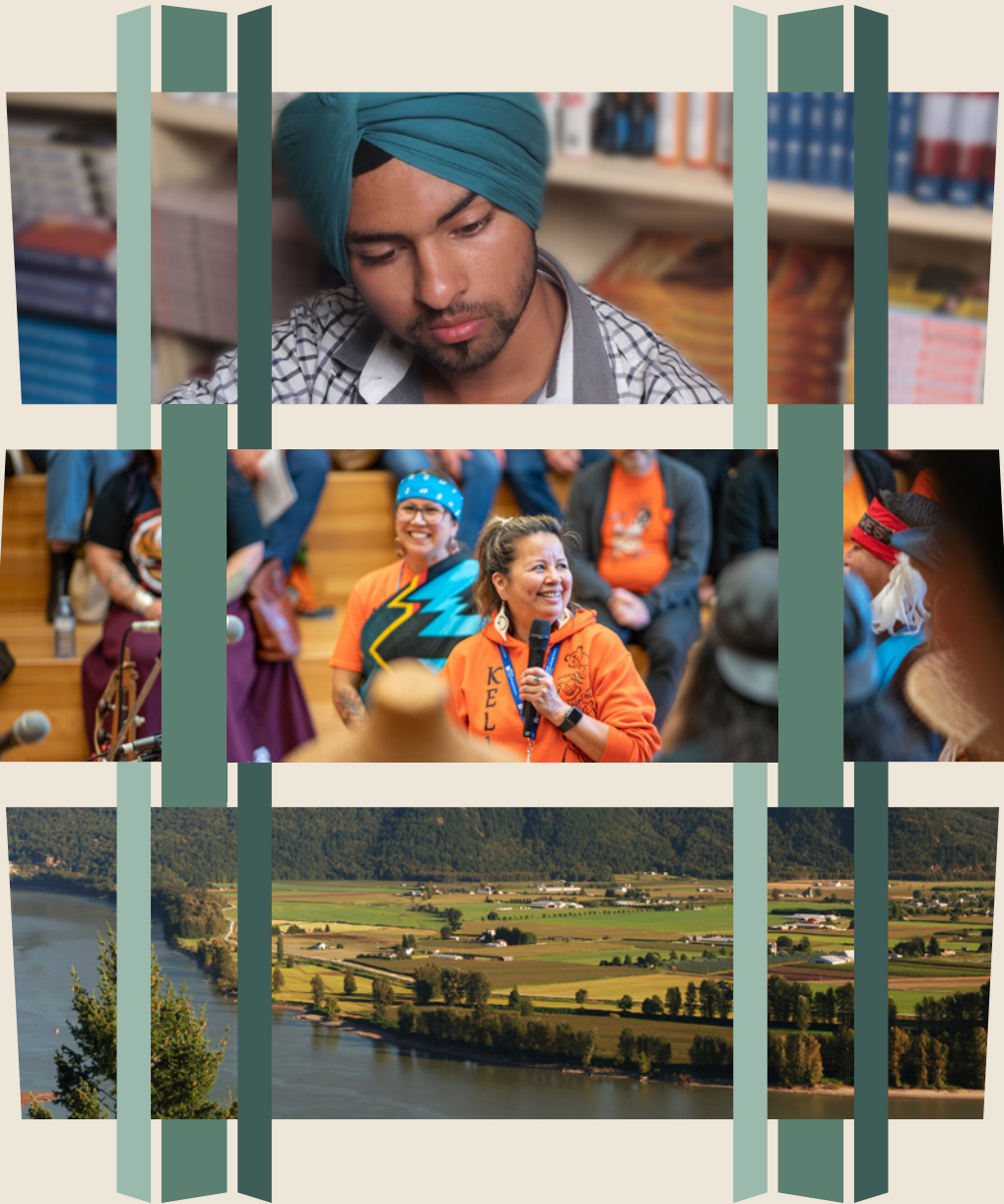


UFV 2023 COMMUNITY REPORT

St'elt'elawtexw

Celebrating community across the Fraser Valley



PAGE 6

Engaging Learners

Yoystexw Ye Totilthet



PAGE 16

Transforming Lives

Ayeqet Kw'e Shxwaylexws



PAGE 8

Project Python makes “marshmallow” plastic a problem of the past

PAGE 12

Trishaw program connects students with seniors

PAGE 13

SASI helps tell South Asian community story through Heritage Minute

PAGE 14

Enactus launches venture to help Fraser Valley farmers

Check this out: “human library” stocked with lived experiences of students with disabilities

Student photography project captures the passage of time in a place not forgotten

Kinesiology student’s research finds ways to improve strength training for climbers

Super Science Sampler engages future scientists

Mandarin student wins first place in the “Chinese Bridge” competition

PAGE 18

Xwelítem Siyáya: a partnership in allyship

PAGE 22

Katie Long: persistence plus education equals empowerment

PAGE 23

2023 UFV Distinguished Alumni award recipients

PAGE 24

Convocation comes home

UFV confers honorary doctorates

Alec Zinman: Outstanding Student Leadership award recipient

YWCA nominates two women of distinction from the UFV community

Cascades player named Canada West Women’s Volleyball MVP

UFV mechatronics students develop innovative garden watering system

PAGE 26

Building Community

Thayt Kw'e St'elt'elawtexw



PAGE 28

The Laramie Project spreads roots for Fraser Valley's queer community

PAGE 32

Singers bring Good Medicine to
Day for Truth and Reconciliation

PAGE 33

2023 Betty Urquhart award
recipients make community
service their business

PAGE 34

CityStudio partnership benefits
students and community

Collaboration helps Abbotsford
become an accessible destination

The lessons the flood waters left behind

Creating spaces where everyone
can feel welcome

New School will create activists
for social change

Learning to connect with
community through art

Welcome to St'elt'elawtexw

Long before Canada was formed, the Stó:lō (People of the River) lived and thrived on the land on which UFV is located.

UFV gratefully recognizes and honours the contributions that Indigenous people have made — and continue to make — to our community.

The language spoken by the Stó:lō people is Halq'eméylem, the "Upriver dialect" of Halkomelem. Halq'eméylem is primarily spoken in the upper and central Fraser Valley, the Lower Fraser Canyon, and in communities near Harrison Lake. *St'elt'elawtexw* means "community" in Halq'eméylem.

At UFV, *St'elt'elawtexw* is woven into our fabric, and we are grateful for the connections we have with the individuals and organizations who contribute to our collective impact.



Learn how to say
St'elt'elawtexw —
visit ufv.ca/community
or scan the QR code.

PAGE 36

Looking forward: the year ahead in community

President's Message



Dr. James
Mandigo

ACTING PRESIDENT
AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

"At UFV, we have made it our mission to engage learners, transform lives, and build community."

On behalf of all of us in the University of the Fraser Valley community, I am very excited to share this community report with you.

The University of the Fraser Valley is situated on Stó:lō Temexw, the territory of the Stó:lō — people of the river — whose ancestral language is Halq'eméylem. The Stó:lō have been the stewards of this magnificent land since the beginning of time. UFV is committed to recognizing and honouring the contribution that Indigenous People have made — and continue to make — to our community and the communities around us. We remain committed to supporting authentic Truth and Reconciliation with all Indigenous people across Turtle Island.

