

UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends
– Spring 2016

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UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA





This Place is all About Community

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

The last edition of UPDATE was at the presses before we knew that UNBC had been named Canada's best small university in Maclean's Magazine's annual university ranking issue.

To say this news energized the community would be an understatement. Hundreds of students, faculty, alumni and staff joined me in the Canfor Winter Garden to share our story of success and to celebrate an outstanding achievement. Even the Mayor of Prince George, Lyn Hall, got in on the action, noting that the strength of the communities we serve rests on the success of the university, and vice versa.

So when we came together to celebrate, it also gave me another reason to celebrate not just the fact that we are #1, but why we're #1. The people in attendance filled in posters with their rationale. Some of those thoughts? We have so many options. Our learning facilities are awesome. We care about our students. We have great faculty and staff.

But one message stood out to me – we are a community. It's because even when we face challenges, we remain committed to the same goals. The best teaching and research, the best student experience, the best work environment, the best relationships, the best partnerships.

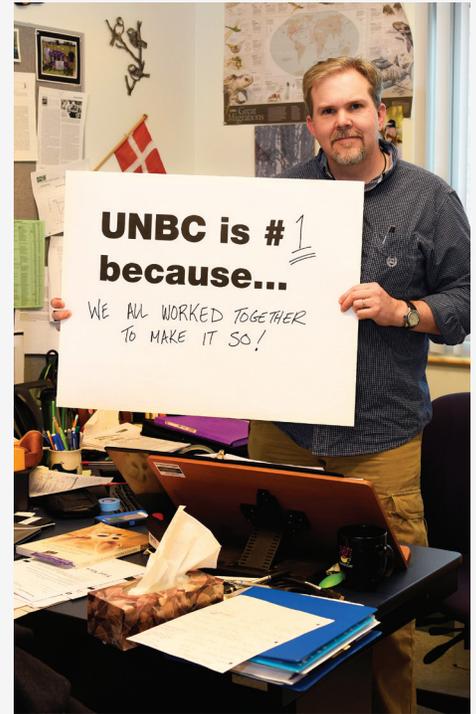
Our alumni are simply terrific. Their achievements make us proud, and I

know we can call upon them to keep this university strong. Our faculty continue to do extraordinary work, whether it's cutting-edge research that has an impact on a global scale, innovative pedagogical models that are leading the way to a superior student experience, or giving back to their community as mentors.

Our staff remain a driven, dedicated group of individuals who come through time and time again, delivering on our promise to support the academic mission of the University. Our supporters, be they donors, government officials, or community champions continue to invest in and advocate for the promise of UNBC.

And our students – what can I say. At every opportunity they impress me and inspire me to do the work we do.

I hope you, too, feel a part of our community. I hope you know that you are part of this great community. Together we are #1.



Northern B.C.'s Global Transformation

Exploring the changing economy of the region

A new book authored by several UNBC professors explores how Northern B.C. is being pulled into the national and international spotlight as global markets for energy and resources continue to change.

Titled *Resource Communities in a Globalizing Region*, the book is a collaboration between six UNBC professors from anthropology, economics and political science. The book is co-edited by Dr. Paul Bowles and Dr. Gary Wilson.

In it, the writers explore the changing economy of the region and its evolving relationship with China and other Asian countries before launching into a discussion of how the residents of Northern B.C., including First Nations, are trying to exert greater control over the development of their region.

"Northern British Columbia is at the centre of a profound global transformation, the

implications of which are critically important, not only for this resource-producing region, but also for the rest of British Columbia, Canada and the world," says Wilson, a political science professor. "From ports to pipelines, communities across Northern British Columbia are being profoundly affected, both positively and negatively, by major developments and re-orientations in the global economy. At the same time, however, these communities are also seeking to control their own destinies and have a say on the changes that are sweeping the region."

"Northern B.C. has long been integrated into the global economy," added Bowles, an economics and international studies professor. "But there are continuities and change over time and the book explores both of these aspects."

It also explores how governments, Aboriginal people, organized labour, NGOs, and the

private sector are adapting to, resisting, and embracing change.

Other contributors to the book include economist Dr. Fiona MacPhail, political scientists Dr. Tracy Summerville and Dr. John Young, and the late Dr. Jim McDonald of the Anthropology Department. Dr. Young is now the president and CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

