News from Head of School

Danger from Falling Objects

Some of you may be aware of a serious, though thankfully consequence-free, incident that occurred in Wilton St last week, immediately outside the Kilburn loading bay. This involved a lump hammer which fell from near the top of the Maths Tower and landed very close to one of our building attendants who was dealing with a delivery. This could clearly have been lethal, and it was only good fortune that prevented serious consequences. The matter has been reported through the normal H&S channels, but I think that you should all be aware of the incident. I would recommend that, if at all possible, you avoid walking in the vicinity of the Maths Tower and exercise extreme caution if you need to do so. I understand that, from Monday, the Wilton St entrance will be closed to pedestrian access in any case, but it is clear that there will still be at-risk areas to which pedestrian access will still be possible. I believe that Colin Wallis will be in touch regarding arrangements for access to the building, but I thought that I ought to warn you all of the potential danger as soon as possible.

University Open Day

There is a University Open Day this coming Saturday, probably the most important of the annual cycle. You are all aware of the importance of UG recruitment to the future of the School and further offers of help would be much appreciated – particularly from anyone who can provide demos. Thanks to those who have already volunteered; if you have not done so yet and think you might be able to help, please contact Bernard Strutt.

More Information

Una's Retirement

As I am sure most of you know, Una is about to leave us after over thirty years of service to the department. As a way of celebrating her enormous contribution to the School/Department, there will be a ‘bit of a do’ at 1500 on Friday in the Staff Common Room. I’d like to take this opportunity of thanking her publicly on behalf of the School, because I (and Steve Furber) will be in London at an RAE panel meeting on Friday.

CS-Informatics Review

The CS submission to the External Review Panel is about to be dispatched. Many thanks to all of those who have been involved in pulling it together – particularly Ursula Hayes, Iain Hart and John Gurd. I am pleased to report that one issue that was a matter of concern has been resolved satisfactorily. You will recall that, earlier in the summer, Ursula circulated the University guidelines for the conduct of external reviews. One (most natural) reading of these suggested that the star grades for each member of staff would be included in a report from the Review Panel to the President and VP for Research. This was at variance with the undertaking that I gave, in good faith, to the School Board, that individual grades would not be made available to anyone not directly involved in the review process. Having sought further clarification, we have now received an updated guidance that makes it clear that individual grades will not be reported outside the School, rather the outcome of the summative assessment will be reported as a School quality profile, along the lines proposed for RAE 2008.
Seminars

School seminars are held on Wednesday afternoons. The 2005/6 series begins this week, the programme is available online.

Coordination Oriented Programming  Wed 5 Oct
Dr David Robertson, University of Edinburgh
1415 – 1515, Kilburn 1.5

Internal Meetings and Events

Retirement Party – Una Molloy  Fri 7 Oct
1500 – ??, Staff Common Room

University Open Day  Sat 8 Oct
Volunteers needed to help on the day, particularly with demos

Events Calendar

Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WiSET)  5 Oct 2005
The Launch event for WiSET will be held in Room C1, Sackville Street Building starting with a lunch at 1pm. Professor Helen Gleeson has offered to chair the event and other speakers will include a visitor from industry and our appointed student coordinators. If anyone from the School intends to attend, please could you contact Bernard Strutt, who is looking to use our support of the event as a news piece on our website to try to attract female applicants.

More Information

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

40th Anniversary of first UG intake  4 Nov 05

More Information

Manchester Turing Lecture

More Information

Fifth Virtual Conference on Genomics and Bioinformatics  25-28 Oct 05
The University of Manchester will be one of the registered sites to broadcast the Fifth International Conference on Genomics and Bioinformatics over the Access Grid. This is scheduled for October 25-28, and the event is completed without registration fees. Topics include: Artificial and Synthetic Life, Biological Knowledge Representation, Biological Data Mining, Data Visualization, Evolutionary Genomics, Genomic Data Standardization, Management, and Integration High Throughput and GRID Computing Machine Learning Techniques for Genomic Analysis Nanobiotechnology Proteomic Analysis Protein Structural Analysis and Modeling Systems Biology Structural Genomics. The venue will be Room 1.10, Kilburn Building, People interested in attending any of the session will need to contact Javier Gomez Alonso (Email)

More Information

Funding Opportunities

Leverhulme Research Fellowships  10 Nov 05
The Leverhulme Trustees are offering approximately 90 Research Fellowships to support experienced researchers in any subject area, particularly those who are or have been prevented by routine duties from completing a programme of
original research. Awards are not limited to those holding appointments in higher education. Applicants should be resident in the UK; should normally be age 30 or over; should be able to demonstrate experience and academic background sufficient to confirm their ability to complete the proposed programme of research. The duration of awards will be between 3 and 24 months. Awards made in 2006 to be taken up between 1 June 2006 and 1 May 2007.

More Information

Leverhulme Study Abroad Fellowships 10 Nov 05

Study Abroad Fellowships support a period overseas in a stimulating academic environment. These differ from Research Fellowships in that the awards support a range of activities other than straight-forward research (e.g., the exchange of ideas or the development of new lines of research and collaboration). Applicants must be resident in the UK and be aged 30 or over. They should have held an established full-time post in a UK institution of higher education, or in a museum, art gallery or comparable institution for at least five years. They are available for all fields of study with duration between 3 and 12 months. Awards made in 2006 to be taken up between 1 June 2006 and 1 May 2007.

More Information

Nuffield Foundation New Science Lecturers Grants 27 Oct 05

Grants of up to £6,000 are offered to new lecturers in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (but not in Biomedical or Social Sciences) at Higher Education Institutions in the UK to help them develop innovative research projects in the early stages of their independent research careers.

More Information

Toshiba Fellowship Programme 2006

Toshiba, supported by the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) is offering outstanding European scientists the opportunity to join one of its high-technology research teams in Japan for up to two years. The Toshiba Fellowship Programme is open to PhD level researchers of EU nationality currently working in a UK academic institution. The research areas vary broadly from year to year in the field of science and engineering. The Programme offers the successful Fellow a generous package including a fixed salary and travel to and from Japan.

More Information

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. A comprehensive list of research areas for the 2006 call is also available on the research noticeboard opposite office 2.10.

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 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**

**The 2005 Research Students' Symposium – Prize for Best Dissertation**

Each year, at the Symposium, prizes are presented for the best PhD dissertation examined, and the best papers (a winner and up to two runners-up) published, in the previous year. From 2005, the School has synchronized the internal submission and School award process with the annual calendar for the CPHC/BCS Distinguished Dissertations Award, so the call went out in February 2005 and a decision was made in early April. The winner was:

**Tomaz Felicijan -  Quality-of-Service for Asynchronous On-Chip Networks**

**Science Engineering and Technology Awards**

Following on from the details in last week's newsletter about the SET awards, the winner of last year's award in CS has been recruited as a PhD student in the APT Group by Ian Watson – Simon Wilkinson from Leeds.

**Staff News**

**Awards and Promotions**
None this week

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<tr>
<td>Cornelia Hedeler – IMG</td>
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<td>William Wheeldin – Clinical Research Fellow – HBIG</td>
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<td>Matthew Gamble – UMG</td>
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<td>Ixent Galpin – IMG</td>
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<td>Tom Gardiner - IMG</td>
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<td>Una Molloy is retiring after over 30 years in the School. Given such an enormous contribution, she will be greatly missed. We wish her much luck, health and happiness in her future endeavours.</td>
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**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