

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Day January 15, 2016



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**Dr. Gary N. Wilson**  
Co-ordinator  
Northern Studies Program  
University of Northern BC  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 4Z9  
(250) 960-5514  
[wilsong@unbc.ca](mailto:wilsong@unbc.ca)

On Friday January 15, 2016, the Northern Studies Program will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Day, a celebration of research and teaching in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. This year's Polar Day will feature a presentation by Dr. Heather Nicol, Professor of Geography at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario and a Visiting Fulbright Chair in Arctic Studies at the Canadian Studies Centre, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Dr. Nicol's research examines the dynamics which structure the political geography of the circumpolar North, with a specific focus on the North American Arctic and Canada-US relations. Her Polar Day presentation will be on "A Critical Geopolitics of Polar Regions" and will be held from 12:00-1:30 in room 5-157 in the Library Building as part of the regular *Global Fridays* Colloquium.

## UNBC Students Present Research at ACUNS Conference

On November 5-8, 2015, student researchers from across Canada gathered at the University of Calgary to present their research on topics related to the circumpolar north. The 11<sup>th</sup> triennial Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) student conference, *Due North: Next Generation Arctic Research and Leadership*, was hosted by the Arctic Institute of North America and the University of Calgary. Two graduate students from UNBC participated in the conference: Alycia Mutual (MA Candidate, Interdisciplinary Studies) who presented her research on "Beaufort Sea Resource Development through the Lens of the Media" and Jeff Kormos (MA Candidate, Political Science) who presented his research on "Competing Institutions: International Perspectives of Russian Yupit' Political Autonomy." Congratulations on a job well done!



## Northern Studies Course Offerings Winter 2016

### NORS 101 – Introduction to Circumpolar North

*Instructor: Stephanie Powell-Hellyer*

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the landscape, peoples and issues of the circumpolar region. The course begins with an examination of the geography, biological and physical systems the north, and then focuses on Aboriginal and contemporary peoples of the circumpolar north.

Other Northern Studies courses offered this term through the University of the Arctic include: **NORS 312 (Lands and Environments of Circumpolar World)**; **NORS 322 (Peoples and Cultures of the Circumpolar World)**; and **NORS 332 (Contemporary Issues of the Circumpolar World)**. Contact Student Advisor, Katherine Yakemchuk at [katherine.yakemchuk@unbc.ca](mailto:katherine.yakemchuk@unbc.ca) for more details. All University of the Arctic courses begin at the start of February, so there is still time to register.

## Student Profile: Jeff Kormos



**Jeff Kormos** is an MA Student in Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). He came to the University of Northern British Columbia in September of 2009 to start his undergraduate studies and completed his Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Political Science and International Studies in December of 2012. During this time, he had the good fortune to be able to participate in an academic exchange to Yakutsk in the Sakha Republic, Russian Federation from June to December 2011. Consequently, during his undergraduate studies, he developed an interest in Russian language, culture, history, and, of course, politics. Growing up in the Yukon, Jeff has always been interested in the many political, economic, and social challenges and opportunities associated with life in the north. He began his graduate studies in the Department of Political Science at UNBC in January of 2013. His Master's thesis research explores the prospect of political autonomy for Russian Inuit through the opposing institutional forces of the State and both domestic and international non-governmental organizations inside the Chukotskii Autonomous *Okrug* in the Russian Far East.

## Northern Leadership and UNBC Representation

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS), a national body promoting research and teaching in the North, held its Annual General Meeting at the University of Calgary on November 7, 2015. Dr. Peter Geller (University of the Fraser Valley) stepped down after serving four years as ACUNS President and UNBC Faculty Member and Northern Studies Coordinator, Dr. Gary Wilson, was elected by the ACUNS Council to the position of Vice President. The new Executive of ACUNS is:

- President: Dr. Monique Bernier (INRS - Institut national de la recherche scientifique)
- Vice President: Dr. Gary Wilson (UNBC)
- Secretary Treasurer: Dr. Audrey Giles (University of Ottawa)



**The Model Arctic Council**



The Model Arctic Council (MAC) is an experiential learning exercise in which graduate and undergraduate students from institutions across the Arctic and world convene to represent and simulate the work of Member States, Permanent Participants, and Observers of the Arctic Council. MAC is a forum for students from across the Arctic that aims to expand knowledge of Arctic issues and international politics, prepare students to assume leadership roles in the Arctic, and enhance collaboration among University of the Arctic institutions. A 3-credit (US) course will culminate in the simulation of Arctic Council processes. The first fully developed MAC will be held at the University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks from March 9–15, 2016. Political Science Graduate Student, Jeff Kormos, will be representing UNBC.

The MAC is a Thematic Network of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) consortium. For more information on this and future MACs website (<http://www.uaf.edu/mac/>) or contact the organizers: Dr. Mary Ehrlander ([mfehrlander@alaska.edu](mailto:mfehrlander@alaska.edu)) or Dr. Brandon Boylan ([bmboylan@alaska.edu](mailto:bmboylan@alaska.edu))