

# UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends  
– Fall 2013



**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

# The Inside Scoop

President's message



One of the highlights of each year for me is convocation season in the spring. It is a time of accomplishments, and a time of new beginnings. This year, UNBC passed a notable milestone of which we are very proud: the UNBC alumni community now numbers more than 10,000 people.

When we welcome new students who will be the future alumni, we tell them that this is a university like no other, producing graduates who are contributing to the prosperity and development of Northern BC, our province, and country. Our students and faculty are actively

researching climate change, sustainable resource development, energy production and export, health care delivery, First Nations communities and cultures, international trade, ecosystem diversity, food security, the availability of fresh water, and more.

When our founders were charting the future of UNBC, they envisioned that issues such as these would only grow in importance and that the North would need to be equipped with the teachers, nurses, engineers, administrators, scientists, entrepreneurs, and leaders who are serving Northern BC today. To see that vision

realized on convocation day instills a belief in UNBC's vision; that we are a University in and for the North, and that we are making a real difference.

As many of you know, I will not take on a second term as president of UNBC. On the day I announced this news publicly, I attended the first on-campus Farmers' Market of the fall season. As I visited with students, staff, and faculty, it seemed fitting that I was making this announcement on such a day. As farmers sow and harvest to prepare for their future, so does UNBC. I believe we have sown our own future for the University and the region with the graduates from our first 25 years. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CANADA'S  
**GREEN**  
UNIVERSITY™

**BEST IN THE WEST**  
8 years  
in a row  
Macleod's Magazine

2013  
Canada's  
**Greenest**  
Employers

**2012**  
BC's Top Employers

**unbc.ca**



facebook.com/unbc | twitter.com/unbc | youtube.com/unbcnews  
flickr.com/unbc | pinterest.com/unbc | instagram.com/unbc



Lukas Bosch, a first-year student from Regina, Saskatchewan, is UNBC's Campus Correspondent for the 2013/2014 academic year. Lukas is using a number of social media tools, including a blog, facebook, and video, to document the student experience at UNBC from his perspective as a first-year student.



“ This is what defines UNBC's great opportunity: our alumni together with community supporters shaping a future for communities rooted in education and innovation. ”

Our graduates are sustaining the North, with UNBC now annually producing more university graduates for Northern BC than all other BC universities combined. And they are preparing the North and UNBC for what promises to be decades of development, inspiration, pride, and passion in this region.

Recently, we officially opened a Founders Lounge at UNBC, on the fourth floor of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library. The event, which saw many of our founders return to UNBC to celebrate all that has been

accomplished, provided an opportunity to reflect as well as to look to the future. As we approach 2015 and the 25th anniversary of this institution's founding, we approach a unique turning point in our history. The “new” founders are our alumni, the

graduates who are taking on the mantle of UNBC's future success, its continued growth, and its value to the region and beyond. It will be our alumni who champion this University for the next 25 years.

But they won't be alone.

I have witnessed incredible support for the University everywhere I go, in industry, government, community organizations and service clubs, small businesses, health care settings, and even coffee shops. This is what defines UNBC's great opportunity: our alumni together with community supporters shaping a future for communities rooted in education and innovation.

- George Iwama

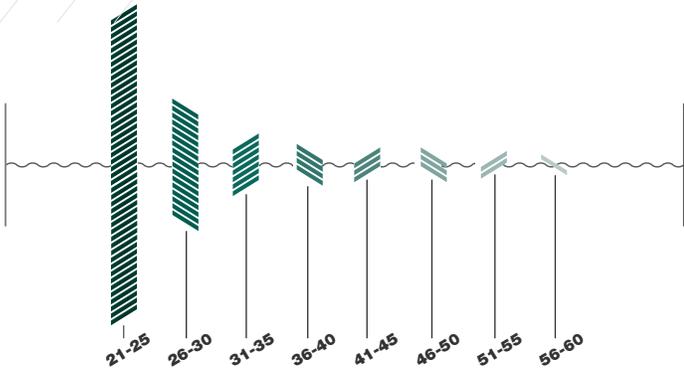
Left: UNBC's newest students, the class of 2017, in the Agora Courtyard. Below: The new Founder's Lounge at UNBC, with many UNBC founders in attendance for the official opening. Opposite page: UNBC President George Iwama and students at the first University Farmer's Market of the 2013/14 school year.



# Celebrating 10,000 Strong

Where and how UNBC grads are making a difference

## Age of students on convocation day

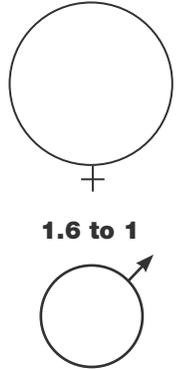


## Fun Facts

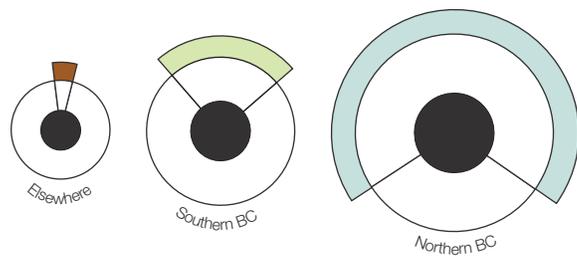
**377 GRADS** HAVE APPEARED IN **CLASS NOTES** SINCE THE FIRST **UPDATE** MAGAZINE IN THE FALL OF 2002

