

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: November 4, 2025
RE: Provost Report to Senate

In the first few months of this semester we have been reminded again of the talented students that have arrived in our classrooms ready to engage, ready to learn, and excited about what this semester will bring. I had the opportunity to connect with a number of these students at the Entrance Scholarship recipient's reception. What an amazing group of students representing fields of study from across the institution and campus. It was energizing listening to their experiences as they embark on post secondary, and their future hopes and dreams. I personally left the event inspired to ensure we don't let these students down.

And it is the many examples of engagement that follow on these pages that demonstrate how we are engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community. It is the efforts that you have all collectively shared that will ensure these students will have every opportunity to achieve what it is they wish to achieve here at UFV.

For example, last month saw students and the UFV community at large have the opportunity to engage with 2025 CBC Massey Lecturer Alex Neve in conversations around universal human rights. The Student Union Society celebrated their 30-year anniversary, along with 10 years of the Student Union Building. And the Office of Sustainability welcomes students, and UFV employees to engage in the UFV Ecochallenge throughout October with the goal to inspire and amplify our collective efforts towards a more sustainable future by engaging in sustainable and positive actions within the UFV community.

While this month's report may be a bit extra long given the missed meeting last month, please read on to learn more about the inspiring work our UFV community is collectively doing. And of course, a warm thank you to all who have engaged in this work and have contributed to this report.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

Congratulations to Drs. Lauren Erland, Javad Hadian, Michael Hitch, Faisal Naeem, and Christophe Schinckus for being named among the world's top scientists on the 2025 Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists list, a global ranking of the world's most influential researchers. Full story [here](#).

The [Luminescence Dating Laboratory](#) (LDL) has installed a second Riso TL/OSL reader, funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The new instrument enhances the lab's ability to analyze sediment samples and estimate their burial ages and strengthens UFV's role as a key contributor to Quaternary science, archaeology, and luminescence dating research in Canada and internationally.

From October 6–9, the UFV Student Change Makers club hosted Changemaking Week at UFV. [CHASI](#) was pleased to kick off the week as a cohost of the Changemaking 101 Café, alongside the Teaching and Learning Centre. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to brainstorm, collaborate and share their ideas for what changemaking looks like, and how an institution like UFV can support it. Their recommendations will inform discussions around Changemaking throughout UFV. [Learn more](#).

Approximately 500 Trades & Technology students and 55 high school students engaged with over 25 industry leaders and service organizations at this year's Annual Opportunity Fair, sponsored by Coast Capital. The Fair provided students with career options, networking opportunities, and connections with industry leaders.

The Bar-Q-Terie event on October 24 in Rivers featured a cross-disciplinary collaboration: the SASET Carpentry class built the charcuterie boards, while the Professional Cook class prepared the BBQ food. Students from SASET Carpentry, SASET Culinary, and Professional Cook programs, along with TTC faculty, staff, and community members, attended the event.

Dr. Leah Douglas (SWHS) published a free, accessible online book, titled *Trauma-informed conversations about mental health issues related to extreme weather and climate events: A guide for Canadian social workers*. <https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/climatementalhealthsocialwork/>

Dr. Leah Douglas (SWHS) and MSW student Miranda Rosehill gave a conference presentation titled, *Greening Canadian Social Work in Canada: Implications for Teaching, Learning, and Practice in Mental Health and Climate Change*, at the IFSW European Social Work Conference: Bridging Communities: Building Sustainable Futures, in Oslo, Norway.

UFV now has a formal partnership with *Epic Games*, creators of [Unreal Engine](#), to position UFV as a provincial leader in training and innovation for Unreal Engine 5 (UE5). Led by Marcel Casarini, Assistant Professor of Media Arts in the School of Creative Arts, this collaboration provides students with complimentary *ArtStation* accounts and tokens for Epic's *Fab* platform, expanding their access to industry-standard tools and networks and creates research and curriculum integration opportunities for faculty, strengthening UFV's role in immersive media education.

Iris Lesser has a recently accepted publication in the Canadian Journal of Nursing titled: *Perspectives and Beliefs Surrounding Postpartum Care and Physical Activity of South Asian Immigrant Women in Canada*. This study was done in partnership with the South Asian Best for Babies program and involved interviews done in Punjabi by two kinesiology students; one who is a co-author on the paper.

