

# UPDATE

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends – Fall 2011



## Students on the front lines

> Faye Hirshfield is one of eight UNBC students making a difference in the North. Their stories begin on page 3.

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA





## Canada West Says “Yes!”

Before long, a capacity crowd of 2000 people will pack into the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre to watch UNBC play against UBC, UVic, U of A or any of the other 12 teams in the Canada West Universities Athletic Association. In September, the members of Canada West voted to accept UNBC’s application for membership, which covers UNBC’s teams in both basketball and soccer. The teams will commence Canada West play in 2012-13. In the meantime, UNBC is continuing to be a member of the BC college league.

> **Get in on the Action!**

Visit [www.unbc.ca/athletics](http://www.unbc.ca/athletics) for game schedules and ways to support the teams.

## A “Very Exciting Breakthrough”

Those were the words of an American researcher reacting to research results from a UNBC team led by professor Stephen Rader and graduate Amy Hayduk, who grew up north of Terrace. Their research explores “gene splicing,” which involves the cutting out of unnecessary portions of a gene and joining the remaining parts together. The process occurs naturally but scientists have been trying to understand aspects of it for decades. The UNBC researchers have identified the critical role of a particular molecule and developed a new technique for how to study it in the lab. The breakthrough has implications for various genetic disorders, including cystic fibrosis, and was covered by news media across Canada.

## Re-writing BC History?

It’s hard to imagine, but UNBC students conducting an archaeological dig as part of a summer course may have discovered the oldest known settlement in BC. The class – comprised of UNBC, Heiltsuk, and Wuikinuxv students – spent eight weeks on Calvert Island off BC’s central coast and found thousands of shells, fish and animal bones, as well as dozens of fishing and hunting implements made of bone and antler. The site was a large “shell midden,” which was created when people discarded food remains, constructed structures, and made tools. The depth of the discoveries, along with the types of implements found, suggests that the site could be 10,000 years old.

## UNBC & Social Media

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## Wood is Good

When Premier Christy Clark visited Prince George in September, her announcement that Prince George would soon be the home of the world’s tallest wood building attracted applause and news headlines. The announcement also included support for expanded engineering and research programs at UNBC and the University is capitalizing on the opportunity. Innovative approaches to working with local industry and similar universities elsewhere in the world are being pursued, exposing UNBC to exciting options for education and research on diverse forest products and multi-story wood structures.

The University is imagining that its place in a downtown wood innovation centre would be wired with advanced telecommunications to connect students, researchers, and industry to the world, while connecting the world to the great things occurring in northern BC. These include a boom in resource development that has companies crying out for more engineers who have the desire and skills to work in northern regions. The Government of BC is aiming to have the building completed by the end of 2014.



George Iwama  
President and Vice-Chancellor

Since arriving at UNBC just over two years ago, I have been deeply impressed by two things: the passion of our students and the unfailing commitment of northerners to ensure the University and its graduates succeed. They see a vital role for UNBC in helping the region seize its opportunities.

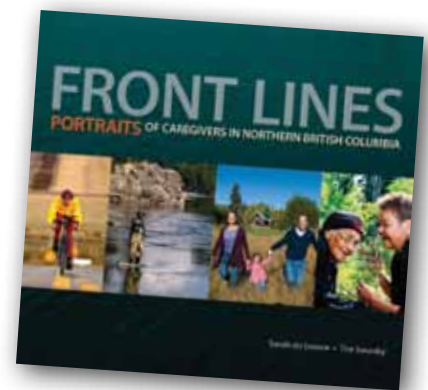
Actually, the greatest role we play is welcoming bright, eager people into our campuses and allowing their talents to blossom, so as leaders they will transform our Northern communities. The best universities exist at the intersection of our talents and the needs of society. I have never seen this played out more potently than at UNBC.

Earlier this year, the Northern Medical Program produced a book that chronicles the contributions and fascinating careers of health care workers across northern BC. Titled, **Front Lines**, the book is full of inspiring stories and photos that capture the personalities of these people and their connections to the land. I was gratified to discover that five of the people profiled in the book are UNBC alumni, the author of the stories is similarly a graduate of UNBC, and the photographer has had an association with us for 20 years.

**Front Lines** is full of people who have built careers, raised families, and made a difference in their communities. UNBC is full of the next generation of people who will be on the "front lines," and not just in health care but in business, social services, education, the environment, government, and more.

This edition of Update tells the stories of just eight of our students who will soon take their places on the front line. We deliberately chose a variety of individuals from different programs, backgrounds, and age groups to illustrate the diversity of our student body and the many ways they'll contribute. Their stories are largely presented in their own words and their photos were shot by Tim Swanky, who also provided the photos for **Front Lines**.

Their stories are inspiring and I can't wait to see what they'll do next.



Copies of **Front Lines** are available from the UNBC Bookstore. Proceeds support the Northern Medical Programs Trust.





# Allen Billy

Bachelor of Arts, Geography, 1st year | Prince George, BC

*I want to lead my community down a new path.*

Allen Billy is a UNBC student with a dream: to work for his band, the Lh'eidli T'enneh, on whose traditional territory the University's Prince George campus is situated. To help him achieve his goal, Billy has entered his first year of the Public Administration and Community Development major of UNBC's Geography program.

"I love having the University here in Prince George," says Billy, who along with his wife Charlie, has one daughter and another child expected this fall. "I came here because it's near my home and close to my family and friends."

Billy, who grew up in Fort St. James and has a sister working as a registered nurse in New Aiyansh, first came to UNBC via the Continuing Studies program and obtained his Geographical Information Systems certificate. "I think I'm an example of the positive outcomes and the long relationship UNBC has had with the Lh'eidli T'enneh," says Billy. "I believe that relationship will only strengthen in the future."

In his spare time, Billy most enjoys spending time with his family, walking in Fort George or Cottonwood Island Park, or having a backyard barbeque.

He wants to start his career with the local band office after graduation and aims to follow in the footsteps of Terry Teegee, Vice-Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, and a graduate of UNBC.

"I've never lived on a reserve so I would bring a different perspective and a new way of doing things," says Billy. "I would like to work on education and possibly treaty negotiations. I'm passionate about empowering my fellow band members to improve their lives in any way they can. I want to lead my community down a new and different path."



**F**ourth year UNBC student Simran Lehal describes her experience at UNBC as the time she deepened her character through community involvement.

Lehal has been involved with a broad spectrum of community life on and off campus. This includes working with an environmental chemistry class to reduce the University's emissions, taking part in local theatre groups and,

North and exploring the region," says Lehal. "I don't believe I would have those sorts of formative opportunities to explore if I had studied at a larger university or in a larger city."

Lehal, a Biology and Chemistry student and UNBC President's Scholar, says "I place a high value on community engagement, but science is a balancing factor in my life. I can see

myself going into academia; I'm very interested in environmental health and toxicology. UNBC created a supportive environment where I feel my aspirations can come to fruition and regardless of where I go, I will want to be engaged in community efforts."

***The interests I developed at UNBC deepened to include the larger community.***

more recently, organizing events to raise awareness about mental health, such as a performance on building inclusive communities at Art Space near downtown Prince George.

"The interests I developed at UNBC have deepened to include the larger community. UNBC provides such an amazing sense of place and inclusiveness that it was only natural," says Lehal, who grew up in Williams Lake. "The people in the North are outgoing and the businesses and organizations are eager to get involved. The northern BC community has been very supportive and a key ingredient in my efforts and in fostering my identity."

Lehal is also active outside of Prince George and has enjoyed her experiences at a field school offered at one of UNBC's regional campuses. "I love being in the smaller towns of the



# Charlotte Guno

First Nations Studies | Kitsumkalum, BC

**A**t 68, Charlotte Guno is one of UNBC's oldest students. When it comes to her life's passion, she walks the walk and, literally, talks the talk. Guno is part of a new class of students taking FNST-137 in Terrace, the Sm'algayax Language, traditionally spoken by the Tsimshian people on BC's central coast. With fewer than 200 speakers, the language is in danger of extinction.

"Simply by learning the language and speaking it, I'll be assisting in its restoration," says Guno, who lives and works in Kitsumkalum, a community just a few kilometers outside of Terrace. "Education is my passion. I've seen the effects of a lack of education on my people and the great impact even one educated person can have for the whole community."

Guno was born in Prince Rupert, but grew up in the village of Port Essington, the remnants of which can still be seen from the highway outside of Prince Rupert.

After Grade 9, Guno spent three years at a residential school before graduating from Richmond Secondary in the Lower Mainland. "I don't blame today's school system. I think many of the challenges faced by First Nations students stem back to those days of the residential schools," says Guno. "Children were taken from their homes and from their parents. Most of us lost our language, which is one of the reasons I'm working to get it back."

After high school, Guno obtained a secretary's diploma and worked in Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Burns Lake, Smithers, and Terrace before deciding to settle in Kitsumkalum. She now looks after the educational needs of her band members as the community's Education Administrator and as principal of NaAksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre – an adult education centre in Kitsumkalum.

"Both our adults and our youth need education to advance," stresses Guno. "Nothing makes me happier than seeing an adult return to school to obtain their adult dogwood. We have held graduation ceremonies for the past seven years and we owe this success to the determination of the students."

Whether furthering her own education to keep an endangered language alive or working to keep her community educated, Guno says she wants to make things happen before her generation is gone. "I want to make a difference in education for our First Nations' people."

