I’m delighted to be able to introduce this CCT Newsletter as neither an academic nor somebody who could write a line of code if my life depended on it but, like every business person these days, understanding both of these areas is a vital part of formulating, developing and executing a strategy to give competitive advantage to your business. It was for this reason that Webmart, my company which project manages the buying and selling of print all over the world from unusual yellow sheds in Bicester, Barnsley and East Kilbride, engaged with Oxford Brookes to be their first Knowledge Transfer Partner almost 10 years ago.

Even in those early days the insight from working with a data analyst gave us a whole new world of opportunity for Webmart and I’m sure that if you have the opportunity to engage with the staff and students within this department, you too can get a fantastic opportunity to glimpse into the future of your business, or your future career, depending on whether you are an employer or a prospective student.

I’ve always been very impressed with the way that Oxford Brookes combines eclectic faculties such as computer science, engineering and arts to come up with unique solutions to the problems of today and as such I’m delighted to have been a long standing member of the industry advisory board for this department. I hope that by having a flick through this newsletter you’ll get an appreciation of the wide range of activities which are taking place in the department and that you’ll find something to encourage you to engage with the department and to create new added value for everybody involved.

Onwards and upwards!

Simon Biltcliffe
CEO, Webmart Limited

Misbah Munir is the Guest Editor for this edition of the CCT Newsletter. Misbah is an International student pursuing her master’s degree in Computer Vision in CCT. Before joining Oxford Brookes University, she gained a bachelor’s degree in Computer Software Engineering and she worked in as a laboratory engineer and then as digital marketing professional for 5 years.
STUDENT SPEAKS AT LONDON CONFERENCE

Seren Davies, an undergraduate student in CCT, recently spoke at a conference - EpicFEL (held at the Sadler’s Wells theatre in London on 15 September, giving a talk entitled ‘Death to Icon Fonts’. EpicFEL is a full-day conference which is built around the front-end community in London. Seren has also written an article ‘Icon Fonts’ that is being published in Net Magazine this month as part of the web standards column.

SUCCESS AT ITMB NORTH EVENT

Students from the department’s BSc Information Technology Management for Business and BSc Software Development for Business degrees, attended the ITMB North Event 2015 in Manchester at the beginning of December.

First and second year teams competed with students from 11 other UK universities, in front of judges from 21 top organisations. Inspirational talks from senior staff at the organisations, insights into the recruitment process and how to do well, and plenty of opportunities for networking completed a very busy day for the students.

Everyone involved had a great day – especially our first Year ITMB team, who won 3rd prize in their competition, presenting their response to the question: “How can you use technology to change the spectator experience at the 2016 Rio Olympics?”

GRADUATE EMPLOYED BY ROCKSTAR NORTH

Oliver Parker, an alumnus from CCT who studied BSc Computer Games and Animation, and who was awarded the BCS prize for best final year project, has just been employed as a Junior Engine Programmer at Rockstar North, one of the best known development studios in the world and the developers of the Grand Theft Auto series of games.

POSTER PRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

George McDonnell, a final year student on the Computer Science programme, has been selected by the committee of the PESE 2 Get Published project to receive funding to present a poster in parliament in February 2016 on the topic of his dissertation: ‘Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury Patient Rehabilitation Through the User-centred Design of a Mobile Application’. George’s abstract was selected as one of only two in the University to receive this opportunity.
The Robot Sumo event was the culmination of the first semester for the Computing for Robotic Systems students. This new programme began last September, and ten students have completed their first robotic mini-project. The students have built their own sumo robot, using the principles of programming and simple electronics and engineering to complete their robots. These were pitted against each other in the final lecture of the semester on 7 December 2015. Wally the robot won the final against Duck, although the competition was tight, and there were some great builds.
STEVE HARLAND

Steve Harland was a student on the BSc Computer Science programme, studying part time. He graduated with an Honours degree in June 2015. Steve describes his time at Brookes and his current work.

I began in software test in R&D and as a part-time student I’ve had a multitude of jobs around Oxford, some technical and related to my course, and some just to pad my wallet. Most notably in 2014-15 I worked for a company called A Fox Wot I Drew (AFWID) Ltd, of which I’m a founding member, on the indie game Baum. This opportunity came about as a result of the student competition Dare to be Digital, hosted by Abertay University, where we won the Commercial Potential award, and this led to us receiving funding from Design in Action to turn Baum into a full game.

The company A Fox Wot I Drew is located in Dundee (Scotland), but I was based in London, working remotely.

