Kudos and Congratulations...

- For the second year in a row, the Faculty of Sciences takes the 2016 Staff Achievement Award in the Team category. Congratulations to Ray Holland, James Shoults, Bruce Harwood, Pawel Kowalski, Gary Shum, Anthony Slater, John van der Est, Ken Van Wieren, Bob Zubic and Howard Proulx in the Science Technical Centre. The 10 staff and supervisors were recognized for designing and fabricating complex and one-of-a-kind devices that support research and teaching.

- Zuo-Guang Ye of Chemistry was recently appointed a Fellow of the IEEE (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). Zuo is being honoured for his contributions to piezoelectric and ferroelectric materials for high-performance electromechanical transducers.

- Isabelle Côté from Biological Sciences has been recognized as one of 100 voices for Canadian Science Communication.

- Congratulations to Sarah Johnson of Physics who is the inaugural winner of the Faculty of Science Excellence in Public Outreach and Engagement award. The award recognizes Sarah’s many accomplishments in this area, including the establishment of the Girls Exploring Physics program, Science Spooktacular, Discover Physics @SFU, Pro-D workshops for physics teachers and the TRIUMF Saturday Morning Lectures. Sarah also chairs the Physics department Outreach Committee and holds leadership roles in the BC Association of Physics Teachers. Sarah will use the $1,000 prize to enhance the Girls Exploring Physics workshops.
Do you have anything particularly visual going on in your classroom? Do you know of any students with an interesting background or who excel in some particular way? Are you growing something interesting in your lab? Diane Mar-Nicolle is always looking for great stories to share about our students and faculty. She’s also been using Snapchat to show what’s going on in the classroom – and students love it. Please email her at dianem@sfu.ca if you have suggestions.

Bits and Bobs

- A warm welcome to Cara Bethel, the new part-time, Faculty of Science Student Engagement Coordinator. Cara is an SFU alum who previously worked for SFU Sports and Recreation. A sports junkie, Cara has worked around the world for Club Med as a lifeguard, fitness instructor and ski instructor. She has a BSc in Kinesiology and a MEd from SFU. Ever the jock, she lives on Grouse Mountain with her husband and baby daughter. Cara can be found in Room 9803 of the Dean’s Office on Mondays and Fridays. She spends her other days as the Student Engagement Coordinator for the Faculty of Health Sciences.

- Drop by the Machine Shop and meet the two newest staffers - Apprentice Machinist Andrew Redey who will be there for the Spring semester and Machinist Marissa Morrison who starts in a full-time, temporary position this week. Welcome Andrew and Marissa.

- Are you interested in ways to make your class more conducive to student well-being? Did you know that 81.6% of university students report feeling exhausted, 61.2% report feeling very sad and 58.2% report feeling very lonely? The SFU Health Promotion team in partnership with the Teaching and Learning Centre has tools and ideas for your teaching practice that can be as simple as a one word check in at the start of class. Join the Building Connections: Well-being in Teaching and Learning Event on March 7th to learn more or see more examples of teaching practices that impact well-being (this is an all-day event but you are welcome to drop in anytime for as long as you like).

If you can’t make the session, the Health Promotion team has offered to hold a 1 hour session for Faculty of Science instructors if enough people are interested. Please email Rosie Dhaliwal at rosie_dhaliwal@sfu.ca.
A huge thank you to Sharina Janif and Kathryn White for coordinating last month’s Going Bananas event. Judging by the fact that 1,000 bananas and 450 apples were snapped up in just a few hours, the event was a huge success. ProOrganics, the Burnaby company that donated the organic fruit also sponsored the Oct 2016 event. Thank you ProOrganics!
Please encourage your grad students to sign up for the annual 3 Minute Thesis. Deadline to register is Feb 28th for the Faculty of Science heat on March 9th. Everyone is invited to drop by, enjoy some refreshments and vote for their favourite presenter. SSB 7172 at 1:30 p.m. Thanks to our emcee Peter Ruben and esteemed judges Nadine Wicks, Eileen van der Flier-Keller and Jeff Warren.

Good luck to Nadia Williams who has left for her maternity leave. Nadia will be replaced by Carlye Vroom. Carlye will be located at the Surrey campus 3 days a week and 2 days a week at the Burnaby campus for the time being.

Welcome Carlye and best wishes to Nadia, husband Tony and soon-to-be-big-sister Gina!

Advancement News

Thanks to the generosity of Jim McEwen, three McEwen Teacher Awards were handed out this year. The recipients are Candace Wilkie, a Biology and Chemistry teacher at Clayton Heights Secondary in Surrey, Carl Sommerfeld, a Science and Biology teacher at John Oliver Secondary in Vancouver and Van Chau, a Science and Biology teacher at Delview Secondary in Delta.

This fall, each teacher will nominate their former students who are entering the Faculty of Science for a $5,000 entrance award.
Outreach News

- Science in Action will now offer workshops in French! Outreach Coordinator Cynthia Henson reports that French immersion schools are enthusiastic about the offerings, so if you speak French and can spare some time to do a workshop, please let Cynthia know at science_outreach@sfu.ca.

- With the successful conclusion of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, SFU faculty, staff and students and representatives of School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) are looking into developing a framework that supports K-12 and post-secondary collaboration. Possibilities include promoting STEM among K-12 teachers and students, teacher training initiatives, furthering science outreach and engagement programs and possible student mentorship in specialized subject areas. Please email Cynthia at science_outreach@sfu.ca if you are interested.

- For those of you interested in the Teacher Survey on Outreach that was recently conducted, please click here.

Retirements

- Professor Rick Routledge of STAT retired April 30, he is a Professor Emeritus.

- Robin Insley, Lab Instructor and Student Advisor of STAT retired Aug 31.

- After 22 years of service at SFU, Marianne Lazaro is retiring from her position as Chair’s Secretary, BPK in March. She hopes to spend more time with her grandchildren and says she will miss her colleagues and “those beautiful views from the mountain during any season of the year!”