FASS FORUM 2024
CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR
AN ACCOMPLISHED YEAR

FASS accomplished a great deal in 2023.

We welcomed 33 new continuing faculty members, the largest and most diverse in recent memory. This includes four Canada Research Chairs as well as the first ever Canada Excellence Research Chair held at SFU. Additionally, three FASS faculty became Distinguished SFU Professors.

We launched two new FASS-run grant programs: Kickstarter and Breaking Barriers. We revitalized the Reconciling Curriculum Grants, distributing to more recipients than ever before. We secured $11M in external funding. Our faculty won book awards and numerous other distinctions. Our research is inspiring people in our academic fields and in the community—we once again won more SFU Newsmaker Awards than any other faculty.

These research accomplishments have been accompanied by an impressive commitment to our students, both graduate and undergraduate students. We offered five field schools, taking students to enriched learning experiences in places like Vanuatu, Greece, Finland, and Scotland. The NATO Field School and Simulation Program offers students unprecedented opportunities to see diplomacy and military alliances from the inside, attracting students from nine countries and universities like Harvard, Norwegian Defense University, University of Toronto, and University of Latvia. Our teaching fellows continue to raise the bar for pedagogical innovation and our Teaching Cafés, including a full-house discussion of ChatGPT, are not-to-miss events. We welcomed our first students in the Public Policy minor, and World Languages and Literatures announced new programming in Brazilian Portuguese language and culture.

We did important community and connection building with interdisciplinary Dean’s Lectures on Humanism and Climate Justice. We started the important process of breaking down our teaching and research silos. Whether scholars collaborate on understanding people or interpreting texts, FASS seeks to embody the complexity and diversity of humanity itself. Our greatest successes come when our areas of research, teaching, and community engagement overlap, intertwine, and complement each other.

I thank you for being part of this continually evolving definition of what a university Faculty can be, and I look forward to what 2024 will bring.
Described as a powerhouse and a revered figure in her community, Kèyishí Bessie Cooley is one of the few fluent first language Tlingit speakers in the world, and a driving force for language revitalization. Presenting her thesis project was more than just about obtaining her master's degree in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics, it was also a tribute to her family and a testament to her life story around the language which she has fought hard to preserve.

After years of relationship-building and negotiations with the Consulate General of Brazil, SFU will for the first time ever offer Brazilian Portuguese language and Brazilian literature classes. The new lecturer will be hosted within the Department of World Languages and Literatures. This marks an incredible moment in SFU’s long-standing history of multilingualism. It stimulates educational, academic, and cultural cooperation between SFU and Brazil.
NEW FASS FUNDING

Research support is a priority for Dean Laurel Weldon. In addition to the renewed Reconciling Curriculum Grant program, three new FASS funding opportunities were created and launched in 2023.

Kickstarter Seed Grant

This grant encourages continuing faculty members to develop new ways to share their research or to start a new research project with the hopes of securing further external funding in the future.

The Dean was able to fund 33 projects which range from producing podcasts, hosting townhalls, expanding digital access to materials, to amplifying the experiences of those marginalized by age, race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or ability by fostering new connections with communities outside of SFU.

Breaking Barriers Inter-disciplinary Incentive Grant

This grant supports continuing faculty members to form research connections with faculty members outside of FASS, deepening our understanding of the world’s most pressing issues, creating solutions, or otherwise addressing these problems.

FASS researchers rose to the challenge to develop new interdisciplinary collaborations to tackle a wide range of complex problems. Thirteen projects are currently being adjudicated.

FASS SSHRC Bridge Funding

In order to support the continuation of research for applicants who were highly ranked without receiving funding in SSHRC Insight or Insight Development Grant competitions, and to facilitate their reapplication to those programs, FASS will provide bridging grants valued at a maximum of $10,000.

Last year, two Insight Grant applicants and one Insight Development Grant applicant received bridging funding. This funding opportunity will be repeated depending on budgetary constraints.
2023 RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

An overview of some of the many research accomplishments from FASS researchers this past year.

With $1M funded by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, Nancy Olewiler (Public Policy) will lead a team over the next four years to investigate how remote and rural Indigenous communities in B.C. will be impacted by climate change, and what policies and innovations in housing practices and technical safety are needed to improve their climate resiliency.

Kendra Strauss (Labour Studies) together with Economics alumnus and CCPA senior economist Iglika Ivanova released a report as part of their six-year “Understanding Precarity in B.C.” study, which seeks to better understand precarious employment and their prevalence in the province.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada awarded the New Investigator Grant to Brianne Kent (Psychology) to fund her research on how the body’s internal clock affects resilience in Alzheimer’s disease.

