## Postgraduate Research Students

Featured Student – Peter Baloh

Peter Baloh's MPhil study is supervised by Dr Maria Burke. He is a lecturer in Business Information Systems and Managing Information Systems at The University of Lbujliana, Slovenia.

He has acted as guest-editor of a special issue of Journal of Organizational and End User Computing on the topic of 'Interacting with Knowledge Management Systems'. The double special issue will appear in Summer and Fall this year. He was also invited to the editorial review board of the International Journal of Knowledge Management, published by Idea Group, edited by Murray Jennex. In April 2007 he acts as KM-track char at 6th ISOneWorld 2007 conference. In January 2008 he acts as 'KM Implementations Issues' mini-track chair at 41st HICSS 2008 conference. Peter is almost ready to submit his thesis and hopes to graduate this year. Publications accepted and presentations held since November:

- BALOH, P. (2007 (forthcoming)) The Role of Fit in the Knowledge Management Systems: Tentative Propositions of the KMS Design. Journal of Organizational & End User Computing.
- BALOH, P. (2006) Why KM projects get abandoned and why shouldn't they? (In Slovene). E-Revir.
- BALOH, P. (2007 (forthcoming)) The Role of Fit in the Knowledge Management Systems. Proceedings of the 6th ISOneWorld Conference 2007, April 11-13, 2007. Las Vegas, NV, USA, 2007.
- BALOH, P. & BURKE, M. E. (2007 (forthcoming)) Attaining Organisational Innovations – Better Smart than Fast. Proceedings of the IFIP 8.6 2007, University of Salford, June 14-16, 2007. Manchester, UK, 2007.
- BALOH, P., WECHT, C. H. & DESOUZA, K. C. (2006) Managing Knowledge in Fuzzy Front End of Open Innovation. Proceedings of the MIC'06-7th International Conference of the Faculty of Management Koper, University of Primorska, November 23-25, 2006. Portoroz, Slovenia, 2006.
- DESOUZA, K. C., AWAZU, Y., JHA, S., DOMBROWSKI, C., PAPAGARI, S., BALOH, P. & KIM, J. Y. (2007 (forthcoming)) Customer-Driven Innovation. Research-Technology Management.
- DOMBROWSKI, C., KIM, J. Y., DESOUZA, K. C., BRAGANZA, A., PAPAGARI, S., BALOH, P. & JHA, S. (2007 (forthcoming)) Elements of Innovative Cultures. Knowledge and Process Management Journal.

## New PhD Students

Nadim ADI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. David Roberts
Samer AYYAT, MPhil, Supervisor: Dr Adil Al-Yasiri
Hasan BUABBAS, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Yacine Rezgui
Priya DEY, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. David Roberts
Linda EL-QAISI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Yacine Rezgui
Othman ESOUL, MPhil, Supervisor: Prof. Grahame Cooper
Graham HICKEY, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Farid Meziane
Jiten MAKAN, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Maria Kutar
James MULKEEN, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Carole Roberts
Linda PRINCE, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Carole Roberts
Rosidah SAM, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Samia Nefti-Meziani

## Assessments

Oliver Otto (supervised by Prof. David Roberts) and Hamed Al-Hajri (supervised by Prof. Yacine Rezgui) have passed their vivas, having been given typographical changes and minor suggestions for improvement only. The following students have passed their interim assessments since December 2006: Majed AL-BRAITHEN, Maha AL-RASHED, Tayfour MOHAMMED, Chalee VORAKULPIPAT, Xiao XIONG

## New members

Dawn Shawn, School of Computing Science and Engineering, has become an associate member of CFERA.

## New staff

Dr Peter Wheeler – Research Assistant, Combating eDiscrimination in the North West Project, Research interests are in the broad arena of social policy and employment with regard to disabled people. He has conducted original historical research to uncover over the past century the many attempts made by government, employers, TUC, and organised groups of disabled people to engage more impaired people in the workforce. More recent research has investigated the way organisations engage with diversity and equal opportunity policies when using both a business case and arguments of social justice in employment decisions. Current research involves the concept of eDiscrimination and how barriers to inclusion in labour markets are constructed through inaccessible web content design.

Prof. David Roberts is getting married this Easter, congratulations.

## Newsletter Submissions

**The next issue of the IRIS newsletter will be published in March 2007; 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**

University of Salford
A Greater Manchester University

IRIS
Informatics Research Institute

# Welcome to IRIS

March 07
newsletter

## Research Institute Director

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Yacine Rezgui for all of his hard work in developing the Informatics Research Institute to the level it has achieved over the four years of his term of office as Director.

