CSANZ

Computer Science Association of New Zealand
http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/csanz

Newsletter

Welcome!

Here's the next issue of the CSANZ Newsletter. Do you remember it? It started in November 1996, exactly 10 years ago, with the idea of producing an interesting bit of light reading, two or three times a year, giving news of the goings-on in New Zealand Computer Science departments—appointments; visitors, conferences and meetings; grants and new projects; completed theses and publications; and so on. Back issues are still available from the CSANZ website:
http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/csanz/newsletters.html.

With encouragement from others, I have decided to resurrect the Newsletter, which has been dormant for several years. (What happened?—Bronwyn at Waikato, who produced it, went off to produce a baby instead.) I think it's high time for a new era of cooperation between our various departments—and there are encouraging signs that this is already happening, with the upcoming NZ CS Research Students' Conference, the proposed Centre of Open Software Innovation involving participation from every NZ CS department, and the Tertiary Education Commission's $1M/year funding to help build research capacity in ICT that should get underway early next year.

I don't have any strong preconceptions of what should go into this Newsletter, except that as far as possible I would like the information-gathering process to proceed in Department offices and not become yet another chore for the chair. I welcome your ideas and contributions! This issue has news on appointments, promotions, visitors, events, books, scholarships, research grants, theses, tidbits from sabbaticals, and a preview of the upcoming Research Students Conference. It would be great if each department was able to produce a more discursive report every couple of years to give us a better feeling for what is going on elsewhere. If you have ideas for other things you'd like to see, do let me know.

Departments are encouraged to distribute this and future issues in hardcopy to staff and graduate students to ensure that the news gets out.

Ian H. Witten
Waikato University
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NZ Computer Science Research Students' Conference

The Fourth New Zealand Computer Science Research Students' Conference (NZCSRSC) will take place at Waikato University from 10th-13th of April 2007. The central goal is to foster a lasting community between computer science research students in New Zealand, by providing a healthy balance of academic and social mingling.

The conference will be held at Te Kohinga Marama Marae on campus, which will be 'home' for the duration of the conference. The general structure will be a mixture of student presentations and guest speakers during the day, with social events organised for the evenings. Social events include a hangi, a pub trip and a trip to Waingaro hot pools with a BBQ.

We are privileged to have two guaranteed guest speakers: Craig Nevill-Manning, Engineering Director of Google's New York office (and NZ graduate!!), and Nigel Scott, from award winning sound studio Park Road Post. So for a conference full of interesting talks and fun social activities, register for NZCSRSC now and we'll see you in April 2007!

Register at :
http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/nzcsrsc2007/

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Otago CS

Appointments

In October it was announced that **Brendan McCane** would take over from **Ian McDonald** as Head of Department from 1st January 2007. Ian will be retiring in March 2007.

Andrew Trotman took up a position as lecturer.

Simon Mooney took up a position as System Administrator.

Sui-Ling Ming-Wong of our Graphics department left in November to start a new life in California with her new husband, Alexis Angelidis, an Otago graphics PhD who accepted a job with Pixar.

Promotions

During the year **Nick Meek, Iain Hewson, and Morag McKenzie** were promoted to Senior Teaching Fellows.

Sabbatical

During 2006 some staff members were on sabbatical for six month periods :
Mike Atkinson in Scotland
Hans van Ditmarsch in France and Holland
Chris Handley in South Africa.

Visitors

Yan Fu visited the Systems lab in May and June, from Chongqin Logistics Engineering University, China.

Obituary

The department received the tragic news on 4 November that **Malcolm Mills**, our technician, had died while on holiday in Colorado. Malcolm was 28 and had been with the department for 8 years. At time of writing we have no details of the full circumstances of Malcolm's death, except that it was from natural causes.

PhD Theses

During 2006 the following PhD theses were received:
Byung-Hyun Yu—*Performance-based Distributed Shared Memory Implementation*
David Mason—*Reversible deformation for computer graphics*
Corrin Lakeland—*Lexical Approaches to Backoff in Statistical Parsing*

Andrew Trotman—*Improving Relevance Ranking using Genetic Strategies*

Robert Pollock

Victoria

A major activity of the Computer Science group has been the introduction of a new Bachelor of Engineering with specialisations in Software Engineering and in Network Engineering, to start in 2007.

