

# UPDATE

A Newsletter for UNBC Alumni and Friends  
Spring 2006

Charles  
**Jago**

**Special Edition**  
A tribute to Charles  
Jago as he completes  
his eleven-year term  
as UNBC's third  
president.

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



The new campus in Quesnel officially opened in January. Classes have already moved from the previous downtown campus location.

## Quesnel Campus Opens for Business

The North Cariboo Community Campus is a spectacular new campus for UNBC and CNC. Located in Quesnel, the 4,570 square metre, \$12 million building is perched on a bluff overlooking the city and the Quesnel River. UNBC offers courses locally in Nursing, Education, Social Work, Anthropology, English, First Nations Studies, Geography, History, Psychology, and Women's Studies and plans to further expand its educational offerings. Last year, more than 40 students who studied in Quesnel graduated with a UNBC degree.

## Academic Visioning

Using the completion of UNBC's first ten years as a springboard, the University has conducted an academic visioning exercise to identify and enhance its areas of strength and potential growth. From this, six areas of academic strengths were identified: natural resources and the environment, health and human development, commerce and community sustainability, indigenous peoples' knowledge, global processes and perspectives, and artistic and cultural expression. The new mission is focused on student outcomes, while the vision is to be Canada's premier small and research-intensive university.

## Best in the West!

UNBC has achieved its highest-ever standing in the annual Maclean's magazine ranking of Canadian universities, placing fourth in the Primarily Undergraduate category. Previously, the University's best ranking was seventh, achieved twice before. As in other years, the faculty, the Library, and the quality of students are some of the main reasons for the strong showing. The universities placing ahead of UNBC this year are all from Atlantic Canada: St. Francis Xavier, Mount Allison, and Acadia. Each is also more than 150 years old.

## Teaching & Learning Centre Materializes

The shell of the University's new Teaching & Learning Centre is now in place at the north end of campus, leaving viewers with a good idea of what it will look like when construction is completed at the end of the year. At about 108,000 square feet, the \$29 million facility will be one of the largest on campus and will offer stunning views of the city of Prince George and the mountains beyond.

# UpFront

With new buildings, a new campus, three degree programs, and a clear vision, 2006 will be a big year for the West's best university.

## Degree Programs in the Making

- **UNBC and the Emily Carr Institute (ECI) have signed a new protocol agreement that may lead to the first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree offered in northern BC.** The proposed degree will combine courses from both institutions, including creative writing, fiction, cultural studies, poetry, and drama from UNBC; and drawing, visual communication, photography, and digital visual arts from ECI. The new program still requires approval from the UNBC Senate and Board of Governors, the ECI Education Council, and the BC Government.
- **Health and human development are the focus of the new Bachelor of Health Sciences degree.** Its three majors, Biomedical Studies, Environmental Health, and Aboriginal and Rural Health, will prepare students for further studies in areas as diverse as medicine, occupational therapy, speech pathology, healthcare management and administration, and community and public health. The new program is expected to begin this fall.
- **A new master's degree in English will also start in September.** Students will reflect upon and provide insight into literature that has helped to shape and question our views of the world. The program includes courses on creative writing and the link between literature, culture, and place.



Construction of the Teaching & Learning Centre is taking place at the north end of the Prince George campus.

By UNBC Grad Katherine Voigt

## 2010 & Northern BC: There's potential and I can see it.

British Columbia's unmistakable presence in centuries-old Torino, Italy, stood as a testament to the real trade opportunities that a sporting event can create.



Katherine stands in Piazza Valdo Fusi in Torino. In the background is the exhibit hall that was part of the log building that served as BC-Canada Place.

**As** Director of Business Development for Export North, the regional export development office in northern BC, I was fortunate to develop and participate in a trade mission to Italy during the 2006 Winter Games to preview just what 2010 may hold for companies in our area.

I grew up in northern BC. I can appreciate the obstacles and challenges that our business community faces. But there, in the centre of downtown Torino, stood a striking building the locals referred to as "Casa Canada" (officially called BC-Canada Place). Featuring mountain pine beetle-infected wood, it was built by Sitka Log Homes of 100 Mile House. It was a shining example of commercial benefit to northern BC, providing a marketing platform for the region that captured the world's attention.

The trade mission's primary focus was to create awareness between local companies and the northern Italian market. It was also an incredible learning experience. For example, I learned how a number of Italian agricultural producers worked together to market their products, using the Games as the platform for their debut.

**Vancouver and Whistler obviously stand to benefit. But will the rest of us?** I learned that there are three primary avenues that offer opportunities to companies in British Columbia, including those based in the North:

**Exposure:** the Olympic Games offer an opportunity to introduce and highlight our region nationally and internationally.

**Sales:** direct and indirect sales opportunities exist as a result of this event. Sponsorship and procurement provide direct means for firms to increase sales. Spin-off market opportunities are also predicted due to the increased number of visitors to BC who will require accommodations, amenities, and unique products and experiences.

**Leverage:** the Olympic Games are the biggest event in the world. It isn't just about sports; the Games attract people with an eye for economic development and trade opportunities.

Yes, the Games will be known as Vancouver 2010, but wouldn't it be great to see northerners exhibit their products and participate in this monumental event? I learned in Torino that it is definitely possible.

### Katherine Voigt

Born and raised in Kitimat, Katherine moved to Prince George to attend UNBC. She graduated with a Commerce degree in Marketing and International Business in 2004, and now works for Export North.

# Charles Jago

UNBC's President has been a builder, visionary, and advocate for northern BC.



Outgoing UNBC President Charles Jago and his wife, Mary, in their home.



“Things will never again be the same in this community, or anywhere else in the North,” said then-Premier Mike Harcourt when Queen Elizabeth II officially opened UNBC’s Prince George campus in 1994. He was right. More than anyone else, it was Charles Jago who made it happen.

When Charles Jago arrived at UNBC in 1995, UNBC had 2300 students, 16 alumni, and a great deal of promise. Today, UNBC has 3600 students, nearly 5000 alumni, a fundraising endowment of more than \$35 million, new campuses in Quesnel and Prince Rupert, five more buildings on the Prince George campus, and two more now underway. As an active volunteer, visionary leader, and a passionate advocate for the entire northern region, it’s impossible to overestimate the effect Charles Jago has had on UNBC and the North.

Charles’ wife Mary, former Chancellor George Pedersen, student leaders Ericka Stephens and Jeremy Belyea, and long-time employee Dennis Macknak offer their reflections on Charles and his role as President of UNBC.

## Mary Jago

My husband is an historian, so before you can understand his Presidency at UNBC you must understand the foundations of his past.

His PhD from Cambridge University was on the governance of Spain in the 16th and 17th Centuries. He studied the Crown, the Aristocracy and Taxation. His research was innovative, led to some startling historical findings, and sparked a strong interest among a number of young Spanish historians. The importance of his work was reflected in the fact that his research was published in *Past and Present* and *The American Historical Review*, two of the most prestigious historical journals in Britain and the USA. He was among the scholars honoured in person by Queen Sophia in 1997 for their contributions to Spanish history.

Chuck was soon tempted to put his studies of governance into practice. He did so by chairing the long-range planning committee at McMaster University. Later, at Huron College, he rescued the institution from financial crisis and established new programs and facilities. When invited to consider UNBC, it was a natural progression to apply his views of governance to a new university.

George Pedersen was the interim president of UNBC until Chuck’s arrival and later became the second Chancellor. He has told Chuck on many occasions that Chuck’s wisdom has been to surround himself with people who are smarter than him. That said, Chuck has an uncanny ability to see how events might unfold in the future. I call it his sense of vision, whether applied to the expansion of the campus, the creation of a medical school, or working toward a sports facility.

