

# UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends  
– Fall 2016

For the second consecutive year UNBC is rated as the best university in its category by Maclean's

## We're No.1

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**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



# A Sign of Things to Come

## A message from UNBC President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Daniel J. Weeks

For millennia, human kind has used symbols to draw attention to important concepts, illustrate beliefs, demonstrate respect, and build legacies. Be they gestures, symbols, imagery, or buildings, symbols are a vital component of communication.

But symbols do a lot more than that. They are a manifestation of what is important to a community. At UNBC, we recently hosted two occasions that were symbolic, but that really pay homage to our past, demonstrate respect for community, and set us up for enhanced partnership and collaboration in the future.

Sept. 30, 2016 was one of the best days I've had at UNBC, a day when we celebrated the relationship we enjoy with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in Prince George. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding that jointly declares a statement of relationship building and

a collaborative future. We raised the Lheidli T'enneh flag to fly on a new flagpole at the University entrance. And we unveiled a new entrance sign to the Prince George campus, with the Dakehl (Carrier) phrase, NIZDEH NEKEYOH HOHUDEL'EH BAIYOH, meaning "Northern House of Learning."

To be joined by scores of elders and community leaders at such a momentous occasion, and to share in this celebration of friendship and respect was truly heart-warming, an event I won't soon forget. Earlier that week, we re-named the administration building on the Prince George campus as Charles J McCaffray Hall, one of the early academic visionaries who championed the cause of UNBC. We were joined by many of his family members, including his grandson and current UNBC student Liam Stewart. And UNBC founder Tom Steadman, who was one of those who recognized

the importance of honouring Charles McCaffray, also played a great role in the celebration.

It's these types of celebrations and symbolic gestures that demonstrate not only UNBC's recognition of its supporters, but its dedication to inclusivity and diversity in the future. And it's a future filled with great promise indeed.



From left: Liam Stewart, Dr. Daniel Weeks and Tom Steadman at the dedication of Charles J McCaffray Hall.



# Building a Future of Friendship and Respect

## UNBC, Lheidli T'enneh strengthen their bond

Amidst the crisp fall air and turning leaves on a beautiful fall morning in September, the unique bond between UNBC and the Lheidli T'enneh Nation was strengthened.

UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks was joined by Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dominic Frederick and a group of Elders to recognize the important relationship that UNBC and the Lheidli T'enneh share.

"We are happy to continue to collaborate and strengthen our ties with UNBC," said Chief Frederick. "It's another example of recognizing the Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory that the University's Prince George campus is situated within."

A new sign was unveiled at the campus entrance on University Way. It's written in the Dakehl (Carrier) language, meaning "Northern House of Learning." A new flag pole was also installed in the rose garden in the bus loop where the Lheidli T'enneh flag will now permanently fly. Finally, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNBC and the Lheidli T'enneh marks a statement of relationship building between UNBC and the Lheidli T'enneh for a collaborative future.

"These permanent fixtures on campus are just more examples of how the UNBC community and the Lheidli T'enneh can continue to build a co-operative, long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship where principles of respect, communication, trust and understanding will lead to positive and meaningful collaborations and partnerships," said Dr. Weeks. "The fixtures also signify several of our key core values of inclusiveness and diversity which reflect the spirit of the University's motto – En Cha Huna (that person also lives)."

The Elders worked tirelessly for the last year sharing their knowledge and expertise on the project with Dr. Rheanna Robinson, UNBC's Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Relations.

"It's exciting to see formal representations of UNBC's relationship with the Lheidli T'enneh and the acknowledgement of the territory being celebrated," said Robinson. "It has been a privilege and honour to work with the Lheidli T'enneh Elders on the language initiative, and the Memorandum of Understanding creates the foundation for a strong and resilient future of collaborative engagements with the Lheidli T'enneh community."





# Figuring out the Footprint

## Human population growth outpacing human footprint

From bridges and buildings to farms and factories, the global impact of human activity on the planet is constantly changing.

New research led by UNBC Associate Professor Dr. Oscar Venter paints a complex picture of a growing human footprint across the world's land areas. Although the impact of human activity is rising, the rate of increase is less than the pace of population expansion.

"Seeing that our impacts have expanded at a rate that is slower than the rate of economic and population growth is encouraging," says Venter, UNBC's Forest Renewal BC West Fraser Growth and Yield Research Chair. "It means we may be transitioning to more efficient use of our natural resources."

