

---

Welcome to the 2010 UFV

## **Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards Presentation**

---

Tonight the University of the Fraser Valley is proud to present 17 students with awards totaling \$16,000.

These students were nominated by faculty based on exceptional research work, either as part of the UFV work study program, as research assistants, or for an outstanding project as part of a course.

With more than 11,000 students attending UFV each year, these awards represent only a small fraction of the research activities in which students are involved.

Teaching and research are intimately related, and UFV is committed to enrich the learning experience of our students and create as many opportunities as possible for them to be actively involved in and learn through research.

---

**Congratulations to all the students who have worked so diligently to produce these award-winning research projects.**

---

Special thanks to the family and friends of our students who support them with funding, encouragement and late-night pizza.

Your contribution is immeasurable!

---

# Program

---

## **Host**

Yvon Dandurand, Associate Vice President  
Research & Graduate Studies

## **Welcome**

Brian Minter, UFV Chancellor

## **Opening Remarks**

Rod Thomson, Chair, UFV Board of Governors

## **Dinner Buffet**

## **President's Remarks**

Dr. Mark Evered, UFV President and Vice Chancellor

## **Awards Presentations**

Dr. Dan Ryan, Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. Rosetta Khalideen, Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies

Dr. Eric Davis, Acting Vice President Academic and Provost

Dr. Jacqueline Nolte, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts

## **Acknowledgement of Other Awards & Closing Remarks**



## National Awards

---

UFV provides students with valuable local and international research opportunities which serves them well in their graduate studies and careers.

We are pleased to recognize some of the students who have received prestigious awards at the national level.

---

### Geological Society of America 2010 Farouk El-Baz Student Award

Justine Cullen

Geography

Dr. Olav Lian

Students from all over the world compete for this award, and only two are given each year, usually to a student at the master's or doctoral level. Cullen is the first undergraduate student to ever receive the award, and one of only two Canadians.

---

### NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award

#### 2010 Recipients - \$4,500

<i>Student researcher</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Faculty researcher</i>
Ryan Berg	Physics	Dr. Derek Harnett
Justine Cullen	Geography	Dr. Olav Lian
Emily Helmer	Geography	Dr. Jonathan Hughes
Jason Ho	Chemistry	Dr. Noham Weinberg
Sarah Reimer	Chemistry	Dr. Noham Weinberg
Joshua Wiebe	Chemistry	Dr. Noham Weinberg

## National Awards

---

### NSERC Post Graduate Scholarships

#### 2010 Recipients - \$17,300

<i>Student researcher</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Faculty researcher</i>
Tanya Jonker*	Psychology	Dr. Wayne Podrouzek Dr. Andrea Hughes
Eric Gerbrandt	Biology	Dr. Ron Wilen Dr. Allan Arndt
Leandra Quiring	Chemistry	Dr. Noham Weinberg Dr. David Fenske

\*Tanya was the recipient of the prestigious Alexander Graham Bell Scholarship worth \$17,500.

---

## UFV Student Awards

---

Each year UFV holds a research presentation competition on Student Research Day. More than 50 UFV students submitted posters and gave presentations at the event. Top prize winners are noted below.



<i>Student</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award</i>
Kim Morden	Psychology	VP Academic & Provost
Jennifer Armstrong	Criminology	Associate VP of Research & Graduate Studies
Leandra Quiring		
Jenna Peters	Chemistry	Dean of Science
Brittany Tarras		
Whitney Wong		
Kelly Wong	Psychology	Dean of Arts
Christina Henderson	Social Work Philosophy	Dean of Professional Studies

## URE Award Recipients

---

Leandra Quiring	Biology
Carissa Wiens	Business Administration
Heather Martens	Chemistry
Melissa Prachnau	Chemistry
Jeffery Perkins	Computer Information Systems
Jennifer Armstrong	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Hilary Kim Morden	English
Justine Cullen	Geography
Carley Baxter	History
Rajvinder Heer	Indo Canadian Studies
Matthew Wiersma	Mathematics & Statistics
William Brooke	Philosophy
Liam Huber	Physics
Justin Morgan	Politics
Chelsey Moore	Psychology
Brenna Lewang	Social, Cultural & Media Studies
Christina Henderson	Social Work & Human Services

---

## Biology

---

### Recipient: Leandra Quiring

"I chose UFV as it was close to home and therefore more affordable than some of the bigger universities. During the senior years of my degree program, I developed an interest in doing scientific research, and discovered that another benefit of attending UFV was the ability to be involved in research projects. What I like about biochemistry and this project in particular, is that it is easily applicable to real life and relates to work currently being done in the medical field."

Faculty Supervisor: David Fenske (Chemistry)                      Award: \$1,000  
Program Heads:     David Fenske/Sharon Gillies (Biology)

### **Encapsulation of Daunorubicin within Liposomal Nanoparticles by Transition Metal Ion Complexation and pH Gradient Loading**

Liposomal nanoparticles (LN) are model membrane systems designed for the delivery of therapeutic agents, such as anticancer drugs, to sites of disease. LN can provide increased efficacy and decreased side effects because they target the drug to the tumour site, allowing it to avoid healthy tissue. However, drug efficacy is largely dependent on the local drug concentration and duration of drug exposure, which is related to the rate at which drug leaks from the liposomes, which in turn is correlated to factors such as the concentration of encapsulated drug and the presence of cation-drug complexes. The objective of this study was to characterize the uptake of the drug daunorubicin into LN containing various cations in both the presence and absence of a pH-gradient generating ionophore. The results show that daunorubicin can be loaded into LN by two distinct mechanisms: (1) uptake into LN containing an acidic interior, and (2) formation of complexes with certain cations, such as manganese and copper, allowing for drug uptake in the absence of a pH gradient. This information may be useful in designing future liposomal cancer treatments.

## **Business Administration**

---

### **Recipients: Carissa Wiens**

Carissa Wiens has attended UFV since 2005 and is set to graduate next year with a Bachelor's degree Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. This research was conducted for a Management of Innovation class but was also supported in an E-Marketing class.

Faculty Supervisor: Joe Ilsever

Award: \$1,000

Program Head: Mark Breedveld

### **Mobile Phones as New Innovative Tools in Advertising and Promotion: The Opportunities and Challenges of Short Message Services (SMS)**

In light of revolutionary technology growth in the past two decades, this research initiative investigates the opportunities and challenges in using Short Message Services (SMS) as an innovative tool in advertising and promotion. In doing so, the Technology Acceptance Model is expanded to better determine the extent users will respond to SMS messages. An attempt is made to profile customer segments ready to receive these messages and critical rules for marketing managers are outlined for designing effective messages.

Overall, SMS marketing is confirmed to achieve several marketing objectives including improving brand attitudes and raising brand awareness. A strategic implementation plan is discussed in light of the challenges and opportunities reported within SMS marketing.

## Chemistry

---

### Recipients: Heather Martens & Melissa Prachnau

**Heather** is heading into her final year of study at UFV, majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Biology. She has been working for Noham Weinberg for two years, and has loved doing research. Heather has enjoyed her time at UFV because of the friendly instructors, small class sizes, excellent lab work and the many opportunities for research. After graduating in 2011 Heather hopes to move on to graduate school and continue to do research.

**Melissa** is about to graduate from the Bachelor of Science program with a major in chemistry and a minor in biology. She chose UFV for her undergraduate degree because of its location, and chose to stay here because of the research opportunities and small class sizes coupled with great teaching offered by the university. Living in the Fraser Valley, she has had the opportunity to pursue other things, such as the great outdoors.

Faculty Supervisor: Noham Weinberg

Award: \$500 each

Program Head: David Fenske

### Effects of Pressure and Viscosity on Kinetics of Hydrogen Transfer Reactions in Hydrocarbon Systems

Oil plays a vital role in our society and is used in everything from fuels to plastics. Crude oil is a complex substance, consisting of different types of hydrocarbons including paraffins (saturated hydrocarbons), naphthenes (cyclic hydrocarbons) and aromatic hydrocarbons. Radical hydrogen transfer is an important reaction, which contributes to a wide range of petrochemical processes, from natural oil formation to industrial oil cracking.

