# GENERATE UP TO DRIVE A CAR

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THE ENERGY FROM THE UNBC BIOENERGY PROJECT

LIGHT 33,495 LIGHTBULBS A YEAR



NAKUSP, BC FOR 1 YEAR"

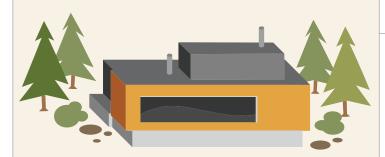
> NAKUSP, BC POP. 1800

LIGHT THE VANCOUVER OLYMPIC CAULDRON FOR 347 DAYS



YOU COULD...

## On The Cover



The **UNBC** bioenergy project uses wood waste from local mills to heat the University. This will reduce our fossil fuel consumption by about 85%.

Bioenergy at UNBC produces about 63,640 gigajoules of energy every year.

#### THE GRAPHICS ON THE COVER ILLUSTRATE WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH 63,640 GJ OF ENERGY.

For more information on UNBC's Bioenergy Project see page 3.

- \* Calculations based on 2011 Ford Mustang
  \*\* Calculations based on a 2.5 person household

## Also Inside



#### Donors Making a Difference

Westcana Electric is the first company to start an award around renewable energy. To read the story, see page 7.



#### Northern BC Health Care

isa Sam is one of several UNBC alumni eatured in a new book about health care in the North. To read the story, see page 10.



#### People in the News

nderbir Gill is the most decorated athlete in UNBC history. To read about his achievements and other news stories, see



## / What are these?

Known as QR codes, these little blocks are links to online content. Keep an eye out for them all through this issue of UPDATE. All that's needed to take advantage of them is a mobile phone capable of downloading apps and an internet connection.



Step 1:

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www.youtube.com/UNBCnews

## UNBC & Social Media

How can you like, follow, and/or subscribe to UNBC in the world of social media?



Like us to join in the conversation on all the big things happening at UNBC at www.facebook.com/unbc.ca.



Subscribe to our channel and find UNBC-related videos at www.youtube.com/UNBCnews.



Follow UNBC on Twitter at www.twitter.com/unbc for up-to-the-minute news, events, and discussions.



Like photography? Find beautiful photos of UNBC and the surrounding area at www.flickr.com/groups/unbc. Submit some of your own!

## **UNBC** Spreads the Net & Catches Rick Mercer

NBC beat all other Canadian universities to win the Spread the Net Challenge and our prize was a visit by Rick Mercer and an appearance on CBC TV's Rick Mercer Report. The students of Spread the Net-UNBC raised almost \$19,000 for the campaign, which supplies bed nets to help stop the spread of malaria

vour phone, or visit

To watch the Rick Mercer Report

www.youtube.com/rickmercer

and other insect-borne illnesses in Africa. See the back cover for more.

Highlights from Rick's visit included a tour of UNBC's Bioenergy Plant, a (massive) rally in the Winter Garden, and a basketball game with the Northern Timberwolves at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre.



For those who rocked the UNBC Spread the Net campaign, Rick Mercer salutes you!



**UNBC**Bioenergy **UNBC**Bioenergy

## Bioenergized

he opening of UNBC's new Bioenergy Plant marked the first event outside of Victoria for new BC Premier, Christy Clark. And what a fitting first event it was. After all, the project has come to symbolize so much of what's possible in the northern part of British Columbia when governments, the University, industry, and communities work together.

The Bioenergy Plant will help UNBC reduce its fossil fuel consumption by up to 85%; but more importantly, it could emerge as a platform for applied research and education of value beyond the campus.



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Scan the

Or visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/UNBCnews

code. Watch

the bioenergy

## Why it matters...

This is about teaching by example using technologies that can allow us to use less fossil fuels and take action on climate change.