Within AFWID I acted as the Technical Director, looking after our email systems and website, but also attending various London events, including EGX, UKIE and Pocket Gamer.

My role in the development of Baum was to program the core mechanics of a 2D touch game, focusing on the physics and maths behind a 2D droplet.

Game development can be highly rewarding, and it’s a constant challenge. While there’s definitely stress and frustration, you’re constantly encouraged to look at problems from different angles and develop a new approach. When you succeed it is very gratifying. Baum is now nearing completion so my role is now over, but the work has given me considerable experience in designing with Unity3D (C#).

In September 2015 I joined the John Lyon School in Harrow with the aim of training for a PGCE teaching qualification. I currently do some teaching and get involved in lots of activities and games options to supervise the boys. The role itself currently involves following a pre-set scheme of work for year seven, teaching them eSafety, correct use of a word processor, and starting to get them to make their own blogs, before introducing them to programming through Scratch. The year eights have built their own mini websites using Weebly, and are going to move onto binary maths, Boolean operators, and eventually Python.

My Computer Science degree at Oxford Brookes has proved valuable. It gave me the opportunity to enter the Dare competition and subsequently join AFWID and I regularly use the programming and design skills I learned during my degree.

I would definitely recommend Brookes for studying Computer Science given the high calibre of teaching and the support offered. My career advice to current students at Oxford Brookes is to get involved in a wide range of activities to gain experience. The various societies and events around Oxford can also help to expose you to new experiences, and build up tangential skills. Specifically for tech jobs however, I’d recommend building a website and portfolio of projects and work, as it showcases your skills to potential employers. I’m making one myself at the moment!

As a Londoner I really enjoyed the experience of living and studying in Oxford. It’s a wonderful city, and I really miss my morning commute through the centre. It caters to all tastes, and it’s very easy to make friends.
Before going to Oxford Brookes I had obtained an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Mathematics at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. For a long time I had yearned to go to Oxford and study in Brookes, so my MSc degree has offered me the chance to live my dream.

The growth in communication technologies makes mobile telecommunication a compelling subject. The prospects appear even more inviting in Africa where current penetration levels leave huge opportunities for expansion in the years ahead, so I searched for a postgraduate programme that connects mobile telecommunications and broadband networks. The Mobile and High Speed Telecommunications programme at Brookes provides content relevant to modern telecommunication systems. I found the course uniquely attractive and with the prospects to enable me to rise to my challenges. Oxford city itself with its great history appealed to me and so added flavour to my decision.

I enjoyed the cordial atmosphere in the university community. The staff are highly supportive, always willing to listen and offer proper advice. It was quite interesting to study under lecturers with a good mix of industry and teaching experiences. Access to the appropriate software and excellent learning facilities was a big boost to my studies. Students’ voices are heard and considered in decision making which creates a superb ambiance for teaching and learning. As a student representative, I saw positive changes come about because students were encouraged to make contributions in all areas that touch on the students’ academic life. There is a wide racial diversity at Oxford Brookes University and meeting people from all over the world makes Brookes an exceptional place to study.

Following my graduation, I summarised my dissertation into a paper titled ‘Mobile Networks Beyond 4G’. The paper was accepted by the International Association of Engineers and I was invited to make an oral presentation which I did at the World Congress on Engineering 2015 held at the Imperial College London.

After completing the master’s programme at Brookes, I returned to my teaching post at the School of Applied Sciences of the Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, Nigeria and I was excited to receive a promotion letter upon my homecoming. Working with the school’s Examination Committee, I am trying to bring innovative ideas to enhance teaching/learning and also to mitigate exam misconducts among students of the polytechnic, following some of the processes that are used at Brookes.

My research interests include Next Generation Mobile Networks, Heterogeneous Network, Interference Management, Electronic Learning, Radio Frequency Identification, Internet of Things and MIMO Systems. In the months ahead I am billed to attend conferences in Cairo, Hong Kong and Vancouver where I hope to present my ongoing research work. One of the papers is titled ‘Interference Mitigation for Femto Deployment in Next Generation Mobile Networks’.

Students hoping for quality higher education should consider Oxford Brookes University. What I studied in Brookes met my objectives and reflected my aspirations in ways no other university in the UK could have done. From whatever part of the world you come, Brookes welcomes all to learn and aspire. It is the place where a world of knowledge literally opens to the mind that is willing.
Ben Guy studied the undergraduate programme in Computer Science in CCT graduating with a First Class Honours degree in 2015. He is continuing his studies at Brookes as a postgraduate student in the MSc Computer Vision programme.

