



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

October 12 - 16, 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

J. R. Doyle

Ph.D. Candidate, Ottawa-Carleton Chemical & Environmental
Toxicology Program, University of Ottawa

**Improvements to Mass Balance Estimating Methods:
Assessing Soil Ingestion in People Following Traditional Lifestyles**



Assessing the risks of adverse health effects posed by contaminated land in Canada is essential for decisions regarding site access, and prioritization for remediation. Routine human health risk assessment (HHRA) methods require knowledge about both hazard and exposure. Unintentional dietary ingestion is a significant source of potential exposure to contaminated soil particles. However, ingestion rates used in HHRA are the subject of considerable controversy. The majority of studies that have quantified soil ingestion rates in adults and children have used subjects living in urban and suburban environments. However, many of the contaminated sites in Canada where HHRA may be used to direct soil cleanup criteria are allocated in rural and wilderness areas. Published soil ingestion studies do not provide sufficient information to derive soil ingestion rates for traditional land use scenarios that would be more typical of populations in rural and wilderness areas. This presentation identifies areas where methods for estimation of soil ingestion rate could be improved or modified to facilitate studies of populations following traditional land use practices. The presentation will also propose changes to methods for estimating soil ingestion that may address uncertainties inherent in previous studies. The proposed methods employ naturally occurring radionuclides as readily detectable tracers.

Light Refreshments will be Served

Oct. 9, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Unable to make it in person? Watch the colloquium at your desk!

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

Log in as "Guest"

Drs. Ellen Petticrew and John Rex

Geography Program, UNBC

**Influence of bio-geomorphic processes on marine-derived nutrient
cycling in Pacific salmon-bearing streams**

Light Refreshments will be Served

Oct. 23, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

in 2 Weeks

OTHER COMING EVENTS

in 3 Weeks

Dr. Jerry Osborn

Professor, Dept. of Geoscience, University of Calgary

The Global Warming Debate: the messy and bitter intersection of science and politics.

The great majority of climate scientists are convinced that recent warming is largely due to anthropogenic effects, and many think that serious, perhaps catastrophic, climatically-induced problems await humanity in the next several decades. But a small minority of actively publishing climate scientists, a considerable number of scientists in other fields, many conservative politicians, as well as some significant proportion of the general public, remain skeptical. Even though the train is already preparing to leave the station, in the form of proposed cap-and-trade legislation in the U.S., debate continues in a variety of venues that include scientific journals, the web, pop print media and television, think tanks, houses of government, courtrooms, schools, and churches. The debate is complicated by fusion of several questions which are not always separated by debaters, and by mixing of scientific and social issues to the degree that interpretations of science are influenced by social/political philosophy.

The result is wildly varying views on scientific issues, defensiveness and entrenchment of scientists, cherry-picking of evidence to support points of view, diversions over hockey sticks and oil-company funding, and immense public confusion, as each side belittles the other in an attempt to sway public opinion.

This talk will offer a brief overview of the state of debate over CO₂-generated warming, from a point of view that is disinterested politically and without vested interests scientifically. Some examples of influences on, and excesses of, the debate will be followed by a very brief look at current arguments made by both believers and deniers. It is concluded that there will be no end to controversy in the near future, because cooling influences provided by internal ocean-atmosphere variability and a quiet sun may for the next few or several years mitigate whatever anthropogenic warming is in the system, leaving room for some ongoing ambiguity.

Light Refreshments will be Served

Oct. 30, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

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

October 9, 2009

Dr. Paul Summerville, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria

The Global Context of Canada's Future

RESEARCH / PUBLICATIONS

Oscar Garcia's EasySDE software and website have been updated (<http://forestgrowth.unbc.ca/sde>). EasySDE is a package for forest height growth and site quality modeling based on maximum-likelihood estimation of stochastic differential equations.



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

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