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For more information, visit
www.langara.ca/scholarly-activity

NSERC grant continues to generate industry leads

Though Kelly Sveinson's original NSERC grant is finished, its influence continues to generate new opportunities and avenues for research.

Kelly Sveinson's commitment to hands-on learning has sparked the creation of one of Langara's most successful applied research partnerships. Through a \$25,000 grant from the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Sveinson found the opportunity to further his studies and get students involved in real-world applied research.

"The original project funded by the grant has been completed, but the industry partner we were working with, McCue Engineering, has come back to explore further research. The relationships we were able to build because of the grant are still going strong today," says Sveinson.

Although it could seem onerous, Sveinson says the NSERC application process was worth the effort for a variety of reasons.

"The funding gave my project legitimacy, opened new avenues for research, and helped me build my network outside the Langara community. It was a good exercise in getting out of my teaching comfort zone and pushing my limits as a scholar."

Connecting Langara with innovation support

Rizwan Kheraj sees three new technology companies a day and meets with many companies to deliver value-added advice and support.

As an Industrial Technology Advisor with the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), Rizwan Kheraj's role is to connect Langara faculty, staff, and students with industry. He helps tech companies in BC accelerate their research and development through technical assistance, business advice, and financial support programs. Previous companies IRAP has supported include Hootsuite, Sierra Wireless, Recon Instruments, QuickMobile, and Mobify. At Langara, he is currently supporting instructor Kelly Sveinson to further his biochar research by connecting him to industry partners.

The College is newly supported by NRC-IRAP. Kheraj opened the Langara office in April 2015, having served a similar role at the SFU Harbour Centre campus.

Sveinson adds that networking forced him to think about the next steps in his research and helped him meet the people who would take it to the next level. Now he's looking into new projects, including working with the medical marijuana industry to help manage their bio-mass waste stream.

"The leaves, which are a controlled substance, are currently being mixed with clay and disposed of in a landfill. The industry is looking for a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly solution."

In some situations, biochar has been shown to improve crop yield. For this project, Sveinson maintains an experimental garden plot located in the Langara Community Garden, where the cells were treated with various amounts of biochar and soil fungi. Now in its second year, the plot shows biochar has a slight, but positive, effect on the growth of rye.

For Sveinson, "the most satisfying aspect of an endeavor like this is providing opportunities for our students to engage in meaningful and real-world science."

"My department is part of the federal government. There are 250 people like me across Canada: 40 of them in BC and 20 across the Lower Mainland. Some are located at accelerators which are non-profit centres that incubate and mentor technology."

Kheraj's goal at Langara is to improve awareness within local industry of the College's faculty and student-led research capabilities. For example, he is working with the Langara Bookstore and a local mobile tech company to set up mobile payment for students purchasing textbooks so that instead of standing in line, students will be able to buy their books on their mobile and avoid lines completely.

Visit Rizwan Kheraj in Room C210b to learn more about the resources available.

The *IDEA*logue

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY NEWSLETTER • FALL 2015

Langara.
THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.



Photo by Tomo Tanaka

Save the date: Scholarship Café - November 26

New ideas. New collaborations. New projects. Same great showcase. The fall 2015 Scholarship Café will be held at Langara's Main Campus on Thursday, November 26. This semi-annual, open house-style event showcases some of the most exciting and unique scholarly research our College has to offer. To facilitate more student-based projects, the Scholarship Café takes place later in the term and we've expanded the event to feature a keynote presentation and an opportunity for industry partners to get involved. Mark November 26 on your calendar and join us in celebrating faculty, staff, and student scholarly success.

Date: Thursday, November 26
Time: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Venue: Cafeteria - Main Campus, 100 West 49th Avenue

For more information, visit www.langara.ca/scholarly-activity.

Get involved and inspire others

Are you involved in an exciting scholarly project? Do you have students who are conducting interesting research as part of their studies? Are you looking for a forum to present your work? Be a part of our Scholarship Café!

