

## Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report for the month of **February 2021**:

### Dean's Office

Despite COVID-19, the Dean's office has been busy coordinating activities in the FoS and although **Caroline Majeau** is extending her leave into 15<sup>th</sup> of March, **Rebecca Fry** adjusted well and worked diligently to support the office of the Dean. However, Rebecca can not continue beyond her contract time and **Janice Nagtegaal** will manage the office in various capacities. We thank Rebecca for her work and wish her best on her future endeavors. As the pandemic still continues, we have adapted to work virtually and although we still come into the office at least once per week, we are looking to ensure the well-being of our students, staff and faculty, virtually as well as for our face to face labs that are still continuing this term. This month, albeit short, we were busy putting together nominations for excellence awards at the university level. We have great faculty excelling in all areas of academic life and the support we received for the nominated faculty has been amazing. We look forward to the outcome of these nominations.

We ran an informal poll among our faculty to gauge their preferences towards post-covid instruction and had over 75% answering participants from all 4 units of the FoS. The great majority indicated that they would like to go hybrid (51%), compared to in person teaching (36%) and continuing remotely was preferred by 13% of respondents.

**Dr. Lucy Lee** and various science students and faculty participated in a zoom event celebrating International Day of Woman and Girls in Science on February 11<sup>th</sup> organized by **UFV-WEST** (Women in Engineering Science and Technology). A video featuring several of our women faculty, alumni and students was made by WEST students to bring attention to the issues of STEM and women <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8beTcv27dYU&feature=youtu.be> and was screened at the zoom meeting. A short clipping of the zoom meeting featuring **Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk**, from the Math and Stats department, sharing a candid comment as to why she joined UFV was shared in <https://www.facebook.com/ufvwest/videos/482407049831118/?t=33> by **Tessa Lewis**, VP Social for UFV-WEST.

### Biology Department

**Dr. Greg Schmaltz** has begun shadowing **Dr. Tony Stea** in preparation for the change of Department Headship. We thank Dr. Stea for his amazing work these past few years, especially for keeping the Department going through this difficult pandemic year.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> The UFV Biology and Chemistry Student Association, led by student **Heather Kelly** interviewed **Dr. Carin Bondar** – Biologist with a Twist – where they explored some of the many career options in the world of science. <https://www.facebook.com/UFVBCSA/videos/443188606807541/>. Dr. Bondar was also recently elected as a School Board Trustee in Chilliwack. Congratulations Carin.

Recent graduate, **Aisa Dobie**, who was the recipient of the 2020 Faculty of Science Dean's Medal is pursuing a degree in Optometry at the University of Waterloo where she is carving a niche and making us

proud. She was featured recently in the UW Optometry Newsletter <https://uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science-newsletter/insight-newsletter-winter-2021/feature/q-first-year-class-president-aisa-dobie>

**Dr. Justin Lee** has created an instrument booking website to coordinate usage of equipment in the Biology labs. <https://thecurateddesignst.wixsite.com/ufvbiologylabs>. This is necessary as research is beginning to ramp up and we need to coordinate the many students and researchers needing to access the instruments but we still need to keep safety at the forefront.

**Dr. Alida Janmaat** was part of the organizing committee for the Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia Annual Symposium which was held virtually from Feb 18-19.

UFV was well represented at this symposium: **Jade Sherwood**, UFV Agriculture student, gave a great presentation in the student competition: "Preliminary evidence for enemy risk effects on SWD from *Leptopilina japonica*". **Dr. Sandra Gillespie** gave an invited presentation on "Pathogens, parasites and invaders and resource limitation: Challenges facing wild bumblebees in agroecosystems in the Fraser Valley."

### **Chemistry Department**

With COVID-19 still affecting our day-to-day activities, the Program Review for the Chemistry department has been postponed. The external reviewers will now visit the department in May 2022.

On February 12th, Chemistry student **Connor Frey** was awarded the CIC 2nd Year Award in Chemistry for 2019-2020 on his outstanding academic accomplishments in Chemistry by the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC). Congrats Connor, you make us proud!

Congratulations also goes out to **Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar** on the birth of her second child. Her beautiful daughter Nava, joined our growing FoS family this January, a bit earlier than her expected due date in February, but both mom and daughter are doing well. We are thrilled for them for this beautiful addition to our UFV family.

### **Mathematics & Statistics Department**

Two faculty members from the Math & Stats department were successful as 2 of 3 inaugural Open Education Faculty Fellows (OEFF) program. Drs. **Kseniya Garaschuk** and **Shaun Sun** will each receive funding to hire an Open Educational Resource student assistant to assist in their respective projects. See <https://libguides.ufv.ca/OpenEducationFacultyFellows/faculty-profiles>

**Dr. Garaschuk** continues to be active as chief editor of *Crux Mathematicorum*, a publication of the Canadian Mathematical Society. The January 2021 issue, Volume 47(1), includes a new column about "Explorations of Indigenous Mathematics" that was facilitated by Kseniya and the new cover was designed by student **Rebekah Brackett**.

<https://cms.math.ca/publications/crux/issue/?volume=47&issue=1>

A Search Advisory Committee (SAC) has been struck and the call for candidates has been made to find the next Head of the Department as **Dr. Ian Affleck**'s second term will be coming to an end this summer.

We heard from Emeritus Professor, **Susan Milner**, who has been busy spreading her love of Math to various schools in the Lower mainland. She shares this has been difficult this year due to the pandemic but she continues to be active in spreading her Math initiatives as much as is feasible.

### **School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC)**

A new program concept paper proposal for a Bachelor of Regional and Community Planning will be presented at the next Senate meeting. If approved, the proposal will undergo the full proposal process. This is spearheaded by Drs. **Cherie Enns, Afia Raja, Mariano Mapili**, among others.

**Dr. Cherie Enns** participated in a web seminar hosted by the Planning Institute of BC on Feb 24 on The Impact of COVID-19 in Planning. See <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/event/pibc-2021-webinar-2-impact-covid-19-planning>

Former department head, **Claire Hay**, who for the past year was working at the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has resigned from the School to continue on her role in TLC as Teaching and Learning Specialist. We are sad to lose her but happy for her as she embarks in a new stage of her career and wish her the best. SLUEC will be embarking on drafting a position request to replace this loss.

### **Sample List of Presentations/Publications (UFV student names underlined) by FoS personnel**

Beigi, A., Vafaei-Nodeh, S., **Huang, L., Mimmack, G., Sun, S.Z.**, Ko, J.J. (2020) Current trends and clinical outcomes in patients with locally advanced muscle-invasive bladder cancer undergoing radical treatment in British Columbia, Canada. *Curr Oncol* 27(4): e409

**Garaschuk, K., Radzimski, V.** (2020) Ten practical principles of prosperous pandemic (remote) pedagogy. *CMS Notes* 52 (6): 10 - 11

Leung, J.P.S., **Janmaat, A.F.**, Kabaluk, T., Cory, J.S. (2021) The effect of synthetic female sex pheromone on the transmission of the fungus, *Metarhizium brunneum*, by male, *Agriotes obscurus*, click beetles. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*, 179: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jip.2021.107534>

Vafaei-Nodeh, S., Beigi, A., **Huang, L., Mimmack, G., Sun, S.Z.**, Ko, J.J. (2021) Survival outcomes associated with different palliative systemic therapies (PSTs) in patients with metastatic bladder cancer (mBCs). 2020 American Society of Clinical Oncology Conference -Virtual Meeting (Feb 11-13, 2021)

Wolfe, S.A., **Lian, O.B.** (2021) Timing, rates and geomorphic controls on Holocene aeolian sand deposition using multiple chronometric methods, southeastern Cordillera, Alberta, Canada. *Aeolian Research*, in press.