



# UFV Alumni Association Annual Report 2020-2021

[alumni.ufv.ca](http://alumni.ufv.ca)

**UFV**  **ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**



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## UFV Alumni Board Members

- |                      |                              |                         |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Keenan Beavis    | Ms. Aman Khinda              | Mr. Isaac Veeneman      |
| Mr. Marc Bergen      | Mr. Kevin Renso              | Mr. Derrick Uittenbosch |
| Mr. Derek Froese     | Ms. Ali Siemens              | Ms. Ashley Ward-Hall    |
| Mr. Seamus Heffernan | Ms. Tricia Taylor            | Mr. Derek Ward-Hall     |
| Ms. Emily Henry      | Ms. Jennifer Trithardt-Tufts |                         |

## UFV Alumni Relations Office

- |                                                   |                                                                         |                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anita Nielsen                                     | Diane St-Denis                                                          | Leona Oakman                  |
| Executive Director Advancement & Alumni Relations | Manager, Alumni Relations & Staff Liaison to the UFV Alumni Association | Coordinator, Alumni Relations |

## Stay in touch

ufv.alumni.ca alumni@ufv.ca    @ufvalumni

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



To the graduates of both 2020 and 2021 you are facing unique challenges to the start of your alumni careers, which also present great opportunity. As we face a world of uncertainty, the opportunity for kindness and love to one another abounds. You have joined the ranks of UFV alumni who recognize that building into our community is always worthwhile!

Tsandlia Van Ry (BKin '18) is the 2020 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor Medal for Inclusion, Diversity, and Reconciliation at UFV for igniting change in our community through her work with the Stó:lō history and curricula development. Nerlap Sidhu (BA '04) has expanded her influence as a teacher beyond the classroom through such extensive volunteering and change-making she has earned the Betty Urquhart Community Service Award for her work to “uplift, [and] bring hope and love into our community”. Chantelle Trainor-Matties (Dip. Visual Arts '20) utilized her artwork to combat bullying through Nations Creations and their Pink Shirt Day. She also designed our UFV Alumni 2021 Commemorative Wine labels and utilized the hummingbird and beaver to tell the story of through indigenous teaching traditions of family love and loss, and strength and creativity.

To continue to recognize the community-building activities of our alumni the UFV Alumni Association (UFVAA) created the Kindness Matters award. The wealth of stories need to be shared and celebrated, and we are blessed to have so many stories to tell.

Throughout this last year, the UFVAA has been engaged in a process of renewal and revision. We have redefined our mission as an association, the vision we have for the future, and the values we hold along the way. Through servanthood and collaboration, we want to recognize, respect, and celebrate all of our alumni community, and encourage one another towards the path of excellence. The UFVAA board has also been developing a new strategic plan centered on the themes brought out by our Alumni, and guided by our new mission, vision, and values. One theme I am particularly excited about is the eagerness of our alumni for mentorship. Through our last alumni survey, you identified a strong desire to both give and receive mentorship, and the board is working with UFV and the Alumni Advancement department to prioritize those opportunities.

To our new grads, you are stepping into a new world in so many ways. On behalf of the UFV Alumni board, I am delighted to welcome you to the alumni community and look forward to hearing your stories of impact on UFV, our community, and beyond.

**Derrick Uittenbosch**

Chair, UFV Alumni Association

## STAY CONNECTED WITH ALUMNI CONNECT

As UFV equips the leaders of tomorrow, UFV alumni represent the leaders of today.

With the new UFV Alumni Connect platform, we're creating a space for you to:

- Expand your professional network, by connecting with other UFV graduates working and thriving in a variety of programs
- Find mentors, or offer your own support to fellow alumni and UFV students
- Further your career with professional development opportunities, exclusive to UFV Connect members
- Stay apprised of upcoming UFV events.
- Browse our job board or post a job to recruit from your alumni community
- Raise your business profile within your alumni community by joining our business directory
- Crowdsource advice, and influence decisions affecting your community.

Make connections. Raise your profile. Influence the future.

It's all happening on [ufvconnect.ca](https://ufvconnect.ca).



## About the UFV Alumni Association

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### VISION:

All UFV alumni will feel proud to identify as active and integral parts of the UFV community and be meaningfully connected with each other and their communities.

