



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 2 - 6, 2009

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

This FRIDAY



Dr. Catherine Nolin

Geography Program, UNBC

**'Comitancillo, no se vende'
'Comitancillo is not for sale':**

**Bare life and the violent
development of Canadian
mining in Guatemala**



Neoliberal development schemes of mining, oil extraction, and hydroelectric projects, are embraced by post-conflict Guatemala. At the same time, the Canadian government's pro-business, pro-mining stance, through its Embassy's activities in the country, is shaping the very nature of the so-called "development model". In this presentation, based on fieldwork in the summer months of 2004, 2006 and 2008, I focus on the ways in which the development projects pursued by Vancouver-based mining companies Goldcorp and Skye Resources, among others, and facilitated by the Guatemalan state, are predicated on the reduction of indigenous and rural populations to 'bare life' (Agamben 1995; 1998). The contemporary neoliberal moment functions on the continued 'legal abandonment' of the Guatemalan people and reduces the indigenous population and human rights activists to 'bare life'. The people of Comitancillo, and other mining-affected communities, though, are resisting their exclusion and demanding a recognition that their communities are not for sale.

Light Refreshments will be Served

Friday, January 30, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre **7-238**

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 MICHELLE KEEN: keenm@unbc.ca

OTHER COMING EVENTS

Global Fridays
Senate Chambers
12:00—1:30 pm

January 30, 2009
Dr. Alex Michalos

Trade Barriers to the Public Good: Free Trade and Environmental Protection

The UNBC Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be hosting a mentorship panel discussion for undergraduate students that are interested in learning more about graduate studies. The panelists will include faculty members and current graduate students and the event is intended to make undergraduate students more familiar with many general aspects of graduate studies including information about selecting programs, supervisors, references, etc. The panel discussion will begin at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 5th, in lecture hall 7-150 and the evening may be of interest to undergraduate students in a variety of natural resource and environmental studies fields.

WELCOME

Dr. Sybille Haeussler has recently joined the Ecosystem Science and Management Program at UNBC as Research Coordinator for the Future Ecosystem Scientific Council. The Council is a joint initiative of the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, UNBC and UBC whose purpose is to support adaptation of BC's forest and range management framework to the effects of climate change. Sybille will be carrying out research syntheses for the Council and is assisting in preparations for a research proposal call to be held later this year. She looks forward to working with all NRES Institute members to promote research that integrates environmental, social and economic concerns related to climate change. Contact her at haeussl@unbc.ca or 250-877-3304.



Dr. Haeussler lives in Smithers, BC and is a long-time member of the forest science research community in northern BC. She was most recently a Research Associate in the Below-Ground Ecosystem Group at UBC and has been actively involved in sustainable community development through her work with the Bulkley Valley Research Centre and the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board.

PUBLICATIONS

Garcia, Oscar (2008) "A simple and effective forest stand mortality model". *Intl. J. of Mathematical and Computational Forestry & Nat.-Res. Sci.* 1:1-8.

CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Staffan Lindgren spent 26-30 January in Victoria visiting Dr. Robb Bennett, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Saanich-ton, BC. Staffan has been working on several projects, and he attended a meeting of the Forest Genetics Council's Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee.

NEWS

The UNBC Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has recently launched a web-based job board. The webpage (tws.unbc.ca and select **Job Board**) can be used to post summer or permanent jobs, volunteer positions, undergraduate or graduate research opportunities, etc. The target audience is students with an interest in any aspect of natural resources or the environment. If you have any jobs that you would like posted, please send the information to tws@unbc.ca. You may also wish to bring this job board to the attention of your students.

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