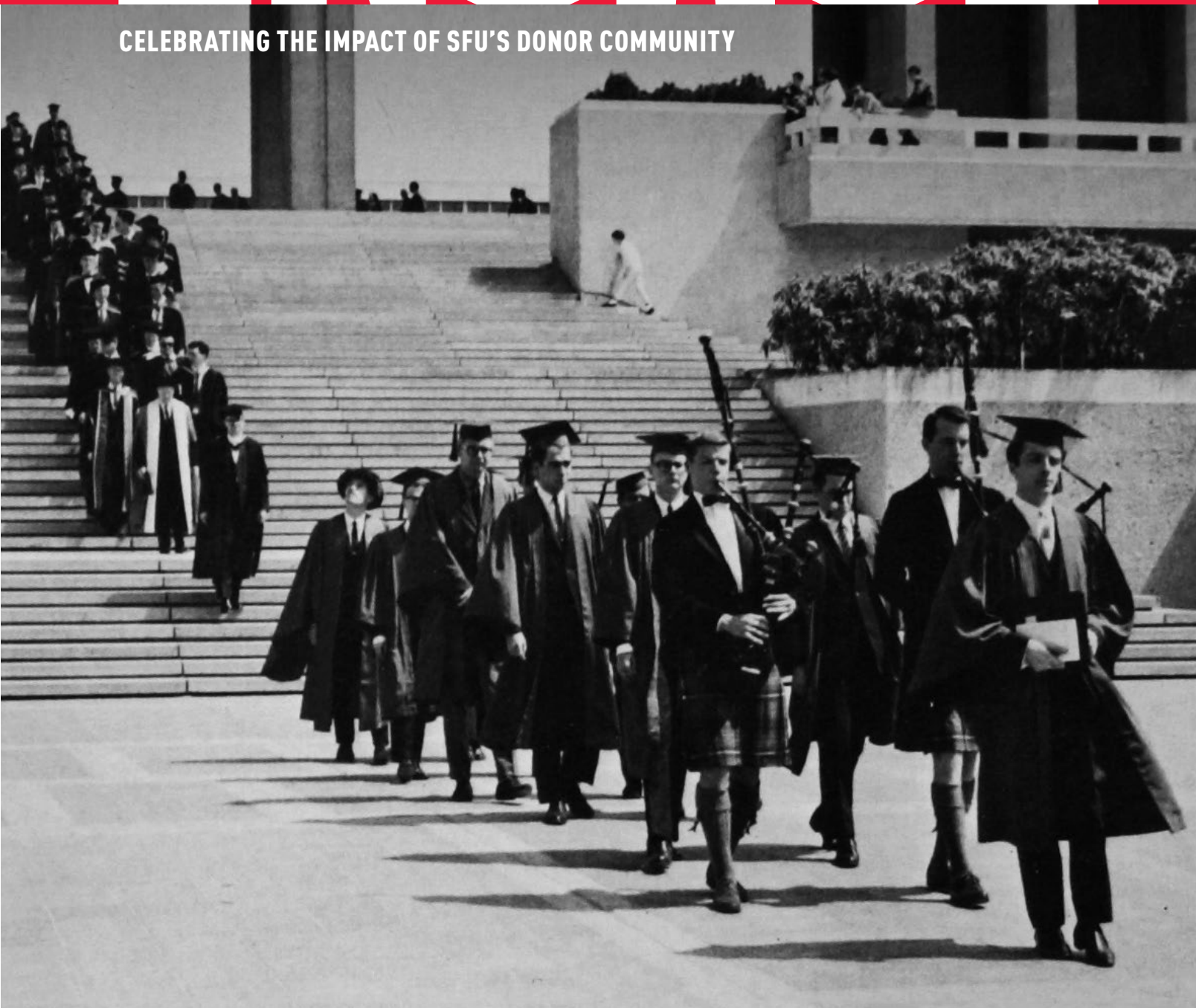


SFU

ENGAGE

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF SFU'S DONOR COMMUNITY



VOLUME 2

SUMMER 2023

ENGAGE



THE FIRST GRADUATES OF SFU

On September 9, 1965, Simon Fraser University opened its doors to 2,500 charter students—the first students to attend the university. Two years later on May 20, 1967, SFU celebrated a significant event by granting the university's first earned academic degrees to 12 students, including its first PhD graduate.

An audience of 2,000 faculty, students and guests gathered under the new mall roof to hear renowned Canadian philosopher and media

theorist Marshall McLuhan give SFU's first convocation address. Honorary degrees were awarded to Madge Hogarth, whose generous gift provided for the building of the first residence; Leon Koerner, a leading figure in British Columbia's forest industry; and McLuhan himself.

A preserved copy of the ceremony program lists the sequence of events of that memorable day, and confirmed that many convocation traditions, such as the leading of the academic

procession by the University Pipers, date back to that first convocation. The milestone event also marked the first public performance of the Simon Fraser March by the Kitsilano Boys Band.

As the ceremony concluded, yet another page was written in the ever-growing history of SFU.

Photos: Simon Fraser University yearbook, 1966/67 (SFU Archives).

SUMMER 2023

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WITH GRATITUDE

Simon Fraser University respectfully acknowledges the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səlilw̱ətaʔl (Tseilil-Waututh), q̱ícəy̱ (Katzie), ḵw̱iḵw̱əł̱əm (Kwikwetlem), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen peoples on whose unceded traditional territories our three campuses reside.

GET CONNECTED!

WHO WE ARE

More than **185,000 ALUMNI** have graduated from SFU since 1965. These innovators, changemakers and problem solvers are part of an active, supportive alumni community making a difference around the world.



WHERE ARE WE?

SFU Alumni live in **150+ COUNTRIES** around the world.

COMMUNICATION IS CONNECTION

Check out your monthly SFU Alumni newsletter and visit us on our social channels!



NOT RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER?

Keep your email address up-to-date at sfu.ca/alumni

CONNECT AND THRIVE!

- ✓ Join us online and in-person for networking, professional development, mentorship and more!
- ✓ Update your information to stay up-to-date and hear more about events and opportunities.
- ✓ Take advantage of great benefits such as on-campus services, career resources, and an online book club.
- ✓ Access preferred rates from our partners:



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Thank you for the difference you make across Simon Fraser University and the communities we serve.

Today, and since our beginnings in 1965, SFU is a place that responds to the needs of our rapidly changing world. Your remarkable generosity has been essential to the university's evolution and to our local and global impact over the years.

We have arrived at a critical moment in history, with society facing increasingly complex and formidable challenges. To meet this moment, it's time for SFU to evolve again. Following extensive university community engagement and consultation, the university has developed What's Next: The SFU Strategy to guide where we go next—and how we plan to get there.

With President Joy Johnson's bold leadership, our vision is to be a leading research university, advancing an inclusive and sustainable future. We will bring this vision to life by advancing four priorities that mean the most to our community: upholding truth and Reconciliation, engaging in global challenges, making a difference for B.C., and transforming the SFU experience.

We will channel our efforts through a number of initiatives. For example, planning is now underway for a new SFU Medical School based out of our Surrey campus, and supported by the province of British Columbia. With an initial focus on the Fraser Health region, the school will train desperately needed primary care physicians to serve British Columbians and improve care throughout the province, while considering social, environmental and prevention contexts. First Nations, Inuit and Métis knowledge systems and perspectives will be embedded throughout the school, and we are working towards welcoming our first students by September 2026.

SFU continues to deepen our commitment to Reconciliation and further our goals to transform the university and become a leader in Indigenizing curriculum. In this issue of *Engage*, we celebrate the vision and generosity of Christiane and George Smyth, whose remarkable gift will embed and uplift Salish art and art education at the



university. We introduce you to four Indigenous students and alumni, all recipients of awards funded by SFU's generous donor community, who are passionate about applying their knowledge and perspectives to strengthen our communities. And we share an interview with alumnus Chris (Syeta'xtn) Lewis (BA '05), who brings years of thoughtful leadership and community service to his role as SFU's Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation.

Throughout this issue, we are honoured to showcase the many ways that your philanthropic support is changing lives and shaping a better tomorrow. These are exciting times for SFU, and we're grateful to work with alumni and community partners like you along with our students, faculty and staff as we embark on the next stage of SFU's journey.

Erin Morantz
Vice-President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement

Photo: Gordon Kalisch

SFU DONOR COMMUNITY HELPS STUDENT-ATHLETE RUN THROUGH ADVERSITY

SFU student and track and field athlete Megan Roxby has weathered her fair share of challenges. In grade 10, she recovered from 10 hours of innovative—and risky—spinal surgery to correct a severe curvature. What she calls a “wiry shoelace” is now tethered to her spine with a series of titanium screws to properly align her back. Two years later, a broken leg kept her out of action for two months. Megan graduated this spring with a BBA – Sustainable Business Joint Major (business, resource and environmental management) and a minor in Indigenous studies. She recently shared more about her experiences, what support from donors like you has meant, what she has learned about resilience and gratitude, and her future plans.

You faced significant adversity at a very young age. Can you tell us more about the impact of your recovery from surgery and your leg injury?

It was a hard recovery from surgery. It just turns your whole life on its head. It was crazy to lose so much independence for a 16-year-old. Plus I went three months without running. That was mentally hard as it’s something I really love to do—it clears my head and I find enjoyment and am able to connect with teammates and friends. I think the broken leg, in my mind and even when it was happening, I felt like I had done this before and knew how to rehab and cross train well. It allowed me to have a good head on my shoulders and stay positive. These are all things I carry with me today and I think it’s really helped me because I was able to mature from a young age.

Can you share a particular memory or experience from SFU that stands out for you?

Any time I’ve been able to go to Nationals with the team. It is such a privilege to get there; it’s a coveted spot and an experience that not everyone gets to have. I will especially remember those trips, as well as the day in and day out of racing and training, being able to have built-in friendships and time to see each other six or seven days a week.

The community that our coach, Brit Townsend, has built for both men and female athletes and the way that she facilitates such camaraderie among her athletes is amazing. We all work really hard but everyone always has fun in practice. She has a long-term view of all our athletes. Everyone does their best in their fourth and fifth year, and we reap the results as we develop. I give credit to Brit for much of my success and development as an athlete.

You’ve received a number of donor-funded student awards while at SFU. What does that support mean to you?

It’s a big contribution to take a little bit of pressure off. It’s allowed me to focus on my studies and training and competing without needing to have a job. It also helps cover some of those expenses (like runners and spikes) that aren’t covered by the school and the program. I’ve always greatly appreciated whatever support I’ve received. Tuition is expensive and I feel like it keeps getting more expensive. It’s nice to have that burden and a bit of stress off every semester.

What would you say to community members who are considering giving philanthropically to SFU and to student-athletes?

My athletic endeavours have taught me how to work hard, to find direction in my academic life, and to balance all the different things that come with life. There is an interconnectedness between the athletic and the academic side, especially at SFU—we hold ourselves to very high standards on both those ends. We just have such great academics here and that sets us up for success in our careers and the workforce. I think donors just allow some of that to be made possible.

What’s next for you?

I’ll be staying at SFU! I want to push my academics—I don’t feel like I’m done! I’m going to be starting a master’s program in resource and environmental management (REM) within the planning stream. I think the REM program and the professors and support are awesome. I love Vancouver and we just have such a hub of environmental opportunities in the region. I’m lucky I ended up here!

During her undergraduate studies, Megan received support through the Andrea Abrams Athletic Award, Hal Werner Track and Field Award Endowment, Brit Townsend Track and Field Award Endowment, SFU Track and Field Endowment, and the Andrew Petter and Maureen Maloney Award Endowment in Varsity Women Athletes. SFU greatly appreciates donors like you whose generosity provides diverse opportunities for students. **E**



Photo: Ron Morley

With meaningful and enduring ties to SFU, alumnus Chris (Syeta'xtn) Lewis (BA '05) has enriched the university community in many ways—from serving as a member and chair of the Board of Governors to co-leading the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council. In 2021, Syeta'xtn was recognized with the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions and commitment to building a better SFU.

In his current role as Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation, Syeta'xtn continues to make an impact by guiding SFU toward Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenization. Syeta'xtn also remains an active community leader after completing his third consecutive four-year term in 2021 as elected councillor and spokesperson with Squamish Nation.

Learn more about Syeta'xtn, the importance of weaving Indigeneity into the fabric of SFU, and how we all play a part in this work.

MEET CHRIS (SYETA'XTN) LEWIS

**DIRECTOR OF
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES
AND RECONCILIATION**

**“ALWAYS
REMEMBER
WHO YOU
ARE AND
WHERE YOU
COME FROM.”**



What do you enjoy most about being a part of the SFU community?

Without a doubt, it's the people. From being an SFU student to now working at the university, I've been able to meet students from around the world, faculty, staff, senior leadership, and all the amazing front-line workers—from the friendly faces at Renaissance Coffee to the IT staff who support our meetings. Some are everyday faces we see, and some are behind the scenes, but they are the ones helping make the university move.

You've served as a deeply valued advisor to senior leadership at SFU for many years—why is it important for you to give back to your alma mater?

My thinking is rooted in the Indigenous ways of giving and reciprocity, and so serving the university was one way to give back the teachings that I was given. Beyond giving back, I truly feel like SFU is on the cusp of doing something transformative around Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenization, and creating a space where Indigenous peoples can belong and harness their gifts. One of the most exciting projects underway, for example, is the First Peoples' Gathering House on Burnaby Mountain. When you feel that energy of creating a purpose-driven Indigenous space, after decades of advocacy from our Indigenous peoples, it sends a signal of a systemic shift which will allow Indigenous ways of knowing to be illuminated. That is what makes me excited for the future.

Who would you say inspires you the most, and why?

There are so many, but I will focus on what these individuals were doing that inspired me. For me, I am inspired by the people who work hard and empower the continued resurgence of Indigenous culture and ways of knowing. It's our Indigenous peoples who are bridge builders, trailblazers, and open doors for others to rise and be resilient. It could be a single parent or an Elder who decided to go back to school, or a young person who overcame barriers to find a career—we see these resilient people everyday! These individuals remind me to get up every morning and continue this important work.

What is the most important lesson you have learned that informs your leadership approach?

To listen—and truly listen. Genuinely seek advice and guidance from those who are on this journey with you. The people who need to be in the canoe are there or need to be sought out. Being a leader means not leaving anyone behind on the beach, but empowering everyone to paddle.

Most importantly, the lesson from the Elders to “always remember who you are and where you come from.”

This teaching reminds us of our sense of belonging, connection and responsibility to the community or village we belong to.

How can we uphold Truth and Reconciliation?

To quote Ron Johnston, director of the Office for Aboriginal Peoples at SFU, advancing Indigeneity is a collective and shared responsibility. To build on that, I use a canoe metaphor often. We're all in the canoe. Everyone needs to get into the canoe, and everyone needs to paddle. There are no passengers in this work—we need the whole community to come together to illuminate the truth of our history and truly create a place of belonging in the canoe so we can start the journey of Reconciliation.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

I always remember a teaching my grandfather once told me. He reminded me that it's time to take our rightful place in the governance of our land and lives once more. However, we must be grateful to all the past leaders and what they've accomplished for us to have a seat at the table today. We must always remember that they fought those battles and charted a path, so we can enter into new spaces and see even more possibilities.

For me, I hope that I can be a trailblazer and continue to show our Indigenous peoples that it is possible to occupy a seat at the table—and that we must. I am reminded that it wasn't that long ago where our people were not allowed in the room and didn't have a seat at the table. My goal is to continue to create space for our people and build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples so that future generations don't experience the same challenges of my time. I want the next generation, my children, to inherit a different status quo and relationship. Success to me is that I do my part in creating a better future and showing the possibilities for those who come after me. **E**

INVESTING IN THE

FUTURE

Learning is a lifelong endeavour —and a great investment. Paying for an education means covering a variety of **COSTS EACH TERM** at SFU.

	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL		DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL
TUITION	\$3,057	\$15,887	UNDERGRADUATE	\$2,026	\$2,026
TEXTBOOKS	\$960	\$960		\$960	\$960
SUPPLEMENTARY FEES	\$475	\$475		\$398	\$398
STUDENT SOCIETY HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN	\$268	\$268		\$465	\$465
BC MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN (PRIMARY MEDICAL INSURANCE)	\$0	\$300		\$0	\$300
RESIDENCE	\$3,292	\$3,292		\$3,992	\$3,992
MEAL PLAN (ON CAMPUS)	\$2,645	\$2,645		\$2,645	\$2,645
RENT OFF CAMPUS	\$4,000-\$10,000			\$4,000-\$10,000	
GROCERIES	\$1,200-\$2,000			\$1,200-\$2,000	
TRANSPORTATION (FUEL, INSURANCE, PARKING, MAINTENANCE)	\$1,600-\$2,000			\$1,600-\$2,000	
INTERNET	\$240-480	\$240-480		\$240-480	\$240-480
CELLPHONE	\$200-360	\$200-360		\$200-360	\$200-360

GRADUATE

FISCAL 2021/22

UNIQUE HEADCOUNT

UNDERGRADUATE

29,660
TOTAL

23,151
DOMESTIC

6,509
INTERNATIONAL

GRADUATE

5,736
TOTAL

3,894
DOMESTIC

1,842
INTERNATIONAL

*Information based on 2022/23 per term costs

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN HARD TIMES

Everywhere we turn, life is getting more expensive—food costs continue to rise, rents are the highest we’ve ever seen. For university students, many of whom are already living on a shoestring budget, it’s a daily struggle to make ends meet.

“We’ve seen a dramatic increase in student stress on campus recently,” says Tom Nault, registrar and executive director of student enrollment. “It’s not always easy for students to find additional ways to earn more money. They don’t have many luxuries in their lives that they can cut out to be able to balance their budgets and afford things. They are using every penny as wisely as they can.”

Tom hears of many students working two or three jobs just to be able to afford life’s necessities. Some are choosing to eat less nutritious food or skip meals entirely. Some wonder if they will even be able to continue their studies.

Student bursaries provide critical financial support for SFU students in need. This spring, through SFU’s annual giving campaign, generous alumni and donors like you can ensure that students worry a little less about money—and focus more on their studies and university experience.

“Bursaries are one of the more meaningful ways to support a student,” says Tom. “All philanthropy or donations to the university are well used, but this is a way you can directly impact a student in their ability to complete their semester and work their way toward graduation.”

Take Devin, a communications student and hard-working student athlete who has benefited from bursary support.

“I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I LEARNED I’D RECEIVED A BURSARY—THE VERY FIRST THING I DID WAS CALL MY MOM.”

DEVIN O’HEA, 5TH YEAR STUDENT

“The bursary helped me pay my tuition, pay my rent and buy food,” he explains. “I would have really struggled financially without it. Please tell supporters that their donations go a long way—and even change people’s lives.”

Typically, throughout fall and spring semesters, over 3,000 students receive bursaries, which vary between \$1,500 and \$2,500 each. Demand is slightly less during summer semesters when student enrollment is lower.

We’re grateful to our donors for helping our students realize their dreams. Additional contributions to SFU student bursaries will make a big difference. **E**

FISCAL YEAR 2023 FALL CAMPAIGN

Thank you for giving generously last fall to support the varying needs of our students.

\$100,888

TOTAL RAISED

482

DONORS

\$54,322

FOR HEALTH AND COUNSELLING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND

\$11,705

FOR THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY FUND

\$8,526

FOR THE FOOD SECURITY FUND

\$26,335

FOR OTHER INITIATIVES CHOSEN BY DONOR

THROUGH THEIR WORDS

In honour of National Indigenous History Month, we asked four students and alumni to share their perspectives, as well as reflect on their SFU experience, the impact of donor funding on their studies, and their hopes for the future.

Advancement & Alumni Engagement (AAE) sat down with **Kali Stierle**, a BBA student in accounting; **Ashley Kyne**, a master’s student in criminology; **Mathew Fleury**, a doctoral student in health sciences; and **Julie Seal**, an SFU alumnus, to tell their stories.



KALI STIERLE

Kali Stierle is currently pursuing her BBA in accounting with a minor in Indigenous studies. She is Nêhiyaw (Cree), Métis, and German and is a member of Peepeekisis Cree Nation. As an aspiring accounting professional, Kali is a strong advocate for economic empowerment and sovereignty for Indigenous nations across Canada and plans to use her knowledge and skills to further the Indigenous economy in a fair and sustainable way. Her goal is to become a chartered professional accountant and work with Indigenous nations, businesses and individuals.

Kali is the recipient of several donor-funded awards including the Deloitte & Touche Scholarship in Accounting; KPMG Annual Scholarship in Accounting; Scotiabank Award in Social Innovation; First Nations, Métis, Indigenous Student Association Scholarship; and RBC Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award for Indigenous Students.

IN KALI’S WORDS

I knew I wanted to be an accountant starting in my teenage years, and I’m still not sure why! I don’t have any accountants in my life. Most people look at tax accounting and turn in the opposite direction and run, but I find it incredibly dynamic and interesting. I think I’ve always been fascinated by the field and admired that there are accountants in every business and every corner of the world, and that there’s a strong need for it. I’ve been able to look at the profession through a deeper lens because Indigenous businesses are on the rise and growing at an exponential rate, and there is a need for accountants who understand what it means to work with Indigenous peoples and communities.

As an urban Indigenous person, I am grateful to find kinship in the Indigenous community at SFU and in the Lower Mainland. After leaving their reserve in Regina to avoid incarceration for refusing to send their children to residential schools, my mother’s family made their way to B.C. We are still connected to our family on reserve

and in Saskatchewan, and I am still practicing my culture and learning my language (Nêhiyawêwin). I love going to powwows, as well as beading and sewing. My sister and I started a tradition during the pandemic where we would mail each other pieces for moccasins we were making together. She was living in the Yukon at the time, while I was in Surrey. Luckily, she just started at SFU and we no longer have to mail back and forth!

I’m a strong advocate for community building and volunteering, having always been taught that I need to live with the next seven generations in mind. I currently support people at homeless shelters with filing their income taxes, which brings me great joy. To gain the knowledge that I have is costly, and not everyone can access it easily—but because of the generous donors who support scholarships like the ones I received, I thankfully have access to that knowledge and can continue my education at SFU. For many of us, scholarships are our lifeboat.

THROUGH THEIR WORDS THROUGH THEIR WORDS THROUGH THEIR WORDS THROUGH THEIR WORDS THROUGH THEIR WORDS



JULIE SEAL

Julie Seal, who is of Cree-Métis and Italian descent, graduated in 2022 with her BA in kinesiology and Indigenous studies. She was the 2020-2021 grand prize award winner of the SFU Student-Community Engagement Competition for her Special Olympics Home Workouts program, and currently works for Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (I-SPARC) as their provincial HealthBeat coordinator.

Julie is the recipient of several donor-funded awards including the Y.P. Heung Foundation Post-Secondary Entrance Award; Dorothy and Alex Macdonald Bursary; First Nations, Métis, and Indigenous Student Association Bursary; Scotiabank Faculty of Arts Scholarship; and RBC Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award for Indigenous Students.

IN JULIE'S WORDS

I've traveled a long road to get to where I am today. After years of working odd service jobs, I decided to go back to school. Teaching fitness classes seemed to be the only time I truly felt like I was making a positive difference, and I realized that if I were to continue along the path of short-term jobs that didn't bring me joy, I would eventually burn out. I called SFU to see if the two-year associate degree I earned almost 10 years ago could now count towards a bachelor's degree. In September 2020, I started my third year at SFU at the age of 30.

My first semester at SFU, I was like a fish out of water. I am so thankful for the donor support I received because I would have otherwise given up right then. I'm also proud that I was the successful recipient of these awards because donors valued the importance of community engagement, and wanted to invest in someone who would give back and celebrate people

and communities in a meaningful way. I started out volunteering in the community with Special Olympics to build up my resume, but it then got me thinking about how I can connect with people. Fast forward 11 years later, I'm still volunteering with them. This ultimately shaped where I wanted to go with my career.

Today, I do health and fitness screening for Indigenous communities, which is something I really enjoy. For anyone who is looking to make a change in their lives—it's never too late. If you have a goal, break it into little steps. If you're thinking about going back to school, then just start with getting your application in and don't think about anything else. If you're considering applying for a scholarship, then do it! Even if you don't feel fully qualified, put yourself out there and focus on what you do bring. You truly miss 100 per cent of the shots you don't take. **E**



STRENGTHENING LEGAL SERVICES EXCELLENCE IN B.C.

A newly endowed professorship, supported by a generous \$3.5 million gift from the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia (SNPBC), will significantly advance the field of applied legal studies and place SFU as a pivotal partner in the expansion of the education of notaries public in the province.

Margaret Hall, an SFU criminology professor and director of the master of arts in Applied Legal Studies (MA-ALS) program where this professorship will be located, says the endowment will create a permanent position dedicated to legal research and teaching excellence, and provide long-term stability and continuity of the MA-ALS program.

