A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends - Spring 2009

Imagine a world with no ice

➤ UNBC participates in the first University courses ever offered in Antarctica.

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UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

New. resident Up Front



fter senior academic and administrative posts in Ontario and Nova Scotia, George Iwama is coming back to BC to be UNBC's fourth president. He starts his new job on July 1, and will be leaving Carleton University in Ottawa where he has been Dean of Science for the past two years. He held the same position - plus a year

as VP Academic - at Acadia University after spending 15 years as a professor at UBC. It was in Vancouver where he received his PhD in Zoology and launched an academic career that saw him publish more than 135 articles on fish and aquaculture.

Dr. Iwama is married to Marilyn and they have three sons in their twenties. Marilyn and George enjoy cross-country skiing and canoeing. He is also an avid fisherman and enjoys painting, photography, and playing the guitar.

He was selected after an exhaustive search that started with 106 candidates and included a series of "town hall meetings" at the University and elsewhere to identify the attributes that would be essential in a candidate. "We were looking for unquestioned integrity, the courage to do the right thing, a track record of getting things done in collaboration with others, and the capacity to listen and develop effective relationships," says Dawn Martin, Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors. "We found all of those things in George Iwama and we're confident that he will provide inspired leadership to UNBC."

Dr. Iwama replaces Charles Jago, who has served as Interim President since July, 2008.

A New Club

UNBC is a founding member of the new Research Universities Council of BC, which was established in late 2008 to provide a coordinated voice among the universities. The new Council supports the interests of BC's four, research-intensive universities (UBC, SFU, UVic, and UNBC) in public communication and the development of relevant public policy.

Grad 2009

A record number of graduates – estimated to be in the 900 range - will leave UNBC this year in multiple ceremonies that include three in Prince George alone. Yes, growth of UNBC, combined with the relatively tight confines of the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre, will mean that UNBC will host three convocation ceremonies on May 29 before hosting six more ceremonies in communities around northern BC throughout the early part of June. Joining the "real" grads will be three honorary degree recipients in 2009: forest insect expert John Borden, Wet'suwet'en elder Alfred Joseph (Gisdaywa), and medical philanthropist Donald Rix.

Throne Gazing

BC's Speech from the Throne earlier this spring contained exciting news for UNBC and the BC wood industry. The Government appears poised to make Prince George a major wood product and design centre, building on the bioenergy program (see the story on page 6 of this issue of Update) and an emerging interest in engineering. The new Wood Innovation and Design Centre will promote new expertise in advanced building systems, engineered wood products, interior wood design and applications, and other value-added products.

Nationals

ne year after UNBC captured gold in the Provincial Women's Championship, the UNBC Men's Basketball team put on a show of their own at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre in March.

The Timberwolves didn't win, but the large and boisterous crowds cheering them on knew they were experiencing the finest hour in the men's basketball program to

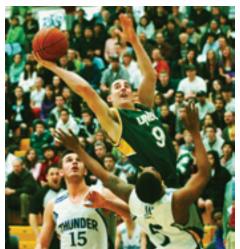
"I thought the tournament was fantastic," said National Convener for Canadian Colleges Athletic Association Men's Basketball Jeff Harris. "The organization was top-notch, and the support and community involvement were excellent.'

The host Northern Timberwolves immediately proved a force, coming within two points of knocking off the highest ranked team in Canada in one of the most exciting games of the tournament. The T-Wolves parlayed that energy into a spot in the bronze medal matchup with Algonquin College of Ottawa and finished a respectable fourth place.

Two of the Wolves' games sold out to crowds in excess of 2,100 cheering fans with an additional four hundred-plus viewing at home via streaming video on the Nationals website. The site has registered nearly 18 thousand hits since going online at the end of February.

"UNBC Athletics would like to thank all of the tournament sponsors, volunteers, and spectators for being a part of such a great event showcasing UNBC and Prince George," said UNBC Athletic Director, Len McNamara.







The success of the tournament and both the men's and the women's team (who finished second this year after winning the provincial title last year) has UNBC Athletics on a roll as it awaits a decision on their application for entry into Canada West and Canadian Interuniversity Sport



On the Cover

>Penguin Landslide!

It looks as if the students could be buried by an avalanche of penguins. These Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management students were taking part in the first university courses offered in Antarctica. There they studied the wildlife and geography of the region and the ways climate change is affecting the frozen continent. Read more about the trip on page 3.



