



# Welcome to **PolarConnect**

With Keri Rodgers and the Tundra  
Plants in a Changing Climate  
Team in Barrow, Alaska

Monday, 16 August 2010

3 pm AKDT (4 PM PDT, 5 PM MDT, 6 PM CDT, 7 PM EDT)



Wimba  
people teach people

# WELCOME TO WIMBA

Raise your hand to ask a question

Slides will be shown here

If using VOIP,  
press and hold here to talk

Your connection strength

'Chat' with one person or the entire group

ARCUS

ARCTIC RESEARCH CONSORTIUM OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Main Room

People (3)  
Kristin\_Timm  
kristina\_creak  
Kristin\_Timm

Exit - Lobby - Help

**Please note:**

- Participant using the telephone can mute/unmute by pressing \*6 on the phone.
- Today's event will be recorded and archived.

## Roll Call

**When called, please state your:**

- ✓ Name
- ✓ School / Institution
- ✓ The number of students and adults participating with you in the same location

# What is PolarTREC?

PolarTREC is a professional development experience in which K-12 teachers are paired with researchers for 2-6 week research experiences in the polar regions.

From 2010-2013, nearly 50 teachers from around the United States will join scientists in the Arctic and Antarctica to learn about science, the polar regions, and to share what they have learned with their students and communities.



# Tundra Plants in a Changing Climate

*Las plantas de la tundra en un clima cambiando*

Dr. Robert Hollister  
Jeremy May  
Jennifer Liebig

Keri Rodgers  
Robert Slider  
Kelsey Kremers

*Made possible through the collaboration of:*  
The Arctic Research Consortium of the United States  
PolarTREC  
The National Science Foundation  
Grand Valley State University  
The International Tundra Experiment  
Barrow Arctic Science Consortium  
The Gateway School of Environmental Research and Technology

# Our Research Team

## *Nuestro equipo de investigación*



Rob  
Slider



Jenny  
Liebig



Jeremy  
May



Keri  
Rodgers



Kelsey  
Kremers



Bob  
Hollister

# Arctic Tundra

## *La tundra ártica*

- Very short growing season
- Small plants and no trees
- Permafrost



- *Temporada de crecimiento muy corta*
- *Plantas pequeñas y sin árboles*
- *Permafjelo*

# Permafrost

*El permafielo*

- Ground that is frozen
- Top active layer thaws in summer
- Active layer refreezes every winter



- *Tierra congelada*
- *Primer estrato se derrite cada verano*
- *Estrato activo se hiela cada año*

# The State of the Arctic and of Our World

## *El estado del Ártico y de nuestro planeta*

- Global temperatures have been rising since the last Ice Age
- Temperatures are now rising at an unprecedented rate
- Organisms are affected by their environment



- *Las temperaturas han subido desde la última edad de hielo*
- *La velocidad de esta subida es sin precedentes*
- *Organismos son afectados por el medioambiente*

# International Tundra Experiment (ITEX)

*El experimento internacional de la tundra (ITEX)*

We want to know:

How will an increase of air temperatures of 1 to 3 degrees Celsius affect Arctic plants?



*Queremos saber:*

*¿Cómo serán afectadas las plantas árticas si las temperaturas suben 1 a 3 grados centígrados?*

# What is ITEX?

*¿Qué es ITEX?*

- 11 countries with 19 experimental sites since 1993
- Compare common plants throughout the entire Arctic region
- Examine plants' growth rates and life cycles using standard protocol in all sites



- 11 países con 19 sitios experimentales desde 1993
- Comparar plantas comunes por toda la región ártica
- Examinar el crecimiento y el ciclo de vida usando un protocolo común en todos los sitios

# Why ITEX?

## *¿Por qué ITEX?*

- The Arctic is warming more quickly than other ecosystems
- Changes in the tundra are already visible
- Understanding the tundra we may be able to predict what will happen in other biomes as climate changes



- *El Ártico se está calentando más rápido que otros ecosistemas*
- *Ya se ven cambios en la tundra*
- *Entendiendo lo que pasa en la tundra, podamos predecir lo que pasará en otros biomas en el futuro*

# The Experiment

## *El experimento*

- Each site contains 24 control and experimental plots
- Each plot is 1 meter squared
- Open-top chambers act like greenhouses in experimental plots



- *Cada sitio contiene 24 terrenos controlados y experimentales*
- *Cada terreno mide un metro cuadrado*
- *Cámaras abiertas funcionan como invernaderos en los terrenos experimentales*

# Where are we? ¿Dónde estamos?



# On Top of the World in Barrow

*En la cumbre del mundo en Barrow*

- 4,000 inhabitants
- Northernmost City in North America
- Built on the shore of the Arctic Ocean



- 4.000 habitantes
- La ciudad más al norte de Norteamérica
- Construida en la orilla del Océano Ártico

# Atqasuk: The Inland Village

*Atqasuk: la aldea del interior*

- 217 inhabitants
- 60 miles south of Barrow
- Only reachable by plane



- 217 habitantes
- 60 millas al sur de Barrow
- Solo puede llegar en avión



Is there any difference between Barrow and Atqasuk?

*¿Hay una diferencia entre Barrow y Atqasuk?*

**Barrow**



**Atqasuk**



# What have we learned so far?

## *¿Qué hemos aprendido?*

- Some plants will benefit with an increase of temperature while others are negatively affected
- Some plants die out with an increase in temperature
- Some communities change with an increase of temperature



- *Algunas plantas son afectadas positivamente mientras otras son afectadas negativamente por el aumento de temperatura*
- *Algunas plantas no pueden aguantar el aumento de temperatura y mueren*
- *Algunas comunidades cambian con un aumento de temperatura*

## Questions & Answers

**Speak slowly, loud, and clear**

- ✓ State your name and school
- ✓ Who is your question for
- ✓ State your question



# Upcoming Events

**Thursday, 19 August 2010** – PolarConnect event with Jim Pottinger in Greenland

**Tuesday, 31 August 2010** – Researcher Info Webinar

**Thursday, 9 September 2010** – Teacher Info Webinar

**Register for all events at [www.polartrec.com!](http://www.polartrec.com)**

# Thank You!

An archive of the event will be available shortly.

<http://www.polartrec.com/polar-connect/archive>