We invite faculty, staff, and students to present their scholarship projects, share their accomplishments, trade ideas with colleagues, and interact with industry contacts to generate greater interest in applied research. Proposals are now being accepted for the fall 2015 Scholarship Café. Contact Heather Workman at 604.323.5292 or Margaret Heldman at 604.323.5499.

About *IDEA*logue

The IDEAlogue shares and promotes news about scholarly projects and applied research happening in our Langara community. We aim to shine a spotlight on faculty, staff, and administrators here at the College who are reaching out and applying their knowledge and learning to the world beyond the classroom – whether it be through community partnerships, educational leave, or experimental research.

We also aim to connect Langara scholars with information about the potential funding available to them. If you're working on a project, please let us know by getting in touch at scholarlyactivity@langara.ca.

EDUCATION LEAVE DEADLINE

Thinking about taking ed leave? Submit your application to the Office of the Academic Deans (Room B241) by November 15, 2015.

GET THE RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT YOU DESERVE

Have a great idea? Working on a community project or presenting a paper at a conference? Know someone from the Langara community conducting research? We want to know! Contact us at 604.323.5690 or scholarlyactivity@langara.ca.

FUNDING INSPIRATION

Looking for some funds to move your research forward? Check out these opportunities.

Social Innovation (SSHRC/CCSIF)

For the development of new ideas or the use of existing ideas to find solutions to social challenges. Requires a partner organization (academic or otherwise). Funds up to \$200,000. Deadline is November 9, 2015. For details, search “sshrc ccscif”.

Technical Innovation

For applied research and collaborations that facilitate commercialization as well as technology transfer, adaptation, and adoption of new technologies. Requires a private sector partnership and funds may vary. No deadline for entry level grants. For details, search “nserc ccip six” .

Air Quality Innovation

For research to help understand and solve air quality management issues. Funds up to \$20,000 available. Langara deadline for overview proposal is October 20, 2015. For details, search “bc clear”.

Business Improvement Innovation

For collaborations between learning institutions and SMEs to bring bigger and better innovations to market faster. Funding varies. No application deadline. For details, search “irap”.

Cleantech Innovation

For collaborations with industry leaders, researchers, and tech entrepreneurs to solve industry challenges. For details, search “bcic” or email info@bcic.ca.

Cultural Innovation

For Aboriginal and cultural investigators. Funds available and deadlines vary. For details, search “canadian heritage funding”.

Social Innovation (Vancouver Foundation)

For projects or process changes that build healthy communities. Requires a registered charity partner. Funds up to \$75,000 available. Deadlines on-going. For details, search “vancovuer foundation grants”.

For more information, contact Margaret Heldman at 604.323.5499.

Educational leave pays dividends

The launch of Langara’s Bioinformatics Program inadvertently led biology and health sciences instructor Jessica Kalra to an inspiring and refreshing educational leave.



Photo by Shamit Sthankiya

When her husband accepted a one-year fellowship in California, Jessica Kalra took the opportunity to enrol in the Bioinformatics Graduate Certificate program at the Stanford Centre for Professional Development.

“I thought this would be an excellent chance to do some professional development work in the biotech hub of North America, and to bring that knowledge back to Langara to inform our own fledgling Bioinformatics Program.

Kalra also applied and was accepted for a position as an International Research Fellow at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI).

There she participated in projects focused on the targeted treatment of breast cancer, an extension of her work with the BC Cancer Agency.

Kalra found that requesting educational leave was straightforward and she highly recommends making the effort. She submitted her request proposal in October, it was approved early in the following year, and by September she was on her way to Stanford.

“We forget that there is so much out there, so many new things to learn. It pushed me out of my comfort zone.”

She had reservations about being away from the College for an extended period, but it proved not to be an issue.

“There’s been nothing but positives, and the experience has opened up new opportunities for me. For example, I connected with new collaborators and we are in the process of putting together an interdisciplinary, cross-boarder project.”

Delegated ethics review process for research involving humans

By John Russell, Philosophy Instructor and Chair of the Langara College Research Ethics Board.

The Langara Research Ethics Board (LREB) has recently been authorized to conduct delegated reviews of some types of minimal risk research. This should shorten the length of time needed to conduct ethics reviews of research involving humans that are low risk in nature.

To be eligible for delegated review, the proposed research must (1) meet the Tri-Council Policy Statement definition for minimal risk research, and (2) not focus on vulnerable groups (e.g. incompetent persons, children, mental health patients, etc.) An example of research that may be eligible for delegated review would be anonymous surveys of adults or Langara students.

Research involving humans that is eligible for delegated review can be submitted for review any time using the LREB’s Request for Ethics Approval Form. Once submitted it will be reviewed by the LREB chair or delegate with an aim to complete the initial review *within 10 working days of receipt of the application*.

More details regarding the delegated review process, including a Guideline for LREB Delegated Review, can be found on the Langara Research Ethics website at www.langara.ca/about-langara/research-ethics-board/policies-and-guidelines.html.

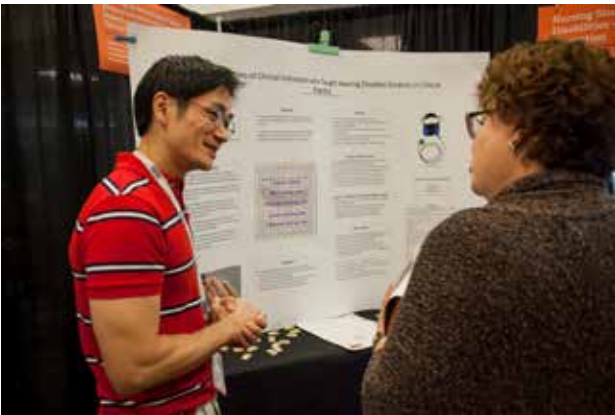
For more information, contact John Russell at jrussell@langara.ca or 604.323.5453.

Field of vision: Scholarship Café - April 2, 2015

It was standing room only at the spring 2015 Scholarship Café. For more photos, search “Langara Scholarship Café” at www.flickr.com/langaracollege.



Photos by Jennifer Oehler



Using the ethics review process to refine research

Nursing instructor Rich Lee recently went through the ethics review process as part of his Masters in Nursing. The rigorous process helped inform and added quality to his research into clinical practice applications.

Rich Lee wanted to do a qualitative study focusing on the thoughts of clinical instructors and their experiences and impressions teaching students with hearing disabilities as part of his Masters in Nursing. As his research involved humans, he needed to complete the ethics review process to receive approval to go ahead with his research.

“The paperwork was daunting, but well worth the effort. It gave the College the information they needed to approve and move my research forward. It also gave me an opportunity to evaluate my strategy. I had to consider the impact of my research, who it might affect, and my reasoning behind it,” said Lee.

Through the process, he also gained valuable insights into how best to complete his research. For example, he realized that due to his small

sample size, his students could possibly be identified. Therefore, he needed to get the permission of the students involved, even though his research focused on the instructors. When one of the students did not give consent, Lee’s sample size dropped from 15 to five instructors.

“One of the biggest lessons I learned from this exercise was to be flexible and adapt to proposed changes in my research. I hope my experience will inspire others to conduct research.”

Lee’s research concluded that the attitudes and communication styles of clinical instructors have an impact on the success of deaf nursing students. As his findings have implications for clinical practice curriculum development, he has submitted his research to the *Journal*

of Nursing Education for publication consideration.

“Through this process, my assumptions about deafness affecting one’s ability to perform as a nurse were blown out of the water. I learned that deaf nurses are not a danger to patients, and my worries about the perception of other staff towards the deaf nurse were not realized. All staff liked and worked well with the deaf student.”

Lee’s advice for those thinking about going through the ethics review process is to make sure that you know what your topic is before you start.

For more information about the ethics review process, visit www.langara.ca/about-langara/research-ethics-board/index.html.