News from Head of School

New Posts Advertised

You will be pleased to learn that the Dean has agreed that we can proceed to advertise most of the appointments in our School plan, despite our projected deficit. Advertisements for a chair in Computer Engineering, a Career Development Fellowship, and six fixed-term Teaching Fellowships will appear over the next week or two. This is excellent news, since all these posts are critical to our long-term ambitions. Please pass on the news to anyone you know who might be interested.

Strategic Investment in Research Funding

I’m pleased to announce that we have been successful with several bids for University and Faculty Strategic Investment in Research Funding (SIRF). The funds we have been allocated will provide University collateral for a submission to EPSRC to renew the APT portfolio grant (allowing the appointment of an additional Career Development Fellow and purchase of large-scale computing facilities), has allowed us to bring forward the chair in Computer Engineering, will support the appointment of a Senior Fellow in computational science, jointly with Earth Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, and will allow us to attract a high-profile Professorial Visiting Fellow to a 20% appointment, jointly with Maths.

Teaching Innovation Funding

Congratulations to Mary Wood and John Sargeant who have been awarded funds from the EPS Teaching Innovation Fund to continue their work on ABC (Assessment by Computer). The aim of this phase is to raise awareness and uptake within EPS, to a level similar to that it enjoys in other faculties. Mary and John are always keen to explore opportunities for applying the software more extensively within the School.

Disposal of Equipment

The School will shortly be disposing of some equipment. Any one interested in upgrading to a newer CRT monitor for use in their office (not to take home!) should contact Aidan Loyns.

Seminars

Energy-efficient SIMD Processors for Multimedia Applications **New 1 Mar 06**
Professor Nigel Topham. University of Edinburgh
1415-1515, Kilburn Lecture Theatre 1.5

More Information

Authentication and Authorisation for Grid-Based Services **New 1 Mar 06**
Advanced Authentication and Authorisation Methods for Grid-Based Services
Alexandra Nenadic
1300 – 1400, Atlas 1

Rules of Uncertain Inference **New 2 Mar 06**
The Quantitative/Qualitative Watershed for Rules of Uncertain Inference
David Makinson (visiting MIMS)
1200-1300, Room G17, Newman Building, Booth St East

More Information

The ONDEX Framework  New  17 Mar 06
Uniting Concept-based Data Integration, Biological Homology Searches & Data Analysis. Dr Jacob Koehler, Rothamsted Research
1400-1500, E7 lecture theatre, Renold Building

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

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  2 Mar 06
Manchester Conference Centre
This is the first is a series of roadshows across the country designed to highlight BBSRC and how we undertake our business.

More Information

North West Grid Workshop: Bioinformatics and the Grid  20 Mar 06
E-Science North West (ESNW) & NW Institute for Bio-Health Informatics (NIBHI) 0930-1615, Atlas 1&2.
Registration: email name and organisation to castreos@manchester.ac.uk

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  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. The courses 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. Please forward me the details of any members of staff you wish to nominate to attend: louise.rogers@manchester.ac.uk

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**Events Calendar**

**EPSRC Public Engagement Workshops**

9 Mar 06

Introducing PE to ‘virgins’ and passing on best practice. Space limited.

[More information and registration](#).

**Manchester Inter Varsity Debating Tournament**

New

12 Mar 06

Grand final of the Inter Varsity Debating Tournament. An opportunity to enjoy stimulating debate and support Sivaraja Sivanesan, one of our students who has acted as convenor for the competition this year. If you wish to attend email iv@mdu.manchester.ac.uk for tickets.

1330 – 1600, Lecture Theatre A, Roscoe Building

**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.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**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 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.

**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.

**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

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 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 200000 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
Stian Soiland – Software Engineer – IMG
Tanya Gray – Research Associate – HBIG
Kevin Lee – Research Associate – IMG
Irena Spasic – Project Manager – IMG

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