

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report for the month of **May 2020**:

Dean's Office:

The Dean's Office, much like most of UFV, has transitioned well into remote working and has been doing business via Microsoft Teams, BlueJeans or Zoom. We interviewed through ZOOM, 4 shortlisted candidates for the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF), and selected **Annabelle Czhuay**, a BSc student in Physics to represent UFV at LIYSF for 2020. However, since the 2020 LIYSF has now been postponed for the first time in 62 years, Annabelle will attend next year's event alongside a 2021 winner to be selected in April 2021.

Science Communicator and Biology Adjunct Professor, **Dr. Carin Bondar** has entered the UFV Climate Change video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr1tgIWEJeA&feature=youtu.be> into the Imagine Science Film Festival in New York [<http://imaginesciencefilms.org/>] and the Paris Science Film Festival [<https://pariscience.fr/en/>]. Both festivals are to be held in October 2020.

Biology Department:

Dr. Alida Janmaat has developed an online exercise on natural selection for two grade 6/7 classes at Glenbrook Middle School in New Westminster based on the SquirrelMapper citizen science project run by Bradley Cosentino, from the Department of Biology at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in central New York. 52 students took part in the week-long exercise by taking photos of squirrels in and around New Westminster and by contributing to the Find a Squirrel game which is part of the SquirrelMapper citizen science project.

Science Communicator and Biology Adjunct Professor, **Dr. Carin Bondar** has had a very busy month. While creating a brand new Methods in Science Communication course for upper level students in biology, physics, chemistry and math for the summer term she recently took part in an hour-long Instagram-live interview about "Motherhood in the Animal Kingdom" with TeddyLocks USA, a New York based start-up company that makes sustainable children's wear. On Mother's Day, her book, Wild Moms, was covered by Live Science NY [<https://www.livescience.com/>] and Le Matin Dimanche in France.

Three students from **Dr. Lucy Lee's** Lab are participating in the Virtual Conference for the World Congress on In Vitro Biology and their posters are now viewable at <https://sivb.org/meetings/posters-3.html>. **Daylan Pritchard** will continue his research in the Lee Lab as an NSERC USRA student.

Chemistry Department

Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar's students, **Kenneth Ku** and **Connor Frey**, submitted abstracts to present at the Canadian Society of Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (ICASS) conference to be held in Kingston, Ontario in August. Dr. Ghafourifar has also been invited to present her research at ICASS. Another research student from Dr. Ghafourifar's lab, **Evan Foley**, received the Undergraduate Research Excellence Industry Engagement Award for Chemistry for his work on "The effects of Gaseous Ammonia Environment on Industrial and First Responder Clothing Materials."

Mathematics & Statistics Department

Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk signed a contract with Springer to publish a book called "Grade Five Competition from the Leningrad Math Olympiad: 1979--1992". The book contains problems and solutions from the original competition, appearing for the first time in English, but is also heavily supplemented with materials that make it an excellent resource for teachers organizing math circles and competitions. This is a joint project with Andy Liu, retired math professor from the University of Alberta.

UFV IT has installed open access homework system WebWork on our servers. The Math and Stats Department has been using this system, hosted by a third party, for 2 years now. Having it on internal servers eliminated many issues, including privacy concerns and external hosting fees. It allows them to easily archive their courses, and many more. They hope to eventually have this system integrated with Blackboard.

School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC)

The SLUEC student team, **Alysha Bergen, Halle Kwak, Matt Warnock, Julia Whittaker, Chloe Hogan and Emma Conner**, with their research supervisors, **Dr. Mariano Mapilli** and **Paul Fontaine**, Communications LTA, won the Team Excellence Award and the People's Choice Award for their project "European Starling Deterrents: Methods for Blueberry Farms" at the City of Abbotsford's CityStudio Virtual HUBBUB #5 Real World Ready <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub>. The team went on to win UFV's 2020 Community Service Research Award. It will be the 3rd year in a row that the SLUEC students have won this UFV-wide award.

Dr. Cherie Enns has several virtual East African Internships with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the City Pandemic Planning Studio in progress. She has also launched the Program Working Group for SLUEC's Urban Planning Program. Dr. Enns has also received a Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant (SICRG) for 300,000 INR (\$5,500 CAD) partnering with Dr. Ravinder Kaur from Panjab University, Chandigarh on "Making Chandigarh Child Friendly: Lessons from Canada".

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

Carolan T "On GeoActivism/GeoPoetics" *GTEC Reader*. Vancouver: Green Technology Education Centre, vol. 1, no. 5, May 2020. <https://www.gteccanada.ca/reader/on-geoactivism-geopoetics/>.

Carolan T (2020). Elaho. In Y. Blomer (ed.), *Sweet Water: Poems for the Watersheds*, Caitlin Press.

Enns C, Smoker S, Krahn C and Collins D (May 2020) 'Oliver's Stay-cation: Cities, Covid-19 and Community' <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19Ve8Syhp465tLpPvIP-TJtaZF4DBnIO7/view>

Fraser E and **Newman L** (May 2020). "It's time to pivot Canada's food system into the 21st century" *Canada's National Observer*, #519 of 578 articles from the Special Report: Coronavirus in Canada. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/07/opinion/exploring-world-post-covid-digital-agricultural-renaissance>