While his projects have thrust him into the limelight, I know that it is often the smaller things he enjoys most. For example, we both love to entertain in our home. It’s a time we can all relax and show how much we appreciate what everyone does for the University. Chuck also takes great pride from working with the First Nations of the region. UNBC’s relationship with Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a in the Nass Valley, the Weekend University program in Williams Lake, and the peer counselling program are just a few of those accomplishments that make UNBC such a special place.

In short, Chuck is devoted to UNBC, Prince George, and northern BC.

August 16, 1995 ▶  
Jago takes part in a tour of northwestern communities, where he was introduced as UNBC’s new President.



April 20, 1996  
The Real Estate Foundation of BC contributes \$750,000 to establish UNBC’s first research institute, focusing on northern land use.

January 25, 1997  
Approval of Planning for Growth, a strategic plan that established growth as the University’s greatest priority.

April 21, 1998 ▶  
Jago appointed to the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund committee.



<p>1995</p>  <p>October 19, 1995 Jago installed as UNBC’s third President, following Geoffrey Weller and George Pedersen.</p>	<p>1996</p> <p>May 24, 1996 Jago’s first Convocation ceremony as UNBC President. 73 students graduate.</p>	<p>1997</p> <p>October 27, 1997 UNBC hosts a meeting of all western Canadian elected officials responsible for northern and rural development.</p>	<p>1998</p> <p>June 20, 1998 UNBC surpasses the \$15 million mark in its fundraising efforts.</p>	<p>November 16, 1998 UNBC debuts at 9th place in the Maclean’s magazine ranking of Canadian universities.</p>
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## Some of Charles Jago's Contributions & Involvement

### Chair

- Co-chair of Premier's Consultation for Improved Cancer Care in Northern BC
- Fraser Basin Council
- The University Presidents' Council
- The University Public Sector Employers Council of BC
- The Council of Western Canadian University Presidents
- Prince George United Way

### Board Membership

- Commonwealth University Presidents
- Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada
- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Advanced Systems Institute of BC
- Partnerships BC
- Initiatives Prince George
- Two Rivers Art Gallery
- Theatre Northwest

### Other Involvement

- Air Quality Taskforce
- Commissioner of the Nechako Environment Enhancement Fund
- Advisory Committee for the Order of BC
- Premier's Advisory Committee on Northern BC Economic Development
- Federal Taskforce on the Northern Transportation Corridor
- Advisory Committee to the Federal Minister of Finance – Millennium Scholarship Fund
- Spirit of BC Community Committee – Prince George

## George Pedersen Interim UNBC President (1995) and UNBC Chancellor (1998-2004)

I have known Chuck for nearly twenty years and I admire greatly what he has achieved at UNBC. Along with the all-important support of his wife Mary, Chuck has made a real difference to the North.

In the six years that I served as Chancellor, I had many opportunities to observe him in action. I can say that his interests were always focused on how UNBC could be better. How to recruit better faculty and staff, how to get more financial aid for students, how to encourage more First Nations students to attend, how to provide more educational programs in the regions – these are typical of the issues he considered important.

In 1995, Chuck inherited a young, vibrant institution from Geoffrey Weller. UNBC had a spectacular campus, outstanding young faculty, dedicated support staff, and enthusiastic students from all over British Columbia. Expectations were high. Those expectations have been more than met. President Jago has built on the base provided by President Weller to make UNBC one of

Canada's great academic success stories. No other Canadian university has ever advanced so far in such a short period of time.

Over the last ten years, UNBC has become deeply embedded in the educational soul of northern BC. Chuck has worked endless hours to ensure that three levels of government, the private sector, all northern communities, and other educational institutions understand the important role played by UNBC. This has resulted in an enviable reputation and enormous support, well beyond the expectations for a 15-year-old university.

Among all his other strengths and most admirable of all, Chuck has always kept students at the forefront of decisions related to UNBC. Who could ask for more?

## Jeremy Belyea Director of University Affairs for the Northern Undergraduate Student Society (2004-2005)

What I will remember the most about Chuck is that he was a friendly, stand-up guy. A cool story that stands out in my mind is when, during the middle of a tour for some VIPs, he

October 1, 1999

UNBC debuts in the BC survey of university graduates. UNBC grads rate higher in satisfaction and employment and income than the BC average.

December 13, 1999

The University unveils early drawings of a proposed sports facility to be built on the Prince George campus.

March 2, 2000

Official opening of the IK Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory, the first building added to the Prince George campus since the 1994 opening.

November 22, 2000

Official opening of the Northern BC Archives at UNBC, which serves as the region's main historical repository.

January 18, 2001

UNBC, UBC, and the BC Government sign a memorandum to establish a northern physician education program.

November 18, 2002

Jago receives the Queen's Jubilee Medal for Community Service, presented at Prince George City Council.

1999

2000

2001

2002

November 19, 1999 ▶  
UNBC sees its first action in varsity athletics, as the basketball teams join the BC college league.



June 22, 2000 ▶  
Jago calls for northern physician education in a speech to 6,000 people during a massive health care rally at the PG Multiplex.



June 15, 2001  
Sod-turning for the Bentley Centre and the new Teaching Laboratory building.

July 16, 2002  
Repeal of UNBC Act; UNBC grows to the point of being governed by the same legislation as other BC universities.



slowed down his tour and not only said hello to everyone in a Hackey Sack circle, but also dropped jaws by busting out a fancy hack move all whilst walking with the tour group! It was a real pleasure to meet and work with Chuck, and I'm happy to call him a friend. I want him to know he's welcome to hack or hang out with me anytime.

**Ericka Stephens**  
 Director of University Affairs for the Northern Undergraduate Student Society (2003-2004)

"I don't do dunk tanks," he said. I laughed. He had caught me off guard by answering the question I hadn't yet asked. The Student Society was planning an end-of-school bash and I had to approach Dr. J about sitting atop a dunk tank.

He was right – he doesn't (and didn't) do dunk tanks. Instead, he does other things that foster the UNBC culture. He eats in the cafeteria. He creates an atmosphere of openness, and encourages students to email him with feedback and suggestions. He goes on the radio. He is transparent about contentious issues and encourages discussion. He remembers names and faces.

Although he's busy, his office – complete with candies on the table – is open to all. UNBC is a phenomenal school because Dr. J modelled, encouraged, and sought excellence.

**Dennis Macknak**  
 Director of Regional Operations (1991-Present)

By 1995, we had gone through hundreds of interviews to hire staff and faculty. We had developed a keen sense of what we referred to as the UNBC "fit," which meant that there was something about a candidate that demonstrated some affinity to the region. Some people were coming home to the area where they were born. Others were attracted to the land or just wanted to escape the concrete jungle. When I heard in 1995 that our new president was a Cambridge-educated man who was born and raised in southern Ontario, I seriously questioned his fit with UNBC and northern British Columbia.

But I've worked with Charles Jago now for more than 10 years and watched him develop a deep knowledge and commitment to the University and to the area. I have concluded that there are other ways to determine "fit". It's not always about what a person brings to

northern BC. In this case, the area took hold of the man and forever made him a part of this place.

## Invitation

You're Invited to a Gala Celebrating the Presidency and Contributions of Charles and Mary Jago

- Date:** Friday, May 26th, 2006
- Place:** CN Centre, Prince George
- Time:** Reception at 7:00 pm  
Dinner and Presentation at 8:00 pm
- Tickets:** \$100  
Proceeds to support the Northern Sport Centre.  
Tables of 8 may be booked.
- Dress:** Semi-formal

RSVP to the UNBC Office of the President by Friday, May 12, 2006.  
 (250) 960-5290 or 1-866-960-5290  
 Email [rsvp@unbc.ca](mailto:rsvp@unbc.ca)

**2003** May 5, 2003 UNBC hosts a meeting of northern municipal leaders and holds the first meeting of the Northern Medical Programs Trust.

