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Informatics Research Institute (IRIS) June 2006 newsletter

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Esteem

Angela Tattersall and Clare Keogh PhD students and Research Assistants on the DEPICT project (Directing Equal Pay in ICT) were approached by DTI/Intellect to develop a survey regarding women's perceptions of the gender pay gap. They presented their findings to the House of Commons on May 4th 2006.

On Monday 27th February 2006 Dr. David Kreps was one of two speakers at the Parliamentary IT Committee (PITCOM) Meeting: "ICT For the Socially Excluded", House of Commons, London. PITCOM typically attracts up to 100 attendees with a mix of MPs, members of the House of Lords, plus a good number of industry and trade association representatives (Microsoft, IBM, Sun, BT, Nortel, Marconi, IEE, Intellect) and independent PITCOM members such as academics.

Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulos has been invited as Keynote Speaker at the 9th biannual CIFED (Conference International Francophone sur l'Ecrit et le Document) at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (September 2006). The talk will be on the digital preservation and analysis of historical documents.

Dr. Ben Light has been invited onto the programme committee as an Associate Editor for ICIS 2006 in Milwaukee.

Dr. Ben Light was discussant at ICIS 2005, Las Vegas. Paper, Rowe, et. al. - Does ERP Provide a Cross-functional View of The Firm? Challenging Conventional Wisdom for SMEs and Large French Firms.

Dr. Ben Light Invited Speaker: Workshop Pratiques d'insertion des ERP dans divers contextes organisationnels et culturels, Toulouse, March 2006 (Bernard Grabot, LGP ENIT is Chair).

Huw Jarvis was plenary speaker at The Asian EFL Journal International Conference, Pusan, S. Korea. April 2006. 'Computers and change in ELT.'

Huw Jarvis was plenary speaker at the 1st World Congress on the Power of Language. Bangkok, Thailand. May 2006. 'The impact of computers on changing notions of language, language learning and language pedagogy.'

In December 2005 Huw Jarvis was invited to the Teachers of English as a Foreign Language Indonesia (TEFLIN) International Conference, Yogyakarta, Indonesia as plenary speaker. 'Computers: conceptualisation, change and delivery in low technology contexts.' With support from The British Council, Indonesia.

Projects

CABWEB Project & CABWEB Portal - www.cabweb.net

The Collaborations Across Borders project is now completed. The CABWEB portal built during the project is in good shape, with active networks and collaborations running there. In total, 1921 students took part and expressed overwhelming satisfaction with these activities.

Overall CAB has helped generate 10 refereed conference papers, 5 journal articles, 2 refereed works, 1 symposium and 1 book chapter to date (all involving authors from Salford).

If you would like to set up a collaboration space for cross-institutional student collaborations, please contact Janice Whatley or Frances Bell (j.e.whatley@salford.ac.uk or f.bell@salford.ac.uk).

Funding

Dr. Haifa Takruri-Rizk and Dr. Kate Booth have secured a grant from the ESF to look at BME participation in the Northwest. The purpose of the project is to examine, analyse and evaluate the progression, degree attainment and employment paths of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) students in the Northwest. It is evident from previous research that although BME groups are not necessarily disadvantaged in terms of representation in SET degrees, they do not have the same levels of achievement as their white counterparts. This research aims to identify the barriers faced by BME students in SET HE and industries in the Northwest and make recommendations for change and support allowing some of the barriers to be overcome to enable students from these groups to pursue successful SET careers.

Publications

Books

Prof. Andrew Basden's new book, 'In Search of an Integrative Vision for Technology; Interdisciplinary Studies in Information Systems', jointly written with his colleague Prof. Sytse Srijbos at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, has just been published by Springer. It celebrates ten years work of the Centre for Philosophy, Technology and Social Systems of which Prof. Basden is a founder member, by bringing together new versions of papers that emerged from the Centre in refereed journals, and covers all fields from technical through social to directional perspectives in information systems.

Book Chapters

Light, B. (2006) Theorizing Masculinity in Information Systems Research, In Trauth, E. Encyclopaedia of Gender and Technology (Forthcoming, April 2006).

Seminar Programme

29th March 2006, Professor Mahdi Mahfouf,
Department of Automatic Control & Systems Engineering,
The University of Sheffield:

'From Biological Systems to Materials Processing: Investigations into the contributions of Intelligent Systems Modelling and Control'.

26th April 2006, Dr. Rick Watson, Academic Enterprise,
University of Salford:

'Research Technology Transfer Opportunities'.

3rd May 2006, Dr. Lynette Kvasny, College of Information Sciences & Technology, The Pennsylvania State University (Visiting Prof. to the ISI, University of Salford):

'Rethinking Urban Poverty: Forms of Capital, Information Technology, and Micro-Enterprise Development'.

10th May 2006, Dr. Rudy Lapeer, Dept. of Computing Sciences,
The University of East Anglia:

'Graphics and Vision for Medical Simulation and Visualisation'.

Thanks to all speakers who have contributed to a successful seminar series.

New Members



Having been a GTA in the ISI since 2003, Aleksej Heinze took up the post of lecturer in January 2006. Before embarking on a PhD Alex was a BSc (Hons) Business Information Systems student of the ISI. He is now a full member of the HERC, his current research interests are concerned with

the practice of blended learning in HE and the general application of information technology for educational purposes.



Dr. Nikolaos Tsagarakis received his Diploma in Electrical Engineering in 1995 from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece and his MSc and PhD in Robotics and Haptic Technology in 1997 and 2000 respectively from the University of Salford.

He is currently Research Fellow in the

School of Computing, Science and Engineering working in the area of rehabilitation, medical robotics and haptic systems. He is now a full member of the Centre for Robotics and Automation.

Newsletter Submissions

The next issue of the IRIS newsletter will be published in October; to submit an item please email it to:
e.j.hughes@salford.ac.uk

Postgraduate Research Students



Featured Student

Chalee Vorakulpipat

With an MSc Information Technology from Kasetsart University, Thailand and a BEng Electronics Engineering from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Thailand, Chalee came to study with us in October 2006.

His PhD study is supervised by Prof. Yacine Rezgui, the research topic being: 'From Sharing to Creating Knowledge in a Thai Hi-Tech Organisation: A Knowledge Creation Capability and Maturity Framework. Within his first 6 months of study he has had two papers accepted in the IEEE (International Engineering Management Conference).

- Vorakulpipat, C., and Rezgui, Y. "A Review of Thai Knowledge Management Practices: An Empirical Study," IEEE International Engineering Management Conference 2006 (IEMC2006), Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 2006.
- Vorakulpipat, C., and Rezgui, Y. "From Knowledge Sharing to Value Creation: Three Generations of Knowledge Management," IEEE International Engineering Management Conference, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 2006.

New Postgraduate Research Students

January 2006

Qi LIU, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. N. Linge

Osama SHARIEF, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. S. Nefti-Meziani

Richard Darko APPIAH, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. S. Hill

Karim DJERBOA, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. F. Meziane

Ahmed KHADRAGI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. T. Ritchings

Liushan YANG, PhD, Supervisor: E. Trotter

Saeed ALKALBANI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Y. Rezgui

April 2006

Tareq ALHOUSARY, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Y. Rezgui

Abdeljalil BOUDAH, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. S. Nefti-Meziani

Eren ERDEMLI, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. F. Meziane

Ali ELSEBAH, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. F. Meziane

Nornazlita HUSSIN, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. T. Ritchings

New GTA

Imran Khan has been offered a post as a Graduate Teaching Assistant to the ISI and will start in September 2006.

Congratulations to Imran, who is currently a MIT student and a former BSc student of the ISI.



Informatics Research Institute

Director:

Professor Yacine Rezgui

Professor of Applied Informatics

University of Salford