



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

June 7 - July 1, 2010

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

### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

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Ms. Chelan Zirul is a candidate for the degree:  
**Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography)**

Ms. Zirul will be defending her thesis entitled:  
“The Changing Governance of Rural Regional Development:  
A Case Study of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition”

Supervisor: Dr. **Greg Halseth**

Date: July 5, 2010

Time: 9:00 am

Room: Senate Chambers

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### TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

UNBC soil scientists gave 3 presentations at the Canadian Society of Soil Science conference in Saskatoon, 20-24 June:

- ◆ Debela, F., **Arocena, J.M.**, **Thring, R.** and **T. Whitcombe**, “Organic acids inhibit Pb- and Zn-pyromorphite formation in phosphate amended metal contaminated soils”
- ◆ Robertson, S., **Massicotte, H.**, and **M. Rutherford**. “Positive influences on root symbioses by biochar enhances seedling growth in sub-**boreal** forest soils”
- ◆ **Sanborn, P.**, Smith, S., Farrell, R.-E., and C. Fox. “Pedological diversity in Cordilleran basaltic soils and paleosols”

**Phil Burton** took part in a workshop organized by Christian Messier (Université du Québec à Montréal) on “Forests as Complex Adaptive Systems”, held outside Bromont, Québec, 14-17 June.

**Oscar Garcia** and MSc student Jack Lonsdale attended the 2010 Western Mensurationists' Conference in Missoula, Montana, 20-22 June. Jack presented his thesis work “Creating a hybrid process-empirical model for growth prediction of Sitka spruce in the UK”.

Saphida Migabo attended the ABLE Conference at Dalhousie University 22-26 June.

## TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK (cont'd)

Several of our folk presented at the Prairie Summit joint meeting of Canadian geographers, cartographers, remote sensors and geomorphologists at the University of Regina, 1-5 June. These included Sarah de Leeuw (northern medical program) and NRES graduate students/researchers Jennifer Herkes, Alex Martin, Laura Ryser and Chelan Zirul. **Catherine Nolin** delivered the Suzanne Mackenzie memorial lecture, entitled: "Geography that breaks your heart: feminist geography from/to the peripheries". **Neil Hanlon** and **Roger Wheate** were part of a panel of editors discussing publishing issues for young faculty.

The highlight(s) of the conference were trips to **O'Hanlon's** Irish pub where the founder/owner Niall O'Hanlon warmly welcomed delegates with a similar name, providing free beers. Watch this space for meetings in downtown Toronto using the **Mullins** Irish Pub, or wildlife conferences in **Gillingham**, England.

**Roy Rea** attended a moose conference 16-20 June in International Falls, Minnesota.

**Jane Young** attended the 25th Annual Meeting Joint Conference SPNHC & CBA-ABC in Ottawa 1-4 June. She presented a poster "Documentation of traditional ecological knowledge of Prophet River First Nation for protection of plants and plant gathering sites" (co-authors: B. Wolf, C. MacKay, and A. White) and co-presented a talk with **Art Fredeen**, "BIOL 304: A new upper division plant structure and function course with a society and environment context". Jane was also an invited panelist on a teaching panel discussion, "Best botanical teaching practices: Reaching students in the classroom, lab, and field".

**Jane Young** travelled to Prophet River to continue her research with Prophet River First Nation (PRFN) during the week of 21-25 June. With her partners, Brian Wolf, Cathy MacKay and Angela White, she continues to work with PRFN to help preserve and protect their knowledge of plants and plant gathering sites.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Kennedy, N.**, and **K.N. Egger** (2010) "Impact of wildlife intensity and logging on fungal and nitrogen-cycling bacterial communities in British Columbia forest soils" *Forest Ecology and Management* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2010.05.037>

Smyth, D., **Fredeen, A.L.**, and **A. Booth** (2010) "Reducing solid waste in higher education: the first step towards "greening" a university campus" *Conservation and Recycling* 54: 1007-1016

**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)**