



CENTRE FOR INDO-CANADIAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY of the FRASER VALLEY

BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009



Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley

Bi-annual Report 2008/09

Table of Contents

Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley	2
India-Canada Studies program	3
Student Internships and Scholarships.....	3
India Study Tour.....	4
Academic Partnerships	5
The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development	6
Fundraising for the Chair	7
The Bachelor of Business Administration degree at UFV, Chandigarh campus ...	8
Developing and sustaining community partnerships	9
Research, forums, projects and consultation studies on various social, cultural and historical issues	12
Student research.....	13
Internationalization Projects	15
UFV-wide initiatives that support the vision of the Centre.....	16
Visiting Scholars and Dignitaries:.....	20
External Community Committees:.....	23
Internal UFV Committees:.....	23
CICS Associates	24
CICS Contact Information	25





Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley

Vision

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies (CICS) is the University of the Fraser Valley's (UFV) nexus point where scholars and students from UFV programs, community members as well as groups from all sectors of the community and international visitors come together to develop the study of the Indian sub-continent and the Indian Diaspora. The Centre supports the development, maintenance, and strengthening of linkages that lead to diverse experiences for students, faculty and community. The Centre also initiates and supports India-Canada studies, and programs and activities that promote the study of and engagement with the Indian sub-continent and the Indo Canadian Diaspora. The research arm of the Centre supports faculty associates of CICS to undertake research in their special areas as well as being responsive to broader research needs as they arise. The Centre is a hub and repository of the pioneering history of the Indo-Canadian Diaspora while assisting in the development of much-needed research that benefits members of the community, government, and the many facets of academia. The Centre is also the home of the BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development.

Core Programs:

- India-Canada Studies program
- The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development
- Developing and sustaining academic, business, and community partnerships
- Conducting research, holding forums, and consultations on various social, cultural and historical issues
- Support for UFV-wide initiatives that enhance the vision of the Centre

Goals:

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies identified four major goals that it pursued through the years 2008 and 2009:

1. UFV and community activities
2. Student and faculty engagement
3. Stakeholder relationships
4. Resources and administration

To meet these goals, the CICS has relied on several inter-related strategies and one of the most effective strategies was to always strive to involve as many students, faculty, and members of the community as possible in the activities of the Centre. Since its official opening, the Centre has involved 32 students as work-study students, in leadership roles, as research assistants or as coordinators of events, activities, and programs. Faculty are involved in research projects, study tours, curriculum planning, presentations, and activities with the Centre. The community has been involved in participating in activities of the Centre and in giving advice and support. The media has consistently sought the views of staff at the Centre when related stories have broken or are being analyzed and the Centre strives to provide a balanced and objective view on current events. The Centre's finances have been enhanced by research grants, government funding, and community fundraising.

Future plans:

1. Build the Centre's financial resources
2. Undertake relevant and pertinent research
3. Strengthen and enhance the India-Canada Studies program
4. Continue to engage faculty, students, staff, and community in the work of the Centre



India-Canada Studies program

The India-Canada Studies program started out with a few courses in 2004. The multi-disciplinary program has grown exponentially since then and in the last few years it has matured in breadth and offerings. Starting out with History, Social Work, and English, the program now includes courses in Geography, Anthropology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Cultural and Media Studies, and Modern Languages. As the program grew over the years and as the interest in the courses grew, new faculty were hired, study tours were undertaken to India, academic exchanges were developed, student internships were initiated, and much more. In September 2008, the brand new and unique India-Canada Studies certificate was launched. Students now have the added opportunity to graduate with a concentration certificate that will assist them in their career and further education pursuits. Students are benefiting from a rich, vibrant, and interesting certificate program that incorporates a wide range of disciplines. In Canada, it is a unique offering that will draw many prospective students to UFV.

www.ufv.ca/CICS/Courses/India-Canada_Studies_certificate.htm

Student Internships and Scholarships

Student Internships to Panjab University's Canadian Studies Centre in Summer 2008

After a successful first student internship initiative in 2007, two more UFV student received the chance to work in India in May 2008 through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Mr. Baldeep Toor (Biology major) and Ms. Satinder Sangha (Social Work) worked as interns at Panjab University's Canadian Studies Centre in Chandigarh, India. The interns left for India in May and returned at the end of August after undertaking research.



Student Internships to India in Fall 2009

Following the success of two previous internships (in 2007 & 2008), two student interns left for Chandigarh, India in September 2009 for one semester of research work and activities. Raji Heer, who is a student in the School of Social Work and Human Services, and Balreet Mandair, a student in the History department, worked on two very distinct and different projects.



Heer worked on the Canadians Abroad project of the Asia-Pacific Foundation (APF) in a granted program. She gathered statistical estimates of Canadians who reside in the Punjab region of India and developed profiles of prominent Canadians who have recently settled in India.

Mandair interned through support from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). She worked with a non-profit organization called Developing Indigenous Resources in a Janta colony near Chandigarh. This internship dealt with the need for health care by identifying those in need of health care. The



overall goal was to improve the efficiency and equity of delivering health care to women, children and the rural poor so as to meet the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Support for Student Scholarships

TD Canada Trust Endowment Bursary Award

UFV students with an interest in India/Canada relations will soon have added assistance in meeting the cost of their education thanks to a bursary created by TD Canada Trust. The TD Canada Trust India-Canada Studies Endowment Bursary will help ensure that students who otherwise could not afford to study this discipline will have the opportunity to do so. The bank's total gift of \$50,000 will be paid out over five years, with \$1,000 available each year as a bursary and the balance set aside as an endowment fund. At the end of the five years the built-up endowment will ensure an annual award in perpetuity. The first TD India-Canada Studies Endowment Bursary was made available in May 2009.

Indo-Canadian Pioneer Endowment Leadership Award

Indo-Canadian community leaders have long been known to rally together in support of important community causes. Thus, it was no surprise when members of the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association (FVICBA) joined together to support UFV students demonstrating leadership qualities by endowing the Indo-Canadian Pioneer Endowment Leadership award with a gift of \$12,500. The endowment was matched by Dr. Daryl Plecas of the Criminology Dept, who had the original idea. Thanks to the endowment, every deserving first-year student will receive approximately \$500 to support their post-secondary pursuits. The award will be given to a UFV student who has demonstrated excellence through leadership in a range of non-academic fields such as community service, student activities, and volunteerism.

Entrance Scholarships BBA UFV India

Currently, there are three entrance scholarships available to UFV BBA Chandigarh students: the first is the UFV BBA in Chandigarh Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in the amount of CDN \$2500 (approximately INR 1,00,000), which is awarded to the applicant who has achieved the highest overall academic standing in class 12; the second is UFV BBA in Chandigarh award for excellent achievement in academic and sports in the amount of CDN \$1250 (approximately INR 50,000), and the final scholarship is the UFV BBA in Chandigarh award for excellent academic achievement and financial need in the amount of CDN \$1250 (approximately INR 50,000), which is presented to provide an opportunity for a student who has excelled academically but who may not be able to pursue this program without financial assistance.

