

# UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC  
Alumni and Friends  
– Spring 2015

## 10 Years of the Northern Medical Program

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A Year to Remember** Pages 12 & 13

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Northern Medical Program student Nathan Teegee  
was inspired by 2015 Northern Medical Program  
Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Paul Stent.

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1990

UNBC  
**25**

2015

# The Inside Scoop

A message from UNBC President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Daniel J. Weeks

**M**y first academic year at UNBC has been one of extraordinary opportunities and challenges. The faculty strike was a significant disruption for our students and employees. I have committed to working with our faculty and finding ways to continue advancing the University. There are issues that need attention, but I know we are equipped to address them by working in collaboration with one another. Resolving these issues takes time. I'm the type of person who likes to get moving on initiatives quickly, but we have to be measured in our approaches to ensure things are done the right way.

As for opportunities that have arisen over the past few months, one need look no further than the 2015 Canada Winter Games, with which UNBC played a significant role. We hosted thousands of spectators, athletes, coaches, and volunteers at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre, home to five sports – the most of any venue during the Games.

In addition, we welcomed the nation to our campus as the Closing Ceremony was broadcast live on national TV, the first time an event at UNBC has enjoyed this much exposure since Queen Elizabeth II opened the Prince George campus in 1994! We also ended up with more than 80 athletes

and officials demonstrating an interest in our innovative 2015 Canada Winter Games \$2,500 tuition credit. As soon as the Games concluded, UNBC, in partnership with the City of Prince George, hosted the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston for a 25th Anniversary conversation on the role communities and universities play in their mutual development.

This was a theme I had visited earlier in the year, when I presented to the Prince George Chamber of Commerce. This event stands out for me as one of the highlights for me during my first few months at UNBC. Not only did I speak about how communities can help transform universities, and vice versa, it was there that I first told a remarkable story about the history and connection UNBC shares with our stakeholders, donors, and champions.

In the middle of January, UNBC received a letter in the mail from Tillamook, Oregon. Inside were three items. The first two were a letter and an old news clipping from the Prince George Citizen that showed a couple being recognized as Prince George's Visitor of the Week. Miriam Wolfe and Earl Johnson were on their way to Alaska and had stopped in Prince George for lunch. While taking a quick break from the epic drive, the

two were, according to the letter, "accosted by a group of young people screaming, 'Only five dollars! ONLY FIVE DOLLARS! Please, only five dollars!'" They were of course referring to the public campaign that created UNBC.

Sadly, Earl passed away on December 17, the day Miriam received our most recent issue of *Update*.

What was the third item in the envelope from Miriam? A cheque for \$25,000 to create a scholarship in Earl's name.

It's a moving story about the role community plays in the advancement of UNBC, and demonstrates how our initiatives can take time to develop. Despite the time it can take, the fruits of those efforts can be so rewarding.



See the media story at  
[ckpg.com/a-big-day-for-unbc](http://ckpg.com/a-big-day-for-unbc)



# Hosting **the Nation**

*2015 Canada Winter Games visit UNBC*

UNBC is proud of the role it played in the 2015 Canada Winter Games. As an Official Community Partner, UNBC hosted several events, and members of the UNBC community spent more than 1,000 hours volunteering with the Games.

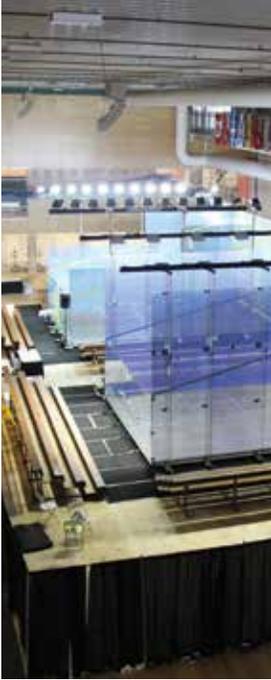
The Games were a great chance to showcase UNBC to the nation. Thousands of people from across Canada visited UNBC during the Games, from ministers of sport to elite young athletes.

Canadians nationwide got a taste of UNBC when TSN broadcast the Games Closing Ceremony live (pictured below). Held in the Agora, the first outdoor venue ever for a Winter Games closing ceremony, athletes and spectators were captivated with stunning pyrotechnics and live music.

*See the following two pages for more on the UNBC connection to the 2015 Canada Winter Games.*

*To learn more about UNBC's role in the Games visit:*  
**[unbc.ca/cwg](http://unbc.ca/cwg)**





Temporary squash courts installed in the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre gave spectators an amazing view.



Hundreds of Northern BC high school and elementary students toured the Prince George campus during the Games through a program presented by Canfor.



From left: Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Judith Guichon waves the BC flag as Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Valemount; Coralee Oakes, the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; and Stu Ballantyne, CEO of the 2015 Canada Winter Games, cheer athletes at the Closing Ceremony in UNBC's Agora courtyard.



UNBC student Lavanna Laas, wearing white, won a silver medal in judo for Team BC.



UNBC student Madison Pilling competed for Team Northwest Territories in short-track speed skating.



The 2015 Canada Winter Games mascot Nanguz led the athletes parade at the Closing Ceremony.



A student-led initiative raised more than \$37,000 to make free public transit possible during the Games, with the goal of reducing traffic and air pollution by encouraging more people to take the bus. Ridership increased 40-50 per cent during the two weeks of the Games.



Athletes, including Team Saskatchewan, were all smiles as they gathered in the Agora Courtyard for the Closing Ceremony.



UNBC staff member Bill Koocher shows off the two silver medals he won at the 1971 Canada Winter Games in Saskatoon. Koocher competed in gymnastics representing Ontario and won silver in the high bar and team events. The 2015 Games brought back a flood of memories for the longtime UNBC electrician as the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre hosted the gymnastics events during the first week of competition.



Governor General of Canada David Johnston congratulates athletes on their accomplishments as an inflatable Mr. PG stands in the background.



UNBC faculty, students, and staff got in the Games spirit as they volunteered countless hours at many venues.

The stands were packed during the gymnastics competition finals at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre. It's estimated that more than 15,000 spectators took in the action from the five sports hosted at the facility.



# A Decade of Teaching Future Doctors

*The Northern Medical Program at UNBC reaches a milestone*

In 2005, the first medical students arrived in the North, an idea born from a Prince George community rally a few years earlier advocating for a stronger state of northern health care. Fast-forward to 2015 and the Northern Medical Program (NMP) is celebrating a decade of medical education at UNBC.

The program welcomed its first class of students to UNBC's Prince George campus in January 2005. The distributed medical program, part of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, was one of the first of its kind in North America.

"Marking the first 10 years of studies in the North is a historic milestone for the Northern Medical Program," says Dr. Paul Winwood, Vice Provost Medicine, UNBC and Regional Associate Dean, Northern BC, UBC Faculty of Medicine. "Our goal of educating future physicians in the North is now a fully formed reality that is helping alleviate chronic physician shortages in northern and rural communities."

