



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

April 18 - 22, 2011

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

COMING EVENTS

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

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

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

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:keenm@unbc.ca)

COMING EVENTS

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

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Christine Creyke is a candidate for the degree:

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

Ms. Creyke will be defending her thesis entitled:

“The Tahltan Nation and Our Consultation Process with Mining Industry: How a Land Use Plan Might Improve the Process”

Supervisors: **Drs. Gail Fondahl & Greg Halseth**

Date: **April 19, 2011** Time: 2:00 pm Room: Senate Chambers

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Jordie Fraser is a candidate for the degree:

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

Mr. Fraser will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Cold Tolerance and Seasonal Gene Expression in *Dendroctonus Ponderosae*”

Supervisor: **Dr. Dezene Huber**

Date: **April 21, 2011** Time: 10:00 am Room: Gathering Place (5-123)

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

COMING EVENTS

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Bruce Muir is a candidate for the degree:

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

Mr. Muir will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Environmental Justice in Canada: An Application to a First Nation’s Struggle to Protect Caribou from Coal Mining in Northeast British Columbia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Annie Booth**

Date: **April 21, 2011** Time: 10:30 am Room: Senate Chambers

PUBLICATIONS

Carson, A., Polster, D., and **P. Burton**. 2011. “Agronomic grasses and legumes: do they help or hinder recovery?” *Canadian Reclamation* 20(2) 34-37

PICS NEWS

Understanding Forests, Carbon, and Climate Change

In March, the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, UNBC and the BC Year of Science hosted workshops in Prince George and Terrace to help uncover the new opportunities provided by our forests. The workshops started by asking the question; what is wood? Understanding the basic processes of a growing forest helps to understand the important relationship they hold with climate change. Why biomass fuel from forest wastes is considered carbon neutral was also discussed along with the issue of forest sustainability.

Following an explanation of what biofuels from wood is the workshop changed focus to carbon offsets from forestry. Carbon offsets can be created by using bioenergy instead of traditional fossil fuels and also by growing trees to absorb and sequester carbon dioxide from the air. To this end, the final section of the workshops answered the question; how much carbon is in this tree? One last workshop will be held at UNBC in May directed towards high school students in grades 11 and 12 — stay tuned for details!

CONGRATULATIONS

David Lobb and Don Flaten (Soil Science, University of Manitoba) and **Phil Owens** have been awarded a grant of \$137,000 from Environment Canada within the Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund for a project entitled: Determining the effective use of riparian areas to filter sediments and phosphorus. The project will run from April 2011 to March 2012.

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ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS

The Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management (ORTM) Program at UNBC, in cooperation with BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Overhang Climbing Gym, and Ruckus Skis, Boards and Bikes is hosting the **6th Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival** at UNBC. **Room 8-166** on Thursday, **April 14th**, 2011 from **7:00 - 10:00 pm** (doors open at 6:50 pm).

The Reel Paddling Film Festival is an international film tour presenting the world's best whitewater, sea kayaking, canoeing, SUP and kayak fishing action and lifestyle films of the year. With your \$10 ticket to our Reel Paddling Film Festival screening you can enter the Yakima Take It Easy Sweepstakes for a chance to win a roof rack package. You also receive free digital subscriptions to *Rapid*, *Adventure Kayak*, *Canoeroots* and *Kayak Angler* magazines, a \$24 value.

The Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour is produced by Rapid Media and all proceeds of this show go to support the continued legacy of field-based programs within the ORTM Program.

Tickets are for sale at Stride & Glide Sports and the UNBC Bookstore (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door).

TRAVEL

Several geographers and connected graduate students are presenting posters and papers at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. The presenters include:

- ◆ Sarah de Leeuw* — *Disembodying Policy: The Geographies of Apprehending Indigenous Children in Northern British Columbia*
- ◆ **Kevin Hall** — *Weathering - A poor term, poorly applied, and completely misleading*
- ◆ **Neil Hanlon** — *The transformative role of voluntarism in aging resource communities: integrating people, place and community*
- ◆ JP Laplante** & **Catherine Nolin** — *Making Dispossession "Ethical": Modern Maya-Q'eqchi' Land Struggles, Canadian Mining & the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility*
- ◆ Alexandra Pedersen** — *Perspectives of "Development": Insights from Indigenous Mayan Leaders of El Quiché, Guatemala*

* Affiliated geographer

** Graduate student

Zoë A. Meletis travelled to the 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology & Conservation April 10-16 in San Diego, California. She vetted dozens of abstracts as part of the 2011 Program Committee, she is a Session Chair for several *Conservation Through Social, Economic, Cultural, and Legal Pathways* sessions, as well as a paper judge for the Archie Carr Student Paper Award. She and her colleague Emma Harrison also organized a new networking event geared towards students: *Speed Chatting with Sea Turtle Experts* that was successfully held on April 12th.

Phil Owens and **Ellen Petticrew** attended the Annual European Geosciences Union conference in Vienna, Austria, April 3-8. They gave six oral and poster presentations, and were co-authors on two additional posters (by Dr. Marcel Van der Perk of Utrecht University, the Netherlands), all of which described research activities at the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) by the Landscape Ecology Research Group. The conference was attended by over 10,000 scientists.

Jane Young was an invited speaker at the Aboriginal Patient Liaison Meeting put on by Northern Health on March 31 and gave her presentation, "Ethnobotany — some of my teaching and research experiences".

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