

# UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends  
– Spring 2014

## A Milestone Moment

UNBC prepares to celebrate its 25th Anniversary

Titi and Theo Kunkel tell their story of arriving in the Cariboo, their time at UNBC, and being part of the University's 25th Anniversary

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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UNBC  
**25**

2015



# The Inside Scoop

President's message



I arrived at UNBC in 2008 to be the University's Provost and, coming from the University of Alberta, I was struck by the personal engagement of all employees in the success of the University, and the strong connection between the University and the region's communities. Together these two linkages make UNBC an exceptional university that aims to be relevant and responsive in everything it does.

When George Iwama completed his presidency, the Board of Governors asked me to serve on an interim basis. I am pleased to do so and to work with an experienced team to advance the initiatives underway. These include laying the foundations for a renewed academic plan and pursuing opportunities for expanding our offerings in key areas. A critical part of my job as Interim President is to prepare for the arrival of a new President and ensure that he or she can be successful. Success for UNBC includes providing the necessary capacity, through both teaching and research, to northern communities and fostering an educational environment where students can become successful and engaged citizens. This is always critical, but it feels especially important now, as the region considers economic and resource development on a massive scale.

Starting this fall, UNBC will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The events will culminate in June 2015, which marks 25 years since the Government of BC passed the UNBC Act. Every anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the past and to look toward the future. This issue of Update includes some stories that will show how we intend to build on our potential and on our past successes.

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# UNBC 25



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The legendary petition that gave birth to UNBC was created through the commitment and passion of 16,000 citizens. Twenty-five years later, stories of impact are told through the next generation, by UNBC grads like Tyler (BComm 2005) and Allison Bowman (BComm 2001). Be a part of UNBC's future by making a gift to the Area of Greatest Need (unrestricted giving) providing funds to expand experiential learning for today's students – tomorrow's alumni.



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# Planning for a Milestone

*UNBC people come together to shape the 25th Anniversary*

[unbc.ca/25](http://unbc.ca/25)

UNBC  
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Universities can change people's lives: the history of UNBC is full of stories of people who met a spouse, pursued a career, and discovered themselves. Beyond the stories of individuals, however, universities can change whole families.

Ten years ago, Titi and Tom Kunkel decided to leave their home near London, England, with their two children and came to British Columbia to start a new life. They arrived in Vancouver, bought a car, and started travelling to Smithers (they knew people there and felt drawn to a rural lifestyle). On the way, they drove through the Cariboo and fell in love with the area.

"As we were driving into Quesnel, we saw a sign on the highway pointing the way to UNBC's Quesnel campus," recalls Titi. "I was eager to go back to school, so we decided to stay and I was enrolled at UNBC two weeks later."

“Our family has grown up around UNBC and the opportunities it has provided us.”

UNBC throughout northern BC, and her daughter, Theo, has just completed her first year of studies at UNBC's Prince George campus. "Our family has grown up around UNBC and the opportunities it has provided us." And UNBC has grown around them.

Their experiences make Titi and Theo perfect members of UNBC's 25th anniversary steering committee, a group of faculty, staff, students, and alumni who are providing shape to the University's anniversary year. Starting in fall 2014, a series of events and activities will be held to mark UNBC's first generation, all culminating with a finale on June 22, 2015, the 25th anniversary of the passage of the provincial legislation that created UNBC.

"I came to UNBC because of the sense of community here and other people on the steering committee have been very welcoming to me and my ideas while giving me a good sense about the UNBC history," says Theo, who is younger than UNBC. "The anniversary will give students plenty of opportunities to meet alumni and network, and strengthen opportunities to become involved in the community."

Titi has since earned a UNBC master's degree and is now completing a doctoral degree on renewable energy and First Nations economic development. She teaches regularly for

The 25th Anniversary Committee members have a deep knowledge of UNBC. Back, left, are Erik Jensen and Rob van Adrichem. Middle, Katherine Scouten, Tracy Summerville, and Troy Hanschen. Front, Theo and Titi Kunkel. Missing are Caroline Sewell and Tina Gillanders.



# Campus Connections

The story behind UNBC's axes and visual identity for the 25th Anniversary

If you were to speak to a long-term employee or faculty member at UNBC and ask about the axes, you might get a knowing look and hear the story. But if you were to ask an incoming student, new staff member, or even a member of the community, you might just get a "what's that?" response.

This was the challenge UNBC's graphic designer, Erica Hargreaves, faced when developing a visual identity for UNBC's 25th Anniversary, which is featured throughout this edition. "When I first heard

about the axes, I thought it was an important story, one everyone should know," she says. "That's what the campus was founded on and built around."