In her article, At the Intersection of Equity and Innovation: Trans Inclusion in the City of Vancouver, Tiffany Muller Myrdahl (Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies; Urban Studies) calls upon municipal governments to attend to and redesign the gendered models of service, programs, and space in which the city is built upon.

Jie Yang (Sociology and Anthropology) earned a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to create a partnership between anthropologists, psychologists, philosophers and literary scholars to develop a framework for alternative models of psychological care drawing upon Chinese Indigenous psychology.

As a panelist on the Council of Canadian Academies’ Expert Panel on Public Safety in the Digital Age, Richard Frank (Criminology) co-authored the Vulnerable Connections report which revealed how harmful activities have evolved as a result of digital technologies, particularly in the drug-cryptomarket ecosystem.

Megan MacKenzie (International Studies) co-authored a report presenting alternative options for the future, including the pursuit of demilitarization as necessary for upholding Canada’s commitment to Women, Peace, and Security Agenda priorities.

The Gender Gap Tracker, originally developed in 2019 by Maite Taboada (Linguistics), is now available in French. Radar de Parité measures gender representation in French news stories.

Gerontology researchers Andrew Wister, Andrea Wadman, and Laura Kadowaki identified senior centres as vital for seniors’ well-being, and created a report using data from focus groups with non-profit Metro Vancouver senior centres outlining the challenges, successes, and opportunities.

Chelsey Geralda Armstrong (Indigenous Studies) and Jonathan Hartt (Philosophy; Indigenous Studies; Political Science alumnus) conducted research alongside researchers from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History whereby their studies shed light on the ancestry and genetics of the now extinct woolly dog breed that was of great cultural significance for the Indigenous Coast Salish communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Four projects by Criminology researchers Jennifer Wong, Evan McCuish, Zachary Rowan, Martin Bouchard, and Shannon Linning received funding from the City of Burnaby to study gang and gun violence, prevention, and intervention.
CREATING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Thanks to the generous contributions of professor emeritus Dr. A.H. Somjee and his wife Dr. Geeta Somjee, a new professorship was established in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Shivaji Mukherjee was appointed as the inaugural Dr. A.H. Somjee and Dr. Geeta Somjee Professor in Indian Political Development.

A loyal philanthropic supporter of SFU, Dr. Somjee has also over the years extended his generosity to the W.A.C. Bennett Library and to Political Science students in the form of a graduate student scholarship.

GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

A strong believer in the importance of a Criminology degree in providing a better understanding of the criminal justice system and in preparing students for a lifetime of learning and critical thinking, Nancy E. Joyce set up an endowment to create a perpetual source of bursary funding for Criminology students who otherwise might not be able to afford a post-secondary education.

ADVANCING RESEARCH IN AGING

Recognizing the importance of Gerontology’s research expertise for seniors’ advocacy and well-being, alumnus Lorna Court established a faculty support fund and a generous gift in will to the Department of Gerontology.

“I wanted to be part of the solution by helping to support the critical work of researchers and students. I decided I could do this by putting a gift to SFU in my will to support Gerontology.”

IMPROVING STUDENT ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

With growing student demand for more BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) stations on campus, retired staff member Malcolm Toms stepped in to help.

With matching funds from FASS, the Malcolm Toms Technology Grant greatly expanded BYOD stations at SFU—first adding stations to W.A.C. Bennett Library on Burnaby campus, and finally, to the libraries at SFU’s Surrey and Vancouver campuses.

ALUMNI COUPLE GIVES BACK TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Doug and Sandra Cramen met while studying at SFU in the 80’s. Now they are giving back by donating $40K to create a bursary endowment supporting undergraduate Economics major students in financial need.

