

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2009

President's Report

I would like to express my appreciation for the warm welcome Maureen and I have received at the University and throughout the Fraser Valley region. I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to work with such a strong leadership team, talented and committed faculty and staff, and very supportive communities. I have used the summer months to meet a number of government, community and institutional leaders and to learn more about the university and the region. A summary is provided below. Additional meetings are scheduled for the coming months.

I will provide a brief verbal report on funding and administrative issues and introduce the strategic planning process set to begin this month.

President's Introductory Meetings and Consultations, July/August, 2009

Meetings with Government Representatives, Community Leaders, Donors:

- Mike DeJong, MLA
- John Les, MLA
- Patricia Ross, Chair of Fraser Valley Region District and Abbotsford City Councilor
- Mayor George Peary, City of Abbotsford
- Mayor Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack
- Mayor James Atebe, District of Mission
- Mayor Laurie French, District of Hope
- Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley
- Mayor Rick Green, Township of Langley
- Sir James Barlow, President, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
- John Smith, Abbotsford City Councilor
- Frank Pizzuto, City Manager, City of Abbotsford
- Trey Bell, General Manager, Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre, tour of facility
- Linnea Battle, Executive Director, Xa:ytem and Mayor James Atebe, District of Mission
- Pat Bayes, Administrative, PR and Program Coordinator, Stand Up For Mental Health
- Mr. Rajinder Lally, Lally Farms Inc.

Partner Educational Institutions:

- Don Wright, President, BCIT
- Frank Dunham, Superintendent, Mission School District
- Mr. Yang, President, North Education Investment Group, re: Canada Education Park (potential partnership)
- Peter Froese, Superintendent, Mennonite Educational Institute & CEO, Cascade International Education and Development Society
- G. Harris and A. Mansell, Leading by Design, Postsecondary Leadership Consultants

Community Functions:

- Abbotsford Executives Assoc breakfast meetings (weekly, shared with VP Buchan)
- The Reach, Abbotsford: UFV Indigenous Arts Certificate Grad Exhibit, opening ceremonies
- Harrison Festival of the Arts – UFV Literary Café and other events
- Minter Gardens Classic Car Show – UFV / Future Vehicle Technologies Partnership
- Proposal Development Meeting & Social, Centre for the Performing Arts, Mr. B. Boyes
- Rotary Club of Chilliwack/Fraser
- Abbotsford Berrybeat Festival
- Abbotsford Agrifair
- Chilliwack Agricultural Affair
- Abbotsford Airshow – City of Abbotsford and Cascade Aerospace
- Phoenix Reception: Abbotsford's 100 Most Influential People
- Xa:ytem Management meeting, Mission
- Stand Up For Mental Health: Festival Performance at the Clarke Theatre, Mission
- Punjabi Patrika, new publication announcement and celebration

UFV Meetings, Functions and Tours:

- Senior Administrators' Retreat
- Presentation: New Employee Orientation
- Welcome Back Bar B Q
- Student Union Society members: Jack Brown, President and Jim Burwell, SUS Communications Manager
- UFV Alumni Board meeting
- UFV FSA President and meeting with Executive
- Presentations to participants of UFV Science Rocks Kids Program
- Dustin Ellis, CIVIL Radio (UFV student radio)
- Chilliwack campus tours and office time: various faculty and staff members
- Department of Upgrading and University Preparation Retreat at UFV Hope Centre
- Student Services Tour
- Student Residence Tour
- Rick Nickelchok, Director of Athletics; UFV Athletic Centre
- Criminology Department
- Deb Bartlett, Director, UFV Career Centre
- Institutional Research Orientation
- Canada Education Park, Chilliwack; Plan and Budget Review

Teaching and Development

Continuing Studies:

UFV's Literary Café had a Mennonite Flavour this Year.

The focus of this year's annual Literary Café, sponsored by UFV's Continuing Studies had a Mennonite flavor, which was rather timely as UFV just recently signed an agreement to develop a Centre of Mennonite Studies. Held as part of the Harrison Festival of the Arts on Monday, July 13, this year's event was attended by a record-breaking number of 164 people. The theme for the evening was *Reverence and Mirth*, reflecting both a respect for life and the ability to laugh about it. Andreas Schroeder, Elsie K. Neufeld, and Leonard Neufeldt read excerpts from their writing, and The Nelson Boschmann Jazz Trio also performed as part of the evening. All performers, as well as the MC, Cheryl Isaac, Director of Continuing Studies has a Mennonite heritage. The evening included stories about their past, which has shaped each one of them in very particular ways. The evening, filled with laughter, reverence and great music was enjoyed by all.

Chilliwack's Party in the Park

Chilliwack's Central Community Park hosted a Party in the Park *Night Market*, an event held Friday nights from 5-9:30 p.m. until August 28. Vendors, live music and family fun were all part of the "party". Continuing Studies Program Coordinator, Mandy Watts volunteered as the Night Market coordinator.

Career Centre:

The Career Centre has now fully implemented CareerLink, our online management system and database. It is now being used for all external employer postings, Co-operative Education postings, internal Work Study positions, all student applications to these positions, and a number of other administrative functions previously done manually. This system has streamlined our processes and functions and allowed staff to spend more time on high-value interactions with students and employers. Students are able to access many functions and resources online and at any time, which improves our service delivery to them.

On August 12, a highly successful employer event, done in collaboration with the Communications department in the Faculty of Arts, was held at UFV. Twenty-six local employers, representing very diverse institutions, attended a breakfast focus group, facilitated by Dr. Deb Bartlette, Director of the Career Centre and Lynn Kirkland-Harvey, Department Head for Communications. The employers, who came from the federal government, the financial sector, the non-profit and community sector, the service industry, and health, provided us with information on what they are looking for from applicants in the job search process. This information will be used by Career Centre staff and volunteers in working with students, and with Communications instructors in developing their course materials and resources related to business writing, particularly resumes and cover letters. The Career Centre and the Communications department plan to hold further such employer events, and the Career Centre will use the employer events as a model for a future external advisory council for the Career Centre.

Co-operative Education placements for the Summer 09 were down from Summer 08 placements (38 this year, compared with 68 last year). While this is an expected decline given the current economy, it is in line with other Co-op Ed programs in the province. UFV placements and postings dropped less than some other institutions in the province. However, for Summer 09 there

were still Co-op postings on CareerLink which students did not apply to. During this time of lower employment activity, the Co-op Ed program has been doing an extensive revision of the Co-op curriculum, developed our first student handbook/policy guide which will soon be available on our website, and revised many of our internal procedures. Beginning this fall, student interested in joining Co-op Ed will be able to do this at three times throughout the year (September, January, and May). Previously, students were only admitted to Co-op Ed in September of each year. The new model will improve student access and service.

Development Office

Donations and pledges to the Skip Bassford and Jane Darville Endowment Bursary Fund total approximately \$93,000 to date.

Coast Capital Savings are in year two of their \$150,000 commitment to the Student Life Leadership Institute at UFV. This program has made great strides as a result of Coast Capital's first year of support.

Materials are being developed to begin fundraising efforts related to the agreement signed with the Mennonite Faith and Learning Society. Funds will be raised for development of programming for courses in Mennonite Studies, renovation of space for a physical centre, and an endowment to fund a Chair in Mennonite Studies.

Development has launched UFV's first staff and faculty campaign encouraging staff and faculty to support a student bursary or an emergency fund to help students who are facing immediate financial struggles. Although only on day 3 of the campaign, we have received an excellent response with approximately \$6,000 raised.

Submitted by:
Mark Evered