**233** UNBC GRADUATES **CURRENTLY WORK AT UNBC**

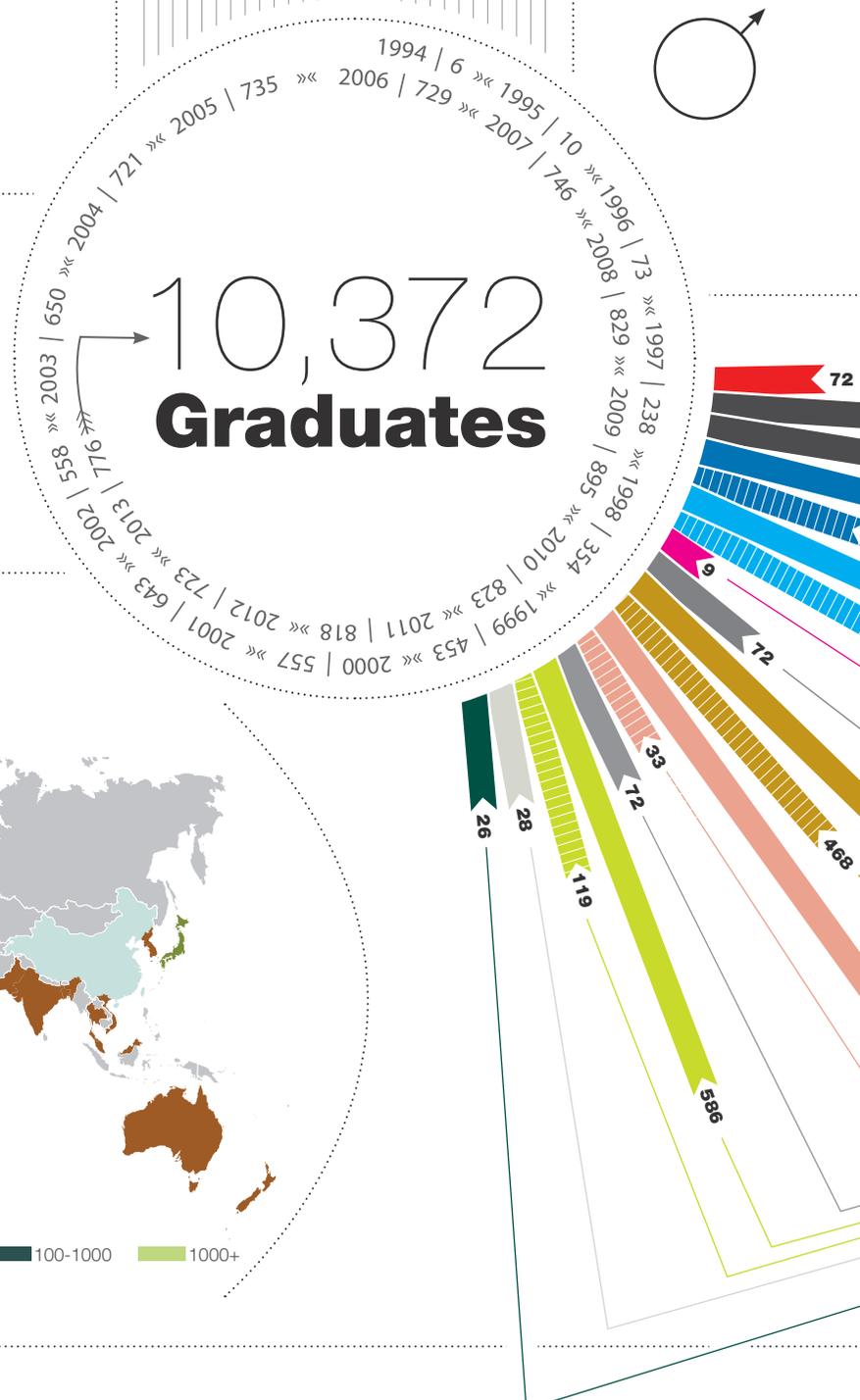
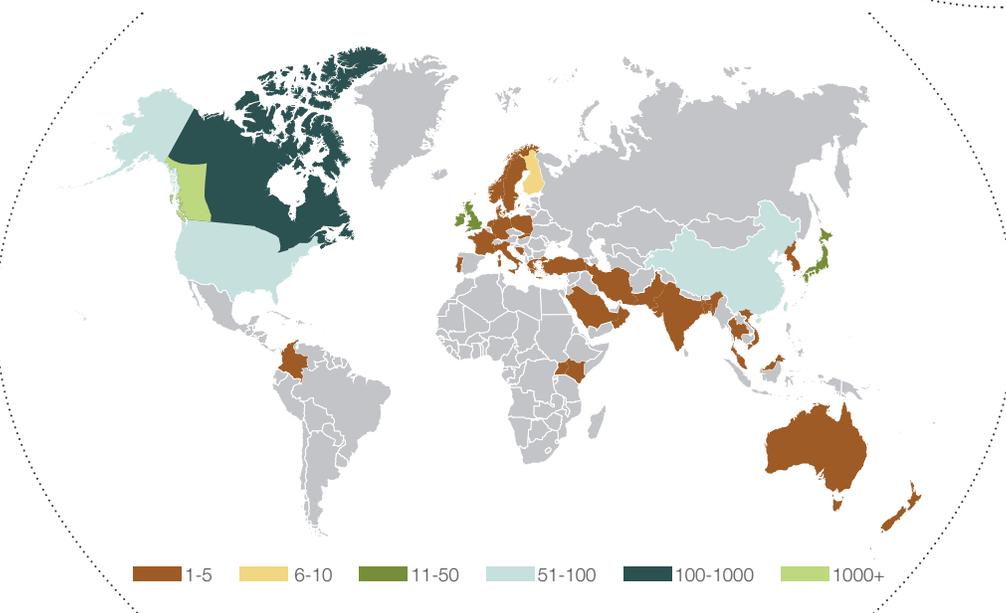
## Female : Male



