

MEANINGFULLY CONNECTED



Message from UFVAA's Board Chair

Dear UFV alumni and friends,

It is an honour to serve as the Chair of the UFV Alumni Association during this transformative period. Over the past year, our focus has been on strengthening leadership and deepening partnerships so the Association can continue to serve—and reflect—the needs of our global alumni community.

In 2026, we celebrated a significant milestone: the 25th anniversary of the Alumni Association on April 11. Since our founding in 2001, we have worked to foster lifelong connections and celebrate the achievements of our alumni. This anniversary represents an investment in our collective future, marked by programming designed to honour our legacy and inspire the next generation of leadership.

Our work is guided by a constitutional commitment to serve and advocate for our alumni community. This year, the Board of Directors advanced this mission through our core pillars of engagement, advocacy, philanthropy, governance, and alumni stewardship. Purposeful philanthropic support, including the Indigenous Graduation Celebration and the Outstanding Alumni Endowment, reflects our focus on strengthening pathways for future alumni.



Bradley Menard
(MEd, MAdEd, BAAEd'21, BGS (Ed.Tech.) '14)
CHAIR, UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Long before Canada was formed, the Stó:lō (People of the River) occupied the land on which UFV is located. They speak Halq'eméylem, also known as the Upriver dialect. The UFV Alumni Association recognizes and honours the contribution that Indigenous people have made — and continue to make — to our community.

The realization of this strategic vision is made possible by the dedication of the Alumni Engagement team under the leadership of Whitney Fordham. Their expertise in stewardship and program execution ensures that our goals are translated into meaningful outcomes for our members. We are grateful for their commitment to the Association's growth and for their work in ensuring our shared vision remains at the forefront of our operations.

Our progress is further supported by a strong relationship with the University. Under the leadership of President Mandigo, and in collaboration with the Board of Governors and Senate, we ensure the alumni voice is a central influence in University governance. I welcome Kim McLandress as our newest Association Representative on the UFV Board of Governors. We also offer profound thanks to John Pankratz as he concludes his term. A visionary leader and former Chair of the Board of Governors, John has been a dedicated friend to all UFV alumni.

I am delighted to welcome our newest directors: Tarndeep Chattu-Reehal, Alexandra Desautels, Nikiel Lal, and Tristan Taylor. Their perspectives, alongside Michelle Vandepol's role as our second IDEA Officer, ensure our Board reflects our membership. We also bid a fond farewell to Associate Vice-Chair Alex Parkinson; his dedication since 2023 has been deeply appreciated and will leave a lasting positive legacy on the Association's governance.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing pride and involvement. Your support is the foundation of our vibrant UFV alumni community.



Dr. James Mandigo
UFV PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

As I approach my first anniversary as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley, I find myself reflecting with deep appreciation on the warm welcome I have received — including from our alumni community, whose continued connection to UFV is both meaningful and inspiring. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Alumni Association's 25th anniversary, a milestone that highlights the strength and enduring impact of our alumni community.

Over my seven years at UFV, I've had the opportunity to meet graduates whose work and contributions are making a real difference across our region and beyond. Your stories reflect the very best of UFV — resilience, creativity, and a commitment to improving the communities you are part of.

As a proud Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, UFV is grounded in the belief that education should lead to meaningful impact. What has struck me most is how clearly our alumni carry that forward



Message from UFV's President & Vice-Chancellor

— not just in what you do, but in how you lead, collaborate, and create change in your fields.

This past year has also been one of continued progress across the university. Guided by our Integrated Strategic Plan, *Iyáqáwtxw* — House of Transformation, we are strengthening our academic programs, enhancing student supports, and deepening our connections with community and industry. At the same time, we remain focused on ensuring that today's students are prepared to become tomorrow's changemakers — just as you have done.

What I've come to appreciate most is the strong sense of connection people feel to UFV. That connection does not end at graduation — it continues to grow through your achievements, your engagement, and your ongoing relationship with the university.

Thank you for staying connected, for supporting UFV, and for representing the university in such meaningful ways. I encourage you to continue engaging with us — whether by mentoring students, sharing your experiences, or participating in alumni events. Your involvement plays an important role in shaping the future of UFV.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what we will continue to build together. UFV's story is still being written, and our alumni are an essential part of what comes next.

