

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic

DATE: November 7, 2023

RE: Provost Report to Senate

This month's report highlights the many ways we engage with our community. From the UFV open house, the Fraser Valley Writers Festival, Field Trips to St. Mary's and Kilgard Longhouse, and providing UFV Trishaw Rides, we continue our message of gratitude in thanking all UFV students, faculty, and staff for your efforts in showing our community that UFV is an amazing place to learn and work.

We are engaged in social innovation and changemaking at UFV as highlighted in many ways this past month including the conclusion of the *Leading Social Impact in Post-Secondary Education* micro-credential. In the summer of 2023, UFV collaborated with Ashoka Canada and Royal Roads University to co-create an experimental pilot learning journey to support Change Leaders and a Change Team to advance their own professional development as systems leaders, and equip UFV with the insights, tools and leadership to transform the institution. From July until October of this year, a cohort of 20 volunteer employees from across UFV took part in their changemaking journey which culminated in a UFV Ecosystem Scan & Action Plan document. Their work highlights the many things we are doing at UFV to further advance social innovation and changemaking across higher education. The recent development of our Institutional Learning Outcomes and the work we are engaged in to be a Student Ready university are examples of this.

We look forward to continuing the journey as we celebrate, support and continue to build upon the changemaking that we are doing at UFV.

I extend a warm thank you to the Units who have contributed to this report, and in their work in Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

On October 3, the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub joined Dr. Sarah Beaulieu and a number of students in experiencing a virtual tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. The tour, hosted by Dr. Jerzy Wójcik remotely from Poland, combined historical and modern photos, videos, recreations, and more to paint a gut-wrenching but incredibly informative picture of life in the camps, as well as the systems that enabled and supported them.

Criminology Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Kersten presented at a conference on transitional justice for children organized by the University of Saskatchewan.

The Political Science department organized a successful POLITALK on October 12, 2023. The event attracted students, faculty, staff, and community people.

On October 20, Beverly Jones (UUP) presented at BCTELA (BC Teachers of English Language Arts) conference "Indigenizing Socratic Seminars" at West Vancouver Secondary School

Anna Janzen (4th year KIN student) has been hired by Alison Pritchard Orr as the lead Research Assistant for her study: "Cycling Without Age: Exploring Experiences of Intergenerational Pilots and Passengers". This study is a collaboration with Dr. Shelley Canning (School of Health Studies) and is funded by Elim Village retirement community and a UFV Accelerate Research grant.

Audrey Tan (4th year KIN student) has been hired by Alison Pritchard Orr and Karen Natho to be student lead for their 8-week boccia program for athletes with disabilities at GW Graham High School from Oct-Dec 2023. 7 KIN students will assist in running the program. This program is supported through funding by the Chilliwack School District, Parawell play, Sportability, and Boccia Canada.

Collections Librarian, Martin Warkentin, hosted the October 11th Science Café organised by the CEP Library staff. He reported that there were "excellent presentations by UFV faculty resulted in a robust discussion between the presenters, UFV staff, faculty, and students, and community members in attendance."

Librarian Janelle Stuzhar met with students about Queer Book Club, a student led initiative. "They feel like the library is a strong ally which is the best compliment and testament to our joint work with them over the past year," according to Janelle.

On September 28 UFV was proud to host Professor Christine Kenney, for a presentation on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change. Prof. Kenney is the inaugural Chair of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand, and Director of Te Toi Whakaruruhau o Aotearoa, the national Māori Disaster Risk Reduction Research Centre. A recording of the presentation is now available [here](#).

On October 13, UFV co-hosted the Grounded Innovation: Agriculture and Food Summit with the Abbotsford Tech District. The event brought together more than two dozen speakers, including UFV's Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute, plus numerous community stakeholders, to discuss the future of food production.

Dr. Chris Schinckus, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Computing has been named one of the world's top 2% scientists by Standford University.

Dr. Jon Thomas (Director, EFCIE & BC Regional Innovation Chair, UFV) has been appointed a Fellow at THECiS – a Calgary-based not-for-profit organization devoted to the study and promotion of innovation.

\$150,000 was donated to the Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) from the RBC Foundation towards an Urban Agriculture Education Program. The investment will fund the development of a program by the FAI and in partnership with Royal Roads University, for students pursuing skills in the Agri-tech sector.

On November 22, Research and Graduate Studies invites the UFV community to Post-Doc Talk where UFV's Postdoctoral fellows will share insights into their work at UFV in 5-minute presentations, followed by the opportunity to mix and mingle over refreshments.

The Environmental Studies program collaborated with the Office of Sustainability to participate in Student Wellness Week. They co-hosted a table on October 12th to discuss eco-anxiety with dozens of students.

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Associate Professor of Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies (PGES) took her GEOG 331 class to the Browne Creek Wetlands in Chilliwack. They studied and worked alongside Natasha Cox, Director of the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition.

Engaging Learners with the HOPE³ Guidelines at the English Retreat - Victoria Surtees (Learning Specialist, Internationalization) and Michelle Johnson (Learning Specialist, Online Learning and Digital Pedagogy) facilitated a two-hour workshop on AI and presented the HOPE³ Guidelines to about 10 faculty.

The Culinary students held their annual pumpkin carving contest this year classes and opened it up to all trades program students! Over thirty pumpkins were carved, and prizes were awarded by category, as well as a "Dean's Pumpkin" award.

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.

The November issue of *Maclean's* focuses on the current realities of AI, and CHASI is proud to have one of our projects represented. An article, written by UFV professor and CHASI faculty associate Dr. Amir Shabani, shares details on how his team is leveraging AI and robots for social connections. This project uses robots which can Detect audio-visual cues, recognize emotions, respond to symptoms of anxiety/depression, and teach new coping strategies, all with the goal of assisting our most isolated populations and improving their overall wellness.

MA CRIM alumnus and CRIM sessional instructor, Tara Haarhoff, was awarded a Commissioner's Commendation for outstanding professional ethics and integrity.

Criminology Career Development Coordinator Kim Nickel was nominated for an Archway Community Services Community Builders' Award, which honours and acknowledges individuals and organizations

who have made a significant contribution to Archway Community Services and the community.

BA alumni Madison Hendry won the 2023 Teach Award from Canadian Parents for French BC and Yukon. The news was highlighted in the September edition of the Abbotsford News.

FECHD Associate Dean, Dr. Mary Saudelli, was named as one of 133 Women Changing the World by "Diversity In"

On October 24, Dr. Rita Dhungel (SWHS) and Bidur Dhungel (Southwestern Center for PhD and Research Studies, Nepal) presented *Examining the terrain of men's engagement in violence prevention and gender equity work in Nepal* at *Transforming Masculinity: International Symposium for Wellbeing and Violence Prevention*, organized by the University of Calgary in collaboration with UFV and others.

Dr. Iris Lesser presented at the CERA National Day for the Older Person event on October 13 on the outcomes of her Over the Hill hiking study and the benefits of being physically active.

UFV International is pleased to note a 50% increase in outbound UFV students who will study abroad in W'24.

Library Climate Action week is rapidly approaching, and Librarians are working with SUS (student union society), OoS (Office of Sustainability), DIS (Department of Information Studies) and other library colleagues on having an awareness week with tabling, displays and giveaways.

Dr. Lenore Newman, Director, Food and Agriculture Institute, has been appointed Chair of the Expert Panel on Atypical Food Production Technologies for Canadian Food Security. The panel has been formed by the National Research Council of Canada and the Council of Canadian Academies to examine areas of advancement in atypical food production technologies increasing local food production in a sustainable manner with innovative food production methods to address needs and challenges specific to communities across Canada.

Physics Students Association hosted an event of "Grad School Information Session" on Sept 25. Faculty from UFV Physics department along with a professor from SFU were guest speakers. Most of the upper-level physics and math students attended this information session.

The Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies staff visited Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) to present Trades Career pathways to four separate Career planning classes, meeting approx. 60 Grade 12 students.

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.

In mid-September, CHASI's display of Pride flags, which had previously been targeted by nine acts of theft or vandalism, was targeted again — twice. Coverage from *The Abbotsford News* and *Fraser Valley News* highlights why it is so important to have visible displays of Pride on campus, a fact that is only

underscored by recent homophobic and transphobic protests in the Fraser Valley and across Canada.

To mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, the Rotary Club of Abbotsford Sumas and CHASI co-hosted a presentation from CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Keith Carlson titled "Identifying and Then Transcending Settler Colonialism: Strategies for Building Genuine Reconciliation." Dr. Carlson shared his knowledge and insights with an engaged crowd at The Reach Gallery Museum.

The majority of TED faculty members (FECHD) met with Curriculum Specialists and District Principals in the Chilliwack School District to share current practices and discuss potential research projects.

Nursing students held a diaper drive to support Chilliwack Food Bank. The UFV diaper drive involved the eight BSN semester groups, with the winner receiving a pizza lunch as a prize. Led by coordinator Kate McCulloch, they conducted a drive that brought in 13 boxes of diapers, four boxes of wipes, and one box of pull-ups.

Karen Natho is the UFV representative at the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD) Research focus group.

International reports that as of Sept. 20, the number of countries represented in our pool of international students stood at 65. This is the highest in UFV's history. Currently, there are twelve countries with more than ten students represented in the student population: India, China, Nepal, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Philippines, Bangladesh, Mexico, United States of America, and Pakistan.

Librarians, Janelle Sztuhar & Diane Cruickshank, created and ran a well-attended "How to Run a Book Club" workshop for ElderCollege.

On November 2, Dr. Darryl Plecas, Professor Emeritus, Criminology & Criminal Justice, will look beyond headlines and share the realities of youth crime in Abbotsford, and what the next steps for the city should be. He is the second speaker in the Exploring Equity series, co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Abbotsford Sumas and UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation Hub.

Michelle Johnson (Learning Specialist, Online Learning and Digital Pedagogy) facilitated an Instructional Skills workshop on September 19, 22, & 26 for new UFV sessional and substitute teachers for Trades. They developed new skills and gave/received feedback from their peers to become more confident and competent teachers. (5 participants)

Lorna Andrews (Learning Specialist, Indigenization) is working alongside Amea Wilbur (Assistant Professor, Adult Education) to co-develop a course on Indigenous epistemologies and pedagogies. This collaborative project would involve the development of multimedia resources and a new fourth-level course in ADED.