



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## October 21 - 26, 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](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)



#### Dr. David Schindler

Killam Memorial Chair & Professor of Ecology,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta



#### The Oil Sands: Economic Saviour or Environmental Disaster?

The Alberta oil sands are being promoted by the oil sands industry and government officials as the solution to North American energy needs for the foreseeable future. The impacts of oil sand development have been downplayed in propaganda promoting the oil sands. In this lecture, I will discuss some of the impacts that have been ignored or misrepresented, such as water quality, fisheries, wetland reclamation, carbon sequestration, and treaties with aboriginal communities. I will describe events that have led to a recent Federal-Provincial agreement to improve water monitoring. As of October, 2012, no substantive Federal-Provincial monitoring program is in place.

**Friday, October 26, 2012**

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

**Room: 7-212**

#### Dave Trepanier

Director of the Prince George Activator Society



#### 'Aghelh Nebun: bringing an environmental perspective to the criminal justice system

The Prince George Activator Society (PGAS) assists men on conditional release from prison in their re-integration into society. An important initiative at PGAS has been the development of 'Aghelh Nebun, a wilderness camp on Kenneth Creek in the Bowron River valley. In this talk, I will present the background to this initiative, including the social and cultural dimensions of re-integration. I will then present some of our current work to make the camp environmentally sustainable and self-sufficient. These include sustainable timber harvesting and milling of dimensional lumber, constructing energy-efficient buildings, and growing food at the camp. Aside from their intrinsic value, each of these activities also provides camp residents with valuable and marketable skills. I believe there are tremendous opportunities for collaboration between PGAS and UNBC in disciplines at the intersection of criminal justice, First Nations culture, environmental stewardship, and sustainability, and I look forward to engaging with the UNBC community.

**Friday, November 2, 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.

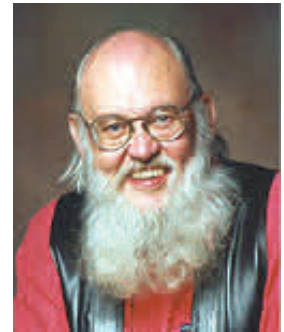
**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca)**

**We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter)**



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**2012 Doug Little Memorial Lecture Series**  
**Thursday, November 8, 2012 7:30 pm**  
**Canfor Theatre (6-213)**

Dr. Fred L. Bunnell  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Forest Sciences  
University of British Columbia



**Her Majesty, Social License and Astonishing Opportunity — Observations of a Bystander**

Only Commonwealth Nations, and not all of them, have retained the feudal concept of crown lands. That concept expands the breadth of stakeholders when governments or corporations request social license to operate. British Columbians take the concept of social license seriously and have frequently denied social license in ways that have led to significant changes in land-use practices. The most common failings of those applying for social license are: lack of respect, leading with economic issues, perceived bullying and omitting or hiding information. British Columbia's history of taking social license seriously, combined with diverse features, such as the province's richness (the richest north temperate region on the planet), climate change and apparently untamable global debt, produce an astonishing opportunity for British Columbians to improve the well-being of their children and grandchildren.

WEBCAST: [http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi\\_webcast.html](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)

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**COMING EVENTS — ELSEWHERE**

Coast to Coast Seminar Series: "*The Role of Science in Marine Policy-Making*", presented by Dr. Jake Rice, Fisheries & Oceans Canada. 30 October at 11:30 - 12:30 in room 3-2024, UNBC Prince George campus. (<http://irmacs.sfu.ca/events/coast-coast-seminars>)

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Jianbing Li** has recently been nominated by the ENI Award Scientific Secretariat in Italy to compete for the 2013 ENI Award in "Protection of the Environment" due to his published research work involving oil recovery and remediation approaches for oily sludge treatment (with Ju Zhang and **Ron Thring** as co-authors). The ENI Award was established by the Italian oil and gas company ENI in 2007, and is now one of the most prestigious international prizes in energy and environmental research. It has four distinct prizes in the fields of new frontiers of hydrocarbons, renewable and non-conventional energy, protection of the environment, and debut in research. The winner of the 2013 ENI Award will travel to Italy in June 2013 to receive a prize of €200,000.

**TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH**

**Catherine Nolin** and graduate student Erica Henderson are in Antigua, Guatemala 22-26 Oct. for the Congress of Latin American Forensic Anthropology (ALAF) where Catherine is presenting the following paper:

Interdisciplinarity in action: Partnerships in support of human rights in post-conflict Guatemala and Peru

Other UNBCers at ALAF include Scott Emmons, Cristian Silva (MA IDIS '11), and Fredy Peccerelli (adjunct, Geography). Catherine will also meet with Grahame Russell (adjunct, Geography) and Nathan Einbinder (MA NRES '10) for continued work with survivors of the internal armed conflict in Rabinal & Rio Negro.



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## TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH (cont'd)

On October 13th the Quesnel River Research Centre hosted the 6th Annual Open House at the station in Likely. A group of 40 people attended to hear UNBC research talks as well as presentations by other people undertaking local research. The event was followed by the first of three SSHRC-funded Town Hall Meetings, the theme of which was "Where Communities and Science Meet". A group of 25 people discussed opportunities and priorities for future university-community research collaborations. For further information contact **Ellen Petticrew** ([ellen@unbc.ca](mailto:ellen@unbc.ca)), **Phil Owens** ([owensp@unbc.ca](mailto:owensp@unbc.ca)) and Sam Albers ([Sam.Albers@unbc.ca](mailto:Sam.Albers@unbc.ca)).

**Ron Thring** and NRES graduate students, Adrian James, Nathan Park, Harpuneet Ghuman, and Inibehe Harry (graduate student at the University of Regina in Process Systems Engineering), attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in Vancouver on 14-17 Oct. and gave the following presentations: (underlined = presenter).

- Characterization of Bottom Ash from a Fixed-Bed Combustion System, Downdraft Gasifier and a Wood Pellet Burner by Fractionation by A.K. James, **R.W. Thring** and **S. Helle**
- Hydrothermal Gasification of Flax Straw in Sub-Critical Water by I. Harry, R. Idem, H. Ibrahim, A. Khan and **R.W. Thring**
- Promotion of Flocculation and Cell Lysis in Waste Activated Pulp Mill Sludge Using Wood Ash by N.D. Park, **S.S. Helle** and **R.W. Thring**
- Pretreatment of Thickened Pulp Mill Waste Activated Sludge for Improved Digestion by N.D. Park, **R.W. Thring** and **S.S. Helle**
- Conversion of Fatty Acids in Waste Vegetable Oil to Methyl Esters Using Solid Acid Catalysts by H.S. Ghuman and **R.W. Thring**

**Ron Thring** was Chair of the session: "Thermal Conversion 2"; International Symposium on Biomass & Bioenergy, and Co-Chair of two other sessions in the Catalysis Symposium: "Catalysis in Heavy Oil Production and Processes", and "Catalytic Reaction Engineering and Kinetics".

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