Venter is the lead author in the study titled *Sixteen years of change in the global terrestrial human footprint and implications for biodiversity conservation* published in the journal *Nature Communications* in August. Venter collaborated with researchers around the globe to study the implications of human activity on the planet from 1993 to 2009.

During that 16-year span, the authors found the human footprint increased by nine per cent. Over the same time period the human population jumped by 23 per cent and the world economy grew by 153 per cent.

Among the positive findings are that many developed countries whose governments are free of corruption have

been able to decrease the pressure on the environment.

However, the research also demonstrates alarming losses comprising one-tenth of global wilderness since the 1990s. Many of these areas experiencing the most pressure are also among the most biodiverse places on Earth.

"Sustainable development is a widely espoused goal, and our data demonstrates clear messages of how the world can get there," says Dr. Venter. "Concentrate people in towns and cities so their housing and infrastructure needs are not spread across the wider landscape, and promote honest governments that are capable of managing environmental impacts."

# The Sky is the Limit

## UNBC research focuses on taller wood buildings

assembly it affords, the resulting shortened construction times, and improved building physics performance,” Tannert explains. “But since hybrid systems involve two or more materials, the corresponding design procedures usually overlap multiple engineering standards, rendering the design challenging and necessitating additional research effort.”

“This investment in a Tall Wood and Hybrid Structures Engineering Research Chair will advance our institution’s goals in the research and natural resources areas.” - Dr. Daniel Weeks

The newly created position is funded through a \$2.25 million contribution from the Leading Edge Endowment Fund which is distributed by the BC Innovation Council, a provincial Crown agency. Dr. Tannert also received an Ignite Award from BCIC to support his work with FP Innovations in developing the next generation of anchors for tall wood buildings

“This investment in a Tall Wood and Hybrid Structures Engineering Research Chair will advance our institution’s goals in the research and natural resources areas,” says UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks. “Maximizing the use of local materials and knowledge when building tall wood structures strengthens regional community development, as well as the sustainability of the forestry industry.”

The tall wood building revolution is already well underway, and UNBC Professor Dr. Thomas Tannert aims to accelerate it with his research into hybrid structural design possibilities.

Tannert, the latest faculty member to join the Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design program team, was recently named BC Leadership Chair in Tall Wood and Hybrid Structures Engineering.

By combining wood with other structural materials, such as concrete and steel, buildings can be built taller and still achieve the environmental benefits of using wood.

“The hybrid-design framework is compelling, not only because of better structural performance in tall buildings, but also due to the ease of



# Inspiring Future Health-care Practitioners

## Roadshow showcases health careers in high schools

“Does the baby get scratched on its way out?”

This was just one of the interesting questions that children at Chief Matthews School on Haida Gwaii posed to health-care students participating in the Healthcare Travelling Roadshow.

Held every spring, the Roadshow is focused on inspiring young minds in rural communities to consider health care as a future career. Co-ordinated through the Northern Medical Program (NMP), it brings together health-care students from around B.C., including UNBC nursing and the NMP, to showcase their fields at high schools. Funded through the Northern Medical Programs Trust and the Rural Education Action Plan, the Roadshow has visited numerous Northern B.C. communities since its launch in 2010.

“During our visits, local students have a chance to handle different medical equipment and learn everything from how to read an X-ray to how to take blood pressure or intubate,” says Dr. Sean Maurice, an NMP senior lab instructor. “The roadshow also helps our participating health-care students learn about

rural practice and get a better understanding of each other’s professions.”

In 2016, the Roadshow made two, week-long trips. In early May, it made stops in Masset, Queen Charlotte, and Prince Rupert, as well as a special visit to Chief Matthews Elementary (Old Massett). It then travelled south for the first time, visiting Merritt, Princeton, and Keremeos.

Ten disciplines were represented this year, including medicine, nursing, midwifery, audiology, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, medical laboratory technology, medical radiography technology, massage therapy, and dental hygiene.

“Getting the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with health-care students about their field was a really incredible experience for our students,” said Bernadette Marie, principal of George Mercer Dawson Secondary in Masset. “Coming from a small school and a small northern area, it would be really difficult to get our kids to experience something like this otherwise.”



# A Lasting Impact on Health

## Biobank to enhance access to clinical research

UNBC is helping to welcome the first biobank of its kind in the province.

The Northern Biobank Initiative Phase 2 is a collection of biological samples, such as blood and tissue, used for research. Led by Northern Medical Program Associate Professor Dr. Nadine Caron, the initiative will improve access for Northern B.C. residents to participate in, and reap the benefits of, clinical research focused on community-specific disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

“Having a local biobank means that people of the North can benefit from the rapid advances being made in precision medicine,” said Dr. Caron, also a co-director with the UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, associate professor with the UBC Department of Surgery, and scientist at the BC Cancer Agency Genome Sciences Centre. “This project

will allow us to optimize our understanding of northern and Aboriginal patient populations and inform the approaches best suited for our community.”

“The future research generated through this ongoing project will have a unique and lasting impact on the health of residents in Northern B.C. and beyond,” said UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks. “Through this new biobank, Dr. Caron, together with fellow researchers, will be able to pursue leading research into the prevention and treatment of diseases prevalent in northern populations and environments.”

The biobank is part of Genome BC’s User Partner Program. UNBC is the lead academic institution managing the research administration for the \$1.25 million project, funded in equal parts by Genome BC, Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority, Provincial Health Services Authority, and the BC Cancer Foundation.



# Northern Advantage

## NDIT intern program helps UNBC grads stay in rural B.C.

Deklan Corstanje is confident he is taking the right steps towards a bright future.

Corstanje, who grew up in Terrace and graduated from UNBC in 2016 with his Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree in Community and Population Health – Aboriginal and Rural Health, is working as an economic development intern at the Northern Development Initiatives Trust (NDIT) office in Prince George.

“I saw the internship at NDIT as a highly reputable form of post-undergrad education that could give me an incredible opportunity to land a career. Having it so closely aligned with what I want to do (improve the health of rural B.C. citizens) and focused towards the region I want to be in, it seemed ideal to me,” Corstanje said.

NDIT’s internship programs were created to help the region’s top-performing youth find ways to stay in the region they call home (71 per cent grew up in Northern B.C.).

“Communities around Northern B.C. all face a similar challenge: there is a lot

to do and not enough people to do it all,” said Evan Saugstad, chair of the NDIT board. “Not only does Northern Development’s internship program help develop the leadership and management skills of new graduates through hands-on work experience, but, most importantly, it results in a lasting legacy of capacity to help build a stronger north.”

Placements are offered through a province-wide competitive process, and UNBC graduates are the primary candidates. Of the 70 internships NDIT has placed throughout the North since 2009, 88 per cent were filled by graduates of UNBC. In 2015-16, all eight interns are recent UNBC graduates with degrees ranging from English to Health Sciences.

Graduates have a choice of either a six-month economic development internship or a longer, 12-month local government management internship.

In June, NDIT accepted a Distinguished Partnership Award for the internship program from the Local Government Management Association, granted

as a combined award with UNBC in recognition of the collaborative delivery of the program.

“The partnership between UNBC and NDIT is an excellent example of post-secondary institutions and local stakeholders working together to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities facing northern communities,” said UNBC Political Science Professor Dr. Gary Wilson, who oversees the local government programming at the University. “Like the Northern Medical Program, the NDIT internship program seeks to contribute to the development of northern communities by training and retaining the next generation of local government administrators.”

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L-R, current and former interns and UNBC alumni: Deklan Corstanje, Melissa Barcellos, Katherine Benny, Danielle Patterson, Danielle Dysserick, Katy Fabris, and Jessica Bagnall. Far right: Dean McKinley, NDIT Director, Economic Development.



# Alumni Giving Back

**“UNBC prepared me for life, and also helped me understand the value of giving back to my community, and my university. As graduates, our giving strengthens UNBC’s reputation in higher education. It shows others we are proud to be alumni of Canada’s best small university, and opens doors for the future alumni that come behind us.”**

Ray Noonan is a two-time UNBC graduate, earning both his BSc (1998) and MBA (2006). He was named one of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2016, received the UNBC Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service in 2015, is past-chair of the Prince George Community Foundation, a current member of UNBC’s Advisory Board on Advancement, and is a current donor to UNBC.

#### **To make your gift**

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Visit [unbc.ca/alumni/get-involved](http://unbc.ca/alumni/get-involved)

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# UNBC In The News

## UNBC people and stories making headlines



### Classroom in the Woods

The Field Education Centre at UNBC's Aleza Lake Research Forest east of Prince George opened its doors in May.

The Centre, a unique log and timber building and classroom, provides a great space for the University's faculty and students to participate in outdoor learning, field courses and research in forest ecology, and forest and ecosystem management and environmental studies. The investment was made possible thanks to donors including donors Dunkley Lumber, Moss Rock Park Foundation, and Integris Credit Union.

The Aleza Lake Research Forest Society will operate the Centre as an environmental learning centre, gathering place, and hub for events at the 9,000-hectare (22,250 acre) research forest.



### Providing Expert Health Advice

Two UNBC faculty members have been appointed to Institutes Advisory Boards (IAB) with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

First Nations Studies and Education Professor and Academic Lead with National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health Dr. Margo Greenwood now sits on the Health Innovation board.

Health Sciences Professor and Dr. Donald B. Rix BC Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Environmental Health Dr. Henry Harder has been named to the Indigenous Peoples' Health board.



### First Health Sciences PhD

Dr. Susan Burke became the first graduate in the Health Sciences PhD program at UNBC when she accepted her parchment at the Prince George Convocation in May. Launched in 2012, the Health Science doctorate is an interdisciplinary program that addresses the needs of researchers and professionals.

Dr. Burke's research provides suggestions on how social workers can increase health by reducing dissonance in the workplace. She is now an Assistant Professor at the UNBC School of Social Work.



### Urban Adaptation

As part of her PhD thesis in 2015, UNBC researcher Dr. Steffi LaZerte discovered that black-capped chickadees, which sing a single song type, can learn to pitch-shift this song up and down in frequency to compensate for noise from traffic in cities.

LaZerte's findings have been published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*, a top-tier evolutionary biology journal. Lazerte's co-authors on the paper are her PhD supervisor from UNBC, Ecosystem Science and Management Professor Dr. Ken Otter, and their collaborator Dr. Hans Slabbekoorn from Leiden University in The Netherlands.

## Integrated Perspectives

UNBC researchers have published a new book that explores the cumulative impacts of resource development.

Titled *The Integration Imperative: Cumulative Environmental, Community and Health Effects of Multiple Natural Resource Developments*, the book was edited by UNBC professors Drs. Michael Gillingham (Ecosystem and Science Management), Greg Halseth (Geography), Chris Johnson (Ecosystem and Science Management), and Margot Parkes (School of Health Sciences).

The book is focused on the interaction between cumulative resource developments and the well-being of the environment, communities, and human health.

## Probing the Depths of Quesnel Lake

Geography Professor Dr. Ellen Petticrew and Environmental Science Professor Dr. Phil Owens have secured nearly \$800,000 in funding from the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) to continue their research into the impacts on the Quesnel Lake ecosystem after the breach of the Mount Polley Mine tailings storage facility in 2014.

With the use of EDF funds this summer, the research team brought in a specialized corer on loan from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) in Halifax to collect samples of tailings and sediment at the bottom of the lake.

## We're No. 1

For the second consecutive year UNBC is the top university in its category in the Maclean's magazine rankings. UNBC placed first in the Primarily Undergraduate category that includes 19 universities. Strong scores in the research dollars, library acquisitions, student awards and student/faculty ratio categories propelled UNBC to the top ranking. Current students who were surveyed gave UNBC excellent grades in the mental health services and student life staff categories.

**#1**  
**IN CANADA**  
- Maclean's Magazine

## Discovering Rare Treasures Amongst Giants

As UNBC researchers combed through the new Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park last summer, they discovered a rare orchid, one that hasn't been seen in B.C.'s Interior since 1932.

It's just one of the more than 1,200 species, some red- and blue-listed species (endangered or near extinction in B.C. or even globally) that botanists uncovered in the new park during several biodiversity assessments in June, July, and August amongst massive western redcedar stands, valley-bottom wetlands, and river-side cottonwoods. The biodiversity assessment work was conducted in partnership with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and BC Parks, with funding from the Northern Development Initiative Trust and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia's Partnering Fund at UNBC.

In May 2016, the B.C. provincial government established the Ancient Forest as a Class A Provincial Park, thanks in part to research conducted over the years by UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management professors Dr. Darwyn Coxson and Dr. David Connell, UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum curator Trevor Goward, and many undergraduate and graduate students at UNBC. In June 2016, the adjacent Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Protected Area, located 130 km east of Prince George, was established. The Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park and Protected Area, encompasses nearly 12,000 hectares in the upper Fraser River watershed. The area, known for generations to Lheidli T'enneh, continues to be utilized for hunting, fishing, and gathering traditional plants.

