We are very proud to hear from the Vice President Academic that Wade Parkhouse has been reappointed for a second term as Dean of Graduate Studies. This was a unanimous decision by the elected search committee, and President Andrew Petter has approved the appointment for another five years effective September 1st, 2013.

From the VPA’s e-mail: “It was clear from feedback provided to the search committee that Dean Parkhouse is held in very high esteem by his colleagues, but most particularly by graduate students for whom he works tirelessly to address needs and develop programs and practices that lead to an enhanced graduate student experience. I look forward to continuing our work together in advocacy and promotion of high standards for graduate education at SFU.”

Hal Weinberg, Professor Emeritus, was a faculty member in our former School of Kinesiology from 1994 until October 1998 when he first retired. His research interests in the Brain Behaviour Laboratory were electrophysiology of information processing and complex behaviour. Then he came back to SFU and was appointed as Director, Office of Research Ethics where he “was instrumental in the development of research ethics policies and procedures at SFU, drawing on his extensive experiences as a brain function researcher” (from the e-mail of Dr. Mario Pinto, VP Research, Feb 18-13). On March 12th, 2013, Hal Weinberg retired a second time, leaving behind his 47-year tenure with SFU. Nonetheless, his SFU service goes on (see Emeriti section). Best wishes Hal!

Please note the new section initiated in this Newsletter, below: Introducing Our Post-Docs.

Glen Tibbits

Awards

Congratulations to Don Hedges, MD, who received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and certificate on February 18th, 2013, presented by MP James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. This was for Dr. Hedges’ community service in addiction medicine and in lacrosse, rugby, soccer, high school football, plus other areas. http://www.gg.ca/document.asp?id=14019&lan=eng

Congratulations to Peter Ruben who was awarded a 2012 Staff Achievement Award for Team Achievement, National Collegiate Athletic Association Team. Peter Ruben was also awarded a Golden Key International Honour Society Honourary Membership.

Research Trip of a Lifetime

from SFU News, Mar 14-13 Issue:

A month’s stay at a South African game lodge including daily trips to a giraffe compound isn’t typical of SFU research trips. But for Heather More, (Supervisor, Max Donelan) a Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology PhD student, it was a lucky break.

More is studying whether or not nerve impulses travel more quickly in large animals than smaller ones to compensate for their larger body size.

A chance meeting at a Glasgow Biology conference led to an invitation to join a 40-member Danish research team from Aarhus University on its 2010 expedition to study giraffes. “It was fabulous,” says More, who travelled to Africa with Postdoctoral Fellow Shawn O’Connor (Supervisor, Max Donelan).

More studied how quickly the giraffe’s sciatic nerve conducts impulses when stimulated and how quickly its muscles contract when stimulated.

She also studied nerve-fibre samples to find out whether giraffes have the same relative number of nerve fibres as smaller animals.
Her results were surprising. Despite their long necks and limbs, giraffes don’t have a faster nerve-conduction speed than other animals. And they have relatively fewer nerve fibres than smaller animals. That means they can’t sense and respond as quickly to nerve stimuli and must have developed other coping mechanisms, says More. “Perhaps it’s an ability to think and plan ahead based on hearing or other senses.”

More also went on several safaris and spent two weeks completing lab work at the University of Pretoria. She then spent three weeks backpacking from South Africa to Kenya without incident, despite warnings about the hazards of single women travelling alone.

She and O’Connor have just published their research in *The Journal of Experimental Biology.*

The pair received grants from SFU, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Company of Biologists and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology to fund their trip.

CRAIG ASMUNDSON recently had a research grant named in his honour – the 2012 Founder’s Award, from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of BC (www.prostatecancerbc.ca/).

The 2012 Founder’s Craig Asmundson Award commemorates founding directors of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of BC.

The 2012 Founder’s Craig Asmundson Award was given to RAMIN SABEJAVAHER, who is a PhD candidate in the Biomedical Engineering Dept at the University of British Columbia. He received a $20,000 grant for his work on the role of MR Elastography in diagnosis and focal therapy. Magnetic resonance elastography (MRE) is a non-invasive imaging technology to study viscoelastic properties of tissue. The aim of the research project is to investigate the use of MRE for diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

CRAIG ASMUNDSON was founding Chair of the Coquitlam prostate cancer support group and one of the six founding directors of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of BC. Craig was first Vice Chair of the foundation and first coordinator of the Do-It-For-Dad event, which is now known as the Safeway Father’s Day Walk/Run.

HAL WEINBERG, Professor Emeritus, will be the Moderator for four Philosopher’s Cafe evenings put on by SFU Continuing Studies, at 7 p.m. in the Coquitlam Public Library, City Centre Branch:

(1) March 27 – “The influence of technology on privacy and confidentiality”; (2) April 24 – “The role of universities”

(3) May 29 – “The ‘herding effect’” and (4) June 29 – “Why have people been killing each other for 2,000 years?”

**Publications:**


Dr. Elliot Yu Zhang received his MD and PhD training in China where he specialized in gene cloning and tissue engineering technologies. He now works in Miriam Rosin’s Cancer Prevention laboratory as a postdoctoral fellow on bioassays that predict tumor progression and recurrence. He plans on returning to China in the future to pursue a career as a professor.

Dr. Shawn O’Connor is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Max Donelan’s Locomotion Lab. In 2009, he completed his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan with Dr. Art Kuo as his primary supervisor. He also received his MS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 2006, and his BS in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2004, which included a four-semester internship at Motorola. His doctorate research focused on a) designing computer-based biomechanics simulations to study the importance of dynamics and elastic limb behavior during gait and b) testing the visual control of walking balance. During his postdoc, he developed a treadmill based virtual reality system and determined how vision is used to predict and optimize walking speed. He is also building a respiratory gas control system for manipulating perceptions of metabolic cost and studying how humans optimize gait patterns.

The BPK Research Day held on January 22nd, 2013 was a huge success. Participation was high with 33% of the presentations from MSc students, 41% from PhD students, and 22% from Undergraduates. 46 abstracts were submitted for this event. The Research Symposium included a work-shop on “How to Give a Great Job Talk.”

**Student Oral Presentations:**

**Ollie Blake (James Wakeling, Supervisor) –** Metabolic power – EMG relation in non-steady-state conditions.

**Nick Mitrou, Chris Scully, Branko Braam, Ki Chon, (Will Cupples, Supervisor) –** Renal blood flow is synchronized among neighbouring nephrons and modulated by nitric oxide but not blood pressure.

**Amanda Ribiero, Eric Lin, Samantha Gray, Lillian Lee, Weiguang Ding, (Faisal Beg, ENSC-BPK Associate Member and Glen Tibbits Supervisor) –** Cardiac electrical activity assessment in the isolated hearts of adult zebrafish.

**Yijian Yang, (Dawn Mackey, BPK Faculty), Teresa Liu-Ambrose, (Steve Robinovitch, Supervisor) –** Determining Factors Associated with Risk for Impact to the Head and Hip during Falls

**Plenary Speaker:**

Glen Tibbits, BPK Chair

“Cardiac arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death: from molecules to organisms.

**Poster Presentations – ASB Atrium:**

Best Undergraduate Prize:

**Sarah Chow**

Best Masters Prizes:

**Brett Shaw, Christina Hull**

Best PhD prize:

**Jessica Selinger**

Thank you to the Organizing Committee: **Susie Nugent, Jess Inskip, Rianne Ravensbergen, Brett Shaw, Samrat Thoua, the BPKGSA, Van Truong and King Chao.**

**Thomas Claydon**

Faculty Meeting Organiser

**Angie Brooks-Wilson, GPC Chair**

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**Defences**

**Mannan Wang** MSc

January 28th, 2013

“Muscle-associated Dosophila adducin regulated larval neuromuscular junction development and the localization of Draper to the synapse”

Examiner Committee:

**Wade Parkhouse,** Senior Supervisor

**Charles Krieger,** Supervisor

**Nick Harden,** Supervisor, Molecular Biol & Biochemistry

**Esther Verheyen,** External Reviewer, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

**Alejandra Farias-Gody**

February 28th, 2013 PhD

“Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Reduced Cardiac Rehabilitation Program”

Examiner Committee:

**Scott Lear,** Senior Supervisor

**Victoria Claydon,** Supervisor

**Sammy Chan,** Supervisor, U British Columbia, Cardiologist, St. Paul’s Hospital

**Michael Joffries,** Internal Examiner, Faculty of Health Sciences

**Robert Reid,** External Examiner, Faculty of Medicine, U Ottawa

**John Manning** MSc

March 8th, 2013

“Transplanted Haematopoietic Cells Populate The Murine CNS In The Absence Of Irradiation”

Examiner Committee:

**Charles Krieger,** Senior Supervisor

**Jonathan Choy,** Supervisor, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

**Fabio Rossi,** Supervisor, U British Columbia, Medical Genetics

**Jamie Scott,** External Examiner, SFU Faculty of Health Sciences and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
The Careers in BPK event took place on January 23rd, 2013. Undergraduates in attendance had the opportunity to tour labs undertaking research in the fields of aerospace physiology, renal physiology, and molecular cardiac physiology, with thanks to Drs. Andrew Blaber, Will Cupples and Damon Poburko.

Most of the evening was spent in breakout sessions where students had a chance to learn more about their post-undergrad career options. Students found it to be a valuable experience to speak with and ask questions of professional and student kinesiologists, doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and naturopathic doctors, most of whom were our very own SFU BPK alumnae.

Thank you to Manouch Amel, Luke Armstrong, Beth Bates, Julia Christensen, Candace Cormier, Carly Crider, Raeann Galuska, Becky Hartley, Vanessa Hunter, Jennifer Sexton, Rashmi Singhai, and Amy Tao for being such engaging speakers.

Thank you to BPK Co-op for organizing this event.

Joyce Ching
BPK Undergraduate Rep

...AS FOR “THE REST OF YOU”...

“I know everyone is desperate for a report -- but unfortunately there isn't much to say! We were well beaten on the night, losing the basketball and soccer quite convincingly. We did manage a draw in dodgeball (1 game each) but that was scant consolation.

Thanks to everyone who came out -- especially Hadi Rahemi who gave it his all and ended up with a fractured fibula!

Obviously when a team loses the most logical thing to do is to look around and find someone else to blame! Well, that seems logical to me :-) So here we go:

1) The Staff didn't help as much-- Laura Seto had another commitment (I mean is there life outside of the Kin Kup?), Susie Nugent one of our main cheerleaders was sick, Darleen "kick 'em in the legs" Bemister was also sick!

2) Faculty? Well Max "LeBron James" Donelan was also sick (a bit of a trend here). Tom Claydon (who can play soccer very well even if it destroys him for a week after) was probably too busy with his young family. Damon Poburko had his birthday party! I mean, what better celebration could there be than beating the undergrads? I could go on!

3) Unfortunately, I am also culpable, managing to injure myself on Wednesday and then forgetting my pom-poms for my unusual cheerleading role.

But -- the biggest problem was the fact that I am pretty sure the undergraduates practiced before hand! I know that is a shocking allegation, but when they turn up with a varsity basketball player and a couple of others who could shoot 3-pointers in their sleep....the evidence is damning. Varsity soccer player on the court?..... suspicious!

This serious situation reminds me of a verse from the 1964 song by Flanders and Swann "A Song of Patriotic Prejudice:"

And all the world over, each nation's the same
They've simply no notion of playing the game
They argue with umpires, they cheer when they've won
And they practice beforehand which ruins the fun!
Flanders and Swann.
http://www.nyanko.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/fas/anotherhat_song.html

So the gloves are off -- watch out next year undergrads!"

Cheers,

Tony Leyland, Faculty Rep

BPK Year-End Party

You are invited!

When: Wed March 27th, 2013
Where: Club Illa
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Cost: Only $15!

Join us for a fun evening of mingling, laughter and most important of all, amazing food. Mark your calendars now!

Tickets are on sale throughout March in the AQ and in the BPK General Office – see Laurie Klak or Laura Seto.

Everybody is encouraged to come on out – not just the undergrads!

Thank you to the BPK Student Association for organizing this event!

Joyce Ching
BPK Undergraduate Rep

Winter/Spring Issue 2013