

# Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science – **March 2026**

## **Engaging Learners**

### **Dr. Sameeha Jhetam**

Guest speaker at UFV's Pre-vet Club meeting on February 12th, 2026, where she advised students on the career opportunities in animal science, including veterinary medicine. Dr. Jhetam provided the Pre-vet Club student members with insights into the interview process, example interview questions, and advised on the general application process and animal experience questions. She provided the club with the contact information for a current Western College of Veterinary Medicine student, which led to the club organizing a mock interview session on March 19th with current veterinary students in preparation for interviews, typically held in the spring/summer.

### **Dr. Stefania Pizzirani**

UFV Faculty Micro-lectures: "Is it too late for climate mitigation?"

*"Indigenous engagement: Teaching and learning together"*, Genome BC webinar (invited presenter)

### **SD33 and Squiala School Visit UFV**

On February 17 and 18, more than 100 Indigenous students visited UFV's Abbotsford campus for a dynamic two-day Open House filled with exploration, hands-on activities, and connection.

Students toured several academic areas, including Chemistry and Biology, where they stepped into labs, watched demonstrations, and experienced what learning in the sciences looks like at UFV. The campus yurt was another highlight—serving as a gathering place and hosting an Early Childhood Education presentation that gave students a look into the program's distinctive approach.

Beyond the sciences and ECE, students also engaged with the Business department and Environmental Studies & Planning. During their Halq'eméylem language session, they learned how to say their names and practiced simple phrases, adding a meaningful cultural learning moment to the day.

Throughout the event, students connected with UFV faculty, staff, and mentors from the Indigenous Student Centre, asking questions and exploring potential pathways. A shared lunch helped build community, and each student left with a swag bag filled with items contributed by departments and university groups.

It was inspiring to welcome so many Indigenous learners to campus, and we look forward to encouraging their next steps in education and community.

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### **Transforming Lives**

#### **Dr. Sameeha Jhetam**

The publication from 2026 (chick processing holding devices and novel down feather biomarkers) is the first study to be published assessing both the holding devices for chick processing machines at hatcheries and to identify a novel non-invasive method for measuring stress in newly hatched chicks by looking at inflammatory biomarkers and heat shock proteins in the down feathers of chicks. This provides a new avenue for measuring stress in chicks and understanding the stress response time when chicks experience various or compounding environmental stressors. Dr. Jhetam hopes to continue this work at UFV by further investigating the stress-response time of heat shock proteins in blood compared to feathers, and by further validating down feather biomarkers as a repeatable measure of stress and health status.

### **Building Community**

#### **Dr. Lenore Newman**

Appeared on the CBC *Ideas* episode “*What if your favourite food became extinct?*” to discuss the growing threat of disappearing flavours as species and ecosystems decline. She highlighted the extinction of the passenger pigeon as an early example of how quickly a food source can vanish and described how climate change and industrial agriculture may put other familiar foods at risk. She also outlined emerging lab-raised food technologies, explaining how they could lead to a future food singularity marked by greater abundance and reduced environmental pressure

### **List of Publications (UFV student names underlined>**

Dr. Vahid Tadayan, Assistant Professor in Math & Statistics, delivered an invited lecture hosted by the Shiraz University Statistics Students Association as part of their World Statistics Day (October 20) lecture series. His presentation, titled “Predictive Spatial Modeling of Claim Frequency and Severity for Risk Analysis in Third-Party Automobile Insurance,” attracted an audience of university faculty members and students interested in statistical applications in risk analysis.

Jhetam, S., Shynkaruk, T., Hamaoka, T., Crowe, T.G., Jeffery, A., Rogers, M.B., Van Kessel, A.G., and Schwean-Lardner, K. 2025. Feeding leghorn chicks during simulated transport as an early feeding strategy and the benefits of a single spray probiotic application. *Poultry Science*. 104(12): 106024 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2025.106024>

Jhetam, S., Shynkaruk, T., Adler, C.A.B, Buchynski, K., Gesy, K., Gomis, S., Crowe, T.G., Van Kessel, A.G., Dridi, S., and Schwean-Lardner, K. 2026. Different chick processing holding devices reveal welfare and stress effects via novel down-feather biomarkers. *Poultry Science*. 105(5):106595 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2026.106595>

A view from the mountain top: biodiversity of moths on Pink Mountain in British Columbia's northern alpine tundra. 2025. Klassen, R, Holden, D, Gillespie, S, Uriel, Y and Franklin MT. *Journal of*

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the Entomological Society of British Columbia 122.

<https://journal.entsocbc.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/2627>

Pizzirani, S. and Rahman, S. (2026). "MCC Centre: Sustainable Solutions for Clothing Waste Management", Ivey Publishing