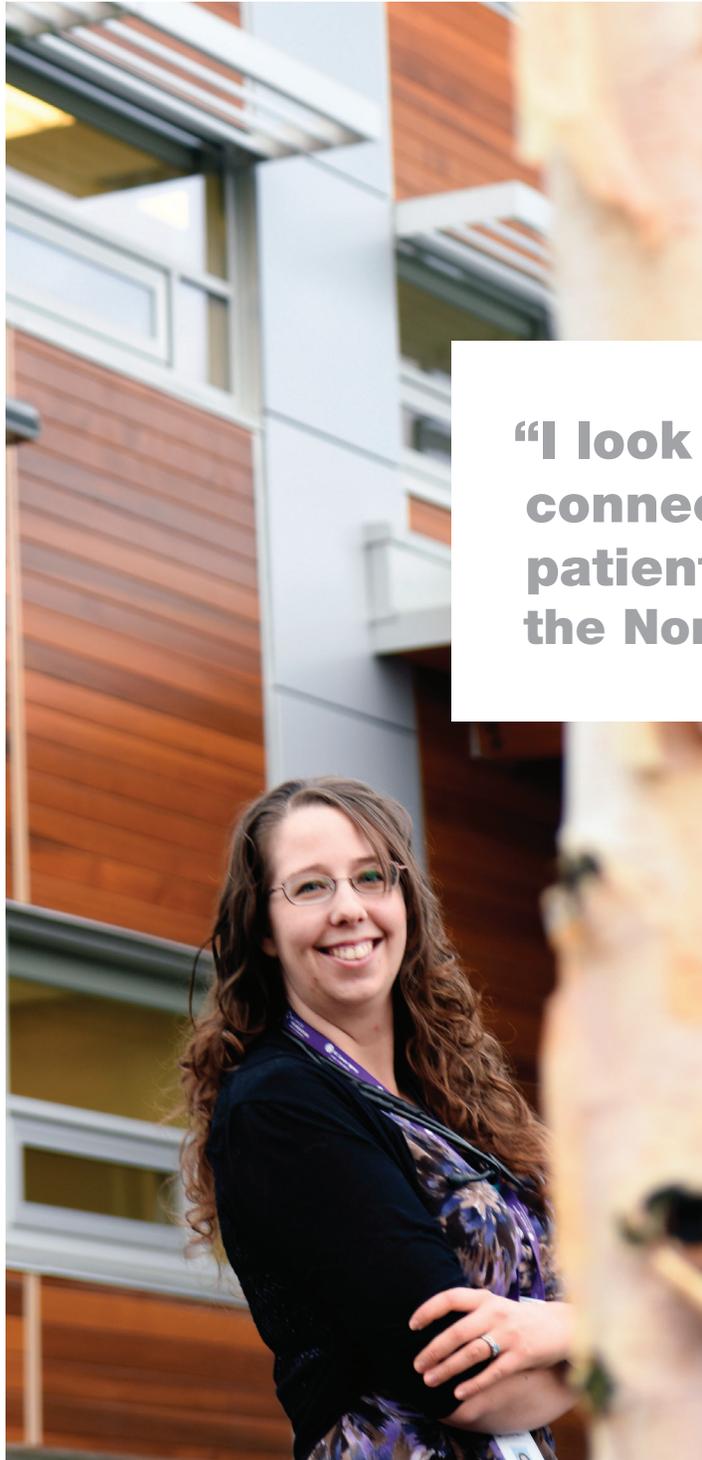
The book is dedicated to Dr. McDonald and all royalties from the sale of the book will go to the Dr. James (Jim) McDonald Memorial Fund.



From left, Dr. Paul Bowles, Dr. Fiona MacPhail, and Dr. Gary Wilson are three of the six UNBC professors to pen a book on the changing economy of Northern B.C.

Meet Dr. Sarah Roberts

NMP grad and the North's newest medical oncologist



“I look forward to connecting with patients across the North.”

By her second year in the Northern Medical Program (NMP), UNBC alumna Dr. Sarah Roberts knew exactly what she wanted to do – practice oncology. And the NMP Class of 2010 graduate has now fulfilled that dream, joining the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George as its newest medical oncologist.

Raised in Prince George, Dr. Roberts is back home in the North and excited to finally start her medical career.

“I was drawn to oncology for a variety of reasons both personal and professional,” says Dr. Roberts. “It is a very complex specialty that is constantly changing with new research. But more importantly for me, you get to follow patients and their families over time, offering a continuity of care that not all medical specialties get to experience.”

Medical oncologists are physicians who diagnose and treat cancer through systemic therapy (chemotherapy and hormone therapy). They recommend treatment programs and also coordinate with other professionals in the delivery of care.

Dr. Roberts follows in the footsteps of other NMP graduates, including family medicine physicians, who have returned to the North. In the fall of 2014, Dr. Alym Abdulla, Class of 2009, was the first NMP alumnus to return to Northern B.C. as a specialist, setting up a practice in urology in Prince George.

Prior to joining the NMP, Dr. Roberts pursued a Bachelor of Science at UNBC, an institution that she has a unique historical connection with. Her father was one of the original engineers who helped build the University.

“To have visited the construction site when I was little, and then being able to attend for both my university and medical education, means a lot to me.”

After attaining her medical degree, Dr. Roberts pursued a three-year residency in internal medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, followed by a two-year residency at the University of Alberta, specializing in medical oncology.

“I look forward to connecting with patients across the North,” she says. “I am part of a great team at the cancer centre, and the familiarity I already have with the local medical community is going to be very helpful.”

An Evening of Inspiration

Message of hope, health and recovery at 2016 Ewert Dinner

Poignant reunions were centre stage at the 12th annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner in April.

The Dinner reunited not only an author and her subject, but that author with her hometown of Prince George as well. During the special evening, acclaimed author Denise Chong and Kim Phuc, the Vietnam War's iconic "Girl in the Picture" and subject of Chong's second book, delivered emotional addresses to a riveted audience.

Chong grew up in Prince George and is a UNBC honorary degree recipient. Some of her family's history living in the city is recounted in her first book, *The Concubine's Children*, published in 1995.

"Prince George always gives me the sense of a frontier, of discovery, of possibility," said Chong. "I think more than anything that's what has shaped my writing life."

Chong's book, *The Girl in the Picture: The Story of Kim Phuc, the Photograph, and the Vietnam War*, debuted in 1999 and went on to be shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award.

Kim Phuc's story of hope over a long journey to reclaim her life and health after receiving devastating burns in a Vietnam War napalm attack on her village provided a reflective backdrop for this year's Ewert Lecture. The event is the largest annual fundraiser for the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT),

which supports students pursuing health care studies at UNBC.

"Medical care has played such a big part in Kim's life. Her continuing road to recovery underscores the important role of health professionals in our communities," said UNBC Development Manager Kathie Scouten. "Through the NMPT, students have opportunities to gain invaluable clinical experiences, helping them become the next generation of practitioners who can bring hope and healing to people across the North, and around the world."



Attendees at the 12th annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner were held spellbound by a talk from Kim Phuc, left.

Nature's Building Blocks

Splicing Research leads to greater understanding

Imagine being able to peer into the atomic structure of a protein, to understand how these tiny machines work, and to gain a better understanding of how to develop new treatments for genetic diseases that can occur when these proteins are damaged.

That's the work being done at UNBC as researchers have solved the first protein crystal structure at the University. This work allows them to see the location of every atom in a protein, which could help them learn more about the RNA splicing process in humans.

Corbin Black, a UNBC biochemistry graduate student, is the lead author on the research paper, published in the international journal *Protein Science*. He collaborated with a pair of University of Alberta researchers, Erin Garside, a PhD candidate, and Professor Andrew McMillan, and was supervised by UNBC Chemistry Professor Dr. Stephen Rader.

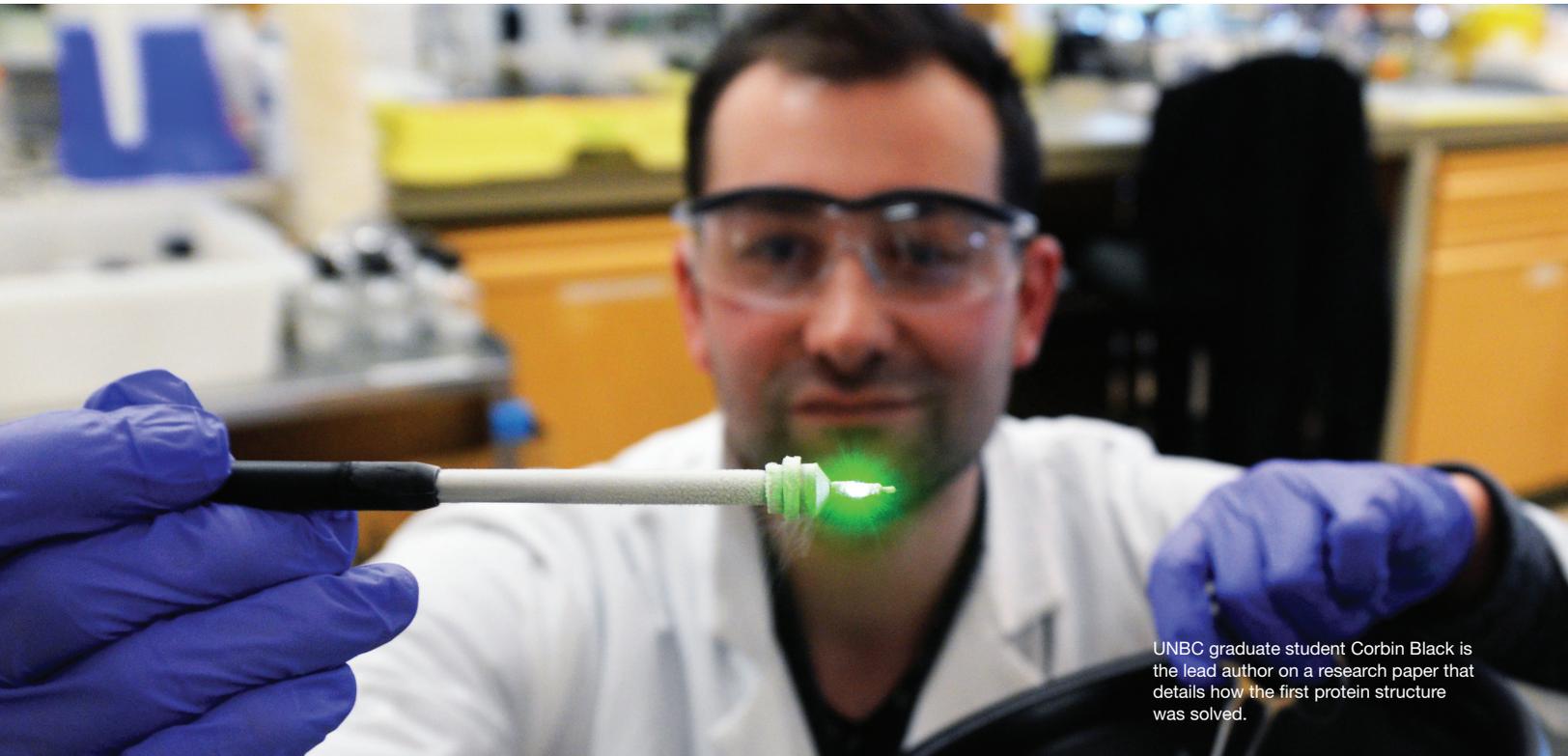
An algal protein was used since it has simpler splicing machinery – only 40 parts, compared to 250 in humans – making it an easier organism to work with. The concentrated protein was sent to the U of A, where a high-quality crystal was grown. It was then frozen with liquid nitrogen and sent to Stanford University to be X-rayed.

“The similarity between our protein, which comes from an alga, and the human protein shows that what we learn about splicing from this alga is likely to be relevant to humans,” said Rader. “And it is a much easier organism to study, so this is a proof of principle for using this organism to determine what splicing proteins look like.”

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

RNA splicing occurs naturally in humans, but errors in the splicing process have been linked to numerous diseases ranging from cancer to cystic fibrosis to spinal muscular atrophy.

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



UNBC graduate student Corbin Black is the lead author on a research paper that details how the first protein structure was solved.

Engineering For the Future

Program living up to students' expectations



Working with renewable sustainable building material and tackling new innovative technologies relating to wood design are just a few of the concepts taking root at the Wood Innovation and Design Centre.

It's where the first cohort of UNBC's Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design class has been since January to complement their theoretical undergraduate engineering background in a more practical, hands-on learning environment.

The one-year program was developed to meet the emerging needs of a rapidly growing global market for engineered wood products, tall timber buildings, and sustainable construction. It combines

structural engineering with building physics and sustainability.

Guided by Dr. Guido Wimmers, the program's chair, the four students enrolled in the program (Chelsea Olson and Stephanie Wall from B.C., Christian Willing from Alberta, and David Hanna from Montreal) say the program has met their expectations.

"I've enjoyed learning more about the application of building science principles to improve the energy efficiency and livability of buildings, as well as the technology developments that help make certifications such as Passive House attainable," says Wall.

The students have also spent time learning new software for engineering design and

drafting, and covering the building science aspect of structures, which is becoming more critical to try and achieve high performance in today's construction projects.

"The instruction, the resources and the depth and scope of all aspects of building design have been exceptional," said Willing. "Based on my experience I have not been surprised by what I'm learning. I have realized, however, that designing with wood provides exciting challenges, and overcoming these challenges is often highly rewarding both as the engineer and for those receiving or using the design."

From left, Stephanie Wall, Chelsea Olson, David Hanna, and Christian Willing are the first cohort of UNBC's Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design.

Forestry Chairs Asking the Right Questions

Evaluating forest values in Northern B.C.

How do we get the most out of our forests?

This is a question UNBC's endowed Forestry Chairs, Dr. Oscar Venter and Dr. Ché Elkin, are asking in determining how to optimize economic, ecological and social benefits provided by the region's forests.

As the FRBC/Slocan Mixedwood Ecology Chair, Elkin's focus is evaluating how long-term management strategies can create environments that are both economically and ecologically resilient. That Chair position was assigned to deliver strategic, technological and policy solutions to mixed-wood issues, by advocating new directions and opportunities for mixed-wood management and research.

Elkin studies how environmental conditions influence tree growth, and what affects a forest's susceptibility to climate, insect and fire risk. All this contributes to conversations about how forests may be managed to preserve their value 20 to 80 years down the road. It's a continuing dialogue, he says, and key questions need to be asked.

"If we want to maintain timber value, recreational value, and biodiversity, what is the best way to manage forests to maintain those values?" he asks. "And what is the best way to manage

those forests so that they can provide a range of different ecosystem services to us at different times in the future?"

Venter, who joined UNBC as the FRBC/ West Fraser Growth and Yield and Forest Valuation Chair in January, aims to look at growth and yield of timber production in the North, while also considering other possible non-timber values. His position was designated to enhance B.C.'s forest growth-and-yield knowledge to accurately predict and sustain timber production in an ecologically, economically and socially acceptable fashion.

"I look at forestry management through an integrated lens, thinking about all the different benefits we can get out of forests and how we can make decisions that maximize these diverse values," says Venter. "There are a lot of great opportunities for how we manage forests, not just for timber but for climate change, recreational opportunities, and for conservation."



Dr. Ché Elkin, left, and Dr. Oscar Venter are searching for ways in how to best manage the region's forests.

Ancient Wisdom

UNBC Research contributes to declaration of province's newest park

The Ancient Forest, or Chun T'oh Whudujut in Carrier, is a majestic place: ancient red cedars, some estimated to be thousands of years old, and a surrounding ecological landscape rife with biodiversity. It's an exquisite example of an inland temperate rainforest.

Some of the oldest and largest trees in the area, known for generations to First Nations and other local communities, were flagged for harvesting in 2006. UNBC students and researchers played a role in ensuring the public was notified of the cultural and scientific value of the area and the Forest was later declared off-limits to logging. Since then, multiple UNBC researchers, including Ecosystem Science and Management Professors Darwyn Coxson and David Connell, and students have visited the Ancient Forest to study the region's biological systems and socio-economic values. That research has supported the case for the Ancient Forest being named B.C.'s newest Class A Provincial Park.

Their work also led to a 2013 recommendation that the area, about 130 kilometres east of Prince George, be named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The research indicates that these stands of ancient red cedars and surrounding biodiversity are "globally significant" and require the protection and status afforded other rich areas of scientific and cultural value deemed World Heritage Sites.

Premier Christy Clark, who visited Prince George in April to announce the new park status, indicated the Province of British Columbia will indeed work with the federal government to consider the area for a

UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination, a long-standing goal of local volunteers, scientists and champions of the Ancient Forest.

"UNESCO states that for a site to be considered for World Heritage status, the area must represent significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and

marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals," says Dr. Coxson. "We suggest that the outstanding cultural and biological values represented by this area meet these criteria."

In addition to the research efforts, many local partners banded together to support the provincial park designation: the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Society, local MLAs, and scores of volunteers who have created hundreds of metres of accessible boardwalk, and kilometres of planked trails in the forest.

"We suggest that the outstanding cultural and biological values represented by this area meet these criteria."

Mongomo's Monumental Season

Basketball standout makes Timberwolves history

Maria Mongomo was a relative unknown upon her arrival in Prince George from Las Palmas, Spain.

However, it didn't take long for the five-foot-nine guard to make a mark on her teammates, along with the rest of the Canada West conference, as the English Language Studies student immediately earned a place in the Timberwolves starting lineup.

Mongomo's play was never lost in translation, as she offered a complete presence at both ends for the Timberwolves, leading the team in scoring (17.5 points per game), rebounding (seven rebounds per game), assists (2.6 assists per game), and steals (2.5 steals per game), which also consistently ranked among the Canada West leaders.

An 18-point, nine-rebound performance in a win over the University of the Fraser Valley on January 15, UNBC's first in 11 CIS matchups with the Cascades, was Mongomo's final game of the season as she had to return to Spain for visa reasons, though she is returning to Prince George in May.

Her body of work spoke volumes, as she became the first Timberwolf in any sport to make both the Canada West and CIS All-Rookie Teams.

Mongomo capped her historic season by becoming the first UNBC student-athlete to be named Timberwolves Female Athlete of the Year and Female Rookie of the Year in the same season since UNBC's move to the CIS. She's quick to point to her teammates in sharing her success.

"Any athlete who is in a team knows the difficulties that can arise within a team," she said. "The truth is that on this team, I have found no difficulty adapting inside and outside the court. "And my teammates are lovely."



The Power of Pinball

Michael “Pinball” Clemons delivers powerful speech at Timberwolves Legacy Breakfast

Michael “Pinball” Clemons is an avid promoter of the power of positivity.

The Canadian Football League Hall of Famer and four-time Grey Cup champion was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual UNBC Timberwolves Legacy Breakfast.

The event raised more than \$50,000 in scholarship funds for UNBC student-athletes. The results of this donor support were felt almost immediately, as UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks declared the University would match up to \$16,000 of funds raised at the breakfast; he also announced the creation of the Matt Pearce Athletic Scholarships - \$1,000 awards to be provided to two Timberwolves student-athletes each season.

Pearce, a former CFL player and Prince George Sports Hall of Famer, passed away in January from heart-related issues. Clemons offered a tribute to his former opponent while addressing the Pearce family, who were present for the event.

“The final words were: a great dad, a great husband, a teacher, a mediator, a great citizen and a great friend,” Clemons said of Pearce. “If, at the end of our life, people can say the same thing about us, you can say you were a success.”

Clemons held the morning audience captive, delivering a compelling presentation themed *Winning Against the Odds*. He regaled the audience with stories from his playing career with the Toronto Argonauts, his childhood in

Dunedin, Fla., his post-secondary career at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, as well as his current role as vice-chair for the Argonauts.

He brought to his speaking role the kind of enthusiasm typical of Clemons during his playing days. And he encouraged everyone in attendance to take pride in where they came from, and to help make Prince George a standard in excellence.

“When you’re from Prince George, they know you’re the best, the highest quality,” he said. “If we all make that conscious decision to become the best, we are the best.”



Accounting for Success

Dividends of the program being seen in the North



Miranda Paterson and Matt Brown, partners at Dean Mason Company, are among the many accounting graduates who have stayed to work in the region and now look to UNBC for the next crop of accountants.

“If you hire people from the North, who are also educated in the North, they are more likely to stay in the North.”

UNBC accounting graduates who had the advantage of studying and training in the region are now paying it forward as they look to the new crop of alumni to crunch their numbers.

“I think there is a positive effect in general on the community, the economy and our ability to hire and retain,” says Cindy Thomson about UNBC’s Accounting program. She graduated in 1998 and became a partner five years ago at Deloitte, the same firm at which she trained during her undergraduate years.

Thomson and other partners in the area say that having to compete with larger firms in Vancouver or Calgary does make it challenging to retain employees, but they are seeing the dividends of the program right here in the region.

Thomson added that most of the people she knows in similar roles as hers who are from Prince George or the surrounding area, are like her, and have stayed because of their experience at UNBC.

“I’m proud to say that I was able to go to school in the area, stay in the area, and then have a successful business in the area,” adds Ryan Broughton, a 2007 graduate from Quesnel, who began with a regional firm that highly valued keeping people in the North.

He is now a partner with FBB Chartered Professional Accountants LLP and manages firms in Quesnel and Prince George.

“If you hire people from the North, who are also educated in the North, they are more likely to stay in the North,” explains Broughton who employs UNBC grads in Quesnel and Prince George.

Miranda Paterson of DMC Chartered Professional Accountants grew up in Prince George and joined the firm in 1999 as a UNBC co-op student. A partner since 2013, Paterson says the co-op program ensures students stay on board when they graduate.

It gives the students a chance to see what working at a public firm is like, and it gives us a chance to see what that student is made of in some respect,” she said. “We will look to UNBC to fill our positions here at the firm every time.”

Respect Your Elders

Visitors bring a calming atmosphere while imparting knowledge, tradition

The age-old saying “Listen to Your Elders” definitely holds true at UNBC.

Since October 2015, the First Nations Centre has welcomed one Elder per month to campus for a week-long stay, during which students, staff and faculty have an opportunity to meet and learn from them as they share their traditional knowledge and expertise.