As part of the upcoming Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) submission, the Office of Sustainability (OoS) released a Sustainability Culture and Literacy Assessment (survey) to help the OoS to better understand sustainability awareness and practices across our campus community; to help us build a more sustainable UFV by informing our programs, projects, and processes.

Congratulations to Caio Nicholson de Figueiroa, Biochem major, for receiving the 2025 Gordon Sato & Wally McKeehan Award at the In Vitro Biology conference held in Norfolk, Virginia. His paper: *Development and Utilization of a Rainbow Trout Skeletal Muscle Cell Line to Study the Physiology of Ammonia* was submitted for consideration and won.

Dr. Lenore Newman, Director, Food and Agriculture Institute, took part in a European project to develop an international exhibit on the history and future of food, based in Copenhagen, Denmark, in June 2025.

Dr. Stan Manu, Associate Professor, Math & Stats, was invited to give a talk at Tonga National University's School of Education's annual public lecture series with a talk titled "Re-examining Language Use within a Bilingual Mathematics Classroom in Tonga".

Courtney Snell in Kinesiology (supervised by Cynthia Thomson) is leading a study to explore the effectiveness of a combined intervention for people with persistent pain. The intervention involves gentle movement that has been designed by Brian Justin, combined with pain science education.

The Professional Cook class went on a field trip to Wisbey Farms. The tour included a food security lecture on site by Dr. Renee Prasad.

School of Business faculty member, Dr. Jelena Brcic gave a talk at the University of British Columbia on September 18 and spoke at SARSCENE 2025 at the start of October. She brought along a UFV student to provide the student with a unique learning and exposure opportunity.

The School of Computing is a sponsor of the November 7 SFU & UBC CAN CWiC 2025 (Women in Computing West 2025), which is specifically for young women and non-binary people in technology to encourage curiosity and awareness for the digital innovations that change the community and world.

Genome BC's Agri-food and Natural Resources division conducted an information session on September 23 regarding funding programs for professors and students at UFV's Chilliwack campus.

The Gender and Disability-Inclusive Peacebuilding at the UN panel with Dr. Kirsten Van Houten explored the emerging inclusion of persons with disabilities in United Nations peacebuilding policy, including specific challenges to engaging women with disabilities in peacebuilding practice and envisioned a future in which meaningful inclusion is possible.

Community Health and Social Innovation had the privilege of sitting down with the Honourable Jessie Sunner, B.C.'s Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills during her recent visit to UFV. The Minister kindly shared how CHASI's work intersects with her portfolio, her past work, and her personal experiences. [B.C. Minister of Post-Secondary Education visits CHASI – Community Health and Social Innovation \(CHASI\) Hub](#).

Geoscience Postdoc Maria Schaarschmidt attended the UK Luminescence and ESR Dating conference hosted by St Andrew's University in St Andrew's, Scotland. Maria's talk was on the challenges of dating quartz samples from Tasmania, Australia.

On November 13 from 10am to 1pm in A225, Research and Graduate Studies will host the Research Centres, Labs, and Institutes Showcase. Come see the broad range of innovative work happening right here across our fourteen hubs of research. Stay tuned for more information.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Associate Professor of English, received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant of \$45,855 for the project "Tears for Gears: Documenting Feelings about Machines in the Digital Archives." The two-year project will involve multiple undergraduate research assistants in exploring historical intersections of emotion and technology in 18th-century literature and culture.

History major Steve Gabler has built a successful YouTube channel, The Pharaoh Nerd, with over 100,000 subscribers and more than five million views, producing content on history and archaeology.

Social Work faculty members Dr. Rita Dhungel, Dr. Beth Watters, and Natasha Marriette each received a 2025-26 Open Education Micro-Grant from UFV to develop an open education resource.

Alesandros Glaros (Science) hosted a Fall Fermentation Fiesta, Student Wellness and Experience Lounge, as part of Changemaking Week, hosted by UFV Student Change makers on October 8, 2025.

Stefania Pizzirani and Charmaine White (Science) hosted a table at World Food Day, speaking to students about the Food and Agriculture Institute. The event was organized by Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies and held on UFV's Abbotsford campus on October 16, 2025.

Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) hosted two undergrad students from UFV to participate in SF4C's Hack-a-thon 'Cultivating Ideas: Solutions in Scaling Sustainable Agriculture'. Students Jason Lighton and Mwenda Dyck, contributed to teams at this 2-day event in Manitoba on October 9-10, 2025.

