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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## Media Advisory: Indian field hockey legend and Olympian brings story to SFU's Surrey campus

*New book about Balbir Singh Sr., also a Canadian citizen, traces his life and the state of India at the time of his gold medal performances in the post World War II era*

March 04, 2016

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India's most decorated Olympian will be at Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus on March 5, 2-4 pm to help launch a new book about his life.

*A Forgotten Legend: Balbir Singh Sr., Triple Olympic Gold & Modi's New India*, celebrates this remarkable sports hero and his story of resilience, redemption and survival. Singh Sr., now 92, won Olympic gold while competing for India in 1948, 1952 and 1956. He resides in Burnaby.

Patrick Blennerhassett, a Canadian journalist and former SFU student, wrote the book based on his travels to Chandigarh to find Singh Sr. and document his story. He found a momentous life that was lost through the decades, and a country struggling with its own identity.

During the SFU-hosted event Blennerhassett will participate in an interview-style discussion with Singh Sr., who will recount his amazing tale and engage with the audience. The event, open to the general public, will include a launch/signing of the new book.

**What:** Talk and book launch with India's field hockey Olympian Balbir Singh

**Where:** SFU's Surrey campus, 250-13450 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Room 2600

**When:** Saturday, March 5, 2 – 4 p.m.

**ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:**

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 135,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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