News from the Head of School

Open Day Success

Open Day was a great success - over 20,000 people registered for the University Open Day in advance and over 500 for the School. The Lower First area was packed, especially the Tech Fair and the Raspberry Pi demos which showed the visitors what our students can do, and some of the less academic applications of Computer Science that make the School an exciting place for students to be. Thanks to the many staff and students who contributed so much to make the day a success, and helped us to recruit the best students that we can in the future.

The School in the Times!

There was a special supplement in The Times about Manchester that included several articles about our University: 

The Times Business Insight (North of England) - 1 October 2013
The Human Brain Project and Graphene feature on p7 – two European Flagship programmes that the School is participating in.

Announcements

Details of international research links with USA and China

Please contact Sarah Chatwin by latest 25 October 2013 with details of any research links/engagement you have with the following institutions:

USA
i) Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon;
ii) Illinois/Wisconsin: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin Madison, Northwestern University;

CHINA - existing/growing links in research with Chinese institutions that are sufficiently active to allow areas of potential to be developed.

Events

Software engineering @twitter 9 Oct 13

Mihai Anca, Twitter, formerly @csmcr.
14:00, lecture theatre 1.1, Kilburn building.

Mihai Anca is visiting Manchester from San Francisco, California to talk about life at Twitter as a software engineer. He will outline the projects that they work on, what technical challenges they have and how computer science students could help twitter build the global town square. This is a really great opportunity to learn...
more about Twitter and ask plenty of questions.

Mihai (@ropiku) graduated with a first class degree in Distributed Computing from the School of Computer Science in 2012. He now works as a software engineer at Twitter HQ in Silicon Valley, where he is experimenting with features across email, push notifications, web and native clients to grow Twitter. He uses Scala, Java, Apache Pig and Objective-C and his work affects millions of Twitter users every day.

The talk will be followed by a special Manchester Coding Dojo hands-on session on Cracking the Coding Interview at 3pm using real examples from interviews at Twitter. Mihai is hosted by the Industry Club and the Manchester Coding Dojo @uomcodingdojo, everyone is welcome, though priority will be given to students @csmcr if we run out of seats.

#JoinTheFlock @JoinTheFlock @twitteru

School Board meeting 9 Oct 13
15:00, IT building room 407.
Resources report and IT strategy report. School Board home page

NI Congress in Manchester 21-22 Oct 13
The Nuclear Institute is pleased to announce it will hold its inaugural Congress in the autumn. This flagship event will bring together leading experts from across the UK nuclear industry to focus on both our present capabilities and our future opportunities. Attendance will be invaluable for anyone involved in shaping the UK’s nuclear landscape.

The Congress will include keynote speakers, guest lectures, paper sessions and a trade exhibition; as well as a gala dinner. There is a full programme, an exhibition and a very competitive student rate (£75 for two days). This is a tremendous opportunity for UG and PG students to learn from the leaders in their fields, to explore job opportunities and to meet the community. More information

CC Network+ Peer Review Panel invitation 21 or 22 Dec 13
Panel Meeting: London

The CCN+ are inviting the Network+ community to review proposals (not available to those making a submission). If you would consider contributing to the process in this way, please contact Rosie Wilkinson.

Funding Opportunities

Research Support Office

Please contact us through researchsupportcsm@manchester.ac.uk. There is information about support for grant writing and submission at http://staffnet.cs.manchester.ac.uk/reso/ and the EPS blog The Word contains features News, Events and comment relevant to Postgraduate Researchers, Research Staff and Supervisors or PIs.

Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowships 2013 11 Oct 13
The University can only put forward a limited number of applicants for the RAEng Engineering Research Fellowship and all prospective applicants must go through the Internal Review Process. IMPORTANT please contact Sarah Chatwin asap if you are interested in applying, who can provide more details.
Internal deadline: noon 11 Oct 2013

Important H2020 EU Funding Opportunities

Information sessions and draft documents are becoming available for Horizon2020 (the successor of FP7 EU programme). EU research funding is important for the School so please keep an eye-out for information – calls are expected to open at the end of the year.

IMPORTANT Information Session on ICT-related calls 22 Oct 13

- Event: 10:30-12:00, MIB Lecture Theatre
- 1:1 meetings: between 13:00 and 15:00, B1c Sackville Street

Craig Sharp - one of the UK National Contact Points (NCP) for the Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) - covering the areas of Information and Communication Technologies, Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Production Technologies, Biotechnology and Space Technologies will be visiting the University on 22 Oct to discuss EU funding opportunities under this part of the Horizon 2020 Programme.