The Chemistry Department welcomed Professor Samira Siahrostami (SFU) for a seminar highlighting her cutting-edge research focussed on sustainability and green technologies, using computational techniques such as density functional theory (DFT) to explore innovative solutions for a cleaner future.

On October 21, 2025, the UFV Library hosted its fourth annual *Student Welcome Back* centered on the theme *Celebrating the Contributions of Black Peoples in Canada*. The event featured a keynote by Dr. Edward Akuffo, Associate Professor of International Relations and Chair of Political Science and a panel discussion moderated by Margaret Waruiru. The panel shared their experiences and reflections on thriving within the UFV community and was followed by a Caribbean-inspired reception provided by Africarib, a locally owned Abbotsford business.

UFV Library continued to support the Therapy Dog Program, which provides weekly visits that promote student wellness, reduce stress, and create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the Library.

The School of Business hosted the Lucerne Leadership Week in October, welcoming twelve students from Switzerland. Five UFV students also participated in the program.

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.

Dr. Stanislav Vysotsky, Associate Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice, was interviewed by CBC News: The National and The Christian Science Monitor on the topic of Antifa, offering critical perspectives on the political and social dynamics of anti-fascist activism.

Bachelor of Education (BEd) teacher candidates, faculty and staff had the opportunity to witness Xwchíyò:m (Cheam) artist, J. Luke Pike (Swoli:u:se), son of UFV Elder Denise Douglas, finishing the work on his large cedar carving of a sturgeon commissioned for the Mission Library.

Dr. Cherie Enns, Associate Professor, Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies Department was interviewed by IDRC. Dr. Enns also met and presented to IDRC during her visit to Kenya in August.

Dr. Lenore Newman, Director, Food and Agriculture Institute, evaluated incoming companies for this year's "Creative Destruction Labs: Rockies" Agriculture intake, September 2025. The Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) is a nonprofit organization that delivers an objectives-based program for massively scalable, seed-stage, science- and technology-based companies, organized through the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

Luisa Giles has a recent UBC write up regarding keynote presentation at the Global Climate & Health Summit in London: <https://css.ubc.ca/2025/09/03/css-affiliates-present-at-global-climate-and-health-summit/>

Cynthia Thomson was invited to present and share results from recent work with the "Let's Talk about Pain" study series at Pain Care BC's Executive Steering Committee meeting in September. The committee includes senior medical and operational leadership from health authorities across the province. Current activities include exploring dissemination of a graphic narrative about how pain works.

An example of endeavoring to support the professional development and on-going learning of the staff in Faculty of Health Sciences, Wendy Gracey and Lara Duke are co-authors on a peer-reviewed manuscript: Waechter, Mary E., Duke, Lara M., Martin, Robin, Gracey, Wendy, & Williams, Nancy I. (2025). Effective Leadership Approaches for Staff Success in Kinesiology Units. Kinesiology Review. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1123/kr.2025-0032>.

Gillian Hatfield is currently running a 12-week group exercise intervention on Chilliwack campus Monday and Wednesday evenings for older adults with hip or knee osteoarthritis. This is part of her sabbatical research, and twenty-five older adults are currently participating.

ATS attended the 'Introducing Trades' for residents of the Kwikwèxwelhp Healing Centre. About 40-50 incarcerated men were introduced to a number of career possibilities. Vic Dion (ATS) brought the portable CNC machine (also known as the "shaper") for the folks to try.

Natasha Marriette, of the School of Social Work and Human Services, who is currently completing her PhD at UBC, received the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Laura Fowler Scholarship.

The School of Education BEd program received \$48,000 from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support four Teacher Candidates in taking their certifying practicum in a Northern BC community. Each teacher candidate will receive \$8,000 for expenses, with \$12,000 allocated to the School of Education.

UUP Abbotsford Coordinator, Sean Rigter, and UUP Chilliwack Coordinator, Shauna Svekla, have made numerous presentations in the community about UUP programs. These include presentations at Chilliwack Literacy Committee, Chilliwack Healthier Communities, Peardonville House, Kinghaven Men's Recovery Centre, YMCA YouthBeats, Sardis Doorway, and the Stride Career Fair in Abbotsford.

