ENGAGING STUDENTS

PROGRAM FOR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION—$5 MILLION
With sweeping changes in the geopolitics of global communication and culture taking place, a fuller understanding of global communication, communication systems and cultural practices has never been more important. SFU has responded through the creation of an M.A. Double Degree Program in Global Communications in collaboration with the Communication University of China (CUC). Located in Beijing, the CUC is the premier teaching and research institution in the field in China. This is the world’s first and only fully integrated cohort program in global communication where students will study at SFU and overseas at the CUC. It offers unique opportunities for studying the institutional, socio-cultural and productive dimensions of global communication and access to Canadian, Chinese and transnational communication and cultural industries.

Students will be prepared to become leaders in research, innovation and management in global communication in university, industry, government and NGO settings. We are seeking support for students, teaching and research for this program in the following areas:

Professorship—$4 million
A professorship in global communication studies, with area expertise in China, India or other parts of the world, will complement and enhance the School of Communication’s existing strength in global communication teaching and research and enable the further exploration of future opportunities for international collaboration.

Visiting Scholar Program—$500K
This will enable the School to attract and support high-profile international visiting scholars who will conduct collaborative research with SFU students and faculty members and also deliver short-term courses and guest lectures.

Scholarships—$500K
The international travel component of this degree makes this an expensive program for students. Scholarships and bursaries will enable SFU to attract and support the most outstanding students with a passion for the global communication field.

FCAT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS—$500K
Research Fellowships will provide real world, hands-on research experience for undergraduate students and provide opportunities to work directly with faculty members on existing research projects. Support will allow them to pursue additional research in their field of study, apply knowledge gained in the classroom to actual problems and research situations, network with faculty beyond the classroom, connect with graduate students and gain leadership, team-building and critical thinking skills. Fellows will also be offered opportunities to present at the annual FCAT Undergraduate Conference or similar public forums.

SFU’s Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (FCAT) is where creativity meets new technology, where science meets art, and design encounters new media. We offer a broad range of programs in Communication, Contemporary Arts, Interactive Arts and Technology, Publishing and New Media. FCAT is a global leader in this space, operating at the interface of education, research and community engagement with a practical and robust connection to a vibrant creative economy in the Lower Mainland and beyond. With your support, FCAT can continue to push the boundaries, explore the possibilities and, with our rich history of innovation and collaboration to draw on, shape the future.
FCAT GRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS—$250K
Travel awards will support FCAT graduate students in presenting their research at national and international events or participating in academic competitions. These will include conferences, major festivals or artistic events sponsored by recognized national or international organizations. These awards will further enrich the academic experience of our graduate students in fields such as Publishing, Communications, Digital Media and Interactive Arts + Technology by allowing them to showcase their research and expertise to external audiences.

ENGAGING RESEARCH

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN NATURAL USER INTERFACES—$2 MILLION
As more computation becomes integrated into everyday life, outcomes from research in this field will increase in societal importance by informing and improving interactive applications in fields as diverse as education, the environment, health care, genetics, fitness, urban planning, mathematics, music, interactive arts and video gaming. Our vision is to create an endowed professorship in embodied human-computer interaction, which will position SFU as a world leader in this rapidly evolving field with knowledge and applications providing social and economic benefit to citizens across the globe.

The candidate, Professor Alissa Antle, is a leader in the field, and support will ensure that she remains in British Columbia. Members of the scientific community hold Alissa in the highest regard, referring to her as “one of the prominent figures in the field of Embodied Interaction” and referring to her work as “some of the most original and significant research in this area.” The multidisciplinary nature of the professorship will engage students and researchers across the university in areas such as Cognitive Science, Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction, Interaction and Interface Design, Human Movement Studies and Performance Arts.

PROFESSORSHIPS IN DIGITAL MEDIA—$1 MILLION
Digital Media is a high growth industry with rapid technological change and a significant need for new talent. We wish to establish three new positions to support students in the Masters of Digital Media (MDM) – a cohort-based professional program in digital media. With a project-based curriculum that emphasizes creativity, collaboration and innovation, students work closely with faculty and industry partners to learn project and asset management skills crucial to the success of any digital media organization or venture. MDM graduates have gone on to form successful start-ups, teach at the post-secondary level and work for large well-respected digital media organizations.

With annual support of $120,000 for a minimum of five years, we will hire two Visiting Scholars focusing on key curriculum areas including digital media law and ethics and design-thinking for new media. With an annual contribution of $80,000 for five years, you will enable the MDM program to attract a Named Visiting Industry Scholar or Entrepreneur in Residence to foster entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ventures arising from graduate students’ projects in digital media across FCAT. A portion of the contribution will be allocated to a named Fellowship that will be presented to a deserving MDM student each year.

CHAIR IN CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL ARTS—$3 MILLION
Simon Fraser University is seeking to establish Canada’s first Chair in Contemporary Aboriginal Art. The appointed artist/scholar will help celebrate and create a greater understanding of and appreciation for contemporary Aboriginal art and culture throughout the university, across the country and internationally. As an Aboriginal or Métis professor, writer, composer, choreographer, filmmaker, dancer, actor, director, and/or visual artist, the Chair will become a role model and a mentor whose practice and teaching would be inspiring and help all SFU students recognize the contribution of Aboriginal and Métis contemporary artists to our understanding of the present.

CHRONIC PAIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE—$3 MILLION
As a long-term, degenerative syndrome that has come to be recognized as a disease in its own right, chronic pain is a complex phenomenon that affects at least seven million Canadians, by conservative estimates. Chronic pain costs society, governments and families more than cancer, heart disease and HIV combined. It is a leading reason for doctor, hospital and emergency room visits and has high
rates of disability. The Institute would be based at the School of Interactive Arts + Technology (SIAT) and supervised by Professor Diane Gromala who holds the Canada Research Chair in Computational Technologies for Transforming Pain. The Chronic Pain Research Institute will be the only place in Canada where researchers, practitioners, sufferers and caregivers work together to explore the physical, psychological, social and emotional aspects of chronic pain in order to improve and expand treatment options for this debilitating disease.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

SFU SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY—$250K
Through establishing an endowment, annual funding will support the operation of specialized music training workshops for young musicians (ages 11–18) specifically focusing on composition for dance, film, theatre and music technology by using computers and software designed to support creativity in music. The fund will also allow the SFU School for the Contemporary Arts to develop a series of workshops for composers at an advanced level of study.

CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN FCAT—$150K
Creative Entrepreneurship is the engine that drives and sustains technological convergence. The social health of a city depends on the presence of creative entrepreneurs who generate a vibrant, dynamic social fabric that attracts and retains a highly educated workforce. FCAT is naturally at the forefront of this concept through fostering artists, communicators, designers, writers and publishers.

An annual donation of $20,000 for a five-year term will sponsor a series of “Community Conversations in Creative Entrepreneurship” that will bring together professionals and students across disciplinary silos to discuss issues and create new models of doing business in the creative industries. We are also seeking support to provide enterprising students close to graduation with start-up funding to help foster and finance their entrepreneurial ambitions and projects in the creative industries as they enter the world beyond SFU. Recipients will include filmmakers, authors, public relations specialists, composers, dancers, newspaper and magazine publishers, policy advocates, graphics designers and webmasters—all helping to fuel the creative economy.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CO-OP PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS (SCA)—$50K
SFU is home to one of the largest and most well-respected Co-operative Education (Co-op) programs in North America and integrates paid, professional work experience in the field. Most commonly, companies or organizations cover the cost of student placements. However, while many arts organizations and not-for-profit groups have expressed interest in offering opportunities to SCA students, they lack the financial resources. Through the establishment of a unique Contemporary Arts Co-op fund, an annual contribution of $10,000 will support a minimum of five student co-op placements each year along with training focused on the development of practical job seeking and entrepreneurial skills.