Announcing Prof. Thomas Schmidt as a Distinguished Visiting Scientist

2013 January 10 by smcauley

We are excited to announce that Prof. Thomas Schmidt for Physics of Life Processes at the Leiden Institute of Physics at Leiden University, Netherlands will be visiting the IOS as part of our Distinguished Visiting Scientist (DVS) series. While in Toronto, Prof. Schmidt will present lectures on February 11, 12, and 14th, as well as tour various labs at the University of Toronto and meet with both faculty and graduate students. Look out for more information on the lectures.

Darren Anderson featured in UofT News

2013 January 10 by smcauley

As an IOS alumnus and co-founder and CTO of Vive Crop Protection, Dr. Darren Anderson has first hand experience in translating a technology from the university into a marketable product. In December, UofT Staff writer Christine Elias caught up with Darren to talk about Vive, the University of Toronto, and the IOS in the article Meet Darren Anderson of Vive Crop Protection.

Techno2012 Featured in the Fall/Winter edition of UofT Magazine

2013 January 10 by smcauley

The Fall/Winter edition of UofT Magazine features an article by Alison Motluk entitled The Technopreneurs, which follows three groups that participated in Techno2012. Alison follows the teams of Daniel Huynh, Wen Ma, and Jacky Mak from Lab Invasion, Chris and Michael Pettigrew from Cytospan Technologies and Xingxing Xing from Sonola Imaging through some of the key decisions and challenges that they had to face from day 1 to their final presentations. The online edition of the article also includes a great video interviewing members of each team as well as IOS Director Prof. Cynthia Goh.

Scotch Tape induced superconductivity the most popular UofTNews story

2013 January 10 by smcauley

In their year-end roundup of the top news stories of 2012, the University of Toronto News announced that the most popular article was on work done by physics professor and IOS faculty member Prof. Ken Burch on induced superconductivity. The article, A first for physics: inducing superconductivity in a semiconductor with Scotch Tape,
reviewed Prof. Burch’s work leading an international team of scientists to induce superconductivity in a semiconductor using Scotch Tape. The tape was able to facilitate the proximity effect, whereby the superconductivity of one material can generate the same effect in an otherwise normal semiconductor. To see some of the other top UofT news stories, check out The year in review: top 10 University of Toronto stories for 2012.

**Toronto Board of Trade hosts ‘From Student to Entrepreneur’**

2012 November 27 by smcauley

On Friday November 23rd, the Toronto Board of Trade, in partnership with the University of Toronto, held an event titled ‘From Student to Entrepreneur’ to discuss the economic value of training Canada’s next generation of entrepreneurs. The event featured IOS director Prof. Cynthia Goh and Prof. Ajay Agrawal, Peter Munk professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Commerce, as panelists, Sandra Pupatello as moderator, and Hon. Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Economic Development & Innovation providing introductory remarks. A number of IOS companies, both past and present, we able to attend the event and speak to the variety of guests and speakers about the role entrepreneurship plays at the University of Toronto, and how the university support has helped their business.

An article describing the event was compiled by UofT News.

**CLOSED: IOS Career Opportunities – Research Associate**

2012 November 7 by hkim

*Updated: November 7, 2012*

**Research Associate**

Institute for Optical Sciences is seeking for a Research Associate who has broad expertise in strategic planning for developing entrepreneurship, academic, and industrial cooperation programs.

**Description:**

Research Associate works independently, engage in the planning and execution of experiments, and manage projects to meet milestones and timelines.

Other responsibilities include conducting research work individually, or in collaboration with others, preparing related proposals, reports and publications as needed. Research Associate often interfaces with industry and engages in business development leading to partnerships, works on project management, and engages in new technology networks within key sectors.

**Qualification:**

*Formal Education:* Master degree in Chemistry.

*Experience:* Minimum 3 years of work experience in industry and have developed business-related skills.
Experience in writing proposal and reports.

Please email your application to: employment@optics.utoronto.ca
Priority will be given to Canadians and landed immigrants.

Posting date: November 7, 2012
Closing date: November 20, 2012

The UofT Student as Inventor and Entrepreneur

2012 October 29 by hkim

Monday November 12, 2012

When Charles Best was a student at the University of Toronto, he worked on a project that was to change the world — insulin. Today and for the foreseeable future the discovery of insulin has a major impact in the lives of millions.

Our University’s strength in research and in teaching provides an excellent foundation for students to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship – to translate scientific discovery into societal benefits, to create their own jobs.

Join us in a celebration of the UofT student as inventor and entrepreneur, and the inauguration of TechnoLABS – a space dedicated to student technopreneurs. We will listen to six stories from former UofT students who have led technology companies that improved our quality of life, allowing our society to benefit from university discoveries.
We will also learn about initiatives at the University for helping the current generation of students follow in the footsteps of the speakers. TechnoLABS is part of a growing ecosystem of support and training programs at the University of Toronto for student and recent alumni entrepreneurs building companies based on technological innovations in a wide range of physical sciences. Students participating in TechnoLABS will present their companies at a poster session before the formal presentations and during the break.

**Location:**

University of Toronto – MacLeod Auditorium

1 Kings College Circle, Medical Sciences Bldg., Room 2158
Toronto, ON M5S 1A8

[View Larger Map]

**Program of Presentations:**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Meet TechnoLABS Entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 -2:05</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:05 – 2:20</td>
<td>Presentation about Charles Best, the student who discovered insulin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:20 – 2:45</td>
<td>Tony Redpath — EcoPlastics Inc.</td>
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<td>2:45 – 3:15</td>
<td>Graeme Ferguson — Imax Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 – 3:45</td>
<td>Break &amp; Refreshment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet TechnoLABS Entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 – 4:10</td>
<td>Vaughn Betz — Right Track CAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:10 – 4:35</td>
<td>Neil Reid — Sciex</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:35 – 5:00</td>
<td>Darren Anderson — Vive Crop Protection Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 – 5:15</td>
<td>Official Launch of TechnoLabs at the University of Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 – 6:00</td>
<td>Networking</td>
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In order to participate in the event, please RSVP at [this link](#).
We would appreciate a response by Wednesday, October 31.
Banting & Best Centre Opening Speech

2012 October 29 by smcauley

This speech was delivered by Prof. Cynthia Goh, Director of the Institute for Optical Sciences, at the official opening of the Banting & Best Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship on September 19, 2012.

If there’s a down side to UofT’s brilliance in research, it’s that it overshadows its strength in innovation, in the creation of societal benefits that stems from its fundamental scientific work.

Universities all over the world are investing in various forms of incubators and technology transfer units. But we, here at UofT, have pioneered a unique concept, which is now housed in this floor. Let me explain in a few lines:

1. The output of a research lab is knowledge – an important prerequisite to invention. UofT’s research excellence is a prerequisite; what we are doing cannot happen in a mediocre place.
2. Knowledge is not technology, and technology is not product. Product is what benefits society – and active work has to be done to move from knowledge to societal benefits. We call this “Technopreneurship”
3. The best conduit is the graduate student – with enough expertise in the fundamental science, but needs further training.
4. Training to build companies is best done hands-on: just as we train scientists by making them work in a research project, we train technopreneurs by making them build their companies.
5. We supervise the technopreneurs in the same way that professors supervise graduate student research.
6. Time, and a bit of funding is needed for “innovation fellowships” – so recent MSc or PhD graduates can turn their knowledge to new technology and build companies.

With these few guidelines, we first started by helping students build companies ad hoc. Vive Nano – now Vive Crop Protection, with over 30 employees – was really my pilot project.

In 2010 we decided to have a 4-week intensive program of training – which led to the formation of 10 startups. Today we have over 35 start-ups. Each one of these companies represent a wealth of knowledge, and a student, or two, or three, with a passion to benefit the world with that knowledge.

Like BioString – fast water testing to make our beaches safe; Ecoatra – eco-friendly coatings for the wood industry; Lunanos – aiming to reduce hospital-acquired infections; Pueblo Science – promoting science literacy in low resource settings;

Last July, at Techno2012, we had Sense Intelligent (enabling the deaf to hear by seeing) and Sonola (ultrasonic brain imaging) and a dozen others.

Luminautics launched its first product, a 40-foot remote-controlled LED sign near the 401. They now have several employees and work with a local company for production.

Kinetica Dynamics, which is solving the problem of vibration in tall buildings, has just moved to their own space since they now have contracts and as well as employees.

We now have three years of success stories, over 35 startups generated, many of which are now generating sales and contracts. Our TECH is not IT, in which growth and bust is measured in months. In the physical world, it takes time to mature a company – prototype needs to be built, testing needs to be done, technology needs to be improved, etc – but once launched, it’s a tangible product that improves our quality of life – and a company that create jobs that can stay and grow locally.
We built our model on our bootstraps. We had very little funding, and we’ve been proud of our ability to get things done on the cheap, with the passion of our staff and students – we make our own graphics and cater our own events! This space, TechnoLABS, is our first big boost and it’s a gratifying acknowledgement of how far that passion carried us.

I’ve said our story is unique – it doesn’t exist in the US, not in Singapore nor China nor India. I know, because people we met from these places tell us so. We just came back from India, where they were skeptical at first about what students can do, but now they want to send them to us for training.

But perhaps that’s one thing that makes us different here at UofT – we have truly amazing students, but more importantly, we believe in them, we work with them, we give them the opportunity to work on their passion here at TechnoLabs.

And it’s only fitting that we have TechnoLabs here in the Best Building – because, I should remind you, that Charles Best is the student who made the insulin story come true. And we expect to have many more like him, resulting in real, tech-based companies.

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**CLOSED: IOS Career Opportunities – Research Associate**

2012 October 22 by hkim

*Updated: October 22, 2012*

**Research Associate**

Institute for Optical Sciences is seeking for a Research Associate who has broad expertise in strategic planning for developing entrepreneurship, academic, and industrial cooperation programs.

**Description:**

Research Associate works independently, engage in the planning and execution of experiments, and manage projects to meet milestones and timelines.

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**Qualification:**

*Formal Education:* Master degree in Chemistry.

*Experience:* Minimum 3 years of work experience in industry and have developed business-related skills. Experience in writing proposal and reports.

Please email your application to: employment@optics.utoronto.ca
Priority will be given to Canadians and landed immigrants.

*Posting date:* October 22, 2012
*Closing date:* October 31, 2012
University of Toronto opens new Banting & Best Centre

2012 September 20 by smcauley

By Laurie Stephens from University of Toronto News

Yesterday, The University of Toronto launched the Banting and Best Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a new pre-incubation hub for discovery, innovation and commercialization.

Located in the historic Banting and Best buildings on College Street in downtown Toronto, the Centre provides business mentorship opportunities and cross-disciplinary collaborations for U of T faculty and students developing early-stage enterprises and spin-off companies.

The launch and tour of the new Centre was attended by the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Innovation, and U of T President David Naylor.

“In Ontario we are committed to strengthening our economy through innovation,” said Minister of Economic Development and Innovation Brad Duguid. “We’re proud to have postsecondary institutions like the University of Toronto helping students turn their discoveries into high-growth companies and jobs.”

“The University of Toronto, together with our partner hospitals, is the engine of Canada’s buzzing start-up and entrepreneurial capital,” added U of T President David Naylor. “In the past four years, over 70 new companies have emerged from U of T alone – and this number is poised to grow as the University’s new incubation space in the repurposed Banting and Best buildings comes online.

“It is fitting, since Banting and Best were integral to one of Canada’s greatest innovations.”

The Banting and Best buildings were originally constructed to provide a venue for U of T researchers to work with partner hospitals on research inspired by one of the landmark discoveries in the history of human health – the discovery of insulin.

With 50,000 square feet of space, the buildings are now a place where U of T’s faculty, students and partner hospitals focused on research commercialization can turn their discoveries into products and services that improve people’s lives. The private sector companies in the Banting and Best Centre already employ 63 staff.

Professor Cynthia Goh, Director of IOS, said the Banting and Best Centre addresses a long-standing need at the University.

“As these storied buildings attest, the University of Toronto has always had a rich history of innovation,” she said. “Now we have a space dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, a space that brings all the right people to the table to take discovery to the next level.”