Message from the Head

Dear Valued Reader,

Greetings and Happy New Year. I hope you had a relaxing holiday break.

Our Department continued its efforts to promote Geomatics Engineering to first year engineering students in advance of the program selection process. In November, we hosted a pizza dinner event entitled “Future Is…” GEAC member Barbara Ball and alumni Justin Williams and Yan Wong from WorleyParsons did an excellent job informing the first year students about careers in Geomatics Engineering, in particular opportunities in the oil and gas sector. Thanks to Barbara, Justin and Yan for their hard work. Please read on for details about the event.

On behalf of the Department I’d like to welcome Dr. Elena Rangelova who joins the department as an Instructor responsible for many of the surveying courses we offer. More information about Elena can be found in this newsletter.

Many important department events will take place this winter semester. These include our very valuable advisory committee meetings: the Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee (GELC) on 28 January and the Geomatics Engineering Advisory Committee (GEAC) on 12 March. This year we welcome Victor Hut, Sandy Kennedy and Chris Tucker as new members to GEAC. Our annual Awards night follows GEAC on the evening of March 12. The 2015 Geomatics Exposition will take place on January 29. Organized by the Geomatics Engineering Students’ Society (GESS), it will draw 28 companies to raise awareness of their company, introduce their products and services, advertise positions and interview students. It is a brilliant networking opportunity and this year will feature a booth organized by the Geomatics Graduate Group to provide information and advice about research conducted in the Department and graduate studies. I thank the organizers, our alumni volunteers, the sponsors and the exhibitors whose hard work and contributions should prove to make this another very successful Geomatics Exposition.

Finally, after 35 years of service, Dr Bill Teskey retired from the University at the end of December. A celebration will be held early in 2015. We wish Bill well in retirement.

Derek Lichti
Professor and Head
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Prof. Kyle O’Keefe received the Excellence in Teaching Award for Geomatics Engineering at the SSE 3rd/4th Year Dinner.
- Congratulations to Prof. Naser El-Sheimy, who has been recognized in the first of a four-part series highlighting University of Calgary faculty innovators who were recognized by President Elizabeth Cannon and the Advisory Committee on Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The series is part of Global Entrepreneurship Week at the University of Calgary, an initiative of the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- Congratulations to Prof. Naser El-Sheimy and former graduate students, Chris Goodall and Zainab Syed for the sale of Trusted Positioning Inc. to a U.S. technology leader for $36M. Trusted Positioning Inc. was a spinoff company from the Department of Geomatics Engineering. The company uses inertial sensors such as accelerometers, gyroscopes, magnetometers and pressure sensors in mobile or wearable devices. TPI provides locations in areas where wireless systems such as GPS and Wi-Fi are unavailable or inaccurate.
- Professor Michael Side-ris received the NSERC Accelerator Grant for his project involving the monitoring of the temporal changes in the gravity field, oceans, land water and ice masses in North America by the means of integrated satellite data.
- Professor Ruisheng Wang was one of 50 researchers awarded the Eyes High Postdoctoral Scholars Award. Winners are invited to nominate a new scholar from outside the University of Calgary who will contribute to increase our research capacity.
- Recent PhD graduate Jacky Chow was featured on GIM and Xsens for he’s research on surveying and indoor mapping.
- Professor Steve Liang and Maribeth Murray, executive director of the Arctic Institute of North America and professor of anthropology and archaeology, have received $500,000 from (CANARIE) to launch ArcticConnect. ArcticConnect is designed to make it easier for scientists to manage and access information about the changing conditions in the Arctic.
- 2014 was another excellent year for Geomatics Engineering researchers at the Institute of Navigation GNSS+ 2014 Meeting in Tampa, Florida. Researchers from our department won five best presentation awards for the following papers:
  - Amr Al-Hamad, for Mobile Mapping Using Smartphone: N. El-Sheimy, A. Al-Hamad and A. Moussa
  - Srinivas Bhaskar, PhD candidate, for Exploiting Quasi-periodicity in Receiver Dynamics to Enhance GNSS Carrier Phase Tracking: S. Bhaskar
  - Professor Gérard Lachapelle.

SSE Holiday Celebration and Awards 2014
Friday, December 12, 2014

Early Research Excellence  Prof. Ruisheng Wang
Teaching Assistant Excellence  Mostafa Arastounia Babak Amjadiparvar
Teaching Excellence  Prof. Yang Gao

Congratulations to this Year’s Winners
Department Activities

There was a great turnout of inquisitive students at this year’s 1st Year Event. The presentations from Worley Parsons, by UofC alumni Yan Wong and Justin Williams, went very well and the students asked many questions of them, Courtenay Canivet (our Student Administrator) and Prof. Derek Lichti (our Dept Head). Overall it went very well in more of an informal setting with pizza. Hopefully this will translate into more first choices for Geomatics.

1st Year Event
FUTURE IS . . .
Thursday, November 27, 2014

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Consider where a career in Geomatics can take you!

1st Year Event
FUTURE IS...
INFO SESSION + PIZZA
with Geomatics ENGG

Presentation by
WorleyParsons
Barbara Ball
Justin Williams
Yan Wong

RSVP by Friday, Nov 14, 2014

Reserve Your Spot!
Provide your Full Name and Contact Info to
undergraduate@geomatics.ucalgary.ca
or 403-220-4978

Above: Yan Wong
Left: Student’s enjoying pizza and refreshments.
Below: Justin Williams
**New Instructor**

Prof. Elena Rangelova

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Elena Rangelova to the Geomatics Department as Instructor as of 1 January 2015. Dr. Rangelova has had a long association with our department, having earned her PhD here in 2008 and having worked as both a Research Associate and a Research Assistant. She also has experience working at the Devon Academic Resource Centre as Associate Coordinator/Sessional Instructor. She earned her Dipl. Eng. degree in Geodesy, Cartography and Photogrammetry from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1994.

**Renovation Update**

The Department of Geomatics underwent significant renovations in the Fall term. Faculty offices and student rooms were updated with new flooring, paint, and student furniture, resulting in a more updated working environment. Streamlined and modernized student furniture provides a more conducive working atmosphere for our students, and reflects the professionalism of our department.

Work was completed by Starcraft construction, which has completed numerous jobs through Schulich and the University of Calgary, and new furniture was supplied through McCrums Office Furniture.

**Open House 2014**

Saturday, November 1, 2014
MacEwan Hall

Our 3rd/4th year undergraduate students proudly represented the department at this year’s annual Open House.

The Open House is an opportunity for the public to come learn more about the faculties and programs at the University of Calgary.