India Study Tour

Study Tour to India 2008

In February 2008, twenty-two UFV students and participants took part in an exhilarating study tour of Northern India, visiting six cities in 25 days at an often hectic pace. They learned about Indian people and culture, its history and architecture, its political and cultural ethos, and its institutions in a most interactive way. From the wonder of the Taj Mahal to meeting His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, the students were enthralled with the sights and scenes of India. The tour included cities such as: Chandigarh, Shimla, Amritsar, Dharamsala, Agra and Delhi. All in all, students agreed India was a heady experience-one that would stay with them for a long time.



Academic Partnerships



JUL 08

MOU with Mumbai University

UFV signed a three-year collaborative research and development Memorandum of Understanding with Mumbai University's English department. UFV Vice-President Academic and Provost, Dr. Dianne Common, Associate Vice-President Research and Graduate Studies, Yvon Dandurand, and the Director of CICS visited Mumbai University in July 2008. The UFV delegation presented a \$20,000 cheque to develop co-operation between the two institutions and the UFV Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and the MU Canadian Studies Centre. The focus was on joint academic activities, student and faculty exchanges and research collaborations in collaboration with the two English departments.

NOV 08

MOU with Manipal University

UFV signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Manipal University, Karnatka, to enable dual degrees, exchange of students, faculty, and researchers, and other educational initiatives of mutual benefit.

DEC 08

MOU with Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development

UFV and the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2008. The intent of the MoU was to collaborate on furthering cooperation through educational, research, and cultural linkages for the mutual benefit of the two institutions and their stakeholders. At the request of the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development, Dr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director General and Executive Vice Chairman of CRRID, visited UFV in June 2009 to explore the areas in which UFV and the CICS could collaborate with CRRID. While many possibilities were explored, the immediate interest was in the areas of safety and security; health and human resource development (professional and vocational). During his visit, Dr. Malhotra also visited Cascade Aerospace in Abbotsford and had meetings with ministers and officials of the BC Government in order to discuss how British Columbia and India could advance trade, economic, and social relations. Dr. Malhotra invited UFV faculty to undertake a scoping mission in December 2009 to discuss reciprocal research areas.

APR 09

The Global Development Institute

UFV's Global Development Institute (GDI) is an interdisciplinary Institute established to create collaborative global partnerships that allow for student learning opportunities in Canada and abroad and to develop academic research and teaching interventions on issues of international development. The GDI strives to be a leader in assisting people living in poverty and reducing social injustice by undertaking and supporting projects that address the urgent needs of communities. The GDI activities focus on four major aspects of development: good governance and the rule of law, children, and development, environmental sustainability, and education. The CICS Director is a member of the Institute, helping to promote the work of the Institute in India.



The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development

MAY 08

Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce – Chair Keynote Address:

Canada India Research Chair DJ Sandhu was the keynote speaker at a luncheon attended by Abbotsford business, education, and community leaders. The Chair spoke about the increasing potential of the opportunity in India. India's population at present is around 1.2 billion people and there are tremendous opportunities to be explored with this vast population base. Sandhu also commented that India is home to global education systems but Canada is behind in exploring these opportunities there. Sandhu stated that the niche markets right now in India are health, aviation, education, vocational training, and agri-business. Cell phones are also a large market that is not yet saturated. At present, eight million people per month sign up for a cell phone. In 2007, there were 300 million cell phones being used in India. This again drives home the point that there is great opportunity to do business in India.

JUN 08

Chair Participates in Summit

The Chair participated in "India Calling: 2008 India Canada Business Partnership Summit" in Vancouver from June 18-19, 2008. This summit was organized by the Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC) in association with Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), Canada-India Business Council (CIBC), and Indo-Canadian Business Chamber (ICBC). Business people, bureaucrats and educators participated in discussions, seminars and round table talks in Vancouver.

JUL 08

RBC Royal Bank launches Business Guide on India with the BC Regional Innovation Chair at the Vancouver Board of Trade:

At a lunch sponsored by RBC Royal Bank at the Vancouver board of Trade, DJ Sandhu, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada India Business and Economic Development, launched the Business Guide on India with keynote speaker Ms. Carol Borghesi, customer management consultant. Borghesi shared her expertise on doing business in India, which she said is an exploding consumer market undergoing "hyper growth." By 2015, India is predicted to have the biggest consumer economy in the world, ahead of Canada. She advised that having a business facilitator, guide, and partnerships are crucial to business success, and that anyone starting up should take their own middle-management expertise and be prepared to rethink their business model when it comes to negotiations.

MAR 09

Royal Bank of Canada-Chair Keynote Address

The Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association hosted DJ Sandhu, BC Regional Innovation Chair in partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada to present the key keynote address on "The Global Financial Crisis and its Impact on Opportunities in India" in March in Abbotsford. The partners included: The Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association, Qvester Tangent of Victoria, BC, and the Canada India Business Council.

SEPT 09

Vancouver Board of Trade Luncheon

The Vancouver Board of Trade hosted a luncheon sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and presented in cooperation with UFV, where the guest speaker included Ashutosh Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Guardian Lifecare Private Ltd. According to Garg, "[t]he total size of the retail business in India will be capitalizing on \$521 billion in possibilities by 2012." India's new market opportunities have grabbed the attention of many international companies.



Fundraising for the Chair

MARCH 08

Royal Bank sponsors Research Chair for \$250,000

The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) committed \$250,000 to UFV for the B.C. Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development. The Chair position is held by UFV President's Advisor on India Professor DJ Sandhu, who is also responsible for the BBA degree program that operates in Chandigarh. The position was mandated to supply effective, appropriate, and practical research to local businesses, and assist them in capitalizing on opportunities between British Columbia and India. The CICS is Canada's only such centre for South Asian trade and exchange with an established Chair. RBC will work with UFV to develop and promote roundtables, seminars, speaking events (live and online), and a guide that will feature information on how to do business in and with India.



SEPT 08

Khalsa Credit Union Pledges \$25,000 to the Chair Endowment Fund

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies was pleased to accept the kind contribution of their newest donor, who has pledged \$25,000 over five years. UFV President Skip Bassford and Vice-President External Robert Buchan, along with members of the fundraising committee, met with Khalsa Credit Union board members and CEO, Mr. Dalbir Singh Sohi to thank them for their support and to welcome them to the Centre. Mr. Gurnaik Singh Brar, who is the director of the Credit Union and a local leader, had been instrumental in garnering support for the Chair from the Khalsa Credit union. Mr. Brar has been a long-time supporter of the Centre.