“Our families were not in a position to help us when we went to university. We had to pay our own way and came out with student debt. We would like others to be able to start their careers without that burden, which is our intention for creating this bursary.”
Blazing Space
Stephen Collis

Decrim: How We Decriminalized Drugs in British Columbia
Kennedy Stewart

Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia and Canada, 8th Edition
Andrew Wister, Boah Kim, Sarah Qiu

The Matryoshka Memoirs: A Story of Ukrainian Forced Labour, the Leica Camera Factory, and Nazi Resistance
Sasha Colby

The Circle Unfolds: Envisioning Social Justice from the Margins
Parin Dossa

Diplomacia. Teoría y práctica (Dúo)
Ricardo Arredondo

Gender and Divorce in Europe: 1600–1900, A Praxeological Perspective
Evdoxios Doxiadis

Niitsipowahsin at Home: A Blackfoot Language Learning Guide for Families
Co-authored by Heather Bliss, Naato’saaki Annette Fox-BruisedHead, and Blackfoot Elders

The Smoke and Mirrors Game of Global CSR Reporting
Andy Hira

Terror Capitalism
Darren Byler

Running
Lindsey Freeman

Climatic and Ecological Change in the Americas: A Perspective from Historical Ecology
Co-edited by Chelsey Geralda Armstrong

Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ2SA+ Community
Claire Robson, Jen Marchbank, Gloria Gutman, Makaela Prentice

Good Soldiers Don’t Rape: The Stories We Tell About Military Sexual Violence
Megan MacKenzie

Place Management and Crime: Ownership and Property Rights as a Source of Social Control
Co-authored by Evdoxios Doxiadis

Terror Capitalism: Uyghur Dispossession and Masculinity in a Chinese City by Darren Byler received the 2023 Margaret Mead Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology
**EXTERNAL AWARDS**

**American Society for 18th Century Studies Excellence in Mentorship Award**
Betty A. Schellenberg
English

**APPA Award for Excellence in Research**
Michael Howlett
Political Science

**Gregory Bateson Book Prize for Cultural Anthropology**
Darren Byler
International Studies

**BC Reconciliation Award**
Eldon Yellowhorn
Indigenous Studies

**Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award: Doctoral**
Indira Riadi
Gerontology

**Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award: Master’s**
Ashley Kyne
Criminology

**Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award: Honourable Mention**
Sarah Law
Sociology and Anthropology

**Surrey Women in Business Award**
Jen Marchbank
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

**TLN Top 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians**
Evelyn Encalada Grez
Sociology and Anthropology

**SFU AWARDS**

**Community-Engaged Partnership Award**
Anthony Kupferschmidt
Gerontology

**Distinguished SFU Professors**
Kendra Strauss
Labour Studies

Krissha Pendakur
Economics

Kora DeBeck
Public Policy

**BC Reconciliation Award**
Eldon Yellowhorn
Indigenous Studies

**Media Newsmaker Award**
James Horncastle
Global Humanities

**Newsmaker Lifetime Achievement Award**
Robert Gordon
Criminology

**FASS AWARDS**

**Cormack Teaching Awards**
Amanda Watson
Sociology and Anthropology

Atiya Mahmood
Gerontology

Coleman Nye
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

John-Henry Harter
History; Labour Studies

Tamara O’Doherty
Criminology
Dean’s Medal Award: Lifetime Achievement
Betty A. Schellenberg
English

Dean’s Medal Awards
Mark Pickup
Political Science
Yue Wang
Linguistics

Employee Achievement Award: Individual Work Performance
Huyen Pham
Global Humanities

Employee Achievement Award: Sessional Instructor
Evan Caldbick
Psychology

Employee Achievement Award: Teaching Assistant or Tutor Marker
Richard Hohn
Psychology
Sara Doering
Criminology

Employee Achievement Award: Term Teaching
Adam Blanchard
Psychology

2023 Cormack Teaching Award winners: Amanda Watson, Atiya Mahmood, Coleman Nye, John-Henry Harter, Tamara O’Doherty

2023 Dean’s Medal Award winners: Betty A. Schellenberg, Mark Pickup, Yue Wang

2023 Employee Achievement Awards
Term Teaching winner: Adam Blanchard
Sessional Instructor winner: Evan Caldbick
Individual Work Performance winner: Huyen Pham

