

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science – November 2025

Engaging Learners

Alessandros Glaros

Hosted a Fall Fermentation Fiesta, Student Wellness and Experience Lounge, as part of Changemaking Week, hosted by UFV Student Change Makers, October 8, 2025

Stefania Pizzirani and Charmaine White

Hosted a table at World Food Day, speaking to students about the Food and Agriculture Institute. The event was organized by Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies and held on UFV's Abbotsford campus, October 16, 2025

Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C)

Hosted two undergrad students from UFV to participate in SF4C's Hack-a-thon 'Cultivating Ideas: Solutions in Scaling Sustainable Agriculture'. Students Jason Lighton and Mwenda Dyck, contributed to teams at this 2-day event in Manitoba, October 9-10, 2025

Chemistry Department

Welcomed Professor Samira Siahrostami from Simon Fraser University (SFU) for a seminar highlighting her cutting-edge research. Prof. Siahrostami's work focuses on sustainability and green technologies, using computational techniques such as density functional theory (DFT) to explore innovative solutions for a cleaner future. Joining her were one of her graduate students and the Chemistry Graduate Assistant from SFU, who spoke with students about graduate studies and what it's like to be part of their research community.

The event provided a great opportunity for students interested in co-op and research experiences to learn more about real-world applications of computational chemistry, while also allowing faculty to build connections with colleagues at SFU. Discussions following the seminar were full of great questions, showing the growing enthusiasm for collaboration and sustainability-focused research.

Given the success and strong turnout, the department is looking at more ways to offer similar seminars and networking opportunities in the future—creating more chances for students and faculty alike to connect, share ideas, and explore exciting areas of modern chemistry.

Biology Department

Organizing the 2026 Tofino Field School, scheduled for May 15–25, 2026. Jennifer Barrett, Debbie Wheeler, and Sandra Gillespie are leading the planning efforts. Our last field school was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, so we're especially excited to be offering it again. During the trip, students will explore a variety of ecosystems and sample biological diversity through activities such as running transects and quadrants, mist-netting birds, extracting DNA, and running gels. The field school will also include a marine mammal tour and several short hikes.

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Transforming Lives

Golfam Ghafourifar

Appointed as a member of the 1504 Chemistry Evaluation Group for a three-year term - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

Lenore Newman

Gave keynote speech at CERA Day 2025 at *International Day of the Older Person* on UFV's Chilliwack Campus, October 3rd, 2025. Newman's topic was on The One Health Approach: Living well and aging well in the Fraser Valley. <https://www.ufv.ca/aging/spotlight--events/cera-day-2025/>

This Transforming Lives Portrait, *UFV co-creates national food security solutions* (page 23) featured in UFV's 2025 Community Report *St'elt'elawtexw: Celebrating Community Across the Fraser Valley*, highlights UFV's leadership in co-creating national food security solutions. Through the Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) program, UFV researchers, led by Dr. Lenore Newman at the Chilliwack campus, are working to "future-proof" our food system by supporting agrifood innovation, entrepreneurship, and local collaboration—positioning Canada as a global leader in resilient and sustainable food production. <https://www.ufv.ca/community/#report>

Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C)

Launched its West Coast Innovation Node website, hosted at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). The Innovation Node is responsible for driving innovation and providing mentorship and is co-chaired by Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of UFV's Food and Agriculture Institute, website launched October 2025. <https://www.ufv.ca/sf4c-innovation/>

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Building Community

Kseniya Garaschuk

Presenting in the session Gender Equity in the Mathematical Sciences session this coming [CMS Winter meeting](#) to be held at the Chelsea Hotel Toronto, Dec 5-8, 2025.

Lenore Newman

Held the Food and Agriculture Institute's annual Advisory Meeting, with attendance from UFV Faculty and Research Associates of the FAI, held on UFV's Abbotsford campus, October 14, 2025

Featured on CBC News' North by Northwest with Margaret Gallagher, on an episode entitled *Cravings columnist Lenore Newman on canning, pickling, and farmers markets*, aired September 28, 2025

Lenore Newman and Stefania Pizzirani

This October, co-leads Dr. Newman and Dr. Pizzirani, and FAI team members Dr. Angela McIntyre, Teresa Carlson, and Charmaine White gave a presentation to Genome BC and Genome Canada members wrapping up an 18-month research project entitled *The Cultural Implications of Cellular Aquaculture: Building Inclusive and Ethical Research Spaces in BC*. The team presented [The Í:westel qe tótel:exwtel \(Teaching Each Other and Learning Together\) Toolkit](#), developed collaboratively with, and under the direction of the Stó:lō Community Advisory Council. This first version of the Toolkit and serves as a living 'workbook' for research engagement. It is culturally specific to Stó:lō rights-holders and documents the Food and Agriculture Institute's research Team as they journeyed through this research project. The Toolkit is designed with a methodology that, with guidance, can be adapted. This work will build into a Toolkit being developed within [The Social Implications of Agri-Genomics: Ensuring a Just Transition to Climate-Resilient Agricultural and Food Systems in Canada](#) research project funded by Genome BC and Genome Canada, which continues for two more years.

Alesandros Glaros and Charmaine White

Hosted a table at the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Leader Lunch at the Abbotsford Centre, where UFV President Dr. James Mandigo delivered the keynote address celebrating UFV's partnerships and collaborations in the community. Dr. Mandigo highlighted research institutes at UFV, such as the Food and Agriculture Institute, for driving innovation and supporting the growth of local businesses held on September 23, 2025

The Food and Agriculture Institute

Welcomed two new Research Associates this fall. Dr. Chelsea Himsworth and Dr. Michael Lee both focus on [One Health](#) approaches that address the interconnected health of humans, animals, and the environment—key factors in sustainable and safe agricultural systems.

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List of Publications (UFV student names underlined)

Dawei Ma, Harley Gordon, Rashid Nazir, Jeremy E Wulff, C Peter Constabel, Salicylic acid biosynthesis via the PAL pathway requires benzaldehyde synthase and a benzyl salicylate-specific esterase, *The Plant Cell*, 2025;, koaf241, <https://doi.org/10.1093/plcell/koaf241>

K. Garaschuk, "Why students cheat — an economic approach", CMS Notes, 57(5), October 2025.

Glaros, A., Martin, A., Eckert, K. & Newell, R. (2025): "I'm wondering about the society of beetles that I have": Entomophagy, relationality, and food system transitions at the household-level, *Food and Foodways*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07409710.2025.2564488>

Dring, C., Newell, R., & Pizzirani, S. (2025). Urban agriculture planning education programs: Needs and opportunities. Food and Agriculture Institute, University of the Fraser Valley. <http://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10852.85124>

[FAI Newsletter Vol.3 Issue 10 – Fall 2025](#)

[The Í:westel qe tótel:exwtel \(Teaching Each Other and Learning Together\) Toolkit.](#) (2025). The Food and Agriculture Institute.

Roslyn Kunin & Associates, & Human Capital Strategies. (2025). [Ag-Tech micro-credentials in British Columbia: Review of and recommendations on supporting the BC Ag-Tech sector through new micro-credential training.](#) Report prepared for the Food and Agriculture Institute, University of the Fraser Valley.