

KMDiary Volume 10: Issue #6—June 2009

The KMDiary is an electronic newsletter for sharing ideas and information of interest to the community of the Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI), a multidisciplinary unit of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. Feel free to post widely, and please leave the KMDI signature for our recognition. Subscribe to the monthly KMDiary [here](#) and unsubscribe with the link at the end of this document.

Current issue and archives also available online as both [pdf and rtf files](#).

We encourage contributions from our members; please forward your submissions to the Editor, Sadie Yancey, at syancey@kmdi.utoronto.ca. The deadline for submissions for the next regular issue (August 2009) is August 15th. Thank you.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



On May 26th, we concluded Part 2 of the KMDI at 13 lecture series. Thank you to the 20 speakers from the KMDI community who took part in 8 events over the spring. I enjoyed each one of them, whether attending in person or online! You can view the full lecture archives, and can download podcasts through the [KMDIat13 website](#).

In September, the series will continue with 5 events in a new location – Faculty of Information's Bissell Building. Part 3 will feature engaging talks from across the KMD space, including inclusive design, human-computer symbiosis, visual thinking, openness, and innovation. We will conclude the 13-event series with a poster session to feature the talent and innovation of the KMDI CP students, as well as the students of our many KMD faculty members. I look forward to seeing you at each of these events.

Congratulations to our recent KMDI graduates Bernie Hogan, Joseph Ferenbok, Jamy Li, James Yoon, and Jenny Lau, whom you can read more about below. We wish you the best in your next steps, and please keep us updated on your activities!

Lastly, I would like to thank Nick Woolridge, Lyssane Lessard, and Peter Coppin for their work on this Springs' KMDI 1002 course, including the production of the Visual Thinking lecture series. Each of the talks approached visual thinking from a different direction, leading into exciting brainstorming sessions after each talk. You can see full archives of these lectures at the [Visual Thinking website](#).

Ron Baecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission deadline September 14, 2009

2009 ORION AWARDS

The ORION Awards recognize Ontario's innovators and champions of advanced technologies in research, teaching and learning. Previous recipients have come from a variety of disciplines and fields but have all been committed to driving innovation and next-generation research and education in Ontario.

Candidates may submit their entries in one of three categories: **Discovery, Learning and Leadership**. You are invited to send your application or nominate a colleague for an ORION Award, and are encouraged to spread the message about the Awards.

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JOB POSTING: RESEARCH ASSISTANT - FACULTY OF INFORMATION, U O R T

Title: Research Assistant

Status: Temporary part time (4 to 6 months)

Research Study: Sense-making and credibility of health information on the social web: A multi-method study assessing tagging and tag clouds

Overview: the successful candidate will prepare and submit REB forms, recruit study participants, administer informed consents, conduct usability testing, perform interviews, assist with data analysis and help prepare a draft manuscript for a SSHRC funded research study investigating the use of tags and tag clouds in an online health message forum.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in the recruitment, management, entry and analysis of data (surveys, interview transcriptions)
- Collaborate with research team on data analysis strategies .
- Prepare draft manuscript for publication and/or presentation

Qualifications

- Masters Degree (Health or Social Sciences), or Bachelor's Degree (B.A./B.Sc.) with relevant research experience
- Knowledge of Internet health communities and Web 2.0 concepts
- Computer skills in Morae, SPSS, NVivo and Microsoft Office
- Technically competent with usability labs and audio-recording devices
- Experience transcribing interviews
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Ability to function as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Knowledge of sense-making and credibility theoretical frameworks anasset
- Publication record an asset

Please submit a cover letter and Curriculum Vitae by email before July 15th, 2009 to: Laura O'Grady, PhD laura.ogrady@utoronto.ca

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY

KMDI STUDENTS PLACE THIRD AT UPA



With generous funding from KMDI and Infonaut Inc., **Phil Lam** and **Daniel Zingaro** were able to attend the International Student Design Competition (ISDC) at UPA2009 in Portland, Oregon. Their project, developed in the KMD1001 Winter 2009 semester, dealt with a social-network-enabled, location-based carpool system.

In the first round of competition, experts reviewed papers submitted by teams of students and seven, including Zingaro and Lam, were accepted to Round 2 in Portland. The KMDI students were then selected as one of the winning teams in Round 2 based on their poster presentation. In the final round, the team placed third, two positions below their goal thanks to some intense remote competition from two excellent submissions from students in Singapore and Seattle.

They would like to thank **Ron Baecker** (KMDI, CS), **Mark Chignell** (KMDI, MIE), and **Danielle Lottridge** (KMDI, MIE); **Matt McPherson** (KMDI, Infonaut and teammate); and **Hazel de Mello** (teammate) for their support in the project.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENT KMDI GRADUATES!



James Yoon completed his MIST/KMD degree in September 2008 with a thesis entitled "Assessing the Relationships Among Aesthetics, Complexity, and Usability in Treemap Visualizations", supervised by Prof. **Stephen Hockema** (Faculty of Information) and Prof. **Mark Kingwell** (Department of Philosophy). He is currently an interaction designer at UT's Adaptive Technology Resource Centre, working on the [Fluid Project](#).



Jamy Li graduated in November 2008 with a Masters degree in Industrial Engineering and KMDI. With Professor **Mark Chignell**, Jamy researched the socialization of robotics and the Internet in both Canada and Japan (with Professor **Michiaki Yasumura** at Keio University). After graduating he attended the United Nations University's Ship for World Youth program and is currently applying his knowledge of user research and design at CIHI, a health informatics organization.



Jenny Lau obtained her degree in Master of Information Studies with Collaborative Program in Knowledge Media Design (KMD) in June 2009. She completed her program with a combination of courses in Library and Information Science, Information Systems, and KMD. She is currently a research coordinator at the Upper Canada College, conducting prospect research.



Bernie Hogan completed his PhD in Sociology under the supervision of **Barry Wellman**. Bernie's dissertation explores the consequences of using many media to maintain connections with personal network members, or the people that matter to someone. Rather than simply providing more convenient access, Bernie demonstrates how "differential accessibility", or the fact that people use many media to different extents, means that media become an individualizing force. Gone is the

phone book, and in its place are person-by-person strategies for maintaining contact. Bernie's dissertation recently was awarded the [Dordick Award](#) for best dissertation from the Communication and Technology section of the International Communication Association.



Joseph Ferenbok completed his PhD in the Faculty of Information in June 2009. Joseph's dissertation discusses the theoretical position of the face as a technology of citizenship, a gateway technology that promises to increasingly serve as the access control apparatus for other forms of information and knowledge media.

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[PSIPHON IN THE NEWS: IRAN'S CYBER-REVOLUTION GETS A HAND FROM CANADA](#)



The Canadian researchers [including **Ron Deibert** (KMDI, Political Science)] behind Psiphon, an online censorship avoidance tool, have begun a massive grassroots campaign to give Iranians access to sites that the Iranian government has gone to great lengths to ban – including Facebook, Iranian opposition sites and international news networks. Psiphon has been “pushing” that content to Iranians, giving them a glimpse of the outside world that has been largely blocked since the elections began. [More.](#)

You can also read more in the [Ottawa Citizen](#) and watch this [CTV video](#).

Source: Globe and Mail, June 18/09



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The [European Mobile Lab for Interactive Artists](#) (e-MobiLArt) includes 14 collaborative interactive installations by 35 international artists. **Nina Czegledy** (KMDI) participated in the project as co-curator as well as an exhibiting artist with an Auerole audio-visual installation. The first e-MobiLArt exhibition took place on May 21-22, 2009 and was formed as part of the 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale (May - September 2009) at the [State Museum of Contemporary Art](#), Thessaloniki, Greece.

On May 26, 2009, Czegledy presented her art work and curatorial projects as part at the [Crosstalk](#) international speaker series in Budapest.

At the [Third Biennial Archives in Canada Conference Series](#) (June 10-12, 2009) at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, an inter-university team presented the panel "Archiving Medicine: The case of Grant's Atlas of Anatomy." Panel members included **Kim Sawchuk** (Communications, Concordia), **Nina Czegledy** (KMDI), **Mel Hogan** (Concordia), **Nancy Marelli** (Archives, Concordia) and **Nicholas Woolridge** (KMDI, BMC).

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Jutta Treviranus (KMDI, FI) and the [Adaptive Technology Research Centre](#) (ATRC) were awarded several large grants this month. Last week, the ATRC was awarded over \$8 million by the

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). This project was one of 16 at U of T recognized with a total of \$76.6 million, the largest-ever CFI investment at U of T. This grant falls into the New Initiatives Fund, designed to enhance Canada's capacity in promising new areas of research and technology development. You can read more about other CFI projects [here](#).

Also this month, Treviranus' ÆGIS Project received \$2,482,260 from the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Program (ORF-RE) program and matching private sector funding from Sun Microsystems, IBM Canada and RIM Technologies. ÆGIS is a European Union-funded collaboration to create a comprehensive accessibility framework for information and communication systems globally. As essential services are increasingly mediated by technology there is an increasing demand for products and services that are accessible to people with disabilities. The ÆGIS Project aims to embed accessibility into emerging information and communications technology. More about ORF-RE at U of T can be found [here](#).



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Gale Moore (KMDI, SOC) gave one of the keynotes at CAAD Futures 2009 held in Montreal, June 17th -19th. The theme of the conference –*Joining Language, Cultures, and Visions* speaks to sharing and collaboration across a number of divides, including those of discipline. Collaborative design is increasingly on the agenda of design faculties. Gale's talk, *Connected Spaces are Social Places* – reflected on the ways in which the disciplines of sociology and design inform each other.

July 1st and 2nd, Gale Moore is participating in a conference in the UK on *Creative Interdisciplinarity in Art & Design Research*. The conference is sponsored by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and her paper *Re(defining) Interdisciplinarity: Re(forming)Universities* will be published in the Interrogations series.

OTHER NEWS

[U.S. OBJECTS TO CHINA'S WEB FILTERING](#)

The Obama administration lodged a formal protest on Wednesday with the Chinese government over its plan to force all computers sold in China to come with software that blocks access to certain Web sites. Chinese officials have said that the filtering software, known as Green Dam-Youth Escort, is meant to block pornography and other "unhealthy information."

In part, the American officials' complaint framed this as a trade issue, objecting to the burden put on computer makers to install the software with little notice. But it also raised broader questions about whether the software would lead to more censorship of the Internet in China and restrict freedom of expression.

"China is putting companies in an untenable position by requiring them, with virtually no public notice, to pre-install software that appears to have broad-based censorship implications and network security issues," Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said in a news release. [More](#).

Source: NY Times June 24/09

[CABLE TV'S BIG WORRY: TAMING THE WEB](#)



Like newspaper owners, media moguls are looking for new ways to protect their investment from the ravages of the Internet. And, as with the newspaper industry, the answer remains elusive.

What is at stake is perhaps the last remaining pillar of the old media business that has not been severely affected by the Internet: cable television. Aware of how print, music and broadcast television have suffered severe business erosion, the chief executives of the major media conglomerates like Time Warner, Viacom and NBC Universal have made protecting cable TV from the ravages of the Internet perhaps their top priority.

“The majority of profits for the big entertainment companies is from cable programming,” said Stephen B. Burke, the president of Comcast, the nation’s largest cable company. The major worry is that if cable networks do not protect the fees from paying subscribers, and offer most programming online at no cost — as newspapers have done — then customers may eventually cancel their cable subscriptions.

One idea, advanced most vocally by Jeffrey L. Bewkes, the chairman of Time Warner, and embraced by many executives, would be to offer cable shows online for no extra charge, provided a viewer is first authenticated as a cable or satellite subscriber. [More.](#)

Source: NY Times, June 23/09

[AFTER 74 YEARS, KODACHROME FADES AWAY](#)



Eastman Kodak Company announced yesterday that it will no longer produce Kodachrome, which has captured some of the world's most iconic images for 74 years. The company introduced the 35 mm colour film in 1935, and it gained a following among professional and amateur photographers alike.

The haunting green eyes of the “Afghan girl” who graced the cover of National Geographic in June of 1985 were captured on Kodachrome. Some of the best-known colour photos of Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Joe DiMaggio were made with Kodachrome. Singer Paul Simon gave the film his endorsement with the hit song *Kodachrome* in 1973, lauding the film's “nice bright colours” while imploring, “Mama don't take my Kodachrome away.” [More.](#)

Source: Globe and Mail, June 24/09



[PHYS. ED. FOR THE GAMER GENERATION](#)

Educators at Foundations for the Future Charter Academy in Calgary recently installed about a dozen “exergames” on the elementary school's stage, which is part of the gymnasium. Students can play dance, yoga and sports video games during gym class, and after-school

clubs are in the works.

