

Alumni and Friends News



Cogswell

Polytechnical College

November 2009 Issue

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You're Invited! Noted Attorney Coming to Cogswell to Speak About Legal Issues for Game Developers



Independent game developers put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into their projects but many risk losing their creation because they do not understand their legal rights and obligations. As new laws have hit the books, increasing numbers of game developers find themselves facing legal challenges to their work.

What basic contracts should be part of every game development studio? Do you know the different types of intellectual properties (IP) that might be part of your game? Who owns the IPs in your game? What are the most effective ways to protect the IPs that are the core assets of your development studio?

On November 19 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., join attorney [James N. Brenner](#) for an informative session about these issues. During his presentation he will cover NDAs, consulting agreements and developers' digital media rights and ownership. Following the talk, Mr. Brenner will answer questions.

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2009

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where:

[Cogswell College](#)
1175 Bordeaux Dr
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Make sure you and avoid the legal pitfalls that could keep your game from finding its way into the marketplace! Don't miss this event!!

James N. Brenner is a transactional associate at White & Lee's Redwood City office. His practice focuses on corporate legal matters, including venture capital financing and the formation and representation of emerging growth companies, particularly in the technology sector. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Brenner

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worked for Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati as a litigation paralegal in Palo Alto, CA. He graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, J.D. in 2008 and was Co-Editor in Chief of the Hastings Communication & Entertainment Law Journal.

The Offering Screened During a Masterclass in Beijing



Cogswell grad Robert Moore (left) with his translator in China.

On October 26 a delegation from Cogswell Polytechnical College traveled to the Communication University of China (CUC) in Beijing - one of Cogswell's partner universities - to provide an exclusive showing of *The Offering*, a short animated film produced by students in the College's Digital Arts and Animation program. The screening was part of a Masterclass Michael Huber, Assistant Professor and Director of the 3D Animation program, was invited to teach during CUC's annual Aniwow Festival.

The Festival's goal is to provide a platform for animation practitioners and researchers from all over the world to advance the dialog and cooperation between academic research and industry and to provide students more opportunities to learn from established artists.

The Masterclass entitled, The Production of Project X, focused on the process Cogswell used to complete the film by modeling a professional studio setting. Students who worked on *The Offering* were held to the same standards as those working on films in companies around the world.

Dr. Chester Haskell, President and Robert Moore, 2009 graduate of

Cogswell and Lead Animator on the project, also represented Cogswell during the visit. Mr. Moore participated in the Masterclass and Dr. Haskell joined in discussions about trends and the global nature of the industry. Check out the upcoming December issue of the Alumni News for an interview with the Cogswell group about their experiences, insights and the contacts they made.

SAVE THE DATE! Founders' Day 2010



The date has been set for Cogswell's annual Alumni Reunion. Put March 20, 2010 on your calendar now!

Don't miss this opportunity to visit with old friends, make new ones, celebrate alumni achievements and learn the latest Cogswell news.

If you haven't already responded to our short survey, we'd like your input on how we can organize the event so that it best suits your needs and schedule. [Please take 5 minutes to answer four questions.](#)

Cogswell College Graduate Speaks at Software Testing Conference in Spain

Cogswell graduate, Hung Q. Nguyen, President & CEO of [LogiGear](#) headquartered in Foster City, will address software testing professionals during the [QA & TEST 2009](#) 8th International Conference being held October 21-23, 2009 at the Conference Centre and Concert Hall in Bilbao, Spain.

Nguyen's speech titled, Automation Coverage Is Less Than 50 Percent? Don't Do It!, will explore common excuses for the inability to achieve high-volume test automation output and pinpoint test automation barriers, particularly in testing embedded systems. He will describe proven automation strategies, tactics and technical solutions that will get exceptional return-on-expenses, while providing total transparency into the efficiency and value of test automation programs.

Mr. Nguyen is responsible for the company's strategic direction and innovative approach to software testing, test automation, testing technology and education programs. He is author/coauthor of Testing Computer Software (Wiley, 2nd ed.), Testing Applications on the Web (Wiley, 1st and 2nd ed.) and Global Software Test Automation. Prior to LogiGear, he held leadership roles in software development and quality and product and business management at Silicon Valley companies including Electronic Arts, Palm Computing, Spinnaker and PowerUp. Nguyen received a BS in Quality Assurance from Cogswell Polytechnical College, completed a Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Program, is a member of the American Society for Quality Certified Quality Engineer and a Co-Founder of the Association for Software Testing, a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and practice of software testing.

