Research News and Updates

- A $1 million gift from Coast Capital Savings will help to further the success of SFU’s Venture Connection program, advancing innovation across the University. To acknowledge Coast Capital’s history with the program and its continued support, the program has been re-named Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection®. See SFU News story: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/05/coast-capital-savings-invests--1-million-to-further-innovation-s.html](http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/05/coast-capital-savings-invests--1-million-to-further-innovation-s.html)

- Simon Fraser University researchers are investigating why some older Canadians living with multiple chronic health conditions maintain their resiliency. Professor Andrew Wister, director of SFU’s Gerontology Research Centre, is SFU’s principal investigator for the multi-university Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). He leads one of 25 research teams benefiting from a share of $1.7 million in CLSA catalyst grants, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). See SFU News Story: [https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/05/study-targets-resiliency-among-aging-canadians-with-multiple-ill.html](https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/05/study-targets-resiliency-among-aging-canadians-with-multiple-ill.html)

- SFU has submitted two institutional applications to the Canada Excellent Research Chairs Program to establish a Chair in Big Data Access and Curation, and a Chair in Clean Energy Systems. This highly competitive program will fund 11 Chairs in Canada valued at $10M each, with a 1:1 matching requirement. The applications were developed with input from two interdisciplinary Steering Committees, with membership from multiple Faculties. The competition results will be announced in November 2017.

- The Canada Foundation for Innovation conducted a 1-day monitoring visit at SFU on May 18 as a part of its oversight activities. A CFI Financial Monitoring Officer and the CFI Senior Programs Officer assigned to SFU met with key institutional representatives to disseminate information on CFI policies, guidelines, and expectations for accountability and integrity, and share examples of good practices. This visit provided CFI with a high level understanding of SFU’s practices, processes and controls concerning CFI awards and allowed CFI to gain community knowledge in specific areas of interest to the Foundation. The visit included a CFI presentation on key requirements related to the life cycle of an award, with significant discussions about SFU’s practices and processes. The visit concluded with a tour through SFU’s Data Centre housing the CFI and BCKDF-funded Cedar, Canada’s most powerful academic supercomputer.

Research Grant Successes

- In the latest CIHR Project Grant competition (Fall 2016), SFU researchers from the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Health Sciences have been
awarded a total of $4.7M for 10 projects: 4 projects in the Biomedical Research pillar, 3 projects in the Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Population Health research pillar, 2 projects in Health Services research pillar, and 1 project in the Clinical Research pillar.

- In partnership with Hydrogen in Motion, and other industry and academic collaborators, Erik Kjeang (MSE) has been successful on a $2.6M grant from the Consortium for Aerospace Research and Innovation Canada (CARIC) for the Hydrogen Storage and Fuel Cell for UAV Integration project. This collaboration is attracting upward of $1.8M in research funding to SFU.

Research Awards & Honours

- Nancy Olewiler of the School of Public Policy received the 2017 Women of Distinction Award in the Education, Training & Development category at the YWCA Vancouver awards gala on May 29. Other SFU faculty who were honoured as nominees in this category were Michelle Pidgeon, Faculty of Education and Sarah Lubik from Beedie School of Business/Director of Entrepreneurship.

- Gloria Gutman, professor emerita of gerontology, has been invested to the Order of Canada. Professor Gutman developed and led the SFU Gerontology Research Centre and the Department of Gerontology. She was founding president of the Gerontology Association of B.C. and also served as president of both the Canadian and international associations of gerontology.

- Computing science professor Fred Popowich has received a Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Artificial Intelligence Association. Professor Popowich, the executive director of KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative, is president of the Canadian Network for Visual Analytics and a founding director of both the Language Industry Association of Canada and the Vancouver Institute for Visual Analytics.

- Emeritus professor Tom Calvert has received the Canadian Digital Media Pioneer Award from the Canadian Human-Computer Communications Society for his significant contributions to the development of digital media in Canada. Former computing science professor Kori Inkpen, now at Microsoft Research, was also recognized with an achievement award from the Society.

SFU Innovates Updates

- On June 1, 2017 the Culture of Innovation Round Table with the Governor General took place at SFU VentureLabs® in Vancouver. From 1:30pm-2:30pm there was a roundtable, and from 2:30pm-3:00pm there was a short presentation of five demonstrations of innovation. The roundtable was led by President Andrew Petter and the presentations were guided by Vice-President, Research and International, Joy Johnson. The demonstrations consisted of elementary school and high school students showcasing their involvement in
entrepreneurship within youth, Coast Protein, a company that provides alternative sources of protein made with crickets, SFU professor Majid Bahrami demonstrating his Hybrid Atmospheric Water Generator (HAWgen), and Founder and CEO of Curiate, Jennifer Chen, discussing an audience measurement platform that answers why viewers watch certain shows and how media providers, content creators, and advertisers can grow and retain their audiences. One main goal for this event was to bring together the innovation ecosystem to engage in dialogue around the ways we can improve Canada’s Culture of Innovation.

- In May 2017, we launched to our online audience and the SFU community an updated SFU Innovates website, brochure (print and online), overview video and short video vignettes for each SFU Innovates pillar. This updated communications material is aimed to more simply define SFU Innovates, showcase the four-pillared strategy and reflect new and improved messaging that tells a clearer story about what differentiates and brings together SFU’s innovation ecosystem.

- **SFU VentureLabs®**: SFU students will soon be eligible for financial support from the Asia Pacific Foundation and the SFU India Mobility Initiative to participate in new student internships in India, in cooperation with the **Zone Startups India** accelerator in Mumbai.

- **RADIUS** now offers a **$25,000 investment** to every venture in the Slingshot Accelerator. Entrepreneurs in the Slingshot Accelerator will: build business and innovation acumen, grow a powerful network of mentors and peers, develop strong financial, legal and marketing & communication strategies, and benefit from an expanded pool of service providers, tech interns and experts. **See RADIUS news story**: [http://innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/radius-accelerates-ventures-help-people-live-healthy-lives](http://innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/radius-accelerates-ventures-help-people-live-healthy-lives)

**KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative Updates**

- The Big Data Academic Advisory Committee has now developed a **KEY Graduate Scholarship program** that enables students to receive hands on experience with data-intensive and computationally-driven research in their field, when they may not otherwise have the chance. The scholarship program is slated to launch later this year.

**SFU International (SFUi) Updates**

- On May 10, 2017, Vice-President, Research and International, Joy Johnson hosted “**Engaging China**,” a one-day workshop with SFU faculty working on China-related research. The goal of the workshop was to map current research engagement with China by SFU faculty members, explore opportunities for future collaborations, gather feedback on how to most effectively deepen SFU’s China connections and build a community of researchers actively engaged with industry and institutional partners in China.