



NRES NEWS

August 2008

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

THESIS DEFENCES

Ms. Mahrusa Sherstobitoff is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Forestry)

Ms. Sherstobitoff will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Socioeconomic Factors Affecting Non-Timber Forest Product Collection in the Komi Republic, Russia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Chris Opio**

Date: August 8, 2008 Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers Room 1079
Admin Building, UNBC Prince George campus

Mr. Jovan Simic is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Tourism)

Mr. Simic will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Understanding Climbers’ Motivations: A Bugaboo Case Study”

Supervisors: **Dr. Pamela Wright** and **Dr. Anne Hardy**

Date: August 18, 2008 Time: 2:00 pm Room: Senate Chambers Room 1079
Admin Building, UNBC Prince George campus

Mr. Jaison Ambadan is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Environmental Science)

Mr. Ambadan will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Sigma-point Kalman Filter Data Assimilation Methods for Strongly Nonlinear Dynamical Models”

Supervisor: **Dr. Youmin Tang**

Date: August 25, 2008 Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers Room 1079
Admin Building, UNBC Prince George campus

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

OF INTEREST

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) was established in January 2008 as a collaborative initiative between the four research intensive universities in British Columbia. The Institute is housed at the University of Victoria. The principal lines of communication between partner universities are through the Executive Committee (on which sit the Vice-Presidents, Research from each university), the Program Committee (on which sit currently two UNBC representatives, Ken Wilkening and **Stephen Déry** in addition to two representatives from the other member institutions), and a PICS campus Coordinator at each university.

A first consultation meeting was held at UNBC in July. PICS is open to anyone in the UNBC community who has an interest in climate change; hence a list of interested participants is being compiled at UNBC. You are more than welcome to join this list by expressing your interest in PICS to either Ken (kew@unbc.ca) or Stephen (sdery@unbc.ca). A second PICS-UNBC consultation meeting will be held in mid-September. An email announcement will be sent to the university community.

Look forward to future issues of the NRESI Newsletter for updated information on PICS!

Staffan Lindgren has accepted an invitation to serve as an Associate Editor for *The Canadian Entomologist* as of July 1, 2008. This assignment will involve supporting Division Editors by handling the review process for up to 6 manuscripts per year on forest entomology-related subjects, particularly involving phloem and wood feeders, ants, and spiders. The assignment was made possible by a reduced workload as Subject Editor for *Environmental Entomology*, since a third editor was recently added in the plant-insect interaction subject area.

PUBLICATIONS

Zhu, J., Rasmussen, J.G., Møller, J., **Aukema, B.H.**, Raffa, K.F. (2008) "Spatial-temporal modeling of forest gaps generated by colonization from below- and above-ground bark beetle species". *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 103: 162-177.

Lindenmayer, D.B., **Burton, P.J.**, Lindenmayer, J.F. (2008) *Salvage Logging and its Ecological Consequences*. Island Press, Washington, D.C. 227 p.
(currently available on amazon.ca, \$40.95 for hardcover, @20.48 for softcover . . . and hopefully at the UNBC Bookstore soon!)

Garcia, O. (2008) "Visualization of a general family of growth functions and probability distributions — The Growth-curve Explorer". *Environmental Modelling and Software* 23 (12), 1474-1475.

O. Garcia's guest speaker presentation notes on the web:

"Plant individual-based modeling: More than meets the eye".

<http://forestgrowth.unbc.ca/warsaw.pdf>

"Integrability, neural networks, and the empirical modeling of dynamical systems".

<http://forestgrowth.unbc.ca/montpellier.pdf>

Schiefer, E., **Menounos, B. Wheate, R.** (2008) "An inventory and morphometric analysis of British Columbia glaciers, Canada". *Journal of Glaciology* 54: 551-560.

Gustine, D.D., **Parker, K.L.** (2008) "Variation in seasonal selection of resources by woodland caribou in northern British Columbia". *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 86: 812-825.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gareth Hopkins of the **Aukema** lab was selected from a national competition to take part in UBC's Rising Stars of Research conference for undergraduates this month. Gareth's work on feeding preferences of Warren root collar weevils with graduate student Matthew Klingenberg informs silvicultural strategies to mitigate this increasing challenge. His work has led to two peer-reviewed publications, as well as an international collaboration with Swedish colleagues. Well done, Gareth!

Brian Menounos and John Pomeroy (University of Saskatchewan) received a \$295,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS). The grant will be used as supplemental funds for two CFCAS-funded research networks, the Western Canadian Cryospheric Network (WC2N) and Improved Processes and Parameterization for Prediction in Cold Regions (IP3).

WELCOME

A warm welcome to post-doc Dr. Kishan Sambaraju from Oklahoma State University who arrived July 1st. With a strong background in insect behaviour and chemical ecology, Kishan will be working with **Brian Aukema** on spatial modeling of mountain pine beetle under various climate change scenarios. He can be found among the Canadian Forest Service cluster in 2007C (Admin Building).

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

In June, **Brian Aukema** attended the International Environmetrics Society meeting in Kelowna for a presentation on statistical modeling and mountain pine beetle with Yanbing Zheng and Jun Zhu. In July, he co-organized a session on insect invasion dynamics at the International Congress of Entomology in Durban, South Africa and presented collaborative work with graduate student Honey-Marie de la Giroday, adjunct Allan Carroll, and guru **Staffan Lindgren**.

Gail Fondahl will be attending the International Congress of Arctic Social Scientists, from 21-26 August, in Nuuk, Greenland. She will be presenting her work on the development of social indicators for human development in the Arctic, a project under the aegis of the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council. Gail's participation in the project is funded by DIAND.

Kathy Parker will be in Vancouver 18-21 August to attend a caribou research workshop sponsored by the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) Canada.

Ellen Petticrew and John Rex attended the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland in June. Ellen presented an invited talk in a special session on particulate organic matter in aquatic systems. It was an excellent venue for Rex to present the results of his PhD research and he received a near-perfect score for his student talk.

On June 27th, Danielle Smyth, an MNRES student, presented a talk "Opportunities Higher Waste Diversion in Higher Education" at the 34th Annual Recycling Council of British Columbia Zero Waste Conference in Vancouver. The presentation was based on a pilot waste audit conducted at the Prince George UNBC campus in March, 2008 under the supervision of **Art Fredeen** and **Annie Booth**.