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A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends

– Fall 2014

#2

NATIONWIDE

- Maclean's Magazine

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UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1990

UNBC
25

2015

The Inside Scoop

President's Message

What an honour it is to write my first president's message for UPDATE magazine.

When I accepted the offer to come to UNBC, I knew I was coming to a progressive, innovative, and influential institution. Having helped kick off the 25th Anniversary celebrations, I've witnessed first-hand the passion people in the North feel about this University. There's a sense of ownership and a great deal of pride that comes across when people speak to me about UNBC.

And why not?

After all, you built it. When 16,000 of you paid \$5 and signed a petition calling on government to create a university for the North, you were doing more than creating a University; you were starting a social movement that would have an instant and ongoing effect on the social, cultural, economic, and educational fabric of our province.

We're accomplishing great things at UNBC. World-class research, hands-on educational offerings, a commitment to student excellence – all are hallmarks of what motivates each of us in our work, every day. All of these things are important to you, which makes them important to me, too.

The stories in this magazine reflect these accomplishments, and are but a small sample of our efforts.

In just my first couple of months here, I've seen the tremendous work that our faculty and staff are doing to help us live up to our mission. I've also seen the visionary commitment that all of our donors provide, investing in scholarships and funds that are providing opportunities for more and more students every year. And I see the impact our more than 11,000 graduates are having across Northern BC and the world – UNBC's presence is growing at a steady rate, with leaders, entrepreneurs, and champions taking on new and larger responsibilities with every passing year.

Thank you all for your contributions to UNBC's endeavours.

As we continue our 25th Anniversary celebrations, I look forward to envisioning the future with you, the second phase of life at UNBC.

Daniel J. Weeks



The 16,000

Sharing the stories of UNBC's earliest supporters

UNBC
25

UNBC's founding story is a unique one. It began as a social movement, when Northern British Columbians recognized the need for a university here, and lobbied successfully to make it a reality.

An important aspect of that movement was a 16,000-signature petition presented to government,

calling for a university in the North. A minimum donation of \$5 was required to sign the petition, and thousands of people across the North pitched in, adding weight to the movement that became too great for government to ignore.

On June 22, 1990, the province passed the UNBC Act, officially creating the University. Twenty-

five years later, UNBC is reaching out to the founders who made our university a reality. We've been collecting stories about how their support for UNBC changed their lives, and those of their families, for the better. Many of the 16,000 have family members who have since become UNBC alumni, and some of them are alumni themselves.

**Are you one of the 16,000?
Visit unbc.ca/25
to find your name.
Join the movement
and share your
story to help
us describe a
very important
part of Northern
BC's history.**



When Peter and Mary Stroet of Smithers supported UNBC in the 1980s, they had no idea their son Allan would one day be a graduate, that he'd meet his future wife there, or that their granddaughter might one day be a graduate herself.

Read more stories at unbc.ca/25

The Start of a **Very Special Year**

Students, employees, founders, and more launch 25th Anniversary celebrations

Hear ye! Hear ye!” called UNBC’s town crier Michael Townrow to an assembled crowd of faculty, staff, and students on September 2nd. “UNBC’s 25th Anniversary celebrations are now officially underway!”

With those words, colourful streamers filled the air, the crowd applauded, and a truly special occasion kicked off at the University of Northern British Columbia. It’s our 25th Anniversary year, and the town crier’s proclamation was just the first of a series of events, activities, and initiatives happening this year to mark a quarter century of delivering quality education in Northern BC.

“We have so much to celebrate this year,” says Tracy Summerville, Chair of UNBC’s 25th Anniversary Steering Committee. “It’s a chance for UNBC to showcase our strengths and build toward a future that Northerners can proudly call their own.”

Later that day, people gathered at the Ceremonial Loop to plant a tree at the University’s main entrance. Founders prepared the hole, alumni and students raised the tree, and children from the UNBC Childcare Centre covered the tree’s roots with soil – representing the establishment of UNBC, its present, and future.

The 2015 Canada Winter Games made the day even more special by announcing that the closing ceremonies will be held at UNBC in March, the first closing ceremonies for a Canada Winter Games to be held outdoors. UNBC’s Prince George campus will play a major role as home to multiple sporting venues along with the grand finale.

Over the course of the anniversary year, and in a number of ways, UNBC will recognize the 16,000 founders who spurred the University’s creation. For example, each of this year’s orientation cohorts was named after a Founder. The Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute will plant 16,000 trees throughout Northern BC. And UNBC will institute The 16,000 Legacy Award, a \$2,500 award available to at least two students annually with preference given to those who signed the petition or their descendants.



