

Letter from Stanford

October 2009



Second letter from me as a visiting researcher at Center for Design Research (CDR) at Stanford.

The Stanford Center for Design Research

CDR (full name is The Stanford Center for Design Research) is a part of Stanford's School of Engineering and is headed by professors Larry Leifer (Director), Mark Cutkosky, Sheri Sheppard, and Chris Gerdes. The following presentation is available on their website:

... focused on understanding and augmenting engineering design innovation and design education. We are dedicated to facilitating individual creativity, understanding the team design process, and developing advanced tools and methods that promote superior design and manufacturing of products. We develop concepts and technical solutions for design thinking, concurrent engineering, distributed collaborative design, and design knowledge capture, indexing and re-use. We focus on methods and tools for improving the design of specific engineering systems, with research in structural integrity evaluation and system modeling, virtual design environments, biomimetic robots, haptic controls and telemanipulation, vehicle dynamics, and driver assistance systems.

For more information, please visit the CDR website: <http://me.stanford.edu/research/centers/cdr/>

designX – the phenomenon

Every Wednesday at around 5:30pm I make sure that I am at CDR to attend one of the definite highlights of the week: *designX*. *designX* is a weekly event where research is discussed, in a social way (and it has been a tradition for 15+ years). The audience usually consists of Larry Leifer's research group but also an equal amount of external people such as researchers from other areas or people from industry.



David Sirkin presenting at *designX*, October 2009

designX starts with some time for mingling and snacks, and at 6pm the hour long session starts. *designX* is a great opportunity to meet researchers and practitioners interested in the same topics.

Meeting more people

To learn more about the business climate in Silicon Valley in general and for cleantech innovations particular I interviewed Karin Widegren. She is the Science and Technology Attaché of Energy and Environment (based in San Francisco) and she reported that Silicon Valley dominates the cleantech investments in the U.S.



Interviewing Karin Widegren



David Nordfors

David Nordfors works at the Stanford Center for Innovations in Learning (SCiL) and has coined the expression *Innovation Journalism* (InJo for short). InJo covers innovations and innovation processes, and spans over different journalistic fields such as politics, economics, and technology (which traditionally are separated, e.g. with separate editors). Please, read more at: <http://www.innovationjournalism.org/>

In order to bring together students and researchers from Sweden, Stig Hagtröm (professor emeritus and now engaged at SCiL at Stanford) invited us to his home for a nice barbecue. The event was co-hosted by professor Arthur Bienenstock who is Director for the Wallenberg Research Link at Stanford.



Reception for Swedish researchers



Meeting the Stanford president

The president of Stanford, John Hennessy, invited a number of graduate-students to discuss life as a grad-student at Stanford. Fortunately I was selected to participate at the dinner together with about 20 other grad-students. The topics discussed during the dinner spanned from world economy meltdown to grad-student-housing issues.

Pictures from Stanford Main Quad

The Stanford University has a beautiful campus. Below I wanted to show some pictures from the Main Quad (short for Main Quadrangle) that is the center of the Stanford campus. If interested in finding out more Stanford history, facts and figures (and where you can enjoy some virtual tours), please see: <http://www.stanford.edu/about/>



Approaching Main Quad from Palm Drive



Arcades around the Main Quad



Bikes, bikes, bikes everywhere



Memorial Church at night



Halloween coming up!

For quite a period of time people have prepared for Halloween that is coming up shortly. Some families have decorated their houses and gardens extensively. I think it is very nice with all the beautiful pumpkins arranged on the porches, and I find the witches and the spiderwebs covering the trees quite cute. However, “decorating” the lawn with skeletons and gravestones might take a while to get used to.

Bye for now ☺

Ingrid Kihlander

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