News from Head of School

City Innovation Laboratory: Getting Involved

One of the initiatives being coordinated by Manchester Informatics is seeking to set up a City Innovation Laboratory, which seeks to establish a city-wide test-bed for technical innovations. Following on from last week's talk by Chris Taylor, there are likely to be opportunities for a wide range of computational techniques in this initiative, for which further details can be obtained from the slides. If you are interested in being kept in the loop, please email Carmel Dickenson (Carmel.Dickinson@manchester.ac.uk), indicating your key relevant skills and a brief indication as to how they might fit.

Events

New President and Vice-Chancellor's Open Meetings  5 July 10
Following her appointment as President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell will be holding two open meetings for all staff on 2 and 5 July. These will be an opportunity to hear Dame Nancy speak about her priorities for the University as well as for staff to ask questions.
The next meeting will be held as follows:
Monday 5 July, Crawford House, Theatre 1, 1300-1400

Animation10 at The Lowry  9 July 10
As some of you may know, each year we run the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition, which has as its climax an Awards Ceremony and Inspirational Computer Science Day. This year we're at The Lowry, Salford Quays, on Friday 9 July. We're expecting more than 350 schoolchildren and their teachers and families.

We'd like to invite any staff interested to come along. It's all free, and you'd be welcome to bring your kids and families.
Full details
Please register don't just turn up!

School Board meeting  7 July 10
1530-1700 in IT 407
Budget Report

Linguistic Knowledge Mining for Improving Performance of Lexicalised Grammars  8 July 10
Valia Kordoni, German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH) and Dept. of Computational Linguistics, Saarland University
12:00, Room LG.010, MIB building.

CICADA Conference on Mathematics and Industry  14 July 10
One-day Conference on Mathematics and Industry
9:15-17:15, Frank Adams 1, Alan Turing Building
In this conference we are bringing together eminent speakers who have worked
at the interface between mathematical research and industrial applications with a group of young researchers who are employed in the CICADA project. The whole meeting will have a strong applications bent and will demonstrate how mathematical ideas can unlock diverse, difficult problems of practical importance:

* how do we estimate the risk of rare---potentially catastrophic---events?
* the use of the theory of networks to devise marketing strategies
* how to devise/design auctions (as has been done for the allocation of 3G bandwidth)
* given the ubiquity of embedded digital control systems working in physical, noisy environments, how do we design these and verify the safety of such designs?

More information
If you would like to register for the event please email Helen Harper.

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Research Awards

**Virtual Environments for Phantom Limb Rehabilitation**

Toby Howard and Steve Pettifer
Funding body: EPSRC Vacation Bursary Scheme 2010
Award amount: £2,500

**The keyboard is mightier than the mouse - Linux Workshop for schools**

Toby Howard, John Latham, Amanda Banks, Bernard Strutt
Funding body: Computing At School
Award amount: £3,080