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News from Head of School**Turing Lecture**

Grady Booch will be in the School today for an interesting programme of events, including an informal round-table discussion at lunchtime on 'Hot topics in software architecture', and the Turing lecture, which will be held in Roscoe lecture theatre A (registration from 1730). This will be followed by dinner in the evening with a number of distinguished guests from the BCS, IET, IBM and the University.

Dean's Visit

The Dean, two of his Associate Deans and the Head of Faculty Administration visited the School on Friday. The visitors had an opportunity to meet with the SLT and with some of the staff who joined the School from Informatics last October. They also visited the External Affairs and Research Offices, and particularly enjoyed a poster session displaying some of our research strengths. The Dean commented in the wrap up session how very impressed he was by what he saw and that he would have liked to have had more time for every session. I am sure it is a good thing to leave the audience wanting more! Many thanks for the hard work of all those who contributed to making the visit such a success, particularly to Lynn and the staff in ACSO for the superb organisation. Events like this do much to enhance the reputation of the School within the University, an important factor in gaining institutional support when we need it.

RAE – Open Staff Meeting

As many of you will know, the University is beginning to make serious preparations for RAE 2008, the latest UK Research Assessment Exercise. Final submissions are due late in the year, but drafts are currently being put together for internal scrutiny and, under the terms of a code of conduct, initial decisions on inclusion/non-inclusion in the return are to be made and communicated to individual members of staff by the end of the month. Those of you who are, or may be, eligible will have received information about the process – including the code of conduct – before Christmas. You may also have received an email last week, requesting modifications/corrections to the information you have provided for the School RAE database, if issues were discovered during our internal assessment of individual returns.

The School needs to share its RAE data and initial decisions with the University Research Committee by the end of this week, so it is important that you make any changes to your data which we have requested, **today**. Those of you who are eligible will receive a letter next week, indicating the initial decision on your inclusion/non-inclusion. We have briefed research group leaders, who will be able to answer questions in the first place (we will clarify this for ex Informatics staff), and have also arranged an [open meeting](#) for **5 February** at which John Gurd and I will explain the selection rationale and criteria, discuss the likely quality profile for our submission, and answer questions.

It is important to stress the *provisional* nature of the decisions that will be made at this stage – they could change in either direction. There is still plenty of time for individuals to improve their return, and there may be factors of which we are currently unaware. Above all, our assessment of quality is relatively superficial at this stage, and may change in the light of more careful scrutiny of the papers themselves, together with updated 100 word commentaries (we will issue further guidance on these in due course). It is also important to note that we have not

included any RAs in our provisional return, since we are still seeking clarification of eligibility, but we hope to do so at a later stage.

Informal Academic Lunches

Earlier in the year I arranged a series of informal lunches with non-professorial members of the academic staff and, later, for staff joining CS from the School of Informatics. I personally found these events extremely useful as a way of keeping in touch with the academic 'grass-roots' of the School, and the feedback I received was very positive. Given that this seems to have been a useful exercise, I am arranging a similar series of events which for 25 Jan, 8 Mar, 5 Apr, 10 May, 31 May, 14 Jun and 12 Jul. [Ruth Maddocks](#) has emailed those concerned – please respond to her. I believe places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Semester 2 PGT Exam Papers & Coursework - Reminder

The final deadline for Semester 2 examination papers for CS course units is fast approaching. Copies of all assessments, together with marking schemes and names of moderator(s) should be handed in to Jennie Ball-Foster in room 2.12 by Monday 29 Jan. Please also check the exam rubric. The exam period will be 12-16 Mar 2007. Please inform Jennie or John Sargeant if the examination for your course unit is to be on-line.

Events this Week

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Turing Lecture

22 Jan 07

The Promise, the Limits, and the Beauty of Software.

For the third year running, the annual Turing Lecture will be presented in Manchester as well as London. The eminent speaker is [Grady Booch](#), who has an international reputation for his work on software architecture, software engineering, and modelling.

1730 Registration/reception, 1800 lecture. [More Information & Registration](#)

Venue: Roscoe Lecture Theatre

Round-Table Discussion with Grady Booch

22 Jan 07

Hot Topics in Software Architecture

Places for this are now closed, but for those who signed up, here are the details.

Chair: Professor Norman Paton, School of Computer Science

1200-1400 (lunch provided),

Atlas Rooms 1&2, Kilburn Building

Showcasing EPS Learning & Teaching Innovation

23 Jan 07

Over the past couple of years the EPS Teaching Support Development Unit has awarded project funding for innovation. This event will showcase three of these projects, all of which exploit the functionality of WebCT, the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will hear the results of evaluations on the impact of utilising the VLE to enhance learning and teaching and you will have the opportunity to consider and discuss how these projects might inspire you to consider new ideas in your own teaching. One of the featured projects is *An integrated WebCT environment for PGT programmes*, Alex Walker, CS. Please email [EPS-TSU](#) to reserve a place at this event.