(L-R) UNBC Founders Ed John, Horst Sander, Myron Sambad, Roy Stewart, Bruce Strachan, and Jonathan Swainger planting the 25th Anniversary ceremonial tree.



"It's a big year for UNBC. The 25th Anniversary gives us the opportunity to honour our past, examine where we are today, and consider where we want to go in the future," says UNBC President Daniel Weeks.

"A lot of hard work has gone into making UNBC what it is; it's a centre for world-class research, and a place that educates the next generation of leaders for the North. That was the goal when it started out, and something we will build on moving forward."



“

The 25th Anniversary gives us the opportunity to honour our past, examine where we are today, and consider where we want to go in the future.

”



Celebrate 25 Years With Us

September 2014 – June 2015 | unbc.ca/25

The Human Side of Teaching, Research and Service at UNBC
 January 8, 2015 | Session topics "Renewal and "Engagement"
 February 5, 2015 | Session topic "Energy"
 April 2, 2015 | Session topic "Nature"

Timberwolves Basketball | unbc.ca/timberwolves

Alumni Christmas Party
 December 3, 2014

Special Lecture
Natural Resource Exports – Curse or Blessing
 January 15, 2015

Green Day
 January 27, 2015

UNBC Discovery Centre
 February 14 – March 1, 2015 | During the 2015 Canada Winter Games

Contributing to Caring Communities – Celebrating Social Work During Social Work Week 2015
 March 8 – 14, 2015

Timberwolves Legacy Breakfast
 March 20, 2015 | Keynote Speaker Hayley Wickenheiser

Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Annual Lecture and Dinner
 April 11, 2015 | Keynote Speaker Roméo Dallaire

Annual Timberwolves Golf Tournament
 May 27, 2015

Alumni Association Awards Reception
 May 28, 2015

Presidential Installation
 May 28, 2015

Convocation Celebrations
 Prince George | May 29, 2015
 Terrace | June 1, 2015
 Gitwinksihkw | June 2, 2015
 Quesnel | June 4, 2015
 Fort St John | June 5, 2015

National Aboriginal Day
 Take a self-guided tour of our collection of First Nations art, and join us as we celebrate the permanent installation of a traditional dugout cottonwood canoe (Ts'i) created as part of a UNBC course.
 June 21, 2015



@unbcwolves



@unbc wsoc players prepping for student orientation at NSC... but first let me take a selfie #GoTwolves #unbc25



@CamEh11

Can't believe it was 10 yrs ago that I was a 1st yr @UNBC. So many great friends & memories! #IloveUNBC



@thetantan87

Made a little visit to my good ol' alma mater today, celebrating it's 25th anniversary this year! #unbc25 #alumni #happy25 #almamater



@Jamie Flynn

UNBC is my rock. UNBC has afforded me my dreams, in a not-so-common way, and has empowered me to live my life as I always dreamed. My experience there has given me all of the tools I need to function, through my dreams, as a holistic, independent, woman I know and love. As a 5 year graduate, who was skeptical, if not, doubtful to begin with, nobody can relate to the education I was able to receive from the university. 110%



@KrystinStJean

I'm celebrating @unbc big 25 kickoff from afar today! My time at UNBC was some of my best and I can't wait to celebrate all these great moments over the next year. #unbc25



@taryn_noreen

Fun #unbc25 #unbc #celebration #confetti #firstday #25years



@simon_pow



Getting excited to celebrate 25yrs of #UNBC and committing to volunteer #unbc25for25



#UNBC25



@PGPublicLibrary

Happy Silver Anniversary, @UNBC! 25 years of producing skilled & intelligent graduates that have become leaders in the North, we salute you!



@jennifurrig



#unbc25



@ChristineCathcart

Congratulations UNBC!! So happy our daughter chose this learning community, Yay! Class of 2016!!!! :)



@navgreywall



It's not an everyday occasion where someone offers you a spruce seedling #unbc25 #CanadaEH #northstrongandfree #becauseitsthenorth #wheretoplantthisbaby?



@Tyler James Neilson - feeling excited

Today was a big day at UNBC, with many different announcements and activities planned for the start of the semester. It was also the official kick off for the #UNBC25 celebrations, and I was happy to be a small part of that ceremony!



@pombertm



@Brenda Christensen

My dad, as a founder, passed away before he was able to see his first child graduate with a degree. I know he would have been proud



@NRESi



Happy #NRESi volunteers, after planting over 100 seedlings as part of the #unbc25 anniversary kick-off! #unbc



@AAntrobus

Happy 25th @UNBC! Here's to many more wonderful milestones.

