Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI)

Activity Report November 2012

1. Collaborative Program (KMD-CP)
The Collaborative program in KMD continues to draw students interested in interdisciplinary collaborative design work on problems of knowledge media design, management and evaluation. The CP program continues to grow and develop, while KMDI is also looking into other opportunities for design thinking, including a role in the iSchool MI program, and a possible role in Institute of Medical Science’s Masters in Translational Research among others.

Courses:

Fall 2012

- KMD1001: KMD Fundamental Concepts taught by Dr. Peter Pennefather. Enrolment 24 Students.

Winter 2013

- KMD 2001H Human-centred Design. Kate Sellen.
- KMD 2003H Knowledge Media & Learning /TPS1447H Technology in Education: Philosophical Issues. Dr. Megan Boler
- KMD 2004H Knowledge Media in Culture and Society/INF 2165H Social Implications of ICTs: Dr. Jonathan Obar
- KMD 3000H Embodied Gaming. Dr. Peter Pennefather
- KMD 3001H Wayfinding. Dr. Peter Pennefather

2. Events

Soft Launch

On September 27th Semaphore and KMDI had a soft launch of their new spaces in Robarts. Members of the iSchool, Semaphore and KMDI communities were invited to refreshments, speeches and tours of the spaces on the first and seventh floors.

SPLICE: At the Intersection of Arts and Medicine

Nina Czegledy, a KMDI affiliated Researcher helped organize a series of installations, talks, bus tours and seminars about the intersection of Art and Medicine. This series presents a scientific gaze at the human body by showcasing traditional anatomical art, complemented and challenged by contemporary artworks. See SPLICE.kmdi.utoronto.ca for more information.

Digifest: October 18-20
KMDI participated in Digifest 2012. Digifest showcases digital media creativity in Toronto, bringing together academic, industry and the public to experience the convergence of interactive & mobile media, gaming, art and design, architecture, simulation and more. KMDI and a gaggle of dedicated volunteers staffed our booth attended presentations, hands-on demos, interactive exhibitions and workshops.

**Steve Fuller Lecture:** October 25th

As part of the iSchool Colloquium Series, KMDI was pleased to organize and support the Steve Fuller lecture.

His talk entitled “Interdisciplinarity as Both Threatening and Regenerative of the University” explored issues of collaboration to illustrate both the promise and problems of interdisciplinarity.

**Book launch(s)**

On June 20th, 2012 KMDI supported Barry Wellman's (Sociology Professor at U of T and KMDI member) most recent book. The text entitled, *Networked: The New Social Operating System*, by Lee Rainie and Barry Wellman, explores how social networks, the personalized Internet, and always-on mobile connectivity are transforming - and expanding - social life.

On October 17th, 2012 KMDI Supported the launch of *Connecting Canadians: Investigation in Community Informatics* (AUPress 2012). The editors include KMDI's director Andrew Clement, and FI's Leslie Shade, and contributors included Professor Nadia Caidi, as well as many current and former iSchool students.

**Info Session(s)**

September 5th KMD CP held an Info Session for perspective students and institute members.

September 18th KMDI hosted an info session on Wayfinding: MSB Wayfinding to explore potential directions for KMD 3000 in the Winter.

3. Activities

**Director & BUL Chair Search**

Although KMDI has a number of current initiatives on the go, none are perhaps more pressing than the current Director and BUL Chair searches. Drawing on the recommendations of a search committee that has been actively engaged in defining and publicizing the terms of these appointments, KMDI hopes to select candidates for both positions by the end of 2012.

**MI concentration in KMD**

Another initiative KMDI is currently engaged in is the development of a new MI concentration at the Faculty of Information in Knowledge Media Design. The proposal for the new stream has received iSchool and SGS approval and we are excited at the prospect of recruiting students to a more extensive KMD curriculum.

*See accompanying program proposal from the FI Programs Committee*

**INF 1601 - KMD Capstone Project**
As part of the new MI KMD concentration, the Institute has developed a modular workshop based capstone project class at the iSchool. The course, open to future MI KMD students, will be a year long opportunity for students to integrate the theoretical underpinnings of KMD towards a community based collaborative project.

See accompanying course proposal from the FI Programs Committee

**Special Topics Course  KMD4000**

Additionally, KMDI has proposed a Special Topics course. Although the KMD CP has reading courses, we currently do not have the mechanism in place to allow for courses to be mounted based on member research or student interest. The special topics course will allow KMDI the flexible infrastructure to accommodate topics at the forefront of the field.

**4. Personnel**

**Departures:**

- Kostas Plataniotis, Director
- Ana Popa, Assistant Collaborative Program Coordinator (A-CPC)

**Additions:**

- Andrew Clement, Interim Director
- Joseph Ferenbok, Assistant Director
- Peter Pennefather, Outreach Coordinator

5. Location:

KMDI has now relocated from 45 Willcocks to the KMDI/Semaphore ground floor space in 130 St. George (Robarts Library).