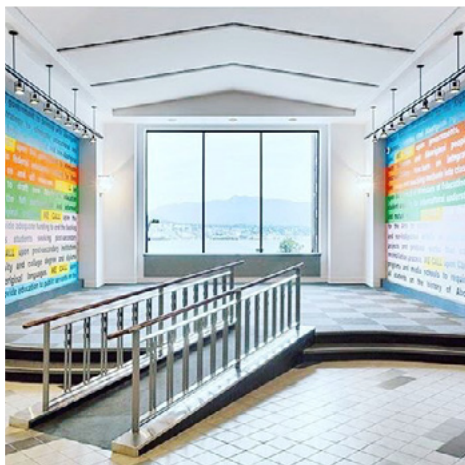




#SFUAlumni

YEAR IN REVIEW: April 2017 - March 2018



SFU news and research



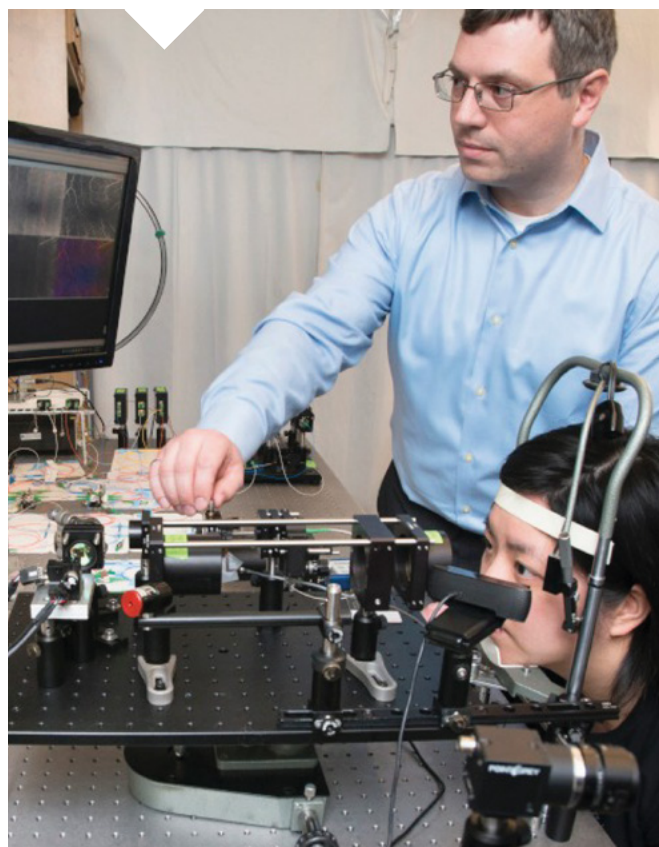
SFU BEGINS ITS JOURNEY TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

SFU's Aboriginal Reconciliation Council (SFU-ARC) unveiled its final report, "Walk this Path With Us," summoning the university to address 33 calls to action organized into four key areas. The report lays the groundwork for the university community to further its collaborative journey towards reconciliation. "Simon Fraser University is committed to being an instrument for reconciliation," says SFU President Andrew Petter. "The work of SFU-ARC and its calls to action will help us advance our efforts to support indigenous students, respect indigenous knowledge and strengthen ties with indigenous peoples and communities." Since SFU-ARC was established, SFU has committed \$9 million in university funding to advance reconciliation projects.



NEW LASER SCANNERS SHED LIGHT ON EYE DISEASE

SFU engineering scientist Marinko Sarunic has developed new retinal imaging scanners that could revolutionize eye care, helping ophthalmologists diagnose eye diseases before vision loss occurs. Sarunic's high-resolution laser scanner is on the cutting edge of vision science because it can produce high-resolution, 3-D cross-section images of the retina—including individual photoreceptors and fine capillaries or blood vessels. Unlike other high-resolution retinal scanners, which are the size of a billiard table, Sarunic's is the size of a shoe box. It's perfect for everyday use in medical clinics and hospitals.



SFU'S INNOVATIVE ACTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM HELPING STUDENTS

The Active Health Program, a collaboration between SFU Health and Counselling Services and SFU Recreation, offers students with moderate to severe depression and anxiety an option to supplement their treatment with exercise. Students partner with certified SFU personal trainers and participate in physical activity specifically designed for them. They also have regular visits with a mental health nurse and a physician who provide support and monitor progress. More than 90 students have benefitted from the program since 2014.

