

We are pleased to welcome Professor Art Kuo to the Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy this coming **Thursday 11/19**. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Kuo, please *email Jason Kutch* ([kutch@usc.edu](mailto:kutch@usc.edu)). Please see seminar announcement below.

***Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy Seminar Series***

Art Kuo, PhD  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Thursday November 19, 2015, **1pm**, Room CHP 147

**"The Heart of Darkness, Biomechanicalized: Locomotion in the Lab and in the Wild"**

A recurring theme in literature is the comfortable bourgeoisie's thirst for adventure. The protagonist is frustrated or bored with their cloistered, structured, repetitive environment. They imagine the frontier as idyllic, natural, and true. They venture forth and thrust themselves into the unknown. But it is not what they expected: it is untamed, anything but idyllic, maybe even deadly. Examples include the eponymous Joseph Conrad novella, *The Life of Pi*, and *Into the Wild*. These play out in various ways, some depressing, some comic, some quite grim.

Here is the story of a naive biomechanist, who idles away in the laboratory of perfect treadmills, accurate motion capture, and safe theories, from which the wild seems so alluring. It is full of non-constant speed treadmills, uneven terrain, and other exciting thrills. But predictably, the realities are more than he bargained for, and he receives his comeuppance. But how does the story end? Does the biomechanist lose his bearings (theories), starve (for funding), or even go mad (give up tenure)? Does he long to return to the relative safety of the now sentimentalized lab? Is anything ever the same again? Join this classic tale's academic edition, nearly as long as *Apocalypse Now* but far less entertaining. No Academy Awards will be won; no animals will be harmed. Some scientists may be imperiled.