When Yacine steps down in April, he will leave a Research Institute that is unrecognizable in almost every way, with much clearer structures and identity, a Doctoral School to be proud of, and an enviable reputation both inside and outside of The University.

During the last few years he has developed new lines of research, leading to his current primary area of work in relation to knowledge management in virtual organizations and the distributed IT systems that support them.

He has managed to continue to pursue his line of personal research whilst securing and completing a number of successful research projects, working tirelessly on behalf of IRIS and we look forward to seeing exciting developments in this area in the future.

## Recent Events

On Saturday 3rd February The University hosted the BALEAP (British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes) Professional Interest Meeting on Testing and Assessment. The meeting was attended by 70 delegates from universities around the UK. It was opened by Professor Carole Roberts from Salford's Higher Education Research Centre and the plenary lecture was provided by Professor Barry O'Sullivan of the Centre for Language Assessment Research, Roehampton University. Parallel presentations on many aspects of language testing followed throughout the day. Delegates were very positive about the meeting, finding it interesting and useful in combining research, theory and practice in this important area of language teaching.

IRIS hosted a successful workshop for the Psychology of Programming Interest Group (PPIG) on 4-5th January. Organised by Dr Maria Kutar, with invaluable assistance from Nathalie Audren-Howarth and Emily Hughes, the workshop attracted participants from Microsoft Corp, together with researchers from Denmark, Germany and Ireland. A wide range of topics were discussed, from a session on critical thinking, to Information System Design, and Computer Science Education.

A number of participants commented on the excellent facilities and it is hoped that the workshop will be hosted at Salford again in future years. Thanks must go to IRIS for providing financial support to the workshop, which enabled costs to be kept to a minimum, ensuring that the workshop was accessible to PhD students. A number of the participants have contributed their review of the workshop to the PPIG newsletter at: http://www.ppig.org/newsletters/2007-03.html.

Photographs courtesy of Luke Church Photography

# Upcoming Events

Registration is now open for the IFIP8.6 conference, this is a major IFIP conference and we are delighted that IRIS have been selected to host the event this year. The theme of this year's conference is 'Organisational Dynamics of Technology-based Innovation'. We are pleased to announce that after a rigorous reviewing process over 25 papers have been accepted together with two panels, there will also be keynote speeches from Prof Bob Galliers of Bentley College, USA and from Gerry Pennel who is the Chief Information Officer for Co-operative Financial Services and the Co-operative Group. There is also a pre-conference Doctoral Consortium (13th June 2007) that we strongly encourage doctoral students to attend. Further information regarding the conference is available at: http://www.ifip86-2007.salford.ac.uk/ or from the conference Programme Chair Tom McMaster (T.McMaster@salford.ac.uk) or from the conference organising chair Dr Elaine Ferneley (E.Ferneley@salford.ac.uk)

# Esteem

Prof. Alison Adam is Track Chair for the Information and Computer Ethics Track of ECAP 2007 (European Conference on Computers and Philosophy); she is also a programme committee member for CEPE 2007 (Computer Ethics Philosophical Enquiry). Prof. Adam has been invited to be on a panel on research excellence at the UKAIS conference in April 2007 at The University of Manchester. Prof. Adam has also been invited to contribute to the INFWEST Doctoral Education programme in June 2007 in the University of Turku, Finland. INFWEST is the combined Finnish universities doctoral programme. She will be giving a series of workshops and lectures on gender and IT along with Eileen Trauth of Penn State University, USA, and Marja Vehvilainen from the University of Tampere, Finland.

Dr Maria Burke has had a keynote speaker invitation from The Polish Society for Information Science for the IX Forum on Scientific and Technical Information conference at Zakopane, Poland in September 2007.
Dr Burke has been invited panel chair for the Philosophical Conversations in Information Management panel at IRMA 2007 to be held in Vancouver, Canada.

Marie Griffiths has been invited as an Associate Editor onto a proposed Researching Ethics Track for ECIS 2008 (European Conference in Information Systems) in Galway, Ireland.

Dr Ben Light is Associate Editor for the 2007 European Conference on IS, to be held in St. Gallen, Switzerland. For the 2007 UKAIS conference, Dr Light is on the Programme Committee and has been invited to be a facilitator at the PhD Consortium. Also, Dr Light sat on the panel "SSIT Researchers Versus the IS Community: Are SSIT Researchers Isolated form the IS Community as a Whole?" at the 3rd Social Study of ICT Open Research Forum, held at the London School of Economics 21st-22nd March 2007.

Dr Helen Richardson has been invited by Soon Ang from Nanyang Business School (Singapore) and Allen Lee from Virginia Commonwealth University (USA) to be an Associate editor on the conference track 'Diversity in Information Systems Research and Practice' International Conference on Information Systems 2007.

Prof. Sunil Vadera has recently been elected Vice-Chair of the BCS Academic Accreditations Committee (2007-08). He has also been invited to give a presentation on, "The benefits of professional accreditation" at a Northern UKAIS workshop in February 2007.

# Funded Projects

Dr Elaine Ferneley has won funding from HEFCE's Strategic Development Funded Project, Urban Regeneration: Making a Difference. Dr Ferneley's specific project has been awarded £31,000 and is a collaborative venture with UCLAN and MMU which aims to focus on how crime affects SMEs, and particularly new SMEs. Salford's contribution to the project is in the area of ICT fraud and they will be working with entrepreneurs and advisers in New Entrepreneur Scholarships (www.nesprogramme.org), Carlisle MBC and the Blackpool Tourism Support Bureau to investigate barriers to putting protection in place and to develop training materials on crime prevention that are appropriate to the needs of emerging enterprises.

Dr Maria Burke has been awarded a research study award from the Polish Embassy in London, the amount has yet to be announced. The work will take place in March 2007 concerning the use of knowledge management in SMEs in Krakow, working with the Jagellonian University, Poland.

The Higher Education Academy, via Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, have approved funding for Huw Jarvis to deliver a presentation on ELT research. "From conception to publication: conducting research in English language teaching (ELT)" will be presented at York Saint John University on 11th May. This event is open to everyone in the HE sector and will help raise the profile of educational-based ELT research at Salford.

Three ESF research projects started in January 2007:
- David Kreps's 'Combating eDiscrimination in the North West' (£85K)
- Helen Richardson's 'GATE Project NW' (£105K)
- Frances Bell's 'KAN (Know and Network): Women in IT' (£74K)

## CVE News

CVE (Centre for Virtual Environments) research and research facilities are moving to Newton building. The new facilities will be far more reconfigurable than the old, allowing a better fit to a wider range of applications, and will be used to investigate the next generation of collaborative visualisation, including tele-immersion.

The BBC have awarded the first collaborative mini-project to a Manchester area university in preparation for their move to Salford, to the CVE. David Roberts, Tim Ritchings, Robin Wolff and Kiên Hoàng Lê will be working with the BBC to adapt their mixed reality technology to support an unprecedented level of tele-immersion which will be demonstrated in the new facility being built in Newton.

# Publications

## Books

- McMaster, T., Wastell, D., G., Ferneley, E. & DeGross, J., I. (editors), Organisational Dynamics of Technology-based Innovation: Diversifying the Research Agenda, New York, Springer, 2007.

## Journal Papers

- Ferneley, E. H. (2007) Covert end user development: A study of success. Journal of Organizational and End User Computing 19 (1), 62-71.
- K A H Kobbacy, S Vadera and M H Rasmy (2007) AI and OR in management of operations: history and trends. Journal of the Operational Research Society. 58 (1) 10-28.
- Ibarguengoyatia, P., Vadera, S. and Sucar, E, (2006) A Probabilistic Model for Information and Sensor Validation. The Computer Journal, 49 (1), 113-126.
- Light, B. and Wagner, E. (2007) Achieving Enterprise Integration through Software Customization: Part I - Evidence From the Field. Cutter Consortium Business-IT Strategies Advisory Service: Executive Update, (10) 4.
- Light, B. and Wagner, E. (2007) Achieving Enterprise Integration through Software Customization: Part II - Enacting the Strategy. Cutter Consortium Business-IT Strategies Advisory Service: Executive Update (10) 5.
- Lindsay, S., Smith, S., Bell, F. & Bellaby, P. (2007) Tackling the Digital Divide: Exploring the Impact of ICT on Managing Heart Conditions in a Deprived Area. Information, Communication and Society. 10(1).
- Rezgui, Y. (2007), Exploring Virtual Team-Working Effectiveness in the Construction Sector, Interacting with Computers (Elsevier), 19(2), pp 96-112.
- Rezgui, Y. (2007), Knowledge Systems and Value Creation: An Action Research Investigation, Industrial Management and Data Systems (Emerald), 107(2), pp 166-182.
- Rezgui, Y. (2007), Role-Based Service-Oriented Implementation of a Virtual Enterprise: A Case Study in the Construction Sector, Computers in Industry (Elsevier), 58(1), pp 74-86.
- Wetherill, M., Rezgui, Y., Boddy, S., Cooper, G. (2007), Intra and Inter-Organisational Knowledge Services to Promote Informed Sustainability Practices, Computing in Civil Engineering (American Society of Civil Engineering), 21(2), pp. 78-89.

## Papers in Press:

- Griffiths, M., Moore, K. and Richardson, H. (2007) Celebrating Heterogeneity? A Survey of Female ICT Professionals in England. Information Communication and Society Journal (forthcoming).

