Leonid Libkin Visit

A reminder that Leonid Libkin will be visiting the University on Monday and Tuesday of this week, and will be giving a seminar at 1000 on Monday (see below). The professoriate is keen to attract Leonid to Manchester, and I very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend the seminar, in which he will discuss his research plans.

Student Numbers and School Budget

We now have a fairly complete picture of registrations of new students for the current academic year. The totals and breakdown are given in the table below. The figures in brackets are the equivalents for last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UG</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(117)</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>(143)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Taught FT</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>(106)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Taught PT</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Research</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(24)</td>
<td>(20)</td>
<td>(44)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* plus 2 registrations for individual modules; † includes 4 students not yet registered.

Overall, this does not make encouraging reading, though it must be set against a background of falling applications to read CS across the UK, US and Europe. On the positive side, we have slightly increased our intake of home undergraduate students, without any obvious reduction in quality (detailed analysis is in hand). This is the area where we can influence the outcome most directly, and everyone involved in admissions is to be congratulated. Otherwise, the most striking feature is the dramatic drop in overseas student numbers across the board. This is an area over which we have less control and where problems with processing applications at the University centre and Faculty may have had an impact. It is also worth noting that we made a similar number of offers to last year, but had a much higher rate of ‘no-shows’. As you know already, we have invested in administrative support for student recruitment, with a particular emphasis on overseas recruitment, and hope to make a positive impact on next year’s figures. The other worrying trend is the reduction in numbers of home PG students (both PGT and PGR). This may be due in part to the smaller number of full PGT bursaries and PGR studentships we were able to offer this year – due to the expiry of our MTP funding, and changes in the hefce funding regime for research students, respectively. The fall in PGR admissions will make it difficult for us to achieve our RAE target of 3 PGR students per member of academic staff.

Overall, the fall in student numbers will have a significant impact on our budget for the current year. Although our forecasts had allowed for some fall in student income, we did not anticipate this scale of attrition. To give a rough idea, around 50% of the School’s income comes from students; every overseas student brings an annual income of £10.8k, and home students bring an annual income of £5.8k, £7.2k or £10.8k for UG, PGT and PGR respectively. We will find ways of coping with the shortfall in our income for the current year, and I am determined that we will not sacrifice any of the planned investments in the future of the
School. We are fortunate in having reserves that can help sustain us through difficult times, but we will need to consider very carefully the best approach to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the School.

To end on a positive note. Student top-up fees and full economic costing of research grants (fEC) should increase our income significantly over the next few years. Also we can (and must) do a great deal to take control of our own destiny, by maximising our market share of research and student income. We are still one of the most successful Schools in the University, and I am certain that we are capable of facing up to the challenge.

Science Engineering and Technology Awards

Last week I represented the Dean at the SET Student of the Year Awards. I was not previously aware of these awards, which are based on performance in 3rd/4th year projects. Of 51 shortlisted students, only one was from Manchester (in Materials Science). Although at least 3 of the 17 categories are relevant to our students, I gather that we have not made any nominations previously. I believe that we should set ourselves the target of winning one or more of these awards. It would clearly attract prestige, but would also be a good way of motivating students (and staff) and involvement in the competition would be an asset in marketing our programmes.

More information

Seminars

School seminars are held on Wednesday afternoons. The 2005/6 series will commence on 5th October. More information

Data Exchange and Other Nice Database Problems Mon 26 Sep
Leonid Libkin, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto
1000 – 1100, Atlas 1

Capacity Planning for Enterprise Applications Mon 26 Sep
Ian Gorton, Senior Researcher at National ICT Australia
ESNW & MRCSS Seminar
1200 – 1300, ESNW AG Room 1.10

Bayesian Networks for Learning Protein Interactions Mon 26 Sep
*Bayesian network inference for learning causal protein interaction networks*
Matt Onsum, Pathways Capability, Astra Zeneca, Boston.
1500 -1600, Atlas 1

Internal Meetings and Events

School Board Wed 28 Sep
Items for the agenda to Iain Hart ASAP please
1530 – 1700, IT407

Drinks Reception Thu 29 Sep
Welcome to a new academic year and to new members of staff.
1600, Staff Common Room

Retirement Party – Una Molloy Fri 7 Oct
As I am sure most of you know, Una Molloy is about to leave us after over thirty years of service to the department. As a way of celebrating Una's enormous contribution, there will be a ‘bit of a do’.
1500, Staff Common Room.

Events Calendar

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

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

| Manchester Turing Lecture | 25 Jan 06 |
| Web link to follow | |

### Funding Opportunities

#### RAEng/EPSRC Research Fellowships 7 Oct 05
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.

[More information](#)

#### EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowships 18 Oct 05
The EPSRC offers Postdoctoral fellowships in several targeted areas of relevance to CS. There are fellowships of up to 3 years (we believe) in Theoretical Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences, and Theoretical Physics, awarded to talented young researchers to enable them to establish an independent research career, directly or shortly after completing their PhD. Also, the Life Sciences Interface Programme offers 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, again shortly or immediately after completing a PhD. These 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.

[More information](#)

#### 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.

[More information](#)

### Prize and Award Opportunities

We have acknowledged the need to raise the profile of the School both nationally and internationally. Nominating individuals for awards, and working actively with others to ensure that deserving individuals are nominated is one way of doing that.

#### ACM Call for Award Nominations 31 Oct 05
ACM is calling for nominations for a series of individual and group awards recognising outstanding contributions to the field of Computer Science in education, theory, and practice and in its application to other disciplines.

[More information](#)

#### IEEE Call for Award Nominations 1 Oct 05
IEEE is calling for nominations for a series of individual and group awards recognising outstanding contributions to the field of Computer Science and Informatics. These range from high-profile awards to certificates of achievement, and cover a broad spectrum of contributions.

More information

### Research Awards

None this week

### Staff News

#### Awards and Promotions

None this week

#### Academic Arrivals

None this week

#### Academic Departures

None this week

#### Research Arrivals

None this week

#### Research Departures

None this week

#### Administrative Arrivals

None this week

#### Administrative Departures

None this week

#### 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.

### Vacancies

#### Academic Staff

Temporary Lecturer (5 year appointment supporting Ian Horrocks’ Fellowship)

#### Research Staff

Research Associate in Adaptive System Development (IMG)

#### Administrative Staff

None