



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 18 - 22, 2008

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. Tobias Bolch
Geography Program
UNBC

Tomorrow

GLACIER CHANGE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF ASIA

Glaciers are key indicators to assess climate change in remote mountain areas where climatic stations are rare or non-existent. Glaciers are also an important source of fresh water. Since the end of the Little Ice Age, and especially since the end of the last century, there has been a nearly global glacier recession. However, this does not imply a synchronous behaviour of all glaciers.

There are local differences and even advancing glaciers. Multi-temporal satellite imageries are ideal to study glacier changes in detail and the best way to investigate glaciers in remote mountainous areas.

Following an overview of the climatic conditions and the glacier changes in the whole Asian mountain ranges, the talk focuses on two specific areas: the Northern Tien Shan, influenced mainly by westerly cyclones and situated at the north-east edge of the Asian mountains, and the monsoon influenced Khumbu Himal at Mt. Everest, situated on the southern edge.

The talk presents not only details on the glacier changes and climatic variables but also the usage of different space imagery such as the early Corona spy images, Ikonos, Landsat TM, and Terra ASTER data. Besides the visual interpretation, these data can be utilized to automate glacier mapping, to generate multi-temporal digital elevation models, and to calculate the glacier velocity.

At the end of the talk glacier changes in the Asian mountains are compared with the situation in the European Alps and the results from the recently completed Western Canadian Glacier Inventory.

Friday, February 15, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

Light Refreshments will be Served

PLEASE NOTE:
DUE TO READING BREAK
THE NEXT COLLOQUIUM IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 29

COMING EVENTS

3rd Annual NRESI Poster Presentation and Lecture

Thursday, February 28, 2007

Poster Presentation

5:30 PM

Atrium Administration Building

featuring research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members. This year there will be prizes for the best posters, so please sign up with Elissa or Brenda if you will be presenting a poster.

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PUBLIC LECTURE

7:00 pm

Canfor Theatre 6-213

Dr. David Hik

Professor, University of Alberta

Executive Director, Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat

“International Polar Year and the future of Arctic research in Canada”

The Arctic regions, including northern Canada, are facing unprecedented social, political, economic, environmental, and cultural changes. Scientific and government reports and committees have routinely recognized and commented on these challenges and the need for cooperative and collaborative interdisciplinary solutions based on sound knowledge. The International Polar Year (IPY) of 2007-2008 is a grand effort focusing the attention of the world on the state of the polar regions, the impacts of rapid climate change, and the connections between the poles and the rest of the planet. Over 50,000 participants from 63 nations are collaborating in some 200 interdisciplinary research programs, and in this sense, IPY has already succeeded. IPY has fostered international cooperation at a higher level and across a much wider range of polar science than at any previous time. Now, many efforts are underway to harness the momentum and resources of IPY to ensure that its impact is substantive and long lasting. The legacies of IPY include new and enhanced observation networks and research facilities, an unprecedented degree of access to data and information about the polar regions, a new generation of polar scientists, and the engagement of residents of the polar regions, the public and policy makers worldwide. I will provide an overview of some IPY research and outreach activities, as well as some of the efforts to secure a lasting legacy.

REMINDER FOR FACULTY

Please note the time change for the NRES Grad Program Meeting:

Thursday, February 28, 2008

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

6-305 - Conference Centre

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: zemplak@unbc.ca