

# UPDATE



# GOLDEN!

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Magazine for UNBC Alumni and Friends – Spring 2010



# Timberwolves Triumphant!

**F**ollowing a 17-1 season and five more wins at the provincial and national championships, the UNBC Northern Timberwolves lived up to their #1 ranking and captured a Canadian Colleges' Athletic Association (CCAA) championship for the first time in the history of UNBC Athletics.

The Timberwolves took on the host Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Trojans in the gold medal game and showed why they entered the tournament as the team to beat. The final score was 96-63.

"We were in attack mode from start to finish. It started from defensive intensity and we made some great shots," says Mike Raimbault, the Timberwolves head coach who earned Canadian coach of the year honours earlier in the week. "It's a team

award and a reflection of the great guys I have on this team. They proved themselves again tonight."

The national championship capped an amazing year for both UNBC basketball teams. The men's and women's teams both finished the regular season with 17 wins and one loss and while the women were upset in the Provincials, the men captured the provincial title in Nanaimo in a prelude to the Nationals. 2009-10 was also a season of individual awards: Mike Raimbault (BC and Canadian coach of the year), Inderbir Singh Gill (CCAA Male Athlete of the Year, BC player of the year, Academic All-Canadian, Provincials and Nationals MVP), and Christine Kennedy (BC player of the year and All-Canadian) were among those...

*Continued in foldout.*







After the gold medal game, the Timberwolves celebrated with the supporters whose cheers (and thunderous drums) propelled them to victory.

rewarded for impressive personal performances.

"I'm the happiest player in Canada right now," said Gill after the gold medal game. "This is the best team I've ever played on; every player is like a brother to me."

Nearly 100 UNBC fans including students and staff from Prince George, a dozen local First Nations drummers, the Timberwolf mascot, and alumni now living in Calgary were on hand for history-in-the-making. Despite making up a small portion of the 1000 fans in attendance at the game, they were easily as loud as the fans for the hometown Trojans and they were the talk of the tournament.

"We're used to this type of crowd in Prince George," said Gill after the game. "They're the best fans in Canada."

"It was an amazing set of games," added UNBC President George Iwama, who was in Calgary for all three UNBC games at Nationals. "The coaches and players kept their composure, played hard, and brought home the gold. It's what UNBC is all about: a strong team striving to be nothing but the best."



Inderbir Singh Gill was ultimately named CCAA Male Athlete of the Year across all sports.



# Awards Season



**Inderbir Gill**

CCAA Male Athlete of the Year  
 CCAA Academic All-Canadian  
 CCAA All-Canadian  
 BCCAA Player of the Year  
 BCCAA 1st Team All Star

**Christine Kennedy**

CCAA Academic All-Canadian  
 CCAA All-Canadian  
 BCCAA Player of the Year  
 BCCAA 1st Team All Star

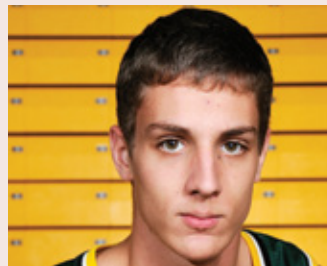


**Jose Araujo**

BCCAA 1st Team All Star

**Kady Dandeneau**

BCCAA 2nd Team All Star

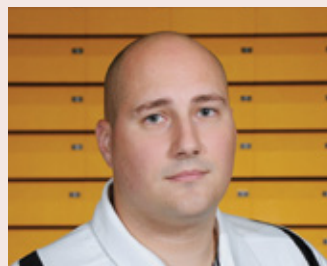


**Kevan Madsen**

BCCAA Rookie of the Year  
 BCCAA Rookie Team

**Mercedes Vankoughnett**

BCCAA Rookie Team



**Michael Rimbault**

BCCAA Coach of the Year  
 CCAA Coach of the Year







## Affordable Counseling

The master's degree project of Ryan James (MEd Counselling '09) has led to a place where Prince George residents can go for affordable counseling. James used the idea for the Community Care Centre as a way of fulfilling a project component of his graduate degree in Educational Counseling. The Calgary native has worked as the Clinical Supervisor at the downtown site since it began operations in January.

## Paying it Forward

UNBC student Marguerite Collié (BA International Studies '10) has started a bursary for students who come to the University from Africa – the first award of its kind in Prince George. “When I came to Canada from the Republic of Guinea twelve years ago, I had to depend on bursaries until I got on my feet,” says Collié. “This is just my way of paying it forward!” Students can begin applying for the African Heritage Bursary this fall.



# Success Stories

## Efficient Healthcare

Lonnie Eckhart (BComm '02) manages a not-for-profit company that is distributing new software used by physicians to manage and share information on everything from billing to patient medical records. “Not many people know this was developed in northern BC by local doctors,” says Eckhart. “This year we are looking to take it nationwide.” Eckhart is CEO of the Applied Informatics



for Health Society (AIHS) based in Prince George.

## Culinary Entrepreneurs



Garrett Fedorkiw (BComm '07) and his business partner, current UNBC student Eoin Foley, are catering to the lunch and dinner needs of workers and residents in downtown Prince George. The born-and-raised Prince George residents opened Nancy-O's restaurant to fill a gap in the City's culinary and entertainment scene. “Hard-working people need a fast, healthy, hot lunch and we can provide it. After work, folks can come by to sample our food and take in live music or comedy.”

## Social Work Success

Jackie Stokes (BSW '96), a long-time child protection advocate and one of the first graduates of UNBC's Social Work program, was honoured recently by the northern branch of the Association of BC Social Workers. Stokes received the Bridget Moran Award for her commitment to children and for her Social Work leadership. She began her career at Mackenzie Counseling Services and was an early advocate for



establishing UNBC and the School of Social Work in northern BC.

# Rising from the Rubble

UNBC grad James Adamson (BSc Geography '04) survives the Haitian earthquake and helps the “Pearl of the Caribbean” rebuild.

**D**uring my time in Haiti, I spent many nights gazing at the vast expanse of Port au Prince. As a geologist, I grimaced at the susceptibility of the capital city to earthquakes: a disaster always seemed inevitable. I prayed whenever I walked beneath a concrete overhang or entered a shoddy-looking building.

I was in a small boat off the southwest coast of the Haitian island of la Gonave when the earthquake struck. I had been working on a water supply project with Concern Worldwide and Haiti Outreach and was about 20 miles from the epicentre.

That first night was one of terrifying tremors and of listening to names of the dead being read on the radio. The entire country slept outside for fear of aftershocks and concern for loved ones not yet found. Members of our team learned of deaths in their families

and left quietly, as cries echoed in the village throughout the night and into the morning.

The scene in Port au Prince will last forever in my mind. Bodies of children and the elderly were tangled in piles of concrete and rebar. Residents with bloodshot eyes and dusty clothing searched for friends. I could visualize what the deceased were doing

the moment they died, the clothes they wore, the unborn babies some women carried.

The air was dusty, smoky, stale, and humid. The smells

were horrific - people put toothpaste under their noses and jammed leaves up their nostrils. We had no communication with the outside world and no idea what was going on.

We left the city to help organize a relief effort. Haiti Outreach's can-do mentality and ability to handle logistics was immediately applied to mobilize trucks to deliver water

The scene will last forever in my mind.

and facilitate medical teams to arrive via the Dominican Republic. We worked tirelessly for weeks.

When it came time for me to leave, I found the most pressing issue in Haiti to be related to shelter and housing. Most of the residents have been forced into makeshift tent cities, which are becoming permanently dependent on international food aid, water, and sanitation. This dependency needs to be stopped by constructing affordable housing on a massive scale.

Haiti's future also depends on an international response focused on rebuilding and encouraging private investment. It is my hope that Haiti will become less centralized through Port au Prince and able to lead their rebuilding with the help of the international community. Hopefully this rebuilding effort will reestablish Haiti as the “Pearl of the Caribbean” it once was.

I will do what I can to make this happen.