A photograph of Charlotte Guno, a woman with glasses and a woven hat, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red and black patterned shawl. Behind her is a vibrant, colorful mural with Indigenous motifs in shades of blue, red, and white. A quote box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Education is my passion.**



**S**oon-to-be UNBC graduate Blair Hogan didn't always have the self-confidence he has today.

"I really came to UNBC by accident when I was working near Prince George," says Hogan, who is a member of the Tlinget First Nation and grew up in the tiny village of Teslin in the Yukon Territory. "I was drawn to the Northern Advancement Program, which is a way for northern and Aboriginal students to ease into UNBC life."


Hogan says that it was at UNBC that he learned what motivates him. "I struggled initially with my grades and went to see a counselor," says Hogan. "She could see that I am a highly competitive person, but was in need of a confidence boost so she recommended I take the Entrepreneurship course, which had a component involving a business plan competition. She was right and that's when things really took off for me."

Not long afterwards, Hogan achieved the highest grades of any student in the Northern Advancement Program and received an accompanying financial award. He also became involved in the JDC West Business Competition. His team won first place in the not-for-profit category and more awards than any previous UNBC contingent. "That was another key moment in my life," says Hogan. "We worked so hard and when we won, it was just amazing."

Hogan points out the addictive nature of success. "Shortly after JDC West, I ran for a position on UNBC's Board of Governors and won."

Since then, Hogan has gone on to coach other students participating in JDC West and become politically active in rallies and campaigns. He also functions as a business consultant for the Tlinget Nation and the community of Teslin, preparing requests for proposals and business plans.

"I owe all of my success to UNBC," says Hogan, who will graduate this year with a general business degree and plans to continue his education and work in – you guessed it – the world of business. "I learned that if you work hard, you can be successful. That's one of the most important lessons you can learn in life."

A photograph of Blair Hogan, a young man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is walking towards the camera in a hallway with blue walls and a tiled floor. A quote box is overlaid on the image.

***I learned that if you work hard, you can be successful.***

# Kimberly Gulevich

Bachelor of Applied Science, Environmental Engineering  
2nd year | Fort St John, BC

“I love alternative energy,” says second-year UNBC Environmental Engineering student Kimberly Gulevich. “And I’m really interested in alternative energy systems that operate in an understandable and user-friendly manner.”

Gulevich was raised in a region of northern BC that is steeped in energy. A native of Fort St. John, Gulevich grew up camping, hunting, and fishing in BC’s Peace River region, but found her real passion was participating in science fairs as far away as Taiwan, and dreaming up new methods for providing energy to communities.

“Science fair projects really took me down the environmental path. I was able to create new systems from scratch and with ordinary household items,” says Gulevich, adding that one of her science fair creations involved investigating the feasibility of deriving energy from methane captured from household sewage.

“I’ve always wanted my systems to be do-able,” stresses Gulevich. “They can’t be too ‘pie-in-the-sky’ and only work on paper. I don’t mind sitting at a desk, but I really love getting out into the field to see how things actually work.”

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***This is the future and I’m part of it.***

”

Gulevich also thinks of herself as a realist when it comes to the use of fossil fuels. “We need oil and the world wouldn’t be the same without it,” says Gulevich. “Some of the most ground-breaking research being done into energy conservation is being done by oil companies. I feel the responsible thing for someone like me to do is to work with the oil companies to generate positive change from within.”

Gulevich has received several awards at UNBC, including the Telus Scholarship, Chancellor Iona Campagnolo Scholarship, the Sorila Entrance Scholarship in Environmental Engineering, and the SM Blair Family Foundation Scholarship.

“I’m from a small town so I really like the fact that UNBC is small,” says Gulevich. “I’m involved with the Environmental Engineering Students’ Association as well as Students for a Green University. I love the variety of clubs and associations at this University.”

Ultimately, Gulevich says she wants to move back north to Fort St. John or a smaller community to work on sustainable energy systems. “I want to give back to northern BC,” says Gulevich. “We have an opportunity to move towards energy self-sufficiency. This is the future and I’m part of it.”





