



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

January 18 - 22, 2010

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**

**Dr. George Iwama**  
President & Vice-Chancellor, UNBC



#### Stress in Fish

The stress response is vital to the adaptive responses in fishes. I will introduce the generalized stress response in fish at the levels of the organism to the cell. This will involve the response of stress hormones and heat shock proteins in different fish species to various biological and abiotic stressors. I will discuss the work we have been doing with tidepool sculpins on the west coast of Vancouver Island with regard to the possible role heat shock proteins may play in their coping with the variable environment of the intertidal zone.

Jan. 15, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-212



**Kent Mullinix, PhD, Institute for Sustainable Horticulture, Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

#### Reintroducing Agri-Culture into Urban-Culture in BC

For the first time in history the majority of humans are urban dwellers. In Canada and the United States only 1.5% of the population is engaged in production agriculture. Effectively then, the vast preponderance of our populations have next to nothing to do with agriculture—production, processing or marketing. Urbanites, in particular, have no substantive, meaningful relationship with this fundamentally critical aspect of their sustenance and daily lives. In British Columbia, as elsewhere, there is a growing awareness that the combined effects of peak oil, peak water, climate change, rapid urbanization, continued population growth, loss of farms and farmers as well as the current status, configuration and dominance of conventional industrial agriculture may threaten food security and ultimately result in an agri-food system that is unsustainable. This presentation will address strategies and initiatives that can be undertaken to advance a sustainable regional agri-food system. Such an agri-food system is intended to connect urbanites, in real and meaningful ways, to their environment and to a human enterprise that is undeniably crucial to their future well-being. It is a way of reducing vulnerability and dependence on an ecologically unsound and increasingly vulnerable agri-food system while simultaneously reducing our food system ecological footprint and stimulating real regional wealth generation.

**TALK WILL NOT BE WEBCAST**

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-238

**Dr. Brian Menounos, Geography Program, UNBC**

#### Glaciers as Complex Earth Surface Systems

Glaciers are an important natural resource, and they also faithfully respond to changes in climate. At seasonal to annual time scales, the health of a glacier is controlled by winter snowfall and summer melt. An imbalance between winter accumulation and summer ablation at time scales of decades to centuries causes glaciers to adjust their dimensions to reach a new equilibrium state with climate. Temperate glaciers are also remarkably effective in their ability to erode substrates and are thus, effective geomorphic agents. Yet despite decades of glaciological research many links between climate, glaciers, and glacier erosion are complex and remain poorly understood. This complexity provides stimulating research opportunities to study an earth surface system that is important for both pure and applied research. I review some of the intriguing aspects of glaciers as studied by myself, my students, and my colleagues. I also identify major deficits in our understanding of glacier behaviour and where more research is required.



Jan. 22, 2010

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](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)

Log in as "Guest"

January 22, 2010

Dr. Ajit Dayanandan, Economics Program, UNBC

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**Micro-Finance and Social Capital: A Study of Microfinance Institutions in India**  
\*\*\*\*\***PUBLICATIONS**

**Haeussler, S.**, Woods, A., LePage, P., White, K., and E. Campbell (2009) Do whitebark pine-lichen ecosystems of west central British Columbia display tipping point behaviour in response to cumulative stress? Research Report, Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research & Management, Smithers, BC. Available online at: <http://www.bvcentre.ca/research/reports> .

Castleden, H., Crooks, V., Schuurman, N. and **N. Hanlon** (2010) "It's not necessarily the distance on the map...": Using place as an analytic tool to elucidate geographic issues central to rural palliative care." *Health and Place* 16(2): 284-290

Welsh, C., **Lewis, K.** and A. Woods (2009) "The outbreak history of Dothistroma needle blight: an emerging forest disease in northwestern British Columbia, Canada." *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 39(12) 2505-2519

He, Z.Z. and **C. Opio** (2010) "Farm size and export experience in relation to export barriers." In: *2nd International Conference on Strategy and Marketing, December 5-6th, 2009* (Chinese Association for Development Strategy: Beijing, China) 18-21

**Opio, C.**, Fredj, K., and B. Wang (2009) "Profitability of manual brushing in young lodgepole pine plantations." *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 10(1): 15-21 Available online at: [http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS50/vol10\\_no1\\_art3.pdf](http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS50/vol10_no1_art3.pdf)

Stott, T.A., **Owens, P.N.**, Forrester, B.J., and J. Lee (2009) "Suspended sediment fluxes in the Castle Creek Glacier proglacial zone, Cariboo Mountains, British Columbia." *CETL Journal of Innovations in Practice* 2: 49-70

**Rea, R.V.**, Hodder, D.P., Trelenberg, J., and T.M. O'Brien (2010) "The Use of Stereoscopic Photography to Estimate Browse Use by Large Ungulates." *Northwest Science* 84: 103-108

**OF INTEREST**

**Complexity in Everyday Life: A Participatory Workshop**, February 19, 2010, Old Church, Smithers. As a follow-up to the successful Complexity Science and Global Change Workshop held in February 2009 in conjunction with NRESI, the Bulkley Valley Research Centre will be hosting a second informal, low-cost workshop. This is an interdisciplinary event, open to all. To learn more visit: <http://www.bvcentre.ca/events> .

**CONFERENCES / TRAVEL**

Congratulations to Zhengzhe He and **Chris Opio** (supervisor), who won the "Excellent Paper Award" (one of two awarded out of nearly 100 submitted) at the 2nd International Conference on Strategy and Marketing, held in Beijing, China December 5-6, 2009. The paper is entitled "Firm size and export experience in relation to export barriers."

**Sybille Haeussler** represented UNBC as a speaker at the Resilient Ecosystems Workshop hosted by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions in Victoria, December 6-8, 2009, which brought together 30 ecologists and policymakers to assist PICS in developing a Resilient Ecosystems research strategy for BC.

Tullia Upton (supervisor: **Stephen Déry**) presented a poster entitled "Investigating the snow melt signal in soil moisture data in the Cariboo Mountains, BC" at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, CA December 13-18, 2009.

**We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter](http://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](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)**