



CICS REPORT

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

BC Heritage Award given to Khalsa Diwan Society



Eric Pattison, member of Heritage BC awards committee; Leslie Gilbert, Vice President of Heritage BC; Nachhattar Sangha, former President of Khalsa Diwan Society; Kabal Hundal, President of Khalsa Diwan Society; Gurdev Brar, recording secretary of Khalsa Diwan Society; Balbir Raiwall, Raiwall Developments; and Jonathan Yardley, Jonathan Yardley Architect Inc.

At the Heritage BC annual awards banquet and ceremony on June 4, 2010, in Victoria, BC, the restoration of the historic heritage Sikh temple in Abbotsford was granted the award for outstanding achievement. The recipients were the Khalsa Diwan Society, Raiwall Developments Ltd., and Jonathan Yardley Architect Inc. Based on the recommendations of Jonathan Yardley, all the exterior finishes were repaired and repainted to match the original historic colour, and the Gur Sikh Temple sign was restored and reinstalled.

The Reach museum celebration of Heritage Gurdwara Centennial 2011

In celebration of the upcoming centennial of the construction of the longest-standing Sikh temple in the Americas, The Reach gallery and museum is working alongside CICS members, the Khalsa Diwan Society, and community organizations in creating two exhibits. The first exhibit in celebration of the national historic site gurdwara will take place April 13-June 5, 2011. As part of this exhibit, there will be weekend tours of The Reach, Trethewey House, and the gurdwara. A second and larger exhibition, celebrating Sikh art, culture and history, will take place from September 23, 2011-January 8, 2012.

Upcoming Events

- September 22:** Gandhi and Tolstoy lecture
- October 4 – 15:** Visiting scholar
Dr. Harinder Sandhu
- October 7:** Dr. Neels talk on South Africa
- October 13, 20, 27:** Ehsaas film festival
- October 22:** Play at the Reach
- October 26-29:** *On the CASE* photo reception and exhibition
- October to November:** Visiting scholar
Dr. Satya Sharma
- October (Date TBC):** Dr. Bidisha Biswas,
Western Washington University
- November:** Gandhi and CF Andrews
- April 2011:** Reach exhibition on National
Historic Site Temple
- September 2011:** Reach exhibition on
Sikhism and Sikh culture
- For more information please visit**
www.ufv.ca/cics/announcements

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Khalsa Diwan Society, Abbotsford plans Heritage Gurdwara centennial

In celebration of the upcoming centennial of the building of the national historic site Sikh temple on South Fraser Way, the Khalsa Diwan Society (KDS) is planning a year of activities in collaboration with the CICS and other community partners. 2011 will elicit a celebratory mood for the community at large. Some of the events the KDS hopes to implement include:

- the incorporation of a museum located on the dining hall floor of the national historic site
- a centennial event that would honour the pioneers of our community
- involvement with The Reach museum and gallery and its two exhibitions celebrating the centennial
- Akhand Path (three-day-prayers), Jore Mela (festival), and Nagar Kirtan (religious parade)

These and many other events will begin in January 2011 and occur throughout the entire year.

Ehsaas Film Festival

The fifth annual Ehsaas Film Festival will be taking place on Wednesday October 13, 20, and 27. This year's theme will be related to the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York City. The films being shown are New York, Shoot on Sight, and A Dream for Kabul. Each film presents a unique and emotional take on the terror attacks, and its impact, transcending cultural and religious barriers. The film festival admission is free and all are welcome to attend. The films will be played in B101, UFV Theatre, Abbotsford campus, starting at 7pm.



UFV's Deborah Greenfield and Satwinder Bains, Hari Sauri, and Abbotsford host Kala das

Hari Sauri visits CICS

His Grace Hari Sauri Prabhu, international speaker, historian, and author, senior member of the Hare Krishna Movement ISKCON, and initiated disciple by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad, visited the CICS on May 26, 2010 for an afternoon of promise and enlightenment.

Hari Sauri joined A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srita Prabhupada's personal entourage in 1972, remaining as His Divine Grace's assistant for 16 months. In 1986, he began the work of transforming the diary he kept during that time into a series of books. Hari Sauri enlightened the audience on his life-transforming journey.

Play at The Reach

UFV English faculty member Dr. Rajnish Dhawan has written a full-length play entitled "That Time of Year." It concerns itself with issues of marriage, gender, and sexuality as perceived through the lens of people in North America and India. The discrepancies in the two points of view, the assumptions about these issues, and the stereotypes on both sides are brought out in the play.

There will be a staged reading on the evening of October 22 at The Reach museum and gallery. Following the reading, there will be a panel discussion involving various members of the Abbotsford community as well as UFV faculty.

