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## News from Head of School

### CS-Informatics Review

As you all know, the details of the agreement reached between EPS and Humanities, regarding the repositioning of the School of Informatics, were published this week. I believe that what is proposed is in the best long-term interests of the University, but it is clear that this view is not shared currently by all those directly affected. A great deal of hard work will be involved in reaching a successful outcome but, perhaps more importantly, we will need to gain the trust of our colleagues in the School of Information and Society, so that we can work together in a constructive way to further the ambitions of both Schools. I met with a group of academic staff from the School of Informatics last Thursday, and it is clear that some have anxieties that the University will need to address. I will be meeting informally this week with individuals from the School of Informatics, with a view to moving the process forward.

### Resit Exams

This year's resit examinations will take place between Mon 21 Aug -Thurs 31 Aug inclusive. Timetables will be published next week and the Exams Office will contact students with their individual timetables. Students can also obtain this information on-line through the Student Exams Portal. The CS Student Support Office will contact academic staff to inform them of the time and date of their resit exam, and to gather contact information in the event of any queries being raised on the day. If you are NOT going to be available during this period, please inform the Student Support Office and provide them with the name of your nominated representative. I am aware, of course, that the outcome of the UCU ballot is due to be published imminently, and that this could result in a resumption of industrial action. That is a bridge we will have to cross if and when we reach it.

### Headstart Visit to the School

On Tuesday a group of 40 Year 12 students visited the School as part of the Royal Academy of Engineering Headstart Programme, a residential event for pupils interested in studying for a career in Science, Engineering or Technology. The students took part in two workshops introducing Linux and assembly language (MU0), both of which were very well received. Many thanks to Pete Jinks and John Latham for running the workshops, and to the numerous demonstrators who helped out on the day. The School is planning a significant increase in activities with local Schools from September, so if you are interested in helping out please contact [Bernard Strutt](#). Please note that we will be allocating full admin load credit to these outreach activities, so that those who volunteer will not be disadvantaged.

### Media Success

The Faculty Press Officer has been working with the School on two press releases and has also arranged some radio coverage. The article 'Scientists build brain box computer' can be viewed [here](#) and has so far been picked up by Computing, MEN (featured 13 Jul 06 [article](#)), BBC Radio Manchester, Electronics Weekly, VNUnet.com, The Engineer and Dr Dobb's. Steve Furber was interviewed on GMR radio about the article on Fri 14 July. GMR also asked me to give an interview on Friday, covering the breadth of work in CS, for inclusion in a three part series on technology in Manchester, due to be screened in the autumn. A press release on the use of Virtual Reality in telepathy experiments is due to be

released today. We are keen to keep up the momentum, so we are looking for other interesting stories for the media, based on our current research. The External Affairs Office will shortly circulate advice on what the press office believe makes a good news story. For further information please contact [Bernard Strutt](#)

### School Website

After a long wait we have finally received the web page templates from Faculty and have started to develop the new website for the School. The website steering group met on the 15 June and discussed the structure and content of the site, which is under construction alongside our existing site. The priority at this first stage of development will be to get the main external facing areas of the site up and running by September, including the UG, PG, Our Research, Business (formerly Industry), International, News & Events, Schools and About Us sections. The staff and current student pages (intranet) will be developed in a second phase – after September. In the meantime these pages will retain the old look and feel and run alongside the new site. Once we have the test site at a reasonable stage of development, and have managed to iron out most of the snags, we will ask for comments. For more information please contact [Mahalia Rimmer](#).

### Reminder – RAE 08 Database

The deadline to update the database for RAE08 has now passed. Thanks to those of you who have completed your updates. For those who asked for more time (and those who didn't ask but evidently need it), this is to remind you of the need to deal with the requested updates URGENTLY. As highlighted by Nancy Rothwell at the recent meeting of the School Board, the 100 word comments on each output are crucial to the assessment, and it is impossible for the Research Office to generate these on your behalf. If you are finding it difficult to follow the detailed guidelines in John Gurd's original e-mail about what the panel is looking for in these comments (see link on the webpages showing each of your chosen RAE outputs), then please do the best you can. We plan to review the commentaries internally, identify best practice, and provide both general and individual feedback.

