

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science – February 2026

Engaging Learners

Dr. Cherie Enns

COIL is an innovative teaching method where students from classes in two different countries work together virtually to complete a project. In this episode, we explore the power and impact of COIL with Suwebah Shoaib and Gabriella Wertheimer Cinque, two UFV students from different programs who participated in innovative projects with partners in Cairo and Ghana. We talk project details, sticky points, and impact. They highlight how their perspectives shifted, the importance of humility, and how the projects gave them an opportunity to understand and apply disciplinary learning in new ways. This episode will be of interest to any faculty member or student who is considering COIL for their courses.

Dr. Cynthia Loten

Hosted Math Mania – Feb 4 at Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School. Approximately 70 students attended this fun and engaging math event.

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani

“How will Canada's GST rebate help you?”, BC Today, CBC radio (invited presenter for the expert panel), <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-4-bc-today/clip/16194269-how-canadas-gst-rebate-help-you>

“What are the values in Canada's cellular meat story?”, Cultured Meat Culture international workshop, Institute of Science, Tokyo, Japan (invited presenter)

Dr. Lenore Newman

Dr. Newman moderated a panel at the Future of Food Conference on Canada's Agriculture Day 2026, entitled *The Power to Deliver: Turning Ambition into Action for the Decade Ahead*, the event was held by FCC and Food and Beverage in Ottawa, ON, February 10, 2026

The Food and Agriculture Institute

The FAI Newsletter, FAI Winter 2026 Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 11 is a seasonal publication from the Food and Agriculture Institute, featuring the latest media coverage, publications, highlights of its current research projects, activities, news, and achievements of the FAI team and its faculty associates. To view this and previous newsletters, or subscribe to the newsletter visit:

<https://www.ufv.ca/food-agriculture-institute/news-and-media/newsletter/>

February 18, 2026 Indigenous Student Visits

The Department of Biology welcomed Grades 11 and 12 Indigenous students from the Chilliwack School District to our labs during Reading Break for the Indigenous Student Visit Program. During their visit, students explored large specimen displays, worked hands-on with microscopes, and engaged with faculty members while receiving an informative introduction to the field of biology. Thank you to our Biology Team: Alan Reid, Natallia Varankovich, Marina Turlakis,

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Shayne Oberhoffner, Mishelle Malik, Fabiola Rojas, and Riley Brown for helping make their experience both engaging and memorable.

Jennifer Barrett, Debbie Wheeler, and Sandra Gillespie have worked diligently behind the scenes to reinstate the Biology Field School, which has not been offered since 2019. For the 2026 Field School, 45 students registered interest; with only 24 available seats, placements were allocated based on completed credits and anticipated graduation dates to ensure a fair and transparent selection process. The department is hoping to offer another Field School in 2027 to accommodate students who were unable to participate this year. From May 14–26, 24 biology students, accompanied by several faculty leaders, will explore the diverse terrestrial and marine ecosystems of the Clayoquot UNESCO Biosphere Region. They will also learn about Nuu-chah-nulth history, language, culture, and Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. The group will visit the Ucluelet Aquarium and take part in a whale-watching tour to observe whales, seals, and seabirds. Upon completion of the program, students will earn 8 academic credits. The registration deadline to secure a seat was February 18. Selected students will be able to formally register for the course when summer registration opens.

Transforming Lives

The Food and Agriculture Institute

Grounded Innovation 3.0 planning is underway and will be held on May 13th with an associated hackathon event on May 12th. Invitations are being sent to selected attendees by February 20th. The hackathon event will center food emergency planning, while the Grounded Innovation 3.0 event will feature a keynote from Dr. Tammara Soma, a One Health panel, a BC Ag Task Force panel, a hackathon pitch and award segment, an afternoon speaker on the wine industry in BC/Canada, and the launch of the wine and climate change challenge.

The Food and Agriculture Institute

The FAI contributed to the STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System) reporting for UFV's 2023-2025 certification. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. The FAI submitted a report including publications and media specific to support of public policies that advance sustainability.

Alan Reid and **Marina Turlakis** received TIPF Funding for Winter 2026.

Dr Cherie Enns

The SSHRC project continues with two phases, focusing on youth living in a refugee camp on the border of South Sudan in Kenya and on youth living in an informal settlement in Nairobi, where UFV has a long-standing partnership. [Partners - MiFOOD Network](#)

Cherie Enns is an advisor to UN-Habitat and the Flourishing Project related to the Post-2030 SDG Agenda. This collaborative initiative includes UN-Habitat - Finland Strategic Partnership on SDG Localization and The Human Flourishing Programme at Harvard University.

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Building Community

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Several BRCP students have recently completed community practicums. Our BRCP summer studio courses involve projects with the City of Mission and Tsawwassen First Nation.

BRCP Student Practicum Mission City Council Presentation – UFV Student Ryan Bingley gave a presentation to share findings of case studies of Health and Wellness Districts.

BRCP student project – Planning for Housing: Affordability, Design and Policy Course (PLAN 300) Students did a project that challenged the students to think and act like city planners. The students had to adhere to city bylaws and closely consider how their work would fit into the surrounding area. The students met regularly with bylaw officers and spent many hours reviewing City of Abbotsford policies.

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Dr. Stefania Pizzirani

Member of the Mission Environmental Stewardship Society Organizational Committee for the 2026 Green Living event

Dr. Pizzirani was an invited expert panelist on CBC Radio's program BC Today with host Michelle Eliot. The episode, titled "How will Canada's GST rebate help you?", discussed affordability measures announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney, including a GST rebate aimed at helping Canadian families. The program engaged listeners, with audience feedback on the effectiveness of these measures and potential solutions for the cost of living and groceries.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-4-bc-today/clip/16194269-how-canadas-gst-rebate-help-you>

Alan Reid (Biology), along with **Cory Beshara** (Chemistry) and **Janice Nagtegaal** (Science Dean's Office), were honoured at the Blanketing Ceremony held during the Science Faculty Council meeting on February 6.

Justin Lee, Biology Department Head, was the faculty supervisor who hosted a lively fun-money poker tournament that added an extra spark of friendly competition to the Biology Chemistry Student Association Masquerade Gala on February 13.

BC Bio Day is on April 29. **Dr. Marina Turlakis** and **Dr. Justin Lee**, are the lead organizers. As the event coincides with ConnectEd, they have agreed to partner for a shared morning session. In the afternoon, BC Bio will separate from ConnectED to host a panel discussion with representatives from the BC Ministry of Education and Biology high school teachers from the Abbotsford and Chilliwack School Districts focusing on high school preparation for 1st-year university students.

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The [Biology BCCAT articulation](#) meetings will follow on April 30 and May 1. These meetings will be held in the new J-Building conference space, and attendees will be staying in the new student residences.

Biology is organizing the [North American Comparative Immunology Workshop](#) (NACIW) at the Abbotsford Campus May 31-June 3, 2026. This workshop fosters collaborations among established investigators, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students interested in immune functions from across North America. Some of our upper level biology students will be able to present at this event as well. The organizers from UFV are **Justin Lee**, Biology Department Head, **Shayne Oberhoffner**, Biology Sessional Instructor, **Brenna Hay**, Biology LTA Instructor, and **Caroline Majeau**, Biology Department Coordinator; and from NACIW - Brian Dixon, University of Waterloo, Ontario; Katherine Buckley and Amelia Williams from Auburn University, Alabama.

List of Publications (UFV student names underlined)

Praat, D., & Schmaltz, G. (2025). Examining the effectiveness of automated acoustic recording units for recording predator-related disturbances in colony nesting birds: A case study. *Ecology and Evolution*, 15(10). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.72379>

Food and Agriculture Institute. (2026). [Resource Guide for Women & 2SLGBTQIA+ Entrepreneurs in the Agri-Tech Industry](#). University of the Fraser Valley. Contributors: Cameron James, Alara Cremer, and Alesandros Glaros.

Food and Agriculture Institute & Project Collaborators. (2026). [Vertical Agriculture in Not-for-Profit Contexts](#): Guiding Responsible Innovation in the province of British Columbia. University of the Fraser Valley.

Food and Agriculture Institute & Project Collaborators. (2026). [Atypical Agriculture Industry Workshop](#): Guiding Responsible Innovation in the province of British Columbia. University of the Fraser Valley.

Gláros, A., & Dyck, M. (2026). [DIY Vertical Agriculture Workshops](#): Guiding Responsible Innovation in the province of British Columbia. University of the Fraser Valley.

Kumar, T., Rahman, S., & Pizzirani, S. (2025). [AgriKit: Modular farming solutions enhancing local food security](#) (Case No. W43746). Ivey Publishing.

Schofield, K., Fanta, J., Pioth, W. K., Cook, A., Owuor, S., & Enns, C. (2025). Architecture for Spatially Just Food System Planning with and for Urban Youth South Sudanese Refugees in Kenya. *Youth*, 5(4), 130.