INNOVATION PLACE

newsletter

AUGUST, 2003

"Royal" Challenge at Regina Research Park

His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex attended The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Young Canadians Challenge held at The Terrace in Regina Research Park on Saturday, June 21.

Approximately 300 invited guests and several government officials attended the grand event, including Premier Calvert.

The awards were established to recognize the personal commitment of young people between the ages of 14 and 25. The Earl of Wessex presented a gold level award to each of 49 participants who completed the programs challenge.

An International Declaration best defines the objective of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards: "The Award concept is one of individual challenge. It presents to young people a balanced, non-competitive program of voluntary activities which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to the community."

Intellectual property law firm opens at Innovation Place

The protection of intellectual property is key to businesses and industries in every sector. It is particularly vital to knowledge-based companies, whose assets often consist primarily of ideas or other intangible concepts.

One Saskatchewan law firm has focused its efforts exclusively on intellectual property law, offering domestic and international services in patents, trademarks, copyright, industrial designs, trade secrets, and protection and licensing of proprietary or confidential information. That law firm is Furman & Kallio.

Furman & Kallio was established in 1996, operating from offices in both Regina and Saskatoon. Partner Cory Furman practices out of the Regina office located at 1400 - 2002 Victoria Avenue. Partner Robert Kallio recently relocated his Saskatoon office from Quebec Avenue to 106 - 15 Innovation Boulevard, within the Innovation Place Research Park.

Furman & Kallio offers its clients a complete range of intellectual property expertise, including the drafting and filing of patent applications in Canada or throughout the world; the prosecution of patent applications; searching, filing and prosecution of applications for registration of trademarks in Canada, the United States, Europe and worldwide. Furman & Kallio are the province's only registered patent agents.

"We also do litigation and licensing with respect to patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets and industrial designs," says Robert Kallio.

By focusing its practice on this area of the law, Furman & Kallio can extend to its clients outstanding expertise in intellectual property law and its many emerging issues.

"It's not an area you can dabble in. You really have to be emerged in it to be efficient. You also need to have the right infrastructure. Every patent application has to be tracked constantly. If you miss a deadline, you can lose a lot. It could be fatal," says Kallio.

Furman & Kallio works in every country of the world. "Over the years, we have developed a network of associates in the United States, Europe, Australia - around the globe," says Kallio.

Clients of the intellectual property law firm are from every sector of industry, including manufacturing, information technologies and biotechnology.

"Our clients range in size from large multi-nationals to individual inventors, and everything in between," says Kallio. "They're located across the country, from Ontario to B.C."

Clients are well-served by the diverse experience and expertise of the

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firm's partners. From the Regina office, Cory Furman represents clients in a wide range of industry sectors, protecting their intellectual property rights and interests. He has extensive experience in licensing and protection of software.

Kallio came to the law after first earning a degree in engineering. He also began farming near Dinsmore, Saskatchewan, before returning to the University of Saskatchewan in 1991 to obtain his law degree.

Kallio and Furman attended law school together. The two decided to join forces and open their own intellectual property law firm in 1996.

Furman & Kallio has recently expanded its staff with the addition of a new colleague, Dr. Colin Rasmussen. Rasmussen put in over 20 years of active scientific research in areas including biotechnology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, before earning a law degree from the U of S in 2003.

"I was an active researcher at the University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan," says Rasmussen. "After 20 years, I was looking for some new challenges."

"Colin can really talk to clients in the scientific community and nail down what they're actually doing," says Kallio.

As the world economy shifts towards knowledge-based industries, the need for intellectual property protection continues to increase. "It's all about money," says Kallio. "If you have an idea, and it's a good idea, and you can protect that idea, it will give your company the edge in the marketplace."

Rasmussen adds, "Companies spend a lot of time and resources developing technologies. They need to recoup their investment. By protecting intellectual property, these companies can get a leg up on everyone else."

It's important for companies to protect even small technologies and refinements. "It doesn't require coming up with a really big invention. By developing an edge here and an edge there, a company can build up a valuable portfolio of intellectual property," says Kallio.

"Trademarks are a really big part of our work. That's related to protecting the goodwill a company has built up or hopes to build up."

The same patent laws that protect a newly-invented mechanical device also cover the complex intellectual properties relating to biotechnology and life sciences, adds Kallio.

"The common law grows to accommodate whatever new things happen," says Kallio.