“With the SNPBC’s support, we can continue building interdisciplinary connections within SFU, develop new course programming, attract external resources to the program, and deliver on our commitment to provide first-class and cutting-edge legal education

to notaries public in British Columbia,” says Margaret.

The endowed gift is a milestone in SNPBC’s longstanding partnership with SFU, which dates back to 2008 when both parties came together to establish the MA-ALS program. For 15 years, the MA-ALS program has provided notaries in British Columbia with core academic competencies in noncontentious areas of the Canadian legal system. Today, students wishing to gain admission to SNPBC and practice as notaries in the province must graduate from SFU’s MA-ALS program—the only program that SNPBC recognizes for this purpose. As of March 2021, more than half of B.C.’s practicing notaries are graduates of the MA-ALS program.

John Mayr, the CEO and executive director of SNPBC, says the Society is excited about the ongoing opportunity to provide advanced academic education and rigorous training to B.C. notaries, strengthen legal excellence,

and enable the people of this province to enjoy greater choice in trusted legal service providers.

“British Columbians rely on notaries public for the legal advice and legal services they provide. Having a strong, collaborative relationship with SFU and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences ensures that our partnership of excellence in legal education and service to the public will continue,” says John. “Graduating educated, highly skilled legal professionals in a timely manner will increase access to legal services in the province.”

With forthcoming changes to the regulation of the legal professions in B.C., and anticipated changes to the scope of practice for notaries, SFU and SNPBC are optimistic about the instrumental role that this professorial position will play in advancing an enriched curriculum and—most importantly—timely programming that meets the needs of today and tomorrow. **E**

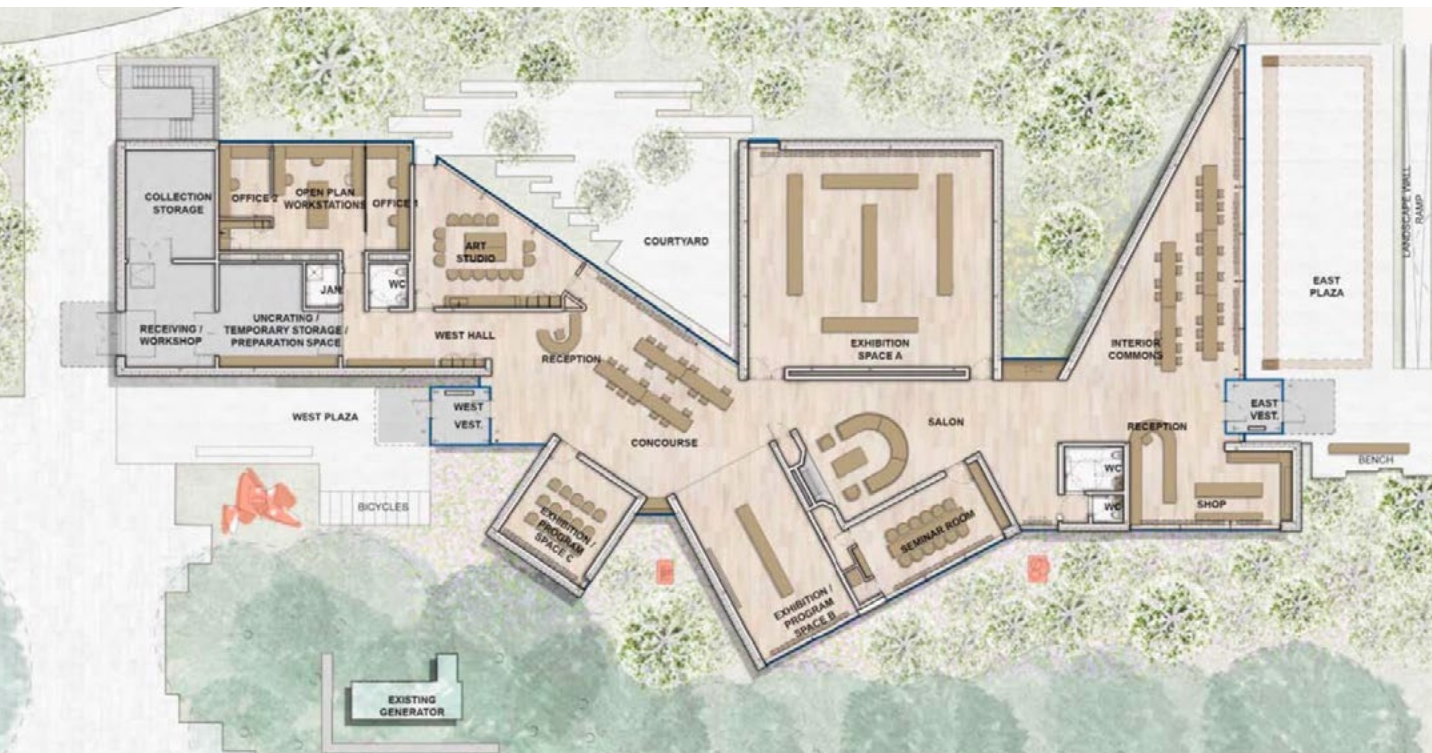
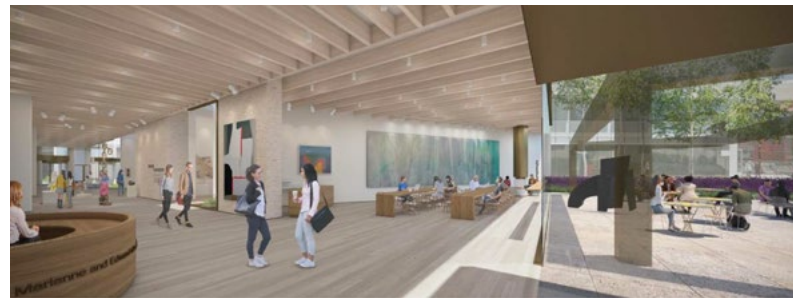


ABOVE Gibson Art Museum south facade

LEFT East Entrance, Welcome Desk and Commons

RIGHT East Façade and Entrance

BELOW Gibson Art Museum Floor Plan



VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

A landmark gift from the Marianne and Edward Gibson Trust in 2018 has allowed SFU to embark on the construction of this world-class art museum. Marianne and her late husband Dr. Edward Gibson, a charter faculty member and long-time director of the SFU Gallery, shared the belief in art's power to reflect the world and transform lives. Devoted to students, ideas, and the evolving culture and landscape of B.C., Edward boldly envisioned developing an art museum that educates and inspires the community.

COMING TO SFU AN INNOVATIVE NEW HUB FOR THE ARTS

SFU will be home to the Marianne and Edward Gibson Art Museum, a new architectural flagship for Burnaby campus.

Engaging visitors of all ages and backgrounds, the museum is made possible by the tremendous generosity of Marianne and Edward Gibson and other philanthropic leaders in our community. Housing the dynamic and growing SFU Art Collection, it will feature works from across the region many call British Columbia, and the diverse people who make art in response to this place.

Designed by award-winning Canadian firm, Hariri Pontarini Architects, this visual arts hub will also reflect SFU's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. Situated beside Strand Hall and adjacent to the new First Peoples' Gathering House, the museum will be part of a vibrant new cultural precinct at SFU, just steps away from the future Burnaby Mountain Gondola.

With abundant opportunities for experiential learning, collaboration, and knowledge sharing, the museum will enrich the lives of countless people throughout our community.

Museum visitors can expect to encounter a broad scope of programming, including: exhibitions by regional, Canadian and international artists, dynamic screenings, talks, tours, and performances; artist residencies and art-making workshops, publications and partnered projects.

SFU students can take seminars with artists and work alongside them to mount exhibitions; K-12 teachers, and teachers-in-training can bring their classes to the museum, or bring artists into the classroom and access resources to develop their curriculum. The opportunities for visitors to make art and learn through artistic processes in the museum's outdoor courtyard are also limitless.

We cannot wait to share more as the project moves ahead. **E**



THE POWER OF

RECIPROCALITY

Q&A WITH IAN & YVONNE REDDY

Ian and Yvonne Reddy are committed to giving back and shaping a better society. A dynamic and philanthropic couple, they are passionate about making a positive impact in the world through education and environmental sustainability.

For the past 25 years, they have lived in the Silicon Valley, where Ian (BSc '87) is a leader in the tech sector and Yvonne (BA '92) runs two businesses devoted to music education.

In addition to giving their time and energy to engage SFU's alumni network throughout the Bay Area, the Reddys have generously established two endowments at SFU to support first-generation university students and students committed to building a sustainable future.

Yvonne, you hold a BA in geography while Ian, you have a BSc in physics and computer science. What stood out about your experiences as SFU students?

YVONNE Doing my undergrad part time while working full time, I appreciated the flexibility SFU offered. I was able to take courses after work hours or downtown. That wasn't offered elsewhere at the time, so it was really cutting-edge and well-suited to adults already in the workforce!

IAN When I came to SFU, physics drew me in and I found my professors were genuinely interested in me and my learning. They were incredibly supportive of experimenting and trying new things. When I began working for SFU as a systems consultant, that continued with the computing science and information systems departments — there was always an openness to thinking outside the box. That innovation is unique to SFU.

You're both active members of SFU Alumni's international community; what has motivated you to maintain your SFU ties?

YVONNE We stay connected because SFU reaches out often, plus they have a real presence in the Bay Area. SFU is well-represented at Canada Day celebrations here and has a strong showing at local NHL games. So, it's easy to be engaged and supportive of SFU.

IAN After we made the move to California, having family in Canada and having worked at SFU, it was natural to keep in touch. I'd come back to visit and reach out to the computing science department or they would invite me to come to campus and chat with students. But we would also receive regular alumni communications and stay connected that way. With both parties, it's reciprocal: maintaining ties through an ongoing relationship and not just a transaction. I think that keeps people really interested and wanting to stay involved.

What first inspired you to give back to SFU philanthropically?

IAN Initially, I gave back as an employee. Throughout my 11 years working at SFU, it was easy to work hard and want to give back to the university, because I felt like I was paying back.

Being active in our community and giving back has always been important to Yvonne and I. As parents of three kids, two of our children went to the SFU daycares, and we would participate in clean-up days. Later, we sought out schools that had parent participation. It's who we are.

YVONNE The support we've given has always been about more than dollars. People lose sight of the fact that no matter how much money you throw at a problem, it's people power that keeps things moving. The energy and values people hold, that is what makes a difference, not so much the money.

At the 2022 endowment virtual event, you spoke about your approach to giving back by way of "time, talent, and then treasure." Could you share how that concept developed or evolved for you?

IAN When we couldn't give in dollars, we gave our time—time into our careers, and that invested back into the university. When we moved to Silicon Valley, we turned to talent. We were connecting with faculty, staff, visiting student groups. We were helping share our local connections with SFU. When we were able, we wanted to give back by way of treasure by thoughtful planning.

We always knew we wanted to create an endowment for SFU, so we saw a financial advisor and planned for it early on, well before we could afford it.

A friend, a graduate from Arizona State University, heard about everything we do with SFU and summed it up with his alumni association's theme of "time, talent, treasure". It really resonated with our experience of giving to SFU.

What made you choose to establish an endowed award instead of another type of award?

IAN Knowing that an endowment is sustainable, and that the award it creates will keep going in perpetuity. That was something we both wanted.

YVONNE That the award recipients be involved in community service was also important, so our awards also embed community involvement as part of the criteria. If we inspire and teach people how good it feels to give back, and that there is so much joy and fulfillment in it, we can sustain and nurture whole new generation of "givers." **E**

lessLIE, *Salish Modern/Tradition*. Installation documentation, Teck Gallery, 2022. Photo: Rachel Topham Photography.



TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS ART EDUCATION AT SFU

A ground-breaking commitment from “activist collectors” George and Christiane Smyth will uplift Salish art and help Indigenize art education at SFU.

Partnering with SFU, the Smyths’ extraordinary gift will support a Chair in Salish Art Practices within the Faculty of Education; a full-time curator, Indigenous projects at SFU Galleries; and programming and a public art commission at SFU Library’s Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre. Their contribution also includes a remarkable gift-in-kind from their Salish Weave Collection, including numerous works on paper, paintings, and sculptures by contemporary Salish artists. Some of the works on paper acquired by SFU through the donation will establish a “teaching collection” accessible to the Chair in the Faculty of Education, as well as other faculty, students, and community educators and members.

Based on territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations (also called Victoria on Vancouver Island), the Smyths have built their collection to promote awareness of Salish artistic practices. They have provided support to established and emerging artists through purchasing original works, commissioning print editions, and supporting Indigenous artist-in-residence programming at the University of Victoria.

“The works of art George and Christiane have generously given to SFU already greatly enrich SFU Galleries’ community and programming, and we are thrilled to

commission major new public artworks for the Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre with their support,” says SFU Galleries director, Kimberly Phillips.

“But perhaps most significantly, the Smyths understand the importance of activating art. Their partnership with SFU to help create both an academic Chair in Salish Art Practices and a full-time Curator, Indigenous Projects, are transformative gifts and will create lasting change at the university. Consulting deeply with Indigenous SFU

ABOUT THE SALISH WEAVE COLLECTION AT SFU

The works bring significant contextual value to the SFU Art Collection, particularly given its regional focus. They address SFU’s responsibility to the Host Nations—xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), q̓íćáy (Katzie), kwikwə́łəm (Kwkwetlem), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen—on whose territories the campuses sit.

The Collection features works by 16 Coast Salish artists, including intergenerational members of the same family. Demonstrating the strength of Coast Salish artistic lineage, it is a tremendous resource for studying the artistic commitments, stylistic continuities and developments within Coast Salish families and communities over time. Many of these works are now publicly visible across the Burnaby and Vancouver campuses.

students, faculty and external community members, the new Curator will develop and maintain meaningful and supportive processes and protocols to actualize Indigenous worldviews through projects and programs.”

“BUT PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THE SMYTHS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVATING ART.”

KIMBERLY PHILIPS, SFU GALLERIES DIRECTOR

The university is working to create and recruit for these new roles in the coming months. The process takes time and requires thoughtful guidance, as in the Faculty of Education, where the Indigenous Education Reconciliation Council (IERC)—guided by Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders—has been pivotal in conceptualizing and shaping the newly endowed Chair.

Dr. Michelle Pidgeon, associate dean, Indigeneity ʔəkʷstənəq ts'up'newásentasʔəkʷstənəq ts'up'newásentas and associate professor in the Faculty of Education, shared that the IERC co-developed the new Chair with a vision centering on the values of Salish art practices, and focusing on Indigenous knowledges, processes, and practices of education.

lessLIE, *Salish Modern/Tradition*. Installation documentation, Teck Gallery, 2022. Photos: Rachel Topham Photography.

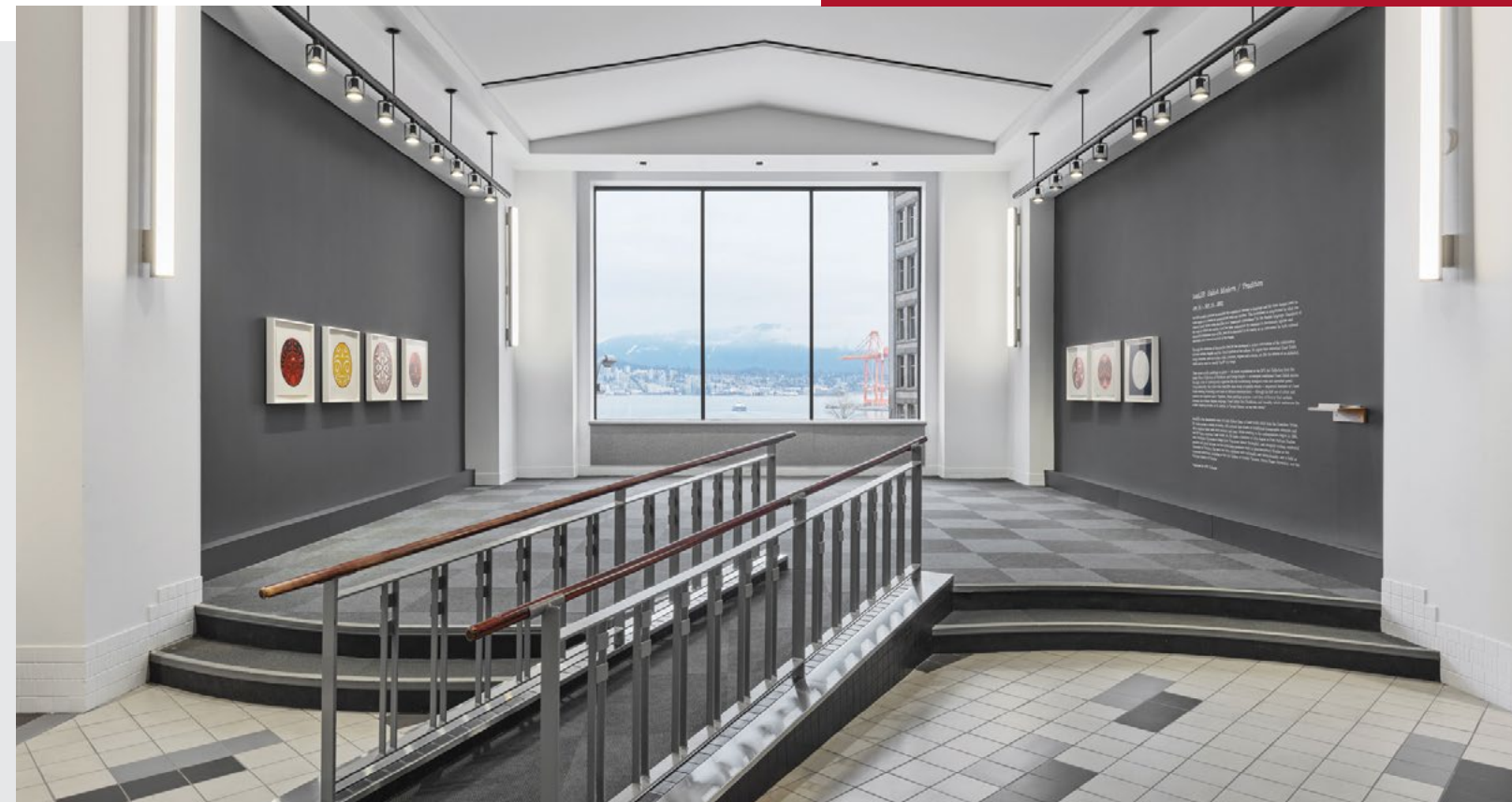
“The aim of the Chair is to support the resurgence, and ongoing thriving, of Salish art through the enactment of Indigenous art as knowledge practices as well as through an Indigenous knowledge transmission process that is intergenerational and inherently an aspect of enacting Indigenous pedagogies.”

Through the Smyths’ generous support, with a focus on Indigenous art, and centering Indigenous knowledges, art practices, and pedagogies, the university can deepen our commitment to Indigenization and Reconciliation. We look forward to updating the community as these new dynamic roles are filled. **E**

ART AS LITERACY AND KNOWLEDGE

The walls of SFU Library’s Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre feature seven works of Susan Point’s “Circles in Time” series, and pieces by Maynard Johnny Jr. and Dylan Qwul’thilum Thomas. And the ICRC project, “Salish Weave Box Sets: Art and Storytelling,” funded by the Salish Weave Fund at the Victoria Foundation, features recorded conversations with the Indigenous artists in the collection, and with the Smyths.

As SFU Indigenous initiatives librarian Ashley Edwards notes, the art not only enhances the space but makes art publicly accessible. Along with the audio resources, it also promotes the understanding that knowledge exists outside text-based formats and that “art and engaging with art is a form of literacy.”





GIVE BACK TO THE FUTURE

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL IS A FORWARD THINKING, DEEPLY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO SFU AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE.



Learn more about tax efficient strategies for including charitable giving in your estate plan.

[BIT.LY/SFUGEPEP](https://bit.ly/sfugep) GIFTEST@SFU.CA 778.782.6799



EMBRACING THE SFU STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Alumnus Christian Cook is matter of fact when explaining her thoughtful decision to leave a gift in her will to SFU. “We need more people to go to places like SFU,” she says.



Christian, a self-described “woody cat,” chose SFU for her undergraduate degree in part because of its mountain setting. “I have very, very fond memories of SFU,” Christian shares as she reflects back on her SFU journey. “Seeing other mountains, inlets and oceans from up top on the campus is pretty remarkable. I always had thought, ‘Oh, my goodness, if I ever get to go to university, I hope it could be there.’”

Christian’s student experience wasn’t always an easy one. She encountered numerous obstacles that tested her perseverance and resilience, including the financial burden of paying for tuition and living expenses. Working multiple jobs to support herself, Christian didn’t have the luxury of being actively involved in campus life, even needing to leave class early to make it to work on time—with little to no time for non-academic campus activities or socializing.

“I couldn’t give up my survivor jobs, so in that way, it was a bit tough to engage in anything on campus other than classes and studying; university was a bit of a struggle,” she explains.

Now, as a professor of human resources in the Bissett School of Business and academic director of the Academic Development Centre at Mount Royal University, she has had experience volunteering with student clubs, community service learning, and case competitions to ensure students have the opportunity to have enriching educational experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Christian’s experiences as a student and teacher led her to make the generous decision to create an endowment through a gift in her will. Her endowment will provide students with much-needed funds to allow them to make the most of volunteer opportunities or other work integrated learning available to them at SFU. “I would really love to provide relief to some students so that they can fully embrace all of the awesomeness of university.”

Leaving a philanthropic legacy is a careful consideration, but for Christian, the opportunity to make a lasting impact through a legacy gift was both easy and immensely gratifying. “Making a bequest gift is one of the best investments you could make. I couldn’t think of a more trusted place than SFU to give my money to,” she says.

Christian has a strong belief in the transformative power of charitable giving and the immense potential it holds for advancing education for future generations.

When making the decision about leaving a gift in her will, she shares, “I thought about all the places that I have affiliations with, but it’s the personal connection that SFU has with their alumni that helped me realize how very much SFU means to me. The leadership at SFU has been steadfast and thoughtful and I know that there’s such a great future for SFU and its graduates. So, this is very much a future gift. I feel really confident that SFU will steward my gift, and in their commitment to students, I see my gift being used wisely.”

To any donors considering joining Christian in leaving a gift in their will, Christian shares: “Do it! I think that it is one of the best investments you could make.” **E**

WHEN CHARITY TRULY BEGINS AT HOME

SCHOLAR, RABBI AND PHILANTHROPIST YOSEF WOSK CONTINUES TO LEAVE A LEGACY



As a child, Dr. Yosef Wosk brought a nickel to school and then got a sticker cut in the shape of a leaf. He came back with more coins, eventually collecting enough leaf stickers to fill a picture of a tree.

"I handed the picture to the teacher, and I knew my coins were enough to plant a tree in Israel in my name or the name of someone I chose," says Yosef. "That was something that really spoke to me as a child. It was a wonderful way to learn about the gift of giving."

Many decades later, Yosef continues to give to numerous local and global causes.

At Simon Fraser University, he has contributed to the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue (an initiative his father championed), Graduate Liberal Studies and SFU Library, among multiple other projects.

His connection to SFU is long and varied. For 15 years, he served as director of interdisciplinary programs in Continuing Studies, where he initiated Philosophers' Café (the world's largest series of café discussion gatherings) and the Canadian Academy of Independent Scholars. He

also served as a Shadbolt Fellow, a Simons Fellow and an adjunct professor in humanities. Yosef received an honorary degree from SFU in 2012.

"Working from the downtown campus, I liked connecting with the pulse of the city and being more involved in what was going on with people and in the vibrancy of the city," Yosef says.

"I celebrate being interested in a lot of different subjects and do my best to look at things and canvas different ways, perspectives and disciplines...and have them speak to and inform one another."

"I'm rather eclectic!"

To some, that would be an understatement. Yosef holds doctorates in religion and literature, and in psychology, as well as master's degrees in education and theology. An art collector, poet and heritage conservation advocate, he also served as a congregational rabbi. Before returning to Vancouver, he lived, worked and studied in New York, Jerusalem, Toronto, Philadelphia and Boston.

Such experiences have led to a vast array of philanthropic interests—even within the Library. In 2010, his gift to SFU Surrey saw the Student Learning Commons at that location named in his honour. More recent donations to Special Collections & Rare Books have supported the Perry the Poster Man collection and the Wosk-McDonald Aldine collection (considered by scholars as one of SFU's signature collections). He also helped save 30,000 DVDs, VHS tapes and Blu-ray discs from Vancouver's iconic video rental store Videomatica, which are now archived at SFU and the University of British Columbia.

"GIVING TO CHARITY OR SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS OR DONATING TO CERTAIN CAUSES HAS BECOME VERY NATURAL TO ME. IT IS PART OF MY BREATH AND BLOOD."

If there is a thread running through his philanthropy, his 2012 honorary degree citation from SFU suggests one possibility—"his commitment to making the true and the beautiful available to all."

As an educator, Yosef has taught thousands of students and supported dozens of schools. He has contributed to a variety of artistic, intellectual and spiritual causes, while also championing public gardens and parks, tree-planting projects, and more than 400 libraries worldwide.

Yosef's philanthropy expresses deep respect for tradition, an attribute he learned from his parents, Morris and Dena Wosk. After experiencing antisemitic persecution, his father's family left Odessa (in Ukraine) in 1928 to begin a new life in Vancouver. His mother's family also escaped persecution in Pinsk (then Poland, now Belarus) and came to Canada in the mid-1920s.

"They taught us about the practice of giving, which was part of my family as far back as I can remember—and was part of what I learned at school when I saw I could do something good," says Yosef.

"Giving to charity or supporting individuals or donating to certain causes has become very natural to me. It is part of my breath and blood." ■

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BLUE BOX

In Yosef Wosk's boyhood home, his parents placed a 'charity box' in plain sight. Through the year, each family member dropped coins into a blue-coloured tin box.

"Sometimes, one of us would be in the mood and put some money in the box, and other times we'd do it for the beginning of a holiday," says Yosef. "It wasn't about how much or how often we did it. It was the act of giving itself and teaching our responsibility to others."

Once a year, the charity box was emptied, and the money was given away to a Jewish organization. "I grew up with this ethic," he adds, "and it just became part of who I am."

SHAPING A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE IN TECH



Two SFU professors are leading the way to build diversity and equity in STEM and STEM education. Drs. Angelica Lim and Lesley Shannon are two prominent researchers in artificial intelligence (AI) and computer engineering, respectively. Both are also recognized advocates for uplifting and encouraging women in computing science.

Their work has been generously supported by SFU alumnus and donor, Aryn Rajan and his wife Shein, who have given to many initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion in higher education and the tech industry at large. Angelica is the Rajan Family Scholar in Computing Science at SFU and Lesley held the NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE) for the BC/Yukon Region (2015-22), co-supported by Aryn's former company, Simba Technologies and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Both Angelica and Lesley note that it is critical to have a diverse range of perspectives and experiences represented in their fields.

An accomplished engineer in non-traditional computer systems design, Lesley says “the work of computer and software engineers is largely invisible labour. Building these critical systems, accessible systems, it’s important not only to shine a light on the impact of that work, but also to show that accessibility matters. Building for accessibility benefits everyone.”

“AI needs to become more diverse and more equitable,” says Angelica. “Technologies for facial expression detection have racial bias but we know they weren’t equipped to deal with diversity until we programmed them to. Data sets and the people that created them aren’t purposely racist—but if a data set isn’t diverse, neither is the AI it is derived from.”

Due in large part to the Rajan family’s generosity, Angelica and her team in the Rosie Lab are building diverse datasets on



Dr. Angelica Lim with the humanoid robot, “Pepper,” and students in the Invent the Future enrichment program, 2018.

human-robot interaction and learning how to build robots that interact with and adapt to humans, including AI that can understand human emotions and meaning. Among the lab’s many projects, they developed interactive web and robot applications for Blackfoot language learning with Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn, a professor of Indigenous studies and archaeology.

“AI NEEDS TO BECOME MORE DIVERSE AND MORE EQUITABLE”

Angelica also leads the Invent the Future enrichment program for high school students, which builds community and provides mentorship to trans and cisgender women, non-binary and Two-Spirit students from Grades 9 through 12.

Lesley has been advising and mentoring with numerous initiatives since joining SFU in 2006. As an NSERC CWSE, she led Westcoast Women in Engineering

Science and Technology (WWEST) and significantly increased the participation not only of women, but other underrepresented groups in STEM. Providing leadership, networking, and career development opportunities for women in engineering, she facilitated numerous collaborations—from podcasts and public lectures to white papers, and teaching resources.

Their app Tune Twister, for example, provides children in Grades 4 through 8 with the chance to learn about the science of sound. Collaborating with SFU’s Science ALIVE program and Science World, they made access barrier-free for girls, under-served youth and Indigenous communities, and developed a teacher’s toolkit for educators.

As technology becomes increasingly integral to daily life, there is a critical need for future developers and their innovations to reflect the diversity of our society. With the visionary support of Aryn and Shein Rajan, Drs. Angelical Lim and Lesley Shannon are addressing that need by making STEM education more equitable and empowering for the next generation of innovators. **E**



PROPELLING DIVERSITY & INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Students from universities and colleges across B.C. benefit from UWCV's generosity and enjoy events at Hycroft.

Founded in 1907 and based since 1962 in the exquisite Hycroft Manor, the University Women's Club of Vancouver (UWCV) was one of the first university clubs for women in Canada. Its members are dedicated to education and lifelong learning, supporting women's rights and issues, and promoting social and cultural exchange.

UWCV is also one of Simon Fraser University's most loyal and longstanding donors, generously supporting students at SFU since 1965. UWCV has established vital awards and bursaries for students in nearly every faculty at SFU. These include funds not only for women but for other equity-deserving groups, such as students who have hearing impairments.

Supporting diversity and adaptability in higher education has long been a priority for the club, according to Charlotte Burns, chair of UWCV's Trust Fund for Education and former club president.

"Women are a determined lot," Charlotte says. "Whether funding an award to propel women in science or to support women at different life stages (as a mature student or single parent, for example), we pride ourselves as a 'can do' organization, so when there is a need, we are committed to helping answer that need."

Abigail, a fourth-year student in SFU's School of Interactive Arts and Technology, attests to the difference UWCV's support has made to her.

"I was so grateful to receive [the UWCV] bursary because during the pandemic, our family's financial situation was impacted, and my cost of living in Canada also became higher than before."

Because of the UWCV bursary, Abigail says her stress decreased, and she was better able to focus on her studies and pursue her dream of becoming a communications and media professional.

As Charlotte notes, UWCV contributes to a variety of awards, not only at SFU but at institutions across B.C.

"One of our newest awards supports students in farrier science (or equine hoof care) at Kwantlen [Polytechnic University]. We are very committed to innovation, and I think that's something we've had in common with SFU for many years."

While supporting innovation and removing barriers to education is a vital facet of UWCV's mission, they are also deeply committed to creating community amongst their members. They organize myriad activities like guest lectures, cultural excursions, a book club, and community service opportunities. In March 2023, they hosted Dr. Bonnie Henry for their 2023 Hycroft Lecture.

"You never know who you will meet and interact with as a member of UWCV," says Charlotte. "Also—and this surprises some people—you do not have to have a university degree to be a member here. Our members have all different kinds of skills and expertise they contribute and share. That creates a very dynamic atmosphere and reach."

With its rich history, vibrant community, and enduring belief in higher education, the UWCV is an invaluable resource for women and committed partner for SFU. **E**

SFU NEWS & RESEARCH



UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES WHAT'S NEXT, THE SFU STRATEGY

Following months of consultation and approval from both Senate and Board of Governors, President Joy Johnson shared What's Next: The SFU Strategy on March 8, 2023. The strategy establishes a shared vision, purpose and values for SFU, as well as four priorities that will form our framework for action moving forward: uphold truth and Reconciliation, engage in global challenges, make a difference for B.C. and transform the SFU experience.



SFU ANNOUNCES NEW 2023-28 STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

As one of Canada's fastest growing research institutions, SFU's new Strategic Research Plan (SRP) identifies key areas of strength and focus for the future. Coinciding with What's Next, the SRP embeds the core values of the university's institutional plan into research practice, using six approaches and including five institutional research priority areas that demonstrate SFU's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.



PREMIER REVEALS FIRST DETAILS OF SFU MEDICAL SCHOOL

In late November of 2022, B.C. Premier David Eby announced \$4.9 million in start-up funding for SFU's Medical School, and SFU named Dr. Roger Strasser as the interim Dean. Since then, the university has been laying the foundations for the program by engaging with internal and external communities, and working with First Nations Health Authority and Fraser Health Authority to develop a medical school that is focused on educating primary care physicians and being accountable to the communities it serves.

CITY OF BURNABY COMMITS \$5 MILLION TO FIRST PEOPLES' GATHERING HOUSE

The City of Burnaby is providing \$5 million towards the completion of the First Peoples' Gathering House, currently under construction on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) nations on which SFU is located. Providing a culturally appropriate ceremonial space for Indigenous cultural events, the space will also enable the university and broader communities to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples through education and engagement. Its legacy will extend beyond current students, staff and visitors to provide a safe and welcoming space for future generations at SFU. Ron Johnston, director of SFU's Office for Aboriginal Peoples, says the gathering house will be "the heart and soul of Indigeneity" at SFU.



