

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: October 11, 2022
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

Over the past month, our campuses have come alive with the energy of faculty, staff, and students. Someone recently said to me that university campuses were built to have students on them. The energy they bring to our campuses, in our classes, and across our communities is contagious.

This past month, we also paused to remember the victims of residential schools on National Truth and Reconciliation Day. I had the opportunity to attend ceremonies in Abbotsford and Mission to hear first hand from survivors of residential schools located in the Fraser Valley about the atrocities of the genocide committed against Indigenous peoples. I also learned from the victims' family members who shared their experiences of the inter-generational trauma that residential schools have had and continue to have in our communities. A common theme expressed by all those who spoke was the critical importance of education to ensure the truths are known and the work for reconciliation is ongoing.

The importance of education was highlighted in the third ceremony I attended at the Gathering Place at CEP. The event *Chowiyes-Xwithet / Rise Up-Wake Up* featured bilingual music in Halq'eméylem and English performed by local band Good Medicine Songs that honoured the spirit of the children lost to residential schools, the survivors, and their families. It was a powerful ceremony that highlighted that despite attempts by colonial powers to destroy Indigenous culture and language, it not only survived, but it is thriving thanks to the courageous actions of Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers. My hands also go up to Dr. Lowlehawk Laura Buker who presented UFV with a weaved basket on behalf of her family. The basket held a prominent place in Dr. Buker's family for many generations and represented the accumulation of knowledge and culture. What a tremendous gift to offer UFV to inspire all of us to continually strive towards authentic truth and reconciliation through education.

Sr. Administrative Updates

Searches for the following Sr. Administrative positions within the Provost area are also currently underway:

- [Dean – Faculty of Science](#)
- [Dean – Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies](#)
- [Associate Vice President – Indigenous Affairs](#)

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have reorganized the activities across the Academic Units under the Mission and Goals of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities. Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone

- Dr. Geetanjali Gill has also been appointed co-President of the United Nations Association in Canada (Lower Mainland branch) from 2022-24.
- Criminology Associate Professors Dr. Amanda McCormick and Dr. Irwin Cohen published a report on intimate partner violence. McCormick, A., Cohen, I., & Davies, G. (2022, September). "The Complexities of Investigating and Clearing Harassment Related Intimate Partner Violence Files." University of the Fraser Valley: Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research.
- Assistant Professor at the School of Culture, Media and Society and CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Sarah Beaulieu has published a new article in Historical Archaeology. It focuses on the Morrissey Internment Camp, one of Canada's 24 World War I internment camps, with the aim of using the material culture record at the camp as a point of access to examine the coping strategies prisoners of war adopted to help mitigate mental-health issues triggered by confinement.
- English student Bergen Critchley was awarded the South Asian Studies HSBC Scholarship for her outstanding research work and essay.
- Students in Physics and Engineering Physics program are collaborating with Agriculture students on two AgriTech projects:
 - Greenhouse strawberry plants' health monitoring system
 - Smart watering system for small scale veggie gardens
- Meeting learners right in their community, the Seabird Island College Upgrading Partnership Cohort provides Math and English classes at a variety of levels to community learners. UUP Professor Beverly Jones is building an engaging community of learners within the cohort and is supported by previous UFV employee Elaine Malloway who currently works for Seabird Island College.
- Child and Youth Care (CYC) is now accredited! We are the first in BC to be accredited by the Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada (CYCEAB). CYCEAB was so impressed by our documents that they will now offer our template to other institutions!
- On September 16, Kelly Guiaya facilitated the third session of Voices of Passion and Purpose: Inspiring Stories from the Field, a panel presentation on Sexual and Gender Diversity. Speakers from Qmunity, Rainbow Refugee, Dignity Seniors Society, Chilliwack Pride Society, Chilliwack Gender Support Network, and Chilliwack Queer Café presented to 60 students, faculty, UFV's EDI Director, and the Dean of FECHD. This final session was funded by UFV's Strategic Initiatives Fund. Previous topics included Indigenous Services and the Toxic Drug Supply Crisis.
- Dr. Jason Brandenburg gave a talk (virtual) to the Dietitians and athletes at the University of Michigan on The Ergogenic Potential of Blueberries for Athletic Performance
- Libraries has been actively creating tutorials and videos such as LibWizard; Kaltura (a video cloud platform); and numerous other. In total, 13 + Lib Guides were either updated and/or created. (https://libguides.ufv.ca/tutorials_videos).
- Planning and promotion for Open House, October 22, is well underway. The day-long event will bring prospective students and their supporters on to campus to see all that the University has to offer.

Commitments to participate from all segments of the University are growing and we expect all involved to have a great experience.

- Welcome Day: Opeyemi Adesina, Russell Campbell, Ismail El Sayad, Frank Zhang, Ziaul Hossain, Carl Janzen, and Alana Dallaire participated in Welcome Day on September 6. Members participated by hosting a table at the Faculty of Science welcome session to support our incoming BSc Computing Science students, and by co-hosting a separate session for our BCIS students, which was attended by well over double the expected 50 students. The event was an interactive discussion of the field and included a presentation from Chris Schinckus.
- The CPSA is excited to announce a partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). This partnership recognizes that the sales knowledge and skills delivered by the UFV's School of Business's brand new Professional Sales minor curriculum is aligned with the CPSA's Sales Professional Competency Framework. UFV is the first and only university in Canada where a student can earn a minor in professional sales. Students are now provided with the prerequisite education needed to obtain the CPSA Institute Sales Certificate and to pursue their Certified Sales Associate (CSA) designation.
- The inaugural Research Centres, Labs, and Institutes Showcase took place, highlighting the diverse and ground-breaking work happening at UFV's 12 research hubs.
- On Saturday, Sept. 24th Dr. Tadhg O'Leary from Agriculture Technology hosted a symposium "The fundamentals of sheep health". He was joined by guest presenters, Dr. Michael Gottstein, Head of Knowledge Transfer from Teagasc Ireland <https://www.teagasc.ie/> and UFV student researcher, Loreal Klassen who shared her findings from her research project "Exploring technology deficits and needs in BC's sheep farming sectors".
- September has been a busy month for Learning Designers and Learning Specialists who facilitated over 153 one-on-one consultations with faculty and staff in many different areas at UFV. Topics included Indigenization, Internationalization, Blackboard assistance, grading assignments, syllabi development, assignment help, and creating Blackboard shells. Through these consultations, faculty were able to develop more engaging coursework for students.

Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw'e shxwaylexws

Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others

- CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Sarah Beaulieu, whose efforts in supporting the work of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation sparked international attention on Canada's residential school system, was honoured to speak at the National Gathering on Unmarked Burials in Edmonton this September. The event brought together over 300 people from across the country and was also available via public livestream.
- English Associate Professor Dr. Michelle Superle's flood stories project continues to positively impact the community in the Fraser Valley and beyond. With several outreach events completed this Summer (Canada Day with City of Abbotsford in July; Go Play Outside with City of Abbotsford in August; Safety Day with AgSafe BC in August), they are now preparing to expand their participation in UFV events such as SUS Kickback (September 22) and UFV Open House (October 22) as well as external events such as Another Safety Day at the Sumas Prairie in October. They have also begun the call for submissions for the creative

UFV is situated on Stó:lo Temexw, the lands of the Stó:lo people since time immemorial

component of the project and are collaborating with Student Affairs and the UFV Counselling office to deliver the Writing as a Way of Healing workshops more widely, beginning with the October Wellness Week event.

- Images of Newcoming, a collaborative research project between Dr. Brianna Strumm (Social Work), Dr. Amea Wilbur, and Dr. Tanis Sawkins (both of Adult Education) resulted in a Photovoice exhibit, which is on display in the S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery at UFV until October 7. The opening celebration on Sept. 23 was well attended by members of the UFV community and community partners. The Photovoice exhibit highlights the experiences of belonging and exclusion for newcomer women in the Lower Mainland.
- Dr. Karun Karki, Principal Investigator, received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant of \$72,000 (2022-24) to investigate Employment and deskilling: Lived experiences among racialized immigrants in medium-sized urban centres in the Lower Mainland, British Columbia.
- Strive to Thrive: Employee Fitness Challenge has begun, with walking groups and challenges starting in the fall <https://www.ufv.ca/hr/health-well-being/fitness-challenge/>
- Open Access Work – Planning is underway with the Student Union Society and The Learning Centre to create an event and campaign for Open Access week in October. The planning and materials created will host both student and faculty focused Open Access information sessions.
- The UFV School of Business is happy to announce that it is now a proud member of The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, also known as AACSB International. The AACSB membership is very important for the UFV School of Business since it offers various avenue for the School to learn, to benchmark but also to contribute to a meaningful development of business schools in Canada and in the world. The UFV School of Business membership indicates the willingness of the school to align our practices with the most prestigious business schools in the world.
- The Women in Science Engineering and Technology (UFV WEST) hosted a welcome back social the evening of September 22. The event featured female STEM professors and UFV Science clubs and associations. Students were able to connect with other science students and gather some helpful information including amazing opportunities in STEM here at UFV. Read more on our blog: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2022/09/22/ufv-west-hosts-their-2nd-annual-welcome-social/>

Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw

Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond

- As the Modern Languages department launches the first cohort of the Halq'eméylem graduate certificate this Fall, the Cascade highlighted the importance of revitalizing the Indigenous language of upriver in their latest article "Teaching a new generation an old language".
- Patrick Watchorn, Carpentry Instructor, Maciej Kaczor, Tool Room Assistant, and the current Carpentry foundations students have designed 60 'Truth and Reconciliation' wooden hearts for Promontory Heights. Once painted and decorated, these hearts will be displayed throughout the school and fences to bring awareness and honour to the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. #everychildmatters #truthandreconciliation #UFVTrades #ChilliwackSD33

- The School District 78 Transitions program offering dual credit high school/university credits to SD78 high schoolers is underway it's 13th year and 21st semester. This semester Dr. Jo Sheppard is teaching KIN 121 onsite at Agassiz Secondary on Thursdays after school hours.
- The Prospera Foundation has offered grant funding in the amount of \$154,000.00 to the School of Social Work and Human Services over two years to support the work of the Counselling, Advocacy, Learning, and Leading (CALL) Service.
- Alison Pitchard-Orr is leading a UFV Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Cycling Without Age (Yarrow chapter) partnership. An MOU has been finalized and approved, and a KIN student (Gurneesh Purba) has been hired to lead the project. She has been in talks with two retirement facilities in Chilliwack to determine how to involve their residents. A training program for students who will be driving the bikes (pilots) will take place on September 29. Promotional material has been circulating on social media.
- Karen Natho and Alison Pritchard-Orr continue to work with the Chilliwack school district and SportAbility to organize their 9-week Boccia program for children with physical disabilities. Funding from the Faculty of Health Sciences has been provided to provide an honorarium for a KIN student who is helping to run the program.
- Dr. Gillian Hatfield and Dr. Iris Lesser have started a research study looking at the effect of a yoga intervention on postpartum mental health. Gillian is teaching the yoga classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings for new mothers in the Fraser Valley
- On Sept. 29, UFV International hosted the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat in an MOU signing ceremony. This agreement puts UFV on a list of just four universities in Canada (along with the University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, and McGill University) considered to be "top-tier" institutions able to accept Ghana government-sponsored students. We feel that this could be very helpful in advancing UFV's visibility in the African continent and furthering diversity on our campuses.
- The Fall, 2022 semester marks the most diverse international student population in over 5 years with 63 countries represented. In addition, the number of countries with more than 10 students represented is the highest (at 9) since we began assessing this metric. Several other countries are nearing this threshold.
- Out of the Shadows: Indigenous Art Unveiling was held September 13, 2022, in the Atrium of G Building hosted with Indigenous Affairs members. This event was attended by Stó:lō Elders, UFV Library and extended UFV family welcoming the art and honoring the artists to the Library. Please see the pictures of both the Ceremony and where the art is hung on both Abbotsford and Chilliwack campus at (<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA71tW>).
- Library is actively moving forward implementing the Library Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (<https://library.ufv.ca/media/assets/library-new/documents/Strategic-Plan-2022-27.pdf>)
- Dr. Afia Raja has been successful in two funding applications for Community Emergency Preparedness Fund where she was a co-applicant. One is with Leq'a:mel First Nation and the other is with City of Mission. The funds will assist in student involvement in Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning projects.

Kw'es hoy

Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic