

# FACULTY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter sharing extraordinary work within the Faculty of Science

*“Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result”. – Oscar Wilde*

## Return to Campus



Faculty and the Dean’s Office staff have been busy preparing for another semester that continues to be affected by COVID-19, transitioning from on-line instruction back to face-to-face instruction on campus. The resilience of our people and dedication and commitment of our departments to students continues to be unwavering.

The Faculty of Science welcomed new-to-campus students during orientation week, September 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, providing in-person and virtual tours of the Ken Lepin Building classrooms, labs and study spaces. Orientation Day was well attended with students filling our halls during guided tours.

## Student Success

In early August four TRU Faculty of Science students (Johnny Glichrist (4<sup>th</sup> year Physics), Donanvin White (PHYS 21), Adam Whittaker (COMP 20) and Cooper Wendland (1<sup>st</sup> year Engineering)) and one UVic student

(Josephine Brewster) completed an experiment in zero gravity in Ottawa on Canada’s Falcon 1 flying parabolic flight paths.

The group was selected in a national competition in the Fall of 2019 and after several pandemic related delays, made the trip to Ottawa to fly their experiment on the Falcon 1 in August. The students were able to make the trip in part due to funding from the Dr. Sherman Jen Innovation Competition Prize, as well as donations from the Morgan family, Fiona Chan, Iron Spear Information Security, Bridgeport Floors, Bruce Hanna and in-kind sponsorship from GK Sound.



## One time Funding

Respiratory Therapy obtained one time funding from AEST Post-Secondary Programs Branch for one state of the art respirator that is compatible with those used in hospitals at this time.

## Strategic Planning

The Faculty of Science had both face to face and online and consultation over the summer to establish themes for the new Science Strategic Plan to be brought forward to Faculty Council this month for approval. This plan will help inform the University's Integrated Plan.

## Faculty Success & Recognition



### NSERC Discovery Grants

NSERC Discovery Grants fund successful research proposals over a five year period. Recent awardees in Science include:

Dr. Yan Yan (\$132,500). This research program focuses on developing novel computational methods to assist plant breeding.

Dr. Omer Waqar (\$152,500). His aim is to develop disruptively new technologies for the next generation communication systems such as sixth generation (6G) networks.

Dr. Safwat (\$120,000). His research focuses on applying data mining techniques to the emerging software repositories (i.e., the mobile app stores) to provide approaches that help app developers improve the perceived quality of mobile apps. Dr. Safwat was also awarded additional funding of \$12, 500 under the Discovery Launch Supplement Program.

Dr. Javed Tomal (\$102,500). His research program focuses on developing

novel statistical machine learning and computational methods for big data, sparsity, and environmental thresholds.

David Hill's research focus on integrating very-high-resolution imagery into adaptive rangeland management.

Mohamed Tawhid's research focuses on metaheuristics and heuristics for combinatorial and discrete optimization problems.

### Other Awards

Dr. Yana Nec was successful in having her CRC Chair renewed for another five-year term.

Dr. Hashim Mohamed, in collaboration with Dr. Mohammed Shehata from UBC, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant by the Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC). Their research project focuses on the effect of technology-based solutions for hand hygiene, monitoring in Long Term Care facilities.

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