On the following pages, you will see compelling stories of the people and places that make UFV the very special place that it is — a gathering place for learners, leaders, and seekers. You will see stories of resilience and recovery, of transformation and talent, of connection and creativity.

At UFV, we have made it our mission to engage learners, transform lives, and build community. We do this by living our values, carrying out activities that further our goals to create safer, more inclusive spaces, to act honestly and ethically, and to treat others with care and compassion.

Above all, we demonstrate respect for each other and the land around us.

I hope the stories shared throughout this report will fill you with a great sense of inspiration, celebration, and pride for your university, the University of the Fraser Valley.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Mandigo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being significantly larger and more stylized than the last name.

Introduction



Susan
Mide Kiss

VICE-PRESIDENT,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

“As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2024, we honour the past, celebrate our present, and co-create our future, centering the vibrant community that is at the heart of UFV.”

For many, September is a time of reflection and renewal. For me, it also marks my first anniversary at the University of the Fraser Valley. I grew up in the Valley, and the place I returned to last year has weathered its share of challenges, from pandemics to floods to the efforts to build a more compassionate and just community. I am proud to be a part of this university, its people, and this region. I see a future full of possibility.

I see a university committed to the spirit of shared vision, recognizing co-creation and reciprocity as transformative practices. I see people invested in UFV’s values of integrity and inclusivity, celebrating our differences as strengths. I see a community truly dedicated to decolonization and Truth and Reconciliation, serving as good allies to Indigenous friends. I see the resiliency and kindness of Indigenous Peoples, and I am thankful to learn from their culture, language, and art.

In all of this, I see community.

Community is woven into the fabric of this university, and we are grateful for the meaningful relationships that contribute to our collective impact. Community, and all of you who are part of it, shapes UFV’s identity.

As you read this report, I hope you will see your own passion and commitment reflected because you are central to these stories — to our shared story. And as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2024, we honour the past, celebrate our present, and co-create our future, centering the vibrant community that is at the heart of UFV.

Yalh yexw kw’es hoy — thank you for what you have done!

Susan Mide Kiss



SECTION I

Engaging Learners *Yoystexw Ye Totilthet*

At UFV, we encourage our students to develop meaningful relationships with community partners. Business students and professors (like Dr. Saeed Rahman, above) aren't afraid to get their shoes muddy when consulting with local farmers as part of Enactus UFV, a student-led organization. Enactus works in collaboration with the UFV School of Business, faculty, business leaders, and the community to create business projects that foster social change and empower those with whom they interact.

Dr. Andy
Sidhu ('17)
CHANCELLOR



“Engaging Learners means creating spaces where our students and academic researchers thrive and are encouraged to connect with community partners.”

Community engagement and integration are key functions — in fact, responsibilities — of any post-secondary institution. The University of the Fraser Valley is no exception, and I am proud of our focused efforts to be as inclusive and connected with our communities as possible. When we do this well, our communities and the communities around us (and beyond) are better served.

We do this work by *Engaging Learners* — creating spaces where our students and academic researchers thrive and are encouraged to connect with community partners from all professions and every demographic, using new technologies and tried-and-true techniques. We introduce our students to community service learning opportunities. We encourage collaboration between our own faculties and units and with new and existing community partners.

Above all, we listen to the needs of community, responding with attention and understanding as we strive to make our communities the best they can be for everyone.

Dr. Andy Sidhu received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from UFV in 2017.

These "marshmallow fields" of baled hay are cute and serve the important purpose of preserving animal feed, but they also result in a lot of plastic waste. UFV welding students are helping local farmers deal with that waste by compressing the plastic for transport to recycling facilities.





/ COMMUNITY FEATURE /

Project Python makes “marshmallow” plastic a problem of the past

Welding students “bale” local farmers out from under piles of plastic waste.

Driving through the countryside, people often like to marvel at what look like “marshmallow fields” visible by the roadside. In reality, those giant white or green marshmallows are rolls of grass, expertly wrapped in plastic to preserve them for feeding to dairy cows.

Larger pieces of bunker plastic are also used to cover silage (chopped grass and corn) inside barns, but once used, that plastic becomes one of the biggest sources of plastic waste in the agriculture sector.

Efforts are underway to find ways to efficiently recycle the plastic, and UFV’s Welding program is working with local farmers on a solution.

A key to successfully recycling the plastic is to find a way to move it efficiently to recycling centres and the end market.

Specially designed compactors can compress the plastic to make it easier to transport.

Agassiz resident and UFV Trades and Technology program technician

"It's such a boost knowing that our local university is stepping up to help us address this environmental issue in real life."

Pierce Stoeckly, who completed his auto mechanics apprenticeship at UFV in 1991 and who has friends and relatives in the farming community, heard of the need for compactors and thought this would be a great challenge for UFV welding students. Instructor Matt Olafson (Cert Welding '12) agreed.

UFV's Office of Research and Graduate Studies provided some seed funding, and a group of welding students took on the challenge of designing a prototype as their capstone project.



When local farmers brought plastic waste to Cordine Farms near Agassiz for the District of Kent's bi-annual farm plastic drop-off day, the students' custom-designed compactor roared into action.

Large amounts of plastic were stuffed in the top of the compactor. When enough was collected, the switch was hit, and the squishing commenced.

The end product?

Densely compacted rectangles of plastic waste, easily stackable and transportable in trucks.

And...

A real-life practical experience for UFV welding students.

And...

Farmers who can feel a bit better about the impact their activity has on our environment.

Local farmers and members of the Kent Agricultural Plastics Recycling Society (Kent Ag Plastics), including Gerald Struys, Dave Hastie, Holger Schwichtenberg, Duane Post, and Jim Grieshaber-Otto were on hand to help test out the compactor.

"It's such a boost knowing that our local university is stepping up to help us address this environmental issue in real life. It's great that Pierce was able to help connect us," said Grieshaber-Otto. "UFV instructors and students came up with a super, practical design for this prototype and, using locally donated steel, UFV students did just a fantastic job building it. With a few minor tweaks and a coat of bright green paint, it'll provide years of solid service in Agassiz. We can't thank you enough!"

After the prototype compactor was tested and adjusted, local manufacturer Tycrop sandblasted it. Next, UFV autobody finishing students painted it. Now, it's ready for farmers in the District of Kent to use.

Stoeckly says the students enjoyed having a challenge with tangible results for their final project. Students who worked on the project include Ryan Holmes, Zac Williamson, Ian Hoggarth (Cert Welding '23),

Daniel Peters (Cert Welding '23), Micah Toews (Cert Welding '23), Liam Wiebe (Cert Welding '23), Austin Knapp, Megan MacLellan (Cert Welding '23), and Dotty Davies.

"It was a complex project for them. They had to think about how to process the material, what cuts to make, and how to fit the metal together. The fact that it fulfills a real community need makes it that much more interesting."

The end goal is for every livestock farmer to have a compactor so they can compress their plastic waste regularly on site rather than collecting it for transport to a common compactor.

The project was completed in partnership with Cleanfarms Canada, Kent Agricultural Plastics Recycling, and the UFV Office of Research and Graduate Studies. ❄️



The prototype plastic waste compactor designed and built by UFV welding students does the job of compressing plastic waste. The plastic from 180–200 wrapped bales can be reduced to just one compacted cube of plastic that can easily be transported to recycling facilities.