In addition to local medical faculty who teach, the NMP uses teleconferencing to broadcast and receive lectures from medical professionals throughout BC.

Since its launch, the program has expanded its annual intake from 24 to 32 students, and has graduated seven classes. After leaving the NMP, graduates move into two-to-seven years of medical

residency and fellowship training, depending on specialty. About 30 per cent of NMP graduates who have settled into permanent practice are currently working in Northern BC, while more than two-thirds in permanent practice are in rural, remote, and northern communities.

**We are looking forward to our next decade and beyond. This is only the beginning.**

This past fall, Dr. Alym Abdulla, Class of 2009, became the first NMP graduate to return to the North as a specialist. Dr. Abdulla, a urologist, completed his residency at Ontario's McMaster University last spring and then set up practice in Prince George in October.

"Training doctors is a long process; a large number of our graduates are still in residency or other postgraduate training," Dr. Winwood says. "We are looking forward to our next decade and beyond. This is only the beginning."



# Inspiring the Next Generation

*Student praises Fort St. James physician*

**D**r. Paul Stent was one of the few role models in my life."

Northern Medical Program student Nathan Teegee is talking about 2015 Northern Medical Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Paul Stent of Fort St. James.

"My grandmother worked as a janitor and Carrier translator for First Nations patients at Stuart Lake General hospital. I call her

Northern Health's first Aboriginal Patient Liaison," Teegee says. "Between my grandmother telling me I could be a doctor, and Dr. Stent providing my community with health care and serving as an exemplar, I was able to believe that my dream could come true," Teegee says.

Inspiring future generations of health-care practitioners is one of the reasons behind establishing the Northern Medical Society Hall of Fame more than a decade ago. Inductees are celebrated at the annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner, which is

a fundraiser for the Northern Medical Programs Trust.

This year, with retired Lieutenant-General, and former Senator Roméo Dallaire as the keynote speaker, the event was again sold-out and attracted 1,000 people.

In addition to honouring his mentor, Teegee spoke about the importance of supporting the Trust. "Their financial support has already enabled me to integrate rural clinical experiences into my education. It's maybe the best way to ensure that we create the Paul Stents of tomorrow."

## **Also at the 2015 Ewert Event: UNBC Grad Named Rising Star**

Christine Kennedy, a former Academic All-Canadian basketball player at UNBC and first-year Northern Medical Program student, is the 2015 Rising Star of Health Service Award winner.

The story of Kennedy's journey to the medical field is poignant. Her mother, Barbara, died in 2010 after fighting cancer, leaving Christine to raise her two younger sisters while she was an undergraduate student.

This enormous responsibility did not deter Kennedy; it fuelled her to continue to excel in the classroom and in her extra-curricular activities.

Kennedy is intent on practicing as a surgeon in Prince George when she completes her medical studies.

"My passion to learn and continue to give back to my own, and surrounding Northern communities, is a guiding force throughout my medical education," she says. "This passion will not end with a medical degree. I am sure, in fact, that it will only be the beginning."

Northern Medical Program student Nathan Teegee (at podium) and Dr. Donald MacRitchie announce the 2015 Northern Medical Hall of Fame inductee.



# Splicing Made Simple

Researchers discover new method to study RNA splicing

Genetic splicing in pre-messenger ribonucleic acid (RNA) is a process that is fundamental to human life, but the scientific community still does not have a full understanding of how it all works.

That could soon change thanks to a breakthrough by UNBC researchers.

UNBC Professor of Chemistry Dr. Stephen Rader and his team discovered that one red alga uses a simpler mechanism

to splice RNA than occurs in humans. Using the principle of studying human biology in a model system, researchers hope to gain a better understanding of human RNA splicing by closely examining how it functions in red alga.

Once researchers know how it works in people, they can begin to develop new treatments for some genetic diseases.

“By finding a very simple version of the cellular machinery used to

splice genes, we can determine which parts are essential to the process and which parts are accessories,” Dr. Rader says.

“About 60 per cent of diseases that are caused by genetic mutations are due to problems of splicing,” Dr. Rader says. “It is important to understand how splicing works so we can find ways to treat these diseases.”

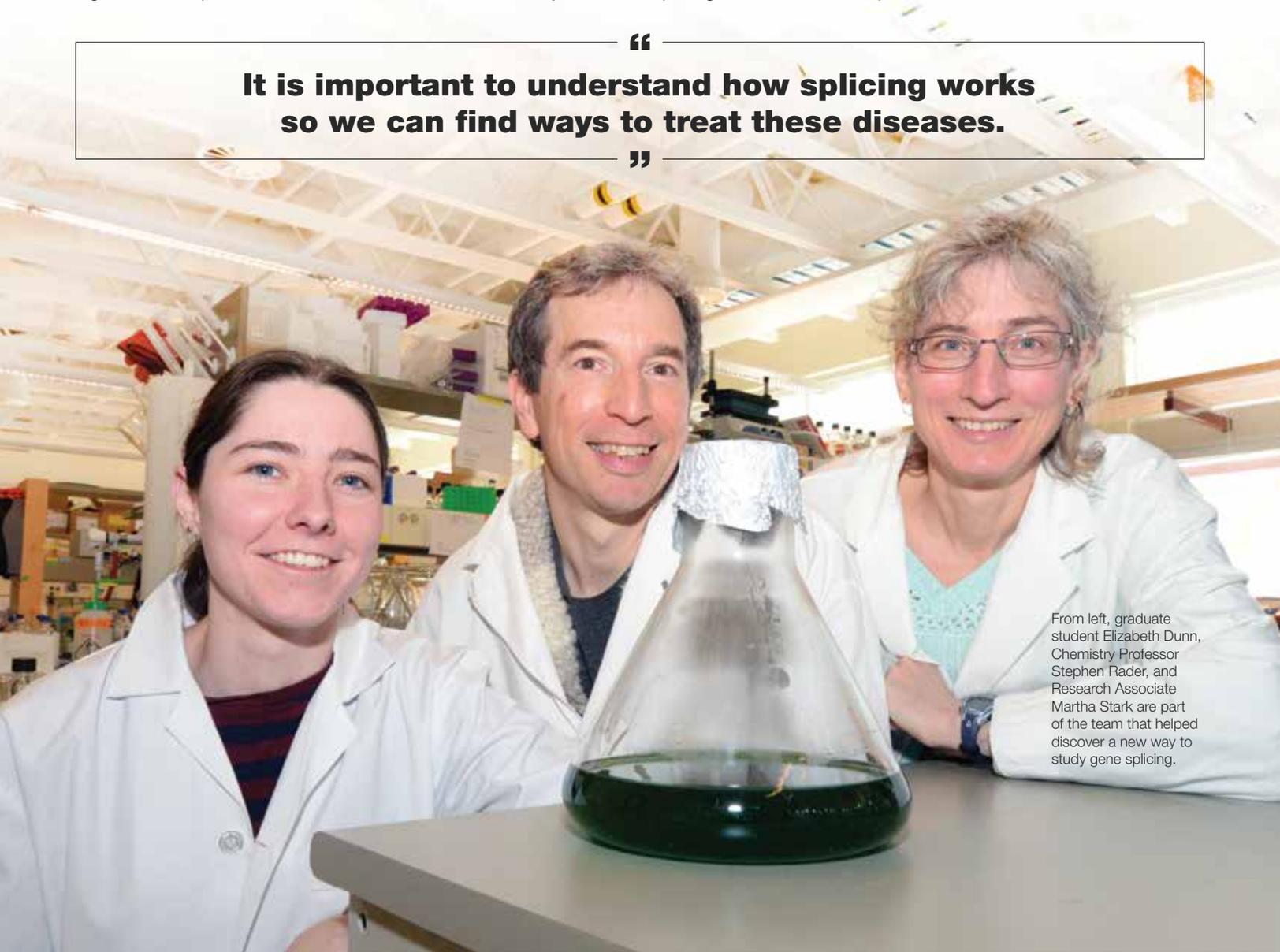
Dr. Rader and his research team discovered a red alga that is the first known organism to splice genes without the help of

