

## Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science has the following to report for the month of **February 2020**:

### Dean's Office:

The Faculty of Science Dean's Seminar Series welcomed Molecular Biologist, Dr. Adam Ruben, <http://adamruben.net/> on Tuesday February 11. His informative yet humorous talk focused on controversies over experiments and research findings which affects the way the public views science and scientists. Following his presentation, he took time to visit with the audience, answer questions and sign a few books!

The College of Arts and the Faculty of Science are pleased to welcome Dr. Nancy Turner, an ethnobotanist and professor emeritus from UVic to discuss the cultural roles of plants at the Gathering Place in Chilliwack on Feb 28.

**Caroline Majeau** and **Janice Nagtegaal** have been busy organizing the next instalment of the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair that will be hosted at UFV on April 1 to 4. Registration is open until March 19 and we expect close to 100 students from K-12 in the Fraser Valley region will participate, with our faculty and students volunteering to make this another successful event. Dr. **Jay Thomas** from Chemistry will once again lead the judges to evaluate the various entries for the many awards that are sponsored from our community.

**Dr. Lucy Lee** participated in two webinars sponsored by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on issues of Biosafety on Feb 5 and 19. She also attended the Western Dean's of Arts and Science Conference held in Victoria, BC on February 20-21, 2020. This conference was hosted by the University of Alberta. Dr. Lee also visited the DNA Innovation lab at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and visited with Dr. Paul Adams at KPU on Feb 25.

### Biology Department:

The Shakespeare Garden at CEP has had first trees relocated. Persian silk trees will be replaced with indigenous saskatoons. **Dr. Alan Reid** along with David Shayler from Facilities took the IDS 100 and IDS 300 class to the site and mapped out the physical parameters. Planning of plant locations and species is ongoing but hardscape is laid out and ready for the physical work of excavation and the placement of the new pathways.

**Dr. Alida Janmaat** and her directed studies students **Min Ni** presented a poster at the Professional Pest Management Association of BC annual meeting on Feb. 21 in Burnaby. The title of the poster was "The effect of female *Agriotes obscurus* click beetle ovary maturity levels on female mating receptiveness". Min received the student prize for her poster presentation.

**Dr. Sandra Gillespie** gave a talk on February 18 at the 2020 BC Cranberry Congress about "Cultivar Variation in Pollination Deficit in BC Cranberries" in support of her research grant from the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission. Her grant was renewed for a second year for \$10,725 which is supported by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

**Dr. Carin Bondar**, Adjunct Professor and UFV Faculty of Science Communicator recently returned from a lecture series she gave in the Amazon about the biology of the regions with a framework of her own writing and books. She also provided 2 lectures in Argentina during her tour. She was invited as one of the keynote speakers at Darwin Day at the University of Iowa. She joined two other keynote speakers from Duke and the University of Chicago. While in Iowa City, she participated in a book reading and signing at the Prairie Lights Bookstore. She just booked an appearance on the Disney+ Documentary Series "The World According to Jeff Goldblum"

<https://disneyplusoriginals.disney.com/show/the-world-according-to-jeff-goldblum>. Carin is currently working on a National campaign collaboration with the Girl Guides of Canada with the message of 'Stay in STEM'. She finished

off February by presenting at the UFV Faculty Microlectures on February 26. Her talk was entitled: *Taxonomy 2020: A Visionary Approach to Biological Exploration*.

### **Chemistry Department**

**Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar** presented at the Faculty Microlectures on February 26. Her talk was entitled: *Developing microscale immobilized enzyme reactor fabrication protocol for proteomics studies*. **Dr. Pedro Montoya-Pelaez** also presented at the Faculty Microlectures. His talk was entitled: *Synthesis of Sulforaphene and derivatives*. **Drs. Noham Weinberg** and **Jacob Spooner** submitted abstracts for oral presentations for the coming Canadian Chemistry Conference to be held in May in Winnipeg. They also submitted two abstracts of joint posters co-authored by four students.

### **Mathematics & Statistics Department**

On February 20<sup>th</sup> UFV welcomed 190+ kids from grades 8, 9 and 10 to compete in the Fraser Valley Regional Math Challengers Competition. This yearly event was organized by Math Professors, **Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk**, **Dr. Ian Affleck**, Math and Stats Department Assistant, **Margret Bollerup** and their team of mathematicians. The winners will advance to the Provincial Finals being held at UBC on April 4, 2020.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Math Match took place on February 18<sup>th</sup> where two teams of UFV math students faced off to solve some nonstandard math problems in a game-like setting where the choice of strategy plays a role that is often as important as presenting the correct solution. Aside from the hard work, the participants brought to the game their good spirit and a lot of humour. The Judges, Math Professors **Anna Kuczynska**, **Kseniya Garaschuk** and **Nooshin Lary** sharpened their pencils and awarded Team A, Captain **Tanner Boos**, **Rajinder Kaur**, **Chugen Liu**, and **Simranpreet Singh**, with the win. Team B, Captain **Kennedy Zwarych**, **Laith Jaraiseh**, **Tasso Klassen**, and **Roberto Ocon**, did not disappoint and were great challengers for the Math Match. Congratulations to both teams.

**Drs. Cindy Loten**, **Ian Affleck**, **Ruwan Karunanayaka**, and **Vanessa Radzimski** and their Math Mania team of 22 student volunteers brought an evening of math fun to Auguston Traditional Elementary School on February 5. **Karin Loots** even came out of retirement for the evening to volunteer her time. At one point there were over 95 kids and parents in attendance. The principal was so thrilled with the program he wants to book it every year. The next Math Mania event is scheduled for May 2020.

### **School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SoLUEC)**

**Dr. Lenore Newman** continues her "Lost Feast" book tour. On February 24<sup>th</sup> she had the opportunity to speak to a sold out crowd at the Better Read Than Dead Bookshop in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Newman was also quoted in a University Affairs article (Feb 26) on Agriculture programs, [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/agriculture-programs-change-with-the-times/?utm\\_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm\\_campaign=d7934876ca-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_02\\_26&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_314bc2ee29-d7934876ca-425814557](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/agriculture-programs-change-with-the-times/?utm_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm_campaign=d7934876ca-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_314bc2ee29-d7934876ca-425814557)

**Dr. Cherrie Enns** was invited to participate as a facilitator on an urban planning studio project discussion with focus on Nairobi's Makadara sub-county Food and Farm Market to be held at Jericho Social Hall, Vancouver on February 28<sup>th</sup>. She was also invited to participate on a Nairobi Case Study Lecture: Innovative Governance of Large Urban Systems Program -Switzerland <https://iglus.org> on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Enns also participated in a Planning Studio - Agriculture and Community Placemaking Program University of Nairobi / New Global Community Lab, UFV <https://globalcommunitylab.ca> /QES Universities Canada February 25-28th, 2020.