Message from UFV's Vice-President, Community Engagement

Ey swáyel,

It is a privilege to connect with you through this year's UFV Alumni Association Annual Report.

Our alumni community continues to be a powerful expression of what it means to belong to UFV. Thank you for the many ways you stay engaged—with one another, with our students, and across the broader communities we serve. Your involvement continues to strengthen the reciprocal relationships at the heart of UFV's work. Alumni play a vital role in this work—not as an audience, but as partners whose lived experience helps shape how UFV shows up in community. Your ongoing support, mentorship, and advocacy reflect the spirit of togetherness that defines UFV.

This past year offered many meaningful moments to come together—from Convocation and the Alumni Celebration Plaza to the St'elt'elawtexw Celebration of Community. These experiences reflect the importance of connection, cultural recognition, and co-creation in our work.



Susan Mide Kiss

Susan Mide Kiss

VICE-PRESIDENT,
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



SCAN ME to update your contact info with UFV Alumni Engagement.

UFV has grown and changed in important ways. Through it all, our alumni remain an essential part of this journey—as, mentors, collaborators, civic and community leaders, and community partners making a difference in their communities.

Over the past year, we have been advancing UFV's Community Engagement Framework—a collaborative effort that is shaping not only what we do, but how we do it. Grounded in reciprocity and meaningful relationships, this work reflects a shared commitment to working alongside communities rather than for them.

Alumni voices have been an important part of this process, helping to inform how UFV builds trust, listens with care, and responds to community priorities. Their insight—rooted in deep knowledge and lived experience across the Fraser Valley and beyond—strengthens our ability to engage in ways that are respectful, relevant, and mutually beneficial.

As the UFV Alumni Association celebrates its 25th anniversary, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the partnership, connection, and shared commitment that have shaped this community. Together, we continue to build something meaningful—rooted in relationships and carried forward by the strength of our alumni.

Thank you for continuing this work- strengthening the relationships that shape how UFV engages with community, now and into the future.



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Awards

2025 YOUNG DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

Sam Varing
BBA '14

A trailblazer in the legal and business communities, Sam Varing has shown a deep commitment to equity and youth empowerment, and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) has played a significant role in her journey.

Sam, the recipient of UFV's 2025 Young Distinguished Alumni Award (YDAA), graduated from UFV in 2014.

"I had the opportunity to go to university in the same city that I was born and raised in, and UFV felt like home," she says. "The professors and instructors were really invested, the class sizes were small, and UFV allowed me to dream about my community, and where I was going."

Leaving UFV with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in hand, Sam quickly became a catalyst for change. In 2019, she collaborated with the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce to launch the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (CYPE) — a first-of-its-kind professional network that connects and uplifts emerging leaders in Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley.

"What started as a spark and desire to support young professionals in our community has grown into one of the Fraser Valley's most impactful and inspiring programs, thanks to Sam's vision and relentless drive to create a network for young leaders," says Alex Mitchell, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. "Sam didn't just start this program — she continues to foster it and embodies the mission every day. Her passion for people, commitment to community, and her example as a role model have made CYPE a cornerstone for the region's next generation of leaders and business people."

During her tenure as founding chair of CYPE, she forged strategic partnerships with UFV's Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association, delivering high-impact events to educate and inspire.

"The idea was that we create something for those 40 and under to connect with like-minded individuals, who share a vision to build networks and community," Sam says. "We've sold out events with hundreds of attendees wanting to join, to learn more, to gain mentorship, and to grow their leadership and entrepreneurship skills. As the program continues to grow, I can only imagine how much more impact we will have in the Fraser Valley."

As Senior Legal Counsel of First West Credit Union and Vice President of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce — Sam is one of the youngest to hold these roles and continues to lead with courage and dedication. Sam champions inclusive leadership, mentorship, and financial literacy. Leslie Castellani, Chief Governance and Corporate Affairs Officer and Barinder Sidhu, VP and General Counsel at First West Credit Union, both say Sam's calm confidence and high emotional intelligence have earned her trust among senior leaders throughout the organization.

"My personal values come from family and being raised with immigrant values," Sam says. "Values in our family were hard work, discipline, integrity, service. Those four values have stayed with me throughout my journey. I'm working at an organization where my values align and I find that these values drive me to want to serve the community, clients and members, and truly anyone that comes into my life. Service drives me every single day."

As a recent board member of the Association of Women in Finance (AWF), Sam played a critical role in expanding AWF's presence in the Fraser Valley, hosting two large-scale, sold-out events in Langley. Each created vital space for over 100 attendees to grow, collaborate, and network. The AWF raises university scholarship funds for women wanting to go into finance.

"I'm super fortunate to be at an organization where we're led by a female CEO, Launi Skinner, but when we look back at the history of women in finance, it hasn't always been like this." Sam notes. "The AWF provides an opportunity for women to grow their networks, engage with each other, and learn from those who've come before them."

Sam believes in serving with integrity, leading with love, and leaving every person and space better than she found them. For UFV students and young leaders alike, she stands as a powerful role model for what modern leadership looks like — rooted in values, driven by purpose, and centred on building community through collaboration.

"We have every opportunity in the world to achieve whatever it is that we put our mind to, and that's the inspiration that I want to bring out to young professionals, young entrepreneurs, and young women," Sam says. "Whatever career choice you make, follow your dreams, follow your passion, and go at it with full force."



WATCH HER STORY



2025 DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

Kamaldeep Singh Sandhu
BBA '12

Kamaldeep (Kam) Singh Sandhu is using his talent for business development, improving the economic outlook for BC Indigenous communities.

The 2025 recipient of the University of the Fraser Valley's Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) is a graduate of UFV's Bachelor of Business Administration program (2012). A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Aboriginal Finance Manager (CAFM); he works with more than 30 First Nations communities on Vancouver Island, supporting efforts to build financial independence and sustainable governance systems.

"What drew me to working with Indigenous communities was the connection I felt on a cultural level," he says. "I was raised in Abbotsford in a multi-generational Punjabi household. My grandparents took care of us while my parents worked, and that's how I learned our language, our stories, and our values. When I started working with Indigenous communities, I saw so many of those same values reflected back."

"Indigenous communities take care of their elders, listen to them, and demonstrate a real connection to family that ties back to my childhood."

At the heart of Kam's work is a commitment to trust and respectful listening. He walks alongside communities as they create long-term strategies that reflect their own goals, values, and ways of knowing. Kam has joined First Nations' negotiation teams for discussions with all levels of government. He's assisted them in applying for funding, and his work has resulted in significant revenue flowing into communities.

"Kam has been an exceptional partner to the Tseshaht First Nation, demonstrating remarkable leadership, expertise, and a genuine commitment to our community," says Chief Ken Watts of Tseshaht First Nation. "His strategic vision and ability to navigate complex financial landscapes have earned him the respect and admiration of our community members."

Kam grew up navigating two cultures and learning what it means to build bridges between them. His parents ran a small family business, taught him early on the importance of resilience, service, and staying grounded in community.

While still attending UFV, Kam launched a security company from the ground up. Within a year, he had built a 20-person team, secured 10 contracts, and created collaborative partnerships —

experiences that helped shape the values he brings to leadership today. During his time at UFV, he served as vice-president of the Accounting Students of the Fraser Valley and was a board member of the Business Administration Student Association.

"UFV assisted in moulding who I am as a person, and how I lead others, giving me a strong foundation, not just academically but personally," Kam says. "It's helped me as I connect with communities and approach challenges with curiosity and care."

Through his career he has mentored many CPA articling students at accounting firm MNP, where he's now a partner. Kam has encouraged his team members to attain the CAFM designation to better serve Indigenous communities. He firmly believes that leadership isn't about authority, but about responsibility, impact, and integrity.

"I wouldn't be where I am without mentorship," Kam says. "I want the next generation to feel empowered; to know they belong at the table, and that their voice matters."

Mamalilikulla First Nation Chief John Powell says Kam's team can learn a lot from him.

"One of Kam's most remarkable qualities is his ability to relate and connect personally with First Nations communities, and he approaches his work with cultural sensitivity and genuine respect for our traditions and values," John says. "This personal connection has fostered trust and collaboration, making Kam not just a consultant, but a true ally to our community."

At MNP, Kam is a vocal advocate for equity, inclusion, and reconciliation. He's helped lead conversations on pay equity, cultural sensitivity, and Indigenous engagement, and has supported firm-wide participation in initiatives like Orange Shirt Day and the Moosehide Campaign.

