

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

February 2008

VP, Academic and Provost

International Education:

Premier's Trade and Education Mission

John Potts, representing the Department of International Education traveled with Dr. Bassford and DJ Sandhu as part of the Premier's Trade and Education Mission to India. The department has worked over the past ten months to develop three important partnerships that resulted in MOUs being signed in a ceremony witnessed by the Premier in Mumbai.

In all of these agreements it is our intention to use these partnerships as venues for our Canadian students to study abroad and develop global competencies as part of their education. We see each of these agreements as a two-way street based on reciprocity.

China Marketing Recruitment

Karola Stinson recently visited China accompanied by Ora Steyn. While in China they met with 200 potential students from Sichuan Normal University and students at Dalian Maple Leaf International School. Ora Steyn, Department Head for Computer Information Systems (CIS), worked with faculty and CIS departments from a number of universities to develop transfer agreements and faculty exchange.

International Marketing

On three recent trips Ravi Philips, International Marketing Manager, recruited students in Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Egypt and India. As a result, we have experienced a large increase in applications from these areas.

VP - External

Development Office:

- Approximately \$200,000 in securities has been donated by a donor wishing to remain anonymous. The money will be used to create a bursary endowment.
- The Chilliwack Foundation has received \$10,790 in support of the G. W. Graham Endowment Scholarship. Individuals have contributed more than \$16,000 to the scholarship and together the endowment will be more than \$26,000.
- The Hamber Foundation has provided UCFV with a \$6,000 contribution towards the Library's Student Interactive Study space.

- A \$5,000 contribution from a donor wishing to remain anonymous has been directed to the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood Chapter R Endowment Bursary. This contribution brings the endowment up to slightly more than \$25,000.
- Since September 1, 2007, more than \$45,000 has been collected in pledges for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies campaign.

Faculty of Arts

Communications:

The Communications department is working to offer a three-course Professional Communication Essentials certificate, beginning this summer. It will appeal to current students in various programs, but it will also appeal to Fraser Valley businesses as a Professional Development opportunity for their employees.

The Communications department is also working closely with English and Business to develop Journalism courses at UCFV.

Criminology/Criminal Justice:

Terry Waterhouse successfully defended his dissertation at the end of November and received his doctoral degree in education from Simon Fraser University. His dissertation topic was "Giving Voice: Exploring the School-Based Care Experiences of At-Risk Youth".

Institute for Safe Schools and Communities:

In partnership with First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Institute held the first of five planned provincial community consultations in Nanaimo on December 5, 2007. The focus of the consultation was to:

- Gather information from community-based service providers (including, educators, police, and local government agencies) and other community members to identify priority issues for children, youth and adult supporters in Nanaimo and neighbouring communities;
- Inform the community of the work of our organizations, including sharing various tool kits and resources we offer; and,
- Solicit feedback on the effectiveness of the supports currently offered by our organizations, and seek input on additional support services or resources to assist them in their work with and for children and youth.

The next consultation in the series is planned for the Fraser Region (probably Mission) in late January.

Centres' Resource Library:

The resource library's print catalogue has been developed. UCFV's Instructional Media Services (IMS) assisted by designing the front cover of the catalogue. The catalogue will be distributed to school districts throughout the province.

Centre for Non-Profit Development:

In partnership with UCFV's Business department, the Centre's Introduction to Non-Profit Management course was successfully piloted at UCFV in the fall semester. The course is scheduled to be offered again in January. Prince George's College of New Caledonia is the second institution to agree to offer the course. The course will be offered in the spring session. Discussions are continuing with a number of other interested institutions around the province.

Centre for Social Responsibility:

Over the fall session two Centre projects were profiled in the media. The Binge Drinking study and the Crystal Meth report were profiled on *CKNW's* Christie Clark show. The Binge Drinking report was also covered by the *Province* newspaper.

Faculty of Science

Agriculture Technology:

Instructor Tom Baumann has been recognized by the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation's School Fruit and Vegetable Snack program "for unwavering support of the children and farmers of British Columbia".

Teaching and Development

Career Centre:

The Career Centre has experienced a very busy fall semester. Dr. Deborah Bartlette, the new director, started at the end of October. Deb comes to UCFV from Simon Fraser University, and brings experience in co-operative education and university administration as well as external relations and teaching to the position. She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from SFU.

Several 'records' have been achieved in the Career Centre this past semester. In Co-operative Education:

- Highest placements ever in a Winter semester
- Most students placed in international placements for any semester
- Record number of applications to the Co-op Education program

Forty-five students were placed, an increase of 18 percent over our previous high number for a Winter semester (Winter 07, 38 placements). It is significant that we have been increasing our placements in a strong economy; typically, across institutions, if students feel it is not difficult to secure work on their own, often they will do so rather than working through Co-operative Education.

For the Winter '08 semester we have 17 students placed in an international position. We usually average 5-6 international placements in a semester. This increase is largely due to our promotion of self-developed co-op work placements by international students. With our support, international students seek out appropriate positions in their home countries. We ensure that these are appropriate positions and support our students via telephone and email. We will partner with

International Education; if someone from International Education is in a city where we have an international placement, they will pay a visit to our co-op student to touch base. We also anticipate using these placements for further marketing of the UCFV Co-op program internationally.

Applications to the program increased 31 percent over fall 2006, with 126 students applying to Co-op. The biggest increase is from students in the Science program, particularly Engineering and Kinesiology. There are currently 213 active Co-op students.

Career Services has also achieved milestones:

- record number of exhibitors and sponsors for *Directions 2008*, our UCFV career fair
- nearly one-third of UCFV students accessing Career Services

Directions is the largest career fair in the Fraser Valley and takes place in the new Envision Athletic Centre on March 20. Thanks to the larger venue, we have 79 exhibitors this year, plus 14 sponsors from the Fraser Valley business community. Canadian Security and Intelligence Service is our Platinum Sponsor. *Directions* is a cost-recovery event, covering the \$40,000 cost through exhibitor fees and sponsorships. Fifty student volunteers assist us in putting on this event. Last year approximately 800 UCFV students attended this event. Fourteen graduate schools are also exhibiting at *Directions* this year.

We have only recently been gathering data on student usage of the various services offered by Career Services. From September - November 2007, approximately 3300 students have accessed our services. 318 new students (i.e., have not previously used Career Services) registered with us during this period. We are in the process of refining our data collection and will use this information to analyze our service offerings to the various programs to maximize our support and accessibility to all UCFV students.

Submitted by:
Skip Bassford