The Bachelor of Business Administration degree at UFV, Chandigarh campus

JAN 08

Student Awards

UFV awarded CDN \$5,000 in entrance scholarships to UFV students in India. The Honorable Michael de Jong MLA, Abbotsford City Councillor Moe Gill and Professor DJ Sandhu awarded UFV students with scholarship awards at Panjab University, Chandigarh during the second anniversary of the UFV Canadian BBA degree program in Chandigarh. The BC government's Leader of the House, the Honourable Michael de Jong, provided the keynote address. "Work hard, study hard, believe in your professors and in the Canadian education you are receiving, and dare to dream big," Minister de Jong told the students. "UFV is delivering on every promise and through its highly practical, applied model, is preparing you to be leaders in business anywhere in the world." Four awards were presented to students of the degree program. The top award for outstanding achievement, in the amount of CDN \$2500 (Rs. 97,700) was given to Ms. Ssonam Dutta, who had an 89 per cent average after passing out of Sacred Heart Tara Hall and Dayananad Public School in Shimla. Ms. Arvinder Jhutti, a graduate of Balvidya Mandir in Nainital, was also awarded CDN \$1250 (INR 48, 850) for combined excellence in academics and athletics.

MAY 08

UFV Students in India named to Dean's list

Six Indian students in UFV's Canadian BBA degree program in Chandigarh were named to the Dean's list within the UFV School of Professional Studies, ranking extremely well amongst their counterparts at UFV campuses in Canada. To receive this honour, students must achieve an outstanding academic record.

JUL 08

Celebrate Canada Day in India

India's northern city of Chandigarh was in for an exciting surprise on July 1, 2008, as students from the UFV's Canadian BBA degree program there organized a one-of-a-kind portable party to encourage locals to celebrate Canada's 141st birthday. The entire student body was adorned in red and white and made the rounds to all local hot spots, holding flash mini-events, handing out prizes and playing games. "We have strong ties to Canada, and since British Columbia and Punjab are officially becoming sister states, we thought it was a terrific way to strengthen our cultural connection," says Manreet Sahi, a third-year student of the UFV BBA degree program and one of the event organizers. The group cut a giant maple-flavoured and maple leaf-shaped cake to wind up the day's exciting events.



NOV 08

Competition Winners at Chandigarh

In November 2008, three students in UFV's Bachelor of Business Administration degree program at Sanatan Dharma College Chandigarh secured the number-one spot worldwide in an online business simulation. The team of third-year students -- Ms. Shefali Joshi, Mr. Sunny Mahajan, and Ms. Gurinderjeet Kang -- achieved the top spot in the Glo-Bus online business simulation, amongst 1725 teams and 105 participating universities and colleges worldwide. Glo-Bus is the world's only truly international simulation focusing on competitive business strategy.



JAN 09

**UFV and Sanatan Dharma College Chandigarh
Host Canadian Member of Parliament**

Ujjal Dosanjh

During his visit to India in January, the Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh addressed students of the Sanatan Dharma College (SDC) and UFV (which delivers its Canadian BBA degree program in Chandigarh in collaboration with SDC.) During his visit, Dosanjh had an interactive discussion with students, where he urged them to trigger change for a new India.



Scholarships

Currently, there are three entrance scholarships available to UFV BBA Chandigarh students: the first is the UFV BBA in Chandigarh Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in the amount of CDN \$2500 (approximately INR 1,00,000), which is awarded to the applicant who has achieved the highest overall academic standing in class 12; the second is UFV BBA in Chandigarh award for excellent achievement in academic and sports in the amount of CDN \$1250 (approximately INR 50,000), and the final scholarship is the UFV BBA in Chandigarh award for excellent academic achievement and financial need in the amount of CDN \$1250 (approximately INR 50,000), which is presented to provide an opportunity for a student who has excelled academically but who may not be able to pursue this program without financial assistance.

Developing and sustaining community partnerships

Abbotsford Social Development Advisory Committee

The Director of CICS was appointed to the City of Abbotsford's ASDAC as the multicultural and diversity representative. The Director chairs the working group on multicultural and diversity issues, which works with community members to promote diversity in the community.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Centre undertook an 18-month consultation study on child-protection issues facing the Indo-Canadian community in Abbotsford. The study's aim was to develop a service model of prevention and intervention to assist families in crisis. To meet this aim, the following areas of study were undertaken: a literature review, cultural assessment, service model exploration, and an inventory of services. The report was presented to the Ministry in March 2009.

Community Visions

Community Visions was the first exhibition at The Reach of local artists that offered an eclectic and diverse range of visual experiences. This exhibition featured 19 local artists who explored Abbotsford's history and cultural diversity and investigated issues including immigration, multiculturalism, industry, the environment and the Sto:lo First Nations. The art works were selected by jury and explored three themes that reflected significant aspects of Abbotsford history and culture: People of the Valley, highlighting the Sto:lo people, ; People of the Land, exploring commerce, industry and agriculture, immigration and multiculturalism; and People of the River, examining how the natural waterways influenced the environment and people who lived in this region. The participating artists provided the public with a unique opportunity to learn about the community from diverse perspectives and make creative connections between visual art and the historical exhibition in a dynamic way. The CICS contributed community artifacts and archives to the exhibit which had a yearlong showing.



UFV photo exhibit chronicles Sikh pioneers in B.C.

An exhibit displaying Sikh history in British Columbia over the past 150 years was displayed at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. The exhibit showcased the tremendously rich and vibrant history of Indo-Canadian pioneers in the Fraser Valley through oral history records, photographs, and artifacts. Eight pioneers who lead the way for others were recognized for the hardships they faced. The exhibit was open to UFV students, community members, faculty, and interested people. This project was supported by the Ministry of Attorney General and the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism as a BC 150 multicultural Mosaic program. BC 150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia in 1858. The long-term goal of the CICS is to produce both a history book and an academic study of the first century of Indo-Canadian presence in B.C. The Udaari photo exhibition, after a very successful displaying at the CICS moved to the Reach Museum and Cultural Centre in Abbotsford until January 2009. From there it went to Dasmesh Punjabi School for one week display for students and families.



Mission Community Services

The Centre collaborated with the Mission Community Services on a number of endeavors. Youth Teaching Youth-Multiculturalism Matters (funded by the BC Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Program) explored how youth were motivated to demonstrate values of Multiculturalism through the celebration of Indian Spring Festival. The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, SAPNA youth student group (South Asian Peer Network Association) displayed a Photo Exhibition showing cultural values of Indian village life and urban life in India.



They also displayed picture exhibition of Holi colours and people playing with colours in the community on Holi. The CICS also co-sponsored a Diwali event with the Multicultural Department at Mission Community Services and the West Heights Inclusive Neighborhood Project. These departments joined together to celebrate Diwali, a festival of lights on October 16, 2009 at West Heights Elementary School.

