

UNBC "Students on Ice" Expedition to Antarctica

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The UNBC team in Ushuaia, Argentina prior to the voyage (L to R: Kendra Johnston, Tasha Peterson, Sydney Van Loon, Pat Maher, Jen Bennet)



Humpback whale mother and calf near Neko Harbour



Fantastic reflections from Skorntop Cove



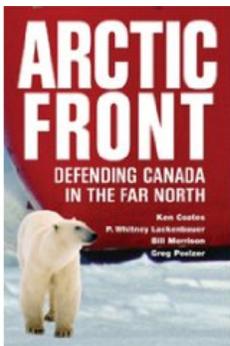
Students and staff getting a close encounter with a Leopard seal

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In February of this year, UNBC students and faculty took part in the first ever university course to be taught in Antarctica. The group was lead by Professor Pat Maher (Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management program) and included students from the ORTM and the Geography programs. The course lectures and workshops explored topics ranging from the geological, political and cultural history of Antarctica, and environmental issues in the polar region to ice glaciology and wildlife identification and observation.

Arctic Front Wins the Donner Prize



The recently published book, *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North* (Thomas Allen Publishers), has won the prestigious Donner Prize for the best public policy book. Three of the four authors of *Arctic Front* have UNBC connections. Bill Morrison is a Professor in the History program, and Greg Poelzer (University of Saskatchewan) and Ken Coates (University of Waterloo) are former UNBC faculty. The fourth author of the book is P. Whitney Lackenbauer (University of Waterloo). Congratulations!

Researcher Profile: Pat Maher, Assistant Professor Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program

Since joining UNBC in September 2005, Pat has established a diverse program of research and teaching on tourism in the Polar Regions. One recent project Pat worked on with Parks Canada was to study management issues associated with cruise ships in the national parks of Nunavut. The resulting technical report, *Cruise Tourism in Auyuittuq, Sirmilik and Quttinirpaaq National Parks*, was published in 2008, and is available through www.unbc.ca/ortm.

With colleagues at Vancouver Island University, Thompson Rivers University and the College of the Rockies, Pat was recently funded by the Canadian Rural Secretariat to develop strategies that foster innovation in sustainable tourism in northern British Columbia. Pat is also a co-investigator on a three-year (2009-2012) SSHRC Northern Communities project, *Climate Change and Tourism Change in Northern Communities: A Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment*, that will involve fieldwork in Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut. This project is in collaboration with colleagues at Lakehead University, the University of Calgary and the University of Waterloo.

In the past two years Pat has helped found two networks focused on tourism in the Polar Regions: the University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Northern Tourism and the International Polar Tourism Research Network.



Both programs aim to generate, share and disseminate knowledge, resources and perspectives on polar tourism, and support the development of cooperative relationships between members.

Pat is currently co-editing two books: *Polar Tourism: Human, Environmental and Governance Dimensions* (Cognizant Communications) and *Cruise Tourism in the Polar Regions: Promoting Environmental and Social Sustainability* (Earthscan). His teaching contributions have been recognized through a 2008 UNBC Teaching Excellence Award.

Publications

- * The International Institute for Sustainable Development's most recent publication, *Securing a Sustainable Future in the Arctic: Engaging and Training the Next Generation of Northern Leaders*, is available on line. The IISD has been working to train the next generation of northern leaders since 1999.

For the executive summary of the publication, go to:

http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2009/securing_sustainable_future_arctic_sum.pdf

For the full publication, go to:

http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2009/securing_sustainable_future_arctic.pdf

Upcoming Events and Conferences

Conferences and Rountables

- * **Connect with the North**, a round table discussion on the social, economic, cultural and environmental issues of the North with Canada's leading experts, will be held in room 360, Tory Building, Carleton University from 3-5 pm on May 28th, 2009. This discussion will be moderated by David S. Hik, Canada Research Chair in Northern Ecology, University of Alberta; and executive director, Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat. Guest speakers include: James Ford (Postdoctoral fellow, Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments; Department of Geography, McGill University; and Networks of Centres of Excellence Young Innovator Award winner); Carol Desbiens (Canada Research Chair in Historical Geography of the North, Université Laval; Brenda Parlee (Canada Research Chair in Social Responses to Ecological Change, University of Alberta); and Christopher Darren James Paci (President, Deep Consulting Inc.; roving faculty member, University of the Arctic; and manager, education and training, Métis Nation of Ontario).
- * **Our Common Future**. The Volkswagen Foundation intends to invite 100 promising early career researchers from all over the world interested in and capable of contributing to the conference "Our Common Future" to be held in November 2010 in Hanover and Essen, Germany. The conference will focus on global challenges in the 21st century and will include topics in the following research areas:
 - * Climate Change and Energy
 - * Technology: Communication; Mobility; Factory of the Future
 - * Economic and Urban Development
 - * Global Health and Molecular Medicine
 - * Human Rights; Migration and Integration; Religion and Values

You can find more information on the following websites:

<http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/foerderung/aussergewoehnliches/our-common-future.html>

<http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/funding/off-the-beaten-track/our-common-future.html?L=1>

* **Communities of Change - Building an IPY Legacy.** The 9th Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) International Student Conference on Northern Studies will be held from **October 2-5, 2009** at Yukon College in Whitehorse, Yukon. ACUNS and the Association universitaire canadienne d'études nordiques, in partnership with Yukon College, is soliciting Abstracts that encompass the following areas:

- The impact of sustainable development, economic activity and polar law on communities, governance and natural habitats.
- The use of natural, physical and social sciences to help understand the causes and effects of the changing polar climate.
- Changes to polar marine and terrestrial communities over the short and long term.
- Changes in research communities and how research is undertaken in the Polar Regions.

The conference will highlight research occurring at both poles, including interactions between the cryosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, atmosphere and society. Inter-disciplinary sessions will be arranged based on the number and breadth of Abstracts submitted.

Financial assistance for travel will be available to students; please check the conference website for details regarding application and eligibility. For guidelines and further information about the Abstract Submission and the conference in general, please visit:

www.communitiesofchange.ca or contact info@communitiesofchange.ca

* **The 6th [ArcticNet](#) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM2009)** will be held from **December 8-11, 2009** at the Fairmont Empress Hotel and the adjoining Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, British Columbia.

As the largest annual Arctic research gathering held in Canada, the annual meeting is the ideal venue to present results from all fields of Arctic research and stimulate networking and partnership activities. Building on the success of previous ASMs and on last year's [Arctic Change 2008](#) International conference, the 2009 meeting welcomes researchers, students, policy makers and stakeholders to address the global challenges and opportunities brought by climate change in the Arctic.

Detailed information on the meeting, registration, call for abstracts and sponsor/exhibitor opportunities are available on the ASM2009 website. For more information, contact:

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