



UFV President & Vice-Chancellor Mark Evered visits temple on Vaisakhi

Dr. Mark Evered visited the Khalsa Diwan Society Sikh temple in Abbotsford on South Fraser Way on April 18 to offer New Year greetings to the Indo-Canadian community. He pledged to continue to enhance relationships by inviting the community to interact with the UFV community at large and with the CICS specifically. He gave a historical overview of the connections that UFV has made with the Indo-Canadian community to date and expressed a desire to continue to build support and communication with the community. Dr. Evered was warmly received by the executive committee and the congregation of the temple.



Dr Mark Evered and Maureen Evered visit the Khalsa Diwan Society Sikh temple in Abbotsford with local leaders of the community, UFV faculty, UFV Board member Jatinder Sidhu and CICS Director Satwinder Bains.

Chandigarh partnership proposed

As a first phase of research collaboration, the Centre for Research on Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) in Chandigarh, India and the Global Development Institute (GDI) at UFV, are proposing to engage in a joint study that would examine the success of the implementation of several key responsibilities of the Panchayati Raj village-based political system, specifically in the Punjab. In partnership with CRRID scholars and other interested partners, the GDI has proposed to conduct an analysis of the outcomes achieved by Panchayati Raj institutions in some of their main areas of responsibility. The study would review the efficiency of local institutions with particular reference to the powers, authority, and responsibilities of these institutions in the area of education (Elements 17,18, 19, Eleventh Schedule, The Constitution [Seventy-third Amendment] Act, 1992), health and

sanitation (Element 23, Eleventh Schedule, The Constitution [Seventy-third Amendment] Act, 1992) and social development and children protection outcomes (Elements 24, 25, 26, 27, Eleventh Schedule, The Constitution [Seventy-third Amendment] Act, 1992). Such an analysis will allow for a clearer understanding of how the system impacts service delivery and contributes to social development at the local level.

Upcoming Events

Fall 2010

CF Andrews and Gandhi — A Journey in Time

Fall 2010

Ehsaas Film Festival

Spring and Fall 2011

Centennial Celebrations at the National Heritage Sikh Temple and the Reach Gallery and Museum

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Community Profile: Kelly Chahal

1. Tell us a little about yourself (personally, professionally)

I am the mother of two beautiful grown children: Sonia and Bobby. I enjoy walking and running for recreation and am an avid reader. I love travelling and I have a passion for entertaining and being creative. I am a past Scouts Canada leader, current President of the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association (FVICBA), and also a student of Criminal Justice. I recently returned from a trip to Sudan, Africa this winter where I did some work with the Southern Sudanese Probation Services and look forward to more similar type of journeys. I am active in community issues: I believe if you don't show up, you don't get heard and I encourage others to be active in community issues. I try to use my criminal justice, cross-cultural, and professional background to assist in making the Fraser Valley a better place to work, live, and socialize. I have been employed by the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General for the past 10 years. I am the operator of Kelly Chahal Public Relations (KCPR), where I develop and facilitate presentations and events, and formulate strategic plans for ethno-cultural communities, especially relating to criminal justice and social issues. I have volunteered and participated in Fraser Valley organizations, committees, and boards for the past 20 years and am a staunch advocate of intercultural development.

2. What is your affiliation with UFV and the CICS?

I have a long-time involvement with UFV (20 years). I recall when the institution was the Fraser Valley College, then UCFV and now UFV. I was a Director on the Friends of UCFV Society, which was instrumental in assisting the institution in achieving university status. As well, I am currently attending UFV in the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice degree program and

have completed my diploma and BA in Criminal Justice. I was an Alumni Board member for six years and continue to participate in Alumni Association initiatives. Last year was the first-ever endowment scholarship jointly developed by UFV and FVICBA. Also, the FVICBA jointly sponsored an economic panel presentation featuring DJ Sandhu, where the topic was about emerging business opportunities with India. Currently, aside from being a member of the CICS community advisory committee, I am also a member of the UFV Senate.

3. Why do you feel the desire to contribute to the CICS? What does the CICS offer to the community in your opinion?

Educational facilities have to be creative, current, and responsive to today's climate: CICS offers chances for every member of society to become involved in the various opportunities it can offer. I use my role in the CICS to encourage community involvement and support for the Centre. I see the Centre as being a pivotal setting for research, program and project development for students, faculty and community members. In a very short period of time, the Centre has become established and offers a variety of experiences for anyone. International speakers, dignitaries, authors, professors, and politicians have visited the Centre and each time, the community is invited to participate. These events support learning and intercultural awareness as well as community development.

