, 2016	<b>Dr. Francesco Berna, Geoarchaeologist, Simon Fraser University.</b> Archaeological research at Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## PICS and NRESi JOINT COLLOQUIUM

### Dr. Sybil Seitzinger

Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

Paris: Next steps after COP21



Dr. Seitzinger recently joined the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) from her position as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program based in Stockholm, Sweden. Sybil attended the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) 21 meetings in Paris last month and brings her knowledge to Prince George and UNBC.

Dr. Seitzinger was the Director of the Rutgers/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program, a visiting professor at Rutgers University in the U.S., and served as President of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography from 2006-2010.

**Wednesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>,  
2016**

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Room: 7-212**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## NRESi COLLOQUIUM

**Dr. Stefanie LaZerte**

Post doctoral researcher—UNBC



[Singing through the noise: How chickadees compensate for effects of noise on communication.](#)

Vocalizations are important forms of communication used by many bird species for territory defense and mate attraction. However, urbanization and the accompanying urban noise can interfere with this communication. Birds can compensate for these changes by changing how or when they sing, but not all species react to the same degree. Predicting which species are capable adjusting their vocalizations in noisy conditions and how they do so, will help identify which species may suffer communication challenges from the increasing world-wide urbanization. Two species of chickadee (mountain and black-capped) are closely related and have similar vocalizations, but differ in their vocalizing behaviour. In this talk I will discuss experimental work from my PhD on how these behavioural differences reflect the relative abilities of these two species to adjust their vocalizations in noise.

**Friday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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

**Room: 7-212**

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## NRESi COLLOQUIUM

**Dr. David Connell**

Associate Professor - Ecosystems Science and Management - UNBC



[Protecting farmland in Northern BC through Land Use Planning: A Critical Assessment.](#)

British Columbia has a progressive legislative framework that protects farmland and governs the Agricultural Land Reserve. On this basis, one might assume that farmland in BC would be protected strongly and equally among all local jurisdictions. This is not the case. The state of agricultural land use planning to protect farmland in northern BC is of moderate strength overall, with significant differences among and within the Regional Districts. The diversity of approaches makes for an interesting mix of policies that deal with the typical pressures of urban development and non-farm uses, as well as the pressures of natural resource developments, such as forestry and oil and gas. In this presentation I will discuss the state of farmland protection in northern BC by drawing upon four principles of land use planning: maximise stability, integrate public priorities across jurisdictions, minimise uncertainty, and accommodate flexibility. Project website: <http://blogs.unbc.ca/agplanning/>

**Friday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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

**Room: 7-212**

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

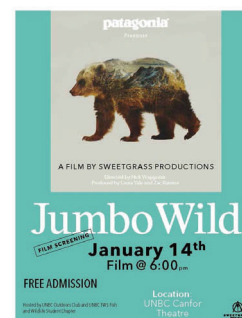
## UPCOMING EVENTS

## FILM SCREENING

**Jumbo Wild**

By Sweetgrass Productions

The UNBC Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the UNBC Outdoors Club are hosting a free showing of the recent documentary "Jumbo Wild"... "a gripping, hour-long documentary film by Sweetgrass Productions that tells the true story of the decades-long battle over the future of British Columbia's iconic Jumbo Valley and highlights the tension between the protection of wilderness and the backcountry experience and ever-increasing development interests in wild places. Set against a backdrop of incredible backcountry ski and snowboard footage, Jumbo Wild documents all sides of a divisive issue bringing the passionate local fight to protect the Jumbo Valley to life for the first time.". The film showing is open to anyone and everyone and will be taking place at the UNBC Canfor Theatre on **January 14th at 6pm**. More information on the film can be found at: <http://www.keepitwild.ca/>



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Canadian Institute of Forestry: Electronic Lecture Series:

#### *Forest Change: Canadian Forest Service Science and Data in Support of Adaptation to Climate Change*

Date/Time	Title	Presenter(s)
January 13, 2016 10:30 am PST	<b>Climate Change Adaptation Tools &amp; Resources</b>	Catherine Lafleur—Science Analyst, CFS, NRCan John Pedlar—Forest Biologist, CFS, NRCan
January 20, 2016 10:30 am PST	<b>A National View of the Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Canada's Forests &amp; Forest Sector</b>	Dr. Brian Eddy— Research Scientist, CFS, NRCan
January 27, 2016 10:30 am PST	<b>Applying Forest Change Tools &amp; Data Within the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) Sustainable Forest Management Adaptation Guidebook</b>	Jason Edwards— Forest Officer, CFS, NRCan

