

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 2007

President's Report

As is usual, the month of September has been one of intense activity at UCFV. The fall term is when most of our new students for the year begin their studies. They are usually excited to be in university, but are on a steep new learning curve, needing extra time and care from faculty and staff. And, of course, the faculty and staff are as usual going that extra mile to provide our students with great learning experiences.

We have 8065 students enrolled this fall. Of these 7545 are domestic students and 520 international students. The domestic student headcount in credit programs is up by 0.5%, while development programs are down by 8.4% compared to fall 2006. International student numbers are up by 17.4% compared to last fall. Our overall domestic student course registration is very close to the same as last year. As reported to the September meeting, since international students do not count for FTE utilization, our FTE counts is pretty much the same as last fall. Although the student numbers are not up as much as we had hoped, the amount of general campus activity and the "university feel" continue to be much greater than in past years.

Construction delays have slowed the start of classes in the new Trades and Technology Centre at the new Chilliwack campus, but we are moving along. Four classes (carpentry, drafting and electronics) will start on October 1, with all the other classes starting on October 15. Our worry now is about the old trades building at Abbotsford, which is scheduled to become classroom and office space. Although our renovation plans have been approved by our Ministry for a considerable time, we continue to await approval from Treasury Board. We have done almost all of the planning we can do without the approval. Unless it comes shortly, we will not be able to complete the needed renovations in time, and will have great difficulty providing space to accommodate the expected additional FTEs in 2008-2009.

On September 15, I attended the installation of and presented greetings to Dr. Allan Cahoon as the new president of Royal Roads University. I attended the installation for Dr. Steven Point on October 1. Our close partner in India, Panjab University, is celebrating its diamond anniversary on that day, with the Prime Minister of India in attendance. Robert Buchan is attending and representing UCFV at their celebration, which they consider of the highest importance.

The celebratory high point, however, was the annual UCFV awards ceremony, which took place on September 14. This is the night when we celebrate our scholarship winners, as well as recognizing the many generous individuals and organizations who provide them. These nights are always, barring only the convocation ceremonies, the ceremonial high points of our year. This year we gave out 266 awards. Also, this year for the first

time we held the ceremony on campus in the small (!) gymnasium. It was a great event, successful because of the work of too many UCFV community members to name here, but to whom I know we all offer a round of thanks.

Faculty of Arts

Criminology/Criminal Justice:

Director Martin Silverstein co-presented at the BC Association of Police Chiefs conference held recently, with Bill Dingwall, commanding officer at the Regional Training Centre, Chilliwack. The presentation provided an overview of UCFV's Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)-Police Studies and Master of Arts (MA)-Criminal Justice programs. Darryl Plecas, research chair in Criminology, was the keynote speaker at the BC Crime Prevention Association event held on September 21.

The department, in cooperation with the BC Centre for Social Responsibility, recently completed a study of Binge Drinking. Faculty member Irwin Cohen and Amanda McCormick, Research coordinator and lead author of the report, profiled the report on CKNW's "Christy Clark" show. Local newspapers published articles about this report, and *The Province* did a full-page story.

English:

The English department's Miriam Nichols has worked with Canada Council over the past several months to secure support for our Writer-in-Residence program and our Canadian Writers Series. The inaugural presentation given by Richard Van Camp, Writer-in-Residence for the fall semester, was very well attended. Poet, novelist, short-story writer, and master storyteller are among Richard's many talents. His literary experiences have ranged from writing an opinion column in the Yellowknife newspaper, *The Press Independent*, where he reviewed contemporary books and music, to writing for "North of 60" as part of their internship program in 1993.

Our first visiting writer, poet Roo Boorson, read to an appreciative audience on September 20. These initiatives, although spearheaded in this case by the English department, benefit the institution as a whole, raise its profile in the community, and add zest to the learning environment.

The support of the Canada Council for both the Writer-in-Residence and the Writers Series is gratefully acknowledged.

Fashion Design:

The 2007 Wearable Art awards were held on September 22 at the Inlet Theatre, Port Moody. Included in the artists presenting were Class of 2007 graduates Genesis Mol and

Jessica Heward, Class of 2004 graduate Krista Prendergast, and History of Fashion instructor (and Department Assistant) Vicki Bolan.

