

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE UCFV BOARD

**February 2006**

First, my apologies for not being at the February meeting. As you know, I am attending the British Museum Centre for Anthropology, Third Native North American Film Festival in London, England which is being co-hosted by the British Museum and UCFV. This three-day event has arisen thanks to Professor Hugh Brody, who holds our Canada Research Chair in First Nations Studies, and who has one of the films being featured. I shall get to host the opening night along with Chief Dr. Joseph Gosnell (past President Nisga'a Lisims Government), H.E. Mr. Mel Cappe (High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom), and Sir David Attenborough. It is an incredible opportunity for UCFV to gain international presence in what we are developing as an area of excellence. The films will be brought to Chilliwack in April 2006.

I am writing this weekend from Toronto, where I am one of the Association of University and Colleges of Canada's (AUCC) visiting team which is assessing the application for admission of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. As I have been going through this exercise, it has come home again to me how rigorous the AUCC standards are. Our success in becoming members by itself shows that we are a university that offers certificates and diplomas rather than a college that offers some degrees. I can't help but wonder when our colleagues in British Columbia will realize that our apprenticeship has been served, and that we fit into the university ranks rather than the college ranks. On this issue of status, many of the Board members will be able to report on the size and success of the first public meeting hosted by the Friends of UCFV Society, so I shall not elaborate. But in my eight years as President, this is the only time other than over SE-2 that I have seen the entire Valley come together so strongly over an issue. It was amazing and gratifying to see that they pulled together support from every city council, every school board and every chamber of commerce, in addition to students in high school and at UCFV.

As you know from our January meeting, we are now intensely discussing how we should reconfigure our operations in order to best make all of our campuses, including the soon-to-be new one at CFB-Chilliwack vibrant and exciting places for our students to be. This topic is one I have discussed at length in my New Year's report to UCFV. Rather than repeating those points I am appending that report to serve as the bulk of my report to the Board for this month. Wayne Welsh and the rest of the senior team will be at the meeting to tell the Board how those discussions have proceeded in the week and a half after I have written this report.

As always there are many things going on in our academic and administrative departments. The reports from several of them make up the rest of this report.

## **VP ACADEMIC OFFICE**

D.J. Sandhu has been selected by the Shastri Institute to attend the upcoming Bi-national Conference in India. This special initiative allows for one scholar from each member institute. The conference will bring together leading scholars and academics from India and Canada from among the member institutions and establish new and innovative collaborations and partnerships between the two countries.

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

### **History**

Bob Smith contributed the article *The Reclamation of the Sumas Lake Lands* to the book First Nations and First Settlers (1890-1960). The book launch was held December 1, 2005 at University House.

### **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Darryl Plecas is the first recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia's annual award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Safety in British Columbia. He received this award in Victoria at Government House on December 9, 2005.

## **FACULTY OF COMMUNITY ACCESS, BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Wendy Burton, Instructor, B.A. in Adult Education; Randy Kelley, Instructor in Trades; and Marilyn MacDonald, Instructor in College and Career Preparation, recently participated in a provincial Facilitator Development Workshop at Douglas College. Marilyn completed facilitator training, Randy completed trainer training, and Wendy Burton was co-director of this event. With these fully trained facilitators, UCFV can continue to offer the Instructional Skills Workshops and Facilitator Development Workshops.

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

### **Biology**

The *Careers in Science Night*, held Wednesday, November 23, 2005 had a tremendous response with over 155 high school science students in attendance. Two full bus loads brought students from Chilliwack to attend the event at the Abbotsford campus.

Faculty member, Edith Camm, has coordinated an effort with the biology, chemistry, agriculture, and geography departments in putting forward a Centre for Innovation infrastructure grant to study the effects of urban and agricultural waste.

### **Health Sciences**

The College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC), Education Program Review Committee (EPRC) recently conducted a full program review of the UCFV baccalaureate registered nursing program.

The program was recognized for five years until December 31, 2010 without terms or conditions attached. Five years is the longest period of recognition provided for by Board policy.

### **Physics**

The Physics Student Club is back in action. Derek Harnett brought out a colleague (Randy Lewis) for a talk for them, which was about the virtual strange quark content of the proton.

### **School of Social Work and Human Services**

Director, Gloria Wolfson, and faculty member, Adrienne Chan, have finished the consulting project for the Alberta College of Social Workers. The purpose of the project was to compile competencies and standards for Diploma Social Work Program Approval for the province of Alberta.

As well, Adrienne has written a chapter on Race-based policies in Canada: Education and social context. This will be published in 2006 in R. Joshee & L. Johnston (eds.) Multicultural Policies in Canada and the United States: Symbol and Substance. Vancouver: UBC Press. 33 pp. The book received rave reviews from two independent reviewers.

Faculty member, Gwen Point, presented a traditional “Jingle Dancing” lesson for Chilliwack School District Aboriginal Program. Gwen also attended the birthday luncheon for Honorary Doctorate Elizabeth Herrling - Tsat tsel qwot 91<sup>st</sup> birthday at Stó:lō Halq'eméylem Language Program. She was also the keynote speaker for the Mission School District Aboriginal Program, and attended the Indian Studies Support Program Meeting (Federal education appointed committee).



Submitted by:  
H.A. Bassford  
President, UCFV

Attachment: 1

## President's Message - Winter 06

It's always challenging to think about a "new year" when it's really a mid-way point in our academic year. But I thought it might be useful to offer an update on the major issues that we face as the new calendar year unfurls before us.

Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year, and all the best for another productive and satisfying year at UCFV.

### University Designation

Our work towards full university status will continue to be a central preoccupation. During the fall, UCFV undertook an extensive information and consultation campaign throughout our communities. We presented a strong case for making UCFV Fraser Valley's own university during more than 60 presentations to a wide range of community groups, and we received extensive media coverage.

Our presentations were met with resounding community support and enthusiasm. To date, the UCFV Board has received copies of more than 9,000 letters and signatures on petitions, supporting our contention that the Fraser Valley needs and deserves its own comprehensive, regional university.

Everyone in our region who has heard our case agrees that our logic is sound, and that the time is right. This includes community and political leaders, students, parents, business people, and members of the public at large. Although all our regional MLAs have publicly supported our position, we have not yet had the desired response from our Ministry and the Province. But we do know they are very aware of our aspirations.

Late in the fall, the Minister of Advanced Education (AVED) indicated that UCFV and other institutions pursuing a change of designation must complete an "application, business case, and academic case" and must engage in community consultation. We have already undertaken extensive community consultation and received enormous support. We are also near to completing a formal "application" for UCFV to become a fully designated university, and plan to present it to the Ministry shortly.

### "Friends of UCFV" to take up the cause

Over the past few months, our communities have become increasingly engaged and committed to the cause of making UCFV the Fraser Valley's university. This crystallized in the formation of a new, non-profit, community-based organization called the Friends of UCFV Society. Its board of directors includes representatives from throughout the Central and Upper Fraser Valley. Membership is open to anyone who supports this initiative. Society President John Smith was also very involved in the community campaign to transform FVC into UCFV in the early 1990s.

The sole focus of the Friends of UCFV Society is its commitment to convincing the Province to transform UCFV into a full-status university. My strong belief is that this kind of direct, community-driven action will again play a major positive role in determining our future.

Another major initiative for the university campaign is to reach out into all the high schools in our region. A high school campaign will be undertaken by the Friends of UCFV Society, with the help of UCFV students, in the coming weeks.

Learn more about the new Friends of UCFV Society and their activities at [www.fraservalleyu.ca](http://www.fraservalleyu.ca) . We hope that all UCFV faculty and staff will take out Society memberships.

### Education Park

Over the past few weeks, significant progress has been made on plans for UCFV to take on its major role in the future development of the new Canada Education Park (CEP) in Chilliwack. The UCFV Board of Governors has agreed with the Chilliwack Economic Partnership Corporation (CEPCO) and the City of Chilliwack that UCFV will take ownership of approximately 85 acres at the CEP. Although slow but steady progress was underway throughout the fall, this agreement is a major stride forward in finalizing the business arrangements that will kick-start the next phase of this project. We believe we shall receive final approval on these arrangements from the Ministry in a few weeks.

The Ministry will require a business plan and an academic plan for the new campus before we can begin any construction or renovations there. With this in mind, it is now time to plan UCFV's move to the Canada Education Park.

The question at SAG has been how best can we make the new site a "destination campus" that can grow quickly to absorb approximately 700 of the 1700 new FTEs UCFV is receiving by 2010? What would this look like in terms of programs and services for students, faculty and staff? Which existing facilities can be put into service most quickly, which will need extensive renovation, and which will need to be designed and built from the ground up?

Over the next few weeks these issues will continue to be the major focus at the SAG table. As concepts and potential plans take shape, they will be communicated through our administrative structure for discussion, feedback, debate, and development.

### Vision for the future of our university

Now that a major new campus for Chilliwack is clearly within sight, it's time to take a hard look at the big picture and to design the 21st century university that will work best for our students and for all of our communities.

The questions about how to make the new UCFV Chilliwack campus a dynamic, destination campus cannot be dealt with in isolation from future plans for the rest of UCFV. Therefore, over the past few weeks SAG has begun work on a "vision" for the future of UCFV that includes not only proposed changes and development for the Chilliwack campus, but also a long-term view of development of the

Abbotsford campus and our operation in Mission as well. These plans, which include a vision of both programs and services for students, will be shared with the UCFV community over the next few weeks for consideration and feedback.

Many decisions will need to be made within the next month in order to do the building and renovations at Abbotsford and Chilliwack required to accommodate our growth beyond the next academic year. In light of this, SAG met recently with directors, heads, and faculty in Trades, Theatre, Health Sciences, Business Administration, and Criminal Justice. We discussed a proposal that could form the basis for some major reconfiguration of our programs in relation to campus locations.