If you don't know the story, the Prince George campus was designed around three axes intended to provide spatial order to the buildings and define their relationships to each other and to the landscape. The axes are represented by the dark grey bricks that intersect at the centre of the Agora Courtyard. The **entrance** axis is the

one visitors to the campus first follow when they drive to campus. It points to the North and to the University's academic heart (the library).

The **growth** axis roughly follows the Cranbook Hill escarpment and has been the axis upon which much of UNBC's physical growth has occurred. The view, or "**community**" axis ensures a visual connection between the University and Prince George.

The story was born when Paul Zanette was working for Earl

Flansburgh and Associates in Boston, the firm that designed the original master plan for UNBC. Zanette took his knowledge of Prince George and its landscape to create the special arrangement that has come to define the campus.

While he passed away in 2010, Zanette is fondly remembered by those who worked with him.

"Paul was very much a perfectionist who had incredible insight into what he felt the university wanted," explains Godfrey Medhurst, UNBC's first



**Growth**

**Entrance**

**Community**



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# UNBC 25

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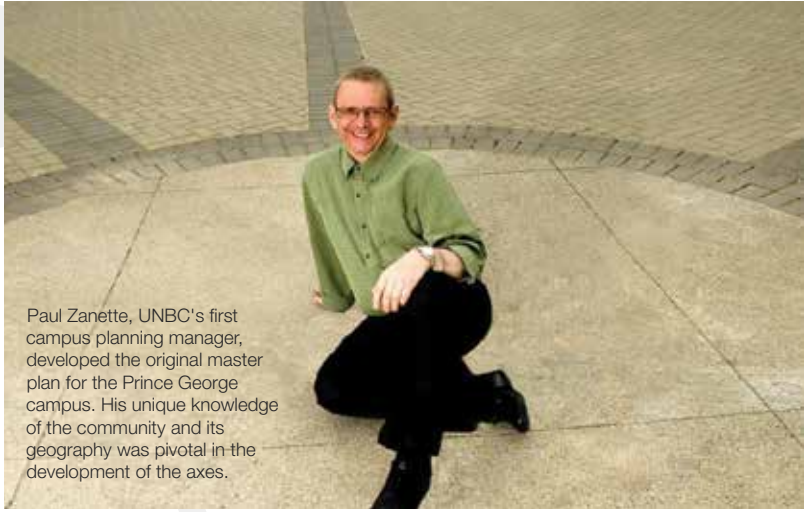
**“The whole idea was to have a continuation of opening and closing spaces that created all these chance meeting places. It was important that everything adhere to those axes.”**

facilities director and one of the original 16,000 petition signers.

“The whole idea was to have a continuation of opening and closing spaces that created all these chance meeting places. It was important that everything adhere to those axes.”

Godfrey still has a key drawing from that master plan – a three-foot by two-foot printout - hanging in his garage.

“Every time I park my car, I walk by it and I marvel at the fact we managed to build it the way everybody envisioned it,” he says. “It’s a proud thing to be part of building this legacy for the young people of Prince George and the North.”



Paul Zanette, UNBC's first campus planning manager, developed the original master plan for the Prince George campus. His unique knowledge of the community and its geography was pivotal in the development of the axes.



# UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines



## Athletics Nets \$75,000 Donation from Integris

A \$75,000 pledge over three years from Integris Credit Union will help UNBC support its student athletes in their academic and sporting endeavours. The funding is the largest single corporate donation to the Timberwolves ever, and provides a recruiting and retention incentive for athletics to bring high-calibre athletes to the T-wolves.

Four Integris-named awards valued at \$2,000 each will be created for student athletes, totaling \$8,000 in student awards each year for three years. Funding will be dedicated to Exhibition meal money for the Timberwolves, as well as being allocated towards additional, unnamed awards for student athlete tuition.



## Researcher Named to Nature Initiative

Dr. Pamela Wright is joining a national initiative designed to bolster nature conservation efforts. She was named to Nature Canada's Women for Nature initiative, which includes the creation of a network of influential women across Canada whose experiences with, knowledge of, and passion for nature will help efforts to save and protect wildlife and nature while inspiring future leaders.



## UNBC Retains High Rankings

UNBC remained among the top-three ranked small universities in Canada for the sixth straight year according to Maclean's Magazine's annual Canadian universities rankings.

The University also earned praise from the Globe and Mail newspaper in its annual Canadian University Report, including high marks for "environmental commitment," which earned UNBC one of only five A grades in all of Canada.



## Professor Shares National Honour

UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management Professor Mark Shrimpton has been honoured by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for his efforts to improve the viability of farmed salmon in BC, and collaboration with industry. He shared the 2013 Synergy Award for Innovation for his work with BC fish farm Yellow Island Aquaculture (YIAL) on Quadra Island, and researchers from four universities across Canada. The 27-year collaboration resulted in improved rearing techniques and genetic breeding stock.



