

No matter how long you worked at UFV (or UCFV or FVC), chances are you attended at least one Convocation ceremony.

Students are lauded for their accomplishments and then sent out into the world as alumni in pursuit of their dreams.

As you move into retirement, consider yourselves UFV employee alumni. Pursue your dreams, enjoy what life has to offer, and come back to our hallways with stories to tell.

You have left a legacy here, through the ideas you have tabled, the processes you have established, the battles you have fought, and the memories you have shared. You have helped to weave the very fabric of this institution and make it the special place that it is today. Those who remain are indebted to you.

THANK YOU &  
BEST WISHES!

# RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

2020

UNIVERSITY  
OF THE FRASER VALLEY

# CONGRATULATIONS!

On behalf of the University of the Fraser Valley and the many students you have served throughout your career, congratulations on your retirement.

This event is a long-standing tradition at UFV, one that is about recognizing the unique contributions made by each member of the UFV team.

As you read the summaries of each remarkable person in this program, it will become clear how deeply the people at this university care about students and each other.

The image to the right is the University of the Fraser Valley Coat of Arms. The symbol in the middle is a Halq'eméylem word which means "house of transformation". Your career has had a transformative impact on our students' intellectual development and professional career.

I hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement!

**Marnie Wright**

*Associate Vice President,  
Human Resources*



## UFV RETIREES' ANNUAL BURSARY

**Thank you! Your Retirees' Annual Bursary has helped 27 UFV students with a total of \$24,420 given out since the bursary was first established in 2012.**

**By supporting the UFV Retirees' Bursary, you are helping to change lives.**

### CONSIDER HONOURING YOUR UFV COLLEAGUES

UFV employees, retirees, friends and family members can honour retiring UFV faculty and staff by donating in their name to the UFV Retirees' Bursary. By giving a gift to the UFV Retirees' Bursary, you are celebrating your colleague as well as assisting to make a difference in the life of a student who might not have ongoing access to a university education.

**To make a one-time or monthly donation, please contact [Christy.MacLeod@ufv.ca](mailto:Christy.MacLeod@ufv.ca) or visit [ufv.ca/giving](http://ufv.ca/giving).**

## INCOME TAX REDUCTION and ESTATE TAX ELIMINATION EVENT AND SEMINAR

We had our first event in October and it was a hit. We are going to be bringing the event back, **but virtually this time**. Please stay tuned for an email regarding the event dates in the new year.

If you have questions regarding this event or other events for Planned Giving, please contact Natalina MacLeod **Natalina. MacLeod@ufv.ca**.





## LESLIE POH

English

Lesley Poh, started working at the University of the Fraser Valley on February 8, 1993 as auxiliary staff member. Between February 1993 and April 1998 Lesley provided front line support in her positions as Clerk, Receptionist, Secretary, and Assistant for Student Services, Continuing Education, and Financial Aid. Lesley accepted her first permanent contract in April 1998 as Financial Aid Clerk. In September 1998 until July 1999, Lesley was seconded into the position as Student Services Assistant where her position was transferred into a permanent position as Student Services Assistant. In May 2002, Lesley transferred into new permanent position as Department Assistant, English for the College of Arts. Lesley continued in the department assistant position until her retirement. We would like to thank Lesley for her 27 years of dedication in ensuring that operations ran smoothly for students, faculty, and staff and we wish her all the best in her retirement years.

## BETTY URQUHART

### Community Service Award

Betty Urquhart was one of the first employees of the university and believed strongly in volunteering and giving back. Betty passed away in 1995, but UFV keeps her memory alive by honouring a person exemplifying her commitment to life-long learning and community.

Mrs. Nerlap Sidhu is the 2020 recipient of the UFV Betty Urquhart Community Service award.

As a relentless volunteer with a strong ability to articulate the vision and need for community connection, Mrs. Sidhu has planned, and executed a series of impactful community projects: Lean on Me (2020), We are Canada (2020), Character Matters (2019), Walk of Integrity (2018), Random Acts of Kindness (2018), Voices of Courage (2017), Empathy Fence (2016), and the Antiracism Education Project (2016). Through her work on these initiatives she has motivated and inspired many individuals, businesses and professional agencies from across our region to come together and volunteer their time and expertise.

Mrs. Sidhu's innovative approach to connecting local volunteers with students has enabled their ability to view themselves as positive and impactful contributors to both their local community and the greater society. This interactive connection has been a catalyst for increased collaboration and has fostered a positive relationship between local community members and students. She continues to volunteer her time and skills and is a wonderful example of giving back within one's own community.



