

# SAFAGRAM

## President's Message *by Doug Spurgeon*



Thanks to everyone for a successful year. The advice and assistance everyone has provided to the SAFA office staff, as well as other faculty, once again affirms why the Association members are among the best.

As everyone prepares for vacation this summer, I would encourage you all to take a vacation and leave work behind. September will be here soon enough and a well-deserved break is needed.

I know that several departments/schools have many projects to work on for next year. Everything from redesign of existing courses, creating new courses from scratch, and repackaging the delivery style of current programs is on the go. There should be plenty of work for next year.

Once the summer begins, I hope that all of you will have the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. Use the summer to relax, rejuvenate, start a new hobby, and get work out of your mind.

Have a safe and relaxing vacation this year. I look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall to start the hectic pattern once again. ♦

## SAIT's Best Kept Secret — Four For Five Leave

*by Roxanne Wheaton*

Have you heard of the Four for Five Leave at SAIT? How does having a year off from work and doing what you want while still receiving your salary sound? You defer 15 percent of your salary for four years, and in the fifth year, you receive 85 percent. This deduction may hurt in the beginning, mostly the first five months. After that, your tax bracket and other deductions are usually adjusted.

Note that you have contributed 60 percent of your wages towards this fifth year, yet you will be receiving 85 percent. Some of this extra is generated from the interest on your money over the four years, and the remainder is topped up by SAIT. This is an amazing employee benefit.

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SAFAGRAM editorial policy, as approved by the SAFA Executive on June 14, 1995, is as follows:

1. The Editorial Board has the final say as to what is included or deleted from the newsletter.
2. Editorial Board decisions about newsletter material must be agreed to by consensus.
3. The newsletter will include a disclaimer stating that the views expressed in its content do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.
4. All material included in the newsletter must
  - be signed by the author when submitted to the editors, but anonymity may be requested and granted for printing.
  - be based on "reasoned argument" if personal criticism is used.
  - not involve name-calling.
  - not include sexist, racist, or homophobic comments.
  - be related to SAIT, although this will be interpreted broadly.

**The views expressed in SAFAGRAM do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.**

## Library Report



by Dave Weber and Nora Robinson

This is our last column for the 2007–08 year. We hope you all have a great summer. See you in the Fall!

### ⇒ Special Collections Funding

The Library received approximately \$66,000 in one-time special collections development funding in April. Over 1000 extra books were selected and purchased.

### ⇒ Staff Professional Development

Library staff are busy attending spring conferences. The conference list includes the following:

- Canadian Library Association
- Association of Canadian Archivists
- Alberta Association of Library Technicians
- WILU (Workshop on Instruction for Library Users)
- LOEX (Library Orientation Exchange)

### ⇒ Instructor Liaison

The librarians and technicians are taking advantage of the quieter spring semester to deliver orientation sessions to instructors across the main campus and Mayland Heights. Orientations range from traditional library collections such as books and DVDs to the electronic resources accessed via the Library home page.

### ⇒ SAFA's New Division Four: CITD, Counsellors and Librarians

In April, the Library hosted a gathering of SAFA members of the new Division Four. This division was created by the SAFA executive to provide non-teaching faculty with a greater voice in SAFA. Members from the Library, CITD, and Counselling attended our informal meeting that promoted participation in the upcoming SAFA committee elections.

### ⇒ New Staff

Corrinna Meidinger, Library Technician, joined the library support services unit in May. Corrinna graduated from the SAIT Library and Information Technology program in 2003. She held recent positions in the Trans Canada Pipelines Business Information Centre and the Crossfield Elementary School Library.

The Library is once again hosting two summer students for the May-August term. Sharon Lowe and Kirsten Livingstone have completed the first year of their Library and Information Technology program. ♦

## Career Planning: Passion & Pursuit!

by Student Counselling Services

Ahhhhhhhh, the end of the term! Just as students are transitioning into the workforce, some instructors may be wondering what's next on their career horizons. In both scenarios, people are being challenged to successfully manage their careers. Research tells us that most people will have five to seven different occupations in their lifetime. You can never learn career-planning skills too early! Learning to be an effective career planner could increase your life satisfaction and decrease your stress.

### Keys to Developing a Successful Career Plan

1. **Know Yourself**—Every day you make hundreds of decisions, without even thinking about them. These decisions reflect your interests, values, strengths, and personalities. Learning to identify your attributes is the first step to successful career planning and for what you need to know for a satisfying work and home life.
2. **Know Your Options**—You can use websites to research and identify the top occupations you'd like to explore. Next, talk to people working in the field. Find out what their job entails, and what they like and dislike about the

work. This way you build your career knowledge and establish networks. You can also work part time or abroad, or you can intern or volunteer to see if a job is right for you.

