President’s message

Last year the SFU Alumni Association launched a new logo and tagline: Stay connected.

In the spirit of staying connected, we partnered with the university to conduct an alumni survey in summer 2007. Over 1,500 alumni responded by sharing their opinions and feelings about SFU and the Alumni Association. The results have already begun to guide our priorities as we work toward our vision of creating an engaging and mutually beneficial lifetime link between alumni and SFU.

Staying connected is in some ways easier today than ever before and in other ways more difficult. Technology like the internet and email allow us to stay connected with over 43,000 SFU alumni worldwide, which represents almost 60% of our contactable alumni. At the same time, our fast-paced lives often limit the time we have available to keep in touch and get involved. Despite the challenges, the benefits of staying connected are well worth pursuing for both alumni and the university.

Benefits for alumni include networking, staying informed, personal and professional development, value-added benefits and services, volunteer opportunities, intellectual engagement, lifetime learning, and social interaction.

The university benefits when alumni promote SFU to prospective students, volunteer their time and expertise, serve as global ambassadors and advocates, hire students and graduates, give their philanthropic support, and enhance SFU’s reputation through their outstanding achievements.

Simply put, staying connected expands the horizons for both alumni and the SFU community, allowing us to experience and impact the world in new and exciting ways. As SFU and the Alumni Association prepare to welcome our 100,000th graduate this year, what better time could there be to stay connected?
ALUMNI THINKING OF THE WORLD

Making a world of difference

Disaster Relief
PETER ANDERSON (BGS ’73, MA ’77)
Communication Professor, SFU

Peter is an emergency communications expert whose work can mean the difference between life and death in disasters like the cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China. He works with the UN preparing disaster response strategies for countries most at risk. He empowers people with technology and training that improves their capacity to cope in emergencies. www.sims.foundation.ca

Human Security
JENNIFER SIMONS (MA ’83, PhD ’89)
President, The Simons Foundation

Jennifer is one of the world’s leading advocates for peace, disarmament, international law and human rights. She has donated $15 million to support her vision of a world without war. An award-winning educator with a strong belief in the power of education to affect positive change, she has funded programs to raise awareness and public debate. www.thesimonsfoundation.ca

Global Health
SARAH ENGLAND (MBA ’97)
Health Activist, World Health Organization

Sarah has devoted herself to solving some of the world’s most pressing public health problems from environmental degradation to vaccinations for childhood diseases. With her MBA and an Oxford PhD in medical science, she successfully secured a $750 million donation to help create a billion dollar global vaccine fund. Today she is helping to lead a global team of partners who are striving to eradicate TB. www.who.int/en

Global Poverty
SHAWN SMITH (BBA ’05), President, Global Agents of Change

While studying finance at SFU, Shawn (above) discovered the transformational effects of microcredit. Inspired by how a small loan could make an enormous difference to a poor person, Shawn and his classmates founded Global Agents for Change (GAFC), a non-profit organization fighting global poverty. Cycling from BC to Mexico, GAFC raises awareness and funds to provide microcredit loans to the world’s poor. www.globalafc.org

Social Development
ALISON LAWTON (MA ’06), Executive Director, Mindset Media

Alison serves the world community by creating media to tell stories that need to be told. Her award-winning documentary film Uganda Rising brought global attention to the atrocities suffered by Ugandan children. She is passionate about helping others and supporting social development initiatives. In 2007, she announced a goal to raise $25 million to combat HIV/AIDS in children of the developing world. www.mindsetmedia.com

2007 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients, seated L to R: David Granville, Alison Lawton, Elaine Gallagher and Mark Jaccard.

2007 Outstanding Alumni Awards

Each year, SFU and the Alumni Association honour our most accomplished graduates with Outstanding Alumni Awards. Since the awards were established by the Alumni Association in 1983, over 100 inspiring alumni have been recognized. Visit the Outstanding Alumni Hall of Fame on the 5th floor of the SFU Burnaby Library to view their photos and profiles.

Professional Achievement
DR. ELAINE GALLAGHER, PhD ’88
Director of the Centre on Aging, University of Victoria

Academic Achievement
DR. MARK JACCARD, BA ’78, MRM ’84
Professor, SFU School of Resource and Environmental Management

Service to the Community
MS. ALISON LAWTON, MA ’06
Executive Director, Mindset Media

2007 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients, seated L to R: David Granville, Alison Lawton, Elaine Gallagher and Mark Jaccard.
IN BRIEF

BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Alumni Affinity programs provide value-added products and services for alumni and generate essential revenue to support the work of the Alumni Association.

BMO MOSAIC MASTERCARD
SFU Alumni Association Mosaic MasterCard
www.bmo.com/mosaic/sfu

CLEARSIGHT INVESTMENT PROGRAM
Investment and retirement planning — www.clearsight.ca

MANULIFE FINANCIAL
Tennis life, health, dental, disability insurance
www.manulife.com/sfu

TD MELOCHEN MONEX
Home and auto insurance — www.tdmelochemonex.com/sfu

LEADER FRAMES
Degree and certificate frames — www.degreeframes.com

Grads stay connected around the world

ALUMNI GROUPS
SFU graduates around the world stay connected through alumni groups and representatives. Groups organize activities based on interests or location. Reps are a local resource for SFU and alumni in their region. Find a list of local, national, and international groups and reps at www.sfu.ca/alumni and get connected.

YOUNG ALUMNI GROUP — NEW
Connect with recent grads and compare notes on life after graduation with the Young Alumni Group. Activities include personal and professional development, networking, career events, social gatherings and more. If you’re a new or recent graduate, we invite you to share your ideas or lend a hand with planning events and engaging others. www.sfu.ca/alumni/groups/yag.html.

EVENTS NEAR AND FAR
Alumni events throughout the year give SFU grads the opportunity to engage face-to-face.
In the past year, we traveled across Canada holding alumni events in Victoria, Naramata, Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and Toronto. We crossed the border to meet with alumni in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. We also met with alumni in Asia during President Michael Stevenson’s trip to Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.
Local events included the International Grad Reception, the inaugural Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament — raising over $20,000 to support students — several MBA gatherings, and the premiere event of our year, the Outstanding Alumni Awards. Stay connected to upcoming and past events at www.sfu.ca/alumni/events.

DIAMOND ALUMNI CENTRE DISCOUNTS
Famous for the natural beauty of its mountain top location, the Diamond Alumni Centre at SFU is becoming known as the spot where alumni couples tie the knot. Alumni weddings at the DAC give new meaning to the phrase ‘stay connected’. Aside from the distinctive venue and superb catering, alumni receive special discounts when booking rooms at the DAC for their special events, business functions, or celebrations including weddings. www.sfu.ca/dac

ALUMNI LIFETIME EMAIL
One of the most popular ways alumni stay connected is Alumni Lifetime E-mail (ALE). ALE provides a free @alumni.sfu.ca email address that alumni can use as a permanent or forwarding address to stay in touch with classmates, colleagues, friends and family. Alumni with ALE accounts grew to 15,900 in 2007/08, up 16% from the last year. Grads can also choose to keep their SFU computer account and @sfu.ca email address to a discounted rate. Alumni who want to use the new eduroam wireless access privilege will need to hold an ALE account. www.sfu.ca/alumni

ALUMNI E-NEWS
Subscribe to the Alumni Update E-Newsletter and receive monthly highlights of the latest alumni news or read it online at www.sfu.ca/alumni/news

LEADER FRAMES
Degree and certificate frames — www.degreeframes.com

DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS

1 / AGE DISTRIBUTION

2 / YEAR OF GRADUATION

3 / GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

4 / NUMBER OF GRADUATES

In 2008, the total number of alumni will surpass 100,000, reaching an important milestone for the Alumni Association. It took twenty years to reach 25,000 alumni in 1986, then only ten more years to reach 50,000 in 1996. In the decade since, the population has doubled. Over 50 per cent of alumni graduated in the last 10 years. Over 24% of the population is now more likely to be female, under 35 years of age, and living in Metro Vancouver. The absolute number of alumni over the age of 50 is increasing, but not as quickly as the number of young alumni. The changing composition of the alumni population has important implications for program planning and outreach. Trends suggest a need for more local programming, and services aimed at those in the early stages of their careers. SFU and the Alumni Association will be exploring these opportunities in the coming year, so stay tuned!
Sponsorship

As a non-profit society, the SFU Alumni Association relies on sponsorship of cash, services, and gifts-in-kind to support our programs and events. We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and welcome the support of new sponsors who would like to contribute to our success.

2007/08 SPONSORS
BMO Mosaic MasterCard  Leader Frames
Business in Vancouver  Manulife Financial
Clearsight Investment Program  Merck Frosst
Flower Factory  Meeting, Event & Conference Services at SFU Vancouver
Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver  SFU Bookstore
Georgia Straight  TD Metoche Monnex

Helping current and future alumni stay connected and succeed is an important goal of the SFU Alumni Association. In 2007/08, the Association awarded seven financial grants totaling $4,500 to support networking activities and personal and professional development programs for alumni and students.

2007/08 GRANTS
Backpack to Briefcase Career Conference ($1000)  Computing Science Alumni Gathering ($500)
Business Administration Student Society Banquet ($500)  Math Graduate Student Conference ($500)
Communications Co-op Alumni Event ($500)  MBA Alumni Dinner/Tune-Up/Wine & Cheese ($1000)
World Campus Keynote Speaker Event ($500)

Volunteer leadership

Locally, nationally and internationally, alumni prove their passion for SFU by sharing their time and talent in volunteer roles. Serving as alumni representatives around the globe or attending student recruitment events to promote SFU, alumni volunteers serve with pride.

2007/08 ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF
Director, Alumni Relations  Janis Horne, BGS ’98, MALS ’96
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  ANNE SARGENT  BUSINESS ALUMNI OFFICER  Anne Campbell
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  ALUMNI RELATIONS  Julie Salto, BBA ‘98
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI  Catherine Price

Supporting students

The Alumni Association recognizes that today’s students are tomorrow’s alumni. We are proud to invest in their success.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Each year the Alumni Association donates a $2000 award to an SFU student who demonstrates outstanding leadership, academic achievement, and community service. The recipient of the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Student Leadership Award in 2007 was Ms. Dorothy Easton, BA ’08.

CALL CENTRE DONATION
The Alumni Association donated $15,000 to SFU in 2007 to provide new furniture and chairs for the recently automated call centre where students make telephone calls to alumni to stay connected and raise funds for scholarships and bursaries.

STUDENT SPACE MATCHING FUNDS
At the Alumni Association’s recommendation, secured income from the Alumni Special Initiatives endowment fund is being used in 2008 to match donations from faculty and staff to enhance student study and gathering space on campus.

100% BOARD SUPPORT
The Association’s Board of Directors continued its proud tradition of 100% support with every member making a donation in 2007/08 to support students at SFU.