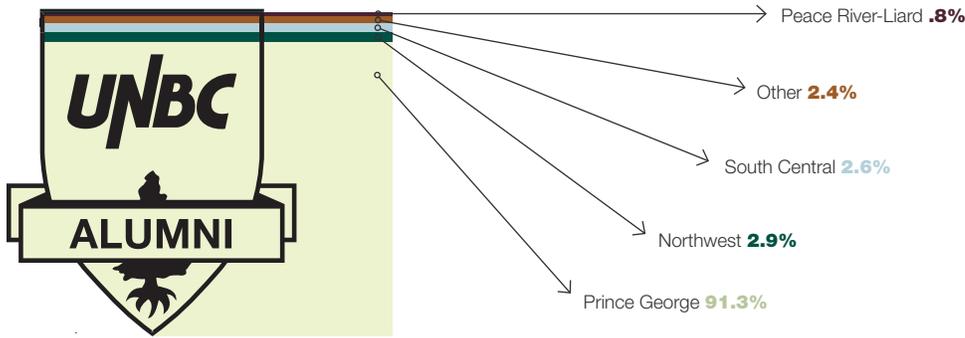
## Where our grads are from



## Where Our Grads Live



**Graduates by campus**



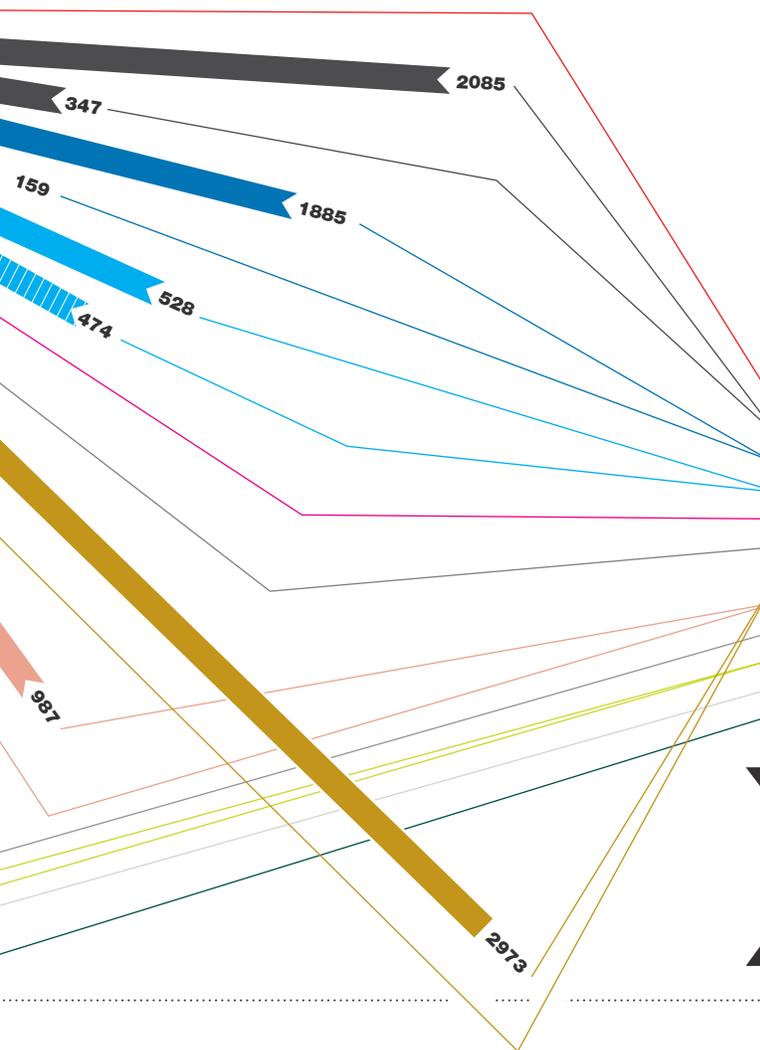
**Annual Income** \*2012 Survey of 2010 Baccalaureate graduates



**Accreditations**

Aside from the 433 students who have received certificates and diplomas from UNBC, the University's 10,000+ graduates are comprised of the following accreditations (some graduates have more than one accreditation, so the number of all-time grads is less than the total number of degrees/certificates bestowed).

- Bachelor's Degree
- ▨ Master's Degree
- Applied Science
- Arts
- Commerce
- Education
- Fine Arts
- Health Sciences
- Science
- Nursing
- Planning
- Social Work
- Natural Resource Management
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)



**An Exciting time for the North**

At some point during the 2013 convocation, UNBC Chancellor John MacDonald granted a degree to the University's 10,000th graduate. This number includes nearly 3,000 Bachelor of Science degrees, 2,000 Bachelor of Arts degrees, and represents the education of almost 1,000 nurses in Northern BC. These graduates are sustaining northern communities and improving the world. What an exciting time to call the North home.

“  
**I believe we have sown our own future for the university and the region with the graduates from our first 25 years.**  
 - George Iwama  
 ”



Please visit [youtube.com/unbcnews](http://youtube.com/unbcnews) to meet just a few members of the Class of 2013 in the video **UNBC: 10,000 grads Strong.**

**Jennifer Parker, MD, Northern Medical Program, 2008.**

Jennifer Parker, one of the first graduates of the Northern Medical Program at UNBC, was quick to make her mark on Northern BC. Within days of completing her residency, Dr. Parker opened a brand-new practice in Fort St. John, providing services including maternity, palliative care, and emergency medicine. "I've wanted to be a doctor since I was six so this is a dream come true," says Dr. Parker.



**Carey Stewart, BA, First Nations Studies, 2004 & MEd Multi-Disciplinary Leadership 2012.**

"UNBC provides a first-class education, and ongoing mentorship and career advice, which is valuable to my community," says Carey Stewart, who in 2011 became the first Nisga'a person to become principal of Nisga'a Elementary and Secondary School. Since achieving his graduate degree from UNBC, Stewart has provided inspiration to the students he rubs shoulders with every day. "They all ask, 'Can I get my degree too?'" says Stewart. "I'm able to draw a direct line for the young people in my community to higher education."



**Danielle Smyth, MSc, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, 2010.**

"I moved to Northern BC without a clear direction. My experiences at UNBC helped me define myself," says Danielle Smyth. "If I had gone anywhere other than UNBC and Northern BC, I would not have had the opportunities. It gave me a chance to learn and to really make my mark." Smyth's mark now includes being a creator of the Green University Centre at UNBC, the manager of Northwest Community College's School of Exploration and Mining, and NWCC's interim regional director.



**Nathan Lauer, MBA, Business Administration, 2010.**

UNBC grad Nathan Lauer grew up in the small community of Summerland BC. Now the Logistics and IT Manager works for Ridley Terminals in Prince Rupert, one of the largest and most important pieces of infrastructure in Northern BC. "This job requires a great deal of organization and coordination with many internal departments and external partners such as the railways, vessels, vessel agents, customers, and related service providers. I feel my UNBC education equipped me with skills to take an integrated approach to management," says Lauer.



**Kara Biles, BComm, Marketing, 2008.**

Kara Biles enjoyed learning at UNBC so much she did it twice. After first obtaining a marketing degree, Biles added human resources credentials to her resume. She was able to use her UNBC experience to get started in her professional career: a co-op learning posting with the BC Public Service Agency. Later, she transitioned to a position with Canfor in Prince George—all while attending classes. Biles was Canfor's 2011 provincial Rising Star award winner, and also made the inaugural list of Prince George's "Top 40 Under 40."



