The University is named after Simon Fraser, Loyalist, fur-trader and explorer, who in 1808 completed one of the greatest journeys in the annals of Canadian history by descending the mighty river which today bears his name. The Fraser family coat of arms forms the basis of the University’s coat of arms which appears on the title page of this Calendar. The colors of Simon Fraser University are red and blue.

In January 1963 a report entitled Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future, by Dr. J.B. Macdonald, recommended the creation of a new university in the Lower Mainland. Two months later the establishment of Simon Fraser University received formal assent in the British Columbia Legislature, and in May of the same year Dr. Gordon M. Shrum was appointed Chancellor.

From a variety of sites which were offered, the Chancellor recommended to the Provincial Government that the top of 1200 foot Burnaby Mountain be selected for the new university. Lying east of Vancouver, the site commands magnificent views of Burrard Inlet, the mountains, the Fraser River and Vancouver Harbour.

Architects were invited to compete in the design of the overall campus. The Vancouver firm of Erickson/Massey won the competition, and the four architects who had been runners-up in the competition each designed at least one building within the overall plan. The outstanding architecture has won many awards.

Construction began in the spring of 1964 and eighteen months later, on September 9, 1965, Simon Fraser University opened to 2,500 students.

Since those early years the University has grown substantially. In September 2005 approximately 23,645 students were enrolled in courses. At the June 2005 Convocation ceremonies 3,600 credentials were conferred, while at the University’s October Convocation, 1,900 students received their credentials.

History of Simon Fraser University

Simon Fraser University Vancouver

First established in 1980 in a storefront classroom on Howe Street, the Simon Fraser University Vancouver site opened in 1989, the result of a close collaboration of the University and the business, professional and cultural communities, the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia. This association has grown as the University continues to seek the advice and participation of the downtown community in the development of its mission and programs.

The campus in downtown Vancouver now comprises the headquarters at Simon Fraser University Vancouver, the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education, the School for Contemporary Arts studios at 611 Alexander and the Segal Graduate School of Business. Built largely through private sector funding, the Vancouver campus offers a range of programs and services directed to mid-career intellectual and professional growth, providing continuity between work and study within an environment created specifically for advanced learning and specialized graduate and undergraduate programs. Researchers at the downtown campus benefit from their proximity to others engaged in research in the urban community.

With over 270,000 square feet of instructional resources, the campus currently serves over 70,000 people annually. Each semester approximately 2,400 undergraduates and 400 graduate students take credit courses, and thousands of individuals, groups and companies pursue continuing studies education opportunities, attend public programs, or use the campus for community, corporate and other meetings. In 2008 the School for the Contemporary Arts will move its Burnaby campus programs to the Vancouver campus and will occupy a new facility on the redeveloped Woodward’s site.

Simon Fraser University Surrey

Simon Fraser University Surrey is one of BC’s leading university campuses for study and research. Offering distinctive nationally and internationally acclaimed programs, Simon Fraser University Surrey promotes student success with a high quality learning environment based on innovative teaching approaches, small class sizes, and a vibrant research community. The campus, which opened its doors in September 2002, is located adjacent to the Surrey Central SkyTrain station at King George Highway and 102nd Avenue. Undergraduate programs in Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration, Computing Science, Education, Interactive Arts and Technology, and Science are being offered. Additionally, graduate programs are being offered in Computing Science, Interactive Arts and Technology, and Mathematics.

Students entering their first year of university at Simon Fraser University Surrey have a choice of three innovative cohort programs: TechOne, an interdisciplinary program focusing on the interplay of creative arts and information technology (offered by the Faculty of Applied Sciences), Science Year One, a suite of first year science courses targeted towards Science majors (offered by the Faculty of Science) and Explorations, a program presenting students with opportunities in the humanities and social sciences (offered by the faculty of Arts and Social Sciences).

Continuing Studies programs are also offered. More than 1,100 FTE undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in these programs, a number which is projected to increase to 2,500 FTEs by the year 2010.

On September 8, 2006 the University will be moving into its permanent home at Central City in the heart of Surrey. The new campus will occupy 21,500 square metres in the stunning facility, which was designed by renowned architect Bing Thom.