

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2011

## **President's Report**

The new academic year has just begun and another exciting year is before us all. The Graduate and Research Studies area and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies have provided the following information for this month's President's Report to the Board. An update on the President's activities will be presented at the meeting.

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

### **Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards:**

On May 30, 26 students were presented with undergraduate research awards totalling \$18,000. These awards and several national student research awards were recognized at a celebration dinner held at the Ramada Inn. The event program, photos and student slides are available for viewing at [http://www.ufv.ca/Research/Research\\_News\\_and\\_Events.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/Research/Research_News_and_Events.htm).

### **Canada Research Chairs:**

UFV has qualified for two new Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs. UFV is planning to propose candidates to the Chair Secretariat by April 2012. Internal consultations have begun.

### **Research and Publications Catalogue:**

This annual publication highlights faculty and student research publications and presentations over the past year and is a handy reference tool to help inform our communities and colleagues about the research undertaken at UFV. It can be viewed at [www.ufv.ca/Research/Publications](http://www.ufv.ca/Research/Publications).

### **Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Visitors:**

UFV hosted two guests from MMUST (Kenya) for two weeks in August. Professor John Otsyula Shiundu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Research and Extension) and Professor William Wanjala Toili spoke at a public lecture, *The Hunger Disaster in Kenya and in the Horn of Africa*, on August 24.

UFV and MMUST signed a collaboration and exchange agreement two years ago. Since then a student exchange agreement has been developed and exchange visits of faculty members have begun. The two universities are currently engaged in a cooperation project funded by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Associations of African Universities.

### **AUCC/CIDA Students for Development Project:**

UFV has partnered with Ardhi University in Tanzania on student internships program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). UFV has signed a contribution agreement with the AUCC whereby the university will receive \$189,600 over a four-year period.

Ardhi University's Institute of Human Settlements Development (IHSS) is already involved in a range of projects related to human settlement upgrading, sustainable development, and food security. The IHSS, in cooperation with Kesho Trust, Sustainable Cities International and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, participates in settlement planning throughout Tanzania. The IHSS will be cooperating directly with UFV's Global Development Institute (GDI).

This past summer, two UFV students were engaged in sustainable development initiatives related to ongoing settlement upgrading projects in Tanzania. Two other students will be conducting an internship in Tanzania in January 2012. Also beginning in January, two doctoral students will study at UFV and participate in research at UFV's GDI and its partners in research and applied projects related to food security, urban farm networks and sustainable schools in both Tanzania and in British Columbia.

**CIDA Development for a New Generation Events:**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Public Engagement Fund project is drawing to a close. The project, under the direction of the UFV Global Development Institute is aimed at increasing the awareness, understanding, and engagement of secondary school-aged youth (13-18 years of age) in the Fraser Valley region of British Columbia on Canada's approach to sustainable international development with particular reference to CIDA's focus on improving health and strengthening basic education. It emphasizes how Canadian youth can get involved in development projects and activities involving youth in developing countries.

International development skills workshops for high school students will be held on campus on September 24 and a final wrap-up event is planned for October 15.

**Lectures/Microlectures:**

Four University Lectures have been confirmed for the 2011-2012 year and will be announced mid-September. Lectures are planned from Biology, Kinesiology, Visual Arts and Physics.

Faculty MicroLectures are being arranged for Wednesday, September 28 on the Abbotsford campus green.

**Projects:**

UFV recently completed a study on behalf of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) on *The Impact of International Cooperation on Pedagogical Practices and Cultures*. The study was conducted by Dean Rosetta Khalideen, Yvon Dandurand, and criminology student, Breanna Guy.

**Forums:**

The Research Office is supporting a new initiative that will bring faculty members together for the purpose of sharing their research and developing collaborations, primarily in the Social Sciences and Humanities, but all faculty will be encouraged to participate. A formal session will be held off campus in October with smaller informal sessions to be held throughout the year.

An informal lunch meeting was held on August 29 for newly hired faculty with an interest in research in order to get to know them and inform them of ways the Research Office may be able to help them engage their students in research and help them achieve their goals.

Information sessions for students interested in Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) scholarships and those interested in research and working with faculty will be held in late September or October.

**Research Ethics – New Policy:**

Work has started to propose amendments to UFV's Research Ethics policy number 54 to bring it in line with new federal guidelines. A draft new policy will be the object of consultations this fall.

The Research Ethics Board (REB) members for 2011-12 are as follows: Sandra Smith (English as a Second Language) is the new Chair and Kathy Keiver (Kinesiology and Physical Education) is the new Vice-Chair and new members Joss Ives (Physics), Andrea Hughes (Psychology), Zina Lee (Criminology), and Shirley Lister (Teacher Education Program). A member from the Faculty of Humanities is still needed. Training for Department Research Ethics committees and new REB members will take place in the fall.

**Animal Care Committee:**

UFV submitted responses to the Canadian Council on Animal Care's (CCAC) assessment report which will be forwarded to the assessment panel that visited UFV and the Assessment and Certification Committee for approval. An additional site visit will be scheduled in the fall during which a species other than bovine will be present, as per the CCAC request.

**Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies**

**Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute:**

In June, Yvon Dandurand completed his second two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. He will continue to represent UFV on the Institute's Canadian Members Council.

**India-Canada Summit:**

Yvon Dandurand represented UFV at the Canada-India Education Summit on Education. Carleton University's Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy, in partnership with the High Commission for India to Canada; the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada (DFAIT); the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC); and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, held the bi-lateral summit on education from June 16 to 17, 2011 in Ottawa. The Canada-India Education Summit was initiated by the High Commission of India as part of the Year of India in Canada 2011, mandated by the prime ministers of India and Canada.

Submitted by:  
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