3. **Get a Career Counsellor**—SAIT students can receive free career planning services at Student Counselling (284-7023), and staff through their Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The counsellor's role is to take you through the career-planning process in a manageable way. Counsellors can utilize formal career assessments to help you clarify your passions and to pursue them.

There is no magic test that will definitely tell you what you "should be." Career planning is about taking the time to explore yourself and a few of the 30,000 jobs in the universe; and then, aim for the stars! ♦

## DO YOU KNOW?

By Eugene Blanchard

One of the best-kept secrets at SAIT is the Information Technology Telecom Systems (ITTS) major. Do you know that we have world-class voice and data communications training and facilities here at SAIT? We are the premiere institute in Canada for telecommunications training and are privileged to have the only captive central office switch in an educational institute in North America. This hands-on program trains graduates for the installation, maintenance, and configuration of global data communications systems covering the latest technologies such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), Internet Service Provider to Internet Service Provider (ISP to ISP) connections, and traditional voice communications systems. In addition, the telecommunications industry provides the backbone for all Internet communications.

During the past year, significant advancements have occurred in our training and our facilities. The curriculum has been re-aligned and repositioned from an electronics-centric program to an Information Technologies major—we've embraced the computer age with a bang! Here are a few of the latest technology upgrades this year:

- Supernode upgrade to our central office switch
- MTX cellular phone sites
- VOIP private branch exchange lab
- Cisco Certified Internetwork Professional (CCIP) training lab
- Core labs cabled for fibre optics

It is an exciting time to be involved in the ITTS major at SAIT!

In 2008, our graduates were fortunate to have had more job offers than we had available graduates, and the future is promising as the forecast is for a growing job market. Our graduates find work with telecommunications companies such as TELUS, cable providers such as Shaw, and any company that uses telephones and wide area networks such as banks, transportation companies, supermarkets, oil companies, etc.—that's one huge market!

The ITTS program is a two-year technology program that covers the digital revolution that is going on in global data communications. For more information visit [telecom.sait.ca](http://telecom.sait.ca)

## DO YOU KNOW?

SAFA is working toward having some social events for faculty and families; e.g., Family Skating party, Bowness Park BBQ, and dances with unique themes. Any faculty member is invited to assist in making these events successful.

## DO YOU KNOW?

Don Robertshaw

There is a website called [windowssecrets.com](http://windowssecrets.com) that may be of interest to you. Among other things, it includes a free newsletter. A recent article described a method that has helped others and may help you to retrieve a lost flash drive, camera, or laptop. Find this and many other interesting tidbits at

<http://windowssecrets.com/comp/080327>. ♦

## When writing is not quite right . . .

A person wanting a job submits a résumé and indicates "previous experience in public speaking."

An announcement in a Church bulletin: "Tryouts for the choir are being held. If you enjoy sinning, join us on Wednesday night, 7 p.m."

The regular Weight Watchers weigh-in meeting will be held tomorrow—please enter by the large double door at the side entrance.

Have you heard the one about the doctor who called a plumber to fix his plugged toilet? The plumber arrived, threw in two aspirins, and told the doctor if it was still there in the morning to call him again.

From an elementary school teacher to a pupil: "How do you spell cat?" The response was "c-a-t Enter."

A friend told me about a new store coming to Calgary. I googled "Creighton Barrel." Google knew what I wanted when the program asked, "Do you mean Crate and Barrel?" Say it fast to someone who has never heard of the store!

When the town of Kathryn was named, it was supposed to be Kathryn, but the painter made a mistake—to this day, the name has stuck.

Slow Down, Scool Zone

A canopy for a new restaurant  
—*Fine Dining*

Fresh doughnut's

How about a Tattoo parlour that advertises work is done "while you wait!" ♦



## SAFA Report

by Matthew Hamilton



Well, it's that time of the year for some faculty members—Professional Development Time!!! Over the past several weeks, I have received several consistent questions about Professional Development (PD) from faculty, so I decided to share my responses with all faculty.

1. How much money does an academic staff member receive for Professional Development?

According to section 14.04 of the SAIT/SAFA Collective Agreement, "the Employer shall contribute an amount such that \$600.00 (\$800.00 effective July 1, 2009) is available over a twenty-four (24) month period for each salaried academic staff member for individual short-term professional development ..."

