

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report for the month of **March 2023**:

Engaging Learners

The 8th Annual Math Match took place on Feb 25 where two teams of UFV math students (**Brendan Matthews, Kian Johnson, Mehak Narag, Yuvraj Gupta, and Ekamjot Singh**) solved some nonstandard math problems in a game-like setting. The Judges: **Anna Kuczynska, Robin Endelman, Nooshin Lary, and Ruwan Karunanayaka** all from the Math and Stats Department enjoyed the event full of humour, interesting solutions, awards, and some pizza sponsored by the Math & Stats Department.

Biology Associate Professor and Department Head, **Dr. Greg Schmaltz**, received a \$4K innovation grant from the Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (EFCIE) fund to conduct heron research in the Valley with one of his students this spring and summer.

The UFV WEST student association hosted their 4th Annual Career Panel on March 16. This event highlighted wonderful women in the Fraser Valley and their careers in Science, Engineering, and Technology. Included on the panel was **Dr. Dina Navon**, Assistant Professor in Biology and **Dr. Lauren Erland**, Assistant Professor in Agriculture Technology.

Drs. Cherie Enns and Afia Raja, Associate Professors from the School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC) hosted an information session for the Bachelor of Regional and Community Planning (BRCP). The new Professional Degree will launch Fall 2023. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/03/23/the-new-bachelor-of-regional-and-community-planning-info-session/>

Transforming Lives

Biology Adjunct Professor and School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC) Sessional Instructor, **Dr. Carin Bondar**, has been involved in several speaking engagements through the month of March. She provided the keynote address at the Invasive Species Council of BC AGM in New Westminster <https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/professional-events/forum2023/>. She spoke at the Hoffman Bird Club in Boston, Massachusetts and then was invited to speak at Sardis Secondary School for International Women's Day. She was part of UFV's Sustainability Career Panel and later joined the Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology (SCWIST) Wonder Women mentor event panel. She headed to Portland, Oregon on March 21 and presented at the TurnOn by 1000Watt <https://1000watt.net/turn-on/schedule/>.

Math & Stats Associate Professor, **Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk**, received a grant from Callysto project to support her material development initiative called Authentic Applications through Computational Assignments. This is work that will support her sabbatical project. Once developed the materials will be hosted on <https://www.callysto.ca/>.

Once again, UFV will be sending one science student to London, UK this summer (all expenses paid) to attend the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) <https://www.liysf.org.uk/liysf/experience-liysf>. The shortlisted candidates are BSc students **Manjot Benning, Megan Mulder** and **Catherine Laflamme**. They will each present to our selection panel on March 30, 2023. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/03/24/liysf-candidates-to-present/>

Building Community

Dr. Greg Schmaltz, Biology Associate Professor was invited to attend an advisor trip to Grenada over the reading break to review the medical school program of St. George's University. <https://www.sgu.edu/md/canada>

SLUEC hosted the 64th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) at UFV. This 2-day event was the first post-COVID, in-person WDCAG conference and it was a resounding success! They had over 170 attendees. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/03/15/sluec-hosts-the-64th-annual-meeting-of-the-western-division-of-the-canadian-geographers/>

The Office of Sustainability, **Dr. Stefania Pizzirani** from SLUEC and many other colleagues from across campus hosted a series of events throughout the month of March for the second annual March for Sustainability. Faculty members from science who hosted events were **Dr. Stephania Pizzirani** (Clothes the Loop and the Early Earth Day Session); **Dr. Renee Prasad**, Agriculture Technology (Sustainable Food Production: Field to Porch); **Dr. Alan Reid** and **Dr. Sandra Gillespie** from Biology (Pollinator Garden Event); **Dr. Alan Reid** and **Dr. Lauren Erland** from Agriculture presented at the Science Café in Chilliwack.