**James Adamson** (BSc Geography '04) is the manager of geosciences at V3 Companies, a consulting and engineering firm, and has been working extensively on water supply and hydrogeology projects in Haiti since 2006. James lives in Chicago with his wife Amy and makes annual trips to Northern BC to explore the wilderness with his friends at UNBC.





## UNBC Donations

### Development Office

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

Phone: 250-960-5750  
Toll-free: 1-866-960-5750  
Email: [development@unbc.ca](mailto:development@unbc.ca)

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



UNBC President George Iwama and his wife Marilyn (far right) are helping the class of 2010 raise the funds for the first-ever Class Gift.

### Giving Back

The 900+ students who will be graduating from UNBC this spring are starting a new tradition... and making UNBC better in the process. The Class of 2010 will be the first to give something back through a class gift, which, this year, will involve the establishment of an alumni lounge. This lounge, located in the Bentley Centre, will be a place for studying, socializing, and displaying photographs of UNBC's graduating classes going back to 1994. The renovation will raise the profile of the alumni among current students and provide an opportunity for grads to come back and reminisce about their time at UNBC. New grads are being asked to contribute \$20.10 and their efforts are being supported by UNBC President George Iwama and his wife, Marilyn, who are contributing \$2,010 to the cause.

# Giving to UNBC

### Endowment Funds Rebound

Last year, in the wake of the financial crisis, the value of the UNBC endowment fund – which supports many student awards and some research activity – had lost millions of dollars in value. Remarkably, much of the 17% decline has been made up through 2009-10. Nevertheless, some endowment funds are still “underwater,” meaning that they are currently worth less than the original amount donated. For 2010, any endowment funds unable to support the disbursement of student awards at their full value will be supplemented by donations that are made to UNBC in support of the University's greatest needs. Last year, the University also adjusted the annual pay-out from endowment funds to 3.5% of the value of the fund; down from 5%. In 2009, students received \$1.2 million through 486 awards created by donors.



Angela Ricketts is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science and has received the Pulp & Paper Technical Association of Canada Western Branch Bursary. Above: Angela shows her appreciation for the support she has received.



### A Carnival for 2010

Donors, students, and alumni were among the attendees at a winter carnival that was held on campus to coincide with the opening ceremony for the 2010 Winter Olympics. The Northern University Student Centre was packed for the event, which included a donation from RBC of artwork that was created when the Olympic torch came to Prince George. The painting (below), created while the canvas was spinning, is now on display in the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre.



### Medical Milestone

Ten years ago, residents of northern BC demanded a response to a crisis in local health care. One of the events saw more than 5,000 people pack into the arena in Prince George. The Northern Medical Program was born that day. What a difference a decade makes: the medical program has produced two grad classes, a nurse practitioner program is now being offered, Nursing enrolments have increased 300%, and the Northern Medical Programs Trust has raised \$6 million to support students. This incredible decade will be celebrated on June 22 when the communities, individuals, and corporations that have supported the expansion will be recognized. Plan to attend.



# Profile: John MacDonald

**Who:**

John S. MacDonald; co-founder of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, a leading Canadian company and a world leader in space science and technology; CEO of Day4 Energy Inc., a BC solar company; PhD in Electrical Engineering from MIT; Officer of the Order of Canada.

**What:**

UNBC's fifth Chancellor. The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University and a primary duty is granting degrees at annual Convocation ceremonies.

**When:**

To be officially installed as Chancellor at the first of UNBC's three convocation ceremonies on May 28th in Prince George.

**Where:**

After the Prince George ceremony, Dr. MacDonald will join other UNBC dignitaries at a series of regional graduation celebrations. One of these will occur in Dr. MacDonald's childhood hometown of Prince Rupert, where he graduated from Booth Memorial high school.

**Why:**

"UNBC is changing the northern region and I'm especially looking forward to visiting places like my old hometown and presenting degrees to people who will make important contributions to their community and our country. One of the things I discovered during my retirement (from MacDonald Dettwiler) is the importance of renewable energy and the special opportunity BC has to be a global leader in this field. Renewable energy has the potential to define the 21st Century the way the automobile defined the last century. If that ends up happening, an institution like UNBC has the potential to help the North play a major role in developing new forms of renewable energy technology. This university can produce and attract the brainpower necessary to move northern BC into the mainstream of a new 21st century industry."

- John MacDonald



UNBC's biggest renewable energy project so far: A bioenergy facility that will open later this year.

A large-scale construction site under a clear blue sky. A yellow concrete pump truck with a long, articulated boom is the central focus, extending over a large, flat concrete slab. Several construction workers in safety gear are visible in the background. The site is surrounded by trees and some buildings in the distance.

UNBC has the potential to play a major role in renewable energy.



# UNBC in the News



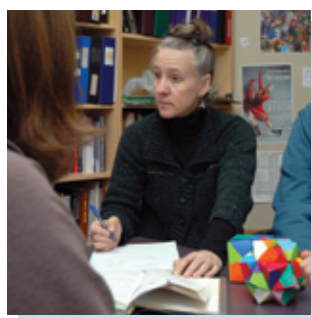
## Best in the West

The 19th annual Maclean's magazine ranking of Canadian Universities confirmed UNBC is the best small university in western Canada, and one of the best in the country. Maclean's ranked UNBC third in its category of primarily undergraduate universities.

As in other years, UNBC achieved the high ranking on the strength of its students, high quality faculty, research activity (number one in Canada) and its growing national reputation.

## PGRH Now University Hospital

Prince George Regional Hospital has been renamed the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia. "The new name better reflects the current role of the hospital as the main teaching site for the Northern Medical Program," said BC's Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon. The NMP welcomed its first students in 2004 and is a partnership between UNBC and UBC.



## National Teaching Award

UNBC Mathematics professor Jennifer Hyndman has been awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Canadian Mathematical Society. The award recognizes sustained and distinguished contributions in

teaching at the undergraduate level and will be presented at the Society's 2010 Summer Meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

# People in the News



## Iwama Installed as 4th President

Hundreds of local residents, students, UNBC employees, and even the Consul General of Japan were in attendance for the installation of Dr. George Iwama as he became UNBC's fourth president. The ceremony was

held at the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre and included the unveiling of the convocation robes, the oath of office, and greetings from representatives of universities and colleges across Canada.

## Carbon Footprint Project

The Stellat'en First Nation recently recruited UNBC environmental scientist Stephen Déry to help their community become greener. "Rural First Nations communities face many pollution problems that larger cities don't have to deal with," says Dr. Déry. "I'm trying to help the community overcome factors such as the remoteness of the region, lack of public transportation, the harsh climate, and high energy use for heating."



## UNBC Stands up For Haiti

UNBC students organized a day of fundraising for victims of the Haitian earthquake. "UNBC Stands Up for Haiti: A Day of Fundraising and Awareness" was held at UNBC's Prince George campus on February 24, and featured a variety of events

as well as presentations from University president George Iwama, International Studies professor Heather Smith, and Becky Row from the Canadian Red Cross. The more than \$7,400 collected went to Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.

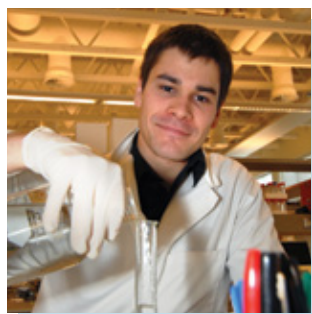




A Good Haul: Team UNBC winners pose with their awards after a successful JDC West Business Competition.

## UNBC's 9th Canada Research Chair

Dr. Margot Parkes was recently named Canada Research Chair in Health, Ecosystems, and Society – the University's ninth CRC appointment. Dr. Parkes' research examines the effect of changing ecosystems on the health of communities, with a focus on water as a common resource.



## Cancer Research Studentship

UNBC student Dustin King won a Studentship from the BC Cancer Agency to conduct research at UNBC this summer. The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student will research cancer with Chemistry prof Chow Lee, and

investigate the way certain molecules help spread the disease.

