



UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

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UFV  **ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Every year, UFV students cross the stage ready to take on the next set of opportunities life has in store for them. Each graduation ceremony--in person or virtual--new UFV alumni are equipped with skills and knowledge that will guide them in the next chapter of their life. Reflecting on my graduation from UFV, I am grateful UFV gave me the skills to take on big challenges and lead with kindness.

I am a proud UFV alumna. UFV alumni are a group of people that centre problem-solving and critical thinking. We lift up other people's voices and know when to listen. UFV alumni are making changes in the Valley and internationally -- we are a global group of movers and shakers. I believe in our alumni and I believe in the group of people who form the UFV Alumni Association (UFVAA).

As we reflect on the 2019/20 year, the UFVAA has much to be proud of. We honoured two alumni at the annual Town & Gown event, celebrating the incredible work of alumni Sonya Sangster and Jesse Wagenast. The board continues to honour and celebrate excellence with the new Outstanding Student Leader award, fully funded at \$25,000 by anonymous alumni donors, the UFVAA, and UFV. This endowment will honour our future alumni, acknowledging their leadership and community values. The board also honours Kihci Têpakohp Iskotêw Iskwêw (Emily Henry), who has taken on the position of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer. The board is thankful for her labour and is committed to a lifelong journey and action in creating a safe and inviting space where people from all backgrounds can lead and thrive. And a first step is acknowledging there is more meaningful work to be done.

With 2020 taking us all by surprise, the pandemic has forced us all to embrace a new set of challenges. And so our nurses, educators, tradespeople, entrepreneurs, and artists continue to shine. We continue to lead with integrity and we remember to hold kindness at the centre of all we do. In my first year on the executive committee, I was gifted the book *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown (not required UFV reading). Brown reminds us all, "integrity is choosing courage over comfort, it's choosing what's right over what's fun, fast, or easy; and it's practicing your values, not just professing them."

Thank you to our alumni and many community partners who make our work possible. Thank you to UFV for supporting the UFVAA. Thank you to the entire board (and your partners and family) for your endless time, labour, and commitment to learning.

Thank you for the last six years. I look forward to serving in my new role as Chair Emerita.

Ali Siemens (BA '13)
Chair, UFV Alumni Association

ABOUT THE UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The UFV Alumni Association is a registered society under the BC Societies Act that began April 1, 2001 and has been growing steadily ever since.

VISION

Empower alumni present & future

MISSION

To encourage and advocate for an evolving UFV community by providing valuable opportunities for present and future alumni to thrive, through:

- Creating opportunities for alumni, through both personal and professional development
- Engaging the individual strengths of departments, faculties, schools and colleges and their alumni
- Partnering with student support groups at UFV to engage future alumni
- Engaging with diverse communities throughout the Fraser Valley and beyond
- Fostering a culture of philanthropy of time, talent, and treasure



#HelloUFV, Where are you?
Reconnect with your Alumni Association

New neighbourhood? New city? New email?
Update your info & let us know what you're up to these days!

WIN!

Reconnect at alumni.ufv.ca/hello before Oct 30, 2020 and be entered to win a set of Apple AirPods.

Say hi on social with **#HelloUFV**.

2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD SONYA SANGSTER

Sonya Sangster's UFV education (BBA '06) gave her the wings she needed to fly airplanes and to be a leader in helping women in the international development field.

Sangster started her career in the air, notching up 13 years as a professional pilot, including a period of time flying exclusively on missions for the United Nations and NATO.

While flying for a living, Sonia volunteered at Oxfam Canada running their volunteer engagement program, which encompassed global themes such as women and food security, accessible public services, fair trade, climate change, and gender justice.

Sonia also became a training captain, and trained other pilots on the complicated nature of conflict and humanitarian line flying.

By age 30 she had "capped out" her aviation goals and was looking to do more hands-on work in the humanitarian field.

Sonia's master's degree from the London School of Economics and her volunteer experience helped her transition into a new career championing innovative solutions to international development through her work as CEO of the Tekera Foundation.

Read the full story at alumni.ufv.ca/stories



YOUNG DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD JESSE WEGENAST

Jesse Wegenast (BA '12) leads with love and compassion in all that he does. As a pastor with 5 and 2 Ministries and a resource person with Archway Community Services who serves as an intermediary for those who are unhoused, poor, mentally ill, aged, and struggling with addictions, Wegenast's actions have had a profound impact, helping to reshape conversations around support, public space, addictions, and the lack of accommodation (both social and physical) for Abbotsford's most marginalized populations.

He has spent the past decade as one of Abbotsford's leading advocates for the rights of the homeless and those dealing with addictions. His actions have touched the lives of thousands in Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley.

He has served as coordinator for the Abbotsford Homeless Count, took the lead in the development and implementation of Abbotsford's Extreme Heat Response protocols, and worked to create BC's first age-specific shelter for adults after identifying a community need in the 50+ year-old population. He serves as the director of the shelter and oversees a staff composed almost entirely of individuals receiving Persons With Disabilities benefits.

Read the full story at alumni.ufv.ca/stories



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: APRIL 1, 2019 TO APRIL 1, 2020

The 2019-20 year was an 'eventful' year for the UFV Alumni Association. The Association sponsored, partnered on, participated in, and hosted a range of events:

- Alumni Day at Bloom Tulip Festival | April 29, 2019
- Alumni Commemorative Wine Launch at UFV's PD Day | April 29, 2019
- Indigenous Graduation Reception | May 22, 2019
- UFV Convocation | June 4 & 5, 2019
- Raiseberry Fundraiser for Raspberry Magazine | June 8, 2019
- Celebrating 15 Years of Alumni Wine Event | June 19, 2019
- Alumni Book Launch | June 27, 2019
- Alumni Day at the Abbotsford International Airshow | August 10, 2019
- 5th Annual UFV Alumni Open Golf Tournament | September 13, 2019
- International Student Welcome Panel and Reception | September 17, 2019
- UFV Alumni Association AGM | September 26, 2019
- UFV School of Creative Arts Launch | September 27, 2019
- Alumni Night at the BC Lions | September 28, 2019
- UFV School of Business Alumni Fall Mixer | September 30, 2019
- Fall UFV Blood Donation Clinic | October 17, 2019
- Exploring Diversity through the Arts Panel | October 22, 2019
- UFV's Town & Gown Fundraising Dinner | November 13, 2019
- UFV Alumni Board Planning Session | November 27, 2019
- Alumni Night at the UFV Cascades | January 18, 2020
- Environmental Planning Networking Event | January 29, 2020

All other in-person events planned for the 2019-20 year were cancelled due to Covid-19



42,175

UFV alumni living in over 31 countries

TOP 3

employers of UFV alumni are UFV, Fraser Health Authority, and Abbotsford School District



920

alumni are donors; alumni gave

\$77,382.04

to UFV in 2019/20

Over 500

alumni have updated their contact information since the launch of the last Reconnect campaign



Balances of alumni endowments as of May 2020

Alumni Changing Lives Bursary Endowment

\$202,536

Alumni Changing Lives Leadership Endowment

\$158,472



615

alumni membership cards distributed in 2019

50%

of alumni surveyed have visited campus in the past year

41%

of alumni surveyed have worn or displayed UFV apparel or merchandise in the past year



25 EVENTS

hosted, sponsored or participated in over the past year by the UFV Alumni Association



UFV ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Navtej Bains

Ms. Kelly Blakeborough

Mr. Derek Froese

Mr. Seamus Heffernan

Ms. Emily Henry (Kihci

Têpakohp Iskotêw Iskwêw)

Mr. Vessal Jaber

Mr. Joe Johnson

Ms. Auriel Niven

Mr. Kevin Renso

Ms. Ali Siemens

Mr. Derrick Uittenbosch

Ms. Ashley Ward-Hall

Mr. Derek Ward-Hall

UFV ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

Anita Nielsen

Executive Director

Advancement & Alumni
Relations

Whitney Fordham

Manager, Alumni Relations
& Staff Liaison to the UFV
Alumni Association

Leona Oakman &

Alicia Friesen

Coordinator, Alumni Relations

SAVE-THE-DATE

Join us at the UFV Blood Drive on November 12. Your donation gives someone more time to enjoy and spend with family and friends. And nothing could be better than that.

alumni.ufv.ca/events/ufv-blood-drive/

STAY IN TOUCH

alumni@ufv.ca

Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: @ufvalumni
alumni.ufv.ca

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