In addition, the CICS is involved with "Making the Arts Connection," an initiative which has three aspects:

- 1) Monthly, "Films/Books that make a difference" and chose some moderators from the partners amongst us or from the community to have some discussion about the film/book.
- 2) Receive a "people's choice" for the books/films which are selected.
- 3) Design a project plan with partners "Building of Mission -- Immigrant and First Nations Stories from Past to Present"

SAPNA Hosted Diwali

UFV's South Asian Peer Network (SAPNA) hosted Diwali at the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies in October, 2009. The event featured henna tattoos, clay (diya) painting, as well as delicious Indian food. The Centre also co-sponsored a Diwali event with the Multicultural department at Mission Community Services and the West Heights Inclusive Neighborhood project. These groups joined together to celebrate Diwali on October 16 at West Heights Elementary School.



A Time to Change: Thirty Photographs of Indo-Canadian Farmworkers in the Fraser Valley by Craig Berggold

In the 1980s Vancouver photographer, Craig Berggold, extensively documented the farm workers' struggles: living in substandard housing, dealing with occupational disease and poor working conditions. These were the social and cultural conditions that led to the formation of the Candian Farmworkers' Union in the Fraser Valley. Farm workers and the union continue to fight today for the abolition of the contract labour system, minimum wage and maximum hours of work for farm workers, and an end to discriminatory Employment Insurance regulations. The photo exhibit was sponsored by the CICS at the Reach Museum and Cultural Centre.

Fraser Valley Child Dev Centre (FV CDC)

The Director of the CICS undertook a research project in collaboration with the FVCD under the Child and Youth Health Research Network to collect data on services offered to families with special needs children and how these services meet the needs of the Indo Canadian families.

A Common Thread: Textiles from Stó:lō, South Asian & Mennonite Communities

This exhibition examined and juxtaposed the quilts and textiles from three specific cultural communities. It explored the complex stories and meanings that are contained within each of the artworks as a way of sharing their diverse cultural voices. The Stó:lō weaving tradition, which was almost lost until the 1960's, is now a part of an international cultural renaissance of Salish weaving. Today, Stó:lō weaving contains many beautiful designs each with specific symbols and meanings. The Mennonite quilts are both functional and emotional providers of family connections; while the quilts literally keep people warm, they are also layered with social and symbolic warmth. Utilitarian



objects are elevated through imagination, enterprise and love to the status of an original art form. The Ralli quilts from the India-Pakistan region date back thousands of years. This humble craft was made with discarded fabrics and is an integral part of the culture. The history and beauty of the rallis themselves attest to the great creative talents of the women of the Ralli. A Common Thread initiated a dialogue in an attempt to help define community, encourage connections between communities and share memories and stories through the exhibition of quilts and textiles. The CICS helped sponsor this fascinating exhibit and invited Urmilla Devi from the Royal family of Mysore, India to share in the textile history of her family.

Shastri Executive Members Meetings

The fall Executive Council meeting of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute was held at the CICS during the week of November 22, 2009. The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies hosted a dinner reception in their honour on November 23 where the Executive Council (made up of members both from India and Canada) met with members of the local Shastri community, the community at large, and UFV faculty and friends to share their ideas. Dr. B.S. Ghuman of Panjab University and Dr. Veer Singh of the National Law University presented papers on the privatization of higher education in India and law education in Indian Universities respectively.



Research, forums, projects and consultation studies on various social, cultural and historical issues

FEB 08

International Child-friendly Conference

An international conference on Child-friendly Cities was held at Panjab University, Chandigarh, in February. The conference was jointly organized by the Canadian Studies Centre at Panjab University in collaboration with UFV. The conference focused on key issues regarding child-friendly cities and the child-friendliness of Indian cities, in particular Chandigarh. The conference highlighted child-friendly examples from around the world and some already being run in Chandigarh. The conference began with Professor B.S. Ghuman, Coordinator of the Canadian Studies Centre, who welcomed all the participants. Cherie Enns, professor of Geography at UCFV, introduced the theme of the conference, emphasizing the challenges that children in the process of rapid urbanization, such as social exclusion, boredom, pollution, and traffic. She discussed the UN convention on child rights and elaborated on how these conventions and social entrepreneurships can be used for slum development. International speakers presented child friendly concepts and theories for Chandigarh planners and academics. The two interns from UCFV, Ms Sumeet Jammu and Ms. Meggie Shields, spoke about their experiences at the Canadian Studies Centre at Panjab University, having been there since September 2007. The interns were instrumental in the conference organization. A Conference grant of approximately Rs. 10-lakh was sanctioned by the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute.



MAR 08

Faculty Research

UFV Geography Professor John Belec, who has been studying, researching, and writing about Cross-Border Regions (a territorial unit that comprises contiguous sub-national unit from two or more nation-states), went to India to form research partnerships between UFV and scholars in partner institutions in Punjab.

JUN 08

Presentation at the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education at UBC

Satwinder Bains and Adrienne Chan presented at CONGRESS 2008 at the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education at the University of British Columbia. The paper presented findings on racial identity and cultural politics in postsecondary education as part of a panel entitled “Emergent Perspectives in Fostering Successful Environments in Higher Education: Experiences among Post-secondary Minority Students in Canada.”

JUN 08

Faculty Research

UFV English Professor Summer Pervez conducted research on “Post-colonializing Deleuze: Transnational Identities and Horizontal Thought in the British South Asian Diaspora.” The research is about the need to re-examine South Asian British literature and film from the perspective of “horizontal” or Deleuzian thought, which is a new model of thinking about identity. Summer visited England, India, and Pakistan in the summer of 2008.

Student research

2008 Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

Laurie Schultz, graduating student from the Bachelor of Social Work degree, received the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for her research on why children of Indo-Canadian families come to the attention of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. She spent four months working for the Centre under the guidance of Dr. Adrienne Chan of the School of Social Work.

2009 Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

Student Researcher Balreet Mandair received the Undergraduate Excellence Award for her work on Udaari valued at \$1000.00. Balreet interviewed pioneer families in the local areas and documented their history for the Udaari photographic exhibit.

National Research

Danielle Bruinsma, Geography major at UFV, was hired for the summer of 2008 as a research assistant for Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts of Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, in a research project collaboration with Satwinder Bains and DJ Sandhu at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. Ms. Bruinsma worked on taking a closer look at export trade development relations with India for Indian immigrants, trade associations, government institutions and corporations in BC. The study addresses the need for more information on why Canada is falling short in making the connections to enhance trade with India's booming economy in comparison to Australia.

Policy Research

Under the guidance of the Centre, third-year Social Work student Satinder Sangha undertook a research study of the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Child, Family and Community Services Act. The objective was to conduct research on key social issues to help government move forward with an evidence-based policy practice approach.

Census research

Graduate student Karen Tiwana worked on a demographic profile of Indo-Canadians in the Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area (Abbotsford and Mission) for 2001 and 2006.

JUL 08

UFV Faculty's Lecture at Panjab University

UFV's Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies, Satwinder Bains, Director, Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, and Vice President, Academic and Provost Dianne Common visited Panjab University and SD College. Professor Dandurand presented a special lecture on *Canada-India Research Partnerships in the Field of Justice, Public Safety, and Human Rights* at Panjab University. The lecture is to be included in a book to be published by Dr. A.S. Narang, President of Shastri Indo Canadian Institute.

