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Editor's rant

Welcome to the fourth edition of Innovation News. Things have been busy hence the long wait since the last newsletter, but this issue should give you some of the highlights of what we have been up to...

But first, some creative humour: The following is a question given on the University of Washington chemistry mid-term. The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet.

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different Religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can therefore project that all souls will go to Hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until "all Hell breaks loose".
2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until "Hell freezes over".

So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year, "it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you", and take into account the fact that I slept with her last night, then number 2 must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over.

The corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is therefore, extinct...leaving only Heaven, thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting "Oh my God."

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED THE ONLY "A"!

We look forward to your contributions and suggestions towards this newsletter and wish you the best of success in all your creative endeavors.

Any contributions you wish to make to this newsletter can be e-mailed to olaf.diegel@aut.ac.nz.

Pacific Journalism Review Recognized as a Leading International Journal

The Pacific Journalism Review has been ranked in the latest Australian Research Council rankings of academic journals. This is great news for AUT and the Pacific Media Centre as no other NZ journals in the same category are ranked. The top ranked journalism journals are:

A+

- Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly (USA)
- Journalism (UK)

A

- Australian Journalism Review (Australia)
- Journalism Studies (UK)
- Media International Australia (Australia)

B

- Pacific Journalism Review (NZ)
- Australian Studies in Journalism (Aust.)
- Journalism Practice (UK)

C

- Asia-Pacific Media-Educator (Australia)

Centre for Performance Research Launch

On May 28th 2008 the Centre for Performance Research had its official launch.

The purpose of this Centre is to promote research into the broad field of performance, understanding this term to cover a manifold of practices that rest on the interaction between human and humanlike agents and modes of practice within the performing arts. The Centre encourages multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and seeks to create strategic alliances between academic, practitioner and industry stakeholders in the areas of creative organizations, art practices and new media theory and practice.

AUT School of Health Care Practice gets the T+DL treatment

The AUT's School of Health Care Practice recently commissioned Graphic Designer, Sarah Spence, to design a collection of 'sails' to depict the School's shared values in its reception area at the Akoranga Campus on Auckland's North Shore. Sarah, in turn, asked the T+DL to digitally print the designs, which reflect the AUT's multi-cultural student and staff base, as well as its locale. The imagery was developed from Auckland's landscapes: the ocean, the flora and the fauna.



One of the printed sails that adorn the offices of the School of Health Care Practice

CoLab Receives Encouraging and Supporting innovation Grant

CoLab recently received a Tertiary Education Commission Encouraging and Supporting Innovation grant of 1.6million dollars.

The grant will enable CoLab to become established as a community of enquiry and a physical meeting-ground for creative expression, new media industries and transdisciplinary educators. The government's Digital Strategy recognizes that new thinking is required to drive complementary innovative changes in society's systems, processes and institutions.

Co-Lab will become a national centre of excellence in the development and use of new technologies for creativity, communication, media industries and cultural expression. The proposal draws on the unique position of AUT's Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies which brings together Schools of Art & Design, Mathematics and Computer Science, Engineering and Communication Studies. It is also supported by the position of MIC Toi Rerehiko as one of New Zealand's leading contemporary creative media and interdisciplinary arts centres.

Read more in our "close-up" on CoLab article...

Creative Industries Research Institute PhD Scholarship

The CIRI PhD scholarship is intended to promote research that involves convergence of several disciplines. While the scholarship encourages research in the application of creativity, it requires research that foregrounds the processes involved in working in the creative industries in an interdisciplinary manner.

The research process may be practice-based though the research proposal must clearly articulate an hypothesis or research question(s).

A key outcome of research undertaken under this scholarship aims at a better understanding of creative and interdisciplinary processes. A further intended outcome is high value multiple-author research outputs.

The closing dates for application is August 29th 2008.

For more information, please visit: http://www.aut.ac.nz/students/student_services/scholarships/current_aut_scholarships/design.htm

AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab wins Award

The AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab won best paper award at the 12th European Rapid Prototyping Symposium.

Prof. Olaf Diegel presented the paper at the conference in Paris in March. The paper was about a case study on applying rapid prototyping methodologies to the product development process in order to increase the innovative outcomes of the project, as well as reducing the time taken in getting a product to market.

This achievement firmly puts AUT on the world map in the area of rapid prototyping.

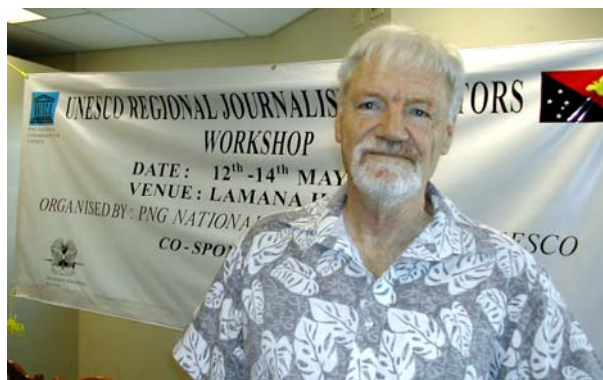


Pacific Media Centre at regional journalism workshop in PNG

Pacific Media Centre director, Associate Professor David Robie, has just returned from a week in Papua New Guinea where he was a resource person for the inaugural UNESCO regional workshop for Pacific Island journalism schools.

The Port Moresby workshop developed a four-year plan for strengthening curricula, resources and teaching and research staff at the seven Pacific journalism schools.

The plan involves low cost radio-in-a-box broadcast stations, development and translation of new textbooks, support for the training newspapers, staff development and the establishment of a Pacific journalism schools web portal in partnership with PMC.



Besides AUT, representatives from the Australian National University, Divine Word University (PNG), Fiji Institute of Technology, University of Papua New Guinea, University of the South Pacific, University of Technology (UPNG), Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and the PNG Media Council, and PNG media industry trainers took part.

CIRI Director Finalist in 2008 NBR Bayer Innovators Awards

Prof Olaf Diegel is a finalist in the Health and Science category of the National Business Review Bayer Innovators Awards. Fingers crossed....



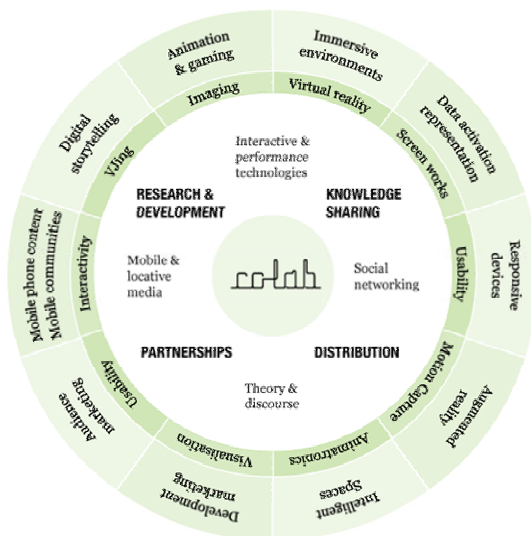
Close-up on CoLab

Founded on a unique partnership between AUT University and MIC Toi Rerehiko, arts and media trust, CoLab is engaged with communication, convergence, creativity, collaboration and communities enabled through new technologies.

CoLab aims to facilitate and promote creative practice, research and development, knowledge sharing, skills transfer and innovation. It will enable the development and public dissemination of hybrid ideas, research and creative practices through innovative formats, modes and networks.

CoLab is a network of partners, facilities, resources, skills and opportunities. It utilises a range of premises, services and expertise from across the two organizations and out into the public sphere. These include a dedicated research space and laboratory at AUT University; access to the MIC performance venue at Galatos, editing suite and MIC gallery; access to workshops and seminar rooms at AUT; a mobile, community-based, digital storey telling laboratory; site

specific, networked and online events; national and international touring programmes.



Research is a key focus within CoLab. Special interest groups are formed around specific research and development areas.

- **Mobile and Locative Media Group:** The Mobile and Locative Media group are focusing on communication and participation through the use of mobile phones, mobile identity, location based systems and remote sensors. Locative media concentrates on social interaction with a place and with technology.
- **Interactive and Performance Technologies Group:** This group is engaged with the exploration of sensor technologies and responsive environments to support performer and audience interaction in live performance and virtual environments.
- **Digital Storytelling and Community Media Practices:** This group is engaged in working with diverse cultural communities including migrant, refugee, Maori, Pacific Island, unions and disabled people to develop and extend cultural and social dialogue facilitated through technology. A mobile storytelling lab enables community access, engagement and experience of digital technology through the creation of new media content reflecting diverse cultural narratives.
- **Wearable Electronics:** Projects are being developed including smart costuming for theatre and gaming interaction and the integration of electronics into clothing solutions for health monitoring. Some work with Arduino lilypad technologies is being developed in association with the Textile and Design Laboratory at AUT.

▪ **Visualisation:** Research in this field includes exploring the potential of new data capturing and processing technologies; the organisation, representation and interaction with complex dynamic data relationships; and processes of knowledge discovery. Modes of conceptualising, organising, outputting, and experiencing data and data relationships using both formal and informal methods of building information structures (using semantic web technologies and open content development systems) to enable greater participation by non experts are also important areas of investigation.

▪ **Realtime 3D:** This group is engaged with the development of interactive Web3D, augmented reality, 3D rendering and real-time algorithms for game engines, pushing the visual boundaries and interactive experience of complex virtual worlds for both real-time and offline domains.

▪ **Public Use of Technology Group:** investigating access, interfaces, social networking, open source and the political and cultural implications of emergent forms of creative and communicative media practice.

For more information on CoLab, contact A. Prof. Charles Walker at charles.walker@aut.ac.nz or visit www.colab.org.nz

Upcoming Seminars & Discussion Forums

Forthcoming Textile & Design Laboratory short courses:

Introduction to Design and Applied Digital Textile Printing

- 5.00 – 7.30 pm commencing Thursday 31st July 2008

Introduction to Knitwear Design

- 5.00–7.00 pm commencing Tuesday 29th July 2008
- 5.00–7.00 pm commencing Tuesday 14 October 2008
- 9.00 – 4.00 pm Tuesday the 16th September 2008

A one day Introduction to Knitwear Design course for AUT Fashion School staff will be held from 9.00 – 4.00 pm on Thursday the 18th of September 2008.

Contributing to Innovation News

This newsletter is yours. Any items of interest you wish to contribute, as well as comments or suggestions, can be sent to olaf.diegel@aut.ac.nz.

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