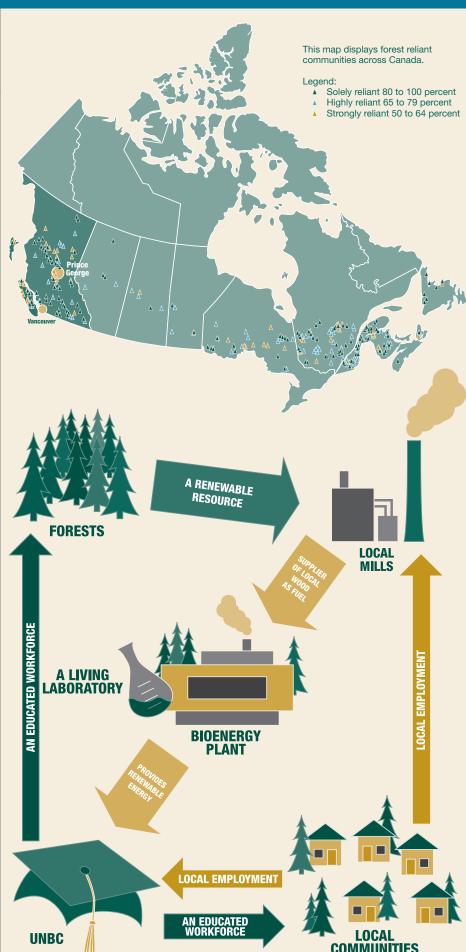
- Brian Fehr, President, BID Group of Companies,

The bioenergy projects at UNBC provide a platform for the continued development of a bioenergy cluster in the region and provide a way to direct research, students, and industry into pursuing opportunities together.

> - Elissa Meiklem, Executive Director, Northern Bioenergy Partnership, Prince George

What's unique about the two bioenergy projects at UNBC is that they will inspire a generation of students, faculty and northern communities to innovate, collaborate and build a clean energy future...and do it with the same legendary drive, passion and tenacity that created UNBC in the first place.

- Jonathan Rhone, President and CEO, Nexterra Systems Corp., Vancouver



#### Bioenergy: A New Link Between UNBC

& Forest-Based Communities

here's nothing like forestry. In terms of employment, distribution across Canada, and the sheer number of communities that rely on it, forestry is unique among resource industries. In fact, more than 600 communities across Canada are dependent on forests and it's hard to imagine any of them not challenged by issues of economic diversification and sustainability.

It's definitely true in northern BC, where the emergence of bioenergy is seen as a ray of hope.

"The University's bioenergy projects are helping to diversify the forest industry,"



says Dave Pernarowski, the Mayor of Terrace, itself a community dependent on forestry. "UNBC is helping communities understand the benefits of bioenergy while it opens new opportunities for the

decades, usually to satisfy some of their own energy requirements. Then by the late 1990s, pellet plants were being built in central BC. Still, these developments haven't translated into smooth sailing for a forest industry dealing with an American economic meltdown, the high value of the Canadian dollar, the mountain pine beetle, and increased attention on environmental

engineer also sees a future in bioenergy,

partly because "extracting the full value from wood fibre is becoming increasingly critical to the industry."

UNBC professor Art Fredeen hopes this doesn't mean

woody debris left behind from harvesting operations will be simply "vacuumed up for combustion in centralized locations." Although a fan of UNBCs bioenergy project and the prospect of bioenergy expansion in northern BC, he sees the need for well-rounded research related to bioenergy and forest management.

Local mills have been using bioenergy for

According to Greg Stewart, it's all working to make the industry more focused on innovation. As the young President of the Sinclar Group, he oversees mills in Prince George and Fort St. James and has interests in Vanderhoof. While Stewart steers a company with a history in wood products manufacturing, the chemical

Together we can address community

that the slash and

"For example, we need to work on policy



UNBC, NBP Executive Director Elissa Meikle

tewart, Geoff Clarke of the National Research council, and interim NBP Chair Charles Jago.

here to examine the differences between cutting down live trees to burn, versus slash, versus sawmill waste as these are very different things. Not recognizing the differences disadvantages us in the North where we have lots of sawmills and sawmill residue."

Stewart couldn't agree more. As a member of the industry-led Northern Bioenergy Partnership, he sees

> potential for developing bioenergy as a valuable, renewable energy source and for northern BC to be a leader for all of those forestbased communities

across Canada. Speaking at the opening of the UNBC Bioenergy Plant, he alluded to the critical role of the University. "By working together, we can advance new technologies, contribute to existing knowledge, and address community issues."

issues

www.unbc.ca/green/energy.html MAP SOURCE: FORESTRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA 2008

### How it Works...

#### "What's bioenergy?"

Until recently, only a few people would have been able to answer that question: wood pellet manufacturers, sawmill operators, and those people keen to be off-the-grid. Anyone with a woodburning fireplace would also have been enjoying the benefits of bioenergy but likely would've referred to "firewood" - not "biomass."