Presented by the Port Moody Arts Centre Society, the Wearable Art awards encourages a variety of local, Canadian and International artists of all mediums to submit evocative, imaginative and thought provoking creations for the human body.

UCFV fared very well with Genesis Mol receiving the award for Best in Children's category for 'An Apple a Day' (below left); Jessica Heward was awarded the Andrés Peller Estate Wines student award for her piece entitled 'Avante Garden: Calla Lily' (below right); and Vicki Bolan received Runner-Up in the Open category for 'Artemis'.



Gayle Ramsden is heading to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. UCFV Fashion Design and the International Education department are working with a long-standing UCFV partner, the Al Khawarizmi International College (KIC). Under this new agreement UCFV will assist KIC to develop and implement a Fashion Design diploma – the first in Abu Dhabi. Gayle will be spending two weeks working on establishing the curriculum and the hiring process for the KIC program, which is slated to offer its first fashion courses in September of 2008. The agreement spans three years through 2010. In addition to offering a number of UCFV faculty members the opportunity to work with international partners in the fashion industry and bring new ideas and approaches back to UCFV, it will also become a possible study abroad location for UCFV's fashion students.

Bev Fanzega, second-year Drafting and Construction instructor, has been working on the development of software technology for the home sewing market. The project (My Label) incorporates key features of an industry application called Optitex. The software enables the user to create a 3D mannequin of their body and drape a combination of garment styles on an electronic image of themselves. The software is due to be released in October and will be available for access outside of the USA soon at www.berninamylabel.com.

Fashion Design graduate Carmen Janzen (Class of 2007) has recently returned from India where she spent the summer helping a community to establish a clothing industry, teach its residents a skill, and provide them an economic future.

As one of 48 national winners of the Garfield Weston Merit award, she received up to \$50,000 in scholarship funding which included a stipend, tuition waiver and some \$3,500 to arrange for a summer experience project in Canada or abroad.

Canada's W. Garfield Weston Foundation is named after Willard Garfield Weston, a baker who established the Weston bakery and other commercial ventures across Canada. The foundation is administered by the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation, and the awards are this country's most prestigious undergraduate scholarships.

Planning is underway for this year's graduate fashion extravaganza. Absolute Style 08 will be held Wednesday April 23 in the Student Activity Centre with two shows, the first at 2:00 pm and the evening show at 7:00 pm.

Visual Arts:

Due to Ministry approval of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), the Visual Arts department has started off the academic year with enormous excitement and enthusiasm. Contributing to this is the energy brought by four new department members (two of whom are replacements and two of whom are new 50% hires). Shelley Stefan has assumed the position of Painting instructor and Kenneth Newby, the New Media position. New hires are Tetsuomi Anzai, our second Photography instructor, and Chris Friesen, our second Painting instructor. We have also hired a new 50% technician to assist in the 2D areas, Alex Duff.

2007 is the second year running that we have offered a fourth year Senior Studio class for



the BFA program. This year, the Senior Studio exhibition will take place on December 7 at 7:00 pm in the upstairs space of the former post office building in Abbotsford, so now begins the task of fundraising. The students are planning a silent auction in the Visual Arts Gallery and we hope to see senior management and interested board members at this year's opening. Attached is a photo of the owner and the Senior Studio students.

Visual Arts senior students

The department continues to bring in outside expertise for the benefit of students. On October 5 at noon, the Visual Arts department will be presenting artist, Kathleen Vaughan. Ms. Vaughan will be speaking about her work as a visual artist, writer, scholar, and teacher. Her award-winning mixed media visual work has been exhibited in Canada and internationally. She holds an MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University (Montreal) and a PhD in Education from York University (Toronto). Her multimodal dissertation incorporating a visual art installation and illustrated text was the first of its kind in York's Faculty of Education. She teaches at the Ontario College of Art and Design, York University's Faculty of Education, and through visiting artist programs in Toronto schools.

