

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 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 September will be presented at the meeting.

### Faculty of Science (Ora Steyn, Dean)

#### **Outreach:**

Once again we had a successful summer with Science Rocks! Due to lower enrolment, the class sizes had to be lowered, but in the end most sessions were full. Our week of Aboriginal Camp in Chilliwack went very well and hopefully we will be able to do this again next year once the campus has moved.



For more pictures see <http://sciencerockscamp2011.shutterfly.com/>

We hope to offer science activities at the Clearbrook Library (Abbotsford) and again take part in the after-school program at Chilliwack Central Community School in partnership with the Chilliwack School District and Science World. These activities provide UFV with exposure in the community, promotes science, and provides great opportunities for work for our students.

The Mathematics and Statistics department had quite a successful year with Math Mania. Math Mania is an evening of mathematical demonstrations, puzzles and hands-on activities for elementary school children held in their school gymnasiums. It's been designed to show children, and their parents, how much fun you can have playing with mathematical concepts.

Math Mania typically involves 15 – 20 volunteers, mostly faculty and students from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Other UFV faculty often join in too. We generally have 150 – 250 people attend one of these events, including children, parents, grandparents, and teachers. Math Mania is partially supported by PIMS (the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences), of whom we are an educational associate.

Our events so far:

June 2009	Unsworth Elementary, Chilliwack
June 2010	Auguston Traditional School, Abbotsford
November 2011	Blue Jay Elementary, Abbotsford
May 2011	Dashmesh Punjabi School, Matsqui Village
June 2011	F.G. Leary Elementary, Chilliwack

Interest from local schools is growing as the word spreads about how much fun everyone has. We are hoping to host three or four events in the 2011/2012 academic year.

See [http://www.ufv.ca/math/math\\_mania.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/math/math_mania.htm) for pictures and more information.

**Science Travel:**

Gregory Schmaltz from the Biology department travelled to Paraguay with a group of Arts faculty to explore the possibility of field schools for students in the country. Greg writes, "While in Paraguay I had a chance to meet with various representatives of local Paraguayan agencies and meet with biologists and tour guides from the Americana University and conservation agencies



and non-profit organizations with conservation goals such as Guyra Paraguay. I was able to visit three different field sites while in Paraguay. One area of interest was located near the city of Concepcion (central Paraguay) where the dry forests of central and northern Paraguay (the Chaco) meet the more lush and humid forests of Southern Paraguay. It is quite a unique area where one can visit both ecosystems the same day as they are separated by a mere one-hour drive. I spent time at a centrally located field station (el Roble) which would be a great location for field

courses. The station can accommodate over 20 students and is located within an area protected from logging. There are many opportunities to conduct research on site and organize day trips from the station to introduce students to the incredible biodiversity Paraguay has to offer."

Biology offered students the opportunity to get course credits by exploring the Clayoquot Sound, Vancouver Island, in the Clayoquot Biosphere field school.

Biology student, Amanda Whelihan, took part in a study-abroad trip to Mahahual, Mexico where she worked on coral reef ecology and conversation. She described the experience as "life changing".

**Student Success:**

Graduates Rosanna Martens, Jake Hiebert, Gagan Saran, Van Dinh and Jaspreet Lidder were accepted into medical school. One of these students, Van Dinh, was a physics major. As well, Physics had three more students accepted into graduate school. Matthew Wiersma from

Mathematics is doing a master's degree at Waterloo and has agreed to blog about his experience <http://matthewwiersma.wordpress.com/>

We hope that reading the blog will encourage other students to consider graduate school, and also provide a perspective of what to expect.

**Faculty:**

We welcomed a number of new faculty members this year and are very excited at the interdisciplinary experience they are bringing.

As a consequence of our highly successful Math Mania event in May, Dashmesh Punjabi School invited Susan Milner to give a professional development workshop in June for the K-7 teachers. About 20 teachers and Susan explored several logic-based games appropriate for their students. Many of the teachers initially expressed anxiety about mathematics, but they all seemed to enjoy these games. Most requested copies so they could try them in their classes. As most of the games are inexpensive to make or easy to replicate, we are hoping that many students feel the benefits of this event.

