

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

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

Dean's Office:

The renovations of the exterior of D building are moving along and the Dean's office will be moving back into D203 in mid May after spending most of the winter months in the K building, albeit most of our work has been done from our home offices online.

An article about **Dr. Lucy Lee** has been published in the In Vitro Report re her 2020 Fellow Award from the Society for In Vitro Biology: <https://www.sivb.org/InVitroReport/issue-55-1-january-march-2021/sivb-fellow-award-3/> . Dr. Lee's research student **Heather Kelly** has been awarded an NSERC USRA to work with Dr. Lee and **Dr. Justin Lee** (Biology) evaluating lipid nanoparticles on fish cells.

The Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair (FVRSF) Committee, **Dr. Lucy Lee**, FoS Dean & FVRSF Chair, **Janice Nagtegaal**, **Caroline Majeau**, both from the FoS Dean's Office, **Dr. Jason Thomas**, Chemistry Professor and FVRSF Chief Judge, and other community members, made the difficult decision to cancel the FVRSF for the second year in a row due to the ongoing pandemic. As other fairs across BC and the Yukon followed suit, Science Fair Foundation BC <https://www.sciencefairs.ca/> saw the need to pull their resources together and organized the BC/Yukon Virtual Science Fair <https://www.sciencefairs.ca/2021vsf/>. The Fraser Valley Region had 7 students compete from Grades 7 and 8, and four of them were chosen to advance to the Canada Wide Science Fair to be held virtually in Ottawa from May 17-21. The virtual awards ceremony included an address from Premier John Horgan and CBC Meteorologist Johanna Wagstaffe and was hosted by UFV Biology Professor, **Dr. Carin Bondar**. Watch the BC/Yukon Science Fair Awards Ceremony: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=356404565789582&ref=watch_permalink

Biology Department:

We would like to thank **Dr. Anthony Stea** for his service as Biology Department Head over the past three years. **Dr. Greg Schmaltz** has been endorsed by his department to become the new Head of Biology effective May 1, 2021. Greg has been an active member of the department, providing research opportunities to undergraduate students as well as creating connections with the community, especially through the Great Blue Heron Reserve.

Biology Adjunct Professor, **Dr. Carin Bondar** gave a Science Communication workshop for students ages 12-24 on March 31 for the Youth Innovation Showcase hosted by Science Fair BC. She was invited to the High Ground 2021: Civic Governance Forum hosted by the Columbia Institute where she talked about her roles in science and education <https://columbiainstitute.eco/event/high-ground-civic-governance-forum/>. Carin shot a documentary for CBC and ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) 'Carbon – An Unauthorized Biography' which is hosted by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. It will be featured on 'The Nature of Things' in late 2021. Two series that she shot in the fall of 2020, 'Battle of the Alphas' and 'Strange Evidence' both went to broadcast in March on Love Nature <https://lovenature.com/> and the Science Channel <https://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/strange-evidence/> respectively.

Dr. Sandra Gillespie gave a virtual talk to the Washington Native Plant Society <https://www.wnps.org/> on April 15 entitled, "Flowering Invasive Plants and Native Pollinators: Exotic Buffet or Food Desert?" Her presentation can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/b60Hospbv9E>.

Biology student, **Kennedy Zwaych** (faculty supervisor, **Dr. Sandra Gillespie**) won the Vice President, Student Award for her project “*Pathogen prevalence in wild bumblebees (Bombus spp.) across the Fraser Valley*” at UFV’s Student Research Day. **Dr. Nathan Bialas’** research student and Science Faculty Council Student Representative, **Kabeer Poonia**, won the Faculty of Science Dean’s Award for his project “*The effects of Haskap Berry (Lonicera caerulea) extract on oxidative stress resistance and its intergenerational inheritance in Caenorhabditis elegans*”.

Chemistry Department

Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar’s research student, **Connor Frey**, has been awarded the NSERC USRA to continue his work in her research lab.

Chemistry students, **Kevin Gajeseck**, **Brianna Whatley**, and **Gavyn Lastoria** (faculty supervisors, **Drs. Jacob Spooner and Noham Weinberg**) won the Provost & Vice President, Academic Award for their project “*Efficacy of molecular clutch systems for large scale molecular machines*” at UFV’s Student Research Day.

Mathematics & Statistics Department

We would like to thank **Dr. Ian Affleck** for his service as Head of the Mathematics & Statistics Department over the past six years. **Dr. Ben Vanderlei** has been endorsed by his department to become the new Head of Math & Stats. As he is currently on sabbatical he will take over on September 1, 2021. Ben has been an active member serving on a number of university committees representing Math & Stats and Science. He has also consistently contributed to several student events, for both university and high school students.

Dr. Ian Affleck will be presenting and participating in a Secondary Schools’ Professional Development event to be held on April 30, 2021 on the topic of bridging the divide from High School PreCalculus to University Calculus.

The UFV Team of **Drs. Kseniya Garaschuk**, **Vanessa Radzimski**, and **Stan Manu** joined forces with UBC to organize this year’s Sq’ep “Mathematical and Indigenous Futures: Generational Journeys” to be held on May 11 and 18, 2021. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/04/12/register-today-indigenous-math-symposium-may-11-18/>

School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC)

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani was invited to be part of a webinar hosted by MCC Canada on April 15, “Fast Fashion, and the life cycle of clothing”. She has been working with the local MCC for her Sustainable Fashion course because there is so much textile waste and donated clothing that goes through their facility in Abbotsford. She spoke about fast fashion impacts and other sustainability aspects. The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GTzNty-DYw>

UFV SLUEC students, **Donovan Toews** and **Michelle Lefebvre**, were featured in a recent UFV Today article by Greg Laychak, “Planting Seeds – UFV students help shape curriculum for a school with environmental focus”. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2021/04/planting-seeds-ufv-students-help-shape-curriculum-for-a-school-with-environmental-focus/>

Dr. Afia Raja’s students from GEOG 252 and 344 participated in City Studio Hubbub #7 with several posters. See https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub-winter2021_1 for the GEOG 252 group with 12 posters and <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub-winter2021-1> for the GEOG 344 group with 5 posters.

As well, **Dr. Carin Bondar**'s students in GEOG/CMNS 257 (co taught with Dr. Paul Fontaine) participated with 6 posters. See <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub-winter2021-12>

Dr. Jonathan Hughes participated in UFV's PD day by providing a musical interlude in the closing ceremony April 29, 2021. The event was hosted virtually in Gather.town and people attended in their avatars and listened to the various songs Jonathan performed on stage.