

## Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report for **February 2024**:

### Engaging Learners

**Dr. Cherie Enns**, Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies hosted a roundtable ‘Indigenous Knowledge + One Health’ with Ramson Sinya Karmushu to discuss the topic of land, health, and Indigenous knowledge. Ramson Sinya Karmushu, Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation – IMPACT Kenya, led the conversation and shared thought-provoking insights from an Indigenous One Health perspective.

**Dr. Robin Endelman**, Math & Stats, has organized four Super Science Clubs with local elementary and middle schools. Each club is hosted by two UFV students providing hands-on science demonstrations, activities, and investigations for the students. Each club runs for 4 – 5 weeks.

### Transforming Lives

### Building Community

**Dr. Lauren Erland**, Agriculture, gave a presentation to the BC Blueberry Council Virus Workshop on January 16, 2024 on a collaborative research project to better understand blueberry varietal susceptibility to blueberry scorch virus, a virus of increasing concern for growers in the Fraser Valley. **Dr. Renee Prasad & Dr. Lauren Erland**, Agriculture, are co-leading this project at UFV with BC Ministry of Agriculture small fruits specialist Carolyn Teasdale and BC MAF Plant Pathologist Siva Sabaratanam along with molecular biologists at SFU on this project.

**Dr. Renee Prasad**, Agriculture, was invited to present during a panel session on Hedgerows, Cover Crops, and Insect Conservation at the Island Agriculture Show on February 2, 2024, in Duncan BC. This was the first time anyone from UFV was invited to participate in the Island Agriculture Show and it was great to see our Ag alumni at the show in their diverse roles from producers to specialists with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategies.

**Dr. Michael Hitch**, Dean, Faculty of Science, and Jay Pancratz, Assistant Superintendent, SD 34 (Abbotsford), initiated a meeting with department heads of Math and Science from high schools in School District 34 (Abbotsford) to meet with Science Faculty, Lab Instructors, and Sessionals at UFV. About 40 participants attended the event on February 16, 2024, which included a round-table discussion of the challenges facing students as they transition from high school to university in Math and Science courses, and break-out discussions themed on the two subjects to collaborate on solutions. **Dr. Ian Affleck**, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, chaired the meeting and the break-out discussions were moderated by **Dr. Ben Vanderlei**, Math & Stats, and **Dr. Pedro Montoya-Pelaez**, Chemistry.

**Dr. Ian Affleck**, Faculty of Science, coordinated an opportunity for around 150 grade 9 students and 10 Science teachers from Chilliwack Secondary School to visit the CEP campus on February 21 & 22, 2024 for a tour of a broad range of Science activities. Faculty (current and retired) from Health Sciences, Business and Computing, Applied and Technical Studies, and Science hosted hands-on activities in Kinesiology, Dentistry, Programming, Robotics, Digital Manufacturing, Physics, Biology, and Agriculture. Each day included a social lunch for all involved - guest students and teachers, student volunteer guides, and activity hosts. Special thanks to hosts **Dr. Lin Long** (Physics), **Dr. Tim Cooper** (Physics, retired), **Trevor Beugeling** (Physics), **Mark Rempel** (Physics), **Randy Kelley** (Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies, retired), **Maciej Kaczor** (Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies), **Ryan Cook** (Kinesiology), **Debbie**

**Ward** (Faculty of Health Sciences), **Karen Klenk** (Faculty of Health Sciences), **Dr. Carl Janzen** (School of Computing), **Dr. Renee Prasad** (Agriculture), **Dr. Alan Reid** (Biology), **Dr. Natallia Varankovich** (Biology), and **Dr. Yvonne Dzal** (Biology), along with their recruited student helpers, and **Addy Schnider** and **Isaac Barker** from Future Students Office.

**Dr. Renee Prasad**, Agriculture Technology, welcomed about 30 members of the Sumas Holstein Club (4H) for a morning learning about how Agriculture education integrates hands-on practice with theory and opportunities for small-scale applied research.

The Faculty of Science collaborated with the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Provost's Office to host a Learning Exchange Webinar on February 27, 2024, which followed up on the February 16 Math and Science summit. **Nicolle Bourget**, Provost Office, hosted the event, **Dr. Michael Hitch**, Dean, Faculty of Science, provided an introduction, and **Dr. Ben Vanderlei**, Math & Stats moderated a panel discussion about takeaways and lessons learned from the summit, as well as potential future steps that can be taken by teachers and university faculty to help students in the community succeed in Science at UFV. Panel members included Abbotsford School District teachers Karen Bowater and John Munro, as well as **Jennifer Barrett**, Biology Lab Instructor, and **Dr. Ian Affleck**, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science.

#### **Sample List of Publications (UFV student names underlined> by FoS personnel:**

Paat, A., J. Majak, V. Karu, and **M. Hitch** (2024) *Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process Based Environmental, Social, and Governance Risks Assessment for the Future Phosphorite Mining in Estonia*. The Extractive Industries and Society (SJR Q1)