

# comp.news

The Newsletter from the Department of Computing

## Mainframe milestone for IBM

The importance of the Mainframe is rarely considered, yet the top 25 banks, with customers using their cash machines, could not do without them. Surrey was the first University in the UK to run a mainframe-based curriculum as part of our MSc in IC and STA programmes. This helped IBM achieve a milestone in the number of colleges and universities globally that are actively teaching and developing mainframe courses and accredited certificates through its Academic Initiative for System z. *"The new large enterprise systems curriculum has generated a great deal of interest and our students are telling us two things: they are highly enthusiastic about mainframe-related career opportunities, and they*

*believe the mainframe platform has a tremendous future as it continues to evolve"* said Professor Steve Schneider, Head of Department.



Mainframe Computing class in progress, February 2008

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

## About the Department

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

Good University Guide	7th
Times Good University Guide	8th
Guardian University Guide	14th

**National Student Survey**  
90% overall satisfaction  
95% employment rate

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## Top ranking again

Two newly released league tables have ranked Computing at Surrey highly again this year. *The Good University Guide* ranks Computer Science at Surrey in 7th place, improving on last year's 8th position. *The Guardian University Guide* ranks Computing and IT at Surrey in 14th place, improving on 18th. Key reasons for these rankings include producing some of the most employable graduates with, for example, the 2007 National Student Survey reporting 95% of

our graduates in employment after 6 months of leaving university, student satisfaction with teaching, and overall added value with comparatively higher degree grades versus entry qualifications.

## David's marathon of marathons

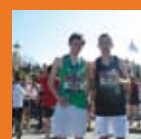
Computing PhD student David Williams is attempting to run 200km in a number of races to raise £1500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. David has

completed a number of shorter races, as well as the Barcelona Marathon, in which he managed to finish in 3 hours 54 minutes. Ahead of him are the Isle of Wight and Berlin marathons, as well as other, shorter races. If you wish to help him meet his target, you can sponsor him at <http://www.justgiving.com/williamsberlin>.



David and his medal in Barcelona

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## 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 Modelling and Simulation (CMS)**  
Mixing core computing and mathematics for modelling

**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: [feps-pg@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:feps-pg@surrey.ac.uk)

## Celebrating student success

April 4th saw the graduation of our higher degree students. In total, 18 graduated from the MSc IC programme and 27 from IS, 19 from both programmes with a distinction. 7 were also awarded their PhDs. During the spring we are also pleased to report that Wilson Ifill, Craig Bennett, Yusuf Almas Mubarak and Yu Fu successfully defended their PhD theses.

PhD student Neil Newbold was recently awarded a grant to attend the 30th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) in Glasgow. This is internationally the most prestigious conference of its kind, covering a variety of techniques relating to searching the Web, with industry participants and presenters from the likes of Google, Microsoft and IBM.

## Recent research publications

Casey, M.C. & Pavlou, A. (2008). A Behavioral Model of Sensory Alignment in the Superficial and Deep Layers of the Superior Colliculus. *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2008*, Hong Kong: IEEE.

Duan, G., Ho, A.T.S. & Zhao, X. (2008). A Novel Non-redundant Contourlet Transform for Robust Image Watermarking against Non-geometrical and Geometrical Attacks. *Proceedings of the 5th International IET Conference on Visual Information Engineering 2008 (VIE'08)*, Xi'an: IET.

Fu, Y. & Browne, A. (2008). Investigating the Influence of Feature Correlations on Automatic Relevance Determination. *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2008*, Hong Kong: IEEE.

Huang, W., Ho, A.T.S. & Pankajakshan, V. (2008). Watermarking-Based Content Authentication of Motion-JPEG Sequences. *Proceedings of the 5th International IET Conference on Visual Information Engineering 2008 (VIE'08)*, Xi'an: IET.

Shields, M. & Casey, M.C. (2008). A Theoretical Framework for Multiple Neural Network Systems. *Neurocomputing*, vol. 71(7-9), pp. 1462-1476.

## Where are they now?



Kate Taylor, CIT 2006  
IT Specialist, IBM

Kate joined IBM as an IT specialist working in IBM Global Business Services upon graduating in 2006. Prior to this, Kate also spent a year at IBM working on placement in Sales Operations at IBM Bedfont Lakes. Since returning to IBM as a graduate, Kate has worked in a variety of roles starting in IT support and development before moving onto project management roles on IBM's account with O2. Kate is working to build strong links between IBM and Surrey, and works as one of IBM's University Liaison volunteers. She has also recently joined the Department's Industrial Advisory Board.

