



CICS REPORT

Sept. 1, 2008: UCFV becomes University of the Fraser Valley

The University College of the Fraser Valley became University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), effective September 1, 2008.

Premier Gordon Campbell and Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell made the announcement on April 21, 2008. “The new University of the Fraser Valley will build on its international reputation for criminology and criminal justice programs, for its aviation program carried out in cooperation with Coastal Pacific Aviation, for its specialization in Indo-Canadian Studies, and for its trade and technology programs where it will initiate a new alternative fuel vehicle maintenance and repair program,” said the Premier. “The University of the Fraser Valley will provide degree-granting programs for thousands of students closer to where they live and for international students attracted to its exceptional teaching and community orientation.”

Amendments have been made to B.C.’s University Act that clarify how the new University of the Fraser Valley will focus on the training needs of the region and build on its provincial, national, and international reputation in its key areas of specialization and excellence.

“The consultations conducted as part of the Campus 2020 process clearly identified that British Columbians want to access university degree programs in all regions of the province,” Minister Coell said. “With a new university serving the Fraser Valley, students will be able to access degree programs closer to home.”

“Our new status means that we can increase opportunities for our students while continuing to offer all of our current programs, including trades training,” said UCFV president Skip Bassford. “Having an accessible university means we can make the



BC Premier Gordon Campbell delivers the good news about university status to a cheering crowd on campus, April 21, 2008.

entire region more competitive, attracting more professionals and keeping grads closer to home.

The institution began as Fraser Valley College in 1974. It was granted university college status and renamed the University College of the Fraser Valley in 1991. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission; regional centres in Agassiz and Hope; and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

Upcoming Events

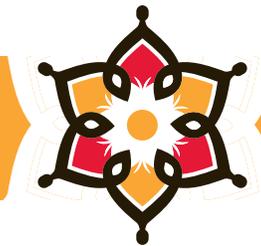
- Sept 25, Oct 16, & Nov 17 at 7pm – Ehsaas Partition film festival
- Oct 24 – Udaari: Pioneer Exhibition
- June 4-6, 2009 – Symposium on Cross-border Governance and Citizenship

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Royal Bank of Canada sponsors Research Chair for \$250,000



UFV President, Skip Bassford; RBC Regional Vice President, Todd Shewfelt, Canada India Chair, DJ Sandhu; Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Research, Yvon Dandurand; and Director of CICS, Satwinder Bains.

The Royal Bank of Canada, the University of the Fraser Valley, and the BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development signed a sponsorship agreement on March 26, 2008. RBC will sponsor information forums about doing business in and with India, which will be designed and implemented by the Chair over the next 5 years. The Chair is presently filled by Prof. DJ Sandhu who is excited about what the sponsorship will bring to the table. "RBC's \$250,000 sponsorship of BC's Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development speaks volumes to the importance of linking British Columbians with the emerging markets in India," he says. "The sponsorship will assist UFV in mobilizing the knowledge that will be produced on the business opportunities that can be availed by the entrepreneurs and small medium enterprises in BC."

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies is pleased to announce the kind contribution of our newest donor, who has pledged \$25,000 over five years. UFV president Skip Bassford and vice-president external Robert Buchan, along with members of the fundraising committee, met with Khalsa Credit Union board members and CEO Mr. Dalbir Singh Sohi to thank them for their support and to welcome them to the Centre. Mr. Gurnaik Singh Brar, who is a director of the Credit Union and a local leader, has been instrumental in garnering support for the Chair from the Khalsa Credit Union. Mr. Brar has been a long-time supporter of the Centre.

Khalsa Credit Union Pledges \$25,000 to the Chair Endowment Fund



Khalsa Credit Union CEO and Board members with Dr Skip Bassford, President of UFV, Vice President Robert Buchan and fundraising members.





Internships in India



Intern Baldeep Toor with children at a daycare centre run by Youth for Technical Training Society (YTTS), an NGO based in Chandigarh.

After a successful first student internship in 2007, two more UFV students received the chance to work in India this May. Mr. Baldeep Toor (biology major) and Ms. Satinder Sanga (social work student) have been working as interns at Panjab University's Canadian Studies Centre in Chandigarh, India. Though nervous, both were excited about such a unique experience. The interns left for India in May and returned at the end of August.

How did you hear about the internship?

BT: Through word of mouth from the Director of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, Satwinder Bains.