I chose the MSc Computer Vision programme because it looked like it would be a very interesting topic area to study, as well as a fairly new topic in the area of computer science. In addition to this, I have always been interested in robotics, and I felt that this degree course compliments that interest perfectly.

I felt that my undergraduate programme prepared me well for my Masters programme. My undergraduate degree taught me a range of skills, including time management, group collaboration, critical research and academic report writing. It also allowed me to identify the specific subject area within computer science in which I will strive to work in the future.

One thing I like about the MSc is that it allows me to focus on a topic area that I find extremely interesting, it also allows me to work with people who are also interested in the same topic area, and allows me to form connections with them for the future. Another thing I like about the MSc is that it allows me to implement my own ideas more often during coursework, as the coursework at MSc level is more focused on results achieved, rather than the implementation of the work itself.

My future career ambitions are to work for a major robotics research group. Most likely one related to that of robotic vision; however my postgraduate studies are also preparing me for a job in other areas such as machine learning, which would be equally as interesting for me as a career path. Ideally, I would also like to work abroad, possibly in California.

My advice to current undergraduate students is to try your very best while studying on your degree course when at Brookes. While some nights you may want to do other things than studying, when you think about it, you have one shot at your degree, so work hard and you will gain a highly sought after qualification which will benefit you for the rest of your life!
WORK PLACEMENTS

RECORD NUMBER OF PLACEMENT STUDENTS
Work Placement Manager, Andy King, is pleased to announce that we have received many excellent reports from company supervisors of students who were on placement last year. Students have been praised both for their technical expertise and their ability to contribute to the company.

In the current academic year we have 31 undergraduates undertaking a work placement. A list of the companies involved this year is shown below.

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We are now working with the current second year undergraduates to find suitable placement opportunities for the next academic year.

In addition, we are introducing placements for students on the taught master’s programmes and we are helping these students to prepare their CVs and find relevant employers. These placements will take place from May 2016 to April 2017.

WORK PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE
Asia Bee, a final year undergraduate student in Software Engineering, reflects on her Work Placement year at Ericsson.

I carried out a work placement for Ericsson, based in Reading, from July 2014 to August 2015. I found the placement through emails targeted for students looking for a placement. Initially there was a phone interview where I was asked about my interests and reasons for wanting to work with Ericsson. I was then called for an interview with other candidates. The interview itself involved solving technical problems as well as questions focusing on our soft skills. My degree subject of Software Engineering definitely helped me to get the job as they were only taking people for the placement who were studying a computing degree.

As it was a large company, I was able to work in different areas of the company. My role was initially as a software test developer and I was later promoted to the role of combined engineer. The work that I carried out included testing software, debugging defects, front end web development and ensuring that new code does not conflict with existing code.

I enjoyed meeting professionals, working with them and gaining practical experience based on the theory that I had learned at university. Not only was I able to develop my technical skills but also my soft skills. I learned new programming languages, how to work on large scale projects, how to work with other people’s code, teamwork, accountability and much more. I am sure that this experience will be valuable when I graduate and look for employment.

The work placement has made me aware of the wide range of roles that are available to someone with a computer degree. I think it is definitely a great investment. You learn skills that will be invaluable whatever path you choose to take in your career.

CAREERS FEST 2016
A team consisting of Bob Champion, Andy King, Bedour Alshaigy, Gurkirt Singh and Nigel Crook took Robbie and Artie to this year’s Careers Fest event at the BMW site on 19 and 20 January. The event consisted of about 50 exhibitors and was attended by over 2,000 pupils from schools in the region. This event is an important part of our outreach activities for promoting our portfolio of courses offered by the department. Many thanks to the team for giving up their time and for helping to set up, dismantle and transport the robots.
POSTGRADUATE NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PUBLICATIONS BY MSC STUDENTS

Leo Breton, a MSc Computer Science student, co-authored a paper with Phil Hughes, Steve Barker, Michael Pilling, Luis Fuente and Nigel Crook which has been accepted for the International Conference in Robot Ethics, Lisbon, 23 to 24 October 2015. The paper is entitled ‘The Impact of Leader-Follower Robot Collaboration Strategies on Perceived Safety and Intelligence’ and is based on his MSc project work.

Hilary Frank, an MSc student in Mobile and High Speed Telecommunications Networks, presented a paper entitled ‘Mobile Networks beyond 4G’ with Peter Ball at the World Congress on Engineering (WCE 2016), 3 July 2015, London, UK. This was based on his MSc project work carried out in 2014.