# In the North for the North

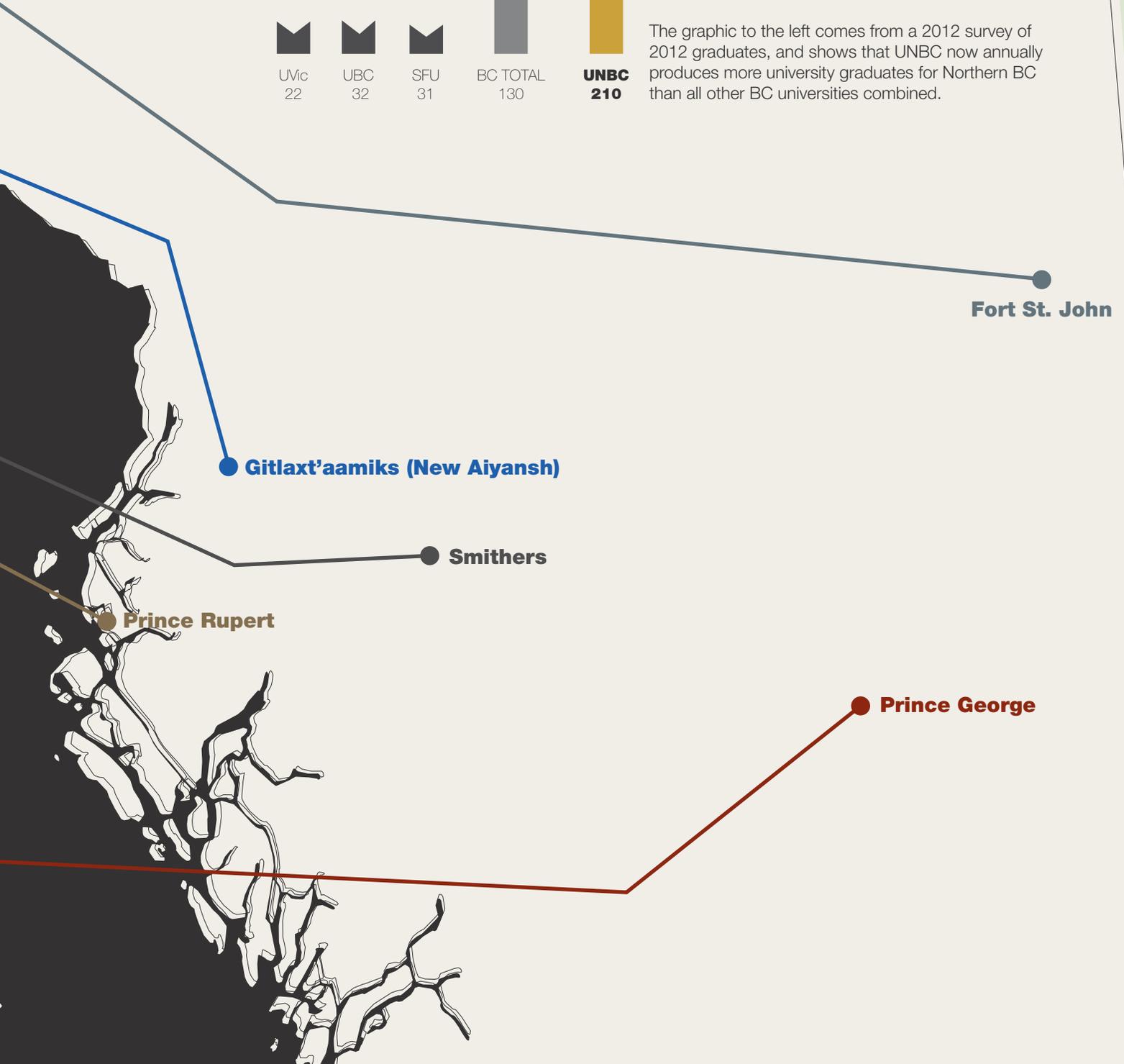
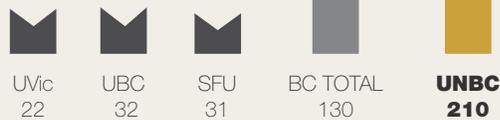
UNBC's graduates are helping build communities across the region

## Big Things can come from Small Numbers

1.9

That's the percentage of post-secondary students in British Columbia who attend UNBC. Yet, from that small number, the University produces more than half of the BC university grads currently living and working in Northern BC.

The graphic to the left comes from a 2012 survey of 2012 graduates, and shows that UNBC now annually produces more university graduates for Northern BC than all other BC universities combined.



# UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines

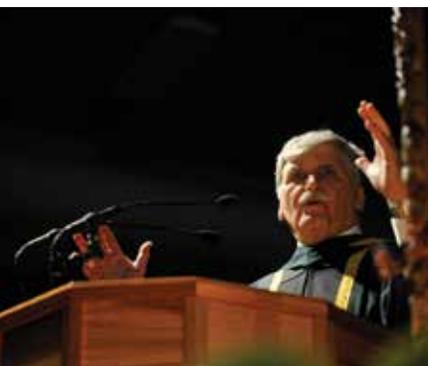


## Global in the Garden

This spring, one of the most widely watched evening news programs in Canada came to the Canfor Winter Garden at UNBC. The UNBC community joined anchor Chris Gailus, meteorologist Kristi Gordon, and, of course, sports reporter Squire Barnes for an hour of news live from Canada's Green University. Young Marcus Herbert, the son of UNBC graduates and employees Brenda and Pat Herbert, helped Kristi do the weather, and News Hour featured a story on UNBC.



Visit [youtube.com/unbcnews](https://www.youtube.com/unbcnews) to watch the video: **20 years of UNBC success Global News Video.**



## Dallaire and Smith Honoured

The Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda and an influential contributor to aboriginal education both received honorary doctoral degrees from UNBC this spring. The Honourable Romeo Dallaire and Distinguished Professor Graham Hingangaroa Smith received the distinctions as part of the 2013 convocation ceremonies at the Prince George campus.



## BC Leadership Chair

Professor Henry Harder, Chair of the School of Health Sciences at UNBC, was recently appointed to the prestigious Dr. Donald B. Rix BC Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Environmental Health. As chair, Dr. Harder is examining the relationship between the environment, and the physical and mental well-being of BC's rural and indigenous communities. Dr. Harder will also provide leadership within the rapidly growing health research team at UNBC, and play a key role in furthering UNBC's internationally recognized northern, rural, and environmental health research.



