

## University Divisional Report – Faculty of Science, February 2018

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report:

### Dean's Office:

**Dr. Greg Schlitt**, Acting Dean of Science and FoS Administrative Assistant, **Caroline Majeau** attended the November Superintendents' meeting held at GW Graham Secondary in Chilliwack to promote the [Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair](#) (FVRSF). We subsequently received funding from the Chilliwack and Fraser-Cascade School Districts in addition to the Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) and Dasmesh Punjabi School. We also anticipate support from both the Abbotsford and Langley School Districts. FVRSF will be held in the Envision Athletic Centre at UFV from April 4-7, 2018. Students from grades K-12 are eligible to compete. Students from grades 7-12 will also be competing for a chance to win 1 of 3 all-expense paid trips to the [Canada Wide Science Fair](#) to be held in Ottawa, Ontario May 12-19, 2018. The UFV members of the 2018 FVRSF Committee include **Dr. Greg Schlitt**, Chair and Regional Coordinator; **Caroline Majeau**, Administrative Coordinator; **Janice Nagtegaal**, Financial Administrator; and from the Department of Chemistry: **Dr. Cory Beshara**, Chief Judge and **Dr. Jason Thomas**, Ethics Officer.

**Pat Harrison** from the Centre for Sustainability and Sustainable UFV held their annual "Garbage on the Green" in October. They braved the monsoon rains and cruised through UFV's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Waste Audit measuring the impact of the new waste management system. Sustainable UFV will be hiring a new Sustainability Coordinator Assistant to replace **Travis Gingerich** who will be graduating with a BSc in Physical Geography in April.



The Super Science Club, which is coordinated by **Robin Endelman**, continues to deliver exceptional science fun to elementary students in cooperation with Telus World of Science. They kicked off the fall semester at Eugene Reimer Middle School in Abbotsford.

Once again, UFV will be sending one science student to London, UK this summer (all expenses paid) to attend the [London International Youth Science Forum](#) (LIYSF). Last year we were able to send two students, **Perrin Waldock** and **Tessa Webb**. Both students shared their experiences at our Information Session held on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Applications are being accepted until February 8<sup>th</sup> and the shortlisted candidates will be presenting to our selection panel in early March.

The BSc in Computer Science received final approval at Senate on February 9, and will be offered starting Fall 2018. Early indications are of a good deal of student interest.

UFV is now a "Let's Talk Science" local site. Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable organization focused on education and outreach to support youth development. In partnerships with local sites, Let's Talk Science creates and delivers unique learning programs and services that engage children, youth and educators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

This spring, the Let's Talk Science steering committee will be hiring a student coordinator, who, supported by the national office, will recruit student volunteers to begin work in local schools in '18-'19.

## Biology:

Biology Professors **Drs. Sharon Gillies** and **Greg Schmaltz** held two information sessions in October for the Biology's 2018 Study Tour to London, Iceland, and Paris. There was a great deal of interest and once registration opened, all 36 spots filled up quickly. The study tour will run from June 27 – July 12, 2018.

Some wonderful displays have been assembled by the Biology department. Biology instructor, **Pat Harrison** showcased the uses of fungi by the BC First Nations. This display illustrated the connection



*When is a Shell not a Shell?  
~ Alan Reid*

between mycology and the indigenous people of BC in addition to promoting his Biology 370 course.

**Dr. Allan Reid** exhibited this beautiful shell collection kindly donated by Physics Instructor, **Norm Taylor**. The collection can be viewed by A337.



*Use of fungi by the BC First Nations  
~ Pat Harrison*

## Math & Stats

Math Professor, **Dr. Cynthia Loten**, and Math Instructor, **Karin Loots** along with their Math Mania team held events on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Gordon Greenwood Elementary in Langley and January 31<sup>st</sup> at École Heritage Park Middle School in Mission. A group of UFV faculty, Math & Stat professors **Drs. Stan Manu, Ian Affleck, Ben Vanderlei, Karamjit Dhande**, from the Co-op Office **Theresa Mulder** and student volunteers spent the evening sharing hands-on activities with the kids and their parents. Although the venue has not been confirmed, the final Math Mania event of the year is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Physics & Engineering:

The Dean of Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies (FATS), **John English**, invited and funded **Dr. Lin Long** to join their Korea and China trip for the promotion of UFV Welding /Automation and Robotic/ Engineering Physics in Mechatronics programs. In Korea, they visited Korea Polytechnic University (KPU) in Seoul and KumOh Technical High School in Gumi. In China, they visited Nanjing University Jinling College, Qixia High School, Yanziji High School, and Genture Electronics Ltd located in Nanjing. There was a good deal of interest in UFV's Welding, Automatics and Robotics programs, as well as our Mechatronics diploma.

November proved to be a busy month for the Physics Department. The Physics Student Association (PSA) and the Biology & Chemistry Student Association (BCSA) invited Dr. Jaymie Matthews, Astronomer and Mission Scientist from UBC to speak to a large group of science students. Later in the month UFV Graduate and MSc Candidate from Simon Fraser University, **Timothy Richards**, presented his talk on "Quantum Physics". Finishing off the month, the department organized their second Engineering and Mechatronics Information Session for high school students, counsellors and parents. The panel included Physics Professors **Drs. Peter Mulhern, Lin Long, Tim Cooper, Jeff Chizma** and from UFV Advising, **Karen Cooper**.