Kam's story is one of quiet leadership — of showing up consistently, building relationships rooted in respect, and believing deeply in the potential of others. His journey reminds us that real impact doesn't come from accolades, but from staying connected to your purpose.

"At the core of everything I do is the simple fact that I care," he says. "I want people to know they can pick up the phone and call me, and I'll be there to support them. It's really about partnership and giving back."



WATCH HIS STORY



OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER
AWARD RECIPIENT

Ashley McDougall
BA '25



While University of the Fraser Valley's (UFV) students were left stranded by a 124-day transit strike, Bachelor of Arts student Ashley McDougall refused to stay on the sidelines. As President of the UFV Student Union Society (SUS), she became the voice of thousands, negotiating directly with the BC Minister of Labour and speaking to provincial media until buses were rolling again.

Ashley's response in that moment of crisis is the perfect example of why she was chosen to receive the University of the Fraser Valley's 2025 Outstanding Student Leader Award: she consistently transforms advocacy into action. During her term as SUS Vice-President External, she successfully advocated for UFV's first Fall Reading Break—an initiative designed to give students vital academic and mental-health relief.

"In that dark, midterm season, a reprieve can make a real difference for mental health," says Ashley. "I was proud to present to Senate and see them vote to implement it—it's a testament to how UFV listens to student voices."

She also helped advance revisions to UFV's sexualized violence policy, ensuring a survivor-centred, trauma-informed approach to campus safety. Her advocacy reached the federal level through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), where she served on the Federal Policy Committee and helped shape national policies on mental health and campus sexualized violence, contributing to the federal government's \$500-million commitment to post-secondary mental-health funding.

While championing student concerns, Ashley maintained Dean's List standing in her Bachelor of Arts program, majoring in economics with a minor in political science. She earned an associate certificate in advanced French proficiency and gained research experience as a UFV research assistant, synthesizing and analyzing Canadian census data to support upper-level econometrics courses.

Her commitment to learning and service is also global. In January 2024 she represented UFV and Canada as a delegate to the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Global Peace Summit in Bangkok, collaborating with student leaders worldwide on conflict resolution and equity-driven policy solutions.

Ashley's influence is rooted in creating opportunities for others. She revived and led the UFV Economics Student Association, strengthening academic connections and mentoring emerging leaders. She also launched SUS's first large-scale event at UFV's Chilliwack campus—Backyard Bash—fostering inclusivity and community engagement. Currently, she serves on UFV's Board of Governors and as a board member of the Mountain Valley Express Society, where she advocates for accessible regional rail service to better connect the Fraser Valley.

Her exceptional qualities have also earned Ashley professional recognition beyond campus. She recently began working as a constituency assistant at her local Member of the Legislative Assembly's office, helping her community's residents navigate government programs and access vital resources. "Leadership and advocacy are really about the people around you," Ashley notes. "It's about empowering others, and I hope to keep championing students and encouraging them to get involved in leadership too."

From negotiating with government ministers to welcoming students at campus events, Ashley has proven that student leadership can create lasting change. Her ability to balance academic excellence with national advocacy and local community building sets a new standard for what it means to lead at UFV—and beyond.



WATCH HER STORY

UFV ALUMNI AWARDS

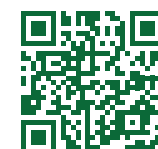
Outstanding Student Leader Award

Recognizing a UFV student who demonstrates leadership and creates positive impact on campus.



Distinguished Alumni and Young Distinguished Alumni Awards

Recognizing alumni who make an impact in their professions and communities.



Details at alumni.ufv.ca/awards

Partnerships & Alumni Benefits

Every UFV graduate automatically becomes a member of the UFV Alumni Association, creating an instant connection to a vibrant community. All alumni can access a range of exclusive benefits and privileges, both on and off campus.



AFFINITY BENEFITS

Great offers and discounts, and each partner gives back to the UFV Alumni Association

- Chaberton Estate Winery
- TD Insurance



CAMPUS BENEFITS

Discounts and services around the UFV campus

- UFV Library
- Centre for Experiential and Career Education
- UFV Bookstore
- Athletics
- Campus Recreation
- Summer camps



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Discounted tickets to upcoming events

- Bard in the Valley
- Chilliwack Chiefs
- Cassiar Film Co.
- Harrison Festival



APRIL 2025
Alumni and Friends Weekend

JUNE 2025
Alumni Celebration Plaza at Convocation

JUNE 2025
Indigenous Graduation Ceremony



AUGUST 2025
Alumni 3 vs. 3 Basketball Reunion

SEPTEMBER 2025
St'elt'elawtexw Celebration of Community



OCTOBER 2025
UFV Open House

NOVEMBER 2025
What to do with your Arts Degree Panel



NOVEMBER 2025
Community Ideation Jam



NOVEMBER 2025
Pave Your Own Career Path: Sustainability

JANUARY 2026
The Afternoon Exchange



MARCH 2026
College of Arts Showcase Alumni Panel

2025/26 at a glance

There are many ways to engage in alumni life, from highly anticipated annual traditions to valuable networking opportunities. Here are some highlights from the 2025/26 fiscal year.

THERE'S MORE! 

UFV Alumni Association Timeline

2001

UCFV Alumni Association incorporated as a society (April 11)

2000

First Alumni Association Board formed
Alumni Reunion held (May 6)

First edition of UCFV Aluminations newsletter published

2003

First Distinguished Alumni Award presented to Sherry Mumford

Alumni Homecoming event held (Sept 26/27)

2005

Alumni commemorative wine program established



2008

UFV's Great Hall renamed Alumni Hall

Alumni celebrate UFV's new status as a regional university

2013

UFV Alumni Association Bursary Endowment established (now at \$307,422)



2012

First Distinguished Young Alumni Award presented to Alex McAulay



2015

UFV Alumni Open golf tournament launched; raised nearly \$160,000 for students over its five-year run



2017

Alumni Leadership Endowment established (now at \$184,638)

2022

First Outstanding Student Leader Award presented to Manjot Benning

UFVAA's first Executive Director is hired



2014

UFV honours Top 40 Alumni as part of 40th Anniversary celebrations

Chandigarh chapter of Alumni Association established

2019

Outstanding Alumni Endowment established (now at \$49,286)

2023

UFV hits 50,000 alumni milestone

2025

UFV hosts inaugural UFV 50 Alumni & Friends Weekend



2026

UFVAA turns 25!

2024

UFV honours 50 Remarkable Alumni as part of 50th Anniversary celebrations

UFVAA 50 Years Forward > Annual Bursary is established



UFV Alumni Association celebrates 25 years of creating connections

It started small.

As in, selling Entertainment coupon books to keep afloat financially.

It started with heart.

As in, a small group of proud graduates from UFV (in its Fraser Valley College and University College of the Fraser Valley incarnations) who assembled and worked together to achieve the goal of giving back and formalizing a relationship with their university.

A strong alumni association turns graduates

into lifelong partners, strengthening community, opening doors for students, and amplifying the university's impact. The UFV Alumni Association marks 25 years since its incorporation as a society, and it has evolved into a true partner of the university.

Stacey Irwin was part of the small group of alumni who formed a volunteer board in 2000 to begin building UFV's Alumni Association. She later became the first chair after its official incorporation in 2001. (Terry-Lynn Stone served as founding chair in the first informal year. Other members of the 2000 board included Sandy Sasaki, Iris Todd-Lewis, Susan Taylor, Michelle Abbas, Blanca Hluskova, Robin Litzenberger, Susan McAlevy, Jillian Smith, Brent Newman, and Bob Warick.)

Their first goal was simple: find alumni.

With the help of UCFV's Community Relations and Development team they ran

a newspaper ad campaign highlighting well-known local alumni with taglines such as "Tim McAlpine is one. Are you?" and inviting alumni to identify themselves.

In 2000, they also partnered with UCFV to launch the Aluminations newsletter, featuring updates and stories about alumni.

The Alumni Association was incorporated as a society on April 11, 2001. More than 200 community members gathered at Minter Gardens in Chilliwack to celebrate that milestone, along with the creation of a UCFV Foundation.

The association also hosted the first alumni reunion, inviting alumni to the Abbotsford campus in May 2000 for a barbecue, beer garden, and campus tours. They hosted another homecoming in 2003, and took part, along with UCFV's Foundation, in a raffle for a Volkswagen Beetle.

Those early achievements notwithstanding,

it was a struggle to build the association, Stacey recalls.

"We started with nothing: no data, no direct funding, no identity," she recalls. "It took blood, sweat, and tears to keep the association alive, create sustained engagement (both internally and externally) and build a strong foundation, all from the side of our desks, as we worked at our regular jobs too."

Stacey stayed on as chair until 2008. By that time they had an office with staff, a budget from the university, Alumni Hall named in their honour, the start of some endowment awards, benefit packages for alumni, a memorandum of understanding, and the beginnings of a governance model. Stacey moved on to a role on the UFV Board of Governors.

"I'm guessing that I shook more than 10,000 hands at convocation over the years, and

put in more than 10,000 volunteer hours through those two roles."

Many more alumni have volunteered with the association over the years, including 11 chairs.

On the staffing side, UFV's Alumni Engagement team has grown into a dedicated full-time operation, including UFV alumna Whitney Fordham, who joined as manager in 2015 and is now director of Alumni Engagement and executive director of the Alumni Association. She reflects on the association's growth over 25 years.

"Over 25 years, the UFV Alumni Association has evolved from simply connecting graduates to building a community where alumni support one another and contribute to the success of the university, and the region," Whitney says.

UFV is known for its connection to community, and that is reflected in the spirit

of its alumni association.

"UFV is deeply rooted in community, and that shows in how personal our alumni relationships feel," Whitney says. "Even as we've grown, we've held onto that sense of connection and accessibility. So many alumni genuinely see this as their community. We're not just running programs, we're creating spaces where people can genuinely connect, support one another, and give back. And increasingly, we are creating opportunities for alumni to engage with and mentor current students."

As for the future, Whitney and the UFV Alumni Association board aim to expand the association's reach while maintaining that strong sense of connection.

"We want to create more meaningful ways for alumni to engage, and continue strengthening our role as a connector across communities."

Alumni Wine



SAVOUR THE VALLEY. SUPPORT STUDENTS.

Support UFV students—order your wine today!

Since 2005, the UFV Alumni Association has partnered with local wineries for its annual alumni wine program. Proceeds from the program support the UFV Alumni Association’s bursary fund to benefit UFV students.

ESTD 1991

CHABERTON
ESTATE WINERY

Scan to learn more,
or visit our website at
[www.alumni.ufv.ca/
benefits/alumni-wine/](http://www.alumni.ufv.ca/benefits/alumni-wine/)



Special thanks to the UFVAA 2025 alumni wine label artist



Rebekah Brackett has always found her way back to two things: art and community.

Rebekah, who has been chosen as the 2025 alumni wine label artist at UFV, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UFV in 2011. But her life’s journey has been intertwined with UFV for decades. Her connection to the university began in childhood, when she tagged

along to work with her parents and uncle — all UFV employees at the time — and continued through her years as a student, a custodian, a student services team member, and now a student counsellor.

“I’ve seen UFV change from the red-carpeted hallways and ashtrays in the bathrooms to what it has become today,” she says. “It really feels like home.”

With heritage from the Piikani First Nation (Aapátóhsipikáni), Rebekah’s artistic practice spans traditional and digital mediums: painting, drawing, mural work, and illustration. She finds inspiration in nature, music, and personal history. Her work often explores identity, grief, and belonging — themes that

are deeply personal and vividly reflected in the two pieces she contributed for the 2025 alumni wine labels.

The first piece, Morning Bull, features a powerful image of a bison emerging in the early light. It’s a nod to her Piikani heritage, family name, and an expression of her journey to reconnect with her Indigenous identity after being adopted during the Millennial Scoop: a continuation of the Sixties Scoop era that saw many Indigenous children removed from their family of origin and adopted by non-Indigenous families.

She spent the first 19 years of her life disconnected from her roots — unaware of her nation, her family, or even where she was from. Reuniting with her biological relatives and being embraced as “the lost child” marked the beginning of a profound cultural reconnection — one that continues to shape her life and art.

Her second piece, Owl, is a heartfelt tribute to her sister, who lost her battle to cancer in 2021. Owls were her sister’s favourite — white owls in particular — and Rebekah inherited many of her owl-themed belongings. After her sister passed away, she found herself unable to create anything for quite some time. While packing up after her first exhibition without her sister, her husband pointed out a large white owl perched nearby that was watching them.



Though she’s not an art therapist, she sees firsthand how creativity can offer comfort and expression.

“Art builds bridges,” she says. “It helps people speak without words.”

Outside of UFV, Rebekah is an active member of the local arts scene and continues to advocate for Indigenous voices in the arts. She sits on the board of directors for the Abbotsford Arts Council and teaches art classes in the community. Her work has appeared in both private and public collections across Alberta and British Columbia.

Whether walking her dogs along the river, gathering water from the ocean, lakes, and streams around the Fraser Valley for her watercolour practice, or mentoring young artists, Rebekah brings care and intention to everything she does.

“I believe we all have a responsibility to be present, to lend our voice, and to lift others up,” she says. “If my art can inspire just one person to share their story, then I’ve done what I set out to do.”

“That moment brought a sense of peace,” Rebekah says. “It felt like she was still with me.” When she finally picked up a pencil again, the first thing she drew was the white owl.

Today, Rebekah’s counselling work reflects the same themes as her art: empathy, connection, and healing.



Strategic Plan



VISION

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

VALUES

SERVICE:

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

EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE:

We recognize, respect, and celebrate all our alumni from all generations, geographies, cultures, and identities, for who they are and what they offer.

COLLABORATION:

We work openly and transparently with UFV, alumni, students, 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.

MISSION

The UFVAA will empower alumni to:

- Mentor and connect with other alumni through social and professional relationships.
- Collaborate with UFVAA, UFV, other alumni, and the communities in which they reside.
- Celebrate the diversity of UFV alumni.
- Champion alumni successes and the value of the UFV alumni status.
- Access personal, professional, and academic resources through UFVAA partnerships, programs, and events.
- Support fellow alumni, future alumni, and UFV, with time, treasure, and talent.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

ENGAGEMENT

To create space for alumni and students to connect, contribute, and grow. Programming, opportunities, experiences, and storytelling that incorporate shared wisdom from alumni, intentional discussion-based engagement, and the potential for long-term connections.

ADVOCACY

To activate alumni as advocates, incorporating one-time participation as well as long-term opportunities for alumni to engage municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government on behalf of UFV and its alumni.

PHILANTHROPY

To enable alumni to contribute their time, talent, and treasure to UFV and its students, recognizing that there are many ways alumni can give back to UFV and make a difference in the lives of others. To leverage the strength of alumni and partners to grow UFVAA endowments.

GOVERNANCE

To strengthen the Board of Directors and Executive Director, as well as key partners, by creating a robust governance model that empowers team members to engage effectively in their roles. To incorporate a continuous cycle of strategic planning into the fabric of our organization, allowing us to be nimble and agile as we face evolving circumstances.

ALUMNI STEWARDSHIP

To enhance and foster alumni stewardship and engagement across UFV. By collaborating and co-creating with our university partners, we can ensure that we are coordinating outreach to alumni in a way that is intentional and can result in a broader reach. This ensures that all alumni have opportunities to benefit from quality programs, interact with graduates from their faculties, and tap into a vast network of alumni. We can also ensure that we are tapping into the full potential of our existing partnerships.



2025/26 Financials

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025	2024
Assets			
Cash and Investments	\$185,412	\$167,227	\$152,353
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	\$185,412	\$167,227	\$152,353

Approved on behalf of the board



Bradley Menard
Chair, UFV Alumni Association



UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets (Unaudited)

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025	2024
Revenue:			
Convocation	21,509	20,198	20,004
Alumni Wear/Merchandise*	857	1,506	1,481
Affinity Programs	39,486	38,862	31,488
Interest Income	6,848	10,179	8,161
Commemorative Wine	5,180	9,745	5,407
Events	0	20	60
	\$73,880	\$80,511	\$66,602
Expenditures:			
Commemorative Wine	4,665	11,055	3,864
Convocation	6,000	6,000	5,000
Alumni Wear/Merchandise*	2,134	1,722	493
Insurance	1,470	1,515	1,443
Advertising	2,208	3,605	76
Miscellaneous	98	136	64
Sponsored Events	12,000	7,956	4,313
Awards	0	0	500
Events	1,878	765	540
Board Meetings	7,830	5,171	6,186
Board Meeting Travel	1,862	474	615
Website/Online Platform	50	48	43
Scholarships	15,000	23,000	4,000
Honoraria/Benefits	500	0	0
Special Initiatives	0	4,190	15,000
	\$55,695	\$65,637	\$42,137
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$18,185	\$14,874	\$24,466

