

Aurora Research Institute - South Slave

SPRING UPDATE



HELLO, IT'S BEEN AWHILE!

Sarah Rosolen, Manager South Slave Research Centre

It's hard to believe that I was away for almost 4 years! Much has changed over this time, so I thought we should share an update.

Dr. Jessica Dutton, Research Ethics Manager has moved on (we miss her and wish her well!) and Dr. Sunila Kalkar now fills that role. She is amazing and very eager to help you with all your research ethics questions and needs. Learn about the world Research Ethics on page 5.

Hilary Turko is our STEM Outreach Coordinator. Hiring her was the last thing I did before I got sick, and she has grown an amazing youth science program in my absence. Learn about some of our STEM opportunities on page 3.

We are also excited to welcome Dr. Julián Idrobo in the newly created Research Chair of Indigenous Approaches to Environmental Management. He shares what this is and what it means for our community on page 2.

Now that many of the COVID-19 public health restrictions are being lifted, we look forward to welcoming you back to our office (Room 139 at Thebacha Campus) to talk about research ideas and needs - or just to say hi! You can also give us a call at 872-7080. We are busy making plans for the summer and coming up with ideas for growing and sharing research in the community, so be sure to stay in touch!



Most of the ARI- South Slave team

IN THIS UPDATE

Welcome Dr. Julián Idrobo,
Research Chair of Indigenous
Approaches to Environmental
Management • P. 2

STEM Outreach programs
Hilary Turko • P. 3

Fort Smith MakerSpace
Speaker Series • P. 4

Welcome, Dr. Sunila Kalkar,
Research Ethics Manager
More new faces • P. 5

Remember Dr. Akira Osawa
Upcoming Events • P. 6

Research CASH Grant
Writing Support • P. 7

Share your research

We want to hear about
YOUR projects!

If you are doing research in the
South Slave region, send us some
info, photos or any media about
your work - we would love to
share what you are doing in our
next update!

Please send your stories to
ssrc@auroracollege.nt.ca

RESEARCH CHAIR IN INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Julián Idrobo joined us as Research Chair in Indigenous Approaches to Environmental Management last fall.

Born in Colombia, Julián is a recent settler and an interdisciplinary scholar committed to building more sustainable and socially just environmental management research and practice. He holds a PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Manitoba and was professor at Los Andes University in Colombia.

Julián's research, work and life have taken him to the Eastern Arctic, Eeyou Istchee, Brazil, Bolivia and Colombia. There he has worked collaboratively with Indigenous peoples and local communities to understand, visualize and mobilize the contribution of indigenous knowledge, practices and institutions to biodiversity conservation, wellbeing and livelihoods in the context of research, planning and decision-making.

Julián is also passionate about the outdoors, an avid cyclist and an amateur chef, who carries his bikes and spices wherever he goes.



GOALS FOR THE CHAIR

This Research Chair seeks to develop partnerships with Indigenous nations and communities to build capacity for conducting research that satisfies local needs, follows local knowledge, values and worldviews and contributes to self-determination. Julián is keen to facilitate the development of research capacity and practice in the North and for the North.

The chair will focus on environmental stewardship, alternatives to conservation, biocultural diversity and small-scale fisheries.

If you are interested in developing collaborations with Julián and the Aurora Research Institute feel free to contact him at:

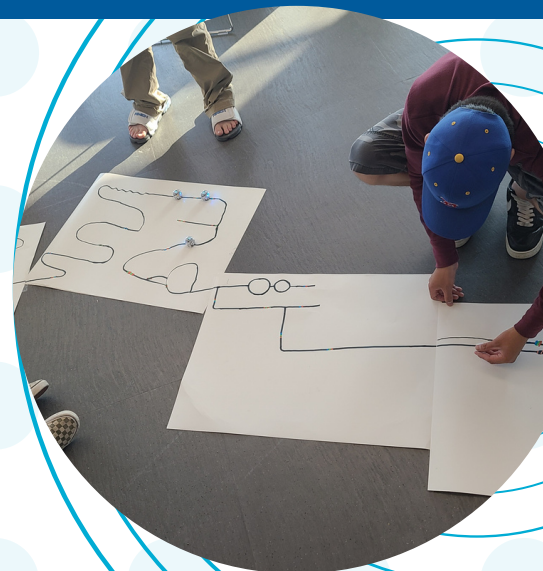
Jldrobo@aurorocollege.nt.ca



NEW STEM KITS AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH SLAVE

ARI provides STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming for schools (JK-12), day camps, and community groups. We LOVE to deliver programs in person, but we can't be everywhere all the time, so we have developed some amazing kits with everything you need to deliver engaging, exciting science lessons to your class or group. We also provide training (in person or via video).

This is all FREE - we will even return ship the kits to anyone in the South Slave (for other regions, please contact us and we will see what we can do). If your organization is looking for engaging, hands-on STEM activities for youth, contact me at hturko@auroracollege.nt.ca and I will set you up!



The South Slave Outreach Team consists of coordinator, Hilary Turko and assistant Raji Cavala (Raji is graduating from ENRTP and moving on to other things -- we wish you all the best, Raji!).



New Website!

WWW.NWTSTEMKITS.CA

2021 IN REVIEW

Despite the pandemic, we saw record science outreach in the South Slave region last year!

- Because we couldn't go into classrooms, we trained JK-12 teachers and loaned out gear. This meant that our science programs reached youth over 1000 times!
- We did get out a little bit: we hosted 51 hands-on CPHO approved in-person science events, reaching youth in Fort Smith 736 times.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A MAKERSPACE IN FORT SMITH?