Delving into **BC's Golden Past**

The connection between past and present came alive during a recent UNBC Course

UNBC students Melodie Van Der Meer and Jennifer Day check out the theatre in Barkerville as part of an experiential learning course.



For many, a visit to Barkerville is a great day trip that may involve a visit to the bakery, panning for gold, and taking in all of the other amenities of this one-of-a-kind heritage attraction. But for five days in the summer, History professor Jacqueline Holler conducts a course that gives students a chance to conduct primary source research in the Barkerville archives, and experience living history through reenactments.

Barkerville was founded in 1862 and named after Billy Barker, a gold miner from England. Today it is home to more than 100 historic structures, and a museum that holds 187,000 artifacts and photos from the town's storied past.

Holler's students spent their time visiting the archives, attending lectures, and seeing history come alive in front of them. The experiential learning education concept moves away from classroom lectures, letting students experience the subject first-hand by participating in field exercises.

"It's a way of bringing the classroom experience to the whole world," says Holler. "I think students get an appreciation from experiential learning, that what they learn in the classroom is actually the stuff of life. They can now go on and interpret that history in a new way."

“
**It's a way of bringing
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experience to
the whole world.**
”

Devin McMurtry, a History major in his fifth year at UNBC, was in Holler's class, his first experiential learning course. He was surprised to learn that even 150 years ago, BC was a crossroads of cultures, as people from many different backgrounds came to seek their fortune.

"I think it helps me know a little bit more about the province I live in," says McMurtry. "I didn't know anything about Barkerville until May. I now understand more about why BC is the way it is today, largely because I came to Barkerville this year. It opened my eyes."

Visit [youtube.com/unbcnews](https://www.youtube.com/unbcnews)
to watch the video: **UNBC's experiential
learning course in Barkerville**

Demonstrating Sustainability

Energy system expanding to include residences and daycare

A partnership involving UNBC, industry, government, and communities is allowing UNBC to implement the next phase of its unique energy initiative.

The Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project will connect the student residences and daycare to the Bioenergy Plant and I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Lab in a district energy system that will model a sustainable northern community. When complete next year, the project will both reduce the University's dependence on natural gas as a heating source, and serve as a platform for education and research on how to use renewable energy to heat small, northern, and rural communities that may currently rely on propane or diesel.

"It makes economic sense for remote communities living off

the grid to sustain themselves by using renewable resources available locally to generate heat to meet their local needs," says Titi Kunkel, a UNBC PhD student who has researched local energy development in 15 regional First Nations communities.

The new demonstration project will use energy from the existing wood pellet and biomass gasification plants at UNBC to heat water, which will be used in turn to heat the buildings. Both bioenergy plants operate using locally sourced fuel. Unlike the system used on the rest of campus, this project will heat the water at a lower temperature to make it compatible with other green energy technologies.

"These could include solar hot water, geoexchange, or recovery of waste heat from

the bioenergy plant," says UNBC's David Claus. "This is the first installation of this type in North America."

The \$2.2 million project is being supported by the Province of British Columbia, TransCanada Corporation, Pacific BioEnergy, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, and the BC Bioenergy Network.

"These are the types of partnerships universities dream of," says UNBC President

Daniel Weeks. "This is the perfect project to illustrate the connection between UNBC and the North. It represents an intersection that brings together education, research, and demonstration, with the needs of business and industry, communities, and our province and country more broadly."

Workers weld together pipe segments connecting bioenergy systems to the residences and daycare as part of the Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project.



Specialist **Returns to the North**

First NMP grad to set up a specialty practice in the region

Prince George's newest urologist is also the first Northern Medical Program (NMP) graduate to return to the North as a specialist. Dr. Alym Abdulla, NMP class of 2009, is making Northern BC his home after finishing his specialty training this spring in Ontario.

Hailing from Burnaby, Dr. Abdulla was part of only the second intake class of the NMP, a partnership with the University of British Columbia, focused on training physicians for northern and rural communities.

"The program at UNBC offers a very intimate learning environment, especially when you get to your third year," says Abdulla. "In many other schools, your primary interaction is with senior medical residents; here you work directly with the attending physician. This is a time when mentors are key in your development, helping to shape your career path."

After finishing his undergraduate medical degree in 2009, Alym attended McMaster University for five years of medical residency training in the surgical sub-specialty of urology. As a urologist,

Abdulla works with patients suffering from urinary tract conditions, and health issues related to male reproductive organs.

