

SFU Press Releases Collection

These archival copies have been generated from web press releases maintained and originally written by SFU Communications and Marketing. Where possible, an effort has been made to preserve the public comments left on the website as well as any included photos or other images. All textual content should be faithful to the original press releases; contact numbers have been removed but they have not otherwise been altered in any way. However, this collection of documents spans multiple generations of web authoring software and not all formatting will be exact.

MEDIA RELEASE

Café Scientifique series: mass mystery, declining bees, material world

September 23, 2014

[Tweet](#) [Facebook](#) [Pinterest](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

Contact:

Diane Mar-Nicolle, 778.782.9586; dianem@sfu.ca

Marianne Meadahl, PAMR, 778.782.9017; Marianne_Meadahl@sfu.ca

Photos: <http://at.sfu.ca/rFjisX>

Simon Fraser University's popular Café Scientifique series returns this fall, inviting the general public to participate and learn more from what the experts have to say about key topics in science.

The sessions offer the chance to engage with cutting-edge, award-winning researchers from SFU's Faculty of Science and enjoy light snacks and refreshments.

Three sessions will be held this fall at a new venue in New Westminster, at Boston Pizza (private room) at 1045 Columbia Street, from 7-8:30 p.m. The events are free but reservations can be made at café_scientifique@sfu.ca.

Thursday, Sept. 25:

Speaker: Dugan O'Neil, SFU associate professor of physics, Chief Science Officer at Compute Canada and deputy spokesperson of [ATLAS-Canada](#).

Topic: The Mystery of Mass: Why the Higgs boson is such a big (small) deal

This session looks at mass and where it comes from—a question that particle physicists have been obsessed with for over 50 years. O'Neil says we confront the question daily by “working at an extreme of distance (tiny) and energy (high).”

Explains O'Neil: “A person's mass might be the sum total of their muscle, bone, fat, blood and a car's mass is the sum of its steel, glass, plastics, but a fundamental particle has nothing inside. So, how can it have mass, and what is mass anyway?” O'Neil will discuss how the world's largest machine—the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, Switzerland—has given us an answer.

ATLAS is a particle physics experiment at the LHC that is searching for new discoveries in the head-on collisions of protons of extraordinarily high energy.

Wednesday, Oct. 22:

Speaker: Elizabeth Elle, professor and chair of the Biological Sciences department at SFU. Her research focuses on the evolutionary ecology of mating systems and plant-pollinator interactions.

Topic: Bee declines: from food security to ecosystem health

Pollinators are needed for the reproduction of 90 per cent of plants on earth—including those that provide food for us to eat. Recent declines in bee populations have led to concern about both natural and agricultural systems. Elle will talk on

what we can do to help with pollinator conservation, and examine whose responsibility pollinator conservation should be.

Wednesday, Nov. 19:

Speaker: Neil Branda, a professor of Chemistry and an SFU [Canada Research Chair](#), the executive director of [4D LABS](#), a research centre for advanced materials and nano-scale devices.

Topic: It's a Materials World – from Sticks and Stones to Nanotechnology, how materials have changed our world.

Since the beginning, understanding how materials can be used for specific tasks has resulted in some of the biggest changes to civilizations. Modern society is becoming more and more dependent on the development and use of advanced materials. From the basics to the controversial, Branda will discuss how materials have affected the way we live and play.

Simon Fraser University is consistently ranked among Canada's top comprehensive universities and is one of the top 50 universities in the world under 50 years old. With campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, B.C., SFU engages actively with the community in its research and teaching, delivers almost 150 programs to more than 30,000 students, and has more than 130,000 alumni in 130 countries.

-30-

Simon Fraser University: Engaging Students. Engaging Research. Engaging Communities.

[Comment Guidelines](#) 

- [For the Media](#)
- [For Faculty and Staff](#)
- [About SFU](#)
- [SFU News](#)

[Admission](#)
[Programs](#)

[Maps + directions](#)
[Library](#)

[Learning](#)
[Research](#)
[Community](#)
[About](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)
[Road Report](#)
[Give to SFU](#)
[Emergency Information](#)

CONNECT WITH US

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Twitter](#)
[YouTube](#)

CONTACT US

Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5A 1S6

[Terms and conditions](#)
© Simon Fraser University