a specific type of small nuclear RNA called U1. They published their research earlier this year in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Traditionally, researchers have used human cells in culture or yeast cells when studying the process cells use to splice RNA.

In humans, defective splicing leads to diseases ranging from cancer to cystic fibrosis to spinal muscular atrophy.

**It is important to understand how splicing works so we can find ways to treat these diseases.**



From left, graduate student Elizabeth Dunn, Chemistry Professor Stephen Rader, and Research Associate Martha Stark are part of the team that helped discover a new way to study gene splicing.

# Eating Ethically

UNBC designated a Fair Trade Campus

When students, faculty, staff, or visitors to UNBC's Prince George campus stop for a hot drink or a sweet treat, there is a good chance they will now be sampling a fairtrade product.

In January, UNBC became the ninth Canadian university to be designated a Fair Trade Campus. This means UNBC food services outlets now offer certified coffee, tea, and chocolate options.

"Seeing the impact fairtrade has on the producers and farmers in developing countries through companies like Ethical Bean was my first introduction

to the concept," says UNBC student Matthew Ewen, one of the student leaders behind the campaign that led to UNBC to officially becoming a designated campus. "This quickly evolved into expanding fairtrade at UNBC through their coffee, tea, chocolate and then attending an international conference in Montreal."

Food services partners, including Chartwells, Degrees Coffee, the Thirsty Moose Pub, and UNBC Ancillary Services, all independently incorporated certified products into their menu options. Ewen said the student group will continue pursuing other product

opportunities on campus, such as salt, pepper, and clothing.

"This is an exciting moment for UNBC, but also the fairtrade movement as a whole, as increased numbers of Canadians, Canadian institutions, and businesses shift their purchasing to more fair and ethical sourcing," says Canadian Fair Trade Network Executive Director Sean McHugh.

Fittingly, UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks made the announcement of the fairtrade status to a packed Canfor Winter Garden during the annual UNBC Green Day celebrations on Jan. 27.

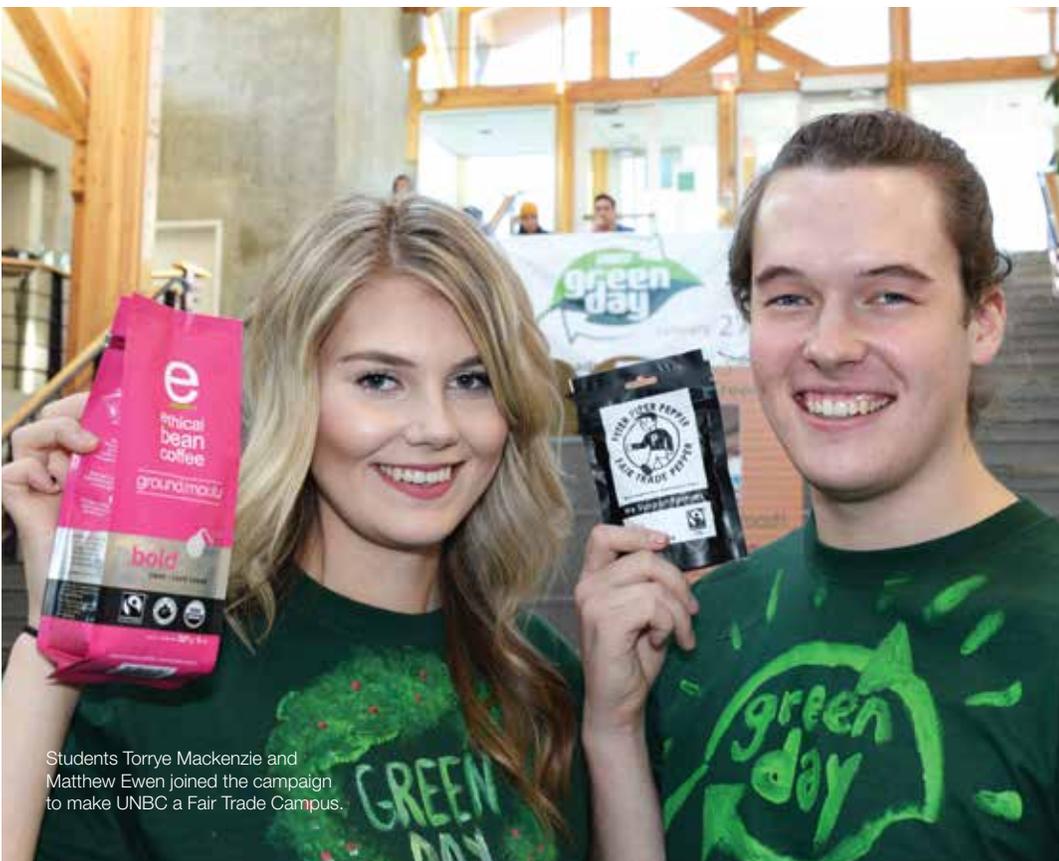
## UNBC Group Fights Food Waste

An initiative by UNBC students has reduced waste and provided healthy food to the less fortunate in Prince George.

The UNBC Food Recovery Project has collected more than 1,000 pounds of surplus food from UNBC's Dining Hall, preserved it, and donated it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Prince George.

Bernie Goold, President of the Local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, says food from the UNBC Dining Hall provides a hearty complement to their meals.

The centre served lunch to 168 people on one day just with food sourced from the recovery program.



Students Torrye Mackenzie and Matthew Ewen joined the campaign to make UNBC a Fair Trade Campus.

