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Third Annual UNBC Polar Day



On Friday March 1st, the Northern Studies Program will host the **Third Annual UNBC Polar Day**, a celebration of research and teaching in the Arctic and Antarctic. Polar Day will begin on Thursday February 28th at 2:30 pm with *Trail Talk*, an interpretive hike into Forests for the World (see page 3 for more information). On Thursday evening, Polar Day presents *Chasing Ice*, a revolutionary documentary about the impacts of climate change in the Arctic. The film will be shown in the Canfor Theatre and admission is free. The doors open at 7 pm. and the film starts at 7:30 pm.

On Friday March 1st, from 10 am until 12 noon, the Northern Research Group will host the *Polar Expo* and *Polar Café* in the Wintergarden and the Doug Little Lounge (adjacent to the Wintergarden). This will be an opportunity to see the exciting research being done at UNBC on the Polar Regions, and talk to some of the faculty and students who are involved in this research, as well as our Polar Day guest speakers. At 12 noon, **Hayley Hessel**, the former Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the University of the Arctic and an Associate Professor in the Department of Bioresources Policy, Business and Economics, and the School of the Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, will be giving a presentation on “The University of the Arctic: Past, Present and Future.” This event is co-sponsored by the Global Friday Speaker Series and the UNBC Graduate Conference, and will be held in the Bentley Centre. At 3:30pm, in room 7-158, Doctoral Candidate and Coordinator of the Northern Research Group, **Sonja Ostertag** will be presenting her research on “A Community-Based Approach to Assessing the Risks of Mercury Toxicity in Beluga Whales from the Western Canadian Arctic” at the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute’s Colloquium Series. Participants in Polar Day are encouraged to view *Inquiry*, an interactive art exhibit on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline inquiry in the 1970s. The exhibit is in the Rotunda Art Gallery on campus until March 4th and is generously sponsored by the UNBC Arts Council.

Faculty Profile: Tracy Summerville

Tracy Summerville is an Associate Professor in Political Science. Her research work focuses on the impacts of globalization of northern British Columbia and on local community sustainability planning. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the MyPG Sustainability Plan and recently completed a collaborative project on communicating science into an integrated sustainability plan. Dr. Summerville's work is concerned with how communities in the provincial north are impacted by global market forces and state ideology. Her work examines the capacity of communities to respond to changing demands.



Appointment of University of the Arctic Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies (North America)

In January of this this year, Pat Maher, an Associate Professor in the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management (ORTM) Program at UNBC became the new Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies (North America) for the University of the Arctic. As the head of UArctic's North American Regional Office of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Maher will be leading the overall international online delivery of UArctic's Circumpolar Studies (BCS) program, and coordinating the Circumpolar Studies and Open Learning program areas in North America. Likewise he will also work with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies in Russia and the Associate Deans of the Nordic-Barents Region in Norway to engage interested members and partners in the continued strategic development of activities related to the Undergraduate Studies program. Within UArctic, Dr. Maher also serves as the lead of the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Tourism.

UNBC School of Social Work Actively Engaged in UArctic



The UNBC School of Social Work is an active member of the University of the Arctic's Social Work Thematic Network. In August 2011, Social Work Professors Dawn Hemingway and Glen Schmidt attended the thematic network conference in Reykjavik, Iceland presenting a paper entitled: *Supporting Healthy Northern Communities Through Social Work*. The paper reported on a project that examined and evaluated the effects of one-time funding on capacity building in health and social welfare organizations in a remote and northern section of British Columbia. The paper was subsequently published in the *Journal of Comparative Social Work* (Issue 1 2012 www.jcsw.no).

More recently, in conjunction with the International Conference on Social Work and Social Development, the University of the Arctic Social Work Thematic Network held a one-day conference in Stockholm, Sweden, July 2012. In addition to their involvement in the organizational and planning component of the event, Professors Hemingway and Schmidt contributed to a panel presentation entitled: *Challenges for Public Policy and Social Work Practices in the Arctic*. The next University of the Arctic Social Work event bringing together members from across the global north will take place in Melbourne, Australia (yes, Australia!) in conjunction with the next International Social Work and Social Development Conference to be held in July 2014. The *Thematic Network in Social Work Newsletter* and other information about our ongoing work are available at: <http://www.uarctic.org/singleArticle.aspx?m=281&amid=1143> or you can connect Dawn or Glen.

Northern Research Group – Trail Talk

On Thursday February 28th from 2:30-5:00, join the Northern Research Group for Trail Talk, an interpretive hike into Forests for the World, and learn about the traditional uses of trails. Activities include a 30 min walk followed by a campfire, tea, snowshoe races, and building of a lean-to and quinzee. This event will be hosted by Gregory-Lowan Trudeau (FNST), Alyce Johnson (FNST), Antonia Mills (FNST) and Edie and Robert Frederick (Lheidli elders). The group will meet in the Wintergarden at 2:30. Bring a reusable mug and be sure to dress warmly!

Thesis Defence

On Wednesday February 27th, Blake Rowsell, a Candidate in the Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Tourism) Program will defend his thesis, entitled: “Mountain Bike Tourism Development Under the Midnight Sun: Capitalizing on Destination Attributes to Maximize Potential in the Yukon Territory, Canada.” Blake is a recipient of research funding through the Northern Scientific Training Program (NSTP). The defence will be held at 10 am in room 6-306 in the Conference Centre. Blake’s supervisor is Dr. Patrick Maher, Associate Professor, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program. Good luck Blake!