

FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

October 2022

Monthly newsletter sharing extraordinary work within the Faculty of Science

"A student is not a container you have to fill but a torch you have to light up" – Albert Einstein

General Science -

On Sunday, October 23rd, Science Staff and Faculty from TRU's Kamloops Campus mobilized to support the annual Faculty of Science Adopt a Road Program with a clean-up of Hillside Drive between McGill and Notre Dame.

Allied Health –

David Sheets, Associate Teaching Professor, academic lead for the Anesthesia Assistant Program is excited to report student success on the national Anesthesia Assistant exam. TRU students taking this exam made up over 60% of national exam writers, having a pass rate of 97% versus the 92% national pass rate, with two TRU students earning the top exam marks of 95%.

Biological Sciences –

Biology Associate Teaching Professor, Christine Petersen developed an engaging field trip for students in [BIO 2170](#) where they investigated the ecological effects of the July 1, 2021, Juniper Ridge wildfire. Take note of difference between the landscape 'Control' on the left and the 'Burn' on the right in the picture below.

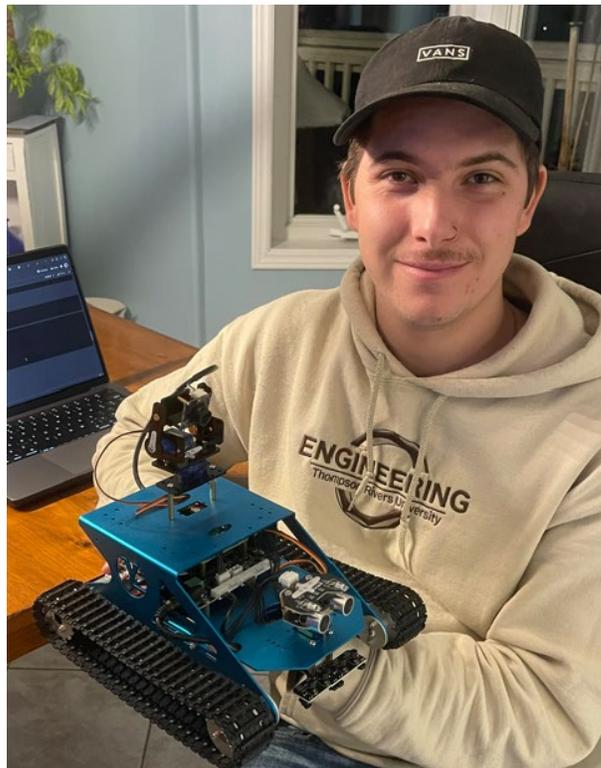


Chemistry –

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Club celebrated its 32nd annual Erlenmeyer Cup on October 7th. A BBQ was held for the winning team, 'The Element of Surprise,' and participants of this event.

Engineering –

Dr. Emad Mohammed sponsored Landon McKay, a second-year Indigenous student in the [Software Engineering Program](#) through the Thompson Rivers University's Research Apprenticeship Fund.



Pictured above, Landon McKay is studying and developing deep-learning models for plant disease identification. Landon plans to deploy his project in a greenhouse by implementing these deep-learning models on a Yahboom robot.

Dr. Emad Mohammed sponsored Emiliano Garcia Ochoa, a third-year student in the Software Engineering Program through TRU's Research Apprenticeship Fund. Emiliano will study and discover the common patterns between COVID-19 and Alzheimer's disease by developing several machine-learning models to analyze cough and speech data collected from COVID-19 and Alzheimer's patients.

The Faculty of Science's Software Engineering Program was pleased to have hosted School District #73 high school students from Valleyview and Norkam Secondary at TRU's Open House event. During these introductory visits, students, parents, and teachers learned about TRU's Software Engineering Program, where they were engaged in two experiments in Engineering labs and participated in a career talk.

Dr. Emad Mohammed, chair of the Engineering Department, is delighted to receive an invitation from the Canadian Research Coordinating Council (CRCC) – Tri-Agency Research Council of Canada to join the multidisciplinary review panel for the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Exploration competition 2022.

Dr. Sina Keshvadi, a new Assistant Professor at the Department of Engineering, Software Engineering Program, was invited to join the [Program Committee](#) at the Passive and Active Measurement Conference 2023.

Dr. Saiqa Aleem, a new Assistant Professor in the Software Engineering Program, visited the grade 9 career class at Valleyview Secondary school. During this visit, Dr. Aleem introduced career opportunities in the gaming industry with a review of the skills needed to succeed.

Natural Resource Sciences –

TRU's Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching facilitated the annual Careers in Forestry Night in the Campus Activity Centre with a career networking event with regional forestry employers providing information tables and booths for students to discuss career opportunities in the forestry industry.

Veterinary Technology (VTEC)

The [Veterinary Technology](#) Onsite Program helped the SPCA Kamloops Branch with their feral cat day on October 14, 2022. The [BCSPCA](#) sent a huge thank you to everyone involved in the feral cat spay/neuter clinic. With the help of TRU students, teachers, and surgery costs

covered by the SPCA Hospital Trust Fund, they spayed/neutered 18 feral cats!



These kitties were vaccinated and dewormed courtesy of Zoetis and Boeinger. A huge shout out to SPCA's Lyndsay Stewart, TRU's Sonia Walczak and Janie Herbert for organizing this successful event ❤️

Publications

[Dr. Greg Anderson, Dean of TRU's Faculty of Science](#) co-authored with Andrews, K., Jamshidi, L., Nisbet, J., Teckchandani, T.A., Price, J.A.B., Ricciardelli, R., Anderson, G.S., Carleton, R.N. [Exposures to Potentially Psychologically Traumatic Events Among Canadian Coast Guard and Conservation and Protection Officers. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health.](#) 2022, 19(22), 15116; doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192215116 (IF=4.61)