



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

November 2008

President's Report

Given the Board retreat on October 25 and 26, there are little of senior administration or Senate planning activities about which briefing is needed. As the Board knows, the VPs and I shall be meeting with the Ministry for our annual planning and priorities meeting on October 29, and will make a verbal report to the Board about it. Because of this, my written report consists mainly of reports from faculty and administrative units.

I would, however, like to thank the Board for your tremendous presence at UFV's first Convocation assembly. I know you agree with me that it went very well. The Premier and the many MLAs he brought with him seemed to find the trip worthwhile, and I know that several of you used the occasion to talk with different government representatives about our future directions. The rest of senior administration and I are very appreciative of the incredible support you continue to provide for UFV.

Faculty of Arts

Communications:

Enrolment in Communications courses are up significantly (22 percent) from last year, likely due to the successful implementation of the Professional Communication Essentials certificate and the Communications minor. Given the interest in the courses, the department is beginning the process to develop a Communication major and degree.

The department has been approached by industry to develop a proposal to partner and deliver a program to improve students' literacy and essential skills for the workplace.

Once again, the institution hosted another successful International Conference on Information Communication Technologies in Education (ICICTE) in Greece. The planning is in the works for next year's conference in Corfu, Greece.

Department Head, Lynn Kirkland Harvey is a contributor to a recently published book, *Education for a Digital World*, through BCCampus and the Commonwealth of Learning. This was a collaboration of local and international online educators, and her section addresses the issue of Online Identity. [http://www.col.org/colweb/site/pid/5312_\(p.462\)](http://www.col.org/colweb/site/pid/5312_(p.462))

Criminology/Criminal Justice:

The BC Centre for Non-Profit Development's Library Catalogue for 2008 has been compiled and the collection is considered to be the largest in British Columbia. The collection includes resources on such topics as starting a non-profit society, governance, fund raising, and grant development. For more information on the Centre, follow the link: <http://www.bccnpd.ca>.

The fourth Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology cohort is now underway. The second Douglas College cohort in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is also in place, whereby students who have completed their third year of their B.A. in Criminal Justice at Douglas College are completing their fourth year as University of the Fraser Valley students.

Ian Mackenzie, formerly the Chief of Police for the Abbotsford Police Department, is starting full time with us as a faculty member in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Geography:

Cherie Enns was in Chandigarh, India, recently to participate in a follow-up meeting related to the International Conference on *Child Friendly Cities* held earlier this year. Media reports have created an interest in Chandigarh about the theme (see attached press clippings). UFV partners at Panjab University are preparing broad recommendations to be sent to Chandigarh Municipal Corporation and Union Territory Administration.

Theatre:

The visiting performance on September 26 in the Chilliwack campus theatre by The Vancouver Theatresports League performers was, as always, a great success, with close to 200 patrons in attendance. The Theatresports improv afternoon workshop offered by the Vancouver professionals was also full to capacity and very popular with all who took part.

On the evening of Friday, October 3, the dramatic reading of *A Little Unfinished Business*, an original play by Theatre department member Rick Mawson, was also well attended, producing a great deal of positive feedback. This event is the first in a series of events intended to emphasize the Theatre department's commitment to new writing.

Les Belles Soeurs, the riotous black comedy by world-renowned French Canadian playwright Michel Tremblay, is the first production of the Theatre department's 2008/09 season. This will be the second production of Tremblay's masterpiece by the department, the first playing to sold out audiences during November of 1991. Although, originally written and performed in the Montreal, working class Joul dialect, this production of *Les Belles Soeurs* will be performed in English.

Featuring an all female cast of fifteen colourful characters, *Les Belles Soeurs* follows a day in the life of Germaine, the lucky winner of one million trading stamps, who invites her friends, relatives and neighbours over for an uproarious pasting party. During their evening together, the fifteen women explore love, life, jealousy and greed in one of the most popular Canadian plays ever written. *Les Belles Soeurs* will be directed by UFV Theatre faculty member Dr. Bruce Kirkley. *Les Belles Soeurs* runs November 5 to 23 in the Theatre on the Chilliwack campus.