ECOLOGY SURVEYING

The Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation in HLS has developed an iPad based toolkit for ecology surveying [http://bms.brookes.ac.uk/ceec/hp1toolkit](http://bms.brookes.ac.uk/ceec/hp1toolkit). This has been accomplished with a huge amount of input from MSc student Rowan Jones. Rowan was a part time student on the Computer Science course and completed in September 2014. He worked on the project part time whilst completing his MSc.

SANTANDER PROJECT GRANT

Charles Alsoufi, a MSc eBusiness student, was awarded a £1,000 Santander Project Grant which enabled him to attend the Reimagine Education Awards & Conference that took place in Philadelphia in December 2015. Charles and Dr Samia Kamal presented the innovative pedagogic approach that has been developed for the MSc eBusiness programme called ‘Integrated assessment for cross-modular learning using client (live) projects’.
ARTIE MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION ON US AMBASSADOR

The US Ambassador Matthew W Barzun visited Oxford on Wednesday 30 September to meet with representatives of the city’s universities, Oxford City Council, social entrepreneurship leads and high-technology businesses. During his visit he met Artie and discussed research in robotics with Tjeerd olde Scheper and Suman Saha from CCT. The ambassador was keen to have his photograph taken with Artie!

NSS SUCCESS

The department is pleased to report that there has been a substantial improvement in its National Student Survey (NSS) results for 2015, with the overall satisfaction score for Computer Science rising from 72% in 2014 to 87% in 2015.

RESEARCH STUDENT TEAM WINS ‘BEST TEAMWORK’ PRIZE

A team of six CCT research students: Adedotun Adeyemo, Adewole Ogunyadeka, Basel Youssef, Bedour Alshaigy, Cristian Roman and Min Han Lee participated in the Engineering Yes workshop in Milton Keynes from 31 May to 3 June. This residential programme provides training for research students and introduces them to business people, business thinking, enterprising environments. At the end of the three day training, each team had to make a formal oral presentation of their business plan before a panel of judges comprising business and venture capital representatives. The Brookes team named VivaTech defended their idea of a wearable device that can detect and prevent back pains related to bad back postures. Team Vivatech won a prize for the ‘Best Teamwork’.

SMART OXFORD CHALLENGE

Ruizhi Liao, Cristian Roman, Shumao Ou and Peter Ball were one of 13 teams that presented their ideas at the Smart Oxford Challenge, organised by Nominet and held at the Jam Factory in Oxford, on 18 September 2015. The CCT team pitched a real time parking detection system based on a prototype system developed in the department. The CCT team benefitted from advice provided by a range of technical and business experts throughout the day and then, in the evening, presented the concept to a panel including Nicola Blackwood, the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, and members of the City and County Council.
BBC CLICK PROGRAMME

On Monday 14 September Suman Saha, Cigdem Sengul, Phil Hughes, Nati Lopez and Nigel Crook went with recent computing graduates Hannah Ierardi and Ben Guy and a collection of robot demos to BBC Broadcasting House to contribute to the Machine Intelligence day that the BBC was covering across a range of programmes throughout the day. Research from the Cognitive Robotics Laboratory featured in nine short broadcasts on the BBC News Channel and BBC World TV. Robots Artie, Baxter and Eddie featured prominently in six broadcasts in which Nigel Crook was interviewed by Spencer Kelly from the BBC Click programme. In this trailer for BBC Global, Artie threatens to take over the BBC: https://youtu.be/wfHYbTpdzdg

TEENTECH BRISTOL

PhD student Gurkirt Singh and Nigel Crook took Artie and one of the Nao robots to the TeenTech event which was held on 8 October at the Bristol County Cricket Ground. The event was sponsored by Airbus and attracted 300 young teenagers from 30 local schools in a day of interactive activities offered by a wide range of major industry firms.
FORMER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, PROFESSOR DAVID DUCE, ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Professor David Duce, who joined Oxford Brookes in February 2000 after a distinguished career in industry, announced his retirement in September. For the benefit of CCT Newsletter readers, we would like to provide a brief overview of David’s career and highlight his considerable achievements in the fields of computer graphics and web technologies.

David studied chemistry at the University of Nottingham and after finishing his PhD joined the Basic Software Group at Atlas Computer Laboratory at Chilton, led by Bob Hopgood, in September 1974. He soon moved into the computer graphics area and was encouraged by Bob to participate in the development of ISO/IEC standards for computer graphics through BSI and ISO/IEC committees. He was the document editor for the Graphical Kernel System (GKS), the first ISO/IEC standard for computer graphics, and contributed to other standards including PHIGS, PREMO and later PNG.