# Enhancing Patient Transfers In BC

UNBC collaborative research will help improve local health care

What used to take hours will soon only take minutes for hospitals across BC. Some of the decisions related to transferring patients to the most appropriate health-care facility have become more streamlined thanks, in part, to a research project led by UNBC professor Dr. Waqar Haque.

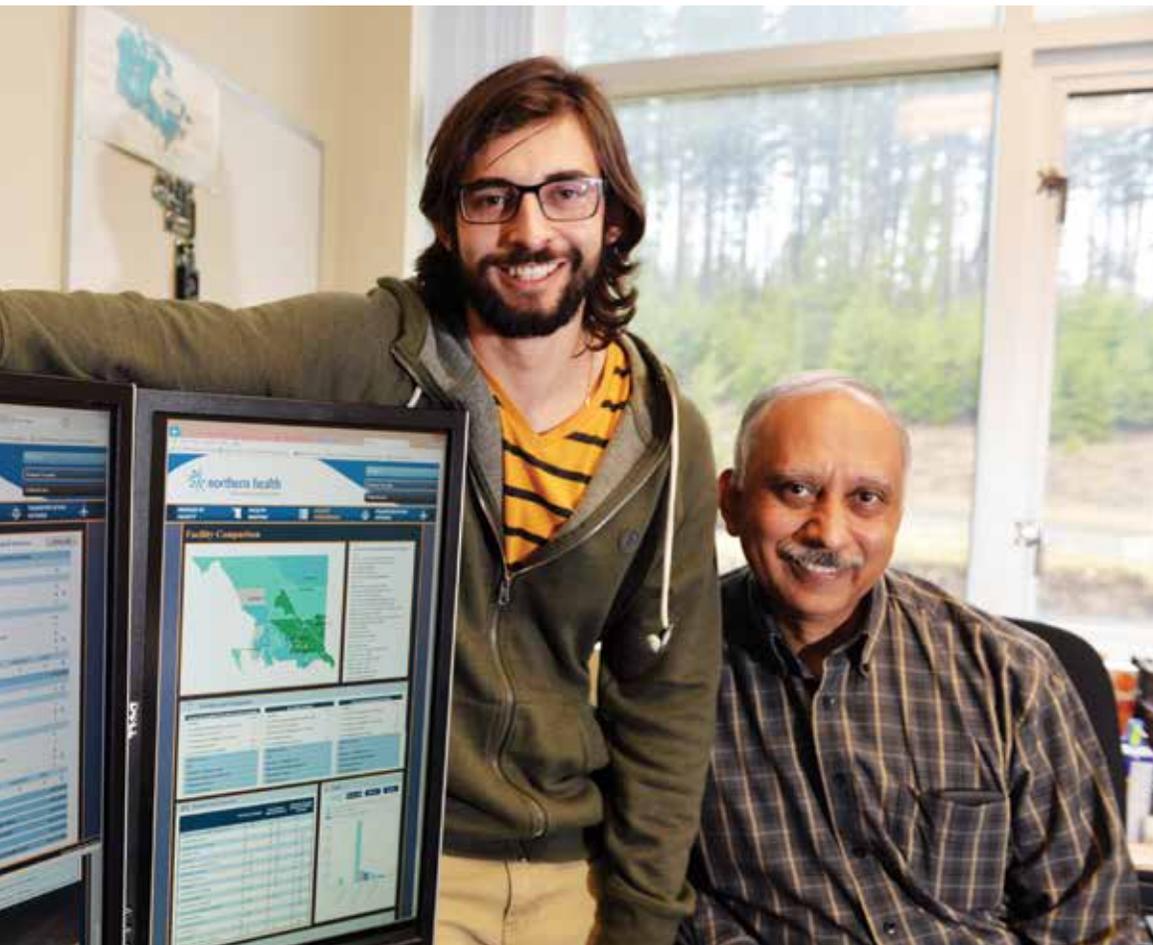
In collaboration with Northern Health, Dr. Haque and UNBC Computer Science and Business students have created software that turns health services data previously collected on spreadsheets into a user-friendly system that eases inter-facility transfers. With the ability to quickly understand clinical services available across multiple facilities, staff can identify potential facilities that best meet a patient's needs in just a few mouse clicks.

"In class, we discuss experiential learning all the time. For this project, our students had an opportunity to directly apply business intelligence techniques to the issue of patient transfer," says Dr. Haque, a professor of Computer Science and Business.

"We incorporated key facility performance indicators to create a system that provides quick, interactive navigation for health-care staff."

"This has been a great partnership with UNBC that will profoundly impact care for out-of-town patients," explains Beth Ann Derksen, Northern Health's Executive Lead of Critical Care. "Transfers between facilities have usually meant a lot of time spent on phone calls and looking up information. What can sometimes take up to four hours to do, involving various staff, will now be reduced to about 10 minutes."

"As a student, you don't usually get the experience of working on something that has never been done before," says Devin Calado, a fourth-year computer science student. "This has definitely helped me better understand the business end of computer applications and how to approach system development for specific client needs." "This has been a very exciting project for our students," adds



“  
**This has been a great partnership with UNBC that will profoundly impact care for out-of-town patients.**  
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Dr. Haque. "We appreciate the collaboration we have had with both Northern Health and fellow UNBC staff, especially the support from the UNBC Office of Research."

The software has been implemented at Northern Health and is being developed for use by other BC health authorities.

# Reaching **New Heights**

*Men's basketball team makes first playoff appearance in Canada West*

**T**he UNBC men's basketball team made history this season, qualifying for the playoffs for the first time since joining Canadian Interuniversity Sport's Canada West conference.

The Timberwolves finished the 2014-15 campaign in second place in the Explorer Division with a 12-8 record. Victories in eight of the final 10 regular season games vaulted the men into the post-season and a first-round matchup against the UBC Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds took the best-of-three quarter-final series 2-0, winning a pair of close games.

Beyond the stellar team effort, two Timberwolves, fifth-year forwards Franco Kouagnia and Devin McMurtry, were recognized by Canada West and their team for their accomplishments.

Kouagnia was named a Canada West 2nd Star of the Week and a Canada West 2nd Team All Star. He had 16.4 points per game, and was fourth in offensive rebounds with 65. Kouagnia was also named UNBC's Male Athlete of the Year.

