

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost and VP Academic

**DATE:** February 28, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report

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As we transition into March, Spring is right around the corner. And with this comes many opportunities to connect with colleagues, engage with students, and learn more about our community at large.

An example of this occurred this past week (Feb 21) when the Science and Agriculture staff and faculty put on the "Science Sampler" for over 115 students from Abbotsford Traditional Secondary and Middle School (ATS). Led by UFV student volunteers, the ATS students were lead through different activity locations put on by Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agriculture, Geography and the School of Land Use and Environmental Change. The event was picked up by local papers and both Global News and CTV resulting in the stories being seen by approximately 200,000 viewers on last Tuesday evening alone. Students were amazed by lightning in the lab, chocolate chirp cookies (made from crickets!), building air cannons, and more, all in one morning.

<https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/02/21/abbotsford-traditional-school-visit/>

A big thank you to Associate Dean Ian Affleck for coordinating the event, and to the faculty and staff for, as Ian says, turning UFV into a miniature Science World for the day. This is sure to be the first of many similar events and a great example of putting UFV's mission in action: engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community.

This March, Dr. Stefania Pizzirani from the School of Land Use and Environmental Change, together with UFV's Office of Sustainability, and 20 other departments and groups, will once again host the March for Sustainability series, featuring special events on Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses throughout the month.

You can learn about basic clothing repairs, explore the Fibre Museum, participate in the clothing exchange, or attend the speaker series and interactive workshops on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Or participate in Open Mic Night where you can creatively share thoughts on sustainability issues through song, dance, spoken word, or slam poetry.

I encourage you to connect and engage with colleagues at these many events. More information can be found at: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/02/15/march-for-sustainability-is-just-around-the-corner/>

This month, we look forward to showcasing initiatives supporting UFV's IYAQAWTXW: House of Transformation at the Strategic Initiatives Fund Showcase. All are welcome to attend as faculty and staff reflect upon their work in a series of events from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Presentations will be held in-person

on the Abbotsford campus (Room A225), and through live stream in the Chilliwack atrium and the Abbotsford Spirit Bear lounge. Live links will also be made available to those unable to attend on campus. All are encouraged to come out and learn about the innovative work engaged in by your colleagues over the last year in support of UFV's Integrated Strategic Plan. Please visit this link to see the full listing of events. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2023/02/strategic-initiative-fund-projects-to-be-celebrated-march-1-9/>

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the UFV community is invited to attend the President's Leadership Lecture Series in celebrating International Women's Day. As a global day to honour the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and to rally for gender parity in our communities around the world, you are invited to attend a screening of the critically acclaimed full-length documentary, directed by Lea Clermont-Dion and Gulaine Maroist, titled *Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age*. After the screening will be a Q&A session hosted by Sundeep Hans, UFV Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Dr. Allyson Jule, Dean of UFV Faculty of Education, Community, and Human Development. Please ensure you reserve a spot as seating is limited. <https://www.ufv.ca/president/lecture-series/international-womens-day/>

And one final item, as has been shared previously, we look forward to welcoming Dr. Michael Hitch, our new Dean of the Faculty of Science starting September 1, 2023. Dr. Hitch will also hold a faculty appointment in the School of Land Use and Environmental Change. Dr. Hitch joins UFV from Curtin University where he is the Head of School for the Western Australia School of Mines: Minerals, Energy & Chemical Engineering. He has also held appointments at Tallinn University, University of New South Wales, and the University of British Columbia. Working tirelessly to develop partnerships with industry that create undergraduate experiential learning programs, he has partnered with school districts to promote STEM subjects and to help educate younger high school students about the mining and resource sectors. He also brings a strong commitment to, and experience with, Indigenization from his time in Australia and in Canada and through his work with Indigenous peoples in the Arctic where he helped negotiate an impact agreement in Nunavut.

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

### **Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet**

*Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.*

- Dr. Geetanjali Gill, Assistant Professor in Global Development Studies, and Dr. Rita Dhungel, Assistant Professor in Social Work, have obtained \$472,442 from the New Frontiers in Research Fund for their project, "Participatory Action Research with female sex-trafficking survivors living with HIV/AIDS in Nepal: addressing intersectional gender oppression and advocating for well-being and inclusion".
- The upcoming season of the research companion podcast, [Creative Praxis](#), hosted by Theatre Assistant Professor Dr. Anna Griffith, is scheduled for release on Spotify in February. Season 2 will

feature interviews with participants from The Creativity Lab for Climate Resilience research project, including a diverse range of students, community organizations, and activists.

