



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

WELCOME BACK

Hope you enjoyed the holidays and that 1994 will be a healthy and productive year for all of you. If you've come back to CIM with a lot of ideas from anything to improving student services here or suggestions for the newsletter, don't forget to share them with us. Drop by my office any time (rm 406) or email a message (jmb).



CIM SEMINAR

You have probably all read the MOTD or noticed the posters regarding the seminar scheduled for January 17 on 'Effective Presentations' and have already registered. For those of you still recovering from the holidays and ignoring your mail messages, here's the info one more time. Hope you can join us!

"EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS"

Speaker: Dr. Jack Bordan

Date: January 17, 1994

Time: 9:00 - 5:00

Place: Leacock 232

Jack Bordan, Eng., is a teacher, administrator and engineer. He was the first Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Sir George Williams (now Concordia) University, and then Vice Rector - Academic, at Concordia, where he has taught technical writing to engineering and computer

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Newsletter

science students. Current activities include leading technical writing workshops for industry.

Dr. Bordan is on the admissions committee of the Ordre des Ingenieurs du Quebec, past-chairman of the Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, and vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of Dawson College. A Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, he is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and the Society for Technical Communication.

If you have not done so yet, please register for the seminar in room 410, McConnell, or email: jmb@cim for more information.

NEW PEOPLE AT CIM

WELCOME TO the following people:

Bin MU was born in China 23 years ago and went to a university in Beijing for two years. In the fall of 1991, he transferred to McGill to complete a Bachelor's degree in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He is interested in the topics of simulation and control and is currently doing an M.Eng(thesis) program supervised by Prof. Papadopoulos. Bin likes playing soccer and watching movies, when he can find time.

Réal Frenette has just joined the Centre and will be working with Dr Papadopoulos on a Forestry project (using a feller-buncher type of machine). Real is a graduate of Laval University (B.A.Sc. Engin. Physics, May 82) and UBC (M.A.Sc. Elect. Eng., May 85). He has recently come back from Japan where he and his family were for 2 years. During that time, he worked at a Research Centre of a Japanese hydraulics company called Kayaba.

Their second son was born there. Previous to that, he was at UBC involved again in a forestry project with Dr Peter Lawrence. Real loves playing any kind of racquet sports, but especially tennis. Let him know if you want to play a game. You can find him in room 403, phone 8205, email realf.

Dominik Hartmann will be pursuing his MEng under the supervision of Paul Zsombor-Murray. He obtained his BEng, from Switzerland then went to Vancouver for 4 months to learn English and scale the Canadian Rockies... his passion being mountain climbing.

NEWS AND EVENTS

André Lejeune has decided to pursue a career in the industrial world and raise his growing family. André, Hélène & son Cédric have bought a home outside of Aylmer, Qué. André will be joining the BNR team of researchers in Ottawa. We wish him much happiness and success and we extend our appreciation for his kindness and help in updating the photoboard before leaving. Thank-you André and good luck!

Gerard Blais has just started a new job at Bell Northern Research on Nun's Island after an exciting tour of the Far East. He can be reached at gblais@bnr.ca. Good luck, Gerard!

Samir Shah is starting a new job at a multimedia R & D Centre called General Datacom. We'll still be seeing Samir around CIM working on his other project. We wish him luck with his new job.

Lin Lin and Finn Wredenhagen successfully defended their theses recently: Lin Lin has been awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from INRS-Telecommunications on Nuns' Island. You may notice that he misses us very much and regularly comes back to haunt his roommates in 427. Finn Wredenhagen has just packed up all his belongings & is taking up residence in Halifax, N.S. where he will be working as a NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellow

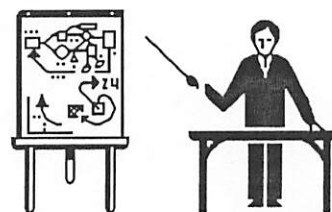
for the Dept. of National Defense (DREA) in Dartmouth.

We wish both of them success and happiness in the outside world !

Professor James Owen has won the 1993 NSERC Doctoral Prize for best thesis in Engineering in Canada. Congratulations!

Professor Greg Dudek has been appointed as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science as of January 1, 1994. His research focus is on the description of SHAPE or FORM: the form of individual objects in the world (i.e. object shape) and the form of the environment itself, as well as questions of how to represent and depict objects. More specifically, this involves research into the construction of maps (descriptions of space) using a mobile robot as well as research into how objects are recognized by humans and how they can be recognized by machine systems. Much of his recent effort has gone into the development of a mobile robotics research program spanning sensor modelling, path planning, map construction and environment visualization. One important aspect of this is how to inter-relate representations that describe the same object or set of objects at very different levels of abstraction. For example, how to relate (and derive) different descriptions of a surface based on metric point samples, high-level geometric primitives and cognitively significant landmarks.

Professor Dudek is participating in the following IRIS-II projects 'Dynamic Reasoning, Navigation and Sensing for Mobile Robots' and 'Visual Modelling for CAD/CAM Autonomous Systems'. Presently he is teaching a graduate graphics course, 308-557B, as well as intro to computer engineering, 304-221B.



ACTIVITIES

EEGSS Banquet:

EEGSS is organising a banquet which will be held on Jan. 27th or 29th. Check motd for more details early next week.

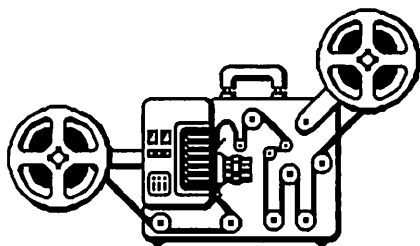
PGSS activities:

Winter Blues Party, Jan 22nd
Thomson House, 21:00
Jimmy James and his Band
Door prizes including a weekend for 2 at Mont Tremblant sponsored by Voyages Campus.

Jay Peak Ski Trip, Jan 28th, 32\$ (+ 14\$ for rental).
Buy tickets early at Thomson House!.

Ballroom Dancing, deadline to register Jan 20th. 8 weeks, either Saturdays at 19:00 or Sundays at 20:15. 35\$, payable at first class. Register with or without a partner at Thomson House.

Movies --- Movies --- Movies
Thomson House, Mon: 8:30pm, Tues and Wed, 6pm and 9pm, FREE!



Jan 17,18,19 - Groundhog Day (90 min, USA, 1993)
Jan 24,25,26 - In the line of fire (128 min, USA, 1993)
Jan 31, Feb 1,2 - Swoon (90 min, USA, 1992)
Feb 7, 8, 9 - The Secret Garden (100 min, USA, 1993)
Feb 14,15,16 - Down By Law (107 min, USA, 1986)
Feb 21,22,23 - The Nasty Girl (95 min, Germany, 1990)

Submitted by Marc Bolduc

CIM TOP TEN

From the home laboratory in room 418:

Top 10 signs you've been working WAY too long on your workstation:

- ⑩ You have the urge to end it all by hurling yourself through an Xwindow.
- ⑨ You gather up voice audio files so you can have a conversation with your terminal.
- ⑧ You prop a pad of paper up against the monitor and can't understand why you can't raise a window on top of it.
- ⑦ To relax, you pop up an image of a beach on a sunny day on the screen, but a menu blocks your view.
- ⑥ You move your eyes from window to window and are disappointed when the mouse pointer doesn't follow.
- ⑤ You get hypnotized by xeyes.
- ④ You open two Matlab plot windows and cross your eyes in order to see your graphs in 3D.
- ③ You haven't short circuited any hardware lately.
- ② You find your name in alt.missing.persons.
- ① Cleaning lady wipes off your glasses.

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie and Marc Bolduc