

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE UCFV BOARD

May 2006

On Sunday I returned from attending two conferences: the Conference of Commonwealth Executive Heads and the New Generation Universities Planning Meeting. The first meeting was attended by about 350 presidents from around the Commonwealth. Except for the constant explanations that we were an independent university (“university college” throughout the Commonwealth usually refers to a college which is a part of a larger university), the many discussions had, and connections made, over many days were quite valuable. Let me give a couple of examples. First, it became clear during the session on community involvement of universities that UCFV is in the vanguard in this respect. Many universities are trying to break down the “town and gown” distance, but few had gone as far as we have, and there was considerable interest in the success of our community advisory groups and our shared research with our communities. Second, it was made clear in a couple of sessions that the search for international students is becoming more difficult. Third world countries are rapidly increasing their own post-secondary systems and are becoming more vocal about the predatory attitude of many first world institutions. Offering partnership programs (as we are developing in China and India), whereby students can get joint credentials, and insisting on providing real value to international students, will be the way to success in international programs in the future. With respect to partnerships, I was able to have several discussions with the Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University, with whom we are sharing our Northern India initiative. It was very clear that my accepted presence at the Commonwealth meetings helped to overcome the fear that he has had that working with a “university college” was not appropriate for a university of their stature.

The New Generation meetings were smaller. The meeting was a follow-up to a meeting in Kamloops, with a purpose of seeing whether the international group of new universities of the 90's and 00's had enough differentiation from traditional universities to justify forming a new association. Wayne and I were both disappointed that the discussions didn't go deeply enough into best new practices. Nonetheless, it became clear that most of us share several commitments, such as more open access, teaching emphasis, community based planning, and regionally based research. Accordingly, a small committee is currently putting together a draft agreement for at least a preliminary version of an association, which UCFV will almost certainly join.

I attended two events in my first days back that deserve special mention. The British Columbia Skills Competition was held at Tradex this week. The competition is for secondary school students who are interested in trades and technology. There were over 500 contestants, with several thousand other visitors. UCFV, through our Faculty of Trades and Technology, was very involved in making the event the tremendous success that it was. We co-hosted Wednesday's sponsors' luncheon with the Abbotsford School Board, which gave me the opportunity to speak to many influential people from industry and government about our ongoing commitment to trades, and the fact that the commitment will continue when we become a university. The entire event gave UCFV great presence. Harv McCullough and his team deserve a clear round of applause.

I also had the pleasure of attending our department of Fashion Design's annual student graduate show. Both the afternoon and evening shows were sold out. The clothing demonstrated was designed and made by students as projects, and it demonstrated beyond doubt the high level of talent of our students

(and the high level of instruction they receive). Many of our graduates have gone on to successful careers in the fashion industry. Based on this year's productions, several of these graduates will do so as well.

## **FACULTY OF ARTS AND APPLIED ARTS**

### **Visiting Scholar Lectures on Multiculturalism**

On Friday, April 31, visiting scholar Dr. Rita Dhamoon, Grant Notley Memorial Post-Doctoral Fellow, Political Science Department, University of Alberta, presented a lecture on "The Possibilities and Limits of Multiculturalism: The 'Kirpan Case'." The lecture focused on the 2006 Supreme Court ruling that permits a Sikh student to carry the kirpan (a religious artifact) on the basis of religious freedom. This event was presented by the UCFV Philosophy and Politics department and the Dean of Research and Industry Liaison, in association with the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and Research.

### **Historica Fair**

UCFV is once again hosting the Fraser Valley Regional Historica Fair in the gym on Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6. The Historica Fair features an exhibit of Canadian history projects created by students in grades 4-9 from over a dozen schools in the region. These projects have already won distinction in local school Historica Fairs, and therefore represent the best in the Fraser Valley. Along with approximately 120 students, their teachers, parents will be displays and activities by local history and community groups. The Fair begins at 9:30 am on May 5 with opening ceremonies attended by local MLAs, civic and educational officials. The Historica Fair is an event that actively involves Canada's youth, schools, businesses, and communities in a celebration of our shared traditions.

### **Feast and Transformation: A Festival of First Nations films from the Pacific Northwest**

From April 21-23, UCFV and the British Museum, together with the Royal Anthropological Institute, and with the support of the City of Chilliwack, presented a film festival, first hosted by the British Museum in London in February, which explored the peoples, history, and landscapes of the region. The festival was the latest example of the growing cooperation between UCFV and the local First Nations communities. The driving force behind it was Hugh Brody, holder of the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies at UCFV.

### **UCFV Hosts Provincial Articulation Meeting**

The Department of English and the Faculty of Arts and Applied Arts are hosting the annual Articulation meeting of university, university-college, and college English departments on May 5.

## **Communications**

Communications faculty member Ryszard Dubanski has been nominated for *The Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award*, with his work *Black Teeth & Other North End Souvenirs*, published by Signature Editions. The Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award is a juried annual award with a prize of \$5,000 to the author; a certificate goes to the publisher. Open to books of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, photography, or visual arts, nominated works are required to evoke in some way the special character of and contribute to the appreciation and understanding of the City of Winnipeg. The award is administered by the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers on behalf of the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Signature Editions describes *Black Teeth* as “a collection of linked non-fiction stories, a personal history of growing up in Winnipeg’s tough multi-cultural North End in the 1960s.” The book launch was held at UCFV on October 28.

## **English**

Professor Nilufer Bharucha, head of the English department of the University of Mumbai (India’s oldest university), will be a visiting professor at UCFV in October 2006. Professor Bharucha will be lecturing in English 380, Studies in Indian Literature, and in a new Visual Arts/Indo-Canadian Studies course, India on Film. In addition, she will give three public lectures at UCFV, and she will be a guest speaker both at UBC and at Kwantlen. Professor Bharucha, who has published widely on Indian literature and film, has been a visiting scholar at universities in Britain, France, and Germany; she is currently a member of the international faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is the author of numerous books and articles, including a recent monograph on Rohinton Mistry.

## **History**

Gwen Point, instructor in the History department and the School of Social Work, has been a coordinator for the Chilliwack Pow Wow for the past 14 years. This year’s Pow Wow was held April 14, 15 and 16 at Heritage Park.

## **Visual Arts**

### **Student Exhibitions**

Chantal Thome has a public art piece called ‘*For Your Homeless*’ at Interurban Gallery in Vancouver.

First Year Visual Arts student Eduardo Diones has just been chosen as a finalist in a competition to receive an Internship with ChalkMedia. If successful he will work with art directors, designers and web developers this summer.

A number of students had work accepted into '*Hidden Heroes: Women Survivors of Violence*', an exhibition sponsored by The BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses (April 7-30). The exhibition will be juried down to a smaller number of pieces for a more high profile exhibit at the Kelowna Art Gallery this fall (to run for three months). The following students have work accepted into one or both of the exhibitions:

Print Media - Melina Smith, Stephanie Frame, Patricia Penner, Catherine Jinnouchi

Print Media and Photography - Paula Funk

Video - Michelle Oram

Painting - Shawna Burns

In connection with the exhibition, Davida Kidd and Michelle Oram have been asked to do CBC interviews. This event has become an annual "Prevention of Violence Against Women Week" art campaign.

UCFV Visual Arts graduating students presented their year-end show, '*Identity*', in the Gallery (B136), April 6-21. The show featured the art of eight graduating students working in a variety of media, and was rounded out with juried selections from a number of other Visual Arts students.

Another UCFV Student Exhibition, '*Contemporary Identity*' runs at Kariton House in Abbotsford, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, Sat/Sun 12-4pm, until May 3.

The show features nine student artists (Raimond Domino, Paula Funk, Catherine Prentice Jinnouchi, Tara-Lynn Kozma-Perrin, Kelly MacIntosh, Jenn Scharf, Danielle Swift, David Vegt, Helen Yannacopoulos) working in Painting, Photography, Print Media, Sculpture, and Video Art.

### **Faculty Work**

Jill Bain was an invited speaker for a fundraiser for the Or Art Gallery (Vancouver) on March 9 as part of a panel on 'The Saddest Music'.

Davida Kidd has two solo exhibitions coming up: Fall 2006 "Between the Subliminal and the Sublime", Art NewMedia Gallery in Warsaw, Poland; and "Core Dump" opening June 1st at Bjornson

Kajiwara Gallery in Vancouver. She has been invited to exhibit in the 5th International Triennale of Colour in Graphic Art 2006, Galeria Sztuki Wozownia Torun, Poland.

Toni Latour's video '*Smile*' will be played on an outdoor video monitor in downtown Calgary during the ArtCity Festival. Her article '*Andy and Andy*' will be published in PaperWait, an annual journal put out by artist-run centre *aceartinc*, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Agriculture**

Director, Norma Senn, and faculty member, Tom Baumann spoke to three classes of high school agriculture students at Sardis Senior Secondary School about career opportunities in agriculture in early April.

Faculty member, Rose Morrison and Norma Senn also spoke to the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee on April 10. They gave a modified version of the paper on agriculture and rural sustainability issues they originally had presented at the Second International Sustainability Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam in January.

The Department of Agriculture staff and faculty also staffed an information display at the Chilliwack Outdoor Decor Show during the first weekend in April.

**Chemistry**

Faculty member, Dr. Noham Weinberg has had his National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grant renewed for a five-year term.

**Kinesiology & Physical Education**

Department Head, Greg Anderson presented an invited paper in Italy, in Turin on April 2nd: "*The Use of Unstable Surfaces for Training and Rehabilitation*". This was at the ISOKINETIC Congree which is a Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Conference. He was one of only four speakers who had a full hour to present, and the only Canadian presenting.

Greg Anderson also presented another invited paper at the American College of Sports Medicine Health and Fitness Summit in Orlando. The title is "*Body Composition Analysis: Best Practices*". He was one of two non-American presenters.



Submitted by: H. A. Bassford  
President, UCFV