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**TO:** Senate Members

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

**DATE:** November 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Provost's Report – October 2019

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In addition to participation in regular meetings and committee work, during the month of October, 2019:

- Launched the Strategic Planning Process at the Presidential Town Halls in Abbotsford and Chilliwack
- Dr. Alisa Webb (VP Students) and I visited with local school Board Superintendents in Hope, Mission, and Chilliwack
- Dr. Alisa Webb (VP Students) and I hosted a drop-in breakfast with students
- Participated in the Metis Awareness Week events and dedication of the display case at the Chilliwack Campus
- Met with representatives from Canuck Place and toured their facilities to explore partnership opportunities
- Attended my first BCAIU Vice President Academic meetings in Vancouver at BCIT
- Worked with Budget Office to develop Preliminary Budget Positions for Faculties and other units reporting into the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Office
- Toured the Clearbrook Campus and the Hope Campus
- Attended the Crime is Toast Breakfast with the Abbotsford Police Foundation and the Crystal Gala on behalf of UFV
- Toured the Library and its special collections
- Participated in the President's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force
- Attended the Conflict Transformation in Central America event hosted by the Peace and Reconciliation Centre
- Attended the Researcher Roundup Event hosted by the Department of Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies
- Attended a special luncheon with other community leaders hosted by the Mennonite Education Institute at their Secondary School in Abbotsford

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many activities that have and will be taking place. While there are hundreds of positive highlights I could present, the following are a selection of activities from across our Faculties and Academic Units:

### **Our Faculty & Staff**

- Dr. Lenore Newman's new book "Lost Feast: Culinary and the Future of Food" (6) was released on October 8, 2019. She began her run of 13 radio interviews across the country on October 11.
- Human Resources has established a Health and Well Being Steering Committee comprised of staff and faculty across the University with the aim of creating a healthy learning and working environment. Drawing on our own internal expertise, we want to ensure that we are doing all we can to support all individuals to "be well". Dianne Hicks is the team lead on this important UFV initiative.
- Human Resources has expanded Professional Development offerings. Registration for fall offerings is available online: <https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/human-resources/learning--development/fall-/Fall-2019-Workshops---Final.pdf> Shawn Johnston, Brittany Grewal and Tara Rozenek are team leads on the learning series.
- UFV participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Building Reconciliation Forum at Algoma University (October 8 – 10), which included a workshop presentation on UFV's journey to Indigenization and engaging Indigenous community partners, *Learning to Listen, So We Can Listen to Learn*, by Eric Davis, Peter Geller, Shirley Anne Hardman. Their presentation was featured in Universities Affairs article titled: [Collaboration and community key to universities' reconciliation efforts, say conference speakers](#)
- Michelle Vandepol, [Hope Centre](#) Coordinator and Upgrading and University Preparation Instructional Assistant, continues her extraordinary work as UFV's ambassador to the local community. During October, she participated in the Youth Summit and the Work BC Job Fair at Hope Secondary, and on November 23 she will help UFV partner with the Read Right Society, a local literacy group, to provide a free day of creativity programming and resources for Hope youth.
- The Stó:lō/SASET Culinary program previously run independently of UFV is now integrated into UFV's programming at TTC. A dedicated teaching kitchen is in development/construction that expands on the existing kitchen. We have concluded the hire of Chris Monkman as the indigenous Red Seal culinary instructor. He is a very talented and visionary individual who will not only fulfill the role in the SASET Culinary program but assist FATS broadly to open opportunities for Indigenous learners.
- Office of Research, Engagement, and Graduate Studies hosted the "Researcher Round-Up" Faculty Mixer with 50-60 new and established researchers and research-curious UFV faculty attended.
- ROMEO was launched September 1, 2019. ROMEO is an online database and management system that provides faculty, students, and the Research Office the ability to work within one platform to manage internal and external funding applications, projects, and ethics protocols throughout the lifespan of a research project
- This semester the Library is trying to encourage UFV faculty to have a scholar profile developed for them within HarvestIR, UFV's institutional repository. Scholar profiles include a brief biography, contact information, research interests, and can—where copyright permits—include links to presentations, articles, etc. You can see examples here: <https://ufv.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/ufv%3Ascholars>

- September 27 – October 25, a gallery exhibition titled: “I Went to Art School” showcased faculty and staff artworks alongside SoCA students and alumni to demonstrate the importance of art education and mentorship. This exhibition was curated by Melanie Jones (Visual Arts, Assistant Professor).
- Dr. Martha Dow, who successfully launched the new Health and Social Innovation Hub approved by Senate in October, was the Project Lead in helping the Division of Family Practice (Abbotsford, Chilliwack & Mission) to secure \$300,000 to support the Fraser East Health and Social Hub Initiation and Data Set Establishment Project.

## Our Students

- Isabelle St-Martin and several other students in the Faculty of Science, have formed a group called UFV-WEST to support Women in Engineering, Science and Technology. Another student Sasha Tuttle, has organized UFV’s Wildlife Protection Club. These groups are active and UFV-WEST will hold a Career panel evening on Nov 28.
- On October 11, UFV International hosted the second International Student Development Day at Camp Squeah in Hope, BC, with 40 students in attendance. With the theme of Create, Inspire, and Explore, topics focused self-development, building community, networking, sense of belonging, challenges transitioning to UFV and Canada, challenges for graduation transition, mental health, and more.
- Students of the LIBIT program have been immersed in preparing selections and questions for the Reading Link Challenge (<https://www.readinglinkchallenge.ca/>). This province-wide program for grade 4 and 5 students engages them in a series of knowledge competitions about a specific selection of books.
- Teacher Candidates started their 5-week School Experience beginning on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Our 96 Teacher Candidates are placed in 5 different districts in 32 different schools with 113 different Teacher Mentors (practicing teachers in the field).
- Applied Business Technology (ABT) program students attended the Métis Day Awareness event at the Gathering Place on October 29 (for a Twitter moment collection of photographs from the event, please see <https://twitter.com/i/moments/1189666091968028672?s=13>).
- Continuing Education welcomed its first cohort of students in the new Activity Assistant certificate program. This program prepares students to work with adults in adult care facilities who have cognitive and physical challenges to help them stay active and engaged (see [UFV Today](#) article to learn more).
- Nursing students interested in participating in the BSN study tour to Sierra Leone in May 2020 attended two information sessions at CEP this month. Students heard about the life-changing experience from peers who traveled to Sierra Leone on 2019.
- CIS student Uliyana Kubasova presented her REGS-supported research, *Analyzing Verbal and Nonverbal Features for Predicting Group Performance*, at the 20th Annual Interspeech Conference in Graz, Austria. The conference had a 49% acceptance rate for all applicants, including PhDs.
- October 25, four Arts students attended the [Character Abbotsford conference](#) at Abbotsford Arts Centre to talk about the UFV PACS program.
- January 3, 2020, planning for COA’s second annual [Student Leadership Symposium](#) is underway. This year’s symposium theme is [Empathy in Action](#), a key component of mindful leadership. Approximately

60-70 students will be invited to attend. The day will consist of a keynote delivery (by a prominent guest), lunch panel and three workshops.

- The Academic Success Centre continues to see a rise in visits from students taking advantage of the tutoring support. The data continue to demonstrate growth in demand. For example, there has been a 35% increase in the number of tutoring sessions held in October this year as compared to October last year.

## Our Community

- Dr. Lucy Lee, Dean of the Faculty of Science, welcomed delegates from Abbotsford's sister city, Fukagawa, Japan on October 1, 2019. They were accompanied by Aird Flavelle, member of the Green Party of BC. See story in <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2019/10/18/delegation-from-fukagawa-hokkaido-japan-visit-the-faculty-of-science-oct-2019/>
- Math Mania started on a high note on October 2, at Centennial Park Elementary school in Abbotsford. Math professors Vanessa Radzimsky, and Dr. Cindy Loten, coordinated the event with 23 other volunteers including UFV students. There were close to one hundred participants in this event. The next one will be held at Auguston Traditional School in Abbotsford on February 5, 2020.
- Applied Business Technology and Continuing Education staff are leading an initiative to form a chapter of Canada Learning Code (CLC) in the Fraser Valley region. CLC programming provides instruction in coding skills to community members and offers experiential opportunities for UFV students to mentor participants.
- The KUMOH Korea project—which saw 40 Korean students come of UFV for a four week Industrial English program last February—continues to progress. We are expecting 35 Korean students at UFV in September 2020 to complete Welding and Automation and Robotics programs. We are examining expansion of the project to include Culinary.
- UFV is collaborating with the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre in a pilot programme in offering space at the CEP campus for counselling for the public, with a specific focus on youth. The CYHC will have approximately three counsellors on campus one afternoon per week (Wednesdays) through the fall term.
- On October 22, President Joanne MacLean accepted the gift of a small-scale Red River cart from the Chilliwack Métis Association. The cart, handmade by Métis artist and carver Pat Calihou, was designed to be included in a display at the CEP Library on Louis Riel and the Métis.
- To promote the Newman Western Canadian Cookbook Collection's digitized cookbooks in HarvestIR, UFV's institutional repository, the library will be posting The Recipe of the Week #UFVrecipe on Twitter. You can also explore the recipe of the week on our research guide to the Newman Collection: <https://libguides.ufv.ca/NewmanCollection>
- October 29, COA's newly established Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) and the Mennonite Central Committee in Abbotsford held a public discussion on "Conflict Transformation in Central America: Legacies of Civil War, Peacebuilding and Migration" in the UFV Lecture Theatre. Area directors from the MCC office in Honduras, Cesar Flores and Lizzette Miranda, shared insights and dialogue surrounding their work.

- The UFV CityStudio space at the old Centennial Library in downtown Abbotsford is near completion. The renovations are expected to be finished by the end of October 2019. The next phase is for UFV to provide an AV equipment and furniture with the aim to start utilizing the space starting January 2020. Two Geography courses have already identified their interest in using the space. As well, Experiential Education is working with Dave Harper to host two Design Thinking workshops for students at CityStudio-Centennial in Winter 2020.
- UFV's Accessibility Advisory Committee is asking that each person at the university take the time to participate in British Columbia's feedback program to inform the new accessibility legislation. The B.C. Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction has announced the preparations for new Accessibility Legislation beginning with a community engagement program which runs until November 29, 2019.

Over the next few months, the Provost and Vice-President, Academic's Office will be leading UFV's Strategic Planning process. Our next Strategic Plan will build off of UFV's Visioning exercise that resulted in a renewal of our Mission, Vision, and Values. The Strategic Planning Working Group chaired by the Provost has established the following Goals under the banner of "redefining what a University in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century can be":

- Honour our commitment to the Fraser Valley
- Build off of UFV's successes and strengths
- Build off of UFV's visioning process and vision 2025
- Use our mission, vision, and values as the foundation
- Reflect on the future of higher education
- Establish no more than five (5) institutional goals
- Provide a clear pathway for the future of UFV
- Consult with the UFV community and its key stakeholders throughout the Fraser Valley
- Support and engage the UFV community to make the necessary changes to implement the strategic plan

A number of events are planned that will enable members across the UFV community to be actively engaged in helping to develop the key strategic priorities for UFV moving forward. I encourage everyone to be actively engaged in these consultative opportunities. These include:

- November 15, 2019 – Current Trends in Higher Education – Ken Steele ([Eduvation](#))
- January, 2020 – Series of consultation meetings and online feedback platforms

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

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Dr. James Mandigo  
Provost & VP Academic