

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

March 2011

## President's Report

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

## Faculty of Arts (Jacqueline Nolte, Dean)

### **English:**

The February 4 edition of the *Cascade* student newspaper includes an in-depth interview article with our Writer-in-Residence, done by student Sophie Isbister, and a review of Writer-in-Residence Elizabeth Bachinsky's first UFV reading, by student Paul Falardeau.

Elizabeth Bachinsky will host Writer-in-Residence readings as follows:

Thursday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Indo-Canadian Centre

Hosted Reading with writers Billeh Nickerson and Jordan Scott

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Indo-Canadian Centre

Hosted Reading with writers Andreas Schroeder and Deborah Campbell

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Indo-Canadian Centre

End of term reading with featured UFV student writers

As reported last month, David Schalkwyk (Director of Research at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC and editor of the *Shakespeare Quarterly*) will visit UFV in March to present two public lectures:

Monday, March 14, 12:00 Noon

UFV Bookstore, Abbotsford

*Hamlet's Dreams: The Robben Island Bible*

The *Robben Island Bible* is a Complete Works of Shakespeare that was smuggled into and passed around Robben Island, a political prison in apartheid South Africa.

Passages were underlined and signed by prisoners such as Nelson Mandela.

Tuesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.

UFV Theatre, Chilliwack

*Theatricality and the Creation of Character in The Tempest*

**Theatre:**

The Theatre department presents *The Tempest* March 9 to 28.

**Criminology/Criminal Justice:**

The following faculty and undergraduate students delivered six different presentations at the Western Society of Criminology conference in Vancouver, BC: Amanda McCormick and Irwin Cohen (faculty); Ian Wolchok, Alexander Ayres, Julie Czeck, Josh Garcia, Breanna Guy, Jesslyn Morrison, Cassandra Stefanucci, Natasha Stam, and Gurleen Mann.

Amanda McCormick, Irwin Cohen, and Darryl Plecas recently completed three research reports for the Surrey RCMP on Police Nutrition, Police Break Time, and Time Spent in Police Vehicles on Shift. These reports will also be submitted to policing journals for publication.

Darryl Plecas delivered a presentation to senior police on behalf of himself, Irwin Cohen, Amanda McCormick, and two MA students, Jennifer Armstrong and Tara Haarhoff regarding IMPACT, the (Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team). The presentation concerned a comparison of IMPACT auto thief offenders to those caught by traditional policing tactics, and concluded that IMPACT should continue to be supported by the Province of B.C.

Terry Anderson completed strategic implementation planning and team development with the entire command staff at West Vancouver Police over the past few months.

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

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

On March 19, the LIBIT Student Association is hosting a full day of interview workshops with industry volunteers, and a “speed networking” session. Alumni will also participate in this event, which is being held in cooperation with Alumni Relations and the Career Centre.

Department Head Christina Neigel conducted a workshop for Langley School District support staff on February 18. On February 21, the LIBIT program hosted readings by Canadian authors Gail de Vos and Marty Chan.

**SWHS (School of Social Work and Human Services):**

The school's director, Elizabeth Dow, has been invited to conduct a membership satisfaction survey for the British Columbia Association of Social Workers.

Faculty member Gwen Point attended a “Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative” hosted by the Right Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada. Gwen also spoke at the “Gathering of Nations” in Nanaimo hosted by local First Nations chiefs and leaders.

**School of Health Sciences:**

The BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Maggie Theron and Kate McCulloch. The BSN program is planning a UFV nursing reunion event for October 2011.

The Practical Nursing program is participating in a province-wide curriculum revision project, funded by the Ministry of Regional Economy and Skills Development.

The Dental Hygiene program submitted its pre-survey accreditation report to the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, and is now preparing for an accreditation site visit in March.

**TEP (Teacher Education Program):**

The Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership and Mentorship is scheduled to start in August 2011. This program is being enhanced with additional options for further study, so that teachers completing the certificate along with other programs will be able to move up on their salary scale.