"I am looking forward to starting my career here in Northern BC, as well as travelling to see patients across the North," says Abdulla. "The tight-knit medical community in Prince George was a big factor in my decision to move back. It is very appealing to know that I will be working not only among highly-skilled colleagues, but also with people who I developed strong friendships with during my time as a Northern Medical Program student."

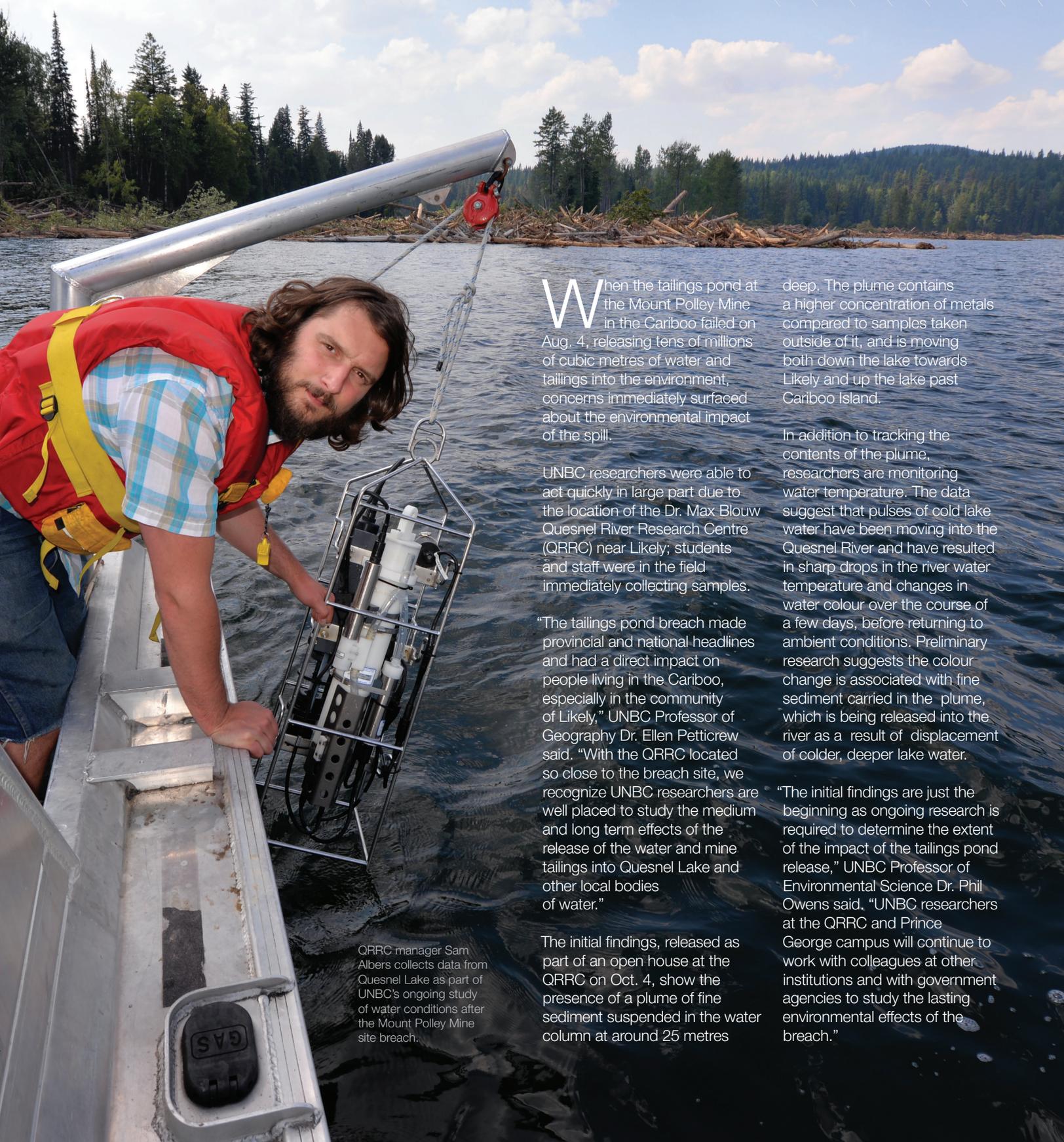
I am looking forward to starting my career here in Northern BC, as well as travelling to see patients across the North

While Dr. Abdulla is the first NMP grad to return as a specialist, the NMP has already been successful in producing general practitioners for the North. About 50 NMP grads have completed residencies in Family Practice to date and about two-thirds are in rural practice.



Tracking the **Tailings**

UNBC researchers investigate the aftermath of Mount Polley Mine site breach



When the tailings pond at the Mount Polley Mine in the Cariboo failed on Aug. 4, releasing tens of millions of cubic metres of water and tailings into the environment, concerns immediately surfaced about the environmental impact of the spill.

