



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

July 2 - 28, 2010

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

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Nathan Einbinder is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography)

Mr. Einbinder will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Dams, Displacement, and Perceptions of Development:
A Case Study from Rio Negro, Guatemala”

Supervisor: Dr. **Catherine Nolin**

Date: August 3, 2010

Time: 10:00 am

Room: Senate Chambers

CONGRATULATIONS

Hugues Massicotte has been recently elected as President for 2 years of the Canadian Botanical Association/ Association Botanique du Canada (CBA/ABC), a national organization of more than 300 botanists, including professionals at universities, colleges, schools, government and industry as well as students, technicians and amateurs. UNBC is currently well represented on the current CBA-ABC board, with **Jane Young** (treasurer) and **Art Fredeen** (Western Director).

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

Hugues Massicotte attended the 25th Annual Meeting Joint Conference SPNHC & CBA-ABC in Ottawa 1-4 June, and presented 2 posters:

- ◆ **Massicotte, H.B.**, Melville, L.H., Tackaberry, L.E. and R.L. Peterson (2010) “Psammophilic *Hudsonia* is ectomycorrhizal!”
- ◆ **Massicotte, H.B.**, Melville, L.H., Tackaberry, L.E., Luoma, D.L. and R.L. Peterson (2010) “Mycoheterotrophic plants: the pinnacle of evolutionary plant-fungal specialization.”

Later on in June (28-30) Hugues attended the “High-Five” symposium on the future of high elevation five-needle white pines in Western North America, in Missoula, Montana. He gave an oral presentation as follows:

- ◆ **Massicotte, H.B.**, Tackaberry, L.E. and **D.S. Green** (2010) “Location, location! Site specific impacts on whitebark pine seedling growth traits and ectomycorrhizal communities.”

Paul Sanborn did soils field work 1-12 July in the northern Richardson Mountains and Klondike regions of the Yukon.

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK (cont'd)

Phil Burton participated in the 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology, held in Edmonton, 3-7 July, making the following presentation: Burton, P.J. and N.-A. Rose. "Mapping Climate Refugia for Conservation Planning in Central British Columbia."

Chris Johnson attended and presented at the International Congress on Environmental Modelling and Software 5-8 July in Ottawa.

Stephen Déry presented a talk entitled "Climate change and water: A focus on Alexis Creek" at a climate change and water issues workshop held at the Tl'etinqox-T'in First Nations 19 July. Stephen also presented a talk entitled "Climate change and water: A focus on Stelat'en and Nadleh Whut'en First Nations" at a climate change and water issues workshop held at Stelat'en First Nation on 29 June.

Sybille Haeussler will attend the Ecological Society of America annual meeting "Global Warming: legacy of our past, challenge for our future" in Pittsburgh 31 July-6 August, where she will present on the topic "Plant:soil feedbacks and social-ecological resilience to climate change: an agent-based modeling approach with case studies from British Columbia".

Paul Sanborn will be attending the World Congress of Soil Science in Brisbane, Australia, 1-6 August, to present a paper (co-authored by Tim Jull) entitled, "Loess, bioturbation, fire and pedogenesis in a boreal forest — grassland mosaic, Yukon Territory, Canada". Prior to the Congress, Paul will be participating in a field tour in the Perth area of Western Australia.

Chris Johnson will be in Yellowknife in early August to meet with fire ecology project partners.

PUBLICATIONS

Smith, T.A. and **P.N. Owens** (2010) "Impact of land use activities on fine sediment-associated contaminants, Quesnel River Basin, British Columbia, Canada" in *Sediment Dynamics for a Changing Future* (eds) Banasik, K., Horowitz, A.J., **Owens, P.N.**, Stone, M. and D.E. Walling. (Wallingford, U.K.: IAHS Press, IAHS Publication No. 337) 37-43

Hesse, G., **Rea, R.V.**, Klassen, N.A., **Emmons, S.** and D. Dickson (2010) "Evaluating the potential of the Otto Wildlife GPS device to record roadside moose and deer locations for use in wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation." *Wildlife Biology in Practice* 6: 1-13

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

NEWS from GEOGRAPHY

New Publications:



"The rural renaissance: B.C.'s small-town economy", *BC Business*, 7 July 2010

Written by **Greg Halseth** — (FULL STORY at: <http://www.bcbusinessonline.ca/bcb/business-sense/2010/07/07/rural-renaissance-bc039s-small-town-economy>)

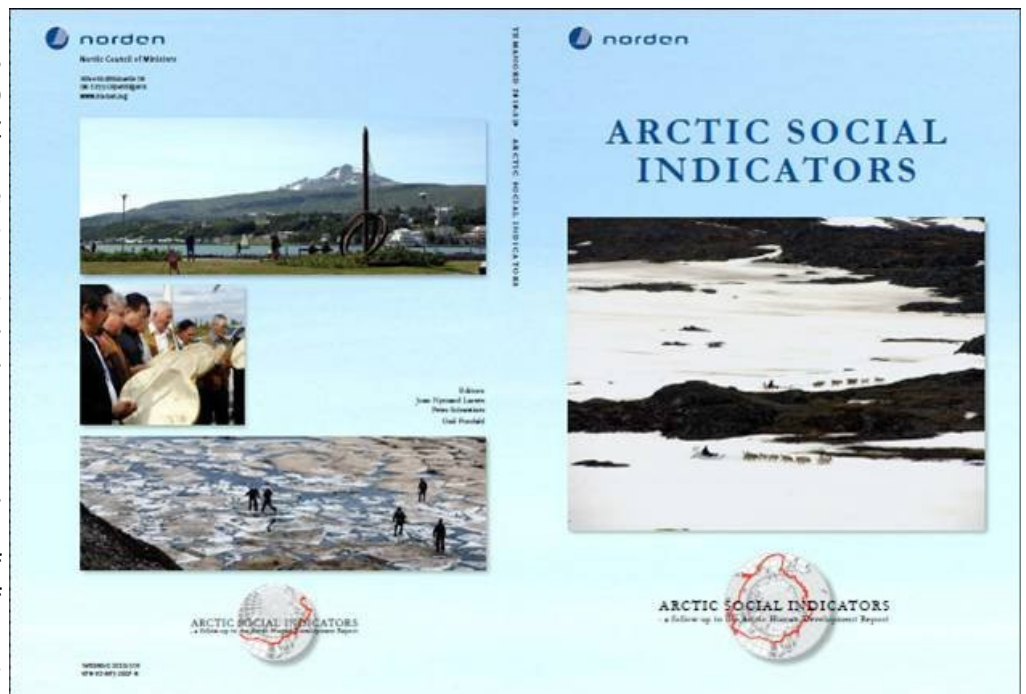
Excerpt: *Dr. Halseth* writes:

"The success of rural and small-town B.C. was, is and will be important for the success of metropolitan economies and the province as a whole."

Congratulations to **Gail Fondahl** on the publication of her co-edited report "Arctic Social Indicators" (2010).

From the site: <http://www.svs.is/ASI/IASSA%20newsletter%20article%20%20Northern%20Notes%20Fall-Winter%202006-2007.pdf>:

"The Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project is a follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) and was launched in January 2006. The ASI project seeks to devise indicators to facilitate the tracking and monitoring of human development in the Arctic, and is being developed under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council. The project period is 2006-2008, with a final report being planned for late summer of 2008, and a presentation of results at the Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IV) in Nuuk, Greenland, in the summer of 2008."



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NEWS from GEOGRAPHY (cont'd)

Graduate Student Awards!

Congratulations to MA NRES (Geography) candidate Christine Creyke & MSc NRES (Geography) candidate Jocelyn Joe-Strack for both receiving one of 14 Jane Glassco Arctic Voices Fellowships from the Walter Gordon Foundation.

Christine Creyke (Co-supervisors: **Gail Fondahl & Greg Halseth**):

"will take the opportunity to conduct research in her mother's home community of Old Crow. She will be working with Elders, and other community members to further incorporate traditional knowledge (TK) into resource development. She hopes that the research and reports written will deepen her understanding of the issues that First Nations people are faced with and help her develop policy ideas to address those pressing issues." For more details on Christine's 2-year fellowship, see: <http://www.gordonfn.org/resfiles/CCreyke.htm>



Jocelyn Joe-Strack's (Supervisor: **Ellen Petticrew**): "project will involve the development of an educational strategy to inform and prepare Yukon First Nations communities for upcoming water resource policy changes and developments. Issues of concern include but are not limited to: climate change, jurisdiction, mining, southern water shortages, hydroelectricity, and the Northwest Passage. Overall, the project goal will be to provide strategies for strengthening their consultation position before, during and after the development proposal process." For more details on Jocelyn's 2-year fellowship, see: <http://www.gordonfn.org/resfiles/JJoe-Strack.htm>

"The Jane Glassco Arctic Fellowship program is aimed at young Northerners, especially Aboriginal Northerners, aged 25-35, who want to build a strong North guided by Northerners. It is for those who, at this stage in their lives, are looking for additional support, networks and guidance from mentors and peers across the North as they deepen their understanding of an important issue facing the North and develop policy ideas to help address it." (For more details on the awards & their policy-relevant research in the North, see:

http://www.gordonfn.org/CdnNorth_ArcticVoicesFellowship.cfm)

GUATEMALA 2010

Catherine Nolin and the participants in the Geography Field School to Guatemala wrote and distributed several "Dispatches from the Road." All of these are now posted at: http://www.unbc.ca/geography/queatemala_2010/index.html. Additionally, the group submitted a formal human rights violation complaint to the Canadian Embassy & the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding crimes committed by the Guatemalan police, army & private security guards of the Canadian-owned HudBay Minerals (formerly known as Vancouver-based Skye Resources). These crimes are related to a violent eviction of indigenous communities near the mine site in January 2007. The group gathered testimony from one affected community during the field school and used that information as the basis for the formal complaint. To date, no response has been received. The Dispatch related to the Canadian Embassy meeting & the formal complaint itself are Dispatch #8 & 9.

NRES MA candidate JP Laplante (supervisor: **Catherine Nolin**) is in Guatemala conducting fieldwork on the issue of corporate social responsibility and community-run *consultas* / referenda related to foreign-owned natural resource extraction. After participating in the field school for a 2nd time and before starting fieldwork, JP assisted in relief work in several indigenous communities devastated by Tropical Storm Agatha which hit Guatemala on May 29th. His Dispatch #10A on these efforts is posted also at: http://www.unbc.ca/geography/queatemala_2010/index.html.

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