News from Head of School

Reminder: CS Christmas party  
Thurs 18 Dec 14

The party will start at 3pm on Thursday 18 December with a short toast to the School to mark its 50th birthday. As usual there will be pizza, some drinks, and amazing music. DJ Jazzy Jezmas returns to the decks and 2014 will mark the third year of the legendary Christmas quiz hosted by Chris Farrington and DJ Jezmas.

Workplace giving

The University is encouraging all staff to consider payroll giving. This is a scheme where regular payments to charities can be deducted from pay at source before the deduction of tax, so that charities receive a larger amount. Please see: http://www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/news/stories/name-337932-en.htm

The Workplace Giving scheme that the University uses highlights a number of charities in different categories but you can give to any registered UK charity through the same system.

News and announcements

Movember news

Sadly there wasn’t as many participants as last year however our moustachioed heroes below represented this years’ Computer Science Movember team in style:

At the time of writing the team of 11 had raised £634 and was ranked 1319 nationally. See the team and donate on the link here http://uk.movember.com/team/1653437.

Submit a project to the Software Sustainability Institute  
05 Dec 14

Next closing date: 05 December 2014

Software Sustainability Institute invites submissions from research projects from any discipline who would like help with the development of their software, either to improve the sustainability or reproducibility, help with improving specific aspects, or
making better use of infrastructure. For more details on how to apply, visit their website.

**Bringing Computer Science to the public**

The University has announced that Public Engagement and Social Responsibility are to be an increasing focus of its activities. As Computer Scientists, we have a special responsibility in this area as computing technologies are all pervasive, are an important matter of public policy, and are changing at a rapid rate.

You will be aware that the School of Computer Science is already engaged in bringing Computer Science to the public and we are expanding these activities. Our Open Days are popular and successful, some staff are involved in public engagement on their own initiative, and we have a presence at major science fairs and events.

We are now developing a range of activities suitable for various events, including science fairs and events for schoolchildren. Many of these are developed as UG/PG student projects. This Wednesday (3rd Dec) we are running a "Discover Computer Science Day" for schoolchildren with the focus on "The Thinking Computer" and on "Virtual Reality" (both with workshops developed by students). The Virtual Reality activities are very popular and have been used at events at Jodrell Bank and at a Science Spectacular on the Campus. Thanks to Dan Underwood, Ryszard Rowinski, Devin Ridgeway and Dan Tzabar for running the VR activities. Thanks to the staff in the External Affairs office, especially Jez Lloyd and Cassie Barlow, for arranging and supporting our Public Engagement activities.

David Rydeheard
Science Fair at Jodrell Bank:

Science Spectacular at the University:
Events

Note on EPSRC workshops
If you are interested in the EPSRC workshops detailed below please let Robert Stevens know and remember funding may be available from the School to attend these (see Robert).

RCUK’s fifth annual Digital Economy, All Hands Meeting 03-5 Dec 14
Imperial College London.

The event will be opened by Imperial College London's incoming president, Professor Alice Gast, and Ed Vaizey MP, Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy. DE/2014 is a unique multidisciplinary environment on global digital economy, exploring concepts from the cutting edge in digital economy research, technical challenges, and user engagement, through to latest thinking on privacy and data sharing to exploring how to create value from digital data. These issues will be explored through a mixture of curated activities, submitted papers, posters, videos and technical demonstrations. Register now.

DE/2014 for Students! DE/2014 and the Digital Economy Network are offering student bursaries of up to £200 to attend. To apply for this, simply contact de2014@imperial.ac.uk
More information

Career Workshop for Women and Minorities in Computer Architecture
in conjunction with the
47th IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO-47) 14 Dec 14
Cambridge, UK.

The MICRO Career Workshop will bring together women and under-represented minorities at different levels in academia, industry, research, government and students to promote the recruitment, retention and progression of women and under-represented groups with research interests in computer architecture.
Career workshop
MICRO-47

EPSRC Future Intelligent Technologies Workshop: Call for Expressions of Interest
Closing date: 07 January 2015
Event: 24-25 February 2015
Oxford

Intelligent technologies can be considered to have the capacity to replace, augment or complement human activity. This workshop will be delivered as a cross-theme event, with representation from the ICT and Engineering capability themes as well as the Manufacturing the Future challenge theme. It will provide an opportunity for researchers with an interest in the broad area of intelligent technologies to engage in discussion, consider the future challenges and opportunities presented and encourage the formation of new connections that may begin address the research challenges identified. Output from the workshop will be presented as a report which will feed into EPSRC’s strategies regarding intelligent technologies over the course of the next Delivery Plan.
EPSRC FIT workshop info

EPSRC ICT Perspectives on Big Data Analytics Workshop
Closing date: 16:00, 15 December 2014
Event: 03 March 2015
Birmingham

The EPSRC ICT Theme is inviting Expressions of Interest to attend a one-day workshop to engage in discussion, to identify research challenges and to initiate new collaborative working partnerships in the area of Big Data Analytics. We would like to build up a picture of the research challenges in Big Data Analytics, from the perspective of the ICT community. The EPSRC are looking to build up a picture of the research challenges in Big Data Analytics, from the perspective of the ICT community.
More info

Funding Opportunities

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

Important: Changes in EU Funding Opportunities
More detailed information is available now that for Horizon2020 has started (the successor of FP7 EU programme). EU research funding is important for the School and it’s important to understand what’s available

EU funding-related documents are placed by the University’s EU team at:
http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/search.aspx
The easiest way to find these documents is to search using the keyword: 'Horizon 2020'

A great resource recommended by the ICT National Contact Point is http://www.ictic.org/, which also provides handy overview documents.
The aim of MICRA seedcorn funding (up to £6k; to be spent by the end of July 2015) is to further ageing-related research within the University of Manchester. Applications must meet the following essential criteria:

1. The proposed research activity must be explicitly related to ageing
2. The proposed research activity must be interdisciplinary (for example, crossing the funding domains of two or more research councils)
3. The proposed research activity must lead to at least one specific outcome, such as a research proposal for a research council or a working paper.
4. The award must be held by a UoM member of staff (but can be used to fund collaborations with other institutions/external partners). Applications from early career researchers and from members of EPS will be looked upon favourably.

EPS Faculty Teaching and Research Strategic Fund

Closing date: 04 January 2015

In line with the University strategy we continue to develop, and maintain, a small fund to further support our research and teaching activities across the Faculty. As with previous years if you wish to access this fund can you please send Pauline Morgan (Head of Faculty Finance EPS, with a copy to Nuala Gansler) your two page proposals as outlined in the email sent 27/12/14. Contact Sarah Chatwin for the email details.

There are some general points that are worth bearing in mind for submissions:

• Make your proposal stand out as much as possible
• Do not use boiler plate text/format
• Write concisely and clearly
• Cost correctly – do not just go for the maximum allowed (rem. VAT should be included too)
• Provide details on what this will lead onto/what will it enhance
• Do not give the impression in any way that you are reliant on internal funding

“Materials for Demanding Environments” CDT call for PhD research proposals

Closing date: 30 January 2015

The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in “Materials for Demanding Environments” call for PhD research project proposals is now open. The first year of the CDT mainly involves an MSc level academic programme, with the PhD projects commencing later in the year and with students joining the CDT mid-September 2015. Each project requires industrial support, both in terms of a financial contribution (£15,000 per annum minimum, 4 year commitment) and also R&D input (i.e. an industrial supervisor, student placements).

For more details please contact Sarah Chatwin.

EPSRC IAA: Launch of Outreach Fund

Closing date: 30 January 2015

Funding is available to develop new outreach opportunities that specifically link to EPSRC research outputs. Activities supported include engagement through events, games, online material, publications etc. The IAA Outreach Fund should not be used to support long-term activities, and therefore sustainability beyond the project must be evidenced.
RCUK Digital Economy Fellowships in DE priority areas  28 Feb 15

Closing date: 28 February 2015

Awards can be up to 5 years in durations starting in Oct 2015 and applicants should request the resources they need to deliver the DE research of their proposed fellowship. Priority areas:

- Social computing
- Business and economic models
- Advancing the Internet of Things for DE

Please email your intention to submit in advance. For further guidance, please contact digitaleconomy@epsrc.ac.uk

RCUK DE Fellowships info

Featured Research Outcomes

Did you know…papers featured in the newsletter also go on display in the Kilburn Building (outside finance: 2.03)? Send your new publications to Robert Stevens so that more people get to know about your research.

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