



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 9 - 13, 2009

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

**This FRIDAY**

**Dr. Scott Green**

Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science & Management Program, UNBC

#### **The Ecology of Culture: Is Sustainability a Pipe Dream?**

Ecology helps us to understand and describe processes and connectivities within nature that promote and sustain healthy ecosystems; the underlying assumption being that natural selection has filtered out "unsustainable" traits in healthy environments. Selection also acts on human culture, and many indigenous cultures reveal practices and values that promote sustainability. Ecology may provide a powerful lens to examine the practices, economies and values of contemporary societies in regards to their sustainability:

- How do modern technological societies rate as ecological systems?
- In what ways do these societies adhere to or disregard selection of practices and values that promote sustainability?
- What are the prospects of making "the global economy" sustainable in terms of ecological principles?



*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Friday, March 6, 2009**

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

**Lecture Theatre 7-238**



**Dr. Rick Baydack**

Professor, Dept. of Environment & Geography, University of Manitoba

Sponsored by UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of TWS

#### **Implementing ecosystem management in an urban environment**

Ecosystem management can be defined as meeting the goals and objectives for a specific geographical area as set by society at large. The 'area' under question can be defined as an ecosystem, meaning all biotic communities and abiotic components along with their various interwoven interactions as contained therein. The process of ecosystem management is closely connected to the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development, so that humans and their well-being are an integral part of the equation. A general 5-step strategy for the implementation of ecosystem management has been developed by the United Nations, and this approach is increasingly being utilized in environmental planning on a global basis. Urban ecosystems, where humans and their associated infrastructures largely dominate 'natural' landscapes, are receiving greater scrutiny by the general public prior to and during development. Residents are demanding to be more involved in expressing their wants, needs, and aspirations for the 'ecosystem' under consideration so that environmental goals can be integrated into planning. Thus, the process of ecosystem management can be applied to these novel urban situations so that the decisions made are based upon the principle of achieving a current level of use of the environment without compromising the ability of future generations to similarly enjoy their use of it. Application of this process and its strengths and weaknesses will be described for a recent environmental planning exercise in south Winnipeg—the Royalwood (sub)urban ecosystem.

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

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

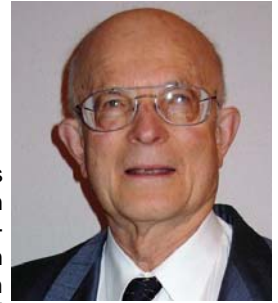
**Lecture Theatre 7-158**

**TUESDAY**

**Dr. J. S. Nelson**

Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta

**How Fish Get Their Common Name**



Dr. Joe Nelson, author of *Fishes of the World* (4 editions) and Chair of the AFIS/ASIH Committee on Names of Fishes, will discuss how we have been successful in North America in achieving uniformity in common names after going through a period of mass confusion. In a real BC success story with victory and compromise, he will look at how Pacific salmon and other BC fish species got their current names. An exploration will be made into how we decide how many species there are. This will take us into areas studied here in BC and Williston Reservoir—kokanee vs sockeye and suckers and their hybridization in Clucultz Lake. It will also take us into looking at species inflation.

March 13, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-238



Meet and Greet with Dr. Nelson  
4:30—5:30 pm, Canfor Wintergarden

*Refreshments will be Served*  
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*This Colloquium is sponsored by the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program*



**4th Annual NRESi Annual Poster Presentation and Lecture**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2009**  
**UNBC Atrium**

**Poster Presentation**  
**5:00—6:00 Atrium Administration Building**

Featuring research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members. Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Administrative Assistants' stations on each floor of Building 8. Those off campus can email Ken Otter (otterk@unbc.ca) to indicate their intention to present.

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**PUBLIC LECTURE**  
**7:00 pm — Canfor Theatre 6-213**

**Dr. Lori Daniels**  
Associate Professor, University of British Columbia



**Widespread Increases in Tree Mortality Rates in Old Forests**

In a recent collaboration with several forest ecologists studying old-growth forests, we determined that tree death rates have more than doubled over the last few decades. Our analyses of longitudinal data from unmanaged old forests in the western United States and southwestern British Columbia showed that background mortality rates have increased rapidly in recent decades, with doubling periods ranging from 17 to 29 years among regions. Increases were also pervasive across elevations, tree sizes, dominant genera, and past fire histories. Forest density and basal area declined slightly, which suggests that increasing mortality was not caused by endogenous increases in competition. Because mortality increased in small trees, the overall increase in mortality cannot be attributed solely to aging of large trees. Regional warming and consequent increases in water deficits are likely contributors to the increases in tree mortality rates.