All Antarctica Photos: Patrick Maher

Spring 2009 UPDATE 2 www.unbc.ca/athletics

Antarctic Power

> "Awesome... Stunning... Amazing," says Nature Based Tourism Management student Tasha Peterson. "You have to use powerful words when you are talking about Antarctica."



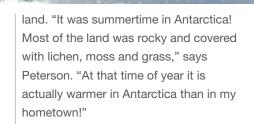
eterson was one of four UNBC students who, along with their instructor, UNBC Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management professor Patrick Maher, was part of the Students on Ice Expedition to Antarctica, the first university undergraduate courses ever on the continent.

The focus of the expedition was to expose students to the geography and biology of Antarctica, with an emphasis on the ways global warming is affecting the continent. UNBC was one of only three Canadian universities participating. In total, there were 71 students from Canada and several other countries taking part. They were taught by some of the world's leading polar scientists.

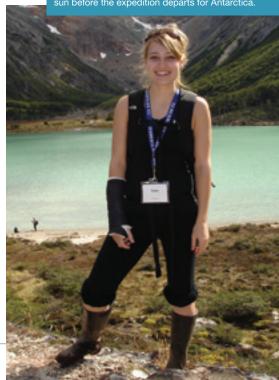
The group departed from Argentina aboard a former polar research vessel and crossed the Drake Passage. "It took two and a half days and the seas were so rough – few of us had ever experienced anything like it," says Peterson. "I spent most of the time lying on my bed."

The students took trips to the Antarctic mainland to gain experience of the landscape and wildlife of the area. They visited key historic and scientific sites, including that of Shackleton's famous Endurance Expedition, Deception Island's volcanic crater, and international scientific

Peterson, who is from Whitehorse, said she was struck by the lack of ice on the



The expedition encountered thousands of chinstrap penguins, birds, whales, porpoises, and other wildlife, including seal. "The lasting impression for me was the first time we went ashore on Paulet Island," says Peterson. "The land was covered by hundreds and hundreds of



seals. Our guides told us that, just days earlier, the area would have instead been inundated with thousands of penguins."

The beauty of Antarctica didn't distract Maher from impressing upon the students the effects of climate change. "Imagine a world without ice," says Maher. "It's rather difficult when you are standing next to an immense glacier, but every day more and more disappears. Sections the size of Vancouver Island literally snap off."

Norwegian whalers in the aptly named Whaler's Bay on Deception Island.

It was during a discussion on global warming that a dramatic example of its effects occurred. A huge section of ice calved off from a glacier and landed in the ocean. "Suddenly there was a sound like thunder," says Peterson. "It's one thing to talk about the environment in a classroom, but when you see and feel that... it really stays with you."

Maher hopes to have UNBC participate again in the next Students on Ice University Expedition in February 2011.





UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni News 2 **Events** C

Save the Date

You are invited to the 3rd Annual Alumni Homecoming

September 25 & 26, 2009

This year's homecoming will showcase the accomplishments of UNBC alumni, exciting new projects and initiatives at UNBC, as well as the 15th anniversary of the Prince George campus. Events will include a wine tasting and alumni awards celebration, the Homecoming Golf Tournament, alumni basketball games, and much more.

Newly Elected Alumni Senators

Congratulations to our recently elected alumni senators:

Shelley Mckenzie (BComm 2002 & MBA 2006)

Carmen O'Callaghan (BComm 2000, Minor Human Geography)

Rheanna Robinson (BA History/FNST 2001 & MA FNST 2008)

Adele Yakemchuk (BComm 2001)

Get Involved!

The Alumni Association Needs You

Become an Alumni Ambassador or start an Alumni group: represent UNBC alumni in your community or interest group

Join the Board of Directors or one of their committees: develop alumni benefits and programming.

Volunteer: help out with alumni activities & events!

For more information contact us by phone at 250-960-5873, toll free at 1-866-937-8622, by email at alumni@unbc.ca or online at www.unbc.ca/alumni



or a limited time only! The UNBC Alumni Association and Bookstore have come togethe Order forms available at http://www.unbc.ca/alumni/alumni_hoodies.html. Order Deadline is September 30, 2009

NBC Alumni

Aaron Benterud (BSc Forestry '99) is a Stewardship Forester for the Ministry of Forests and Range in Terrace, BC. He is managing the District's Mountain Pine Beetle program.

Marin Waddell (BSc Environmental Planning '02) is a Planning Consultant with the Government of Saskatchewan She works with rural municipalities and small urban centres, guiding them through the development process, including subdivisions and zoning bylaw amendments.

Maki Umeda (MA First Nations Studies '06) is a Community Health Specialist for AMDA MINDS in Tokyo, Japan.

Stephen Birchall (BA Environmental Studies '03) is an instructor at Ryerson University in Toronto, ON. He is teaching courses on climate change and critical thinking.

Nancy Kinney (BA Political Science '97) is the founder and president of Advice Scene, an online forum where a group of Victoria lawyers moderate questions in their area of expertise.

Cherie Cieslar (BSc Biology '99) is a Medical Technologist and recently took a position at a hospital in Bermuda.

Rachel Hewer (BSW Child Welfare '03) is a Child Protection Worker at the Ministry of Children and Family Development in Prince Rupert, BC.

Christina Wilsdon (BSc NRM Wildlife & Fisheries '04) is an Environmental Scientist for an Aboriginal-owned branch of Golder Associates in Inuvik. NWT.

Ryan Matheson (BA Resource-Based Tourism '99) is the Director of Strategic Partnerships for International Conference Services (ICS) in Vancouver, BC.

Allan Stroet (BComm Marketing '05) is the Director of Business Enhancement for the Innovation Resource Centre in Prince George, BC. He works to expand the technology sector in north central British Columbia.

Laurie Cordell (BSc Environmental Planing '98) is a Sustainability Facilitator for the Fraser Basin Council in Cranbrook. BC.

ber detic

NBC trademarked the phrase Canada's Green University because it has a unique opportunity in northern BC to be at the forefront of economic and environmental sustainability.

Renewable energy is one example, and both the federal and provincial governments have provided more than \$15 million in funding to make UNBC's Prince George campus a showpiece of it. The first phase is a partnership with the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (and the pellet producers in central BC) to install a bioenergy plant this summer at the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory. Phase two will involve all of the core campus buildings, which will be heated with a system that turns biomass (mostly wood residues) into a synthetic gas that will be burned. This will provide the hot water that is piped to the main campus buildings through a utility corridor.

The end result is that UNBC's campus operations will approach carbon neutrality. This alone could make UNBC unique among Canadian universities. More importantly, the campus itself will become a teaching and research platform for investigating various renewable energy technologies, their application in communities, and the ability of the environment to sustain them.

The bioenergy funding was part of a \$51 million Knowledge Infrastructure Program announcement that included support for a new trades building at the College of New Caledonia, an expansion of the CNC/UNBC campus in Quesnel, and an upgrade to the UNBC campus heating and cooling distribution system. It was the largest single funding announcement for postsecondary infrastructure in northern BC since the UNBC campus was announced nearly 20 years ago.



The North Foundation

Industry and Communities Help to Shape an Idea for Economic Development



It was a message

welcomed by the

Gateway Project,

Enbridge Northern

Rio Tinto Alcan, and

n January, close to 600 people from around the province gathered in Prince George at the Government's northern economic summit. Originally described

as the "new north summit," discussion among the delegates often turned to what's new about the north today. Suggestions involved new energy technologies and transportation

infrastructure that

includes the Port of Prince Rupert and the expanded Prince George airport, but a common theme involved the growing capacity of the region to address its own issues through research and education.

others.

This was highlighted by many speakers – including the Premier himself – but it was

a presentation by UNBC Interim President Charles Jago that included a practical idea for how to mobilize research in the direct service of northern communities and

their economies.
Called the New
North Foundation,
it would serve as a
portal connecting
northern
communities
and industry
to researchers.
Major research
themes would
involve policy

and governance, land management, and economic diversification. Research would occur at UNBC, other research-intensive universities, and research agencies – all of it focused on regional needs

This capacity for northern research about northern issues, said Dr. Jago in



his Summit presentation, is a big part of what's new in the North today. "A few decades ago, the only practical thing to do was to treat this region as a source of resource wealth and focus R&D investments elsewhere. In a new north, we'll move further along the road to building a knowledge-based, resource economy that is connected to the world, competitive, innovative, and led by educated northerners."

It was a message welcomed by the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, Rio Tinto Alcan, and others. The companies have been the first to help take the idea of the New North Foundation and make it a more detailed proposal. Together with other partners, their financial support will enable a consultation with northern communities and industry, evaluation of similar models around the world, and a workshop. This activity will occur over the next several months.

UNBC Donations

Office of University Advancement

UNBC, 3333 University Way Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Phone: (250) 960-5750
Toll-free: 1-866-960-5750
Email: advancement@unbc.ca

We are located in room 1065 on the main floor of the Administration building.