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## HANNAH MACDONALD

Nursing

Hannah was a member of the nursing program at UFV since August 1, 1990. She served UFV in a leadership role including most recently as Director of the School of Health Studies. Hannah was committed to the departments and the people in them. She had a strong sense of community and was instrumental in the running of the Health and Wellness event in downtown Chilliwack for many years, and she brought community partners together to ensure this was a successful and community centre event. Hannah served UFV with leadership in provincial nursing education, including chairing the Nursing Education Council of British Columbia (NECBC), and was a strong advocate within the university for health programs. During Hannah's time in leadership of the Health Studies programs, she managed all facets of a complex set of programs, and she successfully lead the transition to a new campus at the Canada Education Park (CEP).



## NANCY PHILBROOK

Nursing

Nancy Philbrook graced UFV with her stylish presence on June 15, 1992. She began her career with "Fraser Valley College" as a receptionist/PABX Operator in Faculty Reception in the "old motel" building A in Chilliwack. Nancy joined Health Sciences on May 1, 2006 where she worked as a department assistant for the School of Health Studies. Nancy's knowledge of university processes and her work ethic was unparalleled. We congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement and we know that she is happy spending her time with her four beautiful granddaughters, sipping tequila at the lake, shopping and adding to her fabulous wardrobe and (hopefully one day soon) travelling the world. We will miss you and your Grande long-pour Americano's (with no room) Nancy, and we wish you all the best.



## NANCY DEN BOESTERD

Admissions

Nancy denBoesterd's 30-year career at UFV spanned various appointments but since 2004 Nancy was a well established and respected member of the Office of the Registrar with the majority of her efforts spent supporting students in Admissions.

Nancy cared deeply about students and was effortlessly patient and empathetic in her exchanges with them. This kindness extended to her colleagues who were appreciative of her ability to fill the air with a warm laugh. She was the team's quiet comrade, generous with her encouragements and wise enough to know when a compliment was needed to boost staff morale.

Legend has it that on difficult days, she welcomed deliveries of small bottles of Baileys. The legend footnotes say that Bailey's was not consumed until after she had arrived home safely.

Nancy's presence in the office and in the break room with a book and a cup of herbal tea is already missed (as are her legendary cheese trays).

In retirement her colleagues wish her more time for her family, more time for her little dog Ike, and more opportunities to partake in her treasured Island retreats. UFV is a better, kinder place because she graced our halls and offices for so many years.



## ADRIENNE CHAN

SWHS

Dr. Adrienne Chan joined UFV as an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work & Human Services (SWHS) in 2004. The university granted Adrienne the Inspirational Leadership award in 2019. At that time, UFV News depicted her as dedicated to social justice and the social work profession with "a tireless devotion to teaching (teaching excellence recipient 2008), research and service." Her tireless devotion is still evident in her service to the university post her retirement.

In her many roles as Professor, AVP Research and Graduate Studies, RAN co-founder, EDI Chair (instrumental in developing UFV's EDI action plan), and now Professor Emeritus she has always encouraged those around her to question, wonder, and be an ally for change. Her many projects and SSHRC / CIHR grants centred on child welfare, social justice and organizational change, the well-being of Indigenous young people, and racism and feminism in universities. Together, they highlight the deep and broad range of academic and professional commitments that Adrienne acted on during her years at UFV. Indeed, Adrienne can translate robust academic arguments to very real 'on the ground' value, application, and change.

Through her, many of us have learned the same lesson: our research, teaching, and social work practice—when tempered with integrity and a commitment to mentorship and community—has the potential to make such meaningful change. Congratulations on your retirement.



## MARLENE UPTON

Nursing

Marlene graduated in 1985 from Langara College School of Nursing. She was an orthopedic nurse until 1990 until she took the perinatal program with BCIT. In 1992 she obtained her OR/PACU certificate and finished her BSN in 1994. She fell in love with maternal child nursing and worked at Surrey hospital as a CRN on the maternity unit until she came to UFV in 2000. With 15 years of nursing experience Marlene came to UFV and accepted a position as a Maternal Child Nursing Instructor for the UFV BSN program.

She completed her Master of Education at Simon Fraser University in 2004.

Marlene has been highly regarded and respected by UFV nursing students, faculty and fellow nurses she has worked from Abbotsford to Surrey. She inspired her nursing students to go above and beyond as they learned to care for mothers and babies under Marlene's supervision.

