



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

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Newsletter

WELCOME

Dr. Fengfeng Xi is a post doctoral fellow who will be with the Robotics Group until September, 1995.

Dr. Xi is the recipient of an NSERC Post Doctoral Fellowship (1993-1995) and holds this award here at CIM. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in March of this year from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto, under Professor R.G. Fenton's supervision. His Ph.D. research was about kinematics, dynamics and control of serial manipulators with flexible links.

Dr. Xi sits in room 445 and works with Professor Jorge Angeles. While continuing his Ph.D. research, he also has interests in parallel manipulators with flexible links, flexible joint manipulators, manipulators with both flexible links and joints, space robots, dynamic parameters estimation. Dr. Xi is a reviewer of ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement, and Control. In his spare time, he likes skating, playing badminton, and painting.

XMAS PARTY

The Christmas/Hannukah party will be held Thursday, December 2 at Thomson House. Tickets are \$2.00 and must be bought in advance (check MOTD for more details). The tickets will buy you two free glasses of punch, a hot meal, fun and games, and a chance to meet Santa Claus in person! Space is limited to 100 people, so get your tickets early!



MUSIC FOR THE SOUL

 Music lovers, mark your calendars! The choir (Anima Musica), whose members include two of your fellow CIMites, Pierre Belanger and Anna Lin, is presenting its Christmas program of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schutz, Distler, and others on the following dates:

• **November 26, 8 pm**, L'Eglise St Barthelemy
7137 des Erables, Jean Talon and de Lormier
(Metro Iberville)

• **December 5, 3 pm**, Kirkland City Hall, 17200
Hymus Blvd

• **December 11, 5 pm**, Christ Church Cathedral
(University and Ste Catherine)

For more information, please contact Anna at
anlin@cim.mcgill.ca (office MC 451)



Submitted by Anna Lin

NEWS AND EVENTS

Professor Steve Zucker has been elected a Fellow of Churchill College and a Visiting Fellow of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, where he has been since September. While there, he has been delivering a series of six lectures under the aegis of Princeton University Press. The general title is 'Computational Vision and Biological Perception'.



Professor Levine was chosen as an Honorable Mention Winner of the Nineteenth Annual Pattern Recognition Society Award for a manuscript he wrote with Professor Robert Bergevin, assistant professor at Laval. The manuscript is entitled 'Extraction of Line Drawing Features for Object Recognition'.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

♥ Frank DiGiuseppe who got married in Toronto on Oct. 2. Michele, his wife, is from the Cleveland area (U.S.A.).

✿ Hanako Hoshimi-Caines who will be the Mouton Noir in the Nutcracker on the following dates:
Quebec City: evening of Dec. 10 and 11,
afternoon of Dec. 12
Montreal (Place des Arts):
evening of Dec. 17, 18, 22, 26, 30, and Jan. 2
afternoon of Dec. 19, 27

VISITORS

⇒ Prof. G.D.S. Maclellan, Cambridge University, U.K., visited the RMSL (Robotic Mechanical Systems Lab) on Monday, Oct. 4

⇒ Mr. Klass Nilsson, Lund University, Sweden, visited RMSL on Tuesday, Oct. 5. He gave a seminar on 'The Programming of Industrial Robots'. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. under the supervision of Prof. Karl J. Astrom, the father of adaptive control.

⇒ Prof. Bozhidar Cheshankov, of the Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria, visited RMSL on Wednesday, Oct. 6. Prof. Cheshankov gave a seminar under the title 'Optimal Control of Robots with Kinematic Redundancy'. Prof. Cheshankov is the Head of the Department of Stochastics and Optimization.

ROBOTIC S GROUP UPDATE

⇒ The shoulder of the Hayward hydraulic manipulator arm (High Performance Manipulators Project of IRIS C3) came to life earlier this semester and has demonstrated uncanny high performance behavior.

⇒ Thanks to Canadian Space Agency funding (phase III) just awarded, Hayward's high-

fidelity force-reflecting hand controller project has entered its experimental phase and a prototype is being built by Xianze Chen. A patent covering the central concept behind the hand controller and the hydraulic shoulder has been filed in October '93.

CIM TOP TEN

Top 10 ways to pass the time when the computer system is down:

- ⑩ Take turns bugging systems staff about when the system will be working again
- ⑨ Buy another McGill Solar-Powered Car T-shirt
- ⑧ Moving-cart speed trials in the corridors
- ⑦ Play floppy-disc frisbee in the hallway with Professor Zucker's Siberian Husky
- ⑥ Hide lounge coffee maker and watch ensuing panic of department caffeine addicts
- ⑤ Go down to the cafeteria to watch pop-can crushing machine in action
- ④ Have races doing Matlab computations by hand
- ③ Gather 'round and reminisce about former department managers
- ② Engage in a departmental contest to see whose young children can scream the loudest in the hallways
- ① Clean the refrigerator in the lounge... NOT!

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie

