



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

April 11 - 15, 2011

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

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

April 7, 2011

NRESi Annual Lecture

Peter Ward

Paleontologist

Professor of Biology and of
Earth and Space Sciences

University of Washington



Our society judges our planet to be stable - and builds cities, infrastructure, farms and the rest as if sea level will never change, or climate. But even a cursory look at the Geological Record shows that this is a foolish stance - made even more dangerous by the unprecedented tinkering humans are now doing to the Earth's atmosphere. In this lecture I will look at what being an "Earth-like Planet" means from both a geological and astrobiological point of view - one that looks back and forward in time, the other looking outward in terms of cosmic geography. In fact a great deal of the near as well as far future of our planet is discernable by what can be called "knowable" science.

Thursday, April 7, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Canfor Theatre (6-213)

April 8, 2011

Peter Ward

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Professor of Biology and of
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A new view of mass extinctions

Mass extinctions were planetary catastrophes that caused massive species die offs in (geologically) short periods of time. Since the paradigm changing discovery by the Alvarez group in Berkeley in 1980, that one of the biggest of the mass extinctions, the dinosaur killer of 65 million years ago was caused by an impact of a large asteroid with the Earth, it has been believed that most or all of the "Big Five" mass extinctions over the last 500 million years was the result of impact. In this talk I will use results from Canada to show why it was short term global warming that caused at least three of the so called Big Five.

Friday, April 8, 2011

3:30 - 4:30 pm

7-212 (note room change)

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

For a list of upcoming seminars: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/>

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

COMING EVENTS

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Fikre Debela is a candidate for the degree:

Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Mr. Debela will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Stability of In Situ Immobilized Lead and Zinc in Rhizosphere Soil of Phosphorus Amended Metal-Contaminated Soils“

Supervisor: **Dr. Joselito Arocena**

Date: **April 12, 2011** Time: 10:00 am Room: 6-305

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Sean Sweeney is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Mr. Sweeney will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Environment, Climate and Tree Growth Relationships at the Western Canadian Arctic Treeline“

Supervisor: **Dr. Scott Green**

Date: **April 13, 2011** Time: 10:00 am Room: 6-305

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Xinyuan Song is a candidate for the degree:

**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
(Environmental Science)**

Mr. Song will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Remediation of Salt- and Petroleum Hydrocarbon-Contaminated Soils Using Ultrasound and Soil Washing“

Supervisor: **Dr. Jianbing Li**

Date: **April 14, 2011** Time: 9:30 am Room: 6-307

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Jennifer Greenwood is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Ms. Greenwood will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Breeding Settlement and Dispersal in a Northern Population of American Kestrels“

Supervisor: **Dr. Russell Dawson**

Date: **April 15, 2011** Time: 9:00 am Room: 8-166

REMINDER: Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honors you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [Michelle Keen: keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca)

COMING EVENTS

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Alexandra Pedersen is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Arts in International Studies

Ms. Pedersen will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Perceptions and Perspectives of Development:
Insights from Indigenous Maya Leaders of El Quiche, Guatemala“

Supervisor: **Dr. Catherine Nolin**

Date: **April 15, 2011** Time: 10:30 am Room: 6-307

GRADUATE PROJECT DEFENCE

Mr. Jason Day is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Science

Mr. Day will be defending his project entitled:

“Wind Energy on the Horizon in British Columbia.
A Review and Evaluation of the British Columbia Wind Energy Planning Framework“

Supervisor: **Dr. Orland Wilkerson**

Date: **April 18, 2011** Time: 9:00 am Room: 6-307

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Kennedy Boateng is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Mr. Boateng will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Spore Dispersal and Infection of Dothistroma Septosporum in Northwest British Columbia“

Supervisor: **Dr. Kathy Lewis**

Date: **April 18, 2011** Time: 12:00 pm Room: 6-305

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Chelsea Coady is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Ms. Coady will be defending her thesis entitled:

“The Signaling Function of Plumage Characteristics in Female Tree Swallows
and Implications for Reproductive Success and Life-History Decisions“

Supervisor: **Dr. Russell Dawson**

Date: **April 19, 2011** Time: 1:00 pm Room: 6-306

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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [Michelle Keen: keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)

PUBLICATIONS

Erasmus, D. 2011. The Black Sheep of the Salmonid Family. *BC Outdoors* 67(2) 31-35

Lindgren, B.S. 2011. Trips, traps, triumphs and tribulations: A journey from childhood dreams to a dream-career in entomology. *Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada* 43(1) 15-22

Lindgren, B.S. 2011. *Review of Gordon, D.M., 2010. "Ant Encounters. Interaction networks and colony behavior". Primers in Complex Systems, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada* 43(1) 36-37

TRAVEL

Catherine Nolin presented two invited lectures at Northwestern University in Chicago on April 7th. One presentation is sponsored by the NU Law School: "Violent Development, Human Rights Abuses & Alleged Crimes of Canadian Mining in Guatemala" and the second talk is part of the Human Rights Talks series at the [Buffet Center for International and Comparative Studies](#) & sponsored by the Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) and the Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS): "Violent development and displacement in Guatemala."

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