UFV welding students pose with the Python, the plastic waste compactor they designed to help farmers. Also pictured: instructor Matt Olafsson and program technician Pierce Stoeckly (front row), and local farmers Jim Grieshaber-Otto (right) and Duane Post (back row, second from left; Duane is also an Agassiz council member).



Trishaw program connects students with seniors

Older people and people with mobility challenges are rediscovering the joys of the outdoors while UFV students cheerfully contribute to intergenerational research through the success of UFV's inspiring trishaw program.



In association with the global Cycling Without Age (CWA) initiative founded in Denmark in 2012, UFV's trishaw program works as a non-profit effort to ensure older adults with mobility deficits continue to experience the joy and freedom of cycling.

Trishaws (pictured above) were purchased with funds from the Centres and Institutes Sustainability and Innovation Fund. UFV Kinesiology students pick up passengers from Chilliwack's Elim Retirement Village and provide rides along the beautiful Vedder River.

The free program — spearheaded by UFV professor Alison Pritchard Orr and Dr. Shelley Canning, Director of the UFV Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) — is coordinated by recent graduate Gurneesh Purba (BKin '23).

The program has been an unequivocal success.

Far more than pleasant riverside rides, the trishaw program dovetails with a study investigating how best to address ageism in an aging society.

"No one seeks to be old, with less independence and functional ability," says Shelley.

"This study collects data while helping our older population engage in meaningful activities and social connections. It's another important way we can help older adults recognize their enduring abilities despite the challenges of aging."

CERA's trishaw rides also support UFV's commitment to Age-Friendly University principles related to intergenerational learning and research, in addition to supporting UFV's Integrated Strategic Plan imperatives with respect to recognition of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

None of this would be possible without someone at the wheel — a role Gurneesh is more than happy to play.

In addition to being the president of UFV's Kinesiology Student Association, participating in the Myself Club Intervention Study, and assisting with the Chilliwack Junior Boccia Program, Gurneesh connected trishaw drivers with dozens of appreciative passengers this year.

"This program is more than just a bike ride — we helped build community," says Gurneesh.

"And that's the power of UFV."

/ COMMUNITY PORTRAIT /

SASI helps tell South Asian community story through Heritage Minute

It's amazing what a difference a minute can make. In the case of Heritage Minutes, produced by Historica Canada, they can provide us with new perspectives on our common history.

A South Asian Canadian story was featured for the first time in a Historica Canada Heritage Minute in April 2023, and there was a UFV connection. Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains, Director of the South Asian Studies Institute, served as a historical consultant for the film, about the historic mill town of Paldi on Vancouver Island.

The film tells the story of Bishan Kaur, who left her home in Punjab, India, in 1927 to join her husband, the lumber entrepreneur Mayo Singh, in Canada. Mayo established the Mayo Lumber Company in 1917, employing South Asian, Chinese, Japanese and white Canadian workers. Despite an uphill battle against racism and government policy, the company and its founders helped shape the community of Paldi as a welcoming and inclusive home to people of all backgrounds.

Satwinder served as historical consultant for the film written by Hayley Gray and Anaïsa Visser and produced by Elad Tzadok and Hayley Gray. She guided the story through the lens of Bishan Kaur and highlighted women of different backgrounds who lived in Paldi during a time when racialized immigrants were unwelcome in Canada.



"I felt a sense of connection and obligation to Bishan's life," Satwinder remarked. "I was proud to play a part in fulfilling the legacy of a life bigger than my own and knowing Bishan would take her rightful place in Canadian history."

As a caretaker of South Asian history, SASI collects and shares the stories of migration, settlement, integration, and adaptation and the contributions South Asian people have made to Canada. When the Heritage Moment premiered at SASI, the goal was to engage learners, encouraging them to question why this story had been hidden for so long and to understand the connection between past and present.

The Paldi Heritage Minute has received over three million views, serving as a hopeful reminder that there is a large audience for South Asian Canadian stories, both at home and abroad.



To view the Heritage Minute, visit historicanada.ca/productions/minutes/paldi or scan the QR code.

A | Enactus launches venture to help Fraser Valley farmers

UFV business students are helping local farmers through AgroConnect, a project run by Enactus UFV, the student organization that starts non-profit business ventures to address social, economic, and environmental issues in our region. AgroConnect supports three areas: resource and information gathering, business management, and labour recruitment, with input from local agri-food entrepreneurs and field experts. AgroConnect helps farmers employ students and youth, as well as to apply for grants and benefits. It aims to collaborate with farmers to turn bruised berries into jams, and develop a section on its website where farmers can sell or rent their equipment, reducing waste, increasing revenues, and fostering new relationships and community.

B | Check this out: “human library” stocked with lived experiences of students with disabilities

Students with disabilities willing to share their experiences as they transition into their careers are the focus of a “human library” at UFV. Created from the shared voices and experiences of participants, all of whom are registered with UFV’s Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS), the project aims to minimize stigma and isolation and increase awareness

of challenges faced by students with disabilities seeking to launch their careers. The findings have been translated into actionable recommendations for students, educators, and employers, with workshops designed to create equitable and supportive learning and workplace environments.

C | Student photography project captures the passage of time in a place not forgotten

Many people driving through the Sunshine Valley outside Hope are unaware that it was the site of Tashme, an internment camp for Japanese Canadians during World War II. Delving into themes of social landscape photography, Fine Arts student Brielle Quon’s series offers a profound exploration of the space occupied by Tashme’s remaining structures, exploring human impact on the landscape. Brielle used a large format 4x5 camera to capture intricate details. The meticulous process compelled her to focus and ensure precision in every shot. Brielle received the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Academic Award at UFV’s Student Research Day.



D | Kinesiology student's research finds ways to improve strength training for climbers

Having undergone rehabilitation for climbing-related finger injuries himself, Greg Luesink (BKin '23) researched training methods to improve finger strength for rock climbers while mitigating risk to injury. His research compared three different training devices: the conventional hangboard training, pinch block, and crimp block tests. Greg found all three training methods made similar improvements for finger strength and endurance over time, but that pinch-block training may be the safest and most versatile due to portability, low training load, and activation of both flexors and extensors, which are important for preventing finger, hand, and wrist injury.

E | Super Science Sampler engages future scientists

UFV's Faculty of Science welcomed more than 100 Grade 8 students and their teachers from Abbotsford Traditional School this February for a UFV Super Science Sampler. Throughout the morning, the students rotated through different activities hosted by each of the science departments. From firing an air cannon and experimenting with electricity, to eating chocolate "chirp" cricket cookies, the future scientists enjoyed their time in UFV's

science labs and learning from university-level instructors. Dr. Ian Affleck, Associate Dean of Science, was enthusiastic about this first-time partnership with the school: "It's amazing to engage with these kids and watch them find something that excites them."

F | Mandarin student wins first place in the "Chinese Bridge" competition

The 22nd "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students in BC featured the theme of One World, One Family, and included two parts — a Mandarin speech and a talent show. UFV student Amy Campbell stood out among participants from UBC, SFU, UVic, and Capilano University, seizing the sole first prize award in the junior category. Amy presented a short version of her Mandarin speech and won wide acclaim from the audience at an award ceremony in Vancouver on International Chinese Language Day. She received the Award of Excellence certificate from Yang Shu, Consul General of China in Vancouver.





SECTION II

Transforming Lives *Ayeqet Kw'e Shxwaylexws*

Each year, the UFV community celebrates the transformative power of education with convocation ceremonies. This rite of passage marks the accomplishment of each student and welcomes them into a new stage of their life as UFV alumni. This June, convocation ceremonies returned to UFV's campus for the first time in a decade.

John
Pankratz ('80)

CHAIR, UFV BOARD
OF GOVERNORS



"I have learned that each of us, no matter our role in the community, is worthy of recognition and gratitude."

Today, I am fortunate to experience a unique opportunity to be involved with UFV in a way that I wasn't as a student. As board chair and a volunteer leader, I have participated in many programs and events on campus; I have met many students, staff, faculty and administrators; and I am honoured to be involved with many key decisions that will shape the future of UFV.

A highlight each year for me and, of course, for our students and newest alumni, is convocation, where we are given the opportunity to experience UFV graduation ceremonies. And I'm constantly reminded of how education has changed lives and made a difference, something that is apparent when one hears the stories of effort, dedication, and achievement by those who want to transform themselves and the world around them.

I have witnessed the enthusiasm and passion of so many who are dedicated to the mission and vision of UFV, and I have seen how education can indeed change lives. I have also learned that each of us, no matter our role in the community, is worthy of recognition and gratitude, which I extend to all of you who make UFV the transformational place it is.

John Pankratz completed his first year toward his BBA degree at what was then Fraser Valley College.

Dr. Naxaxalhts'í "Sonny" McHalsie is one of several Stó:lō experts and leaders who are generously sharing their culture, history, and current challenges with students through the Xwelítəm Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building program.

Opposite page: Grand Chief Clarence "Kat" Pennier, Dr. Naxaxalhts'í "Sonny" McHalsie, and Dr. Keith Carlson collaborated on the program.





/ COMMUNITY FEATURE /

Xwelítem Siyáya: a partnership in allyship

"It is important for us to learn to live together in our territory so that we may learn together to protect the land, water, and resources for our future generations."

Witnessing a Stó:lō naming ceremony.
Hearing first-hand from residential school survivors, some of whom struggled to speak while their children and grandchildren joined them on stage to comfort them.
Touring an Indigenous garden to learn about the healing power of plants.
These are just some of the experiences offered to community members through a unique partnership of Stó:lō people, Indigenous organizations, and UFV.

Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building is offered through UFV's Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC), in partnership with the Stó:lō Nation, the Stó:lō Tribal Council, the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, and the Stó:lō Grand Chief's Council.

The public, part-time, non-credit program is designed for non-Indigenous Canadians who want to learn how to become allies and work toward reconciliation.

“This work helps lay the foundations for genuine reconciliation while alleviating Indigenous people of the weight of doing it all themselves.”

Grand Chief Clarence “Kat” Pennier was one of several Stó:lō community members who shared their stories through the Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building program. He spoke to the students about his experiences at residential school.

Dr. Keith Carlson, Director of UFV’s Peace and Reconciliation Centre and a long-time collaborator with Stó:lō partners, says the program has been in the planning stages for several years but was delayed by the pandemic. He is working in partnership with Stó:lō Grand Chief Clarence “Kat” Pennier and other Stó:lō leaders.

Keith notes that the initiative came at the request of the Stó:lō leadership.

“This new program is designed in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action, and in particular to requests by Stó:lō leaders that UFV partners with them to help educate non-Indigenous people about Stó:lō history and culture, and to provide participants with strategies on how they can respectfully play a role in helping to build genuine reconciliation as allies.”

Grand Chief Pennier endorses the program for its potential to enhance understanding, cooperation, and collaboration.

“It is important for us to learn to live together in our territory so that we may learn together to protect the land, water, and resources for our future generations,” he says.

Dr. Naxaxalhts’i “Sonny” McHalsie (DLitt ’23), Historian and Cultural Advisor for the Stó:lō Research and

Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation, is also enthusiastic about the program.

“The Allyship program is important because of the opportunity it provides us to share Stó:lō culture and history with a wide range of people. I see this as an important component of building reconciliation.”

The program seeks to increase peoples’ capacity for reconciliation-building by teaching the importance of authentic allyship and providing skills for building relationships between colonial settlers and Indigenous communities in the Fraser Valley and beyond.

It runs February through December 2023 and consists of a mixture of presentations, workshops, and hands-on land-based learning opportunities, where participants are guided in developing the knowledge and empathy necessary for becoming effective and respectful allies to local Indigenous communities.

Registered participants attend 11 lecture presentations and four interactive workshops where they learn about Stó:lō people’s relationship to the lands and waters of this region. A variety of optional workshops are also available, for no additional cost. After completing the program, participants will have developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be an ally, and how to embrace the goal of being in a constant state of learning and unlearning, relationship building, and transformative action.

Topics include lands and resources, settler colonialism, governance, assimilation and residential schools, and culture and spirituality. Workshops include drum making, cedar bark weaving, placename tours,



introductions to the Halq'eméylem language, introductions to Chinook jargon, and other land-based learning experiences.

Collette Bohach (BA '16) is a child protection worker with the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society and a student in the Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building program who previously earned a BA in Child and Youth Care at UFV.

"I first experienced Stó:lō culture when I was working in Mission, and I immediately was struck by what an incredibly beautiful and thoughtful culture it is. I am always looking for ways to learn more about it because the more I learn, the better I understand the children I help provide care for and the people I work alongside. So I am very grateful to be in this program and learning directly from so many knowledgeable and generous Stó:lō people."

Keith notes that UFV is trying to lift some of the burdens from the Stó:lō of educating settlers about Indigenous rights, culture, and the impacts of colonialism.

"This program is designed in response to the many inquiries we receive from settlers who want to learn more about the Stó:lō people and to develop competencies in allyship.

"But even more, it is in response to requests from Stó:lō leaders and educators who have indicated that their primary focus needs to be on providing programs and capacity-building opportunities to their own community members. In launching this program, we are collaborating with Stó:lō leaders in a way that helps lay the foundations for genuine



reconciliation while alleviating Indigenous people of the weight of having to deliver such programs themselves." ❖

Program presenters and workshop instructors include:

Dr. Naxaxalhts'í "Sonny" McHalsie
Historian and Cultural Advisor, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation

Dr. Keith Thor Carlson
Director, Peace and Reconciliation Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley

Dr. Dave Schaepe
Director and Senior Archaeologist of the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation

Denise Douglas (BA Adult Ed '97)
Elder and Knowledge Keeper

Dianna Kay (Cert '15)
Halq'eméylem Language Teacher and Knowledge Keeper

Gracie Kelly (BA '19)
Knowledge Keeper and Cedar Bark Weaving Workshop Leader

Murray Ned
Executive Director, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance

Carol Peters (BSW '01)
Knowledge Keeper and Traditional Plant Workshop Leader

Historian and cultural advisor Dr. Naxaxalhts'í "Sonny" McHalsie has dedicated his career to collecting and sharing transformation stories — and protecting Stó:lō cultural heritage through initiatives like the placename tours.