**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**

## OTHER COMING EVENTS

The following two events are co-sponsored by the Geography Program. We hope to record them and make them available online (information to follow in a few weeks).

### Heather Walsh-Haney, Ph.D.

#### Death Investigation and the Haddonian Triangle

Dr. Walsh-Haney is an assistant professor in the division of justice studies at Florida Gulf Coast University, and is a consultant for several medical examiner offices in Florida. She also teaches various subjects in forensic anthropology and has written extensively on the identification of skeletal remains as a means to solve crimes.

Dr. Walsh-Haney is a member of the Federal Disaster Mortuary Operation Response Team (DMORT). As a member of DMORT, she participated in the search and analysis for the remains at the World Trade Center in 2001, and hurricanes Rita and Wilma. More recently, Dr. Walsh-Haney conducts crime scene investigations, and has done consulting with the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH). She has conducted an assessment of the forensic practices and installation at the Public Ministry morgue in Guatemala City, as well as in Bermuda and the Bahamas.

Dr. Walsh-Haney is the Chair of the Forensic Anthropology Task Group of the American Anthropology Association (AAA) Committee for Human Rights. The work and research conducted by Dr. Walsh-Haney reaches a global perspective. Her interest in speaking at UNBC was peaked when she learned of the international connections and relationships being built by the faculty and students.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Lecture Theatre 7-238**

*Refreshments and light snacks will be served*

### Victoria Sanford, Ph.D.

#### The Land of Pale Hands: Femicide, Social Cleansing and Impunity in Guatemala

Dr. Sanford received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Stanford University where she also received training in international Human Rights Law and Immigration Law at Stanford Law School. Additionally, she received a certificate in Human Rights Law from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Costa Rica.

Dr. Sanford has worked with Central American refugees since 1986 when she founded and directed a non-profit refugee legal services project representing Central American asylum-seekers. As a human rights activist and scholar, she has conducted extensive field research with Maya communities in Guatemala, Afro-Colombian and Indigenous peace communities in Colombia, and Colombian refugee communities in Ecuador. Her research focuses on collective memory, community reconstruction, human rights and International Humanitarian Law during internal armed conflicts and in post-conflict countries in Latin America and Africa.

Dr. Sanford is involved in many areas as

- an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Lehman College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- a Research Associate at Columbia University's Center for International Conflict Resolution and an Affiliated Scholar at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University
- the chair of the American Anthropological Association's Committee for Human Rights.

Dr. Sanford is currently writing a book entitled *Morality and Survival: Child Soldiers and Displacement in Guatemala and Colombia*.

**Thursday, March 12, 2009**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Lecture Theatre 7-238**

*Refreshments and light snacks will be served*



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Geography Program is pleased to announce that **Mr. Fredy Peccerelli**, Executive Director & Founding Member of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in our program. The FAFG is an autonomous, non-profit technical and scientific non-governmental organization. The FAFG's mandate is to strengthen the administration of justice and respect for human rights through the use of forensic anthropology techniques to investigate, document, and raise awareness about past and present human rights violations particularly from the 36-year armed conflict that began in 1960. Mr. Peccerelli's most recent accomplishment is the construction of one of the first functioning DNA Labs in Guatemala that focuses on genocide cases. Mr. Peccerelli is also the recipient of the New York Academy of Sciences 2008 Heinz R. Pagels Human Rights Award.

## PUBLICATIONS

Amos, K.J., Croke, J.C., Timmers, H., **Owens, P.N.**, Thompson, C. (2009) "The application of caesium-137 measurements to investigate floodplain deposition in a large semi-arid catchment in Queensland, Australia: a low-fallout environment". *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 34: 515-529.

Klassen, N.A., **Rea, R.V.** (2008) "What do we know about nocturnal activity of moose?" *Alces* 44: 101-109.

**Rea, R.V., Gillingham, M.P.** (2008) "Effects of plant compensation across sites on regression estimates of shoot biomass and length". *Alces* 44: 21-30.

## CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Sybille Haeussler - UNBC Research Coordinator for the Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council (haeussl@unbc.ca) gave two presentations titled: *Rethinking BEC for a Non-Linear World* and *Rethinking Forest Science for a Non-Linear World* to the BC Ministry of Forests and Range Research Branch ecologists and program managers at their annual strategic planning retreats February 18th and 20th in Sidney, BC.