FROM THE CHAIR

Things are certainly heating up around SFU...in a good way. The warmer weather this time of year may have something to do with the buzz that's in the air. Despite the chill wrought by the dreary financial climate, developments continue apace. BPK highlights include the following.

First of all, I am very pleased to extend congratulations to several of our students (graduate, undergraduate and student-athletes) who have won a variety of awards recently. In addition, one of our faculty members was honoured with the 2010 LifeSciences BC Award for Innovation and Achievement. See details in Awards section.

Space at SFU Surrey has been allocated for BPK’s approved Undergraduate Program, “Exercise and Nutrition in Health and Disease.” We continue to advocate for the funding of FTEs by the time the space in Podium 2 has been built, and look forward to the launch of this program.

A new collaborative Graduate Program in Neuroscience has been approved, in which BPK will play a major role along with members from the Departments of Biological Science, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Psychology, and the Faculty of Health Science.

We have ongoing faculty searches in the areas of Motor Systems Physiology and Cardiovascular Physiology.

Thanks to our entire cohort of faculty, staff, and students, the BPK Department continues to be a highly visible centre piece of academic and research excellence at Simon Fraser University, locally, nationally, and internationally.

PETER RUBEN

AWARDS

Congratulations to Andy Hoffer for receiving the 2010 LifeSciences BC award for Innovation and Achievement. This is a tremendous honour and brings with it recognition of the many years of creativity and innovation Andy has brought to the biomedical field. To quote the LifeSciences BC website: “These awards are presented annually by LifeSciences BC to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the development of British Columbia’s life sciences industry across all sub-sectors, from biopharmaceuticals and medical devices to bioproducts and bioenergy sectors which are critical to the economic future of the province and country.”

(https://www.lifesciencesbc.ca/News/BC_Biotech_News/news03101001.aspx)

Congratulations to Robyn Buna, Senior SFU Clan student-athlete, who won four awards: the 2010 Lorne Davies Female Athlete of the Year award; the 2010 CIS Nan Copp Award as the Player of the Year in women’s basketball; the Clan’s Top Scholar Athlete with a grade point average of 4.19; and, the Lorne Davies Senior Graduate Award for her outstanding performance over four years at the university.

Congratulations to Heather Mancell, Senior SFU Clan student-athlete who won two awards: the Senior Director’s Award in track and field, and the President’s Award in women’s basketball.

Congratulations to Aaron Van Slyke (Tom Claydon, Supervisor), Jesse Greiner (Matt White, Supervisor), and...
Welcome back to **Ollie Blake** (JAMES WAKELING, Supervisor) who has been working on a project with the University of Salzburg / International Ski Federation and has followed the world-cup ski circuit for 6 weeks to identify biomechanical risk factors for injury during Alpine ski racing.

**Ollie Blake, Karen Forsman, Sabrina Lee, Hadi Rahemi, Manku Rana and Iris Wong** from the Neuromuscular Mechanics Laboratory (JAMES WAKELING, Supervisor) have presented results from five studies at the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Seattle, January 2010.


**Andrew Der** (Victoria Claydon, Supervisor) has completed his Honours Thesis, entitled, “Assessment of carotid baroreceptor sensitivity in humans.”

**Anastasia Dikareva** (Victoria Claydon, Supervisor) has completed her Honours Thesis entitled, “Efficacy of compression stockings for orthostatic intolerance.”

Recent international conference presentations by Grad Students in the Lab for Exercise and Environmental Physiology:


**Publications**


**Koehle, MS, Giles, LV, Walsh, ML, White, MD.** The effects of lower body positive and negative pressure on the hypoxic ventilatory decline. Resp Physiol Neurobiol In press

**Greiner, JG, Clegg, M E, Walsh, ML, White, MD.** No effect of skin temperature on human ventilation response to hypercapnia during light
Welcome back to **Sophie Dunbar** who joined the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology in January 2010 as our new full-time Undergraduate Advisor. Sophie is no stranger to those of us who have been around for a while as she was Departmental Assistant in the former School of Kinesiology back in 1993.

Our thanks to **Penny Deck** who was part-time Undergraduate Advisor in BPK for five years from December 2004 to December 2009. Penny is now working on a PhD in the Chronic Disease Systems Modelling Laboratory (Diane Finegood, Supervisor).