"Franco's presence made everyone on our team better

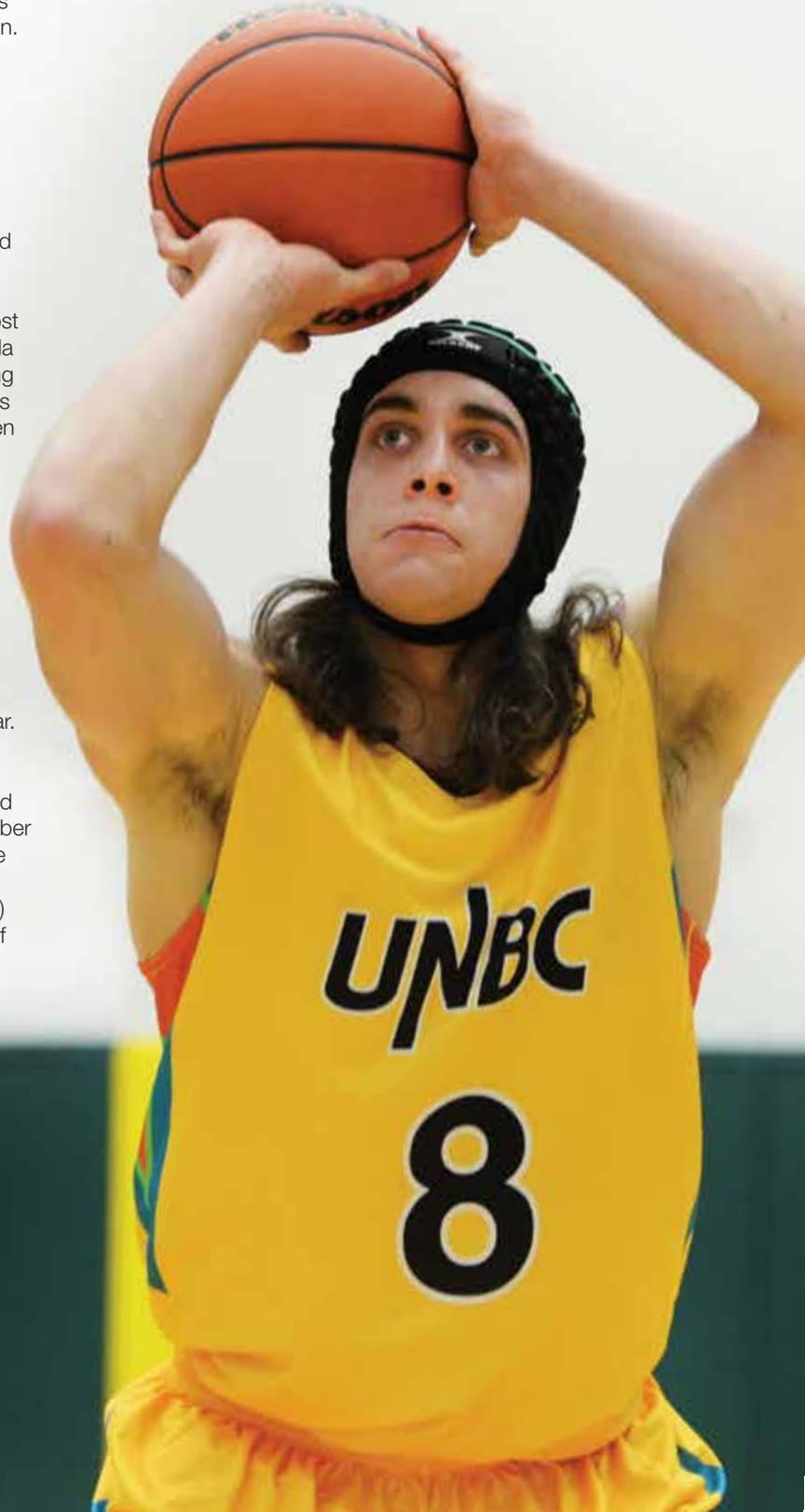
as he drew double teams and attention that helped his teammates excel," said men's basketball coach Todd Jordan. "He found the right mix of dominating the paint inside and being a facilitator for our offence when defences collapsed on him."

McMurtry was named a 3rd Star of the Week and received the Canada West Student-Athlete Community Service Award after collecting the most defensive rebounds in Canada West, with 140, and averaging 10.2 points per game. He was a nominee for the national Ken Shields Award.

In addition, McMurtry had his trademark long hair cut for charity, raising \$700 for the BC/Yukon Breast Cancer Foundation.

Kouagnia, McMurtry, and fifth-year guard Jeff Chu will graduate from UNBC this year.

The Timberwolves applied to join Canada West in 2008 and became a probationary member in 2010. On May 6, 2014, the Canada West Universities Athletic Association (CWUAA) made UNBC a full member of Canada West.



Timberwolves forward Devin McMurtry received the Canada West Student-Athlete Community Service Award.

# A Year to Remember

25th Anniversary marked by special events

Is an anniversary for looking back? Looking forward? For two UNBC students, their understanding of the future is being shaped by their connection with the past.

Raychill Snider and Brittany McHardy are the two students who have been contacting founders to thank them for creating the university they are now attending. "I'm getting a much deeper insight into the whole university," says Raychill. "I get to know a lot more about the university than most students will ever know, on a personal level."

Staff and students have also been working on an online history timeline, where anyone can browse the major events that have made UNBC what it

is today. From the first UNBC student in 1992 to the opening of the bioenergy plant, photos and stories from the past bring major milestones back to life.

The past is important; so is the future. In February, UNBC students held an open house that demonstrated the fun of science to children. The UNBC Discovery Centre was a free activity with displays and science experiments designed for youth. They could be the scientists of the future, and choose UNBC as their place of study.

A public art installation commemorating the anniversary will be unveiled later in 2015, tying together UNBC's past and future with its present. Led by UNBC faculty and local artists,

the installation will consist of two paintings linked by pieces of fused glass. The glass will form a pathway between the paintings, creating a metaphor for the journey of discovery as well as recognizing the journey undertaken to become a university for the North. Faculty, staff, students, and even children at the UNBC Daycare have contributed to the project.

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

# 1990

# UN 25

Clockwise from top left: 1. Daycare kids paint on pieces of glass that will be included in a 25th Anniversary art project. 2. The Athletics Legacy Breakfast featured Canadian hockey star, Hayley Wickenheiser. 3. The UNBC and Prince George Cougars mascots hang out during UNBC Night at the CN Centre. 4. Students pose for a photo after the Student Leadership Gala. 5. A UNBC Christmas ornament at the Festival of Trees, one of the many places that featured the UNBC25 logo. 6. Students joke around with motivational speaker Blake Fly. 7. The two students reaching out to UNBC founders: Brittany McHardy (left) and Raychill Snider.



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# You're Invited

## 25th Anniversary Community Celebration: The Founding & the Future

Saturday June 20th, 2015  
Prince George Campus | 2:30pm - 5:00pm

### The Next 25 Years

President Dr. Daniel Weeks shares a vision for UNBC's future.

### UNBC's Roots & Values

Learn how the establishment of UNBC instilled a culture that is still alive today and shapes the University's priorities for the future.

### The 16,000

The names of 16,000 northerners who joined the public campaign for a northern university in the late 1980s will be unveiled on the Prince George campus.