4. What role do you see the Centre having in the future?

A key role I see the Centre having in the future is furthering educational ties with India, whether it be students, faculty exchanges and international educational opportunities, or leadership development with community members having exchange opportunities with



Kelly Chahal: Member of the CICS Indo Canadian Community Advisory Committee

India. The Centre will continue to play an integral role in assisting Canadian communities to have a better understanding of cultural specific issues. The Centre is on its way to becoming a leader in the development of cultural competency and assisting government organizations, societies, and other community partners to be knowledgeable about current strategies and skills and abilities which allow for better cross-cultural development.

5. In what ways do you think the Centre can better serve the community?

Continue to be responsive to social, economic, and cultural issues. Continue providing inclusive and open opportunities for community engagement with staff, faculty, students, and members from the Fraser Valley. The Centre should also allow feedback and suggestions from community members for ideas for events, discussions, and projects. The Centre has a responsibility to stay current with emerging trends not only here in Canada, but internationally as well, and then in turn share this knowledge and information with others.



Diasporizing Punjab, Disorienting Bhangra

An academic workshop and conference entitled "Diasporizing Punjab, Disorienting Bhangra", took place from May 5-8, 2010 at UFV and UBC. This SSHRC-funded event was hosted by the CICS and UBC's Department of Asian Studies and Centre for India and South Asia Research, in partnership with the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration. The workshop and conference brought together scholars of the Punjabi/Sikh diasporas from all over the world to examine some of the historical trajectories, cultural contours, and modes of commemorative, artistic, and popular cultural expression that characterize transnational Punjabi life. The workshop intended to create an engaged and sustained multidisciplinary network of academics working in the Punjabi and Sikh diasporas. Visit www.ufv.ca/CICS/Events/DPDB.htm for more information.

From Different Perspectives: Reach Museum and Gallery

The CICS co-sponsored the exhibition *From Different Perspectives* at the Reach Gallery and Museum, which told three stories of Indo-Canadian and Mexican farm workers. Their struggles on the landscape have been forgotten or ignored and the exhibit seeks to reveal a landscape of opposition where workers are both represented and see themselves represented in ways that challenge dominant views of the agricultural landscape. The Director of the CICS took part in a panel discussion that explored the stories of farm workers' struggles through social documentary photography, history of Indo-Canadian farm workers, and current labour issues facing farm workers.

Jammu Conference and CRRID Seminar

The Centre for New Literatures, Culture, and Communication at the University of Jammu invited UFV faculty members Yvon Dandurand, Terry Waterhouse, and Satwinder Bains to present papers at the "Policy, People and Peace: Democratization of Foreign Policy and Participatory Democracy in Canada, India and Beyond" conference in December 2009. The group, with the addition of geography instructor Garry Fehr, also presented papers at a seminar hosted by the Centre for Research on Rural and Industrial Development in Chandigarh entitled, "Cooperative Development, Peace and Security: Indo-Canadian Cooperation". Both events allowed UFV participants to develop and enhance connections and relationships with faculty and staff at both institutions.

UFV sponsors CIF gala

CICS was a bronze-level sponsor of the Canada-India Foundation annual awards and gala dinner, which took place on May 15 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. Since its inception in 2007, the Canada-India Foundation (CIF) has taken a leadership role in fostering support for stronger bilateral relations between Canada and India, greater engagement of the Indo-Canadian community in Canadian politics and public policy, and increasing awareness of the changing face of India. CIF works to foster support for stronger bi-lateral relations between Canada and India. Through active participation in public policy and engagement with parliamentarians, CIF positions the need for a strategic partnership between Canada and India as critical to Canada's future. CIF also works towards raising the profile of the Indo-Canadian community. Visit www.canadaindia.org for more information.