While bioenergy is gaining a higher profile in British Columbia, many people still don't really know what it is.

Bioenergy refers to the creation of heat and/or power from materials that are rich in carbon: wood, crop residues, aquatic plants, and animal wastes.



Hog fuel for the bioenergy plant consists of wood chips and comes from a local sawmill

#### UNBC has two bioenergy systems:

- 1. The biomass gasification system (depicted here) gasifies sawmill residue and provides the primary source of heat for the Prince George campus.
- 2. The wood pellet system at the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Lab works in tandem with natural gas to heat the Lab.

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## Step by Step



asidue from Lakeland Mills of Prince George is delivered to the



uger moves the wood to a conveyer, which delivers the fuel to the

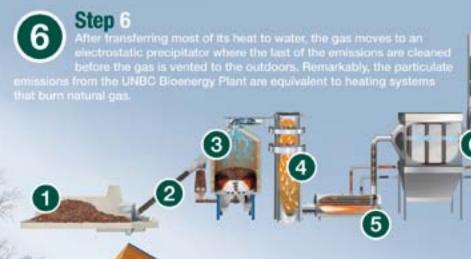


Inside the gasifier, the wood is subjected to very but temperatures but is starved of oxygen. Ash migrates to the bottom of the gasifier and is removed intermittently; the syngas that is created through the gasification process rises to the top and is channeled to the Oxidizer.





Now 2000 °F, the hot gas moves to a boiler that serves to transfer the heat from the syngas to water that is used to heat the campus. The Bioenergy Plant is connected to the rest of the campus by two pipes; one brings hot vater to the campus; the other brings water back from the campus to the Bioenergy Plant. Water leaves the Bioenergy Plant at 240 °F.





an award to support UNBC students, please contact the Phone: 250-960-5750

**UNBC**Giving

The \$4,000 Westcana Electric Inc. award is available every year to a student doing a project on renewable sources of

"We're happy to do our share to support ew ideas to make us all a bit more npetitive and maybe a lot more

For Pete and Scott Sherba, ensuring a bright future isn't just a cliché; it's a requirement of their business. The brothers own Prince George-based Westcana Electric, which has recently branched into high-efficiency lighting. The Canfor Winter Garden and UNBC's

new Green University Centre are already sporting new LED lights donated by the company. In fact, the new lights use only 17% of the energy used by the original

"UNBC is taking bold steps with renewable energy and we want to be part of it," says Pete Sherba. "We're seeing incredible changes in our industry and in the ways our customers are viewing their consumption of electricity. We want to support students who are at the forefront of thinking about how we can be more

Westcana recently became the first UNBC donor to set up an award specifically for students interested in renewable energy. **UPDATE** Spring 2011

If you're interested in establishing Office of External Relations at Toll-free: 1-866-960-5750

Email: development@unbc.ca We are located in Room 1065 on the

main floor of the Administration building.





#### ■ Kiranjit Sidhu

 Guru Gobind Singh Temple Scholarship; Birks Family

Bursary; L.A. Lefebvre Scholarship; Co-op Work Term Report Award

"I got a lot of positive reinforcement from student awards. They helped create a rewarding environment that challenged me to think creatively and to innovate."

Learn some of what Kiranjit has accomplished as a UNBC grad.



Get to Know a few UNBC award recipients

#### ■数點■ Matt Beedle

• Doctoral Tuition Scholarship "Being in the classroom and

being in the field at UNBC relate to each other very well. You really get the natural context."

Learn more about Matt and the "ice" breaking research his scholarship helped facilitate.



## Morgan Melnyk

 PPWC Local 9 Bursary; UNBC Scholars Award; UNBC

Leadership Award; Cloverdale Paint Bursary

"The generosity of donors has played a huge role in my life at UNBC. Students appreciate extra help with the costs of attending university."

Learn more about Morgan's experience





#### ■ Anne Marie Sam

 John Prince Research Forest Fellowship

"As a single mom, awards allowed me to focus on my studies and, at the same time, they decreased the stress of providing for

Learn more about how her UNBC education helped empower Anne and her community.





