

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: November 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

I would like to start by thanking everyone who made UFV 3rd Annual Open House a resounding success! The campus was full of activity as future students and their families met with faculty members, staff, and peers to learn about all that UFV had to offer. We once again set an attendance record this year of 963 individuals who checked in compared to 800 from last year. UFV has an amazing story to share, and it definitely resonated with everyone who was on our campus this year to both hear and experience it.

I recently attended an annual event hosted by the Culinary and Carpentry program at UFV's Trades and Technology Centre. No, this event was not a tribute to my cooking tasting like wood. Much the opposite! It was the brainchild of a Chef Sian Hurley and a carpentry instructor, Patrick Watchorn who wanted to find a way for their students to work together. The ability for those in the trades to work with and across different types of trades is vital to the success of any project and a critical skill for our students to learn. This year's event called Barqueterie featured Level 1 Culinary students pairing up with Level 3 Carpentry students to build and prepare a charcuterie board. Culinary students were tasked with preparing the food pairings using different cuts of beef that they were learning about in their program. The Carpentry students had the task of building a charcuterie board integrating different types of wood that matched the theme of the food choices. All of the boards with the food preparations were displayed at the event and the students, faculty, staff, and some invited guests like me got to try the food and view the newly created charcuterie boards (I love my job!).

The importance of taking interdisciplinary approaches is one that is often highlighted as being critical to help prepare our students to tackle the challenging issues society is facing in an ever-changing complex world. While there is a historical tendency for universities to only focus on siloed disciplinary knowledge, exposing students to other areas of study and having them interact with students and faculty outside their "home discipline" can be one of the most effective and rewarding ways to challenge them to come up with creative and innovative solutions to issues that require a diversity of thought and ideas.

For this month's report, I thought I'd highlight some other examples of similar types of interdisciplinary initiatives across the Academic Units under the Mission and Goals of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities. Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

- Dr. Faisal Naeem hosted an online webinar on October 23rd with industry partner Dr. Hyame Alameddine (Senior Researcher, Ericsson) with the topic of "Artificial Intelligence & Cybersecurity: Industrial Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges." Sixty-six students attended and it was received well with productive inquiries during the Q&A portion of the session.
- [CYPE x EFCIE - Meet the Mentors](#) was co-hosted by Abbotsford Chamber's Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (CYPE) and UFV's Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EFCIE). This event helped students and young professionals build skills in developing new professional connections.
- Deputy Governor from the Bank of Canada held a 'fireside chat' with 45 students from Electrical, Carpentry, and Welding programs.
- Greg St. Hilaire has become a UFV representative for the BC First Peoples Adult Basic Education Articulation (FPABE) Working Committee whose primary mandate is to ensure that any First Peoples curriculum approved in ABE programming contains information of First Peoples and their ways of knowing, their relationship with community and the land, and their history before and after European contact.
- Brianna Strumm (SOWK) and Amea Wilbur (ADED) facilitated a workshop for Student Wellness Week titled "Managing our Emotions in (and out) of the Classroom."
- As part of the Canadian Assessment for Learning Network Conference, Dr. Sheryl MacMath presented on "Designing rubrics that actually help students learn and succeed." Dr. MacMath also attended numerous sessions on assessment and AI, using this learning to finalize the School of Education AI guidelines.
- Dr. Inaam Charaf participated in an online discussion panel titled "Critical Race Feminist Perspectives on Leadership in Libraries" on Wednesday Oct. 30th, opened to individuals who belong to or identify as POC. A second round, open to the public, will be held in January. In this round, Inaam shared her leadership journey, focusing on her experiences as a woman and addressing various forms of exclusion related to her race and gender identity. The panel was organized by "We Here" a U.S. based organization which seeks to provide a safe and supportive community for Black and Indigenous folks, and People of Color (BIPOC) in library and information science (LIS) professions and educational programs, and to recognize,

discuss, and intervene in systemic social issues that have plagued these professions both currently and historically.

- Therapy Dogs continue visiting the Abbotsford Library weekly and will soon visit Mission Library.
- Assessment Librarian, Colleen Bell, and Collections Librarian, Martin Warkentin, conducted nine 1-hour Makers Space sessions in Abbotsford (October 21–25) and hosted Makerspace Exploration Workshops in Chilliwack, October 28th to November 1st.

Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw'e shxwaylexws

Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others.

- The School of Business partnered with the UFV Student Union Society for Student Wellness Week. An Emotional Fitness Bootcamp workshop was delivered by Khyati Shetty.
- One Health + IDRC was a panel event led by Dr. Cherie Enns exploring the connections between human, agriculture and environmental health, bringing together experts from both local and international backgrounds to discuss innovative solutions for building sustainable communities. The event featured guest speakers from the Cooperative University of Kenya along with local experts.
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. August Faller led an event on November 7, 2024, titled "Finding a Place for Politics in History." His research interests include issues in the metaphysics of explanation, social ontology, and the philosophy of the social sciences.
- Dr. Geetanjali Gill, Associate Professor Global Development Studies, received a research grant as Nominated Principal Investigator, New Frontiers in Research Fund International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, "Building resilience of coastal inhabitants in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh through a participatory, gender-transformative approach," in amount of \$1.179 M, for 2024-2028.
- Sustainable Office Certification Program launched a K-pod and soft plastic recycling at the Abbotsford Library. Sustainability initiatives have achieved a score of 98% at Chilliwack Library.

Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw

Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

- Faculty in the School of Business participated in the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce's Manufacturing Bus Tour and connected with industry leaders.
- The Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) hosted a [Summer Collaboratorium](#) wrap-up. Seventeen student research assistants showcased their summer research results with a poster presentation. Event photos can be viewed [here](#).

- The inaugural Trades and Technology Opportunity Fair was held at TTC on October 17th. Approximately 450 students and members of the public met with exhibitors from 28 companies and organizations. The Coast Capital donation of \$125,000 for the *Inclusion and Equity Strategy for Trades and Technology* was officially announced. Student speaker Macey Michaud shared her story about becoming a culinary student at UFV.
- Along with the Offices of Sustainability and Community Engagement, Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies announced the installation of the gas absorption heat pumps at TTC.
- Until November 8, 2024, the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) featured an exhibition called [Portals into Nature on the S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery](#). This was a group exhibition exploring the evolving relationship between humans and nature. Through sculpture, photography, and mixed media, the artists reflected on transition, transformation, and the passage of time. Each piece acted as a portal into overlooked or forgotten moments, bridging the gap between urban life and nature. It featured works by Megan Ali, Jacqueline Pan, Devin Pigeau, Yukun Lin, Cobi Timmermans, Arty Urdabayev, and Ruby Woo, and was curated by SoCA student Megan Ali and recent graduate Yukun Lin.
- Three kinesiology students worked with Dr. Iris Lesser to run workshops for postpartum women on how to engage in physical activity after the birth of a child. The first one at Best for Babies under Archway community services was a huge success!
- Student Engagement Librarian, Janelle Sztuhar, hosted two research help booths in Lá:lem te Baker lobby and organized the Leisure Reading Fair with two student book groups during Student Wellness Week on October 9th.
- UFV's Luminescence Dating Lab was recently awarded an NSERC Alliance International Grant which will enable postdoctoral fellow Dr. Sam Woor to visit Technical University of Denmark for several weeks to work with one of their physicists, Dr. Kristina Thompsen, and their luminescence emission spectrometer. We hope experiments conducted with this instrument will allow us to rapidly identify critical minerals in the environment, minerals crucial for the transition to 'green energy.'

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