

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: April 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

On April 4, 1974, after 2 unsuccessful attempts led by community leaders across the Fraser Valley, the Honourable Eileen Dailly, Minister of Education for the Province of British Columbia, officially proclaimed Fraser Valley College into existence. Within 5 short months of this proclamation, FVC welcomed its first class of 183 full time and 2300 part time students in locations spread out across the Fraser Valley. FVC's first Chairperson, Doug Hamilton, provided a message of welcome in the first Fraser Valley College Calendar for the 74/75 academic year in which he wrote: "The College will serve all the people in the Upper Fraser Valley where post-secondary facilities have been lacking, and is open to all the people of British Columbia. The council believes that the college is for everyone; therefor, no matter what your educational background is, this college will have something for your and your family." While much has changed over the past 50 years (tuition was \$100 / semester for full-time students living in the Fraser Valley College Region and double for those living outside those boundaries), that core vision of serving the community has never waived and remains the heartbeat of who we are today. I would like to believe that those who founded FVC would be very proud of what UFV has become and its tremendous impact it has had for the people of the Fraser Valley.

Throughout the next year, we will be taking time to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of FVC, UCFV, and UFV and the impact it has made over the past 50 years. We also will be looking to the future and the next 50 years. There is much we can learn from the past 50 years that will ensure that UFV continues on its exciting path forward and continues to serve the needs of the Fraser Valley. Our path of truth and reconciliation has been an integral part of UFV's history and continuing to Indigenize our academy to further our ways of knowing will continue to lead us towards enlightenment and discovery that will benefit all living systems across Stó:lo Temexw and beyond. The Fraser Valley is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Canada that has a history of welcoming people from around the world. UFV has been a vital part of this growth and will continue to welcome students from a number of countries that currently sits at over 60 different nationalities. While new forms of technology such as AI threaten to cause major disruptions in our society, embracing emerging technologies over the past 50 years, particularly in AgriTech, has ensured that the Fraser Valley continues to

help feed BC, Canada, and the World during times of environmental instability. These, and many other parts of our first 50 years that have been rooted in our symbiotic relationship with our community will help to ensure that our next 50 years will be as exciting and productive as our first 50 years.

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have reorganized the activities 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.

- Criminology Assistant Professor Dr. Carlos Ponce was interviewed by The New York Times for an article on gangs on Latin American prisons.
- English Honours Colloquium – April 5 Friday, 3-5 pm, A261, Abbotsford Campus: The English Honors Student Colloquium is back! The colloquium is an opportunity for English Honors students to present their Honors research or creative projects to their peers, faculty, families, and the UFV community. The colloquium will be held this semester on April 5th, 3-5 pm.
- The Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies hosted the 2024 Skills Canada Regional Competition this year, along with a Try-a-Trade event, and a very successful Leap into Trades Open House. Highlights include:
 - 66 competitors in 8 different Skills competitions:
 - 6 UFV competitors took home bronze medals, 6 took home silver medals and 6 took home gold medals from Welding, Automotive Service, Electrical Wiring, Architectural CAD, Culinary Arts, and Cabinetmaking. Those gold medal winners will now compete in the provincial competition taking place April 17t at the Abbotsford Tradex. Way to go UFV!
 - 9 robotics boot camp participants
 - 450+ high school students trying out trades, technology, physics and engineering, and agriculture
 - 500+ open house guests, including many that took tours through TTC
 - Countless cookies were eaten
 - Employers, donors, UFV guests, and so many more
- The Professional Cook level 2 class went on a field trip to Granville Island where they explored local and international foods and learned about the history of influential people in the Vancouver culinary industry.
- School of Computing hosted the 2024 Tech Industry Panel event led by Opeyemi Adesina. This event featured six tech industry panelists from local start up companies with alumni CEOs, founders, and an Amazon recruiter.
- Next year will be the first time that teacher candidates in the BEd will be able to complete their practicum in French immersion. There are several successful applicants who will

qualify. As long as they can provide evidence of French proficiency AND take EDUC 483J: Designs for Learning French as a Second Language, students will qualify for a French practicum.

- On March 12, 2024, CYC 402 students attended the Mission Youth Centre to facilitate youth activity stations. Students organized 10 student-led stations in and around the youth centre and had about 25 youth from the Fraser Valley Youth Society participate as well as additional local youth. It was a high energy and very positive student field trip with activity stations including: music bingo, taco and Bannock making, keychain affirmations, rock painting, storyboards, mindful colouring, clay baking, planting seeds and more.
- Karen Natho had a “Field Trip” with the KIN 465 students to Abbotsford Rec Centre to run the “Adapted Sports Zone” for Yale Secondary School Community Class and Diverse Abilities class (Feb 13th). This was a partnership with City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School Board.
- The Science Cafe “Chronic Pain: Maximizing function and quality of life” on February 27 at UFV Chilliwack campus library brought in members from the community, students, along with staff and faculty. Presenters were: Cynthia Thomson, Luisa Giles, and Brian Justin.
- Luisa Giles and Claire Hay presented at the VCC teaching, learning, and research
- Reference & Instruction Librarian, Diane Cruickshank, moderated the Chilliwack Library March Sustainability events which including a movie screening.
- The Science Café at Chilliwack Library drew over thirty attendees for a presentation by Drs. Renee Prasad and Sandra Gillespie on the topic of “Pests and Pollinators” and received a shout out from the Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Lara Duke in one of her “Dean’s Perspectives”.
- The Office of Sustainability has provided the Chilliwack Library with two sets of hand-held garden tools for lending as part of the seed library initiative and they are also re-stock the seed library for the spring growing season.
- On Mar 25, the Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EFCIE) presented Exploring actor's perceptions of precision agriculture innovation system. With Professor Stefanie Bröring, Chair for Entrepreneurship and innovative business models, Ruhr-University Bochum.
- Dr. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research, has been appointed as a Canada Research Chair, Tier 2. Supported by federal funding, Dr. Erland will spend the next five years studying climate resilience of berry horticultural systems and ecosystems. Learn more.
- 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.
- Michelle Johnson facilitated a four-day Instructional Skills Workshop from Feb 18 to 24 in Chilliwack. This ISW was an excellent opportunity to build relationships with faculty from UFV, the Abby PD, and the Organized Crime Agency of BC.