SS: I heard about it from the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, the Office of International Education, and the Social Work Students Association.

What expectations do you have about working in India?

BT: I am expecting to have fun while learning

about a totally different culture.

SS: I expect things to move at a slower pace in India in comparison to the fast pace in Canada. I wonder whether the timing of the internship will be challenging because of summer vacations there. However, I hope to gain more insight into the impact of globalization and industrialization on the Indian culture.

What is your internship about?

BT: I am setting up a working group as a follow-up of the child-friendly cities conference held in February 2008 at Panjab University. At that time, a group of forty people indicated interest in the implementation of child-friendly strategies and on-going research. This working group/committee is to meet to coordinate a strategy for implementation of the child-friendly concept in local government throughout the Punjab region and in academic research programs. I will be working with local partners to coordinate the meetings

and facilitate action strategies with key stakeholders. I will also be collecting data regarding the UN millennium development goals in the Chandigarh area and then preparing background information for a proposal to the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

SS: I will be involved in identifying and developing an inventory of possible internship/practicum placements in different areas such as in municipal government, community planning and social welfare, education, Government and NGOs. These will be sites for students of UFV to access a practicum or internship in India in the future.

What do you hope to gain from the cultural part of this experience?

BT: I Hope to learn about new cultures and to get a different perspective of our world.

SS: Being an immigrant from India, I am quite familiar with the Indian culture, but I hope to expand my knowledge.

How will this internship assist your education?

BT: After I complete my bachelor's degree, I plan to pursue a career as a pediatrician and work with children in developing countries. This internship will provide me with an experience where I will be directly affecting the lives of children, which is in keeping with my ultimate career goal.

SS: The internship will give me an opportunity to develop skills such as leadership, planning and organization while working on a collaborative project between Canada and India. I will also gain a better understanding of the social services system in India and compare it with the Canadian system.





Student leaders share ideas

Sidrah Ahmad and Amber Sandhu are co-chairs of the CICS Student Advisory Committee, which is called the South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA). They are true student leaders who are involved in many activities both on campus and off.

What are you studying here at UFV?

SA: I am a second-year Bachelor of Arts degree student and my interests are in sociology/anthropology, media studies, writing, social services, and languages. I will also be completing the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) certificate.

AS: I am currently completing my Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in psychology and minor in philosophy. I plan to pursue a career as a youth counsellor.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

SA: I was born and raised in Canada. I am the second oldest of three siblings. I enjoy trying new things and meeting new people. I love the outdoors: hiking, bike-riding, and tennis. I also enjoy interacting with youth and children.

AS: I have lived in Abbotsford for about 14 years and attended the local elementary school and high school. I enjoy participating in various community activities such as cultural events, fundraisers, and awareness campaigns.

What roles do you see the Centre having in the future?

SA: I think the Centre's role is to be a connection and source of information for the

South Asian community about educational opportunities at UFV, and to connect UFV students (of all cultures) with the local and international South Asian community.

AS: The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies is a key component for the university because it creates a sense of diversity and a doorway of many learning opportunities. I think the Centre is a hub for a variety of activities and programs, such as Indo-Canadian studies classes, information about our community, study tours to India, and a communication portal for students who are studying in India.

In what ways do you think the Centre can better serve the community?

SA: I would like to see more involvement with Diaspora countries and people such as those from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

AS: Situating the Centre in an institution can benefit the community in many ways. For example, instead of trying to inform or educate community members as a single entity, you have the support of an entire institution. Also the fact that UFV is a university, the academic advantages can also help inform and educate the community at a higher level.

What attracted you to get involved with the Centre?

SA: I am of Pakistani background and have a general interest in different cultures. I also became interested through discussions with my fellow students.

AS: What really caught my attention to get

involved with the Centre was Satwinder Bains. I was truly inspired by her Indo-Canadian Studies classes, as they opened a window to things that I did not expect to learn about. The Indo-Canadian community's vibrant role in Canada is one such example.

How will your involvement help you with your future career goals?

SA: I plan to travel and teach English internationally. Being involved with the Centre allows for exposure to people of different cultures, which in turn gives me a deeper understanding. I plan to go to graduate school and have more involvement within a university and the community. My involvement with the Centre will assist with my graduate school application process and also allow for networking and opportunities to meet new people.