### Nadia Nowak

 Raven Scholarship; UNBC In-Course Bursary;

BC Hydro Bursary

"Scholarships have been instrumental in my ability to succeed in my academics and my extracurricular activities."

Learn more about Nadia's experience at Canada's Green University.



#### **■SET** Kaleigh Milinazzo

 UNBC Leadership Award; UNBC Scholars Award

"Receiving scholarships made me feel valued even before I arrived and helped me focus on my academic success, and the learning opportunities in my program." Learn more about the learning environment

Kaleigh has been part of at UNBC.

**UNBC**Alumni **UNB**CAlumni



#### 12th Annual Alumni Charity Golf Tournament

This tournament brings together UNBC graduates and friends of the University to support student athletes. To date it has raised \$140,000. To register your team call 250-960-5873 or email alumni@unbc.ca

#### Alumni Association Annual Awards

Do you know someone who has demonstrated a strong affinity for UNBC and their community? Each year the Alumni Association presents Alumni of the Year awards and names an honorary member of the Alumni association.

Nominations are now being accepted at http://www.unbc.ca/alumni/awards.html



## Class Notes

Recruitment - Calgary, AB

Michael Brown BComm: Senior Analyst, Greystone Managed Investments - Regina, SK Sarah Brown BSc Nursing: Practice Development Leader, Northern Health - Prince George,

**-** 1998 **-**

Phillip Peters BComm: Tax & Financial Advisor, Alberta Justice - Edmonton, AB. Received an Early Achievement Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta Kerry Stern (formerly Kennedy) BA English: Associate Director of Search Services, Surch

Ted Ferguson MA International Studies: Vice President, The Delphi Group - Ottawa, ON

Ryan Matheson BA Resource-Based Tourism: Senior Regional Sales Manager, Metropolitan Hotels - Vancouver, BC. Our newest alumnus on UNBC's Board of Governors

**-** 2002

Brian Oke BSc Forestry: Timber Pricing Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations - Prince George, BC

lan Stromguist BSc NRM Resource Recreation: Environmental Health Specialist, County Health Department - Hood River, Oregon

Sean Paterson BA Economics: Chief Technical Advisor, United Nations Industrial Development Organization - Iraq

**-** 2003 **---**

Barbara Oke (formerly Gauss) BSc Environmental Science/Geography: Lead of Healthy Community Environments, Northern Health - Prince George, BC

Patrick Lucas BA Environmental Studies: Community Planner, David Nairne & Associates -Vancouver, BC

**-** 2004

Gwynneth Whyte BA History: HR Assistant, Northern Health - Prince George, BC

Lisa Handfield BComm: Associate Tax Lawyer, Heddema & Partners LLP - Calgary, AB

\_\_\_\_ 2006

Allan Stroet BComm: Economic Development Officer, Bulkley Valley Development Association, which represents Telkwa, Smithers, & Moricetown, BC

**—** 2007

Lindsay Sahaydak BSc Environmental Science: Plant Environmental Manager, Peace Valley OSB - Fort St. John. BC

**—** 2008 **–** 

Sheryl Newton BEd Secondary Education: English qualifying courses Teacher, Kwantlen Polytechnic University - Langley, BC

Natasha Letchford BA Honours International Studies & Political Science: Deputy Municipal Clerk - North Vancouver, BC

- 2010 **-**

Farouk Ramji BComm: Human Resources Specialist, Roshan TDCA – Afghanistan Jennifer Herkes MA NRES Geography: Social Science Specialist, Ecofor Consulting -Prince George, BC

Have an interesting story to share? Tell us what you've been up to at www.unbc.ca/alumni

## Front Lines: Celebrating Northern BC's Health Care **Practitioners**

This is a book about people from many walks of life with varied skills. There are traditional healers, community health workers, nurses, and family and specialist physicians who not only care for others but pass their wisdom and skills to the next generation. The stories told by caregivers in the North become legends." With those words, Dr. David Snadden presents the foreword in a new book

produced by the Northern Medical Program.

The stories told

by caregivers in the North become legends

Called Front Lines: Portraits of Caregivers

in Northern British Columbia, the book captures the legendary stories of 40 health care workers in northern BC. The practitioners include Dr. Tracy Morton, who kayaks to work each day on Haida Gwaii; Julie Ephrom, who left California nearly 40 years ago to be a nurse in Vanderhoof; Charles Helm, who is passionate believer in health and people's connection to nature; and Lisa Sam of Nak'azdli, who won the top national award last year for nurses working on reserves.



