MANCHESTER 1824

School of Computer Science

Weekly Newsletter   12 November 2007

News from Head of School

A Sad Week

As you will all know by now, Hilary Kahn died on Sunday 4th November after a long and incredibly brave struggle against illness. Hilary's fierce commitment to the School (and Department before) was legendary, and I know I speak for you all when I say that she enriched the life of the School immeasurably and, at a personal level, the lives of her many friends and colleagues. Hilary's funeral is at **1530 today, Monday 12th November**, at Manchester Crematorium, and her family would welcome anyone who would like to attend. Hilary did not want flowers, but donations in her memory can be made to St Ann's Hospice. There will be a book of remembrance in Lynn's office this week and her family would very much like you to share your memories of Hilary.

Today is doubly sad, because Ian Gatward's funeral will take place at the same time **1530, Monday 12th November**, at Macclesfield Crematorium, following his tragic death three weeks ago from injuries sustained in a cycling accident. Ian's family would also welcome anyone who would like to attend the funeral. Like Hilary, Ian had given many years of valued service to the School, and will be very much missed by friends and colleagues.

University Postgraduate Open Day   14 Nov 07

The University Postgraduate Open Day is taking place this Wednesday, 14th November. In addition to activities taking place across the University, the School is running an afternoon session of talks and demos, the schedule for which is available here. Please will all staff help to get the message out to final year undergraduate and postgraduate taught students that this session is taking place.

Research Students' Symposium

Thanks to everyone involved in organising and participating in another successful event. We had ten nominations for the 2007 Best PhD Paper prize, which is a record, and the quality of the nominations was on a par with the very best years in the past. The winning paper was "*Finite Products are Biproducts in a Compact Closed Category*" by Robin Houston which appeared in the Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra. Second was Gwenn Englebienne's paper on "*A Probabilistic Model for Generating Realistic Lip Movements from Speech*" with Tim Cootes and Magnus Rattray, published in the Proceedings of the 21st Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems. Third was Caroline Jay's paper on "*Modeling the Effects of Delayed Haptic and Visual Feedback in a Collaborative Virtual Environment*" with Mashhuda Glencross and Roger Hubbold, which appeared in ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction. All these students and their supervisors are to be congratulated on their excellent work.

The 2007 Best PhD Dissertation prize was awarded to Gilles Daniel, now holding a joint position at ETH Zürich and the UBS Investment Bank for his thesis "*Asynchronous Simulations of a Limit Order Book*". The dissertation will be submitted for the UK-wide BCS Distinguished Dissertation Award, along with Xuejun Liu's outstanding dissertation "*Microarray Data Analysis Using Probabilistic Methods*".

Plagiarism Interest Group

On Wednesday 7 November the School hosted a meeting of the Plagiarism

Interest Group, an informal grouping of colleagues across the University who share an interest in detecting plagiarism and academic malpractice at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and in educating students against plagiarism. The meeting was addressed by Dr Keith Elliott, Head of Learning Development, and was attended by 25 colleagues from across the University. For details of the group's activities, and resources, please see http://intranet.cs.man.ac.uk/plagiarism or contact Toby Howard (the group's convenor) directly.

Teaching Java to Thirteen-year-olds

Last week, John Latham, Marjahan Begum and David Thorne ran an experimental two day workshop at the Manchester City Learning Centre. Ten thirteen-year-old students, from four schools, had the opportunity to work with introductory first year undergraduate material on programming in Java. Remarkably, the students progressed at a pace comparable with that expected of a first year student, demonstrating an impressive ability to cope with challenging computing tasks. Thanks go to those involved, including also Amanda Banks and Pete Jinks who helped out, and especially the staff at the City Learning Centre who enthusiastically hosted the event.

NaCTeM Follow-on Funding

Congratulations to Sophia Ananiadou and colleagues who have secured funding of over £1.8M from JISC to support the National Centre for Text Mining for another three years. NaCTeM is an important vehicle for building collaboration with colleagues in other disciplines, and its continuation is a major fillip for the School.