Les Belles Soeurs will be followed in January by *Inuk and the Sun*, a coming-of-age tale set in the realm of both the reality and fantasy of Inuit life. *Hamlet* is this year's Shakespeare play, as the department stages this great play in March. Several matinee performances of all the plays will be offered to Fraser Valley schools.

The season ends with *The Directors' Theatre Festival*, the annual five-day extravaganza of theatre when UFV hosts student productions from other university and college theatre programs from around the province. Other season activities will include public readings of new plays and

an external study tour to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. Season brochures are available at select campus locations.

Teaching and Development

Career Centre:

We are pleased to announce that our new Science Co-op Coordinator, Dr. Michael Baumann, started at the end of August. Michael, who is originally from Austria, earned a Ph.D in Earth and Ocean Science from UBC in 1998, and since then has worked in various research and teaching positions. His background and experience in science and related professional positions make him a valuable asset to our program.

Career Services continues to grow: 1750 students and 259 alumni are currently registered with us, with 447 of these new registrations in September. More than half of these are first and second year students, which is a target group for us. Early connection with Career Services means we can provide more assistance to students in determining their post-graduation goals and how to achieve these, and assists retention by connecting students more strongly with UFV. More than one-third of these registrations are Arts students, followed by Science (22 percent) and Business (11 percent). Career Services organised the second annual shared Accounting Career Fair with Trinity Western University and Kwantlen Polytechnical University; 50 UFV Business and Accounting students attended. For students intending to become Chartered Accountants, this networking is critical, as it leads directly to their required articling positions after graduation. For the first time, a number of UFV students secured interviews with major national accounting firms. This Accounting Career Fair is the only opportunity for accounting students in the Fraser Valley to connect with the major firms.

Career Services also provided workshops to classes and groups of classes in Social Work, Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE), Geography, and the residence program of Student Life, and partnered with the English department and Alumni Relations to provide a career exploration event for English students. Approximately 25 percent of our exhibitor booths and two-thirds of our sponsorship for Directions 2009, our annual career fair on March 3, 2009, have also been booked.

Co-operative Education had 68 work placements this summer, up over 64 placements last summer. There were a record number of Co-op Ed job postings for Summer 08 (more than 500) and 165 Co-op Ed students available for work. One of our issues is the strong desire among our students to stay in the local community, and not take positions elsewhere in the Lower Mainland. We are conducting student focus groups and other research to further determine why more of our students are not applying for these positions. A record number of new students attended our Co-op Ed information sessions in September 2007, 197 versus 138 in September 2008. This has resulted in a record number of new applicants to Co-op Ed, 165. For the first time, students will also be able to apply to the Co-op Ed program in the Winter semester as well as Fall.

Research and Graduate Studies

India is the second fastest growing economy in the world and B.C. businesses are keen to capitalize on the opportunity. To help them do just that, RBC has committed \$250,000 over five years to be the exclusive sponsor in the financial services category of the B.C. Regional

Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business Economic Development, currently held by Professor D.J. Sandhu.

The Chair, which is housed in the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley, is mandated to help B.C. businesses access opportunities in the fast-growing Indian economy. The Valley is home to one of the nation's largest Indo-Canadian populations and boasts strong Canada-India connections - both cultural and financial.

As part of this partnership, RBC will work with UFV to develop and promote roundtables, seminars, speaking events (live and online), networking sessions, and a guide that will feature information on how to do business in and with India.

UFV presented the premiere of *The Meaning of Life* a documentary film by Hugh Brody, our Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies, featuring the voices of inmates of Kwikwexwelhp on October 4 at the GW Graham school theatre in Chilliwack. *The Meaning of Life* is a feature documentary which looks at an exciting new model for rehabilitating prisoners - a collaboration between Corrections Services Canada and the Chehalis Nation of British Columbia - and examines a different way to look at the concepts underlying punishment and rehabilitation. Filmed over the course of two years at Kwikwexwelhp (formerly known as the Elbow Lake Correctional Facility), *The Meaning of Life* is intended to open the viewers minds to the idea that the current prison system can be significantly changed by including community in the process.

Submitted by:
Skip Bassford

