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News from Head of School

Strategic Plan

Last year we put a lot of effort into developing a strategic plan, with all staff having an opportunity to contribute. Although we should not need to make major changes, we now need to review and update the plan in the light of what we have already achieved and to reflect any altered circumstances since last year. There were also some areas of the plan that were not fully developed and would benefit from further attention. I am currently meeting with academic and administrative staff responsible for key areas of activity, but would still welcome input from any of you. It is worth emphasising that this is not an empty exercise – it is the basis on which we will be judged and for arguing for allocating resources. The updated plan and financial forecast have to be submitted to Faculty by end October.

Distinguished Speaker from IBM

The University and Faculty are working with IBM to develop a strategic partnership, to operate across the University. As part of this emerging relationship, IBM have offered a high level speaker to give a lecture at the University. Dr Irving Wladawsky-Berger, Vice President, Technical Strategy and Innovation at IBM will be giving a lecture titled “Enabling a Business Process Revolution” here at the University on 18th November. We were, of course, keen to respond positively when we were asked to host the event and I am sure that everyone will do their best to make the event an outstanding success.

Gang of 7 Report

As you all know, a working group on teaching innovation (the ‘Gang of 7’), led by Roger Hubbard, has been meeting regularly this summer to come up with ideas for changing the way we teach our students. The Group has undertaken a prodigious amount of work on our behalf, sifting a very large amount of information (from away-days, the former Teaching Innovation Committee, and the 2015 plan), attempting to understand why we need to change, how we need to change, and proposing some approaches to implementing change. The way that we teach in future is very important and it will need support and active engagement from all staff if it is to be successful. The next step in this process is for the group to share with everyone some of the information that they have put together. They plan to issue a report early this week, followed by a series of meetings to discuss the issues it raises. The first of these is this Wednesday, 12th Oct, and I would strongly urge as many of you as possible to attend.

CS-Informatics Review

Last Wednesday, we sent the External Review panel our submission, covering both research and teaching. The School of Informatics has also sent its submission, presented in the same format. The panel have two to three weeks to digest the information before their visit on 27th – 28th October. They may wish to ask for additional information or clarification.

Seminars

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

Parsing Free Word Order Languages  **Wed 12th Oct**

Professor Allan Ramsay, University of Manchester
1415 – 1515, Kilburn 1.5

Simulation in the Aerospace Sector  **Fri 14th Oct**

Simulation in the Aerospace Sector-future visions and challenges
Tim Morris NAFEMS
ESNW and MRCCS SEMINAR - [ESNW Events Info](#)

Internal Meetings and Events

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Gang of 7 Presentation  **Wed 12th Oct**

Initial conclusions and recommendations of the teaching innovation group
1600 – 1700, IT 407

Events Calendar

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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 **25 Jan 06**

[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](#))

IBM Lecture  **18th Nov 05**

Enabling a Business Process Revolution
Dr Irving Wladawsky-Berger, VP, Technical Strategy and Innovation, IBM
Evening, venue to be decided.

Funding Opportunities

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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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Toshiba Fellowship Programme 2006 

None given

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](#)

Prize and Award Opportunities

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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](#)

Research Awards

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None this week

Staff News

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Awards and Promotions

None this week

Academic Arrivals

None this week

Academic Departures

None this week

Research Arrivals

Rob Shearer – IMG

Caroline Jay - BHIG

Research Departures

None this week

Administrative Arrivals

Bryony Quick – part time in ACSO

Administrative Departures

None

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

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Academic Staff

None

Research Staff

None

Administrative Staff

None