FROM THE DIRECTOR

This Fall the School of Kinesiology enjoyed a very successful Seminar Series, culminating in seminars by candidates for the Motor Systems faculty position. Many thanks to MAX DONELAN, who organized the series, and our hard working staff members, who made sure the seminars ran smoothly.

ANDY HOFER & MAX DONELAN are both featured in BC Business magazine for their inventions: respectively, a walking assist implant, and a biomechanical energy harvester. Their work and the article about them bring very positive attention to our School and we applaud their success. www.bcbusinessmagazine.com/bcb/top-stories/2007/11/01/inventors

ANDY HOFER was also successful in starting a program in Rehabilitation Science with the new SFU Centre for Independence Research and Education (CDIRE). This will be an exciting addition to our School and hopefully attract a new cohort of students. The full SF News article appears below.

A new joint program in Behavioral Neuroscience with our School of Kinesiology and the Department of Psychology is also working its way through the approval process, and promises to be another exciting new addition to educational avenues available to our students.

Our faculty ranks were temporarily diminished this fall by research being pursued in exotic places overseas. STEVE ROBINOVITCH will be back in January after his study leave in France. TED MILNER has just returned from Japan. Sad to say that Ted’s days back at SFU will be but a few before he departs for his new position at McGill. CHRISTINE MACKENZIE is also in Japan on her study leave and has already reported back that she is “…interacting with humanoid robots…” and “…seeing the latest in mixed and augmented reality…”

We look forward to a new start – and new adventures in academia – in the New Year.

PETER RUBEN

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Please join us!

Farewell Reception for Dr. Ted Milner

Tuesday, December 11th, 2007
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Diamond Alumni Centre
Thompson Room

TED MILNER has accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education at McGill University in Montreal. He starts his new position on January 1st 2008. While we’re sad to see him go after 15 years with us in the School of Kinesiology at SFU, let’s give him a great send-off nonetheless!

Please RSVP if you can join us, by calling MARIANNE LAZARO at 778-782-4062 or e-mailing her at lazaro@sfu.ca.

AWARD

Congratulations to TED MILNER who received the Teresa Allen Memorial Award from the BC Ultrasonographer’s Society in September 2007. The award was presented with the following commendation:

“Your research into repetitive strain injury and ergonomics has led to many innovations and improvements to ultrasound machine design. These changes have directly affected all of us working with ultrasound. You have heightened the awareness of machine manu-facturers and sonographers alike.

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks on behalf of the ultrasound community, and we wish you continued success in your research and applied innovations.”

The award was presented by Sandra Austin and Vickie Lessoway, current and past presidents of the BC Ultrasonographers’ Society.

FACULTY, ADJUNCTS & GRAD STUDENTS

TED MILNER gave a talk at the Alberta Motor Control Meeting in Jasper in September titled, The Sensorimotor System
Computes Probabilities and Makes Adjustments for Uncertainties,” with co-author ANDREW CHAPMAN.

BERNA SALMAN gave a talk at the Alberta Motor Control Meeting in Jasper in September titled “Robot-assisted Hand Rehabilitation after Stroke,” with co-authors Ludovic Dovat, Olivier Lambercy, VINNEET JOHNSON, ETIENNE BURDET and TED MILNER.

TED MILNER presented a poster at the ATR Open House (Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute, Japan) on November 1st & 2nd, related to his fMRI work published in the NeuroImage paper. RON MARTENIUK and CHRISTINE MACKENZIE, currently in Japan, also attended the Open House.

TED MILNER gave a seminar at ATR on Nov 8th on the topics of Robot-assisted Rehabilitation of Hand Function and on Interference in Motor Learning.

On Nov 20th, TED MILNER visited the Tokyo Bay Rehabilitation Hospital and gave a seminar on Robot-assisted Rehabilitation of Hand Function to the hospital staff. He plans to apply for funding for a collaborative research project with Dr. Otaka and Dr. Osu, who have a very well equipped lab at the hospital.

At ATR TED MILNER’S post-doctoral fellow ANDREW CHAPMAN and he are conducting an fMRI study related to interference in motor learning.

CHRISTINE MACKENZIE is on Study Leave enjoying Nara, the cultural heart of Japan. She was awarded a Long Term Invitation Fellowship by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), with host, Prof. Satoru Kawai, Tezukayama University. Christine has lectured and given seminars/workshops in Nara, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka Universities, attended the International Society for Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR07), several other conferences, and crossed paths with TED MILNER in November at the ATR Expo in Kansai Science City! Check out her web site at http://web.mac.com/ronmarteniuk. She wishes everyone all the best for 2008!

PARVEEN BAWA is currently at the University of Arizona, Tucson, spending time as a Research Professor working with Dr. Andrew J. Fuglevand, Department of Physiology, College of Medicine.

The following is reprinted with permission from SFU News:

“ANDY HOFFER reports the formation of a new SFU Centre for Independence Research and Education (CDIRE), which will bring together people with disabilities and SFU researchers with bright ideas for assistive devices. He expects that CDIRE will be an excellent resource for students in SFU’s biomedical engineering program who are required to design assistive devices. ‘Persons with disabilities will become team members, not just test subjects,’ says Andy. He envisions them making significant contributions and even becoming co-authors of academic research papers.

