Top Stories in SFU News, Research


Research Awards & Honours

- **Doug Stead**, who holds the Forest Renewal BC Chair in Resource Geoscience and Geotechnics in the Department of Earth Sciences, had received the 2017 R.F. Legget Medal from the Canadian Geotechnical Society. The Society’s most senior and prestigious award, Stead was recognized for his lifelong contribution to the field.
- **Gerhard Gries**, who holds the NSERC-Industrial Research Chair in Multimodal Animal Communication Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences, has received the 2017 Gold Medal from the Entomological Society of Canada for his outstanding contributions to the field. These include his identification of the pheromone that lures bedbugs into traps.
- **Paul Garfinkel** of the Department of History has received the Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize from the American Historical Association for a book on Italian history, Criminal Law in Liberal and Fascist Italy (Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- **David Chariandy** of the Department of English has received a $50,000 Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize from the Writers Trust of Canada for his second novel, Brother (McLelland & Stewart, 2017). The book also made the Giller Prize long list.

SFU Innovates

- For the third consecutive year, **SFU is an Innovation Partner** for the 2018 #BCTECH Summit on May 14-16, 2018. The SFU Innovates booth will be set up, along with a section for KEY, SFU's Big Data Initiative. Currently, SFU researchers are in the application process with the Government of BC to display their projects at the summit.
- **Industry Engagement** has filed 17 patents within the months of November and December, 2017. These patents cover the range of disciplines from **Mechantronics** to **Chemistry**, among others, which involves professors and researchers from multiple research areas.
• **SFU VentureLabs®** hosted 18 community and industry events in calendar Q4. In addition, VentureLabs had delegation visits and meetings with Xianmen District, Tsinghua Holdings and TUStar and GSR Ventures.

**KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative**

- KEY is developing a dedicated **big data subcluster** that will integrate with Supercomputer Cedar. Through this subcluster, SFU can expand its computing horsepower and storage to help enable its researchers to tackle a wider range of data analyses and deliver breakthroughs faster. The subcluster is expected to be operational by Summer 2018.
- KEY successfully concluded its final **Week of Workshops series for 2017**. Over the past year, we held four major Week of Workshop series—all of which have filled in under 48 hours—and have engaged over 260 participants including students, staff and researchers. Our training offerings will continue to expand in 2018 to meet demand.
- KEY successfully concluded the **Fall 2017 Data Visionaries Series**—a series that explored and critically examined the possibilities and impact of data in our future. Featuring 12 speakers—with talks across three campuses—this series engaged over 550 attendees. There will be a **Spring 2018** series with a new set of speakers that will address the power and potential of big data.

**SFU International (SFUi)**

- SFU President **Andrew Petter**, Vice-President Research and International, **Joy Johnson** and an SFU delegation consisting of Deans and faculty, visited key partners in Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing and Shanghai) in November 2017. The objective was to **further SFU’s reputation** for academic excellence, research innovation, and strong community engagement through the development of existing partnerships and new relationships with prominent educational institutions, government, industry and alumni. The specific goals of this visit included expanding and mobilizing existing institutional and governmental relationships. During the visit, **MOU and Student Mobility Agreements were signed**. The visit included meetings with Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Tsinghua University, Communication University of China, Renmin University, Tongji University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. President Petter also met with the Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection regarding the role that the university has played on the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development for 27 years and the potential for deeper engagement in the future.
- **President Petter** made a presentation in Singapore to the **Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) Board** along with Canada’s High Commissioner to Singapore **Lynn McDonald**, **Randall Martin** (BC Council for International Education) and **Stephanie Johnson** (Vancouver Convention Centre) for Vancouver to be the host city for the **2020 APAIE Conference**. As a result, SFU won the bid to lead the conference along with government and academic partners.