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The Newsletter from the Department of Computing

Evolution and resilience of industrial ecosystems

The University has recently been awarded over £3 million for a project on the Evolution and Resilience of Industrial Ecosystems (ERIE). The project, which will run from 2010 to 2016, is joint with the Departments of Sociology, Mathematics, Computing and the Centre for Environmental Strategy. In Computing, the project is being led by Professor Paul Krause and Dr Sotiris Moschoyiannis.

Sub-conscious vision helping computers “see”

The Department and Waterfall Solutions Ltd have recently been awarded funding to apply computer models of human vision to commercial systems to help them to “see”. Dr Matthew Casey and Dr Athanasios Pavlou have developed models of human sub-conscious vision, which will be applied to the real-time data

and image processing solutions from Waterfall Solutions Ltd over the next 5 months. These models have the potential to automatically allow systems to recognise threats and react to them rapidly, whilst also learning to combine different sensory signals, such as video and sound.

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

Department of Computing
University of Surrey
Guildford GU2 7XH

T: +44 (0) 1483 686058
F: +44 (0) 1483 686051
E: cs@surrey.ac.uk

Celebrating student success

Nabil Asif, a 2009 graduate from the MSc in Information Systems programme, was recently invited to present an overview of his dissertation at the National Workshop on Learning in Immersive Worlds, held on the 11 November at Coventry University. Nabil's dissertation was supervised by Dr Lee Gillam, with collaborative supervision and subject expertise provided by dementia care specialist Dr Trevor Adams.

Level 1 and 2 student prizes were awarded in late November last year. Giang Trang Hoa and Vedika Dalmia

were awarded the Department's prize for excellence in coursework in the first year CIT programme; Benjamin Hunt received the Sheppard Memorial prize for the best mark in the second year of the CIT programme; and Martin Webb was awarded the Pearson Education prize for the best overall performance in the second year.

Chris Culnane successfully defended his PhD thesis “Mark My Words: Binary Watermarking Robust to Printing and Scanning”. A special vote of thanks goes to Chris as he has provided excellent support to the



Benjamin Hunt receiving the Sheppard Memorial prize from Professor Steve Schneider

Department over the period he has been studying with us. Chris has also just joined us as a member of staff on the EPSRC funded trustworthy voting systems project.

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

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: feps-pg@surrey.ac.uk

Recent research publications and grants

Yusoff, N. Grüning, A. and Browne, A. (2009). *Modelling the Stroop Effect: Dynamics in Inhibition of Automatic Stimuli Processing*. 2nd International Conference in Cognitive Neurodynamics (ICCN 2009).

Casey, M.C. & Hickman, D. (2009). *Knowledge Transfer Account with Waterfall Solutions Ltd*. Funding of £17,194 from the EPSRC KTA.

Gilbert, G.N., Basson, L., Hoyle, R., Krause, P., Lloyd, D., Moschoyiannis, S. & Skeldon, A. (2009). *Evolution and Resilience of Industrial Ecosystems (ERIE)*. Funding of £3,369,373 from the EPSRC.

Awards for Java community help

Learning object-oriented programming is a core part of a Computer Science syllabus. One of the most important ways of learning how to programme is by talking through problems and solutions with friends and colleagues. We are very pleased to say that the spirit of community-based support for Java is alive and well in our first year cohort, as seen by the recent awards to Stefan Saftascu, Thomas Arthey and Alexander Greenland, all of whom have gone out of their way to help

their colleagues on the COM1017 Programming Fundamentals discussion boards. We run discussion boards for assignments and other activities. Stefan, Thomas and Alexander were notable for posting the most replies to queries on the discussion boards to help their fellow students, although many other students have also helped. For their support, all three have received a "Community Contribution Award" from the Department, together with a small token of our appreciation.

Where are they now?



Simon Moore, CIT 2008
Technical Analyst, Thomson Reuters

I chose the CIT course at Surrey as it had a strong track record for students entering jobs post-graduation, and good industry links for placement years, and this worked out well as I worked for Eli Lilly, Ascot on placement. After graduating with first class honours in 2008 I went to work for Thomson Reuters on their Technology Graduate Scheme; the main benefits of this two year programme were the several job roles and 6 month international assignment.

My roles have focused on work as an infrastructure service manager in the Canary Wharf office, monitoring current issues for a product area and aiding their resolution, and also proactive work to ensure repeat problems and capacity issues do not occur. More recently I worked near Old Street as a business analyst, helping create product specifications based on user requirements for new systems or modifications, as well as managing the decommissioning of a number of systems we are phasing out.

Our international assignments are partly organised by ourselves, allowing us to use our contacts to find a role we would be interested in. I secured a role working within the News Technology group in Hong Kong as a software developer and have moved out here for 6 months with my wife. As well as the many assignment benefits (paid flights, serviced apartment and daily allowance) it is a great insight into Asia's culture both at work and socially.

I have enjoyed working with the various colleagues in my teams so far and found it easy to approach very senior managers to discuss work, training and my long term job role as I approach the end of this graduate scheme.

