The Emergence and Complexity of Life
Where did we come from? What is consciousness? Are we alone in the universe?

President’s Dream Colloquium
The series of lectures from internationally recognized experts incorporates four interlocking themes that engage big ideas and questions:
- Origins of life on Earth
- Evolving ever-increasing complexity
- I think, therefore I am
- Is there anybody else I can talk to?
This is a graduate course that all SFU graduate students and senior undergraduate students may take for credit towards their degrees.

The course has a bi-weekly rhythm. In the first week, registered students from across disciplines participate in and lead classroom seminars discussing that week’s readings. In the second week, they attend presentations on those subjects.

Receptions and dinners offer students the opportunity for personal interactions and further discussions with the speakers.

This unique course will enable you to think and make connections outside your discipline. Your work in this class will be to synthesize information from the literature, presentations and discussions, and communicate it to the public through a colloquium website. Through this course, you should emerge a bigger thinker, armed with skills to allow you to address some of these big questions of our time and to communicate to the public their significance.

Six World-Renowned Speakers
Lectures will be free and open to all. To help us plan for catering, please RSVP at www.sfu.ca/reserve

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Terrence W. Deacon’s research combines evolutionary biology and neuroscience to investigate the evolution of human cognition.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Bill Schopf is one of the world’s top paleobiologists. His groundbreaking research extended the scientific date for the beginning of life to 3.5 billion years ago.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
Steven Benner’s research group invented dynamic combinatorial chemistry and played a central role in establishing the fields of synthetic biology and paleomolecular biology.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
Wallace Marshall’s work is focused on the engineering design principles that underly cellular morphogenesis.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Sara Seager’s internationally recognized research searches for planets outside our solar system that are capable of harbouring life.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Christof Koch studies the biophysics of computation, and the neuronal basis of visual perception, attention, and consciousness.

Registration
Enrolment in the course is limited to 20 students. Application forms:
www.sfu.ca/grad/
Applications are due by June 15, 2012.

Contacts
Co-organizers
Nancy Forde, Physics
Peter Unrau, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry (MBB)

Participating Faculty
Holly Andersen, Philosophy
David Boal, Physics
Rosemary Cornell, MBB
Phil Hanson, Philosophy
Harald Hutter, Biological Sciences
Charles Krieger, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology (BPK)
Dan Marigold, BPK
John McDonald, Psychology
Ralph Münstberger, Psychology
Lynne Quarmby, MBB
Lisa Shapiro, Philosophy
Michael Silverman, Biological Sciences

Administered by the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

www.sfu.ca/grad/events/dreamcolloquium/FallColloquium.html

Speakers L to R in order of appearance: Terrence Deacon, Bill Schopf, Steven Benner, Wallace Marshall, Sara Seager, Christof Koch