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

Awards and Recognition

Prof. Scholes discusses the future of solar in UofT Magazine

The latest issue of UofT magazine featured an interview with IOS faculty member Prof. Greg Scholes about the growing field of “quantum biology,” which uses quantum mechanics to explain how biological systems work on a molecular level. This understanding could help solar panels mimic the adaptive photosynthesis process that plants rely on to create energy. “I would like to achieve a solar energy harvesting device that is not passive – that on a cloudy day would change how it works,” Scholes says. “If we could do this, it would revolutionize solar harvesting.”

Read the full story here.

UofT Magazine features designers of world’s most efficient flexible display

It seems that the IOS is all over UofT Magazine this month. A few months ago PhD students Zhibin Wang and Michael Helander along with Prof. Zheng-Hong Lu published their design for a world record breaking flexible display and UofT Magazine recently featured the discovery in its latest issue. Check out the feature here.

LED Magazine covers SSLNet Workshop on Smart Sustainable Lighting
As one of the leading publications on all things related to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), LED Magazine recently published an article on the recent SSLNet workshop on Smart Sustainable Lighting. The SSLNet was founded by the IOS to bring together industry, government agencies, and academics to lead the Canadian lighting revolution, and the recent workshop was a significant step in seeing through with this goal. You can read about the workshop on the LED Magazine website or at sslnet.ca

**Entrepreneurship**

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**New Techno2012 and Innovation Fellowship spots available!**

We are excited to announce that additional spaces are now available for teams interested in participating in the Techno2012 workshop and individuals who would like to become Innovation Fellows. As a result of this expansion, we will continue to accept applications for both programs until April 26th, 2012. More information on the programs and application procedure can be found on the Techno2012 and IOS websites.

**Kinetica Dynamics featured in the Toronto Star**

On Thursday March 1st, the Toronto Star included a special section on Engineering Innovation that featured a half-page article on the technology behind Kinetica Dynamics. Developed by IOS Innovation Fellow Dr. Michael Montgomery and his advisor Prof. Constantin Christopoulos this potentially game-changing device, known as the Wind-Earthquake Coupling Damper, can absorb the vibrational energy from the wind and even powerful jolts from earthquakes with minimal movement and no damage. The founders indicate that their largest challenge in commercializing this technology is the conservative nature of the construction industry. In spite of this, they are “hoping that, in the next 12 months, the first dampers will be installed.”

Read the full article here.

**Pueblo Science embarks on second training initiative in the Philippines**

As part of an effort to enhance science literacy in low resource communities, Pueblo Science will be visiting the Philippines for their second annual science teachers summer camp. A total of 140 high school teachers will be trained on various teaching techniques and science concepts from April 12-27 in three provinces of the Philippines (Palawan, Masbate and Davao). The volunteers will also bring 840 science demonstration kits to be distributed to the teachers after their training. You can learn more about Pueblo Science on its website.

**Events**

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**Prof. E. Fred. Shubert concludes his visit to the IOS**
The IOS would like to thank Prof. E. Fred Schubert for taking time to visit the University of Toronto. During his visit he met with numerous faculty and students as well as presented two public lectures, one of which being the Boris. P. Stoicheff annual lecture. We were very happy to host one of the leading researchers in solid state lighting and were inspired by his passion for the future of lighting technologies.

SSLNet workshop deliberates smart lighting and sustainability

On Friday March 16, 2012, the SSLNet hosted a workshop on the theme of Smart Sustainable Lighting. The event drew about 100 participants, 11 speakers, and a variety of exhibitors from industry, academia, and government to discuss the successes and challenges being faced in implementing a full-system shift to LED and smart control technologies. Sponsored by Cree, GO Lighting, Natural Resources Canada, NSERC, Labsphere, and Gigahertz-Optik, the day-long workshop included both technical and non-technical discussions on LED reliability, wireless and smart control systems, current and future market trends, as well as R&D results for the next generation of lighting and control technologies.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, speakers, exhibiting companies, and participants for helping make the workshop such a success, and make sure to look out for future events hosted by the SSLNet.

Brown Bag Lunches: Tuesdays

We continue our weekly informal discussions with faculty and staff on a wide variety of research problems in April every Tuesday of the week. Bring your own lunch!