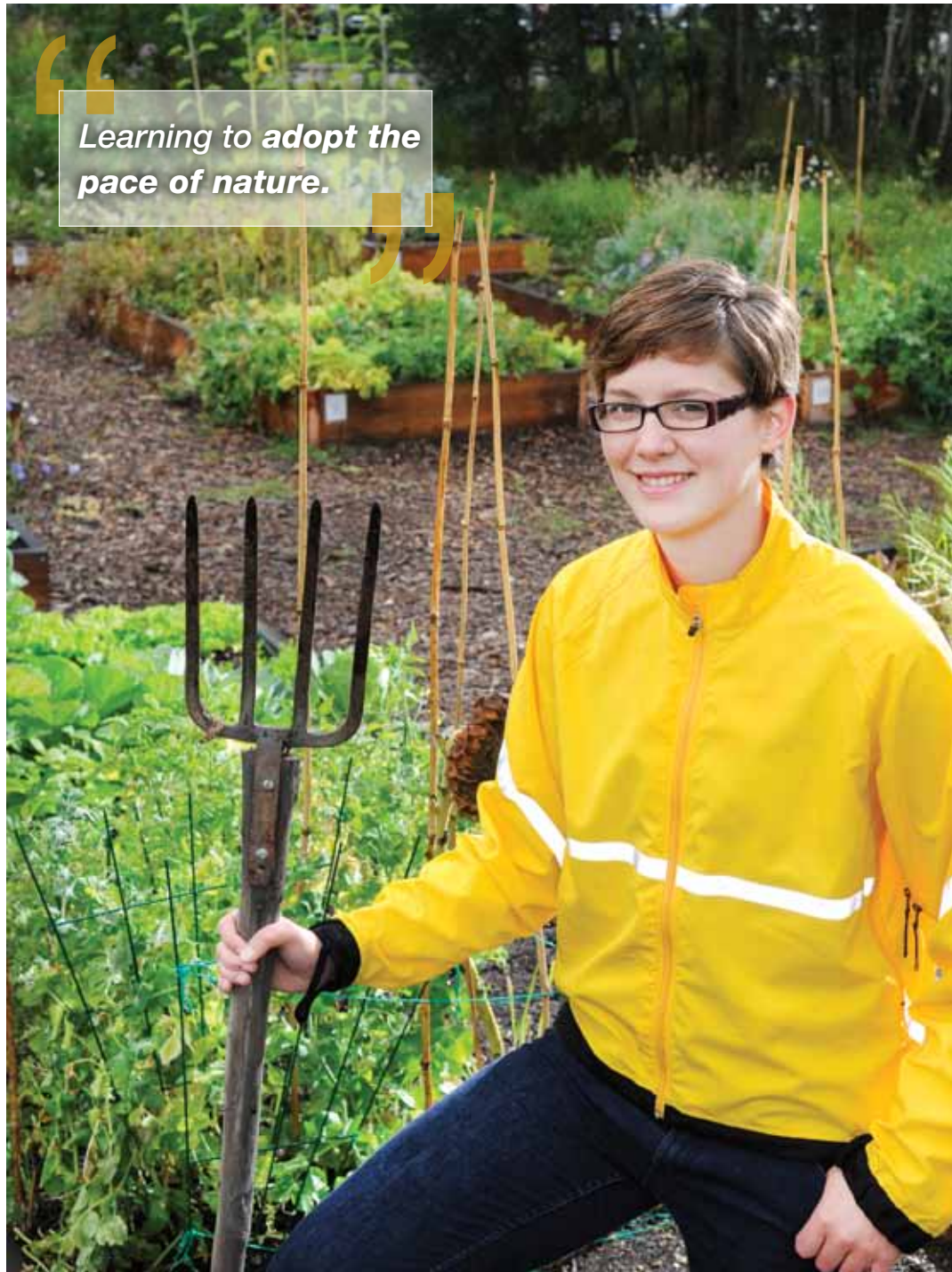
The bio on Serena Black's Twitter account reads "learning to adopt the pace of nature" and the UNBC masters student in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies is doing so both in and out of the classroom.

Black, the product of third-generation mill workers from Quesnel, is environmentally aware (she recently cut her once waist-length hair down to a short bob to cut down on shampoo use) and determined to make a difference to the average person in northern BC.

"Initially, I wanted to be a writer so I got a bachelor's degree in Journalism," says Black. "But after volunteering abroad, I realized I didn't just want to write, I wanted to do, and not just do, but make a difference."

After a brief period working as a reporter at the Prince George Citizen, Black came to UNBC full-time. A Douglas Floyd Memorial Scholarship helps pay the bills, but she also spends time growing a community garden in an under-privileged area and is the coordinator of UNBC's first year-round farmers' market. This is where her academic and personal passions meet.

"I'm really interested in food security, but also social and environmental justice," says Black. "Look at the amount of rain we had this summer. My work at the farmers' market has exposed me to the damage extreme weather does to crops and the livelihoods of the people who provide for much of our nutritional well-being. This is why my research involves studying different crop varieties to find those that can withstand the extremes



*Learning to adopt the pace of nature.*

the short northern growing season."

"Working at the Community Garden, many people don't have the capacity to grow their own food and sustain themselves," says Black. "They feel they can't buy local or buy healthy. I've seen first-hand that people who are

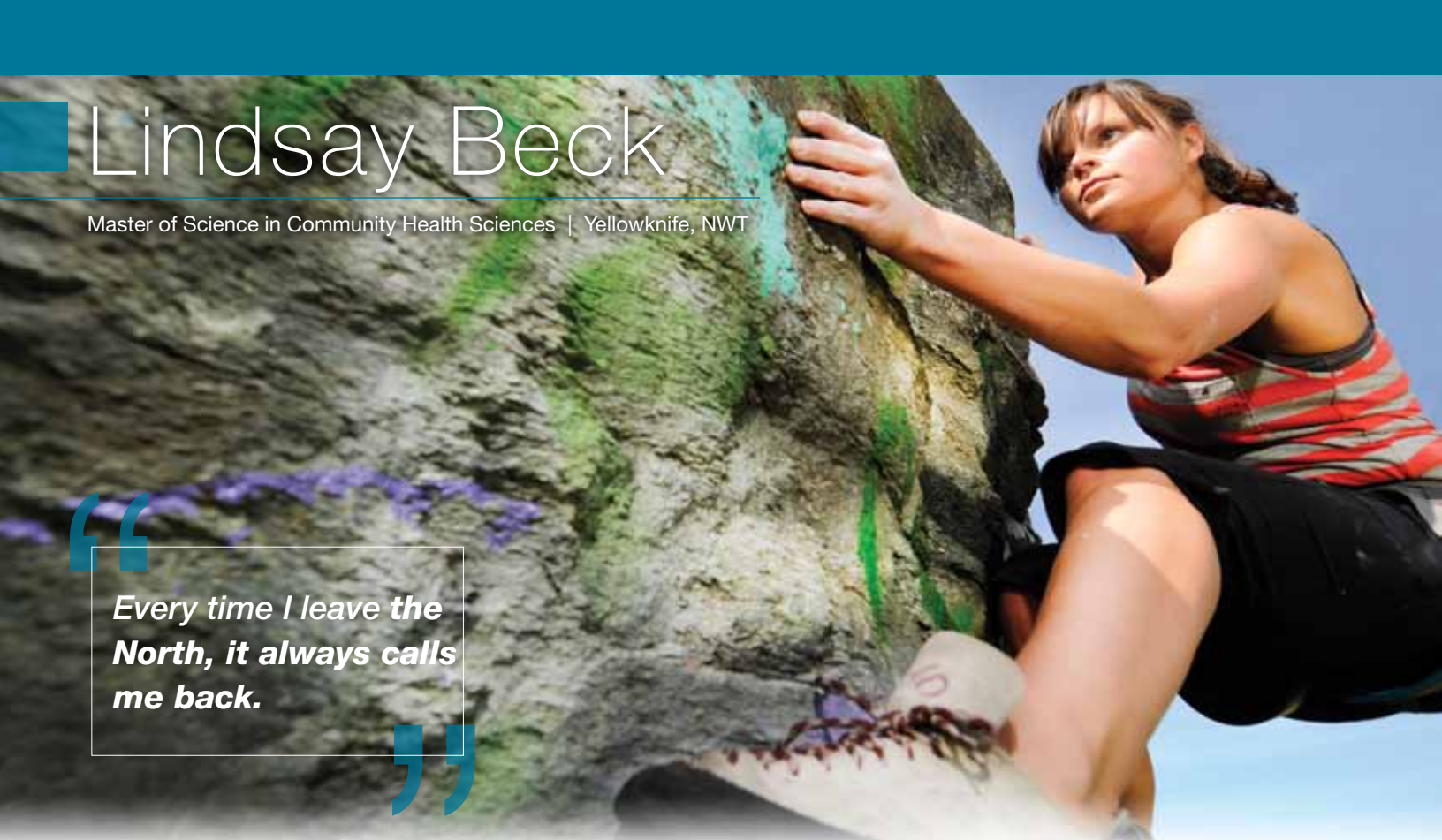
able to grow their own food are able to take control of their well-being."

As for the mantra on her Twitter account, Black says, "I want to be aware of the land around me. We need to slow down and appreciate what we have in life."



# Lindsay Beck

Master of Science in Community Health Sciences | Yellowknife, NWT



*Every time I leave the North, it always calls me back.*

“Every time I leave the North, it always calls me back,” says Lindsay Beck, a master’s student in Community Health Sciences at UNBC.

Beck’s journey began in Yellowknife, NWT, where she grew up. After completing a degree in Biology and Sociology from the University of Alberta, she felt she needed to see more of the world to gain some perspective before continuing her education or pursuing a career.

“I was adopted by the Ainembabazi Children’s Project in Uganda, which aims to improve access to health care, eradicate poverty, and improve access to quality education in communities affected by HIV/AIDS,” says Beck. “I volunteered there for six months and it was an amazing experience. But after that time, I looked around and recognized that there were a lot of challenges back here in Canada and I felt the North calling me back.”

So she moved from the equator to the Arctic Circle.

Beck lived for more than a year in Inuvik, NWT, this time working as program manager and coordinator for a chronic disease prevention and nutrition program. It was there she realized that many health programs do not take the broader context of well-being into full account.

“We were promoting country foods such as caribou, but there were many problems in the community in terms of access, such as the implications of climate change” says Beck. “We were getting people to eat bananas from Ecuador, without taking into account the global implications. What about the farmers in Ecuador? What about sustainability? I realized I wanted to explore the hidden dimensions that are often not considered. I wanted to find a broader approach that included social and ecological considerations.”

Beck took to the internet where she found the name of UNBC professor and Canada Research Chair in Health, Ecosystems, and Society, Margot Parkes, and she knew where she wanted to be. “I love the North. Most of my work has been in the North in some form and I was thrilled to have someone like Margot available at a northern university,” says Beck, who recently received a SunLife Financial Rural and Remote Health Research Award. “I also came to UNBC because it has the community feel and the rugged environment that I love.”

Beck is still considering what to do after her degree but feels a pull towards a career in ecohealth. “I’m happy to be working with communities in northern BC, exploring the connections between the land and individual well-being.”



**F**aye Hirshfield is at home on the water. The UNBC PhD Student in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies was raised by a pilot who flew his family around BC's back country from lake to lake. As an adult, she's collecting data on the water supply that is part of the economic boom in northeastern BC.

"When your dad has a float plane, it's what you do: look for water," laughs Hirshfield. "Eventually, my parents retired and moved to 100 Mile House and my brother went to UNBC. I tried SFU but it didn't take so I followed my brother to UNBC. I've been here ever since!"

Hirshfield entered UNBC's Environmental Science program "because it was the broadest degree I could find and had the most options" and graduated with a double major that included Geography. "I still didn't know what I wanted to do so I took a field course to South Africa," says Hirshfield. "I was in a river designing a study for extra credits and looking at the beautiful scenery when I realized I wanted to spend my career studying water."

Hirshfield returned to UNBC to start her master's degree under UNBC Environmental Engineering professor Jueyi Sui. "My experience under his supervision was another moment of clarity for me. I knew I would carry on towards my PhD." Hirshfield is conducting the bulk of her research at the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre.

A big opportunity arose when the City of Dawson Creek approached UNBC to conduct research into the origins and flow of the Kitskatinaw River, the only source of drinking water for the community. "We set up a surface and ground water monitoring network in the area. Ultimately, we are trying to understand where the water's coming from, how much there is, and where it's going."

The data from the study will be shared with various resource development companies and government - all of whom have a stake in the process of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," which requires large amounts of water to extract natural gas from shale deposits. The process is becoming common in new natural gas operations near Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson.

"I'm not a judge on whether water should be used for fracking," says Hirshfield. "But after a lifetime around water I can tell you it's a precious resource."

“  
*After a lifetime around water, I can tell you it's a precious resource.*  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## Senator Nominations

The Alumni Association of UNBC is now accepting nominations for graduates interested in serving on UNBC Senate. The submission deadline is Friday February 10, 2012. For more information or to download a nomination form please visit [www.unbc.ca/alumni/senate\\_nominations](http://www.unbc.ca/alumni/senate_nominations)

# Class Notes

## 1997

### **Nancy Kinney, BA Political Science,**

completed a law degree from the University of Victoria before launching Family Matters, an online TV program focussing on issues affecting North American life, with particular emphasis on relationships and the justice system.

## 1998

### **Katja Otting, BSc Environmental**

**Science**, is the Environment Manager of the Northwest Area for Lafarge Canada Inc. in Vancouver, BC.

### **Wendy Peters, BA International**

**Studies**, is currently the Manager of Internships at Alberta Municipal Affairs, where she trains and develops well-rounded administrators and land use planners. 20 positions are awarded from across Canada. In 2011, two UNBC graduates were selected: **Chelsea Lewis, BA Political Science '11**, was accepted into the Municipal Internship Program for Administrators, and is working in Grand Prairie, AB, and **Danika Dudzik, BPL Northern & Rural Community Planning '11**, was accepted into the Municipal Internship Program for Land Use Planners, and is working in the town of Morinville, AB.

## 1999

**Derek Thomson, BComm Finance**, is the Director of Business Operations for the Government of Alberta in Edmonton, AB.

## 2000

### **Sharon Melissa Munn, MEd**

**Counselling**, is a Professor at Okanagan College in Vernon, BC.

### **Cora-Lee Oleny (formerly Clark-Stuart), BA Political Science,**

is an Accommodation Manager for the Government of Canada in Edmonton, AB.



### **Errin Walker (formerly Evans), BSc Environmental Planning (far right),**

works on home rehabilitation projects, new homes, a community center, and a child care facility as the Housing Development Coordinator for the Klamath Tribes in Chiloquin, Oregon.

### **Wilson Yeung, BSc Computer**

**Science**, is the Vice President of Software Engineering at Silver Springs Networks in Redwood City, California.

## 2002

### **Christopher Brown, BA Political**

**Science**, completed a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan after leaving UNBC. He then articulated and practiced law in North Battleford, SK until 2007, when he joined the Crown Prosecutors Office. He is married with two children.