UNBC researchers were able to act quickly in large part due to the location of the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) near Likely; students and staff were in the field immediately collecting samples.

“The tailings pond breach made provincial and national headlines and had a direct impact on people living in the Cariboo, especially in the community of Likely,” UNBC Professor of Geography Dr. Ellen Petticrew said. “With the QRRC located so close to the breach site, we recognize UNBC researchers are well placed to study the medium and long term effects of the release of the water and mine tailings into Quesnel Lake and other local bodies of water.”

The initial findings, released as part of an open house at the QRRC on Oct. 4, show the presence of a plume of fine sediment suspended in the water column at around 25 metres

deep. The plume contains a higher concentration of metals compared to samples taken outside of it, and is moving both down the lake towards Likely and up the lake past Cariboo Island.

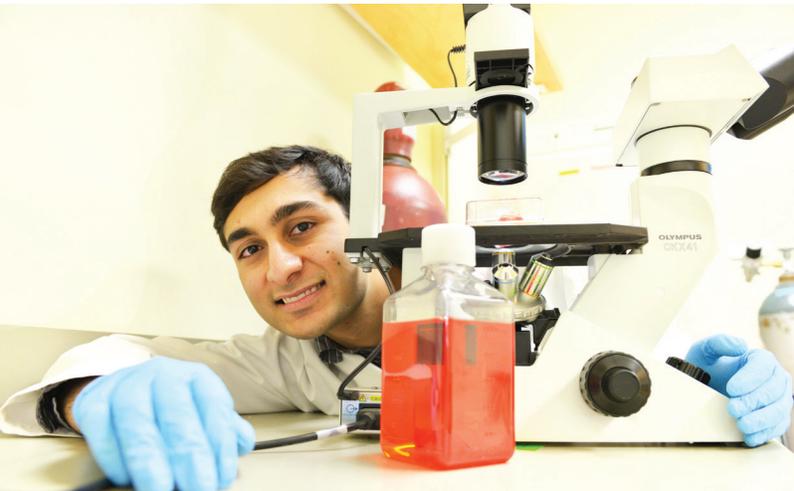
In addition to tracking the contents of the plume, researchers are monitoring water temperature. The data suggest that pulses of cold lake water have been moving into the Quesnel River and have resulted in sharp drops in the river water temperature and changes in water colour over the course of a few days, before returning to ambient conditions. Preliminary research suggests the colour change is associated with fine sediment carried in the plume, which is being released into the river as a result of displacement of colder, deeper lake water.

“The initial findings are just the beginning as ongoing research is required to determine the extent of the impact of the tailings pond release,” UNBC Professor of Environmental Science Dr. Phil Owens said. “UNBC researchers at the QRRC and Prince George campus will continue to work with colleagues at other institutions and with government agencies to study the lasting environmental effects of the breach.”

QRRC manager Sam Albers collects data from Quesnel Lake as part of UNBC's ongoing study of water conditions after the Mount Polley Mine site breach.

UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines



Student Earns Fellowship for Cancer Research

UNBC Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student Daud Akhtar will help the fight against breast cancer thanks to a prestigious award from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Akhtar won a 2014 BC Cancer Studentship to continue his research with UNBC Biochemistry professor Dr. Chow Lee. The researchers are looking for ways to break the interaction between the protein and the gene product that causes cancer. "By looking at cancer from a molecule perspective, we are able to have a better understanding of the factors involved in the progression of cancer," Akhtar says.

The award is made on the basis of academic excellence and demonstrated interest in cancer research. It will allow Akhtar to further the research he began in the second year of his undergraduate program.



Tuition Credit for 2015 Games Participants

Athletes and officials who participate in the 2015 Canada Winter Games are eligible to receive a \$2,500 tuition credit to UNBC if they enroll at the university prior to the September 2019 semester. The program provides the high performance athletes with an additional incentive to live in Prince George to further their education and continue training in Northern BC.

Visit youtube.com/unbcnews to watch the video: **Attracting High Performing Youth**



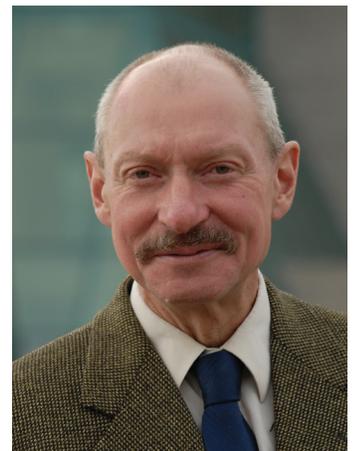
Wood Engineering Program Chair

Dr. Guido Wimmers is using his expertise in sustainable engineering and architecture to craft a unique curriculum to train the next generation of engineers on cutting-edge uses for wood products in construction. The proposed Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design will be housed at the Wood Innovation and Design Centre (WIDC) in downtown Prince George. The WIDC was officially opened at the end of October.



