

# comp.news

The Newsletter from the Department of Computing

## Alexandros has his head in the clouds



Alexandros Marinos

PhD student Alexandros Marinos has been commended for his work on cloud computing. In an article on the Hewlett-Packard community forum, Alexandros' paper with Gerard Briscoe from the London School of Economics was cited as describing a new way of using data-centre capacity to support community clouds. Alexandros works with Professor Paul Krause in the Digital Ecosystems research group.

Further information can be found at: <http://communityclouds.net/>.

### About the Department

We are a friendly Department with a cohort of about 350 students, offering highly rated undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Guardian University Guide 9th  
Complete University Guide 19th  
Times Good University Guide 20th

#### National Student Survey

95% overall satisfaction  
95% employment rate

#### Contact

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## Celebrating Student Success

September is perhaps the busiest time of the year because we welcome all of our new students. Starting at University is a success that all of our new students should celebrate, so a big welcome to our 95 new undergraduates (levels 1 and 2) and our 70 new masters students. To celebrate the start of the new academic year, all of our students got together to have a BBQ – indoors because of the autumn rain.

So far this autumn, three of our PhD students have successfully transferred from MPhil to PhD status. David Williams transferred with his work on "A Formal Approach to the Analysis of Protocols Protecting IPR", Zhao Xi with "Robust and Semi-

fragile Watermarking Techniques for Image Content Protection", and Ge Qin with "Adaptable Models and Semantic Filtering for Object Recognition in Street Images."

For all the latest news in the Department, see [www.surrey.ac.uk/computing](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/computing)

## Computing Student wins Eli Lilly Award

Congratulations to Jon (Jay) Christiansen who was recently awarded Student of the Year for his placement with Eli Lilly, under the category of 'Technical Excellence & Leadership'. Jay won the award for his work on a global project of high importance to researchers, which helped the project launch a month ahead of time. He earned himself a

chance to work on the massive global project when he was handpicked by Eli Lilly when they were looking for another web programmer for the project. At the end of the project, they were so pleased with his work and how he handled working on a global project across so many time zones that they named him their Student of the Year.

## Undergraduate Study

**BSc Computer Science (CS)**  
Software knowledge and skills  
at the forefront of innovation

**BSc Computing and  
Information Technology (CIT)**  
Business computing for the next  
generation of IT professionals

**BSc Computer Science and  
Engineering (CSE)**  
Software, hardware and  
communications technologies

E: [cs.ug@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:cs.ug@surrey.ac.uk)

## Postgraduate Study

**MSc Information Systems (IS)**  
Business computing for future IT  
directors

**MSc Internet Computing (IT)**  
Advanced computing for Internet  
applications and science

**MSc Security Technologies and  
Applications (STA)**  
Protecting the digital age for  
future security consultants

**MPhil/PhD in Computing**  
Research in computer science at  
the leading edge

E: [fepps-pg@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:fepps-pg@surrey.ac.uk)

## Recent research publications and Grants

Briscoe, Gerard and Marinos, Alexandros (2009). Digital Ecosystems in the Clouds: Towards Community Cloud Computing. In Proceedings of the *IEEE International Conference on Digital Ecosystems and Technologies*, 1-3 June 2009, Istanbul.

## Top Money for Computing Graduates

Graduates from the Department of Computing are consistently get top jobs in IT with some of the highest graduate starting salaries. Figures for 2008 show that some of our graduates from the 4 year Computing and Information Technology undergraduate

programme are gaining a starting salary of £36,000. Graduates from the Department are gaining jobs with some of the top IT companies. These include Accenture, Fidessa, Lloyds TSB, Reuters, Royal Bank of Scotland, Infosys and Rolls-Royce.

## Where are they now?

**Paul Davis, CSE 2008**  
Solution Consultant,  
ProspectSoft Ltd.



Having graduated in 2008, he currently works as a Solution Consultant with ProspectSoft Ltd configuring and customising new ProspectSoft CRM systems to suit customer needs. The job requires a wide variety of skills including technical ability, project management, customer care skills, listening, troubleshooting, and patience. He worked for ProspectSoft Ltd during his placement year on the support desk and was invited back as a valued employee.

The company is fairly young and vibrant place to work with a lot of friendly "banter". During the year, placement students are trained for four weeks, given real responsibility and are expected to maintain the reputation of the company at all times by providing a polite and effective service. Everyone gets on with each other from the Managing Director through the line managers and down to the placement students and so he is thrilled to be working for them again and intends to work there for years to come.

Paul decided to do the CSE degree at Surrey because of the combination of the course, placement year, the campus location and the available social life. None of the other universities he looked at provided all of these together.

