

FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter sharing extraordinary work within the Faculty of Science

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." – Albert Einstein

Pluk'wentwécw



We gather, or we meet, collectively as a group.

In the spirit of aligning with TRU's values and strategic change goals, supporting and honoring Secwépemc culture, "Pluk'wentwécw" was chosen to represent the continuation of on-going conversations, between faculty members and the Dean, formally known as VACCINE.

Garry Goffriedson, TRU Secwepemc Cultural Advisor, shares the pronunciation, intent and meaning behind the word Pluk'wentwécw.

<https://youtu.be/1HryQ9hGmJY>

This continued initiative provides faculty with an opportunity to meet with the Dean every two weeks, allows the Dean to take the temperature on faculty's mental health and well being in addition to providing opportunities for faculty to share experiences, ask questions and connect with each other.

Science Strategic Plan

The Faculty of Science Strategic Academic Plan 2021-2026 passed unanimously on September 1st, 2021, after employing a broad consultation process and analysis of faculty and staff opinion. The development of the Plan recognizes the changing landscape of post-secondary education in Canada and aligns with the institutional goals that Thompson Rivers University (TRU) has set for itself as it evolves.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE **STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLAN**

2021-2026

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



Ethnobotany Workshop



In collaboration with the School of Nursing, the Faculty of Science hosted a Secwépemc Ethnobotany workshop on Saturday, Oct 2. June Anthony-Reeves from “Up the Hill at Loakin” guided faculty and staff through the use of traditional medicines—including the honourable and sustainable harvesting of fruits, shoots, roots and barks—in holistic health. We are so grateful to June for sharing her wisdom with us.

Veterinary Technology

The Veterinary Technology Open Learning program has increased the number of students by 20 seats. Enrollment January 2022 will be for 50 students, with over 200 applicants the program updating is receiving grand reviews from the profession.

The VTEC onsite program is off to a great start this fall as well with the largest number of students in our program’s

history- 49 students. With this many students you can imagine that our onsite animals are receiving wonderful care and will soon be up for adoption.

For information on adoption of our animals fill out an application here: <https://www.tru.ca/science/diplomas-certificates/vtech/adoptions.html>



Biological Sciences

Members of the Department of Biological Sciences have done extraordinary work keeping undergraduate students involved in independent research during the pandemic. In addition to supporting students in applying for research grants (e.g., UREAP, USSRA), and engaging them as volunteers in the field and lab, department members supervised a total of 26 students doing Directed Studies projects in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, as well as 4 doing Honours projects during this time.

Currently, 12 students are enrolled in Directed Studies and 6 in Honours. While many were involved in this, Dr. Matt Reudink took on 7 of the Directed Studies students and supervised all 3 of the B.Sc. students who graduated with honours degrees in June 2021 (and currently has 3 more students doing honours projects).



Grants

Dr. Yan Yan, in collaboration with Dr. Sarah Dow-Fleisner and Dr. Xiaoping Shi from UBCO, have been awarded a \$50,000 grant by the Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) from Sept. 2021 to Sept. 2022. Their research project is "Examining the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in Canada: A Combined Statistics and Machine Learning Equity-Informed Study."

Publications

Dr. Emad Muhammad, in the Engineering & Applied Science Department, along with 4 faculty members from the University of Calgary, recently had a paper published by Nature on COVID-19, "An ensemble learning approach to digital corona virus preliminary screening from cough sounds."

Dr. Javed Tomal, in the Mathematics & Statistics Department, along with Hafizur Rahman from the School of Business and Economics, had a published in Springer that has been widely referenced by media titled, "A Bayesian piecewise linear model for the detection of breakpoints in housing prices"

Dr. Greg Anderson, Dean of the Faculty, has two recent publications:

Building personal resilience following an online resilience training program for BScN students. *Western Journal of Nursing*. 2021.

CCWORK Protocol: A Longitudinal Study of Canadian Correctional Workers' Well-being, Organizations, Roles and Knowledge. *BMJ Open*, 2021.

Greg also has presented a Town Hall Meeting for the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment entitled "Occupational, Personal, and Psychological Impact of COVID-19 and changing public health order restrictions" and for the BC First Responders' Mental Health Speaker Series.

Dr. Anderson will be recognized as a "Founder" of the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment that serves as the Knowledge Exchange Hub for knowledge synthesis, translation, and exchange that relies upon the best contemporary research evidence supporting an overall mission to help current and former public safety personnel, their leaders, and their families to maintain and improve their mental health and well-being.