UNBC Improves in Rankings

UNBC moved up in the 2015 Maclean's University Rankings to match its best ever result with a second-place finish in the Primarily Undergraduate category. UNBC received excellent scores for student awards, faculty awards, library resources, and research. UNBC placed first among universities in Western Canada in the prestigious rankings and has been among the top three small universities nationwide for seven years running.



First Dean of Regional Programs

Dr. Mark Dale is UNBC's first Dean of Regional Programs. Dale will provide coordination and senior academic leadership to the delivery of courses in the regions. UNBC has regional campuses in Quesnel, Fort St. John, and Terrace as well as an affiliation agreement with Wilp'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute, research forests east of Prince George and near Fort St. James, and a research station on the Quesnel River.



Roméo Dallaire to keynote 2015 Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner

Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire will headline the 11th Annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner on Saturday, April 11, 2015 in Prince George. The event is a key fundraiser for the Northern Medical Programs Trust, which supports the training of healthcare students at UNBC.

As Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1994, Dallaire witnessed one of the worst genocides in modern history during which more than 800,000 Rwandans lost their lives in less than 100 days. Defying commands to withdraw, Dallaire stayed and, together with a small military force, assisted those seeking help from UN forces. Twenty years later, he has become an outspoken champion for human rights.

Dallaire received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from UNBC in 2013.

"Roméo Dallaire is a true Canadian hero whose courage and dedication to helping those in dire need has been an inspiration to many, both in Canada and around the world," said Dr. David Nelson, president of the Northern Medical Society. "His harrowing first-hand experiences and ongoing human rights activism across the globe will offer a compelling keynote address for the next Ewert Dinner, a highly anticipated annual event in Prince George."

To date, the Trust has provided more than 350 awards for medical and nurse practitioner students to experience healthcare delivery in the North as part of their studies, helping to inspire future graduates to consider careers in the North.

This special event is presented by the Northern Medical Society, UNBC, the Prince George Community Foundation, and Northern Health. Tickets cost \$125 each or \$1,000 for a table of 10, available at unbc.ca/giving



Professor Named to National Governing Council

Dr. Tracy Summerville is just the second faculty member in UNBC history to take a position on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's governing council. Summerville, a political science professor, will use the appointment to continue to advocate for the disciplines as part of a liberal arts education. "The members of the council are absolutely committed to social sciences and the humanities research, and to communicating the need for such research," she says. SSHRC is one of three national research funding organizations.



Nordic Scholarship Fund Raises \$150,000

Elite Nordic athletes have an added incentive to use Prince George's exceptional cross-country skiing facilities while studying at UNBC. The UNBC Otway Nordic Legacy Scholarship Fund has surpassed its initial fundraising goal of \$150,000 and will offer one full-tuition scholarship per year beginning in September. The drive, which included a \$50,000 contribution from Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines and more than \$40,000 due to the efforts of local ski club members, was so successful, an additional \$1,000 annual endowed award has already been added. Funds are still being raised to create additional awards.



Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit unbc.ca/alumni and tell us your story

1994



UNBC's First Graduates

Margaret Bathy, Diana Gilbert, Myron Gordon, Kari Stedham, Jackie Watson, and Nikki Beach (née Yandea), all hold BA General degrees from UNBC. As participants in the University's QuickStart program, they graduated before the Prince George campus officially opened. Twenty years later, this convocation photo has become an iconic image of the UNBC story. Margaret Bathy remembers naming the University newspaper after the hill above University Way kept sliding "over the edge" of the road.

2004

James Adamson, BSc Geography, is a geologist specializing in water resource management, based out of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He is a Principal and Co-owner of Northwater Consulting International, as well as the President of Water Technologies International.



1996

Alaina Parker (née Devore), BA English, is an Alternate Community Programs Teacher with School District 57.

Manpreet Guttmann (Sidhu), BA English, recently received her MBA from SFU. She is the Quotations Manager for Vision Critical, a provider of cloud-based customer intelligence platforms. Manpreet was one of the original students to help start *Over the Edge*.

1999

Charla O'Connor, BComm Finance & Accounting, was recently named to the Top Forty Under 40 in Ottawa, and received the Canada Revenue Agency Award of Excellence for her managerial work with the agency. She is co-owner of a real estate brokerage, an investment portfolio company, and a marketing company.