Prominent Gift to UNBC Northern BC Archives

Roseanne Moran, daughter of noted social worker and writer Bridget Moran, has donated her mother's lifetime work to UNBC. The Bridget Moran Archival fonds has been designated by the Department of Canadian Heritage as archival work of outstanding regional, provincial and national significance. The records document social, political, economic, and cultural events of significance to BC in the latter half of the 20th century.

The textual records, photographs, and video and audio recordings fill 12 bankers' boxes. It is of particular interest to researchers in First Nations Studies, Social Work, History, and English.

As well as being a tireless activist for social welfare reform, Bridget was a prolific writer of five books and more than 70 articles. Her book with Sai'k'uz Elder Mary John, entitled Sai'k'uz Ts'eke: Stoney Creek Woman: The Story of Mary John was the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing in 1989. Bridget was the recipient of an honorary degree from UNBC in 1995. An event to acknowledge the donation will be held later this year.

Giving to UNBC

Supporting UNBC can be as simple as going online.
Visit the website at www.unbc.ca/giving

Ewert Lecture and Dinner

More than 550 guests were in attendance for the fifth annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture and Dinner on April 4th. Guest lecturer, Gwynne Dyer, delivered a thought-provoking presentation to the audience about the the geopolitical implications of climate change. The lecture raised more than \$10,000 in support of the Northern Medical Programs Trust.

Donor Appreciation Evening

The 2009 Donor Appreciation Evening for Williston and Lifetime donors will be held on October 2nd in the UNBC Bentley Centre. In 2008/09, UNBC received \$1.5 million in gifts from generous donors.

Spectra Energy Transmission Bursaries for Aboriginal Students

Spectra Energy Transmission has established eight, \$2,500 bursaries to support full-time undergraduate Aboriginal students who are residents of the Northern Rockies Regional District, Peace River Regional District, Regional District of Fraser Fort-George, or the Cariboo Regional District. The recipients of these awards will be enrolled in Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Natural Resources Management, Commerce, or Nursing.



UNBC Recipient of Iona Campagnolo Records

The Northern BC Archives at UNBC is the recipient of the archival records of The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, P.C., O.C., O.B.C., former Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and UNBC's Founding Chancellor (1992-1998). The archival records encompass 11 bankers' boxes of textual and photographic materials documenting Campagnolo's personal and career-related activities from the 1950s onward. Of particular note, the records document Campagnolo's early broadcasting career and early political activism in Prince Rupert, her involvement with non-governmental organizations, as well as personal writings, 1000 speeches, and certificates related to her career in public service.

KJM Sales Ltd Bursary

Family-owned industrial sales and steel fabricating company, KJM Sales of Prince George, has established a \$2,000 bursary, available to a full time undergraduate student.

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People in the News

Fighting Sleep Disorder



A UNBC Nursing student has worked to provide researchers with valuable field data about rates of sleep disorder in aboriginal communities. The results confirm that sleep related disorders are more common among indigenous than non-aboriginal populations. Mary-Ann Speirs, a

third year student of the Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program in Terrace, went door-to-door in her hometown of Gitsegukla and elsewhere surveying residents as part of a recently published study in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine.

Arts Just as Big in Small Cities

A study to be released this year by UNBC Chancellor and quality of life researcher Alex Michalos is casting doubt on the commonly held notion that residents of large urban centres care more for the arts than people in smaller communities. "On the contrary," says Dr. Michalos "Small



communities love their arts every bit as passionately."

Major Funding for First Nations Research



The Government of Canada is providing \$11 million over ten years for research that documents the effects of contaminants on food and water in First Nations communities. The First Nations Food, Nutrition, and Environment Study is a new initiative under the leadership of Dr.

Laurie Chan, who holds the BC Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Environmental Health.



UNBC Prof Wins First Prize for Non-Fiction

UNBC professor Sarah de Leeuw won first prize at this year's CBC Literary Awards for her work "Columbus Burning." The essay concerns last year's fire at the Columbus Hotel in Prince George, and how it affected the lives of the people who lived

Dr. de Leeuw, a graduate of UNBC in Interdisciplinary Studies, says for her, the fire represents the extent to which poor people are often pushed to the extremities of society.

"The burning of the Columbus made me think about the lives of those who occupy single-occupancy dwellings," added de Leeuw. "I think it should give Canadians pause to consider how far some of their fellow citizens are moved off to the side and, often, dying due to sub-standard living conditions."