## Events this Week

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No events planned/notified for this week

### 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

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No announcements this week.

## Future External Events

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### CLASS (Clerical and Secretarial Support) Network

**30 Jul 06**

One Day Conference giving staff the opportunity to attend a range of personal and professional development sessions and the chance to network with colleagues from across the University.

[More Information and Registration](#)

### Interdisciplinary Summer School on Complex Systems

**20 – 29 Aug 06**

*From Individual to Collective Behaviour in Large-Scale Complex Systems*  
Organised by the Schools of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics  
St. Martin's College, Ambleside.

[More Information](#)

## Lunchtime Yoga Classes – Karon Mee

Every Tues

1200 – 1300 Tues, Staff House

UMSA members £1.50; non-UMSA £2.00 per class

## Funding Opportunities

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### RAEng Industrial Secondment Scheme

Open

An opportunity for university lecturers in engineering to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience.

[More Information](#)

### BBSRC International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)

Open

To help scientists make and establish new contacts with their international counterparts.

[More Information](#)

### RAEng Global Research Awards

Open

Projects in centres of excellence overseas focussing on stimulating wealth creation and improvements in the quality of life.

[More Information](#)

### EPSRC Engineering Visits New

Open

Support for salary costs and travel subsistence for scientists and engineers of acknowledged standing, either from within the UK or abroad, to visit the investigator's organisation. Applications must be made by the host organisation in the UK to which, if the proposal is successful, the grant will be made. Funding is limited to 12 months per individual.

[More Information](#)

### The Leverhulme Trust - Research Leadership Awards

21 Jul 06

Aimed at those who are confronted with the task of building a research team of sufficient scale to tackle an identified but distinctive research objective. The Trust is limiting the number of applications to one from each university. If interested in being considered by the University's Research Group, please send a 1 page outline of the case to the Associate Dean for Research, [Professor Helen Gleeson](#) by Friday 21 July.

[More Information](#)

### Royal Society Short Visits from the UK

1 Sep 06

The key objectives of short visits are to initiate one-to-one collaborations, explore opportunities to build lasting networks and gain access to complementary equipment, data observations and ideas.

[More Information](#)

### Royal Society Conference Grants

1 Sep 06

The Conference grants scheme supports UK based scientists to either present their own paper/poster or chair a session at an overseas conference.

[More Information](#)

### Royal Society Research Professorships New

8 Sep 06

Research Professorships provide 10-15 years support for internationally recognised scientists of outstanding achievement and promise. Applications are particularly welcomed from scientists currently resident outside the UK and who wish to return.

[More information](#)

### **EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowships**

**26 Sep 06**

For talented young researchers, shortly or immediately after completing a PhD.

[More Information](#)

### **ESF Research Networking Programmes** New

**30 Oct 06**

#### *2006 Call for Proposals*

An ESF Research Networking Programme is a networking activity bringing together nationally funded research activities for four to five years, to address a major scientific issue or a science-driven topic of research infrastructure, at the European level with the aim of advancing the frontiers of science. A successful Programme proposal must show high scientific quality and also demonstrate added value by being carried out at a European level rather than by individual research groups at the national level.

[More Information](#)

### **Royal Society Research Grants**

**1 Nov 06**

Seed corn funding for new projects. For research scientists at an early stage of their career or established scientists wishing to change the direction of their research.

[More Information](#)

### **Royal Society University Research Fellowships 2007**

**1 Nov 06**

The timetable for the Royal Society University Research Fellowships (URF) 2007 has been brought forward. The Scheme will open on Monday 26 June 2006.

[More Information](#)

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## **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 Grace Murray Hopper Award**

**31 Oct 06**

A prize of \$15,000 awarded to the outstanding young computer professional of the year. [More Information](#)

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## **Research Awards**

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None this week

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## **Staff News**

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### **Awards and Promotions**

Prof Chris Taylor, elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering

### **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 06 – Dec 06.

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## **Vacancies**

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### **Academic Staff**

None

### **Research Staff**

None

### **Academic-Related Staff**

None

### **Administrative Staff**

None