



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

Newsletter

The date is only two weeks away!! You must all know this by now but it will be repeated one last time. CIM will be present in the Engineering tent on Main Street as well as hosting tours on regular intervals during the three days. The Centre will be open to visitors of all ages and all walks of life. Here is the schedule for the event:

Thursday, Sept. 19	14h00 - 20h00
Preparations for the tent display and the labs for the demos	
Friday, Sept. 20	9h00 - 18h00
Open House for the public and Students Day	
Saturday, Sept. 21	9h00 - 18h00
Open House for the public	
Sunday, Sept. 22	9h00 - 17h00
Open House for the public	
Sunday, Sept. 22	17h00 - 20h00
Dismantlement of everything	

For this... CIM needs you !!!

For the preparations, we need people to help prepare the labs for the demos and set up the display in the outside tent. For the Open House, we need people for the actual demos, others to escort the groups through the CIM tour and finally others would be in the tent to present videos and a demo.

Think about what you want to do. The more volunteers we get, the less work you will have to do. Otherwise we will have to exploit the few brave souls, who will have volunteered, until they drop!! If you have any time available, even if it is only an hour here and there please send an email ASAP to <manager> telling when and what you are willing to do, and if you understand and speak French.

There will be a meeting regarding all of this on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 14h00. Please be at the meeting because we need you!



Participants needed now !

A Souvenir from McGill's 175th Anniversary Open House

Did you guys know that most of the research groups in Face Recognition all over the world have their own face databases (and of course their preferred ways to do Face Recognition)? Take a look at the Face Recognition Home Page (www.cs.rug.nl/~peterkr/FACE/face.html) and you'll find:

MIT face database
Leiden University 19th century portrait database
The Olivetti Research laboratory face database
University of Bern face database
CMU test images for face detection, and so on.

We're sure you all know about Prof. Levine and his students' research interests in Face Recognition: Tony Jebara (he left for MIT), Ziad Hafed (honor's student), Maria Ignatova (SOCS student), and Diana Hernandez who both just joined the team.

Well, we'd like to invite you to McGill's 175th Anniversary Open House coming soon and tempt you to contribute in the collection of McGill's CIM face database.

Ziad and Maria will be setting up some equipment so that two types of pictures can be taken:

1) a set of several pictures of the same person, constrained to different head posture, light illumination, facial expression, and scale. Ziad already got excellent results in recognizing faces of the Achermann database (University of Bern) which is constrained to simple lighting and background conditions. He is now going to extend this work to cover more variations in human faces and eventually come up with a robust face recognition system.

2) images containing faces (no constraints here - just be creative! - the only requirement is to make sure your face is somewhere on that picture while you may be jumping, singing, dancing, ... or whatever) Maria is going to pick up at the point of localizing a face in a cluttered scene like that, while Diana would want to search such images (frames in a video database) for faces.

So, where does the souvenir part fit in? We know it's promising enough to get famous as part of the database (eventually), but just in case it takes us longer than we expect :-), you'll get a printout of your contribution, a souvenir, as a reminder of the "age of innocence", when things looked just so promising!

See you there!

Submitted by Ziad Hafed and Maria Ignatova

NEWS AND EVENTS

➡ **CIM has a new member**



Welcome to Jim Clark

I am joining the Department of EE and the Center for Intelligent Machines as of September 1st as an Associate Professor. For the last two years I have been at the Nissan Cambridge Basic Research lab studying visual attention and eye movements, and visual memory. Before that I spent 9 years as a faculty member in the Division of Applied Sciences at Harvard University, where I was an Associate Professor. I have also spent a sabbatical at Caltech. I obtained my bachelor's and PhD degree in EE from UBC. I was born and raised in Vancouver. My research interests are in computational vision, especially "active vision" and in analog "smart sensor" design. This term I am teaching a graduate course on the topic of smart sensors. This meets Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 in the McDonald Engineering building room 497.

Submitted by Jim Clark

We will have more on Jim Clark next month.

Hats off to ...



 I have submitted my PhD thesis in early July and will be having my defense on Sept. 11. My thesis title is 'SPOTT: A Real-time, Distributed and Scalable Architecture for Autonomous Mobile Robot Control'. My wife (Laura) and I are moving to Stratford Ontario. We have found a place and have moved on Labor day weekend. Laura is starting her PhD in Urban Planning at Waterloo. I have a couple of offers and have not decided exactly what I will be doing. If anyone is in the Stratford area for the festival let us know. Also, I will let you know our new address, and my new employer in the next newsletter when things calm down. We will be coming back to Montreal during the week of my defense (obviously).

Submitted by John S. Zelek

Thank you to ...

Have you ever noticed that every time someone needs help and asks for **volunteers**, you have some. This is what makes CIM a big family: mutual aid. It's marvelous.

Last Friday, August 30, Kathleen needed some help to move boxes and furniture because the carpets were being cleaned over the week-end. Thanks to **Iyad, Farhad and Eric** for helping even if it was a Friday afternoon. On Tuesday, September 3, Mindle and I needed some help to move Mindle in her new office in 404. Thanks to **Marc, Gilbert, Thierry, Ahmed and Pierre**, it was done quickly.

Last Wednesday morning, I discovered that 4 offices were flooded. Immediately, **everyone available** pitched in to move everything that was on the floor of those offices.

Again from everyone who ever needed help: millions of thanks to all who ever answered a call for help!

Submitted by Louise Cl  roux

Articles & ideas are welcome. Please send them by e-mail to the editor. Deadline for publication is the 5th of every month.

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