India Study Tour 2010



India Study Tour 2010 – students, friends and faculty

The second UFV India Study Tour was successfully implemented in February 2010. Twenty students travelled to India to study its culture, history, and geography led by professors Satwinder Bains, Cherie Enns, and Garry Fehr. The students spent their time in India interacting with students from Indian universities, visiting many social and cultural sites, studying historical monuments and artifacts, and finding meaning in the sights and sounds of India. The students visited Delhi, Agra, Chandigarh, Shimla, Kandaghat, Amritsar, Bhopal, and Goa with each city offering myriad experiences and adventures.



Faculty Profile: Dr. David Milobar

1. Tell us a little about yourself, your educational background, etc.

Originally, I was a music student at the University of Victoria, but then decided to do my Bachelor of Arts at the University of Alberta. Rather than doing my Master of Arts, followed by my PhD, I pursued my doctorate immediately at the Royal Holloway College, which was an extension of the University of London in 1990. In terms of my career as a history professor, I have also taught at both UBC and SFU.

2. What attracted you to research specifically on British India?

While attending Royal Holloway, there were seminars on a regular basis in which students and scholars alike would present their papers. I found that over 50% would be papers on South Asia, and thus, I was consistently exposed to that topic. As such, my interest in South Asia grew. Likewise, there were great scholars such as my supervisor, Peter Marshall, who also ignited my passion for British Imperial history. On another note, my interest in British India grew out of an interest to understand the bigger connections out of the relationships in empire, for example, the patterns of immigration to Canada, the US, Africa, England, etc.

3. What is your affiliation with the CICS?

I have been a part of the Centre from its early beginnings when the initial concept of the Chair was first discussed. Before I became a full-time faculty member, I had always discussed the prospect of introducing South Asian history courses to the department. Once the fundraising for the Centre really heated up, my history courses, "History of India: Akbar to Independence" and "India, the Punjab and Diaspora," were immediately introduced. As such, these two courses were essentially the very first



Dr. David Milobar of the History Faculty

courses offered in connection with Centre, and of course, which would later become the India-Canada studies certificate.

4. Is there any current research you are working on? Can you explain your South Asian History bibliography project?

Currently, I am researching Canada/India press before the 1920s. This past summer, I went to London and researched in the British Library. I want to look at the nationalist movement that emerged in the 1920s in India, and the connections to media and culture. Because the British were keen on spying on all nationalist movements, there are extensive resources of transcribed newspapers in a variety of languages including: Bengali, Urdu, Gurmukhi, Punjabi, Hindi, etc. Though initially, this nationalistic movement through the press began in Bengal, it did eventually impact the Northern Punjab region during the 1920s. In fact, it was most often Bengali editors who were approached and hired to come to the Punjab area and produce nationalist papers. The British were so keen on spying and categorizing such papers, that they would even label editors as loyal or disloyal.

I have worked on creating the South Asian History Bibliography, which is an extensive source for students, and/or faculty. What started off as some 3,000 or so entries has now increased to almost 7,000 entries as I continue to add more. This bibliography is accessed through the UFV Library website, where the librarians have been a great help in bringing this project to fruition. The sources are then categorized into a number of topics, including: time periods, sub-themes, etc. Once you have chosen any topic or theme in South Asian history, you can go through the sources and connect on the internet. Sources include primary transcripts and secondary journal articles, etc. My hopes are that in the near future, the bibliography will also contain digital archives from my own collections. For example, I have letters from a young British seapoy during the 1857 Indian War of Independence (or Mutiny), where he describes going to a village and the violence which ensued. As time goes on, this project will expand.



BC Opportunity Office opens in Chandigarh

British Columbia opened a new "BC Opportunity Office" on January 22 at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) in Chandigarh, Punjab, India. The office was opened in collaboration with UFV's BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development to facilitate economic, business, social, and cultural ties with North India. BC Attorney General, the Honourable Mike de Jong, brought a delegation of elected municipal representatives, prominent citizens of BC, bureaucrats, and business leaders with him to officially open the new office. At the opening, he addressed a gathering of 300 guests and dignitaries and spoke about the benefits to BC from the Indian diaspora settled there. "We want to take our special cultural relationship forward and build a strong economic relationship," he said. "The benefits must flow both ways." UFV's Prof. DJ Sandhu has been appointed as BC's Business and Skills Development representative in North India. "The office will work to strengthen business, economic, social, cultural links between the two regions," Sandhu said. His goal is to facilitate ties between entrepreneurs to develop business linkages and explore new areas of growth.



MLA Mike de Jong, Mayor George Peary, friends and supporters of UFV, and members of the BC delegation to Punjab

Diaspora certificate proposed

Migration is a central feature of the modern world; in both colonial and post-colonial eras, people have moved voluntarily and been moved involuntarily across national borders, even as such borders have been constructed, and shifted, in response to historical, political and social forces. Migrant peoples construct new social relationships in their destinations even as they reconstruct and maintain connections to their homelands.

The migration, movement, or exile of a people from an established or ancestral homeland, and the subsequent re-creation of home and belonging in the new land, is referred to as a *diaspora*. The interdisciplinary and comparative field of diaspora studies analyzes experiences of transnational movement and settlement, in terms of how these are historically and politically informed, how they shape forms of cultural production, expression and identity, and how they are lived in everyday life.

A 21-credit certificate, which draws its offerings from across a number of UFV Arts disciplines, has been designed for students who are considering diaspora-related graduate work or careers in public service, community development, social policy, immigration and settlement, and diaspora-related arts. Students will develop knowledge and skills that will assist them in developing their careers and pursuing further studies in these areas. The program will also prepare them to be thoughtful, critically-informed, and engaged citizens of an increasingly complex world. The certificate is being proposed by the Faculty of Arts, and the departments of English and Social, Cultural and Media Studies.

The Root of Human Problems — an inquiry



Dr. Ashutosh Kalsi, philosopher and guide

Dr. Ashutosh Kalsi (PhD Philosophy) spoke at the CICS on Nov 17 to share his theory as to how human problems have manifested themselves in many forms, inwardly in the form of loneliness, depression, stress, anxiety, fear, boredom, jealousies, and so on, and outwardly in the form of war, poverty, violence, corruption, disease, social and religious conflicts, environmental crisis, and so on. He proposes the idea that it is this root that needs to be understood, and explored as an approach to human life which is very different from our usual ways of thinking. Some of these insights have been drawn from Asian thinkers. He explored the limitations of thought, time and knowledge with the possibility of bringing total order in our lives, both within and without. An appreciative audience found his ideas fascinating and worthy of exploration.





Student leader profile: Aman Dhami



BBA 3rd year student, Aman Dhami

I was born and raised in Punjab, India, and I completed my schooling at DIPS, Dhillwan. When UFV started its BBA program in Chandigarh, India in 2006, my uncle (Dr. M.S. Dhami, Abbotsford resident, and member of the CICS

Advisory Committee) mentioned it to me. After attending the orientation in Chandigarh, I found that it would be a great opportunity for me. I started my BBA degree in UFV India in July 2007. One great part to the program was that professors from UFV Canada came to teach students in India. That was one of the things I really liked about the program. In Chandigarh, I worked as a marketing assistant after completing my first year in my degree. That was a wonderful experience and great opportunity. After completing two years in India I came to UFV Canada in late 2009 and it has been a great experience. I am learning so much here and studying with the people from all over the world.

In winter 2010, while doing my full time studies, I began working as a volunteer research assistant

at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. Working on campus has helped me meet many new people. For example, I met students of SAPNA who aim to promote the South Asian culture and also do things such as fundraising. Groups like SAPNA interest me because I also want to promote Indian culture in Canada. Pursuing my passion for dancing, I have also recently joined the UFV bhangra team on campus.

I have gained great exposure and opportunities by studying overseas. I am having a wonderful time at the UFV Abbotsford campus. So far, my professors, my wonderful family, and friends have helped me reach this point. I will definitely use this opportunity in a meaningful way.

SAPNA efforts pay off

February 2010: SAPNA members once again sold candygrams on campus in order to celebrate Valentine's Day. If you wanted to give something to a loved one, someone special, a friend, or even a great professor or staff member on campus, these little goodies were a great way to show you care. All proceeds from the candygrams went directly to Haiti relief. Not only did the team sell all their candygrams, but in total, and in collaboration with other UFV clubs' efforts, SAPNA raised approximately \$200.

SAPNA also came together with various other clubs and associations in a collaborative effort to raise funds for Haiti. On February 12, University House was a site for great music and food as delicious Chinese, Indian, Krispy Kreme donuts, and other foods were sold to any who wished to donate to the Haiti relief efforts.



