

# UPDATE

A close-up, low-angle shot of a young man with dark hair, wearing a green and white soccer jersey, looking upwards with a focused expression. A soccer ball is balanced on top of his head. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends

– Fall 2012

## High Performance

Dedicated to doing what it takes for northern BC, in athletics and beyond.

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

# The Inside Scoop



## President's Message

This fall, UNBC moved from the college league to the big leagues: playing varsity sport in the CCAA to playing against university teams in Canada in the CIS-Canada West league. It will be a challenge, but UNBC has been competing with the best in all areas of academia since our inception—and we've fared extremely well. This year alone, UNBC has excelled in all areas of the University: from student and teaching awards, and our national ranking in Maclean's magazine, to wide-spread program recognition. I know our faculty, staff, students, and athletes have the best fans in the country. The communities that support us and receive our graduates form the foundation of our university. Together, we are making our province and our country a better place. It's a real team effort.

*George Iwama*

George Iwama, President & Vice-Chancellor



UNBC will forever be a part of who I am.

—Christine Kennedy,  
BSc Honours Psychology 2011  
and former Timberwolf piggybacks  
her sister, Ceylyn at the NSC.

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- **Scholarships and Bursaries**—Student awards ensure that UNBC can attract top students and that everyone can afford a university education.
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- **Athletics**—Support our Timberwolves as they compete at the highest level of amateur sport in the country.

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## On the Cover

UNBC student Logan Phenoff, a member of UNBC's first-ever Canada West men's soccer team, demonstrates the mix of balance and skill necessary to compete at the highest level of amateur sport in the country. In this issue, you'll hear from a coach, the athletic director, a new recruit, and a long-time supporter of UNBC athletics about what the Timberwolves will need to do to win and what the community can do to help in our cover story, *High Performance*.

CANADA'S  
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# High-performance Ideas

*UNBC student Geoff de Ruiter thinks outside the box*

**G**eoff de Ruiter lives in a 250 square foot apartment he says is “not much bigger than a box.” But there’s one thing about the 29 year-old UNBC grad and PhD student: he believes he can change the world by thinking—and getting—outside the box.

Case in point: the native of Langley, BC could teach an advanced class in winning contests. In the last few years, he’s won more than \$15,000 in cash prizes, a \$4,000 computer, an iPod Touch, and the chance to interview CBC broadcasting personality George Stroumboulopoulos on live television. All of the contests had two elements in common: they were all very challenging and they were all for green initiatives.

“With contests, I see opportunity. I look at the number of entrants, the perceived competition, the task at hand, and whether I can afford the time it will take me,” says de

Ruiter. “I especially see opportunity in green contests. It’s extremely important to put our best ideas forward in any way we can. A great way to get business and government to listen to you is to enter (and win) their contests.”

“I want to be out in the world, solving real problems.”

Most recently, de Ruiter took home the \$10,000 top prize in Fortis BC’s Beat the Heat contest—and borrowed UNBC President George Iwama’s fuel-efficient Toyota Prius to get to the final in Vancouver. His submission involved making natural gas use more efficient via technology coupling and heat recovery.

The outgoing de Ruiter, an avid rock climber who can often be seen sliding home from school on a flying saucer sled and

guerrilla gardening around Prince George, is studying the use of industrially produced biochar (wood charcoal) as a potential carbon sequestration method or carbon offset fuel. “I want to know how much a company can get for producing it and how much carbon can be reduced,” he says.

De Ruiter has the innovative idea of facilitating a new provincial bond program to induce private investment in renewable energy and efficiency projects. “We should be providing interest-free loans to homeowners and supporting the investments through a 6% interest rate paid by the BC Carbon Tax,” says de Ruiter.

As for the “box” he lives in, de Ruiter says, “It has everything I need. I don’t just sit around trying to reduce carbon emissions. I want to be out in the world, solving real problems, and having fun doing it.”



PhD student Geoff de Ruiter in front of UNBC's award-winning BioEnergy Plant.

# High Performance

*High-performance teams come from high-performance communities*

Sports are important. Sports matter,” says long-time UNBC athletics supporter Ken MacIntosh. MacIntosh is in the highest “President’s Circle” level for his financial support of UNBC and has been part of the northern BC sports scene since 1956 “High-performance sports teams come from high-performance communities. Every ball field in this town was built by local volunteers and northern residents with drive and vision. That’s the story of so many communities in northern BC: we don’t wait for Vancouver or Victoria to sprinkle some money our way. We build it ourselves. We always have.”

Like a ball park, UNBC Athletics was built from the ground up. Now the soccer and basketball programs have entered the Canada West league, bringing the highest level of amateur sport in the country to northern BC. “Long-time UNBC fans will remember that when we started, we were playing in local rec leagues,” says UNBC Director of Athletics Jason Kerswill. “We didn’t even have a gym for our basketball squads. Now look at us: we have the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre—the envy of the league. Having the opportunity to watch Canada West-level competition in Prince George is a present this community gave to itself.”

Kerswill sees his job as nothing short of building the brand of UNBC through success in athletics. “Athletics has become the doorstep to UNBC. We’re in almost every newspaper across Canada every weekend now because of our Athletics program. The public needs to know it has a direct influence in the reputation of UNBC and this region via their support.”

One of Kerswill’s first steps after UNBC’s acceptance into Canada West was finding experienced leaders to captain the soccer teams. Leaders like men’s team Head Coach Alan Alderson who came to northern BC after 17 years building Trinity Western University’s soccer clubs.

“We had been top three in the country for years so I was starting to look for a new challenge,” says Alderson. “I looked around for an organization with untapped community potential because that’s what it’s all about. Winning trophies starts with local support.”

“Sports are important. Sports matter.”

Alderson says he wants residents of northern BC to understand the direct relationship between sports and the vitality of communities because he has felt it himself. “I remember going to see the Whitecaps play when I was young. I went to a game, I got a Whitecaps poster, and suddenly I was out in the backyard practicing my dribbling. It changed my life. This will do the same for young people in northern BC. It gets them into a healthy activity and makes them think about university and dream about their future at a much younger age—just like the Olympics. You can take your kids to a movie and have a nice time and that’s the end of it, or you can take them to a T-Wolves game and be part of something bigger—something that may influence the course of their life,” adds Alderson.