Visiting scholars to CICS – Fall 2010

A host of visiting scholars and speakers will be contributing and supporting the ongoing work of the CICS. Dr. Harinder Sandhu will be returning to UFV to lecture on the psychological perspectives of the Diaspora. Dr. Satya Sharma will be visiting from the University of Saskatchewan to conduct research on the Indo-Canadian farming community in and around the Fraser Valley. Dr. Jan Neels will be presenting a paper on the progressive recognition of Hindu and Muslim personal law in South Africa. Dr. Bidisha Biswas from Western Washington University will present on anti-terrorism bilateral agreements between the US and Canada. A local scholar, Gillchrist McLaren, will present on CF Andrews' relationship with Gandhi.



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CICS Director Satwinder Bains, UFV President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mark Evered with Honorable Mr. Harinder Takhar, Ontario Minister of Government Services

Canada India Foundation (CIF) Gala

CICS was a bronze level sponsor of the Canada India Foundation (CIF) annual award and gala dinner, which took place on May 15, 2010 at the Westin Bayshore. Members of the CICS joined UFV President and Vice Chancellor Mark Evered and his wife Maureen in attending the gala event. 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 bilateral 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 in Canada and abroad. To learn more about the CIF, visit www.canadaindia.org.

CICS hosts its first conference

The Diasporizing Punjab, Disorienting Bhangra conference was presented by the University of the Fraser Valley and the University of British Columbia in collaboration with the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration, May 5-8, 2010. Two evenings of public paper presentations, themed Diasporizing Punjab, occurred on May 5 and 6 at UFV.

CICS Director Satwinder Bains, Verne Dusenbery (Hamline University), and Margaret Walton-Roberts (Wilfrid Laurier University) presented papers, as did Inderpal Grewal (Yale University), Doris Jakobsh (University of Waterloo), and Michael Nijhawan (York University). Further public paper presentations, themed Disorienting Bhangra, were held at the University of British Columbia on May 7 and 8, where speakers included Rajinder Dudrah (University of Manchester), Harjant Gill (American University), Nicola Mooney (University of the Fraser Valley), Anjali Gera Roy (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur), and Gibb Schreffler (University of California at Santa Barbara). As well, three graduate students, Manjot Bains (York University), Naveen Girn (York University), and Ashveer Pal Singh (University of California at Berkeley), also presented.

UFV also hosted an undergraduate student roundtable during the day of workshops, where a group of UFV students discussed various hot topics facing Punjabi youth. Guests also took in a tour of the national historic site Khalsa Diwan Society Sikh temple, where they enjoyed a sumptuously prepared langar (meal) hosted by the executive committee.



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On the CASE photo exhibit Oct 26-29

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, the BC Regional Innovation Chair (BCRIC), and the Global Development Institute (GDI), of the University of the Fraser Valley present a joint sponsorship of a cross-Canada tour of a photography exhibit that highlights a key aspect of effective development initiatives: empowerment of indigenous people.

On the CASE (CASE stands for Child Advocates for Social Empowerment), an exhibit by photographer Marilyn Smith, captures the creative ways in which Developing Indigenous Resources (DIR) is transforming daily life in a slum on the outskirts of Chandigarh, simply by enabling slum residents to take on the role of local health experts.

The opening reception for the exhibit is on October 26 at the Centre, and it will be available for viewing there from October 26-29. For details, please contact Garry Fehr at garry.fehr@ufv.ca or visit www.ufv.ca/cics/announcements.

India BBA students hired for research

Five UFV BBA India students were hired as summer 2010 interns by the CICS to undertake secondary research on topics of interest to the Centre. All five students spent two months researching areas as diverse as the social development sector of Punjab, India; the management of higher education by the provinces; sharing of responsibilities between provinces and the central government of the K-12 education system; and the nature of language education and its management by the school education boards. The reports submitted by the students will be utilized by the Centre in its ongoing partnership with the Indian education system.

Faculty profile: Dr. Susan Fisher, department of English



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

I was born and brought up in Vancouver, and while I've lived in eastern Canada and worked in Britain and Japan, I've spent most of my life here. I was educated at UBC, where I did both my graduate and undergraduate work. My interest in South Asia does have some origin in personal history. One of my great-grandfathers served in the Indian army, and his years in the Khyber Pass were part of family legend. As well, my grandfather worked for several years in Karachi, and I still remember the exotic gifts — embroidered shawls, a necklace of tiny ivory elephants, velvet slippers with upturned toes — that he brought us back from his travels.

2. What attracted you to research specifically on India, or to choose to teach a course on Indian literature?

When I was in graduate school, one of my areas of specialization was representations of the orient in English and French literature. My major focus was Japan, but I did do some research in the general area of postcolonial studies. As a

consequence, when I was a sessional lecturer in the UBC English department, I was asked to teach an upper-level course in postcolonial literature. The course description was very general, so I decided that I would focus on South Asian literature. I had always wanted to teach Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, and I had long been a fan of R.K. Narayan; this seemed like the perfect opportunity to deepen my knowledge of these authors. I really enjoyed teaching the course, and it stimulated me to learn more about South Asian literature. Then, when I came to UFV in 2000, I realized that we weren't offering any courses in South Asian literature, so I decided to try to bring it into our curriculum. First, I taught a section of English 170 focused on South Asian literature. Then, with the support the dean, I developed several new courses focused on South Asian topics, including a course on Indian film.

3. What is your affiliation with the CICS?

I worked on the committee to establish the certificate in Indo-Canadian studies, and I've helped with a few of the events. I find the Centre one of the liveliest places on campus — there are always interesting events and visitors.

4. Is there any current research you are working on related to South Asia? Any other future course plans?

At the moment, I'm not working on any research related to South Asia. I've just finished a book on Canadian children's literature about the Great War, which is pretty far removed from South Asia. But I do hope to teach South Asian literature again.





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Khalsa College New Delhi principals visit



Dr. Mark Evered, UFV Vice-Chancellor and President and Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Principal of Khalsa College signing a letter of intent (LOI) at CICS with UFV and community supporters.

CICS hosted a tea on June 1 for Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Principal; Dr. Jaspal Singh, Vice Principal; and Dr. P. Arun, Professor of Physics & International Liaison Coordinator of Khalsa College from New Delhi, who were visiting with the UFV International department. Community members joined the guests in an informative discussion about the state of Punjab and its call for participation by Canadians of Indian origin in the fields of education, agriculture, and philanthropy. During the visit, the principals signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with UFV President & Vice-Chancellor Mark Evered. The areas of agreement include criminal justice (graduate and undergraduate), the sciences, and trades and technology training.



Student Leader profile: Sidrah Ahmad

**1. What are you studying at UFV?
What are some of your future goals/ aspirations?**

I am doing my Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Psychology as well as my TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) certificate. My goals and aspirations are to teach English as a Second Language locally and in Pakistan, and to work in the education system as a speech therapist.

2. What is your role in Student Life?

My role is as Leadership Studies Assistant. As part of my position, I have helped to promote, organize, and run the Student Leadership Challenge program for UFV students and alumni. I have also organized conferences and helped with other events at Student Life on and off campus.

**3. How are you involved with the CICS?
What kinds of upcoming events are you planning?**

I co-chaired the student association (SAPNA) in its first year, and continue to be an involved member. I have also helped with various events through SAPNA, such as Diwali, movie nights, and the Welcome Back BBQs. I am currently involved in helping at Abbotsford's Unity Festival and am planning a dance competition and formal called "Dhol Fusion" for the spring of 2011.

4. How can we get more youth involved in campus activities?

I think it's important to find effective ways to get the word out – the more people know about something, the more likely they will come out to the events. It's also important to do activities at a variety of different times/days to accommodate different schedules. Finally, any and all upcoming events should be included in the New Student Orientation (for example info in the student's bags, or have a booth up at the New Student Orientation).





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Wally Oppal receives Doctorate of Laws from UFV during Convocation 2010

Wally Oppal, British Columbia's former Attorney General and Minister of Multiculturalism, was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws degree from UFV during the convocation ceremonies held in June. "I am truly overwhelmed by this honour and I cannot say enough about the importance of higher education," he says. "The pursuit of higher education is something we must continue to promote and encourage."

Born in Vancouver and raised on Vancouver Island, Oppal attended UBC to earn his law degree and operated his own private law practice in Vancouver before he was appointed to the County Court of Vancouver in 1981. Four years later he was appointed to the Supreme Court of

British Columbia. In 1992, he wrote the report for the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Policing in British Columbia, and while in court, was a specialist in several high-profile cases.

In 2003, he was appointed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal where he served until 2005 when he resigned to sit in the provincial legislature and be appointed Attorney General. That May, he was elected MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview.

Oppal served as the province's Minister of Multiculturalism and Attorney General and is proud of what he accomplished while in office. He cites introduction of the B.C.'s chronic offender program, strategies to prevent violence against women, the abolishment of mandatory

retirement, and the start of lengthy legal proceedings against the Bountiful polygamous commune.



Chancellor Brian Minter, Wally Oppal, and President Mark Evered

Convocation of first UFV BBA India students

The first group of BBA students from the UFV Chandigarh campus celebrated their success as they graduated and took part in the convocation ceremonies on June 11 at UFV. In honour of their hard work and dedication, DJ Sandhu hosted a lunch in their honour at the Centre. Dr. A.C. Vaid, Principal of Sanatan Dharma College (where the campus is located), was also present to attend the ceremony, and addressed the new graduates.

