FROM THE CHAIR

The fall semester is winding down. Exams are done, grades are almost in, and the snow on the ground makes it feel like winter time. Several exciting events are the culmination of a lot of work by many people.

On Friday, December 11, the wall to Podium 2 at SFU Surrey was ceremoniously opened by President Michael Stevenson, Dave Hayer, MLA and an Acting Mayor of Surrey. Podium 2 will eventually be the home of our new Exercise and Nutrition in Health and Disease undergraduate program. The program has been approved by Senate, and sufficient space to begin the program has been assigned. All that remains is for the provincial government to fund the University for the students. We had a fabulous display at the ceremony representing a cross section of our Department’s research and educational activity. Two MLAs, several Surrey City Councillors, and many others came by and were very impressed. Special thanks to Craig Asmundson, Carrie Matteson, members of Scott Lear’s team (Ann Yew, PhD student, Yuriro Araki, research coordinator, and Halimah Basrael, research assistant) for helping to pull together a great exhibit on only a week’s notice, and a round of applause to Diana Bedoya for spending time on an ergocycle.

The Motor Systems Physiology search is nearly completed, with an offer having been made to an excellent candidate, with departmental ratification this week. It is expected this person will be a great addition to the Neuromechanics group in our Department.

Last but not least, we were proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our three Professors Emeriti, who were honoured at a Retirement Reception in October (see next section). We are happy that Parveen Bawa and Christine MacKenzie will continue with their research program and presence in our department, maintaining an ongoing contribution to the research strengths of the department.

The glow of many-coloured lights on my neighbours’ houses reminds me to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season filled with peace, joy, and love, and a very Happy New Year!

PETER RUBEN

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Parveen Bawa, David Goodman, and Christine MacKenzie were honoured at a Retirement Reception held on October 23rd, 2009 in the Diamond Alumni Centre. The Chair, Peter Ruben, welcomed the many guests who joined in the celebration.

Parveen Bawa, Professor Emerita, joined the School of Kinesiology in 1978. Her area of research is motoneuron physiology, a subject about which she is widely regarded as a leading experimentalist. She has been a dedicated instructor at SFU, teaching courses in physiology and neuroscience. She has contributed to the University community as Associate Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Affairs in the Faculty of Applied Science, her service on the University Appointment Committee, the University Committee for Rhodes Scholarships, the University Library Committee, and the Faculty College Committee. She has built many bridges between Kinesiology and other academic units, particularly Engineering Science, and she is viewed throughout the University community as collaborative and a spirited team player.

David Goodman, Professor Emeritus, joined the School of Kinesiology in 1981. His research interests included motor control and learning, and the implications of concussions in sport and exercise. He has been a leader in getting the message across that multiple concussions have a cumulative effect. His teaching focused on motor control. His service to the University community included Chair, Graduate Program Committee and serving on the Medical Interviews Committee at UBC.

Christine MacKenzie, Professor Emerita, joined the School of Kinesiology in 1991,
moving here from the University of Waterloo. Dr. Mackenzie’s area of research interest is motor control and human-computer interactions. She has been particularly interested in motor control of hand coordination and fine hand movements such as grasping. She has collaborated with a wide variety of researchers and physicians to help develop tools for laparoscopic surgery. Her teaching experience focused on motor control. Her service to the university community included terms as Chair, Graduate Program Committee and Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies. She has also been involved with the SFU Academic Women group.

CURTIS MANNING and PARVEEN BAWA presented a poster, “Recovery of motoneurons from fatigue,” at the Society of Neuroscience meeting held in Chicago. The coauthors were: MICHELLE BURNHAM, TANIA MILLER, CHANTELL MURNAGHAN and BLAIR CALANCIE.


Welcome to SABRINA LEE (JAMES WAKELING, Supervisor) who joined the Neuromuscular Mechanics Lab as a Post-Doctoral researcher. Her recent publication in the Journal of Experimental Biology (212, 3700-3707) titled, "Built for Speed: Musculoskeletal Structure and Sprinting Ability" generated much media interest and was featured in numerous media outlets such as the Economist (Nov. 12, 2009, Anatomy and sport, Athlete’s foot: Sprinters are different from other people).

