It is with mixed emotions that I write this – my last – letter from the Chair. At the end of April, I will be stepping down from the position I have held for five years: first as Director of The School of Kinesiology and now as Chair of the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology.

Although it seems to me like I should write something that reflects the totality of all that has taken place during my five years in this office, it is probably more efficient if you just go back and read the previous newsletters, which capture the essence of the many changes our Department has seen. From my perspective, these changes have all been positive. (Our recent External Review will provide a more objective viewpoint, and we eagerly await the results of that process.)

As much as I would like to take credit for the progress we’ve made in the Department, it has been very much a massive group effort, and herculean on the part of some individual members of our Department. You know who you are, and I extend to you my most heartfelt thanks. I am confident we have achieved a momentum that is unstoppable, and I am confident my successor will see many of the initiatives we have begun through to their fruition.

I will continue to serve our Department from my new position as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Science, and as a continuing member of BPK. It has been a high honour for me to be the Director and Chair of this excellent unit, a highlight of my career thus far. I will miss the day-to-day excitement of this office, but I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that my new position will bring.

Thanks to everyone in BPK for their confidence in my leadership, and for all the hard work they have done over the last five years to advance our Department to its high level of excellence.

Dr. Peter Ruben
Professor & Chair

Dr. Steve Robinovitch (Injury Prevention & Mobility Lab) is happy to report that one of his BPK undergraduate students, Rebecca Schonnop, is the recipient of a CIHR Studentship Award in "Mobility, Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis across the Lifespan." Most impressively, Rebecca’s application was ranked 1st out of 43 applications, with a stellar rating of 4.65 out of 5.0. She completed co-op work terms in the Robinovitch Lab in the summer and fall of 2010. Under the CIHR Studentship, she will continue her research during the summer of 2011 on a project titled, "Role of environmental factors in the cause of falls in older adults: insights from video capture of real-life falls in long-term care."

Conference presentations – Aerospace Physiology Lab:

Blaber, AP, Goswami, N, Bondar RL, Kassam, MS. (2011) Differences in Cerebral Autoregulation between Male and Female Astronauts. 18th Humans in Space Symposium, April 11-15, Houston TX, USA.

Tavokolian, K, Kaminska, B, and Blaber AP. (2011) Quantitative Heart Diagnostics from Seismocardiography: New Tricks for an Old device. 18th Humans in Space Symposium, April 11-15, Houston TX, USA.

in Space Symposium, April 11-15, Houston TX, USA.

**Blaber, AP, Bruner, M and Garg, A. (2011)** Quantitative Analysis of Cardio-Postural Interactions. 18th Humans in Space Symposium, April 11-15, Houston TX, USA

Dr. Matt White (Exercise & Environmental Physiology Lab) reports that Pat McDonald, one of his undergraduate students, successfully presented his Kin 499 thesis, “Effects of hyperthermia on human middle cerebral, posterior cerebral, and basilar artery blood velocities during eucapnia,” March 2011.

**Publications**


**Defences**

Successfully defended:

Vai Hong Fong PhD
March 31st, 2011
"Molecular and Cellular Studies of Transthyretin and Related Amyloid Pathogenesis."
Examinining Committee: Dr. Diane Finegood, Chair
Dr. Amadio Vieira, Senior Supervisor
Dr. Allan Davison, Supervisor
Dr. Charles Krieger, Supervisor
Dr. Gordon Rintoul, Internal Examiner
Dr. Jun-Feng Wang, External Examiner

**BPK Co-op News**

The BPKSA members have been very busy recently. The BPK Department often calls upon our student representatives to assist and/or lead community engagement events. This spring semester members of the BPKSA have volunteered at, helped plan and/or lead the following events:

- The annual Careers in BPK Event in January
- The Faculty of Science Geek Week activities also in January
- The “Kin Cup” Faculty versus students tri-athletic event including dodge ball, basketball and indoor soccer in February
- An annual clothing order in February/March
- Academic Options Day in February
- BPK Year End Party at Club Illia in April
- BPK team for the Vancouver Sun Run in April
- Faculty of Science team for PMC Sierra Science Fair Fun Run in May

In January, the BPKSA and BPK Co-op hosted the annual Careers in BPK event. The day started with three sold out lab tours. Approximately 50 students rotated three times between the Dr. Andrew Blaber, Dr. Dan Marigold and Dr. Matt White laboratories. The lab tours were followed with three breakout sessions, of which the students could pick from five concurrent sessions. Thirteen guest speakers and 11 exhibitors, most of whom were SFU Kinesiology alumni, came to the Burnaby campus to share
their wisdom and career paths with the 166 students who pre-registered for the event. For two years in a row, the students have taken the ‘Kin Cup’ title away from the Faculty and are more than pleased with themselves in retaining the title for another year. They are looking forward to the re-match next year. Hopefully Dr. RICHARD WARD will be back in “game shape” for the next challenge.

The BPKSA Year End Party was a sold out event with over 60 people in attendance at Club Ilia. Several faculty members joined in the fun making the event extra special for the students.

The BPKSA are now working on assisting with the PMC Sierra Science Fair Fun Run for May 2011 by coordinating and leading the SFU Faculty of Science Team. There is still room for more team members, if you are interested.

Thank you to the BPKSA and the many community members (e.g. faculty, alumni and staff) who volunteered to make these events and others a huge success. If you would like to volunteer and/or assist with a future event please contact the BPKSA at ksa@sfu.ca or BPK Co-op at bemister@sfu.ca.

The BPK Department is proud of our vibrant and involved BPKSA. We remain thankful for their active participation and volunteerism. The BPKSA are wonderful ambassadors for our department. Their involvement with both on and off-campus events is a reflection of their commitment to remain engaged with the community and for this we are thankful.

Keep up the good work BPKSA members!

(Submitted by Torny Hansen-Bubnick, BPKSA President and Darleen Bemister, BPK Co-op Coordinator)

**NSERC USRA and VPR USRA Update**

Congratulations to all recipients: Colin Peters (Dr. Peter Ruben, Supervisor); Janine Roller (Dr. Glen Tibbits, Supervisor), Michelle Scheier (Dr. Max Donelan, Supervisor), Jessika Iwanski (Dr. Thomas Claydon, Supervisor), Taylor Dick (Dr. James Wakeling, Supervisor), Erin Jang (Dr. Dan Marigold, Supervisor), and Amanda Ribeiro (Dr. Charles Krieger, Supervisor).

In January, the BPK Co-op program coordinated the BPK USRA process for the Chair’s office. This year the department chose to allow for more of an open competition amongst all undergraduate students who are interested in BPK research. This process resulted in a total of 31 undergraduate students applications. The students came from three different faculties (Science, Health Science and Engineering) and represented seven different majors (Biomedical Physiology, Kinesiology, Health Science BA, Health Science BSc, MBB, Biology and Engineering).

In total, there were 12 different BPK faculty postings that were advertised widely using the Work Integrated Learning Symplicity database. Of the 12 postings, 10 were NSERC funded and 2 were non-NSERC funded therefore only eligible for the VPR USRA funding. All undergraduate students had access to these postings and were encouraged to apply providing they met the pre-requisites. Several faculty-student interviews were conducted with the end result being, 11 faculty-student matches being made. These 11 students were then invited to Departmental level interviews (conducted by two faculty members). The interviews resulted in seven student names were forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies office. All 7 of the students whose names were put forward have either received an NSERC USRA or a VPR USRA.

Overall, all parties involved were pleased with this open process and look forward to leveraging these awards again next year to generate further excitement amongst the undergraduate students for BPK research and graduate studies.

(Submitted by Darleen Bemister, BPK Co-op Coordinator)