



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

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Newsletter

Our library

It is time to reorganize our library. All CIMites are invited to complete the survey on the last page of this newsletter and to contribute suggestions regarding the library and its periodicals.

It has been suggested that the easiest way to maintain a usable library is if a small group of people are responsible for a set of journals.

Daniel Rey (dan@cim) has volunteered to clean-up and maintain the robotics related literature, Ahmed Helmy (ahmed@cim), the control related material, and Thomas Jelonek (thomas@cim), the vision and general science periodicals. Other volunteers are needed to help look after newspapers, textbooks, or anything else we've forgotten. Numerous computer system related publications are already well organised and maintained by the systems administration group. They are available in room 400.

Once the library is cleaned up, the two principal problems which will remain are the abandoning of junk publications on the library shelves and the indefinite period borrowing habits of certain individuals. Paul is working on an intelligent machine to comb the CIM hallways and seek out the perpetrators of such atrocities but, until such a time, *please* refrain from removing the periodicals from the library unless it's for a quick photocopy. Once the periodicals are organized, please make our job simpler by returning them to their place after you scan them. Happy reading!

Please turn to the last page to fill out the survey. Thanks !

Submitted by Thomas Jelonek, Daniel Rey, and Ahmed Helmy

NEWS AND EVENTS

☞ Congratulations to Professor Papadopoulos and his wife who gave birth to a baby girl last Wednesday. Mother and baby are doing fine, father is still recovering!

Good-bye to

☞ Professor John Hollerbach will be leaving CIM at the end of August to join the Department of Computer Science at the University of Utah. We wish him all the best!

☞ Professor David Jones is also leaving the end of the month to join the Computer Science Department at McMaster. All the best!

☞ Professor David Levanony is returning to Israel the beginning of September to work at Rafael Research Institute. Hope you come back and visit us! Best Wishes!

☞ Dr. Fengfeng Xi left CIM as of June 25, to join Prof. Andrew Yong's PAM Lab at Waterloo. Fengfeng will continue as an NSERC PDF for a second year. All the best, Fengfeng!

Welcome to

☞ Concurrently with Fengfeng Xi's leaving, Dr. Brahim Bouzouia, of the Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Algeria's Centre de

Développement des Technologies Avancées, arrived to join the Robotic Mechanical Systems Lab here at CIM. Brahim comes with a fellowship of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. He will be working in robot dynamics and control for six months. Welcome on board, Brahim!

Are the rumors true?

Some of you have already asked me if the rumors they have heard regarding the lounge are true. What rumors, others may be asking. Let me try to bring you up to date.

We are investigating ways to increase CIM lab space. There will be some new equipment arriving for the new projects. Some of the robots are quite large, and the labs were already getting crowded with what we have now. So we tried to get another room renovated on this floor but unfortunately the university cannot relinquish that room. The only other room we have that is large enough to convert to a lab is the lounge. Right now we are only investigating the cost, the decisions will be made when we have all the estimates.

If we do go ahead with this, we will not ignore your needs. We are already trying to somehow accomodate a lounge in another area. This may either be a small office converted to a lounge area, or more likely (due to limited office space), the journals and microwave will be transferred to the seminar room which already contains a fridge. When that room is occupied, we may have no choice but to go down to the cafeteria to eat or get together in an office.

We have been fortunate to have had both a large lounge and seminar room at our disposal these past few years. We are lucky that we can expand. Unfortunately the university does not have any more space to give us for that expansion, so we're getting creative. I'm sure some of you have helpful suggestions, creative ideas and nasty insults, so if you'd like to share them, you can send them to me at *jmb*. Hope this information was helpful and let me know if you have any questions.

Articles & ideas are welcome. Please send them by e-mail to the editor. Deadline for publication is the 7th of every month.

Editor: Janet Burghardt (e-mail: jmb@cim.mcgill.ca)

Associate Editors: Paul Mackenzie
Kathleen VanderNoot

CIM TOP TEN

Top Ten excuses for not having a Top Ten List this month:

⑩ No disk space left for the List: every available byte has been taken by images of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet colliding with Jupiter.

⑨ The List was struck by lightning during recent thunderstorm.

⑧ I don't have an expense account number for it.

⑦ I'm using my spare time to follow the Quebec election campaign instead.

⑥ I can't find Top Ten List manpage.

⑤ The careful balance between lab space, desk space and Top Ten List space has been upset by new Indy workstations.

④ I'm on strike until the receipt of my IRIS conference travel expenses.

③ All the words became unreadable when I tried to laminate the List.

② New McGill security rule: no bicycles or Top Ten Lists allowed indoors.

① Two words: vacation fever!

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie

CIM LIBRARY QUESTIONNAIRE

The total time required to complete this questionnaire by our test chimpanzee was four minutes. Do not be alarmed if it takes you any longer, he was a pretty smart chimpanzee.

1- How do you think the library can serve you?

2- How do you think the library material should be organized?

3- Are you currently submitting any periodicals to the library? If so, which ones?

4- Do you think the lab library should have a copy of recent relevant conferences proceedings? If so, which ones?

5- We are currently receiving the following journals, we would like to know how many people are interested in them, please check appropriate item:

- Nature
- Science
- Behavioural and Brain Sciences
- Perception
- Mechanism and Machine Theory
- Robotica
- Systems and Control Letters

6- Here are some periodicals whose subscriptions may have expired. Again, please check those items of interest:

- IEEE Trans. on Automatic Control
- SIAM Journal of Control and Optimization
- Int. Journal of Robotics Research
- IEEE Trans. on Robotics and Automation
- Int. Journal of Robotics and Automation
- Journal of Robotic Systems

7- Are there other periodicals of interest to you that you feel the lab should subscribe to?

8- What is the most important improvement that could be made which could contribute to your increased utility of the library? Please mention any suggestions.

Please return to Janet Burghardt in room 406.