UNBC Forest Ecology and Management students Anna Tobiasz and Hayden Yeomans spent the summer working with botanist Curtis Goward on the biodiversity assessment.



# Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni)

## 1996

**Jeanie DeGrande (BComm General Business 1996)** is the HR/Payroll Manager for Beaver Municipal Solutions in Leduc, Alberta.

## 1998

**Amanda Marshall (BA Anthropology)** is an archaeologist in Terrace. She is the part owner of Kleanza Consulting, an archaeological consulting company with offices in Terrace, Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Vancouver Island.



**Tanya Laing (BSc Environmental Science)** works for the City of Calgary doing flood resilience and mitigation.

**Megan Klammer (BScN)** is a Practice Consultant for Island Health in Victoria.

## 1999

**Gord Stewart (BSc Natural Resource Management)** just became the Community Grants Coordinator for the City of Edmonton. Gord has been working for the city for the last 10 years and lives right downtown.



**Paul Pan (BA Geography and MBA 2010)** is the Executive Director of the International Centre at the University of Lethbridge.

**Melissa Steidle (BSc NRM Forestry)** is a Registered Professional Forester and the Project Manager for DWB Consulting Services Ltd in Prince George.

**Adrian Walraven (BA International Studies)** is the Senior Director, Strategic Policy and Planning for the Education Branch of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Adrian is based in Gatineau, Quebec.

**Christine Slanz (BSc Environmental Planning and MNRES 2004)** is the Tourism Manager at the Kermodei Tourism Society, the destination marketing organization for the City of Terrace.



**Deborah Sage (BSc NRM Forestry)** is the Senior Operations Supervisor at the Polar Sawmill, operated by Canadian Forest Products in Prince George.

## 2000

**Michelle Smith (BSc Psychology)** is the Regional Research Coordinator for the University of Alberta's Translating Research in Elder Care program in the BC Interior. She is also an Adjunct Professor for the School of Health and Exercise Sciences at UBCO.

**Wilson Yeung (BSc Computer Science)** is a software engineer at Google, where he works on cloud technology and infrastructure. Wilson lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Rick Manhas (BSc Environmental Planning)** is the Chief Operating Officer at Cordy Oilfield Services Inc. in Calgary.

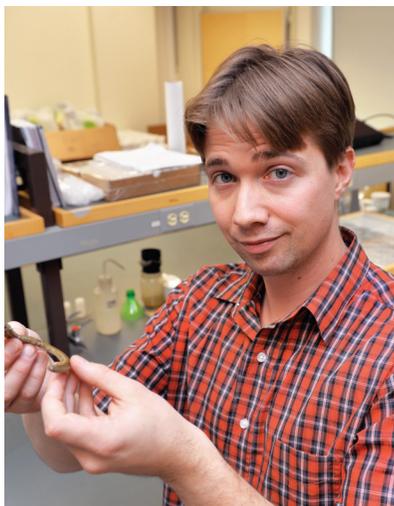
## 2001

**Jason Hutchinson (NRM Forestry)** is Forestry Business Line Manager for Strategic Natural Resource Consultants in Campbell River. Earlier this year Jason won the Jim Rodney Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award from the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

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## 2007

**Travis Gerwing (BSc Biology and MSc NRES Biology 2009)** is a MITACS Elevate Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Victoria, and is now an Adjunct Professor at UNBC. He is conducting research on the human impacts upon the marine ecosystems of the central and Northern coast of BC.



**Rebecca Goodenough (BPL)** works for Alberta Culture and Tourism in Edmonton.

**Jeffrey Lovell (BComm Accounting)** is the Division Manager, Financial Planning and Processes at the Metro Vancouver Regional District. Jeffery and his wife recently had a son.

**Sarah Foot (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)** is the General Manager of Volunteer Prince George.

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## 2008

**Lynnette Tremblay (BA History)** is the Manager of Intergovernmental and External Affairs for the City of St. Albert in Alberta.

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## 2009

**Matthew Perkins (BSc Biology)** is the Owner & Operations Manager of JOMA Environmental Ltd in Victoria. JOMA Environmental focuses on hazardous waste management and contaminated site restoration throughout Vancouver Island and the Coast.

