

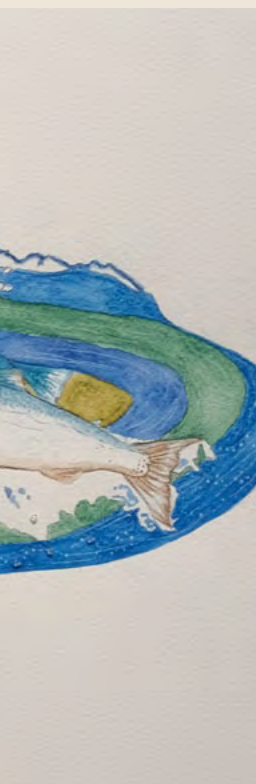
UFV 2025 COMMUNITY REPORT

St'elt'elawtexw

Celebrating community across the Fraser Valley







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Dr. James
Mandigo

PRESIDENT AND
VICE-CHANCELLOR

"Universities can be changemakers — creating long-lasting impact on the social and economic development of communities through meaningful, reciprocal engagement."

Ey Swáyel,

The UFV motto, *Íyáqáwtxw*, meaning House of Transformation, embraces the belief that when universities are actively engaged, they have the potential to be changemakers that create long-lasting impact on the social, cultural, and economic development of communities. That's also a long-held belief of mine, and I see it every day at UFV.

UFV's recent official designation as a Changemaker Campus by the prestigious Ashoka Network is a testament to the many people at UFV committed to ensuring that we are driving positive change and making a lasting impact.

UFV's vision is to be known as a gathering place for learners, leaders, and seekers, and to pursue diverse pathways of scholarship, leading to community connection, reconciliation, and prosperity, locally and beyond. This starts by ensuring that while we think globally in order to be responsible global citizens, we also need to act locally through evidence-informed practice to ensure we're having a positive impact on the communities that we serve. It's critical to be actively engaged with community leaders and members in meaningful ways to foster thriving communities.

Through this symbiotic relationship, universities can have the greatest impact on society.

This year's Community Report highlights the abundance of expertise and talent at UFV and across the Fraser Valley from a diverse spectrum of areas. These collaborative efforts have the potential to drive both regional impact and global influence that will put the Fraser Valley on the map as a place of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The communities that surround UFV campuses are vital to what we do. They motivate us and collaborate with us, sharing UFV's mission of engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community. It's what UFV and its community partners have done for the past 50 years and will continue to do for 50 years forward and beyond.

As I begin my journey as UFV president and vice-chancellor, building on the foundation set in place by those before me, and walking alongside the students, faculty, staff, alumni, volunteers, and our broader community, I see the university and its surrounding communities on an exciting path together.

With your support, I have no doubt that the best is truly yet to come.

Kw'as hoy

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James Mandigo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Mandigo" clearly legible.

Introduction



Susan
Mide Kiss

VICE-PRESIDENT,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

"As we build community 50 years forward, we do so with purpose: guided by a new framework, grounded in community, and inspired by changemaking spirit."

As a new academic year begins, I find myself reflecting not just on what's ahead but also on all we've built over the past year. From the vibrant celebrations of UFV's 50th anniversary to the deep, meaningful conversations we've had with our communities, this milestone year has reminded me of the power of connection — to place, to purpose, and to one another.

It's in that spirit of connection that we look forward. This fall, the Office of Community Engagement, together with a network of university and community partners, will begin a journey to co-create UFV's first Community Engagement Framework. This framework will guide our efforts as we deepen relationships, foster trust, and work collaboratively to make a meaningful, lasting impact — whether through changemaking initiatives rooted in social equity, reinforcing our leadership as a student-ready university, or taking a holistic One Health approach to addressing complex issues facing our local and global communities.

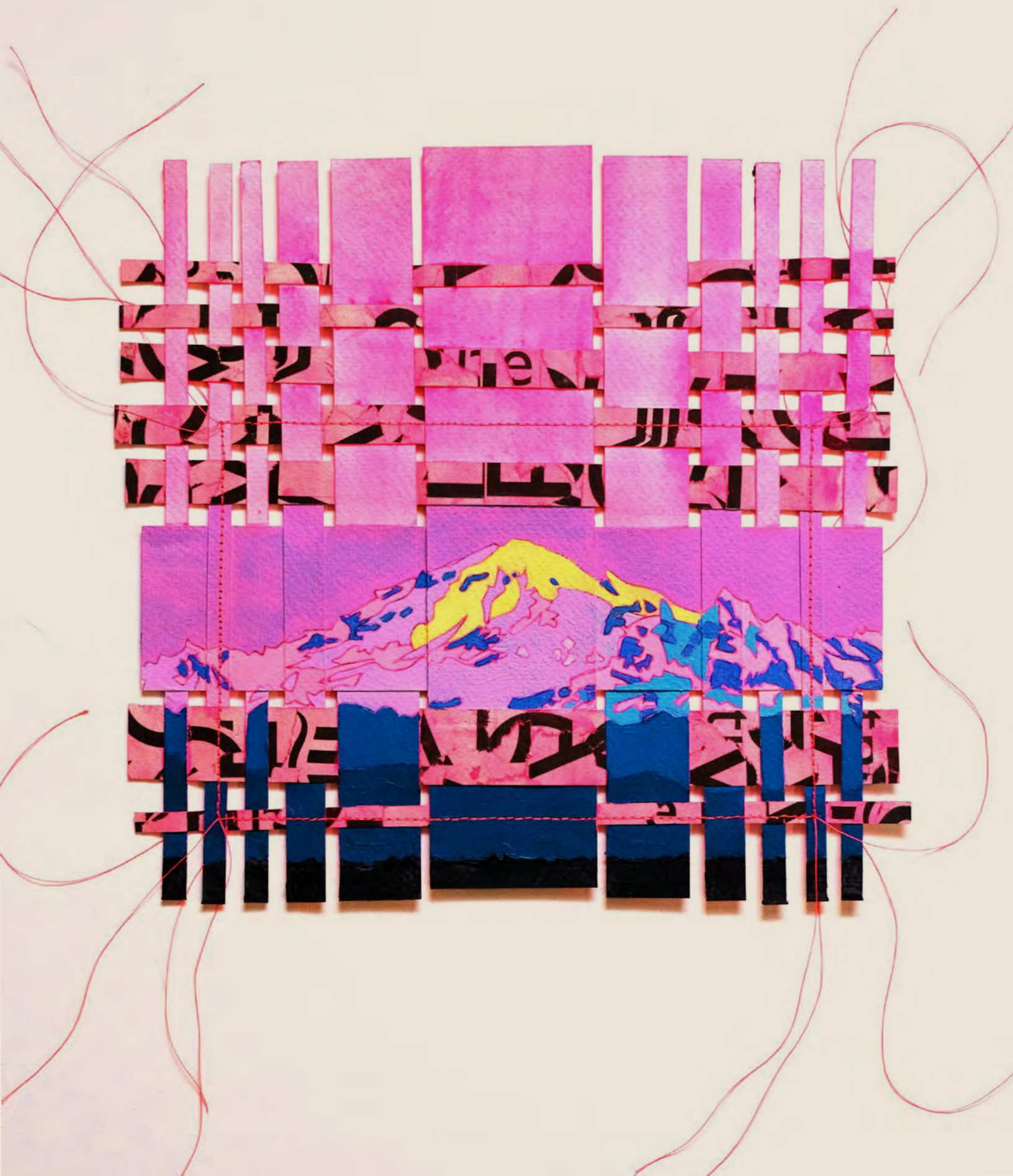
UFV's recent designation as an Ashoka Changemaker Campus affirms this commitment and reflects the innovation and collaboration already embedded in our culture.