A common assumption in oil kinetics is the neglect of pressure and viscosity effects. However, oil is a viscous liquid exposed to geochemical conditions of elevated temperatures and pressures. Therefore, it is important to understand how conditions of high pressure and viscosity affect the kinetics of petrochemical processes, including hydrogen transfer reactions.

In this study, we considered a symmetric reaction  $R\cdot + HR \rightarrow RH + R\cdot$  ( $R$  = various hydrocarbon radicals) in hexane solvent, and used molecular dynamics simulations to calculate pressure and viscosity effects on these processes. The results of our calculations of pressure effects are in good agreement with experimental data for similar processes. There are no experimental data on the viscosity dependence in the literature, which makes these calculations the only source of such information available.

## Computer Information Systems

---

### Recipient: Jeffery Perkins

Jeffery graduated from UFV in the spring of 2009 with a Bachelor of Science with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Computing Sciences. For a number of years he has been working in the UFV Molecular Modeling Lab on various computer simulation projects that involved extensive programming and algorithm development.

Faculty Supervisor: Noham Weinberg (Chemistry)      Award: \$1,000  
Program Head:      Ora Steyn

### Algorithm and Program Development for Molecular Dynamics Simulations

In the summer of 2009 Jeffery worked on the design and implementation of several programs, most important of which were the calculation of friction/diffusion coefficients along the reaction coordinate for reactions in viscous media and modeling of the active sites in a penicillin binding protein for simulations of its interactions with  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics.

In both of these projects he was responsible for researching background information and proper mathematical implementation of the desired programs, as well as coding the programs in C++, and testing and debugging the code. He also designed and implemented a number of computer utilities widely used in various projects carried out in the Molecular Modeling Lab.

## Criminology

---

### Recipient: Jennifer Armstrong

Jennifer graduates this year with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and plans to continue in the UFV Master of Arts in Criminal Justice in September. She will continue as a research assistant at the Centre for Criminal Justice Research and work part-time as a researcher at RCMP Headquarters. Jennifer's interest in this project stems from her first research methods class in which she developed a proposal to study auto thieves which was ultimately accepted by the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT). She presented this research at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference in San Diego in February. Jennifer's motivation is her two young daughters.

Faculty Supervisor: Darryl Plecas

Award: \$1,000

Program Head: Martin Silverstein

### Auto Thieves: Debunking the Myth

In 2008, Statistics Canada cited "joy riding" by youth as the leading reason for auto theft (Stats Canada, 2008). This finding is at odds with the work of the BC Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) which reports that BAIT car and enforcement team targeted arrestees are hardly ever youth, but in fact are seasoned adult offenders. To study these opposing positions, a criminal history analysis was conducted on three groups of auto thieves in British Columbia; those caught by BAIT car, those caught by the IMPACT enforcement team, and those caught by other means. Our research found no differences between the three groups of offenders studied. Further, auto thieves are not likely to be youths. Rather, 80% are adult offenders, and seasoned criminals (having on average 19 prior convictions each). Notably, both BAIT car and enforcement team arrestees did not obtain their first criminal conviction (on average) until at least 20 years of age. Our results are consistent with the findings of previous research (i.e. Zapotichny, 2004 and McCormick et al., 2007).

## English

---

### Recipient: Hilary Kim Morden

"My interest in the application of psychological theory to Shakespeare's tragedies was as a result of the fusion of my academic studies in literature, psychology, and criminology at UFV. When I returned to school I chose UFV because of its small class sizes, outstanding reputation and class ambience. I graduate this week with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in English and Psychology and a minor in Criminology. In the fall I begin my graduate studies in Psychology and Criminology at SFU."

