

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

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

Engaging Learners

Dr. Carin Bondar, Biology Adjunct Professor and School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC) Sessional emceed a meeting in Whistler May 10-12 'Bettering Environmental Stewardship and Technology'. This event is for professionals across the country but will be focused on environmental managers from BC and Alberta. She is hosting a 2-hour workshop for youth aged 12-15 in June. She has invited Biology majors and Science Communicators, **Manjot Benning** and **Rhien Hare**, to join her in celebrating STEM. This workshop has been designed to inspire girls and marginalized identities to fulfill their curiosity and consider going into science.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/celebrate-stem-with-dr-carin-bondar-tickets-617846183567>

Dr. Alan Reid, Associate Biology Professor, with **Lorna Andrews** from Teaching and Learning and **Melissa Walter** from English hosted the Campus Teaching Gardens session during the ConnectED 2023 Day in the Indigenous Teaching Garden where they practiced skills of observation and connect with place.

Dr. Reid took part in planting new fruit trees in the Pollinator Garden (cherry with 4 different types grafted, Asian pear and Apple combination trees) and is back training 20 new guides in the 8-week docent teaching seminar at VanDusen Botanical Gardens as well as 10 new guides for the Bloedel Conservatory located in Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver.

On April 26, the FoS hosted 72 seniors and 6 teachers from Mission Secondary School. **Drs. Greg Schmaltz** and **Ian Affleck** along with various other colleagues coordinated this event. The students rotated through sessions put on by the faculty and students from the Departments of Math & Stats, Biology, Physics, Agriculture Technology, Environmental studies and ending with a campus tour.

The BC Secondary Schools Math Contest final round was hosted at UFV on May 5. **Drs. Vanessa Radzimski**, **Ben Vanderlei** and many others from the Math & Stats department volunteered their time to ensure this first contest in person after the pandemic was a success. 72 students from 12 schools across the Fraser Valley participated in this event.

Transforming Lives

The Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair's [<https://www.ufv.ca/science-fair/>] four finalists (Xauni de Figueroa, WJ Mouat Secondary School, Abbotsford; Deepraj Gill, Dasmesh Punjabi School, Abbotsford; Alex Thorburn, Chilliwack Secondary School; and Justin Yu, R.E. Mountain Secondary School, Langley) have been busy preparing to head to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Edmonton, Alberta with their delegate Jasneet Brar from R.E. Mountain Secondary School. This week-long event is being hosted by the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta.

<https://youthscience.ca/science-fairs/cwsf/edmonton-2023/>

Students from GEOG 252 (Quantitative methods in Geography) and GEOG 300U (Special Topics) led by **Dr. Afia Raja**, Associate Professor from SLUEC, participated in the City Studio HUBBUB held at the Abbotsford City Hall on April 11. The CityStudio Team Award winner went to **Elena Van Buschbach**, **Paisley Chambers**, **Karena Dosanjh**, **Autumn Berg**, **Thea Vetter**, **Karly O'Neill**, and **Miranda Neufeldt** from **Dr. Afia Raja's** GEOG 300U Sustainable Transportation class. <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub-11-winter-2023>

The Faculty of Science is very pleased to announce that **Steve Marsh**, Associate Professor from SLUEC is this year's recipient of the UFV Teaching Excellence Award for 2023.

<https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/05/08/congratulations-to-steve-marsh-teaching-excellence-recipient-for-2023/>

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Associate Professor also from SLUEC is this year's recipient of the UFV Faculty Service Excellence Award. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/05/08/congratulations-to-stefania-pizzirani-faculty-service-excellence-recipient-for-2023/>

Former Governor General Silver Medal recipient, **Heather Kelly** (BSc'2022) is pleased to announce that she was accepted in the 2023 class of Medical students at UBC. Agriculture student **Ania Bula**, and Biology student **Amber Feaver**, are the recipients of NSERC USRA with **Drs Lucy Lee** and **Justin Lee**, respectively.

Building Community

Dr. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research was invited to give the opening featured talk of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting which was held at the University of Victoria May 1-2, 2023. **See below for details of her presentation.

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Associate Professor from SLUEC will be joining a list of other organizations including the David Suzuki Foundation and Science World, centred around environment, sustainability, climate change, horticulture, ecology, and environmental ethics at École Salish Secondary, Clayton-Cloverdale on May 26, 2023.

The Agriculture Technology Department in partnership with the Research Team, had a presence at the EcoFarm Fest held April 22, 2023 at Bakerview Farm. <https://tourismabbotsford.ca/event-directory/ecofarm-fest-2023-2/>.

Dr Ian Affleck has been busy connecting with academics across Canada and BC, participating at the Canadian Council of Deans of Science annual meeting held at York University May 12-14, and hosting the BC Math and Stats articulation meeting in our Clearbrook Campus May 16-17.

The Math and Stats department has resumed the visits with the Math Mania events and on May 10, **Drs. Cindy Loten, Vanessa Radzimski** and several other faculty and students volunteered their time to engage with students and families at Windebank Elementary School in Mission.

Sample List of Presentations/Publications (UFV student names underlined> by FoS personnel:

Erland, L. 2023. Resilience in nutritional quality of traditional staple crops to climate change. *Canadian Society of Plant Biologists Western Regional Meeting* (May 1-2, 2023, Victoria, BC).

Ku, K., Frey, C., Arad, M. and **Ghfourifar, G.** 2022. Development of novel enzyme immobilization methods employing formaldehyde or triethoxysilylbutyraldehyde to fabricate immobilized enzyme microreactors for peptide mapping. *Anal. Methods* 14: 4053-4063 <https://doi.org/10.1039/D2AY00840H>

Note: This publication was also selected for the issue's front cover.