The stories ahead reflect the ways valued members of UFV and the broader community are rising to meet the moment, from bold community-driven research and student success to social innovation and leadership. It's a collaborative approach that responds to the complex needs of our world and embodies the kind of leadership our communities require.

As we build community 50 years forward, we do so with purpose: guided by a new framework, grounded in community, and inspired by the changemaking spirit that permeates our campuses. We're embedding that spirit in everything we do — with, and for, the people we serve and lead.

Yalh yexw kw'es hoy — thank you for what you have done.

Susan Mide Kiss





/ Q'UM Q'UM XIEM, OC, DR. JO-ANN ARCHIBALD, UFV CHANCELLOR /

Engaging Learners *Yoystexw Ye Totilthet*

"With such a vibrant tapestry of different cultural, professional, and geographic backgrounds, there is so much to learn from one another."

The year since our last publication of *St'elt'elawtexw* has truly exemplified the multi-dimensional meanings of "community" at UFV. In celebration of UFV's 50th anniversary, thousands of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and local partners gathered at memorable events to commemorate what makes this place of learning so special. Gatherings such as Convocation, Alumni & Friends Weekend, and the UFV 50 opening ceremony provided many people from all over our community with the opportunity to connect, reflect, and share.

I have been inspired by so many stories of innovation, creativity, and resilience while getting to know the many individuals that contribute to building and sustaining diverse communities at and associated with UFV. Many of these stories have started to address pressing challenges of equity, diversity, inclusion, and climate emergency. The pages in this community report are just a few examples. I hope they inspire you to seek out more: more connections, more stories, and ways to create and maintain deeper ties to the communities around you.

With such a vibrant tapestry of different cultural, professional, and geographic backgrounds, there is so much to learn from one another. As UFV seeks to engage learners and transform lives, this unique sense of *St'elt'elawtexw* is steadfast support of our students' journeys to graduation and beyond.

This report marks the end of my first year as chancellor of this close-knit community. Looking back, I'm very grateful to be a part of it — and in looking forward, I am more energized than ever to see what next year has in store.

◀ *Paula has held many roles at UFV: student, teacher, advisor, coach, and artist. Her art fuses abstraction with geometric and realist marks, reflecting the tension and fluidity of the human journey. Masthead and Mountain layers Cascade newspaper masthead strips with a painting of Mount Baker, symbolizing the synergy and support between university and community. Fragmentation suggests dynamism, while lattice references mutual support. Paula's vibrant colours create an atmosphere of positivity, openness, and healing, embodying hope for personal and collective wellbeing.*





A woven cedar baseball cap. Indigenous students often wear specially crafted regalia at graduation celebrations.

/ ENGAGING LEARNERS FEATURE /

First cohort of UFV Halq'eméylem graduates helps keep Stó:lō language alive

One key to supporting a language is ensuring that people are trained to teach it

Mary Stewart never planned on being a teacher, until she found herself in the first-ever Halq'eméylem class at the Stó:lō Shxwelí Halq'eméylem Language Program through the Stó:lō Nation Agency. She was 36, with a UFV Social Services diploma under her belt and a permanent job lined up. But when the opportunity came to learn Upriver Halq'eméylem from fluent Stó:lō Elders, she couldn't say no.

"They offered classes during the day. It was all day. So, I gave up my job and started learning Upriver Halq'eméylem. It was only going to be for six months — but it's been a lifelong journey."

Growing up on the Kwantlen First Nation (then known as the Fort Langley Reserve) in the 1970s, Mary had long wondered about her cultural history. Why was their location called McMillan Island? What was its relationship to the nearby Fort Langley National Historic Site?

And why did no one in her village speak their traditional language?

“So I said, okay, we have our own language. I’ll find out what it is. When I do, I want to learn,” Mary recalls. “I’ve always had that desire.”

With that desire, she mastered the language enough to become an associate professor in UFV’s Modern Languages department, where she’s made a career teaching Halq’eméylem to a new generation of learners. Upriver Halq’eméylem is a dialect of Halkomelem, spoken in communities all along the Fraser River and its tributaries, on Vancouver Island from Malahat to Nanoose and along the Cowichan River, and some areas of Washington.

Though thousands of years old, the oral language was first written down in 1976 by the Coqualeetza Elders Group. UFV honorary degree recipients Ts’áts’ellexwot Elizabeth Herrling and Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips were both members of that group, recognized in 2004 and 2018 for their efforts to preserve their language.

Dr. Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips received an honorary degree from UFV in 2018 in recognition of her quest to preserve the Halq’eméylem language, as did Dr. Ts’áts’ellexwot Elizabeth Herrling in 2004.

“The Elders said, ‘Well, our children are going to public school now and are not going to be learning the language there.’ They said we’ll start documenting the language, because we didn’t have a writing system at that time. So, they worked with linguist Brent Galloway and created the orthography,” Mary explains.

Mary was one of their first cohort of 20 students, and one of five who’ve carried on teaching the language. She’s been doing so for the past 30 years.

At UFV in 2005, she taught Halq’eméylem as a single course, which has now grown to an entire graduate diploma program. UFV’s first cohort of eight Halq’eméylem graduates recently crossed the stage on June 11 and celebrated at a special ceremony in the Gathering Place on UFV’s Chilliwack campus on June 18. While Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips is the only living speaker of Halq’eméylem who was fluent from childhood, this graduate diploma program will keep the words alive in the minds of many more.

Mary’s teachers impressed upon her the importance of teaching the language with love. She uses multiple strategies to engage her students and make lessons memorable. Storytelling and in-person discussion are vital parts of her instruction, as well as Accelerated Integrated Methodology (AIM). AIM involves the use of gestures to teach language faster and more effectively. Some gestures use symbols from American Sign Language, which has roots in Indigenous “hand talk,” and others were collaboratively invented by the students.





One of Mary's students, Siyámíya Dianna Kay, will follow in her footsteps just as Mary followed in those of her Elders. Dianna, along with many of her classmates, will be returning home with her new knowledge to teach Halq'eméylem.

Dianna's family has lived on Seabird Island for generations; with her new credential, she aims to preserve the language there and help create a new generation of fluent speakers. Like many other graduates in her cohort, Dianna was balancing full-time work as an educator on top of finishing her studies. Next, she'll be completing her PhD in Education and Language Revitalization at the University of Victoria.

"It was so important that we do this work to make our teaching more robust, and to grow the language. We just want to be better at our jobs."

Her favourite phrase she's learned so far is "wiyóth kwsu éys te sqwálewels te lólets'e," which means "always be a good person with good thoughts."

