Activity Report on Knowledge Media Design Institute – May 2013

1. Collaborative Program (KMD-CP)
This year the collaborative program ran a range of courses (see list below) that were taken by 91 students from 15 participating degree programs at the University of Toronto and by students from outside institutions as well. Through project teams, mind mapping, posters and other collaborative design artifacts and techniques the students produced a range of projects and papers that demonstrated their mastery of critical thinking, requirements gathering, and design skills.

1.1 Courses
The KMD-CP offered eight courses from the Summer 2012 Session to the Spring 2013 Session. The following table shows KMD courses and enrolments from Fall 2012 through Summer 2013. We have chosen to show the course for Summer 2013 as it reflects changes we are making in terms of restructuring the times and composition of courses so that they attract more students, and so that they provide strong design experiences as part of each course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
<th>Winter 2013</th>
<th>Summer 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pennefather</td>
<td>Monday 10am -1:00pm</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday – 5:00 – 8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room: Semaphore, 1150 Robarts</td>
<td>Room: Semaphore, 1150 Robarts</td>
<td>Currently 38 students registered</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Students</td>
<td>8 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>KMD2001 Human-Centred Design</td>
<td>KMD2003 Knowledge Media and Learning/ cross –listed with OISE TPS1447</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Sellen</td>
<td>Megan Boler</td>
<td>5 – KMD Students 18 – OISE Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10:00am – 12:30pm Room: Semaphore, 1150 Robarts</td>
<td>Thursday 5:00pm – 8:00pm Room: Semaphore, 1150 Robarts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Student</td>
<td>5 – KMD Students 18 – OISE Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KMD2004/INF216 Media, Culture and Society/ cross-listed</td>
<td>Jonathan Obar</td>
<td>16 iSchool 2 KMD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pennefather</td>
<td>Thursday 9:00am – 12:00pm Room: 507, Bissell Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KMD3000 Embodied Gaming</td>
<td>KMD3001 Wayfinding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Pennefather</td>
<td>Peter Pennefather</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5:00 – 8:00pm Room: 3175, Medical Science Building</td>
<td>Wednesday 5:00 – 8:00pm Room: 3175, Medical Science Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Students</td>
<td>5 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>KMD2002 Technologies for</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Chignell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday – 5:00 – 8:00pm</td>
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<td>Currently 38 students registered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 1.2 Planned Courses for 2013 - 2014

### Fall 2013
- **KMD1001**: KMD Fundamental Concepts, Instructor
- **KMD2001**: Human Centred-Design - Instructor Andrew Clement

### Spring 2013
- **KMD1002**: KMD: Contexts and Practice "Pro Seminar in KMD - Values & Design Communities", Instructor - TBD
- **KMD2004**: Knowledge Media, Culture & Society, Instructor - TBD

## 1.3 New CP Students:

This year the KMD Collaborative Program accepted 9 new students from 4 collaborating units; Faculty of Information, Mechanical Industrial Engineering, Curriculum Teaching and Learning, and Department of Religious Studies. Recent admissions include eight Master’s students and one PhD.

## 1.4 Graduating CP Students:

The following students graduated this year with a KMD CP designation:
- Maroof Moral (IS MI)
- Justin Scherer (IS MI)
- Melissa Bruno (IS MI)
- Kristina Chin (IS MI)
- Anne Dabrowski (IS MI)
- Fatima Kanji (MEng)
- Karen Louise Smith (IS PhD)
- Rebecca Cober (CTD MA)
- Max Evans (IS PhD)
- Shawn Lennie (CTD PhD)

## 1.5 Poster Session:

The KMDI annual year-end poster session was held on Thursday April 18th from 5:00 – 7:00pm at 170 College Street, Mining Building room 123. Posters created for class assignments and individual portfolios were presented to a parade of KMDI supporters while they had light snacks and refreshments. There were 10 posters presented, along with six video projects. The event was well attended by students, and by KMDI members and faculty from collaborating units. The session provided both a networking opportunity and a chance for students to get constructive and useful feedback on their work.

## 2. Institute

In this transition year the focus for the institute was on finding a new Director and beginning the transition to re-envision the institute. As part of the process KMDI ran two searches, developed new agreements and infrastructure and began new strategies for development and outreach.

