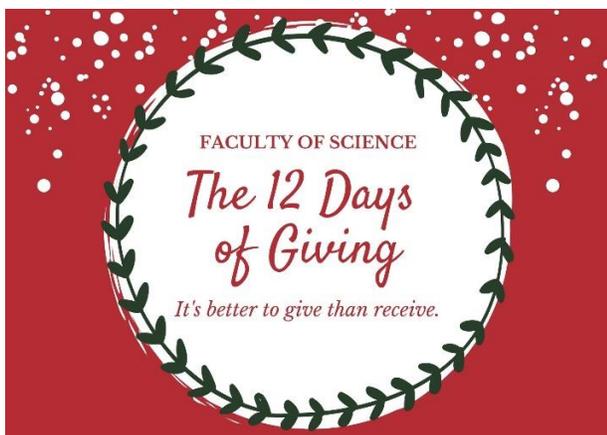


FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter sharing extraordinary work within the Faculty of Science

“Think like a proton, stay positive.”

In the spirit of giving, kindness and spreading holiday cheer, the Dean’s Office launched “*The 12 Days of Giving*” campaign at the end of November. The purpose of The 12 Days of Giving was two-fold: to provide our faculty with a stress-reducing, feel-good and covid-friendly activity, in lieu of a holiday get-together, and to show our students that we continue to care and support them this past holiday season. We teamed up with TRUSU’s food bank to help our students get the food they need. The campaign ran Monday, November 30th to Friday December 11th. The Faculty of Science donated \$1,410.



Faculty spent hundreds of hours providing voluntary coverage in addition to the monumental task of converting both lecture and labs to an online environment. Many of our faculty brought portions for the field component to the online world by filming field trips to improve the learning environment, investing time making lab and field-based videos and revising lab manuals.

As Biology’s Biosafety Rep, Mark Rakobowchuk took on the task of developing the safety plan for the Biology Dept. and its labs. Jamie Lee Ushko and Kathy Baethke, Biology technicians, played a vital role by keeping the non-human denizens of the Lepin building (numerous animals, plants and microbes) alive and provided support for various instructors.



Supported by a \$50,000 NSERC Alliance Grant, Drs. John Church, Joanna Urban and Kingsley Donkor are working toward the development of an antiviral nasal spray and mouthwash using high-cannabidiol (CBD) extracts, terpenes, and nitric oxide with the goal of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Sonia Walczak received the “British Columbia Registered Veterinary Technologist of the Year Award” and Heather Shannon received the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada “Making a Difference” Award. The Animal Health Program has been running for over 35 years and celebrated its highest enrolment of students in its history.

The Respiratory Therapy program increased the Fast-Track RT student cohort by 20 students this past semester, in response to an increased demand for respiratory therapists in the health care system.

VACCINE, a spontaneous conversation with no agenda, was launched in the later part of 2020. Every two weeks, Dean Anderson welcomes faculty to join him for coffee and conversation.

This new initiative 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, ways to reduce stress, ask questions and connect with each other.



Research Corner

The Dean encourages faculty to highlight research success (publications, grants and invited speaker presentations). For example, Dean Anderson has been invited to present at the BC First Responders’ Mental Health Speakers Series January 21, 2021. He also published his seventh paper this year in December:

Anderson, G. S., Di Nota, P. M., Groll, D., & Carleton, R. N. (2020). Peer support and crisis-focused psychological interventions designed to mitigate post-traumatic stress injuries among public safety and frontline healthcare personnel: a systematic review. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(20), 7645.