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News from Head of School

Research Distribution

As some of you already know – because I have been asked directly – our research distribution is under pressure again this year (this only applies to ‘old’ staff, since funding for ex-Informatics staff will not transfer until next financial year). I am well aware of the damage this could cause, and have the agreement of the Dean to put in place an arrangement that will hopefully mitigate the worst effects. The background to this is the general downward pressure on University expenditure in this financial year. The situation has been exacerbated for the School, because we have been told belatedly (ie just before Easter) that the accumulated surplus which we have built up from income on our ‘Endowment’ account cannot be carried forward from previous years, due to a change in its status enacted (unbeknown to the Department) ten years ago. Needless to say, we have asked for this to be looked into as a matter of urgency. In the meantime, I have discussed the situation with the Dean, and he has agreed that we can allow essential expenditure to support research. What I propose is this: we will make the full research distribution (and may even reinstate last year’s) so as to keep a level playing field, but we will have to limit expenditure to strictly essential items – particularly funding for equipment and conference attendance for PhD students. This affects expenditure against ‘XS7’ accounts – the individual and group accounts into which the research distribution is transferred (these were sub accounts of HA147 until the new codes were introduced this year) and the ‘STDSUP’ accounts – the research group accounts for student support (these were sub accounts of AF000 until the new codes were introduced this year). The Dean is understandably keen that we should control the resulting expenditure, and has agreed to the distribution on the understanding that we exercise control centrally. I would not be comfortable with this under normal circumstances, but believe it is better than the alternative of a complete freeze. We will announce the amounts to be distributed to research groups as soon as possible. I have to ask that, **with immediate effect, only ‘essential’ expenditure is posted to the relevant accounts**, and that any new commitment of over £100 is cleared first. Please send proposals for expenditure from these accounts to Carmel by email, providing the following information: research group, name of individual who will benefit, account number from which expenditure is proposed, amount of proposed expenditure, brief details of the purpose of the expenditure (in the case of conference attendance, comment on the status of the conference), and the consequences of not spending the money. This can, and should, be kept very brief. The intention is to approve all reasonable requests, and to respond in a week or less. I know that this arrangement will not be met with enthusiasm but, hopefully, you will agree that it meets an immediate need as best we can under rather difficult circumstances. Finally, I can reassure you all that you have not lost your individual or group reserves but, in future, we will probably have to ask you to budget expenditure in advance.

Academic Staff Away Days

As you know, the School has been planning an away-event for academic staff – hopefully you will have reserved May 24th and 25th in your diaries. The purpose of the event is to engage you all in thinking about the future goals of the School and how they can be achieved. It will also provide an excellent opportunity to get to know new colleagues – particularly those who have joined us from Informatics. In

the past, we have held such events off-campus, allowing participants to step away from day-to-day pressures and focus on longer-term issues. I continue to believe that this is the ideal but, in the current financial climate, I do not believe that the considerable expense involved would be justified, particularly since it would inevitably 'steal' funds that might otherwise be spent directly on supporting research. I have therefore come reluctantly to the conclusion that we should make the planned event a 'stayday' rather than an 'awayday'. We have therefore cancelled the provisional hotel booking and have booked the Atlas Rooms and other breakout space in the Kilburn Building. I hope that we can all still treat the event as a 'time-out' even though we will be in the building where many of us work every day. I am particularly concerned that this change will reduce the social dimension of the event, which I believe to be important – particularly when one of the objectives is to get to know new members of staff. We will do what we can to preserve this aspect by incorporating a social event on the evening of the 25th May, so please keep that free in your diaries.

Google Visit

Many thanks to all those who supported the visit of Google to the School last week. It was excellent to see the first Google tech talk so well attended – there are plans for another in the autumn. Further information, especially in regard to the Visiting Faculty programme and Research Grant Award nominations will be circulated by Bernard this week.

Alumni PhD Scholarships

The Alumni of the University are offering three-year studentships/ scholarships for current final-year undergraduate students, current PGT students and graduates of the University of Manchester in the last four years who are considering PhD study at the University. The topics are very restricted (for us) but we do have some relevant research in the school. For 2007/08 the awards are linked to the following philanthropic themes: World Poverty, Cancer 2015, Science 2015 (including Photon Science, Energy and the MIB), Regenerative Medicine, Sustainable Civil Society. These are described in more detail [here](#). If you have a PhD project related to one of these areas, could you provide a title and a brief description to Sarah (slowe@cs.man.ac.uk) by the 30 April. We will use this to attract students to apply for the scheme. Funding for PhD students will be tight, so if you work in a relevant area and want a PhD student, please respond.