## New Scholarship on Track

UNBC and the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club, the largest ski club in Western Canada, created an innovative fundraising appeal that will generate full-tuition awards for Nordic athletes who study at UNBC in Prince George. The goal is to raise \$150,000 by February 2015, which will allow the club to highlight the scholarship at the 2015 Canada Winter Games and provide the first full-tuition scholarship in September 2015.





### Partnership Results in Unique Forestry Course

Thanks to an innovative new course, forestry students at the University of Northern British Columbia are learning industry standards and practices directly from working foresters in northern BC. The course, Forest Operations and Management, is a partnership between UNBC and Canfor, and provides students with an understanding of supply chain flow, planning, field operations and permitting, and operations including logging, hauling, road building, manufacturing, and marketing.

**You Tube** Visit [youtube.com/unbcnews](http://youtube.com/unbcnews) to watch the video: **UNBC and Canfor partner in unique forestry course**



### Canada Research Chairs Appointed

A scientist investigating the effects of climate change on glaciers and an expert on Aboriginal governance and law in the Arctic were named Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRCs), strengthening research capacity at UNBC. The awards, granted to associate professors Brian Menounos (Geography) and Natalia Loukacheva (Political Science), are valued at \$500,000 each and last for five years.

Dr. Menounos, CRC of Glacier Change, studies the past, present, and future response of glaciers to climate change in Western Canada and southernmost South America.

Dr. Loukacheva, CRC of Aboriginal Governance and Law, is examining Aboriginal governance and legal-political issues in the Arctic. She looks at different forms and aspects of Aboriginal governance in Northern Canada and other parts of the Circumpolar North, while investigating the scope of self/public governance, Aboriginal peoples' rights, and related legal and political developments in the Arctic that are key to Aboriginal communities.

This brings to 11 the number of CRCs at UNBC.



### Ground Control to Northern BC

The 10th Annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Dinner was a celebration of all that has been accomplished in the first decade of the Northern Medical Program, and a call to action for the next.

A visit from Colonel Chris Hadfield saw Canada's most famous astronaut enlighten and inspire the more than 1,000 people in attendance. While his talk orbited several topics, including his experiences, the history of Canadian innovation in space, and the evidence of our planet's fragility when viewed from above, his overarching message of pursuing your goals resonated with the audience and was a fitting complement to the Northern Medical Programs Trust's mission.

As a fundraiser, the Ewert lecture supports students in medical programs at UNBC through the Trust. This year's event launched fundraising for the NMPT to a new level through sponsorship, ticket sales, and new initiatives. For example, in fewer than three minutes, 10 personally signed copies of Colonel Hadfield's book raised almost \$20,000.

The Trust, incorporated in 2002, has raised more than \$7.5 million to date. The first student grants were provided in 2006; almost 370 student awards with a total value of close to \$622,000 have been provided to medical students and family nurse practitioner students.

Hadfield's visit to Prince George was inspiring for the community as well. He signed autographs at The Exploration Place that morning, and later spent time with a number of school children from around the district.

Next year's lecture takes place on April 11, 2015 and promises to build on the momentum created this year for the next decade.



# Funding **the Future**

*You might not have thought of these approaches to giving, yet the results can last forever*

## **Matching Program Bringing Benefits to Future Students**

Through the UNBC Matching Student Awards Investment Program, the generosity of individuals, corporations, and associations has resulted in an additional \$350,000 investment into endowed student awards. Under current policy, this means each year an additional \$12,000 can be provided in student awards.

For as little as \$5,000 per year over the next three years, a named award that will help a student forever will be created. All gifts of \$1,000 or more to existing endowed funds are also matched.

"There is no greater investment in the future than education, and student awards open doors for hundreds of students every year," says Katherine Scouten, UNBC Development Manager. "Investments to programs such as this one will help many more UNBC students pursue their dreams of a university education."

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

## **Former Northerners Shape Their Legacy**

Tim Laspa and Shane Schepens have never met. One is a UNBC grad, the other isn't. One lives in Vancouver; the other in Toronto.

Tim spent the first seven years of his life in Prince George. His childhood took him from a comfortable upbringing in a middle-class family, to a family struggling to start over thousands of miles from his hometown with his single-parent mother. When Tim, the Director of Transportation Planning for the City of Toronto, returned to Prince George 40 years later, he was experiencing another big change in his life. Within a few years, his wife would pass away from a brain tumour and he made the decision to create a meaningful legacy.

"As a youngster, I was fascinated by the First Nation traditions I experienced in the Prince George area," says Tim. "It was a comforting place to come back to and is where I feel I can pay tribute to my upbringing in a most meaningful way."