"The language is the voice of our land," Dianna says. "It's the way the land communicates through me. It's a connection to my past that helps me understand the Stó:lō worldview, our cultural and traditional teachings. It makes me feel closer to my ancestors."

'The land is lonely for the language,' goes the expression shared by Elder Elizabeth Phillips. After years of loss and forced assimilation, many voices are joining together to sing the Halq'eméylem language into being. Mary, Dianna, and all her fellow graduates add their voices to the song — answering the call of the place where they've always belonged.

Graduates of the Halq'eméylem Language diploma program along with their instructors: Front row: Professor Mary Stewart, Sophia Moreno, Beatrice Stewart, Diana Charlie, Brenda Pierre, Courtney Charlie, Elder Denise Douglas. Second row: Leanne Joe, Diana Kay, Dallas James and children.

"I always had a desire to learn our language,"

■ MARY STEWART

/ ENGAGING LEARNERS PORTRAIT /

Dr. Jelena Brcic examines the successes and challenges faced by women in search and rescue

Women bring a unique perspective to search and rescue



The natural beauty that surrounds UFV's campuses is breathtaking and draws people into activities such as hiking and river rafting as a result. Sometimes that can lead to serious trouble, however. People wander off marked trails and get lost in the wilderness or stranded on the river. When that happens, brave women and men jump in to action to help.

Search and rescue (SAR) organizations across Canada save lives, tackling treacherous terrain to bring people back to safety. But do we offer enough support to these selfless volunteers who put their lives on the line? That's the question that's been on Dr. Jelena Brcic's mind, specifically as it relates to women search and rescue members.

Jelena is an associate professor at UFV's School of Business. She's embarked on a two-year research project powered by a grant from Public Safety Canada: Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund. Through surveys and interviews, she's exploring the unique successes and challenges faced by women volunteers, and identifying areas for improvement relating to equity, inclusivity, and diversity within Canadian SAR teams.

It is Jelena's hope that the research sheds light on the vital contributions of women in

SAR while also driving meaningful changes to support and empower all volunteers. UFV students who assist her will play a significant role in writing papers and creating posters, and they'll experience one of Jelena's favourite parts of the work when they share their findings with SAR volunteers.

"I love that we'll be able to present our findings to the people who go into these unforgiving environments," Jelena muses. "We learn something from their experiences, and it's nice sharing what we've learned with them."

"That's what draws me into the work, and that's what drives me."

This project is different from work that Jelena has previously done, but it ties into an ongoing theme of studying how teams function in extreme and unusual environments.

Jelena describes her research as "really cool," and she knows the SAR volunteers she speaks to will have amazing tales to tell.

"This marries two of my passions — advocating for women, and my work in extreme environments — and it's new and exciting work," she says. "I'm looking forward to seeing what comes from it, and I suspect it ends up being more than one project. I think we're going to learn a lot and we're going to want to learn even more."

/ ENGAGING LEARNERS PORTRAIT /

UFV students gain hands-on experience through a cross-disciplinary project with Tourism Abbotsford

Students from several disciplines collaborate on special project



The *Experience the Fraser* project honoured one of our region's most precious resources: Stó:lō Téméxw's Fraser River.

The project is part of a province-wide initiative to increase access to the Fraser River and raise awareness of its potential as a tourism destination.

A collaboration between UFV and lead community partner Tourism Abbotsford, the project invited students to use geographic information systems (GIS), urban design, Indigenous storytelling, and trauma-informed narrative to gather and share community perspectives on the river.

Students from four academic disciplines came together to participate in this work-integrated learning experience.

Tourism Abbotsford also opened the project to a wider network of organizations and professionals committed to the health of the Fraser and its surrounding communities, including Indigenous partners.

The participating courses were woven together by the idea of collaborative storytelling processes and relationship building. Learning activities ranged from conducting in-depth semester-long research to creating communication strategies around storytelling,

observing recreational and cultural activities, and engaging in tactical urbanism, GIS mapping, and place-making.

Students were also introduced to the history of Indigenous communities along the shores of the Fraser. Two developments stood out. First, students responded with genuine passion and curiosity — many shared that exploring the Fraser River and learning about local Indigenous history gave them a deeper connection to place, even though none of their courses were in the History discipline. Second, students created a commemorative tile mosaic that captured the community's relationship with the river. Six of the tiles form a continuous river design, a symbolic tribute to what they learned and experienced throughout the project.



Scan or click the QR code to visit UFV's Flickr account and see photos of the *Experience the Fraser* project.

A | Dr. Luisa Giles demonstrates link between wildfire smoke and mental health

Dr. Luisa Giles always feels unsettled when wildfire smoke starts drifting into the Fraser Valley. A research project led by Luisa that was published in November 2024 confirms that she's not the only one feeling uneasy about this. Participants filled out a detailed questionnaire that demonstrated that on smoky days, they reported spending more time commuting by vehicle and less time by bike, while generally doing less physical activity outdoors. They also revealed an increase in symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression.

"The results suggest that we need to find ways to support people so they can remain active during times of wildfire smoke. This could help both physical health and mental well-being," Luisa says.

Wildfire smoke will continue to be an issue due to climate change, and Luisa hopes the study will spark conversation about solutions.

B | Cracking hazelnuts and commerce: UFV researcher bridges the gap

A decade ago, B.C.'s hazelnut industry was in crisis. Stricken by Eastern Filbert Blight,

orchard after orchard in the Fraser Valley was wiped out.

Now, the hazelnut industry is ready for a comeback with help from UFV's Dr. Chris Bodnar, a former farmer who spent 18 years in the industry. He is working alongside a new generation of growers, crunching their numbers and helping them understand the new business environment.

"The industry is really starting from scratch, because a lot of former growers retired, and most of the growers who are in it right now don't have experience," Chris says.

"UFV research can help by testing ideas, measuring results, and providing numbers and evidence that back up or refute the gut feelings people have."

"That will lead to wiser decisions."

C | Career-mapping tool helps students find their footing

There's a common misconception that people with bachelor's degrees in the liberal arts end up in service jobs that don't fully utilize their skills and knowledge. But a project led by Dr. Linda Pardy, Dr. Michael Batu, and Dr. Michael Maschek of UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub suggests otherwise.

A



B



A career mapping tool presents many job possibilities for liberal arts grads and others in an interactive and visually appealing way.

"The career mapping tool doesn't narrow down your options: it expands them," Linda says.

Is someone who excels in geography class destined to become a social studies teacher? Look up humanities in the career mapping tool and you'll see that's just one of 155 career possibilities. You can pursue 105 of these careers with the degree alone. Another 50 require more education, but there's no shortage of choices.