OCT 08

Follow-Up Forum on Child Friendly Cities

Professor Cherie Enns, department of Geography at UFV, and UFV student Baldeep Toor, together with the Canadian Studies Centre in collaboration with the department of public administration at Panjab University (P.U.), organized a follow up forum on child-friendly cities at Panjab University in October 2008. The forum was organized as follow-up of the international conference on child-friendly cities that was held at Panjab University in February 2008. Thirty advocates for children's spaces, academics, and city planners came together to provide input into future initiatives that were documented by UFV. Enns illustrated successful





child-friendly examples around the world, such as having a child-friendly legal framework and children's budget for cities, noting that local communities played a pivotal role and encouraging the residents of the city to take charge of child-friendly projects.

NOV 08

UFV President, Dr. H.A. Bassford and BC Regional Innovational Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development, DJ Sandhu attend “Higher Education at the Crossroads: Imperatives for Policy and Practice” Conference in New Delhi

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a Global Conference on “Higher Education at the Crossroads: Imperatives for Policy and Practice” in November 2008 in New Delhi. The event was supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India with Canada as the partner country. Other delegations came from UK, USA, Australia and Africa. Through this summit, the focus was to bring together educationist and policy-makers to define a road map for accelerating policy change and growth in higher education and establish India's leadership in knowledge economy. Dr. Bassford spoke at the conference, highlighting UFV initiatives in India/Canada relations.

JAN 09

International Conference

UFV and Sanatan Dharma College Chandigarh hosted an International Conference on Corporate Governance, featuring talks by Canadian lawyers Nicolas Rouleau and Joseph Pagé, along with SD College faculty.

JAN 09

Interfaith Dialogue

The CICS hosted an Interfaith Dialogue as a public event where over 100 people interacted in discussions. Presentations on the various faith groups were made by Harold Rosen (Baha'i faith), David Giesbrecht (Christian faith), Gurmit Singh Tiwana (Sikh faith), Kosum Soni and Oscar Khalideen (Hindu faith), David Mivasair (Jewish faith), and Raheel Raza (Islamic faith).

FEB 09

Training

The CICS presented training for all Fraser Valley Child Development Centre Staff of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission, on how to work with children of Indo-Canadian families who have development challenges. As well, CICS presented diversity training to MCFD foster parents in the Fraser Valley.

APR 09

Child and Youth Research Network Awards Seed Grant to Assess Children with Disabilities Case Study

A Research project on Indo Canadian families who have children with disabilities was undertaken in partnership with the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre. This research assessed the services needs of Indo Canadian families and whether they were being met in the local area.

APR 09

UBCM grant for Indo-Canadian Seniors' Social and Recreational Needs

The City of Abbotsford awarded a grant to the CICS in order to study Indo-Canadian seniors' recreational and social needs for age friendly community planning. Indo-Canadian seniors were the focus of this research to assist the City and service providers in better meeting the needs of socially isolated or culturally sensitive seniors.

JUN 09

Forum on Cross Border Regions

Dr. John Belec of the Geography department organized a forum at CICS. The central theme of the international forum was Cross Border Regions (CBRs) and related issues of governance and regional cultural identity and citizenship. The symposium built on the established working relationship between the Geography departments at UFV and Western Washington University and the new relationship with Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU). Dr. Harpreet Kaur of GNDU presented on her research on border villages of Pakistan and India and the social, cultural issues faced by residents.



JUN 09

Forum Hosted for SANSAD

The CICS endorsed and hosted an event on June 22 that was organized by the South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD). The focus of the forum was on the large-scale acquisition of hundreds of thousands of hectares of agricultural land; either for building mega projects, or for setting up Special Economic Zones to serve the local and/or multinational big capital. Large-scale resistance of peasants and tribal people are breaking up all over India, and are often met with severe state repression. Dr. Hari Sharma, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, SFU, and President, South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD), presented an update and a brief overview on *Imperialism and India*.

Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, Retired Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, presently Professor of Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, discussed *People's Movement Against Neo-Liberalism and Imperialism: A View from Orissa*. Dr. Bidyut Mohanty, Head, Women's Studies Department, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, presently visiting Professor, Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, presented her paper on *Right to Livelihood from a Gender Perspective*. As a husband-wife team, Drs. Manoranjan and Bidyut Mohanty are originally from Orissa, and have been very actively involved there with the peoples' resistance movements.

JUN 09

I CARE Project – Team member with Providence Health Care

This project addresses the mental health and social services needs of Indo-Canadian women seniors who might be experiencing isolation in the home and the community. A multi-disciplinary team is looking at the Fraser Valley as a setting for further investigation.

UFV and Panjab University Masters degrees

UFV and Panjab University are working to develop a dual Masters degree in Police Administration and Criminology. Professor Yvon Dandurand of UFV and Dean B.S. Ghuman of Panjab University are hoping to finalize requirements and guidelines that would enable both universities to jointly offer a degree from any of the two countries.

Internationalization Projects

APR 09

Guru Nanak Dev University Diaspora Course Project

The CICS received a UFV Internationalization grant to undertake explorations for a joint undergraduate course on the Indo Canadian Diaspora with GNDU in Amrtisar. The course would explore the Diaspora members' relationships with the home country and the challenges and successes of the last 100 years in Canada.

SEPT 09

Disorienting Bhangra/Disaporizing Punjab

The Internationalization grant was awarded to develop an academic workshop in May 2010 that would bring international scholars to UFV to discuss and share their work on the Punjabi Diaspora settled in the west.



UFV-wide initiatives that support the vision of the Centre

DEC 07- MAR 08

Cultural Recovery Program

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies assisted in the Cultural Recovery Program of the Khalsa Diwan Society of Abbotsford. The initiative developed an interactive website that highlights the 100-year history of the Indo-Canadian Punjabi/Sikh community in the Fraser Valley. The experiences of a tumultuous century, fraught with trials and tribulations, had culminated in a momentous juncture with the designation of National Heritage Site in Abbotsford for the oldest Sikh temple in the Americas. The objective of the website was two-fold: firstly to provide an avenue for any Canadian to learn about the 100 year history and secondly to link the institution with local, national, and international organizations that provide cultural, historical, and traditional information on the Sikh/Punjabi community and its Diaspora communities. The project was grateful to Canadian Heritage for funding support. For more information, please visit www.canadiansikhheritage.ca

JAN 08

Career Fairs

In January, the Centre held two career fairs that focused on Indo-Canadian students and their parents. The career fairs ran on January 13 at the Sikh Gurdwara on South Fraser Way (Khalsa Diwan Society) and on January 14 at the Blueridge Gurdwara (Kalgidhar Darbar). The fairs were held during the celebration of Lohri and Maghi and lasted about three hours each day. The career fairs came about in response to feedback from a youth forum that was held in March 2007, where students felt that their parents may not know about the wide scope of potential programs/courses offered at UFV. Students had expressed the need for a career fair targeting parents who would gain both knowledge and access to the various career options and educational opportunities at UCFV. The Centre invited UFV faculties to promote their programs/courses to Indo-Canadian parents. Groups that participated included Social Work & Human Services, Teacher Education, Political Science & Philosophy, Computer Information Systems, Child & Youth Care, Visual Arts, Abbotsford Police, and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. Each group was represented by both a student and a faculty member who spoke with parents. Parents and youth were able to talk with individual faculty representatives and take away materials from the different programs offered at UFV. They were also able to learn about career opportunities at Abbotsford Police, who participated as well.

