



NRESi Bi-WEEKLY NEWS

December 14 - December 25, 2015

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 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.

I was particularly impressed by our colloquium speakers this past year, the description of early career progress by Dr. Torres at the Inspiring Women Among Us Event, and then the amazing discussion on endangered marine mammals she presented, was typical of the great research we have heard about this past year.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our NRESi award recipient Dr. Lito Arocena and his family, we hope for a speedy recovery.

Best wishes this holiday season.

Darwyn Coxson,
Director, NRESi



Hello folks

Well the first semester has flown by and the holiday season is upon us. As the last newsletter of 2015, I would like to take a moment to wish you all the best for a wondrous, joyous, and safe holiday season, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2016. See you all in the New Year.

Al Wiensczyk, RPF
Research Manager, NRESi



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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: al.wiensczyk@unbc.ca

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

THANK YOU!

Dear members of the NRESi community, Annie Booth and I would like to offer our sincere thanks for your support of, and your enthusiastic participation in the first annual Inspiring Women Among Us (IWAU) series of events (Nov. 13-25' 2015). Our events attracted over 800 individual attendances, and both dedicated NRESi IWAU talks (Torres, & Earley) were well attended and generated positive feedback. Thanks also to those who bought T-shirts and/or donated to the new Inspiring Women Among Us bursary. Please send us suggestions for 2016; we will begin organizing it in the spring/summer. We hope that NRESi will renew its dedicated colloquium contributions, and consider broadening its participation—involvement from our greater PG community is also welcome!

Cheers, Zoë Meletis (Geography, & NRESi)

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 (to be confirmed in January).

TENTATIVE WINTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

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

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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UPCOMING EVENTS

Premier's BC Natural Resources Forum—Jan19-21,2016. 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 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 for more information on the selection process. A small stipend is provided for those who are selected to present.

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	Dexter Hodder and Shannon Crowley , John Prince Research Forest
Friday, Mar 4, 2016	Fort St John, BC	Dr. Mark Shrimpton , University of Northern British Columbia
Monday, Mar 21, 2016	Prince George, BC	Dr. Karen Kidd , 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 58th 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>

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TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Dr. Catherine Nolin attended the CAUT Forum for Senior Grievance Officers in Ottawa, ON, on December 11-12.

Dr. Nikolaus Gantner (Adjunct Professor, Environmental Sciences Program) attended the 11th ArcticNet ASM in Vancouver (Dec 7-12) and presented the 3rd annual APECS Canada-ArcticNet Student Associations Mentor Award. This award recognizes and honors the efforts of mentors within the polar science community of Canada. Nikolaus Gantner served as the Chair of the APECS Canada-ASA Mentor Awards committee for the past three years and will now remain involved as ex-officio Chair. Find out who won the award here: <http://www.apecs.is/get-involved/national-committees/apecs-canada/apecs-canada-asa-mentor-award/1303-mentor-award-2015.html>



Rudy Riedlsperger (ArcticNet Student Association) and Dr. Nikolaus Gantner (APECS Canada) introduce the Mentor Award at the ArcticNet ASM 2015 in Vancouver, BC. Photo Credit: Maéva Gauthier/ArcticNet.

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Gail Fondahl returns from a year long sabbatical in January 2016.

Dr. Greg Halseth begins a 6-month sabbatical in January 2016.

Climate March PG in the Media:

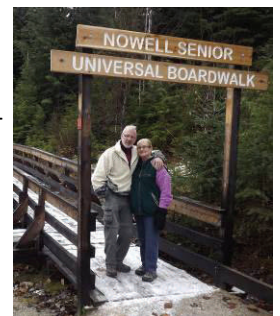
Jessy Rajan, Dr. Kyrke Gaudreau and **Dr. Nikolaus Gantner** co-organized a Climate March on November 29th 2015 to raise awareness about Climate Change and the COP21 meeting in Paris. Similar marches were held in more than 150 cities around the globe. Approximately 80 participants marched in Prince George, from the Wood Innovation and Design Centre through downtown Prince George. Local media were at hand and reported on the event (see below), while pictures from participants can be found on social media using #ClimateMarchPG.”

CKPG News: <http://www.ckpg.com/2015/11/29/prince-george-residents-rally-for-action-on-climate-change/>

The PG Citizen: <http://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/local-news/prince-george-joins-global-climate-march-1.2121823>

250News: <http://www.250news.com/2015/11/29/dozens-participate-in-climate-walk/>

At the Fall annual general meeting of the Caledonia Ramblers on Nov. 20, **Nowell Senior** was honored for his vision and commitment in overseeing the construction of the Universal Boardwalk at the Ancient Forest Trail. In a brief ceremony the official renaming of the Universal Boardwalk was announced, to the **Nowell Senior Universal Boardwalk**. Minister Shirley Bond and other invited guests spoke about Nowell's contributions and the tremendous support provided by the Caledonia Ramblers and volunteers from the community in past years for the construction of the Universal Boardwalk.



Nowell Senior and his wife Rita standing under the new sign at the Ancient Forest Trail.

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

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Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) news

The Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) is seeking talented students to support its administrative and logistical activities over the winter semester. Key tasks include community engagement/event planning, surveying/documenting related initiatives around the province. It is expected that the position will entail approximately 10 hours per week over the winter semester at a compensation rate of \$15-20/hour. No past research experience is required. For more information contact chris.buse@unbc.ca by December 31, 2015.

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*, more details to come.

IN THE NEWS

(Government press releases)

World's cleanest LNG legislations comes into force

Dec 18, 2015—Victoria. B.C.'s new Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (GGIRCA) comes into force on Jan. 1, 2016, ensuring LNG facilities in B.C. will have an emissions cap making them the cleanest in the world.

[For more details...](#)

B.C. recognized as a climate action leader at COP 21

Dec 17, 2015—Victoria. British Columbia remains a global climate leader as demonstrated at the historic COP 21 Paris climate change conference.

[For more details...](#)

Amendments made to Integrate Pest Management Regulation

December 15, 2015—Victoria. After significant stakeholder and public consultation, a Ministerial Order has been signed amending the integrated pest management regulation (IPMR).

[For more details...](#)

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

Dec 14, 2015—Victoria. The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George. The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

[For more details...](#)

New LNG agreement with Lheidli T'enneh

Dec 10, 2015—Victoria. First Nations involvement with B.C.'s developing LNG industry received another boost with a new Pipeline Benefits Agreement (PBA) with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. TransCanada's Coastal GasLink (CGL) Pipeline would provide the First Nation with direct benefits to its community, support economic development and access to employment opportunities. The proposed pipeline would run from Dawson Creek to Kitimat.

[For more details...](#)

Improving BC's wildlife habitat management

Dec 9, 2015—Victoria. Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations Minister Steve Thomson has committed to reviewing and acting on the advice and majority of recommendations contained in the report, Getting the Balance Right: Improving Wildlife Habitat Management in British Columbia.

[For more details...](#)

Two more co-operation agreements signed in China

Dec 5, 2015—Beijing, China. The B.C. government's ongoing efforts to develop international markets for the province's forest product industry took another step forward today, as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson welcomed two more development agreements with two departments of the Shanghai Municipal Housing and Urban-Rural Development Administration Commission.

[For more details...](#)

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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.



Happy Holidays

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