Marlene has been a compassionate and dedicated nurse. She continues to receive support and encouragement from students today who graduated from UFV. She played a significant role in mentoring new and existing faculty and never missed a Christmas delivery of her knitted dishcloths. We are very fortunate to have had Marlene as part of the team at UFV – she was one of a kind!



## ROLF ARNOLD

Trades

Rolf found a passion and talent for teaching when he started teaching Commercial Vehicle Inspection for Fraser Valley College Continuing Education in the mid 90's while working in industry as a Red Seal Automotive Technician. In 1989 he was teaching Automotive Foundation regularly under sessional contracts and become permanent in 1990. In 1996 Rolf found himself in a leadership position as Director for Trades and Technology at UCFV and eventually becoming Associate Dean at UFV in 2014. During his tenure, Rolf was responsible for the Career Technical Programs at the King Road campus and oversaw the establishment and growth of many of the trades and technology programs running today. Rolf was integral to the creation of the Trades and Technology Centre in Chilliwack and the relocation of trades programming from Abbotsford to Chilliwack in 2007. During Rolf's time as Associate Dean, he oversaw the transition of trades CE to industry services, significantly expanding learning and training opportunities for those who in the workplace and for those looking to make the leap to earning a trade. The entire University has benefited from the many community and industry partnerships that Rolf established. Rolf and Cynthia have three children and eight grandchildren all of which will keep Rolf's woodworking and traveling hobbies at full throttle.



## DARLENE CARSON

UUP

Darlene retired as an Associate Professor from UFV's UUP department after teaching a variety of courses and students for nearly 20 years. Her first teaching job with the department was as an instructor for the Workplace Training in Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (Workplace TASK) program, where her dedication to supporting students helped adult learners with disabilities acquire self-management and employment skills.

When the Workplace TASK program was down-sized, Darlene's education and teaching background was greatly appreciated by the department due to her ability to teach biology, mathematics, education and career planning, and computer courses. Not everyone is willing and able to teach six different math courses in a class at one time, but Darlene can and her students really appreciated her supportive approach. In fact, they still do because she has continued to teach a multi-level class for the department during Fall 2020.

She is committed to student success and has a genuine passion for teaching. She is patient, friendly, hardworking, and resilient. She cares about every student and it is reflected in her student interactions. Students were always lined up during Darlene's office hours (pre-COVID) as she always went the extra mile to help them to be successful.

As a colleague, she has always been very supportive. She is well known in the UUP department for her homemade almond Roca. In her retirement, she is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren.



## JANET CARROLL

Teaching & Learning

Janet Carroll joined the Teacher Education department (TED) as a Program Coordinator for the Bachelor of Education in 2014. Her job involved finding practicum placements in K-12 public schools for the BEd teacher candidates, supporting faculty mentors, and liaising with school district administrators. She often proclaimed that she was a magnet for difficult conversations, stating, "They just seem to follow me." She was incredibly articulate, diplomatic, and laser clear in these sorts of situations, making her a master chair and mediator. As an educator who was devoted to career-long learning, Janet's passion for learning and strategic leadership were integral in the development/approval process for the UFV Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Mentorship. She was also instrumental in the development of the Multi-Mini Interview process for the BEd admissions, the implementation of the new BEd database, and the creation of the BEd practicum protocols in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Janet's colleagues loved her sense of humour, her playfulness, and the joy she brought to her work. Sometimes even singing was involved! Janet's creativity is a significant aspect of her skillset: she is an accomplished actor and director, working regularly with the Chilliwack Players' Guild, and a prolific artist who paints and makes jewelry. She will be missed!



## JOHN HOGG

SWHS

John was hired by the School of Social Work & Human Services (SWHS) in 2007 as BSW Field Education Coordinator. He was Acting Director from October 2007 until March 2010 and again in 2015. Before his appointment, John was a sessional instructor for nine years. Previous roles included Director of Patient and Family Counseling at Surrey Memorial Hospital and Team Leader for the Ministry of Children and Family Development throughout British Columbia. John is actively involved in the community and has served on several not-for-profit organizations.

John is known for his love of sports, mainly baseball. He was a long-time coach for the White Rock South Surrey Baseball League. John's research focused on how to best support youth ageing out of Ministry care, and he collaborated on projects to improve conditions for former youth in care in Surrey/White Rock. He was instrumental in launching and maintaining the School of SWHS graduate program and served for many years as the MSW Chair.

John's colleagues will undoubtedly miss his infectious laugh, his wise approach, his jambalaya and his ability to work through any challenges in a good way. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to UFV, and is a role model for social work values. Congratulations on your Retirement.