**School of Business:**

A contract was recently signed with the City of Richmond to provide a customized version of the Bachelor of Business Administration program. We will be meeting in late February to plan the delivery of the program.

**Adult Education:**

A well attended public information session was held on Thursday, February 10. Many attendees indicated that they are now planning to enroll in the program.

**Early Childhood Education/Child and Youth Care:**

Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training asked the department to quote a cost for delivering the ECE Certificate to a group of BladeRunners students who have completed the Family Child Care Certificate with us previously.

The department hosted the successful "Constructing Digital Reputations" cyber-safety lecture on January 31.

**Faculty Council:**

Faculty Council is at present reviewing its Terms of Reference and Standing Committees. Four Standing Committees currently exist:

- Nominations and Elections Committee
- Field Education and Practicum Committee
- Retention Committee
- Learning Exchange Committee

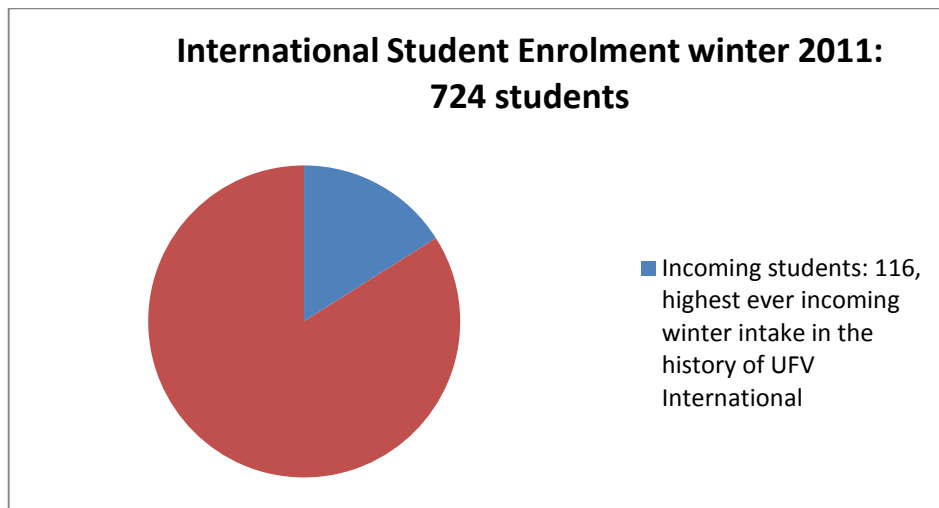
There are also a number of Ad Hoc committees charged with some specific tasks.

**International Education (Karola Stinson, VP External)**

Continued growth marked the 2011 winter intake. For the first time, the total number of international students on campus is higher than the previous fall semester, reflecting both increased enrolment and a growth in student retention.

**International Students - Final intake for Winter 2011:**

Total enrolment for Winter 2011 is 724 international students, which is 21.6 percent higher than last winter. One hundred sixteen are new students, the highest ever winter intake in the history of UFV International and 16 percent higher than Winter 2010. Six hundred and eight are returning students, 22.5 percent higher than Winter 2010. Two hundred and sixty-four students are enrolled in ESL (English-as-a-Second Language) or foundation programs.



**Countries of Origin:**

China remains the top country of origin for our students, with a total of 343 students, followed by India with 106 and Saudi Arabia with 74. These numbers parallel current recruiting trends in BC and Canada, with India and Saudi Arabia emerging as strong recruitment markets.

China alone provides more than 47 percent of our international student body. It remains a stable recruiting market for UFV, despite the fact that the country's focus on sending young people abroad is now tempered by a new push to attract international students to Chinese universities.

India has emerged as a growing market to recruit students for Canadian universities at large. Students of Indian origin are traveling in larger numbers than ever before to pursue education abroad. The US, the UK and Canada are destinations of choice and are perceived as safe countries to live and study. Australia, which used to be a preferred destination as well, has seen a sharp decline in popularity as a result of lax academic standards and high-profile racial incidents involving Indian students. We can expect that upcoming tuition increases in the UK will also boost the appeal of Canada as a study abroad destination for Indian students.