AS: I want to pursue a career as a youth counselor in Abbotsford. I have seen first-hand how important it is for Indo-Canadian students to express their feelings and problems; this becomes difficult for them to do because of the barriers they face on a daily basis. I believe that my involvement with the Centre will help me shed light on those issues that concern a large portion of students in Abbotsford. I believe that the Centre will have a key role in the development of the community, and will be a force that will help research and find solutions to the problems that we face.



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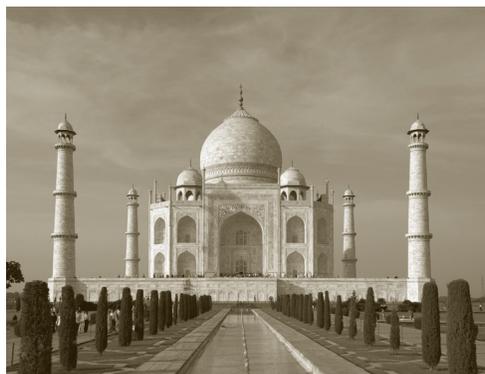
India-Canada Studies certificate: focus on Diaspora and Indian studies

In September 2008, UFV will introduce a uniquely designed inter-disciplinary certificate in India-Canada Studies. The certificate will incorporate courses from disciplines such as: history, Indo-Canadian studies, geography, English, anthropology, art history, religious studies, modern languages and social work. The certificate is designed to provide students with a solid grasp of rich Indian culture and the Diaspora to allow for a deeper understanding in both areas. As well, students will be given the opportunity to participate in cultural activities, research, exchanges, expertise of visiting scholars,

internships, and study tours to India and other countries through the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. The courses will be taught by UFV faculty as well as by visiting scholars.

The Indo-Canadian community in the valley and all across BC is growing and the local region has the largest Indo-Canadian community per capita in Canada. This makes it extremely pertinent to educate people about this large, vibrant and diverse community. Students will now have the opportunity to experience India from the classroom as well as in the field. "Students will

gain insight and knowledge about India as well as about the Diaspora in Canada," says Satwinder Bains, Director, Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. "Our inter-disciplinary certificate is unique and innovative and reflects our community's diversity."



For more detailed information or to find out how to register please visit our website at: www.ufv.ca/cics.

UFV to welcome new instructor

The Economics department at UFV is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Ding Lu. Dr. Lu obtained his PhD in economics from North Western University and is currently holding an academic position at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. He has experience teaching in fields such as economic development, international economics, and comparative economic systems. He is also affiliated with North Western University's East Asian Institute as a research associate.

Dr. Lu will have cross-ties with the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies by working with the BC Regional Innovation Chair, DJ Sandhu, on India and economic development. "Dr. Lu is an excellent addition to the department of Economics at UFV," said Sandhu. "In my capacity as BC's Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development, I look forward to working with Dr. Lu in the area of regional economic development in the context of a global economy."

Vlad Dvoracek, Economics department head, also looks forward to working with Dr. Lu. "I recently published an article entitled Preservation of Trade Secrets and Wage Premia in the Economic Inquiry journal," he says, "so I particularly look forward to working with Dr. Lu in the future."

India: It is the Place to Be Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce keynote address



Prof. DJ Sandhu, BC's Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development.

Canada India Research Chair DJ Sandhu was the keynote speaker at a May luncheon attended by Abbotsford business, education, and community leaders. He spoke about the increasing potential of opportunity in India: "Everywhere in India

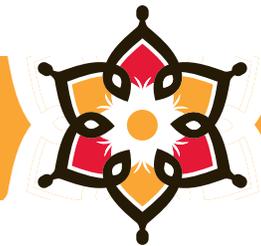
today there is radical change, you can see the optimism from the business class and there is excitement everywhere. There is cockiness in Indians when they walk now. It is obvious that their time has come."

India's population at present is around 1.2 billion people and there are tremendous opportunities to be explored with this vast population base. Sandhu also commented that India is home to global education systems but Canada is behind in exploring these opportunities there. "We know there is no easy way to do business in India," he said. "There is tremendous opportunity, but it is also difficult to navigate the system." According to Sandhu, you need four Ps in order to do business in India: Patience, Patience, Patience and Patience!

Sandhu states that the niche markets right now in India are health, aviation, education, vocational training and agri-business. Cell phones are also a large market that is not yet saturated. At present, eight million people per month sign up for a cell phone. In 2007 there were 300 million cell phones being used in India. This again drives home the point that there is a lot of opportunity to do business in India. Sandhu said that there is also a shortage of three- and four-star hotels in India. He says, "The five-star luxury hotel end is taken care of. India will soon be in shortage of three- and four-star hotels. So the time is now if you want to invest in India. It truly is the place to be."