"Rules that were written 150 years ago are still able to accommodate today's discoveries in biotechnology and molecular biology, because they have that ability to breathe," says Rasmussen.

"As in the past with the Plant Breeders' Act, when the Patent Act can no longer adapt to changing technologies, new legislation will be enacted to create a parallel system. It's my prediction that this will happen with higher life forms," says Rasmussen.

Kallio and Furman had talked for a number of years about opening offices at Innovation Place. The addition of Rasmussen to the practice provided the impetus to look for expanded office space and relocate to Innovation Place.

"As well, we'll be adding a fourth lawyer to the firm in September. Scott Davidson has an engineering degree and computer science degree, in addition to his law degree. He actually worked with us for the summer two or three years ago, then went to Toronto, where he articled. He wanted to come back to Saskatchewan to practice law," says Kallio.

The move to Innovation Place brings the firm in close proximity to many of its clients. "We also see many advantages to being in close proximity to the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. A lot of intellectual property should be coming out of the research being conducted at the synchrotron," says Kallio.

"Innovation Place and the University of Saskatchewan is where the majority of research activity is clustered. You need to be in the neighbourhood. You don't want to be on the outside looking in," says Rasmussen.

For more information about the law offices of Furman & Kallio, call (306) 931-4410, or check the firm's website at *www.furman-kallio.com* .

"I knew that a country without a patent office and good patent laws was just a crab, and couldn't travel any way but sideways or backways."

– Mark Twain

Lights! Camera! Research!

New Media Studio Laboratory home to diverse research

A new research environment utilizing a diverse range of media has been developed by the University of Regina, engaging researchers from the areas of Computer Science, Engineering and Fine Arts.

The New Media Studio Laboratory will celebrate its official opening in September, but innovative research projects are already being conducted in the lab, says Sheila Petty, head of the U of R's Department of Media Production and Studies.

Two of the three components of the laboratory are located within Regina Research Park, taking advantage of the park's adjacency to the U of R.

"We have a MultiMedia Production facility at 2 Research Drive, equipped with nine cross-platform multimedia edit suites and a variety of multimedia production and development software," says Petty.

"The Visualization and Imaging Studio is located within the International test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture or ITC Building. Here we use innovations like Tech Gear Bundles with 3-D vision, a data glove with position trackers, retinal scanner, portable data projector and more." Also housed in the studio are four edit suites, two of which feature High Definition Television (HDTV) imaging and editing capability. "This is a first for Saskatchewan. My understanding is that the film and video companies in Saskatchewan as of yet do not have HDTV equipment," says Petty.

The third component of the laboratory is the SurroundSound Research Studio, which will be located on the second floor of the U of R's Education Building. This facility is anticipated to open in 2004.

The Department of Media Production and Studies is one of four departments in the faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Regina. Not only does the department provide studies in film and video production, the program has also embraced the new media revolution.

In fact, in 2001, the department changed its name from the Film and Video Department, to the Department of Media Production and Studies. "The new name better reflects the direction the department and the industry is taking - where media is really converging," says Petty.

Petty says the U of R's media production degree program attracts students from around the world. The department typically accommodates 150 majors per year. "Students can opt for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film and video production or a Bachelor of Arts in media studies. Most of our majors opt for the production degree. We service the provincial film industry to a large extent. In fact, ours is the only BFA-granting program between Vancouver and Toronto."

Graduates of the U of R program go on to work in every facet of the film, video and multimedia industries, working as craftspeople, artists, critics and historians.

The Department of Media Production and Studies has a strong research component, says Petty. Research projects conducted by faculty and graduate students range from image processing and analysis for health sciences to multimedia quantum electronics device and circuit design.

"The U of R very much encourages interdisciplinarity," says Petty. "We have created an environment that encouraged students to take interdisciplinary degrees, certainly at the Master's level, for example, between Engineering and Fine Arts.

"We also found that our scientists, engineers and artists had research interests in common. A team of researchers from Engineering, Computer Science, Media Production and Studies, and Visual Art began working together on joint research projects."

In hopes of building on this synergy, the decision was made to apply for a CFI grant to fund a facility to better accommodate these research projects.

"The CFI grant resulted in the New Media Studio Laboratory, a facility intended to create and foster a knowledge community of researchers who are dedicated to interdisciplinary research," says Petty.

The research group is dedicated to developing innovative approaches to multimedia content design and production.