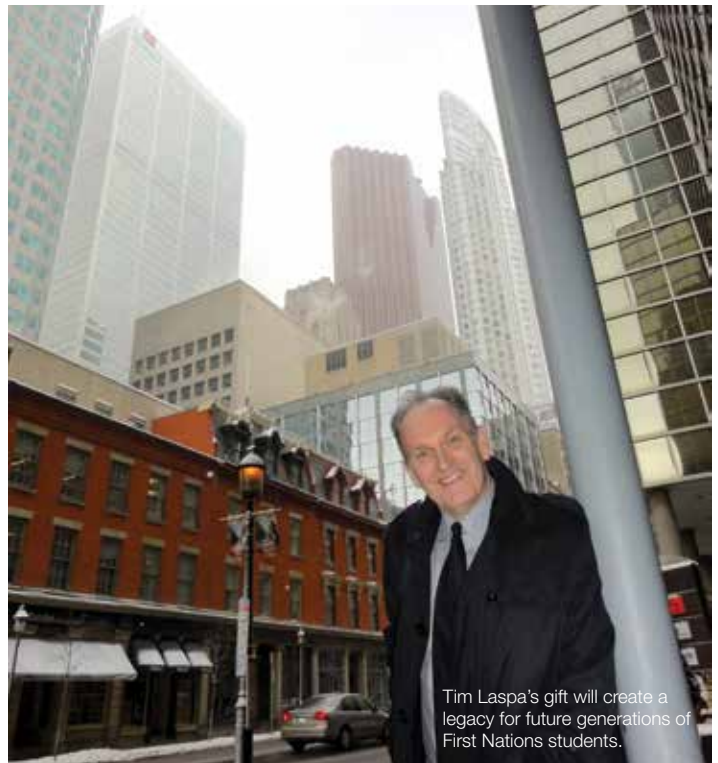
Tim has made a provision in his will for the "On My Path" Bursary, which will support First Nations students making the transition to university. The award will be endowed, meaning it will be provided forever.

"Planning for your death is something that might make people uncomfortable but it has given me great peace of mind to know that I will be able to give back to the people and city that is so fundamentally a part of who I am today," adds Tim.

Supporting future students is also a favourite cause for Shane Schepens. Shane, a UNBC grad (Bachelor of Commerce, 2001), works as a chartered accountant on the Lower Mainland. He was born and raised in Prince George, went to UNBC, and had "a great experience." Shane and his wife, Carrie, also a UNBC grad, have been donors since he graduated.

Over the past few years, they have experienced the loss of young people in their family. This led to a decision to support UNBC through a life insurance policy that will support scholarships and bursaries for students. They know costs are rising and Shane wants students to have the chance to achieve what UNBC made possible for him.

A shared history in Prince George has instilled in these donors a strong sense of supporting future generations of northerners. "Planned Giving" options have provided them with the opportunity to share their good fortune.



Tim Laspa's gift will create a legacy for future generations of First Nations students.

“

It has given me great peace of mind to know that I will be able to give back to the people and city that is so fundamentally a part of who I am today.

”



# “I wasn’t expecting to be here”

*Medical student Michiko Maruyama turns illness into inspiration*

[unbc.ca/northern-medical-programs-trust](http://unbc.ca/northern-medical-programs-trust)

For Michiko Maruyama, it was an experience with a rare disease that influenced the budding industrial designer and lifelong artist to apply to the Northern Medical Program.

Maruyama was studying industrial design at the University of Alberta in 2007, and was a national judo champion aspiring to compete in the Olympics, when she was diagnosed with an aggressive tumour in her left leg. Through her hospitalization and treatment, she became more and more interested in medical design.

While she had always “coloured and doodled,” her education was largely in drafting and technical drawing and it was her illness that amplified her artistic endeavours.

“I used it as a patient to work through my emotions,” she says. “One day, when I was in the middle of radiation treatments, I woke up at 2 a.m. and began painting. It got out exactly how I felt at that moment. That was the first painting I had done that had significant personal meaning.”

Michiko Maruyama, a Northern Medical Program student and recipient of this year’s Rising Star Award, finds inspiration in the medical field, which is conveyed through her art.

Beyond a form of self-therapy, Maruyama takes each day of studies and creates a “Daily Doodle.” Originally conceived as a way of keeping art in her life, the doodles now act as a colourful study guide, capturing knowledge and daily inspiration found in medical school. She even has a blog ([www.artoflearning.ca](http://www.artoflearning.ca)) where they are hosted. “It was just something to keep me in touch with art, but now it’s something I get really excited about.”

Maruyama is keen to give back, too. Whether it’s helping create a burn survival kit, or developing educational resources that teach children about disease and what they’ll experience, she’s busy giving her time to help others.

