



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 18 - March 1, 2013

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

COMING EVENTS

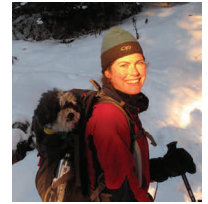
NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html



Joint Seminar with Northern Studies in conjunction with UNBC Polar Day

Sonja Ostertag
PhD Candidate, UNBC



A community-based approach to assessing the risk of mercury toxicity in beluga whales from the western Canadian Arctic

In 2008, four researchers traveled by boat to Hendrickson Island, NT, in the Beaufort Sea, for a comprehensive beluga study. Beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) are hunted by Inuvialuit for subsistence and continue to be a valued and healthy part of the diet in the Arctic. The objective for this study was to assess the neurotoxicological risk of mercury exposure for whales from the eastern Beaufort Sea beluga population. Mercury reaches levels associated with neurotoxicity in this population of beluga whales. Therefore, the forms of mercury present in brain tissue were analyzed and a biomarker approach was used to study the relationship between mercury concentration and potential neurochemical variation. Our results suggest that mercury exposure was associated with neurochemical variation, but not unusual behaviour, in the population studied. The community-based participatory approach used by the team increased communication and dialogue, which are integral aspects of respectful and empowering research relationships.

Friday, MARCH 1, 2013

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-158

Dr. Hugo Asselin

Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Forestry
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue



Links between biological and cultural diversity in the Canadian boreal forest

Indigenous cultures around the world are tightly linked to the land and subsistence activities based on natural resources still play an important role in the everyday life of several communities. This connection between biological and cultural diversity is, however, threatened by increasing resource extraction in response to an ever-growing global demand. According to the United Nations, 90% of the world's languages are likely to become extinct or threatened with extinction by the end of the 21st century. In Canada, all but a few of the more than 60 aboriginal languages are endangered. The circumboreal forest — 40% of which is in Canada — is the most extensive terrestrial biome in the world. Ecological connectivity and continuity within the boreal forest create a fertile ground for intercultural knowledge exchange. The extent to which this would be possible, however, depends on intercultural similarity. This presentation will address this question relying on a statistical analysis of the most extensive database on traditional uses of medicinal plants in the Canadian boreal forest.

Friday, March 8, 2013

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-158

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-institute/newsletter

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

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

Mr. Hartman will be defending his thesis entitled:
“Investigating the Benefits and Impacts of Tourism Development for a
First Nation Community in Northern British Columbia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Pam Wright**

Date: **March 27, 2013** Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

OTHER EVENTS

GLOBAL FRIDAYS
ROOM 7-158
12:00 - 1:30 pm

March 1

Dr. Hayley Hessel, University of Saskatchewan

“University of the Arctic: Past, Present and Future”

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

Sponsored by the Prince George Photographic Society (<http://www.pgphotoclub.com>) :

Chris Harris will be at the **Canfor Theatre March 13th at 7:30 pm** to present his new book, *Flyover—British Columbia's Cariboo Chilcotin Coast—an Aviation Legacy*. By drawing on his experience as an outdoor guide and fine art photographer, Chris reveals the stunning beauty of BC's Cariboo Chilcotin Coast wilderness, offering artistic and technical insights to his work as an artist, photographer and publisher. **Tickets are \$10 at Books & Co. and Studio 2880.** (Chris' website: <http://www.chrisharris.com>)

PUBLICATIONS

Rea, R.V., Hodder, D.P. and K.N. Child 2013 Year-round activity patterns of moose (*Alces alces*) at a natural mineral lick in north central British Columbia, Canada. *Canadian Wildlife Biology and Management* 2: 36-41

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH

David Connell will be travelling to Kamloops, BC 1-3 March to present at the BC Association of Farmers' Markets annual conference. He was invited to lead a half-day workshop on strategic business planning for farmers markets and to give a presentation on the results of his provincial study of the socio-economic benefits of farmers markets in BC. The study was completed in the summer of 2012.

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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca