

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**November 2009**

## **President's Report**

Reports received from academic and service units are included below. An update of the President's activities for the month of October will be presented at the meeting.

## **Faculty of Professional Studies (Rosetta Khalideen, Dean)**

### **Business Administration:**

Senate approved our revised Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and diploma program at their September meeting. These new degrees will be launched in fall 2010. The major change to the diploma is the addition of English 105 as a required course and the reduction of the math entry requirement from a C+ in Principles of Math 12 to a C in Principles of Math 11. The BBA degree is now a four year degree rather than a 2+2 year degree. We have also reduced the number of core courses in the program. The significant challenge now is how to transition students in the current programs to the new programs and how to communicate the changes to students and advisors.

Business faculty participated in the Fraser Valley Accounting Networking event at Newlands Golf and Country Club in Langley. UFV had the highest turnout of students of the three institutions (UFV, Kwantlen, and Trinity Western University), which participated in the event.

### **Early Childhood Education/Child & Youth Care (ECE/CYC):**

The department has formed a curriculum committee in order to work on a proposal for a new program in the form of a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. The committee anticipates that there will be significant demand for early childhood educators in the public school system as the Ministry of Education moves forward in the coming years to provide pre-Kindergarten for four year olds and possibly three year olds. Many of these educators may be able to teach in all-day Kindergarten classes for five year olds as well. Further, some students may wish to obtain the Bachelor's degree in order to support other careers in Early Childhood Education and it is felt that the degree is an important step to improving wages in this field.

The ECE/CYC department has recently entered into a short-term educational partnership to deliver the Family Childcare Certificate program for the award-winning BladeRunners program. BladeRunners works with a mandate "to provide unemployed marginalized at-risk youth with ongoing support, job readiness skills, and work-place training so they can overcome their barriers to employment and achieve long-term attachment to the workforce" (<http://www.bladerunners.info>). A major funder for BladeRunners is the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) and BladeRunners is hosted in Chilliwack by the Stó:lō Nation. The program is well underway on the Chilliwack North campus and the students have been responding positively to the classes. Some students are considering further studies in ECE by laddering into the Early Childhood Education Certificate.

**Library & Information Technology (LIBIT):**

In an effort to increase knowledge and understanding of intellectual property rights, the Library and Information Technology department recently hosted a visit from Geoffrey Glass, a fair copyright advocate and a screening of *RIP: A Remix Manifesto*. In November, LIBIT will host another speaker, Paul Whitney, City Librarian for Vancouver Public Library.

With the fall term well underway, applications for the winter term are steadily coming in, making the 2009/10 academic year the busiest one for applications in the program's history, topping 100. Despite the number of applications and the apparent growth in interest in the program, LIBIT is discussing ways of limiting intake because of the limited resources to support increasing numbers of students. On the flipside, interest in the program has grown across B.C. and Canada, drawing students from regions outside of the Lower Mainland. This shift reflects the increasing interest and regard for the program. Consequently, the LIBIT department is looking at expanding program options to meet the needs and interests of non-program students in the area of information literacy. Recent discussions with a variety of UFV program areas suggest that the skills students can acquire in this area may have a wide appeal, aiding students from all disciplines in searching, selecting, evaluating and synthesizing information.

In the upcoming months, the LIBIT department will continue its consultations and devising new ways of delivering interdisciplinary studies in a way that is both significant and unique to UFV.

**Social Work & Human Services (SWHS):**

The Master of Social Work proposal received Graduate Studies and Senate approval in September. The proposal has been reformatted and forwarded on to the VP-Academic and will be posted on the Ministry's Degree Quality Assessment Board website for peer/public review. This will keep us on track for applications to be reviewed in January 2010 and the first cohort of students enrolled in the program in fall 2010.

Dr. Adrienne Chan and Dr. Lisa Moy received a 'Scholarship of Teaching and Learning' (SOTL) grant with Dr. Rita Dhamoon (Philosophy and Political Science) for studying students and learning and pedagogical practices related to race and racism. There are also plans to apply for further grants to support this work.

Dr. Robert Harding has been leading discussions with Douglas College regarding the potential collaboration on a Bachelor of Social Work degree with that institution. This would be a UFV degree, delivered in part on the Douglas College campus. Final decision on whether or not to proceed will be made by December 2009 based on information gathered to determine potential benefits to students and both institutions.

**Student Awards:**

- Autumn Jenkinson received the Alumni of the Year award posthumously. This tremendous achievement by a remarkable Student and Social Worker has been well documented within the UFV community; and
- A SWHS student, Christina Henderson, received various awards, including the Autumn Jenkinson award and the Jean Scott Award.

The School welcomed its newest Faculty member Dr. Leah Douglas this past month. Leah comes to the school with a strong research background and community based practice in the areas of Addictions and Family systems.

SWHS along with Marketing & Communications, Student Life and Student Services helped organize two *Stand-Up For Mental Health Days* on the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. This was part of Mental Health Awareness Week and was well attended by both faculty and students. The Stand-Up For Mental Health organization teaches and performs stand-up comedy to people with mental illness as a way of building their confidence and fighting public stigma, prejudice and discrimination. We will be debriefing with them and looking at the possibility of further partnerships.

**Teacher Education Program (TEP):**

In July 2009, the Teacher Education Program started the third cohort of pre-service elementary school teachers. It was an expanded cohort of 42 students, taking full-time classes all summer at the Chilliwack campus. After five days of turn-around time, they started their fall term and have now moved into their first school experience (practicum) in schools within the Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission school districts. Sessional Faculty Mentors are helping supervise and monitor the progress of student teachers during their time in our schools. We appreciate the efforts of our Teacher Mentors in supporting our novice teachers.

TEP is in the planning phase of a post-degree certificate program in partnership with the Abbotsford and Chilliwack school district. The districts have expressed interest in a mentorship/leadership certificate, which they have helped plan for practicing teachers in the schools. The idea is that experienced teachers could take this certificate as part of a summer institute and weekend classes. The program will be offered on a cohort model, and will take one year to complete. This certificate, together with more course work, would also help them advance into a higher salary scale.

Throughout the fall semester several TEP seminars are planned to inform students in several undergraduate degrees about the career of teaching and to ensure that applicants have met the necessary requirements and are well prepared for the program and the profession. TEP staff has participated in the New Student Orientation activities, a High School Teacher Liaison Day, and the History Day for all students in UFV History programs. UFV students continue to express their strong desire for a secondary education program. This need has also been confirmed through the TEP Advisory group, which included teachers and administrators from the local school districts. It had been expected by students and the BC College of Teachers, that UFV would start a secondary program within two years of starting the first elementary cohort. Building this program will be our highest priority over the coming year.

In recent months employment opportunities for elementary education teachers have softened in the Lower Mainland. However, graduates from the first two cohorts of UFV's Teacher Education program have been hired at a higher percentage than graduates from other universities within elementary education programs. While this is good news for our program, it is important to further strengthen our collaboration with our four school districts, which provided support in establishing this program in the first place.

Our department head Dr. Paul Orłowski has been meeting with members of the four other departments to facilitate their merging to form a School of Education. At this stage, the working name of this group is the School of Community Education and Life Long Learning (SCCELL).

Over the next few months some staffing changes may need to be made as our department head Dr. Paul Orłowski is leaving UFV for a new position at the University of Saskatchewan. He was the first person to be hired in TEP and through his leadership over the last 3 1/2 years, TEP is starting to develop a good reputation within our communities. Two full-time faculty members

work within TEP, Dr. Shirley Lister and Dr. Sheryl MacMath. Additionally there is a part-time program coordinator, Sandy Hill, and a full-time education advisor, Barbara Salingré.

Sandy Hill, our program coordinator, has been participating in a mentorship consortium of several school districts in southwest British Columbia. This group is seriously considering the processes of induction and retention of new teachers. Drs. Lister and MacMath will attend a local training session to be presented by the New Teacher Centre of Santa Cruz, California.

Nearly all the student teachers in our current program are members of a student chapter of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Design (ASCD). Four of our student executives will be meeting the ASCD International Board of Directors to discuss the education of student teachers in BC.

**Graduate and Research Studies (Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice-President)**

1. We hosted four workshop/lectures Oct 13-14 on *Creating a Research Active Curriculum* with Alan Jenkins, Emeritus Professor at Oxford Brookes University, UK. Those who participated came away with renewed vision for integrating research and teaching.
2. The Centre for Social Research, Gladys and Harvey Kipp Research Lab official opening was held on Oct 15. Attendance included a Kipp family representative, Board members, faculty, staff and students from many disciplines. The late Kevin Busswood, former UFV instructor, was honoured as one of the original visionaries of this initiative.
3. Cherie Enns attended the *The New Africa: Redrawing the Blueprint for the Canada-Africa Partnership* on October 2-3 in Ottawa. This was an event that included politicians for Canada and Africa as well industry, academics, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)/International Development Research Centre (IDRC)/Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Diaspora. The event involved drafting a vision for Canada's partnership with Africa that will be presented to parliament.
4. On October 19, UFV's Global Development Institute and the City of Abbotsford held a special event with Peter Ondeng, Africa Director for MYC4 ([www.myc4.com](http://www.myc4.com)), an online platform which connects investors globally with African businesses that need loans. Ondeng will be sharing information regarding poverty and international development in Africa.  
Seven of our students, including six AUCC/CIDA sponsored Students for Development who spent the summer on internships in Africa, will also be presenting that evening.