It’s all this that saw Maruyama named the recipient of this year’s Rising Star Health Service Award from the Northern Medical Programs Trust.

“I was so honoured to receive it,” says Maruyama. “My goal is to integrate design into medicine, while adding a splash of art. This award is a symbol that I am on the path of achieving those goals. I wasn’t expecting to be here, but I’m so happy I am.”



# 25 for 25

UNBC volunteers are finding ways to get involved

Volunteerism is at the heart of the communities UNBC serves across northern British Columbia. From local fundraisers to major community events, volunteers donate a lot of time, expertise, and effort.

To celebrate that spirit of volunteerism in conjunction with UNBC's 25th Anniversary, the University is offering employees the option to take up to 25 hours paid time off to give back to the community.

The opportunities are many, but one of the most visible occasions will be the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

"The Games would not be possible without the energy, enthusiasm, and good will of volunteers," says Canada Winter Games Volunteer Workforce Manager Christine Nicholls. "We have more than 2,800 volunteers registered in our database and we average 100 new sign ups per week."

The UNBC community has heard the call. Be they students, faculty, alumni, or staff, people are finding a way to become involved. People such as Kathy Lewis, an Ecosystem Science and Management Professor who has taken on the role of venue lead at the long-track speed skating venue.

"This will be a huge opportunity to showcase the oval and get new people involved in the sport," she says. "I've been

committed to the oval and this sport for years, so it was natural for me to take this on."

Lewis has also recruited two more UNBC staffers, Shari Terhaar and Laurie Friskie, to play key roles in the oval's success.

UNBC graduates are getting involved with the Games as well. Andrea Palmer, who earned her undergraduate and master's degrees at UNBC, said the decision to volunteer was easy.



Left, professor Kathy Lewis is in charge of the outdoor speed-skating oval. Above, third-year biochemistry student Arundeeep Minhas and double degree holder Andrea Palmer are also contributing to the Games' success.

"As someone who's chosen to make a life in Prince George, not being involved wasn't an option," she explains. "Volunteers are so integral and our efforts are useful and valued, which is a great feeling."

**“Volunteers are so integral and our efforts are useful and valued, which is a great feeling.”**

Palmer, the communications coordinator with the Prince George Public Library, will work with a team that will ensure media have access to information about athletes, events, and locations.

"I, along with so many people who live here, recognize the Games as a huge opportunity to show the province and the rest of the country how amazing it is to live here. We have something to prove, we're excited to prove it, and we don't mind volunteering to prove it."



2015

# A Unique Perspective

*Professor takes decades of "young university" experience to the Amazon*

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As residents of northern BC know, establishing a University is no small feat. Environmental Sciences Professor, Joselito Arocena (or Lito as he insists you call him) has contributed to the development and growth of UNBC for two decades as a founding faculty member. Now, that experience is being tapped by a new institution in South America.

Lito recently attended the IKIAM (which means "nature" in the Shuar native language) Amazon University Workshop in Tena, Ecuador. The invitation list reads like a who's who of post-secondary institutions: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Imperial College of London, Universiteit Ghent, Stanford University, Yale, Harvard, and more. Lito was one of just eight Canadian invitees.

He was brought in to provide in-depth review of the academic and administrative structure and interaction with international higher educational systems, as well as how to attract people to a new university.

"We addressed so many questions," he says. "My experience at UNBC with interdisciplinary learning and the research environment was perfect."

Lito is a soil scientist whose contributions to the discipline earned him the invitation to the workshop. Lito also brought his perspective as a founding faculty member from a relatively young university in a unique location.

"We're located in an area rich in natural resources, striving for their sustainable extraction," he says. "Similarly, they have diverse natural resources in the Amazon, and IKIAM University will strive to parallel the national development strategy of Ecuador to help safeguard the integrity of the Amazon region. It's very similar to our experience at UNBC."

Perhaps one of the most striking moments for Lito came when a discussion around a slogan for the proposed university arose.

"They kept saying it should be a University for the Amazon, in the Amazon," he says. "It sounds a lot like UNBC being 'in the north, for the north,' doesn't it?"

Joselito Arocena, a founding faculty member at UNBC, recently attended a workshop in Ecuador dealing with the creation of a new university for the Amazon. The invitation list included representatives from such prestigious institutions as Yale, Harvard, and the Imperial College of London.



# A New Home for **Wood Technology**

*The Wood Innovation and Design Centre and UNBC's new proposed programs are generating interest in the north and from around the globe*

Michael Green was on a bicycle trip in Japan when he heard that the province of British Columbia had changed the building code to allow six-storey light wood-frame construction.

The lead architect of the Wood Innovation and Design Centre (WIDC) had just visited a temple in Nara Japan built between 603 and 1603.