APR 08

UCFV Becomes UFV

Premier Gordon Campbell, alongside Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell, made the official announcement that the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) would be renamed University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). "The new University of the Fraser Valley will build on its international reputation for criminology and criminal justice programs, for its aviation program carried out in cooperation with Coastal Pacific Aviation, for its specialization in Indo-Canadian Studies, and for its trade and technology programs where it will initiate a new alternative fuel vehicle maintenance and repair program to begin in the fall of 2009," said Premier Campbell. The institution began as Fraser Valley College in 1974. It was granted university college status and renamed the University College of the Fraser Valley in 1991. "In the next 20 years, the population of the Fraser Valley will double and we are seeing our 18- to 24-year-old population growing six times as fast as the provincial average," said Abbotsford-Clayburn MLA John van Dongen.

MAR 08

EHSAAS: A South Asian Film Festival

The second annual festival showcased four powerful films – *Swades*, *Monsoon Wedding*, *Mangal Pandey* and *Lagaan* – that emphasize social consciousness. Each film had significant historical and current relevance while highlighting social justice issues. Each film focused on a different area of the human condition, such as poverty and societal solidarity. Much can be said about the film-makers, who showed human suffering, courage, and dignity in a memorable manner. The real power of these films was that they connected the audience with people who were normally not within their sight lines. In short, they made you care.



SEPT 08

EHSAAS: A South Asian Film Festival

The third annual festival showcased three emotionally strong films – *Khamosh Pani*, *1947 Earth* and *Partition* – that emphasize social consciousness. The festival's theme was India's 1947 Partition, in coordination with the course English 245 (Introduction to South Asian Literature: Partition Literature and Film), which was offered in the Fall 2008 semester. Each film had significant historical and current relevance, while highlighting social justice issues that were of concern during the partitioning of India into East Pakistan, West Pakistan, and India. The goal of the festival was to raise awareness on issues concerning Partition, which still remain relevant today.

OCT 08

Comedy Night

The CICS Student Association, the South Asian Peer Networking Association (SAPNA) with support from the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies presented Comedy Night with UFV students Sunee Dhaliwal and Ivan Decker at Casey's. All proceeds were donated to the Abbotsford Food Bank.

OCT 08

Diwali Festival of Lights

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at UFV co-sponsored the event with the Mission Community Services Society. SAPNA, along with the International Studies department and Student Life, sold samosas and chai to celebrate the festival of light, Diwali. The event included the sounds of Bollywood music and lighting up Diwali lanterns illuminating campus pathways. All funds raised went directly to the Abbotsford Food Bank.

NOV 08

Open Discussion on Immigration Blockage of 1908

A dark mark on Canada's history was remembered across the lower mainland and the Fraser Valley in November 2008. On November 21, the CICS hosted an open discussion and debate to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Canadian government's move to block immigrants from South Asia into the country. UFV instructors shared insights into the Continuous Journey legislation, cross-border issues, trade issues with India and Pakistan, and working on urban planning with cities in India. Speakers included political science instructor Dr. Rita Dhamoon, Dr. John Belec and Cherie Enns from the geography department, and UFV's director of institutional research Dr. Zareen Naqvi.

FEB 09

South Asian Writers Festival

CICS hosted a successful South Asian Writers Festival held in collaboration with the English department on Feb 24. Anjali Banerjee, a children's author from Washington State, presented an afternoon of readings and book signings. Joining Banerjee were authors Ashok Mathur, Tariq Malik, Phinder Dulai, and UFV's writer-in-residence, Jaspreet Singh, who also hosted the event. Each author read for 10-20 minutes, and questions and discussions followed. Some of these writers' books were on display and sale.



FEB 09

Candy Grams Fundraiser

SAPNA held a fundraiser for those who suffered in the floods in Fiji by selling candy grams. The floods had devastated Fiji and caused over 44 million dollars of damage. The country was in a state of emergency and SAPNA members wanted to do everything they could to help. In total, SAPNA was able to raise \$500.



MAR 09

SAPNA Celebrated Holi

SAPNA hosted its first-ever Holi event celebrated on the UFV campus. Holi celebrates the arrival of spring. Students from all over UFV celebrated with SAPNA by dancing, sharing food, learning about the history of Holi and eventually throwing coloured powder on each other by truly getting into the spirit of fun and camaraderie.



MAR 09

Ehsaas South Asian Film Festival

The CICS hosted a very successful South Asian film festival in March 2009. This festival showcased three powerful films – *Present In All That We Do*, *Amu* and *Amal*, all of which emphasized the human condition and how society interacts with its members. The goal of the festival was to raise awareness in the hopes that globally significant topics would also initiate dialogue in a local atmosphere and setting.

MAR 09

Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

CICS commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Presenters included Michelle Sylliboy, a Mi'kmaq visual artist and poet, who read from her work *Stepping on Intellectual Sacred Grounds*; Rita Dhamoon, from UFV's Philosophy and Political Science department, who spoke about two dominant streams in anti-racism work; and Paul Orłowski, from UFV's Teacher Education program, who spoke about opposing racial discourses.

APR 09

UFV Student Volunteer Recognition Day

The annual student volunteer recognition day took place on April 15 and was dedicated to those students who help the university to prosper by promoting student involvement through their own dedication and hard work. Whether it was by participating in orientation, clubs and associations, student government, or academic initiatives, these students took the extra time to help create a strong and vibrant campus for us all. UFV and the Student Life department honour these students by nominating them to receive an award, recognizing their commitment to leadership and positive change. Faculty, staff, and students were asked to nominate worthy students. Students from the Centre's student advisory committee — the South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA) — was one group recognized for their outstanding volunteer efforts within the UFV community.

MAY 09

Presentation of "A Warrior's Religion" Documentary

SAPNA hosted a screening of *A Warrior's Religion*, a documentary made by young Indo Canadian filmmaker Mani Amar. The documentary is poetic in nature and is told in the manner of an unbiased editorial, looking at Indo Canadian gangs and violence. It features interviews with community leaders, media personalities, and other prominent figures in the South Asian community, along with historical references, news footage, crime statistics, South Asian youth interviews, and cultural comparisons.

JUN 09

Dr. Skip Bassford's Departure from UFV

Ask Dr. H.A. 'Skip' Bassford how he feels about the importance of education and he'll probably quote one of the ancient philosophers (he is a philosopher himself), such as Plato, who once said "If man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life". Skip will not only be remembered for his clever anecdotes but his dedication to achieving excellence in post-secondary education during his 11 years with UFV as president and vice chancellor. In recognition of his remarkable determination and leadership, the CICS hosted a dinner for him on June 17, 2009. It was an amazing and memorable event for all who attended with an evening including speeches from Skip's closest friends and colleagues and a slideshow of significant moments in Skip's academic career at UFV. The CICS presented him with a memory book capturing some of Skip's many accomplishments and the beauty of the UFV campus.



JUN 09

Launching of *State, Society and Economy in the 21st Century*

A new book edited by Dr A.S. Narang, past-president of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, was launched in June 2009 at a reception held in Ottawa at the residence of the High Commissioner of India to Canada. The book is titled *State, Society and Economy in the 21st Century*, published in Delhi by Manohar. UFV's Associate Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies, Yvon Dandurand, presented a lecture in India at Punjab University in Chandigarh in July 2008. The book includes this lecture as a chapter entitled: *Canada-India Research Partnership in the Fields of Justice, Public Safety and Human Rights*.

JUN 09

UFV Honorary Degrees

Two of the four individuals who were honoured at the Convocation ceremonies on June 11 and 12, 2009 were Dr. Dalip Singh Gill and Dr Parm Bains. Dr. Gill was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree for his noteworthy contribution to the Fraser Valley community in the field of education. Dr. Parm Bains was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree for his continued support of UFV for years, most notably as chair of the fundraising committee for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and the Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development.

AUG 09

Indo-Canadian Pioneer Endowment Leadership Award

Indo-Canadian community leaders have long been known to rally together in support of important community causes. Thus, it was no surprise when members of the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association (FVICBA) joined together to support UFV students demonstrating leadership qualities by endowing the Indo-Canadian Pioneer Endowment Leadership award with a gift of \$12,500. The endowment was matched by Dr. Daryl Plecas of the Criminology department, who had the original idea. Thanks to the endowment, every year one deserving student will receive approximately \$500 to support their post-secondary pursuits. The award will be given to a UFV student who has demonstrated excellence through leadership in a range of non-academic fields such as community service, student activities, and volunteerism.

OCT 09

Installation of the Translated Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

UFV faculty, friends, and students participated in the installation ceremony of the translated, four-volume set of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji in the UFV library on October 21. These volumes were translated by Sardar Pritam Singh Chahil over a majority of his life and donated kindly to UFV by Mr. Ivor Thompson of Toronto. The texts are a valuable resource to students, faculty and community members alike. The Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, or Adi Sri Guru Granth Sahib, is the Holy Scripture and the final Guru of the Sikhs. It is a voluminous text of 1,430 pages, compiled and composed during the period of the Sikh Gurus, from 1469 to 1708. It is a collection of hymns or shabad, which describe the characteristics of God, and which guide Sikhs in both worldly and spiritual ways of life.





NOV 09

1984 Memorial

On November 3, the Centre for Indo- Canadian Studies held a ceremony in remembrance of the Delhi riots that occurred in 1984, which was a year of great tragedy for Sikhs around the world. In memory of the 1984 events, a lecture on the origins and chronology of the tragedy and a consideration of its impacts on Canadian Sikhs was jointly presented by the director of the Centre for Indo- Canadian Studies, and Dr. Nicola Mooney of the Social, Cultural, and Media Studies department. The lecture was followed by a candle-lighting ceremony commemorating those Sikhs who lost their lives, and in remembrance of all the people affected by those traumatic events.

DEC 09

UFV Scholars visit Jammu and Chandigarh

Yvon Dandurand, Terry Waterhouse and Satwinder Bains presented papers at Jammu University at the Democracies. Yvon, Terry, Satwinder and Garry Fehr subsequently also presented papers at a seminar on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security: Indo-Canadian Cooperation* at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development in Chandigarh.

Visiting Scholars and Dignitaries:

FEB 08

Anita Rau Badami: Visiting Writer in UCFV English Department

UFV welcomed author Anita Rau Badami in February 2008 for readings as a visiting writer in the English department. She also did readings at the Centre. Her best-selling second novel *The Hero's Walk* won the Regional Commonwealth Writers Prize, Italy's Premio Berto, and was also named a Washington Post Best Book of 2001. It was also long-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literacy Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction, and short-listed for the Kiriyama Prize. As well, she is the recipient for the Marian Engel Award for a woman writer in mid-career. Her third novel *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?* has received much acclaim.

JUN 08

Vice Chancellor of Panjab University Visits UFV

CICS hosted Panjab University Vice-Chancellor R.C. Sobti at an alumni dinner for Panjab University graduates settled in British Columbia. UFV has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Panjab University. Dr. Sobti was optimistic that the alumni would work with Panjab University on a comprehensive capital development strategy. Dr. Sobti met with faculty in the India-Canada Studies program and discussed how the two universities can further strengthen their collaboration. He also met with the community at large, two local radio shows and Minister and local Abbotsford MLA the Honourable Mike de Jong.

JUL 08

Kiran Ahluwalia Concert

An Evening to Remember

Ghazal and Indian folk song singer Kiran Ahluwalia and her four-piece band wowed a captivated audience with a concert on the Abbotsford campus. A Juno award winner, Kiran blends classical ghazals with modern music to create a delectable treat for the ears.





NOV 08

Dr. Shormishtha Panja: English department, University of Delhi, India

UFV and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies hosted a lecture on November 17, 2008 by Dr. Shormishtha Panja, Professor of English at University of Delhi and President of the Shakespeare Society of India. Professor Panja's talk focused on Vishal Bhardwaj's adaptation of two Shakespeare plays into films. Bhardwaj has adapted Macbeth into a film called *Maqbool* (2004), about gangsters involved in the Bollywood film industry and Shakespeare's Othello into a film called *Omkara* (2006). Dr. Panja's talk showed how Bhardwaj combines two types of Indian cinema, the realistic new wave movie and the Bollywood potboiler, to create films that have been successful both with the critics and at the box office. The two public lectures were sponsored by the UFV English and Theatre departments, the Faculty of Arts, UFV International, and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies

FEB 09

Dr. Jaspreet Singh: Writer in Residence, UFV

The English department's Writer in Residence Jaspreet Singh, an Indian-born writer from Montreal, hosted a number of writing workshops and readings. Although Dr. Singh's initial background included a PhD in Chemical Engineering from McGill University, he chose to pursue a passion for writing and has won critical acclaim for his short stories, such as his collection entitled *Seventeen Tomatoes: Tales from Kashmir* and award winning *Chef*.

MAY 09

Dr. Harinder M. Sandhu: Psychology department, Mata Sundari College, University of Delhi, India

UFV welcomed Dr. Harinder M. Sandhu, Associate Professor from Mata Sundari College, University of Delhi, India to teach a summer 2009 course in May and June on the Abbotsford Campus. The course, titled "*Psychology: Perspectives on Psychology: East and West*," looked at Eastern and Western perspectives in Psychology. A range of issues, including the historical roots of both orientations, were addressed.

JUN 09

Dr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director of CRRID

At the request of the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development, Dr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director General and Executive Vice Chairman of CRRID, visited UFV to explore the areas in which UFV and the CICS could collaborate with CRRID. While many possibilities were explored, the immediate interest is in the areas of: safety and security; health; and human resource development — professional and vocational.

JUN 09

Dr Harpreet Kaur: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjabi, India

Dr. Harpreet Kaur Mangat, lecturer with Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India, presented a lecture entitled "*Baptism by Fire, Survival by Grit: Life in the Borderbelt of Punjab*". It explored the impact of the India-Pakistan border on Indian residents in communities adjacent to the border. Dr Mangat presented preliminary results from 150 questionnaires that she and two research assistants collected in four Punjabi border villages. The research indicates the existence of an "excluded" population. The borderbelt contains numerous obstacles to a rural economy, related to the oppressive security measures in place between India and Pakistan.

SEPT 09

An Evening with Princess Urmila Devi

On Sept 28, a memorable evening was had by all when Princess Urmila Devi shared her personal account of the splendor of the lives of the Maharajas and Maharanis of India through a fascinating visual journey. The Princess shared a personal walk through the annals of the Wadiya dynasty of Mysore, India, intertwined with the historical narrative as personal reminiscences, anecdotes, and a private collection of visuals of the family.





SEPT 09

Visit to the CICS by Consul General

On September 24, the Consul General of India — Ashok Das and his wife Dr. Erika Das — visited the Centre to meet members of the Indo-Canadian Community Council. The council hosted a reception dinner at the CICS with new UFV president and vice-chancellor Dr. Mark Evered welcoming the Consul General to UFV. Mr. Das reciprocated by commending UFV for undertaking its initiatives with the Indian subcontinent and offered his support to the Centre. Following the reception, the Consul General, and the rest of the dinner party were joined by Princess Urmilla Devi at The Reach museum and gallery for the unveiling of the *A Common Thread* textile exhibit.



SEPT 09

Visit to CICS by India School Principals

Principals of seven schools from all over India were hosted by UFV International on September 25. The principals also visited the Centre to discuss partnerships and potential future collaborations with their institutes. They were visiting various universities to promote higher education in Canada for their students in India. At UFV they were welcomed by President and Vice-Chancellor Mark Evered, Acting Vice-President and Provost Eric Davis, and Associate Vice-President Research and Graduate Studies Yvon Dandurand. DJ Sandhu, BC Research Chair on Canada India Business and Economic Development, gave a presentation on business and higher education opportunities in India.



OCT 09

Geography Lecture

On October 8, Terah Sportel, a PhD candidate in geography from the University of Guelph, presented a lecture entitled “*Plucking Nuts: Shifting Labour, Markets & Livelihoods in the Kerala Coconut Sector in India.*” The talk reflected one component of her PhD research in India — the role of social structures and political/economic factors on labour-market change in Kerala’s coconut sector. She claimed that to understand trajectories in the Kerala coconut sector it is necessary to investigate how social structures, specifically class/caste, culture/identity, space, and mobility, interact with the changing political economy to influence labour markets. Her research does this through a comparative case study approach and empirical research in two Panchayats.

NOV 09

Reading by M.G Vassanji

Award-winning author M.G. Vassanji visited the centre on November 20 to read from *The Assassin’s Song*, which was published in 2007 and has since been short-listed for the Giller Prize, the Governor General’s Award, and the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize. Vassanji received the 2009 Governor General’s award for non-fiction for his memoir: *A Place Within: Rediscovering India.*





External Community Committees:

Abbotsford Social Development Advisory Council
Canadians Abroad Advisory Committee
South Asian Early Childhood Committee
Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association
I CARE Mental Health Advisory Committee

Internal UFV Committees:

Indo Canadian Community Advisory Committee
South Asian Peer Network Association – Student Association
Anti-Racism Group – Member at UFV
Teaching and Learning Advisory Group
Academic Leaders Group
Research Advisory Committee
Internationalization Committee
Arts Dept Heads
Arts Curriculum Advisory Committee
Heritage Advisory Group
Canada India Study Program Curriculum Committee
Can-EU Diaspora Group
BC Academic Diaspora Group
Educators Without Borders

Partners in the community:

Mission Community Services
Fraser Valley Child Development Centre
South Asian Early Childhood Community Committee – United Way of the Fraser Valley
City of Abbotsford
UBC Population Health
Khalsa Diwan Society, Abbotsford
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Providence Health Care, Vancouver
UBC Centre for South Asian Studies
Vancouver International Bhangra Competition



CICS Associates

Senior Associates appointed to the Centre

CICS appointed eight faculty members as senior associates for undertaking research, reviews and consultations in collaboration with the Centre in the years of 2008 and 2009. Their contributions help build the research agenda and international collaborations of the Center.

Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies

Adrienne Chan, School of Social Work and Human Services

Cherie Enns, Geography department

Garry Fehr, Geography department

DJ Sandhu, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development

David Milobar, History department

Ding Lu, Economics department

John Belec, Geography department

Satwinder Bains, India-Canada Studies program

Associates of the Centre

In addition to the senior associates, there are a number of faculty and staff within the UFV community who support and contribute to the efforts of the Centre. As such, their contributions over the years have also been immensely valuable.

Susan Fisher, English department

Douglas Hudson, Anthropology, Social Cultural & Media Studies department

Nicola Mooney, Anthropology, Social Cultural & Media Studies department

Jeffrey Morgan, Philosophy department

Summer Pervez, English department

Michelle Superle, English department

Melissa Walter, English department

Rita Dhamoon, Philosophy and Political Science department

For more information on the associates, please visit our website: www.ufv.ca/cics



CICS Contact Information

Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies
University of the Fraser Valley
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, BC
CANADA V2S 7Y8

Yvon Dandurand (Mr.)
Associate Vice President
Research and Graduate Studies
Telephone: 604-864-4654
Toll Free: 1-800-504-7441 (local 4654)
Email: yvon.dandurand@ufv.ca

Satwinder Bains (Ms.)
Director, Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies
Telephone: 604-854-4547
Toll-free: 1-888-504-7441 (local 4547)
Fax: 604-855-7558
Email: satwinder.bains@ufv.ca

DJ Sandhu (Mr.)
BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India
Business and Economic Development
Telephone: 604-557-4030
Toll-free: 1-888-504-7441 (local 4030)
Fax: 604-853-7341
Email: canadaindiachair@ufv.ca

Sharanjit Sandhra (Ms.)
Acting Coordinator
Telephone: 604-851-6325
Toll-free: 1-888-504-7441 (local 6325)
Fax: 604-855-7558
Email: sharanjit.sandhra@ufv.ca

www.ufv.ca/cics

