

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

April 2008

President's Report

During the week when I normally provide my general input to the Board, I shall be attending the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) meetings in Windsor. I shall provide a verbal report at the April Board meeting. I attach now information from our Faculties.

Faculty of Arts

Geography:

Winter Moon (4th-year Geography Honours student) has just found out that she has been awarded a prestigious and very nationally competitive, Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS-M) from the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The award is for \$17,500 and is to support her upcoming MSc research.

Winter was actually awarded the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS-M). CGS-M scholarships are awarded to top PGS-M applicants. The NSERC application document states: "There is no separate application form or process for the CGS program. The highest-ranked PGS applicants will automatically be considered by NSERC for a CGS". This is the first such award for a UCFV Geography student.

When applying for this type of competitive national award, undergraduate students commonly state in their application that if considered for the award they will join a major research group at one of the big Canadian research universities for their postgraduate studies. Faculty member Olav Lian notes Winter Moon's application stated explicitly that, although she would be based in the Earth Sciences department at SFU, she would return to the Geography department at UCFV for her graduate research in the Luminescence Dating Laboratory. The fact that the NSERC awards panel agreed that this was a good strategy, worthy of funding with a significant graduate scholarship, gives further credibility to the strength of the UCFV Geography department, and strong evidence of the increasing recognition of UCFV by major scientific research funding agencies.

Criminology:

Director Martin Silverstein reports that a Canada-European Union (EU) Agreement proposal is almost ready (to cover student exchanges between Canada, Germany, and England). The program will involve approximately forty students, who will have the opportunity to complete part of their studies in one of the countries participating in the agreement. Partners in this program are Abbotsford Police Department, New West Police Department, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the West Midlands Police.

Faculty of Professional Studies

Computer Information Studies:

Rilla Apostolakis attended the National Academic Advising Association (Region 8) conference in Vancouver in March. She also won one of seven scholarships for the event from the Region 8 area (including Alaska, BC, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, NWT and Yukon). She found the experience very valuable and came back with many ideas that the department will be implementing as part of our retention plan.

Patrick O'Brien has been named Member Emeritus on the Steering Committee of the Educational Technology User's Group (ETUG). Patrick has been a long time member of the Steering Committee who served with distinction and who made a significant contribution to the Committee. He will be awarded at a special dinner during the ETUG Spring 2008 workshop.

Health Sciences:

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) faculty, in collaboration with International Education, will once again offer a summer study tour for Korean nursing students from April 12 - August 1, 2008. Last year's study tour was a resounding success resulting in another tour request for this summer. Sixteen nursing students from three separate nursing schools in Korea will participate in this year's experience. The students will receive a series of nursing lectures, health care facility tours and observational practice experiences with UCFV nursing students in our local hospitals in the Fraser Valley.

The BSN faculty is pleased to announce that Elaine Tessaro, a long standing nursing faculty member, has been recognized, posthumously, with the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) Award of Excellence in Nursing Education. Elaine passed away from cancer in July 2006. This is a highly prestigious award that reflects Elaine's years of dedication to excellence in nursing education. The CRNBC award ceremony takes place at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver on April 28, 2008. Since her death, the nursing faculty has established the UCFV Elaine Tessaro Memorial Nursing Scholarship for BSN nursing students.

Vancouver Community College (VCC) has purchased the UCFV BSN curriculum in anticipation of offering their first enrolment of BSN students in January 2009. UCFV nursing faculty has collaborated with VCC nursing department to assist in the initial planning and implementation of the VCC BSN program.

The Dental Hygiene program will present their first program graduates at the Convocation ceremonies on June 13. The School of Health Sciences is very excited to recognize this first group of graduates.

The Home Support/Resident Care Attendant (HS/RCA) program will adopt the newly revised provincial curriculum for the November 2008 intake. The new curriculum reflects a change in name to Health Care Assistant program.

Library and Information Technology:

New applications are steadily rolling in for the summer and fall semesters. New applicants intending to do their studies fully online have been strongly encouraged to attend the department's fall orientation. In addition, the department is looking at ways of promoting billeting

with grads of the program so that distance students have the option of attending courses in person for one semester to enhance their overall experience in the program.

The newly introduced co-op option is generating a notable level of interest with both current and incoming students. Employers are also enthusiastic about this option and new employment opportunities are expected for the 08/09 academic year.

The department is fortunate in having a creative work study student who has been very busy with creating new hallway displays that examine issues related to copyright, intellectual property, and Wikipedia in an effort to raise awareness with the UCFV community of the current issues relating to these topics. It is very encouraging to see students and faculty examining these provocative displays!

Teacher Education Program:

The students in the first cohort of UCFV's new Teacher Education Program (TEP) are currently completing their final school practicum. In May, they will have completed the program. By all accounts, including unofficial reports from the local schools, the first year has been very successful. This perspective has been supported by the large number of applicants for our second cohort, which will begin the program in July. Despite increasing our intake to 36 from 32, we had almost 70 applicants.

Teaching and Development

Career Centre:

The Career Centre is collaborating with several other UCFV departments, notably:

- Developing collaborative programming with Student Services to provide more career exploration and development support to students
- Participating in student recruitment events to promote the career development opportunities at UCFV
- Working with the Student Leadership program to create a peer coaching volunteer program to support students in developing job search skills

Career Services hosted *Directions*, our 2008 career fair on March 20, and students are very busy seeking summer work, both co-op and non-co-op.

- Exhibitors' booths for *Directions*, the 2008 career fair sold out with a record number of exhibitors (over 200, representing 100 different employers) and this year had a wait list of more than 30 employers. Student registration reached almost 1400 surpassing *Directions 2006*. Due to construction of the gym no fair was held in 2007.
- Very successful promotional campaign for *Directions* - 'foot in the door' promotional campaign, featuring different types of footwear to represent different careers, has been highly successful. We want to acknowledge the work of Kim Lawrence and her staff in Marketing & Communications (MarCom) for conceptualizing and creating campaign. Response has been so positive that the Career Centre is contemplating continuing to use this campaign to generally promote the Career Centre and its services in the 08/09 academic year.

- In March, Career Services launched a new “to go” service for students. Coordinators set up in the Learning Commons area and students many drop in without an appointment for resume review. The number of students dropping by is increasing each time we offer this service. In the future, we will expand “Resumes To Go” to include “Advising To Go”. These will be offered at other UCFV campuses as well.

Co-operative Education has a record number of postings for summer positions. As of this date, we have 422 different co-op positions for work this summer. In 2007 we had 143 postings with 256 positions posted by the end of April. We continue to see a number of new employers with approximately 20 percent of our postings from employers who have not posted with us previously.

We are focusing our efforts for the remainder of the semester on one-to-one promotion of specific positions to specific students in an effort to increase our summer replacements. We will be working with MarCom to improve our marketing to students, and will be developing a new recruitment, admissions and intake process for fall '08 with a goal of increasing the number of student applications to positions. This should result in more co-op placements.

College and Career Preparation (CCP):

Regional Literacy Coordination Program

Background of the Program: The primary aim of the Regional Literacy Coordinator is to advise and provide consultation on adult and family literacy issues in the Fraser Valley as requested by all levels of government as well as internally within UCFV and to assist in the development and administration of literacy programs and strategic planning groups in the community at large.

Highlights: In fall 2007 Julia Dodge, UCFV's Regional Literacy Coordinator was involved in the delivery of two major forums in the Fraser Valley.

District Literacy Planning Forum (DLP)

On November 7, 2007 Abbotsford and Chilliwack co-hosted a DLP forum. The Regional Literacy Coordinator was asked to moderate a panel discussion to provide guests from the Ministry of Education and surrounding regions an overview of the process undertaken to-date. It was expressed that not only Abbotsford and Chilliwack but in fact all five of the main communities mentioned above are “ahead of the curve” in terms of working collaboratively with key sectors, agencies and institutions in the planning for and provision of literacy services and programs in the Fraser Valley. A follow-up forum is scheduled in Vancouver January 31, 2008.