Dr. Vaid was also appointed as an adjunct professor to the CICS by UFV President & Vice-Chancellor Mark Evered. The appointment of adjunct professorship allows him to join the UFV faculty for a three-year period. This honorary, academic appointment was recommended in recognition of Dr. Vaid's qualifications, expertise, and potential to contribute to the academic mission of UFV's teaching and research programs as it relates to Canada-India Studies under the auspices of the CICS.



UFV BBA India graduates, UFV faculty, and supporters





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Yvon Dandurand report for Air India Commission

Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies, Yvon Dandurand's contribution to the Air India Commission report was released to the public as part of the larger volume titled "Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182, Air India Flight 182: A Canadian Tragedy Final Report." The terms of reference for the Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182 required the Commissioner to make findings and recommendations with respect to "...whether existing practices or legislation provide adequate protection for witnesses against intimidation in the course of the investigation or prosecution of terrorism cases."

The analysis that addresses this part of the Commission's mandate was included in the report because of the critical importance that witness protection plays in terrorism prosecutions. In addition, protecting witnesses from intimidation is an important means to improve the relationship between secret intelligence and public evidence. The adequacy of witness protection is often influential in deciding whether secret human sources should testify and provide evidence in public trials. Witness protection may also be necessary where identifying information about an informer is disclosed, even when that informer does not testify. The full report can be found at: www.majorcomm.ca/en/reports/finalreport/researchstudies/volume3/vol3-part2.pdf.

Gandhi and Tolstoy lecture

Mahatma Gandhi is best known for his non-violent and peaceful opposition to the British occupation and colonization of India. Gandhi was front and centre as an Indian political activist in the decolonization process that led to the independence of India. But, few are aware that Gandhi cut his political teeth in South Africa from 1893-1914 where he defended oppressed people from a variety of backgrounds against the British and the Boers. Gandhi left South Africa in 1915, and from 1915-1948 (when he was assassinated) he worked tirelessly for the independence of India.

Lev Tolstoy was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, 1902 and 1909 for his non-violent opposition to the Russian war machine and his defense of the Russian peasants. Gandhi was quite aware of the significance of Tolstoy, and Tolstoy-Gandhi corresponded from 1909-1910. The first community that Gandhi started in South Africa was called the 'Tolstoy Farm'. There was, therefore, a direct connection and affinity between the older and waning Tolstoy and the younger and waxing Gandhi.

The Lev Tolstoy Centenary Conference will be held at UFV on Sept 22 to honour these two stalwarts with a lecture on Tolstoy and Gandhi. For more information, contact Ron Dart at 604-504-7441 x 4319 or rdart@shaw.ca.

Genealogy research workshop by Dr. Gill



Dr. Gurcharan Gill presented a workshop on July 17, 2010 in the UFV computer lab to share his work and research done on family histories and genealogies of Punjab. Since his retirement as Professor of Mathematics at Brigham Young University, Dr. Gill has engaged in genealogical research including land records in District Moga, Punjab, India. In teaching others how to research their family histories, Dr. Gill hopes to get the larger Punjabi community involved in getting permission from deputy commissioners and the Punjab government to preserve these records electronically by digitizing them and indexing them at no cost to the districts or the government.

People that took part in the workshop from the community got a rare lesson on their own personal family histories. Those that were not familiar with technology were given the opportunity to educate themselves on the tools required to undertake this research.





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CBC Radio comes to Abbotsford

As a part of Asian heritage month, the CBC Early Edition broadcasted live from Abbotsford on May 28, 2010 in the early hours of the morning. Abbotsford currently has the highest percentage of South Asians in any metropolitan area in Canada and Early Edition host Rick Cluff and his team discussed the stories that have shaped this community and the issues they face today. The director of the CICS was asked to join a panel of South Asian leaders in front of a live studio audience that also took part in the discussions.

Undergraduate Excellence Award

SAPNA co-chair, and CICS avid volunteer Ms. Raji Heer was awarded the June 2010 Undergraduate Excellence Award for her work in India as a research intern in the Fall of 2009. Heer undertook valuable research while in Chandigarh, Punjab that will be included in the Canadian Diaspora project of the Asia-Pacific Foundation. Her project is part of a national study on the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of the Canadian Diaspora and the implications on Canadian foreign and domestic policy such as citizenship, emergency relief, education, and health care.



Recipient of the 2010 Undergraduate Excellence Award Raji Heer with family

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Comments/Suggestions:

We would appreciate any comments, suggestions, or inquiries about the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. Please feel free to email sharanjit.sandhra@ufv.ca or call 604-851-6325.



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.