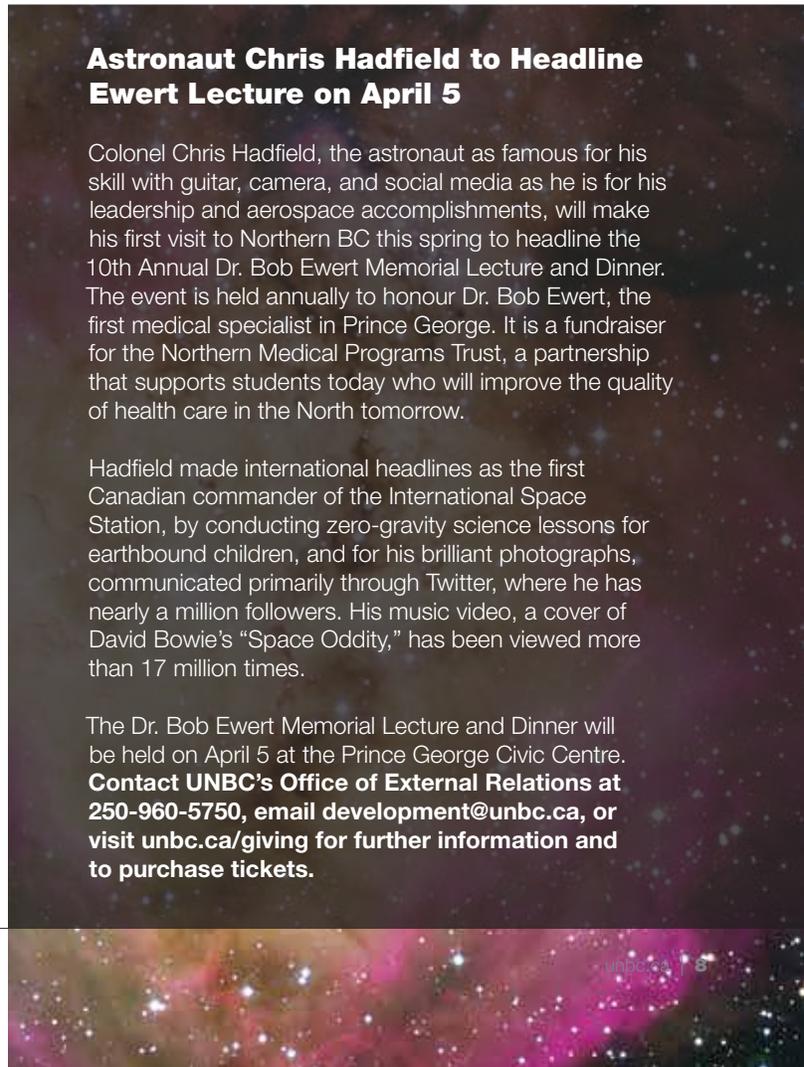
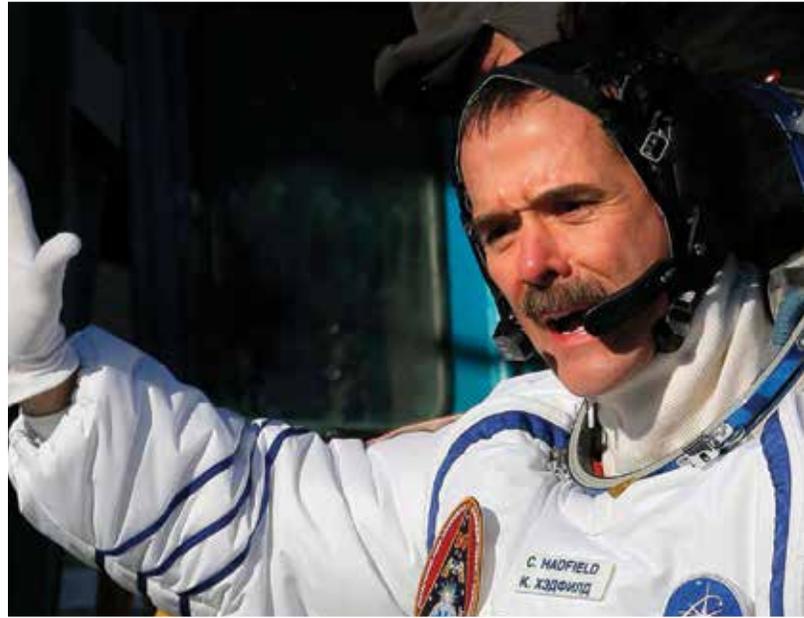
## Changes for the T-Wolves

There have been some big changes recently in UNBC Athletics, as long-time women's basketball coach Loralyne Murdoch became the University's new Athletics Director replacing Jason Kerswill, who joined Canada Basketball earlier this year. Murdoch later hired her replacement, Sergey Shchepotkin, who brings a wealth of basketball experience to the Timberwolves having played and coached professionally for more than 15 years.



## New Writer in Residence

Eden Robinson, who grew up in Kitimaat Village and is author of internationally recognized works such as *Traplins* and *Monkey Beach*, is UNBC's new Writer in Residence. "I'm looking forward to travelling throughout the North and discussing my work and the craft of writing, and seeing all of the great works produced by artists in Northern BC," says Robinson, whose works have been nominated for the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award. She is also a winner of the Ethel Wilson BC Book Prize.



### New Engineering Master's Degrees

Responding to calls from industry and communities, UNBC announced this summer that the BC Government has committed to funding two new masters-level engineering degrees, helping to provide the engineering expertise and capacity necessary to support regional economic expansion in the coming decades. The proposed new programs include a one-year, course-based Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design, and a thesis-based Master of Applied Science in Engineering. Both will be delivered in the Wood Innovation and Design Centre, currently under construction in downtown Prince George.

Visit [unbc.ca/engineering](http://unbc.ca/engineering) to watch the video: **UNBC Increases Engineering Capacity for the North** and to watch construction of the future home of Engineering LIVE.

### Course Leads to Cultural Milestone

A partnership between the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and UNBC is bringing back an honoured tradition. For the first time since the 1950s, a cottonwood dugout canoe was launched on Lheidli T'enneh territory by band members and UNBC students. The vessel was crafted as part of a new course taught by carver and Elder Robert Frederick and his wife Edie.

**You Tube** Visit [youtube.com/unbcnews](http://youtube.com/unbcnews) to watch the video: **Experiential UNBC Course Leads to Cultural Milestone for Northern BC First Nation.**

### Astronaut Chris Hadfield to Headline Ewert Lecture on April 5

Colonel Chris Hadfield, the astronaut as famous for his skill with guitar, camera, and social media as he is for his leadership and aerospace accomplishments, will make his first visit to Northern BC this spring to headline the 10th Annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner. The event is held annually to honour Dr. Bob Ewert, the first medical specialist in Prince George. It is a fundraiser for the Northern Medical Programs Trust, a partnership that supports students today who will improve the quality of health care in the North tomorrow.

Hadfield made international headlines as the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station, by conducting zero-gravity science lessons for earthbound children, and for his brilliant photographs, communicated primarily through Twitter, where he has nearly a million followers. His music video, a cover of David Bowie's "Space Oddity," has been viewed more than 17 million times.

The Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner will be held on April 5 at the Prince George Civic Centre. **Contact UNBC's Office of External Relations at 250-960-5750, email [development@unbc.ca](mailto:development@unbc.ca), or visit [unbc.ca/giving](http://unbc.ca/giving) for further information and to purchase tickets.**

# Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni) and tell us your story

Read more about the graduates highlighted in blue, in *True North*, a publication produced by the Prince George Citizen to highlight the impact of UNBC grads. [unbc.ca/true-north](http://unbc.ca/true-north)

## 1998

**Shannon Janzen, BSc NRM Forestry**, is the Chief Forester with Western Forest Products in Vancouver, BC. She is a Registered Professional Forester with more than 10 years' experience in developing and implementing land-use policies and practices.