Community Workplace and Essential Skills Forum (CWES)

Background: International literacy and skill surveys tell us that the Fraser Valley's workforce is at risk of, if not already, facing a skills shortage, including literacy and essential workplace skills. Using international standards from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS), level 3 of 5 is considered the required level of employee competency for an economy to remain economically healthy and globally competitive. Seventy percent of those of us functioning at level 2 are employed. This issue is therefore of concern to both employers; employee associations; educators, all levels of government and the community at large.

The Regional Literacy Coordinator hosted a Fraser Valley CWES forum at UCFV Chilliwack on November 22. Dr. Dianne Common – Vice President, Academic & Provost opened the forum with greetings from UCFV, including a re-articulation of our long history and deep commitment to lifelong learning, including the provision of training and education opportunities to all levels of adult learners across the Fraser Valley.

Satya Brink PhD, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, the director of national learning policy research, learning policy directorate presented compelling adult literacy and workplace essential skills data in a presentation titled “The Importance of Literacy and Numeracy Performance for Successful Communities.”

A diverse range of over 70 forum participants then explored the relevance of literacy and workplace essential skills issues for the Fraser Valley community and began developing a framework for what goals it might seek to achieve, for how it might work collaboratively to do so, and for what specific intervention strategies it might undertake.

In very specific terms, a consensus emerged that there is real community-wide value in working collaboratively to increase the numbers of Fraser Valley residents who score in the Level 3 range of the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS). More broadly, forum participants endorsed the goal of making the Fraser Valley a community that values, promotes, and supports learning in and for the workplace.

TASK (Training in Attitudes, Skills, and Knowledge) Program

Approximately 100 people gathered for the annual Transitions Fair in the Chilliwack campus cafeteria on Wednesday evening, February 27. Coordinated by UCFV's Alyson Seale and the Chilliwack Transitions committee, the conference is an evening of information and networking for persons with disabilities. Guests include family members, friends, support personnel, and community service agencies. The focus is on creating smooth transitions for persons with disabilities into employment, education and the community.

Highlights of the evening:

Keynote speaker:

Brenda Gillette, the former director of Chilliwack Society for Community Living, spoke about the history and future trends of “persons with disabilities” in our community. As well, the Chilliwack Society for Community Living youth drama program presented a skit on transitions and finding community resources.

Student speakers:

Jason Labrash and Patrick Julian, current Workplace TASK students, and TASK graduates Naidene Langlois and Billy Jean Coleman wowed the audience with pithy speeches about the rewards of education and workplace experience. Jason urged the audience: “I would like to say that you should take the TASK program because it would help you make new friends at this school and it would help you get ready for the real world.” Patrick had this advice for potential students: “Keep your head up high and remember that high school is just a stepping stone in your life, but it will have a big impact on the rest of your life. Work hard at whatever challenge comes your way. Take the Workplace TASK program if you are not sure where you want to go in your life, because this program can help you on your way to realizing your dreams and will give you the steps needed to getting yourself a job.”

Student reunions:

Excitement ran high as students greeted former classmates, renewed friendships, related work and educational experiences, and caught up on personal news. The evening highlighted the key roles played by camaraderie and networking in personal success.

Community partners:

The Fair provides an opportunity for service providers to gather up-to-date information on community resources; it also acts as a forum for service providers to build inter-agency rapport, thereby facilitating smoother transitions for persons with disabilities.

OTHER TASK EVENTS:

February 27, 2008 - **Coffee date** with last year's grads to get reacquainted, find out what everyone is up to and to provide support in finding resources/programs if needed.

May 8, 2008 - **Second annual alumni bowling event**

Last year, the bowling event was attended by alumni from each of the four years the TASK program has run on the Chilliwack campus. Approx. 25 alumni attended. The event is sponsored in part by the UCFV Alumni Association.

April 16, 2008 - **Chilliwack Achievement Day**

The day is a celebration and ceremony for students, family, friends, and support folks to mark the successful completion of the 2007-2008 TASK program. Graduating students showcase their work and achievements.

Submitted by:
Skip Bassford

