Riddell Faculty Seminar Series presents:

Discovery of the Franklin Expedition Ship HMS Erebus

Theresa Nichols & Oksana Schimnowski, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Thursday, March 12th, 2015
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Place: 223 Wallace Building

Abstract: One of the greatest archaeological cold cases was finally solved recently when the Canadian Victoria Strait Expedition team found one of legendary explorer Sir John Franklin’s missing ships at the bottom of the Arctic Ocean in September 2014, ending a mystery that has spanned nearly two centuries.

Led by Parks Canada, the 2014 Expedition brought together an unprecedented number of public, private and non-profit sectors to share resources and expertise. Ultimately, it was the combination of state-of-the-art technology, modern expertise, 19th century Inuit oral testimony, and luck, that led to the discovery of one of Franklin’s ships, HMS Erebus, in the eastern waters of Queen Maud Gulf.

Biographies: Theresa Nichols is currently a senior Communications Advisor with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She is a graduate from the University of Manitoba’s CEOS program, and has significant experience working in Canada’s Arctic. Theresa spent two years as media liaison aboard the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the main ship used for the government-led searches for Sir John Franklin’s lost vessels. During both of these expeditions, she worked closely with colleagues from Parks Canada, the Government of Nunavut, the Arctic Research Foundation and several other government and private partners to accurately capture and showcase the missions, culminating with this year’s most extraordinary archeological discovery.

Oksana Schimnowski is a Science Advisor in the Arctic Aquatic Research Division at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and is a graduate of University of Manitoba CEOS program. Between 2010 and 2012 she took formal leave from her position in order to lead the private non-profit contributions of the Arctic Research Foundation to the Parks Canada-led mission searching for HMS Erebus and Terror. The Arctic Research Foundation contributions continue to this day involving the operations, vessel refit and annual contributions of the 64’ research vessel Martin Bergmann for the full duration of the Arctic’s short summer field season.

12:00 p.m.   Free pizza lunch for graduate students
Dean’s Office Boardroom - 440 Wallace Bldg.