

Research at the Rogers Communications Centre

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Ryerson Team Lead at SC Global 06

When the world's top supercomputing and advanced technology leaders gathered in Florida for Super Computing - SC06 in November, many looked forward to the SC Global sessions, introducing participants to the latest and most innovative applications in collaborative technologies. Ryerson University took the lead in coordinating SC Global06, with the Rogers Communication Centre Manager of Research Support, Ron Rankine chairing an international coordinating team.



[Click here](#) for more information on the Rogers Communications Centre's involvement with SC06.



More on SC06 - Ryerson was well represented at the Supercomputing 06 Conference (SC06) in Tampa this past November. The Conference is an annual showcase of high performance computing in everything from science to art. This year, SCGlobal, a portion of the conference devoted to the use and performance of collaborative tools over the Access Grid, was organized and run by Ron Rankine, Rogers Communication Center 's Manager of Project and Research Support. Many Ayromlou, RCC's System Integrator, worked as technical director for the SCGlobal portion of the conference.

FCAD professors Lila Pine and Michael Murphy both presented their projects to SCGlobal. Lila's was entitled "The Last of the Higher Man" and was a small part of a larger project called Evolving Stories. When asked about her presentation, Lila explained that the "...demonstration was successful because it pushed the limits of the Access Grid ... recording video and sound and sending it back over the Access Grid in real-time is at this stage relatively undeveloped."

Michael Murphy and partner Thomas Fisher of the Stuttgart Institute demonstrated how to use the Access Grid for automotive research. See past article [here](#). They were able to show participation from two separate environments, Michael in Tampa and Thomas in Germany , using video

from each place as well as 3D renderings of their work.

SCGlobal was a large success and FCAD's presence there demonstrates Ryerson's continuing commitment to being at the forefront of new technology. Congratulations to everyone involved!

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With the 10 Gigabit network wiring having been installed on the third floor, the Rogers Communications Centre becomes Canada's first media facility ready for advancing Ethernet applications.

[Click here](#) for a case study on the installation.

The AccessFabrik Lab website launched the week of August 1, 2006. The research lab, located in the Rogers Communications Centre, develops collaborative research projects in the world of interactivity and multimedia design. The AccessFabrik team uses the Access Grid and 3D design programs to explore the impact of web technologies on collaborative industrial design and manufacturing.

To go to the AccessFabrik website click [here](#).

The Faculty of Communication and Design, and the School of Radio and Television Arts, welcomed 2 new research chair positions to the University in the summer of 2004. Dr. Charles H. Davis, and Dr. Greg Elmer, assumed the Edward S. Rogers Sr. Research Chair in Media Management and Entrepreneurship and the Bell Globemedia Research Chair in the Creative Use of Advanced Technology respectively.

In 2005, the Faculty of Communication and Design, together with the School of Journalism, welcomed Dr. Abby Goodrum. Dr. Goodrum was appointed the Velma Rogers Graham Research Chair in News Media and Technology and is a Faculty member in the [School of Journalism](#).

To go to Charles Davis' site click [here](#).

To go to Greg Elmer's site click [here](#).

To go to Abby Goodrum's site click [here](#).

The Infoscape Research Lab hosts research projects that focus on the cultural impact of digital code. The lab engages in software and other new media tool development, code mapping, interface design and new media content analysis.

To go to the Infoscapes Research Lab site click [here](#).



Please direct questions regarding the Infoscapes Research Lab to Greg Elmer: gelmer@ryerson.ca.

Two book chapters by R. Bruce Elder appeared in James Miller, ed., *Dante & the Unorthodox: The Aesthetics of Transgression*. The first, "Brakhage and the Works of *Energeia*," explored the idea of *energeia* in late classical and medieval poetics and the resonances of that idea in writings of the Open Form poets and in filmmaker's Stan Brakhage's work. The second, "Letter to Dr. Archie Henderson" was on the influence Dante's *Commedia*, and Pound's *Cantos* had on Elder's film cycle, *The Book of All the Dead*. In September, another book chapter, "Brakhage: Poesis" appeared in David James, *Stan Brakhage: Filmmaker*.

In June, Prof. Elder took up the position of the Ryerson Director of the York University/Ryerson University Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture.

To go to Bruce Elder's site click [here](#).

In July, the Festival De Tous Les Cinémas presented Prof. Elder's *Eros and Wonder*. In December, Paris' Festival des Cinémas Différents presented the completed sections (*Surprised by Joy*, *Crack*, *Brutal Grief*, *Infunde Lumen Cordibus* and *Eros and Wonder*) of Elder's new film cycle, *The Book of Praise*. Elder's participation in the later festival was funded by the Canadian Consulate in Paris.

In March of this year, Prof. Elder held a public talk and screening on "Absolute Film Show of Dec, 1925: The Dream of Pure Abstract Cinema and Its Widespread Repudiation" at the Goethe Institute, Toronto.

In May he presented a paper, "Dante, Brakhage and the Open Form Poets" at the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Italian Studies, a member society of the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences. At the request of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, he gave another talk at the Congress, on his current film and multimedia project, which had been awarded a Creation/Fine Arts Research grant in the first round of granting under that program.

In June, he presented a paper, "André Bazin and Aesthetics

of Chiasmatic Encounter," at the annual conference of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature, held this year in Helsinki. He also presented a talk on his Fine Arts Research/Creation project for a meeting of the SSHRC Council, for a session organised to showcase research to the Council.

In September, Prof. Elder presented a paper on Hollis Frampton's *Zorn's Lemma* at an invitational conference on the Neo-Avant-garde, held at the University of Edinburgh.

To go to Bruce Elder's site click [here](#).

Under the theme of "Sound and Image: Film Theory and Practice Across Disciplines," the Laterna Magica Association conference was held in Hungary in September 2003. At this conference, Bruce Elder of Image Arts presented "Body, Language and Rhythm: Film Aesthetics."



Image Arts' Lila Pine combined new media and the age-old practice of story telling to produce an installation about her Aunt Lila that was exhibited at the Interactive Art Institute in Malmo, Sweden in June 2002. Starting as a documentary on family secrets, the project evolved into an installation through a process Pine calls "storyliving."

Along with Tim Jackson of Image Arts, Pine is principal investigator on an initiative entitled New Media Studios for Evolving Stories as Interactive Art housed at the Rogers Communications Centre and the School of Image Arts. The studio, which is the only one of its kind, has received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Innovation Trust.

Click [here](#) for the full article on Lila Pine and click [here](#) for more information about the studio.

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RTA's Clive Vanderburgh is the author of a research paper entitled *Kids' Shows Hide Reality - Adult Shows Exaggerate It*, a Children's Media Project (CHIMP), that used surveys conducted by RTA students on the television watching habits of 940 children. Vanderburgh also organized and moderated a CHIMP conference on

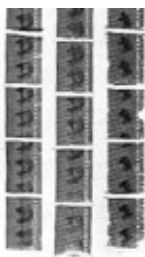
Interactive Television for Children held in November 2002 at Ryerson. This event attracted more than 90 participants from the television, new media and video gaming industries.

Click [here](#) for an article about Vanderburgh's research.

In November 2002, Joyce Smith - an Associate Professor for Journalism, presented a paper entitled "Hero Priest: The death and life of Fr. Mychal Judge" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Salt Lake City, Utah. Smith was part of a panel on religion and responses to September 11th.



Click [here](#) for more information about Joyce Smith.



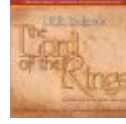
"Contour Attack: Figure or Ground?" - a panel for the meeting of the Canadian Women's Studies Association at the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities 2002 conference held in Toronto in May 2002, was formed by Ryerson's Linda Lewis of Image Arts, Annick Mitchell of Interior Design, and Gillian Mothersill of Graphic Communications Management along with OCAD's Heidi Overhill.

Chairing this panel was Prof. Lewis who also presented a paper.

Lewis also chaired a panel in June 2002 on "Film Design and Interpretation" and presented the paper "Filmbuilding, what's design got to do with it?" at the Screen Studies Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Lewis also edited and contributed to the electronic book entitled *Filmbuilding: Devices and Delicacies of Film Design* that also features the work of Ryerson's Bruce Elder of Image Arts, Murray Pomerance of Sociology and Lily Alexander of Image Arts. The electronic book was produced as a beta and the first application of the TK3 Author and Reader software published by NightKitchen.

Click [here](#) for more information about the electronic book.

Ryerson Business School instructor Daniel Timmons produced *The Legacy of The Lord of the Rings*, a literary documentary about the famous J.R.R. Tolkien epic trilogy, with help from Radio and Television Arts graduate Dana Lee. Timmons and Lee traveled to various places in which Tolkien was inspired to write the trilogy such as Oxford University. *The Legacy of The Lord of the Rings* was aired on the Bravo! specialty cable station in February 2003.



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Dr. Michael Murphy - who is a teacher in Ryerson's School Of Radio and Television Arts and former Academic Director of the Rogers Communications Centre recently had his essay published in the book "inno'va-tion". The book features essays from 25 of Canada's top researchers. Edited by Jim Downey and Lois Claxton and distributed by Key Porter Books the essays range in topics from physics to genetics, from health to literature, from the environment to nanotechnology. Dr. Murphy's essay titled "Convergence, Interactive Media and Innovation" speculates on why Canada and its people have played such a significant role in the evolution of electronic communications and media. His paper is one of eight essays published on the books website.



[Click here](#) to read Dr. Murphy's essay on the inno'va-tion website.



In Search Of A Quiet PC The Stealth Project - Anyone who has purchased a PC of late has probably noticed that the fans -- that are used to keep the processor cool- are quite noisy. While this fan noise most often goes unnoticed in a typical office environment the noise can be

quite disruptive in an audio production environment. Over the next four weeks Dr. Michael Murphy of Radio and Television Arts and Many Ayromlou of the Rogers Communications Centre will be assembling the components and building Ryerson's first quiet PC. The project has been nicknamed "The Stealth Project".

Rogers Communications Centre Researcher Many Ayromlou - is the latest hero of the Open Source Access Grid community. He recently built a single small computer measuring 280mm x 200mm x 180mm capable of replacing the work done previously by three individual computers. The computer employs a simple and elegant design and is the talk of the Open Source Access Grid Community and the pride and joy of Ayromlou, a graduate of Ryerson's Applied



Computer Science Program. This innovation was a direct result of the Rogers Communications Centre applied research into grid computing and networked communications.

[Click here](#) for an article on our Access Grid Research from our "Digital Edge" newsletter.



16*9 Digital Television Studio -

Through the Rogers Communications Centre, the Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab is associated with Canada's first all digital 16*9 television studio, TV Studio C. The studio contains 3 16*9 Hitachi camera's connected to a Ross Synergy digital switcher. It also

contains a bluescreen environment and is currently being equipped with Kaydara's filmbox that contains a real-time rendering engine. It will allow for exploration of live interactive television with 3D objects such as animated characters and virtual (set) objects.

[Click here](#) for more information on facilities in the Rogers Communications Centre.

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Interactive Broadcast Ontario -

(IBO) was a multi-sector consortium of research, technology and communication innovators formed to incubate the growth of interactive broadcasting in Ontario, Canada. The project ran from January 2000 through January 31, 2002. The Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab served as the base for the 13 iTV-based projects undertaken by IBO. Interactive Broadcast Ontario was one of five digital media projects that were funded in part by the \$10 million Interactive Digital Media Small Business Growth Fund, from the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology.



[Click here](#) to visit the IBO Website to learn more.



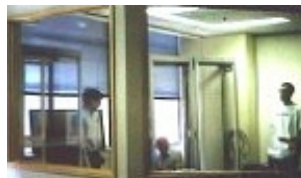
Envivio Inc, Canadian Digital Television Inc. - and Ryerson's

Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab (IBLL) - have teamed up to develop interactive applications using MPEG-4. MPEG-4 is a new interactive streaming technology that can stream interactive video to cellphones, PDA's, networked computers and digital set-top boxes. The IBLL will work with local content providers to develop applications that will include broadcasting from CDTV's Toronto test transmitter that will demonstrate MPEG-4's capabilities in digital broadcasting.

[Click here](#) here to visit envivio's website.