To watch a video of Lisa Sam scan this QR code with your phone, or visit our YouTube channel at

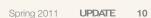
Lisa is one of five UNBC grads featured in the book. In addition, the articles about each person were written by another UNBC graduate - Sarah de Leeuw - a two-time winner of a CBC literary award and a Northern Medical Program faculty member. Each person profiled in the book was photographed by Tim Swanky, who has been a photographer at UNBC for more than 20 years.

"A special feature of this book is that the proceeds from the sale of each copy will go to the Northern Medical Programs Trust." says Dr. Snadden, who is the head of the Northern Medical Program. "In this way, this book will help to educate and produce the next generation of amazing health care practitioners who will be shaped by this magnificent land and the remarkable people who live here."

#### Other UNBC Alumni Featured in *Front Lines*

- Sheila Gordon-Payne (Prince Rupert)
- Gayle Appleton (Terrace)
- Barbie Everett (Prince George)
- Louise Creyke (Prince George)





## People in the News



#### **UNBC** at the Games

Allie Dickson of Burns Lake was the only student from UNBC to participate at this year's Canada Winter Games in Halifax. Dickson's best result was 17th out of 39 participants in Biathlon. The next Games will be in Prince George in 2015.



UNBC professor Pat Maher published a book recently describing the precarious balance that exists between the three major factors affecting sustainable tourism at the Earth's poles: governance, the environment, and people. "This is the first work to



give such comprehensive and even geographic coverage of these key dimensions," says Dr. Maher.



#### Vote Mob

In response to a call from Rick Mercer, UNBC students organized a "vote mob" to encourage young people to vote in the federal election. "If we turn up to the polls, we can make a difference. We can shift politics in Canada," says organizer Nadia Nowak.

#### Ride for Cancer

Medical Student Rehana Manji of Terrace recently biked 2,000 km across BC and Alberta to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer research. Manji and her team collected more than \$10,000. She is the Northern Medical Program's year one class president.



#### Aboriginal Achievement

UNBC professor Margo Greenwood went to the Canadian House of Commons recently to receive a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Dr. Greenwood was recognized for her outstanding career achievements in education



and for her dedication and commitment to the health and well-being of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Canada.



#### Champion of Change

UNBC Forestry professor Chris
Opio was a Top-Ten finalist in
CBC's Champions of Change
program recently. Dr. Opio was
honoured for his work with the
Northern Uganda Development
Foundation, which provides fresh
water to communities in his native
Uganda.

#### National Teaching Award

UNBC English professor Lisa
Dickson has been awarded one of
the nation's top post-secondary
teaching awards. Dr. Dickson
was named to one of ten 3M
National Teaching Fellowships by
3M Canada and the Society for



Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.



#### Origami for Japan

UNBC students came up with a creative way to help the victims of the devastating earthquake in Japan. The students made origami cranes in the Winter Garden to collect money for Red Cross relief efforts. They raised nearly \$4,000 and made 3,622 cranes, which

were presented to UNBC president George Iwama.



## Inderbir Singh Gill

# he last three seasons have been the most successful in the history of UNBC Northern Timberwolves basketball. Captain Inderbir Singh Gill led the men's team through their first appearance at the Nationals, a Provincial championship, a National title, a Provincial silver, and a third straight appearance at Nationals. In the three years he was with UNBC, the T-Wolves amassed a regular season record of 55 wins and 9 losses. Here's a salute to Inderbir and a look back at some of what he has accomplished.

#### 2008-09

- BC Colleges Athletic Association 1st Team All-Star
- Canadian Colleges Athletic Association All-Canadian

#### 2009-10

- CCAA Male Athlete of the Year across all sports
- CCAA Academic All-Canadian
- CCAA All-Canadian
- CCAA Nationals MVP
- BCCAA Player of the Year
- BCCAA 1st Team All-Star
- BCCAA Provincials MVP

#### 2010-11

- CCAA Academic All-Canadian
- CCAA All-Canadian
- CCAA Basketball Player of the Year
- BCCAA 1st Team All-Star
- BCCAA Player of the Year
- BCCAA Male Athlete of the Year across all sports

#### Eco Honour

UNBC student Nathan Park won an ECO Canada Student
Ambassador Award recently for his research on enhanced
biogas production by anaerobic co-digestion of fruit, vegetable
waste, and sewer sludge. Park won a \$1,000 prize and presented
his research at the 2011 Americana conference and trade show
in Montreal.



