

WELCOME TO UNBC'S RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Greetings,

The sun is shining and nature is displaying all the signs of growth and rejuvenation. Myself and the Office of Research are continuing to work hard and find ways to enhance UNBC Research. I was pleased to see that some of you made time to join me for the presentation "State of Research at UNBC" on May 1. Thank you for taking time to attend and support the initiative. My intention is to connect with the UNBC research community regularly, as well as use any opportunity to connect with external communities.

In collaboration with the Research Advisory Committee, I am developing a Research Plan to enhance research revenue. Moreover, we now have a road map to hire research personnel (<http://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/sections/research/researchpersonnelrecruitmentguide2014.pdf>). This road map was created due to the concerted efforts of Isobel Hartley (Office of Research) and Jennifer Keryliuk and Kerry Roberts (Human Resources). Internally, we are focusing on streamlining our processes in an effort to make them useful to the research community.

Please note that if you are planning a team grant, or have an idea for developing a team grant, please connect with our office. If you would like your research proposal to be peer reviewed, please give us at least six weeks to provide an expert review. If you would like your proposal to be both internally and externally reviewed for completeness and clarity, please do connect with the appropriate Grant officers in the Office of Research.

The Office of Research is constantly looking for new sources of funding and you may have noticed an increased number of funding source postings. Our goal is to continue to build research strength and resources to take advantage of external opportunities.

I will be away from July 25 to August 7, 2014, to connect with my family in Ontario and Alberta. I wish all of you a relaxing and productive summer.

Ranjana Bird



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2014

External Funding	Internal Deadline	Agency Deadline
SSHRC Connection Grants	n/a	Continuous Intake
CIHR Foundation Scheme 1st Live Pilot (registration)	n/a	Jun 23
NSERC CREATE Program	May 1*	Sept 22
NSERC Collaborative & Thematic Resources Support in Mathematics and Statics Program	May 1*	Sept 22
SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals	May 26	June 1
CIHR Team Grant (LOI due Feb 12)	Jul 30*	Aug 6
NSERC Engage Grants	no deadline	
Mitacs Accelerate Grant	no deadline	
Mitacs Accelerate Development Internship	no deadline	
Internal Funding	Internal Deadline	
Publication Grant	Aug 31	
Conference Travel Grant	Sept 15	

*extra time required to prepare institutional letter of support/endorsement/intent

In an effort to reduce the funding gap that may exist for some existing grantees, CIHR has changed the funding start date for its 2014 Foundation Scheme live pilot and Transitional Open Operating Grant Program competitions from October 1, 2015 to July 1, 2015. Please note that the application deadlines have not changed.

ASSISTANCE WITH CV CONVERSION

NSERC and SSHRC have recently decided to discontinue use of their previous CV formats and adopt the Canadian Common CV (CCV) for many of their funding programs. Although in the long term this should result in efficiencies, in the short term converting online CVs from the former formats to the new one can be tedious and time consuming. The Office of Research is therefore pleased to provide faculty members with assistance in converting obsolete Tri-Council CVs to CCVs (or with updating a CIHR CCV). Specifically, we have hired a couple of students to assist with this task. If you intend to apply for a Tri-Council grant in the 2014/15 fiscal year, please do not hesitate to contact a Research Project Officer on or before May 30, 2014 to request assistance.

WOMAN WHO RUNS, WITH WEEVILS



Figure 1: Sharleen Balogh with Warren Root Collar Weevil. Photo: by Garth Frizzell

Imagine yourself trying to track the movement of a weevil just larger than your fingernail through the forests of Northern BC. It's important; we need to understand how weevils, native to our region, choose the trees where they will lay the eggs that grow into larvae. In our post- Mountain Pine Beetle world, weevils that had been a minor pest in the past now find themselves in new, single-age forests, forests that provide an ideal nurturing ground for their larvae. The tiny weevils are growing into a big problem.

Sharleen Balogh, a graduate student in UNBC's Natural Resource and Environmental Studies program, wants to help explain why the Warren Root Collar Weevil chooses to attack the trees it does. Working under Drs. Staffan Lindgren and Dezene Huber, her research helps track the movement of these insects.

But how do you watch 70-100 insects scattered through a sizable outdoor tree improvement station? Ms. Balogh's unusual solution is to take the current technology pioneered to find avalanche victims in 100 metres of snow, and adapt it for finding weevils just 1.2 cm in size. This means starting her field season capturing 100 weevils, taking them to her lab, and gluing transmitters onto the wing case of each and every one.

After releasing the weevils into her area of a research forest, Ms. Balogh can then track each insect's signature, plot it on a map, and see how they move over time through the forest. Ultimately, when they select a tree, she will be able to assess the tree, and better understand how it was chosen. Do the weevils look for height? Do they smell for a healthy or weak tree? Or is their choice random?

Ms. Balogh's research is going into its second field season this summer. Working with the financial support of an NSERC scholarship, a UNBC entrance scholarship, and a Province of BC Forestry grant, she is able to build on work by previous UNBC graduates on the Warren Root Collar Weevil.

An avid runner, well known in the Prince George running community, she is frequently on the trails, enjoying a competitive race or volunteering at the aptly named spring event, "Beat the Bugs." When Sharleen Balogh completes her second field season and defends her graduate thesis in 2015, her results may help us all to do just that.



Figure 2: Warren Root Collar Weevil with transmitter. Photo: Dr. Staffan Lindgren

NSERC GRANT WORKSHOP

Are you a newer faculty member wanting to apply for an NSERC Discovery Grant? Are you up for renewal of your existing grant? Would you like a refresher on how to write a winning proposal? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our NSERC grant writing workshop "Strategies for Enhancing Success" on Tuesday, May 20th from 9-11am in room ADMN 1069. Two of your peers, who have been on NSERC review committees, will be available to answer questions about the review process and provide valuable insight into what makes a proposal a successfully funded grant. Letters of Intent to apply for a Discovery Grant are to be submitted by August 1st. The NSERC Discovery Grant deadline for submission of proposals is November 1st.

Please contact either Harold Hume (Harold.hume@unbc.ca) or Jacqueline Dockray (Jacqueline.dockray@unbc.ca) to RSVP so that we can ensure we have appropriate refreshments available.

SSHRC GRANT WORKSHOP

The Office of Research will be holding a SSHRC Workshop for those researchers interested in applying for a SSHRC Insight Grant this fall.

The Workshop will include the following topics:

- A Program Update by a SSHRC Representative
- "Do's and Don'ts" Presentation
- "If at first you don't succeed" Presentation
- Grant writing tips

If you attended the workshop last year and found it useful, please encourage your colleagues to attend. This workshop will be held on Thursday, June 5th from 10:00am - 12:00pm in room 6-307. Please RSVP to Nicole Balliet at Nicole.Balliet@unbc.ca by Friday, May 30th.