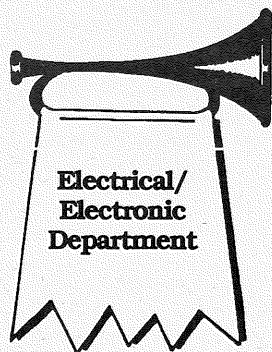


SAIT
Academic
Faculty
Association

Blow Your Horn



"Blow Your Horn" is an opportunity for instructors to educate the rest of us about their program by providing a personal view of what they and their students are up to.

FIVE PD Opportunities On The Horizon

1. The 1997 SAIT Faculty Professional Development Series, May 12 - June 6
2. The ACIFA (Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculty Associations) Conference, NAIT, Edmonton, June 1 - 4
3. The STLHE (Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education) Conference, University of Regina, June 11 - 14
4. World Conference on Educational Media and Educational Telecommunications University of Calgary, June 14 - 19
5. Great Teachers' Seminar, Nakoda Lodge, Kananaskis, June 15 - 20

For further information on these and other conferences, call or visit the Teaching and Learning Centre, 284-8107, N202.

Robots: An Educational Perspective

by Craig Maynard, Electrical/Electronic Department



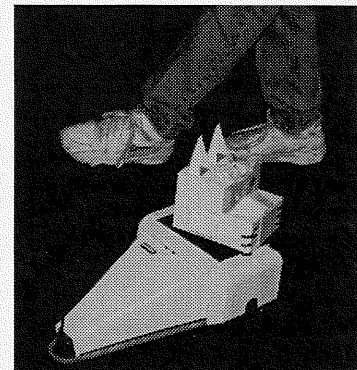
Some of you are using robots for welding. Some use robots for assembly. I use robots for teaching!

Before we all start looking over our shoulders to see if android instructors are marching into our classrooms to carry on our lessons, let me elaborate. I use the diverse technology and science principles wrapped up in robot design to motivate and

stimulate my students.

Robotics seems to capture and hold the attention of many students, and having students create projects based on simple robots seems to bring you their best work!

The robots I speak of are not industrial giants or NASA grade Martian rovers. They are robots designed to compete with other robots from around the world in SAIT's own WESTERN CANADIAN ROBOT GAMES (held in the main gymnasium May 25, 1997).



The WESTERN CANADIAN ROBOT GAMES is an organization devoted to promoting science and technology through robotics, and it holds an annual event here at SAIT which is unique among robot contests. It is the only known event which provides several contests of graded difficulty. Some events are quite simple and are suitable for novices, while others are extremely challenging and require a high degree of skill.

An example of how a robot may evolve from year to year might go something like this:

YEAR 1: Students build remote control SUMO WRESTLING ROBOTS. They learn mechanical design, problem solving, teamwork, simple motor control (no on-board logic or micro-processors in these 'mechs'). This is easily the most popular and exciting event to watch in the games.

YEAR 2: Competitors improve weaknesses in their robot and add an on-board control system to enter the more advanced AUTONOMOUS SUMO WRESTLING contest. Here they learn control system principles, digital logic, micro-processor control, data acquisition concepts, and project management.

YEAR 3: Now they may choose to move to AUTONOMOUS ATOMIC HOCKEY where the robots now must acquire, sort, and unload various sized balls into different goals. Robot designers master advanced concepts of robot control and sensors.

YEAR 4: The EXTINGUISHER contest may be their next choice. Here the robots must navigate through a small house and locate a burning candle which they must extinguish.

Continued on Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

SAFA Reports	2
Library Update	2
Editorial	3
FAQ's	4
Safety Corner	4

SAFA REPORTS

PERSPECTIVE

by John Schmale, President,
SAIT Academic Faculty
Association



Thank you for the support and encouragement that I received in my sojourn into the

provincial political realm. While I was not successful at getting elected, the election itself focused attention on the problems that have developed and grown through the last government's term. It was interesting to note that subsequent to the election, announcements were made that the Grace Hospital will be re-opened as a private health care facility and Red Deer College is eliminating three high demand programs.

Another interesting development was the renewed effort by the Regional Health Authorities to reach an agreement with the United Nurses of Alberta,

after their vote to support an illegal strike. The agreement calls for a 7.24% increase over three years and more control to ensure the quality of health care delivery.

I haven't read their complete agreement, but I don't believe that there is any mention of an employee dividend, or pay for performance.