SAPNA members and friends celebrating Holi – the festival of colours

March 2010: Holi came to life at the Centre as SAPNA organized a wonderful event for all. There was great food, bhangra dancing, and the

grand finale: colourful water paint fights on the UFV green.



Internship Experiences: Raji and Bal

Raji Heer

I must start by saying I was very fortunate to have received this opportunity as a research intern through the University of the Fraser Valley. During the three months away I developed many skills, including social networking, field research, and leadership skills. I became much more independent and was fortunate to meet many inspiring people.

The project I was researching was funded by both CICS and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF). APF serves as a hub of information for Canada in discussing its association with Asia and building stronger ties. This study is part of a three-part project titled Canadians Abroad.

It is estimated that almost 2.8 million Canadian citizens are residing in other countries. The purpose of my research role was to interview Canadian citizens who have moved to India

and find out their reasons for returning, and comparing their living experiences in their native country versus the country of their citizenship.

My role as a research intern was to interact with Canadians living in Punjab, and build a network of people with whom I would have discussions. They gave many reasons for departure and their experiences were very diverse, but a few common ones are:

- Life is easier and stress-free in India
- Our children's future in Canada was of concern, as India offers a more disciplined foundation in education
- Children are able to learn about their culture and speak their mother tongue much more fluently and easily with greater opportunities for learning

It was a pleasure to be able work and experience a new culture and way of living. Though it was

my fourth time to India, this particular trip was different because I was living there without family close by. It was an adjustment to begin with, but I soon settled in and began work. I was taking two online courses, Philosophy 110 and INCS 390, and both courses added to my experience and learning. I don't think I ever went a day without being struck by something new and amazing. I returned from India with more knowledge and a larger social network. I feel privileged to have mingled with staff and lecturers at Panjab University and have formed many long-term relationships.

Bal Mandair

I arrived in Chandigarh on September 15 to begin my internship with Developing Indigenous Resources, an NGO based out of California. DIR is a charitable, non-profit trust registered in Chandigarh, India since December 2004. DIR aims to equip people in poorer communities with the knowledge and skills to enable them to solve their own problems.

In a crowded slum where almost 14,000 people live in some 3,300 tiny homes, just outside Chandigarh, DIR has a project being implemented by the residents. These "bustees" are called Janta Colony and Adarsh Nagar. With a hopeful attitude I packed my bags and travelled half way around the world.

The job I was assigned for through DIR was fundraising. Upon my arrival I was informed by Dr. Fredrick Shaw, (the CEO and force behind the entire project) that funding would have to be raised in Indian rupees. Through my work I have new found respect for the corporate sector, which accounts for a significant amount of social work funded through social responsibility funds. However, I was astonished at the amount of government corruption and lack of social responsibility from elected and



UFV Interns Raji Heer and Bal Mandair with Yvon Dandurand, DJ Sandhu and Satwinder Bains in Chandigarh, India





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appointed individuals. This internship was an eye opener in how the world functioned outside my Abbotsford bubble.

Living and working in India was one the best experiences of my life, because through my work I was able to see the two very extreme sides of India; one of extreme poverty and the other of lavish luxury. It was definitely a rewarding and humbling experience. Through my work I have seen poverty and have witnessed how the system has failed its people, yet through DIR I see hope.

I am happy to report that by the end of my Internship I was able to raise over Rs. 100,676.00 for DIR. The work this organization does for the 14,000 residents living in the slums is immeasurable. I thank Dr. Shaw for

allowing me the opportunity to be a part of his wonderful NGO.

Despite some challenges I faced, I thank UFV, AUCC and DIR for allowing me the opportunity to witness this, it has definitely given me different perspectives on life. If the purpose of this internship was to experience a new world and gain experience in something one hopes to pursue their career in, then I must say it has been successful. I urge UFV students who might be presented with a similar opportunity to seize it; I cannot even put into words the magnitude of knowledge one gains on their career, life, and the world.



Intern Bal Mandair with trained staff from local NGO - Developing Indigenous Resources in Chandigarh, India

CICS REPORT

The newsletter for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies

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CICS Bi-annual Report



The Centre issued its bi-annual report 2008-2009 on April 15, 2010. The report gives a complete and comprehensive overview of the work of the Centre for the last two years. If you would like a copy please call us at **604-851-6325** or visit www.ufv.ca/cics.

