



December 2011

Merry Christmas Wish
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What is Aboriginal Access Services?

Our goal is to assist and support all Aboriginal students including status and non-status First Nations, Metis and Inuit, to make a successful transition to the University of the Fraser Valley. The purpose of our Aboriginal Resource Centre (ARC) is to provide easy-access resources, a friendly, home-away-from-home environment on campus for students to reach their maximum potentials, to bridge the gap between cultures, and to enhance each student's participation and success in academic life at UFV.



"One-Horned Baby Mountain Goat"
(carving stands 8 feet high)
By: Stan Green

Welcome Charlotte Point



We wish to take this opportunity to welcome Elder **Charlotte Point** as our new Elder-in-residence, effective October 26th. Charlotte has already made many valuable contacts with our students on the Chilliwack and Abbotsford campuses, providing counselling, spiritual guidance and traditional teachings in a timely and helpful manner. If you see Charlotte on the UFV campus or at the Aboriginal Resource Centre, please join us in welcoming her.

University of the Fraser Valley

Aboriginal Access Services

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Chilliwack Campus

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Contacts at a Glance

- **Bob Searle**
AAS Coordinator
- **Laura Smith**
ACLS Program Coordinator
- **Josephine Marie Charlie**
Cultural & Activities Assistant
- **Betty Peters**
Department Assistant
- **Elaine Malloway**
Department Assistant
- **Karen Hamilton**
Auxiliary Department Assistant



After 11 Weeks

Since classes first recommenced eleven weeks ago, our staff has been busy making contacts with our 'new' students and catching up with our returning students. We've been working to make the admissions/registration process more manageable, provide resource materials and contacts for course assignments, acquire helpful information on funding sources, and refer students to university and community services that will assist them and their families in their daily lives, and in the completion of their academic goals.

So, what are some of the things
that we do for our students?
Well, we've . . .

- Engaged in discussions with acting manager of **Student Life, Susan Francis** on ways that our students can get involved in leadership activities, peer support, clubs & associations, volunteers roles, health & wellness events, and sports & recreation;
- Met with **Shirley Hardman** and members of the **Indigenous Studies Advisory Committee** to discuss and plan further steps to build on UFV's commitment to indigenize the University throughout all teaching, learning and campus-life activities;
- Provided input from Aboriginal Access staff to the **Advising Assessment coordinator, Ken Brealey** identifying areas of the 'advising' process that are supported, complimented and might be improved in order to ensure improvements in admissions and registration, for our students;
- Attended two meetings of the **Race & Anti-racism Network (RAN)** to view materials and discuss strategies for raising awareness about racism and race-related issues that may take place at the University and in our communities. Also took part in the **Safe Harbour training/workshop** at University House on Oct. 13th that promotes equitable and respectful treatment of all members of our diverse community, and an immediate and available safe place for people experiencing discrimination;
- Participated on October 23rd & 24th with Michelle LaFlamme, Melissa Walter and Heather Davis-Fisch from the UFV English Dept. to facilitate the visit of **Thomson Highway**, renowned playwright, novelist and musician. He shared his experiences growing up and being educated in northern Manitoba, and later creating **The Rez Sisters, Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing** and **Kiss of the Fur Queen**.



