



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## December 15, 2012 - January 11, 2013

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

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: [http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi\\_webcast.html](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)



### JOINTLY SPONSORED BY NRESi and CMBIG

#### Dr. Rosie Redfield

Professor, Department of Zoology, UBC



#### The origin(s) of life, social media and the #arseniclife debacle

The #arseniclife story started with a bang in late 2010, when NASA proudly announced the discovery that some bacteria could synthesize their DNA with arsenic in the backbone in place of phosphorus. But within a few days it all fell apart, as scientists used blogs and Twitter to conduct impromptu 'post-publication peer review'. (#arseniclife is the Twitter hashtag used to identify relevant tweets.) Working with collaborators at Princeton, my lab has now shown that the key results cannot be replicated. This debacle has implications for many aspects of science, from the origin of life to how personal biases and funding sources affect scientific judgement to the increasing roles of social media in both the practice and public communication of science.

**Friday, January 18, 2013**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Room: 7-212** (subject to change)

### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

**Ms. Brooke Eschuk** is a candidate for the degree:

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

Ms. Eschuk will be defending her thesis entitled:

**"Come Out and Play! Exploring the Landscapes of Free-Play  
in Prince George, British Columbia"**

Supervisor: **Dr. Neil Hanlon**

Date: **January 15, 2013** Time: 10:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

### COMING EVENTS — ELSEWHERE

January 18

**GLOBAL FRIDAYS**  
ROOM 7-152  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Dr. Simon Springer**, Department of Geography, University of Victoria

**"Illegal evictions? Overwriting possession and orality with law's violence in Cambodia"**

All Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants at: <http://bit.ly/unbc-globalfriday>

**REMINDER:** Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honors you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

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



## PICS - Graduate Fellowship Program

PICS Graduate Fellowship applications are submitted by supervisors of Masters and PhD students studying at one of four collaborating universities (UBC, UNBC, SFU and UVic). Applications must be conducting research in an area specific to the call “**Energy production and availability particularly, but not exclusively, as it relates to water use and supply**” (see <http://pics.uvic.ca/fellowships/graduate/>). Graduate students will not apply directly to PICS for a fellowship, but they are encouraged to discuss research projects with potential faculty supervisors, who will be the applicants in this competition. More information is available on the PICS website at <http://www.pics.uvic.ca/>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with the PICS-UNBC Program Coordinator before making the submission. The application deadline is **4:30 pm, February 8, 2013**.

## PUBLICATIONS

Tennant, C., **Menounos, B., Wheate, R.** and J.J. Clague 2012 Area change of glaciers in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, 1919 to 2006. *The Cryosphere* 6, 1541-1552

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Bill McGill** (Professor in Ecosystem Science and Management) has recently been elected to the rank of AAAS Fellow within the section of “Agriculture, Food and Renewable Resources”. Each year the AAAS Council elects members whose “efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished”. Bill will be attending the Fellows induction ceremony on February 16, 2013 in Boston, MA. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional organization. In addition to numerous other activities, the AAAS publishes the journal *Science*.

## TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH

**Brian Menounos** is at the University of Toronto this week to give two invited talks. His first talk, “The complex response of glaciers to climate change in the American Cordillera”, is part of the Distinguished Lecture Series for the Centre for Global Change Science. His second talk, “Do we really understand the relation between ice cover and sedimentation in alpine watersheds?” is a part of the University of Toronto’s Department of Geography seminar series.

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