



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 21 - March 25, 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

March 18, 2011

SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Sponsored by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

Sabine Pahl

Lecturer in Psychology
University of Plymouth, UK

The Psychology of Climate Change

The human dimension is crucial in understanding climate change processes and in developing adaptation and mitigation measures. This talk will explore the contribution of psychological approaches to climate solutions, focusing on perceptions and behavior change. First I will discuss why the human mind has difficulty understanding big challenges such as climate change, with a focus on the role of psychological distance. Then selected examples will illustrate how we can overcome the distance. Specifically data from two projects will be presented. The first project investigated the psychological implications of presenting a range of very simple future scenarios to student samples, in terms of emotional reactions and behavior effects. The second project used thermo-graphic images to visualize heat loss from homes in the community, in order to motivate energy saving behavior. Homeowners found the images compelling and engaged in more energy saving actions than an audit-only comparison group. Limitations and avenues for future research relating to these early findings will be discussed.



Friday, March 18, 2011

3:30—4:30 pm

7-150

March 21, 2011

SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Sponsored by the UNBC Fish & Wildlife

Bob Hayes

Retired Biologist and Author

The Wolves of the Yukon

For 20 years, Bob Hayes was the Yukon's wolf biologist. During that time he studied hundreds of radio-collared wolves and conducted several long-term wolf-prey studies. He is considered a world expert on kill rate by wolves on moose and caribou and the effects of wolf control on wolves and their prey. Bob's long-term research has led him to believe widespread aerial control of wolves is biologically wrong and that non-lethal methods of reducing predation is the future of wolf management. Bob served as a Canadian member of the IUCN Wolf Specialist group for nearly a decade. He and his wife, Caroline, share their time between Whitehorse and Smithers, British Columbia. Bob is a Simon Fraser University Alumni. Bob's talk will integrate some of the science that he did while a biologist in Yukon with some of the material in his recent book "The Wolves of the Yukon".



Monday, March 21, 2011

7:00 pm

7-238

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/>

March 25, 2011**Mike Rutherford**

**Associate Professor
Environmental Science and Engineering
UNBC**

Burnt Offerings from the Bioenergy Industry

Bioenergy processes which combust or gasify biomass can create significant quantities of ash residuals. The properties of ash depend on several factors including the nature of the input biomass. What can be done with these ash residuals? Landfilling is common but this approach is not sustainable or environmentally responsible. Do some ash materials enhance soil properties? If so, are there any risks associated with this approach? Biochar is a charcoal-based material specifically produced for environmental applications, such as for use as a soil amendment. The list of purported benefits of biochar usage in soils is long, but are these claims justified when biochar is used in Canadian soils? Are there any environmental risks associated with biochar usage? This talk will summarize some of the research activities conducted at UNBC that are exploring the utilization of ash and biochar materials as soil amendments.

**Friday, March 25, 2011****3:30—4:30 pm****7-150****GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE**

Ms. Xiaoqin Yan is a candidate for the degree:

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

Ms. Yan will be defending her thesis entitled:

“An Analysis of Multi-Model Ensemble for Seasonal Climate Predictions“

Supervisor: Dr. Youmin Tang

Date: March 22, 2011 Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

NRES INSTITUTE NEWS

This year the Institute is hosting the undergraduate thesis presentations for most of the majors in the College of Science and Management. The presentations are scheduled for Monday, April 4th, from 9:00 am through noon in the Bentley Centre. The schedule of individual presentations will be in next week's newsletter.

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: Jutta Koehler: koehlerj@unbc.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

Laura Machial, MSc NRES (Biology) candidate supervised by **Brian Aukema** was runner-up in the MSc poster competition for the presentation “A walk through the park: host-searching behaviour of Warren root collar weevil, *Hylobius warreni* Wood (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)” at the Entomological Society of America Northcentral Branch Meeting, March 13-16, 2011, in Minneapolis, MN. This is Laura’s second runner-up finish in a row, and she thinks her success “is because the weevils are just so darn cute”.

ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS

On Thursday **March 24th** at 7 pm in 7-212, Chris Ritchie from the BC Ministry of Natural Resource **Operations** will give a presentation on Caribou Recovery. This event is jointly sponsored by the Prince George Naturalists, the UNBC Biology Club, and the UNBC Student Chapter of TWS.

GLOBAL FRIDAYS

**BENTLEY CENTRE
12:00 - 1:30 pm**

Date: Friday, March 18, 2011

Room : 8-166

Time: 12:00—1:30 pm

Global Friday Movie

“The Business of Gold: The Chronicle of a Foretold Conflict” (2009)

March 18, 2011

GLOBAL FRIDAYS

**BENTLEY CENTRE
12:00 - 1:30 pm**

Date: Friday, March 25, 2011

Room : 5-183

Time: 12:00—1:30 pm

Dr. Tony Weis, Geography

University of Western Ontario

“A Political Ecology of the Global Food Crisis”

March 25, 2011

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