Top Stories in the News, Research

- In March 2018, it was announced in Ottawa that Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, professor of modern culture and media at Brown University, will join Simon Fraser University as a prestigious Canada 150 Research Chair. Chun is SFU’s second Canada 150 Research Chair and joins mathematician Caroline Colijn, announced in December 2017. Learn more from SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/03/data-visionary-to-join-sfu-as-canada-150-research-chair.html
- Ruth Lavergne, principal investigator for one of three SFU Health Sciences research projects, recently awarded nearly $1.25 million over 4 years in CIHR funding. Learn more about her research and the other funded health sciences projects from SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/03/millions-awarded-to-inspiring-health-research-a-sfu.html
- SFU’s Surrey campus will soon house two new research facilities — one, a regional hub called the eBrain Centre, focusing on diagnosing and treating youth mental health and addiction, and the other, a “Homeware” Laboratory to advance digital technologies for the evolving Internet of Things (IoT). The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund is providing funds to support the two facilities. See full funding details on SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/04/new-ebrain-centre-homeware-lab-to-be-created-sfu-surrey-campus.html

Research Grant Successes

- Behraad Bahreyni from Mechatronic Systems Engineering has been awarded a $288,000 NSERC Collaborative Research and Development grant for his research in particle acceleration micro sensors for sonar applications, in addition to $144,000 in funding from Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems Inc.
- Anne Marie Nicol from Faculty of Health Sciences, was awarded $2.7 million from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer for the “CAREX Canada project.”
- Frank Gobas from School of Resource and Environmental Management, is a collaborator on a project funded by the European Chemical Industry Council and led by the University of Toronto titled: “Improved Characterization of Portioning and Biotransformation for Screening Organic Compounds for the Potential to Bioaccumulate in Airbreathing Species.” Gobas was awarded $338,000.
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada- Grant-in-Aid program:
  - Jonathan Choy from Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, was awarded $295,000 for his project “Immune and Vascular Effects of IL-6 in Transplant Atherosclerosis.”
  - Victoria Claydon from Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology has been awarded $197,000 for her project “Mechanisms and management of pediatric syncope.”
• 22 SFU researchers from 12 departments have been awarded SSHRC Insight Grants for the 2017 competition. They were awarded a total of $3.56 million with a success rate of 52.4%, which is above the national overall success rate (47.3%).
• In the latest NSERC Discovery Grants competition, SFU was awarded a total of $1.72M for 57 projects, for a success rate of 76%, which is an 11% increase compared to last year. In addition, seven SFU researchers were awarded the NSERC Accelerator Supplements grants for a total of $840,000.
• Nadine Provencal from Faculty of Health Sciences was successful on a $150,000 CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund for her project Exposure to Early Life Stress and Glucocorticoids: Mechanisms of System-wide Epigenetic Effects.
• Glen Tibbits from Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology has received over $100,000 for collaborative projects with the Stem Cell Network.

Research Awards & Honours
• Arthur Robson of Economics has been appointed a Fellow of the Canadian Economics Association in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the discipline.
• A book that summarizes three decades of linguistic and anthropological research involving BC’s Secwépemc people, by Marianne Ignace of First Nations Studies, has received the 2018 Basil Stuart-Stubbs Book Prize. It has also been shortlisted for a regional BC Book Prize.
• Brian Fisher of SIAT has been renewed as a member of the governing council of NSERC, which is constituted of 18 Canadians from the private and public sectors.
• Judith Marcuse, Artist-in-Residence and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Education and Senior Fellow of Ashoka International, has become a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation mentor. Up to 10 mentors are appointed each year to guide Trudeau scholars in their projects.

SFU Innovates
• Joy Johnson, SFU’s Vice-President, Research and International will also be speaking at #BCTECH in a session called, “Harnessing the Power of Data for Innovation.” In addition, Sarah Lubik, SFU’s director of entrepreneurship and SFU Innovates leader has been selected to speak at the 2018 #BCTECH Summit on “Accelerating Innovation: What University Incubators can Really Do.” Learn more on the #BCTECH website: bctechsummit.ca/agenda/?date=may-16&event=517.
• Ionomr Innovations Inc., an SFU startup company co-founded by SFU alumnus Benjamin Britton to commercialize hydrogen-based technologies for clean energy applications, has won an international competition as one of the three most promising startups in its category (low-carbon energy production).
• 26 SFU VentureLabs® and Simon Fraser University affiliated companies were recognised on the 2018 Ready to Rocket list, announced in March. This is a list of top private British Columbia companies positioned to capitalize on growth in one of four technology sectors: information and communications technology; cleantech; life sciences; and digital health. The list compiled by Rocket Builders and an impressive team of advisors, included companies from across the province. Read more on the SFU Innovates website: innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/26-sfu-and-venturelabs-companies-recognised-2018-ready-rocket-list.
KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative

- **KEY Grad Scholarships 2018/19** received 73 applications in total, and is aiming to fund 30 students across the Summer 2018, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters. The successful applications came from across the disciplines, and included the Departments of Psychology, Urban Studies, Political Science, Biological Sciences, Geography, Business, Health, Mathematics, and more.

- Last fall, KEY launched its inaugural **Next Big Question Fund** – a seed fund that enables researchers to pivot towards more data-intensive research from discovery to knowledge mobilization. In total 32 applications were received and seven projects will be funded from May 2018 to April 2019. KEY is also looking to facilitate other funding or partnership opportunities for the applications that were not selected in this round. The official announcement will happen in summer 2018.

- KEY wrapped up its second **Data Visionaries** series this April. Over this spring series we examined both the risk and the potential of big data in online data, breakthrough physics, smart governments, and data-driven journalism. With five sessions across two campuses, KEY engaged over 170 audience members in this limited run series.

SFU International (SFUi)

- SFU was one of 20 universities to be funded for the **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program (QES)** through Universities Canada (with funding from the Rideau Hall Foundation). The project provides funding for six students from Iran, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Ecuador for graduate programs in health, engineering, and sustainable development at SFU; and 24 SFU students to conduct research and do training projects in Nepal, Ecuador and South Africa on health promotion, cultural tourism and HIV policy. The total funding is CA $300,000.

- **President Petter** attended the **2018 Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) Conference and Exhibition in Singapore.** Directly after the conference, the delegation travelled to Taiwan to renew the MOU and Student Mobility Agreements with National Taiwan University and National Taiwan Normal University and signed an MOU with MingDao University. During this visit, President Petter hosted an Alumni reception in Taiwan.

- **Claire Trépanier**, senior instructor in the Department of French and former director of the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs (OFFA) at SFU (2008 to 2017), was awarded the insignia of Knight of the **Ordre des Palmes académiques**. Mr. Philippe Sutter, Consul General of France in Vancouver, bestowed the honour at a private ceremony which took place on Tuesday, April 10. The Ordre des Palmes académiques (Order of Academic Palms) is a national order of France that was re-instated on October 4, 1955 by President René Coty. It succeeded the decoration of Silver Palms (officer d’Académie) created in 1808 by Emperor Napoléon I.

Government Visit

- The **Honourable Kristy Duncan**, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, visited SFU’s Burnaby campus at the beginning of April and toured the ROSIE Lab. Learn more about the SFU ROSIE Lab: [www.rosielab.ca](http://www.rosielab.ca).