The proposal included relocating our Trades programs to the new Chilliwack campus as soon as an enormous facility (building 1040) at CEP can be renovated. The exceptions to this move would be our Aerospace program and our programs at the Career Technical Centre (CTC). As well, the plan proposed relocating the bulk of our Criminal Justice program to the new campus. Working with the RCMP, the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC), and the World Trade University (WTU) - all of which are presently on the site - UCFV would create an international centre of excellence in Criminal Justice and Public Safety, taking the lead in this field for the province. We also discussed a plan that could result in a significant portion of our Business Administration program moving to the CEP.

UCFV's new Chilliwack campus will include facilities that will be renovated to provide residences. This could help greatly in building a large, successful international education program at Chilliwack in addition to the one at Abbotsford. With international students, an expanded Business program, and interaction with WTU, UCFV will be able to play a leading academic role in the Province's Asia-Pacific strategy. These programs, with the supporting courses they need from the liberal arts and sciences, and with improved student life facilities, could help create the size, vibrancy and "buzz" that have been missing from Chilliwack.

The Theatre program has deep community roots in Chilliwack. We discussed whether it should remain a part of the BA or become part of the new BFA, and if so whether it should remain in isolation from Fine Arts. It was also noted that Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission have all, as communities, expressed interest in working with UCFV in performing arts. Together, Theatre and SAG will explore partnership and development opportunities over the next month.

The proposal also outlined the option for relocating Health Sciences from Chilliwack to a larger space at the Abbotsford campus. This would allow for closer daily ties among Health Sciences, Kinesiology, Psychology, Social Work and the science programs, which could work synergistically in building UCFV excellence in Health and Wellness. The closer location to the new regional hospital and cancer centre in Abbotsford might well be of value in expanding the programs. The goal is that UCFV could develop another area of excellence as a special purpose university, offering a new vision for the province around health and wellness.

None of these proposed changes is final. They will all be discussed thoroughly and extensively over the next few weeks. Indeed, that discussion has already begun, with a first set of feedback received from Health Sciences debating the value of moving them to the new Chilliwack campus rather than to Abbotsford. I would ask anyone who has questions or comments to send them to a Dean, Vice-President or me, so they can be added to the mix. You can also use the [questions@ucfv.ca](mailto:questions@ucfv.ca) mechanism

if you prefer. We are planning to set meeting times in several different formats on upcoming Fridays, in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of departments or heads and directors.

### Chilliwack campus revitalization

At the same time as we move to the next phase of plans for the new Chilliwack campus, we recognize that it is not going to happen overnight. Even our most optimistic plans would not result in a move to the new campus until Sept 2007 (Trades) and Sept 2008 (other programs). Thus, we must find ways to revitalize the current Chilliwack campus during the period of transition.

A number of ideas are being discussed, including a creative idea proposed by the Arts heads to package and promote a guaranteed two-year full-course cohort experience for Arts students. Other ideas include ways of enhancing student life. One very positive development is relocation of UCFV's own Cook Training program on the Chilliwack campus.

### Abbotsford campus: new facilities

Even as we begin to plan for major facilities construction at the CEP in Chilliwack, two major projects have begun in Abbotsford. These include the gymnasium expansion which will become the home of our new Canada Inter-university Sports (CIS) teams when it is ready this fall. We will also see completion of construction of UCFV's first student residences at the Abbotsford campus over the next 18 months.

Both of these projects are evidence of UCFV's continuing growth in Abbotsford. It should be clear that while we will be working hard to make both the current and future Chilliwack campuses into vibrant

successes, the largest student numbers for the foreseeable future will be based at Abbotsford. While about 700 of our new FTEs should be accommodated at the new campus at CFB Chilliwack, 1,000 of them will be based in Abbotsford. Accordingly, there will be further construction there shortly.

Mission is another community that will witness immense growth in the years to come. We have begun talks with that community about which facilities could/should be developed there over the next decades. While we have a bit more time with that planning than we do with the planning required for Abbotsford and Chilliwack, the development of the Mission campus must be part of our vision for UCFV as we become a much larger university.

### Organization Chart Reconfiguration

With the glow of a memorable farewell to Barry Bompas starting to dim, we'll soon be planning a well-deserved send off for our hard-working VP Academic, Wayne Welsh. At the same time, the processes are in high gear to find Wayne's successor and to introduce a new senior administrator in the form of a VP External.

Until the VP External is in place in a few months, VP Tim Segger might become known as the "VP of Everything Else". Tim will assume responsibility for the Foundation and Development office, Alumni, Student Recruiting, Marketing and Communications. These areas will be transferred to the new VP External as soon as that position is in place.

Of course, Tim will also have the help and leadership of our two new Associate Vice Presidents, Jackie Hogan in Finance and Diane Griffiths in Employee Services.

### Looking Forward

Given the way of the world we live in, the nature of the Valley, and the future prospects for the university we're building together, change and growth will continue to be familiar themes for everything we undertake in the foreseeable future. Working together, we've done amazing things so far. I have no reason to believe we won't continue to do amazing things in the years ahead.

Thank you.

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