**2004** August 17, 2004 UNBC celebrates the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Prince George campus. The Northern Health Sciences Centre opens.

**2004** November 22, 2004 Official opening of a \$6 million expansion to the Teaching Laboratory building, containing classrooms, offices, and high-tech labs.

**2005** January 25, 2005 Donald Rix donates \$3 million to advance health teaching and research. It is UNBC's largest donation to date.

**2005** February 17, 2005 Jago welcomes \$31.8 million from the BC Government to renovate the Library and build the new Teaching and Learning Centre.

**2005** April 14, 2005 The Government of BC commits \$20.5 million towards construction of the Northern Sport Centre.

**2006** February 17, 2006 Jago receives the Order of Canada from Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

**2006** May 26, 2006 Jago's last Convocation ceremony as UNBC President. More than 700 students graduate.

**2006** November 7, 2005 UNBC rises to #4 in the Maclean's magazine ranking of Canadian universities, laying claim to being "Best in the West."



## Alumni News & Events

### Alumni Board of Directors 2006

Elections for the next executive will be held during the Annual General Meeting on May 2nd, 2006 at 6:00pm in Senate Chambers. All alumni are invited to attend.

### Golf Tournament

After raising \$16,000 for UNBC Athletics last year, the Alumni Association is getting into full swing for the Sixth Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Aberdeen Glen Golf Course on May 25th. Contact Vicki Pilot (alumni@unbc.ca or 960-5873) for registration information.

### UNBC Alumni BBQ Party

All alumni are invited to a new annual gathering, *Alumni to the Nth Degree*. The outdoor BBQ will follow Convocation on Friday, May 26th in the UNBC Courtyard. The festivities will begin at 4:30pm and are set to wrap up at 7:30pm. RSVP by May 16th. Contact Sandra Earle (earles@unbc.ca or 960-5620).

### Relay for Charity

The Alumni Association, NUGSS, and the UNBC Fitness Centre are organizing the *Pepsi Relay for Charity*. The 2.5 km relay in September raises money for the participants' charities of choice. Contact Tania Bopp (boppt@unbc.ca or 960-6356) for registration information.

### Annual Awards

Nominations for *Honorary Member of the Alumni Association* and *Alumni of the Year* are being accepted by Vicki Pilot (alumni@unbc.ca or 960-5873). Nomination deadline is May 1st, 2006.

[www.unbc.ca/alumni](http://www.unbc.ca/alumni)



Along with her husband, UNBC grad Inge-Jean Mattson (BSc Wildlife & Fisheries '03) of Rolla canoed 2750 kilometres over 80 days from Dawson Creek to Tuktoyaktuk.

# UNBC Grads: Where are they Now?

At more than 4,800 today, UNBC grads are on the verge of outnumbering UNBC's current students.

**Rahim Bhojani** (BSc Computer Science '02) is a software design engineer at Microsoft in Kirkland, Washington.

**Serena Hartl** (BA Political Science '05) is an ESL teacher for Maple College in Pusan, South Korea.

**Joey Fong** (BComm Marketing & International Business '03) is a solutions partner development manager at Business Objects in Vancouver, BC.

**Birch Howard** (BSc Natural Resources Management '99) is a Parks Canada park warden in Banff National Park in Banff, AB.

**Andrea Faris** (BA English '04) is a public librarian for Dawson Community Library and a pit boss for Diamond Tooth Gerties Casino in Dawson City, YT.

**Rastin Rashid Moradi-Mehr** (BSc Computer Science '05) is a web application architect in Langley, BC.

**Mitch Gagliardi** (BA General '04) is pursuing his MBA at the University of Greenwich in London.

**Tricia Turner** (BSc Honors Psychology '05) works with women at risk to reduce the number of low birth weight babies and those affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at Northern Family Health Society in Prince George, BC.

