At the end of last month I attended the CCUPEKA annual meeting in Kingston, Ontario. The majority of the time at this meeting was devoted to the finalization of the accreditation process for schools of Kinesiology and Physical Education. There are now two separate accreditation processes for these different programs. In the Kinesiology accreditation process, it is ironic for me to report that neither the School of Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University nor the Department of Kinesiology at Waterloo would currently receive accreditation should they apply to CCUPEKA. Our failure to comply with a minimum core disciplinary content is the reason for the fact that we would not receive accreditation. Currently the required courses are: Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, Motor Learning/Motor Control, Psychology of Physical Activity and two courses with either a Social Science or Humanities focus on human movement. This is a total of eight courses where a course is defined as an instructional unit taught for three hours per week for one semester. In addition, two further required courses, one in research methods and one in statistics, are demanded, but in this case the information may be incorporated into a number of different courses. As you will realize, significant change would need to occur in the School of Kinesiology here at SFU in order for us to comply with the standards set by CCUPEKA. In attendance at the meeting were representatives of the Canadian Kinesiology Association and the president of the BC Association of Kinesiologists (former student KARLENE DAWSON). In discussions with Karlene after our accreditation discussion with CCUPEKA, I was assured that BCAK would continue to set its own standards and that graduates from SFU would remain acceptable.

I recently attended a meeting at BCIT, along with representatives from the School of Engineering Science, to discuss the Biomedical Engineering Proposal. We are considering a collaboration with the Biomedical Engineering Technology Program at BCIT. As a trial, it is proposed that some SFU engineering students will take a course at BCIT in the semester 2001-1.

It is intended that the Biomedical Engineering Program will be housed in the new Applied Sciences Building. A proposal to the government for a $50 million building was not well received. However, the government did say it is likely that a two-stage or two-phase approach would be approved. Planning is now going ahead for Phase 1, which would be a $30 million building to be followed by a $20 million building later. Currently the plans are that the space which will be allocated to Kinesiology in conjunction with the Biomedical Engineering Program is in the Phase 1 building.

We now have more details with respect to Canadian Research Chairs. SFU is to receive 48 of these chairs over the next five years. Dr. Jock Munro, Vice President Academic, intends to hold 10-15% of these Chairs in a central pool to be allocated for strategic initiatives. It is highly likely that some of these will go to the new Health Initiative. We have now been informed that if a Chair is awarded to a present faculty member, then the fallout funds from that faculty member’s salary will remain within the School to replace the teaching of the faculty member. If a Chair is used to recruit a new faculty member, then this will represent a new CFL position within the School. Details as to how many Chairs will be awarded to the Faculty of Applied Sciences are forthcoming.

I just heard that the proposal to form an Institute for Health Research and Education has been unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on
Academic Planning and will go forward for approval to Senate at its June 4th meeting. I wish to thank all of you who expressed support for this proposal. In total the Vice President Academic Office received 46 letters in support of the proposal.

John Dickinson

Convocation

Please note that Convocation this June for the School of Kinesiology will be held on Thursday afternoon, June 8th, 2000. Because of this scheduling, the RECEPTION will be held later in the afternoon, starting at 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. Kindly mark this date and time on your calendar.

Staff

All the best to SOPHIE DUNBAR, who is now the new Co-op Coordinator for the School of Kinesiology, replacing DARLEEN HEISLER who is on maternity leave until December, 2000.

Welcome to Ms. VAN TRUONG, who will temporarily replace Sophie. She is currently working as Administrative Assistant in the Faculty of Business Administration at SFU, and will join the School on May 29th, 2000.

Faculty, Adjuncts & Grad Students

Congratulations to former Kinesiology graduate student HELEN WARD, who has been awarded the BC Lung MRC Scientist Award, to be held at the Respiratory Division, Department of Medicine, UBC.

DAN WEEKS gave a presentation to HYDREX earlier this month. HYDREX is an organization made up of various employee groups working for BC Hydro. They collect donations through various employee programs and distribute the funds to projects that focus on the health and welfare of British Columbians. Dan received word that the building drive for the Down Syndrome Research Centre will receive $200,000 from HYDREX.

ANDREW BLABER, Research Coordinator and Head Research Scientist for the Mt. McKinley Climb Expedition Team, reports that the climb is now completed. Thanks to the climbers: ERIC SEEDHOUSE, PhD, (Expedition Leader), JENNIFER TUPPER, MD (former Kinesiology student), Doina Nugent, MA, and Brett Habijanac, MD. Thanks also to the Base Camp Manager and Media Link, Steve Braham, PhD.

The climbers arrived back in Vancouver on May 17th and will undergo post climb testing on May 18th in the Aerospace Physiology Laboratory at SFU. Two of the climbers suffered second and third degree frost bite in the fingers while on the last leg of the climb (at 16,000 ft), and were not able to continue since they could not safely operate their ascenders (needed for going up this steep portion of the west buttress). The team decided to return rather than risk further problems and possible loss of these fingers to frost bite with possible future exposure to the extreme cold at the summit.

The team reported that in spite of the cold and 60 km/h winds during the climb, they were able to collect valuable data on themselves. Andrew's research team will be processing this information over the next week and will post group data at: http://denali.polylab.sfu.ca

As an aside, the team also reported that once word spread on the mountain that they were equipped with medical devices for physiological assessment related to high altitude, they were called upon by several climb teams to help determine the status of climbers with high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE). The critical device for this was the pulse oximeter, with the sleep apnea monitor loaned to us by Jeager-Toennies. Many thanks to Jaeger for providing this device, as it may well have saved the lives of a few climbers on the mountain.

Seminar

This past May 5th, an Undergraduate Thesis seminar was presented by NEIL TRAN, entitled, “Use of green florescent protein as an indicator for the presence of hyperpolarization-activated, cyclic nucleotide-sensitive, cation non-selective channels in cotransfected Chinese hamster ovary cells.”

Defences

Defences:

RICK HALL MSc
May 26, 2000
ASB 9896 1:30 pm
Title: Design of a Force-Sensing Glove for Ergonomic Evaluation