



June 2022

Welcome to our June issue, focusing on the latest research news, events and opportunities. From audiobooks to the Researcher-in-Residence program, this month's newsletter has great updates for you!

Looking ahead, we are exploring transitioning from our monthly newsletter format to TRU Connect, delivering research news and opportunities as they happen, through multiple channels. Make sure you're subscribed to the Research topic in TRU Connect and watch for expanded content as September nears.

In related news, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support I've received since I arrived at TRU last October. I will be moving to TRU's Marketing and Communications team in July and look forward to working with the Office of the Vice-President Research in my new role.

Please send your emails to [rcomms@tru.ca](mailto:rcomms@tru.ca).

Take care,  
Kim Van Haren

## Research News

### Research team looks at full-circle sustainability

Dr. Bala Nikku's latest research looks at pressing societal challenges by examining ways to adopt a circular economy. [Read more](#)



### TRU researchers awarded nearly \$600,000 through Discovery Grants

Drs. Eric Bottos, Nelaine Mora-Diez and Muhammad Hanif have received \$590,000 through the federal NSERC Discovery Grants program. [Read more](#)



## Audiobooks as a sound learning aid for students

Associate Professor Paul Simpson, from TRU's Piping Trades program, has created audiobooks to support students who struggle with reading. [Read more](#)



## TRU student awarded prestigious medal for academic excellence

TRU graduate student Bhavithry Sen Puliparambil has received the Governor General's Gold Medal for highest academic standing at the graduate level. [Read more](#)



## Researcher-in-Residence program gets early national recognition

The Researcher-in-Residence program has been getting a lot of attention, receiving two honourable mention awards before its 2024 completion. [Read more](#)



## Wells Gray Education and Research Centre supporters recognized

Dignitaries joined philanthropists and academics at TRU's Wells Gray Education and Research Centre on June 2. [Read more](#)



## Award-winning microbiologist learns from her students

Dr. Naowarat (Ann) Cheeptham is being awarded the 3M National Teaching Fellowship Award and her students feel it's well deserved. [Read more](#)



## TRU researcher renewed as Canada Research Chair

The federal government has announced the renewal of Canada Research Chair Dr. Mukwa Musayett (Shelly Johnson) at TRU. [Read more](#)



## Research highlights importance of Indigenous food sovereignty

Dawn Morrison, Dr. Lisa Bourque Bearskin, Dr. Jeff Corntassel and Dr. Hannah Wittman have received a CIHR grant for their Indigenous food sovereignty community well-being amidst a pandemic project. [Read more](#)



## NSERC's newest Equity, Diversity and Inclusion resource

NSERC is taking action to help the Natural Sciences and Engineering research communities contribute to a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research enterprise, with the launch of the NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research. [Read more](#)

## TRU's new 2022-27 Strategic Research Plan

TRU is entering a new phase where our research is advanced not only by individual scholars and projects, but also by [strategic partnerships](#), collaborations and international networks. TRU's new 2022-27 Strategic Research Plan articulates the key challenge areas where we will strive to make significant contributions during the next five years. [Read more](#)

## Research security

Open and collaborative research environments may be vulnerable to abuse through theft of data and cyber threats. As a researcher, it is important for you to take reasonable measures to safeguard your work. The following Government of Canada sites provide some guidance on how to better protect yourself:

[Safeguarding your research](#)

[Where can I learn more?](#)

[Security considerations for research and development](#)

## International travel request process

Earlier this year, the Executive, along with TRU Finance and People and Culture, made changes to the international travel request process, effective April 1. The steps you need to take if planning work-related international travel, and necessary sign offs, have changed and are [as follows](#).

## Kudos

**Dr. Gregory Anderson**, Dean, Faculty of Science, and **Dr. Liana Lentz**, Postdoctoral Researcher, co-authored "[A Qualitative Analysis of the Mental Health Training and Educational Needs of Firefighters, Paramedics, and Public Safety Communicators in Canada](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

**Noah Arney**, Career Services Coordinator, Career and Experiential Learning Department, authored "[A relational understanding of learning: Supporting Indigenous work-integrated learning students](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*.

**Dr. Evelyn Asiedu**, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Data Analysis, Data Management and Policy Analysis Postdoctoral Fellow, Office of the Vice-President Research, received the [Gilead Early Career Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award](#).

**Dr. Tina Block**, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, History and Politics, authored "["I Just Kept it to Myself" Unbelief, Feminism and Secularisation in English Canada, 1960s - 1980s](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed journal, *Gender & History*.

**Brii Brennan**, Tourism Management graduate, Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism, received the inaugural [Undergraduate Research Certificate](#) at TRU's June 8 convocation ceremony.

**Dr. Naowarat (Ann) Cheeptham**, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and **Keegan Koning**, Bachelor of Science (Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology) graduate, co-authored, "[Biom mineralization in cave bacteria - popcorn and soda straw crystal formations, morphologies and potential metabolic pathways](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed journal, *Frontiers in Microbiology*. Cheeptham and students **Nick Fontaine**, **Julianna Bissonnette**, **Brandon Hayashi**, **Chadabhorn Insuk**, **Gabrielle Kam** and **Aaron Wong**, co-authored "[Microbial isolates with \*Anti-Pseudogymnoascus destructans\* activities from the Western Canadian bat wings](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *Scientific Reports - Nature*.

**Robline (Robbi) Davey**, Indigenous Experiential Learning Coordinator, Career and Experiential Learning, has been awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship 2022-2025 for [SFU's Educational Technology and Learning Design PhD program](#). Davey also presented "An Examination of Métis Women's Access to and Experiences within Post-Secondary Online Education" at the [Mawachihitotaak Métis Studies Symposium](#).

**Dr. Laura Doan**, Associate Professor, Early Childhood Education Program, co-authored, "Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic: reimagining and repositioning children and early childhood professionals within the educational landscape," a chapter in the published book, *The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Education and Care: International Perspectives, Challenges, and Responses* and authored, "Early Childhood Teacher Education in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities," a chapter within the published book, *International Perspectives on Early Childhood Teacher Education in the 21st Century*. Doan also presented "Peer-Mentoring Communities of Practice for BC Educators: Opportunities for Reflection, Connection, and Belonging" at the [Making Tomorrow Conference](#), "Peer-Mentoring through Communities of Practice: Opportunities for Belonging, Engagement, and Renewal" at the [Be the Leader You Would Follow Fall Conference](#) and "Peer-Mentoring through Communities of Practice: Opportunities for Reflection, Connection, and Belonging" at the Mentoring Masterclass (Ireland).

**Dr. Melba D'Souza**, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, was one of six recipients awarded Breast Canada Society of Canada's first-ever Breast Cancer Research request for proposals, receiving \$75,000 in funding towards patient reported outcomes.

**Dr. Florriann Fehr**, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, **Haley Panchuk**, recent Bachelor of Science in Nursing student and **Shalina Sarwal**, current Master of Nursing student, co-authored "[Impact of Cognitive Rehearsal Training Over Time for New Registered Nurses](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.

**Dr. Lauchlan Fraser**, Professor, Department of Natural Resource Science, co-authored "[Dominance, diversity, and niche breadth in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal communities](#)," in the peer-reviewed journal, *Ecology*. **Fraser** co-authored "[Spotted knapweed \(Centaurea stoebe\) creates a soil legacy effect by modulating soil elemental composition in a semi-arid grassland ecosystem](#)," in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Environmental Management*. **Fraser**, **Dr. Jonathan Van Hamme**, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, **Dr. Wendy Gardner**, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resource Science, and **Ashley Fischer**, Master of Science in Environmental Science student, co-authored "[Impacts from Topsoil Stockpile Height on Soil Geochemical Properties in Two Mining Operations in British Columbia: Implications for Restoration Practices](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed journal, *Mining*.

**Dr. Hilda Freimuth**, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language Learning and Teaching, authored "Cultural bias in English examinations and its effect on Gulf linguistic and cultural identities," a chapter within the newly published book, *Linguistic Identities in the Arab Gulf States: Waves of Change*.

**Katelyn Frymire**, Bachelor of Science (Chemical Biology major) student, won best poster at the Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference hosted by the University of Calgary.

**Dr. Robert Hanlon**, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, History and Politics, presented "The Canada-China Game: Re-working human security in the midst of the global pandemic," at the International Studies Conference at the University of Crete and at the

Athens Institute for Education and Research. Also, [Canada and the Asia Pacific Policy Project](#) (CAPPP), housed at TRU and directed by **Hanlon**, has signed an MOU with the [Canadian Defence and Security Network](#) at Carleton University. The collaboration brings CAPPP into a \$2.5 million SSHRC Partnership Grant that seeks to build networks for faculty and students pursuing multidisciplinary research in the realm of defence and human security studies with 44 organizations based across North America and Europe.

**Dr. Matti Haverila**, Professor, Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics, co-authored "[The impact of social influence on perceived usefulness and behavioral intentions in the usage of non-pharmaceutical interventions \(NPIs\)](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Healthcare Management*. Haverila also co-authored "[The relationships between the satisfaction, value for money and repurchase intent constructs in the context of wine tasting room](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Wine Research*.

**James Hoffman**, TRU Professor Emeritus, co-authored, "[BC Theatre History Preserved](#)," an article in the University of Victoria's Library publication, *Ampersand*.

**Dr. Laura Lamb**, Professor, Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics, co-authored "[Exploring First Nation Community Well-being in Canada: The Impact of Geographic and Financial Factors](#)," an article in the peer-reviewed journal, *Economic Papers*.

**Donald Lawrence**, Professor, Department of Visual Arts, authored *Art, Research, Play: The Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Project*, a [soon-to-be published book](#) on camera obscura and related optical phenomenon.

**Dr. Jeff McLaughlin**, Professor, Department of Philosophy, History and Politics, authored "Graphic Novels and the Holocaust: "Just" Comics?", a chapter within the published book, [Beyond MAUS: The Legacy of Holocaust Comics](#). McLaughlin also authored [The Originals: Classic Readings in Western Philosophy](#), an open source textbook.

**Lauren Okano**, Bachelor of Science (Chemical Biology major) graduate, was selected among the top five Undergraduate Poster Presentations in the Analytical Division, and with Honourable Mention, at the [2022 Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition](#).

**Dr. Jennifer Shaw**, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Political Studies and **Dr. Rebecca Sanford**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and Social Work, are the new Co-Editors of [NEOS: A Peer-Reviewed Publication of the Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group](#). **Chloe Bozak**, Bachelor of Social Work student, assisted as Digital Scholarship Intern and co-authored three articles featured in the issue, including a Teaching Tool.

**Dr. Javed Tomal**, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, **Dr. Yan Yan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Computing Science and **Bhavithry Sen Puliparambil**, Master of Science in Data Science graduate, presented "[Benchmarking Penalized Regression Methods in Machine Learning for Single Cell RNA Sequencing Data](#)" at the 19th Annual Satellite Conference of RECOMB on Comparative Genomics. Their research was also included in the book, [Comparative Genomics](#).

## Communicating Research

### City of Kamloops | Kamloops Museum and Archives Launches *You Are Here*: Mapping the Future of Culture in Kamloops

Through *You Are Here*, the Kamloops Museum and Archives and the Thompson Rivers University/City of Kamloops Researcher-in-Residence partnership want to understand how, where, and why--to create a landscape in which everyone's culture has a chance to shine.

[Read more](#)

### Nanaimo News Bulletin | There's a Metchosin ant hill so large, it has its own sign -- and has existed for 20 years

Biological Sciences faculty member Dr. Rob Higgins says the ant species is most likely the "Formica oreas," also known as a thatching ant -- the most common kind to live on southern Vancouver Island. [Read more](#)

### CFJC Today | Minimum wage workers falling further behind despite 45-cent raise: TRU expert

TRU economist Peter Tsigaris says the recent minimum wage increase still isn't keeping up with inflation. [Read more](#)

### CBC News | High-risk areas for ticks in B.C. highlighted in new online map

According to TRU's Dr. Rob Higgins, less than one per cent of B.C.'s western black-legged ticks were infected with the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. [Read more](#)

### Farm Progress | Eye in the sky: Drones help manage the herd

Dr. John Church, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, says drones can serve as platforms for many types of sensors, adding, "We've been putting thermal cameras on drones to find animals under trees." [Read more](#)

### Academia | BC invests \$3.75M in BC Graduate Scholarship fund

The Government of BC has invested \$3.75 million in the graduate scholarship fund, which provides merit-based, research-focused financial assistance to graduate students. TRU is one of ten post-secondary institutions that will administer the scholarship. [Read more](#)

## Experts list

Media is reaching out to TRU routinely, searching for experts to speak on a variety of issues. Please make yourself and your expertise more accessible by joining the [Experts List](#). If you would like to be a part of the list, please take a moment and [simply register online](#).

## Research Funding Digest

We're pleased to share our [Research Funding Digest for June 2022](#). Please feel free to share it with your colleagues.

To receive tailored funding prospects, please subscribe to our **Funding Distribution Listservs** (Health / Science and Engineering / Social Sciences and Humanities) and the **Monthly Research Digest** by sending an email to [facultyresearch@tru.ca](mailto:facultyresearch@tru.ca).

## Opportunities

### Together for Wildlife - IURC Student Research Grant

Value: \$25,000

Deadline: Monday, June 27

Grant opportunity for currently enrolled graduate students or those starting their research programs in September 2022 or January 2023. Six one-year research grants are available. [Learn more](#)

### Mitacs Workshops for Graduate Students - July and August 2022

Complement your studies and hands-on training experience with professional development training from Mitacs. The facilitated sessions will help you gain the skills needed to make your project a success. Workshops are listed on the Research website, under Events.

[Learn more](#)

### Ken Lepin Graduate Student Award

Value: Eight awards at \$6,600 each

Deadline: Monday, August 15

These awards are given based on outstanding academic achievement in prior course work and research. The selection also takes into account leadership activities and active involvement in the university community. At least one award is given to a student in the Master of Nursing program. [Learn more](#)