“Hoffer and his colleagues identified the need for the centre and decided to start it on their own. ‘Sometimes you start a centre because someone gives you a million dollars,’ says Hoffer, ‘but with DCIRE we did the opposite.’ The group is now applying for grants, but Hoffer says the centres offers a wonderful opportunity for donors who want to support research in disabilities and assistive devices. ‘They can contribute money for scholarships, seed-funding for pilot projects, or materials for prototype development,’ he says.

The centre will also form partnerships with community organizations such as the Centre for Hip Health and the G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre.”

ANDY HOFFER also reports that he will be giving, on December 11th, an Invited Faculty presentation at the 8th World Congress of the International Neuromodulation Society in Acapulco, Mexico, on “Electrical Stimulation Systems for Treatment of Paralysis and Gait Assistance.”

DIANE FINEGOOD is in the process of redirecting her research from Type 1 Diabetes to the field of complex systems analysis. She is soon moving her lab space into the TASC 2 building. The change in focus not only brings the necessity of a new work space, but also the opportunity to bring in new graduate students. OZGE KARANFIL will begin her PhD studies in the new Chronic Disease Systems Modeling lab starting this January ’08. Welcome Ozge!

On behalf of the lab, DIANE FINEGOOD and team wish to sincerely congratulate MITSU KOMBA on the completion of his MSc degree (noted in our last newsletter under Defences). He plans to continue his academic pursuits in Dr. Bruce Verchere’s lab at UBC.

MIHAELA ZAHARIEV, PhD June 2007, is doing Human Factors R&D for Nokia International.

Space Station Research Update ANDREW BLABER reports that an article on his research with the Canadian Space Agency and NASA appeared in the Vancouver Sun (Nov 1st, 2007, Section B1) entitled “Astronauts face fainting tests: SFU professor part of team conducting study.” The article was written by Chad Skelton.

The article web address is:
The research team which consisted of members from the University of Waterloo and the University of Western Ontario successfully collected data from a returning International Space Station astronaut on Nov 7th, 2007. This was a first for a team consisting entirely of Canadians and in which all of the science was Canadian.

Andrew Blaber will be heading south again to greet and test their second subject who will arrive home on the next Shuttle flight scheduled to launch this month.

Irene Rossberg-Gempton, Adjunct Professor, received a grant of $14,450 from Intertribal Health Authority, First Nations House of Healing to facilitate an 11-day Finding the Beat of Your Drum Workshop, Nov 2nd - 13th, 2007 for Residential School Survivors at Tsa Kwa Luten. This was an intergenerational session for men and women participants, ranging in age from their early 20's to late 60's. Two co-facilitators and two Elders participated with Irene to help participants in their pursuit of wellness from a holistic perspective, examining and implementing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual ways to get and/or stay healthy. This is the 4th time that Irene has received a grant from the First Nations House of Healing to help Residential School Survivors on their healing journeys.

Addition to Oct ’07 Newsrl:

In addition to Jim Morrison, Matt White and Andrew Beaudin, another colleague to be ADDED to the list of those attending the 12th International Conference on Environmental Ergonomics (ICEE) in Piran, Slovenia, August 19th to 24th, 2007 was Olie Jay. Dr. Jay presented at the conference and he was a post-doctoral fellow in Matt White’s lab in 2004-06.

Correction to Oct ’07 Newsrl:

Luisa Giles is a Research Assistant in Matt White’s lab, having completed her MSc degree at UBC in the Spring of 2007, and she is a potential future post-doctoral fellow… that is, when she is not scaling peaks in Northern Pakistan!

Careers in Kinesiology

Attention Faculty Members!

Plan now to attend this important recruitment event, organized by the Kinesiology Student Association – an excellent way for you to recruit undergrad students into your lab.

Where: TASC2 Midway
When: Thurs Jan 24th, 2008
Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
COST: FREE!!!

Speakers & Exhibitors to include many SFU Kinesiology alumni:

- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapy Student
- E.R. Medical Doctor
- Medical School Student
- Registered Kinesiologist
- PhD Student in Ergonomics

Pre-register by January 10th, 2008 at: www.sfu.ca/olc
See you there!

Darleen Bemister, Co-op Coordinator

Publications


KINESIOLOGY
CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are invited!

When: Sat December 15th, 2007
Time: Starting at 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mountain Shadow Pub

Location: At the base of Burnaby Mountain
at the intersection of Barnet Road and Pandora Street.

We have reserved the second floor of the pub for our party.
www.shadowpub.com

Dress: Semi-formal

There will be great food, and of course great company!

A Christmas sweater contest will be held with a prize for the person voted to have the most “interesting” Christmas sweater.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY LUNCH AT THE DAC

You are invited!

Don’t miss the delicious food and a fun time with your fellow workers in Kinesiology!

When: Tues Dec 18th
Time: 12 Noon
Place: Diamond Alumni Centre

Laurie Klak will collect money for this until Mon, Dec 10th.

* * * * *
pruben@sfu.ca / lazar@sfu.ca