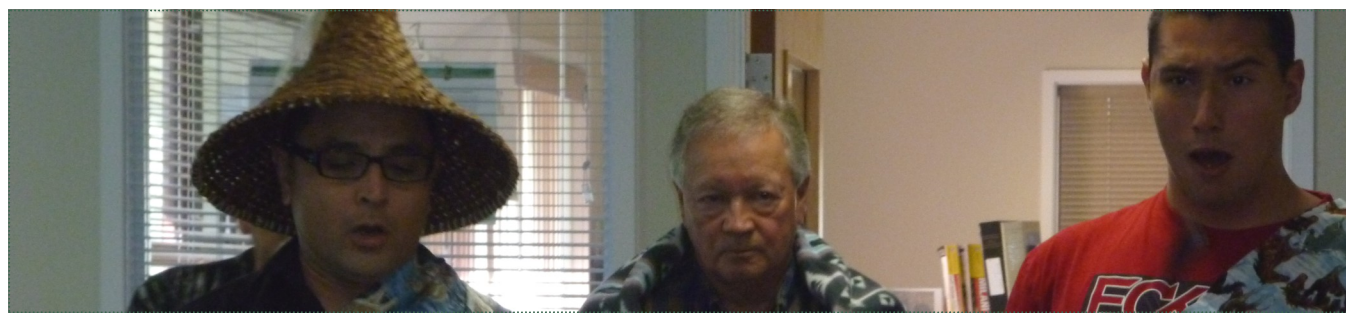
Dec. 5th, Exam Week



Some Kitchen Goodies



- We also participated during the week of Nov. 22nd & 23rd in events related to the visit of **Dr. Cheryl Suzack (Batchewana First Nation)**, assistant professor in the departments of English and Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto, who has co-edited *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture*, and the critical edition of *In Search of April Raintree*. Dr. Suzack participated in Gwen Point's 'open class' in Chilliwack on the 22nd, and presented a public lecture in Abbotsford in the afternoon entitled, *Trapped in one of the Oldest Ways: Indigenous women, Literature, and the Law*. On the 23rd she presented to Michelle LaFlamme's English class where she provided further perspectives on indigenous women, story-telling and the law. To end the day the English Students' Association hosted a reception in the Critical Art space in Dr. Suzack's honour.
- We continue to monitor our numbers of current students; as of Nov. 16th there are 391 'declared' students of aboriginal ancestry enrolled at the Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission and Hope campuses of UFV.
 - ◇ Since Oct. 17th we have assisted approximately 26 students from both main campus areas, with **admissions/registration** matters who are wishing to begin courses in January or September 2012;
 - ◇ Since Oct. 17th we have also provided information and application assistance to approximately 13 students, for **financial aid, awards and band sponsorship**.
 - ◇ As one of our most important goals in advocating for students enrolled at UFV continues to be '**retention**', it is of note that we have had only 9 students leave the University since September 6th, the first day of classes in the 2011-12 Fall term;
- Worked through the standard hiring process with Tammy Bartz, Thelma Florence and Employee Services from Sept. 21st – Oct 24th to select **Charlotte Point** as the new Elder-in-residence for Aboriginal Access Services, ensuring that our students have continued access to advisors who are experienced in Sto:lo Nation traditional and spiritual knowledge;



Welcoming Ceremony — for Bob Searle, new AAS Coordinator, fall 2011



- **T**raveled with Josephine Charlie, to meet with **Renee Inkster** in Mission to further arrange the upcoming **Metis Day Awareness** event set for Nov. 15th in Abbotsford, Rooms A225/229 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. This event is intended to celebrate and appreciate Metis history and culture, meet some wonderful people and enjoy some traditional food;
 - **P**articipated on Nov. 8th with **UFV Elder, Terry Prest** in the **AUCC Open Doors – Open Knowledge Event** at the Trades & Technology Centre at the Canada Education Park, welcoming Federal, Provincial and Municipal representatives, local guests and UFV Board & employee representatives to a 'Thank You' and tour/progress report on the construction of the new UFV Chilliwack campus;
 - **A**ttended two **Sto:lo Elders' Potluck luncheon meetings** with Terry Prest for an introduction, and to gather input and field questions on student support and opportunities for Sto:lo Nation students, specifically those attending UFV.
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Students — For better results

- Always go to class: **class attendance** really does determine your grade.
- **Communications** is key: especially with roommates, project partners, staff and instructors.
- **Be on time** for class: Arriving late puts you behind the class, places you at a disadvantage, and distracts the instructor and other students.
- **Don't be afraid to ask for help!** The more information you receive the better chance you'll have for success.

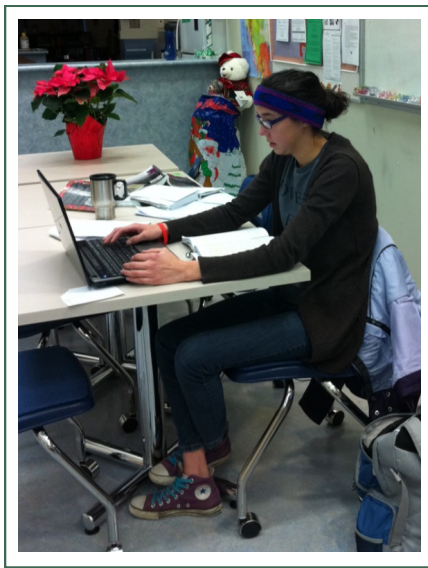


S'olh Shxwlèlì Siya:ye

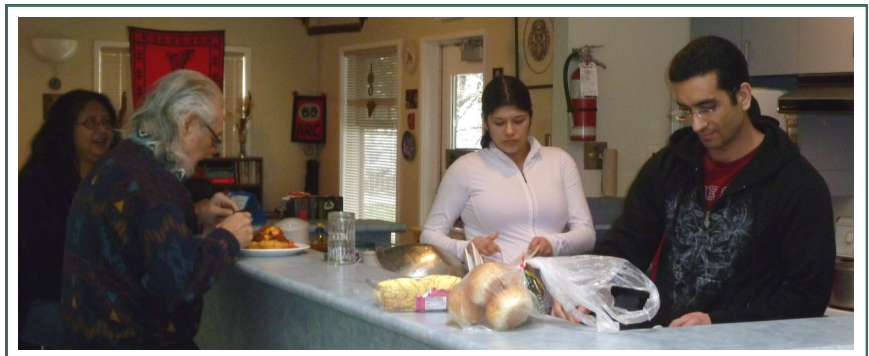
ABORIGINAL ACCESS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

- **University is not a contest:** You don't have to compete with anyone for your grade. Learn at your own pace, and don't feel defeated if you don't understand something the first time around. Remember students tend to have different learning styles. Stay calm, ask questions, and be sure to know the name of the person you are talking to.
- Set yourself up early with some **support systems:** They are important for your survival; make friends early, establish some study partners and be prepared to talk to everyone.
- For many, **expect to feel lonely, frightened and even isolated:** But remember, you are not the only person feeling these emotions, and it does get better with time.
- **Read everything!** Read your mail, your e-mail and all notices from the University, instructors and departmental staff. Deadlines and changes are especially important!
- Don't take policy advice from other students: **Check with departmental offices** on campus!
- **Join in all of the activities that you can**, but remember to manage your time effectively.
- **Don't be intimidated** by instructors, administration or staff! Your tuition dollars go towards their salaries, you are the customer and they work for you, so ask questions!
- **Your University calendar and homepage are key!** Open them to reap the benefits of what is inside. You'll find all kinds of opportunities, many at little or no cost!

*Maintain a positive attitude!,
be a good listener,
stay with your own convictions and
follow your dreams.*



*Dec. 5th, Exam Week
Another Student
Busy Studying*



Another Day in the Kitchen



Sweat Lodge Ceremony

The sweat lodge is a re-enactment of a return to our mother womb like experience, which is a cleansing of the body, mind and spirit. It requires an act of humility to sit in a fetal position, admitting powerlessness before our maker. Disclosing of difficulties, sharing our problems with other people and in prayer asking for the needs of our innermost self. Then after the rounds we re-enter creation reborn with new hope and a changed attitude.

Four Rounds in a Sweat Lodge Ceremony

- *Gratitude* — Respect and appreciation for life
- *Grandmother* — The female round, honouring and showing respect to our female relatives
- *Grandfather* — The male round, honouring and showing respect to the male relatives
- *Ourselves* — Respect and honour for ourselves

Preparing for the Sweat Lodge Ceremony

- A tobacco offering to the lodge leader is an acceptable way to start talking about the ceremony with the Elder
- Help out at the ceremony — come early and stay late to help finish the work together
- Wear proper attire — please ask an elder if you have questions around appropriate dress
- An offering for the lodge can be brought i.e. package of loose tobacco and/or items such as sweet grass, sage, and one meter of cotton/broad cloth
- Stay alcohol and drug free for four days prior to the ceremony
- Discuss health concerns i.e. medication, illnesses with your doctor and lodge keepers
- Come with a good mind and a good heart
- Show respect for the lodge, the keepers, all participants and helpers, yourself and the Ancestors
- Learn to listen so that you can listen to learn

Sweat Ceremony's are typically held on the third Sunday of every month, with the fire beginning at 9am. Lunch is provided.

Upcoming Schedule

December 18, 2011

January 15, 2012

February 19, 2012

Location

Sto:lo Nation grounds

(west of the Daycare, building 5)

7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, BC

W: www.stolonation.bc.ca





Recent Events

Presentation to **UFV Student Services – Advisors** on Nov. 15th re “How can we be more effective in assisting aboriginal students”, re learning styles, understanding culture, designing policy, working with deadlines & understanding challenges, and providing support networks;

BCAPSC (BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Coordinators’) training session @ Four Points Sheraton in Richmond on Nov. 21, 22, 2011. Provincial Ministry of Advanced Education overview & breakout: Aboriginal Policy Framework + working session w/researcher for AHHRI Project (questionnaire to students re aspects of post-secondary education support);

Area Wide Meeting (Charette) to Develop UFV Learning Outcomes w/ Eric Davis & Wendy Burton, Tues. Nov. 22nd;

FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee) regional training sessions @ Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver on Nov. 28th & 29th; focus 1st day on an overview of ‘key’ organizations in BC, the public education system, the National education scene & an AANDC update; then day 2 - First Nations languages, schools associations, supporting parents & youth, news from post-secondary organizations, and feedback from participants.

Student Christmas Luncheon, Nov. 30th @ Chilliwack Campus AR Centre (ARC) – turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and approximately 40 students, guests and staff joining in to celebrate the festive season and the end of the Fall 2011 term. Many thanks to **Josephine Charlie** for preparing a wonderful luncheon and for organizing this event;



Christmas Luncheon Feast

Student Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 1st @ Abbotsford Campus AR Centre student lounge – prepared and hosted by Departmental Assistant, **Betty Peters** with assistance from Laura Smith, Karen Hamilton, Charlotte Point, Terry Prest and Hailey Peters-Sam. We were pleased to have over 30 students, guests and staff join us for this Christmas event.



Busy, busy, busy — Construction at the new Canada Education Park



Aboriginal Access Services (AAS) moving to Canada Education Park

In May 2012 our Aboriginal Resource Centre (ARC) will be moving to a new, beautiful Longhouse location at the Canada Education Park (CEP) in the south Vedder area, where the Canadian Armed Forces Base was once located. We are proud to be relocating to an area that has such rich traditional & cultural significance to the people of the Sto:lo Nation communities, and look forward to welcoming all of our students, families and community members to come and join us at the new Centre at many event ceremonies, when we get settled later in June. All other UFV programs currently held at the Chilliwack/Yale Street campus will be moving to the Canada Education Park at the same time.



We look forward to continued input from all Sto:lo Nation communities in the areas of art design and motif, as we near our May move-in dates.

Terry Prest, Elder

Elder-in-residence, **Terry Prest** is leaving the Aboriginal Access Services staff effective December 5th. We would like to thank Terry for his work with our students and staff, for the past in providing cultural and spiritual teachings and guidance, for his story telling abilities and ceremonial addresses, and for his overall contribution to the University of the Fraser Valley.

We wish you well in the future, Terry!



We look forward to hiring an elder to replace Terry in January 2012.

Contact Us

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