**Christie Ray, BComm Marketing**, is the new CEO of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce. After several years on PEI, Christie and her husband **Oliver Ray, BA Northern Studies 2001**, are excited to be back in Prince George. Oliver is a well-know artist and the Executive Director of the North Central Local Government Association.

**Robert Karanja, BComm General Business**, works in the housing micro-finance sector in Nairobi, where he lives with his wife, Joyce, and their two sons. He also serves as the National Director for Habitat for Humanity in Kenya.



## 2005

**Jenny Kennedy-Pannett, BA Political Science**, went on to complete a master's degree in Political Science at SFU and is now a Senior Policy Advisor with the Employment and Labor Market Services Division within the Ministry of Social Development in Vancouver, BC. In the last two years, she was married, travelled to Turkey, and had a baby girl.

**Simon Pow, BComm Marketing & General Business**, is the Human Resources Manager for the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George, BC. His role focuses on providing all HR services and support in areas such as recruitment, selection, learning and development, performance management, and compensation administration.



**Tyler Bowman, BComm Marketing**, who previously served as the Alumni Association President, is the Mining Account Manager with Finning (Canada) in Tumbler Ridge, BC, where he lives with his wife, fellow grad **Alison Bowman (nee Shepherd), BComm General Business 2001**, and their nine-month-old daughter.

## 2002

**David Hagens, BA Anthropology**, is a Residential Counsellor with the Metro Community Housing Association in Halifax, NS. His primary responsibilities include working with people who live with mental illness in residential settings, promoting self-determination, human rights, autonomy, and supportive care.

**Kelly McMahon, BSc NRM Forestry**, is a Registered Professional Forester and an Area Planner with Western Forest Products Englewood Forest Operations in Woss, BC.

**Nicholas Cheveldave, BSc NRM Forestry**, is a Project Analyst for Pomeroy Lodging LP in Grand Prairie, AB. He manages all facets of hotel construction and assists the President of the company with strategic planning, business plans, financial proposals and market research for new investments. Outside of his day job, Nicholas also runs a small real estate and property management company and keeps busy with his six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son.

## 2003

**Garth Frizzell, MA International Studies**, is the new Research Partnership & Innovation Officer at UNBC in Prince George, BC. After graduation, he found a successful software development company, Terra Cognita, and has been a Councillor with the City of Prince George since 2008. His wife is fellow grad **Susan Frizzell, (nee Dyck) BSc Psychology 2001**.

## 2004

**Kirsten Barnes, BA First Nations Studies & Bed Education Senior Years 2005**, is the Teacher in Charge as well as the Special Programs & Research Administrator with the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society in Hazelton, BC. In March, she was one of 12 educators from across Canada to be honoured with an Inspire Educator Award. The award was presented by the Governor General of Canada at the National Gathering for Indigenous Education in Calgary, AB.

## 2006

**Cory Antrim, BA General & BED Elementary Education 2009**, is the Grade 6/7 Teacher at Foothills Elementary in Prince George, BC. He is married with three children.

**Kelly McNabb, BSN Nursing**, recieved a Master's and Nurse Practitioner designation at U of T and works in Cardiovascular Surgery at the Toronto General Hospital.

**Ashley van der Meulen, BSN Nursing**, is a Registered Nurse with Northern Health and teaches in the Nursing program at UNBC.

## 2007

**Joshua Gordon, BA History (Hons)**, is the Branch Manager at Scotiabank in Vauxhall, AB. He leads a team of sales and service employees who specialize in agricultural banking.

**Blair Stewart, BSc NRM Forestry**, is the Urban Forest Supervisor for the City of Kelowna, dealing with the operations and maintenance of street/park trees, natural open spaces and public education for forest health. He also works on long-term planning for tree succession and achieving long-term canopy goals.

**James Vine, BComm Finance & General Business**, is the Operations Manager at Prince George Transit LTD and was recently recognized in Mass Transit Magazine's Top 40 Under 40, which honours professionals who have made significant contributions to the public transit industry.

**Donny van Dyk (2007)** is the Manager of Coastal Stakeholder Relations with Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines in Kitimat, BC. Originally from Terrace, he was the first of three siblings to graduate from UNBC with a Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting. His brother **Evan (2010)**, formerly the Economic Development Officer in Terrace, is travelling in Australia, while the youngest in the family, **Scott (2013)** has just begun additional studies in the Faculty of Law at UBC in Vancouver, BC.



(Left-Right) Evan, Scott, Donny

## 2008

**Raju Korotana, BSc Computer Science**, is the IT Team Lead with Statoil ASA in Calgary, AB.

**Linda van Pelt, MScN Family Nurse Practitioner**, was hired as the first nurse practitioner and clinical co-lead at the unattached patient clinic in Prince George BC. She moved with the clinic downtown when it became the Blue Pine Primary Health Care Clinic in 2008, and still practices there.

## 2009

**Kirsten McGhee, BA English**, attended law school at the University of Victoria after completing her studies at UNBC. She is now practicing family law with Brown Henderson Melbye in Victoria, BC.

## 2010

**Reza Akbari, BComm Marketing**, originally from Tehran, is the proud owner of Shiraz, the first Persian restaurant in Northern BC. He was recently announced as a semi-finalist in the 2013 Business Excellence Awards for New Entrepreneur of the Year and is continuing his studies at UNBC in the new Master of Science in Business Administration.



## 2011

**Zarrah Holvick, BA English & MA English 2013**, is the new Development Officer – Alumni & Founders at UNBC. She is also well known locally for her acting and will soon perform in *The Buddy Holly Story*, her fourth play at Theatre Northwest in Prince George, BC.



**Kaleigh Milinazzo, BA International Studies & Political Science**, completed an internship at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, and spent the summer working for a legal non-profit in Cape Town, South Africa. Kaleigh is in her second year at the UBC Faculty of Law in Vancouver, BC.



**Alexander Oehler, BA Anthropology & MA Interdisciplinary Studies 2013**, is working in the Department of Anthropology in the School of Social Science at the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom. His current research is located in the Saian Mountains of South Siberia and focuses on local beliefs and practices relating to hunting and herding activities over the past 200 years.



## 2012

**Emelye Boyes, BComm Human Resources**, is the Administrative Assistant to the Regional Director of Medical Affairs and the Chief Medical Officer at Northern Health. She is also a new director with the Alumni Association of UNBC and is working to obtain her CHRP designation.