## Excellent Paper

UNBC Forestry professor Chris Opio and grad student Zhengzhe He received an Excellent Paper Award at the 2nd International Conference on Strategy and Marketing in Beijing recently. Out of the nearly one hundred entries, their paper on trade restrictions to softwood lumber was one of only two to receive such distinction.



# Best JDC West Ever

The teams representing the University of Northern British Columbia at this year's JDC (Jeux de Commerce) West Business Competition gave the University its most successful showing to date. UNBC, which hosted the event with the City of Prince George, took home two first place awards as well as a second and third place finish. The contest involved nearly 550 students from top universities across western Canada and included academic competitions, athletic challenges, a social competition, and a charity initiative.

"The overall consensus was that this was an extremely positive event for all participants," says UNBC student Evan Dusdal, one of the team captains. "Achieving an overall ranking of fourth out of ten teams is a great achievement, considering UNBC was the smallest school to participate."

JDC West ended with a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony and a keynote address by Lieutenant-General, the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, who currently serves in the Senate of Canada.



# Thank you for your support

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# Child health: Home & Away

Written by: Margo Greenwood

Canada plans to champion maternal and child health in the world's poorest countries at the upcoming G8 summit in June. Such basic necessities as clean water, vaccination, nutrition, and access to health care can certainly make the difference between life and death for children and their mothers.

But what about here at home?

That was the question that inspired a unique partnership between the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH), hosted at UNBC, and UNICEF Canada. We found that some of the same issues Canada plans to tackle globally already exist here for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children:

- **Vaccination?** On-reserve First Nations child immunization rates are 20% lower than the national rate, while Aboriginal children are 50 times more likely to be hospitalized with preventable illnesses.
- **Clean water?** The water supplies for two-thirds of First Nation reserves in 2001 were at risk of contamination. Last year, more than 100 communities had to boil their water.
- **Basic nutrition?** Food insecurity is a critical issue for Inuit children whose families are isolated and depend on hunting for food. Poverty and access to nutritious food play a key role in an epidemic of obesity and diabetes among Aboriginal children.
- **Health care access?** Infant death rates in Nunavut are more than three times the national rate, and eight times the national rate for First Nations people living on-reserve. Such figures are an indicator of the seismic fault lines in how health care is delivered to mothers and children in Canada.

UNICEF typically focuses on the state of well-being of children in developing countries. The NCCAH supports the public health goals of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. Our recent joint report, the *Canadian Supplement to the State of the World's Children 2009* represents the first time UNICEF Canada has turned the spotlight on the home front.

We found that Aboriginal children effectively live in a different country.



Our findings are well-known to some, as the challenges for Aboriginal health are longstanding, deep-rooted, and complex. The surprise is that the issues are so persistent. Another surprise is that many of the solutions are at our fingertips.

In Canada, for instance, we still do not have enough data about First Nations, Inuit, and Métis health to allow us to understand key health challenges and propose meaningful interventions. We can change that.

Policy battles between jurisdictions are costing our children not only their health, but in some instances, their lives. This too, we can change.

## Aboriginal children effectively live in a different country.

Similarly, when we understand that the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples is rooted in socio-economic and historical contexts affecting our cultures, languages, land rights, and self-determination, we can make progress. When we ask: what is the

link between health and educational attainment of our children? Between health and language revitalization among our children? Between building a gymnasium in a remote community and the health of our youth? – then, too, we can make progress.

I believe Canadians wish to close the health gap that exists in this country. I also believe children are at the centre of a web where strands of history and culture, politics and economics, community and environment, intersect. When it comes to health, it is increasingly evident that we can accomplish much if we start with mothers and children.

All children, at home and away, deserve the best we have to give.

**Margo Greenwood** is the Academic Leader of the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, which is hosted by UNBC, and a professor of Education and First Nations Studies. Dr. Greenwood was recently named Academic of the Year by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations, in part for her work in publishing the first *Canadian Supplement to the State of the World's Children 2009*.