Another semester has come to an end. I trust everyone found the last 13 weeks satisfying and wish everyone luck in the marking to be done in these next two weeks.

Those of you who have been by the Main Office in the School of Kinesiology will by now know that significant renovations have been performed in the hope of producing a more efficient workspace for our office staff. In part, this has involved reducing the traffic through the Main Office. To this end, one of the innovations has been provision of mailboxes for faculty, staff and students located outside the Main Office. This effort was in part stimulated by the External Review, which we received last year, which suggested that working conditions for staff should be improved. Additional renovations which have been authorized and will begin this month are renovations to Jim Morrison’s laboratory on the 8000 level and renovations to the laboratory of Eric Accili and the provision of a shared microscope room adjacent to his laboratory.

During the past month an advertisement was placed in The Vancouver Sun from the School of Kinesiology in which requests for proposals for the Geraldine and Tong Louie Centre were solicited. This advertisement ran for three days and has generated a number of inquiries. The Ad Hoc Committee for the G & T Louie Centre will review proposals as they come in. What we hope to achieve is increased activity at the Centre in terms of its contract work, its educational function and its service to the downtown community. We hope that in the near future the Centre will be self-supporting and may perhaps generate funds for the School of Kinesiology.

While we have not yet received details of the School’s operating budget for 1998-99, the University has heard that it will receive a modest increase in funding. This will serve to offset unavoidable increases in University expenses. I do not anticipate significant change in the operating budget which we will receive as a School.

You will remember that the School produced a response to the External Review of the School which was made in 1997. The approved response has been reviewed by the Dean and received his approval with minor editorial comments. This response, together with a copy of our 3-Year Plan, has now been forwarded to Vice President Gagan for distribution to members of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning with whom I shall be meeting when they have had the opportunity to read our report.

John Dickinson

The NSERC results have arrived and I would like to offer congratulations to: CHRISTINE MacKENZIE, RON MARTENIUK, MIRIAM ROSIN, and DAN WEEKS, all of whom received new, 4-year grants from NSERC. Renewals were received by: PARVEEN BAWA, TED MILNER, GLEN TIBBITS, and HAL WEINBERG.

ERIC ACCILI has been awarded both an Operating Grant for two years and an Equipment Grant by the BC and Yukon Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Congratulations to REGAN MANDRYK on being awarded the NSERC Scholarship. She will receive funding for the next four years for her work with CHRISTINE MacKENZIE.

ANDY HOFFER, as you know, is in Sweden at the moment as part of his administrative leave. He recently gave a talk at the Stockholm School of Sport Science entitled, “Origin and localization of stretch responses in ankle extensor
Andy is currently in Germany where he is attending a Neurotronics Conference.

YANQING WANG is presenting a paper co-authored with CHRISTINE MacKENZIE, VALERIE SUMMERS and KELLY BOOTH at the Human Computer Interaction 98 Conference in Los Angeles this month. The paper is entitled, “The structure of object transportation and orientation in human computer interaction.”

DOUG CHEYNE is currently visiting the Psychology Department at MacMaster University working on an MRC grant collaboration with Larry Roberts. While there, he gave a talk entitled, “MEG studies of multicortex activity preceding voluntary movement: hemispheric asymmetries and handedness.”

We should like to welcome Dr. THOMAS SINKJAER from Aalborg, Denmark who will be spending three months working in TED MILNER’S laboratory while on sabbatical. Dr. Sinkjaer spent several years in ANDY HOFFER’S lab at the University of Calgary as a graduate student. He will be using Andy’s office while in the School.

Last weekend a conference was held in Vancouver entitled 1st Biennial Scientific Conference on Down Syndrome: Down Syndrome in the 21st Century. This conference was co-hosted by DAN WEEKES who also acted as a reactor to one of the symposia.

I would like everyone to welcome SALLY ROSE who is replacing SHERRY LLOYD as Graduate Program Secretary until the return of SHONA McLEAN in July 1998.

PARVEEN BAWA announces that there will be no further seminars during the semester break. They will re-commence next semester.


Please submit your news items to Dr. John Dickinson or Marianne Lazaro (dickinso@sfu.ca / lazaro@sfu.ca).