

Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

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

Dean's Office

Despite COVID-19, the Dean's office has been busy coordinating activities in the FoS and although **Caroline Majeau** is extending her leave into 15th of March, **Rebecca Fry** adjusted well and worked diligently to support the office of the Dean. However, Rebecca can not continue beyond her contract time and **Janice Nagtegaal** will manage the office in various capacities. We thank Rebecca for her work and wish her best on her future endeavors. As the pandemic still continues, we have adapted to work virtually

proud. She was featured recently in the UW Optometry Newsletter <https://uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science-newsletter/insight-newsletter-winter-2021/feature/q-first-year-class-president-aisa-dobie>

Dr. Justin Lee has created an instrument booking website to coordinate usage of equipment in the Biology labs. <https://thecurateddesignst.wixsite.com/ufvbiologylabs>. This is necessary as research is beginning to ramp up and we need to coordinate the many students and researchers needing to access the instruments but we still need to keep safety at the forefront.

Dr. Alida Janmaat was part of the organizing committee for the Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia Annual Symposium which was held virtually from Feb 18-19.

UFV was well represented at this symposium: **Jade Sherwood**, UFV Agriculture student, gave a great presentation in the student competition: "Preliminary evidence for enemy risk effects on SWD from *Leptopilina japonica*". **Dr. Sandra Gillespie** gave an invited presentation on "Pathogens, parasites and invaders and resource limitation: Challenges facing wild bumblebees in agroecosystems in the Fraser Valley."

Chemistry Department

With COVID-19 still affecting our day-to-day activities, the Program Review for the Chemistry department has been postponed. The external reviewers will now visit the department in May 2022.

On February 12th, Chemistry student **Connor Frey** was awarded the CIC 2nd Year Award in Chemistry for 2019-2020 on his outstanding academic accomplishments in Chemistry by the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC). Congrats Connor, you make us proud!

Congratulations also goes out to **Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar** on the birth of her second child. Her beautiful daughter Nava, joined our growing FoS family this January, a bit earlier than her expected due date in February, but both mom and daughter are doing well. We are thrilled for them for this beautiful addition to our UFV family.

Mathematics & Statistics Department

Two faculty members from the Math & Stats department were successful as 2 of 3 inaugural Open Education Faculty Fellows (OEFF) program. Drs. **Kseniya Garaschuk** and **Shaun Sun** will each receive funding to hire an Open Educational Resource student assistant to assist in their respective projects. See <https://libguides.ufv.ca/OpenEducationFacultyFellows/faculty-profiles>

Dr. Garaschuk continues to be active as chief editor of *Crux Mathematicorum*, a publication of the Canadian Mathematical Society. The January 2021 issue, Volume 47(1), includes a new column about "Explorations of Indigenous Mathematics" that was facilitated by Kseniya and the new cover was designed by student **Rebekah Brackett**.

<https://cms.math.ca/publications/crux/issue/?volume=47&issue=1>

A Search Advisory Committee (SAC) has been struck and the call for candidates has been made to find the next Head of the Department as **Dr. Ian Affleck's** second term will be coming to an end this summer.

We heard from Emeritus Professor, **Susan Milner**, who has been busy spreading her love of Math to various schools in the Lower mainland. She shares this has been difficult this year due to the pandemic but she continues to be active in spreading her Math initiatives as much as is feasible.

School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC)

A new program concept paper proposal for a Bachelor of Regional and Community Planning will be presented at the next Senate meeting. If approved, the proposal will undergo the full proposal process. This is spearheaded by Drs.