2. What can I use my Professional Development Funds for? According to SAIT's HR Policy and Procedure—Professional Development Fund (2.2.2), an academic staff member's professional development funds may be used for:

- (a) Tuition, registration and/or associated travel expenses for courses, seminars or conferences,
- (b) Memberships in professional or trade organizations related to the faculty member's expertise,
- (c) Subscriptions to professional or trade journals related to the faculty member's expertise,
- (d) Books and computer software related to the faculty member's expertise,
- (e) Any other activity or item approved by the Dean/Director which is related to the faculty member's expertise.

*Professional Development Funds are not to be used for items such as modems, computer equipment, internet lines, cameras, day timers etc. as these are considered taxable benefits. Pursuant to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations, this fund is a non-taxable benefit.*

3. Who approves my Professional Development claims?

Again, according to SAIT's HR Policy and Procedure—Professional Development Fund (2.2.2), all claims must be approved by the faculty member's Dean/Director.

4. If I have a question (i.e. how much money do I have remaining, who approves my PD, etc.) about my Professional Development Funds, whom should I contact?

There are several avenues for academic staff members to pursue if they are seeking an answer to their question. Academic staff members can

- review and familiarize themselves with SAIT's HR Policy and Procedure—Professional Development Fund (2.2.2)
- contact the Accounts Payable Department
- speak to their Dean
- contact SAFA

On a final note, PLEASE REMEMBER that SAFA does not administer, approve, authorize, or keep track of any academic staff member's Professional Development Funds or claims; but if you need any assistance whatsoever, please contact SAFA at Ext. 8321. ♦♦

## Renewable Energy—SAIT Biodiesel Applied Research on Campus

by Madeleine Ho, Energy Technologist, Applied Research and Innovation Services

Under the Applied Research and Innovation Services department at SAIT Polytechnic, one of the renewable energy research projects focuses on biodiesel. With biodiesel, the type of available feedstock is broad. It may come from plant or vegetable oils, animal fats, used cooking oil, and recycled waste oils. As a result, the quality of the biodiesel fuel can be highly variable, and meeting the ASTM and BQ9000 fuel specification from some sources may become a challenge.

A small biodiesel laboratory has been set up at the MacPhail School of Energy for the purpose of carrying out the ASTM tests related to biodiesel fuel specifications. The current tests that can be performed on neat biodiesel, or B100, range from sulphated ash, cloud point, flash point, density, and kinematic viscosity to distillation. Also, a Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy has been set up for the purpose of determining blend analysis.

For biodiesel usage in automobiles or gensets, both blends and pure biodiesel can be utilized. Pure biodiesel poses no problems in engines when used in warmer climates. Biodiesel blends are commonly used in colder climates. Blends are produced by mixing biodiesel with petroleum diesel in specified ratios. The main consideration needed at this point is how the

weather, specifically cold climates, affects the functionality of the fuel. The next step to be taken in our study is to assess the cold weather operability of biodiesel. A proposal submitted for this stage of research is currently under review. Stay tuned for more updates! ♦♦

### Springtime in Alberta

When it's springtime in Alberta  
And the gentle breezes blow,  
About seventy miles an hour  
And it's fifty-two below.  
You can tell you're in Alberta  
Cause the snow's up to your butt,  
And you take a breath of springtime air  
And your nose holes both freeze shut.  
The weather here is wonderful,  
So I guess I'll hang around,  
I could never leave Alberta  
My feet are frozen to the ground.  
- Anonymous

SAIT's Best Kept Secret—Four For Five Leave  
continued from page 1



People in print CPISC > CSIC Le visage de l'imprimerie

Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council

Conseil sectoriel de l'imprimerie du Canada

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CPISC congratulates the Digital Graphics Communications Program, School of Information and Communications Technologies at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary on winning award for new video**

**OTTAWA, Ontario May 9, 2008** – The Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council (CPISC) would like to congratulate SAIT, more specifically, Mo Keshavjee, for winning a gold award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) for the production of the Bound for Success Video.

"SAIT students have worked diligently in the development of this video that will play a key role in promoting our programs," said Willem Sijpbeer, Academic Chair at SAIT and Board member of CPISC.

"This video will be an invaluable tool to promote the printing and graphic communications industry as a career of choice for youth," said Marie Eveline, Executive Director of CPISC. "This video will not only benefit SAIT, it will benefit the entire printing industry."

The Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council, funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program, is a not-for-profit organization responsible for the human resource strategy for the printing and graphic communications sector. For more information, visit [www.cpisc-csic.ca](http://www.cpisc-csic.ca).

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Visit the SAIT Web site at [www.sait.ca](http://www.sait.ca)

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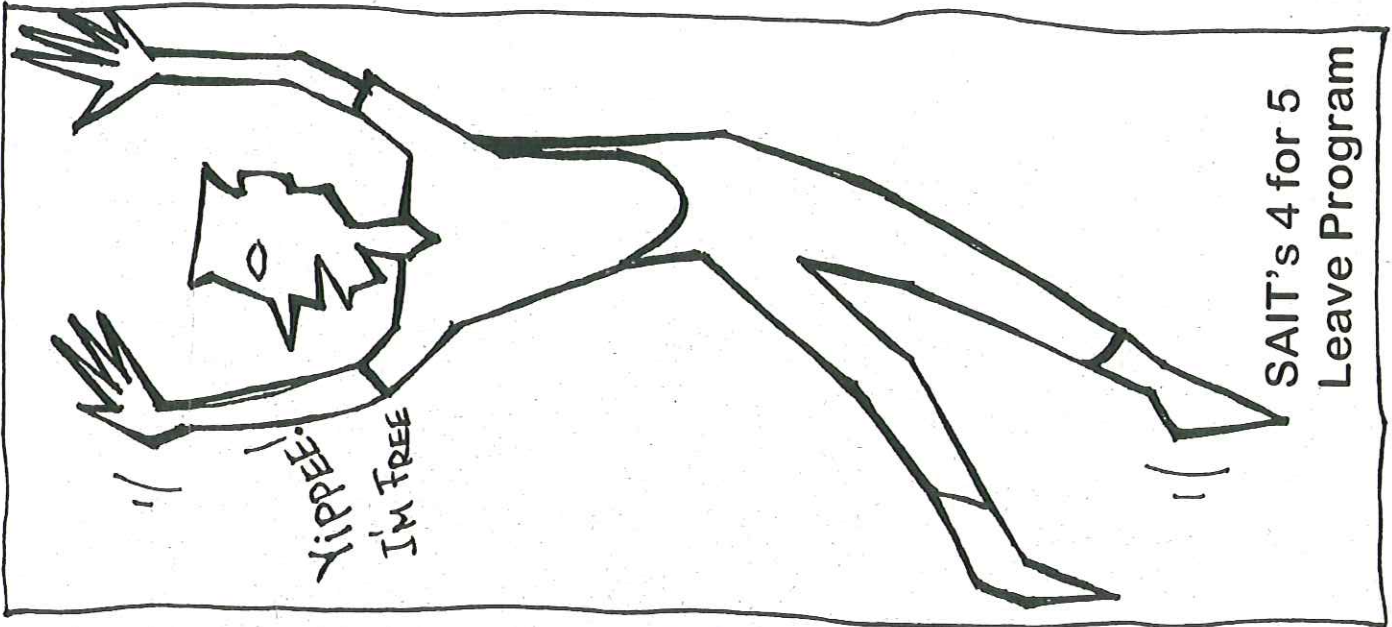
The pivotal moment in my decision to apply was learning that my Dad had cancer and may not see retirement. I knew I had to find a way to stop saying, "When I retire I will..." and make things happen now. In April 2004, I submitted my application. Knowing I had a year off meant that I was able to keep the really rough days in perspective. By year three, the light was visible at the end of the tunnel, and I began unleashing my "dream thinking." What do I really want to do while I am healthy and able? The stats are outstanding: the longer we wait for retirement, the shorter we have to live afterwards.

My year off from the classroom begins in August 2008. It will allow me to grow in many areas while I accomplish some of the "retirement" things on my list. I will come back refreshed and ready to tackle another four years with students—yes, I will be applying immediately for another Four for Five leave.

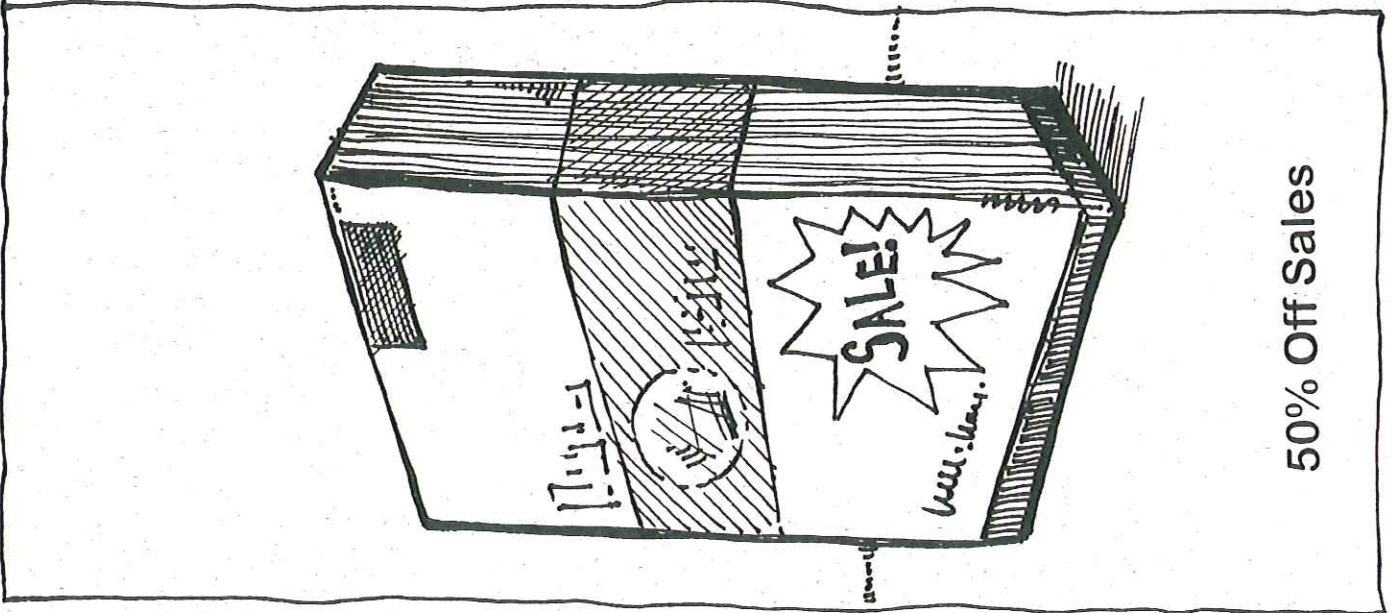
What would you do with a year off? What dreams would you like to follow? ⇨

Have a great  
**Summer**  
from the SAFAGRAM  
Editorial Board

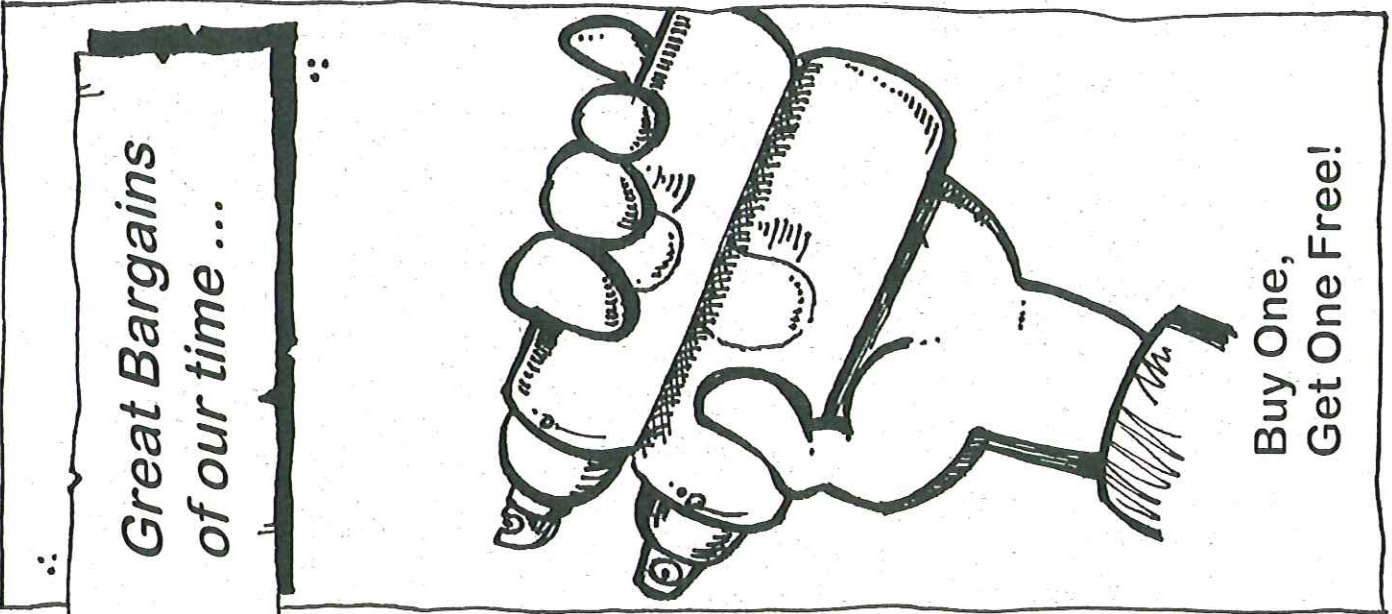




SAIT's 4 for 5  
Leave Program



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