News from Head of School

Distinguished Lecture
The Irving Wladawsky-Berger event was a great success with a large turnout for an interesting lecture. The dinner and Thought Leadership Debate which followed also worked well and seemed to be enjoyed by all involved. Irving was very positive about his visit to the University, which should be helpful in further developing the University’s strategic relationship with IBM. Congratulations to the External Affairs team, and Mahalia in particular, for their leading role in organising the event.

Enquiry Based Learning Workshop
As you are all aware, the School is about to embark on a significant change in its approach to teaching, encouraging our students to be much more actively involved in their learning. Following the recommendations of the G7 group these changes will start in September 2006 with the new first year project, but will also involve significant changes in the format of other course units. The aim is to make teaching and learning more fulfilling for both staff and students but, if the initiative is to be successful, we will need to learn new skills. In order to help staff prepare for these changes we have organised a half day workshop on 21 April, in conjunction with the Centre for Excellence in Enquiry Based Learning. The workshop will provide an opportunity to find out more about EBL, and its application in CS. It is important that as many staff as possible attend, particularly those who are 1st year tutors and all involved in 1st and 2nd year teaching. Please register by emailing Kath Mullins.

BCS/IEE Accreditation
The documentation for the forthcoming visit from the BCS/IEE Accreditation Panel (18 – 19 May) has now been finalised and dispatched. Thanks to Graham and all those who were involved – particularly Jennie, who held the whole process together. Professional accreditation is very important to the School and is one of the ways in which we can demonstrate the quality of our teaching provision, differentiating ourselves from many of our competitor institutions.

Events this Week

myGrid Users Day New 28 Mar 06
This one-day training session will cover the designing and running of workflow experiments using Taverna, the myGrid workflow workbench. The tutorial will cover Taverna installation through to the creation and running of complex bioinformatics analyses. Attendees will be able to find, edit or create experiments as workflows and explore results in a way that can change work practices. More Information and Registration

On a problem of J Paris (Mathematical Logic) New 28 Mar 06
Alla Sirokofski, Athens and Manchester
1000 – 1100, G32 Humanities Bridgeford Building
More Information
Protocols for Establishing Legally Binding Contracts  28 Mar 06
Stephen Pickles: GRAAP use case for reservation of multiple resources
Shamima Paurobally: Negotiation protocols in OntoGrid
Michael Parkin: Contract Law
Viktor Yarmolenko: Service Level Agreements
Dean Kuo/Mark Mckeown: Protocols for reserving multiple resources
1400 – 1630, Atlas 2, Kilburn Building

More Information

Hybrid Logics with Concrete Domains  29 Mar 06
Dr Carlos Areces. Langue et Dialogue, France
1415 – 1515, Lecture Theatre 1.5, Kilburn Building

More Information

Fuzzy Logic Free of Reals  29 Mar 06
Libor Behounek, Prague and Manchester

More Information

Using the Web to Support the Transition of Students into HE  30 Mar 06
Christine Keenan, Bournemouth University
Claire Nedwell, Director of Foundation Studies
1200 – 1400, Council Chamber, B4, Sackville St Building (lunch provided)
Book at least 2 days in advance by emailing eps-tsu@manchester.ac.uk

More Information

Text Mining, Biological Homology Searches & Data Analysis  31 Mar 06
Professor Ray Larson, School of Information, University of California, Berkley
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.

Future School Events

President’s Visit  27 Mar 06
An opportunity for the President to meet informally with a cross-section of staff in their natural habitat.

CEEBL - Half day workshop for CS staff  21 Apr 06
An opportunity for CS staff to learn about enquiry based learning.
1230 – 1700 (Lunch will be provided.)
Register by emailing Kath Mullins

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.

Research Retreat  29-30 Jun 06
Programme under development, input welcomed (email Ursula)
Palace Hotel, Buxton
Future External Events

EPS FACULTY MEETING 31 Mar 06
A meeting of the Faculty will be held between 2.00-3.30pm on Thursday 6th April 2006 in Roscoe A, Roscoe Building, Brunswick Street. All members of the Faculty are invited to attend. The Vice-President and Dean will present the Faculty Plan and there will be an opportunity to ask questions to a panel consisting of the Vice-President and Dean, Associate Deans and Head of Faculty Administration.

Lunchtime Yoga Classes – Karon Mee Tues & Thurs
People have been practicing yoga for over 3,000 years. The benefits of practice can be experienced on many levels, physical and spiritual. A healthy spine, improvement to physical health and body awareness in general is experienced through asana (postures), while calmness of the mind and improved use of the respiratory system are effects of meditation and breath awareness. My classes are non-competitive and suitable for all levels. Do not eat at least an hour prior to class. UMSA members: £1.50, non-UMSA £2.00 per class
1200 – 1300 Tuesdays, 1310 – 1400 Thursdays, Staff House

Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning 5 Apr 06
An update on CEEBL activities including:
- results and plans of selected CEEBL funded projects;
- Faculty initiatives from CEEBL Academic co-ordinators;
- opportunity to talk to the CEEBL student interns;
- EBL networks and events – a National and International perspective;
- looking forward to 2006-07.
1300 – 1430, C24 Sackville Street Building (Lunch provided)
Limited to a maximum of 50 participants. More Information & Registration

Grantsmanship Training Sessions 6 & 7 Apr 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 we 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. Email louise.rogers@manchester.ac.uk

eProtein Scientific Meeting and Workshop 24-26 Apr 06
The EMBL-EBI, together with Imperial College London (IC) and University College London (UCL), are delighted to invite you to attend a one-day scientific meeting on Protein and Genome Annotations on 24th April. The meeting will be held on the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus at Hinxton and is funded by the UK Department of Trade and Industry, BBSRC and the BioSapiens EU Project. The aim of the meeting is to describe the current approaches, both technical and scientific, which will allow contributions and access to annotations from many different laboratories, based on GRID DAS technologies. The meeting will be followed by a two-day practical workshop addressing the use and implementation of the systems designed by the eProtein partners. All of the systems and results of the project are freely available for the academic community to access and use, or implement within your own lab. More Information and Registration
### 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 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

**Royal Society Research Grants 4 Apr 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

**JISC ITT: Information Governance Gateway 6 Apr 06**

The JISC invites tenders to design, implement, host and maintain an online gateway containing resources of relevance to both the public and practitioners regarding the HE sector’s compliance with information governance legislation. Initial funding of up to £50,000 is available for stage 1 of the project for the detailed scoping and pilot development of the JISC Information Governance Gateway, inclusive of VAT, if applicable, and all travel and other expenses. The successful bidder will be expected to commence work on the research and design of the Gateway by no later than May 2006, to be completed no later than by the end of September 2006.

More Information

**Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards 27 Apr 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.

More Information

**Wellcome Trust Equipment Grants Apr/May 06**

The Wellcome Trust consider applications for multi-user items of equipment, including equipment required to create a central resource for a number of disparate scientific programmes. The maximum amount awarded is £1 million. It is expected that applications will include a contribution from the university, or other source, proportional to the total request. Applications for less than £10 000 will not normally be considered under this scheme. Small, project-dedicated items of equipment can, however, form part of a project, programme or fellowship application.

More Information

**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'.

More Information

RAEng Global Research Awards Open
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

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 Apr 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 postgraduate students - to computer science.

More Information

IBM Unstructured Information Management Awards New 14 Apr 06
IBM is pleased to announce the 2006 Unstructured Information Management Architecture (UIMA) Innovation Award program, an international award competition designed to encourage the use of open source and open standards-based tools for academic curricula and research.

More Information

Teaching Excellence Awards 18 Apr 06
The University has recently instituted "Teaching Excellence Awards", which focus on achievement in teaching (including learning support) and involve a grant of £5,000 to recipients for the further development of their teaching or their career. If you believe you have a case to be considered for an award, please submit a statement of not more than five sides of A4 detailing your eligibility against the published criteria. Each Head of School has been asked to put forward one nomination only, so I will consult with the Heads of UG, PG and the Teaching Assessment Panel to select the strongest case. Nominations need to be with the Faculty by 28th April, so please get your case to Lynn by 18th April.
IBM Eclipse Innovation Award program 2006  
IBM is pleased to announce the 2006 IBM Eclipse Innovation Award program, an international award competition designed to encourage the use of open source and open standards-based tools for academic curricula and research. Qualified faculty and researchers may submit proposals for work with applications in teaching, research or community building around Eclipse.  
More Information

René Descartes Prizes  
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.  
More Information

The IEEE Richard W. Hamming Medal  
The IEEE Richard W. Hamming Medal was established by the Board of Directors in 1986 'for exceptional contributions to information sciences, systems and technology.' The award is named in honor of Dr. Richard W. Hamming, who has had a central role in the development of computer and computing science, and whose many significant contributions in the area of information science include his error-correcting codes. Recipient selection is administered by the IEEE Medals Council through the IEEE Awards Board. It may be presented to an individual or group, up to three in number. The award consists of a gold medal, bronze replica, certificate, and honorarium.  
More Information

The IEEE John von Neumann Medal  
The IEEE John von Neumann Medal was established by the Board of Directors in 1990 and may be presented annually 'for outstanding achievements in computer-related science and technology.' The achievements may be theoretical, technological, or entrepreneurial, and need not have been made immediately prior to the date of the award. Recipient selection is administered through the IEEE Medals Council of the IEEE Awards Board. It may be presented to an individual or group, up to two in number. The award consists of a gold medal, bronze replica, certificate and honorarium.  
More Information

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
Harald Reuss – FM
Karim Nasr - MSA

Administrative Arrivals
Lesley Turner has joined us on a temporary basis in ACSO
Clare Swann has joined us on a temporary basis in the Finance Office

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
Chair in Computer Engineering
More Information
Chair in Computational Systems Biology
More Information
Teaching Fellowships in Computer Science
More Information
Career Development Fellowship
(details to follow)

Research Staff
None

Administrative Staff
None