2023 Distinguished SFU Professors: Kora DeBeck, Krishna Pendakur, Kendra Strauss
NEW CONTINUING FACULTY

Adele Quigley-McBride
Psychology

Ali Bhagat
Public Policy

Alix Shield
Indigenous Studies

Alyssa Croft
Psychology

Amanda Butler
Criminology

Andy Yan
Urban Studies

Bryan Myles
Indigenous Studies

Cornel Bogle
English

Cynthia Xie, World Languages and Literatures

Evan Freeman
Global Humanities

Helene Love
Criminology

Janice Jeong
History

Jason Brown
Global Humanities

Joanna Peplak
Psychology

Joanne Leow
English

Joel Akinwumi
World Languages and Literatures; French

Kamala Todd
Urban Studies

Mariam Georgis
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

Mary O’Brien
Linguistics

Mei Lan Fang
Urban Studies; Gerontology
IN MEMORIAM

Michael A. Lebowitz
Economics

Richard Debo
History

Simon Verdun Jones
Criminology
NEW CONTINUING STAFF

- Agnes Jeon
  Sociology and Anthropology
- Allen Yee
  Psychology
- Amanda Furney
  Political Science
- Brian Chand
  Urban Studies
- Carina
  Thanabadeepathara
  Economics
- Catalina Bobadilla
  Sandoval
  International Studies
- Cerisse Dela Cruz
  Psychology
- Chieh Wei Chen
  Sociology and Anthropology
- Claire Paradis
  French
- Dionysios Arkadianos
  Global Humanities
- Dora Lau
  Gerontology
- Dylan Kubota
  Public Policy
- Elina Jin
  Global Humanities
- Erin Norman
  History
- Heather Montgomery
  Global Humanities
- Heidi Antolick
  Gerontology
- J. J. Watson-MacKay
  Global Humanities
- Janelle Stuthet
  Linguistics
- Jason Leardi
  Philosophy
- Joelle Lee
  International Studies
- Kylie Broderick
  Comparative Muslim Studies
- Lana Kwan Wakelam
  Economics
- Lee Gellatly
  Linguistics
- Marilyn Trautman
  Dean’s Office
- Melanie Kang
  Economics
- Nicole North
  Linguistics
- Patricia Wong
  Dean’s Office
- Rachel Sze
  Sociology and Anthropology
- Sanaa Uraizee
  English
- Sarah Qiu
  Gerontology
- Shannon Li
  Public Policy
- Tina Cusmano
  Linguistics
- Vasundhara Seli
  Political Science
- Zahraa Hawili
  Dean’s Office

RETIRED FACULTY

Betty A.
Schellenberg
English

Cindy Patton
Sociology and Anthropology

Dara Culhane
Sociology and Anthropology

George Alder
Psychology

Gordon Rose
Psychology

Lisa Shapiro
Philosophy

Maureen Maloney
Public Policy

Murray Munro
Linguistics

Raymond Corrado
Criminology

Robert McMahon
Psychology

Ronald Roesch
Psychology

Trude Heift
Linguistics

Jeanne Persoon
Sociology and Anthropology

Anne Marie Barrett
Gerontology

Ellen Kurz
Psychology

Cindy Patton
Sociology and Anthropology

Dara Culhane
Sociology and Anthropology

George Alder
Psychology

Gordon Rose
Psychology

Lisa Shapiro
Philosophy

Maureen Maloney
Public Policy

Murray Munro
Linguistics

Raymond Corrado
Criminology

Robert McMahon
Psychology

Ronald Roesch
Psychology

Trude Heift
Linguistics

Jeanne Persoon
Sociology and Anthropology
STUDENTS + ALUMNI

Lieutenant Governor’s Medal of Inclusion, Democracy, and Reconciliation
Nimrit Basra
English

Gordon M. Shrum Undergraduate Gold Medal
Aleksandra Ciesielska
Criminology

Dean’s Graduate Convocation Medal
Tiara Cash
Psychology

Dean’s Graduate Convocation Medal
Xiaolin Sun
Economics

Dean’s Undergraduate Convocation Medal
Russell Zhang
Economics

Robert C. Brown Award
Alea Mohamed
International Studies

Terry Fox Gold Medal
Angelica Parente
Criminology

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Indigenous Studies alumnus Aliya Boubard was appointed as Curator to the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art.
- Political Science alumnus Helen Sofia Pahou was named by the Surrey Board of Trade as one of their 2023 Top 25 Under 25.
- Graduate Liberal Studies alumnus Dorothy Dittrich won the Governor General’s Literary Award for her play, which was inspired by a GLS course on grief and mourning rituals.