Events this Week

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Gaussian Process for 3D Human Body Tracking

24 Apr 07

Character Animation and Classification

Raquel Urtasun, MIT CSAIL

1400-1500, Room 2.19, Kilburn

[More Information](#)

Systems Biology Mini-Symposium New

24 Apr 07

Hiroaki Kitano, Systems Biology Institute, Tokyo

Roger Brent, Molecular Sciences Institute, Berkeley

Contact [Dieter Weichart](#) for more information

1415, MIB, Main Lecture Theatre

Motivating Students to work in Teams

24 Apr 07

Skills for the Facilitator

This session, the second in a series of three*, will concentrate on planning and facilitation issues that you will need to bear in mind when organising your students to work in teams. Please email [EPS-TSU](#) to reserve you place at this event. Lunch will be provided.

1200-1330, George Begg C4

Automated Validation of Internet Security Protocols New 25 Apr 07

Dr Luca Vigano. University of Verona
1415, Lecture Theatre 1.5, Kilburn Building
[More Information](#)

ISI Citation Workshop New 26 Apr 07

For those who have expressed an interest in this, John Gurd will be providing guidance on using the ISI Web of Knowledge for RAE.
1100-1300, IT103

PET neurology 26 Apr 07

Prof Karl Herholz, School of Medicine, UoM
For more information, and to confirm attendance, please contact [Jonathan Bevan](#)
1600, WMIC, Palatine Road in Withington (Christie Hospital site)

Enhancing Projects and Dissertations 28 Apr 07

Enhancing projects and dissertations – lessons from enquiry-based learning
Dr Peter Kahn, Learning Development
Do your students undertake project work or do you ask them to complete a dissertation? This practical workshop will consider how to improve project work and dissertations by drawing on ideas developed within enquiry-based learning.
1400 – 1630, CEEBL, C24, Sackville St Building
[More Information & Registration](#)

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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UK e-Science Programme Awareness Event 1 May 07

The UK e-Science programme has enjoyed a high international profile since its inception in 2001. The University of Manchester has played a major role in shaping the programme with major contributions, e.g. in Astronomy, Bioscience, Computer Science, Medical Science, Physics and Social Science. On 1 May 2007 The University of Manchester is organising an awareness event to present opportunities for University of Manchester researchers to benefit from this high profile event and to demonstrate the range of support for developing new collaborations and bids across the full range of the Research Councils. There will be presentations and demonstrations from successful projects and information about how to utilise e-Science methods for future proposals and collaborations. Registration is required. Email for [further details & registration](#)
1300, ESNW, Kilburn (lunch provided)

Microsoft Security Lecture 2007 1 May 07

The Computing Environment: It's more than Binary Code, It's About Criminals!
Ed Gibson - Microsoft Chief Security Advisor (CSA)
The School is delighted to be working with Microsoft to bring Ed Gibson to the University. Ed, head of security for Microsoft, will be giving a lecture on his experiences and views on security in the IT world and how to combat organised crime on the Internet. [Further Details & Registration](#)
1730 coffee and registration, 1800 lecture

Post Grad Visit Day 3 May 07

As a first step, please email [Sue Wolfenden](#) if you are prepared to help. We are in the process of organising demos, but would be grateful for other suggestions for the format of the day.

OGF20/2nd EGEE User Forum **7-11 May 07**

OGF20, presented by the Open Grid Forum and co-located with EGEE's 2nd User Forum, is the premier grid technologies event of 2007. Come join the Open Grid Forum as we continue our mission to accelerate grid adoption in science and industry. Venue: Manchester Central

[More Information](#) and [Registration](#)

Academic Staff Stay Days **24-25 May 07**

Following the success of previous events, we plan to hold a two day stay-event for academic staff – on the **24-25 May 2007**. We had originally planned to hold the event off-campus, but financial pressure has led us to stay on site. Please make a note of these dates in your diary, including a social event planned for the evening of the 25th – details will follow nearer the event.

Post Grad Visit Days **7 Jun 07**

As a first step, please email [Sue Wolfenden](#) if you are prepared to help. We are in the process of organising demos, but would be grateful for other suggestions for the format of the day.