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.

- Political Science students Grace Kennedy, Chloe Boughen, and Lauren Onderwater, participated in the Model NATO event at Carleton University in Ottawa, last February.
- On February 22, CHASI had the incredible honour of being introduced in the B.C. legislature by the Honourable Pam Alexis, MLA for Abbotsford-Mission and B.C.'s Minister of Agriculture and Food. Many members of the CHASI team, including a number of student researcher assistants and interns, travelled to Victoria to receive this recognition.
- The first-ever UFV cohort of Professional Cook Level 3 started on March 18th. The cohort of students will be UFV's first-time producing Red Seal chefs.
- The Enactus team from the School of Business were in the regional runner-up position in the Desjardins Youth Empowerment Challenge at the regional competitions held in Calgary between March 14-15, led by Saeed Rahman and Michael Amirani.
- On March 8, Dr. Rita Dhungel facilitated a workshop on participatory action research and its applications for a transformative change for undergraduate and graduate psychology students from Rajshahi University in Bangladesh
- A current TASK student has been doing a work experience with Chill TV and participated in an interview.. Here is the link to the episode
<https://www.facebook.com/chilltvchannels/videos/923496746445821>
- As part of Open Education Week 2024, representative Student Engagement Librarian, Janelle Sztuhar, and Collections Librarian, Martin Warkentin, along with the Teaching and Learning, Claire Hay, hosted an Open Education Resource Review Sprint at the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses on March 7th. This quick paced, community driven workshop, invited UFV faculty to learn about open education and to find and evaluate Open Educational Resources for their courses. This initiative was generously supported with a grant from BC Campus of which Libraries was donated the remainder of almost \$400 to the UFV-SUS Foodbank after funding the event catering.
- Throughout February and March, the Centre for Philosophy for Children hosted Thinking Camp, a drop-in program for children ages 9-11 with games, stories, and activities designed to enhance their critical, creative, and cooperative thinking skills.
- The Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) hosted a series of workshops with Chilliwack Elder College throughout March. Topics included Healthy aging in the 21st century, Artificial Intelligence, ethics, and creativity, Strategies for optimizing cognitive functioning, and An introduction to hereditary cancer.
- On March 13, the Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) presented Ukraine: With them, a 60-minute screening followed by conversation with Chad Martz, Operation Advisor with Hungry for Life and lifelong Chilliwack resident. The film follows the journey of war response over the last two years, based on a 20- year relationship previously built with friends and partners in Ukraine.

- Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies, is again co-organizing the March for Sustainability event, a series of collaborative events that address sustainability topics such as climate change, biodiversity, EDI, and gender diversity. PGES will be hosting five events for this series, such as Early Earth Day March 14, and Clothes the Loop: Deduce, Renew, Restyle on March 26.
- Fizza Haider and Courtney Boisvert worked together to develop a video on the appropriate use of colour for communicating information accessibly. This video is the last in the Making Content Accessible series and highlights why colour is used in content, how it benefits students learning and processing, and how it can be used more accessibly so that all learners can perceive content where colour has been used.
https://video.ufv.ca/media/Making+Content+AccessibleA+Using+Colour+Contrast/0_i0iokffz/503820
- Community of Practice: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy – Claire Hay hosted this month’s meeting as Victoria Surtees was in India on ‘Cultivating High Expectations’. Two sessions were offered on Zoom together with an additional session to accommodate a faculty member with a scheduling issue.

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.

- Aligned with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the 2024 March For Sustainability event will focus on overcoming environmental racism. Faculty members from the Indigenous Studies department will lead a panel discussion, addressing topics such as Indigenous displacements, struggles, and efforts towards healing. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to view a screening of the short film "Q'épchexw Chowiyes - Together We Rise," created by UFV student Calista Thirsk. The March For Sustainability Event is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Room A225, Abbotsford campus.
- UFV Trades attended the SASET and Kwiyeqel job fairs, spoke at Hope & Agassiz high schools providing detailed information about the RCP program, and visited MEI in Abbotsford to speak about trades and career pathways.
- Dr. Joanne Robertson spent a week in Guatemala at Escuela San Pedro primary school in a rural community of San Pedro la Huertas about 4 km south of Antigua. Dr. Robertson looked at multilingual and second language learning in Guatemala with the potential for alternate practicum opportunities for students at UFV in the future.
- Dr. Nikki Yee travelled to Whitehorse to work on building a community of inquiry around decolonizing possibilities in inclusive education. In addition, Dr. Yee was the Invited Speaker at the Learning Disabilities Institute Congress presenting on: We Love Inclusion! Why is it so Difficult? Exploring the Colonial Challenges to Inclusive Education.
- Luisa Giles met with a representative at Metro Vancouver and has been emailing with Fraser Health exploring integrating resources that support physical activity and mental health into air quality bulletins/ advisories.

- Paula Stubbings and Manjot Gill are organizing and collecting food with the BSN buds as part of the “Paying it forward campaign” for the Chilliwack Food Bank.
- Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk, Math & Stats, completed her first year as the Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness Committee of the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS).

Kw’as hoy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mansu".