2001

Tasneem Bandali, BSc Psychology, is the Lead Trainer for Alere Health. Based in Redmond, Washington, she provides corporate training related to health and wellness, specializing in tobacco cessation.

2002

Sean Paterson, BA Economics, is the Chief Technical Advisor with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). Over the last few years he has worked on projects in West Africa, Sudan, Iraq, and Somalia.

Ed Anderson, BSc NRM Forestry, is the Technology & Operations Support Supervisor for the Forest Operations Group of ATCO Electric Distribution. He is responsible for vegetation management, maintenance, and new construction along all distribution rights-of-way in Alberta.

Karrilyn Vince, BSc Environmental Planning is the Director of Authorizations with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Management in Fort St. John. She is responsible for the decisions for access to Crown land for a variety of purposes including gravel, wind, commercial recreation, and sale of Crown land.

Jacqueline Reed, BA English recently started her own firm, Jacqueline R. Reed Law, in Vanderhoof. She also works with the Ministry of Attorney General as a Crown Prosecutor on an ad hoc basis, and is faculty with CNC, teaching Basic English, and First Nations Literature.

Bridget Loe, BSc NRM Wildlife and Fisheries is an Environmental Scientist with WorleyParsons in Fort St. John.

Kevin Dergez, BComm Marketing is the Director of Special Projects for Glacier Media in Kamloops.

unbc.ca/alumni

2005

Sarah Carr-Locke, MA Interdisciplinary Studies,

is the Assistant Director of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, NWT. She is also working on her PhD in archaeology and museum anthropology at SFU. She is interested in how Indigenous peoples are working with museums to negotiate the public presentation of cultural material, and how practices in North American museums are changing to support and recognize Native rights over heritage.



Photo courtesy of SFU graduate studies

Victoria Redlon, BA Political Science, has been working for Nash & Company since early 2013 as their Legal Administrative Assistant.

Jamie Sanchez, BSc Environmental Planning, is a natural resource management consultant operating Sanchez Wood and Associates in Nanaimo. Jamie also recently joined Four Directions Management Services, focusing on traditional land use and regulatory specialization for major projects.

2006

Carri McMullen, BEd Senior Years Education, is a High School Teacher with School District 57.

2007

Derick Stinson, BComm Accounting & Marketing,

is the Plant Manager of Pyrotek High Temperature Industrial Products Inc. He also serves as the Chair of the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce.

Matthew Bock, BA International Studies, is a Policy Analyst for Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa.

2008

Laurel Van De Keere, BA General, is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Alberta Ministry of Health in Edmonton.

Ashley Kearns, BA Economics & Political Science, is a Research Analyst at Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, based in Ottawa.

Charlene Mattson, BA History & Political Science, works as an instructor at the Canadian Vocational Training Centre in Prince George, teaching adults the use of software and hospitality.

2009

Christopher Scott, BSc Math & Computer Science is an associate with Oyen Wiggs Green & Mutala LLP in Vancouver. He practices intellectual property law, which includes patents, trademarks, copyright, and industrial designs.

Paul Koke, MA International Studies, is an Environmental Specialist with Dillon Consulting in Halifax. His primary focus is environmental assessment for large public and private infrastructure projects, specializing in right-of-way developments.

2010

Jennifer Crain, MA International Studies, is a Research Associate with the Public Health Agency of Canada in Ottawa. Her work in injury epidemiology contributes to the tracking and reporting of injuries, and their risk and protective factors in the Canadian population.

Christopher Uy, BSc Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,

has started a five-year specialty residency in neurology at Vancouver Coastal Health. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Hamber Scholarship in Medicine, awarded to the highest-ranking medical graduate at UBC.



2011

Alexander Reed, BComm Marketing & General Business, is the Group Sales & Catering Coordinator at Predator Ridge near Vernon.

Jocelyn Huber, BComm Marketing is the Philanthropy Assistant for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

2012

Ezra Gentleman, BA Economics (2008) & MA Development Economics is a Financial Analyst with the BID Group of Companies in Prince George.

Jennifer Clyne, BComm Finance & General Business, is now based in Abbotsford, as a Portfolio Analyst for the Tycuda Group of the full-service investment company, Raymond James Ltd.

Shelby Petersen, BA Political Science, is a Marketing Assistant at Ashton College, in Burnaby.

2013

Darryl Triebner, BA Nature-Based Tourism Management, is the Recreation Manager for the town of Spirit River, Alberta. He is responsible for the improvement of the town's recreation facilities including its outdoor aquatic centre.

2014

Roanne Whitticase, BHS, Community & Population Health, is the co-founder and CEO of Health Collaborative British Columbia, an organization that seeks to match users with the service providers and community organizations necessary to ensure their basic needs are met.

Corrina Wong, MEd Counselling, is a Counsellor at the Seisen International School in Victoria.

Amanda Lewis, BEd Elementary Education, is a Wet'suwet'en Language and Culture Teacher with the Kyah Wiget Education Society. She teaches language classes for Grades K-7 at the Moricetown Elementary School.

Learning Through Serving

UNBC courses offer a different approach to education

UNBC students work alongside Northern Health employees to promote healthy living in the community; another student group learns how to guide tourists on rock climbing and dog sledding adventures.

These are just two examples of experiential learning opportunities available to UNBC students this year. Experiential learning takes students out of the classroom and into real-life situations, working on challenges relevant to their field of study while serving the community in practical ways.

This summer, students in a First Nations Studies course learned how to build a traditional pit house from Lheidli T'enneh and Gitxsan elders.

Aboriginal Business Development Centre Executive Director Vince Prince taught the course and said passing on the skills to students means the Centre will have people in the community ready to help with future projects.

"It's a great fit in terms of what we do at the Aboriginal Business Development Centre," he said. "It helps us develop community capacity in every sense."

Over the coming year, students will be working with many other community organizations, including the Aboriginal Business Development Centre, Tsilhqot'in National Government, OVERhang, and Cassiar Cannery.

Five courses in all were awarded funding this year through the Undergraduate Experiential and Service Learning (UESL) program, funded through donations to the Area of Greatest Need at UNBC.



Students learned about local First Nations history this summer by building a pit house as part of an undergraduate experiential learning course.

Thank You for Your Support

UNBC Donors

Lifetime Giving

Chancellor's Circle Diamond Partner

\$1,000,000 and over

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Canfor Corporation
William Dow Ferry
Northwood Inc.
City of Prince George
The Rix Family Foundation
Spectra Energy Corp
The Vancouver Foundation
West Fraser Timber Company

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The Butow and Haley families became part of the Interior University Society in 1988 when they, along with 16,000 others, signed the petition to create a university in the North. Pictured in the Administration Atrium at UNBC, left to right, are Dr. George and Elizabeth Haley, Dr. Susie and Bjorn Butow with their daughters, and Liv and Gus Butow.



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- Dr. Susie Butow , BSc 2001, Northern Medical Program (MD) 2010
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Here to Help

Research centre's existence critical for ongoing research

By Dr. Phil Owens and Dr. Ellen Petticrew

No one wants an environmental disaster to happen, especially in their backyard, but if it does, then universities and others with the knowledge and capacity to help should step-up to the plate. This response is especially relevant in central and northern BC, where the large land mass and low population density means that agency and community resources are often stretched.

For those living and working in the Quesnel watershed, their worst fears were realized when the tailings pond of the Mount Polley Mine was breached in early August, sending tens of millions of cubic meters of water and tailings material into the local environment. In a matter of a few hours, the watershed was impacted at an extent never before seen, and at a scale that possibly will persist for decades. There have been few occasions in BC where so much information is required in order to determine the environmental impacts of a major industrial disaster.

The UNBC Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) is located a few kilometres from the mine site, and has been a base for conducting environmental research in the Quesnel watershed for

over a decade. The Quesnel watershed is an important area for salmonids, especially sockeye salmon, and the breach occurred at a time when a peak year in salmon returns were heading to their natal streams to spawn. This combined with the fact that a number of ecotourism businesses operate in the area attest to the recent quality of the environment.

In the days following the breach, staff and students (both UNBC and international) at the QRRC started to monitor the characteristics of the lake and collect water and sediment samples to determine the impact of the breach on the watershed, in particular Quesnel Lake. In many cases, students put their projects on one side and helped QRRC staff, recognizing the significance of what had happened. Slowly, we are beginning to build a picture of what the breach means for the ecosystem in the Quesnel watershed.

There are many lessons that can be learned from incidents like this and the QRRC is uniquely located, equipped, and staffed to contribute to the knowledge required by the scientific and local communities, environmental agencies, and the mining industry.



About the Authors

Professor of Geography Ellen Petticrew and Professor of Environmental Science Phil Owens are leading UNBC's ongoing research activities in the wake of the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond breach in August. They traveled to the site of the incident to see first-hand what happened and are working with staff and students at the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre to conduct the field work. Both researchers hold Endowed Research Chairs in Landscape Ecology.

