

The ChromaZone

Munsell Color Science Laboratory's Newsletter

Fall 1998

Welcome!

Dr. Norboru Ohta R.I.T.'s New Xerox Professor

Dr. Noboru Ohta Becomes the Xerox Visiting Professor in Digital Color Imaging Systems at Rochester Institute of Technology

Xerox Corporation established an endowed professorship at Rochester Institute of Technology within the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. The goal of this professorship is to enhance and expand the strong color imaging activities of the Center (www.cis.rit.edu) focusing on color engineering, digital color imaging systems integration (image capture, display, storage, transmission, retrieval, and output) and data management and connectivity.

Dr. Noboru Ohta of Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd. has been awarded this prestigious endowed professorship. Beginning Fall 1998, Dr. Ohta will become the Xerox Visiting Professor in Digital Color Imaging Systems. Dr. Ohta received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, a master of science degree in physical chemistry, and doctorate in engineering in applied physics, all from Tokyo University. Since 1968, Dr. Ohta has been a research scientist with Ashigara Research Laboratories of

Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd. Between 1973 and 1976 he was a research associate at the National Research Council of Canada performing joint research with the late Dr. Gunther Wyszecki.

Dr. Ohta has been active in the International Commission on Illumination (CIE), the Color Science Association of Japan, the International Association of Colour, and the American National Standards Institute. He has been a visiting lecturer at Tokai University, Tokyo Polytechnic Institute, Kohchi Medical College, Chiba University, and Kyushu Industrial College. During 1998, Dr. Ohta was awarded a visiting professorship at Chiba University in their Department of Engineering. He has authored over 80 technical publications in various aspects of color engineering and two textbooks: "Color Engineering," and "The Fundamentals of Color Reproduction and Engineering."

Dr. Ohta will divide his time between Rochester, New York and Tokyo, Japan. His goals include developing a color engineering laboratory, initiating a research program in the color optimization of digital imaging systems, creating a graduate

laboratory course in color systems engineering, developing strong research relationships with companies located in the Far East, developing joint research with Chiba University, and participating on international standards committees.

RIT, CIS and MCSL are, indeed, honored to include Dr. Noboru Ohta among the faculty.

*Article Courtesy of RIT
Communications Dept.*

New Staff Scientist to Assist Professor

The Center for Imaging Science has hired a senior color scientist, Mitch Rosen, to assist Dr. Ohta. Mitch will help Dr. Ohta create a new Color Engineering Laboratory, prepare for a new course in color reproduction optimization, and help develop a computational environment. Mitch will also pursue a Ph.D. degree in Imaging Science. Mitch comes to RIT with ten years of industrial experience as a senior scientist at Polaroid. He has extensive experience in imaging research and management. Mitch earned his master's degree in Imaging Science from RIT and his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Tufts University. Welcome back!

M.S. Candidates for Color Science Experience Industry this Summer



The opportunity to work at a leading Research and Development center in Rochester, NY is something you

don't want to miss. I worked as a summer intern at the Color and Digital Imaging Systems (CADISYS) group at the Xerox Corporation, Webster, NY.

During the three months spent at Xerox I was involved in a research project in the area of printer characterization and color modeling. The experience obtained was invaluable, allowing me to implement many of the techniques learned during the previous months studying in the Munsell Color Science Laboratory. The job was to model a specific print characteristic, and develop algorithms to test and evaluate each model developed. Documenting the work and giving a report to management on results found.

I found that life in the research world, was not quite what I expected. During previous employment it had been portrayed to me that a research lab would be full of people that never talked and walk around quietly in lab coats. This was definitely not my experience, I found the other employees to be very friendly and hardly ever saw anyone walking around in a lab coat. Albeit a very different atmosphere to that of the business world, more relaxed and more innovative.

As mentioned earlier, the experience gained while at the Munsell Color Science Laboratory was invaluable. It gave me the background and skills

required to enter a leading research corporation for a short period and perform valuable research. I was able to start working straight away without having to spend the first 2 months learning the systems.

I enjoyed working in a team of researchers and would like to pursue my career in a research corporation. Spending the time with other well known researchers in the field of Color Science was a valuable experience, gleaned information from them that would take years of effort to learn by myself. My interests include color management, color modeling, and color appearance.

Mark Shaw
M.S. Candidate, Color Science



This past summer I work as an intern at the Color and Digital Imaging Systems (CADISYS) group at the Xerox

Corporation, Webster, NY. The experience was both invaluable and inspiring. I was assigned to an ongoing project, which I was to complete by the end of my internship. It presented both a benefit of learning and a challenge of accomplishing something in a short period of time. The fact that it was an ongoing project helped me to learn several new methods. It also gave me an opportunity to apply what I learned in the Color Science program to practical problems. The general field of the problem was familiar .

However, there is a big difference between strictly theoretical knowledge and the real life applications.

I found myself constantly checking the practical steps against the theory and the theory against what was observed in real systems. This was very important for the fine-tuning of what I learned in the Color Science program.

My communication with the scientists and engineers at Xerox Corp. was another invaluable experience. It allowed me to put in perspective the theory I learned in Munsell Color Science Lab. Several people expressed the views on such subjects as color spaces that were unconventional. Thus, it made me question some paradigms which seemed relatively solid when studied in class. I found the working atmosphere very intellectually stimulating.

For a person who had spent over ten years in an academic research lab, I found myself pleasantly surprised to see a level of fundamental research in the industrial environment, such Xerox Corp. Many people worked on the projects that did not have immediate practical applications. In times when the stock market-driven economy forces firms to turn immediate profits, it is refreshing to see a company investing in their research (and their future).

Alexei Krasnoselsky
M.S. Candidate, Color Science