

Upcoming Events

AUTM Annual Meeting

Feb 28 - Mar 1, 2008
San Diego, CA

BIO 2008

Jun 17 - 20, 2008
San Diego, CA

AUTM Eastern Region Meeting

Jul 21 - 23, 2008
Boston, MA

From the Springboard Office

Hello all, and welcome to 2008. It looks to be a busy winter in the Springboard network, as we develop our next Highlights Report in addition to further training and industry outreach activities.

Thanks to Andrew at St. F. X. for this link to a New York Times story called "Corporate Labs Disappear. Academia Steps In."
—> Full story at <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/16/business/16ping.html>

If you'd like to submit something for the next newsletter, please e-mail Tanya at the Springboard office. Happy New Year everyone!

Interns in Innovation Update

Three member offices currently have student projects underway. Members interested in a student project to assist in backfilling for an intern who would like to do a placement, should contact Tanya.

There is funding available for two regional workshops in the January - May 2008 timeframe. Contact Tanya if you have topic suggestions.

We have completed four of the (minimum of) six intern placements that Springboard agreed to under the Tri-Council's IPM funding. If you are considering or interested in learning more about a placement, please contact Tanya.

Our December 13th workshop on developing the stories for our 2007 Highlights Report was a success, with 11 member offices represented. All attendees received one-on-one support to develop and improve their story. We hope to go to print in late January!

Major Funding Announcements for NSAC

Government Of Canada Invests Nearly \$1.3 Million In Canadian Organic Industry

—> Read the full story at <http://nsac.ca/news/2007/organic.asp>

Government Of Canada Invests \$950,000 Into Expanding Market Opportunities For Farmers

—> Read the full story at <http://nsac.ca/news/2007/funding.asp>

Acadia partners with Pearson Canada to deliver high-tech learning tool

Business insights from around the globe will soon be available online for students across Canada thanks to an innovative product developed by Acadia University and distributed exclusively by Pearson Education Canada.

The Acadia Pearson Business Insider Series is a user-friendly, multimedia product developed at Acadia University. The web-based database contains video interviews of industry leaders and top executives that are searchable by key terms.

"Professors at Acadia have a unique opportunity to partner with innovative technical support professionals on our campus," said Dr. Conor Vibert, an Acadia business strategy professor who helped develop the interactive video series. "This level of expertise is simply not a part of the culture of many other universities in Canada."

Acadia University, through its Office of Technology Transfer and Innovation (OTTI), recently reached the multi-year exclusive agreement with Pearson Education Canada, a leading educational publisher, to distribute the Acadia Pearson Business Insiders Series to university, community college, and CEGEP students throughout Canada.

Filmed in seven countries, the interview topics range from entrepreneurship and advertising to human resource management. A wide range of industries and areas of interest are also included, from wine, oil and gas, finance, mining, fruit growing, and advertising, as well as Canadians working in Japan, and female entrepreneurship.

"The video interviews allow us to capture insights from business leaders around the world and bring textbooks and lectures to life through a series of questions and answers," said Dr. Vibert. "Using technology developed at Acadia, users can search a database of key terms to explore their specific areas of interest or to compare industries."

He added the classroom of today is much different than the past. "Today's students are a visual generation and they enjoy learning when and where they want to. This video series provides real-time and real-world learning opportunities that appeal specifically to them," said Dr. Vibert.

The project became possible through funding obtained from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation of Montreal. Since 2003, Dr. Vibert and Dave Sheehan, video and multimedia producer at Acadia, have filmed more than 170 top executives to compile more than 4,000 searchable video clips lecturers and students to draw from.

"The Acadia video database partnership offers Pearson Canada the unprecedented opportunity to access and create current, relevant, and text-specific content to enhance the value and learning experience of our academic customers here in Canada," said Gary Bennett, Vice-President and Editorial Director, Higher Education, Pearson Education Canada. "The database enables Pearson to enrich our online content repository for both faculty and students, who continue to seek alternate media sources for lectures and for studying."

Already in use in classes at Acadia University, the Acadia Pearson Business Insider Series will be featured as enhancements to Pearson textbooks and academic offerings in the near future.

