

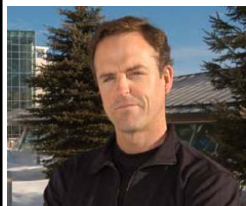
NRES WEEKLY NEWS

December 3 - 7, 2007

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES



Dr. Michael Murphy

Associate Professor, Political Science

Canada Research Chair, Comparative Indigenous State Relations

Tomorrow

Prisons of Culture: Indigenous Rights to Land and Natural Resources in Australia, Canada and New Zealand

Courts in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand frequently define indigenous rights in relation to the traditional laws, customs, and practices of pre-contact indigenous societies. Many elements of this framework of recognition have significant appeal to those seeking a more generous and robust judicial recognition of indigenous rights. The emphasis on traditional laws, customs or cultural practices locates the source of indigenous rights, not in the common law, but in the pre-existence of ancient and enduring indigenous societies at the time of colonization. The appeal to indigenous traditions indicates a judicial sensitivity to indigenous perspectives regarding the scope and content of indigenous rights, and flags the importance attached by indigenous peoples to the survival and flourishing of their distinctive cultures. Yet the fatal flaw of this judicial focus on tradition is its simultaneous deployment as a means of limiting or denying indigenous rights claims. Specifically, where traditional laws, customs or practices have been substantially altered or disrupted, the capacity of indigenous peoples to prove their rights to land and natural resources is compromised or possibly even eliminated. This cultural framework of recognition is discriminatory, practically unnecessary, and out of line with the right to development in international law.

Friday, November 30, 2007

3:30—4:30pm

Lecture Theatre, 7-150

light refreshments will be served

THE COLLOQUIUM SERIES WILL CONTINUE IN JANUARY 2008

Check the website in early January for the updated schedule

<http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/index.html>

Global Friday

Gail Fondahl & Rick Krehbiel: "Teaching Indigenous Rights in the Russian Federation"

Date: November 30, 2007

Room: 6-306

Time: 12:00—1:30 pm

Everyone Welcome!

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL to Elissa Zemlak: zemlak@unbc.ca

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

Math Colloquium

Date: December 3, 2007 (Monday)
Time: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Place: 7-152 (small lecture theatre) UNBC
Speaker: Dr. Patrick Montgomery

A Tale of Two Boundaries: Ice Skating and Mountain Pine Beetle Dispersion

Two seemingly unconnected physical problems are considered and crafted as initial value problems for systems of differential equations. The first problem is an application of fluid dynamics to modeling ice friction for a speed skater, and the second is the spread of mountain pine beetle through a spatially dependent forest. Both problems have a common difficulty in that finding the physical boundary of the problem is actually an important part of the problem itself! Some recent results are presented along with an overview of the modeling processes used and assumptions made to pose the various systems of coupled partial and ordinary differential equations.

Light refreshments will be served

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PUBLICATIONS

Dery, S. J., and R.D. Brown. 2007. Recent Northern Hemisphere snow cover extent trends and implications for the snow-albedo feedback, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 34, L22708, doi: 10.1029/2007GL031474.

TRAVEL

Kathy Lewis is travelling to Ottawa to deliver an invited presentation to the Forest Pest Management Forum, sponsored by Natural Resources Canada. The title of the presentation is “Wood decay and degradation in standing lodgepole pine killed by mountain pine beetle”, and co-authors are **Doug Thompson** and **Ian Hartley**.