i m
INTERACTIVE
MULTIMODAL
INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT

The (IM)2 Newsletter

Every month the (IM)2 Newsletter brings you the latest and hottest
scientific and administrative news about the (IM)2 NCCR and related topics

The IDIAP Fellowship for Female Researchers

The IDIAP Research Institute values diversity in its workforce. IDIAP acknowledges that women bring advantages to the workforce such as expertise, values, motivation, and different insights and methods of work. In all regions of the world, fewer women than men pursue scientific technological careers, and even fewer reach top professional or managerial positions. By offering an annual fellowship for female researchers to pursue their own research topic, we believe that we can directly impact this situation. This Fellowship is part of the European Initiative for the Advancement of Women in Science, and is jointly funded by (IM)2 and AMI.

The fellowship, which will be awarded annually (from 2005) has been designed to impact a wide variety of researchers, at different stages in their career. We expect its impact to be at least threefold. It will allow recent graduates of PhD programs to "kick start" their career and work on quality research; and provide opportunities for female researchers returning from maternity leave to reenter the paid work force. The fellowship may also be of interest to more senior researchers hoping to spend a year focusing on their own research topic. Clearly, these candidates will bring variety and expertise to the IDIAP staff, driving excellence.

Candidates will have the opportunity to work at IDIAP on their own research topic for one year (or equivalent). During that time they will be given the autonomy to pursue their chosen research topic, the budget to collaborate extensively with partner institutions and at conferences, and (for those who are interested and demonstrate excellence during the period of the fellowship) the opportunity to become a permanent member of staff at IDIAP.

The recipient will receive a competitive salary and a generous travel budget, allowing them to travel to several conferences or to spend an extended period of time collaborating with leaders in their field at another research institute.

Applications for the fellowship are sought from all female researchers who can demonstrate expertise in an area related to IDIAP's research. The ideal candidate will be interested in research that aligns with one of our major projects e.g. IM2 or AMI.

Further details about the fellowship, as well as the application procedure are available from the IDIAP web site www.idiap.ch. For the 2005 fellowship, applications will close by 10am GMT on November 15 2004.

NIPS workshops

IDIAP and other (IM)2 partners are co-organisers of no less than 4 workshops during the Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) 2004 Conference (www.nips.cc):

5: *Towards Brain-Computer Interfacing*: Guido Dornhege, Thilo Hinterberger, Dennis McFarland, Jose del R Millan, Klaus-Robert Miller.
10: *Multimodal Signal Processing*: Tue Lehn-Schioeler, Samy Bengio, Lars Kai Hansen, Stephane Canu.
12: *MIPS – Music Information Processing Systems*: Douglas Eck, Dan Ellis, Ali Taylan Cemgil, Jean-Francois Paiement.
14: *Neural Mechanisms of Imitation Learning*: Aude Billard, Stefan Schaal.

(IM)2: past and future

A busy summer for the (IM)2 management, with the preparation of the third progress report covering the full span of the NCCR since its start in January 2002, as well as the first outline for the second phase, covering years 2006 to 2009.

The third progress report will be used by the Review Panel as a basis for a general assessment of the performance of the NCCR so far. In addition to the scientific, administrative and financial reports requested by the SNSF, (IM)2 has compiled a common progress report for each of the 76 PhD students active in the NCCR, which will be accessible soon from the (IM)2 web site. The impact of (IM)2 on each lab and institution was also evaluated in the light of several indicators defined by the project board.

More than 4 years after the initial NCCR proposal, it was also time to update the objectives, deliverables, structures and participants to make sure that the NCCR remains the best possible tool to tackle the current challenges in multimodal processing and multimedia content management. The outcome of this preliminary reflexion will be submitted to SNSF as a short outline for phase 2, before being turned into the official proposal next year.

Events

Comptoire Suisse   **23.9.04**
During the "journée des professionels de l'audio, vidéo et multimédia", a one-day event as part of the annual Comptoire Suisse in Lausanne, IDIAP will present the latest trends in multimedia information management and multimodal interfaces resulting from the research activities in the (IM)2 NCCR.

Foire du Valais   **4.10.04**
Monday, October 4, will be IDIAP's day at the Foire du Valais. The Institute will demonstrate its activities and projects to the public through a series of presentations aimed in particular at college students. The program also features a First Tuesday on "Networking to support economic development" with keynotes from Lise Cardinal www.lisecardinal.com, the Canadian pioneer of networking, Jean-René Germanier, member of the Federal Parliament, Francis Sermet, General manager of the DEWS (see issue 14), and Hervé Bourlard, Director of IDIAP and (IM)2. The full program is available on the IDIAP web site www.idiap.ch.