ATSC Digital Toronto Test Transmitter Master Control - is

built in Rogers Communications Centre in the summer of 2001. From it Toronto's first HDTV programs, data content and DVB terrestrial video is transmitted, received and tested. In a partnership with Canadian Digital Television Inc. its purpose is to allow for the testing of ATSC transmission in Toronto including "datacasting" applications developed in the Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab.



[Click here](#) for more information on Canadian Digital Television Inc.



In A First Of It's Kind In The World - the Rogers

Communications Centre demonstrates the ability to send content to a variety of Internet, broadcast and cellular devices - including iTV set-tops- from a single XML-based content server in January 2001. The content server used can identify the

device requesting the content and format the information for the display characteristics of the device. The presentation demonstrates how the a single content base allows interactive content producers to make use of current distribution methods and business models, while positioning their content for advancing technology.

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Bruce Elder of Image Arts participated on a panel at the annual convention of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature in Leeds, U.K. in May 2003. The panel discussed film aesthetics and Elder presented "Body, Language and Rhythm in Film Aesthetics".



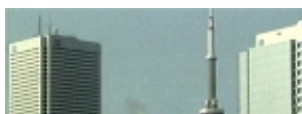
In July 2003, at the Experimental Film Today conference in Preson, U.K., Elder presented "Distinguishing the avant-garde from other independent film practices" along with his most recent film, *Eros and Wonder*, which was supported in part by grants from the SRC Committee of the Faculty of Communication & Design and Ryerson's Research Assistant program. As part of this conference and in memory of the late Stan Brakhage, Prof. Elder presented and answered questions about Brakhage's film *The God of Day Had Gone Down Upon Him*.

In addition to this tribute to Brakhage at the conference, Bruce Elder - along with film writer Fred Camper and filmmaker Jonas Mekas - published an article in the spring issued of the distinguished on-line journal Logos on Brakhage.

Click [here](#) to read about Stan Brakhage as written for Logos.

In December 2002, Journalism professor John Miller made a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Heritage. The committee is investigating cross-ownership and foreign ownership of the Canadian media and Prof. Miller presented a petition that called for a broader inquiry into media concentration. Signed by 53 prominent Canadians (including John Polanyi, Pierre Berton, David Suzuki, Claude Ryan, Margaret Atwood, Flora McDonald, Patrick Watson, Tom Kent, and Wilson Southam), it is in agreement that "unless something is done, journalism itself may be pulled from its moorings. Its decline into vested interest and profit-taking would serve no one at all, except the few who happen to own the media."

Click [here](#) for the Diversity Watch website founded by John Miller.



**The Rogers Communications
Centre** - is working with Triveni



Digital Corporation's SkyScraper datacasting system. Installed for the first time in Canada. The system allows for data content to be scheduled and transmitted in the ATSC broadcast stream. The Skyscraper system will allow for experimentation with the transmission of various data formats including mp3's, MPEG-4 and various forms of streaming media. The system includes a DataFab that collects, manages and schedules the transmission of data content, a DataHub that allocates bandwidth and inserts data into the broadcast stream, and a DataReceiver that extracts data from the broadcast stream for the end-user. The technology will make use of the CDTV test transmitter located atop Toronto's CN Tower.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab that houses the work in this key area.

Albert Duan - a visiting scholar from China worked at the Rogers Communications Centre from March, 2001 to February 2002. He experimented with Adobe Atmosphere, a new program that allows a visual 3D space to be built on the Internet, and with the interactive functions within this 3D space. He returned to China in mid-February to continue his research.



[Click here](#) to read an article on Albert's work.



Gesture Based Research -

Interacting with devices, including iTV devices can involve more than keyboards, mice or remotes. Current gesture based research via motion capture is opening doors to new kinds of interaction with future devices. Current research is using software known as MAX, a Mac based, programming language and signal decoder as well as SoftVNS, a plug-in for MAX that is able to capture motion.

[Click here](#) here for an article on the work.

Smart Content Initiative - The future of digital interactive content lies in smart content. This means current and new technologies like XML, MPEG-4, and Semantic Web. These broad-based



technologies must be studied and understood so, in a practical manner, their benefits can be applied to interactive broadcasting in a logical manner. Current projects and initiatives that include the Interactive Broadcast Learning Lab and CoMedia 2 allow for the development of knowledge in a practical manner.



[Click here](#) for more information on the Semantic Web.

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