The Chronic Disease Systems Modelling Lab (DIANE FINEGOOD, Supervisor) welcomes PENNY DECK to their research team as a PhD student.

VICTORIA CLAYDON reports that two of her research students, BRETT SHAW and CLARE PROTEROE, have completed their Honours thesis. Brett’s thesis was entitled, “Falls secondary to cardiovascular events in the elderly” and was conducted in collaboration with STEPHEN ROBINOVITCH, Supervisor, Injury Prevention and Mobility lab. Clare’s thesis was entitled, “The effect of compression stockings on orthostatic tolerance.”

AMANMOET GARG (ANDREW BLABER, Supervisor) presented a poster and ANDREW BLABER made an oral presentation at the Federation of European Physiological Societies Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Nov 12-15, 2009 as follows: 1) BLABER, AP, GARG, A, SOUVESTRE, PA. Cardio-postural interactions: Wavelet analysis of gastrocnemius electromyographic activity and blood pressure variation with respect to postural sway during quiet stance. 2) GARG, A, BLABER, AP. An investigation of blood pressure change with postural muscle activation: a wavelet approach.

ANDREW BLABER also gave an Invited Talk on “Cardio-postural interactions” to the laboratory research team of ALAIN BERTHOX (Laboratoire de Physiologie de la Perception et de l’Action) in the College de France in Paris on Nov 9, 2009.

BPK CO-OP CORNER

As part of the Faculty of Science ‘Geek Week’ events, BPK Co-op and BPKSA are proud to present a special guest seminar with ROGER TAKAHASHI, Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Vancouver Canucks. Roger is a Kinesiology graduate (Waterloo alumni) who will be speaking about his Kinesiology Career path and his role with the Vancouver Canucks. Monday, January 25th, 2009, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., room TBA.

As part of ‘Geek Week’ BPK Co-op and BPKSA will be co-hosting the annual BPK Career Event on Wednesday, January 27th, 2009. The event will 'kick
off with research lab tours from 4:30 - 5:30 pm, employer exhibits from 5:00 - 6:00 pm, followed by three consecutive break out sessions, of which the students can choose to hear presentations from five career areas (medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractics and kinesiology).

The lab tours provide a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of BPK research to students at an early stage in their academic life. Student feedback from last year was overwhelmingly positive and this year’s event promises to be a huge success. Please plan to join us!

**DEFENCES**

**Paul Lee** MSc
December 4th, 2009
“Adaptive tetrodotoxin-resistance in garter snake sodium channels.”

Examinining Committee:
Matt White, Chair
Peter Ruben, Sr. Supervisor
Glen Tibbits, Supervisor
Charles Krieger, Supervisor
Thomas Claydon, External Examiner

**Esther Chen** MSc
December 14th, 2009
“Alterations of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Pathway are Associated with Risk of Progression in Oral Premalignant Lesions.”

Examinining Committee:
Thomas Claydon, Chair
Miriam Rosin, Sr Supervisor
Catherine Poh, Supervisor
Lewei Zhang, Supervisor
Michele Williams, External Examiner

KIN 804 Project Presentation:

**Darwin Lahue** MSc
December 10th, 2009
Project Title: “Identifying tools to measure health and wellness in ‘super seniors’.”

Examinining Committee:
Thomas Claydon, Chair
Stephen Robinovitch, Sr Supervisor
Angie Brooks-Wilson, Project Supervisor
Peter Ruben, External Examiner

**Upcoming Defenses:**

**Marj Belot** MSc
December 15th, 2009
“Upper Trapezius Recruitment with a Repetitive Upper Limb Task: Comparison of Female WADII Subgroups and Healthy Controls.”

Examinining Committee:
Max Donelan, Chair
David Goodman, Sr Supervisor

**Publications**


A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!