

## MEMO

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

DATE: April 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

---

As we slide into May, April continues with celebrations.

This past week we saw true examples of engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community.

Congratulations to our UFV School of Business International Business Ethics and Sustainability Case Competition team including faculty coach Dr. Masud Khawaja. The team arrived in Los Angeles from what they described as an unknown, small University from British Columbia, Canada and left having put UFV on the map as one of the leaders in Business School education. As Dr. Khawaja shares:

*The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) School of Business students' team won the International Business Ethics and Sustainability Case Competition held in Los Angeles, California, this week. They secured first place in two of the three categories in the undergraduate division. Thirty-seven teams from twenty-five universities across four continents participated in the competition in various divisions. This included numerous highly acclaimed universities. The UFV School of Business team faced tough competition from the best business schools in the United States, including those from the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Florida, Loyola Marymount University, and George Washington University, amongst others. This is the first time in the history of the UFV School of Business that a student team participating in an international competition in the United States has triumphed against some of the highest-ranking US business schools. ...*

*At the beginning of the prestigious awards ceremony, it was evident that the University of the Fraser Valley was unknown to the other participating institutions. Therefore, it was a moment of tremendous pride for the team when the University of Fraser Valley was announced as the winner. Our team certainly brought the spotlight on our institution and established its reputation in a befitting manner amidst accolades from all. Suddenly, the team from an unrecognized Canadian institution had achieved stardom among the top business schools in the United States.*

Congratulations to the students, Dr. Khawaja and the Faculty of Business and Computing.

But the celebrating doesn't stop there. This past week also saw our students from the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies compete in the Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition. I had the honour of attending the event and the energy, passion, and competitive spirit was infectious. Students from the applied and technical studies programming, together with dual credit students, competed and were successful in walking away with three gold (Architectural Drafting, Automotive Service, Electrical Wiring) and two silver



(Automotive Service, Welding) in the secondary category (dual credit students) and one silver (Automotive Service) and one bronze (Plumbing) in the Post-Secondary category. Congratulations to all participants and the amazing team of staff, faculty, students, and administration that supported the event.

Extending our connection to community further, the Faculty of Science hosted the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair (FVRSF) on April 6, 2023. Students from K-12 from across the Fraser Valley competed for prizes and a chance to represent the Fraser Valley with Team BC at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Edmonton, Alberta next month. The four finalists are from Dasmesh Punjabi School, R.E. Mountain Secondary School (Langley), Chilliwack Secondary School, and W. J. Mouat Secondary School.

And at the time of writing this report, the School of Creative Arts, and the Graphic and Digital Design department at UFV will be hosting the fourth edition of the Interpret Creative and Performing Arts Festival (April 28, 2023). A celebration of art and creativity, the festival features art exhibitions by Visual Arts graduates, Film and Media arts screenings, [live theatre performances by UFV Theatre's fourth-year devised class](#), and a Graphic + Digital Design showcase.

And please mark your calendars for our upcoming Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards to occur on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The URE Awards return to celebrate students who have conducted high-caliber research in their roles as research assistants, or for their own research Directed Study or Honours project.

I wish to close in offering my gratitude to all UFV employees for the compassion and accommodation you have provided to our students over the last few weeks as we've faced labour disruptions with the transit system and federal services. I have witnessed many acts of kindness and want you to know how appreciated it is to see such compassion during what may be a significant time of challenge for some students.

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.*

Arts and Integrated Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Dale McCartney has been named the Assistant Editor of the journal [Comparative and International Education](#).

English Associate Professor Dr. Heather McAlpine will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> UFV Young Authors' Conference on April 27, 2023, at the UFV Chilliwack campus. The conference will welcome 75 middle school students from Chilliwack and will offer 7 workshops led by a team of twelve UFV student volunteers.

To mark Sikh Heritage Month, [CHASI has released a series of posts celebrating and educating about the Sikh community](#). Whether it's history, events, or the incredibly acts of charity, CHASI hopes to shine a small light on the many wonderful facets of Sikh heritage.

BSW student Ashley Sharma and a student research assistant from the College of Arts presented at the Metropolis conference: *25 years of conversation on migration: Our legacy, our future*. Ottawa, March 16-18, 2023.

The MySelf Club (Alison Pritchard Orr, Kathy Kiever) intervention launched with a pre-introductory session on March 28<sup>th</sup>. This was designed as a get-to know-you introduction at Ross Elementary school (Abbotsford) with all participants and control children attending (16 children). There were 13 study RAs in attendance. Research coordinators Audrey Tan and Gurneesh Purba oversaw the introductory event which included games and physical activities as well as mock trials of neuropsychological measures so that children were better prepared both for the intervention and the pre-testing measures.

Student Greg Luesink won the Faculty of Health Sciences Dean's Award at Student Research Day for his poster on his KIN401/402 project (KIN401 supervised by Dr. Jason Brandenburg and KIN402 supervised by Dr. Cynthia Thomson)

International reports we have surpassed UFV's largest intake of incoming summer international students in its history (previous record of 304 new in 201805). We anticipate approximately 320-330 new students by stable enrolment date.

Libraries is assessing the Optical Character recognition (OCR) accuracy of UFV library's digital heritage newspapers collection, specifically the Abbotsford, Sumas & Matsqui News to assist in projects that involve text mining and sentiment analysis.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, UFV celebrated Student Research Day. Approximately seventy students participated in this year's poster competition and twenty-four students presented microlectures at Student Research Day. Photos from the event are available [here](#).

Dr. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research joined the Canadian Journal of Plant Science as an Associate Editor. She further received funding from the BC Cranberry Marketing Commissions to start a study to understand the impact of warming in cranberry field using field based warming chambers, on which Agriculture Technology Department Head, Dr. Renee Prasad, is a collaborator.

Dr. Robin Endelman, Math & Stats Associate Professor and Science Rocks! Coordinator was successful in receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Canadian Mathematical Society to help support our Science Rocks Summer Camps.

Cultural Resurgence programming is underway. April 4<sup>th</sup> - Fishing with Elder Gary Williams. Elder Gary spoke about the processes of fishing, and how the processes have changed over the years. April 20<sup>th</sup> -

canoe racing. Catherine and Reeva Billy shared their journey as canoe pullers. They spoke to a small group and shared their experiences, what it means to them, and how it is important to stay connected with the culture.

**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.*

FATS welcomed a new employee, Emilie Biela, Navigator Student Support and Engagement. The Navigator acts as a key point of contact for students, faculty and UFV staff to support student success with the result of increasing participation of equity deserving groups in the skilled trades. This includes connecting students to support services available to Foundation students and apprentices while completing their training.

After 23 years at UFV we said goodbye to Leah Whitehouse, Support clerk for the culinary program. We celebrated her last day with us Friday, April 14th.

Dr. Chris Schinckus has been invited to be a member of the Board of Reviewers for the French National Research Agency.

Social Work & Human Services faculty members Rita Dhungel and Karun Karki exhibited a photovoice, *Understanding the challenges of People Living with HIV in Alberta* at the Safe Relationships Safe Children-Intimate Partner Violence Third Community Forum on April 13 in Abbotsford

Dr. Sheryl MacMath (Teacher Education) is providing support to secondary schools in Chilliwack with the upcoming New Reporting Order. She has given two presentations to teachers at GW Graham Secondary, and one at Sardis Secondary.

Dr. Vandy Britton (Teacher Education) has been asked to present on mentorship with a branch of the BC Teacher Education group (more specifically the FAs/FMs for UVIC and UBC) on *Courageous Conversations*. (April 13)

The Here and There Exhibition Celebration occurred on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Student artists and community partners living with dementia partnered in creative research pairings to explore intergenerational knowledge exchange. An opening reception was hosted in B164, followed by an exhibition of the artwork that resulted from the collaborations in UFV's S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery.

Chemistry Associate Professor, Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar's research student, Maor Arad's abstract was accepted for the oral presentation at the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (CSC 2023). He will be presenting in the New Horizons in Separations Science and Mass Spectrometry - From Fundamentals to Applications division.

Dr. Carin Bondar, Biology Adjunct Professor and SLUEC Sessional received a grant from the United Way to put on a 'Girls in STEM' workshop on June 3, 2023. The documentary, Carbon: an Unauthorized Biography, where Carin appeared explaining photosynthesis and respiration is currently nominated for best Science/Nature Documentary at the 2023 Canadian Screen awards.

Physics student Catherine Laflamme and Biology student Manjot Benning were the successful candidates for an all expenses paid trip to London, UK, to represent UFV at the 64<sup>th</sup> London International Youth Science Forum to be held in July.

**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.*

March 31<sup>st</sup> was the Transgender Day of Visibility, and the CHASI team took a moment to reiterate their love and support for the trans community and their trans friends and colleagues. CHASI also took the opportunity to share resources for both trans people and allies.

Margaret Coombes (retired) and Rita Dhungel (Social Work & Human Services) of the Safe Relationships Safe Children Committee organized the Safe Relationships Safe Children an Intimate Partner Violence Third Community Forum on April 13 in Abbotsford, which brought a wide range of professionals from different backgrounds to one common learning platform.

Judy Larsen (UUP) has been invited to present a keynote talk on May 8<sup>th</sup> virtually for the *The 1st International Scientific Teacher Conference on Change-Development* at the Pedagogical University of Krakow hosted by The Institute of Special Needs Education, School of Education and Teacher Training.

Dr. Gillian Hatfield presented as part of the CERA Speaker Series for Elder College: "Tools for your Toolkit: Biomechanical Risk Factors and Treatments for Knee Osteoarthritis"- March 30, 2023

Certified Dental Assistant students are engaging with the community to book patients for the upcoming spring dental clinics, and students will also be participating in a dental screening evening in preparations for patient clinics. For the first time since the Covid pandemic the students will also be involved in our community school clinic program, where grades 2-6 elementary school children will be visiting our dental clinic to receive preventive dental services.

The City of Chilliwack and City of Abbotsford presented a challenge to UFV students to complete a comprehensive community assessment and identify potential solutions. Students participated in a poster presentation at the City of Abbotsford April 11 that showcased the various projects. This initiative was a collaboration between UFV, the City of Abbotsford, and the City of Chilliwack.

International reports, in addition to the signing of a Visiting Student Agreement with BINUS University in Jakarta, UFV International engaged with a number of other prospective partner institution, mainly for the purposes of credit articulation and visiting students with universities in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Morocco.

Libraries / Teacher Education Team participated in the *Cultural Puzzle Lab Community Challenge* in the Abbotsford School district as part of Nerlap Sidhu's Equity Backpack project.

On March 22, CHASI celebrated student artists who created work for The Laramie Project Digital Art Competition and the cast and crew of UFV Theatre's production of *The Laramie Project*. They were joined by many other members of UFV and the local community to show appreciation of the hard work of these creative students, and to reflect on the tragically still-relevant production.

Dr. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research was invited to give a talk on Impacts of Climate Change on Plant Production Systems at the National Academy of Sciences Food Forum. The topic of the meeting was "Climate: Impact and solutions for nutrition, food safety, and the food supply chain". She was the only Canadian speaker invited.