DFP Newsletter: December 2019

Director Check-In

There is lots to report!

Loads of milestones: the first 2-year CREATE report, the first all-together program committee meeting, a summer of activity for our grads followed by welcoming our biggest new grad cohort so far in the fall, some great stimulus-funded translation projects and our fourth GCRC proposal submission. This was all alongside the disruption of staff flux, as we continue to search for the right replacement for Kerry. (please be patient, and thanks again to Joc as well as Computer Science for working together to patch the breach.)

You may recall the conversations at our May retreat. The recurring theme was the need to manage effort, while we continued to figure out where we want to go as a group and start doing it. This discussion continued during the fall, and resulted in the decision to apply for a 2-year GCRC term, which means a 50% reduced budget. If successful, we will need to be lean, but we’ll have a period of continuity which we need to use well. A small group (Joanna, Liisa, Luanne, Joc) is meeting to ideate on streamlining (please share your ideas); while I develop a different effort on cluster hiring aimed at bumping us up to critical mass, and we put our new Prisming Labs into action. Effort hasn’t gone down yet, but the job is to get out of an unstable size.

As always, feed these efforts by thinking about your collaborations and big ideas, and share them with your co-DFP-ers. What’s standing in your way; who do you need?

Karon MacLean

Visit us online at dfp.ubc.ca
Things We Need From You, and Announcements

Graduate Entrance Awards Available! Have your students apply early (by March 13, 2020) to the CREATE and they will be eligible for a $5,000 GEG. More details online.

UBC Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters: Our team submitted our 2019 GCRC report and renewal, yay! Results will be announced mid-late December.

Important Changes in 2020: We applied for a 2-year term; the price of stability was a 50% budget cut, most of which will go to staffing and a reduced (1/mo) Seminar. The proposal also featured one exciting new initiative: “Prismming Labs” (page 4).

3rd Round of Project Stimulus Funds were awarded to 4 DFP faculty in August (page 3). Hear more about these projects – now complete – at our April 8th Seminar.

DFP Party: It may be potluck on our new trim budget, but stay tuned. Karon’s place in Feb?

DFP CREATE: We submitted our first 2-year report (September – without an admin!), and formed a CREATE Program Committee (August) to help advise on strategic directions relating to our NSERC-funded CREATE program.

DFP CREATE Program Committee:
- Karon MacLean (DFP Director)
- Barry Po (Chief Product Officer, mCloud)
- Elynn Lorimer (CEO, Spatial R&D)
- Rock Leung (UX Researcher, Samsung RD)
- Kari LaMotte (Director, e@UBC)
- Amelia Cole (DFP Student)
- Mohi Reza (DFP Student)
- Jocelyn McKay (DFP Staff)

Visit / subscribe to our (Google) DFP Public Calendar of Events here.

Term 2 Seminars
Jan 8  Shamsi Iqbal
Feb 12 Hannah Turner
Mar 11 Cristina Conati
Apr 8 Tamara, Lisa, Suzanne, Liisa (Stimulus Update)
May 13 Lisa Nathan
Jun 10 Karon MacLean

CREATE Events
Feb 5 Design Review Session
Mar 4 Research Ethics Orientation
Mar 11 1st Design Review Session
Apr 8 2nd Design Review Session
May 6 Annual Design Showcase

View all events on our website
DFP Project Stimulus Fund – Round 3
We funded 4 Project Stimulus Fund applications in our 3rd round.

Adapting to a Disrupted Climate: Designing Community-Maintained Information Systems: Lisa Nathan
This project stimulus application is focused on developing a series of research grant proposals (SSHRC, Vancouver Foundation, Peter Wall) to investigate how the design of locally developed and maintained information systems (broadly defined) might help neighborhoods prepare effectively for radically shifting, locally specific conditions. Lisa has hosted 4 workshops this term to discuss this topic and to build community connections.

Developing Partnership with Practitioners in Asian Studies by Deploying RichReview to UBC Classrooms: Dongwook Yoon
This proposal requests financial support for Yoon’s plan to deploy RichReview to UBC foreign language classrooms with two short-term goals in mind: demonstrating to UBC instructors that HCI research can bring in substantial practical benefits to real-world classrooms, and involve the instructors in a close-knit partnership between Asian Studies and Yoon’s lab as tech-evangelists of RichReview in UBC’s instructor community.

CanHaptics Network Planning Workshop: Karon MacLean
Karon and Oliver Schneider (U Waterloo and a UBC CS alumni) organized a 2-day workshop for haptics enthusiasts to meet, network, and build the foundations of a CanHaptics Network. Representatives from DFP, the University of Waterloo’s Centre for Bioengineering and Biotechnology, the Games Institute and the Faculty of Engineering, as well as McGill University, École de technologie supérieure, University of Manitoba and industry representative Immersion were present. The long-term goal of this initiative is to promote collaboration and support research by identifying and leveraging Canada’s expertise in haptics and physical user interfaces.

