





# Welcome to the IRIS Newsletter and your new admin team



Nathalie Audren Howarth Research Officer n.audren@salford.ac.uk 0161 295 5278



Emily Hughes
Research Secretary
e.j.hughes@salford.ac.uk
0161 295 5262

## Congratulations

PhD student Beryl Burns won the best paper award at UKAIS earlier this month for her paper "Retaining Professional Identity in Call Centre Work: A Case Study Investigation".

Frances Bell has been invited to join the Association for Learning and Technology Research Committee.

Researcher on CAB project, Dr. Elena Zaitseva, has taken up post at Liverpool John Moores University working as researcher on a CETL project.

### **News Flash**



Professor Grahame Cooper of the new CFERA research centre (Centre for Future and Emerging Technologies: Research and Applications) was interviewed on 31st May 2006 on the Granada Reports programme about "ransomware". This is software that gets downloaded from the

internet onto a user's machine, encrypts some of the user's files, and then demands payment in return for the key to unlock the files. The story was triggered by a report from a person in Rochdale, who had been the victim of the "Arhiveus" scam, in which the victim is required to make a purchase of elicit drugs from a web site in order to retrieve files.

## **Upcoming Events**

# Conference 25-28th June 2006

The Faculty of Business and Informatics is hosting the Informing Science and Information Technology Education Conference, 25th to 28th June 2006, in the Mary Seacole Building.

We are welcoming delegates from all over the world to this International conference, which includes papers that explore issues in effectively and efficiently informing clients through information technology and papers on IT education.

There is still an opportunity for staff and postgraduate students from Salford to be a part of the conference, through a one day registration at £89. You may also like to join us for the conference banquet at Manchester United on the Monday evening, at £35, for an opportunity to network with researchers.

If you would like to showcase your research over a lunchtime session, please contact one of the conference organisers Nathalie.

Conference Co-Chairs Professor Carole Roberts & Janice Whatley. For more information contact j.e.whatley@salford.ac.uk.

### **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).

## **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 Strijbos 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).

#### **Journal Papers**

- Bell, F., & Zaitseva, E. (2005). 'Only Connect': Complexities in International Student Communication. E-learning, 2(4), 342-355.
- Ferneley, E., & Bell, F. (2006). Using bricolage to integrate business and information technology innovation in SMEs.
   Technovation, 26(2), 232-241.
- Zaitseva, E., & Bell, F. (2005). Development of International Educational Community: why we have chosen Open Source.
   Educational Technology & Society, 8(4), 270-279.
- Ferneley, E. and Light, B. (2006) "Secondary User Relations in Emerging Mobile Computing Environments", European Journal of Information Systems (Accepted - forthcoming in Vol 15, 2006).
- Howcroft, D. and Light, B. (2006) "Reflections on Issues of Power in Packaged Software Selection", Information systems Journal (Accepted - forthcoming in Vol 16, 2006).
- Rezgui, Y., (2006), Role-Based Service-Oriented Implementation of a Virtual Enterprise: A Case Study in the Construction Sector, Computers in Industry, In Press (Elsevier).
- Rezgui, Y., (2006), Ontology Driven Knowledge Management
  Using Information Retrieval Techniques, Computing in Civil
  Engineering (Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers),
  Volume 134 Issue 4.
- Rezgui, Y., & Zarli, A.(2006), Paving the way to digital construction: a strategic roadmap, Journal of Construction Management and Engineering Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineering, Volume 134 Issue 4.

#### Conferences

- Bell, F., Zaitseva, E., & Coates, N. J. (2005, 22-27 July, 2005).
   Respecting Difference: Developing Governance of International
   Online Student Collaboration in Virtuality and Realism in WWW-based Communities (Invited Session). Paper presented at the HCI
- Bell, F., Zaitseva, E., & Zakrzewska, D. (2006 (Accepted, in press))
   Evaluation: A Link in the Chain of Sustainability. In N.
   Lambropoulos & P. Zaphiris (Eds.), User-Centered Design of Online Communities. Hershey, PA: Idea Group
- Burns, B. and Light, B. (2005) Professionals as Users: Autonomy Considerations for the Deployment of Information Systems, IFIP OASIS Workshop, Las Vegas, U.S.A.
- Burns, B. and Light, B. (2006) Rewriting the Rules: Professionals, Technologies and Call Centre Working (Accepted, European Association for the Study of Science and Technology 2006).
- Burns, B. and Light, B. (2006) Retaining Professional Identity in Call Centre Work: A Case Study Investigation (Accepted, UKAIS 2006)
- Burns, B., Light, B. and Adam, A. (2006) Users as Professionals: A Study of IT Deployment and its Relationship to Professional Autonomy (Accepted, European Conference on IS 2006).
- Griffiths, M. and Light, B. User Resistance Strategies and the problems of Blanket prescriptions: A Case Study of Resistance Successes (Accepted, European Conference on IS 2006).

- Griffiths, M. and Light, B. (2006) A Field Study of The use of metaphors to overcome resistance to IS related organisational change (Accepted, UKAIS 2006)
- Ferneley, E., & Bell, F. (2005, 26-28 May). Tinker, Tailor:
   Information Systems and Strategic Development in Knowledge-Based SMEs. Paper presented at the ECIS Information Systems in a Rapidly Changing Economy, Institute for Management of Information Systems at the University of Regensburg.
- Whatley, J., Bell, F., Shaylor, J., Zaitseva, E., & Zakrzewska, D. (2005, June 16-19, 2005). CAB - Collaboration Across Borders: Peer Evaluation for Collaborative Learning. Paper presented at the InSITE (Informing Science + IT Education), Flagstaff, Arizona.
- Whatley, J., Zaitseva, E., & Bell, F. (2005, 6 8 September 2005).
   Designing and Realising Collaborative Student Activities on CABWEB a Moodle Portal. Workshop presented at the ALT-C 2005, the 12th International Conference of the Association for Learning Technology, University of Manchester, England.
- Barresi, S., Rezgui, Y., Lima, C. & Meziane, F. (2006)
   'Methodology to Support Semantic Resources Integration in the Construction Sector', In proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems (ICEIS), Cyprus.

#### **Editorships**

Dr. Maria Burke has been invited to join the Editorial Board for 'Library Review'.

Dr. Ben Light has been invited onto the Editorial Board for the European Journal of Information Systems

### **Events**

#### **HERC Activity**

The 3rd Education in a Changing Environment Conference was held on 12th-13th January 2006. This Event is organised by the University's Learning and Teaching Research Network (LTRN) and Higher Education Research Centre (HERC). The Event attracted over 120 delegates from the University as well as colleagues from a range of external institutions including North Trafford College, University of Chester, St. Helens College, University of Wales, Liverpool John Moores University and The Millennium Centre (Bury). The Programme included more than 40 papers, workshops and posters as well as keynote papers from Prof. Phil Hodkinson, University of Leeds and Prof. Paul Trowler, University of Lancaster. The Conference was brought to a close by Prof. lan McNay, University of Greenwich, who reflected on our developments since 2004 and commended the collegial educational 'community of practice' that now exists at Salford.

We are currently reviewing the Conference and making future plans, if you have any suggestions or are interested in finding out more about LTRN please contact Nicola Coates, n.j.coates@salford.ac.uk.

# 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.

## 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

Oi 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 Abdeldjalil 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.

#### **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



Informatics Research Institute
Director:
Professor Yacine Rezgui
Professor of Applied Informatics
University of Salford