Sharon Gillies from Biology and Steve Marsh from Geography will be taking a group of students to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in October. We hope to have them do a future presentation to the Board on this project.

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

PSALT (The Professional Studies Academic Leadership Team), which includes the Dean, directors, and department heads in the Faculty of Professional Studies, held a very successful two-day retreat in early September.

On September 9, the Dean's office hosted the second annual SPARK event, which starts the academic year in the Faculty of Professional Studies with presentations designed to motivate and energize faculty members. This year UFV President Mark Evered made introductory remarks, and nine faculty members presented on a variety of topics related to teaching, research, and personal development. Thank you to Dr. Evered for attending and to Christine Slavik (Early Childhood Education/Child and Youth Care) for her hard work in organizing the event.

Dr. Fiona McQuarrie's one-year appointment as Interim Associate Dean of the Faculty ended in mid-August. Dr. McQuarrie has been appointed for a one-year term as Special Projects Coordinator at the BC Council for Admissions and Transfer. The Council is the provincial organization that administers the BC transfer system, and facilitates admission, articulation, and transfer arrangements among BC post-secondary institutions for the benefit of students.

The School of Health Sciences has now been moved from Professional Studies into the new Faculty of Health Sciences. The Dean's office assisted Marketing and Communications with organizing the official launch of the Faculty which took place on September 12.

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

The MSW (Master of Social Work) program is progressing well. Twenty-three students are registered, and four have chosen to complete the program on a part-time basis. The students are currently taking their research course and have been assigned faculty supervisors.

The BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) program is going through external re-accreditation. The self-study report will be completed by early November.

The School welcomed new faculty member Dr. Abebe Teklu and new program advisor Kathryn Garcia. The School also held an event to honour recently retired long-time faculty member Georgina Marsom.

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

Faculty member Jan Lashbrook-Green has returned from sabbatical and is serving as department head while faculty member Christina Neigel is on sabbatical.

Most classes in both the LIBIT diploma and post-diploma courses are full. The first graduates of the Post-Diploma Certificate program will complete their program in June 2012.

Over 70 percent of the June 2011 diploma graduates are employed. The new City Centre branch of the Surrey Public Library hired nine UFV graduates.

**TEP (Teacher Education Program):**

On September 7, UFV was honoured to be one of the signatories of a Canada-wide Accord on Indigenous Education. This was a historic moment for UFV, TEP, Indigenous Education, and our local Indigenous communities. The signing ceremony was supported, blessed and witnessed by UFV Elder Terry Prest, Her Honour Gwen Point, UFV Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs Shirley Hardman, members of the local Sto:lo nation, UFV Aboriginal Coordinator Robert Searle, and TEP staff and students. Dean Rosetta Khalideen signed the Accord on behalf of UFV.

Twenty-four of the 26 June 2011 graduates are employed. This was the fifth cohort of students to graduate from the program.

The proposal for a TEP secondary program has been sent to the BC College of Teachers for a second review.

Faculty member Sheryl MacMath completed her Ph.D. from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto) in August.

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

The proposal for the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education has been submitted to DQAB (the Degree Quality Assurance Board). The DQAB expert review panel conducted its site visit on September 21 and we are awaiting the report.

ECE/CYC has completed its department review, including its response to the report of the external review team. The department review report (including the responses) was accepted by the Academic Planning and Priorities committee at its September meeting.

SASET (Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training) has signed a contract with the department to deliver the ECE Certificate to 12 graduates of the Family Child Care certificate offered through the BladeRunners program. The first two courses in the program were offered over the summer. The contract is for two and a half years and is worth well over \$300,000. The BladeRunners Family Child Care program will continue for a third time starting this fall.

**BUS (School of Business):**

The new Finance option in the Bachelor of Business Administration program was launched this fall. It consists of eight upper level courses which provide training in the four major branches of finance: corporate finance, investment management, money and banking, and international finance. Students taking the Finance option are well-positioned to pursue careers in the global financial services industry.

The School of Business has a new Director, Dr. Mike Ivanof, who comes to us from Thompson Rivers University where he was Director of Academic Program Development and the Associate Dean of the Management Centre. Previously, he was Director of the Executive MBA program at the University of Northern British Columbia, and the Executive Director of the Master in Financial Risk Management program at Simon Fraser University.