MakerSpaces are places where people can access the tools, technology, training and space they need to, you guessed it, make stuff. MakerSpaces come in all different forms -- some are focussed on carpentry and woodworking, others are more craft-related -- like tools to make T-shirts and mugs while others focus on technology such as computer applications for photo and video editing.

The South Slave Research Team has been working with the Town of Fort Smith, Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre, Thebacha Business Development Services, Thebacha & Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society, and ITI to figure out if and what a future Fort Smith MakerSpace might look like. If you or your organization is interested in getting involved or have some ideas, please contact [us](#).



Photos from the INNOVATE MakerSpace in Inuvik

STAY IN THE KNOW!



Stay Connected with **Aurora Research Institute** on Facebook and Twitter to learn about Speaker Series, funding opportunities, and research programs happening across the territory.

Speaker Series

During the pandemic our Speaker Series moved virtual, with great success. Being online meant we could connect more people with research happening across the NWT. Last year we hosted 10 events featuring 28 speakers, reaching over 500 viewers. If you missed any of these, you can access recordings on our [website](#).

Upcoming events are announced on our [website](#), the ARI Facebook page as well as on the Fort Smith Community Bulletin Board.

RESEARCH ETHICS

Sunila joined the South Slave Research Centre last April as Manager, Research Ethics and Regional Programs. An Internal Medicine specialist by training, Sunila has worked in various research administration roles in Toronto area hospitals.

If the research study involves human participants or their data, the researcher is required to obtain ethics approval certificate BEFORE the study is started. The research ethics office works with researchers and their team members to ensure that research receiving ethics approval from Aurora College meets required internal college policy standards and applicable national standards.

Click here for more information about [Aurora College Research Ethics Committee](#).



MORE NEW FACES

We are pleased to welcome Sharon Irwin to the office for the next few months. Sharon is recently retired from Parks Canada so we coaxed her to come help us get some on-the-ground ecological programs and partnerships running. Sharon loves the outdoors, travel and wildlife, especially birds and bats. She will be working in the mornings-- please drop in to say hi!



We are also really happy to have Robert Gray joining our team part-time as Research Assistant in the Ethics Program. Robbie grew up in Fort Smith and has recently returned to Smith after finishing his Bachelors degree in Anthropology in Edmonton. An avid book reader, Robbie enjoys reading wide variety of topics from scientific journals, to classical literature, to modern fiction and everything in between.

REMEMBERING AKIRA OSAWA

Dr. Akira Osawa has been a familiar face in Fort Smith, coming to town with his research team every July since 1997 to carry out his forest research. Unfortunately, in May 2019 he lost his battle with cancer. We would like to acknowledge his huge contribution to boreal forest ecology in this region and worldwide.

Akira was an expert in forest stand development, forest production and carbon dynamics. He was involved in numerous national and international research projects on boreal forest dynamics, particularly in northwestern Canada, Central Siberia, Scandinavia, and Japan. Akira started coming to the Wood Buffalo National Park and Fort Smith area for his research in 1986. From 1997 to 2018 he came every summer. He was joined by his wife Nahoko, who is also a forest ecologist, starting in 1991, and their daughter Hatena (aged 2 years at the time) starting in 1997.

Much simplified, his research in this area looked at:

- (1) How trees grow - What is a tree's growth possibility and limitation and how does that relate to tree architecture?
- (2) Carbon net production of forests and ecosystems - How much carbon can the forest gain and what limits it?
- (3) Reconstruction of forest biomass in the past using present forest condition - How does tree ring information relate to environment and climate change?

Akira was born April 19, 1954 in Japan and passed away 22 May, 2019. He had a PhD in Forestry in Silviculture and Forest Ecology from Yale University in the USA and was a professor in Ecosystem Production and Dynamics, at Kyoto University, Japan. He was the primary researcher and co-researcher for more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and 16 books.

Akira touched many people over his 35 years of research in the region. We will miss his visits and his kindness and generosity.

We are hopeful that his research will be carried on. While Akira may not be with us anymore, his research team is making plans to return this summer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

RESEARCH CASH - Grant writing support for community organizations through March (see next page for details)

SCIENCE ODYSSEY - fun family science around town May 7-22

Be A Scientist - family science open house May 14 at Thebacha Campus

BIRDING 101 - intro to birding workshops for everyone in May/June

AURORANAUTS STEM club starting this summer!

RESEARCH
CASH

Capacity

Access

Strength

Here

TRI-COUNCIL GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

for Northern researchers

Social science + humanities grant writing support

with Dr. Kyla Reid, Carleton University

Live sessions: 9:00am-12:00noon MST

March 1, 4, 8, and 10, 2022

Natural science + engineering grant writing support

with Dr. Idiko de Boer, Shawna Reibling, Dr. Stephanie Whitney, Dr. Agnes Bantigue, and Dr. Lara Green, Wilfred Laurier University

Live sessions: 9:00am-11:00am MST

March 16, 18, 22, and 25, 2022

Apply at: bit.ly/ResearchCASH

Email research@nwtresearch.com for more information



Each workshop will feature:

- Four live virtual sessions to learn about writing specific elements of a Tri-Council grant application, workshop your own drafts of these components, and receive feedback.
- Office hours and email support from grant writing experts.
- The opportunity to network with other northerners developing research proposals.



Research Institute
Institut de recherche



Hoti ts'eeda
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPOR SUPPORT UNIT