- In observance of Black History Month, the Modern Languages Department's French Associate Professor, Dr. Ghizlane Laghzaoui, arranged a workshop on "African Storytelling" in collaboration with Jean-Pierre Makosso. Mr. Makosso is a celebrated theatre director, actor, writer, and storyteller who was a featured guest in the workshop, held on February 14.
- "What's Gone On" is a new social media campaign that showcases the projects and activities happening within the Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies to prospective and current students. The goal is to increase enrollment, awareness, and retention by giving students a glimpse into the hands-on learning and real-world experience they can expect in the Trades, Technology and Applied Sciences.
- ABT students launched a Twitter-based online promotion week (Feb 9–15) in their Web-based Business Communications course featuring the products they developed in teams: Bold Branch Café, Nutz for Donutz, Student Cascade, Valley Hospitality, and Fire and Fern. Scroll the ABT hashtag for examples of their fantastic work—#ABTatUFV.
- On February 15, The Faculty of Business and Computing's Dean's Conversation Series hosted Mayor Ross Siemens (Abbotsford) and Craig Toews, President, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce to engage in a conversation around place-based education and connecting universities with the communities in which they are situated.
- On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the School of Graduate Studies hosted a Faculty Micro lectures and Publication Celebration. Twenty-two UFV researchers went head-to-head with the stopwatch to highlight their research topic in two minutes or less in front of a near-capacity audience. The Publication Celebration featured 34 faculty researchers displaying over 100 research and scholarship publications from the last two years.
- Associate Professor, Dr. Cherie Enns, from SLUEC was invited to Nairobi to deliver a workshop at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) event and participate in the Women Rise IDRC grant project launch.

### **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.*

- Criminology Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Kersten has become a legal advisor on international crimes and human rights law for Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools. This work will involve collaborations with Indigenous leaders, communities, survivors, families, and experts to identify needed measures and recommend a new federal legal framework to ensure the respectful and culturally appropriate treatment and protection of unmarked graves and burial sites of children at former residential schools.
- Bachelor of Media Arts student Sarah Parker was featured in [UFV Today](#) and in [The Abbotsford News](#) for her impressive behind-the-scenes photography during her practicum with the Abbotsford Canucks.

- Teacher Education faculty member, Dr. Vandy Britton organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Anti-Racism Panel for the BEd Cohort. This year's panel was the first to include a panel of graduates of the program. Student Tslandia Van Ry spoke about supporting Indigenous students, student Haley Harasemow and student Kyle Huntley spoke about supporting 2LGBTQQIA+ students, and students Isaiah Smith and Shayla Bird spoke specifically to supporting students of colour. The current cohort of BEd students were amazed with what is being done by graduates of UFV and inspired to make a difference for equity seeking students in the Fraser Valley.
- Librarians participated in Chat-I (TLC Internationalization Workshop) to learn more about the experience of international students and how we can welcome them in the library and incorporating these new understanding into teaching and resources.
- Flood Stories exhibition will be running January 27<sup>th</sup> to March 18<sup>th</sup> at The Reach Gallery Museum. Michelle Superle's Flood Stories launched in January 2022 as an outlet for those affected by the 2021 flooding events to share their experiences in creative format.
- Dr. Cherie Enns has also signed on to be an advisor related to the Young Gamechanges Initiative for UN-Habitat and Botnar Foundation. <https://www.fondationbotnar.org/project/young-gamechangers-initiative-ygi/> This program focuses on design of cities and public places using Minecraft. Her role is related to the research framework.

### **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.*

- This year's *Fraser Valley Biennial* is curated by School of Creative Arts (SoCA) Assistant Professor, Candace Couse, and showcases exhibiting SoCA faculty, students, and alumni. Artists include Paula Funk, Davida Kidd, Lorena Krause, Luke Pardy, Devon Riley, Shel Stefan, Cobi Timmermans, and Qahraman Yousif.
- CHASI is excited to announce a digital comic created by artist Sharon Strauss. This ongoing narrative will explore topics of mental health, disabilities, economic status, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender expression through the lens of a tightly knit group of unique characters. An introduction to the characters and Sharon's breathtaking art style is available on [the CHASI Blog](#).
- Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies welcomed a delegation from Kumoh Technical High School, one of our valued international partner schools located in Korea. This visit reinforces the strong working relationship between our institutions and opens new opportunities for collaboration.
- Evan Taylor's Queering Cancer project has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the CIHR, Institute of Gender and Health Support Grant for Community-Led Projects on LGBTQIA/2S Wellness through an Intersectional Lens. Queering Cancer's project is *An evaluation of the impact of Queering Cancer in the LGBTQIA/2S cancer community*.
- The Adult Education Department, the School of Social Work & Human Services, and their community partner Archway Community Services (ACS) have been nominated for a Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Award for their photovoice project. This nomination acknowledges the important work that Amea Wilbur (ADED) and Briana Strumm (SSWS) have accomplished with ACS over the last two years in fostering awareness of the role of marginalized and racialized refugee women in Canada and Northern Ireland.

- Cultivating positive Faculty and Department relationships and prioritizing EDIIDA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Indigenization, Decolonization, and Accessibility) continues through the creation of the Black History Month Book display, assisting Teacher candidates with lesson planning and curriculum for Black History month.
- Drs. Cindy Loten, Ruwan Karunanayaka, and Vanessa Radzimski, from the Math & Stats Department and their Math Mania team of 18 UFV student volunteers visited Vedder Elementary School in Chilliwack earlier this week. They spent the evening finding out how much fun you can have playing with mathematical concepts. Over 80 kids and their families attended the event. The next Math Mania is scheduled for May 2023. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/02/10/math-mania-vedder-elementary-school-tons-of-fun/>

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