

WELCOME!

Welcome to this first issue of our new bulletin for the Centre for Northern Studies (CEN: Centre d'études nordiques). CEN has greatly expanded in size over the last few years, and is now composed of researchers from 10 institutions, including 40 professors, many technicians, research associates and postdoctoral fellows, more than 150 graduate students, and research partners in Québec and throughout the world.

Given the extent and diversity of our activities, it is now essential to improve our level of communication among CEN members and with our partners. Each issue of this new bulletin will highlight some recent achievements and publications, and will introduce some of the many resources and activities at CEN. The bulletin will also announce certain events coming up shortly, as well as important deadlines.

If you have information that you would like to communicate, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the editor of the CEN Bulletin, Christine Barnard (see the next page for an introduction to the new CEN administration team).

Happy reading,

Warwick and Monique

CEN directorate

A WORD FROM YOUR STUDENT REP

The New Year is marked with many exciting changes within the CEN and I want to take advantage of the publication of the first CEN Bulletin to convey my best wishes for the New Year to all researchers, research assistants and associates, and students.

The CEN has decided to publish an online bulletin that will inform members of upcoming activities (field activities, conferences, deadlines, etc.) and showcase CEN research (media releases, recent publications, etc.).

As student representative, I wish to inform you that the CEN is looking for four students to form the new student committee. A meeting will be held at the end of the winter to elect two student representatives from Laval University and two others from outside ULaval. The date of this meeting will be announced shortly but in the meantime,

I encourage you to become actively involved in the centre's activities as the main role of the representatives is to communicate student interests to the directorate of the CEN.

Students that are members of the CEN benefit from several privileges. As a member, you can create an account and have access to the CEN server to backup your data, you have access to the CEN's scientific documents (articles, reports, and theses), you are eligible for various bursaries, you can attend stimulating conferences and can explore several student themes available on the server (file under *thèmes exploratoires*).

Wishing you a great semester,

Lydia Querrec (lydia.querrec.1@ulaval.ca)

Student representative at the PhD level
(geography)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On February 26th, CEN is organizing a mini-symposium at Laval University. The meeting will begin after lunch with talks and will be followed by a poster session. An agenda will be sent to members shortly and will be available on the CEN website. The deadline to submit abstracts (250 words max.) is February 16th. Please submit abstracts to Christine Barnard or if you plan to attend without presenting a poster, please also advise Christine.

Cash prizes for publication for CEN students are back! If you are a student and have published an article over the past year (or have received a confirmation of acceptance from the journal editor), you can contact Christine Barnard to obtain the application form. You have until February 13th 2009 to submit your application for this current round of awards.

The deadlines for submitting research permits are fast approaching. Here are a few dates to keep in mind: Nunavut Research Institute – Feb. 15th; Nunavut Impact Review Board and Parks Canada permits – Feb. 28th.

Please let Christine Barnard know of your field activities planned for 2009. Reservations for helicopter and station use are already well underway.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- The CEN is up for renewal of funding from the FQRNT (*Fonds de recherche sur la nature et les technologies*) under the Strategic Clusters Program. The last step was a face-to-face meeting in Montreal on January 27th 2009 before the evaluation

committee. The amount of funds granted for the next 6 years will be announced at the end of April 2009.

- The third annual meeting for the IPY project ArcticWOLVES (Arctic Wildlife

Observatories Linking Vulnerable Eco-Systems) took place from February 6th to 8th 2009 at Laval University. All researchers, students and collaborators from Canada and abroad were invited to attend.



CEN RESEARCHERS

STAR IN AWARD-

WINNING BOOK

Science journalist Dominique Forget was recently awarded the prestigious Science and Society Book Award for her book entitled *Perdre le Nord ?* Published in 2007, the book provides a clear portrait of the economic, environmental, societal and political challenges faced by Northern Canada in the context of global change. CEN researchers Dominique Berteaux and Michel Allard feature in the book and their work contributed significantly to the material presented by the journalist.



CEN IN THE NEWS

The work of CEN researcher Patrick Lajeunesse with GEOTOP collaborator Guillaume St-Onge was recently recognized as one of the top 10 scientific discoveries from Québec in 2008. These findings relate to the huge subglacial deluge from Lake Agassiz-Ojibway along the southern margin of the Laurentide Ice Sheet, 8500 years ago: Lajeunesse, P. & St-Onge, G. (2008) The subglacial origin of the Lake Agassiz-Ojibway final outburst flood. *Nature Geoscience* 1: 184-188.

A team led by Gilles Gauthier tagged Snowy Owls with satellite transmitters to track the species movements and thereby better understand the species' phenology. To their great surprise, six owls overwintered on sea ice in the Arctic Ocean. These results received a great deal of media attention last fall and were selected by NSERC for an international press release. See <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081210143416.htm>

The observations by CEN researchers and collaborators of massive warming and breakup of ice shelves at Ellesmere Island travelled around the globe last fall via Reuters, Canwest, Agence France-Presse and other news services. Just last summer, the Markham Ice Shelf, measuring 50 km², detached itself from Ellesmere Island. The Serson Ice Shelf lost 122 km² of ice which represented 60% of its total area. These losses imply that rare ice-dependent ecosystems are now on the brink of extinction.

THE CEN ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Warwick Vincent

Director

warwick.vincent@bio.ulaval.ca

- My background is in freshwater and marine ecosystems, with a special interest in how climate affects microbial habitats, biodiversity and processes at the base of aquatic food webs. I've worked on lakes, rivers and coastal oceans in several parts of the world, but feel most at home in the Polar Regions. Over the last 15 years, CEN has witnessed rapid growth and strong multi-institutional development of activities, personnel and resources. CEN is now well positioned to continue its evolution and scientific impact at the regional, national and international levels.



Monique Bernier

Co-director

monique.bernier@ete.inrs.ca

- I have a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Sherbrooke and my scientific career began at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (NRCan). After completing my PhD at the INRS in water sciences, I obtained a position as professor at INRS and specialized in developing remote sensing applications to monitor water resources and the cryosphere (snow, ice, boreal bogs, humidity and frost). I am part of GÉOIDE and ArcticNet. Last June, I joined the CEN directorate with much enthusiasm and look forward to facing the exciting challenges of the North as a researcher and as a citizen.



Nathalie Racine

Administration secretary

cen@cen.ulaval.ca

- I have worked at Université Laval as administrative assistant since February 2004. I have held several different positions since my arrival at the University, one of which was with the CRIFPÉ, a research centre specializing in education. Before working at the University, I was administrative assistant for the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs. I am pleased to be part of the new CEN team and look forward to assisting you with all administrative logistics.



Christine Barnard

Scientific Coordinator

christine.barnard@cen.ulaval.ca

- I obtained my B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology at McGill University (MacDonald Campus) which included two semesters at Memorial University in Newfoundland. After a few years working as a biologist, I decided to undertake a Master's and PhD in Environmental Sciences at UQTR. My research focused on food web dynamics in the St. Lawrence River and estuary. For the past few years I worked for ArcticNet as Research and Data Coordinator. I have developed a passion for northern research and love working with researchers, students and northern communities. I am excited to now be part of the CEN and I look forward to contributing to our acquisition and transfer of knowledge on the North.

