



## NRES MONTHLY NEWS MAY, 2004

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


### TRAVELLING THIS MONTH

- **Kathy Parker** and **Mike Gillingham** will attend the Northwest Section of the Wildlife Society meeting and the 10th North American Caribou Conference in Girdwood, Alaska from 1-6 May. Oral presentations will be given by students **Jeremy Ayotte** ("Ecological Importance of Licks to Four Ungulate Species in Northern BC"), **Brian Milakovic** ("Dynamics of the Predator Landscape in Northern British Columbia"), **Andrew Walker** ("Habitat Selection, Movement and Range Fidelity of Stone's Sheep"), and **Dave Gustine** ("Survival of Woodland Caribou Calves in Relation to Predation Risk and Plant Phenology in Northeastern British Columbia") at the Wildlife Society meeting. Dave Gustine will also give his presentation to the caribou conference.
- **Kathy Lewis** and **Staffan Lindgren** will attend the joint Western International Forest Disease Work Conference/Western Forest Insect Work Conference held in San Diego, CA, April 26-30. Both Kathy and Staffan are on the organizing committee. Kathy will present an invited paper on the role of silviculture in forest health, and Staffan will present an invited paper on progress in anti-aggregation pheromone research and application.



- **Debra Straussfogel** will attend the "Climate Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems" conference from May 3—6 in Fairbanks, AK. It is the International Boreal Forest Research Association 12th annual scientific conference. Debra will present a paper called "A Proposed Integrative Framework for Considering Regional Livelihoods in Boreal Forest Ecosystems."

### APPOINTMENTS

- **Greg Halseth** has been appointed to a two-year term on the BC Government's Community Advisory Group on Mountain Pine Beetle. 
- **Theresa Healey** has been appointed to the newly formed Ethics Board for the Vancouver Foundation. Theresa has also just been notified that a proposal for a chapter on women and substance abuse in the north has been accepted. AND, a research project proposal submitted in partnership with a community agency to CIHR for \$25,000 to develop a full proposal has been accepted. The full proposal - if successful - would be for \$100,000. Congratulations, Theresa!

Thanks to **Marlita** for organizing our spring wind-up potluck lunch, and to everyone who participated, for making it a such a success!



## CONGRATULATIONS

- On April 23, **Julie Deslippe**, candidate for the degree: Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology), successfully defended her thesis entitled:

*"WILL CLIMATE CHANGE ALTER ARCTIC NITROGEN BUDGETS? IMPACTS OF WARMING AND FERTILIZATION ON NITROGENFIXING MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES AT ALEXANDRA FIORD, ELLESMERE ISLAND, NUNAVUT"*

Supervisor: **Dr. Keith Egger**, Biology Program

## GRANT AWARDED

- Melanie Jones (OUC), Dan Durall (OUC), Suzanne Simard (UBC), **Keith Egger** and **Lito Arocena** were successful applicants for a research grant "Nutrient dynamics in the mycorrhizosphere of Douglas-fir seedlings establishing after the BC wildfires of 2003". Grant awarded by the NSERC - Special Research Opportunities fund, \$499,988 over three years.

## NEW PUBLICATION

- Glowa KR, **JM Arocena** and **HB Massicotte** 2003 Properties of soils influenced by ectomycorrhizal fungi in hybrid spruce [*Picea glauca* x *engelmannii* (Moench.) Voss].

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## 2004 Convocation

Normally, one graduation ceremony per year is a big enough event. This year, however, UNBC will be hosting two official Convocation ceremonies and four other graduation celebrations. The main Convocation ceremony, as usual, will take place on **May 28**, when upwards of 700 students will don caps and gowns. Right after the Prince George event, regional graduation ceremonies will be held in the Nass Valley, Terrace, Quesnel, and Fort St John, between May 30th and June 3rd.

The second Convocation – on **August 17th** – will be a special event to recognize the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Prince George campus. Ten founders will receive honorary degrees, including former political, community, and education leaders. The event won't just be about reminiscing, however. That afternoon will see the official opening of the Northern Medical Program and the Northern Health Sciences Centre, with many of the first students and northern community leaders all playing an active role.

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***The weekly newsletter will be published on a monthly basis in May, June, July and August.***

### 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 Lucille Guiney: [guineyl@unbc.ca](mailto:guineyl@unbc.ca)**