News from Head of School

School Away Day

55 staff attended the School Away Day at Chancellors Conference Centre and discussed possible (and impossible) ways to improve the school, looking at Research, Teaching, External Relationships and People. A very large number of suggestions were collected on Post-Its and these will feed in to the production of the School's strategic and operational plans. Many thanks to all who contributed both time and ideas.

Retirement

We will be marking the retirement of Janet Boyd, after over 30 years working in the School, on November 30th with drinks and nibbles in the Staff Common Room from 4pm onwards. All welcome.

Research Symposium and CDT launch

The School’s new Centre for Doctoral Training was formally launched on 2nd November. The event was attended by ten industry representatives who spent the afternoon in discussion with the CDT management Board on how the CDT would operate and how they could support it and its students. The event was followed by an entertaining lecture “The Fun & Science of Computer Reasoning” presented by Professor Andrei Voronkov.

Investing in Success

A new initiative called "Investing in Success - Developing Staff Potential" has been launched to support staff here at the University. The aim is identify and support members of staff who could benefit from a modest amount of extra resource to help them engage in a particular project of activity which will accelerate their personal development and benefit the University. The deadline for making applications is Friday 20 January 2012.

You can find full details of the initiative at:

Investing in Success - Developing Staff Potential

Academic Promotions

Information is about to be publicised about this year's academic promotions round.

EPS is running the ‘Academic Promotions Master Class’ again this year, to help applicants make the most of their application for promotion. The session provides insight and information about the promotions process, hints and tips about making an application and an opportunity to gain confidential feedback on CVs. It is expected that this year there will be particular advice on teaching-based promotions.

The Master Classes will run on:

Monday 14 November 2011, 2.00-4.00, Room 2.219 University Place
Tuesday 15 November 2011, 9.30-11.30, Room F1 Reynold Building

If you are interested in attending either one of the sessions, please register by
email to eva.azariah@manchester.ac.uk

Events

Reminder: University of Manchester: Headstart 9 11 Nov 11
We are now arranging the ninth running of HEADSTART, the University of Manchester's Leadership Development Programme. Completed applications should be endorsed by the candidate's HOS/line manager and Dean/Director as set out in the brochure link below. Applications should be sent to Emma Rygielska in STDU by 11 November. If a hard copy of this information is required, please contact Emma. If you require any more information about the Headstart programme please contact Paul Dixon.

HEADSTART Distribution Memo (doc) (pdf)
HEADSTART Brochure 2011 (pdf)
HEADSTART 9 APPLICATION FORM (doc) (pdf)

RCUK Digital Economy Theme: Invitation to apply to participate in Sub-theme Workshops and Networks 30 Nov 11
Call type: Call for participants
Invitation to apply to participate in workshops to develop research challenges and research networks

The Digital Economy Theme
The Research Councils Digital Economy (DE) Theme is supporting research to rapidly realise the transformational impact of digital technologies on aspects of community life, cultural experiences, future society, and the economy.
EPSRC leads the DE Theme on behalf of the partner research councils AHRC, ESRC and MRC, bringing together a unique community of researchers from diverse disciplines including computer science, engineering, social science, the arts and medical research; a combination of research and skills that coupled with user-led design will deliver impact.

Digital Economy Sub-themes
The DE Theme has formed four 'sub-themes' to describe the research we support (further described at the end of this document):

- **Communities and Culture** - As people interact more and more over the web, what might 'community and culture' mean within a digital society?
- **Sustainable Society** - Digital technologies can be used to make services more sustainable and enhance current systems (economic, environmental and social), in a way that is accessible, affordable, bespoke and popular.
- **IT as a Utility** - To realise the digital economy, digital infrastructure should be so simple, accessible and reliable it is invisible to the consumer.
- **New Economic Models** - New business models in a digital economy will create a more flexible, dynamic, resilient and individual-centred economy for the UK.

We now wish to further develop these sub-themes, and so are seeking applications from interested researchers and users to attend a number of one-day workshops, to explore the opportunities and associated research challenges in these sub-themes and also to create a longer term network of researchers and users around the sub-themes.

Closing date: 12:00 on 30 November 2011
Issue date: 01 November 2011
Further details