



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

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Newsletter

Laboratory renovations

As most of you have noticed, there have been some major shifts in laboratory real estate at CIM. Under of the command of Major Ferrie, the 3D Vision battalion is now occupying room 444, with a force of SGI workstations working along side the Gantry and Puma robots. Across the hall in the ocean-blue camouflaged room 438, General Zucker and the Biological Vision Division has entrenched itself with its squad of SUN workstations. Major Papadopoulos, Colonel Hayward, and General Angeles have signed a peace treaty and now share the resources of room 418. Here a brigade of peace-keeping workstations has been stationed alongside the many robots on control and mechanical engineering research detail. The balance of power is being held by rumours of a top-secret SARCOS robot which is reportedly arriving soon -- officials neither confirm nor deny these allegations. Along the northern border, Major Dudek and Field Marshall Levine have assembled a crack-squad of Navy-Seal engineers in room 416 to develop a variety of sensors for use by mobile robot platforms. Half of this area has been set aside as a training ground for these mobile robots to develop skills in cooperative surveillance and intelligence gathering. Occasionally there may be reports of mobile robot reconnaissance into the main computer room in 414.

Don't forget that in spite of their territorial affiliations, all CIM computers are available for use by everyone (well, there's one exception, but that's highly classified) except during demos or during specific experiments or missions. So if nothing is going on in the lab, feel free to log yourself on and get to work. If you encounter any problems when trying to get access to the workstations, please report to Military Police Captain Janet Burghardt (jmb@cim) and she will

assist you on your mission to secure access to a workstation.

*Submitted by ... Private? Corporal? Klingon?
Mackenzie*

Update on Mosaic and CIMweb

By Popular Demand...

Most of you are aware of the photo session that was held a few weeks ago in an attempt to get pictures of everyone for the CIM Home page on Mosaic. To those of you who showed up, thank you for your time. For those of you who didn't - hey where were ya??

It seems that quite a few people were unable to make it last time. Therefore we have decided to hold another photo session on Wednesday, March 15th, from 11:00 - 13:00 in the mobile robotics lab, 416. Hope to see you there.

Other news on the CIM web front...

Prof. Greg Dudek has agreed to direct the CIMweb effort and oversee the format and content of the information posted on the web. As a reminder, the members of the CIMweb team are Benoit Dubuc, Thierry Baron, and Nigel Ayoung-Chee.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Hats off to...

Professor George Zames who has been awarded the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Prize for 1995 by the Canada Council. (This is not to be confused with the Killam Fellowship which, it so happens, he also received from 1984-86). There are three annual Killam Prizes to honour distinguished

career contributions to any of the fields of the natural sciences, engineering or health sciences. Each Prize is valued at \$50,000. A special presentation ceremony will be held in Ottawa early in May.

☞ **CIM's own Kadima Lonji**, whose photo graced page 2 of the February 27th issue of *Time* magazine. Kadima won first prize in a contest of over 2500 entrants that involved identifying the names of world newsmakers from their cartoon caricatures. He correctly named all 131 caricatures, a far cry from the second place finish who named 117. In addition to his picture in the magazine, Kadima will receive an all-expenses-paid trip for two to New York City, where he will tour Time Magazine headquarters and no doubt tell them heaps of good things about CIM. Go get'em, Kadima!

☞ **Gal Sela** just submitted his thesis entitled '*Real-time attention for robotic vision*'. He will be staying at CIM as a research engineer with Prof. Levine until the end of August. After that he says his life is in limbo - maybe work, maybe back to school - time will tell.

☞ **Joey Mennitto** submitted his Master's thesis on March 2; titled '*Compliant Articulated Robot Leg With Antagonistic LADD Actuation*'. It's a mouthful to say. He's presently looking for a job, hopefully in automotive racing. Maybe Europe? He has promised to let us know.

☞ **Success at last! Anna Lin** has completed her Master's Degree requirements and would like to thank all her friends at the lab for their support and friendship. The title of her thesis is '*Visual Collision Detection for a Mobile Robot*'. Anna says 'Yes, I haven't forgotten the promised potluck, and no, I won't abandon you, CIM choir folks!'

☞ **Nadim El-Fata**, alias zick, sent us this news: "Well after Prof. Hollerbach's move to Salt Lake City, Utah, to work at the University of Utah and as a consultant for Sarcos Research Corporation (SRC), he asked us (the people in the ARL lab) if we were interested in working for SRC since it is a new and fast growing company in robotics. I applied and I was flown there for a day for an interview. I am now preparing to start my robotics career in Salt Lake. One interesting comment mentioned by my interviewers was the take over of their company by McGill students! Prof. Hollerbach's students are working there now and since I will be there soon they're intending to call the robotics department: Robotics McGill :)." Good luck Nadim!

New faces:

☞ **Thomas Lee**, is doing his Masters under the supervision of Prof. Michalska. He is originally from Taiwan but did his undergrad here at McGill. His goals at the moment are simply to finish his M.Eng and get a job.

☞ **Efstathios Hadjidemetriou**, his friends just call him Stathis, has just graduated from the EE program at McGill. He has started his masters degree this semester, under Prof. Ferrie's supervision, in computer vision which he finds an interesting multidisciplinary field. He is an international student from Cyprus, an island in eastern Mediterranean. He enjoys swimming (and is glad to have a big pool at the gym), soccer, and listening to music. His office is in room 444, and his email address is stathis@cim.

☞ **Madhu Sethi** is an M.Sc. student working with Greg Dudek. Her thesis is in computer graphics - she'll be modelling clouds. She is collaborating with a professor in the meteorology dept. for this project.

☞ **Romney Ng** (Rom for short) finished his B.Eng in McGill recently and is now in Control Systems under Prof. Michalska. He is originally from Hong Kong and his family currently lives in Toronto.

☞ **P**ierre-Jules Tremblay (to differentiate him from the former CIM student named Pierre Tremblay, with whom many have confused him) is also a graduate in Electrical Engineering from McGill presently working with Frank Ferrie's research group. His research topic is not final yet but he expects to hang out in the new Vision lab quite a bit in the near future.

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)

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Kathleen VanderNoot

③ To validate your amazing new control or vision theories, you use lines like: "proof of this algorithm is left as an exercise for the reader."

② The conclusions of your thesis basically read as: "...and so we can see that this approach offers a complete solution, except only for those cases where it does not."

① Somebody actually read those papers you plagiarized.

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie

CIM TOP TEN

Top 10 Signs You're Not Going To Make the Dean's Honour List

⑩ The word "reject" appears more than 5 times in your thesis evaluation.

⑨ Item #10 was referring to you personally as well as to your thesis.

⑧ You still think computer vision means wearing funky sunglasses with a Microsoft logo.

⑦ You forgot to erase the line "...and I finished this thesis in spite of my annoying supervisor" that you put in your acknowledgements as a joke.

⑥ You use Mr. Spock for every example image in your thesis and try to justify it with claims of financial support from the Vulcan Science Academy.

⑤ "You mean all those courses had exams??"

④ The only reference in your thesis is Coles Notes for Computer Vision.