Golfam Ghafourifar (Science) was appointed as a member of the 1504 Chemistry Evaluation Group for a three-year term - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Lenore Newman (Science) gave a keynote speech at CERA Day 2025 at *International Day of the Older Person* on UFV's Chilliwack Campus, October 3, 2025. Newman's topic was on The One Health Approach: Living well and aging well in the Fraser Valley. <https://www.ufv.ca/aging/spotlight--events/cera-day-2025/>

Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) launched its West Coast Innovation Node website, hosted at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). The Innovation Node is responsible for driving innovation and providing mentorship and is co-chaired by Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of UFV's Food and Agriculture Institute, website launched October 2025. <https://www.ufv.ca/sf4c-innovation/>

Sian Hurley will be recognized during Question Period in the House of Commons (October 28, 2025) as part of her participation in the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's National Leadership Development Program. Sian (and other participants) will be acknowledged by the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages.

Open House was held on October 18. We had more than 2,000 indicate an intent to attend event, which included prospective students and their supporters. Approximately 800 checked in on Saturday. Of these 390 took a campus tour. We were able to help about 80 people complete the application process. There were information booths for 38 academic units and 18 service units.

Dr. Rita Dhungel (SWHS) received a Convene Grant from the Vancouver Foundation for the project, *Unpacking and Addressing Root Causes of Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in British Columbia: A Social Determinants of Health and Intersectionality Lens*.

Midterm Student De-Stress Events: Lindsay Spielman and Devon McLellan organized two events with support from the Dean's office and in partnership with UFV Student Wellness to provide time and space for all health sciences students to disconnect from school stressors and connect with each other over food, crafts and colouring.

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.

The library assisted the Engineering Department of the City of Chilliwack for a Downtown Chilliwack Study 1972. It was commissioned by the city and is located in the UFV Library's Heritage Collection.

The Dean's Office recently hosted the annual Science Social, bringing together over one hundred students, faculty, and student groups for an evening of connection and celebration. The event offered students a chance to explore the wide range of student-led clubs associated with the Faculty of Science, meet professors in a relaxed setting, and connect with peers from across departments.

Dr. Sandra Gillespie, Associate Professor, Biology was interviewed for the following article: Isabella, J. (2025, August 12). Plight of the bumblebees. bioGraphic. Retrieved from <https://www.biographic.com/plight-of-the-bumblebees/>

UFV International reports there are sixty-nine countries represented among the international students registered for the fall. The top five countries overall are India, Nepal, Nigeria, Vietnam, and China. For incoming students, they are India, Nigeria, Germany, USA, and Mexico.

The third cycle of the Sustainable Office Certification program is underway with twelve departments participating this year. The program is designed to empower sustainability champions from each department and their co-workers to foster sustainable workplaces through individual and collective practices.

Previous and current auto collision students led by their instructor, Nick Penner, represented Trades at the Community Launch at Mission campus. Attendees had the opportunity to try the virtual reality paint simulator.

Carol Suhr (ADED), in a research project headed by Dr. Amea Wilbur (UFV) and Dr. Tracey Derwing at the University of Alberta, is examining enrollment in TESL programs to understand national patterns and whether accredited colleges and universities are experiencing similar changes in enrollment.

Dr. Noah Schwartz, Assistant Professor of Political Science, published his second book, Targeted: Citizenship, Advocacy and Gun Control in Canada (University of Toronto Press, 2025).

Dr. Barbara Messamore, Professor Emerita of History, published Times of Transformation: The 1921 Canadian General Election (UBC Press, 2025) as part of the Turning Point Elections series.

Dr. Michael Corman, Associate Professor of Sociology, participated in a panel on the sociology of first responders and healthcare workers at the CSA-SCS Annual Conference in Georgetown, Ontario.

Dr. Alessandro Tarsia, Assistant Professor of History, presented "The Colonial Tobacco Invasion and Terraforming of Semá:th Xó:tsa (Sumas Lake)" at the BC Studies Conference in Vancouver. His research examined the socio-economic impacts of tobacco cultivation and land transformation on Indigenous and immigrant communities in the Fraser Valley.

School of Business student leaders attended the Abbotsford Chamber's Leaders Luncheon on September 16. This event provided the students with an opportunity to connect with community leaders, gain insights into regional economic priorities, and represent UFV in the broader business community.

Dr. Newman was featured on CBC News' North by Northwest with Margaret Gallagher, on an episode entitled *Cravings columnist Lenore Newman on canning, pickling, and farmers markets*, aired September 28, 2025.

Dr. Newman and Dr. Pizzirani, and FAI team members Dr. Angela McIntyre, Teresa Carlson, and Charmaine White gave a presentation to Genome BC and Genome Canada members wrapping up an 18-month research project entitled *The Cultural Implications of Cellular Aquaculture: Building Inclusive and Ethical Research Spaces in BC*. The team presented [The ȩ:westel qe ȩtel:exwtel \(Teaching Each Other and Learning Together\) Toolkit](#), developed collaboratively with, and under the direction of the Stó:lō Community Advisory Council. This is first version of the Toolkit and serves as a living 'workbook' for research engagement. It is culturally specific to Stó:lō rights-holders and documents the Food and Agriculture Institute's research Team as they journeyed through this research project. The Toolkit is designed with a methodology that, with guidance, can be adapted. This work will build into a Toolkit being developed within [The Social Implications of Agri-Genomics: Ensuring a Just Transition to Climate-Resilient Agricultural and Food Systems in Canada](#) research project funded by Genome BC and Genome Canada, which continues for two more years.

The FAI, in partnership with Archway Community Services Food Security Department (ACS), was awarded an \$18,500 SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant to support community members' food sovereignty and food security in and around Abbotsford. The community-based programming will be designed to support individuals by developing, trialing, and promoting lesson plans for ten workshops at ACS on topics relating to food, social enterprise, and agriculture.

PARC's *In Common Speakers' Series* returns this fall. Initiated by PARC Interfaith Commitment Leader, [Dr. Allyson Jule](#), *In Common* began as an in-person event series that transitioned into a podcast series with CIVL Radio. This interfaith initiative has the goal of promoting peace through dialogue. The conversations continue on November 18 from 11:30am-12:45pm in B101. No registration required.

School of Creative Arts Associate Professor [Chris Friesen](#) has an exhibit titled, *Artistic Reflections on Growing Up Amid BC's Housing Crisis*, at the [Mennonite Heritage Museum](#) in Abbotsford from October 7 to November 10.

Dean of ATS, Dr. Teresa Kisilevich, spoke at the Manufacturing Excellence Forum this month: <https://emccanada.org/events/manufacturing-excellence-forum-abbotsford>

Delinah Marples (O.Reg), partnered with Tracy Evans from ITS and gave a workshop on "Aligning UFV Vision With Ellucian Enterprise Systems Through Collaborative Roadmap Planning with the Office of the Registrar". Stephanie Stenerson worked with Soud Almudhaf from ITS to present on the recent enhancement of MyUFV to better support applicants in the admissions process. Their session was titled 'Modernizing the Applicant Experience at UFV'. Both sessions were well attended.

On October 21, Natasha Marriette (SWHS) and UK visiting scholar Lucy Jacobs presented to social work field educators on "Adult Protection and Ethical Implications for Social Work Practice". The presentation was a collaboration between UBC School of Social Work and UFV School of SWHS.

Dr. Lynn Kleinveldt (DIS) delivered a guest lecture on: "Search as we know it, is transformed: what does this mean for the future of Libraries and Information Science in the AI Era?" in the Online Information Science Lecture program at The Department of Information Science, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, 9 October 2025.

The work of students in Dr. Inaam Charaf's DIS class has been showcased in the community. Her students' infographic project "Mapping the ongoing struggle of Indigenous People in Canada". was previously displayed for two weeks at the Clearbrook Branch of Fraser Valley Regional Library in Abbotsford and has now travelled to the Maple Ridge Museum for public viewing.

Davida Kidd, Associate Professor of Print Media in the School of Creative Arts was invited to exhibit at the *4th International Digital Art Triennial* (Szekszárd, Hungary, 2025), exploring the synthesis of new technologies. She is also participating in [Thinking of Place](#), a 2026 international multi-venue project examining land, identity, and environment through collaborative art.

Dr. Kamyar Razavi, Assistant Professor in the School of Communication, participated in a roundtable hosted by the [Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions](#) (PICS) on Galiano Island. The event brought together climate policy analysts and communication experts to develop recommendations for improving the [CleanBC](#) energy strategy and advancing B.C.'s environmental leadership.

Darren Blakeborough, Assistant Professor in the School of Culture, Media, and Society, was interviewed by [Global News Morning](#) in his role as Chief Moderator for the *2025 Chilliwack Independent Film Festival* (October 22–26). The event showcases over 100 independent short and feature films.