



## NRES NEWS

### May 2008

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

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### TRAVEL

**Kevin Hall** will be spending the month of May as a guest of the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain) working on the Quaternary glacial/periglacial history of the Ancares Mountains, and advising on field approaches to monitor the linear elastic fracture mechanics of granite breakdown and the application of thermal imaging for the study of (Celtic) pictogram weathering.

**Ken Otter** travelled to the JPRF in Fort St. James, April 29 and then to Chetwynd May 1–3 for research.

On May 4, **Darwyn Coxson** will be travelling to Kananaski, AB to re-measure lichen growth plots.

**Catherine Nolin** and eight UNBC students start the field school to Guatemala this Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> until May 20<sup>th</sup>. The university delegation focuses on issues of human rights, social (in)justice and development, and meet with human rights and grassroots development organizations within the capital of Guatemala City and throughout the rural countryside. Two Vancouver-based mining companies, Skye Resources and Goldcorp, are providing amazing access to their nickel & gold mining operations and the people who work within the sites. They look forward to sharing their experience with the UNBC community in the fall semester.

**Staffan Lindgren, Brent Murray** and grad student Nic Bartell will be attending the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution annual meeting at UBC Vancouver May 10 - 15.

**Dezene Huber**, Chair of the Biology Curriculum Committee, will be attending the annual BC Biology Curriculum Articulation Meeting, being held May 20 - 21 in Whitehorse.

**Hugues Massicotte** has been invited to participate in a workshop on "Ectomycorrhizal Fungi as Biodiversity Indicators of Sustainable Forest Practices in British Columbia" May 21-23 at the Cowichan Lake Exp. Research Station.

On May 24 - 27, **Chris Opio** will be attending and presenting a paper at the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (ASAC) Conference at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. The paper entitled, "Conceptualization of Principal Variable Selection for Computing the Water Poverty Index (WPI)" is co-authored with Drs. Danny Cho and Tomson Ogwang, Brock University, St. Catherine's, ON. Resources, access, capacity, use and environment are used in calculating WPI, which is then used to rank countries in the world based on these WPI components.

May 31 - June 1, **Roy Rea** will be attending a faculty retreat at the Quesnel River Research Centre.

**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 ELISSA ZEMLAK: [zemplak@unbc.ca](mailto:zemplak@unbc.ca)**

## TRAVEL con't.

**Ellen Petticrew** and **Phil Owens** attended the European Geosciences Union annual meeting in Vienna, Austria, April 2008. They gave two invited oral papers and four poster papers(\*) and organized an oral and poster session on *Science for improved sediment and habitat management in aquatic ecosystems*. Graduate students and postdocs are underlined.

Carraz, F., Taylor, K.G., Drew, I.B. and **Owens, P.N.** *Geochemistry and speciation of phosphorus in an urban river basin: implications for management.\**

**Owens, P.N.** The role of *environmental stewardship and stakeholder collaboration in sediment management: the example of the Fraser River basin, British Columbia, Canada.\**

**Owens, P.N.** and Williams, N.D. *The role of river regulation on floodplain sedimentation: the Nechako River British Columbia, Canada.*

**Petticrew, E.L.** and Rex, J. F. *Vectors and mechanisms for marine-derived nutrient storage in upland river systems.*

Rex, J.F., **Petticrew, E.L.** and Williams, N.D. *Salmon organic matter and fine sediment flocculation: implications for nutrient and sediment tracing.\**

Smith, T.B. and **Owens, P.N.** *Impact of land use activities on fine sediment-associated contaminants.\**

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**Ken Otter** and **Chris Johnson** received an NSERC Research Tools and Instruments grant to purchase a two-seater ATV and wide-track snowmobile for research their groups are conducting at the John Prince Research Forest, Ft. St. James. The equipment will allow access to remote sites within the JPRF in the summer and winter months for work on river otters and chickadees.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Brian Menounos** and John Clague, 2008. Reconstructing hydro-climatic events and glacier fluctuations over the past millennium from annually laminated sediments of Cheakamus Lake, southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 27: 701-713.