For more information and updates, check ufv.ca/peace-and-reconciliation. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Janzen (BA '22) of UFV PARC at holly.janzen@ufv.ca.

Katie Long: persistence plus education equals empowerment

Continuing Education courses and programs such as the Paralegal certificate provide pathways to career success and lifelong learning.



A few years ago, Katie Long (Cert Paralegal '22) was cleaning hotel washrooms for minimum wage, struggling to support her two children. She knew she wanted to provide a better life for herself and her children. She also knew that post-secondary education would help her on the path to success.

Katie was inspired to pursue a legal career by her grandfather. "He had started law school when he was young, but decided it wasn't something he could do forever, so he dropped out. He regretted that decision later in his life, so I always wanted to finish that for him." Katie graduated from the Paralegal program, offered by UFV Continuing Education, in 2021.

For Katie, going back to school wasn't just to create a better life for herself and her family, but also to provide an example for her kids.

"They see their mom is still going to school, still going to university, and working. My kids remember living in a broken-down mobile home, falling apart in the middle of nowhere. They see how I changed this situation from something dire into one where they attend great schools and live in a house that we own."

Katie also learned about her Métis heritage while she was studying at UFV, after her aunt worked on charting their family tree. Her grandmother had previously shut down any

conversation about Indigenous heritage, leaving Katie feeling alienated from her own history. "I struggled because I felt like an impostor," she says. "I didn't grow up with the culture, wasn't raised in it, or taught anything about it."

Katie didn't let her discomfort stop her from getting involved: she volunteered with Métis Nation, took courses to learn more, and encouraged her children to get involved in their schools' Indigenous programs.

Katie isn't done learning. She's pursuing a provincial instructor diploma and returning to UFV Continuing Education to develop and teach an Indigenous law course as part of the Paralegal program. "Katie will inspire Continuing Education students through her academic and personal accomplishments as well as her direct work in our classrooms," says Continuing Education Director Carolyn MacLaren. "She will inspire students for years to come, and we are proud to be on her journey with her."

Katie is excited about meeting students and sharing her knowledge and experience. "I think it will be empowering to help them realize that where they are now doesn't have to be their final destination. These students can do so much, and I can't wait to see them cross the finish line."

2023 UFV Distinguished Alumni award recipients

The UFV Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) is conferred on a graduate who has achieved outstanding distinction in career, educational achievement, or community service, while the Young DAA goes to a graduate of UFV 35 years of age or younger who meets the same criteria.



2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient Dr. Eric Gerbrandt (BSc '09)

Dedicated to building a better berry, Dr. Eric Gerbrandt's research takes him from the fields of his Yarrow farm to labs around the world.

He creates community by bridging social and cultural divides.

For this and more, Eric (BSc '09) has been named UFV's Distinguished Alumni award winner for 2023.

He leads the berry research portfolio as Research Director with the BC Blueberry Council while owning and operating Sky Blue Horticulture — his personal living laboratory for efficient and desirable fruits.

A UFV graduate, Eric earned his PhD at the University of Saskatchewan. Alongside his studies, he's a sessional instructor at UFV, providing a platform to share his knowledge and give back to the community.



To learn more about Eric and his research, visit ufv.ca/DAA2023 or scan the QR code.



2023 Young Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient Eryn Braley (BSc '19)

In recognition of her dedication to ensure Indigenous voices are heard and respected within public health in BC, Eryn Braley (BSc '19) is the 2023 recipient of the UFV Young Distinguished Alumni award.

A member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Eryn is passionate about embedding anti-racism and cultural safety, truth and reconciliation, and inherent Indigenous rights within the health and education system.

She earned her Master of Public Health degree from UBC and now works as the program manager for Indigenous health at the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Eryn co-led an invited narrative review on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples living with HIV/AIDS globally that was recently published in a world-leading journal for HIV/AIDS research.



To learn more about Eryn and her work, visit ufv.ca/YDAA2023 or scan the QR code.

A | Convocation comes home

After more than a decade, UFV Convocation returned “home” to the Abbotsford campus. Over the course of six ceremonies from June 13 to 15, graduates and their families celebrated this rite of passage. Though more than 2,300 students graduated, not all were able to attend.

The Convocation ceremonies marked a significant milestone for UFV as it surpassed 50,000 graduates, just in time for UFV’s 50th anniversary in 2024.

B | UFV confers honorary doctorates

UFV bestowed honorary doctorates upon four outstanding Canadians who have made substantial contributions to their fields and Canadian society.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, renowned for her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic as Provincial Health Officer of BC, has had an extensive career in public health. She has played pivotal roles in addressing various serious disease outbreaks and has international experience, including work with the WHO/UNICEF polio eradication program and controlling the Ebola outbreak.

Dr. Naxaxalhts’i “Sonny” McHalsie is a respected interpreter of Stó:lō culture and traditions. For over four decades, he has collected and shared Indigenous knowledge

as a historian and cultural advisor at the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.

Dr. Mike Retasket, a distinguished dancer, drummer, and cultural interpreter, brings invaluable insights to various boards, impacting areas such as politics, forestry, and tourism. He has been instrumental in negotiating significant government agreements.

Dr. Judith Soon’s unwavering dedication to science, research, and pharmaceutical education shines through her work. She established a province-wide clinical pharmacy program and contributed to science fairs nationally and internationally.

C | Alec Zinman: Outstanding Student Leadership award recipient

Alec Zinman, a philosophy major, has been honoured with the 2023 Outstanding Student Leader award. Overcoming his initial shyness, Zinman immersed himself in student activities, eventually assuming various roles within Student Affairs.

His contributions include supporting fellow students through the Student Wellness Centre, aiding mental health, and assisting with UFV’s adaptive response to the pandemic by launching a gift card program for the food bank. Zinman plans to graduate in 2024 and pursue a career in student services.



A

B

C

D | YWCA nominates two women of distinction from the UFV community

Two UFV community members were nominated for the prestigious 2023 YWCA Women of Distinction awards.

Dr. Lenore Newman, nominated in the Environmental Sustainability category, is the Founder and Director of UFV's Food and Agriculture Institute. Her research focuses on sustainable food systems and agricultural technologies. She actively influences food policy and land use planning in BC, serving on key task forces. Lenore is an esteemed authority on agricultural land preservation, renowned both in Canada and internationally.

Rhianna Millman (Human Resources Management certificate '15), nominated in the Reconciliation in Action category, serves as the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Consultant at the BC College of Nurses and Midwives. She leads efforts to create a culturally safe and anti-discriminatory healthcare system. Rhianna is also the family advocate for Keegan Combes and co-author of *Remembering Keegan: a BC First Nations Case Study Reflection*, developed in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority.

E | Cascades player named Canada West Women's Volleyball MVP

UFV volleyball player **Gabrielle Attieh** was named 2023 Canada West Women's Volleyball Player of the Year. Gabrielle's exceptional performance as a fourth-year outside hitter secured this prestigious award. She led the conference in kills per set (4.34) and points (458.5), demonstrating her prowess on both offensive and defensive fronts. Gabrielle's contributions set a new standard, making her the first-ever UFV volleyball player to earn a major Canada West accolade.