1. Register for the information session (formal presentation, including an open Q&A).
2. Email Liz Fay for 1:1 meetings with Craig (1pm-3pm). Each meeting slot will be for 20 minutes and places are limited (first come first served). Please indicate which part of the programme you wish to discuss with Craig and, where possible, provide information on the progress of any proposals already underway.

The focus of the presentation will be on the NMP area of the draft work programme – the most recent DRAFT work programme is attached. Please take a look - the School has overlap with a lot of these areas:

CC Network+ Funding Call Various closing dates

- Closing date (Pilot Projects, Networks, Placements): 16:00, 1 November 2013
- Closing date (Seed Projects): 16:00, 31 November 2013

The RCUK’s Digital Economy’s Communities and Culture Network+ has calls for:

- 6 month Pilot Projects (£30-40k)
- Networks (£15-£18k)
- Research Placements (in academia, third or public sector or industry) to support post-doctoral, early or mid-career researchers (£10k). Applications for PhD students must come from their Supervisor, who can apply on their behalf.
- Seed Projects (£1-4k) to fund small discrete projects investigating digital transformations of communities and culture, addressing the actual, claimed and potential impact of mobile and digital technologies on everyday life, citizenship, culture and community.

EPSRC-NIHR Healthcare Technology Cooperatives Partnership Awards 16 Nov 13

- Register by: 16 October 2013
- Event: 1 November 2013, 10:30-14:30, London
- Closing date: 7 January 2014

EPSRC, working closely with the DoH, has issued an invitation for proposals for EPSRC-NIHR Healthcare Technology Cooperatives Partnership Awards to enable collaborations between academia and the 8 National Institute for Health...
Research (NIHR) funded Healthcare Technology Co-operatives (HTCs). Up to £1.2m is available with funding for each 3 yr award of up to £150k to cover the PI and 1 Co-I.

Potential applicants are invited to the EPSRC-NIHR workshop to network and explore the HTCs' work in more detail, and to ask questions about the application and assessment process. Up to 30 places are available on a first come, first served basis with no more than 2 participants per university. People wishing to attend should email Vivienne.Blackstone@epsrc.ac.uk by 16 October. Please let Sarah Chatwin know if you are attending.

RAEng Research Exchanges with China and India 18 Nov 13
This 3-12 month travel scheme enables UK engineering researchers to travel to a Chinese or Indian institution and/or China or India-based researchers to spend time at a UK institution, with the aim of strengthening relations between leading partners in these countries and allowing researchers to gain international experience and access world-class expertise.

Funding of £2k per month of exchange visit (flat rate) is available to cover all travel, accommodation, living expenses and visas. 3-6 month exchanges may be either pre-existing collaborations or new collaborations. Exchanges longer than 6 months building on pre-existing collaborations must initiate new technical dimensions.

• Closing date: 17:00, 18 November 2013

RAEng/ Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships 18 Nov 13
These Fellowships are for engineering Senior Lecturers/ Readers, allowing them to concentrate on full-time research for up to 1 yr, without the constraints of teaching and administration.

7 awards are available, providing £2.5k research expenses and funds to cover the gross salary costs of a replacement academic, who will be expected to undertake awardee’s teaching and administrative responsibilities for the duration of the Fellowship. All Fellowships awarded in Feb 2014 must commence no later than Oct 2014.

• Closing date: 17:00, 18 November 2013

360˚ of Health Data, Harnessing Big Data for Better Health 21 Nov 13
BMA House London

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), are jointly hosting a R&D Conference focussing on:

• The evolving data boom and its impact on the biopharmaceutical industry and NHS;
• Highlighting data needs and the opportunities to improve R&D productivity;
• Driving forward health research excellence through partnership-working for patient benefit.

The impressive speaker-list includes the Health Minister, Earl Howe; Chief Medical Officer, Prof. Dame Sally Davies; John Parkinson, Director, Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD); and Martin Gibson, Chief Executive, Northwest EHealth, alongside industry speakers. Academic cost: £95 + VAT

Register at www.abpievents.org.uk (Username: R&DConference; Password: November2013.

Funding for collaboration with biotech companies

The University of Manchester has been awarded a BBSRC grant of £100K (‘Sparking Impact Award’) to support new partnerships between the University and small biotechnology and biomedical sciences companies:

business.manchester.ac.uk/universityofmanchester/iz/iz.aspx?p1=05202S433&p=0&cID=0&cValue=0&abid=41&aid=451
Research Professional is a useful search engine for finding other funding opportunities. 

*Have we missed something? If you have some award news that you would like us to know about please contact Sarah Chatwin.*