President Poff



UNBC's founding Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Deborah Poff, will be the 16th President and Vice-Chancellor of Brandon University. Dr. Poff also served for 10 years as **UNBC Vice-President Academic** and Provost. Her five-year term will become effective on August 1, 2009.

Rising Superstar



UNBC Commerce student Uneza Wagar won the Rising Star Award at this year's Northern BC Today's Woman Awards. The fourth year Finance student was cited for her efforts as a volunteer for five years at Prince George Regional Hospital, as well as her voluntary efforts with the

Canadian Cancer Society and the PG Brain Injured Group.

Innovative Professor

UNBC Physics professor Matt Reid won the John Humphreys Memorial Forest Innovator Award at the Northern BC Business and Technology Awards for his research into the application of terahertz technology in the forest industry. He also received the Collaborative Research Award.



New Board Chair



Dawn Martin, a tireless advocate for education in northern BC, is the new Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors. Ms. Martin has been a member of the Board since 2006 but her career in education started nearly 30 years ago. Since 1980, she taught at various schools in School Districts

#82 and #88 and held positions ranging from teacher-librarian to Principal.

Five Days for the Homeless

UNBC students Derek O'Neill, Farouk Ramji, Owen Law, Brandon Grant, and Leanne Peek slept outside for one week as participants in "5 Days for the Homeless" a campaign in which university students live on their campus to raise money and awareness about the plight of the



homeless. Their final tally was more than \$5,000.

Japanese Exchange Students



Since 1847, Gakushuin Women's College has educated the children of nobility in Japan and, over the past three years, sent more than 200 of them to UNBC's English Language Studies Program. Director of Regional Operations Dennis Macknak and College President Kazuko Nagai,

recently agreed upon a five year extension to the current agreement between UNBC and the College in Tokyo, Japan.

www.unbc.ca/releases

Distinguished Service

The Canadian Association of Social Workers presented the Distinguished Service Award for 2009 to UNBC Social Work professor Dawn Hemingway. The award, presented by BCASW President Phyllis Nash, is given in recognition of excellence over an exemplary career in Social Work.



For more stories, check out Bulletin, UNBC's bi-weekly internal newsletter: www.unbc.ca/bulletin

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FinalWord

and the Recession

Comment: Professor Paul Bowles

s a professor of the "dismal science," I am often asked, "How long will the recession last?" The answer is simple: nobody knows. But there is no shortage of opinions out there. The three most prominent have become popularly known as LUV.

The V is the opinion that the recession will be sharp but short lived and the recovery will be swift. This is what Stephen Harper is hoping for. The path of Gross Domestic Production (GDP) will look like a V.

However, there are others of the U persuasion. Among them, former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge who questioned

whether the V prediction is too optimistic. He foresees the recession being longer and the GDP path resembling more of a U.

Which brings us to L.

This is an opinion advanced by economists such as Nouriel Roubini of New York University, one of the few who predicted the collapse early last year. He isn't hopeful about the immediate future.

Roubini thinks the global downturn could be as long-lasting as that experienced by Japan when its financial system crashed in the 1990s. Look at Japan's stock market levels over the past twenty years. In 1989, the Nikkei index stood at 38,900 points. Today it stands at 8500. That is a frightening L.

Whether the future holds an L, U or V, the globalization of the last two decades is over. The global economic crisis has two important implications concerning the world-wide governance of finance. The first implication is that an "anything goes" approach to financial markets is no longer credible. Globalization relied in large part on the willingness of governments to support free movement of capital and unhindered operation of international banks and financial institutions. Governments around the world are now concentrating on regulating and monitoring financial flows and institutions. Bankers, hedge fund managers, and

currency traders, once seen as kings of global finance, are now increasingly berated as irresponsible and greedy. The second

implication is that a major overhaul of the international monetary

system is needed. The necessity for international liquidity in the face of the crisis is clear but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will have difficulty providing it. The major creditor countries are now those in East Asia and oil producing nations.

The management of the international monetary system will not be effective without the cooperation of countries beyond that of traditional western nations. The G-20, which includes

emerging economic powers such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa, is becoming the key international coordinating group. The governance of the global economy will no longer be left in the hands of the established western powers.

An ancient Chinese curse translates as "May you live in interesting times."

For students of the dismal science, these are interesting times.

Paul Bowles

Whether the future

holds an L, U or V,

the globalization

decades is over.

of the last two

Dr. Paul Bowles is Professor of Economics at UNBC. He specializes in globalization, regionalism, and East Asian development. He is leading a major new research program exploring the effects of globalization on northern communities.