The School also welcomed three new full-time faculty members: Dr. Mark Lee (Human Resources and Organization Studies), Dr. Joe Ilsever (Accounting/Finance), and David Dobson (Marketing).

The School will be sponsoring a booth at the upcoming Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce conference in October.

**Faculty of Access and Open Studies (Sue Brigden, Dean)**

As of September 1, 2011, the *Faculty of Access and Continuing Studies* became the *Faculty of Access and Open Studies*. The newly-named faculty includes five units: Assessment Services, Continuing Studies, English as a Second Language, Open Studies, and Upgrading and University Preparation.

**Assessment Services:**

Following the recent retirement of Wendy Watson, Assessment Services has found a new home in Access and Open Studies. Assessment Services provides internal and external invigilation services and supports Prior Learning and Recognition projects.

**Open Studies:**

OS (Open Studies) is the new home of *Study Path* students. OS students include students who 1) meet program prerequisites but missed the application deadline; 2) meet program prerequisites but are unsure of their educational goals and wish to explore their options; and 3) need to complete the prerequisites to get into a chosen program. This semester, there are 4000 plus students in 12 different paths taking courses at UFV. Nearly 3300 OS students are returning students; the remaining 700 are new students.

To provide immediate support to OS students, a part-time faculty advisor has been put in place. Going forward, the Faculty will hire an administrative assistant and implement policies and procedures that will help OS students successfully reach their goals.

**UUP (Upgrading and University Preparation):**

The UUP department has strong enrolments in its ABE (Adult Basic Education) classes throughout the Valley this fall. We are especially pleased to see increased enrolment in the Mission campus multi-level math class. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the nine-month ASE (Adult Special Education) Workplace TASK (Training in Attitude, Skills and Knowledge) program normally offered in Mission and Chilliwack. Due to reduced funding opportunities for adults with special needs, few students could afford the tuition fees for the program and enrolment was very low. However, with the creativity and quick thinking of UUP faculty, courses were cancelled and added to ensure UFV continues its long-standing commitment to ASE programming. Going forward, the department will work with communities to review and revise its ASE courses.

Creativity is inherent in all members of the UUP department. To align UFV with the new WNCP (Western and Northern Canadian Protocol) mathematics curriculum, UUP math instructors are revising existing and developing new math courses. Two UUP English instructors, Marilyn MacDonald and Jan Oosterhof-Contant, are working together to deliver English 081 in a new way. They combine their classes for one three-hour session a week and meet with their individual classes for another session each week. The course is organized around three themes: 1) How we learn (brain-based learning/learning styles, listening, etc.); 2) Indigenous peoples of the world — exploring our cultures; and 3) Fair Trade — looking at the winners and losers when we have or don't have fair trade. So far, students seem to really enjoy this way of learning English; they are very engaged in the large- and small-group activities and work together to help each other improve their writing, critical-thinking, and presentation skills.

In consultation with the Faculty of Arts and the Aboriginal Community Council, UUP has developed two IPK (Indigenous Peoples Knowledge) courses: IPK 092 uses an aboriginal perspective to focus on study skills; and IPK 093 uses an aboriginal perspective to focus on critical thinking. Because these courses have been designed to meet BC Adult Dogwood requirements and to support student success, they will be of great benefit to students. With the new IPK courses and the existing First Nations Studies course (FNS 091), UUP is now able to offer three indigenous content courses to students.

The department is very proud of the creativity and dedication of its students. At the June 2011 convocation ceremony, eight students received their ABE Adult Graduation diplomas. One of them, Sara Bremner, also received an Outstanding Achievement Award. Two UUP students received awards at the Writing Prize Awards ceremony on September 28: Dan Szezepaniak (from ENGL 071 taught by Beverly Jones Redekop) and Reg Martens (from ENGL 091 taught by Anna Wauthy).

**Faculty of Trades and Technology (Harv McCullough, Dean)****Agriculture:**

This past August, Chancellor Dr. Brian Minter held a “Think Tank” session at Minter Gardens coordinated by CEPCO (Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation) and UFV. The event was

attended by a high-level cross-section of agriculture industry representatives, UFV's President Mark Evered and many UFV Agriculture personnel.

The session featured a guest speaker from Ontario who gave an overview of a research centre, all the work that went into physical buildings, as well as the partnerships that allowed the centre to come together.

The second event took place October 12. These events are designed to set the direction for the agriculture industry in the Fraser Valley and UFV's direction to serve as the glue between the various partners.

**Mechanical:**

UFV Hosts Trades and Technology Tool Show

The instructors and program assistants organized a *Tool Show* bringing together a number of tool distributors and suppliers, as a result of a lack of information being distributed to the students. It was a large success and the students from eight programs had a great time gathering information to make educated choices.

By assembling all of the potential tool dealers and suppliers together in one place at one time everyone was a winner.

Listed below are the Vendors who attended:

Lordco Auto Parts	Fortin's Auto Parts
Acklands	Raider-Hansen
Mac Tools	Snap-on Tools
Jet Tools	Milwaukee Tools
Seattle Tools	

**Graduate and Research Studies (Yvon Dandurand, Associate VP)**

**VCHA (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority) Research Affiliation Agreement:**

UFV recently entered into an agreement with VCHA to enable UFV faculty members to conduct research at VCHA sites.

**Research: Connecting Across Disciplines:**

An event to stimulate interdisciplinary research is being held on October 19. All faculty are being invited to participate by submitting a slide/poster that captures their current research. Networking activities will help identify potential research collaborations and ways to involve more students in research.

**University Lecture Series:**

*Finding Strengths, Building Hope*: Strength-based interventions for children with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders) took place October 6 on the Abbotsford campus.

Dr. Chris Bertram presented on the work he and Dr. Kathy Keiver and Dr. Alison Pritchard-Orr have been doing in this area.

**Micro-lectures:**

The exciting faculty micro-lectures are being rescheduled to November. Watch for announcements.

**REB (Research Ethics Board):**

The REB is conducting training sessions for their new members and is scheduling training for Departmental Research Ethics committees over the fall semester. They are also available for classroom training.

**D4NG (Development For a New Generation):**

D4NG is a project, sponsored by the Global Development Institute at UFV, designed to increase awareness and understanding regarding Canada's approach to sustainable international development. The project seeks to encourage youth aged 13-18 in the Fraser Valley region of British Columbia to become engaged in projects which improve the health, education and overall social conditions in developing nations.

Free workshops were held at UFV on September 24. The event was open for youth 13-18 years of age. Food and refreshments were provided.

Participants will gain understanding of issues related to sustainable development and enhance their skills in conceptualizing, developing and managing sustainable Youth-to-Youth development projects. They will learn how to raise funds, find partners, deal with challenges in developing nations, write a project proposal, and deal with gender issues and much more.

<http://www.d4ng.com/workshops/>

**Writing Centre (Karen Evans, VP Students)**

**Second Annual UFV Writing Prize Awards Ceremony:**

While UFV's Writing Centre has been organizing a university-wide Writing Prize competition for the past 21 years, the success of last year's inaugural event has inspired us to organize the second annual Writing Prize Awards ceremony. The second annual UFV Writing Prize Awards ceremony took place on September 28 on the Abbotsford campus. Sixteen students, representing four faculties and nine disciplines, have won prizes this year for their assignment-based written work. The highlight of last year's ceremony was hearing students talk about how their commitment to a topic, often including original research, motivated their writing and thinking, and the hard work and satisfaction of their successes. We eagerly anticipate hearing from this year's winners. And we sincerely thank our senior administrator, VP Students, Karen Evans, for her financial support of these awards, as well as our many faculty judges who commit their time and expertise to reading student papers.

**New Writing Centre Scheduling Software, Expanded Hours, Increased Accessibility:**

With a view to increasing accessibility and streamlining students' use of our very busy Writing Centre, we spent the summer researching and test-driving *WCOonline*, scheduling software designed for the particular needs of writing centre users and researchers. The software is a great success with students – no more waiting! – and it has allowed us to schedule our hours efficiently, increasing accessibility and contributing to long-range planning, data collection, research, and retention.

**Indigenizing the Writing Centre:**

We are pursuing a number of initiatives to indigenize Writing Centre spaces and approaches to working with First Nations students. We are excited about our discussions thus far.

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

Please see attachment to the President's Report.