Perhaps we could design a system for the nurses:

- 1% bonus if all patients leave the hospital within six hours
- +.1% if they leave alive
- +.1% if they live longer than two weeks after release, for ease of administration—death within two weeks for any reason will disallow this bonus
- 1.5% dividend if there is a surplus of income over expenditure—while it would seem that the best way to achieve this bonus would be to ignore all of the patients. That, of course, would not provide "quality care" and should not be encouraged, but it makes for a great KPI! ♦

SAFAGRAM

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SAFAGRAM is published by the SAIT Academic Faculty Association (SAFA) five times a year on or about the first days of October, December, February, April, and June. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send submissions to SAFAGRAM, care of the SAFA office, N201 or email submissions to luda.paul@sait. Please keep submissions under 300 words, double space, and, if possible, submit on floppy disc (Mac or DOS) with an accompanying hard copy. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length or content.

SAFAGRAM editorial policy, as approved by the SAFA Executive on June 14th, 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.

A+

Anyone stopping by the Apex Credit Union in late February would have taken in an art showing. The artist? Henry Derksen of Architectural and Civil Engineering Technologies. His works include beautiful wood carvings of vases, lamps, jewelry boxes and more.

Congratulations, Henry! ♦



Library Updates

by Dave Weber,

Educational Resources Library N204 (8408)



⇒ The first three months of 1997 were a very busy time for library orientation. More than 800 students participated in orientation presentations including completing the Library Skills Workbook.

A drop-in orientation program was also scheduled for two weeks in February and March. The high demand in the winter semester reflects the campus shift to multiple start dates for many programs.

- ⇒ We are currently hosting the Library and Information Technology Program Circulation Practicum. First year students spend three hours at the Information Desk observing, and practicing circulation procedures. A second year LIT student completed her three week practicum in the library in January. Her full schedule was divided between work at the Information Desk, Audio Visual, the student computer lab, and cataloging.
- ⇒ The library will be hosting the spring Alberta Association of College Librarians meeting on Friday April 11. The meeting directly follows the Thursday meeting for the Alberta Library Board which will attract librarians from across the province.
- ⇒ Joe Hill has negotiated a very large donation from Gulf Canada Resources. The Gulf Information Resources Centre will be donating ninety-four boxes of legal material to the collection.
- ⇒ The library will be adding a second public PC for accessing the Internet with Netscape software. Another full text magazine/newspaper index has been added to the CD-Rom network. KIOSK Canadian Business and Current Affairs covers the national newspaper, and major regional papers such as the Herald plus hundreds of Canadian magazines. ♦

EDITORIAL

"DAVE...ARE YOU THERE, DAVE?" No, you are not being called by Hal (the computer) in *2001: Space Odyssey*. But you are being called by the Editorial Board of SAFAGRAM. This newsletter has been published five times a year for the last few years. Volunteers do the work and your faculty association pays the printing costs.

We would like to know what you think about SAFAGRAM. In particular, we would like you to call Heather Sagan at 8321 and leave a message.

Please answer the following questions in your message:

1) Do you want us to continue publishing SAFAGRAM? Why or why not?

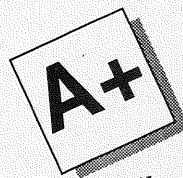
If "yes", please answer the next two questions. If "no", you need not answer any more questions. Thank you for your participation.

2) Are there any columns/features that you would like to have dropped from SAFAGRAM? If "yes", please indicate which column(s)/feature(s).

3) Are there any columns/features that you would like to have included in SAFAGRAM? If "yes", please elaborate briefly.

We appreciate your participation in this brief survey. To show our appreciation, we will enter your name in our draw. If you wish to be part of the draw, you need to leave your name at the end of your phone message. The draw will be on **April 30** (approximately two weeks after this SAFAGRAM is delivered to members). The prize is — **DINNER for two** at the HIGHWOOD, compliments of SAFA. Please let us know that you are out there..., Dave. ♦♦

WIN! Dinner for Two



ACIFA Awards of Excellence

SAIT faculty have been well represented in the recent nominations for the ACIFA Awards of Excellence.



Pam August
Health Sciences



Bill Batty
Electrical/Electronics



Simon Bergen-Henengouwen
Mechanical Trades & Technologies



Rudy Pekau, Mechanical
Trades & Technologies

What do these four individuals have in common? Their students and colleagues applaud them, and wish to reward them, for their excellence in instruction. They all go the extra mile in working with students whether it be giving extra help to students having difficulty, promoting enthusiasm in the learning environment or advising students in competitions. They participate in curriculum development and provide leadership in accreditation in each of their respective programs. Professional development is a priority which is demonstrated by their participation in professional associations, industry liaison, and industry leave.

Congratulations to each of you! ♦♦

Blow Your Horn
continued from page 1

This is a timed event and requires very sophisticated sensors and programming.

YEAR 5: The MICRO-MOUSE maze competition is the peak of robot design. These 'bots must explore a large and complex maze in search of a central room. There are only a handful of robots in North America that are capable of meeting this challenge.

Other events include BEAM solar-powered dragsters, walking machines, PINBOT, and an exciting new exhibition event called extinction where robots must navigate, survive, and feed themselves in a world populated only by robots and robotic plants. Kits are available to build these little wonders in about 2 hours!

There are currently four teams developing robots to defend SAIT's honor, and they are aggressively taunting and boasting to their opponents in order to increase the competitiveness. Keep your eye on the Emery Weal to see when their next grudge-match will be held!

I would be absolutely thrilled to come and talk to your students about the contest and show them how easy it is to become involved, bringing with me an armada of autonomous creatures! If you would like to have a copy of our rulebook or have any questions about our contest, please give me a call at local 8689.

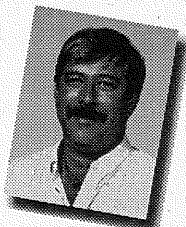
Our web page may be found at www.starcard.com/werg/ and a video of some events may be viewed in the library (ISO-100). ♦♦



WESTERN CANADIAN ROBOT GAMES (held in the main gymnasium)

SAFA Elections in 1997

Ed Beeler, Mechanical Trades & Technologies



By the time this article is published, Team Ralph will be either employed for another term

or down the bread line with the rest of the unemployed.

With the end of the 1996/97 instructional year closing in on us and the 1997/98 year starting to take shape, we now no longer look at our summer holidays as we did in the past. Many of our fellow instructors are now teaching classes through the time of year when the campus has always looked its best. The number of classes that run year round is increasing and, as a result, our lives are changing.

I am completing my 22nd year at SAIT. In that time I have seen four people accept the position as President of the campus. Each has added to our community a different management style. Good, bad or indifferent—that is for you to decide. Not too many people enjoy change, but

sometimes that's just how the pickle squirts. I have worked with three Deans, six Coordinators (I was one for nine years) and an arm-pit full of super people in all areas of the campus. Without all of the aforementioned people, we would have no campus.

There is also another group on this campus with which I have been involved over the last five years. Not a separate radical group as some may think, but a group of people who try to help fellow instructors needing an ear to bend or who try to find out how certain things should work. We are the group under the Technical Institutes Act that was set up to be your voice—through elected SAFA Directors.

When I was approached five years ago to run as a Director in Division "A" for SAFA, I was sure I would never win. I had never won an election before and I was not even close on my 6/49 tickets, so why not give it a burst. Free time is something I had lots of at the time with three boys playing hockey and baseball. My two older boys and I refereed

about 70 hockey games a year. My wife and I ran the hockey concession and did all the rest of the stuff that working parents with kids do. I teach a couple of night classes a year as well and, yes, we were also building a new house on our own.

Now my plan was working in as much as I was a candidate, but things didn't quite fall into place. The problems arose when no one signed up to run against me: I WON. Great Father! Now what do I do?

Well, after five years, three as a Director, two as Secretary/Treasurer, three terms on the Joint Advisory Committee, two terms on the SAFA Negotiations Committee and one year on Academic Council, I still wonder when I will find time to commit to SAFA. It is true that things have started to slow down a little—only two boys are left playing hockey, but all three still play ball. My wife and I no longer run the hockey concession and the house will get finished some day. I still teach night classes and go back to work in industry in the summer time, but that is only so I

can watch my kids' feet—with three boys aged 19, 1 and 13 that is about the only thing I see sticking out of the fridge these days. Some of you know what I am talking about!

Why am I writing all this stuff? Well, my fellow SAFA members, I am a strong believer that if you stay at a job too long, you get to thinking that you are the only one who can do that job and I, for one, do not want to get to thinking that way.

SAFA is currently looking for someone or several someones to run for President, Directors and, yes, even Secretary/Treasurer. I know that there are many people who could do the job and, yes, it is a time commitment, but it is in your best interest to have and hold elections this year.

Think of it this way: if Dale, Keith, Ken and Jeannette and the rest of a management team did not have SAFA to help them run the SAIT campus, I am sure they would feel lonely and forgotten.

Come and be a visible part of your Association! ⇨

...()()..Gallop Off to the Module Roundup



So mount your horse
And call him MAC or PENTIUM
And spit out words
At the rate of one thousand per centum
Add graphics, diagrams galore
And type, type, type until
You find yourself on the floor!
Now pass them into the flow
Head them over to ER
And watch your module grow
Check your draft for any lack
Edit, tear out your hair
And pass it on back
It's done - though problems are legion
And now you can start
To write the multimedia version!

C. Townsend

(With apologies for the rhymey dimey format!)

The Evolution of Our Occupation



David Pike, Teaching and Learning Centre

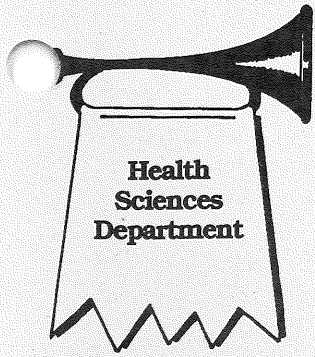
How are our roles as technical institute instructors changing and staying the same? It's a challenging riddle that many other professions are also facing, now more than ever.

There's a good reason for asking ourselves what we should currently be able to do as professional instructors: the answers give us the foundation on which to build an up-to-date curriculum for our own occupation. (We build curriculum in the same way for the whole range of occupations our students want to enter.) Such a curriculum is the basis not just for entering our profession but for making satisfying progress within it. As we know, funding for continuous learning remain scattered and scarce in organizations until there's a proven need.

A SAIT instructor occupational profile has been revised by a representative cross-section of our colleagues and all

Continued on Page 5

Blow Your Horn



by Irene Langille,
Health Sciences

The Dental Assisting Team in the Health Sciences Department recently received the Exceptional Quality Award. Pam Park, Marilyn Hall, Danelle Fulawka, Linda Peacock and Barb Peterson were recognized for exceeding expectations in their efforts to meet the needs of all their customers: current and future students, industry and SAIT management.

This team has been providing quality learning experiences for the current students while planning a major curriculum redesign to be implemented September 1997. They also coordinated a celebration of 25 years of excellence in Dental Assisting education which was held March 22, 1997. ⇨



Pam Park, Marilyn Hall, Danelle Fulawka, Linda Peacock and Barb Peterson

SAFETY CORNER

by Ceril Kenny,
Energy & Natural Resources



There have been some concerns at SAIT about shop/lab/classroom safety on campus. Under Occupational Health and Safety legislation, it is imperative that employers and employees know and accept their individual and collective responsibility for their own and others' safety in the workplace. Individuals and/or corporations

may be held liable with subsequent prosecution for infractions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Normally people do not put themselves or others at risk deliberately whether at work, at home or at play. However, there are times when risks are taken, mistakes are made, and situations develop when health and safety are compromised.

Safety cannot be totally legislated. Safety is an attitude, and the concept and ideals of occupational health and safety have to be developed by acceptance and participation of all members of the workplace.

Any specific concerns or questions on occupational health and safety issues should be directed to your department dean. If your concerns are not addressed to your satisfaction, please contact the SAFA office. ⇨

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

by Heather Sagan, SAFA Administrator



FAQ: Is there a policy at SAIT for evaluating education and experience for instructors?

A: Yes. The guideline at SAIT for evaluating education and experience for instructors is MIPS (Manual of Instructor Preparation Standards).

FAQ: What is the standard?

A: The principles for the evaluation of instructor preparation are based on the following basic qualification standards:

Level A - preparation less than that required for a three year apprenticeship program

Level B - a journeyman program requiring three or more years' preparation

Level C - a technical diploma based on a course of study of two years

Level D - a university degree based on three years' study

Level E - a university degree based on four years' study

Level F - five years of university study

The Instructor Salary Schedule in the collective agreement is based on Level A - F of the Instructor Preparation Standard.

FAQ: How is it applied?

A: When an instructor is hired, the preparation level is determined by the department dean, in consultation with the human resources advisor or designate.

FAQ: Does this Instructor Preparation Standard apply to casual/contract instructors?

A: The Instructor Preparation Standard applies to all full-time, part-time, and casual instructors employed at SAIT.

FAQ: What courses, seminars, conferences are eligible for MIPS ratings?

A: Preparation presented by instructors for assessment must be relevant to their assigned instructional duties.

FAQ: How are MIPS ratings calculated?

A: Subsequent to the initial placement on the MIPS grid, all industrial, technical or educational courses approved by the dean or designate will be calculated on the basis of 500 hours, for one year of preparation. ⇨

*The Evolution of Our Occupation
continued from page 4*

faculty have had an opportunity to rank the comprehensive set of tasks that as a group of current practitioners we're saying we perform. Our next step is to ensure that we have the learning resources, the learning opportunities and the career development programs that enable us to be successful now and as our profession evolves. ⇨



SAIT's Institutional Climate "the worst in the province"
- Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculty Association survey