As for Saudi Arabia, it is becoming a significant contributor to Canada's population of international students. The Saudi government is subsidizing study abroad with generous scholarships and a whole generation of young people is now outside the country. There are currently over 8,000 Saudi Arabians studying at Canadian academic institutions. Recent changes to Canadian visa rules have facilitated entry for Saudi students. In fact, two thousand more are expected to start studying in Canada in the next year.

Recruiting trips to these three countries are in the works for the first half of 2011 to ensure that we maintain enrolment numbers in these important markets, which provide 72 percent of UFV's international enrollment.

### Developing Markets

Ravi Philips, Head of International Marketing, has just returned from a trip to Eastern Europe to recruit students in Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Bulgaria. In November 2010, Ravi also visited Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Eastern Europe is a new and promising market for UFV International. As these countries transition to a market economy, two groups stand out as targets for recruitment efforts:

- The wealthier middle class who want their children to receive a high quality English education in a safe environment
- Employees from firms and businesses who seek professional development opportunities

With tuition fees about to triple in the UK, the study destination of choice for members of the European Union, a definite opportunity exists to present Canada and UFV as an attractive and reasonably priced option. While it is too early to provide enrolment numbers, we are optimistic that recruitment efforts in Eastern Europe will pay off in coming months and years.

### **Noteworthy Partnerships Opportunities:**

#### Indian students to come to UFV to pursue Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

A new agreement between UFV and SGT KC (Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College) of Delhi University makes provision for Indian students to pursue a Masters of Criminal Justice at UFV.

Currently, science and commerce students at SGT KC can take a post-graduate diploma in forensic science. Continuing their studies at UFV is a good fit, as it can provide them with practical skills and new perspectives that would complement their forensic training.

Because UFV's Masters of Criminal Justice is primarily designed for professionals with academic or field experience, Khalsa students will participate in a bridge program in Delhi. This program will prepare them for studies at the Masters level and give them two UFV courses for advanced standing on the Masters.

Two UFV faculty members will visit Khalsa College in May 2011 to help deliver this semester-long bridge program, which will enable SGT KC students to join their Canadian peers at UFV's Abbotsford campus in January of 2012. The bridge program consists of five courses: the first two courses of the Masters in Criminal Justice and three additional courses focusing on legal literacy, human rights, and environmental issues.

UFV will also send a Career Development Coordinator who will work to place students in suitable internships and help secure the necessary record checks in India.

SGT KC students who apply for the Masters in Criminal Justice at UFV must maintain a 3.0 GPA and meet all English and program requirements. For the first intake, a maximum of eight Indian students can join the program and admission is contingent on seat availability.

The agreement also opens the door for UFV students who would like to travel to India to learn more about forensics and the Indian justice system.

**Strengthening the ties between Holland and Canada: Building on the foundation. Growing the future**

Esther Vennekens, a visiting Dutch scholar specializing in horticulture, will be the guest speaker at a symposium organized by UFV International and the Faculty of Trades and Technology on March 23, 2011 at the Coast Hotel and Resort in Chilliwack. Dr. Mark Evered will open the event, which will be attended by Trade officer Maarten den Ouden, from the Netherlands Consulate in Vancouver and leading representatives from the agriculture industry in the Fraser Valley.

Ms. Vennekens and her colleague, Neeltje Beekers, will visit UFV to cement the recent partnership established with their institution, HAS Den Bosch, University of Applied Sciences, in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. The hope is to pursue closer cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, the Sciences, and Environmental Studies, to articulate options for an academic partnership, and to strengthen ties between the two countries. During their stay, the guests will also tour the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses, and visit key industry sites in the Fraser Valley.

**Diaspora Studies Consortium**

In November 2010, \$5,000 Diaspora Studies scholarships were awarded to five UFV students to study either in Germany or England. The recipients were chosen from 17 applicants after an in-depth interview with the Diaspora Studies committee. The first group of UFV students to receive this scholarship departed for Europe in January.