**Connie Cunningham** (BSW Social Work '05) is a program manager/addictions counselor at Northern Health, North Peace Addiction Services in Fort St. John, BC.

**Miriam Hughes** (BA Women's Studies '01) has completed her PhD at the University of South Australia and is a Senior Policy Analyst for the New Zealand Ministry of Education, focusing on Maori education.

**Sabine Nouvet** (BSc Natural Resources Management '05) is a self-employed environmental assessor, researcher, and artist in the Vale of Glamorgan, UK.

## UNBC Donations

### Office of University Development

University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Phone: (250) 960-5750  
Toll-free: 1-866-960-5750  
Fax: (250) 960-5799  
Email: devoff@unbc.ca  
Online: [www.unbc.ca/giving](http://www.unbc.ca/giving)



Kailey Sayles is a recipient of the Fort St. James scholarship, donated by the Village of Fort St. James.

### 05-06 Annual Campaign

“Donations represent the margin of funding difference that allows universities to achieve excellence,” says UNBC President and 05-06 Annual Campaign Chair Charles Jago. “The Annual Campaign has surpassed its goal and raised over \$340,000. In fact, more than 11% of our Alumni have financially supported the campaign and we have the highest rate of staff and faculty participation of any university in the province. This speaks to the strength of UNBC and the confidence shown by those closest to the university.”

### 2006 Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture & Dinner

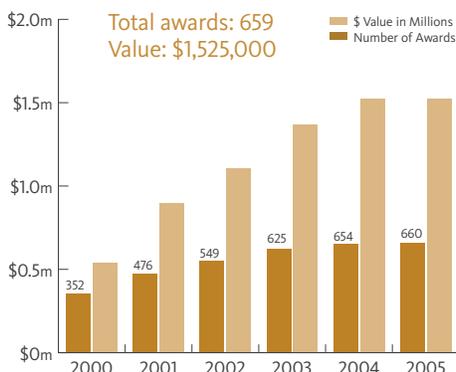
The Northern Medical Society hosted the 2nd Annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner on January 21st at the Prince George Civic Centre, and more than 480 people attended the event. Keynote Speaker Dr. Gavin Stuart, Dean of Medicine at UBC, provided an engaging presentation on the contentious topic of stem cell research. Proceeds from the event are being used to support the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT) and the endowment for the Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture Series. The annual event is a collaborative effort of the Northern Medical Society, the Prince George Community Foundation, UNBC, and the NMPT.

[www.unbc.ca/giving](http://www.unbc.ca/giving)

# Giving to UNBC

Each year, more than 1,100 donors contribute to UNBC. A record \$5.8 million was raised in 04-05.

### Student Awards in 05-06

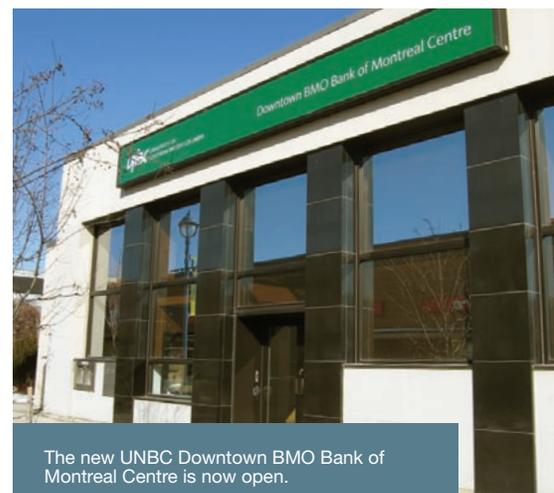


### Recent Donations to UNBC

- The **Institute of Ocean Sciences** donated \$100,000 to the Quesnel River Research Centre, located in Likely, BC.
- The **R. T. Wilson Estate** created an endowment fund for nursing awards.
- **CN** donated \$300,000 toward the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT).
- The **Royal Bank** donated \$100,000 toward the NMPT community pledges where the Royal Bank operates in Northern BC.