The Elder in Residence program is a provincially funded Aboriginal Services Plan initiative that allows UNBC to invite Elders from a variety of communities and Nations that represent the student population from the surrounding regions.

Leonard Ward from the Stallat'en First Nation in Fraser Lake shared his knowledge in traditional counselling and methods of healing during his stay at UNBC.

“Students from those Nations see that their distinct culture is valued and all students, staff and faculty have the opportunity to learn more about the various cultures and protocols of Northern and Central B.C.,” said Bev Isaac, UNBC’s Manager of Aboriginal Student Engagement.

The Elders spend a week on UNBC’s Prince George campus, living in residence and interacting with students. During the day, they visit classrooms and other areas on campus on a formal and informal basis. The

Elders have also initiated or facilitated activities according to their area of knowledge.

“Students have found that when Elders visit UNBC, they bring a very calming atmosphere and a feeling of home for our students, who may be living away from family and their communities,” said Isaac.

The Elders in Residence program is not the only way the First Nations Centre enhances Aboriginal learning outcomes.

The inaugural Aboriginal Alumni Speaker Series (ASP), launched in January 2016, celebrates Aboriginal achievements while facilitating opportunities for relationship and knowledge

sharing between alumni, students and staff.

Also funded by the ASP, it features between eight and 10 Aboriginal alumni from across the region who’ve been invited to make public presentations at UNBC campuses.

So far, alumni Rena Zatorski, Christine Creyke, Andrew Robinson and Samantha Shorson have talked about how their experiences at UNBC helped shape them to succeed after they graduated. And there’s a growing pool of Aboriginal alumni from which to choose. To date, UNBC has awarded 659 bachelor degrees and 103 graduate degrees to Aboriginal students. There are currently 215 Aboriginal alumni with multiple credentials and 42 who hold both an undergraduate and graduate degree from the university.

The next speaker is slated for September 2016.



UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines



A decade later

The North Cariboo Community Campus in Quesnel, which is home to both UNBC and the College of New Caledonia, celebrated its 10th anniversary in January.

The campus has enabled students in the Quesnel region to further their post-secondary education closer to home. Since the building opened in January 2006, more than 350 credentials have been awarded by UNBC at its South Central campus, including certificates, and undergraduate and graduate degrees in areas such as social work, education and First Nation studies.



Community based health care

Prince George residents are benefiting from two new rehabilitation programs that train physiotherapy students while helping heart and lung patients increase their physical capacity.

The Prince George Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program provides referred patients with monitored rehabilitation exercise and education sessions, delivered by a certified clinical exercise physiologist, a physiotherapist, and physical therapy students at the YMCA.

The program is a partnership between the UBC Department of Physical Therapy's Northern and Rural Cohort (launched in 2012 by UBC and UNBC), Northern Health, and the YMCA of Northern BC.



A star in the making

UNBC Chemistry Professor Dr. Margot Mandy has been named a member of the International Astronomical Union. The IAU is the foremost international organization of professional astronomers and Mandy's nomination is in recognition of her internationally recognized theoretical research in astrochemistry.

Mandy's research focuses on the energy transfer during molecular collisions in outer space. Her research into the probability that molecules will dissociate, or fall apart, during a collision helps inform our understanding of the process of star formation.



Sedgwick setting the tone

Neil Sedgwick is UNBC's new women's soccer head coach, and he has wasted no time making an impact. With a plethora of prospects already committed, along with a strong synergy with men's Timberwolves head coach Steve Simonson, Sedgwick has already set a strong foundation for the women's soccer program going forward. He brings a wealth of coaching experience to the table, having been the head coach of the NCAA's University of Montana Grizzlies for seven years, with stops at the University of Southern California and the University of North Dakota along the way.

Editor-in-chief

UNBC Ecosystem and Science Management Professor Dr. Phil Burton has been named the Co-Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*.

Burton, who also serves as the Regional Chair for UNBC's Northwest Campus in Terrace, will oversee the assignment of manuscripts to an editorial board of 47 associate editors who invite anonymous reviewers and serve as subject matter specialists.

A volunteer position, Burton will share the editor role with Co-Editor Tim Fahey from Cornell University.

The *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* is one of the foremost forest science journals in the world and receives an average of 500 manuscript submissions every year, of which it publishes an average of 180 papers.



Lighting the way

People visiting UNBC's Prince George campus are seeing the light after the University upgraded its street lighting, parking lot lights and pathway lights and replaced them with energy-efficient LEDs.

The new lights are wirelessly connected to a control system where university facilities staff can dim individual lights based on demand for lighting.

"Specific benefits of this project include less energy consumption," said David Claus, assistant director of UNBC's facilities department. "This is a primary driver for the project. The savings are equal to the consumption of roughly 25 homes (253,000 kilowatt hours per year) and will reduce the University's energy bill by more than \$20,000 per year."

There is also a maintenance savings of more than \$3,000 per year since LEDs last up to 10 times longer than old street lighting.

Getting to the root of the matter

Various parts of the tropical moringa tree have been used to treat typhoid, and faecal coliforms in water. Known as the miracle tree, it gets its moniker from the many uses of all parts of the tree due to its antimicrobial qualities.

The medicinal value of the roots, as well as the tree's rapid growth, could make them a practical, sustainable and inexpensive water treatment method.

Now, UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management professor Dr. Chris Opio and his graduate student Chandehl Morgan are investigating if the powdered roots from the tree can kill bacteria in water, and if the treated water meets Canadian drinking water guidelines. It could lead to the development of a water treatment solution that could be used in at-risk communities, such as rural First Nations.

Roots from Moringa trees have been grown and harvested at UNBC's I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Lab where they're placed in two treatment categories: fresh and dry. The bark will be peeled off the roots, and the roots powdered.

Water that is contaminated with E.coli will be treated with the powder to determine whether Moringa has any effect on E.coli. Different concentrations of Moringa will be applied in different water samples to determine optimal Moringa concentration.

Opio and Morgan hope to have results by November 2016. If successful, their research could be good news for people living without access to clean water. It could be applied in First Nations communities in Northern B.C. and across Canada that do not have access to traditional water treatment, and where their remote location makes installing traditional systems difficult and expensive.

Class Notes

Keep us updated with your stories, they make UNBC proud.

We love to know what UNBC graduates have done, be it a career milestone, an interesting project, or an insightful tale about how you referred a student to UNBC. Our alumni make us who we are as a university.

unbc.ca/alumni/where-are-you-now

1999

Jason Fisher, BSc NRM Forestry, was recently appointed as Associate Deputy Minister, Forest Sector, within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Jason remains based in Prince George.



2000

Darren Ditto, BSc Computer Science, is the Regional Manager for Clinical Applications & Speciality Care with Northern Health in Prince George. Darren also volunteers as a mentor for MakerLab through the Two Rivers Gallery.

2001

Shane Schepens, BComm Accounting, opened his own firm, Schepens Tax & Accounting Inc. last year.

Bjorn Butow, BComm General Business, recently announced the opening of Crossroads Brewing with his business partner. The new craft brewery is set to open in downtown Prince George this fall.



2002

Bruce Simard, MSc Environmental Science, is the General Manager of Development Services for the Peace River Regional District.

2003

Lisa Nordin, BSc NRM, is happily living in B.C.'s beautiful Bella Coola valley. She is a Registered Professional Biologist and works as a Senior Ecosystems Biologist for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.



2004

Elli Bukovnik, BComm, is a Business Financial Advisor at CIBC in Invermere.

2005

Wesley Tetreau, BSc Computer Science, has been travelling the world. He recently settled as Senior Associate in software development for JP Morgan Chase in Glasgow, UK.

2006

Ryan Schroeder, MBA and BSc Computer Science 2002 is the Director, National Customer Managed Services at TELUS in Langley.

2007

Veronica Haddon, BA Anthropology & First Nations Studies is the Aboriginal Community Connections Coordinator at UNBC. She has been leading the co-ordination of the new Aboriginal Alumni Speaker Series on campus.



Nikola Tusek, BComm Accounting is a Partner of accounting firm Vohora LLP, based in Prince Rupert.

Allison Beswick, BComm Accounting, also recently became a new Partner with PwC in Prince George, focusing on private company services.

2008

Lesley Anderson, BSc Psychology, is the Continuing Studies Co-ordinator at UNBC. She is married to fellow alumnus, **Shawn Haines (BA Political Science 2006)**.

Adam Pottle, MA English and BA English 2006, had his debut play *Ultrasound* premiere at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto in May. Adam recently completed his PhD in English at the University of Saskatchewan. He will publish his third book, a novella, with Quattro Books this fall.

Employment

Are you looking for work?

Check out current job postings for UNBC students and alumni at unbc.ca/alumni/alumni-jobs

Do you have employment opportunities within your company?

Share them with UNBC students and alumni at unbc.ca/alumni/submit-job-posting

2009

Rey Singh, MSW, is the Founder and Clinical Director of London Middlesex Counselling & Addiction Services. Based in London, Ontario, Rey is also finishing a book that examines men's relationships.

2010

Raelynn Madu, BA English & History, was called to the Alberta Bar early this year and is an Associate Lawyer with Mann & Robinson in Peace River, AB.

Erin Carlson, MD (NMP) and BSc Biochem & Molecular Biology 2003 is now the only practicing family physician on Galiano Island at the Galiano Health Care Centre with a nurse practitioner.



Drew Adamick, BA Political Science, is a Banking Advisor at RBC Royal Bank in Port Moody.

Reza Akbari, BComm Marketing 2010, was recently awarded a Premier's People's Choice Awards by Small Business BC, as the proprietor of his restaurant Shiraz Café in Prince George.



2011

Christine Creyke, MA NRES Geography and BA Geography 2006, is the Lands Director for the Tahltan Central Government in Dease Lake. Christine works with Industry and Government to ensure sustainable economic development opportunities and to develop programs that ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources in Tahltan Territory.

6.5%

of UNBC graduates are Aboriginal

28%

of our Aboriginal Alumni have multiple credentials

Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit unbc.ca/alumni and tell us your story

Tullia Upton, MSc NRES Geography continues her PhD program at Oregon State University. She volunteers as the Director of Development for SeeSD.org (Science Education and Exchange for Sustainable Development), an NGO that seeks to bring hands-on STEM education to students in Senegal. Tullia was recently awarded her second Fulbright Canada RBR Eco Leaders grant for her research on the important role beavers play in providing ecosystem services.



Dustin Renaud, BComm, is the Human Resources Co-ordinator at Geotech Drilling Services

Tara Peters, MD (NMP) is resident physician for the University of Saskatchewan.

2012

Jennifer Mackie, MSc Community Health Science, is the Administrative Manager at the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health in Vancouver.

