MANCHESTER 1824

School of Computer Science

Weekly Newsletter 22nd May 2006

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News from Head of School

BCS/IET Accreditation Visit

Congratulations to everyone involved in the joint BCS/IET accreditation visit. The review last Thursday went extremely well, with the result that all our undergraduate programmes, plus the MSc in ACS and in ACSwICTM, have been accredited by both the BCS & IET. The panel was extremely complimentary, both about the programmes themselves and the quality of our submission – they intend to use the CD as a model of good practice in their guidance to future applicants. Many thanks to Graham and his team who put in a huge amount of work in preparing for the visit, and particularly to Jennie who put together the exemplary paperwork and CD. There is, however, no rest yet for the wicked – this week sees the UoM Periodic Review of our programmes, with a visit on Wednesday. This has involved another mountain of paperwork – but at least all this intensive scrutiny will be over for another 5 years.

School CD Rom

In the next two months the Student Recruitment and External Affairs office will be updating the School CD which, along with our website, is of vital importance in marketing our programmes to attract both home and overseas students. Bernard will be distributing a copy of the current CD to all staff over the next few days and is very keen for feedback on whether we have omitted any key messages that we should be communicating to prospective UG and PG students. The new CD will reflect the changes introduced in the 2007 UG brochure and will include a new section on careers – though ideas on what it should contain would be welcomed. The section on research currently provides only a very brief overview, and the text is rather dry. Bernard would be particularly keen to hear opinions from research groups on how we could spruce up this section. It would be ideal if each group could identify an individual who would have the bandwidth to help.

AUT Action

Thanks to all of you who spent time at either the School Board or the subsequent meeting I had with AUT members, talking through how the School will deal with the results of the continuing AUT action. Clearly it is going to be difficult to do the best for our students that we possibly can, without damaging collegiality, but that is the balancing act we must perform. During the coming week I will be consulting informally to try and come up with a plan that is good for our students and likely to command wide support. I hope to be in a position to discuss a proposal more widely by the end of the week.

Events this Week

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‘Ask The President' Webcast — 22 May 06

The `Ask The President' Webcast can be viewed from Monday 22 May 2006 via StaffNet. Webcast

TRDN Annual Symposium — 23 May 06

Manchester: a learning community? Keynote talk and exhibition
Alison Johns, Head of Leadership, Governance and Management, HEFCE
1000 – 1500, Hulme Hall
Email Veronique Rizzuto to book or offer a poster

Mesoscience/Nanotechnology Seminar **23 May 06**

Organised by the UoM Mesoscience/Nanotechnolgy Forum.
1200 – 1630, H11 Renold Building
Email Louise Rogers by Tuesday 16 May to register.

Open Meeting with the President and Vice-Chancellor New **23 May 06**

Professor Gilbert will give a short presentation about the University's progress towards the goals identified in its strategic plan, Manchester 2015, after which you will be free to ask questions about the plan and more generally.
1300 – 1400,Lecture Theatre 1,Crawford House

Good Practice in Academic IP & Commercialisation New **24 May 06**

How to commercialise your research – licensing as an option
Presenters from Eversheds Solicitors
0845 – 1215, North West Genetics Knowledge Park (NOWGEN)
Attendance by email registration only to Lorraine Joseph

National Learning at Work Day – Fun for All! **25 May 06**

The Staff Training & Development Unit, Manchester Museum and Whitworth ArtGallery are working together to bring you an exciting programme of events. Come along and experience some of the more creative ways to learn at work.
1100 & 1300, various venues.
Email for full programme or ring 275 2525. Booking first come, first served.

Widening Participation New **25 May 06**

In this seminar, the EPS Widening Participation Team will broadly outline the strategy currently in place and showcase a number of current projects
1215 – 1330, Whitworth Council Chamber (Oxford Road)
Email EPS-TSU to book two days in advance (for catering purposes)

Assessment by Computer (ABC) Software Demonstration **26 May 06**

The ABC team invites you to a demonstration of their assessment software.
1300 – 1400, 2.15 Kilburn
Email EPS-TSU by 24 May to book.

EPSRC Regional Academic Seminar **26 May**

Presentation by Professor John O'Reilly, Chief Executive of EPSRC.
26 May 2006 London: The Royal Society
More Information

Regular Seminar Series

See links in contents bar for information on seminar series organised by the School of CS, E-Science North West and National Centre for Text Mining.