Faculty Supervisor: Virginia Cooke  
Program Head: John Carroll

Award: \$1,000

#### **The Disordered, Disordered World of Shakespeare: A Psychological Analysis of the Tragic Character Pairs in *Othello* and *MacBeth***

"My goal in analyzing Shakespeare's tragedies through the lens of 21<sup>st</sup> century psychology was to provide for the modern audience a new, socially relevant way to understand the actions and behaviours of Shakespeare's characters. The long history of dialogue between the fields of literature and psychology has been largely dominated by Freud's psychodynamic theory with the focus on unconscious drives as the impetus for behaviour. However, modern psychological theory views behaviour more as the result of pervasive traits interacting with environmental forces.

Using this view I employed a diathesis-stress model of disordered personality to discover patterns of interlocking personality disorders in the characters of Shakespeare's plays, *Othello* and *Macbeth*. Analyzing the characters Iago and Othello through the diagnostic criteria of antisocial and avoidant personality disorders, and the characters of Lord and Lady Macbeth through the diagnostic criteria of borderline personality disorder, I was able to shed light on previously unexplored elements of the plays. This analysis provides new ways of understanding tragedy as the result of disordered thinking in concert with social and cultural forces rather than the result of moral failure, evil or strong emotions such as love or hate and opens up new interpretative possibilities for modern readers, directors and actors.

## Geography

---

### Recipient: Justine Cullen

“While I am always bugged by others about my love of rocks, it is actually glaciers, rivers and the landforms they leave on earths surface that really interest me. After I graduate from UFV I plan to complete a Master’s degree in earth sciences and where I hope I will have as many wonderful opportunities as I have experienced at my time at UFV.”

Faculty Supervisor: Olav Lian  
Program Head: Ken Brealey

Award: \$1,000

### **Optical Dating of a Climatically Significant Lithostratigraphic Unit, Muir Point, Southwestern British Columbia**

The sediments exposed at Muir Point, south-western Vancouver Island correlate to climatic events from the last glaciation to the over 130,000 years ago. One particular unit of sediment, closer to the top of the cliff exposure, has fossil material within it which represents a cooler and wetter climate than what is currently being experienced. Radiocarbon carbon dating was first attempted for this unit, however the fossil wood was older than what can be dated using this technique.

At this point optically-stimulated luminescence was used to attempt to date this unit; both quartz and feldspar minerals were used at the site and these yielded ages of 22,000 and 49,000 years respectively. Knowing that fossil organic material 22,000 years old can be dated using radiocarbon, it was concluded that the feldspar age of 49,000 years must be the age of the unit, and therefore also the age for the climate indicators round within it.

## History

---

### Recipient: Carley Baxter

"I am currently in my fourth and final year in the Bachelor of Arts program at UFV. I am majoring in English and taking an extended minor in History. Following the completion of my degree, I plan to complete a Master's of Library and Information Science. I am very interested in history, primarily Canadian social history. I became interested in the Mennonite migrants to Canada while taking a Mennonite history course at UFV. What I find particularly appealing about this group is their close sense of community. Many aspects of Mennonite culture serve to encourage the development of close communities. I chose to focus on Mennonite land use practices as one such aspect."

Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Messamore  
Program Head: Robin Anderson

Award: \$1,000

### **Mennonite Land Use and Society: The Mennonite Migrants to Canada of the 1870's**

The Mennonites who travelled from Russia to North America in the 1870's brought with them a particular set of land ownership and inheritance practices. These Mennonites practiced bilateral, partible inheritance, which means that estates were divided equally among all children, both sons and daughters. These Mennonites also brought with them a distinct village formation. They largely ignored the quarter-mile land allotments given to each individual in the East and West reserves of Manitoba, and chose instead to centre all houses in a village on a single street and to divide the remaining farm land into equal strips.

The commitment displayed by these Mennonites to these land use and transfer practices does not reflect adherence to tradition alone. These land use practices aided the Mennonites in maintaining their distinct culture in Canada as they had in Russia by encouraging community centred, cohesive societies, that were separated from the mainstream, Canadian society.