### Reception & Reunion

Join us for refreshments, reminisce with friends and colleagues, and view photos and video highlights from throughout UNBC's history. Various 25th Anniversary initiatives will also be highlighted.

## Related Events

UNBC's **Donor Appreciation Evening** will be held immediately following the 25th Anniversary Community Celebration.

### Employee Recognition

More than 200 people were the founding employees who turned the dreams of northerners into reality. Their names will be unveiled in the Geoffrey R. Weller Library on June 22.

# UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines



## Professor Named to Royal Society's College

UNBC Associate Professor of History Dr. Dana Wessell Lightfoot is a founding member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. The newly created College recognizes academics who have demonstrated a high level of achievement in the early stages of their career.

Dr. Wessell Lightfoot is one of 91 researchers selected as inaugural members of the multi-disciplinary association. "The College is tasked with addressing issues of concern to new scholars," Wessell Lightfoot says. "I'm looking forward to fostering a discussion around gender equality in academia." Dr. Wessell Lightfoot's research interests include gender in medieval European history, with a focus on Spain.



## Researcher Co-edits Arctic Report

The latest Arctic Human Development Report, co-edited by Geography Professor Dr. Gail Fondahl, provides information for both academics and policy makers on emerging issues in Arctic communities, from the trend towards urbanization, to the impact of climate change. UNBC Political Science Associate Professor Dr. Gary Wilson is a lead author in the report and Political Science Associate Professor Dr. Natalia Loukacheva is a contributing author.



## Student Competes at World University Games

First-year Outdoor Recreation and Conservation student Sam West represented UNBC on the world stage as a member of the Canadian biathlon team at the 2015 Winter Universiade in Slovakia in January. West trains at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre, as well as the Otway Nordic Ski Centre, and is a member of the UNBC Outdoors Club.



## Influential eBook Confronts Critical Issues

Northern communities experiencing economic and social transformation will benefit from a new eBook co-edited by UNBC Geography Professor and Community Development Institute Co-Director Dr. Greg Halseth. Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North touches on the themes of governance, community, and economic and social development. It confronts critical issues and ways to facilitate positive change. You can download the eBook for free at: <http://ow.ly/lvWIW>



## Founding Faculty Member Passes Away

The UNBC community is mourning the loss of founding faculty member Dr. Jim McDonald. A Professor of Anthropology, McDonald held positions including department chair of both Anthropology and First Nations Studies and Director of the First Nations Centre. His research interests allowed him to work closely with the Tsimshian of Kitsumkalum - the People of the Robin. Donations to a memorial fund in McDonald's name can be made at [unbc.ca/giving](http://unbc.ca/giving). Include 'Dr. James (Jim) McDonald Memorial Fund' in giving designation comments.



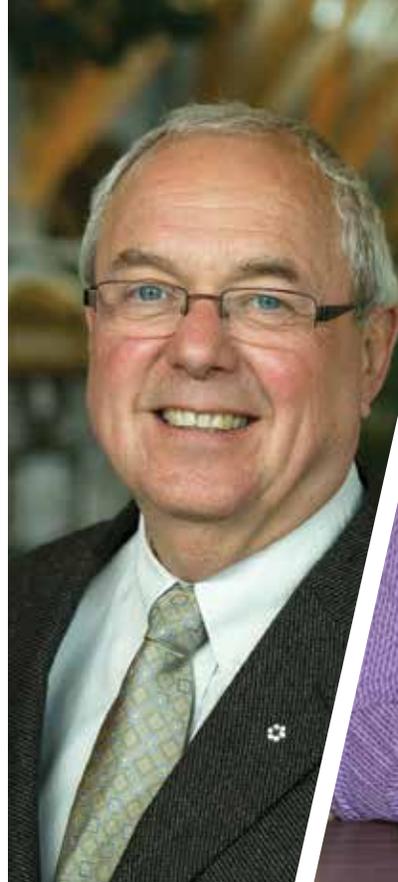
### **UNBC names new Vice President Academic and Provost**

Dr. William (Bill) Krane is UNBC's new Vice President Academic and Provost. He earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and mathematics from the University of Windsor, with a master's degree and PhD in psychology from York University. The VP Academic and Provost leads the comprehensive strategic planning, development, and implementation of academic matters at UNBC.



### **Researchers Benefit from National Funding**

UNBC researchers are better equipped to continue world-leading studies thanks to funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and B.C. Knowledge Development Fund. Associate Professor of Health Sciences Dr. Luke Harris (pictured with graduate student Brian Duffels) will use his funding to study the interactions between the brain and muscles. Other recent funding will be used for equipment such as LIDAR and aquariums for fish and aquatic insects.



### **Jago, William to Receive Honorary Degrees**

UNBC's Class of 2015 will hear from Xeni Gwet'in Chief Roger William and former UNBC President Dr. Charles Jago as they receive honorary degrees during the Prince George campus convocation celebrations on May 29.

Chief William was at the centre of the historic Aboriginal land title case decided by the Supreme Court in 2014 and has been a longtime advocate for the preservation of the traditional Tsilhqot'in way of life. William filed what became known as the Chief Roger William Aboriginal Rights and Title Case with the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1990, the same year as the establishment of UNBC. On June 26, 2014, a unanimous Supreme Court of Canada decision recognized for the first time that an Aboriginal group in Canada had proven title over a tract of land.

Dr. Jago served as UNBC President from 1995 to 2006 and again from 2008 to 2009, overseeing a period of tremendous growth at the University. He is a passionate advocate for northern issues and was instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Medical Program. He played a large role in the development of the Northern Sport Centre, a facility that was named in his honour when it opened in 2007.

William will receive his degree during the College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences ceremony during the morning convocation celebration. Jago will be presented with his degree during the College of Science and Management ceremony in the afternoon.

# Class Notes

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

## 1997

**Patricia Trick, BComm General Business**, is the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources for School District No. 68 (Nanaimo Ladysmith).

**Kathy Lachman, BSc Environmental Planning**, is the Acting Economic Development Manager for the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

## 2000

**Christine Werk, BSc Psychology**, is a Research Scientist at the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research in Edmonton. She received her PhD in Neuroscience from Concordia in 2006.

## 2001

**Shannon Whissell, BA English (1998) and MA Interdisciplinary Studies**, recently returned from serving as a CUSO International Volunteer in Jamaica for six months. She worked with the United Way of Jamaica and their associated organizations to improve their capacity for communications.

**Jenny Morgan, Certificate in General First Nations Studies**, is the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Mother Society in Vancouver. Jenny recently graduated with her Master of Social Work from the University of Victoria.

## 2003

**Christopher McNelly, BComm General Business**, is the CEO of the Human Resources Institute of Alberta in Calgary.

## 2004

**Karrilyn Vince, BSc, Environmental Planning**, is the Director of Authorizations with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in Fort St. John.

**Pamela Tobin, MA Interdisciplinary Studies & BA Anthropology (2005)**, was recently elected an alumni senator with the UNBC Senate. She has moved to Toronto to work with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. Pam is the Director of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Strategy Implementation, where she oversees the national strategy on cancer control.



## 2005

**Tyler Bowman, BComm Marketing**, is a Products and Services Sales Manager for Finning Canada in Grande Prairie.

**Johanna Laitinen, BSc Psychology**, is a School Psychologist for School District No. 57 in Prince George.

## 2006

**Thomas Duerr, BA Economics**, is the Managing Director at FMA Mechantronic Solutions in Schaanwald, Liechtenstein.

## 2007

**Jeffrey Lovell, BComm Accounting**, is the Manager of Financial Systems for the City of Port Coquitlam.

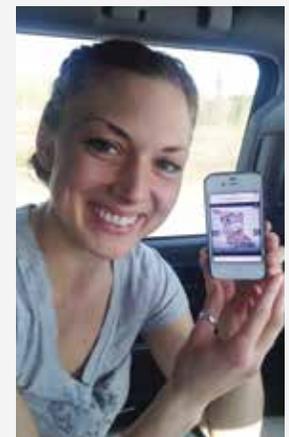
**Chad Befus, BSc Computer Science**, is an Installer / Service Technician at Pacific Fireplaces in Victoria.

**Georgina Martin, BA Political Science (1998) and MA Interdisciplinary Studies**, teaches Interpersonal Communication to Aboriginal students in the Aboriginal Youth Certificate program at the Native Education College in Vancouver.

**Kyle Matthee, BComm General Business**, is the Director of Shopping Centres for A&W Food Services of Canada.

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

**Jennifer Adomeit, BA Geography**, is a Teacher in School District No. 54 in Smithers. Jen recently created a follow up to her UNBC First Nations art class project called *Our Home and Native Land*. Her new print is entitled, *The Spirit of BC*.



## 2002

**Glen Eddie, BSW Social Work**, is a Resource Social Worker at Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services. He lives in Coquitlam.

**William (Bo) Stembridge, BComm Marketing**, is a Project Manager for Zynik Capital Corporation in Vancouver.

**Lara Pow, BSc Mathematics (1999) and MSc Physics**, is the Chief Operating Officer at the Service Quality Management Group.

## 2008

**David Jenkins, BA History**, completed his law degree at the University of Alberta and now practices with Heather Sadler Jenkins LLP in Prince George.

## 2009

**Carolyn Crough, BSc Psychology**, is the Executive Assistant to the CEO of IDL Projects Inc.

**Andrea Ducharme, BA Geography**, is a GIS Analyst at Golder Associates in Nanaimo.

**Miriam Matejova, BA (Honours) International Studies**, is pursuing her PhD in Political Science at UBC. Miriam has received numerous academic accolades, most recently the Donald N. Byers Memorial Prize as the highest-ranking Killam Doctoral Scholar of 2014.

The recognition Miriam received with her Professional Excellence Award from the Alumni Association of UNBC in 2012 motivated her to give back. Reflecting on her own experience at UNBC as a financially struggling immigrant student, she created the Miriam Matejova Award. Her scholarship is currently valued at about \$1,700 per academic year, and is designed to help a full-time UNBC undergraduate student who is a permanent resident of Canada.



**Stacey LeBlanc, BSW Social Work**, is a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Professional for the Western Australia Country Health Service. She's exploring the southern hemisphere and based in Kalgoorlie, Australia.

## 2010

**Melinda Boxeur, BSW Social Work**, is an Aboriginal Rural & Remote Mental Health & Substance Use Clinician with Interior Health. She is based in Williams Lake, but spends much time in the Tsilqhot'in communities to the west.

"My mother was one of the original people who advocated for this University and it is an important part of why I chose to attend UNBC. She was able to see me graduate and has seen my niece graduate from UNBC as well. She is so very thankful the University was created."



**Drew Adamick, BA Political Science and Certificate in Public Administration**, is a Banking Advisor at the Royal Bank of Canada in Calgary.

**Martha Parra, BSc Chemistry**, is an Employee Health and Safety Specialist at the hydrogen peroxide plant in Prince George. She ensures PeroxyChem Canada's environmental compliance.

**Barbara Durau, BSc NREM Wildlife & Fisheries Management**, is on international assignment in Germany as the Manager of Dealer Service for Arc'teryx Equipment Inc. She seeks to improve dealer services within Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

**Kristina Lockhart, BScN Nursing**, is a Registered Nurse for Northern Health in Prince George.

## 2011

**Chelan Zirul, BA Geography (2006) and MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies – Geography**, is the Regional Manager, Health Promotion and Community Engagement at Northern Health in Prince George.

**Alex Deevy, BPI Northern & Rural Community Planning**, is an Instrumentation Mechanic Apprentice at Canfor Pulp in Prince George.

**Morgan Melnyk, Bcomm International Business & Marketing**, recently became the Senior Insolvency Marketing Coordinator with Meyer Norris Penny LLP in Calgary.

**Brenda Christensen, BSc Psychology**, works at UNBC as the Access Coordinator. She ensures that students with disabilities have equal access and participation within the post-secondary environment by providing academic and physical accommodations.

## 2012

**Emily Wale, BHSc (Honours) Community and Population Health - Aboriginal and Rural Health**, is a Health Systems Analyst in the Deputy Minister's Office of Health & Social Services with the Yukon Government. Emily has co-authored a paper with Dr. Josée Lavoie. *Defined by 0.11%: Policies delimiting access to prescription drugs for First Nations peoples in British Columbia* will be published in the International Journal of Indigenous Health.



**Carolynn Lane, BA Environmental Studies**, is a Sustainability Assistant at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in Burns Lake.

## 2013

**Cierra Hoecherl, BSc Biology** is an Environmental Scientist for Matrix Solutions Inc. From Fort St. John. She is part an assessment, remediation, and reclamation team, mainly working on groundwater and soil investigations.

**Michael Jurkovic, BComm General Business**, is a Business Analyst for Community Futures of Fraser-Fort George.

## 2014

**Christopher Rose, MNRES Natural Resources and Environmental Studies**, is a Policy Advisor for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board in Yellowknife.

**Guangcheng Ma, BA Political Science**, is a Constituency Assistant for John Yap, MLA for Richmond-Steveston.

**Barbara Patrick, Education Diploma in First Nations Language & Culture**, is a Carrier Language teacher in Burns Lake for the Lake Babine Nation. She teaches and develops curriculum for Grades K to 5.

# Class Notes

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

## MBA 10th Cohort

In a year full of celebrations, the UNBC Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is also celebrating.

In May of 2015, this program will celebrate the graduation of its 10th cohort from the Prince George Campus as well as the graduation of its first cohort from the Langara College Campus location, where it has partnered to provide our MBA to students in the Lower Mainland. These pages share the accomplishments of some of our MBA graduates.

**For more information about obtaining an MBA from UNBC, please visit [unbc.ca/mba](http://unbc.ca/mba)**

## 2006

**Broek Bosma, MBA**, is the Associate Vice President of Advancement, Communications and Alumni Affairs at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver. He says the MBA at UNBC enhanced and honed the leadership skills that he had as a conductor and allowed him much more flexibility. The MBA let him move easily between the worlds of art, business, charity, and the public sector.



**Bruce Bennett, MBA** teaches in the business and dental programs at the College of New Caledonia. He also facilitates Instructional Skills Workshops for both CNC and UNBC faculty. The MBA program added to his ability to work across disciplines, and help students understand the reasons for the range and depth of business education.

## 2008

**Clara Ng, MBA**, is the Finance Director in the UBC Faculty of Education. Since earning her MBA, she also completed her Certified Management Accountant Designation.



**Tyrone (Tony) McWhannel, P.Eng, MBA** is the General Manager at Slave Lake Pulp. Since leaving the MBA program, Tony has received three promotions from West Fraser, which he credits to his new skills and understanding.

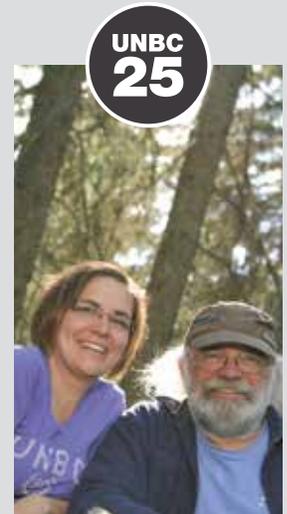


**Steven Conroy, MBA** is the Merchant for Building Materials at Home Depot Canada, based in Toronto.

**Sonya Hunt, MBA**, is the General Manager of the Pine Centre Mall in Prince George. The MBA was a “game changer” for her. She embarked on the MBA program with the goal of landing the GM position at Pine Centre Mall. After years of experience in shopping centre management, the MBA program transformed her into a more confident, knowledgeable and well-rounded manager. She has also realized a life-long aspiration: she has taught at UNBC and continues to teach business-related courses at the College of New Caledonia. Sonya is also a board member for Initiatives Prince George.



**Brenda Schlesinger, BA History (2003) and MBA (2012)** is the Continuing Studies Online Coordinator at UNBC. Her father Gary was one of the 16,000 petition signers that spawned the creation of UNBC back in the 1980s. The impact the university has made in the community and to his family is beyond his expectations.



## 2009

**Dave Faber, MBA**, is the Manager at Parsons Creek Aggregates, a Joint Venture between Lehigh Hanson Materials Limited and Graymont Western Canada Inc.



**Andrew Oliver, MBA**, is the Area Manager at GE Water & Process Technologies in Edmonton. Andrew states that unlike chemistry or math, there is no single solution in business. The MBA taught him to make good assumptions, go with his gut, and work hard to drive results from a sound strategy.



The UNBC cohort based out of Langara College in Vancouver will have 31 MBA graduates this year.

**Cheryl Wallace, MBA**, is the Director of Association Services at the YMCA of Northern BC in Prince George. Her portfolio includes human resources, marketing, community events, volunteer recruitment, fund development, and several community programs such as Learn to Skate, Youth Around Prince George and recreation at Simon Fraser Lodge. Cheryl is also the co-president of the MBA Alumni Chapter, which supports continued networking by MBA graduates after they have completed the program.



## 2010

**Dori Alger, MBA**, works for the City of Prince George in Public Works. She sits on numerous boards (including as Treasurer of the Alumni Association of UNBC). Dori has become the local administrator for Homes of Hope, a charity that supports three small orphanages in Thailand through the generous support of the citizens of Prince George.

**Tera-Lee Dodsworth, MBA**, is the Director of Global Raw Material Sourcing for Kemira, a global chemicals company serving customers in water-intensive industries. In 2013, her family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, as she is based out of Kemira's Americas Headquarters. She is married to fellow alumnus, **Peter Dodsworth (BComm Finance and International Business 2008)**.



**Kelli Moorhead, MBA**, is the General Sales Manager for the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group, Prince George Division (CKPG TV, 101.3 The River, and 99.3 The Drive). She's also a Director on the Board for Spruce Credit Union.



## 2013

**Craig Sears, MBA**, is the General Manager of Operations for Pacific Northern Gas in Terrace. He believes the recipe for success includes the opportunity to attend a quality university like UNBC.



## 2014

**Marija Soklic, MBA & Certificate in Public Administration 2009**, is in her sixth year as the Manager of Sustainable Development with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. The MBA experience encouraged her to think more strategically and better understand the forces that shape economic development in the region.



# As Goes the University, So Goes the City (and Vice Versa) **By Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall**

When I first moved to Prince George in the mid-1980s, a student in this city had to travel more than 700 kilometres to attend university. Some did. Most didn't. At the time, Northern BC had one of the lowest post-secondary participation rates in Canada.

Since then, we've made incredible progress and I look to my own family for proof. My two daughters both attend UNBC and play for the Timberwolves soccer team. They are able to live at home and save money, while my wife and I can attend their soccer matches. This is important to us, but I know the benefits are greater and extend to our whole region.

UNBC grads are doctors, nurses, school teachers, planners, entrepreneurs - and even a few politicians! At the same time, we know that the demographics of the North are changing. When I was a school trustee in Prince George, we encountered declining student numbers in the K-12 system. This affects all of our educational institutions in the region and UNBC is no different.

So what does the future hold?

President Weeks and I explored that very question with the Governor General of Canada during an interesting discussion the day after the Closing Ceremony for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. The Governor General has a

valuable perspective to share, as a former president of the University of Waterloo.

If not a perfect comparison, the Waterloo experience at least provides food for thought about how a university and a city (if not a whole region) can work together for mutual benefit and achieve things together that they would never have been able to achieve on their own.

For me, that discussion can be summed up by one phrase that the Governor General provided: "the university belongs to the community and the community belongs to the university." This shouldn't be difficult for us to achieve. After all, 16,000 northerners helped create UNBC through their

advocacy and the University has since produced nearly 12,000 alumni. But it will take effort and leadership from all of us, which is why Council recently created the Select Committee on Education and the Select Committee on Student Needs.

As UNBC celebrates its first 25 years and Prince George marks its first 100, now is the time to demonstrate the capacity that exists in the North, and to leverage our partnerships to realize that capacity.

Quite simply, UNBC is one of Prince George's most important stakeholders and vice versa.

Our destinies are intertwined for the better.



## About the Author

Lyn Hall was elected Mayor of Prince George in November 2014 after serving one term on city council. He spent 10 years as a School District #57 Board of Education trustee, including time as chair. Hall's twin daughters both attend UNBC and play on the Timberwolves soccer team.