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Vice Chancellor of Panjab University visits UFV

Dr. R.C. Sobti, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, visited UFV on one leg of his journey across Canada. UFV has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Panjab University. Dr. Sobti met with faculty in the India-Canada Studies program and discussed how the two universities can further strengthen their collaboration. He shared ideas with departments on how he envisions building two-way international partnerships. He also met with the community at large and Panjab University alumni who live in BC to share his vision for the university's growth in India. He was optimistic that the alumni would work with PU on a comprehensive capital development strategy. Dr. Sobti also spoke at two local radio shows and met with Minister and local Abbotsford MLA the Honourable Mike de Jong.



UFV President H.A. (Skip) Bassford, PU Vice Chancellor R.C. Sobti, UFV Vice President and Provost, Dianne Common and community members.

UFV students in India hold portable party to celebrate Canada's 141st birthday



UFV BBA students in India celebrate Canada's birthday while driving around Chandigarh.

India's northern city of Chandigarh was in for an exciting surprise on July 1, 2008, as students from the University the Fraser Valley's Canadian BBA degree program there organized a one-of-a-kind portable party to encourage locals to celebrate Canada's 141st birthday. The entire student body was decked out in red and white and made the rounds to all local hot spots, holding flash mini-events, handing out prizes and playing games like

three-legged races, lemons and spoons, and 'Pin the Tail on the Beaver'.

"We have strong ties to Canada, and since British Columbia and Punjab are officially becoming sister states, we thought it was a terrific way to strengthen our cultural connection," says Manreet Sahi, a third-year student of the UFV BBA degree program and one of the event organizers. "We wanted to do something really fun and different that Chandigarh would not forget. We've received wonderful support from the City of Chandigarh, and we hope this new annual event becomes one that Chandigarhians really look forward to."

The group cut a giant maple-flavoured and maple leaf-shaped cake to wind up the day's exciting events.

Kiran Ahluwalia concert – an evening to remember

Ghazal and Indian folk song singer Kiran Ahluwalia and her four piece band wowed a captivated audience on Friday July 25 at a concert on the Abbotsford campus. A Juno award winner, Kiran blends classical ghazals with modern music to create a delectable treat for the ears. "This wasn't what I expected and I am very glad I came. It was worth every moment," said a satisfied audience member. To listen to Kiran's music or for more info, visit Kiran's website at www.kiranmusic.com.



Kiran Ahluwalia (third from right) and happy concert-goers.



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Canadian experience for international students from UFV India



UFV BBA India students Kamalpreet Brar and Jasleen Gill relax in the Learning Commons at the UFV Abbotsford campus.

UFV's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree program at its satellite campus in Chandigarh is not only delivering world-class business education to Indian students on their own home soil, it is also providing a strong foundation for success to those who wish to complete part of their education in Canada as international students. Kamalpreet Brar and Jasleen Gill have both made that shift and sat down with us recently to provide insights into their experiences since arriving in Canada.

Kamalpreet was a UFV student in India for the first year of her BBA degree program, and since that has completed two semesters at the Abbotsford campus. Jasleen arrived just in time for this year's summer semester. Both are lucky enough to stay with extended family members in Abbotsford, but admit to missing their families, friends, and pets at home. Jasleen, who is still getting over the culture shock, says

Chandigarh is a happening place that is a lot of fun. "I miss going to cafes there, and watching movies with my friends," she says. "To me, it feels like people are more relaxed in India."

Kamalpreet points out that she feels more dependent on others now that she is in Canada. "For example, in India there are many modes of inexpensive transportation to get you from one place to another, wherever that may be. Here, if there is no bus route and you don't have your own car; you are dependent on others for rides or stuck with expensive taxis."

"I chose to come to Canada because I wanted to have an international experience," explains Kamalpreet, who believes that Canadians focus more on studies and are more serious than Indians are. "In the beginning, it was hard to make friends because the students in each of my classes were always changing. In Chandigarh, we had a small, set class, and we

Student Research



Student researcher Danielle Bruinsma

Danielle Bruinsma, geography major at UFV, was hired for the summer as a research assistant for Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts of Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, in collaboration with Satwinder Bains and

DJ Sandhu at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. Ms. Bruinsma has been working on taking a closer look at export trade development relations with India for Indian immigrants, trade associations, government institutions and corporations in BC. The study addresses the need for more information on why Canada is falling short in making the connections to enhance trade with India's booming economy.

One of Canada's strengths is the large Indo-Canadian population in BC, which is largely unexplored in terms of trade. Ms. Bruinsma has been interviewing various people throughout the Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland who have experience and expertise in the area of trade with India.

Dr. Walton-Roberts will journey to New South Wales, Australia where she will be taking the time to do similar interviews. As a result, the study will offer a comparative analysis of where BC and New South Wales stand in regards to trade with India. The final publication will be entitled Contextualizing the trade and immigration nexus: a comparative study of Canadian and Australian trade relations with India in the 21st century. It will eventually be available through Metropolis BC's working paper series www.riim.metropolis.net.

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all became good friends very quickly.”

Jasleen feels that her international experience will make her more career-conscious. “I wasn’t so concerned about the future when I was in India. This experience will help me focus on my career goals.”

Both students feel that, in the end, they will have better career opportunities by returning to India. “India is in the midst of an economic boom and I believe it will be easy for me to secure a good job there,” says Kamalpreet. “I also would like to return with my new-found skills to do something to help improve my own country.”

“There is already too much competition in Canada,” agrees Jasleen. “By 2010, there will be a tremendous shortage of managers throughout India and an increasing need for well-educated people. I want to gain a deep level of understanding of international business,

adopt those skills, and take them back to India with me.”

The young women are very appreciative of UFV giving them the opportunity for a far more practical management education than they would have received had the Chandigarh campus not opened. “At most Indian universities, education is all theoretical, and students just have to cram with their textbooks to write exams. This applied, UFV way of learning is really changing lives and giving Indian students like us amazing opportunities to propel our careers to an international standard,” says Kamalpreet. “I feel very thankful to have this opportunity.”

As the first from UFV’s Chandigarh campus to have shifted to Canada, Kamalpreet and Jasleen are excited to see how many more of their old classmates will join them in their studies in Abbotsford.

BBA degree students from UFV’s Chandigarh campus have the option to shift to UFV in Canada anytime after completing one successful year of studies in the program, provided their academics are strong and they satisfy study permit requirements from the Canadian High Commission. It’s an attractive option, especially since the federal government is now allowing international students who complete a Canadian degree to acquire a three-year working permit in Canada. Many students in the program are interested in coming to Canada for just one semester in order to have an international experience.

For more information about the UFV Canadian BBA degree program in Chandigarh, India, visit www.ufv.ca/chandigarh or call +91-172-500-1048.

Centre Activities

Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

Laurie Shultz, graduating student from the Bachelor of Social Work degree, received the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for her research on why Indo-Canadian families come to the attention of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. She spent four months working for the Centre under the guidance of Dr. Adrienne Chan of the School of Social Work.

Udaari: Pioneer Exhibition to be held on Oct 24

The Centre will be hosting a week-long Udaari pioneer exhibition starting on October 24. The exhibition will showcase the tremendously rich and vibrant history of Indo-Canadian pioneers in the Fraser Valley through oral history records, photographs, and artifacts. UFV students, community members, faculty, and interested people will be invited to tour the exhibition. This project is supported by the Ministry of Attorney General and the Minister Responsible for

Multiculturalism as a BC 150 multicultural Mosaic program. BC 150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia in 1858.

Cross Border Symposium

Dr. John Belec of the Geography department is currently planning a symposium at UFV to be held in June 2009. The central theme of the proposed international symposium is Cross Border Regions (CBRs) and related issues of governance and regional cultural identity and citizenship. The symposium will build on the established working relationship between the Geography Departments at UFV and Western Washington University.

Contributions will be sought from partner institutions, including Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, and Punjab University in Chandigarh, India. The potential exists to add faculty from institutions in Pakistan and Mexico, thereby expanding coverage to five nations. Invited scholars will be asked to assess the role that state boundaries play in the segmentation of human interaction, drawing both on current trends in the literature, and local experience. In particular, the focus will be on strategies, both institutionalized and ad hoc, that have occurred to overcome the

limiting effect of the borders both between the US and Canada and India/Pakistan, in recent years.

For more information please contact John Belec at john.belec@ufv.ca.

CICS Report

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