

SFU

ENGAGE

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF SFU'S DONOR COMMUNITY





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Your thoughtfulness changes lives—and for that we are exceptionally grateful.

The support we receive from dedicated partners like you furthers SFU's vision for advancing an inclusive and sustainable future. Together, through our shared commitment, we are responding to meet the needs of a world in flux and make it a better place. I am honoured to help in building that world alongside of you.

In this issue of *Engage*, we are pleased to highlight how members of our SFU community are making a difference for British Columbia and beyond.

Discover how SFU researcher Dr. Stuart Peacock, the Leslie Diamond Chair in Cancer Survivorship, is working to foster healthy lives. Learn about graduate student Katerina Stepanova, a recipient of awards funded by SFU's generous donor community, who is exploring how immersive technologies impact human social connections, our perceptions of the world, and our place within it.

We also introduce you to three SFU alumni who have mobilized their education and passion to do good in our community. We celebrate the generosity of professor emeritus John Clague and Lexi Clague, who are inspiring future generations of scientists through a gift in their will. And we share an interview with Erin Biddlecombe, SFU's Senior Director, Student Affairs as well as a PhD candidate deeply committed to helping SFU students thrive.

These and other stories demonstrate the remarkable impact of your leadership. I hope you enjoy reading them.

On behalf of everyone at SFU, thank you for your kindness and support. As 2023 comes to a close, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and restful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Morantz".

Erin Morantz
Vice-President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement

WINTER 2023

WITH GRATITUDE

Simon Fraser University respectfully acknowledges the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh Úx̱wumixw (Squamish), sə̱lilw̱ətaʔḻ (Tsleil-Waututh), q̱íćəy̱ (Katzie), ḵw̱iḵw̱əł̱əm (Kwikwetlem), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen peoples on whose unceded traditional territories our three campuses reside.

IN EVERY ISSUE

01

Message from
the VPAAE

04

People of SFU

10

From the Archives

20

By the Numbers

22

Ask an Expert

30

SFU News

WINTER 2023

FEATURE STORIES

08

Doing Good

11

Healthy food
for healthy minds

12

Supporting Indigenous
& Black scientists

14

Building community
& compassion
through coffee

16

Transforming
the future of cancer

18

Bringing equity
into the health
promotion space

25

Making dreams come
true: One couple's
investment in our future

26

Part of the bigger picture

28

Bridging human
connection in the
world of immersive
technologies

ENDOWMENT

34

2023 Endowment Report
& Financial Highlights

MEET ERIN BIDDLECOMBE

SENIOR DIRECTOR, STUDENT AFFAIRS

Erin Biddlecombe leads a dynamic team supporting SFU students and their success with services and programs that go beyond academics. Through the three units she oversees—Health and Counselling Services, Multifaith Centre and Office of Student Support, Rights and Responsibilities—more than 65 doctors, clinical and non-clinical staff and dozens of student volunteers aim to support students' wholistic well-being, including their physical, emotional, social spiritual, and mental health, which in turn, supports SFU students' academic goals.

Erin is also a PhD candidate at SFU, connecting her commitment and advocacy for social justice with her research on equity matters in higher education.

Learn more about Erin, her leadership approach, and her team's commitment to help students flourish.

“IT IS THE MOST HUMBLING AND HEART-HEAVY WORK I HAVE EVER DONE.”

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

SFU students are hardworking and talented—a lot of them juggle multiple jobs and home responsibilities, many while commuting at least an hour each way to campus. They are some of the most resilient students I've had the chance to work with in my career at various institutions. Students can also be our best teachers, if we give them the space to tell us about their experiences and what matters most to them. As alumni, they are doing important work in support of their communities; it's inspiring to watch them.

In addition to being a staff member and PhD student, you are also a donor to SFU—why do you think it is important to give back to your place of work and future alma mater?

I was the first person in my family to go to university, and financially my parents worked hard to save enough money to send me. I'm incredibly grateful for their support. As an undergrad and master's student at other institutions, I received scholarships from donors there, which really helped me have the time to focus on my learning. A lot of SFU students need the same kind of financial support so they, too, can prioritize their academic success. Providing bursaries and scholarships to support this generation of students at SFU really matters to me and makes me feel like my donations are meaningful.

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

When I think of the types of people that inspire me the most, they are people leaders who are empathetic, who know and trust their staff, who deliberately engage a wide range of staff from various lived and work experiences in decision making, who listen more than they speak, and who leverage these strengths into getting work done in an ethical, inclusive, and collaborative way. I've noticed that these are the leaders who end up getting the results needed by the organization. They may not hold the title of 'leader' but they are seen as a leader by their peers and colleagues.

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

One of the greatest lessons I have learned is the necessity to understand my positionality—I hold a lot of social

capital and power as a white, cisgender, heterosexual, settler woman with a senior director title and advanced educational degrees.

When I'm making decisions, especially when it's on behalf of groups or communities of folks that I don't belong to, it's important to bring people from those groups into the tent with me as soon as possible to work together. Leaders have a role to play in making all staff feel like "this is the place for me, this is where I want to work, I'm being listened to, I'm being heard, I'm involved in decision making and I'm excited about the future."

Student health and well-being is foundational to student academic success and to students being able to graduate and move on to whatever is next in their lives. Can you tell us more about how your team is supporting the success of SFU students and helping to transform their experience?

My team is looking at "upstream strategies" to serve students sooner. Hiring more counsellors is not actually the silver bullet solution. In addition to having appropriate numbers of clinicians (who represent a diversity of students' lived experiences) ready to support students, we also need to look at university policies and procedures and the way the university is designed—and do so through the lenses of student well-being and health equity. Are we creating welcoming spaces where all students feel like they belong? How might we be designed to create barriers to access? How are we exclusionary to some equity-deserving students? Which students? How do we evolve SFU so we can help students build skills, build community, be well to learn well, and thrive here?

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

SFU is a small town, and crisis happens here just as it would anywhere else. So, when the phone rings or an email comes into the office to alert us that a student or a group of students is experiencing a crisis, the team I work alongside quietly responds to these students' needs. By design it is not publicly known because we want to protect the dignity and confidentiality of the students that are involved. There are lots of evenings and weekends where the team is visiting family, visiting people in hospital, supporting faculty members, at times going to funerals. It is the most humbling and heart-heavy work I have ever done, and I am so in awe of my colleagues who do this work together so well. **E**

DOING GOOD

The giving season, technically, starts in the weeks leading up to the holidays. For SFU alumni working in the social good sector, it runs year-round.

From offering immersive experiential learning opportunities to fostering passionate campus communities, SFU prepares its students for a lifetime of making social change. To catch a glimpse at how SFU students translate their campus experiences into careers dedicated to creating a more inclusive future, we caught up with three alumni: **Erika De Torres**, Apathy is Boring's Director of Impact and Development; **Jessica Pang-Parks**, Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Director of Volunteer Engagement and Innovation; and **Rian Bevan**, Four Our Future's Lead Innovation Researcher.



ERIKA DE TORRES

Director of Impact and Development, Apathy is Boring

Erika De Torres remembers the moment clearly: it was 2004, she was 12 years old and, after watching a fateful news segment on television, she understood the kind of difference she wanted to make in the world.

Three young Canadians had recently launched Apathy is Boring to reverse the country's trend of declining voter participation. Already an active volunteer at non-profits in North Vancouver, Erika tuned in when one of the organization's co-founders was discussing the importance of getting youth to the polls in the 2004 federal election.

"I realized it was a really important mission in order for our democracy to function," she says. "I had stars in my eyes."

Erika deepened this interest at SFU through her coursework as a political science and gender, sexuality, and women's studies double-major. She thoroughly followed her passion for community engagement outside of the classroom, too, taking on leadership roles with the Simon Fraser Student Society's Women's Centre and the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Student Union, working as a campus tour guide and supporting other students in getting involved in campus life as a peer engagement educator.

Then, in another twist of fate, Erika moved to Montreal—Apathy is Boring's home base—for graduate school. She didn't know the organization was headquartered in the city until she attended one of their events with a friend. Later, Erika landed a job as Apathy is Boring's director of impact and development, where she now conducts research, fundraising and evaluations to support their programming. She has continued her full-circle moment by chairing the SFU Alumni Association's awards committee—it's inspiring, she says, to see how many people's journeys of making an impact started, just like hers, at SFU.

"My entire experience at SFU encouraged me to be an engaged person," she says. "It really prepared me for what I'm doing right now."



JESSICA PANG-PARKS

Director of Volunteer Engagement and Innovation, Crohn's and Colitis Canada

Shortly after starting graduate school, Jessica Pang-Parks realized the laboratory wasn't for her.

"Two weeks in, I was like 'wow, I want to work with people, not algae,'" she recalls.

Jessica had recently moved to Ontario after graduating from SFU. She loved a lot of things about her undergrad: studying environmental science and biology, living and working on campus residences, talking with professors during class and office hours. The most logical step, Jessica figured, was to continue her studies at the graduate level. She realized, though, that the topics felt most alive for her while in conversation with other people.

As a result, she pivoted the focus of her thesis away from research and towards environmental education, eventually leading to her first post-grad job as a volunteer coordinator at World Wildlife Fund Canada. In November 2022, she became Crohn's and Colitis Canada's director of volunteer engagement and innovation. Currently, through listening to and collaborating with the organization's community, she's planning a new direction for the organization's volunteer engagement strategy. Volunteers are crucial in supporting the programming and fundraising efforts of the organization, such as Camp Got2Go for youth living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and the more-than-60 annual Gutsy Walk events that local volunteers organize across the country.

The work has a personal connection for Jessica, too. She was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis during her time at SFU. A professor was the one to encourage her to take a semester off to take care of herself—a caring gesture she feels driven to pay forward as an instructor herself, now teaching courses in volunteer management.

"I'm most proud of the moments in my career when I can make those meaningful connections."



"I WANT TO WORK WITH PEOPLE, NOT ALGAE."

RIAN BEVAN

Lead Innovation
Researcher,
Four Our Future



In Rian Bevan's first years at SFU, he knew he wanted to study something that would help him do good in the world—he just liked too many subjects to pick one to major in.

Everything came into focus in his fourth year, however, when he enrolled in the Semester in Dialogue: a 10-credit interdisciplinary course that immerses students in conversations with faculty and local thought leaders. No two days in the course looked the same, running the gamut from learning about Indigenous drumming traditions to spending a day in discussion with Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

"It blew my mind open to what education could be," Rian says.

The key to creating an equitable and sustainable future, he realized, isn't necessarily tied to a single subject. As he learned in the Semester in Dialogue, real social change often begins with deep and critical conversations, and that real learning comes from experiences—like when he and his Semester in Dialogue classmates planned a 200-person event for their final project or when, in a social enterprise course, he conceptualized a platform that used blockchain technology to incentivize actions for social good.

The latter prepared Rian with the background knowledge necessary for his current role at Four Our Future, an Indigenous-owned company that develops business and economic development models grounded in traditional ways of knowing.

One of the projects Rian recently supported includes 400 Drums, a campaign that guided Indigenous artists in uploading their artwork as non-fungible tokens. Creating a stable record of the artwork on the blockchain, Rian says, can protect artists' work from being appropriated and sold by non-Indigenous people. The impact also speaks to an intention he has formed through and beyond his time at SFU: to find work that is both fulfilling to himself and beneficial to others.

"I feel like whatever opportunities I take on should be aligned to that core." **E**

400 DRUMS

SFU

ALUMNI

GET CONNECTED!

WHO WE ARE

More than **195,000 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.



COMMUNICATION IS CONNECTION

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

- SFUAlumni
- SFUAlumni_
- SFUAlumni
- SFU Advancement and Alumni Engagement

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:

THE SINGING JANITOR

“I was an undergrad at SFU from 1974-1977 and remember him as well. Such a positive attitude toward his work. Was a treat to see him each day.”

- ROBERT W.

“I was at SFU from 1968-1972. Seeing him always brought a smile to my face!”

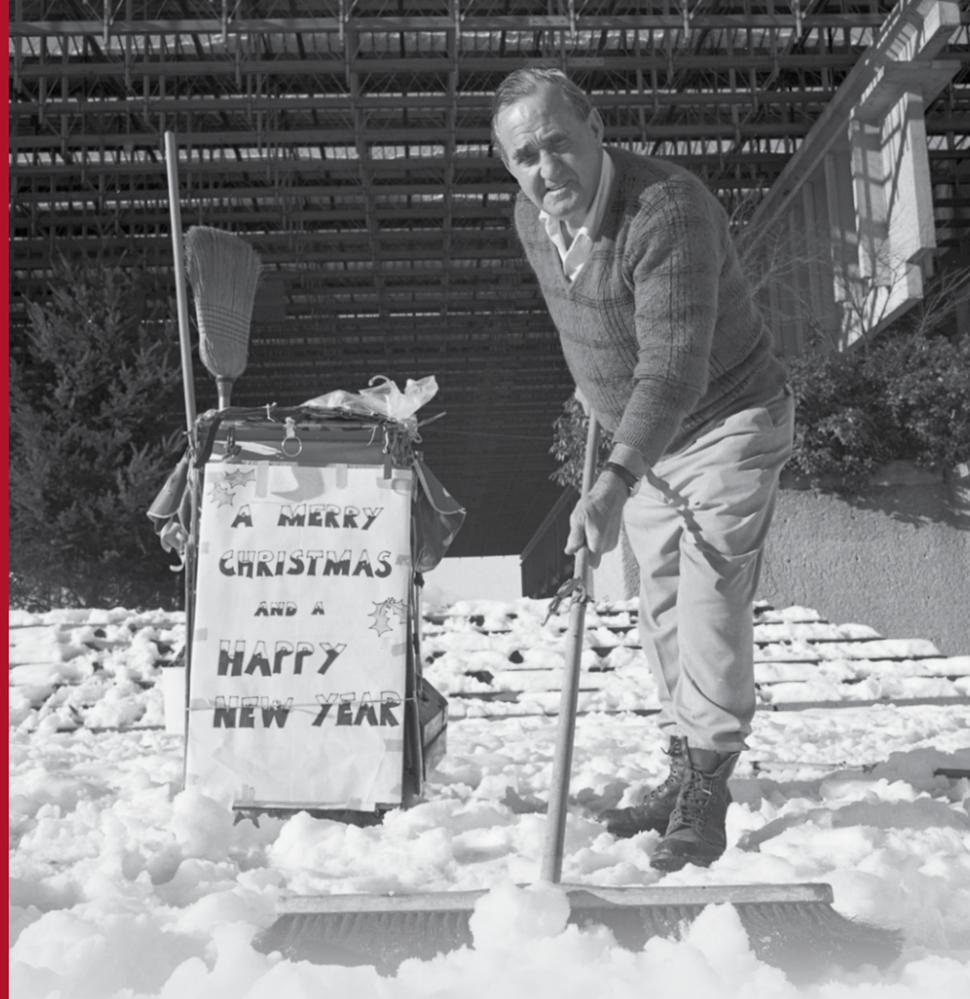
- KLAUS S.

“This guy made my day, every day. He was always so warm and friendly. He was the grandpa I never had. I lived on SFU residence from 1971-1974. I was from Toronto, so knew nobody when I started. Having him around made SFU a kinder place.”

- LYDIA B.

COVER AND PHOTO ON RIGHT: Ted Sinnott, the Ambassador of Good Cheer, pictured in 1971.

PHOTO CREDIT: Image IMC_71159-010 and 012, SFU Archives reference and display materials collection [F-247]



Many alumni may remember Ted Sinnott, the beloved Convocation Mall janitor. Fondly known as the “singing janitor,” Ted was a cherished member of the SFU community who had a song and smile for everyone. It was said that he was “written into the university’s cleaning contracts.” Even as the contracts changed hands, Ted would remain.

Born in Liverpool in 1894 during the reign of Queen Victoria, Ted spent many years working on the docks, just as his father did before him. He and his wife Elizabeth were married in 1914 and had four children before their wonderful life together ended in 1957 with Elizabeth’s passing.

In 1964, Ted decided to leave England and join his daughter Betty in North Vancouver. Five years later, he arrived at SFU at the age of 75—and proceeded to capture everyone’s heart.

On two occasions, Ted was celebrated with surprise birthday parties. When he turned 78, for example, SFU students baked 78 cakes in his honour. Ted also received the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal and SFU’s C.D. Nelson Award for his outstanding contributions to the university.

In 1981, the Ted Sinnott Memorial Fund was established at SFU in his memory. The award was to be given to a student who made voluntary contributions to enrich the university community—embodying the cheer and goodwill that Ted represented for many at SFU during his tenure.

Today, the award continues to be distributed to one student every year, making Ted a lasting and unforgettable part of SFU history.

HEALTHY FOOD FOR HEALTHY MINDS

Food security is a critical part of ensuring people’s physical and mental health.

But rising costs of food and increasing financial instability mean that more SFU students than ever are facing challenges accessing healthy food. Too often, students survive on a substandard diet of noodles and rice—or skip meals entirely.

Donors like you play a critical role supporting struggling students through various SFU programs designed to deliver affordable food to the SFU community, make food more accessible and increase students’ skills for purchasing, preparing and using food.

With your support, we have already helped 604 graduate and undergraduate students in need and raised \$76,350 with grocery gift cards, ensuring students can purchase essentials.

“With unprecedented inflation and the rise in food and housing costs, the number of students experiencing

food insecurity continues to grow in our community,” says Tara Flynn, Manager, SFU Food Pantry. “Many students simply cannot afford the type of nutrition that best fuels their brains, like fresh fruit, vegetables and high-quality animal and vegan proteins.”

Students often tell Tara how grateful they are for fresh foods—the first to be selected at the SFU Food Pantry—that typically get left ‘off their plates’ due to cost. She notes that having the ability to provide fresh items and to buy in bulk helps donation dollars go further; where possible the SFU Food Pantry also supports local shops, farmers, vendors, and B.C. products.

“By directly helping students with food top-ups, the generous contributions from SFU donors alleviates some of the financial pressures students are experiencing on multiple levels, and in a dignified way,” she says. “A beautiful community is created around food, and the sense of belonging is palpable when people feel nourished in all ways.”



“I APPRECIATE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OF THESE DAYS. THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT CARD. THEY’VE BEEN A LIFESAVER TO STUDENTS.”

SFU STUDENT

As well, donors to SFU’s Food Security Fund provided pick-up meals from the SFU Dining Commons to students staying in residences over the winter break (December 21, 2022 to January 1, 2023). Of the 692 meals picked up, 444 were funded by donor support.

We are grateful to all our partners helping to alleviate student hunger and provide students with the comfort and health of good food. At this time of giving, additional contributions to the SFU Food Security Fund will provide emergency grocery gift cards

for undergraduate and graduate students in need. Please scan the QR code to learn more. 

FISCAL YEAR 2024 SPRING CAMPAIGN

Thank you for giving generously last spring to support the diverse needs of our students. We greatly appreciate you helping our students realize their dreams.

\$115,829
TOTAL RAISED

590
DONORS

\$79,694
FUNDS RAISED FOR STUDENT BURSARIES



“WE WANTED TO SEE THE LEGACY GROW, BE SUSTAINABLE AND STAND THE TEST OF TIME.”

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS & BLACK SCIENTISTS

When Ranah Chavoshi and fellow members of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee looked into enrolment records in 2021, they found that the biology graduate program welcomed 160 students over the past eight years. Of that number, there were only four Indigenous students and two Black students—a demographic that the committee was determined to change.

As the Black Lives Matter movement gained international attention amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee felt that it was the right time to address two issues: the systemic barriers to higher education for under-represented students, and the vital need for diversity in science.

“We want to see science accessible for all, but we know that Black and Indigenous students aspiring to be academic scientists have, historically and in the present, faced structural barriers and biases,” says Ranah. “On the other hand, you see multiple studies prove that diverse teams have better scientific outcomes—think about when researchers around the world were collaborating to find a vaccine for COVID-19, and what a beautiful example this is of what different perspectives can do.”

To help SFU take one step toward building a more racially equitable and inclusive biological sciences department, the committee came up with the idea to establish the Indigenous and Black Graduate Scholarship in Biology.

The committee volunteered more than 500 hours of their time and, with the help of SFU faculty Mary Catherine Kropinski and Isabelle Côté as well as members of the Faculty of Science Advancement team, were able to successfully launch the scholarship.

“We consulted with SFU’s Indigenous communities and Black Caucus to see that the terms for the scholarship were appropriate,” says Ranah. “We wanted to make it low barrier and easier for people with non-linear or

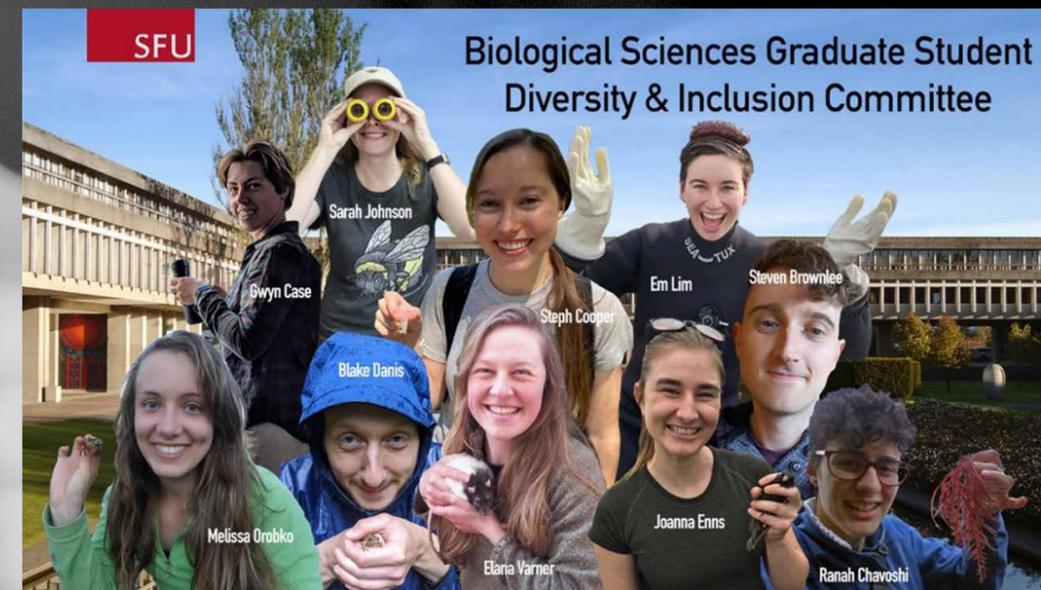
atypical paths to apply, like Indigenous peoples who are healers in their community, and who may not possess a traditional degree.”

To ensure that the scholarship could, in perpetuity, provide one Indigenous or Black student per year with \$1,500, the committee set out to raise enough funding to endow it. The goal was to raise \$30,000, with an anonymous donor generously offering to match all donations up to \$15,000. The committee, however, exceeded their original goal and raised over \$45,000 with the support of more than 330 donors.

“If you look at SFU or any other institution, you see diversity at the undergraduate level, but somehow we lose much of that as you advance further into academia,” says Ranah. “This scholarship doesn’t resolve these issues, but it’s one small way to help people get their foot in the door.”

While Ranah and other committee members who worked on the scholarship have since stepped down from their roles, they feel assured knowing that there is a legacy of funding available for future students.

“This wasn’t just a one-time project for us,” says Ranah. “We wanted to see the legacy grow, be sustainable and stand the test of time.”





RENAISSANCE COFFEE

BUILDING COMMUNITY & COMPASSION THROUGH COFFEE

“IT HAS BEEN MY PURPOSE AND HONOUR TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY.”

For over 25 years, Renaissance Coffee owner Parminder Parhar has been a devoted member of the SFU community, passionately crafting exceptional coffee and helping cultivate a sense of belonging for students, faculty, and staff across the university's Burnaby campus.

Offering not only coffee, delicious food, and a warm atmosphere for connections and conversations, Parminder and his wife Kamaljit also help SFU students striving to reach their educational goals

through an endowment they started in 2015. Recognizing students' meaningful contributions to the community while assisting them in achieving academic excellence, their endowment funds an annual bursary and athletics award that has been enriching students' lives for seven years and counting.

Parminder shares some of the inspiration behind his desire to give back to SFU and his hopes for the future of the community.

Q&A WITH PARMINDER PARHAR OWNER OF RENAISSANCE COFFEE

You've served thousands of cups of coffee and helped build a wonderful place for people to connect at SFU. Now, you and Kamaljit support students through your endowment which funds an athletics award and a bursary recognizing community service.

How does it feel to see your positive impact grow?

It really is amazing because SFU is a community like no other. We have students, professors and staff from all over Canada and the world that I get to interact with and learn from.

I came here with a pretty simple goal: make a great cup of coffee. As my business grew, so did my goal. I wanted to connect people and build a place where everyone felt welcomed—where they could share not only coffee and food but knowledge and ideas. Giving back and helping students in this community that has supported me is a wonderful feeling.

What made you want to start an endowment to give back?

Education really is the key to so much in life, not only to personal growth or financial security, but to our well-being and ability to adapt, change, and to persevere.

I have seen firsthand how students struggle—financially and with stress and anxiety. It is so difficult to keep going. But I've also seen the confidence students gain from someone believing in them. When someone believes in you, it's the most powerful thing in the world!

Although starting an endowment was something I wanted to do for some time, I have to give credit to Kamal, who said, "you just have to do it!" We started an endowment because long after we are gone, the endowment will continue to provide for students—and that is very powerful.

Renaissance's Coffee Day is an event in the fall that has been going for several years now where proceeds from coffee sales go directly to the endowment. Can you share a little about why you started this initiative?

Coffee Day is inspired by how strong the SFU community is when we work together.

During the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, it was a really tough time for the shop. Like so many small businesses, we were completely shut down for many weeks. But we knew people were still on campus so we came back and

served coffee. Even though campus was practically empty, people would come purchase gift cards and give them to colleagues or their students. That kindness kept people coming in, and kept us going. It was incredibly touching.

Coffee Day builds on that idea. It is a way to show that everyone can be a part of changing students' lives—no matter how big or small their contribution. It's about inviting everyone in this wonderful community to join me in making a difference for students and showing them how easy it can be to give back. If a little coffee guy like me can do it, anyone can!

As a longstanding and dedicated SFU community member, what hopes do you have for the future of the community?

SFU is a very special place with so many bright minds. I want to see people throughout our community continue to support one another, to share their knowledge and lessons with each other. It has been my purpose and honour to serve this community and I've learned so much through this journey. No matter your station, everyone has the power to make a difference. My hope is that people will find their own purpose and keep sharing generously. ■

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF CANCER

How can we enhance support for cancer survivors and caregivers? For more than two decades, Dr. Stuart Peacock, a distinguished scientist and SFU health sciences professor, has focused his research on developing more effective cancer services, making health system funding decisions fairer and more transparent, and improving the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.

In 2015, Stuart began serving as the inaugural holder of the Leslie Diamond Chair in Cancer Survivorship—a position that was brought to life with the remarkable generosity of philanthropists Leslie and Gordon Diamond. The gift was made in honour of Leslie's 70th birthday and nearly 30 healthy and memory-filled years post-breast cancer, with the aim of providing that hope for others impacted by cancer.

"I am humbled to have this opportunity to propel innovative, world-class research to improve the well-being of cancer survivors and their families," says Stuart. "As the Leslie Diamond Chair in Cancer Survivorship, my goal is to lead research that will help develop better access to more effective cancer services, so that British Columbians who have had a cancer diagnosis can continue to thrive and enjoy their healthiest lives possible."

Under Stuart's leadership, the SFU and BC Cancer research team has grown rapidly and now boasts more than 15 staff making strides in various areas of cancer survivorship.

Notably, they have developed and launched several programs dedicated to understanding the needs of young



Dr. Stuart Peacock

survivors. Their Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors program—which includes 50 years of cancer treatment and health service data for all British Columbians up to 39-years-old who were diagnosed between 1970 to 2020—has been used to predict things like long-term survival, incidence and prevalence of second cancers, and educational and employment outcomes.

The team has also used patient co-design principles and survivor lived experiences to help develop new models for Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) survivorship care, particularly for youth who face additional challenges as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer community.

Recently, the team completed a world-first study to understand how different types of cancer affect survivors' income and employment over time. One of their key findings was that an individual's income is significantly and negatively impacted within the first few years following a cancer diagnosis, especially for female breast cancer patients. Systemic income inequalities with women's roles in the workplace are important factors to consider when it comes to reintegrating women into the workforce after a cancer diagnosis, says Stuart.

Strong efforts have also been made to advance interventions that reduce anxiety and enhance quality of life, including a physical activity self-management program for prostate

cancer survivors and their caregivers; a study on Canadian cancer survivors and their perspectives on cannabis to alleviate cancer symptoms; and research findings that will be used to directly enhance virtual care for all cancer patients across the province.

In the coming years, Stuart and his team will focus on bolstering research and trainee capacity in cancer survivorship, as well as building on their extensive Canadian and international partnerships.

"Cancer survivors are a distinct population with specific and ongoing needs," says Stuart. "We hope that our work will result in a brighter future for the growing number of cancer survivors." ■

“WE HOPE THAT OUR WORK WILL RESULT IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE GROWING NUMBER OF CANCER SURVIVORS.”



BRINGING EQUITY INTO THE HEALTH PROMOTION SPACE

When Ilhan Abdullahi joined the RADIUS Health Promotion Lab as program manager in 2019, she had already gone through her own journey of reconciling what equity looks like in the context of health promotion work.

“AT RADIUS, IT’S ALL ABOUT LEARNING AND UNLEARNING.”

At the time, the Lab—housed within SFU’s Beedie School of Business—primarily addressed chronic disease prevention through the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity. Working alongside migrant communities she’s a part of and recognizing the disproportionate health

disparities experienced by underserved communities, it was clear to Ilhan that addressing health inequities required a more grounded and equity-centred lens.

“When you’re in survival mode, there are so many barriers to attaining the kind of ‘healthy’ lifestyle we were pushing forward,” says Ilhan. “That led us to rethink how we can centre access, equity and equity principles in our programming.”

With the generous support and partnership of RBC Future Launch, the Lab shifted its focus and launched a new cohort-based program called Reimagine Health, a health equity ideation and leadership initiative for budding social entrepreneurs and community changemakers. Ventures that graduated out of that program could then move on to Trampoline, a business model validation program for very

early-stage ventures working to address health inequities in their communities.

While the Lab’s prior offerings looked to later-stage ventures—where founders already have a big idea and business model—Reimagine Health was centred on supporting community leaders and members in exploring the social determinants of health and critiquing complex systems of access. This enabled the Lab to reorient its processes to be grounded in community, and to be driven by the belief that the best and most relevant solutions come from the community itself.

“Instead of tapping into the same demographic of business students, folks with an entrepreneurship background and those with pre-existing capital, we really wanted to unravel that expert-driven model and what innovation looks like,” says Ilhan. “Now we are going into communities and bringing in people who have lived experiences and are deeply invested in the places they want to serve, and giving them the resources to make change.”



Katia Sanon, Trampoline program alumna

To date, the Lab has trained more than 80 community leaders in health promotion and venture incubation including Upkar Tatlay, an alumnus of both the Reimagine Health and Trampoline programs. Upkar developed an overdose intervention app tailored to underserved, vulnerable Surrey communities and factors in language, cultural relevance, stigma and the cost to prevent overdose. Katia Sanon, another Trampoline alumnus, created FLEKSYON to offer in-house rehabilitation services for people who suffer from musculoskeletal injuries that can lead to lack of physical activity and movement.



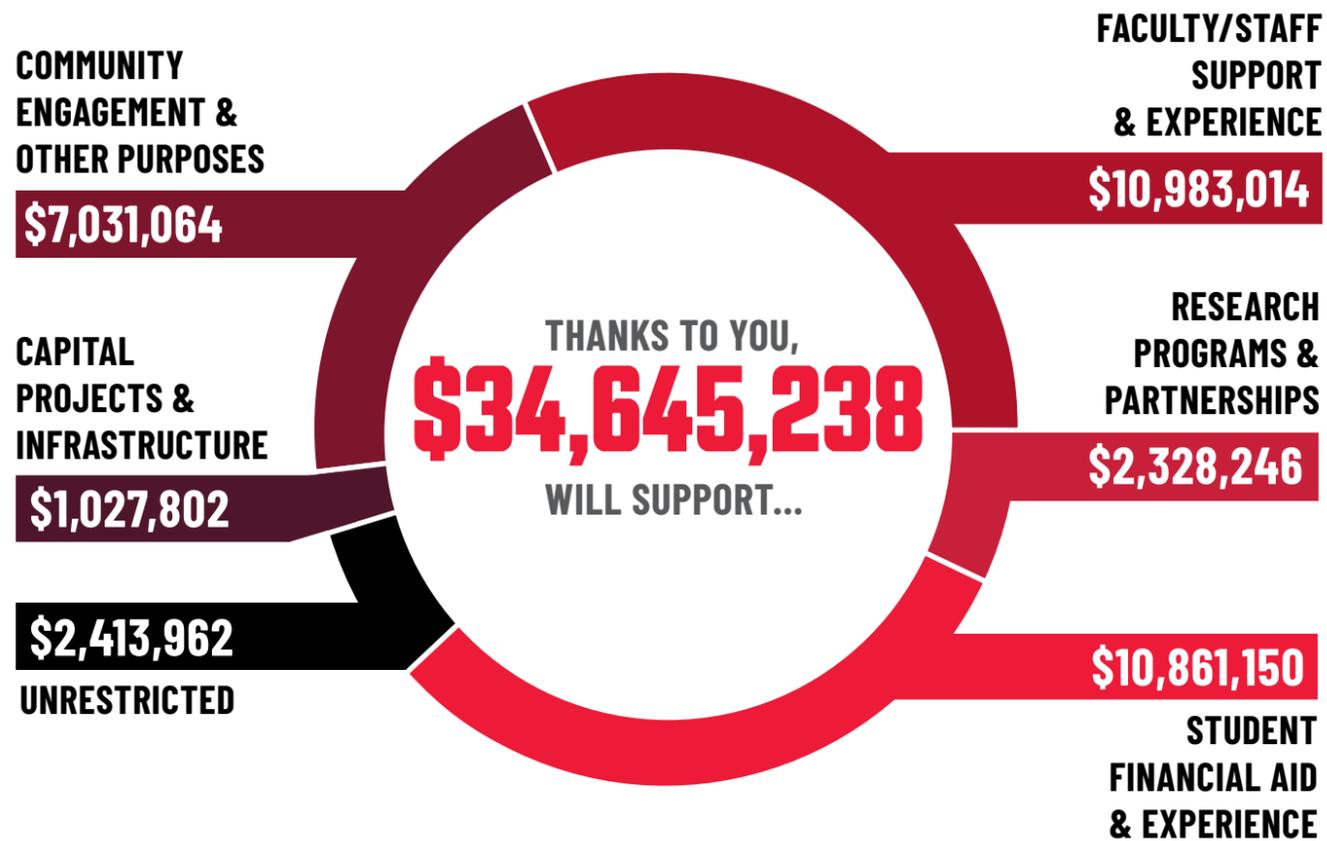
Overdose intervention app developed by Upkar Tatlay

This past May, RADIUS also piloted a free six-month program called Build for ventures looking to refine their model and grow their impact. The initiative was designed by, for and with input from people of colour and members of the Indigenous and Black community—and, to reduce barriers to participation, the Lab provided stipends and subsidized childcare for individuals who wished to take part.

“At RADIUS, it’s all about learning and unlearning. Every time we run a program, we’re looking at things from a new angle because of the different folks who come into this space,” says Ilhan. “None of us are experts here. We’re just curious beings with a deep commitment for systems change and equity, and it’s the community we learn from.” **E**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT!

Your thoughtful investment inspires us—and creates opportunities that help make the world a better place. From all of us at SFU, thank you for your commitment to advancing an inclusive and sustainable future.



SFU IS A COMMUNITY OF

37,500+
STUDENTS

7,200+
FACULTY AND STAFF

195,000
ALUMNI ACROSS 140 COUNTRIES

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE!



ALUMNI	\$5,333,118
CAMPUS FRIENDS	\$2,636,964
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS	\$9,801,702
COMMUNITY FRIENDS	\$7,217,287
COMMUNITY GROUPS	\$7,025,955
CORPORATIONS	\$2,526,693
MUNICIPAL (GOVERNMENT SECTOR)	\$103,519

73% OF DONORS ARE ALUMNI

4,309
GENEROUS DONORS

23,498
GIFTS

45 NEW ANNUAL AND ENDOWED AWARDS CREATED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

2,692 AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES VALUED AT **\$6,876,534** DISBURSED TO STUDENTS

541 DONORS CONTRIBUTED **\$133,439.70** TO THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY ENDOWMENT

NOTABLE RECENT RANKINGS

#1 CANADIAN COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY
(Maclean's University rankings)

#1 IN THE WORLD FOR IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
(Times Higher Education)

#2 IN CANADA FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK
(Times Higher Education)

#3 IN CANADA FOR IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION
(Times Higher Education)

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN PLANNING A CHARITABLE GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Many SFU donors choose to make a meaningful gift in their will to support countless future generations of students. When planning your own gift, it can sometimes seem daunting. Here are five questions I recommend you use to help start your planning.

HOW DOES A GIFT TO SFU ALIGN WITH MY VALUES?

A charitable gift should be an expression of your values and beliefs. When starting to consider leaving a charitable bequest, think about the values that have been important to you throughout your life. Starting here is a helpful exercise to guide you when you start planning the details.

1

WHAT KIND OF IMPACT DO I WANT TO HAVE?

Many SFU donors choose to support students with their charitable bequest. The three main ways to do this are through:

Scholarships Recognize outstanding academic achievement.

Awards Recognize outstanding leadership, entrepreneurship, athletic or community achievements.

Bursaries Provide financial support to students who have demonstrated financial need.

Students apply through SFU's Financial Aid and Awards Office.

2

DO I WANT TO CREATE A LASTING ENDOWMENT THAT WILL LIVE ON FOREVER?

SFU's current endowment minimum is \$40,000 to establish a named fund supporting a student award, bursary or scholarship. Currently, SFU endowments generate a 5% spend, meaning an endowment of \$40,000 supports one scholarship of \$2,000 every year, in perpetuity.

We encourage endowments of at least \$50,000 and ideally \$100,000 to ensure they continue to provide meaningful support.

3

WILL THERE BE A LARGE TAX BILL IN MY ESTATE?

For many Canadians, the largest tax bill you will ever pay is in your estate. Capital gains taxes on appreciated stocks or secondary property, and deemed withdrawal of RRSPs can end up resulting in a large unforeseen tax bill. But with good planning, there are simple ways to reduce the amount of tax owed in your estate. In the year of death and the previous year, a donor may be able to claim a credit for donations up to 100% of their net income.

4

WHO SHOULD I TALK TO ABOUT MY GIFT?

We encourage donors to speak to your executor and family about your plans to leave a gift in your will to SFU. For many, staying connected to and learning about the impact of their loved one's charitable bequest provides great comfort.

5

JUST GETTING STARTED WITH ESTATE PLANNING?

Contact us at gifttest@sfu.ca or **778.782.4154** for a free copy of our estate planning guide.

For many people, a charitable gift in a will is an important part of planning a lasting legacy. A thoughtful bequest gift allows you to carry on your values and support countless people well into the future. The SFU Gift & Estate Planning team is happy to discuss the options with you. **E**



by **Rory Green**
SENIOR DIRECTOR,
PRINCIPAL AND
PLANNED GIFTS



CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

With a gift in your will, you can establish a permanent endowment at SFU and inspire future generations for years to come.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SHAPE A BETTER TOMORROW.



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

[BIT.LY/SFUGEPEP](https://bit.ly/sfugep) [GIFTEST@SFU.CA](mailto:giftest@sfu.ca) 778.782.4154

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



ONE COUPLE'S INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

For John and Lexi Clague, making the decision to leave a gift in their will to support SFU graduate students was an easy one.

“Nowadays I don’t know how a student can possibly afford to go to university,” says Lexi. “The scholarship money is the only thing that can keep them alive and continuing on their search for education. We know that once we are gone, and our money is distributed, that SFU will do a very good job at helping students with that money. So, to us, it seems logical that we should leave a gift in our will to SFU.”

John had a distinguished career as a research scientist working for the Geological Survey of Canada. At the age of 52, almost halfway through his career, he joined SFU’s Faculty of Science. “It was a great opportunity to be able to transfer my research program from the federal government into a university environment,” he says.

Now a professor emeritus, John has wonderful memories of his experience working with graduate and undergraduate students. “I love training students one on one, and getting them enthused about geology and geological research.” He feels a particular sense of accomplishment from seeing students enjoy their learning environment and become professionals in their field.

Lexi, too, fondly recalls John’s time at SFU, as the couple opened up their home to the Department of Earth Sciences and hosted the annual Christmas party for faculty, staff and graduate students. Looking back, Lexi reflects, “We really enjoyed that!”, reiterating John’s love for that kind of one-on-one relationship he had with his students that went beyond the classroom.

Both John and Lexi quickly recognized the difficulties that university students face, especially from a financial point of view. They decided to fund an endowment to support graduate students and to pay forward all they feel they were given by SFU.

The Clagues note that seeing the endowment help students has been a tremendously meaningful

experience. “We get letters from students, they bring tears to my eyes, knowing that the scholarships not only helped financially, but made them feel recognized. That’s another thing about scholarships, the kind of reinforcement of the fact that you are top-notch and deserving,” says John.

To any donors considering leaving a gift in their will, John and Lexi encourage you to think about young people in your own life and ask yourself: What are their dreams? Do they need an education to get there? For the Clagues, a bequest gift for future generations of students they have not yet met, who will solve problems we may not even yet understand, is the best philanthropic investment they could think to make. **E**

John and Lexi have made a generous matching donation to support graduate student endowments in the Faculty of Science. If you would like more information about this matching opportunity, please contact Greg Weinrauch, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Science at gweinrau@sfu.ca or 604.317.1978.



PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

The story behind SFU's newest mural stretches far beyond its home in Robert C. Brown Hall.

It is just one of three new enhancements to the SFU's Department of Geography made possible by a generous legacy gift of \$500,000 left by geography alumni Kenneth Cawker.

Designed by Squamish artist Aaron "Splash" Nelson-Moody, the colourful display represents the teaching of how salmon came to the nation's waterways. If the people promised to treat the salmon and water with respect, the teaching goes, the Chief of the Salmon People would continue to send them fish to eat. On April 5, the department gathered to install the mural in a "paint-by-numbers" style, allowing faculty, staff, and students to each paint a small section of the final piece. According to department chair Tracy Brennand, the artwork doesn't just add a pop of colour to the study space—it illustrates the beauty of a community creating something larger than themselves.

"Even if you only painted a small part of it, you still felt like you were part of something lasting for the department," Brennand says.

The bequest has also increased much-needed financial support for geography students by establishing a donor matching fund and doubling the scholarships available to graduate students. Hannah Harrison is already seeing the benefits as a PhD candidate studying the complex systems that influence Arctic lakes' methane gas emissions. Through turning a careful eye to these often-misunderstood aquatic systems, Harrison is piecing together a more accurate picture of the Arctic's role as a "carbon sink" to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Originally from the United States, Harrison was drawn to SFU for the opportunity to work with Lance Lesack, who is one of the world's few experts on Arctic hydrology. Like most geography scholars, hands-on fieldwork is an essential element of Harrison's research. She says her extended summer sessions spent in the Arctic are a highlight of her work at SFU.

"It is truly a beautiful and unique location," Harrison says.

However, her months spent in the field also come with an added financial strain. Unable to pick up paid work during the summer to fund her studies, scholarships are crucial to enabling Harrison to spend the time and complete the tasks that are vital to her research projects.

"Scholarships allow me to spend another year doing work that I love without worrying about the financial burden of tuition," she says.

SFU's Department of Geography is home to more than 60 graduate students like Harrison. Each of them, department chair Brennand says, are key drivers of the university's cutting-edge research surrounding environmental and human health.

"Understanding the relationship between people and the environment has never been more important," Brennand says. "And graduate students play a necessary role in driving this research."

Thanks to Cawker's gift, a newly established matching fund of \$200,000 will support even more students, including the 500 undergraduate students enrolled in BA, BEnv and BSc geography majors. Through doubling the impact of each new endowed gift made to the department, Brennand

says the fund will expand the number of scholarships, bursaries, and experiential learning opportunities available to undergraduate and graduate students.

Even more profoundly, Brennand says the ripple effect of this gift highlights the essential understanding of geography itself: all features of the earth, living or not, are in relationship with one another.

"All of us, whether we realize it or not, are a part of the bigger picture." **E**

For more information about how you can donate to the matching fund and increase support for students, please contact Christine Harris, Director of Advancement at christine_harris@sfu.ca or 778.782.8859.



Before and after

BRIDGING HUMAN CONNECTION IN THE WORLD OF IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

In ETC (Embodied Telepresent Connection), an interactive art installation, Katerina worked with artist John Desnoyers-Stewart and colleagues from SFU's iSpace Lab to simulate physics, sounds and colour changes and elicit the illusion of tactile sensation.

Katerina Stepanova, a PhD candidate at SFU's School of Interactive Arts and Technology, is deeply passionate about cognitive science, education, and emerging art. Generously supported by multiple donor-funded scholarships, her work explores the fascinating question of how the design of immersive technologies impacts human social connections, our perceptions of the world, and place within it.

Focusing on leveraging modern technology to foster deeper connections with oneself, others, and the environment, Katerina's research examines the potential of creating transformative experiences using Virtual Reality (VR) and biofeedback technologies (i.e. sensors to measure physiological responses like heart and breathing rates or brain activity).



Katerina Stepanova

"Today, we have all this technology that is deeply integrated in our day-to-day interactions. But sometimes it doesn't actually benefit society's health and well-being," says Katerina.

"Technology often tries to grab our attention and capitalize on it—turning us into mere consumers.

"If we can work toward designing more meaningful human experiences and encounters within technology—prioritizing values like emotional connection and empathy—then maybe we can start a paradigm shift in the industry."

ENCOURAGING EMPATHY AND CURIOSITY IN VIRTUAL SPACES

Among many intriguing projects she has worked on, ETC (Embodied Telepresent Connection) is an art installation she collaborated on with John Desnoyers-Stewart, Dr. Bernhard Riecke and the team at SFU's iSpaceLab.

Using technology to connect people in person through VR installations in a festival space, participants would interact with each other with technology as a mediator, affecting the way people engage with each other and challenging social norms.

Simulating interactions for people to playfully explore sharing space, they used simulated physics, sounds and colour changes to elicit an illusion of tactile sensation—the feeling of touching another person. With a person's body represented as an aura of light particles, people reached out, virtually held hands, high-fived, tapped shoulders and danced with one another.

"These were very different than typical avatars you might see, which might look more animated or cartoonish. Instead, you're interacting with an ethereal shape, which people sometimes associated with an energy source, and this suggested a more human essence."

Even when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented Katerina and her team from putting people physically in the same room, they pivoted to online installations.

In the absence of traditional communication methods, Katerina says participants focused on connecting with each other without being influenced by age, color, or gender differences. The human-like shape encouraged open curiosity and interaction, leading people to naturally reach out, play, and explore with one another.

DONOR SUPPORT OPENS DOORS FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH

In addition to funding from a SSHRC CGS Doctoral Fellowship, Katerina is also the recipient of multiple donor-funded awards at SFU including the Helmut & Hugo Eppich Family Scholarship, the Century 21 Charlwood Family Graduate Scholarship, the IODE Seaman Morley Scott Memorial Graduate Scholarship, and a Tom Calvert Scholarship.

This financial support and recognition, she explains, has enabled her to focus on her research and sustain her long-term academic growth and motivation, and also helps legitimize her work as she seeks future funding.

"My field is interdisciplinary and innovative but also novel and risky—many of the things we're doing are being done for the first time. As you spend hours upon hours working on your PhD research, once in a while you have an existential crisis, asking yourself 'why am I doing this?' But knowing that somebody believes in and cares about your work gives you the boost to keep putting your energy into it." **E**

SFU NEWS & RESEARCH



DR. DAVID PRICE JOINS LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR SFU MEDICAL SCHOOL

Practising physician and national leader in family medicine and primary care Dr. David Price joined the university in September as the new acting dean and special advisor for the SFU Medical School. Dr. Price is a professor and former chair of McMaster University's Department of Family Medicine. While at SFU, he will also hold a visiting faculty appointment in SFU's Department of Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology in the Faculty of Science.

BUSINESS GRADUATE STUDENTS HELP EPLANE PROJECT TAKE FLIGHT

A team from SFU's Management of Technology MBA program is helping develop fully electric commercial aircraft after completing a consulting project with Harbour Air Seaplanes. Beginning in May 2023, the group analyzed the market, regulations, and strategic directives for the company's electrification vision, providing strategic proposals that helped Harbour Air navigate the growing ePlane market.



CONSTRUCTION ON LOWER MAINLAND'S NEWEST ART MUSEUM NOW UNDERWAY

In early August, the SFU community marked the commencement of construction for the Marianne and Edward Gibson Art Museum with an Indigenous-led ground awakening ceremony. Set to open on Burnaby campus in 2025, the 12,000 square foot museum will enhance public access to SFU's Art Collection and facilitate artist-led learning programs, artist residencies, and community engagement activities. Additionally, the museum will feature an expansive indoor common area for performances, readings, screenings, and community events.



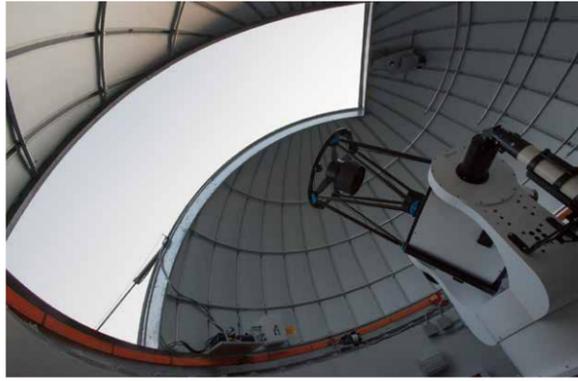
DR. EVAN ADAMS TO LEAD EMBEDDING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AT SFU MEDICAL SCHOOL

Joining the SFU Medical School as the new acting associate dean of Indigenous Health, Dr. Evan Adams is of Tla'amin Nation ancestry and serves as the Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer with the First Nations Health Authority in B.C. With a wealth of experience advocating for Indigenous people and perspectives in healthcare at both provincial and national levels, Dr. Adams is well-equipped to promote Indigenous perspectives in medical education and enhance service equity within the school.



LIFELONG INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE ADVOCATE DEDICATES DEGREE TO TLINGIT HERITAGE

Kèyishí Bessie Cooley has been a driving force for language revitalization in her community for the last four decades. The member of the Kùkhittan clan and Raven moiety of the Inland Tlingit Nation completed her master's degree in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics from SFU and presented her thesis project at the Yukon Native Language Centre in Whitehorse, interweaving English and Tlingit as she spoke.



STARRY NIGHTS AT THE TROTTIER OBSERVATORY ON BURNABY MOUNTAIN EXPANDS VIRTUALLY

SFU's weekly star party on Burnaby Mountain will be online once a month for astronomy enthusiasts to observe celestial wonders from home via the Trottier Observatory's telescope. Organized by SFU Science Outreach and supported by volunteers from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Vancouver, Starry Nights is a free event for everyone in the community. Initially offered virtually during COVID-19, the program recently resumed in-person events. However, online programming has been renewed with continued interest from participants outside the province and the increased accessibility offered by virtual sessions.



UNIVERSITY TO INCREASE BLACK AND INDIGENOUS FACULTY AND STAFF REPRESENTATION

The B.C. Human Rights Commissioner recently approved several Special Program applications allowing for limited and preferential hiring of at least 15 tenure-track Black faculty, 15 Black staff members as well as at least 15 Indigenous staff at SFU. The application process for additional targeted hiring of Indigenous faculty is currently underway. As vice-president, people, equity and inclusion Yabome Gilpin-Jackson notes, "the special programs approval supports the university's strategic priority to strengthen Black and Indigenous faculty and staff recruitment and retention, for qualified candidates from equity-deserving groups who are historically and currently underrepresented as per our commitments in SFU's Equity Compass."



SIX LEADERS HONOURED FOR MAKING AN INSPIRING DIFFERENCE

In early September, SFU was proud to recognize the 2023 recipients of the President's Distinguished Community Leadership Award, Amyn and Shein Rajan, for their inspiring philanthropy and dedication to community, education and equity. As well, the university presented three recipients for the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award, including: Elizabeth Model, for her contributions toward the growth of Surrey; Kali Stierle, for her service and dedication to the Indigenous student community at SFU and beyond; and SFU Black Caucus (founding members Henry Daniel and June Francis), for building a better SFU through equity and racial justice.



WILDFIRE AND ECOSYSTEM SCIENTIST LEADS NEW RESEARCH GROUP AT SFU

Dr. Sophie Wilkinson, a wildfire scientist who joined SFU in July, is heading the new Fire and Ecosystems Research Group and Lab. Her team will focus on wildfire behaviour, its impacts, and the factors that contribute, including peatlands. With a background as a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto's School of Forestry FireLab, she collaborates with the Canadian Forest Service, Provincial Parks, and various industries' land managers, working on a new fuel moisture index for the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System.

1ST

SFU TAKES TOP SPOT IN MACLEAN'S 2024 UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Earning first place for student services and awards, library resources (expenses and acquisitions) and operating budget, SFU retained top spot in the 2024 Maclean's University Rankings this fall. The university also placed in the top three for student/faculty ratio, faculty awards, social sciences and humanities grants, medical/science grants and reputation.



RESEARCHERS FROM SFU INVOLVED IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ANTIMATTER BREAKTHROUGH

Physicists from SFU, the University of Calgary, TRIUMF (Canada's particle accelerator centre), University of British Columbia, York University, and British Columbia Institute of Technology, in collaboration with global research institutions, have answered a long-standing question about gravity's impact on antimatter. Their discovery confirms that antimatter is affected by gravity, moving downward. SFU professor emeritus Michael Hayden's expertise in magnetic fields, microwaves, and resonance was crucial in confining antimatter for this historic observation. The project, taking over a decade to develop the necessary tools and techniques, holds profound implications for the future of physics.

SFU'S ENDOWMENT

ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Endowments build a legacy of support that links generations and allow institutions like SFU to make commitments far into the future, knowing that stable and enduring funding will be available to meet those commitments.

The SFU endowment is designed for the collection of assets held in perpetuity to support the university's mission and activities—and the vision and values of our donors. The endowment is comprised of individual endowment principal

accounts, each representing the original value of the donation and additions made for inflation and other capitalized amounts.

The SFU endowment is responsibly invested to support students, propel research, further community engagement and drive projects and programs made possible through the generosity of donors. By investing in the SFU endowment and providing stable, renewable funding, donors empower us in advancing an inclusive and sustainable future for all.



The following new endowments and testamentary endowments were established recently to advance the vision of donors like you and the university:

NEW ENDOWMENTS

- Arlene James Bursary in the Contemporary Arts Endowment
- Bacchi Kunwari Memorial Scholarship for Women in STEM Endowment
- Boivie Famiy Award Endowment Fund
- Dave Sukhdip Singh Hayer and Marie Isabelle Martinez Hayer Bursary in Journalism Endowment
- Dr. Aimee August Award in Indigenous Language Proficiency Endowment
- Dr. Ruby Peter Graduate Award in Indigenous Language Proficiency Endowment
- Ellen Loosley Memorial Graduate Bursary in Chemistry and Physics Endowment
- Evelyn Pinkerton Endowment Fund
- Indigenous Curriculum Development and Student Experience in Faculty of Education
- Jitendra Kumar Mundra Memorial Award for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Endowment
- Kailash Kumari & Anand Narayan Memorial Endowed Award for Students with Blindness or Limited Vision
- Krishna Devi Memorial Scholarship for Women in STEM Endowment
- Nancy E. Joyce Bursary in Criminology Endowment
- Salish Weave Chair in Salish Art Practices Endowment
- SFU Galleries Curator Indigenous Projects Endowment
- Simons Foundation Canada International Travel Award Endowment
- Society of Notaries Public of BC Endowed Professorship in Applied Legal Studies
- Special Collections Print Culture Research Award Endowment
- Sumitra Devi & Girja Kishore Memorial Leadership Athletic Award
- WestGrid Truth and Reconciliation Fund
- William G. Davidson Accounting Award

TESTAMENTARY ENDOWMENTS

- Anne Toby and Charles Kemp Scholarship Endowment
- William B. Johnston Graduate Scholarship in Theoretical Computing Science
- Wosk-McDonald Aldine Collection

We are grateful to all our supporters for the important investment you have entrusted with SFU, and are pleased to share more details about the SFU endowment in the following report.

If you have any questions about your endowment, please contact Paula Tylor, Director, Recognition and Stewardship, at paula_tylor@sfu.ca.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Thank you to our endowment donors for your continued support and trust in SFU.

Your thoughtful support, combined with judicious oversight and sound investment decisions, has enabled SFU to provide stable spending income to further its vision, navigate market volatility, and prepare for the future. Thanks to your generosity, our strong investment performance allows us to improve lives through SFU's academic, research, housing and athletics infrastructure and further the long-term sustainability of the university.

Over the past year, the global economy was clouded by recession fears and rising interest rates as central banks tried to control inflation. Against this backdrop, capital markets experienced high volatility with S&P/TSX Composite Index posting a negative return of 5.2% over the past year. SFU's endowment fund investment returns were 0.9 % for the year ending March 31, 2023. Over a long term, SFU's endowment continued to outperform the endowment portfolio composite benchmark over the 5-year and 10-year periods on an annualized basis. The endowment also performed well when compared to other Canadian universities in the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) survey. Despite market volatility, SFU continues to provide stable spending income to its endowment accounts and maintained its 5% Spending Income Allocation Rate this year.

SFU is a leader among Canadian universities for taking action in responsible investment. Since announcing the university's commitment to fossil fuel divestment in November 2021, SFU has made good progress, having transitioned \$450 million in global equity and more than \$100 million in fixed income to fossil fuel-free funds. SFU continues to progress towards achieving the target of full divestment in all of its endowed and non-endowed funds by 2025. As institutional investors, SFU is committed to a 45% carbon footprint reduction of the public equity portion of its investment portfolio by 2025. The 2023 measurement results have indicated a 69% reduction over the 2016 baseline and the portfolio carbon footprint is well within the 2025 target. In December 2022, SFU published its inaugural Investment Portfolio Carbon Footprint Document which details SFU's decarbonation journey.

We look forward to updating you on our overall investment performance in the coming months.

Thank you for your investment in SFU. The support of leading donors like you strengthens the university and the communities we serve.

Martin Pochurko
Vice-President, Finance & Administration

FISCAL YEAR 2023

ENDOWMENT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR END MARKET VALUE OF THE SFU ENDOWMENT

\$640,350,178

SPENDING ALLOCATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF RESEARCH, TEACHING & LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2023

\$26M

2024

\$27M

NOVEMBER 2021

Recognizing the escalating climate emergency—the university announced full divestment from fossil fuels by the **end of 2025**.

SFU has committed to reduce the carbon footprint of the public equity portion of the investment portfolio by **45% by 2025** and has achieved a **69% reduction** from the **2016 baseline**.

1ST

UNIVERSITY WORLDWIDE FOR OUR IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

(Times Higher Education 2023 Impact Rankings)

100%

FOSSIL FUEL FREE IN ITS GLOBAL EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME PORTFOLIO

(representing about 63% of SFU's total Endowment)

4.2%

OF THE UNIVERSITY'S OPERATING BUDGET WAS PROVIDED FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND'S INCOME

0.9%

RETURNED IN THE ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OVER THE YEAR

1021

INDIVIDUAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS COMPRISE THE SFU ENDOWMENT

94.7%

of SFU's endowment assets are managed by **United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI)** signatory investment managers.

Over the past year, the global economy was clouded by recession fears and rising interest rates as central banks tried to control inflation.

Against this backdrop, capital markets experienced high volatility with S&P/TSX Composite Index posting a **negative return of 5.2%** over the past year.

ENDOWMENT PHILOSOPHY

GROWTH → SFU's endowment is responsibly invested on a pooled basis to optimize total investments and minimize administrative expenses. All funds relating to the endowment are invested and professionally-managed solely for the benefit of the endowment program.

STABILITY → SFU holds sufficient funds in reserve to absorb market fluctuations. This stability means that SFU can allocate spendable funds at the beginning of the fiscal year, before investment returns have been realized, providing programs with predictable budgets for each upcoming year.

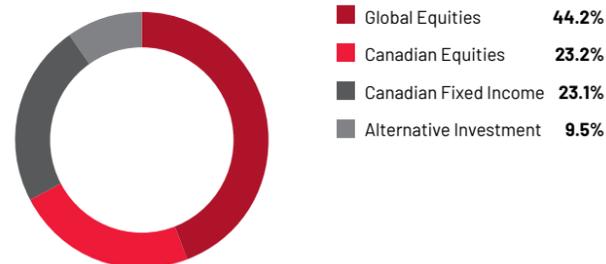
IMPACT → SFU maximizes the impact of the endowment investments by setting a sustainable spending rate (currently 5% of endowment principal) and by capitalizing reserve funds from the endowment stabilization account to individual principal accounts annually for inflation using CPI and if the value of the endowment stabilization account exceeds 15% of the market value of the overall endowment fund.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The investment pool is a diversified portfolio managed by external investment managers and is held by the independent custodian CIBC Mellon.

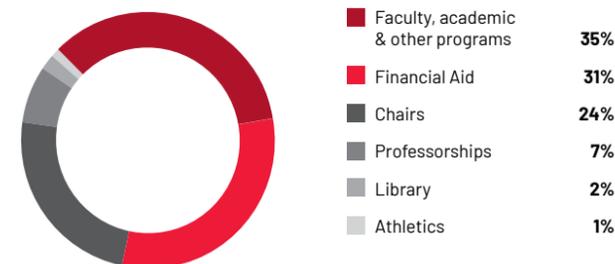
Endowment Asset Mix

As of March 31, 2023



Endowment Assets by Purpose

As of March 31, 2023



Investment Managers

GLOBAL EQUITY

- Black Creek Investment Management (Global)
- Fiera Capital (Global)
- Janus Henderson Investors (Global SRI)
- North Growth Management (US)

CANADIAN EQUITY

- Franklin Templeton Institutional
- Fidelity Canada Institutional

CANADIAN FIXED INCOME

- PH&N Institutional

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT

- Raven Capital
- Balfour Pacific Real Estate
- Kensington Capital Partners
- Northleaf Capital Partners
- Second City Capital Partners
- Stafford Capital Partners
- Greystone Real Estate LP Fund Inc.
- Fiera Real Estate Core Fund LP

OTHER BALANCED PORTFOLIOS

- Beedie Endowment Asset Management
- Student Investment Advisory Services
- Vancouver Foundation Managed Fund

Endowment Policy

- SFU's endowment program is governed by its Investment Governance Policy (B 10.09) and Endowment Management Policy (GP 20).
- The current Spending Income Allocation Rate is 5%.

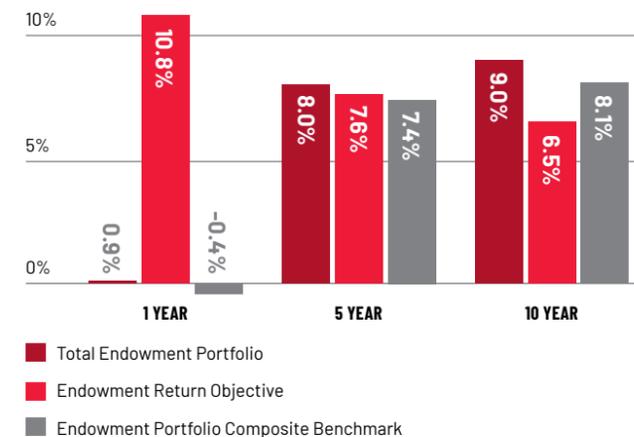
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

- The primary objective is to earn an annual return in excess of inflation plus the Spending Income Allocation, net of investment expenses.
- In addition, SFU measures its endowment performance against a composite benchmark calculated by Ellement Consulting Group, which is based on portfolios invested in major asset classes in broad market indices, and the CAUBO survey data of annualized rates of return at universities across Canada.
- SFU's endowment portfolio outperformed the endowment portfolio composite benchmark over the fiscal 1-year, 5-year and 10-year periods as of March 31, 2023.

Annualized rates of return

Return objectives and composite benchmark comparison

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2023

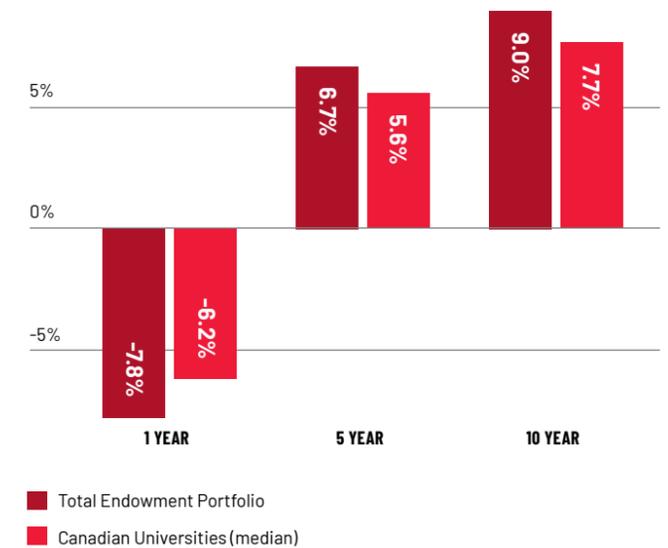


- The Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) provides universities with information to assist them in better managing their investment portfolios. Each year CAUBO collects data from between 60-70 Canadian universities comparing endowment performance.
- SFU's endowment portfolio outperformed the Canadian university median over the calendar 5-year and 10-year periods as of December 31, 2022.
- SFU has consistently ranked among the top performing endowments out of all surveyed universities for the 10-year net annualized return since 2014, when SFU began preparing the CAUBO University Endowment Survey Summary results.

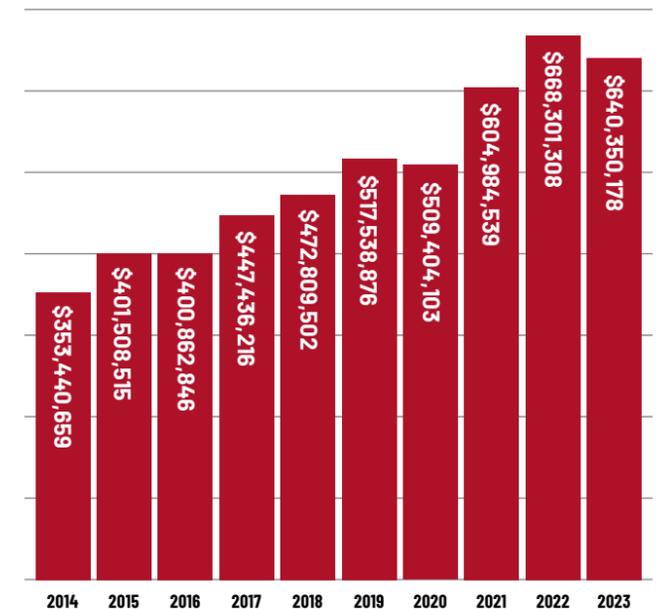
Annualized rates of return

CAUBO Comparison

Calendar year ending December 31, 2022



Endowment market value 10 year growth



RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

- Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is an independent proponent of responsible investment supported by the United Nations. Their summary scorecard for the most recent survey results, which measures institutions' overall approach to responsible investment, again scored SFU 4 out of 5 stars in each of the relevant asset class modules with scores ranging from 78/100 to 87/100.
- SFU began measuring the carbon footprint of its investment portfolio as of March 31, 2016, committing to a 30% reduction of its carbon footprint by 2030. In September 2018 the university committed to a further 10% decrease for a total reduction of 40% by 2030, keeping in line with British Columbia's and Canada's new carbon emission reduction targets. In November 2019, SFU increased its commitment to a 45% reduction of its investment portfolio carbon footprint below the 2016 baseline and to achieve this reduction by 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 target as proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- SFU is a founding member of the Investing to Address Climate Change Charter for Canadian Universities and one of the first Canadian universities to sign on to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Through this process SFU goes through a rigorous audit annually and has been shown to compare favourably to other universities worldwide in taking meaningful action toward responsible investment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are endowments important?

Endowments build a legacy of support that spans generations. The SFU endowment is responsibly-invested to advance, in perpetuity, the strategic vision of generous donors and the university. The annual income provides stable funding that promotes long-term planning and allows the university to recruit the best students and faculty and create outstanding programs.

What are the minimum levels to establish named endowments?

The minimum gift to establish an endowment varies depending on the type of initiative the endowment principal will support. As of April 1, 2022, in-course undergraduate scholarships, bursaries and awards as well as department-based graduate awards begin at a \$40,000 commitment. Gifts can be designated to a particular faculty or program, student awards, chairs and professorships, and many other opportunities at the university. Endowment gifts can be pledged and paid over a period of five years.

How is the annual, available Spending Income Allocation determined and distributed?

The spending allocation rate is set annually by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Vice-President, Finance & Administration and is reviewed every third year. As of April 1, 2022 the rate continues to be set at 5%

annually. The Spending Income Allocation is calculated by applying the spending rate to the average monthly endowment principal account balance during the current fiscal year. An initial amount is made available based on the spending allocation calculated at fiscal year start, with any spending adjustments made available at fiscal year-end.

When will an endowment begin disbursing funds?

Once the minimum endowment funding levels have been met and the Terms of Reference have been authorized, the payout, pro-rated based on fiscal year timing, will become available for spending. For scholarships, bursaries and awards, once the spending minimum is available (\$2,000 for undergraduate funds and \$2,000 for graduate funds), the disbursement will occur in the next available award cycle.

How does the endowment principal increase in value?

Both investment returns and additional gifts contribute to endowment principal growth. The university makes an annual capital addition to the endowment principal to preserve purchasing power. This is calculated as the latest calendar year percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for British Columbia times the average endowment principal account balance during the fiscal year. Ongoing gifts to the endowment principal, and any recapitalization of unspent funds, also increase the capacity of the endowment to provide annual support.

WE ARE HONOURED TO PARTNER WITH YOU IN ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO SFU.

SFU

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CHARITABLE REGISTRATION #118520725 RR0001

Publication Agreement
43695017