



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

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Newsletter

Ottawa Ceremony for Killam Prize Awarded to Prof. G. Zames

On Tuesday, May 16th, Peter Caines, Michael Glaum, Jennifer Quinn and I left for Ottawa to attend the Killam Prize 1995 presentation. This year our own Prof. George Zames was one of the recipients. The award was presented by His Excellency the Right Honourable Roméo Leblanc, Governor General of Canada, in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Canada.

The Killam Prizes are Canada's most distinguished annual awards given in recognition in any of the disciplines in the natural sciences, health sciences and engineering.

It was a very memorable experience. We all sat there proudly, knowing that this recognition was so richly deserved. The setting was breathtaking. The awards ceremony was followed by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Ottawa was at it's best glowing in the sun and the tulip festival beginning the next day.

Michael was the official driver and did a good job. Peter was the official photographer, as you can see, and Jennifer and I were the official party women.

Submitted by Mindle Levitt



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The CIM offices and all McGill University offices will be closed for La Fête Nationale Holiday on Friday, June 23 and for Canada Day on Friday, June 30. The University will also be closed on Monday, June 26 and Monday, July 3 but the CIM offices will remain open.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Hats off to...

At the Vision Interface '95 Meeting in Quebec City the judges were faced with a dilemma, so they gave the Best Paper Award to both **Benoît Dubuc** and **James Elder** for the following papers: Dubuc, B., and Zucker, S.W., "La carte de complexité et son impact sur le choix de représentation"; and Elder, J., and Zucker, S.W., "Scale-space surfaces and blur estimation". Congratulations to both of you!

Michael Glaum and Hamid Dokht Taghirad were the recipients of the J.W. McConnell Memorial Fellowships for 1995-96. Our congratulations and best wishes to both of you.

Good bye to:

On May 12, Jimmy Wang left the Centre to join other ex-CIMites at BNR in Ottawa and a week later Chi Zhang went off to Toronto to work at ISG. Good luck to both of you!

☞ **Kadima** Lonji is leaving CIM June 11 to try his luck at professional soccer in Belgium. Good luck Kadima!!

Wedding bells ...

☞ **A** double CIM wedding announcement: Leslie Daigle and Charles Snow have announced plans for their upcoming July wedding. Charles hopes to defend his PhD thesis by December and Leslie is presently working for Bunyip while continuing her thesis research. Our best wishes to you both!

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

Reminder - Use of CIM facilities

Please remember: if anyone outside the University would like to use the CIM facilities, they must be charged a fee which is credited to CIM. The charge will be determined by the amount of time spent at CIM and the type of work being done. Also, if "insiders" use the facilities for private consulting or contract work, CIM must be compensated.

CIMbernetics softball schedule

Fri. June 16	vs Sublimators (this game will probably be rescheduled due to the IRIS conference)
Thur. June 29	vs The Uncountables
Mon. July 10	vs The Communicators
Thur. July 20	vs Snafu
Fri. August 4	vs Snafu (again!)

Music lovers' alert!

MODULATION, a women's chorale of twenty singers (including Anna Lin), will be performing a program of Music of the Americas (with brass, piano):

When: Saturday, June 10th, 8pm

Where: Salle Marie-Stephane, Vincent d'Indy Music School, 628 Cote Ste-Catherine, Outremont (Metro Edouard Montpetit). Tickets: \$15/\$7

Looking for a console? Read on...

Finding a console at McConnell at peak hours to run your simulation, write a paper or read e-mail should be a lot easier these days. Four additional workstations have been installed in Room 435. Three of them: Venus and Aphrodite SparcStations ELC and Athos SparcStation SLC, came from our satellite facility in 2020, where they suffered considerable under-usage, and no doubt will get a break only at night in Room 435. The fourth one, Davinci had it's CPU board repaired and resumed service at the end of May. Presently, there are ten Sun workstations in Room 435, including two with colour monitors.

From the "Once Upon a Time" department

A Software Engineer, a Hardware Engineer and a Departmental Manager were on their way to a meeting in Switzerland. They were driving down a steep mountain road when suddenly the brakes on their car failed. The car careened almost out of control down the road, bouncing off the crash barriers, until it miraculously ground to a halt, scraping along the mountainside. The car's occupants, shaken but unhurt, now had a problem: they were stuck halfway down a mountain in a car with no brakes. What were they to do?

"I know", said the Departmental Manager, "Let's have a meeting, propose a Vision, formulate a Mission Statement, define some Goals, and by a process of Continuous Improvement find a solution to the Critical Problems, and we can be on our way."

"No, no", said the Hardware Engineer, "That will take far too long, and besides, that method has never worked before. I've got my Swiss Army knife with me, and in no time at all I can strip down the car's braking system, isolate the fault, fix it, and we can be on our way."

"Well", said the Software Engineer, "Before we do anything, I think we should push the car back up the road and see if it happens again."

An engineer, a physicist, and a mathematician were at this very same conference in Switzerland. All three were heavy smokers, and unfortunately, this was in the days before flame-retardant materials, and the chalet they were staying in was largely constructed out of wood.

The engineer fell asleep with a cigarette still lit, and awoke a couple of hours later to find flames freely leaping about his room. He ran into the bathroom, filled every bucket and glass he could see with water, and spent a vigorous half hour throwing water about his room. He put the fire out. And filled the basement with half an inch of water. He returned to his bed, satisfied with his solution.

The very same night, the physicist left his pipe burning as he slept. He awoke to discover his room an inferno. He whipped out a pad of paper and pencil, and spent a frantic five minutes of scribbling. He ran into the bathroom, filled a glass half full of water, ran back into the room, threw the glass at a precise location in the room, and within minutes, the fire was out. He returned to his bed, also satisfied with his solution.

That very same night, the mathematician's cigar set fire to his bedspread. The mathematician watched the fire with interest. He then spent half an hour scribbling in a book. He strolled into the bathroom, filled a glass full of water. He pulled out a book of matches, struck one, and plunged it into the glass. The flame was extinguished. He cried, "Ah ha, a solution exists", and retired to his blazing bed, satisfied with the evening's work.

Submitted (but not written by) Paul MacKenzie and Nick Roy

CIM TOP TEN

Top Ten Signs You Might Be A Bit Too Stressed Out

- ⑩ You're making an IRIS conference poster of your research.
 - ⑨ You're making an IRIS conference video of your research.
 - ⑧ You're editing an IRIS conference video of EVERYBODY'S research.
 - ⑦ You notice you're eating more food than Paul MacKenzie.
 - ⑥ When you log on to a workstation and see a reflection of your face in the monitor, you scream "Oh my God, they've found me!" and bolt from the room.
 - ⑤ While waiting for your program to compile, you find yourself spinning on your swivel chair singing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".
 - ④ Your stress-relieving increase in coffee consumption prompts a thank you phone call from Juan Valdez.
 - ③ When an unexpected window pops up on your screen, you leap back and yell, "COVER!!" and proceed to hide under the nearest table.
 - ② You come into the robotics lab in the middle of the afternoon and actually expect to see an available workstation.
 - ① You discover you've been chewing on your keyboard.
- Submitted from the home office near the SARCOS oil fields....*