

## Newsletter March 2003

### Staff News

#### Academic Staff

##### New Posts

I am pleased to let you know that the Senior Lecturer post in Distributed Management Systems has been offered to Dr Ulrike Sattler who has accepted and will be joining us on 1st July 2003.

##### Promotions to Senior Lecturer

I am delighted to announce that Linda Brackenbury and Magnus Rattray have been promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003.

##### Sabbaticals

The Departmental Board meeting in February approved applications for Sabbatical Leave from:

David Bree to spend February 2004 to July 2004 either at CLSI at Stanford, working with Professor Clark or the Logic and Language group at the University of Amsterdam, working with Professor Johan van Bentham.

Juergen Dix to spend July 2003 to January 2004 at the National Research Institute of Informatics in Tokyo, working with Professor Ken Satoh, the University of Maryland, working with Professor Dan Nau and Professor V. Subrahmanian and at the Technical University of Vienna, working with Professor Thomas Eiter.

John Gurd to spend July 2003 to January 2004 at the University of California at Berkeley, working with Dave Culler and Kathy Yellick.

David Lester to spend February 2004 to September 2004 at the University of Marseilles, working with Jean-Claude Bajard; at ENS in Lyon, working with Jean-Michel Muller and Marc Daumas; at Paris 6, working with Jean-Marie Chesnaux, Jean Vignes, Christine Frougny and Fabienne Jezequel and at the Universities of Nancy and Trier, working with Paul Zimmerman and Norbert Muller.

Andrea Schalk to spend February 2004 to August 2004 at the University of Ottawa, working with Phil Scott, Rick Blue and Peter Selinger and at the University of Cambridge, working with Martin Hyland.

Brian Warboys gave advance warning that he wishes to take his full year sabbatical in 2004/5 in Adelaide, Annecy, Grenoble and St Andrews.

Alasdair Rawsthorne's secondment to Transitive Technologies will continue for a fourth year.

##### Changes to Admin Roles

Kung Kiu Lau has taken over as Secretary to the Departmental Board.

#### Support Staff

We were sorry to say goodbye at Christmas to Caroline Rogers, who did such an excellent job working in ACSO temporarily to cover the vacancies, but I am pleased to welcome Ruth

Maddocks to ACSO from 23rd December 2002. She is working part-time each day during school term times.

I am also very pleased to announce that Iain Hart has been appointed to the full-time secretarial post in ACSO with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

### **Research Staff**

#### Arrivals

I am pleased to welcome a number of new research staff:

Adel Taweel who joined the MIG group as CLEF Project Manager on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003, Shui Ming Ho who is working part-time with the FM group on 1<sup>st</sup> January while he continues to work on his PhD, Lilian Janin, (formerly a PhD student with Doug Edwards) who joined the ALS group as an RA on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and Antoine Micallef who joined the MINT group on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2003.

I am also pleased to welcome Stuart Quick who joined IPG on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003.

#### .... And Departures

We are sorry to say goodbye to Susie Lydon who left the AI group on 31<sup>st</sup> January to take up a post at the University of Keele.

### **Research News**

#### Research Funding

Research funding continues to be buoyant and we are well on target this year with the number of grant applications being submitted.

Congratulations to the following staff who have been awarded research funding.

The EPSRC has awarded grants to John Gurd for the HIPERSTAD project (Using High Performance Computing in Statistical Disclosure), to Roger Hubbold for a project on Shared Haptic Manipulation in Distributed Virtual Environments, to Brian Warboys for the Flexible Business Integration (FBI) project (A Process Approach to Business Connection and Disconnection) and a Travel Grant to Howard Barringer (Environment Synthesis for Timed and Hybrid Systems).

I am pleased to say that there are strong indications that the APT group will be awarded a Portfolio Partnership grant. This will be worth around £2.6 million over 5 years from 1 April 2003.

BBSRC has awarded a grant to Andy Brass for the Cogeme II project (Consortium for the functional genomics of microbial eukaryotes II).

DTI/EPSRC has awarded funds for several E-science Projects. Robert Stevens had been awarded funding for the BIOQUERY project: A Bioinformatics Source Querying Environment and Carole Goble has been awarded funding for two projects. One, jointly with Terry Hewitt on A Market for Computational Services and the other jointly with John Brookes and Terry Hewitt for MUST - Multicast Streaming Technology.

Staff also continue to be very successful at attracting grants from various other sources as well as the Research Councils.