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/](http://www.cif-ifc.org/membership-content/become-a-member/)  
[www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/](http://www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/)

For additional information or to register, contact:

Svetlana Zeran (CIF/IFC) **E-mail:** [electures@cif-ifc.org](mailto:electures@cif-ifc.org) Tel: 705-744-1715 ext. 530

### **Premier's BC Natural Resources Forum—Jan 19-21, 2016. Prince George Civic Centre**

Hon. Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is pleased to present the 13th Annual BC Natural Resources Forum. This event brings together people from numerous industries, communities, and various levels of government to collaborate and explore ways to develop our resource sectors, grow our economy, and provide benefits to communities.

Visit [www.bcnaturalresourcesforum.com](http://www.bcnaturalresourcesforum.com) for more information and to register.

### **Northern Silviculture Committee (NSC) Winter Workshop—February 16-17, 2016—Prince George Civic Centre.**

Join us for the Northern Silviculture Committee's annual winter workshop to be held in Prince George this February. This year, the NSC has gathered a group of experts to tackle a critical theme: **"Improving Silviculture Planning and Practice from our Current Stands to our Future Forests."** Speakers from industry, government and academia will address four key subthemes:

- 1) Landscape-level reforestation and evolving stocking standards.
- 2) Opportunities and challenges for meeting future timber supply and wildlife habitat.
- 3) Considering cumulative impacts in professional site planning and silviculture prescriptions.
- 4) Are current forest-level plans and planning mechanisms—Adequate? If not, how can we fix them?

Register online at <http://www.booking.ca/bkunbccontinuingstudiespub/courses/index.asp?c=1&sc=8&crs=950>

### **Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) Master's Night—February 18th, 2016. UNBC Prince George.**

The CIF is hosting their annual Master's Night at UNBC in conjunction with the 11th Annual UNBC Graduate Conference. This event provides the opportunity for graduate students in the Natural Resource Management and affiliated programs to give a short presentation to CIF members, invited guests, and the general public on their planned, in-progress, or completed research projects.

Those graduate students interested in presenting on their project should contact [alan@tccsolutions.ca](mailto:alan@tccsolutions.ca) for more information on the selection process. A small stipend is provided for those who are selected to present.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Peace-Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Colloquium Series

Below is the tentative schedule for the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program-sponsored Colloquium series. More details to follow in the new year.

Presentation Date	Location	Tentative Speaker/Topic
Thursday, Feb 25, 2016	Mackenzie, BC	<b>Dexter Hodder and Shannon Crowley</b> , John Prince Research Forest
Friday, Mar 4, 2016	Fort St John, BC	<b>Dr. Mark Shrimpton</b> , University of Northern British Columbia
Monday, Mar 21, 2016	Prince George, BC	<b>Dr. Karen Kidd</b> , University of New Brunswick

### Western Division of Canadian Association of Geographers Conference—March 11-12, 2016—UNBC Prince George

The Geography Program at UNBC is pleased to announce that the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WD-CAG) will be held **March 11-12, 2016** at UNBC's Prince George Campus.

In the coming weeks, organizers will send out a call for abstracts, and provide information on conference registration, accommodations, field trips and the banquet. This is a warm, welcoming and affordable conference for NRES graduate students! <http://www.unbc.ca/geography/unbcgeography-hosting-wdcag-2016>

## TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

**Dr. Keith Egger** spent time in England in December while on sabbatical visiting and collaborating with Dr. Brian Pickles, a former post-doctoral fellow at UNBC, and now lecturer in Ecology and the University of Reading.

## PUBLICATIONS

Albers, S. J., **Déry, S. J.** and **Petticrew, E. L.**, 2015: Flooding in the Nechako River Basin of Canada: A random forest modeling approach to flood analysis in a highly regulated reservoir system, *Canadian Water Resources Journal*, 41, doi: 10.1080/07011784.2015.1109480

## IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Phil Burton** has accepted the volunteer position of Co-Editor for the Canadian Journal of Forest Research (CJFR). Along with Co-Editor Tim Fahey (Cornell University), he will be overseeing the assignment of manuscripts to an editorial board of 47 Associate Editors who invite anonymous reviewers and serve as subject matter specialists. One of the foremost forest science journals in the world, CJFR receives an average of 500 manuscript submissions every year, of which it publishes an average of 180 papers."