He followed Bob Hopgood and Rob Watt as academic co-ordinator of the SRC (now EPSRC) Distributed Computing Systems Programme which ran from 1978 to 1984. During this time he developed an interest in formal methods and when the programme ended, he obtained funding, initially from the Alvey Programme, for work on applications of formal methods to the specification of graphics standards. Later this led to collaborative work with David Duke at York (now Leeds) and psychologists Phil Barnard and Jon May on applications of formal methods in HCI, leading to the discovery of a modelling technique termed syndetic modelling. Work in this period was supported by a number of EU Esprit programme projects. He was one of the originators of W3C’s Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) standard from 1998 onwards.

After joining Brookes in February 2000, he developed an interest in distributed collaborative visualisation, initially supported by EU grants with partners around Europe, and through collaborative EPSRC grants with partners including the Universities of Leeds and Lancaster.

At Brookes he developed, with Visiting Professor Bob Hopgood, Ken Brownsey, Faye Mitchell and John Nealon, the MSc course in Web Technologies, introduced an undergraduate computer graphics module, and taught a variety of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

He became Acting Head of Department in 2010-11 and initiated a full review of the undergraduate programmes, partly in response to the loss of BCS Accreditation for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The subsequent revalidation of all the department’s programmes had a very positive impact, leading to increased student numbers and BCS Accreditation status being regained.

He served on two RAE Panels in 1996 and 2001, was secretary for the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing (CPHC) 2013-2015 and is currently a member of the Shadbolt Review Advisory Group. He has been external examiner for a range of universities at all levels from foundation degree to PhD.

The Eurographics Association was founded in 1980 and he made the mistake of complaining to Bob Hopgood, then Vice-Chairman of the Association, about the absence of a promised newsletter, whereupon he found himself typesetting the newsletter and later confounding and typesetting, along with Paul ten Hagen at CWI Amsterdam, the Association’s journal Computer Graphics Forum, now a leading journal in the computer graphics field. This led to an interest in the practice of digital typography – an interest that continues into retirement. He was soon elected to the Association’s Executive Committee and became Vice-Chairman, Chairman of various boards within the association, Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary, and now, for an interim period, Treasurer again.

Although David has officially retired, we are pleased to learn that he plans to continue his research in the department with a focus on the applications of visualisation techniques in personal healthcare and learning analytics. This is great news for the department as it means that we can still tap into his wealth of knowledge, benefit from his insightful analysis and, not least, continue to enjoy his uplifting sense of humour!
Dr Tjeerd olde Scheper has been appointed the new Postgraduate Research Tutor for CCT. In this role he is responsible for all the postgraduate research students, providing overall guidance and monitoring their progression. In addition he is actively involved in a university-wide activity to establish a new training programme for research students. Tjeerd will be working with Professor Khaled Hayatleh (in MEMS) to ensure the training programme is tailored to the needs of computing and engineering students.

NEW POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TUTOR

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SENIOR FELLOW OF THE HEA CONFIRMED

In September, Dr Samia Kamal became a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). The Higher Education Academy is a British professional institution promoting excellence in higher education and responsible for the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF), which is the only national scheme that recognises excellent teaching practice. The prestigious HEA Fellowships are awarded to individuals who demonstrate their commitment to high levels of professionalism in teaching and learning in higher education. Samia has made a significant positive impact on learning and teaching within her department and across Oxford Brookes University, by sharing best practice and for her commitment to providing the best student experience.

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KTP APPOINTMENT

Dr Ruomei Yan from the School of Electronic Information and Electrical Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, has been appointed to work as the Computer Vision Development Engineer (KTP Associate) for the KTP with Meta Vision Systems in Eynsham. Fabio Cuzzolin is the Knowledge Base Supervisor and Nigel Crook is the Lead Academic. Dr Yan took up the position on 1 September 2015.
NEW POSTDOC - RUIZHI LIAO
Ruizhi Liao joined CCT as a postdoc researcher in July. He received the BSc degree in Computer Science from Guilin University of Electronic Technology, Guilin, China; the MSc degree in Mobile Networking and Computing from University College Cork, Ireland; and the PhD degree in Information and Communication Technology from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. His thesis focused on MAC protocol design and analysis for multi-user MIMO and full-duplex enabled wireless networks.

Ruizhi's current research interest lies in Heterogeneous Communications and Intelligent Transport System, and he is involved in a real time roadside parking space detection project. The project employs ultrasonic and LiDAR devices to detect on-street parking occupancy level, which is disseminated to users with the aim to bring down the time and fuel consumed in searching for empty parking slots.

NEW PHD STUDENT - GURKIRT SINGH
Gurkirt is a new PhD student in CCT. He is working with Fabio Cuzzolin on computer vision. He completed his undergraduate studies from Vellore Institute of Technology in 2010. He also had the opportunity to carry out research at the University of Edinburgh, IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi. Gurkirt is a former student of Grenoble INP - ENSIMAG, where he received a MSc in Computer Science (2013). Gurkirt worked for Siemens India for two years as a research engineer. Now his research focus is in future action predication for human robot interaction and autonomous cars.

NEW PHD STUDENT - MONA EISA
Mona Eisa is a new postgraduate research student in CCT. Mona studied for her bachelor’s degree in Computer Science in King Abdullah University Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and her master's degree in Management Information Systems in the University of Colorado, Denver, USA. Mona’s research is in Cloud Computing (service selection and provisioning in cloud computing) and her supervisors are Dr Muhammad Younas and Dr Kashinath Basu. The primary aim of her research is to simplify and improve, as well as assess, the process of service selection and provisioning in cloud computing through the design and development of a new framework that takes into account the quality of service (QoS) requirements and preferences of service users and providers.
Abusaleh Jabir, with co-authors M Poolakkaparambil, J Mathew and D Pradhan, has had a paper entitled 'A Low-Complexity Multiple Error Correcting Architecture Using Novel Cross Parity Codes Over GF (2m)' published in the IEEE Transactions on VLSI Systems.

Fabio Cuzzolin gave a tutorial at Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2015), which took place in Amsterdam, 12 to 15 July 2015. The topic of the tutorial was ‘Belief functions for the working scientist’, slides are available online here: http://cms.brookes.ac.uk/staff/FabioCuzzolin/uai-tutorial.pdf or the UAI website: http://auai.org/uai2015/tutorialsDetails.shtml#tutorial_3

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Research student, Jalawi Alshudukhi, presented a paper, co-authored by Shumao Ou, Peter Ball and collaborators Liqiang Zhao and Guogang Zhao, entitled ‘Energy Efficiency Metrics for Low-Power Near Ground Level Wireless Sensors’ at the 11th IEEE International Conference on Wireless and Mobile Computing, Networking and Communications, 19 to 21 October 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE.


PhD student, Suman Saha, recently attended the International Computer Vision Summer School (ICVSS 2015 ) from 12 to 18 July 2015. The summer school aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the state-of-the-art in Computer Vision and Machine Learning. Suman presented a poster entitled ‘Online Human Action Localisation based on Appearance and Motion Cues’. The poster is available online at the ICVSS2015 website: http://svg.dmi.unict.it/icvss2015/posters.html

Professor Rachel Harrison is guest editing a special issue of the Journal of Automated Software Engineering on ‘Realising AI Synergies in Software Engineering’.

Luis Fuente and co-authors Nigel Crook, Tjeerd olde Scheper and Michael A Lones (Department of Computer Science, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh), presented a paper entitled ‘Harmonic versus Chaos Controlled Oscillators in Hexapedal Locomotion’ at the Information Processing in Cells and Tissues conference in San Diego, USA, 14 to 16 September 2015.
Cristian Roman, a PhD student in Wireless Communications for Vehicular Networks, participated in the International Summer School on Smart Cars that took place near Graz, Austria in September. The goal of this one-week summer school was to survey fundamental and applied aspects of embedded automotive computing and networking for Smart Cars, as well as to identify novel opportunities and research directions in related areas through a series of lectures held by international experts. Cristian was also able to present his work and get valuable feedback from the audience. The school provided a great opportunity to network with other young researchers working in the field, meet distinguished speakers, and to establish contacts for potential future research collaborations.


He also attended the 39th IEEE Annual Conference on Computers, Software and Applications (COMPSAC 2015) in Taichung, Taiwan from 3 to 5 July, 2015, and presented a paper entitled ‘Modeling and Simulating Adaptive Multi-Agent Systems with CAMLE’, which is co-authored by Dr Lijun Shan and Professor Chenglie Du of Northwestern Polytechnical University in China.

To complete a busy ten days, Hong then presented a paper entitled ‘JFuzz: A Tool for Automated Java Unit Testing based on Data Mutation and Metamorphic Testing Methods’ at the Second International Conference on Trustworthy Software and Applications (TSA 2015) in Hualien, Taiwan, on 8 and 9 July 2015. A paper authored by Professor Hong Zhu and Dr Ian Bayley entitled ‘On the Composibility of Design Patterns’ has been accepted by the IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering.

