

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: SFU Charter alumni and graduands share fall convocation limelight

October 07, 2015

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Photos of hon. degree recipients: <http://at.sfu.ca/F0tWXr>

Photos of SFU convocation ceremonies: <http://at.sfu.ca/lQAdwx>

This fall Simon Fraser University will celebrate 50 years of granting degrees to its students. In recognition of this important milestone 20 SFU charter students will share the convocation dais with the university's class of 2015 graduands at one of several convocation ceremonies.

More than 1,600 undergraduates and 530 graduate students are eligible to receive degrees and four prominent individuals will accept honorary degrees during **two ceremonies daily** on **Oct. 8** and **9** at SFU's Burnaby campus. They are at 9:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Each ceremony begins with a procession that is led across the pond and into Convocation Mall by members of SFU's six-time, world champion pipe band.

A list of which ceremony each of SFU's eight faculties is participating in can be found at: <http://at.sfu.ca/clwvtp>

Honorary degrees will be conferred on **Sut Jhally**, an award-winning professor of communication at the University of Massachusetts (**Oct. 8, 9:45 a.m.**); **Bill Nye**, a well-known scientist, known on television as "Bill Nye the Science Guy" (**Oct. 8, 2:30 p.m.**); **Harry Gray**, a prize-winning chemist, (**Oct. 9:45 a.m.**) and **Nancy Turner**, an acclaimed ethnobotanist and ethnoecologist, (**Oct. 9, 2:30 p.m.**).

At the start of the **Oct. 9** morning ceremony, before graduands receive their degrees, Ali Solehdin, SFU Alumni Association Board president, will formally welcome **20 charter students** to convocation.

John Grant, director of Alumni Relations, will introduce them individually to the assembly. Each will receive a special parchment, an alumni pin and a flashy pair of red 50th Anniversary sunglasses before resuming their seats in the front row within Convocation Mall.

Media are welcome to attend all the ceremonies. We ask that you notify the University Communications office at 778.782.3210 if you are planning to attend.

It is recommended that media factor in an additional 20-30 minutes in their commute to the Burnaby campus.

For convocation parking and transportation details: <http://ow.ly/SM7d6>

We can help to arrange parking, provide media identification tags and direct media to locations to photograph/film the ceremonies. University Communications can also provide photographs of the conferring of honorary degrees.

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 more than 130 countries around the world.

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