## Indo Canadian Studies

---

### Recipient: Rajvinder Heer

"I am currently enrolled in the second year of the Social Services diploma program and plan to enroll in the Bachelor of Social Work. I feel extremely proud to be a student and researcher at UFV because it gives me, and others, many opportunities to take part in research projects that involve the community. I thoroughly enjoy working with the community and people in general which is why I became involved with the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies (CICS). I have worked as a volunteer, work study student, research assistant and research intern at the Centre for close to two years."

Faculty Supervisor: Satwinder Bains  
Program Head: Satwinder Bains

Award: \$1,000

### **Portraits of Canadians Abroad – Canadian Citizens Residing in Punjab, India: An Overview of Migrations and Patterns**

"While in India I interviewed approximately 40 Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents who were living in the north west region of Punjab. I found that many of the younger couples returned to India because they felt their children's primary education would be better in India because there is more discipline within India's school system and they were able to learn multiple languages. In comparison to Canada, the pace of life in India is felt to be much more laid back and peaceful; whereas in Canada there was 'never time to relax'."

Other common themes emerged including lack of domestic help, access to jobs, and qualifications not being recognized, forcing them to return to India.

"The interviews generated a series of questions regarding immigration policies, education in primary schools, and the heavy tax load, which was another reason why citizens returned."

## Mathematics & Statistics

---

### Recipient: Matthew Wiersma

Matthew Wiersma became interested in the research project on Numerical Integration after taking a course with the faculty supervisor, Dr Erik Talvila. Matthew is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Mathematics and intends to further pursue math at the graduate level.

Faculty Supervisor: Erik Talvila  
Program Head: Greg Schlitt

Award: \$1,000

### Numerical Integration

Integration is an important concept in Calculus with applications in areas such as science, engineering, and finance. One of the reasons that integration is important is because it generalizes the problem of finding the areas of plane regions. Numerical integration is a method of estimating the definite integral of a function. In first year Calculus, students are taught some methods of numerical integration: namely the Trapezoidal Rule, the Midpoint Rule, and Simpson's Rule. These students are usually shown error estimates for these techniques, but are not taught where these estimates come from or why they are accurate.

During this project, elementary proofs of error estimates for each of these techniques were produced. Additionally, new techniques of numerical integration were derived, some of which compare quite favourably to the aforementioned algorithms. The results produced during this project could potentially be used to enrich the first year Calculus curriculum.

## Philosophy

---

### Recipient: William Brooke

"I am a third year Philosophy student. I intend to pursue a career as an ethics consultant for both the private and public sector. To this end my education plans include graduate level work in philosophy, culminating in a doctorate degree in applied ethics, as well as training in law. I became interested in this project through my readings in Anastasia Anderson's 364 class. I continue to choose UFV because the instructors are able to spend a great deal of time with my questions and concerns."

Faculty Supervisor: Anastasia Anderson  
Program Head: Hamish Telford

Award: \$1,000

### Richard Rorty's Children

This paper investigates issues in the philosophy of children and childhood through the lens of Richard Rorty's philosophical work. Elements of Rorty's work are drawn from *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*, *Consequences of Pragmatism* and *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*.

The results of this investigation address important questions about the nature of childhood, and can help to shape contemporary views on moral development in childhood, the definition of a child, and the practice of philosophy for children.

## Physics

---

### Recipient: Liam Huber

Liam graduated from UFV in the spring of 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and performed this research the following summer. Since September he has been pursuing his Master of Science degree in computational physics at UBC.

Faculty Supervisor: Noham Weinberg  
Program Head: Norm Taylor

Award: \$1,000

### Development of a New Constant Pressure Molecular Dynamics Algorithm

Molecular Dynamics (MD) is the atomistic simulation of matter using Newtonian mechanics to move a system of particles forwards through time. In its natural setting, MD simulates systems at constant volume and energy rather than at constant pressure and temperature, which constitute typically controlled experimental parameters. Special techniques are required to maintain constant pressure in MD simulations.

