







In This Issue

-  **Editor's rant**
-  **News and Events**
-  **Upcoming Seminars & Discussion Forums**
-  **Contributing to this Newsletter**



Editor's rant

Welcome to the May 2009 edition of Innovation News. In this edition's rant, as we begin to prepare for a new deanship in the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies, I express my personal thoughts about the faculty.

To start with the end of the argument, just imagine the potential if we make it work!

The Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies presents itself to the world as a construct in which art & design, engineering, computing & maths and communications all work together in a seamless interdisciplinary and collaborative manner. Core to the faculty are "design" and the "creative use of technologies" as the catalysts which tie together all these seemingly disparate disciplines.

When travelling abroad and telling academics and industry partners about the faculty, it engenders a tremendous sense of excitement and even a slight tinge of envy. The question that generally immediately follows is "how on earth do you make it work?" And that is a question that, I believe, we are currently in midstream of answering.

When examining our University from a local perspective, and compare ourselves to the other seven universities in New Zealand, the faculty

certainly stands out as a unique selling point that allows us to differentiate our degrees, in a positive way, from the others offered in NZ. This is evidenced by the huge demand for enrolment into the Bachelor of Creative Technologies, our first degree to truly embody the vision of the faculty.

So, back to how we can make it work...

What we now need is to, if not completely remove the silo walls separating our schools and departments, at least lower them to the point where a greater number of educational and research activities can happen across the faculty (and the rest of the university). To achieve this I believe we need a change in mindset.

We have now reached the point where we could quite appropriately paraphrase the words of JFK to "ask not what your faculty can do for you - ask what you can do for your faculty". It's a simple change in our mindset that lets us look at the positive potential of working across disciplines rather than only focussing on the negatively perceived change management required to make it happen. This 'glass is half full' (Ahhh! Aren't clichés useful...) thinking allows us to perceive the faculty as the great tool it can be for creating inter-school collaborations rather than just another overhead in our accountant driven world of profit centres.

The mental shift alone will, of course, not make our faculty work to its full potential, but without it we can pretty much guarantee that it won't. It's a place to start!

Just imagine... Student projects being undertaken by a team comprising an engineer, a designer, a programmer, and a communications specialist... Research being done in teams with people with the right skills drawn from different disciplines... Sounds almost like the real world, does it not?

Just think of the potential if we make it work...

Thoughts or responses related to this diatribe are welcome and will be disseminated in the next issue.

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

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

News and Events

Pacific Media Centre welcomes Asian media pair for media studies

Two Asian journalists, from very diverse backgrounds, have been welcomed into the Pacific Media Centre.



Violet Cho and Wang Nan., Photo: Alan Koon

Wang Nan, 28, from China, and Violet Cho, 25, an indigenous Karen from Burma, will be attached to the centre while they pursue studies at AUT.

Wang is a cultural affairs editor for China Daily.com and is on a semester-long exchange internship.

Her PMC colleague, Cho, who writes for Irrawaddy magazine, is more interested in raising awareness about the challenges of her homeland as well as the Burmese community in New Zealand

Now living in exile because of her activism and "dissident" reporting, Cho is this year's inaugural winner of PMC's Asian Journalism Fellowship. She hopes her BCS (Hons) degree will help her produce more critical media about Burmese issues.

Digital Mirror

Described as '21st century digital media meets Shakespearian theatre', actor Ross Brannigan and his audience explored the potential of interactive theatre technologies at his recent performance titled Holding the Digital Mirror up to Nature. Staged at Galatos as part of the Auckland Fringe Festival this project was supported by CoLab.

In the show Brannigan explored whether digital techniques can sit with Shakespeare's work and questioned the usefulness of these techniques to theatre. During the performance he played the roles of Hamlet, Macbeth, Ariel and Prospero against backdrops of digital projections he created including pre-recorded video of actors

recognisable from Shortland Street, Outrageous Fortune and Lord of the Rings.

For a review of the performance see:

<http://www.theatreview.org.nz/reviews/review.php?id=2056>

New system to maximize usage of AUT Laser cutter established

Unprecedented demand on the laser cutter at the AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab has seen the establishment of a more flexible system to allow students greatest possible access to the machine.

AUT students can now gain access to the facility at any time providing they are accompanied and supervised by any AUT staff member that has been trained to use the facility.

The Lab recently went through several staff training sessions to get as many staff as possible trained up to use the system. Any other staff wishing to get up to speed just need to contact the lab for a training session. Only takes about 30 minutes...

Centre for Rapid Product Development wins New Zealand World Summit Award for Innovative Health Software

A software package developed by the AUT Centre for Rapid Product Development won the Health and Environment category in the New Zealand division of the World Summit Award.



The AUT Centre for Rapid Product Development entered its HealthWorks preventive health monitoring software into the global competition, where it was selected from 50 competitors to represent New Zealand in the Health & Environment category.

NZ World Summit Award (WSA) co-ordinator Jan Bieringa said the technology was a world first and "unique". Bieringa said what made the software special was its user-friendly approach and that "it didn't feel like a piece of medical equipment".

She said the software was developed to promote well-being, prevent illness and offer patients sustainable options.

Developer Olaf Diegel said the software made readings such as blood pressure levels, glucose levels and fluctuations in weight easier to understand for people without medical backgrounds. But Diegel said it was the software's preventive approach which made it stand

out as a breakthrough in medical technology. He said the software was more than "just pretty graphs" and helped the user to "manage" their health, as well as predicting a patient's future risk of heart disease. "Perhaps the evidence would become an incentive for people to quit smoking, for example."

The international WSA will be judged in Delhi and the winners will be showcased in Mexico in June.



The award winning HealthWorks software

Colab gets active: 2008/2009

The first six months of CoLab, inaugurated in August 2008 with the support of the Tertiary Education Commissions ESI fund, saw the first stage of the project roll out phase. While much activity has been 'behind the scenes,' setting up infrastructure, processes, staffing and partnerships, a number of successful projects and events were held in 2008. Among the highlights was the Performing Environments Symposium which included presentations by a number of CoLab members alongside national and international speakers.

Two forums, addressing the uses and potential of Motion Capture technologies, which included CoLab members, and key industry figures and representatives from other research groups including the NZ Institute for Sport and Recreation were held.

Dr Andrew Ensor and CoLab's software developer, Seth Hall ran demo's on Sun SPOT sensors and Sun's Project Wonderland.

Several CoLab members attended ISEA 2008 in Singapore and Co directors Frances Joseph and Deborah Dormer Lawler presented a paper on the development of CoLab.

A number of CoLab supported projects were initiated including James Charlton's work with

data streaming, rapid prototyping and interactive objects, which was exhibited in Project D Form at MIC Gallery in November/ December 2008.

Some key equipment and software purchases have also been made to support CoLab projects and development in 2009.

Maori TV to showcase T+DL technology

Maori TV's 411 Show visited the T+DL last month to interview staff and take footage of the lab's CAD systems, Whole Garment knitwear machines and digital printer. The series was launched in March of this year and covers a variety of technological topics from gaming to gadgets. The series includes an impressive line up of inventors, creatives, entrepreneurs, scientists and researchers from around New Zealand. The show covering the Textile and Design Lab is scheduled to air in September.

Creating new opportunities for merino wool using digital textile printing

Textile & Design Lab Manager, Peter Heslop, presented a paper at the Textile Institute's Natural Fibres in Australasia Conference held at Otago University in Dunedin from the 15th – 17th April. Case studies of some of the work carried out at the T+DL on merino wool products were covered in the presentation. For more visit www.otago.ac.nz/textiles/naturalfibres09/



2008 Fashion Graduate Jill Tu printed her wool collection at the T+DL

MoCap Boot camp

In February a team of ten postgraduate students and CoLab researchers attended a motion capture 'Boot Camp' at Deakin University, Australia.

The boot camp provided a practical grounding in the use of the Motion Analysis system including post-processing and data capture for ongoing projects using Deakin's Motion Lab facilities. Participants were also given an overview of the broader context of motion capture, and its use in the animation and game development industries and in interactive performance.

The boot camp is seen as the first stages in developing motion capture expertise, education facilities at AUT University.



Pacific Media Centre gets new Board

JOHN UTANGA, of Television New Zealand's programme, Tagata Pasifika has been elected chair of the Pacific Media Centre advisory board for 2009. He succeeds co-editor Selwyn Manning, who is also at AUT University this year on a masters programme. The advisory board thanked Selwyn who has served the centre since it began in 2007.

Professor Marilyn Waring of the Institute of Public Policy at AUT and Oceania Media's Innes Logan have also joined the advisory board. PMC's annual report for 2008 is now a public document at: www.pmc.aut.ac.nz



Some of the 2009 Pacific Media Centre members

Injection molder on the way

The AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab has ordered a small TechSoft MiniMolder manual injection molding machine that will allow the Lab to produce molded plastic parts. The machine will be used for research into rapid tooling, and for the delivery of manufacturing content into a number of AUT degrees.

The machine is expected to arrive in early June and will be inaugurated through an advanced manufacturing paper with the Bachelor of Design, Product Design students.

The machine has been funded through consulting revenue made from a software development project undertaken for Auckland City Council.



CruzPro donate X-Y Axis Mechanism to AUT's first original 3D Printing Machine

Local marine equipment company, CruzPro, has donated a complete mechanical X-Y movement assembly to the AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab which will be used to create a proof of concept rapid prototyping machine that can 3D print large scale sculptures out of a light-weight concrete material. Thanks CruzPro!!!



Upcoming Seminars & Discussion Forums

Forthcoming Textile & Design Laboratory courses:

Introduction to Textiles and Apparel

20th – 22nd July 09 Christchurch (3 days)

Design and Applied Digital Textile Printing

Starts 24th September 09 (evenings)

Photoshop for Textile Printing

Starts 30th July 09 (evenings)

For more information on any of the above short courses, please email peter.heslop@aut.ac.nz

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.

Creative Industries Research Institute
Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies
WS117, 34 S^t Paul St, Auckland, NZ
Tel: +64 9 921 9485
Fax: +64 9 921 0421
www.ciri.org.nz