Libby Ehlers (née Williamson), MSc NRES Biology, is a Protected Species Biologist for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in San Diego, CA. She was recently elected to chair the Southwest Regional Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for the US National Marine Fisheries Service. Libby is married to fellow alumnus, Nick Ehlers.



2013

Nick Ehlers, MA NRES Geography 2013 teaches 11th grade biology and environmental science at High Tech High in Chula Vista, CA. Nick and Libby recently returned from a couple weeks on the central Californian coast studying the northward migration of grey whales. Their son, Bechler is one year old.

Ashley Murphey, BPL Natural Resources Planning, is the Surface Land Administrator for Synergy Land Services in Fort St. John.

Justin Foster, MA English and BA English & Political Science 2008, is the Director of Programs at the Prince George Activator Society, a non-profit community service provider. Justin oversees the development and coordination of a variety of programs including the GroundWork PG Education and Employment Program, a program designed to give back to the local community while providing stable employment opportunities for individuals who require assistance in overcoming employment barriers.

Heather Lamb, MSW 2013 was the recipient of the Bridget Moran Award from the Northern Branch of B.C. Association of Social Workers.

2014

Zishan Shah, MA INTS Regional Relations, is the Manager of Community Economic Development for Lheidli T'enneh in Prince George.

Harpuneet Ghuman, MSc NRES, is the Process Engineer and Quality Control Co-ordinator for Quesnel River Pulp Company.

2015

Danielle Dysserinch, BA Political Science, has moved from Haida Gwaii to Mackenzie to be the Executive Assistant / Legislative Clerk for the District of Mackenzie.

Guneet Bedi, BComm Accounting and Finance, is a staff accountant at Deloitte in Prince George.

Email

Did you know you have your very own UNBC alumni email address?

It's professional. It shows you have a UNBC degree. And it can be forwarded to other email addresses. unbc.ca/alumni/email-life

UNBC Alumni in Management

16%

Entry Level
Management

39%

Mid-Level
Management

9%

Senior Level
Management

5%

Chief Executive

UNBC's top contributions to future alumni success

- #1 Studying abroad
- #2 Working with faculty on a research project
- #3 Participating in a co-op program or internship
- #4 Working for pay on or off campus
- #5 Participating in a field school or other experiential learning course

Alumni in the 2016 Top 40 under 40

More than half of this year's Top 40 Under 40 Finalists selected by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce were UNBC graduates. Two-thirds of our alumni reside in Northern BC. Of those, half remain in, or return to Prince George to live and work. It is not surprising then that so many of the city's young innovators and leaders are proud UNBC alumni. This initiative was a partnership between the Chamber, the City of Prince George, UNBC, Hell Yeah Prince George, Telus and BDC.

Ray Noonan
BSc Biology 1998
& MBA 2006
Financial Consultant, Scotia
Private Client Group

Bjorn Butow
BComm General
Business 2001
IT Director, Clinical
Information Systems,
Northern Health

Rheanna Robinson
BA First Nations
Studies & History
2001 & MA First
Nations Studies 2008
Aboriginal Relations
Advisor, UNBC

Chantelle Wilson
BSc Psychology 2002 &
MSc Psychology 2007
Manager, Northern Health

Mike Davis
BSc Psychology 2003
Vice President, Regional
Initiatives, Independent
Contractors and Business
Association of BC

Julia McLachlan
BA English 2004
Northern Region Branch
Manager, CBI Home Health

Todd Jordan
BComm Accounting
2005 & BEd Elementary
Education 2007
Men's Basketball Head
Coach, UNBC

Christina Doll
BA English 2005
Communications and
Marketing Specialist,
Northern Health

Carolynne
Burkholder-James
BA Political
Science 2005
Lawyer, Heather Sadler
Jenkins LLP

Jeremy Stewart
BA English 2005
& MA with Distinction
English 2010
General Manager, PG
Symphony Orchestra &
Proprietor, Dreamland
School of the Arts

Kevin Pederson
BComm Accounting
& Finance 2007
Co-founder and President,
West Coast Canning

Jillian Merrick
BA Honours Economics
& International
Studies 2007
Elected Councillor, City of
Prince George

Christian Gonzalez
Becerra
BComm Finance
& International
Business 2008
Director, Education and
Training Department, Tsay
Keh Dene First Nation

Scott McWalter
BComm Marketing
2008 & MBA 2014
Marketing Communications
Executive, Brink Group

Kara Biles
BComm Marketing 2008
Manager of Talent
Acquisition & Workforce
Planning, Canfor

Bahar Mostofee Afshar
BA Economics &
Political Science 2010
Business Development
Officer, City of Prince
George

Reza Akbari
BComm Marketing 2010
Proprietor and General
Manager, Shiraz Café and
Restaurant

Eoin Foley
BComm General
Business 2012
Co-owner, Nancy O's

Jason Hamborg
BComm General
Business
& Human Resources
Management 2013
Co-owner, Sixsigma
Productions

Mike Jurkovic
BComm General
Business 2013
Business Analyst,
Community Futures Fraser
Fort George

Heather Lamb
MSW 2013
Information Resource
Specialist, Spinal Cord
Injury BC



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Your university is the best in its class and that is something to be proud of. UNBC's reputation is forged with its graduates. Stay connected with the many opportunities to grow and succeed with us.

- Develop your governance experience with boards and committees through the UNBC Alumni Association.
- Share your knowledge as an alumni speaker or mentor with students and faculty.
- Network and make connections as a regional alumni ambassador or at one of our alumni functions throughout the year.

