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News from Head of School

Welcome to 2006

Welcome back to what I hope will be a happy and productive New Year for all of you. With the window of opportunity closing for submitting journal papers in time for RAE 2008, and significant developments on the teaching front, we have a challenging year ahead of us. The best of luck in all your endeavours.

Support Staff Away Day

One of the most important challenges we face is that of promoting academic excellence by developing a professional administration, able to free up the time of academic staff for research and teaching, whilst working to enhance the external image of the School. With this in mind, there has been a major reorganisation of administrative support over the past few months, reinforced by several new appointments. This week, all our administrative and support staff will be getting together for 24 hours, to spend time thinking about how they can best support the academic mission of the School – and, hopefully, have some fun too. For those of you not fortunate enough to be attending, this means that **all administration offices will be closed on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.**

Research Review

Following the external review and our internal feedback meeting, John Gurd and I are keen to do everything we can to help individuals, and the School as a whole, to further improve our already strong research performance. We will be discussing with the professoriate how this might best be achieved, but in the meantime, it would be very valuable if every member of academic staff could start to develop an explicit plan for raising his/her game in the coming year, however well s/he is currently doing. One of the clear messages to come out of the review is that none of us can afford to be complacent, and that we still have some way to go if we are to achieve our target of becoming the top CS School in the UK, and in the top 25 internationally.

Seminars

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Robust Semantic Processing for Information Extraction **New** 13 Jan 06

Dr Ann Copestake, University of Cambridge
1400-1500, E7 lecture theatre, Renold Building
NaCTeM Seminar, [More Information](#)

Regular Seminar Series

See [links](#) in contents bar for information on seminar series organised by the School of CS, E-Science North West and National Centre for Text Mining.

Internal Meetings and Events

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Support Staff Away Day **New** 11-12 Jan 06

Bower Hotel Chadderton. Coach leaves from lay-by on Booth St E, 1200 Wed 11

Events Calendar

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Manchester Turing Lecture **25 Jan 06**

Lifestyle access for the disabled – adding positive drift to the random walk with technology. Chris Mairs, Data Connection.
Registration necessary. [More Information](#)

EPSRC Public Engagement Workshops **8 Feb & 9 Mar 06**

Introducing PE to 'virgins' and passing on best practice. Space limited.
[More information and registration.](#)

Genomes to Systems Conference **22-24 Mar 06**

An important conference concerning the latest concepts and breakthroughs in genomics and systems biology. Discounted registration before 31 Dec 05
[More Information](#)

Funding Opportunities

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Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences **31 Jan 06** New

Call for Proposals. The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences is a national research institute in Cambridge. It aims to bring mathematical scientists from UK universities and leading experts from overseas together for concentrated research on specialised topics in all branches of the mathematical sciences from pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and statistics, to engineering, computer science, theoretical physics and mathematical biology. The Institute now invites new proposals for programmes for 2008 onwards.

[More Information](#)

BBSRC International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) **Open**

BBSRC's International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) provides support to help scientists make and establish new contacts with their international counterparts. Funding is available to BBSRC grantholders, and researchers working on BBSRC-supported projects at BBSRC-sponsored Institutes for travel and subsistence for three main types of visit. The scheme is open to bids at any time (at least 6 weeks before travel) with payments being made in advance of any visits. Please note BBSRC-supported students are not eligible to travel under ISIS support.

[More Information](#)

EPSRC Senior Media Fellowships **26 Jan 06**

The Public Engagement Programme invites applications for Senior Media Fellowships. These enable leading researchers to devote time to develop a higher media profile. The aim is to advance public engagement with the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering via the broadcast and written media. Senior Media Fellowships are intended to be used for active development of media opportunities (not research, scholarship or teaching).

[More Information](#)

Royal Commission Research Fellowships **23 Feb 06**

The scheme of 1851 Research Fellowships is intended to give a few young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity for conducting research for a further period of two years. Approximately six awards are made each year. Candidates in science subjects must normally be in possession of a PhD degree, or in the final stages of their PhD studies.

The Fellowships are open to candidates in any of the physical or biological sciences, in mathematics, in applied science, or in any branch of engineering.

[More Information](#)

RAEng Industrial Secondment Scheme New **Open**

The Industrial Secondment Scheme provides an invaluable opportunity for university lecturers in engineering to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience. Applicable to engineers of all disciplines, the Scheme's objective is to enable the secondees to impart the fruits of this experience to their students through teaching, through case studies using up-to-date material and, in the longer term, through course design. The benefits also accrue to the host organisation which gains a temporary but highly qualified member of staff, and to the university which has the opportunity of strengthening its links with industry. The Scheme provides funding for the university to employ a temporary replacement for the secondee. In this way it minimises the effects on the normal flow of teaching, and makes it easier for universities to release members of staff for secondment. The Scheme has also been well received by industry, and many organisations have indicated a willingness to offer places to engineering academics: where possible The Royal Academy of Engineering helps in the 'matchmaking process'.

[More Information](#)

Royal Academy of Engineering Global Research Awards New

Global Research Awards provide an opportunity for engineers currently engaged in research and development to undertake projects in centres of excellence overseas. Projects should focus on activities which could help stimulate wealth creation and improvements in the quality of life, supporting the international development of research networks and encouraging the uptake of globally competitive technology in the UK.

[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.

IEEE Internet Award **31 Jan 06**

The IEEE Internet Award was established by the IEEE Board of Directors in June of 1999. It is presented annually for exceptional contributions to the advancement of Internet technology for network architecture, mobility and/or end-use applications. This award can be given to an individual or team of up to three.

[More Information](#)

The IEEE Koji Kobayashi Award **31 Jan 06**

The IEEE Koji Kobayashi Computers and Communications Award was established by the IEEE Board of Directors in 1986 for outstanding contributions to the integration of computers and communications. This award can be given to an individual, multiple recipients, or a team.

[More Information](#)

The IEEE Emanuel R. Piore award is presented annually to an individual, or team of two individuals, for outstanding contributions in the field of information processing, in relation to computer science, deemed to have contributed significantly to the advancement of science and to the betterment of society.

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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

Boris Motik - IMG

Research Departures

Holger Knublauch - HBIG

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.

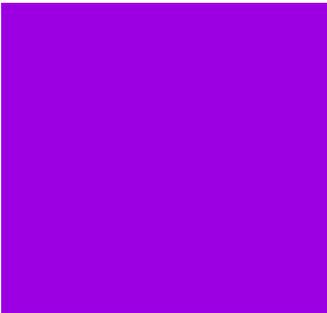
Alasdair Rawsthorne: 80% secondment to Transitive Technologies
Oct 05 – Sep 06.

Alvaro Fernandes: IBM Almaden Research Centre US
Jul – Dec 06.

Vacancies

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Academic Staff



None

Research Staff

None

Administrative Staff

None