### **Sarah Steel, BComm Accounting &**

**International Business**, is a Controller for Niska Gas Storage Partners LLC in Calgary, AB.



UNBC's graduating class of 2011 was over 800 graduates, bringing the total number of alumni to more than 9,000!

## 2003

**Derek Chow, BComm Accounting**, is working at KMPG LLP in Abbotsford, BC.

**Geoffrey Klassen, BSc NRM Forestry**, is a Tenures Forester for the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations in Nanaimo, BC.

**Elizabeth White, BA English**, gave birth to twin boys, Ryan and Aidan, after her graduation in 2003. She worked as a Teaching Assistant and First Nations Worker before completing a post-degree professional program at the University of Victoria, where she recently completed a Bachelor of Education.

## 2004

**Julian Buck, BSc Mathematics**, spent six years at the University of Oregon completing an MSc and PhD in Mathematics. He is the Faculty Director for the campus Tutoring Centre and an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina.

**Lindsay Harkness, BA International Studies**, just returned from a 14 month trip to Zimbabwe where she worked with an American humanitarian organization called the International Rescue Committee.

**Katherine Voigt, BComm Marketing & International Business**, is an International Market Development Specialist with Thompson Okanagan Tourism in Kelowna, BC.

**James Adamson, BSc Geography 2004 and 2010 Alumnus of the Year**, recently helped drill a well in the village of Moale, in the rainforest in the Central African Republic of Congo, working with an organization that aims to bring clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations.

## 2005

**Wendy Langford, BSW Social Work**, is a Social Worker for the Government of Newfoundland in Stephenville, NL.

## 2006

**Andrea Edwards, BA International Studies**, is an Account Manager with Commonwealth Financial in Prince George, BC.

**Laverne MacKenzie, MSW Social Work**, is a Casework Supervisor for the Central Alberta Child & Family Services Authority in Settler, AB.

## 2007

**Shawn Haines, BA Political Science & International Studies**, is an Employment & Assistance Worker with the Government of British Columbia in Prince George, BC.

**Kevin Pederson, BComm Finance & Accounting**, is the President of Repac Products Inc in Prince George, BC.

**Kyle Matthee, BComm General Business**, is the Distribution & Logistics Manager for A&W Food Services of Canada Inc in North Vancouver, BC.

**Paul Stokes, BSc Computer Science '03 and MSc Computer Science '07**, recently left UNBC after eleven years of employment. He and his wife Jennifer Stokes (BSN Nursing '01) are headed to Victoria, BC where Paul has accepted the position of Chief Information Officer at the University of Victoria.

**Bing Wang, BComm Accounting**, is the Director of Finance for Edelman Public Relations in Vancouver, BC.



**Shawn Flynn, BA English '02 (above)**, was recently a researcher in residence in Israel and is now teaching as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Toronto and the Toronto School of Theology. He is also finishing a PhD in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations.



**Mike Weinmaster, BSc Environmental Science '04 (above)**, is the Founder and Chief Designer of Green over Grey, a leading North American green wall design company based in Vancouver, BC.

Get involved with the Alumni Association of UNBC!

Call 250-960-5873

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## Class Notes continued...



There are currently four UNBC graduates working for Initiatives Prince George, a municipally-owned corporation mandated by the City of Prince George to undertake programs and projects designed to grow and diversify the local economy. **Heather Oland (far left), MSc Environmental Science '00**, was recently appointed to Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, **Tara Bogh (to the right of Heather Oland), BA Economics & Political**

**Science '08**, just assumed the role of Director of Downtown Initiatives & Economic Analysis, **Melissa Mills (formerly James), BComm International Business & Marketing '09 (far right)**, is the Manager of Marketing & Business Development, and **Dustin Renaud, BComm International Business '11**, received the offer for his position as the Executive Coordinator the day he walked across the stage to receive his UNBC degree this past May.

## 2008

**William "Kyle" Guy, BA Political Science**, recently graduated from New England Law in Boston Massachusetts, earning a Juris Doctor degree. In July he wrote the Massachusetts Bar Exam. He hopes to work in public international law, international business transactions or criminal defense.

**Juanita Hunder, BA Anthropology**, completed her Early Childhood Education Certificate at the College of New Caledonia after leaving UNBC and is now the Family Development Worker for the Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society in the Young Parent Program (YPP).

## 2009

**Ashley Medeiros, BComm Human Resources**, is an HR Advisor for Rio Tinto Alcan in Kitimat, BC.



**Caitlin Foote (above), BA Anthropology**, just returned to Canada after spending 20 months abroad in Asia, where she was teaching English to Korean kindergarteners.

## 2010

**Ceoral Haynes, BSW Social Work**, is a Tl'azt'en Social Worker for Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child and Family Services in Fort St James, BC.

**Nicole Joron, MEd Multi-Disciplinary Leadership**, is the Student Program Coordinator at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, ON.