### 2.1 Director & BUL Chair Search

In September 2012 Interim Director, Andrew Clement, put together a search committee to simultaneously search for a KMDI Director and the BUL Research Chair. Although performing
double duty on a very short timeline the committee was able to find a candidate who could fill both roles, and Mark Chignell was recommended by the committee to the Dean for appointment as the BUL Research Chair and the new KMDI Director.

2.2 KMD Development
2.2.1 Special Topics course:
To ensure that KMDI remains flexible and can respond to the interests of faculty and student demand, KMDI has proposed, and is in the process of obtaining, approval for adding KMD4000: Special Topics in KMD.

2.2.2 KMD Concentration in the MI program:
KMDI has also worked closely with the Faculty of Information to structure and obtain approvals for a KMD Concentration in the Master’s of Information degree program. The concentration will give Faculty of Information students a more in-depth KMD experience and will culminate in a major KMD project. As part of the concentration, KMDI has been involved in developing and obtaining governance for INF 1601, the KMD Major Project course within the MI Concentration.

2.2.3 Portfolio redevelopment:
The portfolio was originally used as part of the entrance criteria for admission to the KMD Collaborative Programme. In recent years the emphasis has shifted to a role where the portfolio is a living document that is constructed while the student is participating in the KMD programme, demonstrating the skills and achievements of students. This year we have started the process of re-evaluating and restructuring the portfolio requirement to make sure it becomes a meaningful and useful tool for the students and the institute and to enhance its role as a living document. In addition to his teaching, Professor Pennefather has taken on a new role as Coordinator of Portfolios and Publications. Professor Pennefather will work with students in the Collaborative Program to create online living portfolios that grow and change as there research does. His focus on publications will be on different modes and possibilities for interactive work, and potential creation of books/monographs evolved from student course work.

2.2.4 Revise course descriptions and learning outcomes:
As part of KMDI’s re-envisioning, the Collaborative Program has started an internal review of its courses and descriptions in relation to learning outcomes and Masters Level Degree Expectations (MLDE’s). Our goal is to create a more cohesive program with MLDE’s, in line with the Quality Assurance Council and ready for implementation in the next academic year.

2.2.5 Student Support Initiatives
This coming fall KMDI will begin offering students support for participating in conferences. This travel support will be conditional on the student presenting peer reviewed work at the conference. The process will be competitive, with proposals being reviewed by the Executive Committee. Due to financial constraints, the maximum award will initially be set at $500, with a matching contribution from the student’s advisor being required.
2.3 Outreach

2.3.1 New Collaborative Units
This year the KMD CP has received approval for the following new Collaborative Units:
- Department for the Study of Religion
- Museum Studies
- Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
- Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

2.3.2 KMDI and Semaphore Projects
Beginning September 2013 KMDI will be launching a joint project series with Semaphore Lab. In conjunction with the Semaphore Research Cluster on Mobile and Pervasive Computing, KMDI will collect project proposals from KMD Collaborative Program students interested in producing their projects in the Semaphore lab. Student’s will be asked to submit a formal research project proposal/statement outlining their research goals and how they contribute to Semaphore’s research mandate, which entails both theoretical and applied research into three related areas: Participatory Material Culture, Sensory Information Processing and Adaptive Games and Inclusive Play.

2.3.3 Conferences:
2.3.3.1 DigiFest 2012
KMDI had the opportunity to represent the UofT and the iSchool at DigiFest 2012. Digifest is Toronto’s international festival celebrating innovation and digital creativity. It 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.

2.3.3.2 GRAND 2013
GRAND is a multi-disciplinary program of research and innovation spanning the broad spectrum of digital media from across Canada. GRAND is a research network and commercialization engine whose goal is to address complex issues in digital media and transform multidisciplinary research into user-centred solutions. GRAND explores the use and application of digital media in a variety of settings including entertainment, healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, and public policy. KMDI was one of three organizations presenting posters at a well attended session at the GRAND conference on May 16th, 2013. In addition to showing 11 posters at the session, KMDI representatives also handed out a number of brochures on KMDI. The brochures were created in May 2013 and provide a general introduction to KMDI, the KMD collaborative programme, and KMDI activities.

