

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science – **January 2025**

Engaging Learners

Fall 2024: Jenn Barrett, Yvonne Dzal, and Alida Janmaat provided Biol 210 students with the opportunity to participate in a camera trapping study at Aldergrove Regional Park. From September to October, students set up 18 trail cameras across the park, capturing numerous photos of wildlife that frequent the area. The collected data will be compiled and shared with Metro Vancouver Parks.

Stefania Pizzirani met with students from the Cascade student newspaper to do an interview on our FAI project "The Social Implications of Agri-Genomics: Ensuring a Just Transition to Climate-Resilient Agricultural and Food Systems in Canada"

Agri 183 and Agri 247 students attended the Farm Ex conference Nov 20 and 21, in Abbotsford. This conference focuses on the diverse business management aspects of agricultural operations including finance, HR, public relations, and regulatory compliance. Attending the conference provided students with the opportunity to network with potential employers in the fields of agricultural lending, agricultural non-profits, and related agricultural sectors. As part of the conference Agriculture faculty hosted a student symposium on developing interview and conversational skills. In addition to UFV Ag students, the session was attended by students from Lethbridge Polytechnic, KPU and UBC. We thank the Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE) for supporting the attendance of some of the students.



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Transforming Lives

Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program - The Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) and Universities Canada are pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program (QES) call for proposals. \$6.2 million in program funding from the prestigious [QES program](#) will support international collaborative projects at 22 Canadian universities and colleges. All projects will focus on the adaptation, response and resilience to a changing climate. These projects will provide international study experiences, research or internships for outbound Canadian students as well as support for inbound international students.

UFV is one of the benefactors of this: University of the Fraser Valley – Youth Leadership in Climate Action for Resilient, Inclusive and Equitable Communities, in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Kenya, Philippines and Tanzania.

Cherie Enns – Guest Editor [Journal](#) and article submission COVID-19's Impact on Food Security Among Urban Refugee Youth in Kenya: A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective to the African Human Mobility Review

Building Community

Math Mania – Oct 16, 2024 (Cynthia Loten)

Math Mania is an evening of mathematical demonstrations, puzzles, and hands-on activities for elementary or middle school children. It's been designed by members of the University of the Fraser Valley's Department of Mathematics & Statistics to show children – and their parents – how much fun you can have playing with mathematical concepts.

Kseniya Garaschuk's term as the Editor in Chief of Crux Mathematicorum was extended for another year. Crux is an internationally recognized problem-solving journal published by the Canadian Mathematical Society whose target audiences include secondary school students, undergraduate students and elite Olympiad-level problem solvers from across the globe.

Harley Gordon: attended the Pacific Agriculture Fair at the Abbotsford Tradex where the UFV research office had a table to talk with community members, farmers, and companies about research partnerships at UFV.

Stefania Pizzirani:

Jan 9: First day working at TLC to help understand and progress Indigenization efforts at UFV. I am working each Thursday out of the TLC office.

Jan 16: Attended Xyóhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children) Panel Presentation with Dr. Dave Schaepe, Dr. Keith Carlson, Grand Chief Kat Pennier, and other researchers on the work of finding loved ones lost at residential schools. There are important insights from this event and this work that are essential to share with colleagues and community.

Jan 22: Attended BC Agri-Food Industry Gala to network, listen, and learn more about the current affairs in the BC agriculture sector.

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Jan 24: Attended UFV Changemaker workshop led by Anna Griffith and TLC.

Jan 24: Met with Sto:lo Community Futures to discuss Indigenous food and technology sovereignty.

Continued collaboration with Michelle Rhodes on redesigning the BES-Natural Sciences degree and the Geography degree.

Continued collaboration with the Office of Sustainability to develop and host over 20 events for March for Sustainability.

Radzimski, V. & Leung, F.S. Math for More: Towards a Dynamic View of Teaching Mathematics. Presentation at the IAFOR International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawa'i, USA. January 2-7, 2025.

Bruni, C., **Radzimski, V.**, & Keese, H. Determination and Resilience in Mathematics. Conference session at the Canadian Mathematical Society Winter Meeting. Richmond, BC, Canada. November 29-December 2, 2024

Marina Tourlakis presented at Nerd Nite Squamish on Ribosomes (Dec 4). Invited to join a Community of Care in Biology working group funded by [RIOS Institute](#) and headed by Dr. Desirée Forsythe (Santa Clara University, CA). The group seeks to identify and mitigate interlocking oppressions in biology/STEM culture towards building more inclusive and welcoming educational spaces for educators and learners alike.

List of Publications (UFV student names underlined)

Enns, C., Owuor, S., Lin, A., Knebelow, N., Fanta, J., Achieng, C., Kolong, W., and Swardh, K. (2024). COVID-19, Food Insecurity and South Sudanese Urban Refugees in Nairobi and Nakuru, Kenya. MiFood Paper No. 19, Waterloo. <https://klajkzhyjcke-u5525.pressidiumcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MiFOOD19.pdf>

Hitch, M. (2024) Part 2, Chapters 1-5 *Mine Planning in MiReBooks, Mixed Reality Handbooks Mining Education*, Carsten Drebenstedt, Susan Feiel, and Peter Moser (eds) Leycam. ISBN 978-3-7011-0486-4, pp. 119-234.

Lahoud, C. and **Enns, C.** (2024) "Young Gamechangers: Amplifying Youth Voices for Healthier Public Spaces", *The Journal of Public Space*, 9(2), pp. 1–8. doi: 10.32891/jps.v9i2.1826. [The Journal of Public Space](#)

Pourhosseini, S. H., Azizi, A., Seyedi, F. S., & **Hadian, J.** (2024). Bio-fertilizer as a pathway to minimize nitrate leaching from chemical fertilizer in high yield peppermint production. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 468, 143100.

Saeed-Abadi, B., Eghlima, G., Mirjalili, M. H., **Hadian, J.**, & Ghorbanpour, M. (2024). Effect of extraction solvent on silicon, isoquercitroside content, and antioxidant activity of common horsetail (*Equisetum arvens* L.) extract. *Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery*, 1-8.

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Shupe, S. (n.d.-b). Mapping Hazardous Terrain for Search and Rescue Pre-Planning: A RPAS Study of Evans Valley in Golden Ears Provincial Park, BC. Maple Ridge; Western Geography.

Michael Hitch (red bold indicates PhD student under Michael's supervision)

Cai, J., Y. Cao, B. Yang, **J. Li**, and **M. Hitch** (2025) Preparation of Fe₃O₄/C Composite Material from Red Mud for the Degradation of Acidic Orange 7. *Materials*.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ma18010151> (SJR Q1)

Heraiz, H., X. Mu, **J. Li**, B. Lei, S. Zhang, Y. Li, S. Zhu, W. Ni, and **M. Hitch** (2025) Optimization of ultra-high-performance concrete using a clinker-free binder and iron mine tailings aggregate. *Minerals*. <http://doi.org/DOI:10.3390/min15010028>. (SJR Q2)

Kashif, N., B. Albijanic, J.J. Xu, T. McGrath, Md. K. Nazir, **M. Hitch**, and B. Tadese (2024) Investigating the drying behaviour of clay-containing slurries. *Applied Clay Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clay.2024.107500> (SJR Q1)

Du, H., **J. Li**, D. Xu, W. Ni, X. Mu, B. Sayn, J. Guo, Z. Shi, M. Gu, Y. Yin, Z. Yang, and **M. Hitch** (2024) Effects of steel slag on the properties and microstructure of magnesiumoxysulfate cement prepared by magnesium desulfurisation by-products. *Journal of Materials Research and Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmrt.2024.04.070> (SJR Q1)