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MEDIA RELEASE

Advisory - Fall Convocation Oct. 4 & 5

October 02, 2012

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Contact:

Marianne Meadahl, PAMR, [778.782.4323](tel:778.782.4323)/9017; Marianne_Meadahl@sfu.ca*Note: To arrange parking, check in at the information office at the entrance to campus*

More than 2,200 students are eligible to take part in one of four convocation ceremonies this week at Simon Fraser University's Burnaby campus – the stories about a few of our graduands are highlighted below.

In addition, honorary degrees will be conferred on three distinguished individuals, including:

- **Martha Nussbaum**, renowned American philosopher and faculty member at the University of Chicago (Thursday's 2:30 pm ceremony)
- **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, former president of India (Friday's 9:45 a.m. ceremony)
- **Kim Baird**, former chief of the Tsawwassen First Nation (Friday's 2:30 p.m. ceremony)

For more background on each see: <http://at.sfu.ca/VehmKZ>

Each will participate in the graduands' procession across the AQ pond and down the stairs into Convocation Mall, and seated on stage. The conferring of honorary degrees follows brief welcome addresses by Chancellor Carole Taylor and President Andrew Petter. The honorary degree recipients also give a speech.

Members of the media are welcome to observe/photograph/record the ceremony proceedings. **Note that A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's schedule is extremely tight and he will not have time for interviews.**

Student speakers will address the audience prior to the awarding of degrees.

Among students who'll cross the convocation dais:

- **Julie Loland**, an Abbotsford mom of three boys (the youngest born in August) and elementary school teacher who uses mindfulness meditation to help her students improve their concentration – and to help her deal with an aggressive form of breast cancer. <http://at.sfu.ca/HZNBQZ>
- **Daniel Pierce**, a young Vancouver filmmaker whose fine arts degree submission, *In Transit*, laden with special effects, has been screened at major film festivals in Montreal, Vancouver and Seattle. <http://at.sfu.ca/jTdfFd>
- **Cecilien Luo** and **Parisa Khorsand**, the first female graduates of SFU's highly popular Mechatronic Systems Engineering program, which currently has another 41 female students enrolled. <http://at.sfu.ca/gcfcdm>
- **Steve Cardwell**, Vancouver School District superintendent and CEO and recipient of SFU's Faculty of Education Graduate Studies Fellowship. This newly minted doctorate focuses on student engagement in urban secondary schools. He'll also be the student speaker addressing convocation at Friday's 2:30 pm ceremony. <http://at.sfu.ca/VehmKZ>

Simon Fraser University is Canada's top-ranked comprehensive university and one of the top 50 universities in the world

under 50 years old. With campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, B.C., SFU engages actively with the community in its research and teaching, delivers almost 150 programs to more than 30,000 students, and has more than 120,000 alumni in 130 countries.

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Simon Fraser University

8888 University Drive

Burnaby, B.C.

Canada V5A 1S6

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