

CEMS RESEARCH & GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS

March 2006

Graduate School Events

January's Graduate School Conference was a great success, with a large attendance and very positive feedback.

New Grant and Contract Awards

The following new external grant awards have been announced:

- Systems Engineering for Autonomous Systems DTC award to Chris Melhuish, Tony Pipe, Rick Hyde (PI, University of Bristol) and Jeremy Burn (University of Bristol) for an "Investigation into the benefits of compliant legged robots for cross-country mobility" value £176,689, duration 2 years.
- European Social Fund (ESF) award to Thomas Pearce for "Training in Machining Processes" with a value of £76,298, duration 22 months.
- Great Western Research PhD studentship awarded to Alan Jocelyn for "Research into Laser Transparent Ceramics", total value £63,220.
- Great Western Research PhD studentship awarded to Chris Melhuish for "Instrumentation of Robot Hand", total value £36,420.
- Leverhulme Trust award to Andrew Adamatzky for visiting Professorship for Prof. Jonathan Mills, University of Indiana, USA, value £44,000.
- VOSCUR (the voice of Bristol's community and voluntary sector) award to Nick Plant for the "Bristol Community ICT development project BrisCIT-Four" with funding of £18,000, duration 5 months.
- Consultancy projects (3) awarded to the Institute of Grinding Technology (Thomas Pearce), total value £8,700.

New Bids

Bidding activity continues strongly. The following table shows recent bids:

Principal Investigator	Project Title	Value	Funder
Ana Sendova-Franks	The Collective Intelligence of Movement in Ants	£17,000	Leverhulme Trust
Ana Sendova-Franks	Understanding Dynamic Social Networks Using Ant Colonies as a Model System	£460,000	EPSRC
Ian Parmee	A Consortium to find Robust Solutions to Combinatorial Optimisation Problems	£55,370	EPSRC
John Lanham	UWE - Bath IeMRC Electronics Costing Project	£34,000	EPSRC
Tony Solomonides	MaTTrIX	€ 1,200,000 (to consortium)	EU - Marie Curie
Lyndon Smith	Optics and Photonics 2006 Conference Grant	£1,380	Royal Society e-Gap

Alistair Clark	Mentoring African Research in Mathematics	0	Nuffield Foundation
Chris Melhuish	Equipment Bid: Rapid Prototyping 3D Printer to Support Robotics Research	Equipment only	EPSRC
Thomas Pearce	Analysis of Grinding Burn	£2,500	DARA
Sean Watson (HLSS), Ian Parmee	Culture As An Emergent Process	€393,942	EC
Melvyn Smith	Facial Recognition using Photometric Stereo	£255,082	EPSRC
Quan Zhu	Incoming short visit from Mexico	£3,900	Royal Soc E-Gap

IP-CC Launch

The Launch event for the Institute for People-centred Computation (IP-CC) took place on the Thursday, 2nd March. The event was very successful with around forty-five attendees of which the majority was from industry. The Institute has emerged from the EPSRC 'Discovery in Design' cluster and is a joint venture between Bristol UWE and the Universities of Bristol, Cardiff and Cambridge. The evening comprised short presentations, poster displays and a buffet. Interest in the Institute is high and the degree of commercial interest is particularly encouraging. Visit <http://www.ip-cc.org.uk/> and / or contact Ian Parmee for more information, membership forms and details of coming events.

New Programmes

The following new programmes have been announced to start in September, subject to validation: MSc Grid Computing, MSc Music Technology, MSc Mechanical Engineering, MSc Robotics.

New Research Students

Paul Bremner, Adam Budd, Barry Dean have begun research degrees since January.

In The News

As part of the 200 year anniversary of I.K. Brunel, Bristol TV company 123 Media are staging a competition between Bristol, UWE and Bath to find the Brunels of the future. CEMS, jointly with FAS, has entered a team of two PhD students, Matt Studley and Adam Budd, to present their project entitled 'New Brains for New Robots – the challenge of programming a wet brain'. Filming of the project has taken place and the TV programme will be broadcast on ITV West on 20th April.

In January Alan Winfield, together with co-editors Alan Osborne and Vivian Pope, launched their book *Distant Action and Correlation in Modern Physics: the Balanced Universe*, published by the Edwin Mellen Press.

Early in January CEMS hosted the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) Residential Workshop, attended by some 100 Year 12 students, their teachers, and around 40 engineers from industry. The EES forms part of the Royal Academy of Engineering's BEST programme, which aims to engage and inspire thousands of young people to opportunities in science, engineering and technology.

Dylan Evans wrote a comment piece entitled 'The Savage Solution' for The Guardian, published 27 February. Link: www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1718616,00.html