**Raekynn Madu, BA English & History**, is studying law at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, MB.

**Candice Robinson, BSW First Nations Specialization**, is a Program Coordinator at the Native Friendship Centre in Prince George, BC.



**Matthew Church, BSc Accounting & Chemistry (above)**, was recently nominated for the Prince George Community Foundation's Citizen of the Year Award. Matthew is the youngest person to receive a nomination in the history of the award.





**Nancy Anne Aedes Scheer (above)**, a Northern Medical Program graduate, just completed a month of rural practice in Inuvik and is working on her first year of residency in the Rural Family Medicine Program in Red Deer, AB.

## 2011

**Autume Chilcote, MEd Counselling**, is working with the Nursing Health Services Research Unit at the University of Toronto as a policy analyst for Ontario's Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care.

**Morgan Melnyk, BComm Marketing**, is working as a Commercial Service Representative at ATB Financial in Calgary, AB.



**Kelley Hilton (above), BComm International Business and 2011 Valedictorian**, is working as a Program Assistant at the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society in Prince George, BC. Her focus is on a government funded program called the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program, which aims to bridge the gap between employers and new Canadians.

## Alumni of the Year Awards



Three UNBC graduates and a long-time employee who was instrumental in the establishment of the University's bioenergy program were honoured as Alumni of the Year at this year's Alumni Awards & Wine Tasting Reception as part of Homecoming 2011. They include **Aidan Kelly (top left), BComm '06**, the CEO of Tourism Prince George; **Sarah de Leeuw (bottom right), MA '02**, an award-winning author and a professor in the Northern Medical Program; **Virginia Russell (bottom left) BSc '09 and MSc '11**, an outstanding student and researcher; and **Doug Carter (top right), UNBC's former Assistant Director of Physical Plant, Sustainability, and Capital Projects**. These individuals have made remarkable contributions at UNBC, in their communities, and their professions, and represent the innovative and entrepreneurial nature of UNBC's alumni community.



This spring, the Northern Development Initiatives Trust selected four 2011 graduates for the Economic Development Internship Program, which provides training, mentoring, and networking opportunities through work placements across northern BC. All

four interns have secured employment as a result of the program. **Melissa Barcellos (left), BComm General Business & Marketing**, will be working as the Marketing and Event Coordinator for the City of Williams Lake, **Robyn Carle (right), BA International Studies & Political Science**, will be working as the Development Services Officer for the District of New Hazelton, **Derek de Candole (center), BPL Northern & Rural Community Planning** will be working in an economic development position with the local government in the Cariboo Chilcotin/Lillooet region, and **Kaleena Ross (not pictured), BComm Accounting & General Business**, moved to Fort St. John to work as the Business Retention and Expansion Program Coordinator for the North Peace Economic Development Commission.

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## GoNorth

In my 20 year career in executive recruitment, I've placed more than five hundred of people in executive positions and on the boards of large corporations. I've worked with people who are at the top of their professions and I've developed a strong sense of what it takes to succeed. I grew up in northern BC and well remember hearing all about northern BC's "brain drain" to the US and to larger, more southern Canadian cities. Now when I see the caliber of UNBC graduates and combine this with the economic growth already happening in the region, I start thinking about brain gain.

UNBC has developed a world-class brand because of the networks built by its graduates. This has a lot to do with northern culture: people rely on each other. They create bonds and have a strong spirit of partnership and cooperation across the public and private sectors, throughout businesses and organizations, and in research and development. This is a highly valued commodity in today's workplace. Northerners have great technical skills, but we also hire them for their collaborative abilities. UNBC's graduates are becoming the glue that keeps companies together. Human Resource departments aren't just looking at grades anymore; they're looking at the total quality of the individual.

When you look at the widespread, positive notoriety UNBC has enjoyed of late, it's no surprise its graduates are so highly valued and sought after. Take a glance at the accomplishments of the past few years: an award-winning internationally renowned bioenergy

facility, a Northern Medical Program that is producing doctors who are setting up their first northern practices, and a top-tier sports facility, which next year will begin hosting athletes of the highest caliber in Canadian university sports.

People from all over the world are coming to northern BC for an education and staying for the exciting career opportunities. Just recently the Premier announced the building of a wood innovation centre in downtown Prince George that will provide jobs and expertise that will be sought the world over. Research and development have always been a part of the North, in pulp mills and in the oil and gas sector, but with the intensifying search for oil and gas, the emergence of bioenergy, and a focus on quality of life in the North, UNBC has established itself as a world leader and is taking the whole province to the top along with it. Great partnerships are being forged right now.

And great careers.

Go North.

**Don Prior** advises boards and CEOs on talent identification and management, drawing on his 20 years of experience as an executive recruiter, most recently as the Managing Partner for the Vancouver office of Watson Advisors, one of Canada's largest recruitment firms. He is also on UNBC's Board of Governors.

