

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

Engaging Learners

Robin Endelman

Received a grant from Canada Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), under the Green Jobs Initiative, to support 2 students as Science Rocks! Facilitators (for 2025). The goals of this initiative are to provide meaningful job experiences, opportunities, and learning experiences for youth to build skills for success in the workplace and encourage youth to value nature and pursue careers in the green jobs sector.

Received an Outreach Initiative grant from the National Research Council (NRC), in support of Super Science Club (partnership with Science World) and Science Rocks! Summer Camps, 2026. The NRC Outreach Initiative grant supports science- and innovation-based initiatives or projects. The successful application is under the NRC's Indigenous Outreach Stream, in support of building relationship with Indigenous communities in the context of STEM, advancing equity through collaboration and partnership in STEM-related areas, and increasing participation of Indigenous peoples in STEM.

Dr. Lauren Erland

The BERRI Lab hosted a Research Showcase on December 3 where students in the AGRI 323 Fruit Production Class, and Research Students in the BERRI Lab presented their research for the semester in a poster session in the H Building Atrium at CEP Campus. Agriculture faculty, community partners and our Dean Dr. Hitch attended the event that gave students a chance to communicate their work to the UFV community and industry partners.

Appointed as a Fellow International with the Explorer's Club (www.explorers.org). Previously a term member, this appointment recognizes Dr. Erland's ongoing commitment to research and scientific discovery.

Dr Lenore Newman

Dr. Newman was invited to speak at the Centre for Global Change Science at the University of Toronto's Distinguished Lecturer Series. Newman's topic was 'The Coming Agricultural Singularity: Technology, Policy and the Future of Food' January 13, 2026

Dr. Newman was a Panelist at ECO Canada's Crop Talk: Career, Stories & Networking event. The event held at BCIT, January 22, 2026, had senior leaders of their fields share real-world insights and strategies for navigating the ag industry. The event had a networking component connecting professionals in the agricultural sector.

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Transforming Lives

Dr. Marina Tourlakis

Part of the Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) West meeting at the University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA. The poster was titled "The HOPE Workshop - a gamified approach to build communities of care." In this project, we are developing a game-based workshop that invites participants to role-play different members of their academic ecosystem (faculty, administrators, etc.) experiencing a variety of tricky scenarios to build empathy and develop communication strategies that centre community and care. This project is supported by the [RIOS Institute](#).

Dr. Lauren Erland

BERRI Lab Research Students Sophia Rose Snelgrove and Emily Foster presented their research conducted as part of the Pan Canadian LeafHope project, for which Dr. Erland is the BC Project Lead at the Entomological Society of Québec from November 19 – 20. Their presentations included new surveys of leafhoppers in blueberries and strawberries in the Lower Mainland. This work will inform larger Canada-wide projects, as well as the development of a leafhopper guide for BC strawberry and blueberry growers. Their presentations were entitled:

Foster EL*, Koeppel S, Smit C, Snelgrove SR, Plante N, Pérez-Lopez E, Erland LAE. 2025. Leafhopper presence and abundance in highbush blueberry crops in British Columbia. Entomological Society of Quebec Annual Meeting. Québec City, Nov 2025.

Snelgrove SR*, Foster EL, Koeppel S, Smit C, Plante N, Pérez-Lopez E, Erland LAE. 2025. Population and diversity of leafhoppers in British Columbia's *Fragaria ananassa* Strawberry Crops. Entomological Society of Quebec Annual Meeting. Québec City, Nov 2025.

BERRI Lab Research Students supervised by Dr. Lauren Erland, Fabiola Cruz Alderete, Sophia Rose Snelgrove and Emily Foster presented their research on plant environmental stress at the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting on November 9. Their presentations were entitled:

Cruz Alderete F*, Foster E, Erland LAE. 2025. The effects of drought stress on *Cerastium regelii*. Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting. Hybrid/Saskatoon, Nov 2025.

Foster E*, Erland, LAE. 2025. Melatonin supplementation enhances heat tolerance of *Fragaria vesca* cv Yellow Wonder and Regina strawberries. Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting. Hybrid/Saskatoon, Nov 2025.

Snelgrove SR*, Gillespie S, Erland LAE. 2025. The effect of increasing temperatures on cranberry pollen germination. Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting. Hybrid/Saskatoon, Nov 2025.

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BERRI in collaboration with Dr. Shelley Cannings & CERA is piloting a new program this semester with Elder College. Elder College members will join the BERRI Lab as Member-Researchers in the Spring Elder College semester contributing to ongoing research in the lab. This new collaboration creates opportunities for intergenerational learning between UFV and Elder College students, and supports UFV's designation as an Age Friendly University. We look forward to being able to expand this initiative to other Research Programs within the BERRI Centre and others in future Elder College semesters.

Dr. Lenore Newman

Lenore Newman, Distinguished Lecturer Series, 'The Coming Agricultural Singularity: Technology, Policy and the Future of Food', University of Toronto, January 13, 2026

Dr. Newman co-authored an opinion piece with Dr. Evan Fraser published in The Globe and Mail on January 21, 2026. The article entitled [In Carney's new world order, Canada's opportunity is as a bread basket](#) discusses Prime Minister Mark Carney's warning about countries needing to be self-reliant in food, fuel, and defense amid geopolitical instability and climate change. Canada has the potential to become the world's premier food-producing region amid shifting climates free [here](#).

Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk

Presentation — K. Garaschuk and D. Barr. "Should University Academics Be Involved in K-12 Education: A Debate", Firth Year Math and Stats meeting, January 22nd, 2026

Presentation — K. Garaschuk "Human-centered classrooms", Canadian Mathematical Society meeting, Toronto, December 6-10, 2025

Co-organized "Diversity and Inclusivity Lunchtime Discussion" at the Canadian Mathematical Society meeting, Toronto, December 6-10, 2025

Ongoing contributions to the Governance Review of the Canadian Mathematical Society, including complete revamp of the governance structures and creation of a dozen of new charters.

Food and Agriculture Institute

The Food and Agriculture Institute's [Grounded Innovation 2.0](#) event, which took place in May 2025, featured a keynote speech from Dr. Evan Fraser, Director of the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph, and co-lead of the Sustainable Food System for Canada (SF4C) initiative alongside UFV's Dr. Lenore Newman. The SF4C Innovation Node, which focuses on agri-food technology innovation and mentorship, is based at the University of the Fraser Valley. Dr. Fraser's full keynote speech is now available to watch on UFV's [Sustainable Food Systems for Canada](#) website.

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Building Community

Dr. Alida Janmaat

Tate, Joanna and Janmaat, Alida (2025) Phenology of Hemlock Woolly Adelgids (*Adelges tsugae*). Entomological Society of British Columbia, Annual Meeting, Abbotsford, BC.

Dr. Lauren Erland

Dr. Lauren Erland and Dr. Cindy Jardine (Health Sciences) collaborative work with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to support food sovereignty and food security initiatives in the NWT was recently highlighted in UFV Now has been featured by several local news sources <https://fvcurrent.com/p/ufv-researchers-team-up-to-support-food-security-in-canada-s-north>

Joined Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants, an educational non-profit which brings scientists and explorer's into the classroom, for an online presentation to ~ 1,000 students worldwide to discuss her research on plant intelligence, as part of an EcoSchools Canada sponsored lesson on "Indoor Gardening for the Future". These lessons are livestreamed into classrooms, and shared on YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/live/_7iL9yeyQ4s?si=8gvRk96hbGhHtrP-

Presented work on an ongoing collaborative project with Dr. Renee Prasad & Carolyn Teasdale at the BC MAF on blueberry variety susceptibility to blueberry scorch virus at the BC Blueberry Virus Research Network Annual Meeting hosted by the BC Blueberry Council and at the Lower Mainland Horticulture Conference.

Radio interview with the Jas Johal show on an ongoing three year project evaluating of cranberry responses to warming in the BERRI Lab which has engaged ~10 student researchers in the lab over the project to date.

Food and Agriculture Institute and Stefania Pizzirani

On January 5, 2026, UFV Today published an article titled [UFV students shine at Solutions in Scaling Sustainable Agriculture hackathon](#). The article highlights two UFV undergraduate students, Mwenda Dyck and Jason Lighton, who participated in the "Solutions in Scaling Sustainable Agriculture" hackathon held in Winnipeg, an event supported by the Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) platform, which UFV co-leads. Facilitated by Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Associate Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI), the students joined interdisciplinary teams to develop practical solutions for challenges such as measuring the effectiveness of regenerative agriculture, benefiting from mentorship by industry partners. Mwenda and Jason were the only undergraduates among participants with advanced degrees, underscoring UFV and SF4C's role in preparing emerging talent to compete at high levels and drive sustainable food system innovation in Canada.

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List of Publications (UFV student names underlined)

Baras A, J. Li, K. Li, X. Mu, A. M. Onaizi, Y. Cao, H. Heraiz, A. Elajjani, H. Du, W. Ni, M. Hitch. (2026) Carbonation Curing of Semi-Dry Flue Gas Desulfurization Ash for CO₂ Sequestration: Microstructural Evolution and Strength 3 Development of Alkali-Rich Industrial Waste. Minerals. (SJR Q2)

Hitch M., G. Barakos (2026) Critical Minerals as a Trojan Horse: The Political Ecology of Green Extractivism in Climate Governance. The Extractive Industries and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2025.101845> (SJR Q1)

Hitch M., J. Li, J. Duexueer (2026) Metals as a Service for Copper: Circular Economy Approaches, Asset Tracking and Policy Innovations for Sustainable Rental and Leasing Models. The Extractive Industries and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2025.101826> (SJR Q1)

Pan Z., J. Li, X. Yue, B. Zhang, Y. Jiao, Z. Wu, S. Zhang, S. Zhu, W. Ni, M. Hitch. (2025) Supercharging carbon capture:

Intensive grinding boosts steel slag carbonation consolidation in an ammonium carbonate ((NH₄)₂CO₃) solution. Construction and Building Materials. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2025.144354>. (SJR Q1)

Janmaat, A, Tseng, M. (2025) Hotter and Smaller? BioGraphI FMN Spring 2025, QUBES Educational Resources. [doi:10.25334/QKV8-JB41](https://doi.org/10.25334/QKV8-JB41)

Lane SL, Erland LAE*. 2025. Differential temperature adaptation mechanisms in the High Arctic-adapted Cerastium regelii Ostenf. and the widespread Stellaria longipes Goldie. Accepted, Botany. BioRxiv doi.org/10.1101/2025.03.15.643465

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

Lane, S.L., Laframboise, S.L. and Erland, L.A.E. (2025). Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* Ait.) responses to in-field warming. *Acta Hortic.* 1440, 249-256. DOI: 10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1440.35

Chu, D., Kajal, and Sidhu, G. (2025). Comparison of Projected Wins of Three Projection Systems in Major League Baseball. *Journal of Sports and Games* 7(2), 35-45.

<https://sryahwapublications.com/journals/journal-of-sports-and-games/volume-7/issue-2>