News from Head of School

Visit from Harbin Institute of Technology

On Friday the University was visited by a delegation from Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), led by the President of the Institute. They came to sign an agreement to run joint 2+2 undergraduate courses, and to explore opportunities for more extensive collaboration. HIT is ranked 4th in China in CS, and we are one of five Schools in Manchester where the Institute is interested in placing a total of 50 students each year. The Head of their School of Computer Science came to visit us in the afternoon, together with the Head of their associated School of Software. They made an impressive presentation and it seems hopeful that we will be able to recruit good quality students (both UG and PG) from them if we invest some effort in building the relationship. There are also significant opportunities for research collaboration.

RAE Action Plans

I apologise again for the delay in circulating full information regarding RAE action plans. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded. A gentle reminder to those who have not got around to doing so yet. One point of clarification: the message setting out the details was sent to all members of academic staff; it included the request that it should be passed on to RAs and RFs who are independent researchers, potentially returnable in RAE 2008. If you fall in that category, and have not yet received the details, please email Lynn, who will supply them directly.

School Best Thesis Prize

Nominations are invited for the School Best PhD Thesis Prize. This competition will also be used to shortlist nominations for the CPHC/BCS Distinguished Dissertation prize. Please check the rules for the School competition, which can be found at http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/researchs/prizes.php, and send the necessary documentation to Janet Boyd in the PG office by 2nd March 2006.

Seminars

Computer Vision for 3D Studio Production  New  22 Feb 06
Professor Adrian Hilton. University of Surrey
1415 – 1515, Lecture Theatre 1.5, Kilburn Building
More Information

“Red Fields” (Mathematical Logic)  New  24 Feb 06
On work with Baudisch and Martin-Pizarro which applies the Hrushovski-Fraisse amalgamation procedure to obtain a theory of fields, of prime characteristic of Morley rank 2, equipped with a definable additive subgroup of rank 1.
Martin Ziegler, University of Freiburg
1600 – 1700, Newman Building G.16
More Information

Biomedical Resources for Text Mining  23 Feb 06
Dr Olivier Bodenreider, NIH, National Library of Medicine
1300 – 1400, H11 lecture theatre, Renold Building
More Information

Storage Request Broker (SRB) New 24 Feb 06
Dr Tom Jackson, Department of Computer Science, University of York
1200 – 1300, Atlas 1, Kilburn Building, School of Computer Science
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 top

Dancing the Molecules 20 Feb 06
Bringing Molecular Biology to Life and Systems Biology to Practice
Inaugural Lecture of Professor Hans Westerhoff
1700 Reception, 1800 Lecture, Renold Building, Lecture Room C9
More Information and Register to Attend

On-line Education New 21 Feb 06
Developing and Implementing a School Strategy for On-line Education
Andy Hall & Rod Cullen, Teaching Research and Development Network
1200 – 1345 (lunch provided), Committee Room A, Whitworth Corridor
Please email trdn@manchester.ac.uk to register.

Natural Step Framework of Sustainability New 22 Feb 06
Learn how to teach the principles of sustainability to your students using the Natural Step framework http://www.naturalstep.org.uk
Joanne Tippett, School of Environment and Development
A Centre for Excellence in Enquiry Based Learning event
1300 – 1700 (lunch provided), C24 Sackville Street Building
Please email adele.aubrey@manchester.ac.uk to register.

Industrial Funding for Research 23 Feb 06
Barriers and Incentives to Working in the UK
The University is hosting the first of a number of national events sponsored by the Royal Academy of Engineering to debate the climate for industrial research funding in the UK, with the aim of influencing future Government policy. The event will be led by Mr John Baxter FREng, Chief Engineer with BP, with a series of talks from leading industrialists, ranging from multinationals (eg AstraZeneca) to university spinouts.
0930 – 1600, Manchester Conference Centre
More Information

BBSRC Workshops on Research Funding New 1 Mar 06
The BBSRC Head of Grants and Awards and his team are visiting the University and will present a series of workshops for Administrators and researchers covering the following areas:

- FEC and the peer review process / committee structure;
- post award management of grants - good practice tips;
- pre-award and grant application issues, JeS and cross-council harmonization.