Fall 2022-2023 competition year

- 3 from CIHR
- 1 from NSERC
- 35 from SSHRC

TRI-AGENCY CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS (CGS)

12 CGS-DOCTORAL RECIPIENTS
26 CGS-MASTER’S RECIPIENTS
1 VANIER CGS RECIPIENT

BREAKING DOWN STIGMA AND PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY

A Métis doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program supervised by Dr. Grace Iarocci, Troy Boucher was awarded the highly prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Through his work at the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Lab, Boucher delves into the challenges faced by individuals with autism across the lifespan. The primary focus of his research is inclusivity; to gain insight into the stigma surrounding autism and partner with autistic individuals to instigate transformative shifts in society. This includes initiatives such as designing educational programs to enhance autism awareness among children and adolescents.
Among its many services, Arts Central runs the FASS Mentorship program for students to make friends, expand their networks, and blossom in their academic careers. Connecting to our new students, Welcome Week saw big turnouts, particularly in the fall term, with an overall attendance of 916 FASS students.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS’ JOURNEYS

Through a combination of participation in SFU-led events, FASS-specific activities for high school (future) students, and advising for incoming and current students in 2023, Arts Central connected with and helped:

5,000+ FUTURE STUDENTS
3,500+ NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENTS

REACHING A WIDE AUDIENCE ONLINE

Videos and content posted by the @fass.engage Instagram account, FASS’s primary student-facing social media account, continues to grow at an impressive rate.

56% NON-FOLLOWERS
44% FOLLOWERS
19,740 PEOPLE REACHED

SUPPORTING STUDENTS’ JOURNEYS

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INSPIRING STUDENT STORIES

Criminology student and accomplished wrestler Payten Smith was honoured with the Hometown Heroes Award by the City of Maple Ridge.

After an injury cut her wrestling career short, she switched focus to pursue her master’s degree in criminology, helping with youth wrestling, and getting kids interested in STEM.

MARCHING FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Students and alumni from International Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies organized Vancouver’s first annual International Women’s Day March. Yasmin Simsek, Nidhi Ghelani, Maria Kouhi, Spencer Lee, Megan Bobetsis, and Karissa Ketter led the event with the goal of bringing awareness to gender-based violence and inequality faced by women around the world.
RANKED IN CANADA
Times Higher Education Ranking (2023) by subject area, “arts and humanities” and “social sciences”

27
DEPARTMENTS, SCHOOLS, AND PROGRAMS

14
RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

188
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAM OPTIONS

MORE THAN
300
CONTINUING RESEARCH AND TEACHING FACULTY
29% of all CFL at SFU *

9,937
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
33% of all undergraduates at SFU *

MORE THAN
200
PUBLIC EVENTS
Not including colloquiums, research seminars, and student-only events

125
CONTINUING STAFF

773
GRADUATE STUDENTS
19% of all grad students at SFU *

2,133
GRADUANDS

* 2022/2023, SFU Institutional Research and Planning
LOOKING AHEAD: ANTICIPATING MORE GREAT NEWS

2024 will be an exciting year for FASS. We will continue to find new ways to support research and teaching innovation and excellence. We are keen to connect with new constituencies in our community and to renew and deepen our relationships with existing ones. We are working on new opportunities and credentials for students, and new ways to recognize the work of our staff. From our efforts to launch a minor in Medical Humanities and Social Sciences, to strengthening our Social Data Analytics program, to developing more robust interdisciplinary research teams, we will position FASS strategically with respect to the changes around us.

We will launch FASS’s first Strategic Research Plan. This is our opportunity to build exciting new communities of inquiry, engage new community and global partners, and break down barriers within our Faculty. The process of developing this plan has revealed the commitment and vitality of intellectual life at SFU, and we anticipate that our plan will align well with SFU’s Strategic Research Plan (2023-2028) and the President’s What’s Next Strategic Plan, while setting ourselves apart as humanities and social science researchers. We also anticipate releasing an updated Strategic Academic Plan.

As part of these efforts, the Dean’s Lecture Series started in 2024 to uplift and support research clusters, bring together researchers within FASS and connect us to colleagues from universities near and far.

Our commitment to Indigenization and decolonization, social justice, and equity, diversity, and inclusion are long-standing and emerge from our FASS community at all levels.

Addressing global and local challenges, from health care to rapid technological changes such as those represented by ChatGPT, require experts who understand people (in their individual and societal forms) and who excel at interpreting – and learning from – texts (broadly writ). Our combined efforts will benefit FASS and SFU, the province, and can even help mitigate global issues such as climate change, poverty, and human rights violations. Collaboratively, we will chart a thoughtful strategy for an age-old institution (the University) and a venerable field of study (humanities and social sciences) in an age of rapid, complex processes of change and forces of resistance to that change, both within and beyond our communities.

This handout is not an exhaustive list of all the news and accomplishments that took place within FASS in the past year. Due to potential content overlap between years, content that has been included in previous FASS Forum/FASSembly handouts will not be repeated in subsequent ones.