*Actual fiscal total — no adjustment for inventory

TOP 5 REGIONS WHERE UFV ALUMNI RESIDE

- 1 – Fraser Valley (Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope): **34,897** alumni
- 2 – Metro Vancouver South Fraser (Surrey, Langley, Delta, White Rock): **8,056** alumni
- 3 – Metro Vancouver Centre (Burnaby, Vancouver, North Vancouver, Richmond): **2,412** alumni
- 4 – Metro Vancouver North Fraser (Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows): **1,831** alumni
- 5 – Thompson Okanagan: **529** alumni



ALUMNI BY GENERATION

13.90%
GEN Z
After 1996

37.70%
MILLENNIAL
1981 – 1995

22.80%
GEN X
1966 – 1980

10.40%
YOUNGER
BOOMER
1955 – 1965

4.20%
OLDER BOOMER
1946 – 1954

1.60%
MATURE
Pre-1946



by the numbers

alumni

**2025
2026**

54,868 total alumni

55 countries

5 departments received assistance with alumni email outreach (3) or departmental research projects (2)

1,261 alumni are donors

3,476 alumni volunteers on LinkedIn

107 contacts updated through Stay Connected

52 events (hosted, sponsored, or participated-in)

TOP EMPLOYERS OF UFV ALUMNI

Fraser Health Authority, UFV, Abbotsford School District

TOP INDUSTRIES FOR UFV ALUMNI

Hospital and Health Care, Higher Education, Government Administration, Retail, Financial Services

ENDOWMENT BALANCES

\$184,638.74

Balance in the UFV Alumni Association Leadership Award Endowment fund

\$307,422.10

Balance in the UFV Alumni Association Bursary Endowment fund

\$22,000.00

Funds allocated for distribution to students in FY 25/26

Connect with us @ufvalumni





Ways to Engage

Now over 54,000 strong, UFV's alumni are making a global impact. Across 55 countries, we are helping to grow our communities and the UFV Alumni Association looks to celebrate and support this monumental work.

By staying meaningfully connected with us and each other, we can work together to celebrate excellence, and to foster continuous growth.

Here are nine ways you can stay engaged with us, with UFV, and with each other.



STAY CONNECTED

Update your information and let us know what you're up to these days.



BE RECOGNIZED by sharing your story or nominating someone for a Distinguished or Young Distinguished Alumni Award.

ENJOY perks and benefits from a variety of affinity partners and community organizations.

HIRE students and alumni to help your organization succeed.

GIVE BACK and support students with much needed bursaries and scholarships.

VOLUNTEER with us as a member of our board, or as a guest speaker for an event.

GET SOCIAL and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn. Search @UFVAlumni

ADVANCE your career with workshops, resources, and job search tools.

SHOP and show your UFV pride with alumni-branded merchandise, available through the UFV bookstore.

NETWORK at UFV Alumni Association events and grow your connections.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Board

CHAIR

Bradley Menard (BGS '14, BAAE '21)

VICE-CHAIR

Tricia Taylor (AA '09, BA '10)

ASSOCIATE VICE-CHAIR

Alex Parkinson (BA '18)

DIRECTORS

Aman Khinda (BBA '18)

Harman Rathore (BBA '15)

Michelle Vandepol (BGS '19)

Matt Kidwell (BBA '16)

Tarndeeep (Tarn) Chattu-Reehal (BBA '21)

Nikiel Lal (BKin '23)

Graham Petek (BA '20)

Tristan Taylor (Dip '23)

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Q'um Q'um Xiiem Dr. Jo-ann Archibald (DLitt '22), UFV Chancellor

Tony Dhaliwal (BA '12), Chair Emeritus

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UFV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Whitney Fordham (MPA, BBA '09)

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UFV BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Pankratz (UT '80), Director

Kim McLandress (BA '02, MA '10), Director

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UFV SENATE

Aman Khinda (BBA '18)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Office

YOUR Alumni Engagement team is 100% comprised of UFV alumni, representing the communities of Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, and Maple Ridge.

DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Whitney Fordham MPA, (BBA '09)

MANAGER, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Bryan Candy (BA '08)

COORDINATOR, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Luisa Maria Torres MBA

STRATEGIST, DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Anthony Biondi (BA '15)



Get in touch with the alumni office at alumni@ufv.ca



ALUMNI.UFV.CA