Dear Games Institute members:

It is with immense sadness that I must tell you of the passing of Dr. Ed Lank, Professor in the Cheriton School of Computer Science.

Ed suffered a stroke on Saturday March 12. Despite all the exceptional medical care provided for him this past week, he could not be saved.

Ed was on sabbatical in Lille (France). His family have been with him throughout this difficult time.

Ed has been a member of the Games Institute for a long time, and has supervised or co-supervised several GI students. We will miss him greatly in every respect.

Thank you,

Neil Randall (Executive Director)

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[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

1. The GI and the GI ADE Committee is hosting Soup and Bannock at the Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre on March 31st. Volunteer to make delicious soup in the WISC kitchen, or help clean up after lunch. Soup cooking either in the afternoon on March 30th or morning of March 31st. Contact GI-ADE@uwaterloo.ca to volunteer!
2. The University will suspend its mask and proof of vaccination requirements for entry to campus, effective May 1.
3. Sign The Green Office Pledge to show your support for our participation.
Day:
- **March 24**: International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- **March 26 @8:30pm**: Earth Hour 2022
- **March 31**: International Transgender Day of Visibility

List of GI Resources:
- [GI Equipment/Room Booking Form](#)
- [Events at the GI Form](#)
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat in Agata's office for those who need it
- You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.

- a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
- b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
- c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
- d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
- e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
- f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

**To add these calendars to your Outlook app:**

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
2. Right-click beside "My Calendar".
3. Hover over "Add Calendar" and select "From Room List" to view availability.
1. The GI and the GI ADE Committee is hosting Soup and Bannock at the Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre on March 31st. Volunteer to make delicious soup in the WISC kitchen, or help clean up after lunch. Soup cooking either in the afternoon on March 30th or morning of March 31st. Contact GI-ADE@uwaterloo.ca to volunteer!
2. The University will suspend its mask and proof of vaccination requirements for entry to campus, effective May 1.
3. President Vivek will be visiting the GI on April 12 at 3:00pm. Scroll down to Events for more information, and attached email.
4. Sign The Green Office Pledge to show your support for our participation.
5. For Faculty: Complete the Intellectual Property and Commercialization Activity Disclosure form by March 31st. More information can be found on the UW Policy 73 web page.
6. The HCI Health Lab is looking for participants in an Augmented Reality study. Email Rachel Woo at r3woo@uwaterloo.ca to participate.

| EVENTS | Feminist Think Tank: Mapping, Digitizing, & Materializing Emotion
|---|---|
| **GI Events** | **Feminist Think Tank: Mapping, Digitizing, & Materializing Emotion**
| *Friday, April 8 @10:30am* | *Friday, April 8 @10:30am*
| • In the first hour, FTT will chat with the creators of waterworks.digital to learn about their motivations, design processes, and hopes for the project, as well as the reception of waterworks. In the second hour, we work will through a #MeToo data visualization to consider the themes, emotions, and digital tactics present within the archive. | • In the first hour, FTT will chat with the creators of waterworks.digital to learn about their motivations, design processes, and hopes for the project, as well as the reception of waterworks. In the second hour, we work will through a #MeToo data visualization to consider the themes, emotions, and digital tactics present within the archive.
| • Join on Teams here! | • Join on Teams here! |

| President Vivek Visit | *Tuesday, April 12 @3:00pm-4:00pm* | *Tuesday, April 12 @3:00pm-4:00pm*
| • UW’s President Dr. Vivek Goel and Vice President Dr. Charmaine Dean will be visiting the GI to see our space and research. Residents should arrive well before 3pm in order to set up displays of their research. | • UW’s President Dr. Vivek Goel and Vice President Dr. Charmaine Dean will be visiting the GI to see our space and research. Residents should arrive well before 3pm in order to set up displays of their research.
| • Everyone must and will be masked, but if you are not comfortable being at the GI, please send a PowerPoint slide of your research to Sophie @games.institute@uwaterloo.ca | • Everyone must and will be masked, but if you are not comfortable being at the GI, please send a PowerPoint slide of your research to Sophie @games.institute@uwaterloo.ca |

| Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies With Dr. Bo Ruberg | *Tuesday, April 18 @2:00pm* | *Tuesday, April 18 @2:00pm*
| • Join Dr. Bo Ruberg as they present work from their forthcoming book, *Sex Dolls at Sea: Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies* (MIT Press, June 2022). Explore the history of the sex doll, how they have led to the development of new computational technologies, and how to reclaim sex tech as a site of feminist and queer potential | • Join Dr. Bo Ruberg as they present work from their forthcoming book, *Sex Dolls at Sea: Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies* (MIT Press, June 2022). Explore the history of the sex doll, how they have led to the development of new computational technologies, and how to reclaim sex tech as a site of feminist and queer potential
| • Register here! | • Register here! |

| Genetic Possibilities or Eugenic Realities? The He Jiankui Affair and Talking Ethically About Human Germline Engineering | *Friday, March 25 @3:00pm* | *Friday, March 25 @3:00pm*
| • MA student Danielle Griffin Jodway will be delivering a lecture on her research analyzing the first experiment where humans were born after undergoing CRISPR gene editing. Using critical discourse and metaphor analysis, Jodway argues there is a strong need for science communicators to attend to their disability rhetoric | • MA student Danielle Griffin Jodway will be delivering a lecture on her research analyzing the first experiment where humans were born after undergoing CRISPR gene editing. Using critical discourse and metaphor analysis, Jodway argues there is a strong need for science communicators to attend to their disability rhetoric
| • Webex meeting link here! Meeting number: 2307 679 0033. Password: preslecture | • Webex meeting link here! Meeting number: 2307 679 0033. Password: preslecture |

| SYDE Alumni Speaker @ Microsoft - Mide Olatoye | *Monday, March 28 @6:00pm* | *Monday, March 28 @6:00pm*
| • The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's first speaker series of the year | • The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's first speaker series of the year
| • Join Mide Olatoye as she discusses her journey from graduating from the SYDE MaSc program to now working as a User Researcher at Microsoft focused on creating user-focused digital products and services | • Join Mide Olatoye as she discusses her journey from graduating from the SYDE MaSc program to now working as a User Researcher at Microsoft focused on creating user-focused digital products and services
| • Register here! | • Register here! |

Using Virtual Reality in Psychotherapy: Where Are We and What’s Next?
Thursday, March 31 @12:00pm
- Join Dr. Stephane Bouchard who leads the UQO Cyberpsychology Laboratory for a presentation on how VR can be used to effectively treat mental disorders.
- Register here! Registration requires a GoSignMeUp account, set up an account here

WISA Talks: Future Directions in Aeronautical Sustainability
Wednesday, April 6 @10:00am
- Join Dr. Suzanne Kearns as the moderator in a panel discussing the significant challenges and opportunities facing the future social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the air transport sector
- Register here!

Recurring Events
Feminist Think Tank
- Happens every first Wednesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Sid Heeg. (syheeg@uwaterloo.ca).

Work In Progress Seminar
- Happens every first Monday of the month from 1:30pm to 2:30pm!
- An informal occasion for Stratford researchers to present the multidisciplinary work occupying our minds in a friendly atmosphere
- Join on Teams here!

Other Virtual Events
LEVEL UP with Anna Hollinrake! Harnessing Emotions in Game Illustration
Friday, April 29 @1:00pm
- Join Anna Hollinrake as you learn how to create art styles and visual direction for video games through the harnessing of emotional themes and key inspiration. End the talk with a workshop on creating your own moodboard.
- Register here!

Earth Hour 2022
Saturday, 26 March @8:30pm
- Symbolic lights-out event to raise awareness of climate change. Turn off your lights at 8:30pm for an hour.
- More information here!

This week we will look at supporting biodiversity and nature at home 🌿🌿

GI Stats:
- Total office points: 11 out of 145
- 23% to Bronze Certification

GI Updates:
- Reusable bag station next to Ops Coordinator’s desk. Borrow a bag or contribute one!

Supporting biodiversity and nature at home:
As climate change continues to heat up the planet, this will affect biodiversity everywhere, including in Canada. In Ontario, changes include (but are not limited to) habitat loss for native species such as the Gray Jay, an increase of invasive species such as the Smallmouth Bass, a decrease in habitat availability for cold-water species such as Lake Trout, and earlier
emergence of hatchlings by bird species.

But do not despair! There are many initiatives you can undertake to help promote biodiversity in your own home:
  • Naturalize your lawn by planting local/native plants. Check out this starting guide!
  • Compost instead of using chemical fertilizers. Check out this Q&A to get started.
  • Join the Earth Day Community Cleanup at Waterloo parks from April 22-24. Register here by April 12!
  • Support local farms! Head out to St. Jacobs or Kitchener Farmers Market for in-season, (mostly) organic/pesticide free food
  • Respect local habitats! Don’t stray away from hiking paths, or pick up flowers from parks
  • Start a container garden
  • Start a rain garden

Check out the attached PDF for tips from the university on more initiatives!

Also consider how you could incorporate biodiversity and nature into your research! Here are some topics of interest that can help promote biodiversity:
  • Protecting ecosystem through protected zones
  • Connecting protected zones through sustainably managed landscapes and waterscapes
  • Supporting species recovery with ecological restoration
  • Acquiring long-term data sets to assess species responses and develop models to better understand the outcomes of climate change

Updated: March 1st, 2022

1. Proof of vaccination will remain in place until at least the end of the Winter term

2. Masking remains mandatory in all indoor spaces, and outdoors when you cannot maintain 2 meters of physical distancing
   a. You are able to remove your mask if your workspace is not accessible to the public and allows you to maintain two meters physical distance from others

3. Campus Check-in is no longer in effect

4. Capacity limits in indoor dining spaces, study and lounge areas, and athletics facilities are lifted

5. All research, including human-participant research, has resumed. More details here.

For questions about lab access, return to research, study spaces, how members without pods can use the space, and other general health and safety at the GI reach out to Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM)

For questions about equipment and room bookings reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca or DM)

General:

6. To enter the GI, you must sign the Operational Safety Plan. If you have not done so already or are unsure, please reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca)

7. All UW facilities, which include the GI, are open from 8AM to 6PM from Monday-Friday. Staff are only on site from 8:30AM to 5PM.
a. After hours or weekend access requires additional GI approvals. Please contact Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM) with a cc to your supervisor if you would like to request after hours access.

8. Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.

9. According to guidance from the Government of Ontario, face coverings are required in workplaces (such as the GI), even those that are not open to the public however, you do NOT need to wear a face covering when you are working in an area that is NOT accessible to the public and allows you to maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from anyone else while you are indoors.

The GI must follow UW Policies on health and safety; for more information please note UW’s Safety Office resources.

Masking

Vaccination Requirements

Return to Campus

Return to Research

Sign Up Safety Office’s E-Newsletter

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE COVID

COVID-19 Resources:

- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation
- Q and A with the experts: COVID variants
- Check out the University’s health and safety guide’s flow chart to see if you might have been exposed, and let the University know if you have been.

Vaccine appointments available at Health Services

Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide more protection from getting/transmitting Omicron than two doses. All Ontarians over 18 are eligible for a booster dose 84 days after their second dose.

Book your booster at Health Services, or through online resources such as Vaccine Ontario and Vaccine Hunters.

If you are an international student with questions about vaccines, please email ise@uwaterloo.ca.

If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.