

New research chair changing how people interact with information

SMART and iCORE create chair to advance interactive technology

CALGARY, Alberta --- March 8, 2007 --- SMART Technologies Inc. announces the creation of the iCORE/SMART Technologies Industrial Chairs in Interactive Technologies Research at the University of Calgary. Saul Greenberg, PhD, and Sheelagh Carpendale, PhD, will share the chair and challenge the boundaries of interactive technology through innovative research. Greenberg, professor of Computer Science at the University of Calgary, and Carpendale, Canada Research Chair in Information Visualization and associate professor at the University of Calgary, see this as an opportunity to create a world where technology and digital information fit into people's lives, and operating computers wouldn't require a mouse or a keyboard. SMART Technologies, industry pioneer of interactive whiteboards, sees the chair as an opportunity to advance interactive technology applications and support local research and education. SMART and Informatics Circle of Research Excellence (iCORE) are each donating \$500,000 over five years, bringing the total of research support for the University of Calgary chairs to \$1 million.

The joint chairs, Saul Greenberg and Sheelagh Carpendale, are University of Calgary experts in the fields of human-computer interaction, computer-supported collaboration and interactive digital display. The team is one of only a handful of researchers worldwide who are developing interactive table-top displays. Greenberg and Carpendale believe that one day, because of their research boardrooms could feature interactive tables and wall displays that are responsive to human gestures and speech and specialized diegial appliances could help aging relatives live independently. For example, a static digital picture of grandma in your home could change to another static picture as her activities change. The different images would tell the observer if she's active, in good or poor health, and eating well. Greenberg and Carpendale believe their research has implications for a wide range of other visual display applications including ecological and genetic data, hospital workflows and group interaction. As an interactive digital display leader, SMART will provide consultation and guidance so the research reflects the needs of global markets.

"Our goal is to develop technology that fits seamlessly into everyday social practices and facilitates group interaction," says Saul Greenberg, joint iCORE/SMART Technologies Industrial Chair Interactive Technologies Research. "We are rethinking how people view, represent, manage and interact with information," says Sheelagh Carpendale.

"Carpendale and Greenberg are leaders in developing intelligent software technology and interactive digital displays," says Randy Goebel, President & CEO of iCORE. "Their work, and this partnership with SMART, fits directly with iCORE's mandate to support world-class research which will create an accumulating economic benefit to Alberta."

“We are delighted to support Saul Greenberg, Sheelagh Carpendale and the other researchers at the University of Calgary through this important chair,” says David Martin, SMART’s Executive Chairman. “Their research is leading edge and world class, and will make a significant contribution to the interactive technologies community.”

About iCORE

iCORE was established in October 1999 by the Government of Alberta to foster an expanding community of exceptional researchers in the field of informatics, that is, areas of computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics, mathematics and other disciplines related to information and communications technology (ICT). As part of the Government of Alberta’s strategy to create a globally competitive knowledge-based economic sector, iCORE is directing its support to areas in which Alberta has a chance to develop internationally recognized research teams. It is also focusing on areas in which Alberta companies are active, so that intellectual property and valuable knowledge workers resulting from iCORE's investment will have compelling reasons to stay in Alberta. iCORE invests in people – the highest calibre research scientists who work on fundamental and applied problems in informatics. It operates several grant programs to develop iCORE Chairs at Alberta universities, around which world-class research teams are developed. Since its inception, more than 24 research chairs have been established to focus on emerging areas such as wireless communications, artificial intelligence, and quantum and nanocomputing. The iCORE principle is simple: exceptional people produce exceptional results. To learn more about iCORE visit www.icore.ca.

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is both the industry pioneer and a global market leader in user-friendly interactive whiteboards and other group collaboration tools. SMART products include the award-winning family of SMART Board interactive whiteboards, interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage, conferencing applications and software. SMART products are designed to meet the requirements of today’s corporate environment. With SMART’s versatile products, users are able to effectively display media-rich information, host and participate in audio and videoconferencing, share desktops remotely, collaborate, share data and efficiently train personnel. SMART products are used in more than 100 countries around the world and customers include NASA, Texas Instruments, BMW, Toyota Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Boeing, Lucent Technologies, the Los Angeles Lakers, Novartis, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Procter & Gamble, Disney Imagineering and Harvard University.

SMART is a private company founded in 1987. Employing more than 900 people, SMART is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with assembly facilities in Ontario, and offices in Bonn, Tokyo, Shanghai, New York City, Chicago and Washington DC. SMART has been issued and maintains a broad portfolio of patents with numerous U.S., Canadian and other patents pending. In 1992, SMART formed a strategic alliance with Intel® Corporation that resulted in joint product development and marketing efforts, and Intel’s equity ownership in the company. To learn more about SMART visit www.smarttech.com.

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