Entrepreneurship

Kinetica Dynamics moves on up

Beginning in early September Kinetica Dynamics will be moving out of the IOS, taking up residence in their new commercial office space at College and St. George streets. Kinetica was founded by IOS Innovation Fellow Dr. Michael Montgomery and Prof. Constantin Christopoulos to commercialize their Viscoelastic Coupling Damper technology that makes high-rise buildings more resistant to wind and earthquake vibrations. The company has been able to raise capital through consulting projects and government grants, which has allowed them to not only hire additional people to their team but rent out the new office space. We wish Michael and Kinetica all the best and look forward to working with them during this exciting new stage in the company's development.

Pueblo Science hosts summer science camp

After two weeks of fun hands-on science exploration, Pueblo Science concluded its Science Summer Camp for the 2012 session. Twenty-three children ranging in age from 7 to 12 joined the camp in either of its two week-long sessions, each filled with activities such as making - and learning the science behind - volcanoes, slime, solar ovens, wind mills, bridges, and holograms. The children also got the chance to delve into the world of molecular gastronomy, while making tasty chocolate and raspberry spheres fit for a connoisseur’s palate and being treated to liquid nitrogen ice cream. According to both enthusiastic campers and pleased parents, the camp was a resounding success and Pueblo Science certainly hopes to build on this for their after-school programs in the fall and for upcoming science camps. PuebloScience is definitely gaining traction in sparking interest for science in the younger generation.

IOS in India
On August 19th a delegation of staff, faculty, and entrepreneurs from the IOS left Toronto on a trip to meet with a variety of Indian academics, government, and industry representatives. Funded through the Going Global initiative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the mission represents an opportunity for Indo-Canadian academic research collaborations between faculty at the University of Toronto and some of the premier research institutes in India. In addition, the trip provides an excellent opportunity for the entrepreneurs to learn about global market opportunities and develop international partnerships. Finally, the IOS has been able to present its model of knowledge transfer to both academic institutes and companies with the goal of generating interest in entrepreneurship within India's students and making connections between some large multinational companies and UofT faculty. Over the course of the trip meetings, tours, and workshops have taken place at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune, Unilever, Laird Technologies, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, IIT Madras and others. Look out for a more detailed account of the trip on the IOS website coming soon.

Student Activities

A new school year is starting

It is a very exciting time at UofT with lots of new undergraduates, master’s, and PhD students on campus. Also, the IOS Summer students recently wrapped up their summer program by giving conference-style presentations on their summer research with presentation topics ranging from nanoparticle materials science to the modelling of optical systems.

Events

Collaborative Master’s Program Information Session

A new class of the Collaborative Master’s Program in Optics is starting, with a welcome event and orientation session on Sept 12 at 4 pm in MP137. The program allows Master’s students in Physics, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry or Materials Science to obtain the Collaborative Master’s Program in Optics designation, at the same time as their normal Master’s degree, by participating in a series of multi-disciplinary events organized by the Institute for Optical Sciences.