

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

May 2008

## President's Report

I would like to start my report by thanking the Board, on behalf of all of us who are students or employees at UFV (!), for your foresight in starting and continuing our public drive for status several years ago, and for your many personal interventions with politicians and the public. The positive results to the Fraser Valley and its students will continue for many decades to come.

Of course, the new status and its meaning has been the primary topic of conversation at UFV since the announcement. The next months will be busy ones, as we rebrand, put the new governance structures in place, and, indeed, celebrate our new status. There will be several significant changes in governance, with a senate, faculties that report to the senate, and changes in board structure and powers. Even though the current Board and Education Council will be continued until a new Board and Senate is put in place, I would urge the Board to set up a committee to plan over the next few months for the changes. I have also been informed by the Ministry that we must have a Chancellor in place prior to being proclaimed as the University of the Fraser Valley, so the Board will need to begin the selection process soon. Parallel processes for the constitution of convocation, senate and faculties will be going on as the summer progresses.

At the same time, of course, exams are over and our new term has begun, with increased enrolment this year as well as increased numbers of applications. I shall report more up-to-date details at the Board meeting. We have also completed the revision of the budget, and, assuming that the Finance and Audit Committee approve, present the Board with a balanced budget at this month's meeting. Convocation comes soon. It will be a bit bitter-sweet, being the last UCFV convocation. Based upon numbers so far, it will also be the biggest graduating class we have had. Please put as many of those times aside as you can – they are great times to be part of our university.

Below are the reports of several of our departments, showing again the hard work and success of UFV.

## Development Office

Recent events:

- Abbotsford Rotary toured the Abbotsford campus (Visual Arts, Athletics, Library and Science were featured on the tour). The Abbotsford Rotary has committed to funding 5 x \$1,000 annual awards for a minimum of three years. The Development office has also presented a proposal for a much larger amount in support of the library.
- Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce's *Casual Connections* was successfully hosted at UFV for the first time. The event, held in the Library Rotunda, attracted more than 75 people.

- Fundraising event for Jean Scott's 96th birthday has resulted in more than \$7,000 raised in addition to a \$10,000 bequest. We are sending out an appeal to attendees to also consider leaving a bequest to UFV in their will.
- Eric Davis established a \$540 annual scholarship in honour of his aunt and uncle. The award is titled: Dr. Michael and Edith Guggenheim Holocaust Memorial Annual Scholarship and it is used to recognize students who write essays on the holocaust.
- Rob Nicklom contributed \$2,500 of which \$2,000 is being used to fund one of the previously UCFV-funded Trades Entrance Scholarships.
- Marion Dyck gave another \$12,500 to the Marion Dyck Endowment Scholarship in Trades. This brings up her endowment to \$37,500 (which she has built up over the past 3 years).
- Recent press releases announcing the following gifts (some of these announcements were held to capitalize on the university status announcements)
  - Gladys Kipp \$400,000 to fund one of the President's Entrance Scholarships
  - Loyal Protestant Association \$20,000 to purchase a radiography machine for the dental program
- Many new annual awards established: Patricia Todd (\$500 in honour of her husband); Bel Par (\$1,000); Abbotsford News (\$1,000 for *Writing Across the Curriculum* prizes); Abbotsford Optimists (\$1,500); Canaccord Capital (\$1,000); Chilliwack Optimists (\$1,000); Neova Technologies (\$2,000) and Unisource (\$500)

**Faculty of Arts**

**Criminology:**

Faculty member Terry Waterhouse was recently working in the Sudan, and encountered some children in prison there. One child asked Terry to send him a soccer ball from Canada. Terry shared this request for a soccer ball with his Criminology students, who in turn have come up with 219 soccer balls to be sent to imprisoned children in the Sudan.

**Modern Languages:**

Modern Languages student Haruka Nakamura is a champion of the 2008 B.C. "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Speech contest. Haruka, a student in UFV's Mandarin class, won from the International Students group.

The contest is held annually, and is sponsored by the Consulate of the People's Republic of China, UBC, Confucius Institute at BCIT, Chinese Language Association of B.C., and The Canadian Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (TCSL) Association. The purpose of this contest is to promote multiculturalism and Chinese language and culture learning. This year, the contest was held at the downtown campus of BCIT on March 30. Students from UBC, SFU, UVIC and many other post-secondary institutes in BC participated in the contest.



**Psychology:**

One of our partnership agreements involves an option for students to complete a BA (Psyc) degree from UFV, taking third and fourth-year UFV courses at the Coquitlam campus of Douglas College. Dr. Kathy Denton, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Douglas College, advises that in the current cohort of students, three have been accepted into graduate school, at the following institutions:

- University of Alberta, Psychology
- University of Western Ontario, Clinical Psychology
- Trinity Western, Counseling Psychology

In addition, a student who graduated in 2006 was accepted into the MA program in Social Work at UBC.

**Communications (CMNS):**

The Communications Minor has been reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board, and forwarded to the Ministry of Advanced Education for approval.

Madeleine Hardin is organizing the national meeting of the Canadian Consortium of University Programs in International Development Studies (CCUPIDS) on June 7, 8, and 9 at Harrison Hot Springs. Members of this consortium come from universities all over Canada. Madeleine was successful in securing \$13,000 in funding from the International Development Research Council (IDRC) to fund the meeting.

As well, Madeleine Hardin hosted a meeting of the Education Council Chairs in BC at UFV Abbotsford campus on Saturday, May 3. With the change in status of many of the members – it was a lively meeting.

The International Day of Reflection: Remembering Rwandan Genocide event on April 7 was organized by a student in the CMNS 412 practicum class. Student, Jean de Dieu Hakizamana, filled the room to capacity for this wonderful event. As well, of the eleven students in this Community and Public Relations Practicum class, four were offered career-track jobs as a result of their community placements.

**Faculty of Science****Kinesiology & Physical Education (KPE):**

Mina Thomas, KPE student, was successful in receiving a BC Child and Youth Health Research Network Student Internship (funded through the Michael Smith Foundation). Mina will receive \$3,500 for her participation in a project titled “Toward Exercise Intervention for Children with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder): a Strength-based Approach”, a project run by KPE faculty members (Kathy Keiver, Chris Bertram and Alison Pritchard-Orr). This is a very competitive process open to both graduate and undergraduate students, with only three students being funded.

Matt Fransisco, KPE student, had his abstract (Muscular force production, teeth clenching and the use of a mandibular orthopedic repositioning appliance, supervised by Drs. Greg Anderson and

Jason Brandenburg) accepted for presentation at the National Strength and Conditioning Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in July, and will likely be one of the only undergraduates to present a paper there.

**Mathematics & Statistics:**

Students, teachers, UFV faculty and UFV student helpers enjoyed a day of mathematical fun and games on Friday, May 2. The Mathematics & Statistics department hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Math contest for local secondary students. The department has been doing this long enough that some of the teachers are themselves UFV graduates and some of the student helpers are veterans of the math contest!

A record 93 students and their teachers attended the contest, which was held on the Chilliwack campus this year. Sixteen schools from Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission sent teams. The top three students are offered a full year's scholarship to UFV.

**Physics Department:**

Department Head Tim Cooper had a paper conditionally accepted in the *Physical Review C* journal and is continuing his global warming talks. He has given over 60 talks and is also supported by BC Hydro, who has allowed him to give away over 1000 light bulbs.

**Science Advice Centre:**

In March, Darren Francis, Director of the Science Advice Centre, chaired the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Northwest Regional conference. This year's conference "Border Crossings: Advising Checkpoints from Pre-Enrolment to Graduation" was a huge success as 281 advisors attended the conference, which was only one off the all-time Northwest Region attendance record.

NACADA (<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/index.htm>) is the leader in advising and student development research in North America. Darren's knowledge and skill within the academic advising profession is highly recognized through his involvement and leadership role in the NACADA organization.

**Teaching and Development**

**Career Centre:**

The Career Centre is nearing the end of an extremely eventful Winter semester. Summer and permanent job searches and placements continue, focus groups are taking place with students, and the Career Fair has received remarkable reviews. We are delighted with the announcement of university status which will enable us to connect with additional employer partners and will assist with the recruitment and retention of our students.

Co-operative Education achievements:

- First placements in Library & Information Technology, Kinesiology, and Engineering
- Focus groups conducted with students
- Co-op salaries assist with the cost of tuition

The Co-operative Education program recently partnered with additional program areas to offer the Co-op option to more students. We have seen our first placements with Library & Information Technology, Kinesiology, and Engineering this summer.

As mentioned previously, we have received a record high number of co-op postings and positions for summer, which has now grown to 194 postings with 503 available positions. The dilemma we face along with other institutions is the decline of students responding to postings. This issue is being felt community-wide and as a result is the focus of the Association for Co-operative Education (ACE) professional development event this week that we will be attending.

Initial steps that we are taking include conducting focus groups with co-op students to find out what barriers they are facing in applying to co-op jobs along with their suggestions and ideas to increase application rates. We recently completed a focus group with new co-op students. The group was extremely engaged in the discussions providing insightful information. We will conduct another focus group with senior co-op students in May. The student's feedback and suggestions will be used in redeveloping the co-op application process for students with the intent of increasing co-op applications per job posting and ultimately co-op placements overall.

Co-op wages ranged between \$12.00-\$28.00 per hour over the Winter semester. The average hourly wage was \$15.83 per hour with an average semester salary of \$9,499.43 per student. As of today, the average hourly rate for summer co-op students is \$15.71 per hour. These earnings greatly assist students with the cost of tuition and living expenses.

Career Services achievements:

- Career Fair 2008 receives tremendous reviews
- Accounting Career Fair partnership
- "Career Centre To Go"

More than 1,400 UFV students, alumni and community members attended the Career Fair on March 20, 2008 and connected with over 100 Exhibitors and Graduate schools. We continue to receive success stories on job placements as a result of the career fair. Approximately 400 people completed our attendee survey, and results include the following:

- *SIGNIFICANT* - On a scale of 1 to 5, 86 percent of the surveyed attendees rated the value of their experience at Directions 2008 as either a 4 or a 5.
- *INFORMATIVE* – 72 percent of these attendees expressed that this event was an excellent opportunity to explore potential careers and 80 percent felt that their questions about a particular career or company were well answered.
- *ENGAGING* - Our overall goal of Directions 2008 was to assist attendees in gaining relevant skills, knowledge and experience by making connections with recruiters; 90 percent of the surveyed attendees felt that this goal was met.
- Exhibitor feedback was well-received and overall, 95 percent of exhibitors surveyed felt that the Career Fair was a valuable event and 91 percent rated their overall experience as 'Excellent.'

The Career Centre raised \$35,600 in sponsorship and exhibitor fees in order to put on this large scale event. Please note that the date of Tuesday, March 3, 2009 has been set for Directions 2009.

Event planning continues as the Centre has partnered with business accounting faculty and the Business Administration Student Association to begin planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Accounting Career Fair to take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The event will be sponsored by the Institute for Chartered Accountants and also include Kwantlen and Trinity Western University.

'Career Centre To Go' will bring the services of the Career Centre directly to students around campus. Each week throughout the summer, staff will be set up in the Learning Commons or Great Hall area to assist students with their immediate career-related questions. We will assist students with job search techniques and tools, provide coaching on cover letters and resumes, offer feedback on job interviews, and promote the Centre's programs and services. In the fall and winter, we will bring this service to the Chilliwack and Mission campuses.

### **College and Career Preparation (CCP):**

College and Career Preparation hosted an information/orientation event on April 3 on the Chilliwack campus. Approximately 45 students attended the event to hear about UFV services and support. Speakers included Mark Hoffman, Sybille StegmueLLer, Cathy Anderson, and Janet Robinson from Student Services, and Wendy Ritchie from the Aboriginal Resource Centre. Trudy Archie from CCP introduced FNST (First Nations Studies) 091, a new provincial-level course that will run in Fall 2008 in Chilliwack.

CCP also hosted a group of adult learners from Central Gateway on April 2. These students are registered in CCP math and English courses at an off-campus learning centre taught by Vicki Grieve. Students heard about UFV programs and support services, and Devon Wilson from Marketing and Communications gave the students a tour of the campus. CCP student Virginia Pineda, who is graduating with her Adult Graduation Diploma (the BC Adult Dogwood) in June, encouraged the students to embrace the challenges and rewards of education at UFV.

The provincial Adult Basic Education Steering Committee met on April 23 and 24 at the Chilliwack Education Park, hosted by CCP department head Sue Brigden. Representatives from colleges and university colleges across the province discussed changes to the ABE Articulation Guide and implications of various policies from the Ministry of Advanced Education. Bruce Corbeil and students in the Professional Cook Training program catered the event.

The Chilliwack Workplace TASK (Training in Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge) students held an end-of-program celebration on April 16. Family members, faculty and staff gathered to highlight TASK students' achievements over the past year. Instructor Alyson Seale, program assistant Charlene Smadello, work study student Amy Waites, and department head Sue Brigden congratulated the students on their success. TASK students completed four practicum placements in the community, and they leave the program armed with resumes, first aid, SuperHost, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), FoodSafe, and job-readiness skills. We are grateful to employers in the community and at UFV for providing practicum opportunities for TASK students.

**Research and Graduate Studies**

In early April, Yvon Dandurand made a presentation on "International Indicators on the Criminal Justice Response to Violence Against Women" during a workshop held as part of the 17th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Vienna.

Yvon Dandurand has received and accepted an invitation to contribute to a criminal justice policy development exercise organized at the end of May 2008 by the Government of Uruguay in Montevideo. The initiative focuses on alternative sentences, restorative justice, community-based programs and various alternatives to imprisonment.

On May 28, at the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Prof. D.J. Sandhu will be making a presentation on "Business With India, A Natural Connection" (Wednesday, May 28 2008, 11:30am - 1:30pm; Abbotsford Banquet & Conference Centre; 33738 Laurel Street). As the BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development, D.J. Sandhu helps Fraser Valley businesses take advantage of the opportunities offered by the huge Indian market.

UFV is pursuing discussions with Panjab University on a Dual Degree graduate program involving Panjab University's Masters Degree in Police Administration and our MA in Criminal Justice. The Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University is expected to visit UFV at the end of May.

Submitted by:  
Skip Bassford