The algorithms currently in use are ad hoc procedures that check current pressure and rescale the size of the system to achieve the desired value. We devised an alternative model in which pressure coupling is accomplished by including an expansion term directly in the system's Hamiltonian. As a result, the dynamics of the system automatically maintains pressure at a set level without rescaling coordinates.

## Political Science

---

### Recipient: Justin Morgan

Justin is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English, a minor in Applied Philosophy/Political Science, and a minor in Economics. After graduation, he plans to take a year off, in which he hopes to become fluent in French and pursue his interest in creative writing. He is planning to pursue a law degree.

Faculty Supervisor: Hamish Telford  
Program Head: Hamish Telford

Award: \$1,000

### **The Strangeness of Queer: A Distillation of Dominant Thoughts in Queer Theory**

This paper explores the various social constructs behind the term “queer.” The historical development of the term is explored both in an ancient and modern sense, and the work of several post-modern philosophers are examined in this context, particularly Judith Butler’s groundbreaking Gender Trouble.

Drawing on this work, the paper concludes with an examination of the role of taboo and stigma in the development of apparent sexual defect and the use of bondage and domination practices as a psychotherapeutic exercise.

## Psychology

---

### Recipient: Chelsey Moore

Chelsey started this project almost two years ago after noticing how difficult it was to retain lecture material when professors would supplement the main ideas of the course with personal stories, random tangents, or even the odd joke. The goal of this project will be to eventually determine which types of extraneous details are beneficial to students' learning and which types are detrimental. Once finished at UFV, Chelsey plans to pursue a Master's degree in Sport Psychology with a focus on performance anxiety and perfectionism in youth elite level sports, at the University of Alberta.

Faculty Supervisors: Andrea Hughes & Wayne Podrouzek    Award: \$1,000  
Program Head:        Wayne Podrouzek

#### **Seductive Details, Levels of Interest, and Gender: Effects on Academic Recognition of Text**

Pressure for professors to keep students engaged and interested in lecture material may result in them using jokes, stories, or random facts to make the material more interesting. These extraneous pieces of information are referred to as seductive details, highly interesting but unimportant pieces of information included in text or lecture. This study examines the effects of seductive details, gender, and level of interestingness on a multiple choice test of the material. Participants read one of six texts. There were two text topics, social impact theory and neural firing. For each topic there were three levels of seductive details: none, related, and non-related. When participants finished reading the text they completed a multiple choice quiz to test recognition of text material.

The results showed no difference in test scores as a function of any of the variables. Results are discussed in terms of the effects of seductive details in reading text as opposed to listening to lectures, recognition as opposed to recall of material, and time delay of test.

## Social, Cultural & Media Studies

---

### Recipient: Brenna Lewang

"I am a fourth year student at UFV majoring in Psychology. My ultimate goal is to continue my education after my Bachelor's degree to become a teacher. I started this paper as a project for one of my classes but quickly became consumed with fascination as I had never done qualitative research before. I am attending UFV because of its location and good student to professor ratio which allows for me to be active in my studies while still being close to home."

Faculty Supervisor: Chantelle Marlor  
Program Head: Eric Spalding

Award: \$1,000

### **A Qualitative Analysis of *The Singing Sisters*: Is It A Community?**

"My project takes a close look at the Singing Sisters, a women's chorus, so as to explore conceptions of community and whether or not the chorus is in fact a community. What exactly can or cannot be considered a community is unclear, both in sociology and in our everyday lives.

In the paper I draw on a number of sociological articles to help me describe, frame and analyze what I observed and heard while doing qualitative research on the Singing Sisters so as to answer the question of whether or not they are a community."

## Social Work and Human Services

---

### Recipient: Christina Henderson

"I am a single mother with two daughters. I have a passion for working with, and empowering families to overcome difficulties in their lives. I specifically love working with women and youth. Future career and educational goals including completing a Master's degree in Social Work to increase my skills and capacity to better serve these populations. I chose UFV because it has an excellent reputation; I loved the small class sizes and the resulting quality of education I received."