Dr. Xue Dong Yang, a professor of Computer Science with the faculty of Science, is researching the potential of visualization as an industrial tool, with exciting scientific and medical applications. One application includes facial recognition, based on 3-D modeling, a project being undertaken for the Canadian Department of Defence. The experimental system developed by Dr. Yang is now undergoing the first stages of testing.

Professor Charlie Fox, in the Department of Media Production and Studies, is researching a significant advance in SurroundSound technology. "Professor Fox was in fact recently awarded a provisional Canadian patent. His research project, Modular Microphone Array, is currently proceeding with the patent application process," says Petty.

The Modular Microphone Array is being used to develop research that spans both Science and Fine Arts. A related soundscape installation developed by Fox, "Wildurban," recently opened at Regina's Dunlop Gallery.

Petty is a media theorist, whose work encompasses new media, cinema, television narrative and aesthetics, and African diasporic cinema. Her current research project focuses on race and its relationship with new media narrative and aesthetics. "This has resulted in a publication on African digital narrative," says Petty.

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updates

Who's new to Saskatchewan's research parks?

Innovation Place welcomes the following new tenant to its expanding research community:

• **Superior Windmill** has opened offices at 105K - 111 Research Drive. Call Bob Freberg at (306) 956-5786 or email: *robertfreberg@superiorwindmill.com*. Check out the company's website at *www.superiorwindmill.com* .

Computer camp a big success

As a sponsor of the 12th annual Computer Camp operated by Mentor Systems Inc., the Regina Research Park hosted approximately 90 students over a three-week period in July. The participants enjoyed a tour of the Greenhouse Gas Technology Centre, the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and The Terrace, followed by pizza and refreshments in the Rotunda.

Changes of address or other updates can be directed to: Wonda Kirychuk, Innovation Place, 114 -15 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 2X8, or call (306) 933-6581. Email: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com.

The Innovation Place Newsletter is published monthly for Saskatchewan's research parks by the Armstrong Creative Group. For information, call Jeannie Armstrong at (306) 249-2459, or email: *armstrongcreative@shaw.ca*

A wonderful week in Wascana

The Week In Wascana camp was a success with over 80 children visiting the Regina Research Park during the week of July 7, 2003. The children were entertained with activities at a number of participating research park tenants.

At Climate Change Saskatchewan, the children played a water game that is a simulation of the hydrologic cycle and learned what they can do environmentally to become a "Climate Superhero." The children also examined a core tree ring disk sample under a microscope to discover some of the many secrets these tree rings can hold.

At Saskatchewan Research Council, the children participated in hands-on interactive experiments, learning about acids and the reactions of acids using household items. They also learned about surface tension through soap bubbles and how SRC uses this method to recover more oil from the ground.

At Technology Management Corporation, the children viewed a real live futuristic house in which technology is used to help with day-to-day living. They played an electronic game of hide and seek in the house and the children used remote sensors to try to find the person hiding.

The Regina Research Park would like to thank the following tenants who participated with the camp:

• Climate Change Saskatchewan: Carmelle Sikma and staff
• Saskatchewan Research Council: Cindy Jackson and staff
• Technology Management Corporation: Tim Kulbida and Mike Hogan

If other tenants are interested in learning more about the Week in Wascana camp or possible participation in the future, please call the Regina Research Park administration office at (306) 798-7275.

New Media Studio Laboratory

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Professor Gerald Saul, in the Department of Media Production and Studies, is producing a series of short digital animation works, entitled "Crust," using two- and three-dimensional scanning devices and Maya software to integrate real world with digital surfaces.

The education of eleven graduate students in Computer Science, Engineering and Fine Arts is also being enriched through the opportunity to conduct research at the New Media Studio Laboratory, says Petty. Several Master's students have received NSERC scholarships; another is supported by a TRLabs scholarship.

Although not officially open until September, the lab has already been successful in attracting research funding from a wide variety of sources, including the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), a Canada Council Media Arts Grant and the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

An open house and tours of the New Media Studio Laboratory are planned for September; further details will be available closer to the actual date. For more information, contact the Department of New Media Production and Studies at (306) 585-4188.

Share your company's latest business achievements, announcements or events of interest with the Innovation Place Newsletter. Please forward information to Wonda Kirychuk at Innovation Place… Fax # (306) 933-8200 or e-mail: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com