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## 2010

**Gareth Hopkins (BSc Biology and MRN Wildlife & Fisheries)** recently graduated from Utah State University with a PhD in Ecology. He has moved to Australia with his wife Zoe where he is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne. His research examines the effects of artificial light at night on invertebrates.

## 2011

**Josiah Toppin (BA International Studies)** is a Project Officer with Alberta Human Services in Edmonton. Josiah manages various projects within the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder unit.

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## 2012

**Saichen Deng (BComm Finance)** is the Wealth Management Manager for the China Merchants Bank in Yinchuan, Ningxia, China.

**David Peterson (BSc Mathematics and BEd Secondary Education 2015)** is a Senior Mathematics Teacher in Fraser Lake.

**Alanis Marleau (BComm Human Resources and Business Administration)** is the Human Resources and Communications Coordinator for the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River in Alberta.

## Email

**Did you know you have your very own UNBC alumni email address?**

It's professional. It shows you have a UNBC degree. And it can be forwarded to other email addresses. [unbc.ca/alumni/email-life](mailto:unbc.ca/alumni/email-life)

# 2014

**Joanna van der Kraan (BScN)** is working for Providence Health at Saint Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

**Nelson Silveira (BA Political Science)** is the Economic Development Officer for the town of Essex, Ontario.



**Pieter Buttenaar (BComm Marketing)** is the Talent Acquisition Manager at Enterprise Holdings in Burnaby.

**David Hockin (MEd Counselling)** is the Mental Health Coordinator at Gitxsan Health in New Hazelton.

**Kirsten Reimer (BSc Honours Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)** is attending Yale University for her PhD in Biophysics, Biochemistry and Structural Biology. Her focus will be on the study of ribonucleic acid (RNA) biochemistry.

**Arielle Bernier (BSc Biology)** is a Jr. Biologist at Ecora Engineering and Resource Management in Dawson Creek.

**Adejimi Adeumuyiwa (MSc Business Administration)** is an Accountant for the Prince George Brain Injured Group.

**Aaron Germuth (BSc Honours Biochem & Molecular Biology and Computer Science)** is a Software Engineer in Mountain View, California with Google. Aaron is on the Google Fiber project team.



# 2016

**Dawn Bast (BEd Elementary Education)** was hired before she graduated from the Education program. She now works as a K-2 teacher at Zion Lutheran Christian School in Prince George.

**Kim Lawyer (MSc Physics)** is a Physics Assistant at the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George. She is responsible for performing quality assurance on the two Varian TrueBeam medical linear accelerators.

**Sean Mills (BSc Computer Science)** is an Application Developer at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George.

**Tara Ridley (BComm HR Management and Marketing)** is an HR Specialist for Fraser Valley Building Supplies Inc. in Mission.

# 2015

**Ahmad Altujri (BComm General Business)** has been connecting with fellow UNBC graduates in Saudi Arabia. He has been developing the UNBC Wikipedia page in Arabic and recently hosted an alumni luncheon at his home in Riyadh.

Photo: Omar Al Sabban (BComm 2015), Muneer Al Dawsari, Waleed Al Ghamdi (BComm 2015), Nasser Albishi (BComm 2012), Mohammed Al Fehaid.)



# Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Mike Peterson, BSc 2000 & MBA 2010

Allan Stroet, BComm 2006

Lisa Handfield, BComm 2004

# 2016 Alumni Awards

This year the Alumni Association honoured Sarah Foot (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2007) and Gina Layte Liston (MSc Natural Resources Management 1999) with Distinguished Alumni Awards. Sarah received the Community Service Award for her volunteerism and support for numerous local organizations. Gina was awarded the Professional Excellence Award in her 17th year with the City of Prince George, where she is the Director of Public Works.

Tim Swanky was named an Honorary Member of the Alumni Association. Tim has been framing the visual story of UNBC since the sod turning, and has photographed thousands of graduates.



**Community Service**  
Sarah Foot



**Professional Excellence**  
Gina Layte Liston



**Honorary Member of the Alumni Association**  
Tim Swanky

# #MyDegreeAtWork

Our alumni frequently keep us informed on the new jobs and opportunities they embark on. From an accountant with a Bachelor of Commerce to a wildlife biologist with Master of Science, UNBC graduates are putting their degrees to work.

**Whether it is on the wall of your office or in the field, show us your degree at work!**

Share your photos on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook

**#MyDegreeAtWork | #UNBCAlumniPride**