## Conferences

- Barresi, S., Nefti-Meziani, S. and Rezgui, Y. (2007) 'A New Conceptual Approach to Document Indexing' accepted for the Eight International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics (CICLing 2007).
- Burns, B., Griffiths, M. and Moore, K. (2007) 'Gendered Processes of Leaving the ICT Industry: Co-Producing and Understanding', Gender, Work and Organisation Conference 2007, Keele University, UK.
- Burns, B. and Light, B. (2007) 'User Led Innovation in Call Centre Knowledge Work: A Social Shaping Perspective' accepted for IFIP 8.6, Organisational Dynamics of Technology-based Innovation: Diversifying the Research Agenda.
- Gillard, H., Howcroft, D., Mitev, N., Richardson, H. and Ferneley, E. (2007) 'Shaping the global economy: gender, ICT's and development research' paper accepted for the IFIP 9.4 9th International conference on the Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, Brazil.
- Griffiths, M. and Light, B. (2007) 'Risky Business: when a CRM vendor masqueraded as an ERP specialist' ECIS (European Conference in Information Systems), Switzerland.
- Griffiths, M., Alison, A., Burns, B. and Richardson, H. (2007) 'Disappearing from the Knowledge Based Economy? Moving from technology-orientated knowledge work to human-orientated knowledge work', Gender, Work and Organisation Conference 2007, Keele University, UK.
- Howcroft, D., Knox, H., Richardson, H. and Westrup, C. (2007) 'Global shared service centres: exploring assumptions and contradictions' paper accepted for the 5th Critical Management Studies conference, Manchester Business School, UK.
- Howcroft, D. and Richardson, H. (2007) 'Gender matters in the global shared services sector' accepted for the Gender, Work and Organisation conference, Keele, UK.
- Keogh, C., (2007) 'Gender, ICT and Work-Life Balance' accepted for the Gender, Work and Organisation Conference 2007, Keele University, UK.
- Keogh, C., Richardson, H. and Tattersall, A. (2007) 'Gender, work and employability in the ICT sector' Invited keynote speakers to the Centre for Social and Policy Research, University of Teesside, 2007.
- Light, B. (2007) '(Social) Construction Workers on the Net: Gaydar and the Shaping of Masculinities' accepted for the 5th Biennial International Interdisciplinary Conference: Gender, Work and Organization.
- Mohammed, T. and Richardson, H. (2007) 'Implementation of Customer Services Information Systems Strategy in Higher Education Context: An Integrative Perspective' paper accepted for IFIP 8.6, Manchester, UK.
- Rezgui, Y. and Nefti-Meziani, S. (2007), Ontology-Based Dynamic Composition of Services Using Semantic Relatedness and Categorisation Techniques, Accepted for ICEIS: 9th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems, 12-16, June 2007, Funchal, Madeira - Portugal.
- Tattersall, A. (2007) 'Social Capital and gender related factors in UK ICT' accepted for the Gender, Work and Organisation Conference 2007, Keele University, UK.
- Tattersall, A., Keogh, C., and Richardson, H. (2007) 'The Gender Pay Gap in ICT' accepted for the Information Resources Management Association (IRMA) Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
- Vorakulpipat, C and Rezgui, Y. (2007),Value Creation: The Next Generation of Knowledge Management, Accepted for IRMA 2007: Information Resources Management Association International Conference, Vancouver.

# Seminar Programme

**Technology and Collaboration,** Dr Will Venters, London School of Economics, 28th February 2007.
**Classification Association Rules Mining,** Dr Frans Coenen, The University of Liverpool, 2pm, 14th March 2007, Maxwell 526/7.
**RU Robots,** Geoff Pegman, 18th April 2007.
**Industry Analysts and their Tools,** Dr Neil Pollock, University of Edinburgh, 18th April 2007.

Prof. John Miles, Cardiff University, 9th May 2007.
Nicki Panteli, University of Bath, 23rd May 2007.
Lin Yan, University of Wales, 23rd May 2007.

## The Leverhulme Lecture Series

Prof. H.K.Klein gave his fourth Leverhulme Lecture on the 12th January 2007 on the topic of 'Principles of Critical Field Research from Nietzsche to Habermas: Going beyond Interpretivism?'. The session was well attended by colleagues from across the country.

The above picture shows Prof. Klein being presented with a gift to thank him for his contribution to IRIS (from left to right, Dr Ben Light, Dr Kathy McGrath, Brunel University, Dr Maria Burke, Tayfour Mohammed, Dr Helen Richardson, Prof. H.K.Klein, State University of New York, Binghampton, USA, and Prof. Andrew Basden).