Cristian Roman, a PhD student in Wireless Communications for Vehicular Networks, participated in the International Summer School on Smart Cars that took place near Graz, Austria in September. The goal of this one-week summer school was to survey fundamental and applied aspects of embedded automotive computing and networking for Smart Cars, as well as to identify novel opportunities and research directions in related areas through a series of lectures held by international experts. Cristian was also able to present his work and get valuable feedback from the audience. The school provided a great opportunity to network with other young researchers working in the field, meet distinguished speakers, and to establish contacts for potential future research collaborations.


He also attended the 39th IEEE Annual Conference on Computers, Software and Applications (COMPSAC 2015) in Taichung, Taiwan from 3 to 5 July, 2015, and presented a paper entitled ‘Modeling and Simulating Adaptive Multi-Agent Systems with CAMLE’, which is co-authored by Dr Lijun Shan and Professor Chenglie Du of Northwestern Polytechnical University in China.

To complete a busy ten days, Hong then presented a paper entitled ‘JFuzz: A Tool for Automated Java Unit Testing based on Data Mutation and Metamorphic Testing Methods’ at the Second International Conference on Trustworthy Software and Applications (TSA 2015) in Hualien, Taiwan, on 8 and 9 July 2015. A paper authored by Professor Hong Zhu and Dr Ian Bayley entitled ‘On the Composibility of Design Patterns’ has been accepted by the IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TECHNICAL TALKS BY CCT DEPARTMENT

There are various research talks being organised by CCT department in the upcoming semester. The schedule and details are given below:

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SPEAKER(S)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 February 2016</td>
<td>PhD work</td>
<td>Dependable Systems Engineering Research Centre students</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 February 2016</td>
<td>Robotics</td>
<td>Fridolin Wild</td>
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<td>24 February 2016</td>
<td>Intelligent Transport Systems</td>
<td>Cristian Roman</td>
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<td>2 March 2016</td>
<td>PhD work</td>
<td>Intelligent Systems Engineering Research Centre students</td>
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The article describes how, after graduating, Helena secured a graduate role at a small studio in Bath. Her first year in the industry was tough – her first few projects were cancelled. Then she joined Blitz Games in Leamington Spa, a video game studio that employs more than 200 staff, and was offered the chance to work on a dream project: a Mickey Mouse game, designed in collaboration with Disney, called ‘Epic Mickey 2’.

She then set up her own independent studio, co-founding the company Modern Dream with a colleague, Oliver Clarke. The team has launched a number of games to date including The Button Affair, which is a game in the style of 60s spy capers in which you play a glamorous thief, out to steal a diamond from a business tycoon. Santos and the team had a philanthropic vision for the game which was offered as a free download to everyone who donated a pound to the charity Special Effect, which specialises in making video games accessible to disabled players.

Helena, who is technical director at Modern Dream, was also one of the five founders of Arch Creatives, which provides a shared workspace for game developers in Leamington Spa.

Faiz Alam graduated with distinction from the MSc in Mobile and High Speed Telecommunication Networks programme in 2007. After leaving Oxford Brookes he set up his own consultancy based out of the Oxford Business Park, delivering high-end network design services to leading operators and vendors in the cellular domain and other technologies such as cloud based WiFi. In 2013, he sold his consultancy to a major turnkey service provider and was accepted to study for an MBA at the University of Bologna. He is now working as a consultant for Telenet, part of the Liberty Global group, a large global cable operator.
Thursday 4 February 7pm (Week 1)

**IRIS**
USA 2015 79min
Filmmaker: Albert Maysles

More than a fashion film, the documentary is a story about creativity and how, even at Iris’ advanced age, a soaring free spirit continues to inspire. IRIS portrays a singular woman whose enthusiasm for fashion, art and people is life’s sustenance and reminds us that dressing, and indeed life, is nothing but an experiment.

Thursday 11 February 7pm (Week 2)

**HE NAMED ME MALALA**
USA 2015 88min
Filmmaker: Davis Guggenheim

After the Taliban tries to kill her for speaking out on behalf of girls’ education, Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai emerges as a leading advocate for children’s rights and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Q&A WITH MR. ZIAUDDIN YOUSAFZAI AND HIS WIFE, TOOR PEKAI, CONDUCTED BY PAUL INMAN, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment at Oxford Brookes University.

Thursday 18 February 7pm (Week 3)

**NIGHT WILL FALL**
UK 2014 80min
Filmmaker: André Singer

The extraordinary story of the Allied forces who filmed the terrible scenes in the Nazi concentration camps, and Sidney Bernstein’s attempt to produce a landmark documentary record of what they found. 

PAUL INMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH DIR. ANDRÉ SINGER.

Thursday 25 February 7pm (Week 4)

**THE CASE AGAINST 8**
Belgium 2014 109min
Filmmakers: Ben Cotner, Ryan White

A behind-the-scenes look inside the case to overturn California’s ban on same-sex marriage. Shot over five years, the film follows the unlikely team that took the first federal marriage equality lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thursday 3 March 7pm (Week 5)

**HUNGRY FOR CHANGE**
Australia 2012 89min
Filmmakers: James Colquhoun, Laurentine Ten Bosch, Carlo Ledesma

Hungry for change exposes shocking secrets the diet, weight loss and food industries don’t want you to know about deceptive strategies designed to keep you coming back for more. Find out what’s keeping you from having the body and health you deserve.

FREE to staff, students and the general public

Screenings are in the John Henry Brookes Lecture Theatre every Thursday during semester time at 7pm.

- Introductory talks
- Special guests when feasible
- Discussions in the Brookes Union bar after screenings

These screenings are possible thanks to support from the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment to cover the licenses to show these documentaries. The Oxford Brookes University Documentary Club is run by a volunteer committee of students, staff and the general public. For more information email us at obudoc@brookes.ac.uk.
**Thursday 21 April 7pm (Week 10)**

**FINDING JOE**

USA 2011 80min
Filmmaker: Patrick Takaya Solomon

A truly magical film, FINDING JOE takes us on a Hero’s Journey to discover the treasure we all seek: BLISS. Through the mythical teachings of Joseph Campbell and interviews with visionaries, this film will change your life!

**Thursday 17 March 7pm (Week 7)**

**HAWKING**

USA 2013 86min
Filmmaker: Stephen Finnigan

Hawking is the extraordinary story of the planet’s most famous living scientist, told for the first time in his own words and by those closest to him. Made with unique access to Hawking’s private life, this is an intimate and moving journey into Stephen’s world, both past and present.

**Thursday 10 March 7pm (Week 6)**

**THE COVE**

USA 2009 92min
Filmmaker: Louie Psihoyos

Using state-of-the-art equipment, a group of activists, led by renowned dolphin trainer Ric O’Barry, infiltrate a cove near Taijii, Japan to expose both a shocking instance of animal abuse and a serious threat to human health.

**Thursday 24 March 7pm (Week 8)**

**SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN**

UK 2012 86min
Filmmaker: Malik Bendjelloul

Though he faded into obscurity in the U.S., an early ’70s musician known as Rodriguez became a huge hit in South Africa and was widely rumored to have died. Two obsessed fans set out to learn the man’s true fate.

**Thursday 14 April 7pm (Week 9)**

**HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD**

UK 2015 110min
Filmmaker: Jerry Rothwell

Jerry Rothwell’s remarkable documentary examines how Greenpeace, the environmental activist network, was founded in Vancouver in the early Seventies.

But it is not really about the environment at all. It is, in fact, a devastating illustration of how power corrupts. No amount of whales saved from the harpoon can change that. Like Deep Water, Rothwell’s astonishing 2006 documentary about the doomed 1968 round-the-world yacht race, this is a tragic piece of film-making.

Q&A WITH DIR. JERRY ROTHWELL.

**Thursday 28 April 7pm (Week 11)**

**GENERATION RIGHT**

UK 2015 41min
Filmmaker: Michelle Coomber

Nearly a quarter century after it ended, the UK remains profoundly changed by Margaret Thatcher’s premiership. Michelle Coomber’s archive-rich film is a timely reminder of how Thatcher decisively set about implementing a profound sea change in the United Kingdom in order to create “a climate of opportunity and enterprise”. Her legacy lives on in the politics of today; indeed Thatcher noted with considerable pride that her greatest legacy was the creation of New Labour.

Q&A WITH DIR. MICHELLE COOMBER (TBC), ACADEMICS STEPHEN FARRALL AND EMILY GRAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.

**Thursday 5 May 7pm (Week 12)**

**OXFORD FILMMAKERS EVENING**

Celebrate our local talent with documentaries made by students, staff or members of the public.


For more information email us: obudoc@brookes.ac.uk.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING
AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY
WHEATLEY CAMPUS
OX33 1HX

For enquires please contact:
cct-enquiry@brookes.ac.uk
Mark Small (Undergraduate) +44 (0) 1865 484595
Amanda Holden (Postgraduate) +44 (0) 1865 485706

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