For more info: Scott Roberts, 902-585-1705, or 902-670-8966 (cell)

St. F.X. Innovation Lands International Collaboration

A growing program of industry collaborative work is developing in St. F.X.'s Environmental Sciences Research Centre (ESRC). Dr. Dave Risk, a member of the Earth Sciences Department, has been working on soil gas detection technologies for several years. The technologies were originally developed to conduct specific research measurements, but Risk became aware of their wider potential through work alongside the St. F.X. Industry Liaison Office. The patents that St. F.X. filed on his behalf are the first in the university's history, and have helped open doors to new and stimulating research experiences for the young faculty member.

This August, St. F.X. brought industry and innovation to Helsinki, Finland for discussions with a leading manufacturing company. Risk visited the company with St. F.X. Industry Liaison Officer Andrew Kendall. While there, they had planned to discuss the development of one of Risk's soil testing technologies, but ended up agreeing to co-develop two of his innovations. Risk said that these technologies could be produced by a local spin-off company but will be built around the company's CO2 probes. "The new instrument will have applications that are exciting from a research perspective, because they could result in large geographically-distributed networks to track the effects of global warming at the soil level. Or, the networks can be smaller, and used industrially to monitor releases from underground CO2 injection and storage sites - Canada's government is putting a lot of faith in this approach to achieve CO2 reductions." Risk was awarded \$7500 from the St. F.X. Research Capacity Development grant (NSERC-funded) to help initiate this collaboration, and when asked about the project's status, Risk says "I'm quite pleased with our progress, and we're already thinking about field trials next summer".

More recently, Kendall and ESRC project manager Krista Kavanaugh took part in the Team Canada Atlantic – Boston 2007 Technology Partnering Initiative. Their aim was to advance a third technology invented by Risk. As a result of the Trade Mission, a very promising collaborative framework was discussed with a company in Massachusetts. Risk is currently scheduling a visit to their facilities in Massachusetts to trade technical information with the company regarding his inventions and to establish a technical strategy. Part of the discussions will also focus on outcomes that fit with Dr. Risk's interests and goals, and which complement the company's current product line. What is clear is that the end product would license St. F.X.-owned technology. Not only was the Trade Mission a success in finding potential commercialization partners for Dr. Risk's inventions, but also in expanding the ESRC and the University's visibility and enhancing the reputation of St. F.X.'s grant recipients in the USA and among Atlantic Canadian trade mission participants.

Risk has also been talking to several leading companies interested in using the technologies for contaminant detection and/or hydrocarbon exploration. He is currently preparing funding applications with these partners to get projects rolling. "I'm interested in research that helps these technologies get used. I can see possibilities in other research fields and in industry, but in the end it's my job to prove they're useful for different applications. To do so, my research is constantly changing and adapting to new fields. But, I find this very stimulating."

For more info: Karen Hamelin, 902-867-3564 or khamelin@stfx.ca

Dalhousie announces first Million Dollar Invention

Club members

Dalhousie Industry Liaison and Innovation is pleased to unveil its "Million Dollar Invention Club," a special award given to university faculty whose research has led to over \$1 million in commercial revenues. The first members of the club are Dr. Jana Sawynok, Professor and Chair of Dalhousie's Department of Pharmacology and her research associate, Allison Reid and former collaborator Dr. Mike Esser of Calgary.

—> Read the full story at <http://innovation.dal.ca/news.php?id=107&update=1>

Stats Reports

SharePoint

SharePoint is accessed 140 times per month on average. Please continue to use the site and post items that you wish to share with others in the network. Training workshop materials are available in the [Shared Documents](#) section.

Springboard web site

In November there were ~2200 hits to the Springboard website.

Flintbox

There are 25 Springboard postings on Flintbox and there have been over 9200 views of these projects. St. F.X.'s "Fluid-Particle Modeller & Simulation Software" has been licensed 18 times.

ACCT Update

- ACCT Canada's new electronic mailing list (tt-can) is now online. You can subscribe at listserv.tt-can.ca/mailman/listinfo/listserv
- Janet Scholz is the new (part time) Managing Director for ACCT Canada.
- Materials from the ACCT Annual Conference can be downloaded from www.acctcanada.ca under "Documents".

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