

FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter sharing extraordinary work within the Faculty of Science

“Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe.”– Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer

Collectively, the Faculty of Science worked swiftly and tirelessly to adapt to a new way of teaching and working, converting lectures, labs and fieldwork to an online environment amidst the pandemic, in addition to welcoming a new Dean and Assistant to the Dean. Virtual award and graduation ceremonies bridged the distance and saw over one hundred attendees with family attending from around the world.

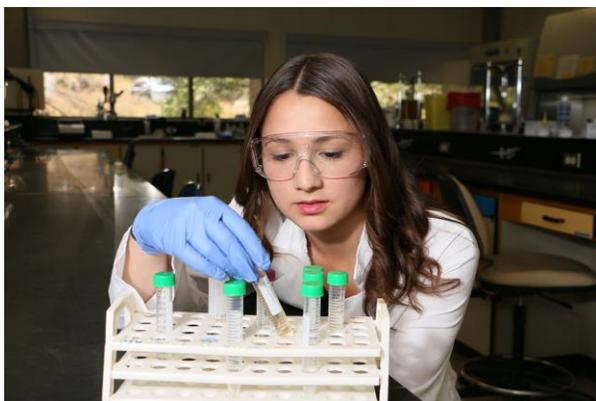
Animal Health Technology Parasitology students have collaborated with the BC Wildlife Park to perform diagnostic fecal exams on their animals to help support public relationships. AHT also took in 27 cats from local rescues and shelters, being the largest group of cats ever adopted out as people prepared to shelter in place and wanted a furry face to cuddle through the uncertainty.



Allison Innes-Wiens, coordinator for the RT Outpatient Clinic, has been working extensively with Interior Health Authority representatives to set up a collaborative IHA/TRU community Respiratory Therapy clinic. Both TRU and IHA will work



together to help the community meet the need for greater access to community-based care. Respiratory Therapy program faculty member, Dave Sheets, is working closely with government and hospital stakeholders to create and coordinate separate Anesthesia Assistant Program fast-track cohorts to meet the desperate need for this profession.



Research continues to evolve and progress in the Physical Sciences, with a new microscopy suite as a collaboration between physics, geology and biology that will give students and researchers new opportunities. A physics student, along with an Alumni, collaborated on a paper titled “Index-matching Computer Tomography” which is in final publication preparation for the American Journal of Physics. As well, four students have collaborated on an experiment to send up in Canada’s zero gravity airplane, The Falcon I, by using acoustic power to trap and measure particle forces in suspended crystals.

John Karakatsoulis and Sherry Bennett personally reached out to students and applicants in the NRS program, increasing enrollment in Fall 2020 over the previous year. Wendy Gardner’s effort to recruit and retain MSc students helped sustain the program.

Faculty members, Lindsay Blackstock in Chemistry and Mridula Sharma in Computing successfully completed their PhD’s. Jon Van Hamme joined the *Canadian Journal of Microbiology* as an

Editor. Jon also made a rapid response to the pandemic by securing funding from NSERC Alliance COVID-19 so that he and Eric Bottos could lead a team tracking the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 genetic material in the Kamloops sewershed.

Following the successful launch of the “Natural Resource Science Hub” on Moodle by Wendy Gardner, Nancy Flood and Matt Reudink cajoled their colleagues to add to a special “Biology Hub” Moodle course designed to reassure students, let them know what to expect and welcome them to the Department of Biological Sciences.



While this pandemic has brought significant changes to the way we work, the Faculty of Science has worked exceptionally hard to culture resilience, stability, connection and support in addition to achieving extraordinary accomplishments within the department.

