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**News from Head of School****Network Problems**

I am pleased to report that continued effort has resulted in greatly improved network performance in our student labs. Despite considerable effort the previous week, it was clear by early last week that the level of performance was still unacceptable. Since then, work on the student fileserver – including a significant memory upgrade, relocation to the main School backbone, and tweaking the NFS parameters – plus provision of a wrapper for Firefox – transferring configuration files onto local disk – have led to performance that is, in most respects acceptable, with three large laboratory classes running successfully in parallel on Thursday afternoon. Further upgrades planned to address remaining issues include replacement of the student email server and provision of local NIS/DNS servers for the Lamb lab. Many thanks again to all those (named last week) who pulled out all the stops to resolve a serious and challenging set of problems.

**Open Staff Meeting**

Can I draw your attention to the open meeting for all staff which Norman Paton has organised for Wednesday afternoon. This is an important opportunity for Norman to share his thoughts on his imminent Headship, and for all of you to ask questions and share any concerns.

**UG and PGT Exams Deadline**

A brief reminder that **today** is the deadline for the submission to the Student Support Office of all first semester exams and marking schemes.

**Events this Week**[top](#)**Machine Learning Seminar New****20 Oct 08**

*Approximate inference in continuous time discrete and hybrid stochastic systems*  
Guido Sanguinetti  
1400, Atlas 1, Kilburn building

**Open Staff Meeting for all CS staff****22 Oct 08**

There will be an Open Staff Meeting for all CS staff on Wednesday, 22nd October at 3.30 p.m. in IT407. It is expected that the meeting will last between 60 and 90 minutes, during which Norman Paton will outline broad plans and answer questions.

**Impact of Experience on Software Developer Performance New****22 Oct 08**

Dr Derek Jones. Knowledge Software Ltd  
1415, Lecture Theatre 1.4, Kilburn Building

[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**[top](#)

## Wear it Pink

31 Oct 08



We will once again be supporting the Breast Cancer Campaign by holding a Wear it Pink Day. We will run a tombola and need prizes. If you have any bottles (wine, beer etc), chocolates or new items you are willing to donate then please bring them to ACSO. All donations gratefully received

## Children in Need

14 Nov 08



We will once again be running our annual Children in Need Booksale and online auction. Further details will be sent round in due course. Books and auction items gratefully received in ACSO.

## School Board Dates

26 November - UG Report

4 February - PG Report

25 March - External Affairs Report

6 May - Research Report

1 July - Resources Report

All meetings take place 1530-1700 in IT 407.

## Future External Events

[top](#)

### Support for Academically-Led Conferences

Various

One-stop solution from STARS. The Division of Sport, Trading and Residential Services ('STARS') offers a one-stop solution for academics interested in attracting and organising conferences here at The University of Manchester, a service directly supporting the University's 2015 goal of achieving high international standing.

[More Information](#)

### BBSRC Road Shows "Enabling the Delivery of Excellence with Impact"

London - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Manchester- 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Other venues available.

Tea and coffee will be available at 14:00 pm with presentations due to commence from 14:30 pm. The meeting will finish at approximately 17:30pm. To be kept up to date with plans, and to register your interest in attending an event, if you have not already done so, please send your name, institution and contact details, together with your preferred venue to [roadshows@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:roadshows@bbsrc.ac.uk) by Wednesday 1st October 2008.

[More Information](#)

### Advanced Tools & Technologies for Collaborative Research

6 Nov 08

Speakers will include Dr David Fergusson, Deputy Director, Training, Outreach and Education, the National e-Science Centre and researchers at Manchester who are working on projects to develop and demonstrate collaboration tools. These include myExperiment, a collaborative environment where scientists publish and share their workflows. A detailed programme of the event is published below.

[More Information & registration](#)

## Funding Opportunities

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### Distinguished Visiting Fellowship Scheme **New** 31 Oct 08

The Royal Academy of Engineering's visiting fellowship scheme provides funding to enable an academic engineering department in a UK university to be a host for up to a month to a Distinguished Visiting Fellow from an overseas academic centre of excellence.

[More information](#)

### RAEng - Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships 14 Nov 08

These Fellowships provide an opportunity for mid-career academics based in UK universities to be relieved of their administrative and teaching responsibilities, for between one academic term and a year, in order to concentrate on full-time research in any engineering discipline. The award provides a grant to cover the cost of a replacement member of staff for the period of the Fellowship to carry out the teaching and administrative responsibilities of the researcher. A support fund of up to £2,500 is also available as part of the Fellowship.

[More Information](#)

### HPC2-Europa2 Call for Applicants 15 Nov 08

The HPC-Europa Consortium is happy to announce that the Transnational Access Programme will continue up to the end of 2012. This is an EC-funded programme of short collaborative research visits with access to Europe's biggest supercomputers.

[More information](#)

### RAEng Research Student Development Fellowships 1 Dec 08

These fellowships are worth **£10,000 each** and are intended to add value to **PhD and EngD students** by funding training and development activities which complement their research oriented education. The scheme is open to all research students who are entering their second year in the academic term beginning September/October 2008. Deadline for applications: 1st December 2008. For more information visit: [More Information](#)

### EPSRC Follow on Fund Competition 2008/09 5 Dec 08

"Follow-on-funds" provide financial support for projects with a clear commercial concept to accelerate their progress towards commercialisation. Funding is available for up to 12 months for typically over £100k based on research from ongoing or completed EPSRC supported projects. An approximate total of £1.5M is available nationally with £4.5M of applications invited for consideration. Proposals need to be submitted via the University's technology transfer company (UMIP). The University has been successful in 8 out of 11 proposals submitted during the past three years which has generated nearly £1 million of research income. Grantholders interested in applying for this funding should complete the attached two-page form and send it to [ian.proctor@umip.com](mailto:ian.proctor@umip.com) before Friday December 5th 2008 (4pm).

[More Information](#)

### Industrial Secondment Scheme Open

The Industrial Secondment Scheme provides an invaluable opportunity for engineering teaching staff in Higher Education institutions to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience. Applicable to engineers of all disciplines, the scheme's objective is to enable the secondees to impart the fruits of this experience to their students through teaching, through case studies using up-to-date material and, in the longer term, through course design. The benefits also accrue to the host organization which gains a temporary but highly qualified member of staff, and to the university which has the opportunity of strengthening its links with

industry.

[More Information](#)

### **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](#)

### **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](#)

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## **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 Royal Academy of Engineering has established a prize fund to identify entrepreneurial researchers working in UK universities, in the field of electro-technology and who are at an early stage in their career. The award will be presented to an individual or team demonstrating considerable entrepreneurial promise and the potential to benefit the UK's future prosperity.

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[More information](#)

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## Research Awards

[top](#)

None this week

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## 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 & Technical 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. - continuing

*John Keane*: Academic Year 2008/09

*Len Freeman*: April to Sept 2009

*John Gurd*: Academic Year 2009/10

*Liping Zhao*: Sept 2008 to Mid Jan 09, and Mid July 09 to mid Jan 10

*Josh Knowles*: Feb 2009 for 6 months

*Rizos Sakellariou*: Lent term 2008-09, Summer term 2008-09, Michaelmas Term 2009-10 (2 semesters)

*Xiao-Jun Zeng*: January 2009-April 2009

*Ning Zhang*: January 2009 – June 2009

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## Vacancies

[top](#)

### Academic Staff

None

### Research & Technical Staff

None

### Management & Professional Staff

None

### Administrative Staff **New**

[PGR Admissions Officer](#)

School of Computer Science

Closing date: 22/10/2008. Ref EPS/ 80479.