SNSF Site Visit   **18–19.11.04**
The third annual Site Visit of the SNSF Review Panel will take place in Martigny on November 18 and 19, 2004.

NIPS 2004   **13–18.12.04**
The 2004 Neural Information Processing Systems Conference, including workshops and tutorials, will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada, from December 13 to 18.

SIAB meeting   **10–11.2.05**
Next year's International Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards meeting will be held on February 10 and 11, 2005.

FN SNF
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

iM INTERACTIVE MULTIMODAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The 2004 (IM)2 PhD students Integration week

The 2004 (IM)2 PhD student Integration Week took place in Moudon on August 16–18, 2004. 16 students from 7 institutions representing almost every research topic within (IM)2 took part in this first edition.

The primary goal of the Integration Week was to stimulate the interaction between the IM2 doctoral students beyond frontiers of disciplines and cultures and to create the desire and for trans-disciplinary collaboration.

The key output of the integration week were new contacts beyond disciplines, a broader understanding of the disciplines and technologies within the NCCR and new visions on the future applications and impact of this technology to our society. Four presentations on the future home, office, hospital and transportation system were elaborated and presented to the IM2 seniors (see cartoons on the right).

The impact and success of the Integration Week was evaluated though an anonymous questionnaire filled in by the 16 participants. 75% of the students rated the Integration Week as very important and encouraged the (IM)2 management to repeat this event in the future. 80% of the students mentioned "**to meet and interact with other PhD students in a less technical context**" as the most important value of the Integration Week.
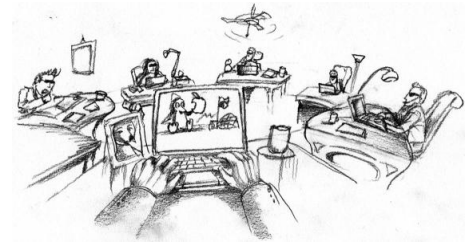
The (IM)2 management would like to thank Roland Siegwart and his team (Marie-Jo Pellaud, Philippe Vollichard, Ludovic Hartmann, Marco Lauria, and Nicolas Henchoz) for organizing this event and looks forward to a second edition next year.
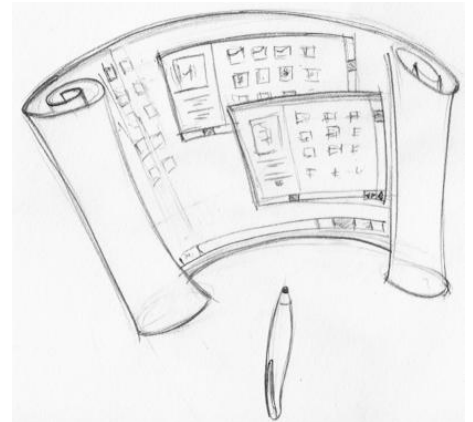
The program, presentations and pictures of the Integration Week can be found on the web at:
asl.epfl.ch/~gachter/Events/IM2_IW04/.

The multimedia office, with built-in multimodal teleconferencing.

The ultimate personal digital assistant (PDA).

The e-home takes care of all annoying and repetitive housekeeping duties.

The e-wardrobe suggests your clothing for the day based on the weather, your mood, and your agenda.
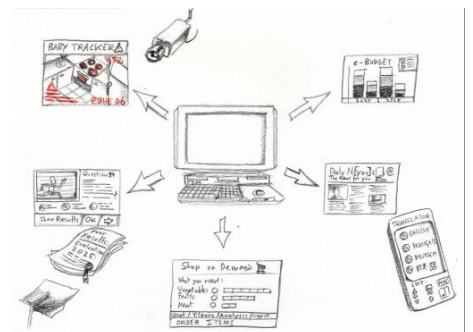
Front, from left to right: Daila Mekhaldi, Norman Poh, Guillermo Aradilla, Philippe Jost, Gianluca Monaci, Ardhendu Behera, Stefan Gächter, Marcus Liwicki. Back: Agnes Lisowska, Maria Georgescul, Julien Meynet, Matteo Sorci, Petr Fousek, Mirek Melichar, Oscar Divorra Escoda, Mathew Magimai Doss.

Cartoons by Ludovic Hartmann and Marco Lauria

FNSNF
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION