News from Head of School

School Plan Consultation

As part of the school planning process, various goals, actions and risks have been identified by areas within the school, several of which are now available for comment. Please can feedback on the proposals be emailed to the named staff by Monday 15th December:

- Undergraduate: Graham Gough.
- Postgraduate: Roger Hubbold.
- PGR: Jon Shapiro.
- Research: John Gurd.
- External affairs: Bernard Strutt.
- Estates: Roger Hubbold.

These documents will form the starting point for the writing of the school plan, which will be completed during January.

RAE Announcement Meeting

RAE results become known incrementally on 17th and 18th December (there is a press embargo until the 18th). The somewhat finer grained reporting mechanisms that will be used this time, which in turn accommodate different ranking schemes, means that interpreting the results is more challenging than used to be the case. Anyway, with a view to enabling some discussion of the results and their interpretation, there will be a meeting led by our panel members (Chris and Steve) at 9:00 on Thursday 18th in room 2.15.

Out of Hours Events Consultation

There is a proposal to change the procedures associated with organisation of out-of-hours events in the university; in essence, the effect is to concentrate most such events in a small number of buildings, not including Kilburn. If you have comments on this proposal (specifically, concrete examples of activities that might be impacted by this change), please let Ursula know, and we will respond taking into account the feedback received.

Natural Language Processing Challenge Success

A team containing staff from Computer Science, MIB and MCISB (Hui Yang, Irena Spasic, John Keane and Goran Nenadic) took part in an international text mining challenge in the clinical/health-care domain (document multi-classification and labelling). The team won one of the two tasks, and were one of the top 10 performing teams in the other. More details can be found at: https://www.i2b2.org/NLP/ (Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside (I2B2) NLP Challenge) and http://gnode1.mib.man.ac.uk/i2b2.html (local).

Events

EPSRC ICT Team Visit  8 & 9 Dec 08

The EPSRC ICT Team will be visiting the University on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December 2008. There will be an open session which everyone is invited to attend from 13.00 to 14.00 on Monday 8th December. Location TBA.

On hybrid systems optimization  10 December
New Funding and Award Opportunities

3 yrs funding for graduating student at Forwiss Institute
The Forwiss institute at the University of Passau Germany, they have 3 years funding for a high calibre graduating student to do research into a field around computer vision (although a background in computer vision isn't necessary).

More information

Research Awards
Title: myGrid: A Platform for e-Biology Renewal
PI: Carole Goble
Value: £1,154,681