Recent Research News

**SFU Engineering Scientist Appointed to NSERC Council**

**Bozena Kaminska**, CRC in Wireless Sensor Networks, has been appointed to NSERC's Council. The Council is comprised of NSERC President Dr. Suzanne Fortier and up to 18 other members from the private and public sectors in Canada. According to NSERC’s website, the Council’s main responsibilities are “to set the strategy and high level policies for NSERC, and to review and evaluate performance. The Council works to achieve the maximum strategic impact for Canada from the expenditure of public funds, and to advance Canada’s research and development agenda.”

**NSERC Strategic Network Grant Program Results**

Two SFU researchers will receive funding from the NSERC Strategic Project Grants program: **Edward Park** of Mechatronics Systems Engineering for “Wireless initial sensor network for ubiquitous human motion capture” ($445K) and **Alexandra Fedorova** of Computing Science for “Accelerating the data rain in cloud computing” ($442K). In addition, **Richard Vaughan** of Computing Science is a theme leader in a new $21-million, five-year collaborative project in field robotics, funded by an NSERC Strategic Network grant led by McGill University.

**CIHR Operating Grant Program Results 2012**

Results are now in for the second of the two annual operating grant competitions by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). The combined results from the March and September 2012 competitions indicate that SFU researchers were successful in about 20% of applications submitted through SFU or another institution. Nationally, about 22% of applications were funded out of CIHR’s core operating grants budget.

**SFU Leading “Cool” New Green Energy Project**

With a total of $4.5 million in grants from Automotive Partnership Canada, industry and government partners, SFU will lead Canada's largest project of its kind to develop more efficient and environmentally-friendly air conditioning and refrigeration systems for service vehicles and long-haul trucks. Headed by SFU engineering scientist **Majid Bahrami**, the project aims to develop at least eight new technologies for Canada's automotive and food sectors. It will involve 71 student and faculty researchers from both SFU and the University of Waterloo, who will work with industrial partners Cool-It Hiway Services Inc. and Saputo Dairy Products Inc. (both local companies), as well as CrossChasm Technologies Inc. from Ontario.

**Professor Gencay One of Three Canadian Recipients of CIGI-INET Research Grants**

**Ramo Gencay** of Economics is one of only three Canadians to receive a grant in the latest competition from the Centre for Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET). His project, *Identification and Modeling Risk Cascades with*
Dynamic Network Models, will receive $178,500 for three years. The CIGI-INET program selects grants that challenge conventional economic thinking and offer solutions for the world’s most promising economic problems. This project aims to model the complex interdependencies between dynamic networks of financial institutions that may lead to global (in) stability, and to propose policies and/or tools to control these before they threaten the global community.

SFU’s new Leading Edge Endowment Fund Chair
On January 29th at SFU Surrey, the Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Family Development, announced the establishment of a new $5.25M research chair, the “Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation BC Leadership Chair in Multimodal Technology for Healthcare Innovation.” Held by Ryan D’Arcy of the School of Engineering Science, the chair is funded through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) with contributions from SFU and the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation and support from the Fraser Health Authority. This is one of five SFU research chairs supported by the Government of British Columbia through LEEF.

Revision of SFU Ethics Policy R20.01
The revised policy R20.01 (Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Participants) was approved by the Board of Governors on January 31st. Section 9 of the proposed revision requires that those who involve First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in their research will familiarize themselves with the cultures, codes and customs of these communities and act in accordance with protocol when engaging with community members prior to, during, and following the research activity. Researchers will obtain informed consent from individuals, communities, and/or governing bodies as appropriate, and will recognize and respect the intellectual property rights of research participants. Under the revised R20.01, SFU is taking a leadership role in ensuring that its researchers understand the diverse perspectives on research involving aboriginal individuals and communities, are able to interpret the ethics framework in this context, and can recognize and respect the cultural norms, governance structure and needs of aboriginals involved in research.

Revision of SFU University Research Assistant Policy R50.04
The new research policy R50.04 was approved by the Board of Governors on January 31st. It provides greater job security for full-time research assistants on long-term contracts of two or more years, by creating a new category of University Research Assistants that is separate from University Research Associates (covered under R50.01), and Personnel Funded from Research Grants (covered under R50.02).

Updates: Awards & Honours

Hal Weinberg, Director, Office of Research Ethics – Queen’s Jubilee Medal
On February 26th, Hal Weinberg was presented with his second Queen’s Medal. The first, the Queen’s Gold Medal, was awarded in 2003 in recognition of his work in Aboriginal affairs. This second medal, the Queen’s Jubilee Medal, was presented for his “contributions to building British Columbia.” Weinberg served in local government within the province for 25 years, and as mayor of the Village of Anmore for more than twenty years.
Updates: Innovation Activities

New Funding to SFU’s Entrepreneurship Training & Technology Education Programs
The Discovery Foundation is supporting two of the SFU Innovation Office programs for 2013-14. The GreenTech Exchange will receive $15,000 for delivery of the Discovery Foundation Executive Speaker and monthly networking sessions.

As an agent of the Discovery Foundation’s Technology Education Program, Venture Connection will continue to deliver the Discovery Foundation Entrepreneur Mentoring Program with $30,000 in funding, providing one-on-one entrepreneurial mentoring for students and recent alumni. This includes the Mentor Meet drop-in sessions for young entrepreneurs, as well as ongoing mentoring for clients of Venture Connection’s early-stage incubator. Graduates of Venture Connection’s mentoring include Layerboom (acquired by Joyent in 2010), MetroLyrics (acquired by CBS Interactive in 2011), Buyatab.com. HiretheWorld.com, and V7 Entertainment. The 2012-13 Discovery Foundation Entrepreneur Mentoring Program delivered 300 mentoring sessions, educating and advising 100 early stage business teams representing 200 early stage entrepreneurs. All of Venture Connection’s programs are delivered under a $750,000 five-year partnership with Coast Capital Savings.

SFU Venture Connection Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize 2013
On February 13th, Robert Dean, VP Commercial Banking and Julienne Hills, Manager of Community Leadership at Coast Capital Savings announced the winners of the second annual SFU Venture Connection Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize competition. The competition is open to teams from SFU Venture Connection’s early-stage business incubator, who are judged by a guest panel on their progress and participation within Venture Connection’s programs. The three recipients this year were: WittyCookie, a website design company co-founded by students in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology; the consulting company CKM Sports Management, founded by an SFU psychology graduate, and; mobile marketing firm MLT Media, founded by a recent MBA graduate. All three will share prizes totaling $5,000.

New Venture Capital Corporation for GreenTech Investment
GreenAngel Energy Corp. is a TSX.V listed green angel technology company focusing on commercializing new technologies that produce renewable energy or improve energy efficiency. Its President and Chairman is SFU Innovation Office Director Michael Volker. Together with the SFU TIME Centre, GreenAngel Energy is launching a new green technology venture capital corporation under GreenAngel Technology Ventures (VCC) Corp. The VCC is seeking $500K for 2013 and 2014 to invest in up to ten of the most promising cleantech startups in British Columbia.