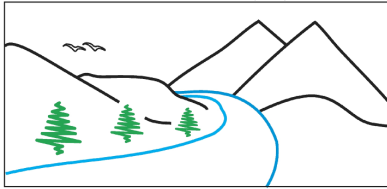


NRESi



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Peter Ward

**Paleontologist
Professor of Biology
and of Earth and Space Sciences
University of Washington**



**Friday,
April 8, 2011**

3:30-4:30 pm

**Lecture
Theatre
7-150**

A new view of mass extinctions

Mass extinctions were planetary catastrophes that caused massive species die offs in (geologically) short periods of time. Since the paradigm changing discovery by the Alvarez group in Berkeley in 1980, that one of the biggest of the mass extinctions, the dinosaur killer of 65 million years ago was caused by an impact of a large asteroid with the Earth, it has been believed that most or all of the "Big Five" mass extinctions over the last 500 million years was the result of impact. In this talk I will use results from Canada to show why it was short term global warming that caused at least three of the so called Big Five.