D | *Macbeth* returns to the UFV stage

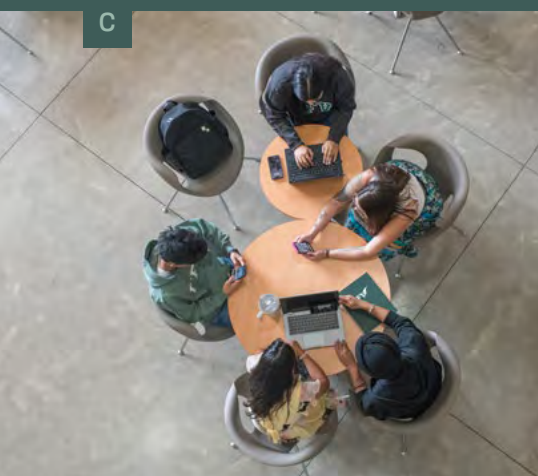
UFV Theatre brought Shakespeare's *Macbeth* back to the stage for the third time this year. Re-imagined in the year 2054, the play follows the dramatic rise and fall of a general driven to murder and madness by his own ambition. Dr. Bruce Kirkley, who retired in 2022, returned to direct. For Bruce, this story highlighted the seductive power of suggestion, revealing how half-truths can set people on a path toward destruction.

"The play's rich cast of characters, fast-paced action, and dystopian vision also provide exciting opportunities for students to explore the challenges of acting, designing and producing Shakespeare's works. It's been

an enormous thrill and privilege to return and work with such a dedicated, gifted group of students."

E | UFV represented at Global Peace Summit

UFV Arts student Gabriella Wertheimer and David Simmons took part in the 4th Global Peace Summit held at the United Nations headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, in January. Alongside over 400 delegates from 48 countries, Gabriella and David explored what peace means and how it can be achieved globally. They heard powerful testimonies from genocide survivors, philanthropists, and economists, and participated in thoughtful debate, networking, and knowledge exchange. The summit fostered an international community of changemakers — including a strong Canadian delegation. The students' journey reflects UFV's commitment to transformative learning, global citizenship, and student leadership. Through storytelling and solidarity, she brought UFV's values to the world stage — and brought back ideas to spark change at home.







/ CRISTEN GLEESON, CHAIR, UFV BOARD OF GOVERNORS /

Transforming Lives *Yoystexw Ye Totilthet*

*"The impact of UFV reaches far beyond the classroom —
it's written in the lives, communities, and futures our graduates help shape."*

As UFV's new Board Chair, I'm honoured to support an institution so deeply connected to the communities it serves. Whether attending student showcases, celebrating Convocation, or hearing stories of changemaking and transformation from alumni across the Fraser Valley, I'm continually inspired by the profound impact UFV has on people's lives.

As a lawyer and long-time advocate for access and equity, I deeply believe in the power of education to build stronger, more inclusive communities. I see that belief come to life every time I meet UFV students and the dedicated faculty and staff who support their growth.

Alongside my fellow governors, I'm committed to upholding UFV's mission and to working collaboratively toward a bold and compassionate future.

At UFV, we know our strength lies in the partnerships we build. From local businesses and service organizations to Indigenous communities and government partners, these relationships ensure UFV continues to be responsive and relevant. Together, we're creating opportunities that extend well beyond campus boundaries, enriching the social and economic fabric of the Fraser Valley and beyond.

Thank you to the students, faculty, staff, alumni, volunteers, and partners who make UFV such a special place to learn, lead, and grow. We're excited about what lies ahead — and we look forward to continuing this journey with you.

◀ *This woven watercolor reflects what community means to Paulina Jimenez Violante. It was inspired by a hike she took with three friends she met during her first months at UFV. As sunlight broke through the trees, they found themselves lost and racing against the coming night. In that moment, they relied on each other's strength and calmness, and what could have been frightening became an experience that bonded them. By weaving the image, Paulina sought to mirror that feeling: separate pieces crossing together to form something stronger and more beautiful — just like the friendships she has built at UFV. Paulina is an international student studying graphic and digital design.*



Hannah Paisley (left) and Jay Jensen are excited about launching careers in automotive collision repair and refinishing. They were part of a cohort of UFV's Automotive and Collision Repair and Refinishing program that was almost 50 percent women.



/ TRANSFORMING LIVES FEATURE /

Equality in trades: Female students on the rise in Automotive Collision Repair

UFV is finding ways to let women know about opportunities for careers in traditionally male-dominated trades

Jay Jensen, Annalise Engelbrecht and Breyanna Maisey have loved cars since they were old enough to sit on an engine bay and hold a flashlight; for them, a trades career is a well-worn family tradition.

"My family owns a body shop in Chilliwack," says Annalise. "My grandfather bought it originally; my father took over as manager. I was exposed to it from a very young age, and at a trades show I fell in love with the mechanics of the paint gun and decided I wanted to learn more about it."

Women are often underrepresented in trades careers, but change is on its way; these students are part of a larger shift that's happening across Canada and right here at UFV. This year for the first time ever, UFV's Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing class boasts a nearly equal gender split.

Thanks to a concentrated push for recruitment at the annual Fraser Valley Women's Expo, the UFV Women Explore Trades program, and events like UFV Chilliwack Open House, awareness of UFV's trade education

"I'm interested in modification, personalization, and the fact that my vehicles are an extension of me,"

■ JAY JENSEN

offerings has grown, bringing more talented women than ever into Associate Professor Nick Penner's on-campus auto shop. The nine-month Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing certificate educates students in sheet metal repair, custom metal work, and autobody paint jobs. Eight out of Nick's 17 students this year identified as female.

"You leave with no financial burdens. When I did my schooling, I had zero debt because you earn money while you're going to school," Nick explains. "The government pays you while you're learning, so you get thousands of dollars of schooling basically for nothing. You can make good money if you're dedicated — it's a good field to get into."



Students from the 2025 Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing program show off their sweet rides. Participants can bring their own vehicle in to work on.

While Jay, Annalise, and Breyanna joined the certificate program with an existing passion for cars, some of Nick's female students — such as Elexis Robins — are trying it out for the first time. She wanted to work with her hands and develop a new skill, and this class fit the bill. With student debt rising, the choice to sign up for a trades certificate and apprenticeship is a no-brainer for many.

For Jay, it's the culture around cars that drew her in. "I'm interested in modification, personalization, and the fact that my vehicles are an extension of me."

Her classmate Breyanna agrees. "It's essentially an art form, a form of expression. Just how some people paint, and some people do pottery: for us, it's cars."

This certificate gave Ally Mui the

chance to fully repaint a damaged Mitsubishi Lancer, which she outfitted with a gleaming custom coat of bright magenta. Aside from self-expression, learning to repair and paint a vehicle is also a matter of practicality.

"Every vehicle I've owned has been 30-plus years old and a little rough, so every time I got a new vehicle, I just wanted to make it look as clean as I



could," says Jay. Her current passion project is a Japanese-imported '94 Suzuki Carry, while Ally's fixing up a 2023 Kia Stinger that she hopes to race at Mission Raceway.

With scholarship funding from real estate developer Diane Delves, many more women in trades can benefit from the same education that Nick's students have enjoyed. The Quantum Properties Annual Scholarship for Women in Trades

provides \$1,000 to help female students break into more traditionally male-dominated fields.

Past female graduates have gone on to receive their Red Seal certifications and find success in professional refinishing. Now that their course is completed, Ally dreams of opening her own garage, while Jay puts her certificate to work at a local autobody shop where she ensures all her customers get fair treatment and good service.

"Some people try to take advantage of women in an auto shop setting — like overcharging, over-explaining, recommending stuff that absolutely does not need to be done. That's why I wanted to be at the service counter, just so I can say, 'I know what you need, I know what you don't need. I know you don't need blinker fluid,'" Jay explains. "I've had lots of customers say thank you for being here."

To women considering training for a career in trades, Nick's students say, "do it."

"What can you lose? It's always a good experience regardless," Jay advises. "Even if you don't pursue this, you can learn how to fix your vehicle and do minor repairs."

"If you end up going to a shop, you'll know what you're looking for — you know, if they did a bad job, if they're trying to upsell you or undersell you," Breyanna adds.

Jay nods in agreement and smiles. "Be informed as much as you can," are her words of encouragement: "Be your own man."



Through an annual scholarship, Diane Delves — President and CEO of Quantum Properties and 2022 UFV honorary degree recipient — encourages women to pursue careers in the trades. "I really like to encourage everybody to go into the trades. For women, it's an opportunity to have a really well-paying job."

"It's essentially an art form, a form of expression. Just how some people paint, and some people do pottery: for us, it's cars."

■ BREYANNA MAISEY

One photographer's legacy writes a new chapter of Canadian history

UFV's South Asian Studies Institute will digitize and share Chandra Bodalia's photo legacy



On a rainy fall day in Vancouver Dr. Satwinder Bains, director of UFV's South Asian Studies Institute (SASI), stepped into a garage full of three million photos. It was 2021 — four years after Chandravadan "Chandra" Bodalia passed away, leaving his extensive body of photographic work to the care of his family.

The Bodalia family reached out to SASI, and after three years of thoughtful negotiations, SASI partnered with the Royal BC Museum and BC Archives to preserve and digitize the collection.

There turned out to be 400 boxes holding millions of photos, and that's not even counting all the SD and CF cards. They encapsulate one man's life and career, and the many lives he intersected with in the course of his work.

Chandra moved from Gujarat, India, to Vancouver in 1976, where he made a living as a photojournalist at *The Link* and *The Voice* while freelancing on the side. In both his professional and personal work, he devoted himself to recording the lives of the South Asian communities around him.

Every one of the photos fills a historical gap in the Canadian narrative, where the stories of more than a million South Asian Canadians have gone untold.

"Our culture, faith, politics, practices, and contributions don't show up in the Canadian record," says Satwinder. "While Chandra's body of work was a very personal endeavour, it is

now a national treasure. The photographs say that South Asian people were everywhere. We have heritage and history in Canada. We're not just arrived and we're not temporary citizens. We are contributing partners in Canadian living."

Chandra kept a meticulous log of every event he ever photographed. The collection includes invoices, business cards, and event posters. Some of them are from organizations that disbanded years ago, the only photographic proof they existed at all.

Chandra printed duplicates of every photo on his own dime, often giving them to his subjects for free — the overall cost would have been more than \$500,000. He carefully labelled each envelope, then sorted them by date and by category. It was an intensive, colossal labour of love, and SASI now pours the same love and care into archiving his work.

SASI engaged UFV students to categorize the collection. When complete, it will be found online in the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.

UFV co-creates national food security solutions

UFV researchers will help to “future-proof” our food system



In the next 40 years, humans will need to produce more food than they did in the previous 10,000 years combined. That startling statistic from *The Economist* is motivation for Dr. Lenore Newman and the team at UFV’s Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) as they work on food security solutions.

This year, UFV assumed a leading role in the brand-new Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) platform, a \$16.2 million national agrifood innovation and entrepreneurship program funded by the federal government. UFV’s Chilliwack campus is the western hub for SF4C, and Lenore is one of two national directors, along with the University of Guelph’s Dr. Evan Fraser.

“The world is facing significant challenges with food security, much of that due to climate change, and we need to be looking at new ways of doing things,” Lenore says. “We need to support agrifood entrepreneurs and encourage the development of technologies with the goal of increasing Canada’s food production and resiliency.

“That is the SF4C mission.”

Guided by Lenore, the western hub is developing courses, modules, and workshops that help entrepreneurs get ideas off the ground. At the heart of SF4C is a philosophy to nurture business-minded research and bring as many solutions as possible to the market.

“Canada has massive potential to be an agrifood leader, and creating highly motivated business-ready leaders is vital to realizing that potential,” Lenore says.

Community plays an important role. Working in the heart of B.C. agriculture in the eastern Fraser Valley, Lenore’s team collaborates with local industry to identify problems and develop solutions. With input from growers, and access to an ideal living lab, she believes the SF4C western hub has a massive role to play.

“This region can help Canada lead the world in novel food-production methods while future-proofing our own food system,” Lenore says.

UFV students are assisting with SF4C work, gaining knowledge and skills that will be invaluable should they choose to become entrepreneurs themselves.

UFV’s formal partners include the University of Alberta and Vancouver Island University, with Simon Fraser University’s B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation as a collaborating organization. Industry partners include Bioenterprise, Zone Agritech, Ontario Genomics, and the Canadian Food Innovation Network.

A | Kinesiology students offer postpartum fitness for new moms

UFV kinesiology students are making a meaningful impact in the Fraser Valley by offering postpartum wellness workshops. Under the guidance of assistant professor Dr. Iris Lesser and in partnership with Archway Community Services' Best for Babies program and the Chilliwack Public Library, these workshops help new mothers navigate the transition to parenthood through positive, compassionate approaches to physical activity. Recognizing that exercise is about more than fitness or weight loss, the sessions emphasize self-care and connection, reducing the risk of postpartum depression and anxiety while supporting both moms and their babies. This initiative not only addresses a critical gap in postpartum education, but also gives UFV students a chance to apply their knowledge to real-world challenges, fostering a stronger and healthier community for families.

B | Dr. Mark Kersten contributes to report on crimes against Indigenous children

A UFV professor is a key contributor to a significant report on missing Indigenous children, unmarked graves, and burial sites

associated with residential schools. Dr. Mark Kersten researched and drafted four chapters in the 1,300+ page document that was released last October.

Compiled by special interlocutor Kimberly Murray, the report suggests children who died and were buried at residential schools were the victims of enforced disappearances by the state. It recommends that the Canadian government should request an investigation into the missing and disappeared children by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, as an answer for crimes against humanity.

The report also includes 42 legal, moral, and ethical obligations for governments, churches, and other institutions that Mark hopes they will act upon.

C | Agri-food leaders gather for Grounded Innovation at UFV

UFV's Chilliwack campus became a hub of national collaboration in May as it hosted the Grounded Innovation forum, sponsored by Auguston Town Development Inc. The event, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Institute, brought together leaders from the agri-food sector to tackle food insecurity through sustainable, community-driven solutions. Experts, researchers, and partners shared strategies in keynotes, workshops,



and field tours, highlighting practical ways to strengthen food systems and support vulnerable populations. With its deep agricultural and community roots, UFV was proud to convene this dialogue—reinforcing its role as a catalyst for research and innovation that feeds both minds and communities.

D | How do young children perceive ownership?

Humans like to own things. But when do we first conceive of the idea that something is ours, or that an object or resource belongs to someone else?

A five-year research project led by UFV's Dr. Madison Pesowski seeks to answer those questions. "The long-held misunderstanding is that when two children fight over a wooden block, they just don't know any better," Madison explains. "This project explores how they reason about ownership in general.

"This may cause re-thinking of how we talk to them in a situation where someone is upset. If we're saying a bunch of things a two-year-old doesn't understand, that's not helpful, so it's very important to know what they do understand and address that."

The research is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

E | Indigenous art showcased at UFV Library

University Librarian Camille Callison engaged with local Indigenous artists to bring expressions of Indigenous culture to UFV's campus libraries through Una Ann Moyer's canoe paintings and Luke Pike's contemporary designs.

"Libraries are welcoming places for all," says Camille. "Displaying these artworks ensures Indigenous narratives are not only seen but felt and valued."

Camille also commissioned a documentary series by Indigenous filmmaker Gordon Loverin. In the first episode Dr. Shirley Hardman, Associate Vice-President Xwexwilmexwawt, notes: "Indigenous people see this on campus, and it gives us a sense of belonging. We know what story that art depicts, and we bring that into our day."

Together, the films and artworks create opportunities for learning, connection, and dialogue — affirming the UFV Libraries as spaces where Indigenous worldviews are represented and respected.







/ BILAL FAISAL FAHEEM, PRESIDENT, STUDENT UNION SOCIETY /

Building Community *Thayt Kw'e St'elt'elawtexw*

"Your campus experience is about building a life, one rooted in connection, purpose, leadership and the interconnectedness of health."

When I first stepped into student leadership in 2023, it wasn't part of a grand plan. I had just arrived in Canada as a new international student and within a month into my time at UFV I found myself drawn to student governance. I initially thought I would stay for a semester or two, but the sense of community I found here really pulled me in.

Now, in my third year at the Student Union Society (SUS), one lesson has stayed with me through every challenge and decision: remember that you are representing students who are counting on you. To me, the community at UFV isn't just a group of people. It's a feeling of belonging, of being seen, of coming together to create change and make life better for those around us and this past year, I've seen that spirit come alive on our campus more times than I can count.

This year, we also mark two important milestones: 30 years of the Student Union Society and 10 years of our Student Union Building, a place that has become the heart of student life. It's where ideas take shape, friendships grow, and students gather for everything from late night study sessions to early morning Fairgrounds coffees. My hope is that every student at UFV knows they belong here. That they know their voice matters. That they have the power not just to be a participant in this experience, but to be at the center of it.

Together, alongside UFV, we're working toward a shared vision: a campus experience that's not only about earning a degree but about building a life, one rooted in connection, purpose, leadership and the interconnectedness of health. And to me, that's the true mark of progress.

◀ Sharon Strauss's piece reflects how her surroundings and her time at UFV have shaped who she is today. Figures look out over a tapestry woven with threads of her personal experiences and three drawings of British Columbia. Together, they tell the story of her growth and the confidence she's found in the community she built at UFV and throughout the Fraser Valley. Sharon is a Qualifying Studies student and Artist-in-Residence at UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub.

It was a multigenerational festive feel at the UFV Athletic Centre when older adults were invited by UFV's Centre for Education and Research on Aging to take in a UFV Cascades volleyball game, joined by UFV students and schoolchildren.





/ BUILDING COMMUNITY FEATURE /

Seniors and students unite at CERA Day with UFV's Cascades

UFV Cascades partnered with CERA to invite community members to attend a UFV women's volleyball game

As our population ages, social isolation is an increasing problem. Older members of our community lose people from their lives and lose their ability to be as independent as they once were. Dr. Shelley Canning, director of UFV's Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA), says this can lead to health challenges.

"There are significant impacts in terms of increased mental health challenges like depression or anxiety, or exacerbating chronic

health issues," she says. "That's why being conscious about including them in things that are truly meaningful can be a huge benefit."

Shelley had that in mind last year when she dreamed up CERA Day with the Cascades.

In 2022 UFV became the first university in BC and the 10th in Canada to become an age-friendly university, earning the designation from the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network. UFV follows the 10 principles of the

"I saw it as a way to have people come onto campus who aren't 18–25 years old or employed by UFV. It's important to recognize that UFV belongs to the community."

■ DR. SHELLEY CANNING

AFU, working hard to support life-long learning, and encourage older adults to participate in the core activities of the university.

The Cascades athletic teams are an important part of campus life, and Shelley saw an opportunity to engage with seniors through varsity athletics. She approached former athletic director Steve Tuckwood with the idea of inviting them to experience Canada West volleyball action at UFV.

"I saw it as a way to address social isolation, and also to have people come onto campus who aren't 18–25 years old or employed by the university," Shelley says. "UFV is a very specific place with a huge number of young people, but it's important to recognize that it belongs to the community and not only to students, faculty, and staff."

Steve instantly loved the idea and selected Friday, Oct 18 afternoon men's and women's volleyball games as the date for the inaugural CERA Day with the Cascades. He expanded on Shelley's idea, inviting local schools as well.



Shelley recalls driving to the university that day and smiling ear-to-ear as she saw dozens of children from Abbotsford Middle School trekking to the campus. Students from several other schools joined them as well.

"It turned into a wonderful, inter-generational event," Shelley says.

Shelley suggests older adults are often not included in community events, partly because they may not be aware of what's happening and partly because of barriers such as a lack of transportation, or difficulty navigating online ticketing. As plans for CERA Day with the Cascades took shape, Shelley and the UFV Athletics team were determined to make the event as accessible as possible.

Seniors arriving at the game were welcomed by UFV staff in the parking lots who made sure they got to the venue. They enjoyed pizza along with coffee, donuts, and mingling before heading into the gymnasium.

"It was terrific," says 83-year-old Gerry Engert. "The mix of high school and UFV students, and the elderly was electrifying, and I believe it contributed to our UFV volleyball team's win."

"I can't think of an organization serving Abbotsford and Chilliwack that has, in recent years, done more to influence and improve the quality of life for seniors than UFV's CERA, Age-Friendly University, and Elder College programs."

Shelley spoke to several seniors who said they'd never been to a varsity game before and didn't know much about the athletics part of university life. She says many came because it was something different and unique.



"Curiosity doesn't end when people age," she notes. "Older people are no different from anyone else across the lifespan in that they're interested in things they haven't had a chance to do. There's a huge desire to do things that are meaningful and interesting."

Shelley says it was wonderful seeing seniors and students mingling, and she credits the UFV athletics department for taking a small idea and turning it into something truly communal. Alicia Hurley, UFV's interim athletics director, says her team was thrilled to be involved.

"It was great to see different generations of sports fans come together to cheer on our teams. It's extremely impactful for our staff and varsity athletes to see the power that sports at UFV can have in fostering connections, and we hope to pursue future opportunities to continue engaging our local community of all ages."

"The mix of schoolchildren and UFV students and the elderly was electrifying, and I believe it contributed to our team's win."

■ GERRY ENGERT

2025 UFV Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

The UFV Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) is conferred on a graduate who has achieved outstanding distinction in career, education, or community service. The Young DAA (YDAA) goes to a UFV graduate, 35 years of age or younger, who meets the same criteria.



**Kamaldeep Singh Sandhu: 2025
Distinguished Alumni Award**

Kamaldeep (Kam) Singh Sandhu is using his talent for business development, improving the economic outlook for BC Indigenous communities.

The 2025 recipient of UFV's Distinguished Alumni Award is a graduate of UFV's Bachelor of Business Administration program (2012). A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Aboriginal Finance Manager (CAFM), he works with more than 30 First Nations communities on Vancouver Island, supporting efforts to build financial independence and sustainable governance systems.

At the heart of Kam's work is a commitment to trust and respectful listening. He walks alongside communities as they create long-term strategies that reflect their own goals, values, and ways of knowing.



To learn more about Kam and his work, visit alumni.ufv.ca/awards.



**Sam Varing: 2025 Young
Distinguished Alumni Award**

Sam Varing is building connections across Abbotsford business communities. A trailblazer in the legal and business communities, Samanpreet (Sam) Varing has shown a deep commitment to equity and youth empowerment.

The recipient of UFV's 2025 Young Distinguished Alumni Award graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and quickly became a catalyst for change. In 2019, she collaborated with the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce to launch the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (CYPE) — a first-of-its-kind professional network that connects and uplifts emerging leaders in Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley.

Sam believes that leadership is a daily commitment to serve with integrity, lead with love, and leave every person and space better than she found them.



To learn more about Sam and her work, visit alumni.ufv.ca/awards.

Betty Urquhart Award: Hougen Block Project supports Mission charities

*Revitalized building breathes new
life into downtown Mission*



Greg Elford led efforts to revitalize a historic building in downtown Mission, turning it into a vibrant community-oriented space. In the process, he helped breathe new life into the heart of the city. The Hougen Block Project is a case study in community building and collaboration, and it's a big reason why UFV is recognizing Greg with the 2025 Betty Urquhart Award.

When UFV was founded 50 years ago, Betty was among the first staff members who set the tone for the community-focused approach that remains a priority for the university today. She was an avid volunteer with a strong belief in giving back.

Greg, owner of The Penny Coffee House in Mission, embodies the community service, leadership, and civic engagement that the award honours. His work is grounded in compassion, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to revitalizing and strengthening his community.

"Greg's work touches people from many walks of life — creating spaces where individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs can come together," says Susan Mide Kiss, UFV's Vice-President, Community Engagement. "His commitment to building a more inclusive and compassionate community reflects the spirit of Betty's legacy."

Before its transformation, the Hougen Block

building was underutilized. Today, it's a bustling hub for arts, entrepreneurship, and community gathering — fostering cultural connections and sparking downtown revitalization.

But the project goes beyond one restored building. Greg's team uses the profits from property management, matched by grants, to fund and facilitate charitable initiatives across Mission. Each year, the Hougen Block Project supports five Mission-based organizations, working with them to spread awareness, and raise funds.

"I am thrilled we can honour such a deserving recipient who embodies the spirit of the award through his dedication, generosity, and leadership," notes UFV Board member Kim McLandress, "We are grateful to Greg for everything he does to bring community together!"

Greg's work at Hope Central is also vital. Hope Central is a faith-based centre focused on food security and community connection. It offers regular meals, inclusive programming, and a welcoming environment for those experiencing hardship or isolation. It makes a positive impact in many lives.

"Greg's efforts are grounded in a sincere desire to serve, uplift, and walk alongside his neighbours," Susan says.

A | Pollinator garden helps rebuild local ecosystem

A devastating heat dome and the atmospheric river flooding of 2021 killed millions of pollinators in the Fraser Valley. In 2024, UFV responded with a new pollinator garden on the Abbotsford campus.

The garden, a collaborative project led by the Office of Sustainability, was placed in a highly visible and accessible spot near the Student Union Building.

"Being in an agricultural region, knowing how critical pollinators are to our ecosystem and health, we thought we'd do our part to support native pollinators," says Jennifer Martel, sustainability manager in UFV's Office of Sustainability. "We also wanted somewhere for people to connect with nature and learn more about pollinators and the interconnectedness of health."

The project involved biology students, as well as grounds and landscaping employees, with Trades students pitching in to build a gazebo.

B | Student mural adds life to geography hallway

What was once a plain corridor in UFV's Building A is now a vibrant celebration of

nature and creativity, thanks to recent Environmental Studies grad Aysha McConkey. Her stunning mural, a flowing depiction of the Fraser Valley's ecological beauty and passage of time, transforms the space into a living gallery. Installed over several months, the piece reflects not only artistic talent but also the power of student expression in shaping campus culture. This mural is part of UFV's growing commitment to integrating student-led public art that reflects place, purpose, and perspective, making our learning spaces more inspiring, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse stories within our community.

C | Team success leads to individual honours for UFV volleyball coach

UFV's women's volleyball team had an incredible 2024-25 season with coach Janelle Rozema leading the way - and that success earned the bench boss individual honours.

Janelle was recognized as both Canada West and U SPORTS coach of the year in March.

"Because our athletes were able to do something special this season, I was acknowledged by my peers, so it's as much about them as it is about me," Janelle says. "I wouldn't be able to do any of this if they didn't put in the work too."



UFV went 17–3 in regular season play, earning top spot in the Canada West standings for the first time since joining the conference four years ago. They rose as high as fifth in the national U SPORTS rankings.

D | Ashley McDougall named 2025 Outstanding Student Leader

Recent Bachelor of Arts graduate Ashley McDougall received UFV’s 2025 Outstanding Student Leadership Award for her advocacy, policy impact, and global representation.

“Ashley is an exceptional representative of our university,” says Dr. Joanne MacLean, recently retired UFV president. “She leads and champions important causes with humility, intelligence, and strong communication skills.”

Ashley led the Student Union Society during the Fraser Valley transit strike, engaging directly with the provincial government and media to encourage an end to the strike. She also played a key role in securing UFV’s first fall reading break and advocating for sexualized violence policy reforms.

A Dean’s List scholar in economics and political science, Ashley has served on UFV’s Board of Governors and the national CASA policy team.

E | UFV works with Mission partners to enhance community

In Mission, community collaboration is central to UFV’s story. From downtown revitalization to student-led projects supporting local non-profits, UFV partners with Mission’s leaders, businesses, and service groups to create meaningful change.

One example is the Workforce Opportunities and Challenges Network, a coalition that unites diverse voices to address local workforce and community needs. Supported by UFV’s Offices of the VP, Students and VP, Community Engagement, the network ensures both student and community perspectives are included.

This effort reflects the spirit of community weaving—bringing together different voices, strengths, and perspectives to build something stronger than any one of us could alone. As Gwen Schmidt, Executive Director of Community Futures North Fraser, notes: “When we come together as partners, we create opportunities that ripple throughout the community. UFV’s presence in Mission strengthens not only our workforce but also our shared sense of possibility.”

These partnerships show UFV’s deep commitment to place, meeting the unique needs and opportunities of each community.







/ BRADLEY MENARD, BA AD ED '21, BGS '14,
CHAIR, UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION /

Looking Forward

*"Our 55,000 alumni share a connection
to UFV and a desire to make a difference"*

The past year has been one of reflection, connection, and momentum. As we closed out UFV's 50th anniversary celebrations, the UFV Alumni Association was proud to honour the legacy of our institution while building toward its future.

This spring, we hosted UFV's inaugural Alumni & Friends Weekend — an exciting milestone that brought alumni and community members back to our Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses to enjoy nearly 20 engaging programs and activities. From interactive sessions and panel discussions to family-friendly events, the weekend celebrated the enduring bonds between UFV and the people it serves.

We also concluded the 50 Remarkable Alumni series, spotlighting alumni who are making meaningful contributions in their fields and communities around the world. Their stories reflect the growing global impact of UFV alumni — changemakers who are advancing social innovation, leading with purpose, and helping communities thrive.

As we look ahead, the UFV Alumni Association remains committed to creating opportunities for alumni to stay connected, informed, and inspired. With over 55,000 alumni worldwide, we're a dynamic and diverse network, linked by a shared connection to UFV and a desire to make a difference. In 2026, we'll mark the Association's 25th anniversary — and this fall, we'll invite all alumni to share their voice through our alumni survey.

To our alumni: thank you for the undeniable impact you continue to make. To our broader community: thank you for your partnership and support. Together, we'll continue to nurture meaningful relationships, support student success, and strengthen the university we all care deeply about.

◀ *Rebekah Brackett is an Indigenous artist, UFV alumna, and UFV employee who, in addition to supplying the art on the adjacent page, was this year's artist for the alumni wine labels. For this specially commissioned piece, she and her husband wove together water from different regions of the Fraser Valley to create a story about their connection to the land that they love. It symbolizes how their personal relationships and family histories are woven into the fabric of UFV as an institution.*

Exciting projects on the horizon

As we launch into a new academic year, there are some exciting developments on our campuses, in our hallways and classrooms, and in our communities.



Lá:léms Ye EverGreen opening in 2026

UFV will open its second student housing building on the Abbotsford campus in January 2026. The six-storey building will add 398 new beds, creating more safe and affordable housing for UFV students, while helping ease the pressure on the local housing market. Located between Lá:lem te Baker residence and Building G (home to the library), Lá:léms Ye EverGreen residence places students in the heart of the UFV community.

Construction uses a hybrid method that combines reinforced concrete, mass timber, and light wood framing.

Along with student suites, the building will feature a range of shared spaces: a lounge, kitchens, study areas, student programming space, and a cultural space.

Cascade Café: A renewed dining experience

UFV will expand on-campus dining this fall with the reopening of the renovated Cascade Café on the Abbotsford campus. The renovation has doubled the size of the dining hall, expanding the seating capacity from 121 to 350. The new dining hall will offer improved food service to support the 398 students who will move into Lá:léms Ye EverGreen, the 200 students living at Lá:lém Te Baker

(our current student housing on campus, as well as commuting students, faculty, and staff. It will also improve event venue options.

With a new second floor, an expanded menu, and longer opening hours, the café will support wellness and create more opportunities for community gathering.

Community Champions Invest in UFV Student Success

Building on the spirit of collaboration that defines the Fraser Valley, the Nick Taylor Charity Classic, presented by Algra Bros. Developments, continues to make an impact close to home. This year, the annual tournament raised an incredible \$550,000 in support of local charities – with \$115,000 directed to UFV's Cascades Golf programs, supporting scholarships and program development to help student-athletes thrive on the course and in the classroom.

Deeply rooted in the Fraser Valley, Nick Taylor—recipient of UFV's 2024 Honorary Doctorate of Laws, and his wife, Andie, a proud UFV alum, embody the spirit of collaboration and community that continues to drive UFV forward.

Introducing Brightspace: Our new learning platform

Just as buildings and campuses benefit from renovations and renewal, so do online spaces. UFV adopted Brightspace

as its new digital learning platform in 2025. This transition reflects UFV's ongoing commitment to enhance the learning and teaching experience with the latest and most effective educational technologies available.

FortisBC partnership brings new technology to Trades and Tech Centre

A partnership between UFV and FortisBC will showcase cutting-edge gas absorption heat pump (GAHP) technology at UFV's Trades and Technology Centre on the Chilliwack campus.

Made possible by a significant contribution from FortisBC, seven GAHPs have been installed at the trades centre.

It is estimated that they will save 860 gigajoules of natural gas, and 37 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.

Going greener: more EV chargers installed

As part of UFV's commitment to sustainability, we have partnered with BC Hydro to install additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses.

Xwe'éyelh Lets'e/One Health at UFV: A Shared Vision

UFV is creating the One Health Hub, a new initiative that brings together human, animal, and environmental health. Rooted in Indigenous knowledge and shaped by local, provincial, and national partnerships, the One Health Hub will address Fraser Valley priorities such as food security, disease prevention, and climate resilience. By connecting research, education, and community, One Health will generate solutions that strengthen well-being across our region.



UFV joins global Ashoka U Changemaker Campus network

UFV has been officially designated an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus: one of only a few Canadian universities recognized for deeply embedding social innovation, equity, and community engagement across teaching, research, and leadership.

This recognition reflects the changemaking already woven into UFV's culture: seen in the leadership of the Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub, in the creativity of our students, and in the partnerships that connect UFV with communities across the Fraser Valley.

The designation affirms the university's longstanding commitment to building systems that create positive change. From interdisciplinary research to student-led initiatives and place-based partnerships, UFV's changemaking culture is already making an impact, locally and globally. As part of the Ashoka network, UFV joins a global community of post-secondary institutions working to reimagine the role of education in shaping a more just, inclusive future.



Visit ufv.ca/changemaking
to learn more about our
new designation.

Welcome to St'elt'elawtexw

St'elt'elawtexw, UFV's Community Report, is produced by the Office of the Vice-President, Community Engagement.

"I want to extend my sincere thanks to the entire VP Community Engagement team for your leadership and dedication. This Community Report is not just the product of one group's efforts, but the result of collaboration across our university. It reflects the strength of our collective work with and for the communities we serve."

■ DR. JAMES MANDIGO, UFV PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



Learn how to say
St'elt'elawtexw with
Elder Siyamiyateliyot.
Visit ufv.ca/community

Long before Canada was formed, the Stó:lō (People of the River) lived and thrived on the land on which UFV is located.

UFV gratefully recognizes and honours the contributions that Indigenous people have made, and continue to make, to our community.

The Stó:lō speak Halq'eméylem, the "Upriver dialect" of Halkomelem. The language is primarily spoken in the upper and central Fraser Valley, the Lower Fraser Canyon, and in communities near Harrison Lake. St'elt'elawtexw means "community" in Halq'eméylem.

At UFV, St'elt'elawtexw is woven into our fabric, and we are grateful for the connections we have with the individuals and organizations who contribute to our collective impact.



   @goUFV
ufv.ca/community