**Brendon Grant, BComm Finance & Int'l Business**, who grew up in Kitimaat Village, is a financial analyst with RA Capital Advisors and investment bank in San Diego, CA. He is also part of the financial advisory team to the Haisla Nation.

## 2013

**Anna Birosh, BA Nature-Based Tourism Management**, conducts project sourcing with Voith Hydro in Hudson's Hope, BC.

**Kali Flick, BPI Northern & Rural Community Planning**, is an Environmental Planner with TERA Environmental Consultants in Victoria, BC. Her primary responsibilities include fieldwork, stakeholder and regulator consultation, environmental assessments writing, and recommending mitigation measures, as well as establishing and maintaining relationships with the public, government, NGOs, tenure holders, and First Nations.

**Colin Hendy, BSN Nursing**, is a rural nurse at the Lady Minto Hospital with the Vancouver Island Health Authority on Saltspring Island, BC. When he is not at the hospital, he is mixing sound for rock shows, volunteering at Christian camps, and riding/racing motorcycles.

**Karen Muir, BComm Accounting**, is a Senior Accountant with Tartan Canada Corporation in Edmonton, AB. She is responsible for managing corporate payables, as well as monitoring the accounting and trends for various projects.

**Ashley Murphey, BPI Natural Resource Planning**, is a Regulatory Consultant with BV Land Corporation in Fort St. John, BC. Her work focuses on submitting well and pipeline applications to the Oil and Gas Commission.

**Dennis Stark, BComm HR & Int'l Business**, is the newest Student Recruitment Officer at UNBC in Prince George, BC. The former co-captain of the national title winning Timberwolves basketball team will recruit undergraduate students from across BC.

**Kallie Smith, BSc Psychology**, is the former President of the Northern Undergraduate Student Society (NUGSS) and a new director with the Alumni Association. She is currently working as the Business & Community Development Intern at the Aboriginal Business and Community Development Centre in Prince George, BC.

**Sarah Tod, BHSc Biomedical Studies**, was recently accepted to UBC's medical program in Vancouver, BC. She hopes to specialize in pediatrics, but is open to exploring other areas as she gains more exposure to the different areas of medicine.

## Triton Environmental

**Triton Environmental** is a consulting firm that specializes in providing scientific, technical, and management expertise to environmental and resource projects. With seven branches, three of which are in Northern BC, UNBC grads make up a sizeable part of the workforce; 50% at the Prince George office, for example. According to Triton's operations manager, Dave Warburton, "UNBC grads bring a perspective on sustainability that is both practical and grounded in our region."



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### UNBC Board of Governors

Judy Mason *MBA 2009*  
Ryan Matheson *BA 1999 (Vice Chair)*

### UNBC Senate

Lisa Handfield *BComm 2004*  
Rheanna Robinson *BA 2001 & MA 2008*  
Allan Street *BComm 2006*  
Chantel Carriere *BC 2013*

### Green University Planning Committee

Geoff de Ruiter *BSC 2006*

### Alumni Association Board of Directors

#### President

Jennifer Young *BA 2000 & BSW 2007*

#### Vice President

Andrew Seabrook *BComm 2009*

#### Treasurer

Dori Alger *MBA 2010*

#### Directors

Emelye Boyes *BComm 2012*  
Toni Carlton *BA 1999*  
John Clark *BComm 2008*  
Tina Gillanders *BA 2006*  
Lara Kettern *BComm 2013*  
Simon Pow *BComm 2005*  
Kallie Smith *BSc 2013*  
Marianne Sprague *BA 2002 & 2008*  
Tamara Sweet *BComm 2004*

#### Ex-Officio

Morganne Barthel *(NUGSS)*  
Bobbi Chavarie *(GSS)*  
Stacey Pickering *BA 2007 (UNBC)*

## Distinguished Alumni Awards

The annual Alumni Awards Reception recognized UNBC graduates Dan Milburn (BSc Environmental Planning 2000) for Professional Excellence and Jennifer Herkes (MA NRES 2010) for Community Service. Longtime friend of UNBC, Alice Downing, was also inducted as an Honorary Member of the Alumni Association.



Nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards are now being accepted at [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni).

## Save the Date

The 2014 Alumni Awards Reception is Thursday May 29th.

# Canada's Green University

Green activities at UNBC making headlines

2013 has been a banner year for Canada's Green University. UNBC scientists joined two new national research networks, a pilot program saw UNBC students travelling to Austria to learn about bioenergy technology, UNBC scientists found an ideal fertilizer that can increase plant growth by more than 200 percent in some soils, and UNBC's Bioenergy Plant was named the first LEED Platinum-certified university building in BC.

## LEED Platinum

The Bioenergy Plant at UNBC isn't just the first university building in BC built to LEED Platinum standards, it is also the first such building in Northern BC, the first constructed by a Northern BC contractor, the second LEED Platinum-certified industrial/manufacturing project in Canada, and the fourth LEED Platinum-certified university building in all of Canada.

"We are exceptionally proud of our commitment to sustainability at UNBC," says



UNBC President George Iwama. "It is difficult to achieve LEED Platinum certification: this is one of just 23 such certified buildings in Canada. This is a great accomplishment for Northern BC."

## Fertilizer of the Future

New UNBC research suggests that waste from municipalities and bioenergy plants can be combined to make an ideal fertilizer and help reduce the amount of material added to landfills. The study provides insights into the use of wood ash and biosolids as soil amendments for nurseries, forests, and mines in a northern forest climate.



"What we found is that by combining these waste materials, we make them more than the sum of their parts," says UNBC Environmental Science Professor Mike Rutherford. "They're a match that can increase plant growth by more than 200 percent in some soils."

## UNBC Joins Climate Change Networks

UNBC will be part of two new, inter-university research networks with the potential to affect climate change policy. UNBC Environmental Science Professor Stephen Déry will investigate the effects of climate change on snowpack in Canada's north, and on water levels in northwestern waterways.

"It's exciting to be a part of these networks, as they are large collaborations with the potential to have global repercussions," says Dr. Déry, who is also a Canada Research Chair in Northern Hydrometeorology.



## Northern Bioenergy know-how

A UNBC pilot program is providing Engineering students with experience needed to implement bioenergy technology in northern communities. The course, Northern BC Bioenergy, offers students the opportunity to learn about bioenergy and district heating systems design in Austria, where these systems are common, and gives them access to university and industrial manufacturing expertise.

"Having people trained in this technology will benefit Northern BC as more rural and remote, off-grid communities express interest in implementing these systems," says UNBC Adjunct Professor Belinda Larisch. "Using bioenergy also makes sense economically; it will create jobs and reduce reliance on external energy sources."

