Welcome to the inaugural monthly IOS Newsletter. We hope that this will serve to keep our community informed on the events and happenings around the IOS.

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Awards and Recognitions

IOS Faculty Member Prof. Geoffrey Ozin receives $500,000 Premier’s Discovery Award

The Premier’s Discovery Awards celebrate Ontario’s most accomplished researchers and as a pioneer of nanochemistry, Dr. Geoffrey Ozin has inspired innovative and transformative technological advances around the world. His U of T based company, Opalux, is commercializing photonic crystal technology – which holds the potential to create energy efficient full–colour displays, photocatalysts that clean up pollution, and privacy protecting printable serial numbers that can become invisible to the human eye when necessary. Join all us at the IOS in congratulating Prof. Ozin.

Prof. Stewart Aitchison elected Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada

Stewart Aitchison of the Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. The Royal Society is the senior national body of distinguished scholars, artists, and scientists in Canada that aims to promote leaning and research in the arts and sciences. His experimental observation on spatial optical solitons and discrete spatial solitons has stimulated worldwide interest and has defined new research areas in integrated optics.
Entrepreneurship

University president provides $15,000 in seed funding for IOS Business à la Carte initiative

The Business à la Carte program at the IOS aims to lower the initial start-up barriers for high-tech companies by providing students and faculty access to various services, advice, and networking opportunities. We would like to thank President David Naylor for his generous support and providing funding that will allow us to expand our services to help build the next generation of high-tech industry leaders.

Techno2010 Workshop series helps develop 10 new companies

At the IOS we believe that the best people to move science out of the lab and into the world are our students. In July of this year we held the inaugural Techno workshop, providing students the hands-on, practical experience they need to get their companies up and running. This first year saw the formation of 10 companies, all of whom now have access to the Business à la Carte program and other support from the IOS. Look forward to profiles of our start-ups in future newsletters. Congratulations to all of the participants!

This intensive workshop was co-sponsored by University of Toronto’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Physics, BioOptics, NANO-network, Solid State Lighting Network, MaRS, Ryerson University, MITACS and NSERC.

For more information about Techno 2010, please visit http://techno.optics.utoronto.ca/

Techno2010 companies in action

Even though the new Techno2010 start-ups have only been in business for just over a month they have already been very busy. Congratulations to the following companies who have won awards over the past few weeks.

- OCE New Entrepreneur Award: Ecoatra
- Tabrizi Law Office Award: Touch Unicom
- IOS Innovators Resource Award: Dalenyi Biosurfaces
- IOS Cash Prize: Pueblo Sciences
Research

Prof. Scholes publishes findings on tunable spin relaxation in semiconductor nanostructures

Jun He, Haizheng Zhong, and Prof Scholes have published a study in Physical Review Letters on the effects of electron-hole overlap on the rate of hole spin relaxation in nanocrystal heterostructures.


Student Activities

Professor Paul Kwiat to visit the Institute for Optical Sciences as a Distinguished Visiting Scientist

Professor Kwiat from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign will be visiting the University from March 21 to 25, 2011 and is well known for his contributions to quantum optics and entanglement. The Distinguished Visiting Scientist (DVS) program brings to the Institute world–leading researchers in the field of optics for one week to deliver 3 lectures and interact with students and faculty. Look out for more details on Prof. Kwiat’s lectures.

Welcome to new students in the IOS Collaborative Masters Program in Optics

Coming from the departments of Physics, Chemistry and Electrical and Computer Engineering, these students will receive an additional certification upon completing the multi-disciplinary program facilitated by the IOS. The 8 new students will bring the total number of program participants over the past 3 years to 33.

IOS hosts a holography workshop for high–school teachers

High School Teachers In June the IOS organized a workshop for science teachers as part of the Canadian Association of Physicists annual congress. Approximately 40 high school teachers attended the hands–on activities to produce a hologram and learn new ways to introduce optics into their class.
Events

Best Practices Series

Beginning in October the IOS is again offering its Best Practices Series. These sessions will focus on practical skills that are useful for researchers in optics and other related fields. All sessions are two hours long and take place at 4PM in MP202. Registration is free and can be completed by contacting eistrate@optics.utoronto.ca.

Get to Know Your IOS Seminars

With the start of the new academic year it is time to get to Know Your IOS. This bi–weekly seminar bring together members of the IOS academic community to familiarize researchers with the work being done by other research groups in the institute. The free refreshments and short presentations by both faculty and students are designed to stimulate interaction and collaboration between the various researchers at the IOS.

Brown Bag Lunch

Every Tuesday at noon the IOS conference room hosts informal discussions with faculty and staff on a wide variety of research problems. Bring your own lunch!

October 6 — IOS Best Practices Series – 4PM, MP202
   Introduction to numerical simulation tools for optics and photonics

October 6 — TechnoClub Meeting – 5:30PM, LM128

October 13 — Know Your IOS Seminar – 4PM, MP202

October 20 — IOS Best Practices Series – 4PM, MP202
   Optical aberrations, introduction to lens design

October 27 — Know Your IOS Seminar – 4PM, MP202