Events this Week   top

TAMBIS 2   12 Nov 07

Bringing up to date and building upon an excellent concept that was years ahead of its time
Brian Donnelly, CEO, Semantic Discovery Systems
1230-1330, Atlas 1, Kilburn

Solving the Speech Jigsaw New   14 Nov 07

A fragment-based approach to noise-robust audio and audio-visual speech recognition
Dr Jon Barker. University of Sheffield
Lecture Theatre 1.4, Kilburn
More Information

Interesting? Aesthetic? Useful? New   16 Nov 07

GeoVisualization Perspectives and Examples
Jason Dykes, City University London
2-3pm BST Room 1.10, Kilburn Building

5th Annual Computer Science Charity Book Sale   16 Nov 07

Proceeds to Children In Need and Christies Hospital.
If you have any unwanted books (any kind), CDs or DVDs that you'd like to donate to the sale, please bring them in, and either leave them with ACSO (Kilburn Room 2.127), or with Toby (Kilburn Room 2.93). We welcome other things too: computers, foot spas, golf clubs, cars, etc, which we will sell by Web auction. Please help us make this year's Charity Sale another roaring success! Contact ACSO with any enquiries.

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　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　top

Embedding Text Mining Solutions in Pharmaceutical Research　　23 Nov 07

Dr Ian Harrow, Senior Principal Scientist, eBiology Group, Pfizer
13:00 – 14:30, MIB Lecture Theatre
More Information

School Board Dates

Wednesday 21st November 2007 (UG Report)
Wednesday 20th February 2008 (PG Report)
Wednesday 19th March 2008 (External Affairs Report)
Wednesday 21st May 2008 (Research Report and Dean attending)
Wednesday 2nd July 2008 (Resources Report)
All meetings take place 15:30-17:00 in IT 407.

Future External Events　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　top

Faculty Meeting - Postponed　　　　　　　　　　　　　　28 Nov 07

The Faculty Meeting with the Dean, Associate Deans, and HoFA scheduled for 28th Nov has been postponed until early 2008.

PBL in Maths and Physics: What is the problem?　　　　　14 Nov 07

An afternoon of presentations and discussions dedicated to implementing Problem-Based Learning (PBL) in the Maths and Physics disciplines. Presenters include Sarah Symons and Derek Raines from the University of Leicester's piCETL (Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning), Louise Walker (University of Manchester) and Brian Bowe (Dublin Institute of Technology).
More Information and Registration

Up-Skilling the Hybrid Manager for the 21st Century　　　21 Nov 07

Larry Hirst CBE, General Manager, IBM United Kingdom Ltd
What is a hybrid manager?　We often hear that business and IT speak different languages so there is a growing need for people who can bridge the gap: people with excellent technical skills and knowledge who also are fully conversant with business needs and have a flair for management. This is a unique opportunity to hear one of the most eminent business leaders talk on an extremely important and topical subject.
To reserve a place, please e-mail Jackie Fisk before 14 November

Grantsmanship Training Course/EPSRC Mock Panel　　　　14 Dec 07

Run by Professor Helen Gleeson, Associate Dean for Research and Academic Lead for NAP, Dr Alex Hulkes and a colleague from the EPSRC. This course is available to staff who may benefit from a re-introduction to writing grant applications and seeing how grant-selection panels work. Priority will be given to new academic colleagues.
1045 - 1600
 Email Alex Gribbin for more information and registration.

Supporting Scientists in Science Communication　　　　13 Feb 08

The Partnerships for Public Engagement (PPE) Award scheme, run by the

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), is a great opportunity for researchers to promote their work and engage in dialogue with the public about science and engineering. The BA is running a series of regional workshops, on behalf of EPSRC, to make the application process as straightforward as possible. Schedule of workshops (all 10:30-18:00)
Oxford - Science Oxford - 22 November 2007
London - Dana Centre - 24 January 2008
Manchester - Manchester Museum - 13 February 2008
Glasgow - Glasgow Science Centre - 19 March 2008
Leicester - National Space Centre - 8 April 2008
More information and Registration