Clockwise from far left: UNBC President George Iwama, Karen Marler of Hughes Condon Marler Architects, and Sheldon Boyes of IDL Projects at UNBC's LEED-Platinum certified Bioenergy Plant; UNBC Professor Stephen Déry; UNBC students, faculty, and staff at the Binder boiler manufacturing facility in Bärnbach, Austria; UNBC Professor Hugues Massicotte, student Nichola Gilbert, Research Assistant Scott Brown, and Professor Mike Rutherford display some ash-enhanced soil in the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory.



# Legacy-Building

*One UNBC graduate rallies his community*



All of us want to leave a legacy of some sort: a better future for children, a healthier planet, financial security, and the list goes on. And when Prince George hosts the Canada Winter Games in 2015, the same year UNBC celebrates its 25th Anniversary, the opportunities for legacy-building will be many.

For Kevin Pettersen, a graduate of UNBC's MBA Program, and president of the 1,800-member Caledonia Nordic Ski Club in Prince George, that means rallying the club members and creating a bold, innovative fundraising campaign designed to marry high-performance athletics and education.

The Club has launched the UNBC Otway Nordic Legacy Scholarship Fund, an endowed scholarship fund that will generate full-tuition awards for Nordic athletes who study at UNBC in Prince George. The beauty of an endowed fund is when the \$150,000 campaign goal is achieved, the awards can be offered each year - forever.

"UNBC provided the opportunity to establish something that we could align with our longer-term objective of building a regional training centre," explains Pettersen. "For us to connect athletes with a UNBC education was something we were trying to build as a legacy from the 2015 Canada Winter Games."

As the largest ski club in Western Canada, with close ties to Nordic sports' governing bodies, Pettersen feels the club can "push the envelope" regarding what a club can be and what it can offer. He says the transformational presence of high-profile athletes, who are also students, will inspire the youth.

"We can create something very unique in Canada. It's a tall order, but we have a passionate membership who want to be part of building something that will be here long term," he adds. "It's an endowment - we're building a positive, strong future for the sport and UNBC. Attracting and retaining Nordic skiers who want to pursue an education here in Northern BC will make this investment return value for years to come."

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## Funding for Everybody's Future

"I think I'm old at heart."

In a fast-paced society that places high values on youth and vitality, that's not a statement you'd expect to hear from a 29-year-old. But for Mireille Rizkalla, it's not just sentiment; it's guiding her research.

"I enjoy the wisdom of the elderly. They're so much more balanced in their education, spirituality, family, and work," she says. "They've figured it out and I like to draw from that richness."

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There is urgency for developing approaches that promote graceful aging.

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Rizkalla, who moved to Prince George and UNBC in 2009 to obtain her master's degree in psychology, is studying the effects of aging, and evaluating the effects brain exercises can have on healthy seniors. She

wants to find out not only if a healthy brain can be strengthened, and dementia avoided, but whether the brain functions of those with dementia can be maintained or even improved.

The UNBC doctoral candidate is the first UNBC student to receive a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, the largest ever awarded to a UNBC student. The award, \$50,000 per year for up to three years, is one of a long list of awards Rizkalla has earned. She received more than \$35,000 in UNBC Awards, and won the Governor General's Gold Medal and the BC Psychological Association Gold Medal Award. She's also a recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Master's Award, the Harold Erhard Janzen Scholarship, the Northern BC Graduate Student Society Legacy Scholarship, and a Prince George Alzheimer's Society Graduate Scholarship.

"Given the rapidly aging Canadian population, there is urgency for developing approaches that promote graceful aging," she explains. "But the first step is to determine if it works. So far, I'm getting excellent results, and the answer is yes."



## UNBC Offers Matching Program for Endowed Student Awards

Every year, donor-funded endowments provide 250 awards valued at more than \$350,000 to UNBC students. This has obvious value both to the University and to students, and helps attract and retain students through the sustainable and perpetual offering of academic support.

Endowed awards also strengthen recruitment in competitive areas such as athletics, health sciences, and engineering, which in turn provide communities in the region with the doctors, nurses, engineers, administrators, and leaders needed in the coming decades.

To strengthen UNBC's ability to attract and retain students, UNBC has set aside one-time funding to match donor contributions for new or existing endowed funds that support student awards.

For as little as \$5,000 per year over the next three years, donors can establish a newly endowed, named award that will help a student each and every year. Forever.

**Call UNBC Development today at 250-960-5750 or email [development@unbc.ca](mailto:development@unbc.ca)**



## Jennifer Young

Jennifer Young is the President of the UNBC Alumni Association and has been with UNBC for more than 15 years, first as a student (BA Geography '00) and then again as a student (BSW '07), and finally as a University employee. Young works as the Curriculum and Assessment Manager in the Northern Medical Program at UNBC.

# 10,000 Strong

By Jennifer Young

# Celebrating 10,000 Strong

Last May, as UNBC passed the 10,000 all-time graduates mark, many grads, like me, reflected on where life might have led us had we not attended UNBC.

“What if there was no UNBC?” we asked. “What career paths would we have chosen? Would post-secondary education even have been an option? Would many grads be living and working in Northern BC as the nurses, teachers, social workers, administrators, leaders, and business people that we are today?”

We wondered how Northern BC would have differed without a university and all of the knowledge and expertise UNBC graduates have gained in the past 20 years. How would Canada and the world be different without the unique skills of UNBC grads trained and educated in this region? This reflection has earned graduates and supporters feelings of pride and accomplishment.

With the 25th Anniversary approaching in 2015, UNBC is moving into its prime. This is seen not only in the growth of the campus and student population, but also in the rich experience and education UNBC offers all of its students.

UNBC has provided me with more opportunities than I could have imagined.

From being a residence assistant, to a student member of the Board of Governors, to an employee with the Northern Medical Program, through to my involvement with the Alumni Association and local volunteer boards, I have become a fully-engaged member of the Northern BC community.

The knowledge obtained by grads can be used everyday: problem-solving, communication, research, analytical thinking, and leadership are the tools of a UNBC grad.

UNBC grows stronger with each graduate. We are leaders and decision-makers, and we expect to leave strong, positive impressions wherever we go. It will be these marks that will allow UNBC to build on its achievements and foster strong ties with the grads of the future. We look to them to carry UNBC through the next 25 years.

To all graduates: keep UNBC in mind. Seek out fellow grads in your professions. Wear your Alumni pin with pride. Take time to share your experience with future students and support them financially. These acts will ensure UNBC continues on its trajectory through the Class of 2014, the 25th Anniversary, and eventually, the celebration of our 100,000th graduate, and a strong, prosperous North.

