Research News

• In *Maclean’s latest university rankings*, SFU was again ranked Canada’s top comprehensive university. Scoring high in terms of national reputation at 8th out of 49 universities, SFU was also rated by survey participants as the 7th most innovative, 9th highest quality and 11th as “leader of tomorrow.” In terms of research, SFU ranked 1st in library resources, and 2nd in the number of student and faculty awards and faculty research grants among Canada’s comprehensive universities.

• SFU has climbed two spots to #18 in ReSearch Infosource’s list of Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities by posting a slight increase in its research income—in a year when Canadian universities’ combined research income shrank for the first time in more than a decade. SFU once again leads comprehensive universities in the impact and quality of its research as measured by the probability of being cited in peer-reviewed academic literature—a spot it has held since 2008. In the ranking’s special spotlight on non-profit research partnerships, SFU tops comprehensive universities in the percentage of research income (almost 15 per cent) that it derives from these sources. And in the QS World University Rankings released last month, SFU rose to #11 in Canada and placed 225th overall among the world’s top institutions.

• Building off of SFU’s longstanding tradition of research that crosses disciplinary boundaries and engages its communities, our definition of sustainability research at SFU is broad and inclusive of work that supports social, economic and environmental wellbeing. SFU topped the national rankings in the research category of the 2015 Sustainability Index for its self-report on sustainability in curriculum, research, engagement, operations and administration.

• SFU has recruited Sam Doesburg, an expert in MEG brain imaging, as its new Callum Frost Professor in Translational Research in Autism. The chair is named after the autistic son of the owners of Central City Brewers and Distillers in Surrey. Doesburg’s research will use MEG brain imaging technology to explore the effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for treating autism. SFU is home to only hyperbaric chamber of its kind in Canada for civilian use.

• On September 17th at SFU’s Surrey campus, former Canadian soldier Trevor Greene took his first public steps with the help of a customized exoskeleton under the watchful eye of engineering professor Ryan D’Arcy. D’Arcy, a neuroscientist, has been working with Greene for over five years on a research project about brain plasticity. The exoskeleton, from the Israel-based company ReWalk, was customized with the assistance of SFU mechatronics professor Carolyn Sparrey. The research project also involves Carlo Menon, Edward Park, and Siamak Arzanpour.

• On October 30th, the Vice-President, Research hosted the Researching the City event at SFU’s Vancouver campus. The event was a kickoff to SFU Public Square’s annual community summit, on the theme of city building for 2015. Over forty researchers showcased how their work positively impacts SFU’s communities.
Research Grant Successes

- **Willie Davidson** of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry is co-leading a $9.9-million project with Laval University to address the sustainability of B.C.’s coho salmon fishery. The project, funded through a Genome Canada grant, involves an international team of scientists who will use genomics tools to create knowledge that aims to improve the production of healthy Pacific salmon stocks, improving the management of West Coast fisheries and benefiting First Nations communities.

- PhD student **Brianna Turner** has received a $140,000 [Banting Post-Doctoral Fellowship](https://cihr-icr.ca) from CIHR for her research on suicide prevention under the supervision of clinical psychologist Alexander Chapman. Her fellowship research with Harvard University is exploring how cognitive assessment tools can be used to predict suicidal actions.

Research Awards & Honours

- **Alissa Antle** of Interactive Arts & Technology has been elected to the [Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists](https://www.rsc.ca) for her research on the use of interactive technology to improve children’s learning. For instance, she has developed a mindfulness app to help traumatized and anxious children stay calm and focus their attention on learning. She joins **David Vocadlo** of Chemistry as a member of the College, which was established in 2014.

- **Mark Winston** of SFU’s Centre for Dialogue, an authority on bees and pollination, has received $25,000 and an invitation to Rideau Hall to accept his [2015 Governor General’s Literary Award for Nonfiction](https://canadianwriters.org/government/2015-governor-general-literary-awards-nonfiction) for *Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive*. The book, which explores the impact of bees on human society and what we can learn from them in facing our own societal challenges, also won a Canadian Science Writers’ Association award earlier this year. The VP Research Office is featuring Winston’s work in its 50 Years of Research & Innovation at SFU communications initiative.

Innovation Updates

- On October 1, 2015, [President Petter](http://www.sfu.ca) and VP Research [Johnson](http://www.sfu.ca), joined by [Jill Earthy](http://www.sfu.ca) of [FrontFundr](http://www.frontfundr.com), officially opened the VentureLabs® facility at Harbour Centre and launched the [SFU Innovates](http://www.sfu.ca) strategy. The event was attended by close to 200 people, with approximately half of the audience from external organizations including the BC Innovation Council, the BC Technology Industry Association, New Ventures BC, Launch Academy, Rocket Builders, Mitacs, and the National Research Council. City councilors from Burnaby and Surrey were also in attendance. Media coverage included Breakfast Television, CBC’s Early Edition, CBC News, Business in Vancouver, and CKNW, and Fairchild TV. Minister Virk has toured the new space, and on November 6th President Petter will speak on SFU Innovates at the Surrey Board of Trade lunch.

- **Daniel Abram**, a postdoc from Mechatronic Systems Engineering, leveraged his display at the [SFU Innovates](http://www.sfu.ca) event into [media coverage](http://www.sfu.ca) of his [BrainShield](http://www.sfu.ca) football decal technology through the [Vancouver Sun](http://www.sfu.ca), [Business in Vancouver](http://www.sfu.ca) and [CBC](http://www.sfu.ca).
• SFU’s new **Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship** “will offer students the interdisciplinary teams and skills that realistic, practical innovation requires,” according to Director of Entrepreneurship Sarah Lubik. Offered by the Beedie School of Business in partnership with five of SFU’s faculties, the program is open to all SFU undergraduate students.

• Posting its best results to date, the **VentureLabs** accelerator is once again the top-performing accelerator in BC in capital formation, according the latest quarterly report from the BC Acceleration Network.

• Two SFU student siblings, **Hafez and Sal Rismani**, will be growing their startup after closing a deal with CBC’s **Dragon’s Den**. **Daily Delivery** provides a delivery service in urban Vancouver for small businesses without in-house drivers. Using a crowdsourcing app, they target drivers in neighbourhoods across Vancouver who use their own cars to provide on-demand delivery at a fraction of the cost of a conventional courier.