Stay up-to-date with the latest NRESi and member news by following us on Twitter: [@UNBC\\_NRESi](https://twitter.com/UNBC_NRESi)

## Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) news

January 13, 4:00 pm in 7-212—Public lecture by **Dr. Sybil Seitzinger**, Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) on the *COP 21 United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris and PICS*.

January 20, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Winter Garden—PICS open house: Learn about climate issues with **Ananya Bhattacharya** and discuss climate solution myths with **Michelle Connolly**.

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## Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) news

"The Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) would like to welcome Nadia Nowak and Rebecca Delorey to the CIRC team. Ms. Nowak will be assisting with a scoping review of the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development. Ms. Delorey will be helping to develop a bibliography of practice-based projects focused on identifying and addressing the cumulative impacts of resource development across northern BC, and will also assist CIRC with event planning and workshop delivery over the course of the spring semester.

CIRC is also eager to support student applications for the UNBC Undergraduate Research Experience Award. This award of **\$1500** is available for 'full time' undergraduate students (minimum 9 credit hours during the semester) with no previous research experience outside of course work, and with a track record of academic excellence. There is also the possibility that the project could support undergraduate thesis work. The award requires 100-110 hours of work for a single semester (~8-10 hours per week).

Potential student projects to support CIRC\* include:

"Lessons learned from BC's past to inform its future: A comparative case study of Northeast Coal development and Socio-economic effects management plans for LNG" **OR**,

"Taking action on cumulative impacts of resource development: Comparing the northeast coal policy and planning process to the new provincial cumulative impacts policy framework".

\*NB. CIRC is open to supporting original projects proposed by students, so long as they are related to CIRC's research mandate. See [www.unbc.ca/cumulative-impacts](http://www.unbc.ca/cumulative-impacts) for information on CIRC.

Application Deadline: **January 18, 2016** (but please contact CIRC a few days prior to the application deadline)

Please contact [chris.buse@unbc.ca](mailto:chris.buse@unbc.ca) if you are interested in this undergrad student funding and research opportunity.

## IN THE NEWS

## (Government press releases)

### Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad's statement on the Lheidli T'enneh treaty vote

**Jan 5, 2016—Victoria.** Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad has issued the following statement in support of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation's renewed interest in the B.C. treaty process: [For more details...](#)

### First Nations: clean energy leaders

**Dec 28, 2015— Victoria.** To support greater First Nations participation in the clean energy sector, applications are now being accepted until the end of January for the next round of funding from the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF). [For more details...](#)

### FACTSHEET: First Nations, Metis, Aboriginal History in BC

**Dec 22, 2015.** To increase knowledge, understanding and cultural competency on issues impacting Aboriginal children and youth in B.C., the Ministry of Children and Family Development has produced eight information sheets summarizing research, past practices and historical issues impacting Aboriginal people and communities today. [For more details...](#)

## COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture this semester? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! They can be found [here](#).

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## COURSE OFFERING

**PhD summer course:** Climate Change Adaptation and Transformations towards Sustainability.

**When:** August 1-5, 2016

**Where:** University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.

This PhD course explores the relationship between adaptation and transformation, two concepts that are key to understanding societal responses to climate change. The objective of the course is to engage students with the latest theories, frameworks, approaches and methods for addressing two critical questions in solutions-oriented global change research: What does it mean to successfully adapt to climate change? How can deliberate transformations to sustainability be carried out rapidly, yet in ways that ethical and equitable?

**Organizers:** Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies at the University of Oslo, in collaboration with the Future Earth Norway Secretariat.

**Lecturer:** Professor Karen O'Brien, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Norway

Rolling admission, applications are now being accepted

**Course Credits:** 10 pts (ECTS)

Max. 25 participants

[Read more about the course and apply here.](#)

If you have any questions please get in touch with Linda Sygna at the Future Earth Norway Secretariat:

[linda.sygna@sosgeo.uio.no](mailto:linda.sygna@sosgeo.uio.no)

## SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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 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. Award criteria are currently being developed. The inaugural award is hoped to be presented in the 2016-2017 academic year. NRESi would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship! More information will follow in the coming months, as well as award criteria for students interested in applying.

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