Future School Events

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Requirements and Technologies for Provenance New date **22 Jun 06**

ENSW technical meeting. Volunteers required to give 10-15 min presentations.
1400 – 1700, ESNW Access Grid room, adjacent to 1.17 Kilburn
Email Dean Kuo or visit wiki

Research Retreat **29-30 Jun 06**

Palace Hotel, Buxton
Programme under development, input welcomed (email Ursula)

School UG Graduation Party **5 Jul 06**

We will (hopefully) be celebrating the graduation of our UG students
1430 – 1530, prize-giving 1445, graduation ceremony 1645.

School BBQ **14 Jul 06**

Details to follow

Future External Events

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EPSRC Regional Academic Seminars **14 Jun 06**

Presentation by Professor John O'Reilly, Chief Executive of EPSRC, Question and Answer session, session on Peer Review and the grant application process. There will also be a session on opportunities for interaction between industry, academia and other organisations.
14 June 2006 Manchester: Manchester Conference Centre (register by 2nd June)
More Information

Helping Students Succeed New **6 Jun 06**

Steve Potter, Director of Counselling (and experienced psychotherapist)
An EPS-TSU sponsored event covering academic life skills for students and recognising and responding to students with personal problems affecting their academic performance (guidance on assessing risk, giving appropriate non-judgemental help and referrals to specialist help).
B4 Council Chamber, Sackville Street (time not available at time of writing)
Email EPS-TSU to book two days in advance (for catering purposes)

Microsoft Invites you on a Deep Dive! **27 – 29 Jun 06**

The UK Academia Team is partnering with DevelopMentor, to host an intense, hands-on technical event for academics in June 2006.
More Information & Registration

Interdisciplinary Summer School on Complex Systems New **Aug 20 – 29 06**

From Individual to Collective Behaviour in Large-Scale Complex Systems
Organised by the Schools of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics
Young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) in mathematics, physics, computer science, biology, and quantitative social sciences are invited to apply.
St. Martin's College, Ambleside.
More Information

Lunchtime Yoga Classes – Karon Mee **Every Tues**

1200 – 1300 Tuesdays, Staff House
UMSA members £1.50; non-UMSA £2.00 per class

Funding Opportunities

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BBSRC International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) **Open**

To help scientists make and establish new contacts with their international counterparts.
More Information

EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowships New **26 Sep 06**

For talented young researchers, shortly or immediately after completing a PhD.
More Information

Wellcome Trust Equipment Grants **Apr/May 06**

For multi-user items of equipment.
More Information

European Science Foundation EUROCORES Scheme **1 Jun 06**

To enable researchers in different European countries to develop collaboration and scientific synergy.
More Information

BBSRC Research Equipment Initiative (REI) 2006 **28 June 06**

For the purchase of mid-range multi-user, multi-project equipment.
More Information

RAEng Industrial Secondment Scheme **Open**

An opportunity for university lecturers in engineering to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience.
More Information

RAEng Global Research Awards **Open**

Projects in centres of excellence overseas focussing on stimulating wealth creation and improvements in the quality of life.
More Information

Prize and Award Opportunities

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We have acknowledged the need to raise the profile of the School both nationally and internationally. Nominating individuals for awards, and working actively with others to ensure that deserving individuals are nominated is one way of doing that.

The IEEE Richard W. Hamming Medal **1 Jul 06**

'For exceptional contributions to information sciences, systems and technology.'
More Information

The IEEE John von Neumann Medal **1 Jul 06**

'For outstanding achievements in computer-related science and technology.'
More Information

Microsoft European Science Award **31 May 06**

For a major contribution to the advancement of science through the use of computational methods. More Information

Research Awards

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None this week

Staff News

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Awards and Promotions

None this week

Academic Arrivals

None this week

Academic Departures

None this week

Research Arrivals

None this week

Research Departures

Jeremy Rogers - HBIG

Administrative Arrivals

None this week

Administrative Departures

None this week

Sabbatical Leave

Andrei Voronkov: Microsoft Research, Redmond USA
Aug 05 – Aug 06.
Ian Horrocks: University of Bozen-Bolzano, Bell Labs, and Stanford University
Feb 06 – Sep 06.
Peter Aczel: Nijmegen University, and Maths Institute at the University of Munich
Jan 06 – Sep 06.
Alasdair Rawsthorne: 80% secondment to Transitive Technologies
Oct 05 – Sep 06.
Alvaro Fernandes: IBM Almaden Research Centre US
Jul – Dec 06.

Vacancies

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Academic Staff

None

Research Staff

Research Associate in Automated Reasoning and Web Ontologies
More Information
Postdoctoral Research Associate/Fellow, ISBE
More Information

Academic-Related Staff New

Manchester Centre for MesoScience and NanoTechnology:
Senior Experimental Officer and Technical Director
More Information

Administrative Staff

None