1200-1330 (Lunch provided), George Begg C4

Induction to Grid Computing and the North West Grid

25 & 26 Jan 07

A NW-GRID and NeSC collaborative training event that helps to gain better understanding of the concepts of Grid Computing and e-Research. Participants will be demonstrated on how to access to the NGS and NW-GRID resources, as well as some hands on experience on using the NW-GRID services in the future.

All interested users are welcome to attend this event.
Daresbury Laboratory, Daresbury, Warrington WA4 4AD
[More Information](#) and [Registration](#)

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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Bayesian Ranking **New**

31 Jan 07

Dr Thore Graepel. Microsoft research in Cambridge
1415, Lecture Theatre 1.5, Kilburn
[More Information](#)

X-Evolution: **New**

1 Feb 07

A System for XML Schema Evolution and Document Adaptation
Dr Marco Mesiti, Universita' di Milano, Italy
14:00, Atlas 1, Kilburn

RAE – Open Staff Meeting **New**

5 Feb 07

Open meeting to discuss the School's draft RAE submission
1300-1430, Atlas Rooms

President's Visit

28 Feb 07

The President and Vice-Chancellor will be visiting the School. Please make a diary note – more details nearer the time.
1400-1600

Future External Events

[top](#)

e-Chemistry and citations

26 Jan 07

[Dr Simone Teufel](#), University of Cambridge
1300, MIB building, LG0.10
[More Information](#)

National Science Week

12-16 Mar 07

The 12 - 16 March 2007 is National Science week. Activities for 13-16 years olds will be taking place in Schools across the Faculty. The External Affairs office will be coordinating Computer Science activities and is currently looking for suggestions for interactive/hands-on sessions that we can run in the School. If you have any suggestions, or feel you could help in any way, then please contact [Bernard](#). You are all aware that we need to give a very high priority to student awareness and recruitment activities. I would encourage everyone to work on generating ideas to "sell" Computer Science to potential future students.

Mathematical and Statistical Aspects of Molecular Biology 29-30 Mar 07

With participants from mathematics, statistics, computer science, bioinformatics, biology and related fields, the MASAMB meetings provide an intimate setting for exchange of ideas in methodological and applied research. Research students and scientists newly entering the field of genomic research are particularly welcome. To be considered for a talk or poster, authors should submit a one page abstract describing their research. This abstract will be used to select presentations and should provide an overview of the research objectives, methods and results.

[More Information](#)

IAS'07

29-31 Aug 07

Information assurance and security has become an important research issue in networked and distributed information sharing environments. Finding effective ways to protect information systems, networks and sensitive data within the critical information infrastructure is challenging even with the most advanced technology and trained professionals. The International Symposium on Information Assurance and Security aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, developers, and policy makers involved in multiple disciplines of information security and assurance to exchange ideas and to learn the latest development in this important field. Organised by Dr Ning Zhang, IMG.

Funding Opportunities

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Royal Commission of 1851 Industrial Fellowships 2007

25 Jan 07

The Commission now sees its Industrial Fellowships as catalysts in the encouragement of innovation and creativity in British industry. Although the Fellowships are awarded to individuals, their parent Companies and associated Universities derive equal advantage from the scheme. About eight Industrial Fellowships are offered each year for selected graduates, working in British Industry, who have a good first degree in engineering, science or medicine.

[More Information](#)

Ministry of Defence Competition of Ideas New

31 Jan 07

'Competition of Ideas' (COI) is part of the implementation of the Defence Technology Strategy. With an initial budget of £10M COI aims to inspire the best innovators from across Britain to bid for a contract to develop their ideas further to help meet key defence challenges. Interested UK suppliers, industrial or academic, regardless of size, background or previous experience of defence related activity, or lack of it, can all apply.

[More Information](#)

National Teaching Fellowships

31 Jan 07

Fifty National Teaching fellowships will be awarded in 2007, each worth £10,000. HEIs are invited to nominate up to three candidates each. The scheme is open to all staff who teach or support students' learning, so technical and teaching support staff will be considered as well academic colleagues. Nominations by 31 Jan 07.

[More Information](#)

Funding for EBL Projects

31 Jan 07

The Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based learning (CEEBL) has recently announced a further opportunity to bid for funding of up to £3,000 to support EBL projects. Applications are encouraged from individuals or small teams (2-5 people) and project outcomes are expected to be achieved within the academic year 2007/8. Successful applicants will be informed by the end of February 2007 in order to give adequate time for project set-up. If anybody has plans to incorporate Enquiry-Based Learning into their course units for the next academic year, and would like to complete an application, please contact [Adrian Albin-Clark](#) to discuss this further. The deadline for submission is 31 January 2007.

[More Information](#)

New Brunel Fellowship for Engineers New

22 Feb 07

Part of the 1851 Royal Commission Fellowships. The core programme of the Commission's awards comprises Research Fellowships, Industrial Fellowships and Industrial Design Studentships. The Commission also offers a Research

Fellowship for the Built Environment and a Research Fellowship in Design as well as occasional Special Awards.