F | UFV mechatronics students develop innovative garden watering system

Escalating climate change, rising prices, and food supply concerns have prompted a surge in backyard vegetable cultivation. Yet watering these plants during dry, hot summers proves laborious and time-consuming. Conventional automatic irrigation systems struggle to address individual plant watering needs.

Dr. Lin Long and a team of four students, supported by funding from UFV's Strategic Initiatives Fund (SIF), developed a groundbreaking precision vegetable garden watering system. This technology employs sensors to detect soil moisture levels around plants. It automatically waters plants based on sensor data and then displays new data for analysis.





SECTION III

Building Community *Thayt Kw'e St'elt'elawtexw*

Being part of community means celebrating together, as we do during events like convocation. Community also calls on us to bear witness to hard truths, which is how we marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the Gathering Place. Here, Dr. Siyamiyateliyot Elizabeth Phillips shares a reflective moment with UFV President and Vice-Chancellor Joanne MacLean.



Ashley
McDougall
UFV STUDENT UNION
SOCIETY PRESIDENT



*"We have come to share
in moments of triumph
and accomplishment,
and to support one another
in times of adversity."*

One of the greatest strengths of our UFV community is our ability to join together to collaborate for success.

Our community comes together to celebrate our collective successes, such as at our convocation ceremonies, to celebrate the achievements of our graduates, or at Student Research Day, to recognize the success of our student researchers led by our talented faculty. The UFV community has also come together during times of uncertainty. The response to the floods in 2021 and the presentation of *The Laramie Project* play are two examples of the community uniting to address the pressing issues affecting UFV's population.

The Student Union Society plays a key role in building community on campus, not only within the student body, but also as a bridge between students and administration. I have the privilege to fill such a role — connecting the student community and university administration through many avenues, including engaging events and impactful advocacy projects. Together, we have come to share in moments of triumph and accomplishment, and to support one another in times of adversity. We know we are all stronger together.

Ashley McDougall is a student in UFV's Bachelor of Arts program studying economics and political science.



UFV theatre students took on a challenge when they presented The Laramie Project, which focuses on the aftermath of a brutal murder in a small town.

The Laramie Project spreads roots for Fraser Valley's queer community

"UFV, as a liberal arts institution, has a vital role to play in addressing dehumanization, educating our community, and forging progress."

Sometimes, theatre is simply meant to entertain or amuse; other times, a performance carries with it a message — one that causes repeated reflection with words, actions, and stories that create deep and long-lasting impact.

Such is the case with *The Laramie Project*, a verbatim play which employs actors to share the voices of people connected — directly and indirectly — to the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Matthew was a 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming, a young gay man out on the town when he was abducted by two local men, beaten, and left for dead in a field on a cold October night in 1998. He died six days later in hospital, never regaining consciousness.

The brutality of his murder generated headlines around the world, but the sad reality is that there are Matthew Shepards everywhere — young men and women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer — who are forced to step carefully through their lives, wondering if each new interaction will bring friendship or love, hatred or harm.

"I chose to direct *The Laramie Project* at UFV because this play is painfully relevant to our here and now," explains Dr. Shelley Liebembuk, theatre professor and Director of UFV's School of Creative Arts. "UFV, as a liberal arts institution, has a vital role to play in addressing dehumanization, educating our community, and forging progress."

Although written almost 25 years ago, *The Laramie Project* is tragically relevant to the realities of lives of many queer people today," says Dr. Martha Dow. "Despite the rights-based progress since the murder of Matthew Shepard, we are seeing increasing individual and institutional acts of discrimination in Canada and around the globe. Homophobia and transphobia are endemic, and queer people in our community are still forced to be on guard and assess the safety of the spaces we inhabit."

When Martha, Director of UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub, learned about plans for a production of *The Laramie Project* at UFV, she saw an opportunity for collaboration. "I really wanted CHASI to support the production in any way appropriate," she says, "and so I reached out to Shelley to see how we could participate."

"Martha and CHASI championed the work and committed to extending its reach to students and community members," says Shelley. "We also joined forces with professor Aimée Brown and the ARTS 380 class (a practicum/internship class) to create an arts competition with the students' work exhibited at the UFV Abbotsford campus S'elyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery."

Twenty students were involved in the production, with an acting cast of 11 playing more than 60 characters and others working as technical and backstage crew. A second

“The Laramie Project is tragically relevant to the realities of lives of many queer people today.”

To celebrate The Laramie Project, UFV’s CHASI Hub research centre lined the sidewalk with Pride flags, which were vandalized multiple times.

theatre course created three lobby display cases connecting the play to current issues. CHASI hosted a community gallery event, which included a reading by one of the performers, generating enthusiasm and interest in the production. CHASI also ordered hundreds of small Pride flags to line the walkway to the theatre and the art installation.

During the time the flags were displayed, they were stolen, torn, and tossed in the trash — in multiple incidents of vandalism. Disheartened but not deterred, UFV students and staff replaced them. In one instance, Martha stopped a student damaging the flags and confronted him; in a matter of minutes, that act of destruction became a teaching moment, for both the student and those in the CHASI office, who looked on.

“The student didn’t see his vandalism as hateful, and when I explained how much it hurt the people who saw it, and how it made people feel unsafe, he actually asked if he could come into CHASI’s space to introduce himself and apologize.”

The theatre production, six performances over two weeks, also featured a post-show community conversation facilitated by UFV’s Pride Collective, UFV’s student 2SLGBTQIA+ group, and members of the Fraser Valley Youth Society.

To Shelley, Martha, and the students and staff at UFV, bringing *The Laramie Project* to campus and the community had significance on many levels. It involved students from various disciplines, encouraging engagement in shared discussion and understanding of challenging



Photo: CHASI



issues faced by their peers; it tackled what can (but shouldn't be) a difficult discussion of the right of everyone to live their lives authentically; it created new, strong cross-campus relationships where none had existed, but are now clearly established; and it sent a message to the broader community that UFV supports safe spaces for everyone.

The project and its many branches also inspired the university to become a platinum sponsor of Fraser Valley Pride, an annual Pride walk and festival organized by the Fraser Valley Youth Society (FVYS). Ali Slack, Executive Director of the Society, says that organizations like UFV coming out to support the festival can be a really special moment for the young people FVYS serves. "Many times, this is the first Pride event they've attended in their own community, and seeing your friends, family, local businesses and organizations all there to celebrate your identity is so powerful."

Maggi Davis, from UFV's Community Engagement team, described her experience at the festival booth co-hosted by UFV's Pride Collective as "an incredible day" that left her emotional and

reflective long afterward. "Alumni told me how happy they were to see Pride supported in a way they hadn't experienced when they were students," Maggi says.

"The University of the Fraser Valley must be a place where everyone is welcome, where being queer shouldn't mean being worried about who you are and how those around you will react," says Martha, "it's about creating safer, actively inclusive spaces for students and the community to know they are supported."

None of this means the challenges for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community won't continue; just this summer an attack at another university campus underscored the need for continued open dialogue and education. But if people are willing to learn, support, and grow, the bridges that connect all communities around us have the potential to become that much stronger.