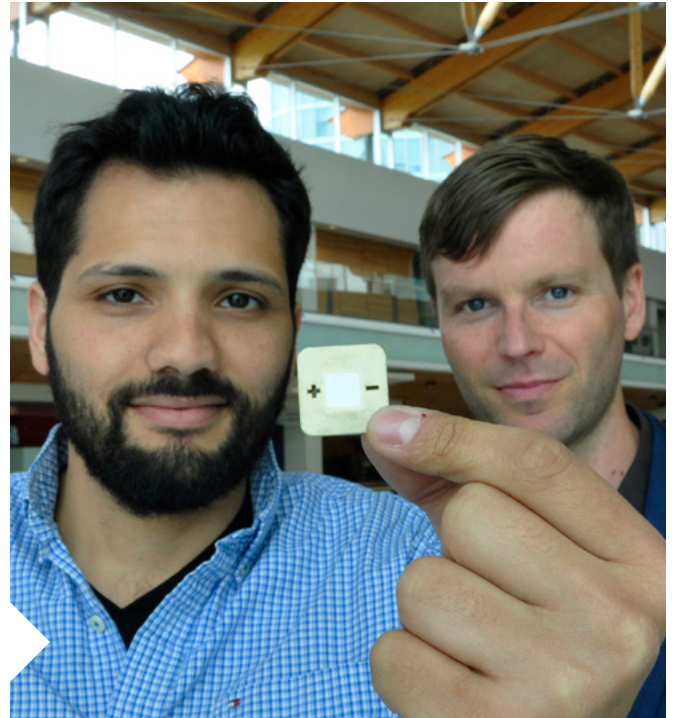


NEW WELCOME FIGURE AT HOME IN HARBOUR CENTRE

SFU erected a new welcome figure in the Harbour Centre foyer of the Vancouver campus. Carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow, the figure honours the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam territories on which SFU Vancouver is located. Approximately 500 hours went into finishing the figure, which was created from a 225-year old red cedar log, weighing about 600 pounds and standing 11 feet high.

THIS TINY 'CELL' PACKS POWER – THEN CAN BE TOSSED AWAY

SFU researchers are developing a tiny power source that activates with only a few drops of water and can provide up to 100 minutes of instant power before being tossed away. The patent-pending biodegradable PowerPAD is a single-use disposable battery—a mere inch in diameter—in which water stimulates a chemical reaction that changes the oxidization of its atoms. The result is instant power capable of running a variety of portable electronic devices, such as diagnostic devices operating at 1.5 to 3.0 volts, where it can directly replace a lithium ion coin cell battery.



ANY ACTIVITY – FROM WORKOUTS TO HOUSEWORK – IS GOOD FOR THE HEART

An international team of scientists, led by SFU health sciences professor Scott Lear, has found that physical activity of any kind—from gym workouts to housecleaning —can help prevent heart disease and even death. Lear's team demonstrated that any activity is good for people, simply by raising their heart rates for 30 minutes a day or 150 minutes a week. Researchers found that by meeting these activity guidelines, the risk of death from any cause was reduced by 28 per cent, while heart disease was reduced by 20 per cent. The comprehensive study involved more than 130,000 people from 17 countries.



Inspiring alumni



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Have you ever wanted to warn people about bad restaurant food, ask for help in a class or pitch an idea at work—but didn't have the nerve? Now there's an app for that, thanks to alumnus Jon Harris. Using GPS signals, BuzzIt lets users post messages in a common location (such as a classroom or event) without compromising their privacy; nearby users can click on the post to join a live chat on that topic. Harris and lifelong friend Jeremy Jackson created BuzzIt to help people share ideas and build connections, free from sharing personal contact information. The pair received support through SFU's Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection.



TOP COP!

Constable Mike Bal was named a 2017 top 40 law-enforcement professional under the age of 40 for his leadership and commitment to police work from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Bal, an SFU grad and eight-year veteran with the Vancouver Police Department, helped to launch several community initiatives and has participated in outreach to keep youth away from gang activity. He has spent the past two years as a school-liaison officer at Thompson Secondary and eight elementary schools comprising 2,000 students. "Working with young people who demonstrate so much drive and energy motivates me to dedicate myself toward their goals and be the inspiration for them to reach for their best," he affirms.



KEEPING SENIORS HEALTHY AT HOME

When Christina Chiu encountered a misplaced care plan at a care facility, it got her thinking about how care is delivered to seniors who live on their own. This led Chiu to create CareCrew, a seniors care management app designed to relieve stress on families by helping them monitor, track and relay essential information to the right people at the right time. The tool helps seniors receive consistent, transparent and quality home care.

EXPLORING CANADA'S ANCIENT INDIGENOUS PAST

SFU alumnus and archaeology professor Rudy Reimer spent last summer filming for season two of APTN's television show "Wild Archaeology." Reimer co-hosts the program, the first documentary TV series to explore the archaeological record of Canada's Indigenous peoples from their point of view. "The show brings to life over 12,000 years of human history in Canada," says Reimer, a member of the Squamish Nation. "It features current, cutting-edge research in collaboration with First Nations peoples that will change how we understand the past."



REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT

Christina Wong is an activist dedicated to eliminating poverty and homelessness in Vancouver. Together with her business partner Stephanie Chan, they started Employ to Empower (ETE), a social enterprise centered around employment as a realistic and long-term solution to drastically reduce homelessness. ETE aims to integrate low-income individuals in the Downtown Eastside back into society through dignified employment that reflects their dream jobs, at participating companies. ETE recently launched Communauté, an online fashion resale platform where 50 per cent of every purchase goes directly to the wage of the individuals that ETE places in jobs.



OVERCOMING EXTRAORDINARY OBSTACLES TO COMPLETE DEGREE

Returning to university later in life can be a challenge, but Cheryl Schweizer of the Tlaxt'en Nation encountered more impediments than usual. A teacher of Aboriginal language and culture throughout the Prince George School District, she drove nine hours bi-weekly to attend classes at the Surrey campus. Weeks into her Master of Education program, she suffered a major stroke, had open heart surgery days later and needed rehabilitation work to overcome significant brain damage from the stroke. She would head back to SFU classes in summer 2017, commuting through forest fires near Kamloops, to complete her degree and defend her comprehensive exams in time to convocate in October of 2017.



Alumni impact



Funds donated from alumni:

\$8,340,644

Total number of alumni donors:

5,296 

76%



of SFU donors are alumni

A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH CARE FOR OTHERS

With her passion for lifelong learning and caring for others, Pat Blunden's commitment to advance society through education strikes the right chord. A loyal supporter of SFU since she graduated from its gerontology program in 1984, she donates annually to the library and, with matching funds from SFU, established the Pat Blunden Bursary Endowment in 2006 to help undergraduate students in financial need.

"I just wanted to help the next generation of Canadians become great and productive," says Blunden, who once feared she would never have the chance to attend university.

Growing up in Hong Kong, her family life and education were impacted by World War II and Japanese occupation. She eventually completed a three-year diploma in physiotherapy in London, England before moving with her husband to Vancouver in 1963. Blunden raised three young children and worked at Shaughnessy Hospital, which exclusively treated veterans at the time, until a family inheritance made it possible for her to fulfill her dream. Blunden obtained a BSc from UBC in 1981, was among the first students admitted to SFU's gerontology program when it began and, now in her 80s, takes non-credit courses for seniors at SFU's Harbour Centre.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS IS PAYING IT FORWARD

As an international student-athlete from Norway, Frode Strand-Nielsen led scoring for the 1978 men's soccer team that set an SFU 20-win record which still stands. He would become a leader off the field as well, founding FSN Capital, a top Northern European private equity firm recognized for its commitment to responsible and ethical investment. Strand-Nielsen established SFU's first \$1 million athletic scholarship endowment in support of men's soccer.

"Frode's generosity means everything to our program," said head coach Clint Schneider. "It was always Frode's dream to have international student-athletes follow in his footsteps because he had such a great experience here. We owe it to him to continue to attract the top international kids and to compete for a national championship every year." The 2011 team was undefeated and ranked No. 1 in NCAA; teams advanced to the Final Four in 2012 and 2013.

Strand-Nielsen was recently inducted into the SFU Athletics Hall of Fame and received an SFU Outstanding Alumni Award for Professional Achievement in 2017 for his exceptional contribution to local and global communities.





FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS LEADS ALUMNUS TO GIVE BACK

These days, it's common—and, in the case of SFU, a vital part of learning innovation—for students to develop entrepreneurial skills and launch businesses while in university. Not so in the 1970s, when student athlete Gatis Roze opened the first sporting goods store on campus. Armed with a BA in economics and kinesiology, Roze eventually sold the successful enterprise to help fund a MBA at Stanford and went on to launch several start-ups in Silicon Valley. He recently made a generous commitment to his alma mater by dedicating a gift to SFU in his estate plan.

"SFU provided a strong foundation for everything I've achieved," Roze says, "and my hope is that SFU graduates make the same claim and long-term commitment."

Early entrepreneurial success gave him the opportunity to "retire" at age 40. Since then, Roze has worked full-time as a stock market investor, taught sold-out investment courses in the Seattle area and co-authored an investment book with his son, Grayson, titled *Tensile Trading: The 10 Essential Stages of Stock Market Mastery*. He also served on SFU's Alumni Association Board and has hosted a number of alumni receptions at his residence.

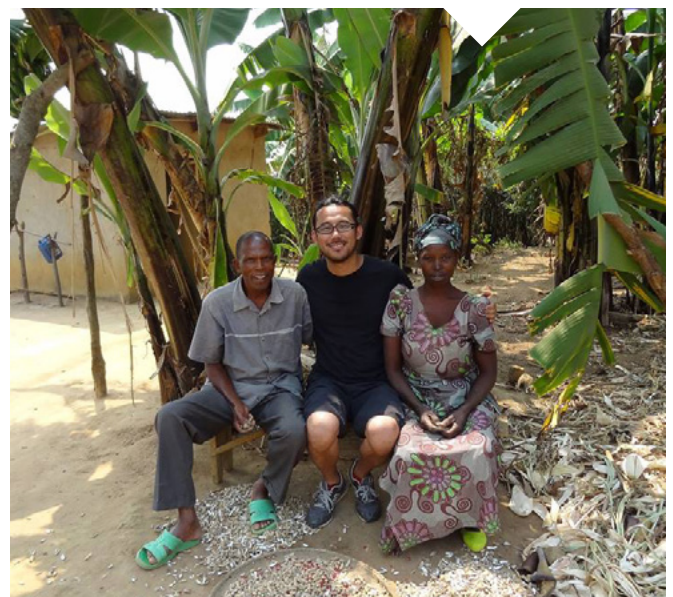
DONORS SENDING STUDENTS TO RWANDA TO AID IN RECONCILIATION EFFORTS

For many people, giving peace a chance is a memorable song lyric and a wish for our world. For SFU alumnus and professor Masahiro Minami it's the focus of his research efforts to prevent war and support healing through reconciliation. This summer, Minami will lead a volunteer group of 10 people, including seven SFU students, in Rwanda as part of SFU's Globe in Peace project. The team raised more than \$23,000 through crowdfunding on USEED@SFU to support the trip and related costs.

"When offered this unique opportunity to contribute to the project, my immediate answer was yes. I'm excited to be part of a project that is grounded in healing and peace," says SFU student Angelica Columbus.

Minami developed the Action-Based Psychosocial Reconciliation Approach (ABPRA) during his doctoral studies in counselling psychology, and piloted the method with 16 genocide survivors and perpetrators in two Rwandan villages over two years. With ABPRA, instead of asking for forgiveness, ex-perpetrators offer their free weekly labour as a concrete expression of their apology to survivors whose loved ones were killed. If the survivor accepts, the pair then work alongside each other, creating an opportunity for meaningful experiences through purposeful action.

Minami founded and co-directs SFU Globe in Peace to bring researchers and students together to test his reconciliation approach on a larger scale and gauge its effectiveness. In August, each volunteer will deliver and assess the method with three survivor/perpetrator pairs per week. The group will be in Rwanda for three weeks.



Future alumni

TRACKING 'BEE TALK' TO HELP IMPROVE HONEY BEE HEALTH

SFU graduate student Oldooz Pooyanfar is monitoring what more than 20,000 honeybees housed in hives in a Cloverdale field are “saying” to each other, looking for clues about their health. Pooyanfar’s technology, which she developed at SFU, is gleaning communication details from sound within the hives through her beehive monitoring system. She says improving knowledge about honey bee activity is critical, given a 30 per cent decline in the honeybee population over the past decade in North America.



BIG DATA STUDENTS EXPLORE SOLUTIONS FOR REAL-WORLD MINING OPERATIONS

A team of three big data master’s students won first prize at Uearthed Vancouver, a 54-hour open innovation hackathon focused on the mining and resources sector that attracted more than 100 participants. The students’ solution addressed the costly problem of unplanned equipment downtime—or the length of time equipment is taken out of service for unscheduled maintenance. Using regression and classification techniques, Aakash Moghariya, Steve Matson and Ruturaj Patel developed a machine-learning platform to help operations supervisors and service technicians predict haul truck failure and maintenance planning.





