



Congratulations

Sincerest congratulations to all our Aboriginal 2008 graduates.

Good luck with all of your future endeavors and plans.

Pictures from Convocation 2008



Graduate Gail Point-Bisaillon from the Soowahlie Band enjoying family time following the ceremony with her mother-in-law Sophinia Prest, her father-in-law Terry Prest, and her son Gordon.



Graduate Bev Boersen celebrating her achievement with her mother Betsy, she came from Vanderhoof to see her daughter graduate.

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Alberta Centennial Scholarship—Awarded to Michelle Julian

Congratulations to Michelle Julian for receiving the *Alberta Centennial Scholarship* from the BC Aboriginal Post Secondary Coordinators. The scholarship is a whopping **\$2005.00**. Michelle is an Aboriginal 4th year Social Work student. Not only is she a hard working academic, she has worked for Aboriginal Access Services and has done a research assistant placement for Gwen Point as well.

Michelle, as many of you know, is Sto:lo and former Chief of the Matsqui First Nation.

Michelle's Own Story

I attended my first year at FVC (Fraser Valley College) in 1991 then returned to UCFV in 2005 after a 14 year break....well not really a 'break'....I was working and raising my 2 incredible children. After they graduated from high school, I felt it was 'my turn' and now I'm at UFV in my 4th year of the Bachelor of Social Work degree.

The last 3 years as a full time student has certainly presented its share of challenges. The first of which, was going to university as a 'mature' student, among many other students who are the same age and younger than my own children! The second challenge came quickly when I realized that being a full time student demanded even more time, energy and work than any full time job I had ever held. And the third challenge presented itself as I entered the final year of my degree....seeing the light at the end of the tunnel but realizing my financial savings were quickly becoming depleted.

I received an email from Shirley Hardman at the Aboriginal Access Services Coordinator regarding the Alberta Centennial Scholarship - it instantly caught my attention. I had never applied for scholarships before, as I always felt someone needed it more than I did, but this year was different and I completed the application.

The scholarship is sponsored by Alberta in celebration of their 2005 Centennial. Beginning in 2006 the generous Alberta government distributed 25 \$2005 scholarships to each Province. Our beautiful Province of B.C. decided that all scholarships would be distributed among Aboriginal university students. The selection criteria were based on a number of factors including: (1) financial need; (2) GPA; (3) previous contributions to Aboriginal communities; and (4) future plans & goals directed to continued support for Aboriginal peoples. I was ecstatic when I found out I had been chosen as the UFV recipient and I will be using the money to help cover my living expenses until I'm done in December 2008.

After I get my degree I plan to return to work and save more money, so I can pursue my Masters at either SFU or UBC. My long term goal is to open my own Clinical Counselling practice, serving Aboriginal peoples who need some support in achieving their dreams, too.

Well done and congratulations again, Michelle!

More Convocation Pictures!

Christine
Michel
S.S. dip
Seabird
Island
Band
Member



Gracie
Kelly and
her proud
daughter
Theresa
Beaton
Liberal Arts
Degree
Soowahlie
First Nation
Member



National Aboriginal Day Awareness at UFV: Mini Powwow on June 17

National Aboriginal Day celebrates the unique heritage, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in Canada. UFV is celebrating the occasion with a mini powwow. Aboriginal Access Services celebrated with our 4th Annual Mini Powwow on Tuesday, June 17 on the lawns of its Abbotsford campus (33844 King Rd.).

Organized by the university's Aboriginal Access Services, this free event invited the public as well as faculty, staff and students. The day featured dancers in full regalia, drummers, story-tellers, and a \$5 barbeque lunch (burgers and bannock). Artisans from across the lower mainland were onsite to showcase and sell their work, including tapestries, jewelry, capes, smoked salmon, carvings, and dolls.

UFV celebrated a bit early. June 21 is the day selected as annual National Aboriginal Day because it corresponds to the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and because for generations, many Aboriginal groups have celebrated their culture and heritage at this time of year.

"This is UFV's fourth annual mini powwow," notes Shirley Hardman, Aboriginal Access Coordinator. "We hope to create an awareness of National Aboriginal Day, which is one of four days that the federal government has designated to celebrate Canada. For Aboriginal peoples, the declaration of the day (in 1996) has been seen as a response to a call that came in 1982 for a National Aboriginal Solidarity Day."

The event, by all accounts, was a roaring success. President Skip Bassford welcomed everyone to the celebration and Mary Sandoval (Chawathil) thanked our ancestors for the beautiful day. The Blackfish Drum Group led by Chief Chris Thomas made certain that the dancers were able to honour their regalia and please the audience with their gifts of dance. A real treat for everyone was Will Visser who performed a solo grass dance - not once but twice. Another special treat was a performance by Urban Indian Productions.

Watch for next year's mini powwow scheduled for the Tuesday following UFV's Convocation ceremonies!



Danielle Guerrero

Kingsley F. Joseph

Takaya Gurrerro

Carol Cailing Amber Bearhead Florence Thomas
Cheyanne Sutherland Leslee JP



Métis jiggers



Upcoming Events:

September 9, 2008 Back on Campus BBQ

We'll be flipping burgers and dousing out the BBQ sauce in celebration of your return! Plan to attend the **BACK on Campus BBQ** and invite your family and friends.