Genomes to Systems' 08   17-19 Mar 08

Manchester International Conference Centre at GMEX
Six plenary lectures including one from a Nobel laureate, 15 academic sessions each containing 4 high-level presentations by world authorities, lunchtime workshops from the European Bioinformatics Institute, several poster sessions and a product exhibition featuring over 50 companies. There are two sessions on proteomics, three on systems biology, two on bioinformatics, and new sessions on text-mining, metagenomics, chemical genomics, etc. Registration fees have been minimised with early-bird and group discounts are available if you hurry.
More Information & Registration

Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2008   30 Jun-3 Jul 08

Call for exhibit proposals - The Royal Society's selection Committee, selects around 20-25 teams to share the excitement of their research with a wider audience. **The deadline for proposals is 5 November 2007**.
More information & on-line proposal form

Funding Opportunities   top

UoM Knowledge Transfer Challenge   Open

The KT Challenge offers small grants for *concept studies* and *feasibility studies*. If you are interested in developing ideas in collaboration with an industrial partner – developing new technology, or applying existing technology in an industrial setting – please contact Constantinos Astreos.

EPSRC Encouraging Postdoctoral Mobility Between Disciplines   Open

EPSRC would like to encourage the transfer of outputs of research between different research disciplines as well as aiding the career development of EPSRC funded PDRAs. In the first instance an extra year of support will be offered. Transfers between the engineering and physical science disciplines and the life sciences are encouraged. There are no closing dates for proposals.
More Information

EPS Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund   26 Nov 07

The fifth round of bids for T&L funding for Schools is now open. Schools may submit bids of up to £10,000 by the deadline of 4pm, Monday, 26th November 2007. See the Guidelines and Application Form. Please let Graham Gough (UG) or Roger Hubbold (PGT) know if you have any ideas.

RAEng Research Exchanges with China and India   3 Dec 07

Enables engineering researchers at UK Higher Education Institutions to travel to a Chinese or Indian Institution, and China/India-based researchers to spend time at a UK Institution. The main objectives are to promote collaboration between high quality engineering researchers in the UK and China/India, strengthen relations between leading partners in these countries and support the expansion

of international Networks of Excellence in engineering research, and allow researchers to gain international experience and access world-class expertise.
More Information

EPSRC Partnerships for Public Engagement   4 Dec 07

The scheme is designed to enable active researchers to engage with the public, including young people. It aims to communicate the excitement of fundamental and applied research in science and engineering. Awards are aimed at active researchers, in partnership with their research teams and outside specialists or partner organisations that can provide communication expertise.
More Information

Toshiba Fellowship Programme   7 Dec 07

Offers outstanding European scientists the opportunity to join a high-technology research team in Japan for up to two years.
More Information

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

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

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

BBSRC International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)   Open

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

EPSRC Engineering Visits   Open

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   top

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.

None this week

Research Awards

NaCTeM Phase 2

Funding Body: JISC
PI: Sophia Ananiadou
Award Amount: £1,365,492 this is in addition to the £476,492 awarded to NaCTeM by JISC earlier in the year

MyExperiment 2

Funding Body: Microsoft
PI: Carole Goble
Award Amount: $229,657

KSS CASE AWARD

Funding Body: KSS Limited
PI: Xiao-Jun Zeng
Award Amount: £19,821

Wellcome: Helen Hulme

Funding Body: Wellcome Trust
PI: Andy Brass
Award Amount: £23,575

Staff News

Awards and Promotions

None this week

Academic Arrivals

None this week

Academic Departures

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 07 – Sep 08.

Steve Pettifer: Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre
Academic year 2007/2008

Robert Stevens: Web Intelligence Technologies Lab, Natural Language processing Group, Department of CS, University of Sheffield.
Semester two 2007/08
Plus short-term visits to: The text-mining group at the European bioinformatics Group & The bio-Technology Group at the Technical University of Dresden

Renate Schmidt: NICTA, Australian National University, Canberra
February – Mid-Sep 2008

Kung-Kiu Lau: Australian Research Council
1 July 2007 - 31 January 2008

Vacancies

Academic Staff

None

Research & Technical Staff

None

Management & Professional Staff

None

Administrative Staff

None