"My office sent an e-mail saying 'Isn't this great? We can now do six-storey light woodframe construction.' My response was, 'that's great, but I just walked out of a 19-storey-tall wood building that is 1,400 years old.'"

Fast forward five years, and WIDC is being built in Prince George by the Government of BC. "It is the tallest contemporary wood structure in North America," says Green.

While WIDC doesn't compete with that Japanese temple in terms of height, it certainly does in terms of innovation, and educational opportunities, and it could provide a needed boost for Northern BC communities that rely on the forest industry.

"BC is leading North America and starting to lead the world on this conversation, and that's a great place for the province and UNBC to be," says Green. "These rules that we've slapped on wood and these arbitrary glass ceilings we've created are absurd in this day and age when all we want is to innovate in ways that are healthier for the planet, healthier for our economy, and healthier for our communities."

Green says innovation is everywhere in WIDC.

**BC is leading North America and starting to lead the world on this conversation, and that's a great place for the province and UNBC to be.**

"We're taking wood technology and giving it new life," he says. "This building has nothing to do with traditional 2x4 construction. Its massive wood components are very durable in fire and earthquakes, and they last for centuries."

Green also sees the building resonating with people beyond the innovation.

"Embedded within the building are stories of people who have contributed to making the building a success," he adds. "You look at that building and you shouldn't forget the guy who's planting trees, or the guy who's loading trees onto a truck. The whole story is in that building."

WIDC is also an exciting project for Dan Ryan, UNBC's Dean of the College of Science and Management, who is responsible for implementing the University's new proposed Master of Integrated Wood Engineering and Design program.



## **Innovative Wood Products**

The Wood Innovation and Design Centre is home to several different structural wood components. Far left, laminated veneer lumber (multiple layers of thin wood glued to one another) frames windows and is also used in a feature staircase. Left, parallel strand lumber (long thin strands of wood bonded together that support heavy loads and span long distances) is used to span large spaces like the lecture theatre and the research lab. Glulam (dimensional lumber bonded together with durable, moisture-resistant structural adhesives) is used throughout in columns and beams. Far right, cross laminated timber (panels created using multiple layers of wood laid on top of one another in alternating patterns) is a primary structural material used for walls, floors and ceilings.



“We have the opportunity to build a world-leading program from the ground up using modern ideas about delivering coursework and all the lessons we’ve learned about engineering education over the last 100 years,” he says. “At this point, we’re not producing enough engineers in Canada who have expertise in massive timber structures.”

Dr. Ryan has been in contact with representatives from post-secondary institutions, including many in Europe, who are interested in what UNBC is doing.

“There’s a tradition in North America of building commercial structures out of concrete and steel,” he adds. “But in certain situations, wood can outperform both concrete and steel. UNBC is taking this opportunity to educate engineers in a building material that is sustainable and renewable, and which we have in abundance here in Canada.”



Peter Moonen, the sustainability and municipal relations coordinator with the Canadian Wood Council and BC Wood *WORKS!*, says the point is to help people realize the real-world performance capabilities of wood.

“The wood of today is not your grandfather’s 2x4. It is an innovative, high-tech, versatile, cost-effective, and sustainable building material,” he says. “It’s important for architects and engineers to understand the full complement of structural materials available, not just steel and concrete.”

Moonen says exploring this opportunity makes an important statement for forest industry-reliant communities.

“It demonstrates that the forest sector is not a sunset industry,” he says. “That’s good for rural communities that harvest raw materials, and it’s good for communities affected by the beetle because you don’t have to use #2 Common wood for CLT, for example. And with engineered wood products like laminated veneer lumber, parallel strand lumber, and laminated strand lumber, you’re using smaller pieces of that wood; you’re getting more usable structural fibre out of a hectare of forest than you were before.”

“If North America were to change its perception about mid-rise construction and taller wood buildings because they felt it was strong and safe, and made environmental and economic sense, it would have a huge impact on rural communities in BC and across Canada.”

Green is equally optimistic about the potential.

“We just have to switch our perception of what’s possible,” he says. “We can go two or three times the height of WIDC without breaking a sweat.”



# Class Notes

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

## 1998

**Tracey Eyles, BSc Psychology**, is an Intake Analyst with the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth in Prince George, BC. As a member of the Advocacy Team, she is responsible for liaising with adult callers to the office, providing information, advice and support, as well as assessing concerns to determine if needs are being met by designated service providers.

**Ronny Priefer, BSc Chemistry**, is a Professor of Medical Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy at Western New England University in Springfield, Massachusetts. He recently made international news for his efforts to create a new handheld breathalyzer that may someday allow diabetics to monitor their blood-glucose levels. He is starting a company to pursue the further development of this technology.

