



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

### November 10 - 14, 2008

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



**Dr. Zoë Meletis**  
**Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management Program,**  
**UNBC**

***This FRIDAY***

### **Tourists & Turtles: Tourist Perception of Turtle Tours in Tortuguero, Costa Rica**

In this talk, I will present follow-up work on my dissertation work in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Tortuguero is home to Tortuguero National Park, one of the oldest (est. 1975) and most visited parks in Costa Rica. Tortuguero is a renowned and 'successful' turtle tourism destination that now receives over 116,751 tourists a year (ACTo 2007). As such, turtles feature prominently in the 1001 tourist surveys that I conducted (2003; 2004). Tourism and ecotourism are often seen as a desirable way to 'make nature pay for itself'—to combine conservation goals and efforts with new opportunities for so-called non-consumptive, non-extractive economies. Turtle tourism is also idealized as a replacement economy for turtle fishing and egg collecting. I will compare and contrast ideas presented about turtle tourism in: the turtle conservation literature; the tourism studies literature; turtle tourism advertising (e.g., that turtle tourism is a way to 'help' save sea turtles); and the tourist survey responses that I collected. I will discuss previous tourist responses (Meletis 2007) and those that I am currently in the process of analyzing (data collected in the summer of 2008), with the following questions in mind:

- Why do people want to view nesting sea turtles, and what do they 'get out of it'?
- Is turtle tourism 'helping' sea turtles?
- Is turtle tourism hurting sea turtles?
- Can there be too many tourists watching turtles at once?
- Can there be too much sea turtle tourism more generally?

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Friday, November 7, 2008**

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

**Lecture Theatre 7-212**



**Dr. Peter Jackson & John Spagnol**  
**Environmental Science & Engineering, UNBC**

### **Air Quality Modelling of the Prince George Airshed**

***Next FRIDAY***

Air Quality is a significant environmental, social, economic, political and health issue in Prince George, where the pollutant of greatest concern is fine particulate matter (PM10 and especially PM2.5). Managing air quality with a goal of lowering ambient levels of pollutants involves managing pollutant sources. Fine particulate matter is notoriously difficult to manage since it typically comes from multiple sources, the magnitude of which are often difficult to quantify. In order to make effective decisions about which sources to target for reduction, the environmental manager must know the relative contribution of each source in the airshed to ambient levels at locations of interest. Dispersion modelling is a tool that can be used to determine this. The Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable Research Working Group (PGAIR-RWG) in conjunction with UNBC have undertaken a two year dispersion modelling study to determine the contribution of sources to particulate matter in the Prince George Airshed. The presentation will summarize some of the key preliminary findings from that study.

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Friday, November 14, 2008**

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

**Lecture Theatre 7-212**

## OTHER COMING EVENTS

Global Fridays  
Senate Chambers  
12:00—1:30 pm

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**November 7, 2008**

Lito Arocena, Environmental Science & Engineering, **UNBC**



### THE DOUG LITTLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Dr. Winifred Kessler**

Director of Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed & Subsistence Maintenance  
U. S. Forest Service, Alaska Region

#### Revisiting Forestry's Crystal Ball

Shortly after moving to Prince George in 1993 as chair of UNBC's new Forestry Program, Wini Kessler was invited to speak on "What I See in Forestry's Crystal Ball". Among her broad predictions were:

- *The importance of products that come from forests will increase.*
- *Increasingly, forests will be valued for more than the sum of their products and uses.*
- *There will be better appreciation of forests as complex ecological systems that are controlled by forces bigger than we humans.*

Have these trends and predictions come to pass? On a general note they certainly have, and also in specific and hugely important ways that we had not imagined at the time. In this lecture Dr. Kessler will revisit forestry's crystal ball to discuss major developments of the past 15 years that are shaping the view of forestry's future.

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**7:30 pm**

**Lecture Theatre 7-238**

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**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)**