## BILL VAN DE LIGT

ITS

Bill started with IT Services back in 2001. Bill was originally hired under the title of PC LAN Technician which eventually evolved into the role of IT Support Analyst. His analytical approach to resolving technology issues at UFV was second to none and proved to be a huge contributor to his success in supporting students and employees. Bill was involved with implementing many IT based projects over his 19 years with IT Services. This included undertakings such as the campus based migration of Windows XP to Windows 7, initial planning and integration of the multifunction device fleet, and various enterprise software deployments for both employees and student labs. Bill's knowledge of printers and print systems was remarkable and he was known as the "godfather of printing". Bill's retirement time will be joyfully spent with his extended family and spending time in the outdoors.



## DIANE ZURESKI

Finance & Admin

Diane brought a depth of public sector budgeting and data analysis experience with her when she joined the Budgeting department at UFV in 2015. With quiet leadership, she generously shared her knowledge and experience and helped incorporate more data analysis into budgeting at UFV.

Diane enjoyed taking classes that allowed her to discover creative art forms and new pieces of art would be displayed on her desk or wall. Professionally, she liked to explore how to creatively present data to effectively portray the message in the data.

Diane enjoyed tea and brought a thermos full of herbal tea to work every day. She was also very involved in the busy and active lives of her grandchildren.

A heartfelt thank you to Diane for being a wonderful colleague and for her contribution to budgeting at UFV. We wish Diane many happy hours learning new art forms, encouraging her grandchildren in their learning and pursuits, and of course – many cups of good tea.



## RAYMOND WELCH

Communications

Raymond joined UFV in 1992 as a sessional instructor in the Communications department. He divided his time between sessional instruction for English and Communications until 1995, when he attained a full-time position in Communications. In his long career at UFV, Raymond served as department head from 2003 to 2007, and was a driving force behind the organization and delivery of the International Conference on Information Communication Technologies in Education (ICICTE) for 10 years. Most recently, Raymond served a term on UFV's Senate.

Raymond was instrumental in the creation and promotion of the Communications department's public speaking courses, which started with one offering a year and now consist of over 15 sections annually. Raymond will be missed, and the department wishes him all the best on his retirement.



## MADELEINE HARDIN

Communications

Madeleine first joined the university, then known as Fraser Valley College, in 1990 as a faculty member in Communications. She had a long and dedicated career at UFV, in the areas of teaching, development, labour and management and media and public relations. Madeleine was devoted to UFV and to building its community. Madeleine's teaching career was marked by an enthusiastic championing and mentoring of students throughout the broad variety of Communications courses that she taught. Her passion for teaching was made evident when she participated in the launch of UFV's BBA writing orientation, Chandigarh, India during the summers of 2006 and 2007. Never shy of challenges, Madeleine served as department head from 1991 to 1995, as Chief Stewart for the FSA from 2009-2011 and as Associate Dean of Faculty, College of Arts from 2011-2012. Her final position of leadership in the university was as Executive Director, University Advancement and Alumni Engagement from 2012 to 2013. Madeleine's keen insights and her vibrant voice for students and passion for community will be missed.



## KATHY GOWDRIDGE

Faculty Services

Kathy's first contact with Fraser Valley College was in January 1987, in an upgrading program with Office Careers (now Applied Business Technology). By the time the program was over, she felt a sense of belonging. For several years, she worked in various temporary positions at FVC because she didn't want to leave. Her first permanent position was a half-time position under the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office in 1991, where she provided support for the push to become University College of the Fraser Valley. That was followed by a full-time Department Assistant position with Criminology in 1992, when the first BA in Criminology was offered. Kathy's worked in a few different areas over the years but was always happiest in Faculty Services where she worked since 1996. She could be found on campus early in the morning and late at night, and spent her time assisting innumerable faculty, staff, and students. Kathy's well respected and has been a wealth of knowledge to everyone who needed help or had a question. Faculty Services became her second home, and all her colleagues became her "family" – and I know they feel the same about her.

Kathy says it is very hard to leave. However, she plans to downsize and move to a small condo in Langley to be near her one daughter and spend much more time with her grandchildren. She also wants to finally get at the list of things that have been sitting on the shelf these past 10, 20, even 30 years, just waiting for when she retires. You will be missed Kathy!



## NANCY BARKER

Hospitality &  
Event Planning

Nancy Barker was hired in 2007 to create and instruct UFV's Hospitality Event Planning program. Nancy brought with her a wealth of experience and knowledge of the industry that she enthusiastically shared with her many students over the years.