**Cindy Thomson (née Clements), BComm Accounting**, is a Chartered Accountant and Partner with Deloitte LLP in Prince George, BC. This year she was recognized as one of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce Top 40 Under 40.



## 1999

**Toni Carlton, BA History**, is the Executive Director for the Carney Hill Neighbourhood Centre Society in Prince George, BC. She is responsible for delivering the programs and services offered through the Centre, including early learning and child care programs, as well as community development programs in the VLA/Carney Hill neighbourhood. She is also a director with the Alumni Association of UNBC.

**Charles Fraser, BSW & MSW 2005**, recently retired from Youth Forensics, and is now working in private practice and consulting in Prince George, BC. In 2013, he was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Office of Provincial Representative for Children and Youth, and in March of this year, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

**Karen Ogen, BSW & MSW Social Work (2007)**, has more than 25 years experience as a frontline worker in the social work field. She is the elected Chief of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation near Burns Lake, BC, and was instrumental in creating a strong natural resources department.



## 2000

**Colin Chisholm, BSc NRM Forestry**, is the Assistant Forest Manager with the Aleza Lake Research Forest near Prince George, BC. He is responsible for the supervision of forest operations, forest planning, and GIS.

## 2001

**Patrick Dumont, BSc NRM Forestry**, is the Sawmill Superintendent with Canadian Forest Products in Mackenzie, BC.

## 2003

**Lawrence Fielding, BSc NRM Forestry**, a professional forester, recently launched *The X-tails Snowboard at Shred Park*, the first in a series of illustrated children's books. The X-tails follow the antics of six best friends on their search for the ultimate adventure and were inspired by his family and his love for storytelling.



**Jennifer Paige, BA Geography**, went on to complete an MA from the University of East Anglia in England and works for the Canadian Red Cross in Vancouver as the Program Coordinator for the First Contact program.

## 2004

**Neil Godbout, MA NRES Environmental Studies**, is the Managing Editor for the Prince George Citizen and recently published his third novel, *Resolve*, which finishes a trilogy of young adult urban fantasy novels. The second novel in the series, *Dissolve*, was a finalist for the Aurora Prize for best young adult novel from the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association.

## 2005

**Cory Bartrim, BComm Marketing**, is the Vice President of Western Canada Operations for Student Works Painting in Vancouver, BC. Cory started with the company while attending UNBC. He originally worked as an operator, learning how to run his own business.

**Cameron Mackay, MEd Curriculum and Instruction**, formerly the Principal at Caledonia Secondary School in Terrace, recently became the Director of Human Resources for the Coast Mountains School District #82.

**Thomas Oliver, BSc Biology**, is a Resident Physician in Genetic and Metabolic Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

**Jaime Sanchez, BSc Environmental Planning**, works with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council where he assists member First Nations, Chiefs, and staff with natural resource management strategies, planning, and negotiations. Jaime has spent the last nine years working with First Nations in BC.

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



## 2007

**Heather Anchikoski, BSc Psychology (Honours)**, is an Occupational Therapist with Northern Health in Burns Lake, BC. She works primarily with seniors and people with disabilities to maximize their quality of life and ability to do daily activities independently.

**Jillian Merrick, BA Economics & International Studies (Honours)**, is the Coordinator for the *Beyond the Market* project through Community Futures.

## 2008

**Allison Moller, BComm Accounting**, is the Managed Services Lead for Cognera in Calgary, AB, where she maintains strong client relationships and manages a team of retail billing analysts. After graduating from UNBC, she went on to earn a CMA designation.

## 2009



**Laura Sapergia, BSc Biology 2009**, and fellow graduate, **Diandra Oliver, MA Gender Studies 2011**, recently opened a local foods grocery, Home Sweet Home, in downtown Prince George.

**Jennifer Crain, MA International Studies**, is a Research Associate with the Public Health Agency of Canada in Ottawa, ON. Her work in injury epidemiology contributes to the tracking and reporting of injuries, and their risk and protective factors in the Canadian population.

## 2011

**Derek Baker, BComm HR & Marketing**, is the Community Relations Advisor for Pacific NorthWest LNG in Prince Rupert, BC.

**Miranda Schmolz (née Seymour), BA Geography**, is from the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. This June, she will become one of the first graduates, and one of four aboriginal students, to graduate from Canada's newest law school at Thompson Rivers University.

**Paul Koke, MA International Studies**, is an Environmental Specialist with Dillon Consulting in Halifax, NS. His primary focus is environmental assessment studies for large public and private infrastructure projects, specializing in right-of-way developments.

**Andrew Seabrook, BComm Accounting & General Business**, is a Financial Advisor with Allan L Johnson Financial Group, in Prince George, BC. He is the Vice President of the Alumni Association of UNBC. His wife, **Kimberley Seabrook, BSc Psychology (Honours) 2008**, is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Northern Health.