STUDENTS CREATE FIRST BURNABY MOUNTAIN POWWOW IN HONOUR OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AT SFU

The SFU First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Association (FNMISA) hosted an inaugural powwow at Burnaby campus in April, celebrating the end of the school year and honouring the achievements of Indigenous students past and present. Open to the entire community, the event was co-led by siblings and SFU students, Kali King Stierle and her older sister, Raven King Stierle, who are of German, Métis and Cree descent, from Peepeekisis Cree Nation in Treaty 4 territory, Saskatchewan. For the pair, the ceremony's purpose is not only to honour the journey undertaken by Indigenous students, but to share culture, build relationships and celebrate as one.



SFU PARTNERS WITH WORLD'S TOP AGRITECH UNIVERSITY TO SPUR INNOVATION

Supporting food security and sustaining agriculture in the face of climate change are global challenges that require global solutions. During an Innovation Day event hosted by the B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI) in Surrey, SFU and Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate on future research programs, share knowledge and spark innovation in the agritech field.

COAST CAPITAL VENTURE PRIZE WINNER CREATES SEAWEED SOLUTION TO OCEAN PLASTICS

PhyCo Technologies, a company co-founded by SFU alumnus and biology graduate student, Ranah Chavoshi, is winner of SFU's 12th annual Coast Capital Venture Prize competition. Partnering with local Indigenous communities, Ranah and Dr. Stacey Goldberg (University of PEI) worked to develop bio-based plastic from seaweed, a product capable of breaking down in home compost in just four weeks. PhyCo will use a \$10,000 cash award to further develop its product.



SFU RESEARCHERS AID FIGHT AGAINST TREATMENT-RESISTANT SUPERBUGS

Assistant professor Amy Lee of SFU's Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and her collaborators are studying the genes of superbugs to help develop new and effective treatments for drug-resistant bacterial infections. The initiative is a collaboration between the Lee Lab and Brinkman Lab, which are working together as part of the interdisciplinary SFU Omics Data Science Initiative (OSDI).



HOW SALMON FEED FLOWERS AND FLOURISHING ECOSYSTEMS

Working with SFU biology professors, Elizabeth Elle and John Reynolds, PhD student Allison Dennert led a study showing how nutrients from salmon carcasses can alter growth and reproduction of plant species in surrounding habitat—sometimes even causing some flowers to grow bigger and more plentiful. Their study was published in the Royal Society Open Science journal and is the first to demonstrate a connection between salmon and coastal plant growth and reproduction.



ENGINEERING STUDENTS NET TOP PRIZE AT CANADIAN ENGINEERING COMPETITION

SFU students Aru Bhola and Erin Flood took first place at this year's Canadian Engineering Competition. Outperforming 200 students across Canada, the duo was also one of just a few all-female teams at the competition. Aru and Erin developed a concept design for a self-sufficient, off-grid tiny home that used minimal power, recycled water, passive heating and biodegradable insulation. In their second challenge, they designed an accessible playground for children who have Sanfilippo Syndrome—a rare genetic neurodegenerative disease.

ACHIEVING YOUR PHILANTHROPIC GOALS WITH STOCK OPTIONS

Portfolio manager and wealth management advisor Cody Gordon, CIM, CFA, shares his advice on a tax-efficient strategy that can help you donate more to the charities and causes you support.

Stock options remain a key compensation tool in many employee and management incentive programs. They provide an opportunity for individuals to benefit from their company's success and performance. However, most people are unaware that when it comes to supporting a cause that you care about, gifting publicly traded securities from stock options can be a great way to maximize your impact while also minimizing your taxes. With some careful planning, you can avoid paying tax on the employment benefit that normally applies when exercising stock options.

EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION TAXATION

- No tax implication arises before the option is exercised.
- Once exercised, the difference in price between the option price and the fair market value of the stock at the time of exercise is included as an employment benefit on the employee's T4.
- Generally, if the option is deemed qualified by the Canada Revenue Agency, you can deduct half of the benefit, so only 50% of the stock option benefit is taxed at your marginal rate.

STOCK OPTIONS DONATED TO CHARITY TAXATION

- Upon exercising the stock option and donating it to a charity within 30 days, the individual will receive:
 1. A charitable tax receipt for your gift's fair market value.
 2. An additional deduction of 50% of the taxable employment benefit.
- If requirements are met, the entire employee stock option benefit is essentially tax free.
- No capital gains tax is applicable if exercised options are donated to charity within the 30-day window or if vested options are donated before being exercised.

EXAMPLE As part of your executive compensation package at ABC Company, you are granted 10,000 options at \$100.00 per share. The fair market value of ABC company rises to \$120.00 per share and you decide to exercise your options.

NO DONATION

Employee Benefit (Fair Market Value - Value of Option Granted)	\$1,200,000 - \$1,000,000 = \$200,000
Minus: 50% Stock Option Deduction*	\$200,000 × 50% = \$100,000
Taxable Stock Option Benefit	\$100,000
Tax Payable (Marginal 53.5% rate)	\$53,500

DONATION

Employee Benefit (Fair Market Value - Value of Option Granted)	\$1,200,000 - \$1,000,000 = \$200,000
Minus: 50% Stock Option Deduction*	\$200,000 × 50% = \$100,000
Taxable Stock Option Benefit	\$100,000
Additional 50% Deduction	\$100,000
Tax Payable	\$0

HOW TO DONATE

- **Do-It-Yourself (DIY):** Exercise vested options and donate them to your cause of choice within 30 days. This must be done in the same calendar year.
- **Broker:** Direct your broker to exercise, liquidate, and donate.

The donation of stock options is a lesser known but extremely effective way to achieve your philanthropic goals. Please be aware that there are certain requirements that must be met to claim the full tax benefits. We recommend that you seek guidance from a professional tax advisor before making any type of donation. **E**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

bit.ly/CRA-ESO Department of Finance Canada - Backgrounder: Proposed Changes to the Tax Treatment of Employee Stock Options

bit.ly/CRA-PTSO Canada Revenue Agency – Gifts of Publicly Traded Shares and Stock Options



ABOUT CODY GORDON, CIM, CFA, LEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER AT VERUS FINANCIAL AT NATIONAL BANK FINANCIAL

Cody is an alumnus of SFU Beedie School of Business with a concentration in finance. With over a decade of industry experience, Cody helps protect, grow, and transition the legacies of affluent multigenerational families. In 2020, Cody won the National Bank Financial Excellence Award for Rising Star of the Year in Canada. In 2021, he was recognized as one of the Top Young Advisors in the Wealth Profession.

Cody is proud of his work in helping his clients make tax-efficient charitable gifts to SFU, and how that has allowed them to have a bigger impact for deserving SFU students.

IN MEMORIAM



Simon Fraser University deeply mourns the loss of Ron Cliff, SFU Convocation founder and cherished friend, who passed away in December 2022. He will be dearly missed.

Ron was a distinguished philanthropist, volunteer and leader in Canadian business. Throughout his life, Ron demonstrated an unwavering commitment to bettering our communities and his service earned him some of the nation's highest honours, including being appointed to both the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia.

Born in Vancouver, Ron attended St. George's School and graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1949. Early in his career, Ron's entrepreneurial spirit took him into the realm of developing, financing and managing a wide

range of businesses, as well as using his accountancy training to serve as treasurer and advisor to many organizations. Ron has touched countless lives with his long and remarkable history of supporting charitable causes. Many communities have been enriched through his invaluable contributions to the Vancouver Police Foundation, VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation, Vancouver Symphony Society and Foundation, Heathcliff Foundation, and other arts, education and health organizations.

In 2014, Ron made a meaningful gift to establish the Ronald Cliff Endowment Fund supporting the Ronald Cliff Bursaries at SFU, which provides vital and ongoing funding for students who might otherwise not be able to afford a post-secondary education. Ron and his wife, Ardelle, also generously supported the building of SFU's new School for the Contemporary Arts in the redeveloped Woodward's complex. SFU was honoured to recognize Ron with the President's Distinguished Community Leadership Award in 2014 for his exceptional dedication to the university and society.

Ron has made a positive and lasting impact on many people with his inspiring legacy of generosity. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Cliff family.

We are honoured to partner with you to build a brighter future for our diverse communities.

Thank you for your dedication to SFU.

SFU

For further information, please contact:

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