

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE UCFV BOARD

May 25, 2006

My report this month consists of the enclosed information from the VP Academic, the Faculty of Arts and Applied Arts, the Faculty of Community Access, Business and Information Technology, and the Strategic Plan Progress Report, which is tabled for this meeting. As that report shows, UCFV, as usual, made tremendous progress in the 2005-2006 academic year. I am continually amazed at how much our students, faculty and staff accomplish, and am very proud to have the honour of being president of this amazing institution. I look forward to discussing the Progress Report with the Board.

VP ACADEMIC OFFICE

Directions 2006 Debrief – The Directions 2006 Committee was pleased with the event and turn out. Positive feedback has been received from both student and exhibitor surveys. Several new ideas were noted to implement next year. The date for Directions 2007 has been set for Thursday, March 15, 2007 in the new gymnasium. The Coordinators met with Marketing & Communications to debrief on the marketing activities for the Career Fair. It was decided that the brainstorming process will begin earlier to allow more time for the finishing details.

Co-operative Education – The Coordinators have been busy preparing and placing co-op students into work terms for the summer period. Over 100 summer co-op jobs have been received to date. The Coordinators submitted an application to Human Resources Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC) Summer Career Placement program to hire a co-op student for the summer term. The opportunity was posted to co-op students and the Co-op Coordinators short-listed, interviewed, and have hired a Business Admin co-op student who will begin work on May 1.

Work-Study – With the summer semester expanded to a full 13 weeks, the Work-Study program received a record number of position requests, and a total of 86 positions received funding. There continues to be a demand for Research Assistants, with the positions offering a wide range of learning for students and support to faculty and staff. In addition, three research assistant positions have been created for UCFV's Centre for Environmental Sustainability, where the students will be working in a partnership program with the City of Abbotsford, the District of Mission and the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Employment Services – The Coordinators continue to meet with students and graduates about their employment preparation needs. Many students have been making appointments with the Coordinators to have them assist with their job searches, providing feedback on cover letters and resumes, and preparing and practicing for interviews.

HRMA Conference – Natalie Yano attended the Human Resources Management Association (HRMA) Conference to make connections and foster relationships with various Human Resources professionals. There were HR representatives from different industries and communities throughout the province which provided a great opportunity to introduce more organizations to the talent pool available at UCFV.

Career Centre Appreciation Reception – The department has begun organizing the Career Centre's annual Appreciation Reception. The event will take place on Thursday, June 1, 2006, 6 - 8pm in University House. The purpose of this event is to appreciate the many students and employers the Centre works with annually.

Accounting Career Fair – The Coordinators have begun organizing an Accounting Career Fair to take place on Thursday, September 21. This request has come from local accounting firms. Other larger universities offer this type of event annually. The Centre has partnered with the Business Administration Student Association. Many students and graduates interested in accounting will benefit from this professional networking event.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND APPLIED ARTS

History - Sylvie Murray just published a document project in the online quarterly journal, *Women and Social Movements*, edited by two senior American historians. The project, titled "How Did Suburban Development and Domesticity Shape Women's Activism in Queens, New York, 1945-1968?," explores the ways that women's activism developed in the borough of Queens in New York City in the 1950s and 1960s. The account is particularly interesting because the feminist pioneer, Betty Friedan, lived in Queens at this time. The project includes four documents by Friedan (one previously unpublished) which she gave permission to reprint just before her death.

For the third year running, the UCFV History Department and the MSA Museum co-hosted the annual Fraser Valley Regional Historica Fair on May 5 - 6 at the UCFV Student Activity Centre, an event that encourages school children and their teachers, parents, and community leaders to celebrate local history and Canada's national heritage. The Fair is an initiative of the nation-wide Historica Foundation of Canada, and a key program of Historica is a series of school-based Historica Fairs to raise historical awareness for students in grades 4 – 9. Students are encouraged to research historical topics of interest to them and then visually display their research at school fairs. At this Regional Fair we saw over 110 individual students and their projects. Projects included a wide variety of historical topics, including presentations of First Nations' history and culture, family, ethnic, and immigration histories, local stories from Abbotsford's past, and chronicles of Canada's sports heroes. In all, over 600 people attended the two-day Fair at UCFV, including federal MP Ed Fast and provincial MLAs John van Dongen and Mike de Jong, and Abbotsford Mayor George Ferguson. Special thanks go to the student volunteers, Gym personnel, Facilities, IMS, Student Life, Dean Dr. Eric Davis, V.P. Dr. Wayne Welsh, and members of the History department for their support.

History sessional instructor Bruce Hiebert is one of the winners of the *2006 Stirling Award for Teaching Excellence* at the University of Phoenix. This is an annual award based on student evaluations and contributions to the school.

Gwen Point was a panel member for the North West Coast Aboriginal Film Festival held at the Chilliwack Campus theatre April 21 - 23. Gwen has also been appointed by the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Chiefs to Mt. Thurston Project Committee with the mandate: Oversee the overall development of the

Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Resort and Cultural Centre on the Mt. Thurston site.

Fashion Design - Fashion Design faculty and students have been keeping hectic pace these past months – and are proud to report on the success of the recent program Open House and Absolute Style Fashion Show April 26, 2006.

The two events were held on the same day – bringing over 700 viewers to the UCFV Abbotsford campus to two fashion shows held in the student activity centre, and through the hallways and fashion labs in Building D. Absolute Style showcased the designer lines of 2nd year graduating students as well as offered a selected sampling of styles created for fashion program course projects and textiles option courses.

Here is a sampling of the graduating designer styles...



Designer Krystle McDuff



Designer Cristelle Schultz



Designer Rachel Tetreault



Designer Larissa Waterbeek

The Open House filled hallway, classroom and window displays with stylized garments, design and specification boards, fashion illustrations and construction techniques, all showcasing the technical and creative aspects of fashion design students' abilities.

Fashion faculty received many positive comments from attending high school teachers impressed with the new Fashion Design location on campus and the renovated labs. School groups from Kamloops, Kelowna, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Abbotsford, Mission, Port Moody and Chilliwack attended the event – bringing many potential students to UCFV.

Fashion design is honoured to have forged a partnership with Envision Financial – as the sponsor of the Absolute Style 2006 fashion show. Envision's sponsorship was directed completely towards Student awards – increasing the monetary value of the three fashion show awards: Most Marketable Collection, Most Creative Showing, and Technical Proficiency Showing; and two fashion program awards: Textiles Option and Innovation in Fashion Illustration by a first year student. Envision Financial partnership with UCFV for the construction of the new gymnasium will also be shared with fashion design – as the fashion program anticipates holding the 2007 fashion show in the new premises.

Right after the fashion show, Fashion faculty and students were off to New York (April 28 - May 6). The study tour was very hectic but filled with inspiration, and included visits to design houses, colour forecasting services, museums (FIT, the Metropolitan Museum, MOMA), Harlem boutiques and designers, milliners, and the costume department for the New York Ballet. The trip also provided opportunity for general sightseeing, cultural exploration, Broadway shows, ballet productions and – of course – research to view the designers' collections of elite boutiques and the shopping districts of Soho, Chelsea, Tribeca and NoLita.

Fashion faculty completed the judging for the Regional Skills Now district competition in early April.

Modern Languages (MOLA) - Over the past year the MOLA Student Association, with support from MOLA faculty, has worked to provide, as well as encourage participation in, a variety of extracurricular activities for language students. We realize that if UCFV is to implement internationalization, we students need to work together where UCFV has thus far been deficient by bringing together both Canadian students studying languages and international students for whom the languages are native. The interaction of Canadian and international students is extremely important to bringing intercultural awareness to both. Without language competence and some understanding of other cultures and ways of life, we cannot hope to be successfully competent and competitive in the increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. Often it seems as if international students are the only ones with a sense of community around UCFV. Canadian students can learn invaluable things from interacting with these students whose background is so varied from our own.

In particular for Spanish students, we have added to the already existing Mesa Latina (language lunch) and Salsa/Merengue dancing classes/activities by beginning a weekly Spanish language film presentation. This activity will continue throughout the Summer semester and into the Fall semester in

order to provide a continued forum for students who want to retain their Spanish while classes are not offered at the 200-level, as well as for those enrolled in first-year courses this Summer. These films are a great medium for bringing awareness of Spanish and Latin American culture, history, values and realities – essential to learning and actually understanding another language. In addition, Spanish students are exposed to the different accents of various Spanish-speaking countries, and have a chance to interact with other Spanish students. Since over the Summer semester the lack of student life is even more pronounced than normal (with key meeting places like Casey's closed), this weekly event is one way of encouraging student interaction while providing an important educational role.

Finally, Spanish students have recently seen the benefits of having language skills as last year UCFV sent three students to Costa Rica on internships. The students' Spanish competence was essential to their placing in different development and justice organizations in Costa Rica. This year, a fourth student is being sent, also largely as a result of proficiency in Spanish. These internships are providing students with valuable experiences, while also helping UCFV develop connections with institutions and universities in Central America. A key aspect of the internationalization process is increasing these types of projects, including internships, and study abroad and exchange programs. UCFV needs to work to increase the opportunities for students as there is student demand for such things.

This year has been quite successful in terms of the French MOLA activities. Apart from the regular French language lunches and afternoon films, there were several other activities of note. There were two very successful French-themed parties held for UCFV students. The first party was based on French culture, and featured several dishes, including cheeses, baguettes, and crêpes, as well as French music. The second party was based on Quebec culture, with delicious poutine, tourtière, and traditional Québécois music. In early April the French work-study student went to several high schools in Abbotsford, promoting the languages taught at UCFV including the French minor, as well as some jobs that are of great interest to bilingual students. The presentations for grade 11 and 12 students were well received by both the students and the teachers, and the French immersion students at W.J. Mouat School were especially interested in the French minor. Several of the teachers asked to have someone from MOLA present to their classes next year as well.

Japanese and Mandarin work-study students have also provided a variety of activities to students of the languages. These weekly activities have included films, crafts, cooking, and games, providing exposure to both the languages and cultures of Japan and China. They were also a meeting place for Canadian and international students.

All of these different language activities at UCFV have been an excellent way to bring foreign cultures to UCFV students, and to promote globalism in our ever shrinking world. Even though we live in a very multicultural society, we still have much to learn about other cultures. Now and in the future, Canadian students will play a role on the world stage, and offering MOLA activities at UCFV that bring the world to Canadian students can only be beneficial.

FACULTY OF COMMUNITY ACCESS, BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Library and Information Technology (LIBIT)

Faculty News - The LIBIT Department is delighted to welcome Christina Neigel back as she returns from parental leave. We extend our deepest appreciation to Corinne McConchie for her many contributions during her secondment to the department.

Student Success Stories - Congratulations to recent LIBIT and Bachelor of General Studies graduate, Jo-Ann Sleiman, on her acceptance into the Master's program in the Graduate School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia.

Current student Lisa Morry is to be congratulated for winning 2nd place in the Canadian Library Association Student Essay Contest for her LIBIT 110 paper called "Blogs are Big News: Transforming Mainstream Media." Lisa is also the recipient of the Canadian Library Association Conference Student Internship Award which will allow Lisa to attend the CLA Annual Conference in Ottawa, June 14- 17.

LIBIT alumni Judith Argent will present a session called "Genealogy Researching in the Western Provinces - Who's Who in your Family Tree?" at the Alberta Association of Library Technicians' Annual Conference in Banff this month. Judith, who is the co-editor of Canadian Genealogical Resources, was the subject of the article "Gene Speak" in April 22 edition of the Peace Arch News.

The department continues to market the Online Collaborative Program through library associations across Canada, the United States and now through the Australian Library and Information Association.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Chemistry - Dr. Lillian Martin and Ms. Shawna Dyck recently visited two elementary schools, McCammon Elementary School in Chilliwack (May 1) and Coghlan Fundamental Elementary School in Aldergrove (May 9), to promote science to young students.

Fifty Grade 12 students from the Mennonite Educational Institute spent the morning of May 8 working in the chemistry laboratories on the Abbotsford campus in order to gain experience using equipment that is not available in their school.

