News from Head of School

At a recent School Board meeting we discussed internal communication. There was strong support for the idea of a regular School newsletter, and I agreed to give the idea a try. I apologise that it has taken some time to get this organised, but we now have the arrangements in place to distribute a short bulletin every week (this is inevitably a ‘bumper’ edition). Any suggestions for improvements gratefully received.

e-Science Success

Congratulations to Carole Goble for her leading role in the successful OMII-UK bid. The project is a partnership with Southampton and Edinburgh, and will bring £1.8 m funding to Manchester to consolidate and develop my Grid components.

Undergraduate Recruitment

I know you are all aware that most CS departments in Europe and the US are finding it difficult to recruit the number of undergraduate students they did a few years ago. I’m pleased to report that, despite a very significant drop in applications, we have managed to more than meet our home student target without reducing our standards. Thanks to all those who have helped with admissions, open days, student visits etc. Unfortunately overseas student numbers are likely to be below target (by around 15), largely as a result of a collapse in acceptances from China. This will have some impact on our budget for the current academic year, and is a long-term problem we need to address as a matter of urgency. We are currently receiving practical help from the UoM International Development team with the aim of making a significant impact on overseas recruitment for entry in September 2006.

Annual planning cycle

This is the start of the 2005/6 University planning cycle. We need to review progress towards the long-term objectives in our Strategic Plan, and then submit an updated version of the Plan, together with an Operational Plan for 2006/7, by the end of October. I would encourage you all to revisit the plan and send comments or suggestions to Carmel. There is a Profs meeting on 23rd September, and it would be very helpful to receive input by then. The are clearly areas of the plan that need expanding, and there may well be ideas that we need to revisit in the light of experience. The current version of the plan can be found at:

http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/csonly/php/department/2015.htm

CS/Informatics Review

As announced in a recent email, the arrangements for the long-awaited CS/Informatics review have been finalised. The panel visit will take place on the 27th and 28th October and their report will be completed within a few days of the visit. At a recent School Board meeting I mentioned that Professor Bob Wood (Head of Informatics) and I had been discussing possible outcomes of the review, identifying possible long-term scenarios. The Board expressed the wish to share this material. I raised this with Professor Wood, who agreed in principle, but felt that the document in its current state was too incomplete and could lead to misunderstanding. He has agreed to prepare a draft which is suitable for circulation in the near future.
Manchester Turing Lecture 2006

We are pleased to confirm that IEE/BCS/IBM-sponsored Turing Lecture will again be presented in Manchester as well as London. The lecture will be given by Chris Mairs, Director of Data Connection plc and Senior Vice President, Product Management and Business Development at MetaSwitch. He also runs a charity to develop assistive technology for the disabled (enlightened self-interest as he is himself blind) and has led the British disabled water skiing team to four world championship titles. The event is scheduled for 25th Jan 06.

Seminars and Internal Meetings

School seminars are held on Wednesday afternoons. The 2005/6 series will commence on 28th September.

Capacity Planning for Enterprise Applications

Ian Gorton, Senior Researcher at National ICT Australia
ESNW & MRCSS Seminar
1200 – 1300, ESNW AG Room 1.10

Events Calendar

CS-Informatics Review
Panel visit and interviews with staff and students
27-28 Oct 05

40th Anniversary of first UG intake
Web link to follow
4 Nov 05

Manchester Turing Lecture
Web link to follow
25 Jan 06

Funding Opportunities

SEAS DTC Call for Research Proposals
The SEAS DTC would like to encourage a strong, high quality technology push from the UK science base to advance technologies in the areas of Systems Engineering and Autonomous/Semi-Autonomous Systems. Consequently, the SEAS DTC announces that it welcomes proposals for new research projects intended to start during the course of the DTC's second year of operation (from February 2006).
http://www.seasdtc.com/research_progs/year_2_call_for_proposals.htm

RAEng/EPSRC Research Fellowships
Research Fellowships are aimed at outstanding researchers from all branches of engineering who are about to finish their PhD or have up to 3 years Post-Doctoral experience. The scheme provides funding for five years to encourage the best researchers to remain in the university engineering sector.
http://www.raeng.org.uk/research

EPSRC Overseas Postdoc Fellowships at the LS Interface
The Life Sciences Interface Programme is offering Postdoctoral Fellowships to enable the most talented young researchers from physical sciences or engineering disciplines to establish an independent research career working across the interface into the life sciences, shortly or immediately after completing a PhD. The awards, which are for a period of up to three years, will be held at a UK academic institution but include provision for the fellow to spend between 12 to 18 months working at a leading overseas laboratory. The award covers the
salary cost of the Fellow, the associated costs of the research (including travel and subsistence, consumables and minor equipment) and the additional travel and living costs associated with the period spent working overseas.

Awaiting valid link

**EPSRC Senior Research Fellowships** 10 Nov 05

Applications are invited for the 2006 Senior Research Fellowships exercise. Senior Research Fellowships are awarded to outstanding academic scientists and engineers of international repute, to enable them to devote themselves full-time to personal research. Up to 6 of these most prestigious EPSRC awards are made each year. The proposed research must be important and timely and should offer opportunities for major scientific advances. Fellowships are full-time for up to 5 years and are tenable in the UK.

[http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/2006AdvancedResearchFellowships-CallForProposals.htm](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/2006AdvancedResearchFellowships-CallForProposals.htm)

**Prize and Award Opportunities**

**Harlan D. Mills Award** 1 Oct 05

Established to recognize researchers and practitioners who have demonstrated long-standing, sustained, and meaningful contributions to the theory and practice of the information sciences, focusing on contributions to the practice of software engineering through the application of sound theory. The award consists of a $3000 honorarium, museum-quality memento.

[http://www.computer.org/awards/](http://www.computer.org/awards/)

**W. Wallace-McDowell Award** 1 Oct 05

A bronze medal and $2000 honorarium are presented for outstanding recent theoretical, design, educational, practical, or other similar innovative contributions that fall within the scope of Computer Society interest.

[http://www.computer.org/awards/](http://www.computer.org/awards/)

**Research Awards**

Not requested this week

**Staff News**

**Awards and Promotions**

*Ian Horrocks*: awarded 5-year EPSRC Senior Fellowship.

Alvaro Fernandes: promoted to Senior Lecturer

**Sabbatical Leave**

*Andrei Voronkov*: Microsoft Research, Redmond USA
Aug 05 – Aug 06.

*Ian Horrocks*: University of Bozen-Bolzano, Bell Labs, and Stanford University
Feb 06 – Sep 06.

*Peter Aczel*: Nijmegen University, and Maths Institute at the University of Munich
Jan 06 – Sep 06.

*Alasdair Rawsthorne*: 80% secondment to Transitive Technologies
Oct 05 – Sep 06.

*Alvaro Fernandes*: IBM Almaden Research Centre US
Jul – Dec 06.
### Academic Appointments
None

### Academic Departures
*Fumie Costen*: transferred to the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

### Research Appointments
- *Giovanni Cusinu* – APT
- *Cornelia Hedeler* – IMG

### Research Departures
Phillip Lord – IMG

### Administrative Appointments
None

### Administrative Departures
None

### Vacancies
**Academic Staff**
Temporary Lecturer (5 year appointment supporting Ian Horrocks’ Fellowship)

**Research Staff**
Research Associate in Adaptive System Development (IMG)

**Administrative Staff**
- External Affairs Officer
- Undergraduate Administrator
- Postgraduate Assistant