"This experience shows how a research centre, a theatre production, departments at the university, and connection to community can be so much more than what we think," says Martha. ✨

Students were invited to create digital art pieces to amplify the messaging of The Laramie Project. Night Sky (left) by Sharon Strauss was chosen as the winner. Love Despite the Hate (right) by Natasha Zilcosky was one of three runners-up in the contest.

"It's about creating safer, actively inclusive spaces for students and the community to know they are supported."

Singers bring Good Medicine to Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Songs performed in Halq'eméylem and English bring the community together in a unique cross-cultural space.



On September 29, 2022, students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Stó:lō people at Chilliwack campus. Together, they honoured the shxweli ("life spirit") of children lost to residential schools, survivors, and their families in recognition of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

The gathering was dedicated to reconciliation and revitalization of Halq'eméylem, the Upriver dialect of the Stó:lō people. The Good Medicine Songs group performed songs written in Halq'eméylem and English to create a unique cross-cultural space for people of all backgrounds to enjoy, learn, and sing together.

Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies, led the team of creative people who came together under a partnership between Skwah First Nation and the Artist Response Team (ART) to create songs that weave together Stó:lō language, songs, and stories with ecological awareness and issues. The team became the Good Medicine Singers (GMS).

"Dr. Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips is an incredible Elder who serves as our spiritual guide," says Lolehawk. "She's an inspiration. She travelled in the same canoe with us through the whole process. Nothing with Good Medicine Songs could ever have happened without her."

Lolehawk explains that before Elizabeth went to St. Mary's Residential School in Mission, she

lived with her mother, who knew only Scw'exmx and Halq'eméylem, and her father, who spoke English and Halq'eméylem. As a young child, she didn't know why she was going to a place where her language was not tolerated. She made a promise that she wouldn't lose her language, and has remained committed to extending that promise to the generations that follow her.

"As we create a song like Chowiyes-Xwithet, there's something transformative in the process," adds Lolehawk. "She's there with her grandchildren. She holds the dictionary, created by her mother and other Elders, to help us find the words."

At the heart of the gathering was a special basket ceremony. "Dr. Siyamiateliyot shared with us the importance of si:tel (the basket). In Stó:lō culture, the basket carries our teachings and knowledge. We wanted to include a Basket Ceremony as a way to inspire everyone to think carefully about what we are creating for future generations."

Chowlyes-Xwithet is an example of UFV's Integrated Strategic Plan, *Íyáqáwtxw: House of Transformation* in action, and is another important step on the journey toward reconciliation with the Indigenous community. The program is the first of a series in an ongoing partnership between the Good Medicine Singers and UFV.

2023 Betty Urquhart award recipients make community service their business

Betty Urquhart knew that community was the heart of UFV — her award honours that connection.

As one of the five founding staff members of Fraser Valley College, Betty Urquhart is indelibly linked to UFV's history as an institution founded by and for the community it serves. The Betty Urquhart Award for Community Service, established in 1992, is given to individuals or organizations in the Fraser Valley to recognize work that has a major impact on the community.

This year's award goes to two remarkable people: Brigida Crosbie and Salina Derish. Though they serve different needs in the community, the nominations for each woman revealed a common thread — both Brigida and Salina have made it their business to address important issues in the Fraser Valley.

Nominated by Colleen Cave, Brigida is recognized for the service she provides through her store, Tydel Foods. She sells quality groceries — particularly meat — at prices well below those of commercial retailers. An advocate for seniors, people with disabilities and the unhoused, she offers

programs and food packages that help the vulnerable afford this basic need, while encouraging other customers to support her efforts with donations. "Responsibility is made up of two words," says Brigida, "response and ability. If you have the ability, what will your response be?"

Salina, nominated by Stefania Pizzirani and Vanessa Hart, has dedicated her life to reducing waste and cleaning up the effects of trash in local waters. As owner of PickEco Refills in Chilliwack, a zero-waste grocery store and composting service, Salina has diverted more than 300,000 containers from the waste cycle. Since 2021, she has also been part of a garbage-busting duo calling themselves the Trash Mermaids, removing more than 2,000 kg of trash while preserving the aquatic ecosystems of the Fraser Valley. "Salina has helped develop a strong sense of eco responsibility in Chilliwack," says Stephania, "she truly exemplifies the phrase *be the change you want to see in this world.*"



Brigida Crosbie



Salina Derish

A | CityStudio partnership benefits students and community

CityStudio Abbotsford and CityStudio Chilliwack joined UFV students from Communications, Geography, Statistics, and Graphic Design courses to tackle 11 important civic challenges from both municipalities — including future water conservation, sustainable fashion, application of the UN sustainability goals, urban planning, community health, and traffic safety around local elementary schools. Students experienced large-scale collaboration with Archway Community Services and Steiner Properties to create a hands-on, engaging, and highly impactful learning experience. CityStudio ended the semester with an in-person Hubbub event, where students showcased their findings to civic representatives.

B | Collaboration helps Abbotsford become an accessible destination

After receiving more than \$340,000 in funding through Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL), UFV's Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE) is contributing to the local Accessible Tourism strategy, in close collaboration with Tourism Abbotsford and the Abbotsford Downtown Business Association. By bringing

students of different disciplines together with community stakeholders and subject matter experts, the group will assess existing tourist destinations through the lens of accessibility before proposing strategies for Abbotsford to reach its full potential as an inclusive travel, recreation, and work destination.

C | The lessons the flood waters left behind

In the wake of the 2021 floods, many UFV faculty and student researchers collaborated with community organizations to ensure they gathered as much learning from the disaster as possible. The Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub and Archway Community Services came together to examine community response and recovery through the eyes of those impacted by the flood. The report, *After the Flood: Community Response and Recovery*, examined both the social impacts of the flood and the challenges faced by those who responded to it. In another initiative, Dr. Sumin Fang's study, *Best Practices for Disaster Evacuation in Canada: A Mixed Model Approach to Governmental Evacuation Communication in the Abbotsford Flood Emergency*, received a \$75,000 grant to measure perceptions about government communication during the crisis.



D | Creating spaces where everyone can feel welcome

Trans People Welcome is a campus-wide initiative, building on previous work that included “Washrooms for Everyone” signage on individual washrooms. This now adds additional visibility by installing signage to welcome and include trans people in the gendered multi-stall washrooms on campus. Creating safer, more welcoming spaces for diverse people fosters a richer learning environment for all members of the UFV community. This project provides a sustainable interim step to address inclusion on a visible level.

E | New School will create activists for social change

UFV formed the School of Social Justice and Global Stewardship (SoJUST) to embody the university’s commitment to impactful social development and justice, both locally and globally. School coordinator Paul Brammer (BA ’14) noted, “The spirit of SoJust is all about breaking down the walls between our disciplines, creating an interdisciplinary space that is more of a shared vision, a shared community.” The school is hiring its inaugural Activist-in-Residence along with launching courses under the SoJust label. The first SoJust-

specific course, SJGS 100 — Social Justice for Social Change, will be offered for the first time in the fall, with more interdisciplinary courses being planned.

F | Learning to connect with community through art

Deborah Silver’s (BFA ’18) Visual Arts 390: Community Arts Practice class took paintbrushes to the walls of UFV’s Chilliwack campus, creating two murals designed by students. Silver explained, “We wanted to teach in a way that mentors students in the entire mural creation process, from ideating and designing to painting, finalization, and communicating with stakeholders.” The process included students pitching ideas and artist statements to a panel of UFV community members, who then selected the murals that now adorn walls of the Chilliwack campus. This activity provided an opportunity to practise learning and connect with community.





SECTION IV

Looking forward: the year ahead in community

The UFV Alumni Association was created in 2001 and has been growing steadily ever since. The Association's purpose is to foster lifelong relationships between alumni and the University of the Fraser Valley through advocacy, support, service, and communication. There are many ways for UFV graduates to engage in alumni life, from highly anticipated annual traditions to valuable networking opportunities.

Tony
Dhaliwal ('12)

CHAIR, UFV ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



*"Together, let us shape
a future that uplifts our
institution, our alumni,
and our communities."*

As we approach UFV's momentous 50th anniversary, I'm filled with pride to be part of this transformative era for our community. From my student days to my current role as Chair of the UFV Alumni Association (UFVAA), I've witnessed our institution's remarkable growth and the increasing number of alumni we proudly represent.

Graduating our 50,000th alum in June was a significant milestone. To help more students succeed, we remain dedicated to providing scholarships and bursaries through our initiatives and partnerships.

Moving forward, we're committed to celebrating and sharing the inspiring stories of our alumni. Their journeys showcase the transformative power of education. By sharing their voices, we aim to inspire the next generation to make a positive impact.

The UFVAA doesn't only celebrate our alumni; we empower them to be UFV advocates. Our Alumni Board of Directors recently approved a strategic plan with five pillars, including advocacy. This pillar ensures alumni voices influence decisions impacting our institution and communities.

Stay connected with UFV, and together, let's shape a future that uplifts our institution, alumni, and communities!

Tony Dhaliwal received his Bachelor of Arts degree from UFV in 2012.



Scan the code
or visit [alumni.
ufv.ca](http://alumni.ufv.ca) to learn
more about the
opportunities
and benefits of
membership in
the UFV Alumni
Association.

The year ahead in community

In łyáqáwtıw, our strategic plan, UFV has committed to a set of strategic imperatives that includes sharing and celebrating the achievements of the UFV community and alumni with others; promoting a vibrant and diverse culture on all its campuses; and providing opportunities for the world to interact positively with the Fraser Valley and for the Fraser Valley to interact positively with the world. Here's a snapshot of what's ahead.

Embracing frameworks for social change and assessing UFV impact

Over the next year, UFV will align its social impact priorities within nationally and internationally recognized frameworks; internally, the university has developed a process to inform decision-making and evaluation of new programming and partnership opportunities.

In support of our commitment to social innovation, UFV is in the process of being recognized by Ashoka as a Changemaker Campus, one of seven Changemaker Campuses in Canada and 42 internationally.

UFV will also continue its engagement with a pan-Canadian and global community engagement network through the Canadian Carnegie Classification, launching in 2024.

UFV recently joined the United Nations Academic Impact group and signed the Sustainable Development Goals Accord. UFV is also committed to the Universities Canada Action for Net Zero plan, committing Canadian universities to finding sustainable solutions.

UFV will also participate in a pan-Canadian community-engaged research partnership supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Coordinated by Community Campus Engage (CCE) Canada, UFV will be the only BC member working with three other

post-secondary institutions and multiple collaborators and partners on *Community-campus responses to crisis: Opportunities for community engagement and networked learning for climate change resilience*.

Becoming a student-ready university

UFV is committed to becoming a student-ready university — a university that is prepared for the students it admits. UFV will focus on meeting students where they are, removing barriers to success, and supporting the needs of all students. Ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment focused on student development, UFV will empower student voice and engagement in all aspects of the post-secondary journey.

UFV campuses see significant new development

The final renovations to the Mission campus at Heritage Park will be wrapping up in the spring of 2024. Through consultations with local First Nations, and faculty and staff from the Faculty of Education, Community, and Human Development (FECHD), this space has been reimagined to support educational programming focused on children, youth, and families, while infusing our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

On the Abbotsford campus, an expansion of the student dining hall will start in the new year as UFV also breaks ground for a \$82.3 million student housing facility that will triple our capacity to offer a full on-campus experience to UFV students.

Over the coming year, consultations will begin on the development of the Chilliwack Campus Master Plan for the campus located at Canada Education Park (CEP). Situated in one of the fastest-growing municipalities in BC, there are many opportunities for UFV, in collaboration with the local community, to consider how best to reimagine our space at our Chilliwack campus to meet our educational mandate.

Decolonization and equity, diversity and inclusion

Under the leadership of the Associate Vice-President of Xwexwilmexwawt, the work on implementing the Lálém ye mestíyexw (House of the Peoples) Plan will continue to move forward. The goal of the Plan is to “provide a structure for Indigenization in which people and their work come together from their distinct areas throughout the university to strengthen their presence and relationships.”

Launched in 2020/21, UFV’s EDI Action Plan identifies and addresses barriers to equity of access and opportunity for students, faculty, and staff. A key focus this year will be the implementation of the Accessible BC Act. This work is currently underway under the leadership of the VP Students and the UFV General Counsel, who are co-chairing UFV’s Accessible BC steering committee.



UFV announces new initiatives with community partners

As we launch this first community report, we are pleased to announce new collaborations with partners who value and align with our mission.

RBC has followed up last year’s launch of RBC On Campus with an investment through RBC Foundation of \$150,000 over two years to support the Food and Agriculture Institute’s Urban Agriculture Education program, which will expose post-secondary students to the practice and opportunities of urban agriculture.

Auguston and Abbotsford Tech District have pledged \$80,000 towards a joint initiative between UFV’s Food and Agriculture Institute and the University of Guelph to help inform the design and programming of the Tech District — in particular the cornerstone Au Centre for Innovation and Food Security.

Auguston has also increased their commitment to directly supporting students by doubling scholarships to \$40,000 for the upcoming academic year, with a focus on Indigenous education.

The Prospera Foundation has committed \$200,000 over two years to support UFV’s new Student Wellness Centre. As a longstanding ally, Prospera has supported many initiatives with UFV, and this most recent contribution ensures students have access to health and wellness resources that work in conjunction with other supports.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit ufv.ca/community.

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
UFV Community Engagement
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M8

/ LOOKING FORWARD /

The Fraser Valley's university turns 50

The University of the Fraser Valley will mark a significant milestone as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024.

What began as a visionary endeavour by the community has grown into an institution that stands as a beacon of learning, innovation, and community engagement. This 50-year journey is not only a celebration of the past but also a commitment to shaping the future.

Fiftieth anniversary celebrations and programs promise to reflect UFV's values and achievements. Events and activities will not only commemorate the past but also ignite the spirit of innovation and inclusivity that will shape the university's journey ahead.

In 2024, we will kick off UFV's 50th anniversary by hosting the Canada West Women's Basketball Championships, which will see 12 of the top university teams in western Canada converge on our campus for top-tier competition.

The Championships will launch a year in which UFV will celebrate our students, alumni, and the people — past and present — who have made us the community we are and who will guide us into the future.



 @goUFV
ufv.ca/community

