

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

Spring Convocation June 7-10 celebrates more than 5,000 new graduates

June 02, 2016

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

Contact: Marianne Meadahl, University Communications, 778.782.9017; Marianne_Meadahl@sfu.ca

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

More than 5,000 students are eligible to graduate during [Simon Fraser University's Spring Convocation](#) ceremonies June 7-10.

They join more than 137,000 alumni who have graduated since SFU opened its doors 50 years ago.

And as SFU concludes its 50th Anniversary celebrations, the University will confer honorary degrees on eight individuals, recognizing their outstanding achievements:

June 7, 9:45 a.m. David Gillespie, an award-winning SFU adjunct professor and research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, recognized for his groundbreaking scientific achievements in the field of entomology. Ceremony: *faculties of Applied Sciences and Environment*;

June 7, 2:30 p.m. Keith Beedie, business leader and philanthropist, founder of the Beedie Development Group, who has helped shape the landscape of Vancouver and beyond. Ceremony: *Beedie School of Business*;

June 8, 9:45 a.m. Nigel Lockyer, an internationally recognized experimental particle physicist and former director of TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for nuclear and particle physics, who now leads the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in the U.S. Ceremony: *Faculty of Science*;

June 8, 2:30 p.m. Evaleen Jaager Roy, a business and community leader and former SFU board chair; during her tenure the University expanded to downtown Vancouver and laid the plans for future development at the Burnaby campus. Ceremony: *Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*;

June 9, 9:45 a.m. Robert Bringham, a celebrated author and poet who has written more than 40 books of prose and poetry and is renowned for translating and interpreting Native American oral literature. Ceremony: *Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*;

June 9, 2:30 p.m. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, a lawyer, scholar, humanitarian and advocate for Aboriginal people, children and youth. A judge currently on leave from the Saskatchewan Provincial Court, she is B.C.'s first representative for children and youth, and a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Ceremony: *Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (includes special arrangements)*;

June 10, 9:45 a.m. Geoffrey Massey, who along with his business partner Arthur Erickson helped design, create and realize the SFU Burnaby campus' distinctive, innovative and world-renowned architecture. Ceremony: *Faculty of Education*;

June 10, 2:30 p.m. Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian physician who, despite tremendous hardships and the tragic loss of three daughters during the 2009 Gaza War, has devoted his life to promoting hope, human rights and peace between

Fast Facts:

- According to Universities Canada (UC), graduates across all disciplines are reaping the benefits of experiential learning. On a national scale 100,000 undergraduate students were involved in 2,500 co-op programs offered by 69 Universities Canada member institutions, including SFU, in 2015.
- Engaging students in university research helps drive innovation. Universities nationally performed over \$13 billion in research and development in 2014. Nearly 60 per cent of undergraduate students are exposed to their professors' research and efforts to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. At SFU, which recently launched its *SFU Innovates* campaign, students have access to myriad resources, including mentorship and programming, to help advance their innovations.
- More students are benefiting from studying and working abroad, with 97 per cent of Canadian universities offering their students international experiences. Many SFU students participate in field schools and other exchange opportunities across a wide range of disciplines. UC found that 82 per cent of employers who hire recruits with international experience say employees' global awareness impacts their competitiveness.

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.

-30-

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

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

[Admission](#)

[Programs](#)

[Learning](#)

[Research](#)

[Community](#)

[About](#)

[Maps + directions](#)

[Library](#)

[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