**Sherri Ferguson**, who is the Safety Director of the EPU, reports that she has accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chapter, Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

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**BPK CO-OP EVENTS**

**Special Guest Speaker:** 
**Vancouver Canucks Strength & Conditioning Coach, Roger Takahashi**

(Reprinted from BPK Co-op website)

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work with the Sedin twins? Over 100 students found out on January 25th from Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Student Association in partnership with BPK Co-op’s special guest speaker event, which featured Vancouver Canucks’ Strength & Conditioning Coach, **Roger Takahashi**. The event was very educational as Takahashi spoke of his work experience after earning a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (Honours) followed by questions from students eager to learn more about his work with the Vancouver Canucks and each of the star players including the Sedin twins, Roberto Luongo, and Alex Burrows.

To make the event even more special, BPKSA & BPK Co-op raffled off a Vancouver Canucks jersey signed by not just one player, but the **entire** team. In just 20 minutes, the total raised from the jersey was $500, which will be going to **Canuck Place** in its entirety. Congratulations to BPKSA & BPK Co-op for making such an interesting and memorable event!

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**BPK CO-OP ARTICLE**

**A Co-op Experience: A New Journey by Mona Jalili**

(Reprinted from BPK Co-op website)

“I may have a clear understanding of my philosophy in life revolving around 3 main principles: God, family and career; however, it wasn’t until my journey through co-op that this solid foundation has inspired me to direct my energy and future aspirations to becoming a pharmacist.

“Although I always knew that I wanted to hold a career within the health field, I wasn’t sure where I would fit in. After years of thought, volunteer work, and self-investigation into this matter, the questions ‘What do I want to do with my life? What do I want to become?’ still remained unanswered. I am sure there are many of you out there who may or may not have declared a major, but still don’t have a clear vision of what you enjoy and where you see yourself 5, 10 years from now. That’s because it’s not until you’ve had first-hand experience that you’ll start putting the pieces of the puzzle together!

“Darleen Bemister (BPK Co-op Coordinator) used to come in to lectures and enthusiastically give her presentations about the benefits of co-op, but like others I ignored her message!

“Until my third year. I am a Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology major and the past three semesters I have been lucky to be part of an amazing group of researchers at SFU. I owe my thanks for being given this opportunity to Darleen, my co-op coordinator, **Cheri Fielder**, the co-op program assistant, and of course my Supervisor, Dr. **Stephen Robinovitch**. Co-op made me realize the importance of research. I became quick-witted, efficient, orderly, and prolific. I was able to effectively multi-task without lethargy or difficulty. My research made me feel empowered because I knew this was the kind of research that not only saves lives – but improves them. During my hours of research and experiments I have learned the importance of finding cures, education, and training clinicians.

“I was part of an extraordinary research team; the only ones in the world having observed 200 videos of seniors in care facilities who had fallen in order to better understand ways in which to prevent such injuries. This also led me to desire to understand the effect of drugs more thoroughly, aside from my background as a kinesiologist.

“Our research team was also the only team to have tested padded undergarments called hip protectors, which are worn by seniors in care facilities to help prevent the risk of hip fractures and forced impact. I actually won Best Undergraduate Research Award for my research with these hip protectors. I am now on my way to publishing my first manuscript/journal.
“If it wasn’t for co-op I would have never had the opportunity to work side by side with the top researchers, clinicians and residents in Long Term Care Facilities in the Fraser Valley. I have also worked with top researchers: Dr. Stephen Robinovitch and Dr. Fabio Feldman. I have already successfully created networks and would like to continue to do so.

“Co-op made me feel the passion and the personality that it takes to be a successful part of the industry. In many ways, I feel with the patient and understand them on an emotional level. I believe this is the key to being a successful health care worker and it is a quality that is highly needed and sought after.

“I had originally set to complete only two semesters in the lab but it has become an addiction. I enjoy what I do. The skills I have gained will be of benefit to my future career as a pharmacist.

“It would be a great privilege to be able to further my education with a PhD degree. I would expand on previous research centered on falls, to understand the possible causes and cognitive impairments due to pharmaceutical products. I would be honouring my family, accomplishing my life’s goals, and aiding the increasing efforts made by health care professionals both in the community and globally. I believe that I have the dedication, talent, skills and motivation to make a difference.

“So here I am walking you down my co-op path. I don’t know what your background is, what your career goals are, but what I do know is that you should give co-op a chance and explore. You will never know the many opportunities that lay along your undergraduate journey that can be unraveled with a peak into co-op. It’s not too late to enroll in co-op, I wish I had another colleague tell me this!”