[More Information](#)

EPSRC Challenging Engineering Call for Proposals

1 Mar 07

Challenging Engineering is a high priority for the EPSRC Engineering Programme, as it is specifically focused on providing funding and developmental support for engineering researchers at an early stage of their careers. Due to the strict eligibility of this call you must contact the [CS Research Office](#) if you are planning to submit an application so that we can liaise with the central Research Office. Schools are asked to submit no more than 2 outline proposals. These should be sent to Helen Gleeson by Friday 2 February 2007 to allow sufficient time for the prospective applicants to make an excellent application.

[More Information](#)

European Research Council New

25 Apr 07

The European Research Council is a new initiative. There are opportunities for early career scientists, the Starting Independent Research Grant (ERC StG). The budget for this call is significant (around 300M Euros) and it is expected that this will work out to be around 200 grants at a value of around 1.5M Euros per year for the next 5 years. Scientists with LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 8 years since the Doctorate + 3 years of 'service' are eligible and they should be newly established, or with the offer of a position. Excellence of person and proposal are the sole selection criteria.

[More Information](#)

UoM Simon Industrial and Professional Fellowship

1 Jul 07

The regulations and faculty financial allocations for the Simon Industrial and Professional Fellowship appointments during the 2006/07 academic session are available [here](#). Any applications should be sent to Helen Gleeson initially (not the Dean as stated). Nominations must be received no later than 1 July 2007.

EPSRC ICT Platform Grants

Open

EPSRC invites outline proposals for its information and communication technology platform grants. Platform grants aim to provide world-leading UK groups with continuity of funding for strategic development, longer-term research and international networking.

[More Information](#)

Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chairs

Open

The Royal Academy of Engineering invites applications for its research chairs. Research Chairs are full-time professorial appointments, in any engineering-related subject. The academy particularly welcomes proposals of a multidisciplinary nature. Funding is provided for 5 years.

[More Information](#)

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

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.

[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.

EPSRC Computer Science Writing Competition 2006/07

31 Jan 07

We want unpublished articles of up to 750 words about research that's part of any EPSRC-funded computer science project. For this competition, computer science means the study of methods for acquiring, storing, processing, communicating and reasoning about information, and the role of interactivity in natural and artificial systems through the implementation, organisation and use of computer hardware, software and other resources.

[More Information](#)

Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award

31 Jan 07

The UK's premier award for innovation in engineering. The Award, first presented in 1969, honours the winning company with a gold medal and the team members with a prize of £50,000. The presentation of the Award recognises the successful development of innovative ideas in engineering. It seeks to demonstrate the importance of engineering and the role of engineers and scientists in contributing to national prosperity and international prestige.

[More Information](#)

European Science Awards

21 Feb 07

These prestigious awards, bestowed by the Royal Society and Académie des Sciences, and sponsored by Microsoft Research, is designed to recognise and reward scientists working in Europe who have made a major contribution to the advancement of science through the use of computational methods. The 2007 award is open to any research scientist who has made a significant contribution at the intersection of computing and the physical sciences, including mathematics and engineering.

[More Information](#)

Presentations at the House of Commons New

23 Feb 07

Applications are invited from early-stage and early career researchers in science, engineering, technology and medicine who are interested in presenting a poster at one of the below receptions, and in competing for the prizes for the best posters:

-Lunchtime Reception 19 Mar 2007: The GlaxoSmithKline Awards: the 2007 Westminster Medal and £1,000 Prize; Runner-Up Prizes

-Evening Reception 19 Mar 2007: The 2007 De Montfort Medal and £1,000 Prize, Runner-Up Prizes

[More Information](#)

The Royal Academy of Engineering- Education Innovation Prize New 1 Mar 07

The Royal Academy of Engineering is running a scheme aimed at UK University

Engineering Departments. Its Education Innovation Prize of £10,000 rewards innovation in the approach taken to the teaching of engineering at any level. If you are interested in applying please contact [Gill Lester](#) in the first instance.

[More Information](#)

ERCIM Cor Baayen Award

15 April 07

The Cor Baayen Award is awarded each year to a most promising young researcher in computer science and applied mathematics. The award was created in 1995 to honour the first ERCIM President. Nominations should be made by a staff member of the university or research institute where the nominee is undertaking research. Self nominations are not accepted.

[More Information](#)

IEEE Medal of Honour – Nominations New

1 Jul 07

The IEEE Medal of Honor is the Institute's highest award. It is given for an exceptional contribution or an extraordinary career in the IEEE fields of interest. It is presented only when a candidate is identified as having made a particular contribution which forms a clearly exceptional addition to the science and technology of concern to the Institute. Recipient selection is administered through the IEEE Medals Council of the IEEE Awards Board.

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None this week

Staff News

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Awards and Promotions

None this week

Academic Arrivals

None this week

Technical Arrivals

None this week

Academic Retirements

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

Alasdair Rawsthorne: 80% secondment to Transitive Technologies
Oct 06 – Sep 07.

Vacancies

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Academic Staff

None

Research & Technical Staff

None

Management & Professional Staff

None

Administrative Staff

None