



# McGill

C e n t r e f o r

## Intelligent Machines

---

Volume 9, Number 9, September, 1995

---

---

# Newsletter

---

## CIM Open House follow-up

The CIM Open House was a success, thanks to all who participated. 140 visitors attended, several from Japan, others from Australia, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, England, USA, Mexico, and, of course, Canada. I think you'll be happy to hear that, as they were leaving, many visitors came by to tell me how impressed they were.

Special thanks to Tal for being in two places at the same time, Tanya for being all over the place (yet always there when we needed her) and to Kathleen for all her help. Of course, this event would not have been successful without all you demo people doing such a great job. Demos were presented by: Gilbert Soucy, Tal Arbel, Stephen Benoit, Franco Callari, Peter Whaite, Michel Doyon, Luc Joly, Ferhan Bulca, Noga Arenson, Carlos Martinez-Mascarua, Paul Mackenzie, Nicholas Roy, John Zelek, Thierry Baron, Gal Sela, Don Bui, Michael Galler, Charles Snow, Mojtaba Ahmadi, Robert Sims, Eric Martin, Ali Moosavian, Yuanyun Wei, Martin Buehler, Peter Caines, Greg Dudek, Al Malowany, and many others who were not on the list but who participated as well. Thank you and congratulations!

If you have any ideas for improving the organization of future visits, please don't hesitate to send me (Janet) your comments at <jmb>. Thanks.

---

## CIM to honour Prof. G. Zames

Yes, it's official! We have finally set a date for the CIM Wine & Cheese Party in honour of Prof. George Zames who was awarded the Killam Prize last May (see May & August Newsletters for information). The reception will be held on Wed, Sept. 27 at 3:30 in Room 437. Please join us!

## CIM Welcome Back Breakfast & Orientation for new students

There will be a breakfast get together for all CIM students, staff and faculty on Tuesday Sept. 12 at 9:00 in Room 437 to catch up on the summer news, welcome back familiar faces and greet the newcomers to the Centre. At 9:30 there will be an Orientation Meeting for all the new students. This will be an opportunity for new students to find out about CIM and meet fellow students. Please RSVP for breakfast to <jmb> before Sept. 11. Hope to see you there.

---

## Thompson House Welcome Week

For your information, an Open House for all new and returning students will be held from Sept 8 - 13. See last page for schedule of events, and have fun!

---

## Courses and Timetables

The latest victim of the recession is the McGill Timetable. The Booklet will now be sold at the Bookstore and at other locations on campus for a price of \$1.00. However, timetable information can be accessed through *InfoMcGill*, which is updated twice weekly, and can be used without charge on a large number of terminals throughout the University.

Please note that the "*Recommended Courses for CIM Students*" is also available on our own Mosaic pages. For info on how to access these, please contact any member of the Web Tiger Team <ayoung>, <baron> or <benoit>.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Prof. Jorge Angeles has undertaken the role of Acting Director of CIM (starting this month) while Prof. Levine is on sabbatical.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Welcome to...

You may have noticed a new face around the Centre, but seeming somewhat familiar. Brian Romanchuk has returned to McGill after completing a Ph.D. degree in sunny Cambridge, England. He has now taken up a visiting assistant professorial position, and teaching 304-501. When asked about research interests, he usually mumbles something about nonlinear control theory. His office will be upstairs in 510.

Tanya Adamsson told us she came from the wonderful island of Cape Breton. She obtained her undergraduate degree (B.A. in Computing Science) at St. Francis Xavier University (affectionately known as 'X') in Antigonish Nova Scotia. Tanya has been around most of the summer (since June) and is now starting her work with Steve Zucker. Tanya has already shown us her CIM spirit when she volunteered to help with the open house (and was a great asset to us)!

Christos Magdalinos, who comes from sunny Greece, is working on his Masters thesis in the speech lab under the supervision of Prof. De Mori. He says that he is a member of UFAT [United Front Against Technology] and that explains why he is working on an IBM RS6000: ) He invites you to drop by MC412 to meet him for 'mathematical proof' that he's a 'crazy guy'.

Nicholas Roy is at a loss for how to describe himself for this newsletter. He says details like his hometown of Vancouver, or his department of origin up the hill at Physics, seem irrelevant, compared to the scintillating wit of Paul Mackenzie's top ten lists. He invites people to come

visit him in the Mobile Robotics Lab. Listen for the Aerosmith .aiff files...

Iyad Abdul-Baki graduated from mechanical engineering at McGill last June. After having a fruitful summer, he is starting a masters degree with Martin Buehler. He says he doesn't know many people at CIM yet, and is looking forward to meeting the group. Aside from school life, he likes swimming and skating (although he doesn't know how to stop yet!). He can be found in room 411 and his email address is iyad@cim.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Good bye to...(well, not really)

Having performed extensive studies on the effects of sleep, light, and oxygen deprivation while sitting in front of an electron gun, Michael Kelly is happy to announce that the findings of this work have been presented as part of a recently submitted PhD thesis entitled "*Annular Symmetry Operators: A Multiscalar Framework for Locating and Describing Imaged Objects*". The study has been ongoing for nearly six years, and he felt that enough data had been acquired!

So what's next? Well, first there is the small issue of a defence in early September. At the same time, he will be starting to teach Prof. Levine's image processing course. As a result he will likely be hanging around the centre - at least for the fall term (yes, CIM is a nice place to work - so why leave?). At the same time he will be writing some papers and working as a consultant on several industrial contracts. Congratulations, Michael!

This word from Gal Sela: "To those of you that were distressed over the possibility of me leaving - a reprieve! You will still find me wandering the hallowed halls of CIM, at least for the next little while. As for the long term ...". We'll stay tuned, Gal...

## Second call for all singers and would-be singers

Want to sing but don't know where to go or could never find the time? Want to sing, but were always too shy, or were always told you had no voice, or always thought you couldn't, or never had the opportunity? Want to sing with your friends from CIM, but never thought they would go for it? Here's the answer to all your hopes and dreams - the CIM Choir!

Come join us for fun, relaxed sessions of music-making every week. The aim of the choir is to help people learn about and develop their voices in a friendly, non-judgmental environment, and at the same time learn new songs and music. No experience necessary, only enthusiasm and a positive attitude required. When: Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.

Where: CIM Seminar Room, MC437

For more info: Anna Lin at [anlin@cim.mcgill.ca](mailto:anlin@cim.mcgill.ca)



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](mailto:jmb@cim.mcgill.ca))

Associate Editors: Paul Mackenzie  
Kathleen VanderNoot

## CIM TOP TEN

*From the Virtual Home Office on someone's WWW Home Page...*

### Top Ten Fun Things to do in a Crowded Elevator

⑩ Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering: "Shut up, dammit, all of you just SHUT UP!"

⑨ Stare at another passenger for a while, then announce "You're one of THEM!" and move to the far corner of the elevator.

⑧ Meow occasionally.

⑦ Offer name tags to everyone getting on the elevator. Wear yours upside-down.

⑥ Greet everyone getting on the elevator with a warm handshake and ask them to call you Admiral.

⑤ Announce in a demonic voice: "Hmmm, I must find a more suitable host body."

④ Stare, grinning, at another passenger for a while, and then announce: "I've got new socks on!"

③ Say "I wonder what these do" and push all the buttons.

② Listen to the elevator walls with a stethoscope.

① At each floor the elevator stops, shout "Ding!"

*Submitted by Paul Mackenzie*

# Welcome Week 1995 / Portes ouvertes 1995

THOMSON HOUSE, 3650 McTAVISH, 398-3756

## Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> / vendredi 8 septembre 1995

11:30 am - 2 pm / 11h30 - 14h00.

Lunch at Thomson House restaurant (lowest level). Complementary sampling of our deserts.  
*Dîner au restaurant Thomson House (niveau le plus bas). Dégustation de desserts gratuite.*

3 pm - 5 pm / 15h00 - 17h00.

Special Location / *Endroit extraordinaire*: Moyse Hall (Arts Building - flag on top/*drapeau au sommet*)  
Orientation for new graduate students. Find out useful information about McGill, student services, TA union, computer access, libraries, Thomson House etc. *Session d'information pour les nouv(elles)eaux étudiant(e)s. Les informations importantes au sujet de McGill, les services aux étudiants, le syndicat des charges de cours, l'accès aux ordinateurs, les bibliothèques, etc.*

5 pm - 10 pm / 17h00 - 22h00.

The Happiest of all Hours (check out the specials at the bar)  
*Les heures les plus joyeuses (regardez les spéciaux au comptoir)*

6 pm - 9 pm / 18h00 - 21h00.

Supper at Thomson House restaurant. A complementary beverage with an à la carte choice.  
*Souper au restaurant Thomson House. Une boisson gratuite avec un choix à la carte.*

10 pm - 3 am / 22h00 - 3h00.

Friday night dance in the upstairs ballroom. Meet fellow graduate students.  
*La danse du vendredi soir à la salle de bal. Rencontrez les étudiant(e)s.*

## Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> / samedi 9 septembre 1995

2 pm - 5 pm / 14h00 - 17h00.

Pick-up Softball. Meet on steps of Thomson House.  
*Balle molle. Réunion à la porte du Thomson House.*

8 pm - 2 am / 20h00 - 02h00.

Games open house. (Trivial pursuit, chess, scrabble, go, risk, monopoly, etc.)  
*La soirée des jeux. (Aspects de piège, échec, scrabble, go, risque, monopoly, etc.)*

## Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> / lundi 11 septembre 1995

11:30 am - 2 pm / 11h30 - 14h00.

Lunch at Thomson House restaurant (lowest level). Complementary sampling of our deserts.  
*Dîner au restaurant Thomson House (niveau le plus bas). Dégustation de desserts gratuite.*

4 pm - 9 pm / 16h00 - 21h00.

Welcoming Wine & Cheese reception in the ballroom. Chancellor Chambers, Principal Shapiro, Deans Belanger and Jukier will address the new and returning students. *Réception "vin et fromage" à la salle de bal. La Chancellor Chambers, le Principal Shapiro, les doyens Belanger et Jukier vont s'adresser aux étudiants.*

## Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> / mardi 12 Septembre 1995

11:30 am - 2 pm / 11h30 - 14h00.

Lunch at Thomson House restaurant (lowest level). Complementary sampling of our deserts.  
*Dîner au restaurant Thomson House (niveau le plus bas). Dégustation de desserts gratuite.*

afternoon and evening / *l'après-midi et le soir*

Tours of the campus, downtown, Old Montreal, McAuslan microbrewery. Phone the House to sign up!  
*Tours du campus, du centre-ville, du Vieux Montréal, de la brasserie McAuslan. Téléphonez Thomson House pour vous inscrire!*

6 pm and 9:30 pm / 18h00 et 21h30.

Free Thomson House Movies in the ballroom. *Les films Thomson House gratuits à la salle de bal.*  
This week / *cette semaine*: "Forget Paris" with Billy Crystal.

## Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> / mercredi 13 septembre 1995

11:30 am - 2 pm / 11h30 - 14h00.

Lunch at Thomson House restaurant (lowest level). Complementary sampling of our deserts.  
*Dîner au restaurant Thomson House (niveau le plus bas). Dégustation de desserts gratuite.*

4 pm - 8 pm / 16h00 - 20h00.

Special Location / *Endroit extraordinaire*: Lower Campus (if it rains/*s'il pleut* - Shatner Ballroom - 3480 McTavish). Clubs and Activities Night. *Le soir des clubs et des activités.*

6 pm and 9:30 pm / 18h00 et 21h30.

Free Thomson House Movies in the ballroom. *Les films Thomson House gratuits à la salle de bal.*  
This week / *cette semaine*: "Forget Paris" with Billy Crystal.