

Introduction



DEFENSES AND COLLOQUIUMS

Richard Sunde will defend his masters thesis on "*Sequence Stratigraphy of the Mixed Clastic-Carbonate Lower Cretaceous Albemarle Embayment, North Carolina*" on Monday, April 28th, 2008.

Dimensional Structural Controls on Rock Slope Failure Mechanisms".

Mark Nelson presented his Colloquium on Tuesday, March 18th, 2008. The title is:
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Elizabeth Westberg will present her colloquium on Monday April 14th, 2008. The title is "*Constraining the conditions and timing of deformation and metamorphism of the Yukon Tanana Terrane in the Big Salmon Range of South-Central Yukon*".

Aaron DesRoches defended his masters thesis on "*Integrated Ichnology, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy of the lower Falher Member, Spirit River formation, Northeastern British Columbia and Central Alberta*" on Wednesday April 2nd, 2008.

Ming Yan defended her masters thesis on "*Numerical Modeling of Brittle Fracture and Step-path Failure: From Laboratory to Rock Slope Scale*" on Friday, March 28th, 2008.

Chris Kowalchuk defended his masters thesis on "*Quaternary Geology of the Zama City Area, Northwestern Alberta*" on Wednesday, March 26th, 2008.

Marc-Andre Brideau presented his Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam on Thursday, March 20th, 2008. The title is "*Three*

EVENTS



LIFE ON THE RED PLANET

By Sheila Reynolds - Surrey North Delta Leader - February 03, 2008

It's cold, it's dry and it's very remote.

It's an area of southern Utah – five hours from Salt Lake City and nine miles outside Hanksville, a town of just 250 people.

"You actually have to navigate to the town through GPS coordinates – it's not easy to get to," says Kerry Cupit.

But for the next two weeks, the distant rocky desert locale will be home to the Surrey resident and seven other Canadians selected for Mars Society Canada's latest expedition to the Mars Desert Research Station.

This is the seventh season of the mission, but the first to send an all-Canadian crew.

Cupit, a student at Simon Fraser University, was selected after responding to an open call for researchers for science-based positions. Engineers had been pre-selected several months prior, but more scientists were required.

The fourth-year Earth Sciences student sent his resumé and a research proposal – suggesting he would study and analyze gases in the soil to gain information about the area's geological structure – and was chosen.

"I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity – I've always been interested in this," Cupit says.

Other crew members will perform studies in different fields, such as biology, physiology, crew dynamics and operational protocols.

Cupit left Friday and the expedition begins today (Feb. 3) and continues until Feb. 16.

Everything the researchers do will simulate possible conditions on Mars. Food will be either rehydrated or grown on site, space suits will be worn outside the living module, ATV's will be used for transport and communication with the outside world will be delayed.

"The ultimate goal is to hopefully learn a bit about what it would be like to work in a Mars-like setting and to share that information with both the public and academic researchers," said Cupit, 27.

"We're trying to capture the public's imagination as well ... to hopefully encourage more people to undertake space sciences as an eduFTD.090t67..1.1. iT su."s.

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ROCK SLIDE STUDY

John Clague, Brent Ward, and Doug Stead are involved in a study of a rockslide that triggered a tsunami in Chehalis Lake in early December 2007. The rockslide (estimated volume 3 Mm³) occurred on a steep slope at the northwest end of the lake on the evening of December 4, 2007. The failed rock mass rapidly fragmented as it fell several hundred metres down the slope and into Chehalis Lake. When the blocky debris entered the lake, it created a series of waves (tsunami) that propagated across and down the lake. The waves stripped forest off slopes up to 20 m above lake level at the north end of the lake, and up to 10 m above lake level along the middle and southern shores of the lake. Two forest service campsites were destroyed and a third damaged. Fortunately, the campsites were unoccupied at the time. The