### UNBC Opens New Doors

The **UNBC Downtown BMO Bank of Montreal Centre** opened its doors in January. Located on the corner of 3rd Avenue and Quebec Street in the heart of downtown Prince George, the building is now home to the UNBC Foundation, the University's Development Office, and a number of researchers. BMO donated the building and land – worth about \$500,000 – to the University in October, to help strategic developments in downtown Prince George and alleviate the space crunch at the main UNBC campus.



The new UNBC Downtown BMO Bank of Montreal Centre is now open.



“ With a new medical program and a long-standing relationship with Aboriginal people, UNBC is a natural place for a research program in topics that link together health, the environment, and northern communities. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity of significance to BC and the whole country. ”

– Dr. Laurie Chan

BC Leadership Chair Laurie Chan in UNBC's Central Equipment Laboratory.

## You Are What You Eat

UNBC is the new home base for a researcher nationally recognized for his work on the link between environmental contaminants and traditional foods. Dr. Laurie Chan conducts research in two-dozen northern communities across Canada to gauge the levels of contaminants in fish and wildlife and the health effects of the people who eat them. He has come to Prince George from McGill University in Montreal after being appointed UNBC's first BC Leadership Chair. The position is supported by a \$4.5 million endowment, funded by the Government of BC, Dr. Donald Rix, the Rix Family Foundation, and Cantest Ltd.

## Engineering Award

Second is best for four students from the Environmental Engineering program, who returned home with silver medals from the Canadian Engineering Competition in Montreal in early March. This is the second silver for Belinda Lee, Jen von Gradulewski, Marie Manchester, and Lani MacPherson after they captured second place at the Western Canadian Engineering Competition in Calgary in February. They gave presentations on harnessing renewable energy off the coast of Vancouver Island and on equipment used in pulp mills to reduce emissions.



## Today's Northern Women

A faculty member and a student both received recognition at the 2005 Northern BC Women of Distinction Awards. Professor Chris Leischner earned the "Forging Our Future with Education" award for her involvement in research, counselling, and the social work profession. Meanwhile, Phyllis Chelsea, a student in the University's Weekend University program in Williams Lake, received the "Aboriginal Woman of Distinction" award. She has helped to revive the Shuswap language and establish a school on the Alkali Lake Reserve.

# People in the News

Want to know who's who at UNBC? Check out [www.unbc.ca/people](http://www.unbc.ca/people). Browse a list of stories about UNBC faculty members who were recently published in *Putting a Face to the Place*, an insert produced by the *Prince George Citizen* newspaper.

## Silicon Valley Courting UNBC

UNBC's Computer Science graduates are attracting attention from California's reputed Silicon Valley. Opware Inc., a company created in 1999 by Netscape founder Marc Andreessen, describes its six UNBC grads as exceptional performers, speaking volumes about the quality of the program's top graduates. To prove its interest, Opware's Vice President visited the Prince George campus to strengthen ties between the University and the company. Opware employs 325 people and has offices in California, Washington, and North Carolina.

## Parliamentary Prowess



Voted "Best Up and Coming MP" by his fellow Members of Parliament three years in a row, UNBC grad James Moore (BA Political Science '01) was re-elected as Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam MP in the November 2005 federal election that saw the Conservative

Party form a minority government on Parliament Hill. Prime Minister Harper appointed Moore the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works. In Opposition, Moore served as critic to Public Works, Transport, Amateur Sport, Revenue, and Asia-Pacific Foreign Affairs.



## Future Business Leader

When Canada's "Outstanding CEO of the Year" program developed its Futures Fund Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership, it looked for Canadian university business students who demonstrated exemplary leadership in their academic and extra-curricular initiatives. The award program chose to honour UNBC Business student Erica Drew of Victoria. Erin was one of ten students across Canada to receive a \$5,000 grant to further her educational ambitions.