#### Cancer Research Award

UNBC Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student Randi Woodbeck of Houston was recently awarded the top studentship from the BC Cancer Agency and will conduct cancer research at the University this summer. This is the first time

the top award has ever gone to a student from northern BC.



#### Aboriginal Health

A study into nutritional factors affecting BC's First Nations communities led by UNBC prof Laurie Chan was released recently. The results of the First Nations Food, Nutrition, and Environment Study (FNFNES) revealed that health in First Nations communities

improves at times when traditional foods are consumed.

#### Free Business Courses

Twenty-seven students from Quesnel, Williams Lake, and Vanderhoof recently celebrated the successful completion of a free business program presented by UNBC. "It was absolutely worthwhile," says Coordinator Titi Kunkel. "Many students were so excited about what they came up with that they now plan on turning their business ideas into reality."

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## Thank you for your support

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Alfred and Nenita Spurr

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## Bed Nets, Medicine, & the Kala Azar Tree

Written by: Megan Hunter

here is a tree in Southern Sudan called the Kala Azar tree. When death sweeps into the region in the form of Kala Azar (Visceral Lieshmaniasis), a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of a sand fly, people know there is little hope but to go to the tree for treatment. The Kala Azar tree, the site of a Médecins sans Frontières (MSF – Doctors Without Borders) clinic, becomes home to the afflicted as they undergo the painful process of daily or twice-daily injections of medication to combat the disease.

Kala Azar, along with the better-known Malaria, is among the diseases identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a 'neglected disease.' It is one of the tropical diseases that account for over ten percent of the disease burden of the world, while at the same time making up only a little over one percent of the new drugs developed in the last 30 years.

Southern Sudan was in the midst of a Kala Azar epidemic while I was working there at the end of 2010. I wish I could say medical

advances have made the treatment of this disease simple and affordable, but like so many tropical diseases, treatment for Kala Azar remains complicated, long, and completely unaffordable for the people of the region, unless they are able to access one of the few clinics that offer free treatment. Many people die of this

preventable disease simply because it took too long for their family to carry them to help.



Team Spread the Net UNBC beneath a life-saving bed net. UNBC students raised nearly \$19,000 for bed nets to fight malaria in Africa. Learn more about the win that resulted in a visit by RIck Mercer on page 2.

Programs that distribute bed nets in the developing world, such as the Spread the Net campaign UNBC students recently won, have a big impact on the incidence of disease and death, particularly in the case of Malaria. In parts of the world where treatment is hours away, prevention really is the difference between life and death. Perhaps equally frustrating is that preventable diseases which lack simple, affordable treatment such as Kala Azar, cause more

Many people die

before they can

get to treatment



The Kala Azar tree: the base of an MSF treatment clinic in southern Sudan.

loss of life than many diseases we in the West consider a priority. Though it is understandable that pharmaceutical companies do not prioritize the development of treatments for diseases that affect only the world's poorest and are therefore unlikely to produce a profit, there is much the West can do. Programs such as the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative work with pharmaceutical companies and governments in the developing world to develop drugs for diseases that predominantly affect the world's poor. Equally important are efforts to ensure that the patent rules under the World Trade Organization (WTO) remain flexible enough to allow the poor

of the world to receive treatment at prices they can afford.

It is possible that in the next epidemic cycle of Kala Azar, the MSF Clinic at the Kala Azar tree will no longer be needed. It is possible that through a combination of bed nets and the development of affordable drugs, epidemics of this type will no longer exist. But to see an end to Kala Azar, it will take assistance from

the West to ensure that preventative measures can be in place and that medications can be developed to ensure that those affected receive the care they deserve.



Megan Hunter (BSc. Nursing, '02) is Head of Mission for Doctors Without Borders in the Province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 2004, she has provided health care in many of the world's most troubled areas including Darfur, Somalia, and Papua New Guinea.