2.4 Founders Gala & Dinner
This year KMDI hosted a special dinner to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Ron Baecker (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Baecker), the founder of the Knowledge Media Design Institute, pioneer in computer graphics, fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, member of the SIGCHI Academy). The event was attended by many of the KMDI community
including students, faculty and friends. Attended by close to 100 guests, including the Dean of the Faculty of Information, the gala proved a good vehicle for reconnecting with the KMDI community while also celebrating the accomplishments of its funder.

2.5 Report on Research & Business Development

2.5.1 Business development and iSchool
This year KMDI has started the process of revised business protocols for dealing with the Faculty of Information to improve synergies, avoid redundancies and capitalize on joint resources and infrastructure. As part of the redevelopment KMDI has started to revise protocols around event sponsorship and participation, and around outreach.

2.5.2 Website
This year KMDI has been working on deploying a more open and accessible Content Management System that syncs with social media and allows member to interact and post as part of a community. The institute is working on shifting to a Wordress based site.

2.5.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Medical Science (IMS)
KMDI has entered into an MOU with IMS to work on delivering courses on design thinking and workshops on project development for professional Translational Research masters students in the Faculty of Medicine.

2.5.4 KMDI Reports
This year KMDI has also reintroduced “KMDI Reports” as a KMDI publication. This member driven initiative provides insights from KMD members into research findings. The reports are reviewed by an editorial committee and posted on KMDI’s website and T-space for public access. The first two reports are co-authored by Professor Khai Truong and his colleagues and have been posted on the KMDI site.

2.6 Personnel

Additions:
- Andrew Clement, Interim Director and CP Director (second half of 2012)
- Peter Pennefather, Outreach Coordinator
- Mark Chignell, KMDI Director
- Anthony Wensley, CP Director

Departures:
- Ana Popa, Assistant Collaborative Program Coordinator (A-CPC)
- Joseph Ferenbok, KMDI Assistant Director (as of August 1, 2013)
- Kostas Plataniotis, KMDI Director
- Andrew Clement, KMDI Interim Director
3.0 Semaphore Research Cluster
In June 2012, the Semaphore Research Cluster officially moved into Robarts library, with space on the main and seventh floor. Faculty include Matt Ratto (participatory culture) Sara Grimes (adaptive gaming) Rhonda McEwen (sensory information processing). The research group was joined by 3 Post Doctoral fellows; Adam Dubé (working with Rhonda McEwen), Alison Harvey (working with Sara Grimes), and Isaac Record (working with Matt Ratto). Currently the Semaphore group consists of 36 members; 3 faculty, 3 postdocs, 1 staff, 7 PhD’s and 7 MI. Semaphore welcomed the addition of Research Coordinator Amy Ratelle in January 2013.

3.1 Outreach
This year Semaphore ran a number of different events in order to introduce the iSchool and UofT community at large to the lab. Events included:

- **Games in Film Series** – Film screenings with panel discussions (throughout the winter term 2013)
- **Blind Tennis Workshop** – December 1, 2012 – a workshop dedicated to creating better technologies to assist in quality and consistency play and ball mechanisms for unsighted tennis players.
- **Critical Gaming Series** – (throughout the Fall and Winter term) discussions around specific games/gaming and their social/cultural impacts within society
- **Raspberry Pi Talk** – On December 5th 2012, Rob Bishop, one of the developers of the Raspberry Pi came to visit Semaphore and talk about the open-source ARM Linux box.
- **Upverter Workshop** - 7 February 2013. One day workshop on collaborative hardware design using Upverter’s Cloud Engineering system.

3.2 Grants and Funding
Prof. Sara Grimes, as PI, was awarded a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant for the “Children’s Do It Yourself Media” project, which provides 3 years of funding for a funding for a new collaborative, international study of emerging policy and ethical issues relating to children creating and publishing media content online. Partners include Utah State University, Simon Fraser University, TIFF Kids, Joan Ganz Cooney Centre @ Sesame Workshop, Storybird, Media Smarts, Common Sense Media, Zinc Roe, Centennial College and others.