Health Sciences - The Health Sciences Department has hired 6 new permanent faculty: two dental hygiene program faculty in preparation for the implementation of the Dental Hygiene two-year Diploma in September 2006 and four nursing faculty in response to the increase in student FTE's and the dual intake in the BSN program. In addition, new sessional faculty have been added. The increase in permanent faculty has required some creative planning and maximizing of available space to establish new faculty offices that will accommodate the new hires. This puts us at a total of 37 permanent Health Science faculty and over 45 sessional faculty.

The Health Sciences department successfully completed the external approval process with the BC College of Dental Surgeons which completes the final step of approval to implement the Dental Hygiene diploma for the Fall. All final stages of planning and development are being completed in preparation for program start. The program will have not difficulty filling all 16 seats with fully prepared applicants. The program will embark on the mandatory national accreditation process upon completion of implementation of the first year of the program.

Health Sciences has embarked on initial planning and discussions with various community and health care representatives in Chilliwack for the opportunity to partner on the implementation of a Chilliwack Health Centre. This exciting initiative provides potential for important new student learning experiences focused on the delivery of primary care, care of chronic disease, and various health promotion and disease prevention services/programs. A stakeholders planning and vision day is planned for June 12th.

Health Sciences has begun planning in relation to the relocation of the Health Sciences Department. A critical component of the planning process is anticipating growth in current programming as well as new health science programming that will support the increasing need for qualified graduates in the FHA, particularly within the eastern region of the FHA.

On May 5th the Nursing faculty hosted the annual Graduation Recognition Tea to acknowledge the 30 BSN graduates program completion. All of the program graduates have been offered employment within the Fraser Health Authority with the majority accepting employment in the Fraser Valley. Several recruitment strategies have been implemented particularly in support of attracting nursing faculty. This Spring a faculty member has been released to develop a more extensive faculty mentorship program specific to meeting the needs of new faculty and in particular, faculty with minimal to no teaching experience. This program will be applied to both permanent and sessional faculty. The mentorship program will complement the existing faculty probationary process.

Mathematics & Statistics - UCFV's ninth annual math contest for high school students was a great success. A record 75 students attended, from 14 local middle and high schools, along with 15 teachers. UCFV's math contest is part of the BC Secondary Schools Math Contest, which is created by mathematicians from the dozen or so participating post-secondary institutions and hosted locally by each institution.

Susan Milner was the event organizer and along with the entire department of mathematics and statistics, five math students volunteered on the day, Friday, May 5, at the Chilliwack campus, to help with registration, lunch, and marking. In the morning, Jane Cannon gave an outstanding workshop on mathematical puzzles for the teachers, while the students wrote the contest. After a lunch of pizza and juice, while the markers were hard at work, Ian Affleck and David Chu ran workshops for the students. The students formed small groups to explore game-winning strategies (Ian's workshop) and unexpected results from statistical probability (David's workshop). Many door prizes were given out during these activities.

Every student and teacher went home with an official UCFV Math Contest T-shirt, complete with a math puzzle on the back, designed by Ali Fotouhi. Envision Financial Services continued its generous support of the contest, enabling us to award \$500 in prizes to the top few students in each division. The Faculty and Staff Association sponsored book prizes for the top seven in each division and contributed to the cash prizes. The big prize, a full year's tuition at UCFV, was awarded to the winner of the senior contest, a student in Grade 12.

The math contest is a wonderful opportunity to connect with local students and teachers, and was enjoyed by all.

School of Social Work & Human Services - Gwen Point coordinated and hosted the 14th Annual Chilliwack Pow wow – April 14, 15 & 16th, 2006 - www.chilliwackpowwow.ca. Spectators and visitors enjoyed watching up to five hundred dancers in eight different categories dance to champion drum groups throughout the weekend. They also visited and shopped at the many First Nation Arts and Craft Vendors. The pow wow committee also hosted during dinner break –BC's Top Aboriginal Hip Hop Performers who were well received by the young people and the young at heart.

Gwen Point was a panel member for the North West Coast Aboriginal Film Festival held at the Chilliwack Campus theatre April 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2006.



Submitted by:
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