Calmer: A Robot Device for Managing Stress in the NICU: Technology Transfer:
Liisa Holsti
Calmer is an incubator insert that simulates skin-to-skin holding for reducing pain in preterm infants in acute care. Liisa and Karon designed Calmer and tested it in a clinical sample. In our latest CIHR funded trial, they’ve shown that Calmer works as well as human touch for reducing pain and maintaining brain blood oxygen levels during a routine blood test. They are now in the initial stages of technology transfer to industry partners; these funds contribute to the technology patenting costs.
Prisming Labs: Feature of our latest GCRC proposal

How do we truly unlock our multidisciplinary collaborative potential? After three years, we know that some things face bigger obstacles than we first thought. The new element of our new GCRC proposal, devised by the 10 co-applicants, is to create and apply a technique to do this.

Once a month we will take on a research idea pitched by one of us; the rest will apply our various lenses. We will look at it from different perspectives, to identify weak spots and open entry points for collaboration. We expect this to be hard, uncomfortable, and require trust.

We will present what we learn to DFP at a spring seminar, and eventually share the ‘recipe’ with other clusters across campus. Stay tuned!

GCRC Co-Applicants / Prisming Labs Team:
Karon, Liisa, Alan, Lisa, Cristina, Luanne, Joanna, Leanne, Tamara, Dongwook, Kosta

DFP-Sponsored Events

We are sponsoring several design-related events in Vancouver:

2019
Radical Research Summit Sep 27 (read more)
IEEE VIS West Coast Party Oct 20-25 (read more)

2020
CHIIR Mar 14-18 (read more)
Conference on Human Information Interaction & Retrieval
STEM July 9-11 (read more)
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Topic: ‘Changing the Story’

Planning to attend? Ask us for a DFP t-shirt to wear to the event!
Our Grads are Motivated to Learn

Summer School e-Portfolio Workshop

The DFPGrads pulled off an incredible 2-day summer school on Aug 6th and 7th. The first day included a panel of industry individuals who shared the tips and tricks of creating effective e-Portfolios, and answered student questions. During the afternoon, students learned from Amanda Klassen of Cuso International how to incorporate all of this knowledge into their own e-portfolio design.

Day 2 was dedicated to a hand-on session in which students crafted their e-portfolios using Wix. They were given the tools and instructions on how to take professional photos of their projects for documentation.

Read more on our website.

Industry Panelists:

Amanda Klassen: Cuso International Product Developer
Raymond To: GO Recruitment Founder
Tricia Gilliss: BLANKSLATE Partners HR Business Partner
Alissa Bakker: BLANKSLATE Partners HR Business Partner

With facilitators Danielle Barkley and Sabrina Hauser

Attention DFP CREATE Cohort 3:
Are you new to DFP and wondering how to get involved?

First of all, welcome to the Designing for People Research Cluster! As a DFP CREATE student, you now have access to our full network of faculty, alumni, and industry partners. We hope that you’ll take this opportunity to build connections and really use DFP to achieve your academic and career goals.

We encourage you to join DFPGrads. This grad group can be whatever you make it: if there’s an event, workshop, etc. that you want to put on, DFP can offer funding and admin support to make it happen. The DFPGrads group organizes field trips, workshops, summer schools, and hangouts. View past DFPGrads events here, and learn how to join the group here.

Photo Credit:
Above: DFP Grad Hanieh Shakeri
Middle Right: DFP Grad Anna Offenwanger
Welcome to DFP Cohort 3!

**Student**
- Delun Chen
- Kevin Chow
- Rodrigo dos Santos
- Frances Sin
- Oliver Jacobs
- Rebecca Kenny
- Winnie Li
- Azadeh Mokhberi
- Francis Nguyen
- Thalia Otamendi
- Anna Lin
- Sang-Wha Sien
- Zakir Suleman
- Thitaree Tanprasert
- Marina Botnaru
- Ege Unlu

**DFP Supervisor**
- Mike Van der Loos
- Karon MacLean & Joanna McGrenere
- Lisa Nathan
- Dongwook Yoon
- Alan Kingstone
- Naznin Virji-Babul
- Luanne Freund
- Kosta Beznosov
- Tamara Munzer
- Naznin Virji-Babul
- Heather O’Brien
- Joanna McGrenere
- Heather O’Brien
- Dongwook Yoon
- Heather O’Brien
- Robert Xiao

**New 2020 Project Partners**

**Microsoft Research**
*Partner Liaison:* Dr. Shamsi Iqbal (Principal Researcher, Information and Data Sciences group)

**Aquanomics OceanCanada**
*Partner Liaison:* Anne Marie Goodfellow (Coordinator) & Duncan Burnside (Web/Data Manager)

**BC Centre for Disease Control**
*Partner Liaison:* Mark Gilbert (Medical Director of Clinical Prevention Services)

**LlamaZOO**
*Partner Liaison:* Li Ji (Research Lead)