### MISSION:

The UFVAA will empower alumni:

- To mentor and connect with other alumni through social and professional relationships.
- To collaborate with UFVAA, UFV, other alumni, and the communities in which they reside.
- To celebrate the diversity of the UFV alumni.
- To champion alumni successes and the value of UFV alumni status.
- To access personal, professional, and academic resources through UFVAA partnerships, programs, and events.
- To support fellow alumni, future alumni, and UFV, with time, treasure, and talent.

### VALUES:

**Servanthood:** we have much to offer and gratefully offer it; we advocate for our alumni and serve their best interests.

**Equitable and Inclusive:** everyone is welcome, and we recognize, respect, and celebrate all our alumni for who they are and what they offer.

**Collaboration:** we work openly and transparently with UFV, alumni, and their communities while remaining accountable to our alumni.

**Excellence:** we celebrate excellence and commit to continuous growth; we believe that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

# NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING ALUMNI!

Our UFV Alumni are doing incredible work at home and around the world.

Established in 2003, the UFV Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the accomplishments of our amazing alumni. The traditional Distinguished Alumni Award is conferred upon a graduate of the institution who has achieved outstanding distinction in career, educational achievement, or community service.

In 2012 the Young Distinguished Alumni Award was established, going to a graduate of UFV who is 35 years of age or younger and who has achieved outstanding distinction in the above categories.

Both awards recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of exceptional alumni, emphasizing the hard work of our alums across all ages and careers.

You are invited to nominate alumni you feel are deserving of these prestigious nonmonetary awards.

Visit our website for more information on how to nominate an outstanding alumnus: <https://alumni.ufv.ca/awards/distinguished-alumni-awards/>

Nominators may be UFV employees, students, alumni, board members, or members of the community. Nominees shall not be individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over UFV.

**Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2021.**



Sonya Sangster came to UFV because she wanted to fly. And soar she did, in more ways than one. The Bachelor of Business Administration in Aviation degree earned from UFV in 2006 prepared her to be a professional pilot, but also provided an academic foundation needed to continue her economics studies at the graduate level and what she learned in her work in the international development field as CEO of the Tekera Foundation.

She flew as a professional pilot for 13 years, choosing to spend that time to work for a company that flew for the United Nations and NATO. While flying she also volunteered with Oxfam Canada, running their volunteer engagement program which covered global themes such as women and food security, accessible public services, fair trade, climate change and gender justice.

Since then she has been on an extraordinary career path that has led to the United Nations, conflict zones, a degree from the prestigious London School of Economics and a new career championing innovative solutions to international development through her work with the Tekera Foundation. She worked with Global Affairs Canada to help them implement its Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Additionally, Sonya has trained other pilots on the nature of conflict and humanitarian line flying.

**2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**  
**SONYA SANGSTER**

**UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

## TOP 3

Employers that hire UFV Alumni:



**44,024**

UFV alumni living in over

**39**

countries



Over the past year,  
**150 alumni**  
donated a total of  
**\$64,946.56**



**41%**

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

**Over 800**

alumni have updated their contact information during the 2020-21 year

Balances of alumni endowments as of March 30, 2021

Alumni Changing Lives Bursary Endowment

**\$234,324**

UFV Alumni Association Endowment Leadership Award

**\$155,165**

Outstanding Alumni Endowment

**\$25,575**



Since 2005, the Alumni Association has partnered with local wineries for its annual Alumni Wine Program. Proceeds from our Program support the UFV Alumni Association's bursary fund to benefit UFV students.

The Alumni Wine Program also provides an opportunity for us to showcase the artwork from UFV alumni through our Annual Alumni Wine Label Contest. This year's wines will feature the Indigenous animal designs of Chantelle Trainor-Matties. Chantelle's two designs (one for red wine and one for white) reflect her love of animals and her Indigenous heritage.

The 2021 Alumni Wines are Chaberton Estate Winery's 2018 Valley Cab and 2019 Pinot Gris. A box of 6 bottles can be purchased for \$132 and includes delivery anywhere in the lower mainland. Please visit our website for more details: [alumni.ufv.ca](http://alumni.ufv.ca)

**UFV**  **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



## Stay connected

and be entered to win a \$250 gift certificate for the UFV Bookstore. Order online and have your items shipped directly to your home or office.

Connect at [alumni.ufv.ca/hello](http://alumni.ufv.ca/hello) before October 29, 2021!

**UFV**  **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**