



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

September 24 - 28, 2012

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



Dr. A.S. Bhullar

Professor of Economics, Dept. of Economics & Sociology
Punjab Agricultural University
Ludhiana, India



A review of the global biofuels production with special reference to Canada

For the last few years, transport biofuels (Ethanol and Biodiesel) production and its use got worldwide attention to reduce carbon footprints at the regional and global level. To meet this objective, a large number of countries, including Canada, designed and implemented various policy initiatives to promote the production and commercialization of biofuels. However, the evaluation of the statistics related to biofuels and its feedstock production at the global level indicates that sustainability of biofuels production depends, to a large extent, on the long term sustained cost effective production and availability of its feedstock. How far and how long the cost effective production of biofuels and its feedstock is going to be made available for processing in the future is an open question.

Friday, September 28, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

Dr. Do Hyuk "DK" Kang

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Environmental Science Program, UNBC



The changing hydrological regime of the Fraser River Basin

A macro scale surface hydrology model, the Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC) model, was applied to the Fraser River Basin (FRB) of BC to detect past changes in the watershed's hydrological regime. Previous modeling studies have demonstrated that the FRB is a snow-dominated watershed but with climate change may evolve to a pluvial regime. A previous analysis of streamflow covering a century showed increasing variability in inter-annual flows across the FRB. This application of the VIC model evaluates the changing contribution of snowmelt to the hydrology of the FRB both spatially and temporally. To this end, a 3-hourly meteorological forcing dataset was used to drive the VIC model for 54 years (1953 to 2006). The FRB is then divided into 7 sub-basins and the simulated discharge is validated with stream gauge observations operated by the Water Survey of Canada (WSC). There will then be a focus on the contribution of snowmelt to the total discharge estimated from spatially-averaged maximum snow water equivalent (SWE) divided by annual runoff (Q) over the hydrological years. High values of this ratio indicate that the upper FRB experienced deep wintertime snowpacks followed by high freshets during May and June in the 1990's. On the other hand, the summer season was dry compared with 1960's to 1980's. In addition, simulations by perturbed forcings of precipitation and air temperature suggest that the maximum SWE/Q ratio is more sensitive to air temperature rather than precipitation. The talk will then end with a discussion of microwave remote sensing of snow and its potential utility in assessing the changing FRB.

Friday, October 5, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

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

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

We're on the web at : www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter



GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Danielle McIntosh is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. McIntosh will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Wildlife Viewing in the Mountain National Parks of Canada: An Experiential View”

Supervisor: **Dr. Pam Wright**

Date: **October 25, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: 6-307 Conference Centre

COMING EVENTS — ELSEWHERE

Thursday, September 27 — 7:30 pm

Art Space (above Books & Co.)

****Entrance by donation in support of human rights defenders in Guatemala****

“Witnessing ‘Development’: Violence, Human Rights & Social Justice”

Presented by **Dr. Catherine Nolin** and students who participated in the 6th UNBC Geography-Rights Action Delegation to Guatemala in May/June 2012.

Special Guest: **Dr. W. George Lovell** of the Department of Geography, Queen’s University, and author of **“A Beauty that Hurts: Life and Death in Guatemala”**.

GLOBAL FRIDAYS
Room 10-4520
12:00 - 1:30 pm

September 28, 2012

Dr. W. George Lovell, Professor of Geography, Queen’s University and Killam Research Fellow

“The Archive that Never Was: Terror and Historical Memory in Guatemala”

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Staffan Lindgren has been elected 2nd Vice-President of the Entomological Society of Canada. He will serve in this role as of the Annual Meeting to be held 4-7 November 2012, in Edmonton, and will serve as 1st Vice-President, President and Past President in subsequent years.

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH

Chris Johnson (Conference Organizing Committee), **Kathy Parker**, Libby Williamson-Ehlers, Mike Klaczek, **Doug Heard**, and **Mike Gillingham** (Oral Sessions Chair) attended the 14th North American Caribou Workshop in Fort St. John (24-28 Sept.). Their presentations at the conference included:

- Not so peaceful: quantifying 50 years of landscape change for caribou across the Peace Region of British Columbia. L. Williamson-Ehlers, **C. Johnson**, and D. Seip.
- Woodland caribou: regional research trends, risks and conservation management. D. Powell, **R. Rea**, and **C. Johnson**.
- The potential importance of nutrition in habitat conservation programs for caribou. J. Cook, R. Cook, G. Brown, **K. Parker**, and D. Sleep.
- Does fewer moose lead to an increase in mountain caribou? **D. Heard**, **M. Gillingham**, and R. Steenweg.

Phil Mullins will be attending Beyond the Culture of Nature: Rethinking Canadian and Environmental Studies Conference at UBC 28-30 Sept. Phil will be presenting a paper titled: Paddling out of the wilderness: Reimagining a socio-environmental role for recreational canoe travel in Canada.

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