LogiGear Corporation provides global solutions for software testing and offers public and corporate software testing training programs worldwide through LogiGear University. LogiGear is a leader in the integration of test automation, offshore resources and US project management for fast, cost-effective results. Since 1994, LogiGear has worked with hundreds of companies from the Fortune 500 to early-stage startups, creating unique solutions to exactly meet their needs. With facilities in the US and Asia, LogiGear helps companies double their test coverage and improve software quality, while reducing testing time and cutting costs.

Acclaimed Animation Workshop Held on Campus



Ed Hooks (center) demonstrates the concept of power centers with student, Evan Clover (right), and alumna, Paulette Trinh (left).

On Saturday, November 14, actor and author, Ed Hooks, offered his world-renowned class, *Acting for Animators*, to Cogswell students and invited guests.

Today's character animators must do more than move pixels around the screen. They need to understand the motivation of their CG actors and bring a sense of realism to the resulting behaviors. In Ed Hooks' class, students explore how to turn emotion into action. Making a character look sad or happy does not move your story forward but how your character reacts to the happy or sad does.

"The experience was very enjoyable. I wish I had seen him 10 years ago. It's this kind of thing that will really put CPC on the map!" said Geoff Clark, Cogswell alumnus.

Ed Hooks, a theatre professional for three decades, pioneered acting training specifically for animators instead of stage actors. His books, *Acting for Animators* and *Acting in Animation: A Look at 12 Films*, are standard texts at animation schools all over the world.

He has taught *Acting for Animators* at most major film and game studios including: Disney, Blue Sky, Sony, Valve, Electronic Arts, Ubisoft, Animal Logic, Microsoft, Blizzard and Epic Games. He has also presented the course internationally in Germany, Singapore, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Australia, Canada, China and the UK. Twice, he has been a featured speaker at SIGGRAPH and GDC. Mr. Hooks is on the Board of Advisors of FMX in Stuttgart, Germany and has been a regular presenter at Animex, an International Animation Festival in Teesside, England and Swansea Animation Days in South Wales.

Cogswell was pleased to offer this rare opportunity to our students and alumni.

Alumni Notes

Brian Banks (2009) is a Firefighter and Paramedic for the Belmont/San Carlos Fire Department. **Kevin Burns (1998)** is a Community Solutions Architect at Lithium Technologies where he manages the development and integration resources in professional services. **Tim Capehart (2001)** works for Bakersfield College as their Fire Technology Coordinator. **Darren Cutlip (1997)** recently joined Granicus, Inc as a Video Transfer Technician. The company provides government Webcasting and public meeting management solutions. **Chris Driggett (1999)** left Sony Corporation of America and is now a Senior Software Architect at Exilant. **Matt Koerner (2004)** works at Milestone Technologies, an independent supplier of outsourced IT support services, as a Supervisor. **Ramin Kowssari (1995)** is a Key Account Manager/Sales Engineer (Global Sales Management Group) - Power Management and RF Systems at MuRata Electronics. **Kiersten Lane (2008)** joined D.V.A. Productions, a full-service video production company in San Francisco. Most recently she was a Production Assistant on an *America's Most Wanted* episode and on a Nintendo Commercial. **Andrew Lam (1999)** is a Producer at Playback Studio in Singapore where he worked on the film Money No Enough 2. He is also a part-time lecturer at Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Digital Matte Painting and Nanyang Technological University in Storyboarding, Character Design, Visual Art Techniques and Graphical User Interface. **Tony Locatelli (1998)** works at Cupertino Electric, Inc as a Fire/Life Safety Specialist. He is also the Northern Vice President for the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA). **David Mendez (1994)** is a QA Manager at Gridiron. **Tony Salama (1999)** works at Titmouse, Inc in the LA area as an Animation Processor. **Matthew Smith (2006)** is an Environment Artist and Level Designer at 3G Studios and is working on several as yet unannounced iPhone games. **Keith Sorensen (1993)** has added Manufacturing Quality Project Manager to his duties at National Semiconductor where he has worked for more than 25 years. **Robert White (1983 & 1985)** is Vice President and Regional Scientist with Professional Service Industries (PSI) in Oakland. His son has been accepted into Cogswell Digital Audio Technology program and plans to start in the Fall. **Alton Yazar (1996)** left Panasonic R&D Company to join Apple Inc as a Senior RF System Validation Engineer. Alton and his wife Michaela both graduated from Cogswell. So far one of their children has graduated and another is currently enrolled.