## Moving with Technology

Computer Science professor Waqar Haque and his students have secured a contract to develop cutting-edge technology to make moving easy. The technology will integrate all aspects of the home moving process – lawyer referrals, lenders, insurance, utilities, movers, etc. – in one place: the handheld communications device, Blackberry. It's expected the product will first be rolled out this spring in England and Wales, where more than one million homes are sold each year.

## Diabetes in Children

Prince George elementary students are the focus of a new research project by Dr. Hanh Huynh of the Northern Medical Program. Dr. Huynh is working with other researchers to measure the food intake, physical activity, blood pressure, and body measurements of more than 300 students in grades one to six. Because of the alarming rise in childhood obesity, Dr. Huynh wants to determine the risk northern children face for developing Type II or adult onset diabetes.



## Fantasy, Tattoos & Life

Three UNBC faculty have recently published new books. Lynda Williams of the Centre for Teaching and Learning has a new fantasy novel, *The Courtesan Prince*, which has been described on Amazon.com as "rich, complex, and amazing."

The book illustrates a clash between cultures in the universe of Okal Rel. Meanwhile, body art takes centre stage in English professor Karin Beeler's new book, *Tattoos, Desire, and Violence*. The book explores the role of the tattoo in literature, film, and television, as well as its historical and contemporary links to the Holocaust, slavery, and gang membership. Finally, UNBC Professor Emeritus Alex Michalos has recently published his 22nd book, a compilation of the most popular articles on quality of life research. The articles first appeared in *Social Indicators Research*, the journal that Alex founded 30 years ago; he is still its editor.

# On the Case of Climate Change

By UNBC Professor Brian Menounos

If mud and ice provide the DNA evidence for climate change, earth scientists are the world's crime scene investigators. Over the last 150 years, the warming of western Canada has been more severe than anywhere else on the globe outside of the very high latitudes. Drastic consequences may be in store for glaciers and entire ecosystems, but the climate system is complex, erratic, and behaves in ways that are poorly understood. One way to improve our understanding of the earth's climate is to study its behaviour over centuries or even millennia. Valuable clues come from glaciers and lake sediments.

## Glaciers

Covering an area exceeding 100,000 square kilometres, glaciers cover 10% of British Columbia's land mass and serve as frozen reservoirs of water that supplement runoff into streams and rivers in summer and early autumn during periods of low flow. In fact, 90% of BC's electricity every year is generated directly from the melting snow and ice. In conjunction with researchers at other universities, I am collaborating with Stephen Déry, Peter Jackson, and Roger Wheate of UNBC to secure samples from remote glaciers in the Coast, Columbia, Selkirk, Cariboo, and Rocky Mountain ranges. We're looking back 400 years to document the climate change and measure how glaciers have been reacting. We're also looking to the future. An important element of our research will be to predict how glaciers will change over the next 50 to 150 years.

## Lakes

Many scientists believe that the frequency and magnitude of floods may change in a warmer world. Again, we can look to the past to help predict the future. Some lakes deposit sediment layers that can be measured and counted like tree rings. In these lakes, years characterized by flooding result in sediment layers that are distinctively thicker, allowing us to reconstruct past flood events. This research wouldn't happen without students. My students and I continue to gather, record, and measure lake sediment, stretching back tens of thousands of years, to determine the size, duration, and frequency of past floods in British Columbia. I have been extremely fortunate to work with gifted, young scholars. There is a tremendous sense of satisfaction for me when I see bright, energetic, and inquisitive students learning skills in my laboratory or in the field that can not be learned in a classroom.

Together, our research will help prepare western Canada for the effects of climate change. The answers will not be easy to find, but we know where to find our clues, buried under layers of mud and ice.



### Brian Menounos

Dr. Brian Menounos is an assistant professor of Geography at UNBC. He completed his BA and his MA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his PhD from UBC in 2002. Brian's research is supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund, and Parks Canada.

Brian is pictured here with student researchers Teresa Carlson (left, Environmental Science) and Melanie Grubb (Geography).

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