Next November, an additional six students will receive the scholarship. The committee is currently focusing on marketing efforts to make students and faculty aware of this opportunity. The hope is to increase the number of applications and generate more interest for diaspora studies.



*UFV Diaspora scholarship recipients pictured with UFV president, Dr. Mark Evered. From left to right: second year student Stacy Thoreson bound for Northampton, Dr. Evered, third year criminology student Tara Enns bound for Northampton, and fourth year history student Megan Vigor, bound for Münster. Not in the picture: fourth year political science student, Carly Schellenberg, and second year general studies student, Andrew Friesen, both bound for Münster.*

**Study Abroad:**

Study abroad numbers have remained stable for the Winter 2011 semester. Twelve UFV students have gone abroad to study and 13 exchange students have arrived at UFV for the semester. The Diaspora Studies scholarship described above is an important contributor to these numbers, with five UFV students going abroad on scholarship and five students coming in to UFV.

Destinations of choice for UFV students are England (four students) and Germany (3 ). Other destinations include Australia (2) as well as France, Japan, and Korea (one student each).

Incoming students come from England (2), Germany (3), Australia (3), Kazakhstan (2), Italy (2), and France (1).

Strategies to grow the program further in the coming year include a continued focus on developing international partnerships, efforts to involve faculty in international initiatives, and stronger marketing push to raise awareness of study abroad opportunities among Canadian students.

The recent loss of the Study Abroad Program Assistant, who has moved to UBC to pursue career opportunities in the city, is a drawback that may impede growth in the very short term.

**Student Programs:**

OnTrack

Last fall, UFV International pioneered a new pilot program, called OnTrack, to foster student success. As a result of students' positive response, Student Life and UFV International are currently discussing the possibility of expanding the program and launching it campus-wide.

Monitoring student involvement is currently done one-on-one by UFV International staff. The hope is that some of the program's record keeping and administration can be automated online to make it possible for more students to participate, without taxing human resources.

Tea Time

Tea Time is an informal drop-in for UFV students that takes place every Wednesday, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at U House. It is a new initiative from UFV International to create a space for both international and Canadian students to connect with each other and share ideas and resources.

The weekly gathering provides a safe forum where participants can talk about issues that concern them. It also gives staff an opportunity to identify students who may require more support and benefit from a referral to the appropriate campus service or resource.

Campus event — The Anatomy of Hate film showing

On Tuesday November 16, 2010, as part of International Education week, UFV International and Student Life held a screening of the award-winning documentary, The Anatomy of Hate: A Dialogue of Hope, on the UFV Abbotsford campus. One hundred and twenty UFV students and Abbotsford community members came out to watch the film and participate in dialogue with the director, Mike Ramsdell, who was present at the screening.

The movie explores ideologies of hate and focuses on the Iraq War, the conflict between Israel and Palestine, hostilities toward the gay community, and Christian hate groups. It also brings a message of hope by presenting interviews with members of these movements who have overcome their prejudices to embrace a more inclusive vision of their former enemies.

The discussion following the film generated so much interest from the audience that it continued after the event came to a close. For all concerned, the event fulfilled its purpose by encouraging thought about hate and prejudice and promoting diversity and tolerance.

To watch a video of a UFV student's reaction to the film visit: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for 'The Anatomy of Hate'. Under 'Video', our UFV student is the first of eleven featured.

Campus event – Christmas dinner and dance for international students

UFV International organized a Christmas dinner and dance for international students on November 26, 2010. Held at the Abbotsford Rancho, the event sold out, with more than 200 students attending. Two student groups performed for the guests: students who were involved in Abbyfest 2010 repeated the performance they gave at the community event in September; and the UFV Bhangra club followed up with an exuberant dance number. Several door prizes were awarded and the event was deemed a success by all.

Campus event - Chinese New Year

On February 3, the Chinese Culture Club, in collaboration with Student Life and UFV International's student leaders, organized a Chinese New Year celebration at U House. The event was well attended, with more than 100 people in attendance. The guests enjoyed singing performances, a Tai Ji show, games, prizes, and a Chinese dinner.

