

write my parent's biography



own a used bookstore



tutor ESL students

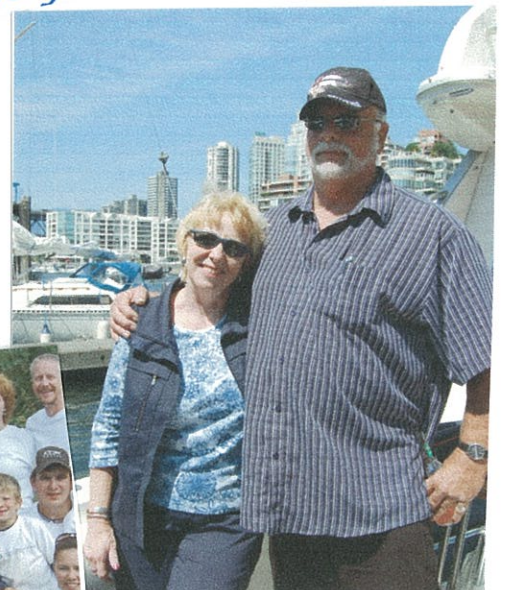
future goals



lots of gardening



learn to play the piano



spend time with my family and friends



GOALS PAPER

In order for me to expound on my future goals, I have had to examine what goals I have set in the past. In doing that, I have found three areas in my life which I see now I focused on and they have built on each other and are still very much interconnected with my personal satisfaction: **educational**

satisfaction, **role modeling/mentoring**, and **career achievement**. These three areas have become a tremendous part of my life and all three are still in progress. I have been extremely blessed that I was able to instill my values and belief system into these three areas.

Education:

Furthering my education, both formally and informally has been a personal goal I have strived to achieve. There is nothing better than the feeling of completing something that you have worked so hard to achieve. Having the desire and fulfillment from accomplishment has kept me motivated. One of my dreams was to complete my undergraduate degree. Completing my master's degree and then later a diploma in T.E.S.L was just a bonus. I'm not sure what the future holds for me in this realm, but I have no doubt that I will be involved in some fashion in life-long learning. I would like to learn how to play the piano. My parents have already indicated that they would like to give me their piano when they have to down-size. I also want to write my parent's biography and in order for me to accomplish that, I will need to take courses to learn various writing techniques and develop my own style.

Role modeling and mentoring :

Not only did my educational satisfaction matter, but so did my ability to set the example and become a positive role model for others. I wanted to be a mentor to my students by leading from example. Training employees at work put me in a position where I had to "walk the talk", putting my values into practice.

My children's perception of me has been extremely important to me. I tried to teach them the right things to do – not to steal, cheat, or lie. Most importantly I wanted them to be sensitive and show compassion to others and not give up on their dreams. My own mother and father showed me the importance of "unconditional love" and demonstrated that through their love for me. I remember my mother's garden as she planted, pruned, and tilled, labouring with love and laughter as she filled this world with joy. I remember her patience and I'm happy in the knowledge that when she knelt in the soil, it wasn't just flowers she was growing. I learned much from my mother and I hope that I can be half the role model to my children as she has been to me.

Now that I have grandchildren, I see my task as a role model once more coming to the front. I have such a lot of fun with them, teaching them at the same time godly

principles. My heart skips a beat when I hear them running and calling, 'Nana, Nana,'. I love reading them book after book after book, giving them advice and guidance as the occasion calls for it, encouraging them in the use of their talents, teaching them about respect, teaching through example.

My own Oma was a remarkable woman, a wonderful combination of warmth and kindness, laughter and love. She overlooked my faults, encouraged my dreams, praised my successes, prayed for me everyday. She had the wisdom of a teacher, the sincerity of a true friend and the tenderness of a mother. She was someone I admired, respected and loved very much. I had such a good role model in her and this is what I want to be to my own granddaughters as well and so my grandmother through her modeling has passed on the baton for me to teach through example .

Career goals:

My career goals and my educational experience are very interlinked and they continue to be so. Prior to becoming a student at Fraser Valley College, I was content to work at B.C. Telephone Co as a repair service operator – money was good, co-workers were great, no shift-work was required. I really never gave a career goal much thought at that point. My husband was a teacher, we had a small child and working part-time at B.C. Tel was sufficient for our lifestyle. Fraser Valley College became a reality for the community members in the lower mainland in 1974. Though my academic standing at high school left a lot to be desired, I had always liked the social aspect of school. When my husband suggested that I take one course to see if I liked it, I decided I had nothing to lose so registered for my first course. To my complete surprise, I did very well academically in that course. My first college instructor, Leona Gom was very encouraging and gave me the confidence that I needed to continue on with my studies. I spent a lot of time in the college's learning resource centre, getting to know one of the librarians (Jaye Gallagher) fairly well. It was in the fall of 1975 when she suggested that I work there part-time (since I was spending so much time there already) and so it was in January of 1976 that I became an employee of F.V.C. (with no interview or selection committee to decide). It was at this time (perhaps the influence of an educational environment has something to do with it) that I decided to become an educator of some sort, 'maybe a kindergarten teacher', I thought.

When I first set some career goals, I wanted to make sure my goals were compatible with my value system and my interests and practical enough to reach in a reasonable amount of time. I also had to consider the fact that I had younger children and I wanted to be available to them when they needed me. Because of those considerations, I also knew that I had to break my career goals down into smaller, more manageable steps. In addition, I needed to know in what order I should work towards each step to achieve my major goal. It's interesting, though that some of the steps that that I took, took a life of their own and because of strong leadership in my life (Susan Witter), I went "with the flow" and benefited greatly from Susan's influence.

One job within the college led to another and yet another and that's been pretty much the journey that I've taken while at FVC/UCFV/UFV. I kept taking courses (usually one course per semester) – no wonder it took me thirteen years to complete my undergraduate degree. It was in the fall of 1982 when my husband and I separated and I became a single mother (I was very blessed that my husband took an active role in raising our children). It was at that time that I decided that whatever career I would end up with, had to improve my life, specifically the financial side of my life. I became very committed to that goal. It wasn't always easy. I was working in the Audio Visual Department at the time and I had to work one evening a week. Thanks to the graciousness of my supervisor at the time (Gary Carleton), I was allowed to bring my children to work for that particular evening and my work became a "family" job.

Whenever my motivation started to wane, other people boosted my energy level and helped me to feel more driven. I started working for the Continuing Education department October 1, 1984 and it was Susan Witter who gave me positive feedback and assisted me in reaching my educational goal.

My career goals evolved as I was able to move "up" from within FVC/UCFV/UFV. I also wanted to improve myself within the knowledge of the different careers that I had at UFV so I took many workshops and shorter type courses on the side. I am delighted to say that the positions that I have held at FVC/UCFV/UFV have all been instrumental in achieving my career goals. I mentioned earlier that I had thought of being a kindergarten teacher and though I never became a kindergarten teacher as such, I did become an ESL instructor which I thoroughly loved. I thought so highly of Susan Witter and the guidance she gave me that I thought I would like to pass on the knowledge and experience to others that I obtained under Susan's leadership. I have been again completely blessed with the position of Director of Continuing Studies, a position that I had at one time desired and a position that has allowed me to emulate Susan.

In conclusion, this perspective of my personal educational and career goals leads me to believe that my past experiences will continue to give me direction for future goals, whether that be learning to play the piano, tutoring new immigrants and/or international students, owning a used bookstore, or simply being a "nana". The future will be another journey, that will be both challenging and the same time rewarding.