## 2013

**Carleigh Benoit, MA Disability Management**, was recently hired as the Human Resources Advisor – Disability Management at UNBC.

**Kylee Brown, BA Women's Studies**, was hired as a Community Support Worker with Thompson Community Services shortly after graduation. She has since returned to UNBC to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work, specializing in child welfare. This fall, she will participate in an exchange to Mid-Sweden University.

**Jackie Lytle, BA Economics (2004) & MA Developmental Economics**, is the Director of Business and Economic Development with the Village of Fraser Lake. Her role is to encourage and facilitate economic growth in the community.

**Krystin St Jean, BSc Outdoor Recreation & Conservation (2010) & BPI Northern & Rural Community Development**, is an Economic Development Officer with the Village of Burns Lake. She secured the position after completing an internship in Local Government Management with the Northern Development Initiatives Trust.

**Integris Credit Union** is a proud supporter of UNBC, committed to enriching the lives of students, and can attest to the fact that many UNBC graduates stay in the community. Of its Prince George staff, 11% are UNBC alumni - including the 2013 Governor General's Silver Award winner (awarded to the undergraduate student graduating with the highest grade point average).

Integris is dedicated to supporting professional development and appreciates the quality of education UNBC provides. "UNBC structures many of their programs with a northern perspective," says Integris' Employee Engagement & Communications Manager, Alex Castley (BComm 2013). "As a local organization operating in Northern B.C., we see tremendous value in the UNBC grads we hire and enjoy sharing in their career development."



# The 16,000

By Tom Steadman

I'm 25 years older now...but I haven't forgotten one moment of it. I still get goose bumps about what we accomplished.

Back in 1987/88, I wrestled with Rino Fornari, then-President of CUPE for the City of Prince George, about different ways to put some punch into the Interior University Society's petition for a "University of the North." Like two little kids, we squabbled—back and forth—"Charge \$5 per signature!" said I. "No way!" said Rino. So the IUS voted. Five bucks it was. And history was made.

Who would have believed it? The little group with the big idea launched what was to become the most impactful membership blitz—perhaps ever—in Canada. When it finished nine months later, 16,000 northern British Columbians had paid their *five*, signed our little cards, and had coalesced into the loudest voice ever heard in Victoria. "We demand a real university, IN the north, FOR the north." And, against all odds, we got it!

Think about it...in a region of almost one million square kilometres we met with 16,000 British Columbians, made 16,000 face-to-face requests for 16,000 individual signatures, received 16,000 individual payments, and tried to keep track of each and every one of the 16,000 bits of paper. Here's some of how we did it.

Working with such stalwarts as Dale McMann, Kathy Mears, Ron East, Ron Hawkins, Myron Sambad, and an army of others, we divided northern BC into

five major zones. Remember, this is almost one million square kilometres of rugged BC Interior, from the Robson Valley to Haida Gwaii, and Muncho Lake to 100 Mile! Each of the area coordinators then created their own teams and town targets. From early '88 through that fall, we canvassed, coordinated, collected, and cajoled. With the gracious help of the Salvation Army, we went door-to-door in almost every northern community on June 7, 1988, which was proclaimed University Day.

And in they rolled. Single memberships, books of memberships, shoe boxes of memberships. They came from the Cariboo Real Estate Board, the Alexandria First Nation, the Prince George Sikh community, Earl's Restaurant, and all of the northern Rotary Clubs.

Individuals dropped them off at banks, mailed them in to the IUS office, or left them with Canadian Tire cashiers. Were we not on such a visible and popular crusade, we could have been charged with littering!

And this snowstorm of support descended on just two people: Joanne Hewlett, the IUS office manager, and Jackie Lytle, her volunteer assistant.

Today, it's easy to see the fruits of our labours, whether it's bricks-and-mortar or the thousands of graduates living and in Northern BC and around the world. Back then, we all took a leap of faith to advocate for a northern university. Our gamble has paid off handsomely.

As part of its 25th anniversary, UNBC is putting the names of "the 16,000" online. Check it out at [unbc.ca/25](http://unbc.ca/25).

We want to hear from you. Why did you sign up in the first place? What has UNBC meant to you?

As one of the 16,000, I can say that UNBC occupies a corner of my life—and my heart—that is irreplaceable.

“  
**Five bucks it was.  
And history was made.**  
”



**Tom Steadman,** right, was a driving force behind the campaign to generate support for UNBC. He was a prominent speaker on the topic, and was a founding member of the Interior University Society. He served on the Implementation Planning Group, the Interim Governing Council, and the UNBC Foundation. He also helped establish the Northern Medical Programs Trust. Tom Steadman received a UNBC honorary degree in 2004.

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