Time: 11:30

Place: Chilliwack S'olh Shxwleli (Building G)

This event is all expenses paid by Aboriginal Access Services. Don't miss out!



Still Accepting Applications for The Indigenous Peoples Knowledge Transition-Year (IPK 121/131)

The Indigenous Peoples Knowledge transition-year is still accepting applications for fall, 2008. IPK can be used as a first-year elective in several of our programs. Students are offered academic support, tutoring and upgrading in preparation for their program of choice. There is still time to register in the Aboriginal Culture and Language Support Diploma program and Sto:lo Studies certificate. The Aboriginal Access Services department has an Elder-in-Residence program for students and potential students at UFV. Please contact Josephine Charlie at 604-795-2835 for further information.

New Course for Fall 2008: FNST 091

FNST 091 - An Introduction to Canadian Indigenous People's Cultures will be held in the Fall semester on Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. on the Chilliwack campus. FNST 091 is a provincial level course suitable as a requirement for the Adult Dogwood graduation or for general interest. This course will explore all aspects of aboriginal cultures from the traditional to the contemporary. Participation in field trips outside of class time is required.

Are you Interested In Becoming A Doctor?

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia is hosting "Aboriginals into Medicine: Preadmissions Workshop," August 13-15, 2008. It will take place at UBC and other sites in the Vancouver area. Space is limited so apply ASAP. Deadline for registration is Monday, June 30, 2008 by 4:30pm. Please contact James Andrew, Associate Director at 604.822-3236 or email james.andrew@ubc.ca

Tours of Campus Facilities

Start planning now for fall. Are you interested in bringing your class for a tour of the UFV Chilliwack, Abbotsford or the Trades & Technology Centre? A minimum of two weeks notice is required - please contact Devon Wilson, our student recruiter and liaison in our Marketing and Communications Department at recruiter@ucfv.ca.

Sweat lodge Ceremonies with our Elder in Residence Terry Prest

Sweat lodge Ceremony

Sunday, August 17, 2008 9:00 am

(meet at Cultus Lake mall to proceed to sweat lodge)

For more information please contact Josephine Charlie at 604-795-2835

For your information the Sweat lodge ceremonies will continue through out the fall and winter semesters on the third Sunday of each month.

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you want to make a difference?

Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services are looking for volunteers to greet new aboriginal families to the community.

They are also looking for volunteers to be an "aunt" or "uncle" to a young aboriginal person who would benefit from a mentor.

For more information contact:

Langley – Gary.Robinson@xyolhemeylh.bc.ca
or 604.532.3682

Abbotsford – Melissa.Sandhar@xyolhemeylh.bc.ca
or 604.854.5515

Chilliwack – Julia.McCaffrey@xyolhemeylh.bc.ca
or 604.701.0119 loc. 227

BC First Nations Youth Grant Program

The New Relationship Trust allocated \$125,000 for 2008/09 to assist BC First Nation youth.

Only one application will be accepted per youth group.

Application deadline: **4:00 pm, Friday, August 1, 2008**

Applications and proposals must be delivered by mail or dropped off in person to the NRT office. Faxed and e-mail applications will not be accepted.

For the BC First Nations Youth Grant Program application and program guidelines check their website: www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/programs/elders-and-youth/bc-fn-youth-grant-program

If you have any questions regarding this program; please contact Cheryl Cardinal, Research/Program Officer at the New Relationship Trust office by phone at 1-877-922-3338 or by e-mail at ccardinal@nrtf.ca

Youth Advisory Committee

To read more about the Youth Advisory Committee, please check their website: www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/programs/elders-and-youth/bc-fn-youth-grant-program/youth-advisory-committee

Still More Convocation pictures!



Grace Kelly,
Soowahlie Band
member. UFV
graduate 2008



Celina Leon,
Chehalis Band
member. UFV
graduate 2008



Bill Prest and Frankie Williams
Drummers for the 2008 Convocation

S'olh Shxwelèlì Staff Contact List

Mailing address:

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Stuart Charlie (Math)
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Important Reminders

Campus Closures

The university observes BC Day on August 4th and Labour Day on September 1st.
The university will be closed on both of these days.

Important Dates:

Don't miss all the important registration dates - Check out the Admission and Records website:

<http://www.ucfv.ca/ar/registration/imprtregdates.htm>

Student Union Society's Health & Dental Plan

The Student Union Society provides a health & dental plan for students attending UCFV. Students may also enroll their family members. Students who are covered by another extended health and dental plan (including Indian Affairs) may opt out by visiting www.ihaveaplan.ca between August 26th and September 16th. More information about the health & dental plan can be found at www.ihaveaplan.ca. Or stop by the Student Union Office on the Abbotsford campus for more information.

Opt Out Option

If you're already covered by an equivalent health and dental plan (such as a parent or spouse's employee benefit plan, or a plan provided by your band council or through Health Canada), you can **OPT OUT**. The British Columbia Medical Services Plan (MSP) doesn't provide coverage equivalent to the SUS Health & Dental Plan. Students can't opt out if they're covered only by MSP.

IMPORTANT:

You can only opt out during the Change-of-Coverage Period from Aug. 26 and Sept. 16, 2008. Please refer to the website above for further information.