It's part of a study looking at whether active gaming devices such as the Wii Balance Board and iDance, a wireless dance system, have health benefits for kids. For five years, researchers from the University of Calgary and Mount Royal College will measure whether the games have an impact on the cardiovascular fitness, balance and agility of children in Grades 3 and 4.

“This is the gamer generation,” said Dwayne Sheehan, who leads the study, which is partly funded by the Alberta government. “We're trying to find a way that we can work with their interests and still keep kids active.”

The study is a response to the disturbing levels of sedentary behaviour among Canadian youth due to the soaring popularity of video games. Researchers are wondering: Can we harness that enthusiasm for gaming and actually do some good?

That interest applies not only in schools, but also in rehabilitation hospitals. Scientists, including those at Bloorview Kids Rehab and the University of Toronto, are looking at whether the games may provide good physical therapy for seniors, children with cerebral palsy and young amputees. [More](#).

Source: Globe and Mail, June 25/09

RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY IN AMERICA: CHANGES IN ADULT FRIENDSHIP NETWORK SIZE FROM 2002 TO 2007

Hua Wang and Barry Wellman

In a forthcoming article in *American behavioural Scientist*, Hua Wang and Barry Wellman explain the panic in the United States about a possible decline in social connectivity. They use two American national surveys to analyze how changes in the number of friends are related to changes in Internet use. Wang and Wellman find that friendships continue to be abundant among adult Americans between the ages of 25 to 74 and to have grown from 2002 to 2007. This trend is similar among Internet non-users, light users, moderate users, and heavy users – and across communication contexts: offline, virtual only, and migrating from online to offline. Heavy users are particularly active, having the most friends both on- and off-line. Intracohort change consistently outweighs cohort replacement in overall growth in friendship.

COOL TOOLS

HUNCH OPENED TO PUBLIC



In 10 questions or less, [Hunch](#) will offer you a great solution to your problem, concern or dilemma, on hundreds of topics. Hunch's answers are based on the collective knowledge of the entire Hunch community, narrowed down to people like you, or just enough like you that you might

be mistaken for each other in a dark room. Hunch is designed so that every time it's used, it learns something new. That means Hunch's hunches are always getting better.

Hunch is co-founded by Caterina Fake (co-founder of Flickr) and a dozen MIT graduates. KMDiary editor Sadie Yancey has been on Hunch for the last months, and it has helped her make valuable decisions such as “Should I go running today?” and “Should I go home early?” The answer to both was “No.”

[WINE PAIRING GOES HIGH TECH](#)



Choosing a wine to go with a particular dish can be just a few clicks away, thanks to your iPhone or BlackBerry and a unique mobile application developed by Ottawa wine expert Natalie MacLean. If you are out and about and planning a menu with barbecued chicken and want a good wine match, simply choose one on your mobile device.

For example, if a person is in a liquor or wine store and wants to pair barbecued chicken with a New World Chardonnay, the application allows him or her to see if it is available there as well as how many bottles are in stock. [More](#).

Source: The Canadian Press, Jun. 23/09

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA

[ENGAGING STUDENTS IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT USING VIRTUAL LABS, VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS AND CAPTURED VIDEO](#)

(Mon. Jul 13, 2009, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Robarts Library 4th-Floor RM 4049)



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

Online courses are becoming increasingly popular, in part because they offer students more flexibility with “just in time learning”, but also because, with a measure of forethought and creativity, they can be designed to support in-depth reflection and participation. Whether you currently offer an online course or if you simply post a few course materials on Blackboard, this seminar will engage you in the process of creative course design in an online environment.

About the Speaker: Dr. Perumalla is a passionate educator and the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Faculty of Medicine’s most prestigious W.T. Aikins Award in 2006, Excellence in Arts and Science Award, and is the three time recipient of the Department of Physiology’s Excellence of Teaching Award.

Register [Here](#).

LEONARDO® EDUCATION FORUM

The [Leonardo Education Forum](#) (LEF), co-chaired by **Nina Czegledy** (KMDI) will be hosting sessions at several upcoming conferences. LEF is a forum for ideas and practices from around the world that explores the interactions between art, science, and technology, especially in the educational context. LEF is a metagroup; it often brings together members from a wide range of locations and interests.

You are invited to attend public sessions at these conferences:

[International Symposium on Electronic Arts](#), Belfast, Saturday August 29

[ARS Electronica Festival of Art, Technology and Society](#), Linz, Friday- Saturday September 4-5

[Re:live, Third International Conference on the History of Media Art, Science and Technology](#), Melbourne, Thursday, November 26

CONFERENCES

Submissions due July 6

[ICIDS – INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING 2009](#)

(December 9-11, 2009, Guimares, Portugal)

ICIDS is the premier international conference on interactive digital storytelling. It was successfully launched in 2008, superseding the previous two European conference series, TIDSE (“Technologies for Interactive Digital Storytelling”) and ICVS (“Virtual Storytelling – Using Virtual Reality Technologies for Storytelling”).

ICIDS welcomes research papers, case studies and demonstrations presenting new scientific results, innovative technologies, best practice showcases, or improvements to existing techniques and approaches in the multidisciplinary research field of interactive digital storytelling and its related application areas, e.g. games, virtual/online worlds, e-learning, edutainment, and entertainment.

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Abstracts due August 21

[DRS2010 - DESIGN RESEARCH SOCIETY](#)

(July 7-9, 2010, Montreal)

To design, to educate a future designer or to conduct research activities in the field of design in 2010 requires complex approaches to a variety of issues and phenomena. Design Research Society (DRS) international conference Design & Complexity will offer participants of all horizons the opportunity to share their point of view regarding (1) the complexity of issues and phenomena in design or (2) the complex approaches developed in their response.

DRS 2010 is open to the whole range of design disciplines and contemporary inquiries in design. The theme of Design & Complexity should be understood as a springboard for sharing ideas and concepts about contemporary design research.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CONFERENCES

Update – Registration Open – Free for U of T community

[ICEL 2009 – 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-LEARNING](#)

(July 16-17, 2009, U of T, Toronto)

Early-bird registration July 6

[ALT-C 2009: “IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES – CHOICE, EVIDENCE, AND CHANGE”](#)

(September 8-10, 2009, Manchester, UK)

Submissions due September 8

[E- LEARN 09 - WORLD CONFERENCE ON E-LEARNING IN CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT, HEALTHCARE, & HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

(October 26-30, 2009, Vancouver, BC Canada)

Open forum proposals due July 31

[ICCE 2009- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION](#)

(November 30 – December 4, 2009, Hong Kong)

Papers and studios due August 3

Explorations and graduate student consortium due October 2

[TEP'10: CONFERENCE ON TANGIBLE, EMBEDDED, AND EMBODIED INTERACTION](#)

(January 25-27, 2010, Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Submissions due: Oct. 21, 2009

[SITE 2010: SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHER EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE](#)

(March 29-April 2, 2010, San Diego, California)

[EISTA 2009- 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS](#)

(July 10-13, 2009, Orlando, Florida, USA)

[8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEB-BASED LEARNING](#)

(August 19-21, 2009, Aachen, Germany)

[IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL COMPUTING – SOCIALCOM](#)

(August 29-31, 2009, Vancouver, Canada)

[NEXT GENERATION MOBILE APPLICATIONS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES](#)

(September 15-18, 2009, Cardiff, UK)

[MEDICINE 2.0 - 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL NETWORKING AND WEB 2.0 IN HEALTH, HEALTH CARE, MEDICINE, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH](#)

(September 17-18, 2009, MaRS Center, Toronto)

IEEE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR HUMANITY

(September 27-29, 2009, Toronto, Canada)

8TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON MOBILE AND CONTEXTUAL LEARNING

(October 26-30, 2009, Orlando, Florida, USA)

ACM CREATIVITY AND COGNITION 2009

(October 27-29, 2009, Berkeley, California)

SUPER COMPUTING CONFERENCE

(November 14-20, 2009, Portland, Oregon)