Faculty Supervisors: Adrienne Chan, Lisa Moy, Rita Dhamoon (Philosophy)

Program Head: Elizabeth Dow

Award: \$1,000

### Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism: How Students Learn

This research aimed to explore the ways in which students learn about difficult content areas, specifically about race and racism. "Difficult content" is defined as content that students find emotionally charged or where students are resistant to learning. Previous research has demonstrated students from privileged class backgrounds often respond to these issues with guilt, anger, and resistance (Bohmer & Briggs, 1991).

The research sought to identify the most effective means of engaging students through use of resources, assignments, tools, and materials, to identify how students measure their progress in learning, and to identify barriers to learning in the classroom. Specific courses, Social Work 320, Political Science 332, and Political Science 100, were identified as teaching material that deals with race and racism. Students who had taken one or more of these courses were asked to participate in a survey as well as a semi-structured interview. Through this process, themes were generated such as the need for students to have time to process and reflect on difficult content material, the usefulness of guest speakers and small group discussions, and the need to ensure safety in the classroom for visible minority students. These themes have generated new approaches and some possible "best practices" for teaching and learning difficult material in the classroom.

## UFV 2009 Highlights

---

The year 2009 was a significant one for UFV in many ways. UFV marked its 35th anniversary in April, we celebrated the first graduates to complete their studies at the newly named University of the Fraser Valley in June, and we welcomed our fifth president and vice-chancellor, Dr. Mark Evered, in July.

UFV topped the list in the *Globe and Mail's* annual *Canadian University Report*. The report is based on surveys of undergraduate students at universities of all sizes across Canada. UFV earned the most As and A+s of any BC public university, and was recognized as offering the best teaching of *any* public university in the province.

### **UFV also:**

- signed a historic agreement with the **Mennonite Faith and Learning Society** that will help launch Mennonite studies courses at UFV
- appointed an **advisor on indigenous affairs** to guide the ongoing process of indigenizing UFV
- partnered with **Chrysler Canada** for an **advanced vehicle technology centre**
- saw the completion of its third year of offering its BBA program in **Chandigarh, India**, and further developed Indo-Canadian studies programming in Canada
- congratulated the first-ever graduates of UFV's year-long **Indigenous Arts certificate**
- launched a **Global Development Institute**
- presented a series of special events commemorating the **200<sup>th</sup> birthday** of evolutionary biologist **Charles Darwin**
- opened a newly renovated **\$20-million** classroom block featuring business and visual arts wings
- received **\$7.22 million** in federal and provincial work to do infrastructure work at the new Chilliwack campus at the **Canada Education Park**
- hosted journalist **Gwynne Dyer**, authors **Joseph Boyden** and **M.G. Vassanji**, Nobel Prize-winning climate scientist **Dr. Andrew Weaver**, and many other guest speakers

- 
- hosted presentations on the holocaust, global development and international aid, gun control, capital punishment's history in Canada, and climate change
  - put on a season of theatre, a fashion show, a health fair, a poetry slam, a literary café, gallery exhibits, and a full season of high-level university athletics competition
  - made science 'rock' for elementary school students with **summer science camps**
  - introduced new courses in the **Fraser Cascade school district** (Agassiz and Hope)
  - established a **Centre for Social Research**, named for generous donors **Gladys and Harvey Kipp**
  - launched new Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing, and Plumbing and Piping trades certificates
  - offered a **new three-year option** for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree
  - honoured psychologist **Sven van de Wettering** with the Teaching Excellence award and the late **Autumn Jenkinson** with our Distinguished Alumni award
  - received more than **\$1.35 million** from **603 donors**
  - continued to support numerous faculty research initiatives, in areas as diverse as child-friendly civic planning, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, aboriginal involvement in World War II, prescription misuse, and voluntary self-exclusion from casinos.

Check our web site ([www.ufv.ca](http://www.ufv.ca)) for more exciting news & events.

Thank you for joining us  
for this special recognition of student achievements!