University Graduation Ceremony for Computer Science **13 Jul 07**

UG & PG. Reception in School followed by Graduation Ceremony at 1645.

UG Exam Board Dates **Various**

15 Jun, 1000, IT 407: Internal Exams Board, 3rd Year
15 Jun, 1400, IT 407: Internal Exams Board, 2nd Year
15 Jun, 1500, IT 407: Internal Exams Board, 1st Year
19 Jun, 1400. IT 407: External Exams Board

PG Exam Board Dates **Various**

24 Apr, 1400, Atlas Suite: Internal Exams Board
26 Apr, 1400, Atlas Suite: External Exams Board

Future External Events

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Interested in Communicating with Young People? **30-31 Apr 07**

Training opportunity

With support from the Royal Society and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, the Science Learning Centres have established a course for researchers wanting to work with young people in schools. This course will support scientists wishing to have direct contact with children, either in a classroom setting, or in a setting with a larger audience of school children such as an assembly or a lecture demonstration. This course is free to active researchers, including travel expenses. To register your interest or for more information, please contact the course leader, [Katy Bloom](#) at the National Science Learning Centre.

[More Information](#)

Development of Novel Technologies Meeting **30 Apr 07**

Instrumentation for measurement and quantification in biosciences.

Organiser: Prof Peter Fielden, CEAS

The objectives of the meeting are to provide an opportunity to meet with colleagues with similar interests; share skills and expertise; provide a forum for discussion; determine what the needs of the area are; examine areas for

development, interaction and new funding. Tea and coffee will be provided. So that we have an idea of numbers, please email [Rachel Woolley](#) if you intend to come along.

1300, LG.011, MIB

System Identification and Experimental Design

1 May 07

How to best use your data

Dr Martin Brown, Senior Lecturer in EEE

[MCISB](#) website

1400, MIB (Lecture Theatre)

COPYRIGHT...? Implications of How it Affects What You Do

4 May 07

UMIP's Commercialisation Best Practice Seminar Series

Iram Kiani, Eversheds LLP, Solicitors

A free seminar illustrating the issues associated with copyright in teaching materials & e-delivery including issues surrounding the publishing & dissemination of your work. [More Information](#)

0845-1130, Core Technology Facility (CTF) 46 Grafton Street (off Oxford Rd)

Biomolecular Engineering & Systems Analysis

21-22 May 07

Biomolecular engineering and systems analysis are areas of great excitement and rapid development. At this conference, presentations will be given by renowned academics in the fields of nanodevices, systems biology, and innovative bioprocessing. The keynote lecture on Innovation will be given by Professor Richard Darton from the University of Oxford. [More Information](#).

Venue: MIB

Graduate Research Conference

12 Jun 07

A showcase of interdisciplinary graduate research

Postgraduates and post-docs from across the sciences are invited to participate in the Graduate Research Conference. In association with the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, this inaugural conference aims to foster interdisciplinary research excellence and promote transferable research skills at the University of Manchester. This year's multi-disciplinary program will highlight the dynamic research undertaken within: School of Physics and Astronomy, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, The Photon Science Institute & The Dalton Institute.

9.30 - 18.00, Simon Building

[More Information](#)

University Undergraduate Open Days 2007

22 & 23 Jun 07

The School has two 90 minute slots 1130-1300 and 1300-1430. Each slot involves a 30 minute presentation on the attractions of studying here, a tour, demos, and a 'meet & greet' session, where prospective students and their parents can meet staff and existing students informally. If you are able to help out anytime between **1000 – 1600** please contact [Sophia](#) or [Bernard](#) in the External Affairs Office.

IAS'07

29-31 Aug 07

Information assurance and security has become an important research issue in networked and distributed information sharing environments. Finding effective ways to protect information systems, networks and sensitive data within the critical information infrastructure is challenging even with the most advanced technology and trained professionals. The International Symposium on Information Assurance and Security aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, developers, and policy makers involved in multiple disciplines of information security and assurance to exchange ideas and to learn the latest

development in this important field. Organised by Dr Ning Zhang, IMG.

The Sixth UK e-Science All Hands Meeting

10-13 Sep 07

The aim of the meeting is to provide a forum in which e-Science projects from all disciplines can be discussed, and where the results from projects can be demonstrated. The conference will therefore feature presentations by groups throughout the UK who are active in e-Science projects, in addition to poster sessions, mini-workshop sessions, project demonstrations, tutorials, and birds-of-a-feather sessions. The schedule will also include a number of invited Keynote speakers involved in leading Grid and e-Science activities.

