

# Research Matters



**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH: Fall 2018**

## UFV Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards: 2018

The UFV Research Office hosted the 2018 annual Undergraduate Research Excellence awards on May 24. The most students to date were celebrated for their research contributions, totalling over \$25,000 in awards. These 41 students enjoyed the Scrabble themed evening that also included some inspirational speeches.

“Simply put, research opens doors of opportunity. I am so grateful for the research opportunities that UFV provides, *unique* opportunities that I would not have had at any other university. UFV has not only taught me what research really means, but it has shaped me as a person. I went from being a student afraid to ask questions in class to presenting my work at conferences. I went from not knowing why research was interesting, to being a strong advocate for its transformational power.

I’ve had the pleasure of attending three UFV Student Research Days, and my favourite part is asking fellow students about their work, because when I look at research at UFV, I see a beautiful spectrum of diversity. I see psychology students asking questions about human thought and behaviour. I see kinesiology students using their skills practically to help others. I see chemistry, English, physics, geography students and everyone in between invested in and excited about their work. “I believe that this diversity of research is one of the many things that makes research at UFV so unbeatable. Even though, I’ll be the first to admit it, that I don’t always quite understand all the complexities of other students’ projects, what I do understand is their passion, their quest for answers, and their incredible hard work.”

*-Vivienne Beard, Bachelor of Science, June 2018 grad.*



### Early Migration Routes

This past year, Dr. Olav Lian and students Jordan Bryce and Travis Gingerich collaborated on a climate change project with researchers from University of Manchester, UNBC, Tulane University and Purdue University. The students travelled to remote sites along the BC coast and their contributions will inform the contentious debate regarding which routes and when they were used by ancient people’s to migrate south into the Americas.



*UFV BSc students Jordan Bryce and Travis Gingerich survey the topography of the landscape on Calvert Island in summer 2015.*

## Best Practices in Crop Production with Renee Prasad

With the help of diploma and degree agriculture students, my research focuses on best practices for crop production in the Fraser Valley. Projects address crop losses, due to arthropods or diseases, either in the field or in storage. Practices to increase yield, either of widely-grown commodities like cranberries or newer specialty crops like sweet potatoes, okra and Asian eggplants, are also examined. Finally, my students and I also explore ways to measure and increase ecosystem services for production agriculture.

Our approach is as varied as the projects, everything from field surveys to small-plot replicated experiments to field demonstrations. Our work is done in collaboration with growers and usually on-farm. We also work closely with colleagues from BC Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Canada, and private consulting firms.

Students participate in these projects either as practicum or summer students with me or as part of the directed studies courses – AGRI 390 or 490.



*April 2018 – wrapping up the beet storage rot survey. Different beet varieties were grown in the field and placed in storage for six months to assess storage breakdown.*

Dr. Prasad is managing six projects in 2018:

1. Sweet potato production protocols for the Fraser Valley. Janelle ten Cate Brouwer is doing this project as part of her AGRI 390 course.
2. Survey and fungicide trials for foliar diseases of cole crops. Sara Grant is focusing on this project for summer.
3. Weekly arthropod and disease surveys of cranberry, leeks, parsnips, beets, carrots, and forage corn. Emily Christiansen is focusing on these surveys over summer.

4. Carrot variety trials with Farm Folk City Folk. Maxwell Findlay is helping with this trial for the summer.
5. Survey of natural enemies in cranberries is being conducted by Tannis Bence as part of her AGRI 390 project.
6. Cranberry variety evaluation will have a team of three students assisting with this work in September to October of 2018.



*June 2018 – planting out sweet potato slips for an on-farm trial.*

## Exploring Innovation in the Fraser Valley

Dr. Jon Thomas and his student researchers investigated innovators by collecting data on patents from the US Patent Office that originated in the Fraser Valley. The main focus was to identify what industries innovate in the Fraser Valley and who is currently innovating. They are hoping to make recommendations to policy makers on how to encourage local innovation.

“Being a research assistant at UFV has changed how I see the world. It has also made me better at self-reflection and more analytical in how I approach school work. Research is both challenging and rewarding. Challenging in that we are working on difficult problems and rewarding in that finding those answers are meaningful to a lot of people outside of UFV. It also presents opportunities such as presenting, meeting new people and getting to go to conferences. It has given me a chance to prove myself, as well as made my university career more fulfilling.”

*Jordan Evans, School of Business*





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## FACULTY RESEARCHERS: Fall 2018

### Meet Our Research Mentors

The purpose of the Research Mentors at UFV is to provide faculty members with opportunities for success in the development of their research and scholarship program. Faculty benefit from the assistance received and the feedback on their research and scholarship from a 'seasoned' faculty member who has a record of research and scholarly grants. Mentorship relationships promote collegiality and interdisciplinary work. The Office of Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies is committed to facilitating mentoring relationships to help increase productivity and commitment in research, scholarship and the integration of research and scholarship into teaching.



*Adrienne Chan,  
Social Work and  
Human Services*



*Kathy Keiver,  
Kinesiology*



*Michael Gaetz,  
Kinesiology*



*Olav Lian,  
Geography and the  
Environment*



*Scott Sheffield,  
History*



*Miriam Nichols,  
English*



*Lenore Newman,  
Canada Research Chair and  
Geography and the Environment*



*Noham Weinberg,  
Chemistry*