Alan Rector has been awarded JISC funding for the CO-ODE project (Collaborative open Ontology Development Environment).

The Office for National Statistics has awarded funding to John Gurd, jointly with Mark Elliot of CCSR for a project on Using Special Uniques Detection and Matching Simulations.

On December 17th 2002 the first call was received for EC Framework 6 bids.

### **UG and PG News**

#### **UG**

We were very sorry to learn the tragic news that Daniel Gardner, one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year CS students, died of a brain haemorrhage on the morning of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

On a happier note, a team of five 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students took part in the BCS Competition on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Sheffield University.

The management consultancy firm Accenture, offered a prize for the best first and second year reading week essay. James Warren visited the Department on Tuesday March 11th to take the winners out for a meal, with their year tutors.

The first year winners were:

Mark Berryman  
David Butcher  
Simon Coupe  
Lucinda McEveen  
Tamlyn Rhodes  
Thomas Thorns

The second year winners were:

Lan Wang  
Kerianne Quinn  
Frans King  
Mark Harrison  
Alec Tunbridge  
David Thorne

#### **Taught PG**

Recruitment for 2003/4 seems to be buoyant so far, with triple the number of applicants for the MSc in Advanced Computer Science than at the same time last year (and triple the number of acceptances). Whether this pattern will continue over the next few months is uncertain, but is a very positive state of affairs at this time of year.

The Postgraduate School celebrated some excellent results at its final dissertation examination board in November, with a total of 27 Distinction candidates.

We were delighted when one of our MSc students, Garry Stanway, who has since registered for a PhD, was awarded the national Innovision Research and Technology prize from the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE). His MSc project on 'Equine ECG Recorders' was judged to have the largest commercial potential of all those entered for the competition. Well done!

On a less happy note, there have been a larger number of plagiarism cases identified during Semester 1 than in previous years. However, vigilance by staff has resulted in the culprits being apprehended and penalised. Hopefully, the message is getting round all of our current students and will be passed on to next year's cohort!

#### Research Students

Recent figures from the Annual Research Activity Survey show that research student numbers have more than doubled in the last five years from 52 in 1998 to 106 in 2002. It is a tremendous achievement for us to have such a large and high quality Research School which played a significant part in our being awarded 5\* status in the RAE.

The Research Symposium in November was very successful and feedback to and from the students has proved very helpful. In January, another four new research students registered and a further one or two are expected to register in April.

This year's round of ORS (Overseas Research Studentships) applications is underway, so if you have any overseas students who are currently applying for a place, or are in their first year, please encourage them to apply for this government funding.

The Research School has embarked on reviewing the applications process for research students. They will consider suggestions being made at the current round of visits by HoD to all research groups.

Three of our PhD students applied to the University in November for WUN (World University Network) Global Exchange Awards which gives funding for 2 months at a USA University. All three have been successful, so many congratulations to:

Elon Correa [supervisor Jon Shapiro] who will be spending time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of General Engineering

Manuel Corpas [supervisor Steve Pettifer] who will be spending time at the University of San Diego Supercomputing Center

and Andrei Lopatenko [supervisors Andrei Voronkov/Enrico Franconi] who will be spending time at the University of Washington, Seattle, Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

#### “Merger” News

On 5<sup>th</sup> March the VC announced that at their meetings earlier that day, the Councils of The University of Manchester and UMIST gave their final approval to the proposal to bring together the two institutions to form a single university in Autumn 2004.

The College Configuration Group produced a document proposing 5 or 6 Colleges within a new University. These proposals are now being reviewed in the light of comments from Departments and Faculties. Under the current college arrangements Computer Science and Computation would be in different colleges.

The Department's merger task group has been looking at developing a Mission Statement illustrating what will differentiate us from Computation in the New University. One of the most urgent issues, which must be addressed with Computation, is who will be teaching which UG and PG courses in the new University. Computation are holding an internal review of their teaching at present to see how it will fit in with their mission within the Management College.

It may be necessary to ask a panel of independent assessors to advise on the provision of Computing in the new University but this will not be done until we have more concrete ideas on how we would go forward.

The Task Group has been exploring whether there are possibilities for physical co-location with Maths and EE&E in the new University. This which would make joint UG courses work well on both sides and could have benefits for PG teaching but the clean rooms and EE&E's heavy plant are issues that would affect estates costs. We also need to take account of our other strong external relationship, which is with SBS.