2019 Staff Achievement Award Recipients

Community Contribution Award
Casey Bell
Always very professional, efficient, and helpful, but also calm, collegial, and friendly, Casey is one of those colleagues who greets each member of her Department, whether staff, faculty, or student with a smile. One of the greatest gifts Casey's cheerful disposition creates is her vast network of university contacts. Through her enthusiasm for the Academic Summer Camp for Indigenous high school students, Casey created an invested campus community concerned for the wellbeing of the participants. She encouraged members of her network to contribute to solving each of the challenges as they arose. Casey always, always, has a kind work and a smile at the ready—no matter what.

Innovation Award
Martin Mroz, Lisa Olgilvie, Karin Kosarzova, Wayne Heaslip, Tammy Nazaruk, and Marcia Guno
“My SSP is a two-year pilot program that delivers mental health support 24-hours a day, live, and in a wide range of languages and modalities. When designing the program the team envisioned an offering that would have an impact on three dimensions: Services and Supports, Education and Anti-Stigma, and Campus Settings. This initiative reaches and affects a broad range of people in the SFU community and therefore provides vital benefits for “the betterment of Staff, Faculty and University”. The project is successful due to the Team’s vigilance to the diverse needs of students, engagement with the community and the understanding of how My SSP could change the culture of supporting everyone’s mental well-being. Complementing our own on-campus services and strategies, these supports tie together to create a strong net of mental-health solutions for students, and those who support them. The Team came together and found a way to implement an innovative program that serves and supports the whole SFU community.”

Leadership
Mikhail Dzuba
Mikhail Dzuba demonstrates leadership through his character and his actions. He is positive, thoughtful, intentional, approachable, genuine and reflective. He takes on challenges, and approaches them as opportunities to learn and grow. Mikhail is a positive and engaging leader who has modeled a customer service mantra to his team and the university community for the last twenty-five years. His ability to guide and lead staff, to work with co-op and faculties, and to lead province-wide initiatives demonstrates his abilities as a leader. His leadership style is open and nurturing, yet strong and with purpose.

Lifetime Achievement
Bruce Leighton
Bruce has BSc. and MPM degrees in Biological Sciences (SFU) and is a graduate of SFU’s, The Writer’s Studio. He was a Registered Professional Biologist in BC for 20 years, and an Associate Member of Biological Sciences for 6 years. As a parasitologist, he was involved in studies of the Kwäday Dän Ts’ìnchi glacier body discovery, the seastar die-off on the BC coast, and after a 3 year study developing alternatives to chemical controls for Swimmer’s Itch—a parasite problem impacting recreational lakes—he consulted for a number of lake management groups. A frequent guest lecturer in Biology classes he also gave public talks including, “Leighton’s Bestiary of Peculiar Parasites.” In his position operating the Alcan Aquatic Research Centre at SFU he worked with a cross-section of the University—professors, students, tradespeople and technical staff—facilitating research. Using largely recycled materials, he built the Insect Garden on campus, and has been involved as a volunteer in outreach with SFU and the Burnaby community, helping to found and organize both disease research groups, and conservation organizations concerned with local salmon streams and SFU’s Teaching Forest.
Lifetime Achievement
Frank De Vita
Frank De Vita, considers his many years of serving the University to be the most challenging and the most enjoyable time of his entire working career. He has dedicated decades of his life to making SFU a better place for students, staff and faculty. Frank continues to make significant contributions to the success and future of the University community as somebody who “gets things done” by ensuring that the physical environment is safe, appropriate for the needs of students, faculty and staff, and is a clean and welcoming environment. He continues to serve as a critical facilitator who brings individuals and departments together to create solutions that meet the needs of all stakeholders—and always with a warm smile and kind word. Frank is the “go-to guy” to get stuff done, yet somehow, he has managed to be everybody’s go-to guy and keeps us all happy!

Lifetime Achievement
Malcolm Toms
Malcolm has truly demonstrated years of leadership, devotion and commitment to SFU over the course of the last 39+ years. He has been at SFU for 80% of the university’s history, and he has watched his job evolve from simple computer problems to today’s complex network environment. The breadth of his knowledge is near unparalleled at SFU—his commitment and dedication to helping staff and faculty no matter the issue, and his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty are admirable qualities to say the least. He has been a major positive factor in the ability of many to teachers and researches to function well.

Lifetime Achievement
Jo-Anne Ray
Jo-Anne has dedicated her professional life to SFU, and has done so by bringing her rare combination of diligence, resourcefulness, compassion, and general thoughtfulness towards every aspect of her work. She has brought all of these qualities to her role at SFU for over 30 years. In doing so, she has enriched the university as a whole, and those of us who have been fortunate enough to be alongside her will be eternally grateful. She has truly gone above and beyond what anyone could or should expect of an employee.

Student Service Award
Barbara Ringham
Barbara’s passion and commitment to her students is evident in all aspects of her work. She is kind, fair, thoughtful and intentional in her work. She models professionalism in the field of Student Affairs every day and encourages her colleagues to do the same. Her willingness to provide thoughtful feedback, her keen eye for potential problems, and her ability to come up with innovative solutions has benefitted the institution greatly during her tenure. In all of her efforts, Barbara remains first and foremost committed to equipping SFU students with the resources they need to succeed.

Student Service Award
Rosaline Baik
Rose is reliable, passionate, consistent, honest, outgoing, fun-loving and open in her conversations with students. She is fair, down to earth, listens well and is ready to move mountains if ever something has not been done before. She is creative, adaptable, and will not take “no” for an answer if she thinks that something really should be done. Student interests are front and centre, but they will also be reminded by Rose of their responsibilities and what they should be doing in order to make something happen. She goes the extra miles for “her” students, anticipating everyone’s needs and certainly exceeding everyone’s expectations.
Team Award

Institutional Research Planning (IRP): Dr. Zareen Naqvi, Liny Chan, Yolanda Dorrington, Jessica Tilley, Suman Jiwni, Wayne Sun, David Ham, Joanne Quan, Janice Wiebe, Kirstina Harvey, Jennifer Parkhouse and Tia Alexander

The IRP team sees its role as providing unbiased data to support and advance institutional priorities. IRP serves SFU by providing information and ensuring its proper interpretation. To this end, the team communicates closely with other departments to ensure correct definitions are used and appropriate methodologies are selected. Many times, the team works behind the scene in supporting other units to ensure data integrity in both internal and external reporting. Through consultation and cooperation, IRP is continually seeking ways to provide accurate data in a timely manner (through information portals, dashboards, pivot tables, and web reports). IRP has continually performed at an exceptionally high level. One reason for this is that the team works especially well together as a unit. IRP staff are team players where everyone supports each other to provide accurate and timely information. Staff members are always available to others to provide advice, expertise and help to ensure that deadlines are met.

Work Performance Award

Rose Evans

Rose represents the calm at the centre of a storm, there to help us all. One of the many attributes is her ability to find solutions to problems—instead of saying “it can’t be done” or “it has never been done that way”, her first response is either “we will figure out a way to do this” or she presents an excellent solution to the problem at hand. Rose has created an atmosphere of “yes we can”. Along with being exceedingly effective and helpful, Rose is immensely kind and sympathetic. Working consistently above and beyond the call of duty is without question a distinguishing quality of Rose.

Work Performance Award

Tara McFarlene

Tara consistently shows an incredible capacity for attention to detail and organization as well as a commitment to fairness and equity in the work place. She is genuinely concerned for the nurturement and growth of the students and younger staff who work with and for her. Tara goes above and beyond and is always looking for new ways to streamline administrative tasks and workflow. All of the hard work that Tara does behind the scenes allows the department and its staff to thrive, and she is a true asset to the Team. We couldn’t do it without her!

Work Performance Award

Sheila Pineau

Sheila exemplifies the traits and values of the ideal SFU community member. Engaged, curious, knowledgeable, welcoming, patient, dedicated, hard-working, passionate, open-minded, thoughtful, kind, positive and with a drop dead sense of humor to boot! Sheila is the unsung hero who goes above and beyond her role to guarantee a student performance or screening is saved at the last minute when someone has forgotten to ask for something vital,...in fact, things don’t even get that far because Sheila knows what questions to ask and anticipates the event needs before the students or organizers even know they need something. She is the glue that holds all the pieces together.
Work Performance Award
Melissa Stephens
Demonstrating work performance that is consistently above and beyond the call of duty defines the work ethic of Melissa Stephens. She is the sort of person who you can ask to do a job once and it gets done with no follow-up required. Another of Melissa’s strengths—this one not fully mandated by her job description—is her commitment to the broader Department in terms of collegiality. She was always heavily involved in organizing Department social events, helping at the event itself and she would often be among the last people helping clear up after the event. Everything Melissa does is “golden”.

Work Performance Award
Marion Walter
Marion is the type of person who is always striving to find new and innovative ways to improve work processes. She continually wants to be more efficient herself and improve the efficiency of work for others. She cares deeply about people’s time and energy and is always looking for ways to make work life easier for them. Marion is conscientious, hardworking, strives for excellence and has a most generous spirit. She plans well in advance, is always on top of deadlines and her work is always outstanding. She continually goes above and beyond the call of duty and is a model employee for others to follow. Marion's history with SFU runs well beyond the last 31 years as an employee. Marion has been involved with SFU from the university’s earliest years. Both her parents worked at SFU and as a result, when she was a child in the late 60’s, she found herself “incarcerated” in the SFU daycare. She has certainly seen a lot at SFU in it’s 55 years and thus it is not a surprise where this dedication to the university has come from.

Diversity & Inclusion Award
Dr. Mitchell Stoddard
Mitchell has been a tireless advocate of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) efforts long before these became an identified priority at SFU. Daily, we witness his genuine compassion and commitment to the process of developing an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment at the University for members of historically disenfranchised groups. He also endeavors to engage students with disabilities at the university through the organization of events. His vision is to see a University community where individuals are recognized and appreciated for the unique complement of abilities that they possess, and where every aspect of the University is open and accessible to all individuals.

Diversity & Inclusion Award
Theresa Burley
Theresa is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion. She is acutely aware of the historic and ongoing oppression of groups who experience marginalization and the systemic barriers that perpetuate oppression and exclusion. Applying her knowledge of frameworks for tackling inequities to her work on behalf of SFU within the Canada Research Chair portfolio and through her contributions to the EDI initiative, Theresa has helped to raise community awareness of inequities and has taken positive steps to advance inclusion. Theresa brings her passion and commitment to EDI to all facets of her work and life. Her efforts are contributing to an institutional culture that is inclusive, respectful and safe for all who live, work and play at SFU.