Northern BC residents have already played a big role in getting one high-profile recruit into green and gold. Seventeen year-old Jasprit Nijjar was part of the high school provincial championship-winning Yorkhouse School in West Vancouver and decided to attend UNBC because of the

warm welcome she received. “From the teachers to the coaches and players there’s a great feeling of support throughout Prince George,” says Nijjar. “I’m really excited to grow into the CIS with the team and see where our hard work will take us. This community deserves a championship.”

And why does long-time sports enthusiast Ken MacIntosh support the Timberwolves?

“Every time I go to a game, I hear the First Nations drums and I hear the cheering of a community coming together. I think, ‘This is why I support UNBC.’”





## Join the Team!

- Attend UNBC basketball and soccer games—and get your friends out too!
- Stop by the UNBC Bookstore get your official T-Wolves apparel (then wear it!).
- Donate to an athletic scholarship to help attract the best and brightest to UNBC.
- Join the Wolf Club (the T-Wolves booster club).
- Get to know the athletes. Find out how hard they work in the classroom and on the field of play.

**[unbc.ca/athletics](http://unbc.ca/athletics)**

UNBC's famous First Nations drummers turned out in force for the soccer teams' first home games, along with hundreds of members of the northern BC community.

# Fulfilling the **Promise**

*Bringing high-performance initiatives to northern BC communities*



## **Helping Northerners Reach a Higher Level of Physical Well-Being**

A new program aimed at producing more physiotherapists for northern and rural communities recently commenced its first official school year. The Physical Therapy Northern and Rural Cohort is a partnership of the UBC Department of Physical Therapy and UNBC, and involves the Northern Health Authority and local physiotherapy providers. The Cohort allows for 20 students to complete their clinical placements in northern BC each year, with the aim of increasing recruitment and retention of physiotherapists to northern and rural communities. The program actively engages local physiotherapists to train students and has partnered with Northern Health to develop innovative clinical education models to increase the number of student placements, while enhancing rehabilitation services in northern and rural areas. “The delivery of healthcare in the north is a team approach,” says Dr. Geoff Payne, UNBC’s Assistant Dean for Education and Research, NMP. “This pilot group of Northern and Rural Cohort physiotherapy students is another example of how dedicated UNBC is to expanding allied health programs in the north and ensuring that we provide students with excellent training opportunities.”



## **UNBC Makes List of Top Ten “Green” Engineering Schools in Canada**

UNBC has placed in the top ten on a list of schools offering undergraduate-level engineering programs in Canada. The magazine *Corporate Knights* released the 2012 Annual Knight Schools Survey in October, which is described as “the definitive annual ranking that analyzes how Canadian universities are faring at integrating sustainability into the school experience.” The magazine—a national supplement of the *Globe and Mail* newspaper—placed UNBC’s environmental engineering program (a collaboration with UBC) eighth in Canada above many much older and larger institutions such as Carleton, Concordia, and Ryerson. Special mention of UNBC’s inclusion on the list was made in the survey’s editorial section: “One notable addition to the list is UNBC, which is in the process of expanding its engineering faculty to keep up with the extensive economic development and resource extraction efforts occurring in BC’s north. It offers a joint degree in environmental engineering with UBC, helping UNBC land an overall ranking of eighth, supported by top marks in both required and elective courses dedicated to social or environmental impact management.”



## **High-performance High School**

The Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre at UNBC has some new tenants. The High-performance Sport Program (in partnership with School District 57-Prince George, Pacific Sport, and Sport Canada) began its first semester this September, with 15 students in grades 10, 11, and 12 from high schools across Prince George. These student-athletes represent a wide variety of sports: biathlon, alpine skiing, snowboarding, gymnastics, figure skating, swimming, track and field, and basketball and are currently performing at a provincial and national level. The program is a first for PG, but similar schools now exist in Victoria and Kelowna. It’s attractive to students because, “it provides a support structure for high-achieving and dedicated student-athletes to chase their dreams without sacrificing their academic pursuits,” explains teacher Rob Lewis. There are plans for expansion next year.

# Sport Support

*UNBC student and biathlete Allie Dickson on her journey down the athlete's path*

**B**efore Burns Lake even had a biathlon range, Alexandra Dickson knew she'd be a biathlete. The third-year Health Sciences student was just 13 when she recognized that to stand out from the other cross-country racers in BC, she'd need to shoot. "I knew I wasn't the fastest so I had to be smart," explains Dickson. "In biathlon, shooting is just as important as speed. The combination of targets hit and speed add up to the racer's finishing position."

Her instincts paid off. Allie made the BC Biathlon Team within her first year of joining the sport. In 2011, while attending UNBC, she represented BC at the Canada Winter Games in Halifax, but suffered through chronic compartment syndrome: a compression of nerves, muscles, and blood vessels by a swelling of the fascia in the legs, which can cut off circulation to the blood vessels and compromise the muscles. The serious condition forced Allie to retire from competition at the age of 19.

"I had teachers at UNBC who genuinely cared about how I did in competitions."

"Balancing school and training was tough, but UNBC was great," says Dickson. "I had teachers who genuinely cared about how I did in competitions. It took away a lot of the stress."

The athletic facilities at UNBC were another asset. Living in residence, Allie had easy access to the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre and the more than 50 km of trails surrounding campus. "We have state-of-the-art facilities at UNBC that skiers at other schools couldn't believe!"

Allie is now focused on her next goal: the sole female coach position for Team BC's 2015 Canada Games biathlon team, hosted in Prince George. "I know how much the Games meant to me. The opportunity to be here, in my home region, coaching and cheering on talented young athletes is one I just couldn't pass up."



Health Sciences student and former biathlete, Allie Dickson, competing in the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

# People In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines

## UNBC Student Creates First App for Prince George Transit



UNBC Computer Science student Xinyi Zhuang created the iPhone app *PG Transit* to make a fast, easy, and free way for residents to get to their bus on time. "I used to see many bus riders—especially people unfamiliar with the transit schedule—reading the printed *Rider's Guide*," says Zhuang, who came to UNBC last January from his home in southern China. "This app has great potential to make a better public transit system if there is a way to directly communicate with the digital database of BC Transit."

## UNBC Welcomes New Writer-in-Residence



UNBC recently welcomed a writer-in-residence to its English program. The position is the first such residency co-sponsored by Canada Council and UNBC's Office of Research. Award-winning author Maggie de Vries is dedicating four months to teaching workshops, hosting consultations, holding readings and conducting talks on campus with students and community groups. De Vries will spend most of her time in Prince George, with visits to UNBC's three regional campuses in Fort St. John, Terrace, and Quesnel.

## UNBC Collaborating with RCMP on Hitchhiking Research



A comprehensive study into hitchhiking in BC has been initiated by UNBC and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Researchers from two UNBC programs are collaborating and sharing data with the RCMP in an effort to better understand the reasons people hitchhike and the risks associated with this mode of transportation. This is the first time a police force in North America has worked with a university to research hitchhiking since 1972.

## NMP Professor Named UNBC's Ninth Canada Research Chair



A professor in the Northern Medical Program at UNBC has been named the University's ninth Canada Research Chair. Dr. Sarah Gray, the NMP's first-ever Canada Research Chair appointment, has been named a CRC in Integrative Physiology of Diabetes. "This is a great honour for me," says Dr. Gray. "The goal of my research is to identify therapeutic targets to reverse or else prevent diabetes and provide empirical evidence to support lifestyle interventions." Dr. Gray's research is funded for \$500,000 over the next five years.

## UNBC Research Making Waves in India



A UNBC study has caught the eye of the media in one of the world's most populous nations. According to research led by UNBC Economics professor Ajit Dayanandan, the boards of India's top corporations are almost completely filled with "upper-class" castes that make up only a small percent of the country's population. The study confirms what many suspected and made headlines in news outlets such as *BBC India*, Indian business magazine *Economic Times*, and *New Delhi TV*.

**Technology Bridges the Gap to Education Overseas**



For the first time at UNBC, a high-definition video link is connecting the University to classrooms in Japan. Students from the acclaimed Gakushuin Women's College in Tokyo are attending classes with UNBC students via video-conference. It is the first time that UNBC has delivered courses through an international videoconference link and builds upon a long-standing relationship between UNBC and Gakushuin. To date, more than 600 Gakushuin students have attended UNBC, making it UNBC's largest single international partner.

**Northern Medical Program Celebrates Graduation of 5<sup>th</sup> Class of Doctors**



In 2012, UNBC saw the Northern Medical Program celebrate the graduation of its fifth class of doctors. The year's graduating class also had the highest number of UNBC graduates from any year so far: eight of the 31 graduates were UNBC undergrads before entering the program. "It speaks to the exceptional quality of education they're receiving at UNBC. This University is ranked top three in Canada for primarily undergraduate studies for a reason, and we're producing top students as a result," comments Dr. Geoffrey Payne, Assistant Dean for Education and Research, NMP.

**UNBC Professor Honoured with National Teaching Award**



A long-time UNBC professor has been honoured for teaching excellence by the Canadian Political Science Association. UNBC International Studies professor Heather Smith is only the second Canadian academic to receive the CPSA Prize for Teaching Excellence, which was first presented in 2010 and is bestowed just once every two years. The prize, awarded to Dr. Smith this summer at the CPSA's annual conference in Edmonton, recognizes outstanding contributions by political scientists to teaching and student learning.

**New UNBC Study: Wild Increase in Streamflow in BC Rivers Part of Increasing Trend**



A century's worth of data collected from sites across BC's Fraser River Basin indicates we may be seeing much more of the intense flooding the province of BC experienced this spring. According to a recent study by UNBC researchers, the increase in extreme fluctuations is negatively affecting salmon returns, water quality, and the safety of residents in affected regions. "If rivers are the veins of Canada, we're having some pretty dramatic blood pressure fluctuations," says the study's lead author, Canada Research Chair Stephen Déry. "What we used to consider once-every-hundred-years flooding may now be happening more frequently, perhaps once every 10 years or so. On the opposite end, we are also seeing extremely low water flow years in some parts of the Fraser River Basin, which are also detrimental." In addition to climate change, Dr. Déry points out other exacerbating factors such as the recession of BC's glaciers and reduced soil retention resulting from the loss of millions of hectares of trees from the mountain pine beetle outbreak.

# Alumni News

UNBC's class of 2012 included 750 graduates, bringing the total number of alumni to nearly 10,000!



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Alumni Board of Directors

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**Jennifer Young**, BA 2000 & BSW 2007

### Vice President

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**Lesley Anderson**, BSc 2008

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**Toni Carlton**, BA 1999

**Tina Gillanders**, BA 2006

**Jonathon Gray**, BComm 2011

**Ceorl Haynes**, BSW 2010

**John Clark**, BComm 2008

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### NUGSS Ex-Officio

**Conan Winkelmeier**

### GSS Ex-Officio

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### Alumni Relations Officer

**Tamara Sweet**, BComm 2004

### UNBC Board of Governors Representatives

**Judy Mason**, MBA 2009

**Ryan Matheson**, BA 1999

### UNBC Senate Representatives

**Lisa Handfield**, BComm 2004

**Rheanna Robinson**, BA 2001 & MA 2008

**Cristian Silva**, BA 2007 & MA 2012

**Allan Stroet**, BComm 2006

### UNBC Green Committee Representative

**Sarah Foot**, BSc 2007

To learn more about the UNBC Alumni Association, please visit:  
[unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni)

## Alumni Charity Golf Tournament

This year marked the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Charity Golf Tournament. This year's event raised more than \$14,000 in funds to support UNBC student athletes. The Alumni Association would like to thank our golf committee members: Lesley Anderson, Kelly Bergman, Kelley Hilton, Todd Jordan, Tia Kelly, Jason Kerswill, Loralyn Murdoch, Kevin Piche, Stacey Pickering, and Andrew Seabrook.

*\*Plans are already underway for next year's tournament: mark your calendars for Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.*

## Mentor Me Program

In partnership with the United Way of Northern BC, the Alumni Association of UNBC is pleased to offer alumni an opportunity to be matched with a mentor in a career field of interest through the United Way's Mentor Me Program. The purpose of the program is to provide networking opportunities and to assist alumni with career exploration and goal setting. This program is free and the time commitment is six, one-hour sessions over three months scheduled at times convenient to alumni and their mentors. To date, the Mentor Me Program has matched UNBC alumni with mentors in a variety of different fields from accounting to chemistry to geomorphology.

*For more information, contact Program Coordinator Jolene Shepherd:  
ph: 250 561-1040 ex. 104 | email: jolenes@unitedwaynbc.ca.*

*\*Opportunities are also available for alumni who'd like to be a mentor for youth in Prince George, Vanderhoof, and Fort St James.*

## Volunteer Opportunities for Alumni

Whether you are interested in helping out at a single event or taking on a larger role, the Alumni Association welcomes alumni involvement. Opportunities include acting as a local alumni ambassador, participating on the board of directors, or volunteering for events such as the Alumni Awards Reception, the Family Christmas party, or the golf tournament.

## Family Christmas Celebration

The Alumni Association will be hosting our annual Family Christmas party on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 8:30 pm at Exploration Place in Fort George Park. This will be a time to have fun with family, reconnect with fellow alumni, and enjoy games and activities for all ages.

## UNBC Green Day Tuesday, January 29, 2013

This year's theme is the "Art of Being Green" and the Green Committee is looking for alumni involvement! Are you able to provide a booth from a local art organization that has green connections? Could you submit items for an art and photography exhibit related to being green? You could also volunteer at Green Day or attend as a UNBC grad. More details about UNBC Green Day will be posted on the UNBC Facebook page and on Twitter (@UNBC).

# A Golden Attitude

*UNBC grad and Paralympic gold medalist Bo Hedges reflects on his success and looks to the future*

**B**o Hedges likes his sports rough and aggressive. The UNBC grad (BComm Marketing 2005) brings the same hard-nosed attitude to many of life's challenges. The two-time Paralympic wheelchair basketball gold medalist learned to play the

sport affectionately known as "murderball" while recovering from an accident that left him dependant on a wheelchair at the age of 13. "I was a big hockey fan so I took right away to the speed and heavy contact of the sport," says Hedges, who recently returned with the rest of the victorious Team Canada from the Games in London.

Hedges grew up on a cattle ranch near the tiny community of Wonowon, 45 minutes outside of Fort St. John. Following his accident, a wheelchair basketball team visited the Peace River region and Hedges found his passion in the grinding sport which involves players slamming their chairs into each other for positioning, "like bumper cars."

"No matter what, I'll always play ball."

He soon formed his own league in the region before traveling to Prince George, joining the PG Titans, and attending UNBC.

"I came to UNBC to further my education, but really my head was all about playing ball," says Hedges. "Going to UNBC taught me about myself, about maturity, about growing up. I soon realized I had to focus on my studies as well as playing ball in order to be successful on and off the court."

At UNBC, Hedges developed a taste for education as well as athletics. He's now pursuing his master's degree in Sports Management as well as continuing his athletic development. "I'm a big guy so I've been getting into pilates and yoga and making myself leaner and stronger."

At 33, Hedges is one of Team Canada's elder statesmen and has his sights set on the 2016 Games. "Many of our veteran players are retiring, but we have a great program so it will be interesting to be one of the more experienced players on the team."

After his degree and when he finally leaves competitive play, Hedges says he plans to pursue a career with an athletic organization such as Sport BC, BC Wheelchair Basketball, or Pacific Sport.

"No matter what, I'll always play ball."

UNBC grad Bo Hedges wears his Paralympic basketball gold medal from the 2012 London Games with the rolling Peace country in the background.

# Class Notes

## Top 40 Under 40

Recently, the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and *Prince George Citizen* unveiled the Top 40 Under 40 both locally and regionally. Nearly half were UNBC grads. Congratulations to them all!

**Adele Yakemchuk**, BComm, Finance & Marketing 2001  
Account Manager, BDC, Prince George

**Dennis Callaghan**, BA, English 2001 & MBA Business Administration  
2009-Chief Financial Officer, NDIT, Prince George

**Daniel Milburn**, BSc, Environmental Planning 2000  
Managing Partner & Business Development, R. Radloff & Associates,  
Prince George

**Matt Brown**, BComm, Accounting 1998  
Partner, Dean Mason & Company Inc, Prince George

**Cathy Mackay**, MSc, NRES Biology 2007  
Managing Partner/Branch Manager, EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc,  
Prince George

**Mike Davis**, BSc, Psychology 2003  
Director Marketing & Communications, Prince George 2015 Canada  
Winter Games, Prince George

**Gord Brownridge**, BComm, Marketing 2001  
VP, Brownridge & Company Insurance Services Inc, Prince George

**Kelli Moorhead**, MBA, Business Administration 2010  
General Sales Manager, Jim Pattison Broadcasting, Prince George

**Melissa Mills**, BComm, International Business & Marketing 2009  
Marketing & Business Expansion Officer, IPG, Prince George

**Aidan Kelly**, BComm, Marketing 2006-CEO, Tourism PG, Prince George

**Kara Biles**, BComm, Marketing 2008  
Human Resources Coordinator, Canfor, Prince George

**Michelle Mohr**, BComm, Marketing 2012-Mortgage Broker, Invis, Prince George

**Kelly Bergman**, BComm, Accounting & International Business 2009  
Owner/President, Bergmedia, Prince George

**Clint Fraser**, BComm, Marketing 2003  
Strategic Planning and Marketing, Northern BC Tourism Association,  
Prince George

**Jodi Baker**, BEd, Elementary Education 2008  
Secondary School Teacher, School District 57, Prince George

**Liam Iiffe**, BA, Anthropology 2008-Owner, *The Wild Life*, Prince George

**Michael Stanyer**, BA, English 2004  
Photographer, Alchemist Studios, Prince George

**Jason Krauskopf**, BSc, NRM Forestry 2003  
Owner-Operator, Rayz Board Shop, Smithers

**Robert 'Bo' Hedges**, BComm, Marketing 2005  
Co-Captain Team Canada's Paralympic basketball team, Wonowon

**Jeremy Belyea**, BA, First Nations Studies 2005 & MEd Counseling 2008  
Chairperson, Youth Indigenous Professionals, Prince George

**Donald van Dyk**, BComm, Accounting 2007  
Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of Hazelton

**Evan van Dyk**, BComm, Accounting 2010  
Economic Development Officer, Terrace Economic Development  
Authority, Terrace

**Raymond Proulx**, BSc, Environmental Planning 1999  
Community Liaison, Teck Resources Ltd., Tumbler Ridge

**James Card**, Northern Medical Program Grad 2008-Doctor, Mackenzie

**Anne Burrill**, MSW, Social Work 2008  
Community/Social Planner, City of Williams Lake, Williams Lake

**Christopher Colussi**, BSc, Mathematics 2004  
Assistant Superintendent, Maher Terminals, Prince Rupert

**Terry Teegee**, BSc, NRM Forestry 2006  
Chief, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George

**Rena Zatorski**, BA, Political Science 2002-Previous Councilor, Lheidli  
T'enneh First Nation and Highway of Tears Advocate, Prince George

**Lisa Sam**, BSN, Nursing 2000-Nurse, Nakazdli First Nation, Fort St. James

**Anne Marie Sam**, BA, History 1996  
Councilor, Nakazdli First Nation, Fort St. James

**Tuppy Hoehn**, BA, Resource-Based Tourism 2003  
Operator, Stride & Glide, Prince George

## 1997

**Andrew Merilees, BA Geography**, was elected Mayor of the Village of Masset on Haida Gwaii in 2011. His current focus and activities are concentrated on economic development and diversification.

## 1998

**Curtis Good, BSW Social Work**, is a manager at AimHi in Prince George by day and a screenwriter by night. Curtis' first film, *My Unwanted Guest* made its debut in June and he will be submitting it to future film festivals.

**Shannon Whissell, BA English & MA Interdisciplinary Studies 2001**, is the Manager of Communications & Fund Development for The Cridge Centre for the Family in Victoria, BC.

## 1999

**Shane Sondermann, BComm Marketing**, is the Senior Trade Marketing and Category Manager at SunRype Products Ltd. in Kelowna, BC.

**Jocelyn White (née Salton), BSc Wildlife Biology**, is currently a fish and wildlife biologist for McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd. in Prince George, BC.

**Bipasha Baruah, MSc Environmental Science**, is back in Canada after nearly six years in the United States. Bipasha is an Associate Professor and a Canada Research Chair in Global Women's Issues in the Women's Studies and Feminist Research Department at the University of Western Ontario.

## 2000

**Michael Harris, BComm Finance & International Business** is the Associate Estate and Insurance Advisor for BMO Nesbitt Burns in Vancouver, BC.



**Zane Robison, BSc NRM Forestry**, is the Director of Student Life at Dalhousie University in Halifax Nova Scotia. Zane is the senior leader responsible for further developing and delivering innovative programs to support the Dalhousie student experience.

**Carol Harrison (née Horton), MSc Community Health**, is a sessional instructor for the nursing program at UNBC's Terrace campus. Carol attended the annual conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing in Medicine Hat, Alberta in June of 2012 and presented the research from her book, *A Passion for Prevention: Public Health Nursing in the Skeena Health Unit, 1937 – 1997*, published in 2011.

## 2001

**Shannon Blank (née Ward), BA Geography**, is teaching full time with School District 23 in Kelowna where she combines teaching with technology. She is part of the Blended Learning Program, which combines traditional classroom face-to-face education with distributed online learning.

## 2002

**Eric Beach, BSc Environmental Planning**, is the Planning and Development Supervisor for the City of Kamloops in Kamloops, BC.

**Raygan Solotki, BSc Geography**, is working for the Motosu City Board of Education in Japan as an assistant English teacher. Raygan is hoping to continue her own education by pursuing a MEd degree next year.

**Melissa Martensen (née Berto), BComm Finance**, is the Corporate Secretary for Orko Silver Corp in Vancouver, BC. Orko Silver Corp is developing one of the world's largest primary silver deposits, in La Preciosa, located near the city of Durango, in Durango State, Mexico. The La Preciosa silver project and adjacent mineral concessions cover 32,400 hectares (80,000 acres) of contiguous mining claims.

**Ed Anderson, BSc NRM Forestry**, the Regional Forestry Supervisor for the south east region of ATCO Electric in Vegreville, Alberta, works in the operations division and is responsible for vegetation management of new construction on transmission and distribution projects and also oversees vegetation management of all existing transmission, distribution and powerline assets along with newly commissioned powerlines brought into service.

# Class Notes

Be part of Class Notes: visit our website and let us know what you've been up to at [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni)

## 2003

**Dave Merritt, BSc NRM Resource Recreation**, lives in Fort St John with his wife and fellow grad **Suzy Merritt (née Barcelos), BComm General Business 1998**. Dave is the current area supervisor for the Peace Area of BC Parks and Suzy is the Human Resources Manager for Northern Lights College.

**Melanie Carlson, BSc Biology**, is the Coordinator of Administrative Services, Preventative Public Health for the Northern Interior Health Unit and is currently working on her MBA Business Administration at UNBC.

## 2004

**Katherine Voigt, BComm International Business & Marketing**, is a Communications Specialist for the Kitimat Modernization Project with Rio Tinto Alcan in Kitimat, BC.



**Mica Currie, BSc Computer Science**, is working at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton Alberta as a Unix Systems administrator where she is responsible for managing operating systems for administrative and academic applications.

**Myles Poff, MA Political Science**, works for the Alberta government as the Director of Issues Coordination at Alberta Health in Edmonton. He and his wife Lara have three children ages 9, 6, and 4.

**Barb Sharp, BSc NRM Forestry**, is living in Jasper and working as a Resource Management and Visitor Safety Specialist with Parks Canada. She deals with wildlife problems, visitor safety, and avalanche forecasting and control.

**Lindsay Harkness, BA International Studies**, recently returned from three months in northern Somalia where she was working as a project manager with a mines advisory group. The group is a British non-profit humanitarian organization that supports the police, the military, and the coast guard with various projects. She is currently working with the United Nations supporting a military mission carrying out border monitoring between Sudan and South Sudan.

## 2005

**Christian Desierto, BA English**, is a commercial real estate manager in Vancouver and is expecting his first child at the end of October.

**Brett Stewart, BComm Accounting & Finance**, works as a professional tax accountant in Kelowna, BC.

**Carla Bregani (née Pasman), BA English**, is currently working and living in Calgary, Alberta after living in the Grand Caymans for two years. Carla earned a Masters of Arts in Professional Communications and is the communications advisor for Samaritan's Purse Canada which provides spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

**Miranda Kynoch (née Kenna), BComm Finance & General Business**, is furthering her education and is currently enrolled in UNBC's MBA program. She will graduate in May 2013. Miranda is active with the Prince George women's basketball league, raising her three children, and learning new sports such as kayaking and wakeboarding at her cabin.

## 2006

**Jeanni Jones, MEd Educational Counseling**, is the Agency Director at Pathways Addictions Resource Centre which promotes the well-being of people affected by, or at risk of developing alcohol, drug, and related problems.

**Melanie Rutherford, BA English**, works in Kamloops as the Branch Head of the North Kamloops Library.

**Charlea Mitchell, BA Joint International Studies and Political Science & BEd Elementary Education 2009**, is currently a grade 3/4 teacher in School District 59 in Dawson Creek.

## 2007

**Sarah Foot (née Kaehn), BSc Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**, is currently the Ceremonies & Events Coordinator at UNBC and the Green Committee representative for the Alumni Association. Sarah is working on a Green Directory which would include environmentally focused organizations that UNBC could potentially work with on future projects. If your organization wants to be a part of the directory, contact Sarah directly at [sarah.foot@unbc.ca](mailto:sarah.foot@unbc.ca).

**Allison Beswick, BComm Accounting**, continued her education after graduating and received her Chartered Accountant designation. She is currently a partner at RHN Schmitz de Grace in Prince George.



# Class Notes

## 2008

**Erin Guy, BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, works in Fort McMurray Alberta for Syncrude Canada Ltd. as an industrial hygienist ensuring health and disease prevention in the workplace through anticipation, recognition, evaluation, communication, and control of contaminants. She is also working towards her professional Certified Industrial Hygienist designation.

**Jay Gladish, BComm General Business**, is currently the regional coordinator with Aboriginal Sport, Recreation & Physical Activity Partners Council and is engaged to be married.

## 2009

**Jaclyn Nazareno, BA History**. After travelling to Western Europe and completing the Professional Development Program at SFU, Jaclyn now works for the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows school district as an elementary school teacher and is a basketball coach at her former high school.

**Brianne Boyd, BSW Social Work**, is a family support worker with the Quesnel Child and Youth Support Society, which provides parenting support and child/family counseling to the residents of Quesnel.



**Sarah (Genny) Michiel, BSc Environmental Science**, is living in Telkwa BC and working for Formula Contractors as the assistant safety coordinator for the Forrest Kerr Hydro-Electric Project.

**Carlye Hicks, BSN Nursing**, continues to play basketball in a Div. 1 women's league in Edmonton where she works in the emergency department as a registered nurse.

**Mark Stephens, BSc Geography**, is the information systems technician for the City of Trail. He lives in Warfield with his wife and fellow grad, **Kerilyn Stephens (née Dekens), BA English 2009**, who recently achieved her BEd from UBC and is an teacher-on-call.

**Roxanne Solmonson, BA English & BEd Secondary Education 2011**, is a teacher with School District 57 in Prince George and is busy planning her wedding. She is still playing soccer and looking forward to coaching future soccer "stars."

**Susan McCaffrey-Michaud, BSW Social Work**, works for Employment Action in Prince George as a registered social worker. Outside her position, through her own business, Live Well Services, she provides assistance for people with disabilities benefits applications, and has been involved two nights a month teaching life skills in an after-hours street level program using her Certified Life Skills Coach designation, earned through UNBC's Continuing Education program.

## 2010

**Barbara Durau, BSc NRM Wildlife & Fisheries**, is currently the European Dealer Service Supervisor for Arc'teryx Equipment in North Vancouver BC.



Mike Davis in front of the Canada Games House.

## Sharing the Northern Experience

UNBC grad Mike Davis (BSc Psychology 2003) came to UNBC from the lower BC mainland in 1999 to join the Timberwolves basketball team and, like many who come north, was planning only to stay for a few years. Thirteen years later, the Director of Marketing and Communications for the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George is playing a big role in the way the rest of the country will experience Prince George and northern BC in February, 2015.

Davis says he and his wife, Prince George doctor Amy Johnson (a grad of both UNBC and the Northern Medical Program) are both committed to northern BC. "With the Games I see an opportunity to help the rest of Canada discover northern BC the way I did: the quality of life, the tight-knit nature of the community, the spirit of the people, and the beauty of the environment. For me and for so many others, it's a land of opportunity."

# Class Notes

**Tullia Upton, MSc Natural Resources & Environmental Studies (Geography)**, is currently completing her PhD in Environmental Sciences at Oregon State University after being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue research in the application of environmental magnetism as a tool for mapping heavy metal contamination at abandoned mines.



2011

**Anthony Kariuki, MSW Social Work**, is a registered social worker with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and has had the opportunity to teach a social policy course at UNBC as a part-time instructor.

2012

**Adrienne Fitzpatrick, MA English**, a community research coordinator with Tsay Keh Dene Band, aids in promoting awareness and healing through community interaction and cultural practices. Much of her work is focused on the history of land use and how it has changed since first contact. Her book, *The Earth Remembers Everything*, a creative non-fictional account of her experiences travelling to massacre sites in Asia, Europe, and the northern interior and northwest coast of BC, is coming out in November with Caitlin Press.

**Jennifer Mackie, MSc Community Health Science**, is a project manager with the National Core for Neuroethics, an interdisciplinary research group dedicated to taking the ethical, legal, policy, and social implications of frontier technological developments in neurosciences. Their objective is to align innovations in the brain sciences with societal, cultural, and individual human values through high impact research, education, and outreach.

**Kyle Flannagan, BComm Marketing**, is a campaign associate with the United Way in Prince George and is active with UNBC athletics as an assistant coach with the men's Timberwolves soccer team.

**Jennifer Clyne, BComm Finance & General Business**, is working for General Electric Capital in commercial distribution financing. She stays active by playing both indoor and outdoor soccer, is involved in women's basketball in Prince George, and loves to work out at UNBC's own Charles Jago Northern Sports Centre. She is studying to write her Canadian Securities test and is hoping to become a chartered financial analyst.

**Eoin Foley, BComm General Business 2012** and **Garrett Fedorkiw, BComm General Business 2007**, dreamed of opening a restaurant and knew there was a niche that was not being filled. Eoin was submitting his business plan as he finished his undergrad classes. Now they own Nancy O's: one of the hottest student spots in Prince George.



## Alumni Association of UNBC Award Recipients

Grads Rheanna Robinson, BA 2001 and MA 2008, Miriam Matejova, BA HON 2009 and K-Lynn Hogh, BSc 2008 & MSc 2012 were honored at this year's Alumni Awards Reception for their work in both the community and in their profession. Steve Henderson of Spectra Energy and Kazuko Komatsu of Pacific Western Brewing Company (not pictured) were also named as Honorary Members of the Alumni Association.

Save the date for next year's event:  
**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

## A Tradition Lives On....

Current UNBC Timberwolves basketball players took on Timberwolves alumni and UNBC grads at a recent game at the Charles Jago Northern Sports Centre. UNBC grad and current UNBC employee Dennis Stark (gold player, front row, centre) helped organize and get the teams together; "The Alumni vs. Players game was one of my favorite during the season and it's great to still be a part of it as a UNBC grad."



# Donor News

*Donors help students achieve their goals*

## Student Giving Making a Difference

Just over 10% of the Class of 2012 participated in the 2012 Class Gift Challenge this year to raise \$4639, triggering a match by an anonymous UNBC donor. The funds support the Graduating Class Bursaries, and were awarded to four students this fall at UNBC's campuses in Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace and Fort St. John.

## Donor Appreciation

On September 28<sup>th</sup> UNBC hosted its annual Donor Appreciation evening, recognizing lifetime giving and Williston Circle members for their support to the many events, awards, programs and student experiences that could not happen without their generosity and commitment. Stories of many UNBC alumni were shared, including Christine Kennedy, UNBC award recipient, grad, former Timberwolf and Academic All-Canadian. An assistant coach at UNBC last year, her next goal is to establish a career in medicine in northern BC.

## Planned Giving

Consider naming UNBC as a beneficiary in your will or investments, or making a donation of life insurance to UNBC. An endowed gift can help future generations achieve their own dreams and potential. You will become a member of UNBC's Heritage Circle and invited to the annual Donor Appreciation event each fall.

### Contact Us

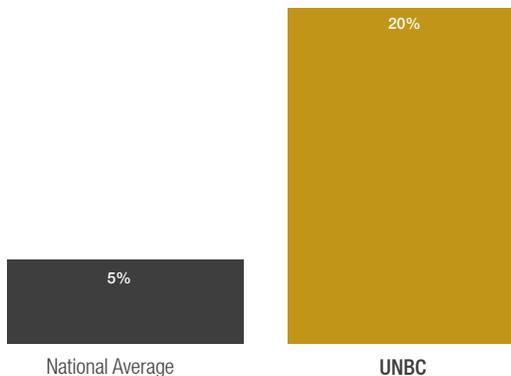
Phone: 250-960-5750  
Email: [giving@unbc.ca](mailto:giving@unbc.ca)  
[unbc.ca/giving](http://unbc.ca/giving)



At UNBC 1 in 5 students receives an award, and \$2.4 million is given in student awards annually. Awards, bursaries and scholarships support students throughout their academic journey at UNBC. Whether you are a new or current student, be sure you apply by visiting the on-line awards directory or calling financial aid at 250-960-6319 | [awards@unbc.ca](mailto:awards@unbc.ca)



[unbc.ca/finaid](http://unbc.ca/finaid)



## Did you know...

That in a national survey of first year students, 20% of UNBC students said that financial support from awards or bursaries was important to their decision to go to university. This compares with a 5% response as the national average. Only about one third of UNBC students come from Prince George, so additional costs of housing and transportation add to student needs.

# The Brownridge Family

*Giving where it's needed*



“UNBC is a great institution for northern BC. Our support will continue.”

Gord, T.R., Brian and Jackie Brownridge at their downtown Prince George office.

Education is the key to success and I've seen firsthand that UNBC has been a phenomenal success," says long-time UNBC supporter Brian Brownridge of Brownridge & Co. Insurance. "I grew up here without a university and then I raised kids here with a university. The difference is amazing. My sons were able to get their degrees while working at the business and we're always hiring UNBC grads and students. They're first-rate."

Thinking back, Brownridge remembers discussing how the region would benefit from a university while running for mayor in 1986. "By 1988 we were donating \$5 in favour of creating UNBC," says Brownridge. Providing support to help ensure northern

BC would get its university is characteristic of the Brownridges. "We always try to give where it's needed."

In this tradition, Brownridge and his family have supported multiple initiatives at UNBC, from sponsoring the UNBC Alumni Golf Tournament and Residence Move-In barbeque, to providing the means to purchase new flags for the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre.

In 2007, Brownridge and his company also entered into a five-year agreement with UNBC to provide bursaries for men's and women's basketball after learning of a funding shortage. "This was another area of need and we were happy to step up," says Brownridge. "We've always preferred to provide for bursaries because they take

into account not only academic or athletic excellence, but financial need."

Since establishing their first bursary in 1997, 89 UNBC students have benefited from the generosity of Brian and Jackie Brownridge and family and Brownridge & Co. Insurance. "When UNBC arrived, this city matured. I think it's important for northerners to recognize the Institution."

Brownridge cites himself as being particularly proud of the Northern Medical Program (NMP) at UNBC. "I'd also be interested in the University expanding to include a 'Northern Engineering Program' in the tradition of the NMP," says Brownridge. "UNBC is a great institution for northern BC. Our support will continue."

# Our **Biggest Asset**

*UNBC strengthens connections with the region*



Peter Mokay of New Aiyansh is a 2009 UNBC graduate of First Nations Studies. He is now completing his BEd and doing his practicum in Terrace, BC.

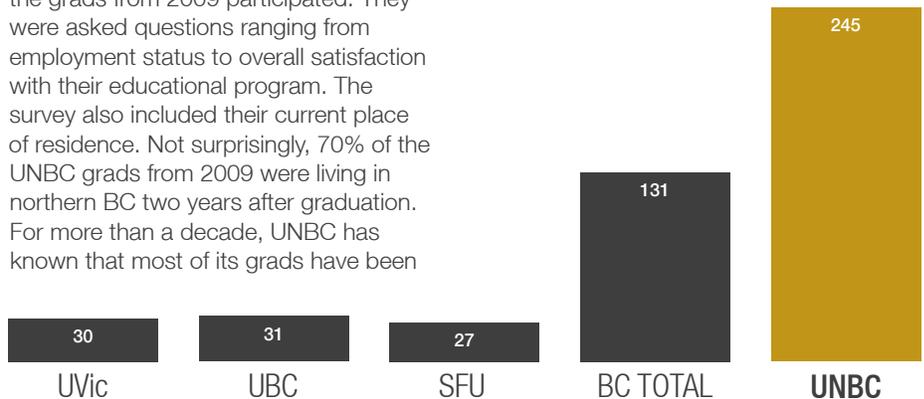
## **Alumni: UNBC's #1 Productivity Measure**

The original promise of UNBC related to the University's graduates; that they would be more likely to stay and live in the north if they received their education here. Now approaching 10,000 alumni, the evidence is building that UNBC is fulfilling that promise.

The best evidence to date comes from the BC Government's most recent survey of BC university graduates. The survey was conducted in 2011 and nearly 10,000 of the grads from 2009 participated. They were asked questions ranging from employment status to overall satisfaction with their educational program. The survey also included their current place of residence. Not surprisingly, 70% of the UNBC grads from 2009 were living in northern BC two years after graduation. For more than a decade, UNBC has known that most of its grads have been

staying in the region to live and work. What hasn't been known is the relative contribution UNBC makes to the total number of university grads from a given year choosing to live in the north. After all, BC's universities produce thousands of grads per year and UNBC only has 1.9% of the university seats in the province.

Despite such a small number of students, UNBC now produces more university grads for northern BC than all of the other BC universities combined.



Source: 2011 survey of BC university grads, Government of BC.

## **Sharing the Proof**

The alumni story is part of a series of presentations University officials are making around northern BC and beyond. The visits are coinciding with efforts to enhance access and affordability to post-secondary education around BC.

Dubbed the "energy tour," the visits also highlight UNBC's opportunities related to demonstrating and deploying energy technologies for rural communities as well as recognizing the growing prominence of the energy industry across northern BC. Follow the blog, with posts from each stop:

[blogs.unbc.ca/energy](http://blogs.unbc.ca/energy)



# An Iron Northern Will

*Dr. Geoffrey Payne compares what it takes to complete the Ironman to the spirit of the north*

**O**n a Sunday morning in late August 1999, I stood knee deep in Okanagan Lake with 2,000 other Ironman participants. When the gun sounded, it looked to everyone like I had started the race. Actually, I had started a new life.

Only 18 months prior I had decided to embark on the journey that would lead to Penticton and the 3.8 km swim, 180 km cycle, and 42 km run that followed. At 9:15 pm, as I shuffled my way to the finish line, a new identity was born: I was an Ironman. I sat on the grass after the race and thought about the commitment and perseverance needed to finish. I knew I would never be the same again.

same resolve that I did when I became an Ironman. This was a place of doers, of people who set their sights on what was needed and worked together to make it happen. Here we are today, one of the smallest and youngest universities in the world to have a medical program, and we're proud to produce doctors who work in small towns.

Today, we're participating in a whole new level of athletic competition. We're also aiming to expand our engineering program, increase our student enrolments, and make UNBC unique in Canada for its approach to community-based, sustainable energy. These are incredible challenges, but based on UNBC's track record, I'm sure they can be achieved.

“UNBC is a place of doers, of people who set their sights on what is needed and work together to make it happen.”

That experience gave me the courage to think big. Less than two years later, I left my home in Newfoundland to study at Yale University.

Eight years ago, I was one of the first faculty hired in the Northern Medical Program. I quickly learned how the NMP came to be, first through a public outcry, and then through sheer determination. I began to appreciate that I was now living in a place where the people had the

What made me cross that finish line was the support of family and friends and my determination not to let them down. The parallels to UNBC today are uncanny. Northerners are our family. We would never succeed without their support and encouragement, and we're equally committed not to let them down.

## Dr. Geoffrey Payne

Dr. Payne has been Assistant Dean for Education and Research with the NMP since 2009. He is also the Director of the Northern Health Sciences Research Facility at UNBC. Dr. Payne came to UNBC following a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University. He holds a Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland.



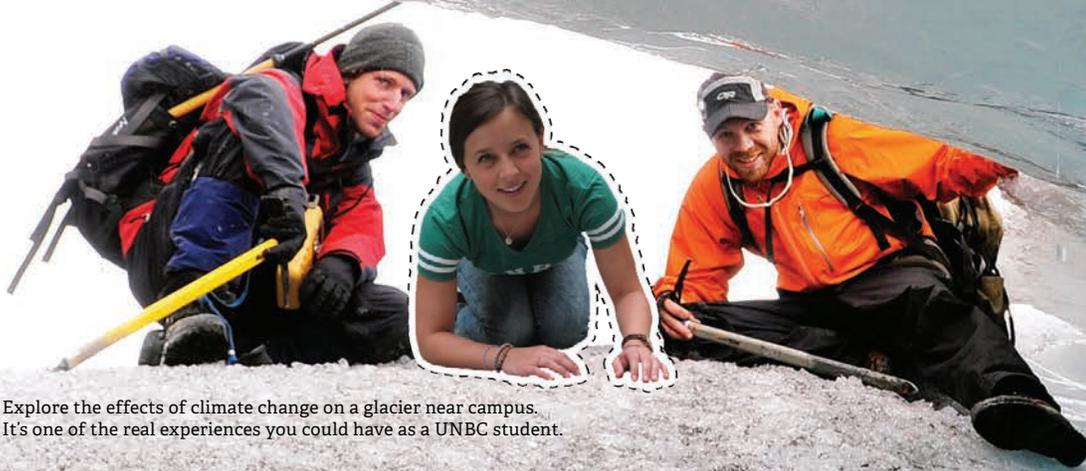
Ironman Dr. Geoff Payne takes a break after a training session.



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