SIAT STUDENTS WIN BIG AT USER EXPERIENCE AWARDS

For the second consecutive year, students from SFU's School of Interactive Arts and Technology (SIAT) have come out on top at the Vancouver User Experience (UX) Awards. Future alumni Robyn Goodridge, Sean Leach and Chris Elawa took first prize in the UX Design by Students category for their project with the American Civil Liberties Union. The team developed an online hub called The Crisis Centre, which serves as a "keeper and deployer of legal resources for individuals in urgent need of help in protecting their civil liberties." The hub was designed in response to the current tumultuous political climate in the U.S. A second SIAT student team took the People's Choice Award for its work with the Canadian Olympic Committee to advance gender equity in sports.



VIRTUAL REALITY PROMPTS HUMAN CONNECTIONS THROUGH AWE

Imagine seeing Earth from space or actually walking in another's shoes, then sharing those perspectives—both are outstanding experiences now made possible through immersive Virtual Reality (VR). Denise Quesnel, a PhD student in SFU's iSpace Lab, studies whether VR can produce profound emotional shifts, including awe and wonder—and how this can be applied in positive ways for wellness and social interconnectivity. "We hope to move past VR's reputation as a gaming environment and show that there is so much more possible," says Quesnel, whose research focuses on immersive realities, specifically the creation and design of virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) content and interfaces for these emotional shifts. She spent more than a decade in the film and VFX industry, and in 2015 launched the VR/AR program VR Village, which has become one of the most popular immersive programs globally.

SFU achievements



SFU is designated as the first Ashoka U Changemaker Campus in B.C.

Simon Fraser University's commitment to social innovation leadership has been recognized with its designation as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus. SFU is one of just over 40 global institutions to pass this rigorous process, and is the first university in British Columbia to be designated.



Maclean's Rankings

For the ninth time in 10 years, SFU topped the Maclean's Magazine University rankings in the comprehensive universities category.



SFU wins bid to host international education conference

Simon Fraser University has been selected as the lead host for Vancouver 2020, the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) conference in Vancouver, March 23–26, 2020.



SFU engagement process earns 2017 Environmental Star

SFU has received a 2017 Environmental Star award from the City of Burnaby for the comprehensive planning and engagement process used to write the University's first community-developed 20-year Sustainability Vision and Goals.



Top Employer

Simon Fraser University has once again been named one of Canada's best employers in the 2018 Canada's top 100 Employers competition. SFU was also selected in 2017 for Canada's Top Family-Friendly Employers and B.C.'s Top Employers.

Front cover images by Instagram users (top left to lower right): @joerinthecity, @sfuvan, @hargreaves, @sfugalleries, @vegasrose666, @calvenw, @_iamjet_, @derandru, @sfuwbb, @captgui, @greg_chute, @sfusurrey
Back cover images by Instagram users: @sfubeedie, @sfusurrey, @monkey_xn, @sfu_mbb, @jess_travels, @lhycody.photography, @christineyoungusband, @tiffanologist, @sfubhangraclub, @bryonyollier

With appreciation



We're so grateful for the many ways our more than 150,000 alumni engage with SFU. Thank you for choosing to:

mentor future alumni,

hire students for internships
and co-op placements,

organize or **attend** events,



our social media posts,

read our emails,

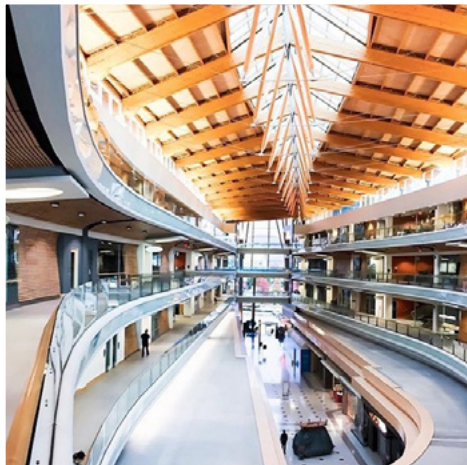
provide **philanthropic support**
to help future alumni succeed,


act as **ambassadors** and help us
build connections in our community.





Here's to creating more opportunities to stay
connected to SFU!






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