Recent faculty achievements include:

Shelley Stefan had a very active summer. She taught our new Community Arts Practice course that resulted in students designing a mural for the RCMP scenario-based training annex at the Chilliwack Pacific Region Training Centre (PRTC). This offered opportunity for a unique partnership and opportunity for dialogue between UCFV Visual Arts students and RCMP officers. During the summer Shelley also led a five-week series of intense drawing classes at the Sto:lo Artisan Centre in Chilliwack, thereby providing skills while also opening a door for networking and community building.

Jacqueline Nolte was approached to respond to a presentation by Ontario Arts Council Executive Director John Brotman, entitled "Community Arts in Rural Settings", delivered at the May 2007 Canadian Cultural Observatory's "In Focus Speakers' Series Workshop" on "Arts and Heritage in Rural Communities." Jacqueline's response: "Community Arts in Rural Settings".

Davida Kidd continues with a busy schedule of professional exhibitions. She has been invited to be a visiting artist/speaker at the The Aesthetic Technologies LAB at Ohio University in Athens, February 2008. Her work is also in the following four person exhibition now up at Tatar Gallery in Toronto, "(Re) colony, an aesthetic deliberation over tensions within the social and political landscapes of 21st century culture". Davida has work in the exhibition "En Rupture de ban – at odds with authority" at EVDS Gallery, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary Sept 7-16 and she has a solo show "Davida Kidd : Between the Sublime and the Subliminal" at Engram Gallery, in the Upper Silesia Art Center, Katowice Poland, running from September 13 - October 14. Davida's work is represented in the print portfolio "Further: Artists from the Book Printmaking at the Edge" at the Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia in October 2007 and in the Hanmi Museum of Photography Seoul, Korea, from November 21- December 21. Her work will be exhibited at the Toronto International Art Fair this October by Bjornson Kajiwarra Gallery and Tatar Gallery and she also has work currently on show in Sweden in "Artists from The Edge" at the Stora Salen Lilja Art Gallery, Grafikens Hus Falun from September 1, 2007 – January 27, 2008. Davida has recently donated a work for the auction "Art with Heart" a fundraiser for Casey House, a hospice for people with HIV/AIDS in Toronto.

Faculty of Science

Arts & Science Advice Centre:

UCFV's commitment to student success is taking a giant step forward this year as Arts Advising and Science Advising are centralizing their locations to create a joint Arts and Science Advice Centre. Located in B249 each advice centre will work autonomously day-to-day while sharing a location for allowing more collaboration on many student retention initiatives including probationary student interventions.

Darren Francis has been promoted to Coordinator of the Science Advice Centre. Darren is uniquely qualified for his new position, as the combination of his advising work experience, his Master's degree in Enrollment Management and Graduate certificate in Academic Advising gives him both the experience and theory to continue implementing student success initiatives within the Science program.

Elaine Newman is joining the Science Advice Centre as the new Educational Advisor - Science. Elaine brings a wealth of advising experience from her many positions at UCFV. In addition to her diverse work experience, Elaine is also enrolled in the only Master's degree program in Academic Advising through Kansas State University.

Physics:

A collaborative agreement with the University of Victoria (UVic) that would allow UCFV engineering transfer students to direct entry into the second year at UVic is nearing formalization. Work is also underway for having the first semester of UVic's second year program at UCFV, as well as an agreement that would allow UCFV students to take their first co-op work term here before transferring to UVIC or UBC. Peter Mulhern, head of the Engineering Transfer program, leads these collaborations.

In September, the first meeting of the Chilliwack Robotics Society (CRS), chaired by instructor Darryl Hutcheon, was held at the Chilliwack campus. The goal of the group is to get UCFV, high schools, and community members involved in robotic competitions.

The Physics and the Computer Information Systems departments are exploring the possibility of putting on a Minor in Electronics as part of the Bachelor of Science (BSc). There has been a positive response from employers who would like to help us put on a Major in Electronics as there is a severe shortage of qualified personnel in industry.

Department Head Tim Cooper has given forty-one talks to date on Global Warming and was the opening speaker for SFU's speaker series on climate change.

Submitted by:
Skip Bassford