[More Information](#)

University Undergraduate Open Days 2007

6 Oct 07

The School has two 90 minute slots 1130-1300 and 1300-1430. Each slot involves a 30 minute presentation on the attractions of studying here, a tour, demos, and a 'meet & greet' session, where prospective students and their parents can meet staff and existing students informally. If you are able to help out anytime between **1000 – 1600** please contact [Sophia](#) or [Bernard](#) in the External Affairs Office.

Funding Opportunities

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European Research Council Grant Schemes

25 Apr 07

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. The main aim of the newly-established body is to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists, engineers and scholars to be adventurous and take risks in their research.

[More Information](#)

British Council Research Exchange Programme

2 Jun 07

The Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP) is the new initiative that aims to promote the development of scientific co-operation and contacts between the UK and other countries. The purpose of the Researcher Exchange Programme is to help develop new research links between higher education institutions and research laboratories in the UK and other countries. It aims to encourage mobility and internationalism among early stage researchers for the exchange of information, ideas and knowledge, and for relationship-building.

[More Information](#)

Technology Programme - Spring 2007 Competition

18 Jun 07

The latest Technology Programme call opens on April 24th and has £100 million to allocate.

[More Information](#)

UoM Simon Industrial and Professional Fellowship

1 Jul 07

The regulations and faculty financial allocations for the Simon Industrial and Professional Fellowship appointments during the 2006/07 academic session are available [here](#). Any applications should be sent to Helen Gleeson initially (not the Dean as stated). Nominations must be received no later than 1 July 2007.

EPSRC ICT Platform Grants

Open

EPSRC invites outline proposals for its information and communication technology platform grants. Platform grants aim to provide world-leading UK groups with continuity of funding for strategic development, longer-term research

and international networking.

[More Information](#)

Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chairs	Open
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The Royal Academy of Engineering invites applications for its research chairs. Research Chairs are full-time professorial appointments, in any engineering-related subject. The academy particularly welcomes proposals of a multidisciplinary nature. Funding is provided for 5 years.

[More Information](#)

RAEng Industrial Secondment Scheme	Open
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An opportunity for university lecturers in engineering to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience.

[More Information](#)

BBSRC International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)	Open
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To help scientists make and establish new contacts with their international counterparts.

[More Information](#)

RAEng Global Research Awards	Open
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Projects in centres of excellence overseas focussing on stimulating wealth creation and improvements in the quality of life.

[More Information](#)

EPSRC Engineering Visits	Open
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Support for salary costs and travel subsistence for scientists and engineers of acknowledged standing, either from within the UK or abroad, to visit the investigator's organisation.

[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.

Philip Leverhulme Prizes	15 May 07
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Philip Leverhulme Prizes are awarded to outstanding scholars (normally under the age of 36) whose work has already been recognised at an international level, where further work of particular promise can be confidently expected. Approximately 25 Prizes are available. For the 2007 competition the selected disciplines are: Astronomy and Astrophysics; Engineering; Geography; Modern European Languages and Literature (including English); Philosophy and Ethics. Nominations for Prizes are to be endorsed by the head of the nominee's institution (normally a university). Please inform [Helen Gleeson](#) of any nominations made.

[More Information](#)

IEEE Medal of Honour – Nominations	1 Jul 07
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The IEEE Medal of Honor is the Institute's highest award. It is given for an exceptional contribution or an extraordinary career in the IEEE fields of interest. It is presented only when a candidate is identified as having made a particular contribution which forms a clearly exceptional addition to the science and technology of concern to the Institute. Recipient selection is administered through the IEEE Medals Council of the IEEE Awards Board.

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Research Awards

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None this week

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Awards and Promotions

None this week

Academic Arrivals

None this week

Academic Retirements

None this week

Research Arrivals

None this week

Research Departures

None this week

Administrative Arrivals

None this week

Administrative Departures

None this week

Sabbatical Leave

Alasdair Rawsthorne: 80% secondment to Transitive Technologies
Oct 06 – Sep 07.

Howard Barringer: King's College London & Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California
Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA)
Feb 07 - Sep 07

Vacancies

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Academic Staff

None

Research & Technical Staff

None

Management & Professional Staff

None

Administrative Staff

None