Nancy's dedication to her industry and to her students are key indicators of her commitment to student success. Nancy used her understanding of both the people in her industry and her students to develop a program which was widely recognized throughout the Fraser Valley and beyond.

Nancy quickly became a respected member of the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies who could be relied upon to work collaboratively with her colleagues on any project. Nancy has represented the faculty on a number of institutional committee's over the years and could be relied upon to provide a voice for all members of the faculty.

In recent years, Nancy demonstrated her commitment to life long learning by completing a Master of Education degree. Nancy pursued this course of study with the same passion she demonstrated as an instructor, truly embracing the development and sharing of knowledge.

Outside of UFV, Nancy is actively engaged in the sport of herding with her dogs, competing in Western Canada and the United States. Her retirement will provide her with more time to spend with her family and dogs. Congratulations on a very well deserved retirement, and thank you for all of your contributions to UFV!



## ALLEN HIEBERT

FATS

Allen Hiebert has worked at the Trades & Technology Centre in Chilliwack for 12 years as both a program technician and instructor in the Carpentry/Joinery department.

Allen began working at UFV by teaching carpentry skills through Industry Services and Part-Time Trades which also took him to Ford Mountain Correction Centre. In addition, Allen travelled to China on two different occasions to deliver a carpentry program supported by a partnership between UFV and Canada Wood. This included hosting Chinese students in Chilliwack where Allen not only taught carpentry skills, but he also provided guided hiking trips in the Chilliwack Valley.

Allen is known for his work as the Program Technician in the Carpentry/Joinery shop where he acted as a mentor to faculty and staff and is known as "Uncle Al" to many of his students. His passion for woodworking was evident when he invited colleagues to participate in after work carpentry projects. In this, Allen gave up his own time to teach and mentor staff on personal projects and guided them on mastering the use of complex tools and equipment.

Allen is a kind, caring individual who brings a sense of calmness to any event by his mere presence. He is an active member of his community and has served as Santa Claus for the annual Chilliwack Christmas parade.

Allen and Edith enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren and his retirement plans include spending time fishing along the Vedder River.



## KAREN GIEBELHAUS

Library

Karen Gibelhaus's first job at Fraser Valley College was in 1978 in Student Services. Her time there was short-lived, because Continuing Education director Frank Dolman recruited her when he learned, based on a handwriting analysis, that Karen would be a good fit with his team. Karen worked as a CE programmer until she left to start her family in 1982.

After a few years away, Karen returned to UCFV as an advisor in the CIS program. She worked in a number of academic departments over the next years, and learned how distinctive and diverse these units can be.

Karen then moved to UFV Athletics, where she became a travel agent, accountant, and student advisor, supporting UFV's varsity teams. Karen's role as the mother of three athletic sons provided excellent training for her many years in this position.

In 2016, Karen became the Library's Administrative Assistant and an integral part of the Library team. She retired in March 2020, just as the pandemic struck. However, Karen hasn't gone far, as she kindly agreed to come back temporarily on a part-time basis.

One story that illustrates the changes Karen has seen is that she was the first employee at Fraser Valley College to be equipped with a memory typewriter. This was high tech at the time (late 1970s), and Karen went for special training to operate this innovative equipment.

When Karen finally fully retires, she is looking forward to time with her family and, eventually, travel with husband Allen.



## HEATHER LEGOOD

Library

Heather LeGood was one of the earliest graduates of the Library Technician Program at Fraser Valley College in 1983, receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award. Heather went on to get her BA in Political Science from SFU. Her early work experiences took her from the Clearbrook Public Library, to the Vancouver Board of Trade library, to the Keyano College Library in Fort McMurray Alberta. In 1995 she came back to Abbotsford and became the Media Library Technician, the position she held until her retirement in July.

Heather was responsible for making sure that faculty and students had the media they needed for their classes. She had extensive expertise in the educational and feature film industries. She helped the UFV Library transition from formats such as 16 mm film and VHS tapes to DVDs, and most recently, streaming media. Heather's legacy project was weeding the VHS tapes from the library collection and ensuring that required content is still available in more recent titles and/or updated formats. Heather was one of the Library's copyright experts, and advised library colleagues and faculty on the use of media in an educational setting. Heather's retirement means the loss of a great source of knowledge and a wonderful colleague. Many faculty have expressed gratitude over the years for Heather's dedication and perseverance in acquiring a particular film in time for a crucial class.

Heather joins husband Mike in retirement, and is enjoying the extra time she can now spend with her mother and in her garden.