To register for one or all of the above sessions please send an email stating the session(s) you wish to attend to: edsmail@manchester.ac.uk
BBSRC Regional Roadshow  New  2 Mar 06
Manchester Conference Centre
More Information

North West Grid Workshop: Bioinformatics and the Grid  20 Mar 06
Email name and organisation to castreos@manchester.ac.uk to register
More Information

Enabling a Business Process Revolution  21 Mar 06
Irving Wladawsky-Berger, IBM Vice President, Technical Strategy and Innovation.
A digital revolution, led by continuing advances in IT, and an Internet revolution, born of open standards, are begetting a business process revolution. It, in turn, is creating conditions for a “perfect storm” of collaborative innovation with the potential to restructure individual enterprises and entire industries, perhaps even entire economies.

To find out more and to register to attend the lecture please visit Website

Grantsmanship Training sessions  New  6 & 7 April 06
Grantsmanship courses are organised by Faculty, but run by EPSRC. The last set of these were attended by some of our staff who found them very useful - especially the mock panel sessions. The courses are also very popular, so if you would like to attend I would suggest you put your name forward asap to avoid disappointment. They are aimed at new staff (young as well as recent appointments who are new to the UK) and established members of staff who have not had any recent interaction with the EPSRC, either as applicants, grant holders or referees/panel members.

Email louise.rogers@manchester.ac.uk if you wish to attend

Events Calendar  top
EPSRC Public Engagement Workshops  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

BCS/IEE Accreditation Visit  18-19 May 06
Those who will definitely need to be involved should already know and have these dates in their diaries, but could all staff involved in teaching please note the dates and try to ensure they will be available if required.

Funding Opportunities  top
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 grantees, 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

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

Royal Society Conference Grants 01 Mar 06

The Conference grants scheme supports UK based scientists to either present their own paper/poster or chair a session at an overseas conference. Subjects covered: Conferences related to all sciences, ie the disciplines in which the Society will elect researchers to the Fellowship of the Royal Society (for further details see the sectional committee information on RS website).

More Information

Fellowships at the Life Sciences/Physical Sciences Interface 3 Mar 06

In recognition of the importance of cross-disciplinary approaches across the Life Sciences, our Faculty has established 3 new (5 year) fellowships at the Life Sciences/Physical Sciences Interface. We wish to appoint exceptional researchers with a proven background in mathematics, computer science, chemistry, physics, or engineering, who have successfully applied these skills to address a biological problem. Each fellowship will cover the salary of the fellow for 5 years, and will allow them to attract external funding during the tenure of the fellowship to establish their independent laboratory.

More Information

Royal Society Research Grants 4 April 06

The Research grants scheme provides seed-corn funding for new projects of timeliness and promise initiated by research scientists at an early stage of their career or by established scientists wishing to change the direction of their research. The objectives of the scheme are to increase the availability of equipment and consumables for high quality research.

More Information

Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards 27 April 06

Jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology, this scheme aims to give universities additional support to attract key researchers, with great potential or outstanding achievement, to this country or to retain those who might seek to gain higher salaries elsewhere. The focus of the award is salary enhancement. Research expenses are also considered for research costs not suitable for Research Councils research grants applications and for overseas applicants to support integration into the UK research and funding environment.
RAEng Industrial Secondment Scheme  
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'.

Royal Academy of Engineering Global Research Awards

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.

Prize and Award Opportunities  

top

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.

BCS Distinguished Dissertations New  
10 April 06

The Conference of Professors and Heads of Computing (CPHC), in conjunction with the British Computer Society (BCS), annually selects for publication the best British PhD/DPhil dissertations in computer science. The scheme aims to make more visible the significant contribution made by Britain – in particular by post-graduate students – to computer science.

René Descartes Prizes 2006  
4 May 06

The European Commission is inviting proposals under its Framework 6 Science and Society programme for Rene Descartes prizes. These are to recognise excellence in research and science communication. Prizes for research will be at least 200,000 euros each, and projects must include legal entities from 2 different member or associated states, and include at least one member state or associated candidate country.
### 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
None

#### Research Staff
None

#### Administrative Staff
None