The new degree is an evolution from our four year BIT, which will now be phased out. We will be introducing a number of brand new courses over the next four years, as well as developing versions of of our current courses to have a stronger engineering direction.

In September, the Computer Science discipline had its first external review in over 10 years. The review panel included Mark Apperley from Waikato, Jenny Edwards from University of Technology, Sydney, and Leon Sterling from University of Melbourne.

News

Apart from his role as Head of the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, and leading the development of the new Bachelor of Engineering degree, **John Hine** has been active in the development of KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network), and is leading Victoria's involvement in KAREN and its applications.

Appointments

Alex Potanin was appointed to the staff in September this year. Alex is in the software engineering and programming languages area. His thesis is on ownership types.

Sabbaticals

Mengjie Zhang, whose research areas are genetic programming and image analysis, has been on study leave in Hebei, China. He has been working on his Marsden grant for work in genetic programming. He also obtained a grant from Hebei to work on a project to identify authors in Chinese Email.

Xiaoying (Sharon) Gao, working in Web Intelligence, has also been on study leave in Hebei. Among other projects, she has been continuing her work on automated, intelligent information extraction from web pages and web sites.

James Noble has been on study leave for 2006, and in the UK since May. He's just finished six months visiting Imperial College London, working on an EPSRC grant

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studying Ownership in Object- and Aspect-oriented systems, and is about to start three months as a visiting researcher at Microsoft Research, Cambridge. James is also visiting expat kiwi Alan Blackwell at the Computer Laboratory, Cambridge, and Darwin College. With Robert Biddle, he keynoted the PoMoPro and XPDay conferences in London in November, and will also keynote at OOP Berlin in March.

Scholarship

Christian Seifert, a PhD candidate of the distributed systems research group, supervised by Ian Welch and Peter Komisarczuk, was awarded a $US5000 scholarship by Sourcefire. Christian's PhD is in the area of intrusion detection systems and honeypots. Sourcefire was founded in 2001 by Martin Roesch, the creator of Snort?, the open source technology that has become the de facto standard for intrusion detection and prevention.

Peter Andreae

Waikato

News

Building Research Capacity in Strategically Relevant Areas

The Tertiary Education Commission have confirmed that the University of Waikato and the University of Auckland will jointly host the TEC-funded project to build research capacity in ICT. The project will be worth approximately $1M per year over three years, and will probably get underway early next year. It will be necessary to develop a structure within which all of the Universities can participate and benefit. This will likely include student research scholarships, travel funding for staff, seeding money for research, plus conferences and workshops. The detail will be developed during the contract negotiation which is currently taking place.

New Zealand Royal Society—Hector Medal

Ian Witten was the recipient of the 2005 NZRS Hector Medal. Early this year a function which was attended by colleagues, family and friends was held at Innovation Park on the Ruakura Agriculture Research Campus where a representative from RSNZ presented Ian with the medal.

The Hector Medal, is awarded annually for work of great scientific or technological merit and an outstanding contribution to the advancement of mathematical and information sciences.

EU-NZ Pilot Cooperation in Higher Education Leonardo: A multi-national exploration in Interaction Design and research

The Leonardo project is a collaboration between four leading design and engineering schools of Europe and three partners in New Zealand to develop a unique multi-cultural word-class learning experience in Interaction Technology and Design. The main focus of the programme is to promote the exchange of EU and NZ students at the post-graduate level. This three-year programme will expose NZ students to the richness of European design while teaching Europeans the unique creativity of New Zealand. These students will be the next generation of interaction designers who will develop the products that meet the needs of the future.

During this year the University of Waikato participated in this pilot scheme with two Masters students from Upper Austria University of Applied Sciences, Hagenberg, Austria doing course work in Speech Recognition, two from University of Lancaster, Lancaster, UK and one from University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia working on the CE-IN research project Informal information transfer. They were supervised by Bill Rogers and Masood Masoodian

Weka Data Mining Software Sold to Open Source Business Intelligence Software Provider

A deal struck in September between Waikato University's commercialization company WaikatoLink and open source business intelligence software developer Pentaho Corp. is a major boost for both the Weka project and the university. The university has sold Pentaho an exclusive license to sell Weka as part of the professional version of its business intelligence product. As part of the deal, Pentaho will take over much of the day-to-day support of Weka under the umbrella of its open source community support program. Through this move, the Waikato machine learning group will be able to focus on core machine learning research while remaining the open source ambassadors for Weka.

CRCnet Project

In October this year **Murray Pearson** of the WAND network research group, along with members of the Ruatahuna, Te Whaiti and Minginui communities in the Urewera's, and Riaka Hiakita from the Tuhoe Education Authority Whakatane, featured in a TV documentary on the CRCnet Project which has provided Broadband network connections to four of the most remote schools in New Zealand.

Murray heads up the CRCnet Project which has built a platform to support the deployment of wide scale rural wireless networks. This platform is designed to be easy to use and reduces the level of technical knowledge required to plan, build and operate a rural wireless network. Using this platform it is now possible for rural communities to group together to provide broadband access to their schools and houses without having to rely on existing telecommunications infrastructure. The

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experience of building these networks has been vital to understanding the issues involved in constructing and operating these wireless networks. The WAND group has been developing technical solutions that address the identified issues.

Read more at: *http://www.crc.net.nz*

Appointments

Matthew Luckie – Lecturer, Computer Science

Matt Jones who had been a lecturer at Waikato since 2001 recently moved from New Zealand to help set up the Future Interaction Technology Lab at Swansea University. He joins Harold Thimbleby, who is well known to many New Zealand computer scientists because of his millenium tour in Year 2000.

Books

Utting, M. and Marsden, G., *Practical Model-Based Testing: a Tools Approach*
Jones, M. and Marsden, G., *Mobile Interaction Design*
Witten, I.H., Gori, M, and **Numerico T**., *Web Dragons: inside the myths of search engine technology*

Research Grants

2006 Marsden Fund Recipient:
Ian Witten: *Interlingual digital libraries for language learning.*

Scholarships

Google Inc
Olena Medelyan: *Semantically Enhanced Keyphrase Indexing.*
Veronica Liesaputra : *Realistic Book Project.*

TEC Top Achievers Award
Kathryn Hempstalk: *Continuous typist recognition.*

Obituary

Our colleague, **Margaret Jefferies**, passed away on the morning of 5 January 2006 after bravely battling cancer for four months. Although it got the better of her in the end she died peacefully with her close family in attendance. A funeral, attended by many of her colleagues, was held in Hamilton on January 9th. As a mark of respect, the department created a book in her honour "Finding Her Way", which collated all of her publications in robotics and artificial intelligence. It goes without saying that Margaret will be greatly missed.

Masters Theses

2006 MSc

> **Bruce Bowering**—*Geospatial searching and browsing digital photographic collections*
> **Lin Dong**—*A comparison of multi-instance learning algorithms*
> **Brendon Jones**—*Classifying daily patterns in login duration network traces*
> **Saijai Junmanee**—*Design, implementation and evaluation of advanced recommendation models in the mobile tourist information system TIP*
> **Chi-Chung Lau**—*Audio halos: an evaluation of sound cues to support mobile navigation*
> **Malcolm Lett**—*3D surface recognition for robotic localization*
> **David Milne**—*From phrase browsing to interactive query expansion: an AJAX-enabled approach*
> **Quan Qiu**—*Trust-based recommendations in a mobile tourist information system*
> **Nicholas Waterhouse**—*Vehicle license plate recognition on mobile devices*
> **Shaoqun Wu**—*A language learning digital library*

2006 MCMS

> **Kuan-Yu Ke**—*Document level interoperability of Greenstone digital library*

PhD Thesis

2006

> Yeates, Stuart—*Text augmentation*

Lincoln

News

Keith Unsworth has recently taken over as Head of the Applied Computing Group from Clare Churcher who held the post for the last three years. The group is now part of the Environment, Society and Design Division and has physically moved to the Natural Resources Engineering Building where we now have a pleasant rural outlook.

In August 2005, **Lincoln's Applied Computing programme** underwent a major review convened by Paul Dalziel from Lincoln. Alan McKinnon represented our group, Anthony Robbins, from Otago was the external academic and Howard Nicholls from Alchemy Group was on the panel as the industry representative. The major outcome of the highly satisfactory review was the recommendation that all the Applied Computing qualifications, from undergraduate diploma through to Masters, should be re-launched as Software and Information Technology qualifications. Software and I.T. is thought to best describe their fit as full qualifications in I.T. with additional skills in software engineering.

Approval has been gained from CUAP for these changes and the new qualifications will be offered from 2007. As part of the degree restructuring two new 300 level subjects in software engineering and web technologies will be offered.

As is the situation elsewhere, the number of students enrolled in our undergraduate programmes has substantially declined in the last few years. This is largely, but not entirely, due to the decrease in students from mainland China. Judging by the enquiries received recently from potential employers, prospects for graduates are better now than they have been for many years. We are hoping that the re-launch of our programme, coupled with stepped up recruiting efforts, will result in enhanced numbers in 2007.

Appointments

In November 2006 **Stuart Charters** joined the Applied Computing Group at Lincoln University from the Department of Computer Science, Durham University, UK where he worked as a Research Associate and recently completed his PhD. Stuart has research interests in scientific visualisation, software visualisation, grid computing and software engineering.

Masters Thesis

Nicholas Smith—*An analysis of inductive interfaces.*

Theresa McLennan

Auckland

Research Grants

NZIMA grant
Mike Atkinson, Charles Semple, Mark Wilson: *Algorithms: New Directions and Applications,* awarded in 2006.

2006 Marsden Fund Recipient
Emilia Mendes, *A casual model for resource estimation of Web projects*.

Academic programmes

The BE(SE) degree at the University of Auckland has been accredited for a period of 5 years by the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ). This degree is one of the first Software Engineering degrees in New Zealand to be accredited by IPENZ.

Upcoming events

The **12th IEEE International Conference on Engineering of Complex Computer Systems (ICECCS'07)** will be held in Auckland. Details can be found at :
http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/iceccs07/

The **34th International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB)** will be held in Auckland in 2008, following a successful hosting bid by Gill Dobbie and Gerald Weber.

Appointments

Hans Guesgen is taking up a Chair in Computer Science at Massey University from February 2007.

PhD Theses

2006
Santokh Singh—*Supporting web services systems specification using aspect-oriented component engineering*
Qi Zang—*Video Surveillance*
Dongxiao Zhou—*Texture analysis and synthesis using a generic Markov-Gibbs image model*

John Hamer

AUT

News

From the beginning of 2007, the School of Computer and Information Sciences will merge with the School of Mathematics Sciences to form the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences. **Ajit Narayanan** (from UK) has been appointed as the new head of school and he is expected to arrive in July 2007. The Dean, **Kathy Garden**, will be the acting Head for the new School for 2007.

Appointments

Albert Yeap
Acting Head of School (until February 2007)
School of Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

Visitors

Don Gotterbarn, East Tennessee State University, USA.

Events

Researching Phenomena Symposium: Three perspectives; three cases—Exploring phenomenology and phenomenography in Education Research
This one-day symposium was organised on 23 January 2006. The keynote presenter was Anders Berglund from Uppsala University, Sweden. The symposium was jointly

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sponsored by the schools of Computer and Information Sciences, and Education at AUT, plus CRISM and NACCQ CITRUS research centres.

1st New Zealand Workshop on Ontologies and the Semantic Web

This workshop was held on 4 March 2006 and 18 people attended from all over New Zealand. The workshop was organised by Dave Parry.

3rd BRACElet Workshop—A Multi Institutional Study of Program Reading and Writing Skills in Novice Programming Students

This workshop was organised on 26 March 2006. Its goal was to develop a common framework for researchers to compare and contrast experiments conducted on novice programming students. The convenors for this workshop were Jacqui Whalley, Tony Clear, and Raymond Lister (UTS, Australia).

3rd IT Governance International Conference

This conference was held in the Stamford Plaza Hotel from 13—15 November 2006. This is the third in a series of International conferences developing the IS and IT theme of Governance. The keynote speakers included Wim van Grembergen (Belguim, IT Governance), Judge Harvey (Computer Law), Grant Castner (ITIL, USA), Alistair Grigg (Corporate IT Governance), Fred van Leuween (Netherlands, Implementation), Garth Biggs (IS Performance).

2nd Annual AUT IT Symposium

This symposium was held at AUT on 22 November. 2006. The symposium offered several well attended hands-on workshops, presentations and panels, among them the very popular *Alice and BlueJ* (two visual environments for teaching novice programmers), presented by Jacqui Whalley, Anne Philpott, and Phil Robbins, all from SCIS, and *SoDIS™* (Software Development Impact Statement), led by the internationally renowned expert Don Gotterbarn from East Tennessee State University (USA).

9TH SoDI SYMPOSIUM

The 9th SoDIS Symposium was held at AUT on 24 November 2006. It was convened by Tony Clear and Choon-Tuck Kwan of the School of Computer and Information Sciences. This symposium is the ninth in the series that brought together current and prospective participants in the SEPIA collaborative research programme to share their ongoing research into refining the SoDIS Risk Assessment methodology for IT Projects. Professor Don Gotterbarn gave a keynote address on the current status of the work done in the US, UK and Europe in refining the SoDIS case-tool and in promoting the use of the SoDIS methodology for ethical assessment of research projects.

Postgraduate News

A one day Postgraduate Conference for the School was organised on 15 February. John Hosking from the University of Auckland was invited as the keynote speaker.

A one day Postgraduate Consortium was organised for all PhD students in the School on 25 October.

Masters Theses

Nisha Mohan—*Knowledge discovery from biological data: A comparative analysis of local & global models*
Braja Podder—*Factors affecting the adoption / continued usage of internet banking services in New Zealand*
Shahid Ali—*Factors affecting the adoption / continued usage of internet banking services in New Zealand*
Haixia Qu—*Exploring consumer attitudes towards mobile gaming in New Zealand*
Eman Haj-Ali—*Integration of mobile commerce across the supply chain in New Zealand businesses*

MPhil Theses

Jacky (Po Ching) Chou—*Understanding User's Perceived Playfulness toward Mobile Information and Entertainment Services in New Zealand*

PhD Theses

Liang Kee Goh—*Computational methods for microarray gene expression analysis through integration and knowledge discovery*
David Parry—*Fuzzy Ontology and Intelligent Systems for Discovery of Useful Medical Information*
Michael Mullany—*The use of analyst-user cognitive style differentials to predict aspects of user satisfaction with Information Systems*

Albert Yeap

Massey

News

The computer science group at Massey has had a busy year, with the BE in Software Engineering running for its first full year with IPENZ accreditation. It was the one of the first software engineering courses in the country to receive this accreditation.

Jens Dietrich was invited to visit the BTU Cottbus/Germany in March to participate in REWERSE, an EU 6th framework research project. He received

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funding for the visualization of software design patterns from the University of Auckland. Jens designed and delivered the Software Engineering module of the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies, a program designed to upskill engineers and computer science professionals working in industry.

Russell Johnson has shunned the wet New Zealand summer for a real winter at Lancaster University in the UK, where he is having a wonderful time working on low bandwidth tools for bridging the digital divide.

Elizabeth Kemp was a member of the IPENZ Accreditation Team that visited the University of Waikato in September. She was on the panel for the Electronics and Software Engineering degrees. Elizabeth recently stood down as Chair of SIGCHI NZ which runs an annual conference that aims to bring academics and industry practitioners together. This year's conference, held in Christchurch, was very successful.

Paul Lyons was elected secretary of CHINZ and has been performing cooperative research with members of the statistics and computer systems engineering groups, both also part of the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, where computer science is based. He has also continued to work on his primary research focus of colour group selection.

Stephen Marsland was an invited visitor to the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications in Minnesota, USA in March for their special program on Shape Spaces. He has also been working on his Marsden Fund project on Diffeomorphisms for Image Registration, and has maintained collaborations with Robert McLachlan (Massey), Tony Shardlow (Manchester, UK), and Tom Duckett (Orebro, Sweden). He was the PBRF representative for the group, and spent the first few months of the year knee-deep in evidence portfolios.

Giovanni Moretti has been making progress on his PhD (on automatically selecting harmonious colours for interfaces) during the year, when teaching commitments allowed. He plans to submit his thesis during 2007.

Ruili Wang reached the second round of the Marsden Fund Fast-Start program this year. He supervised a student project on detecting emotion in voices that has applications in call centres amongst other places, which has produced good journal papers.

Research Grants

Eva Heinrich started the year with the fantastic news that her application for funding from the Tertiary Education Commission was successful. The project, which is led by Eva, with collaborators from Victoria University of Wellington, Otago University, and UCOL on an "E-learning Framework for Formative Assessment" has received substantial funding.

Catherine McCartin was awarded the 2006 Hatherton Award from the Royal Society of New Zealand for the best scientific paper by a New Zealand PhD student, published within two years of graduation. She has spent the year working on her Marsden Fast Start project "n-line model theory and online algorithms." She has continued to collaborate with Rod Downey (Victoria, NZ), Mike Fellows (Newcastle, Australia) and Mike Hallett (McGill, Canada).

Retirements

At the end of this year we are losing five members of staff to retirements and resignations. **Firas Al-Ali**, who has been an assistant lecturer for the past 6 years, has now completed his MSc. **Ray Kemp**, **Chris Phillips**, and **Elisabeth Todd** are all taking early retirement, and **Isaac Fung** will be jumping the fence to work in industry in the new year. All will be sadly missed. Filling their shoes (presumably not all at once!), we are looking forward to welcoming **Hans Guesgen** from Auckland, who will be taking on the role of group leader in 2007.

Stephen Marsland

Canterbury

News

ICTG awarded a Hewlett-Packard Technology for Teaching grant
Congratulations to the Intelligent Computer Tutoring Group who has been awarded a Hewlett-Packard Technology for Teaching grant, to develop an Intelligent Tutoring System for ENGR102, the Engineering Mechanics course. The project is led by **Tanja Mitrovic**. Other participants on the project are Brent Martin, Charles Fleischman (Civil Engineering) and Pramudi Suraweera. September 2006
http://www.cosc.canterbury.ac.nz/tanja.mitrovic/ictg.html

ICTG awarded a further eCDF grant.
ICTG has been awarded a further eCDF grant, to continue work on the ASPIRE project. ASPIRE is a Web-enabled authoring system for building intelligent tutoring systems. The project is led by **Tanja Mitrovic** and **Brent Martin**. Other participants of the project are four PG students: Pramudi Suraweera (PhD), Konstantin Zakharov (MSc), Nancy Milik (MSc) and Jay Holland (MSc). The article in the Chronicle can be found here. April 2006.
http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/chronicle/2006/ChronVol41-4.pdf

Appointments

Newsletter

Richard Green to Lecturer
Alex Tobec to Administrator
Tony Dale will move to the ICT Services Department at Canterbury in December 2006, after working as a Senior Programmer in CSSE since 1987. Tony will be an Advanced Technologies consultant, working with the UCSC Supercomputer and the KAREN high-speed network.

Gill Bryant resigned in December 2006, after working as a Programmer in CSSE for many years.

Promotions

Richard Green—To Senior Lecturer—2006
Tanja Mitrovic—To Associate Professor—2005
Brent Martin—To Senior Lecturer—2005
Krys Pawlikowski - To Professor—2005
Andy Cockburn—To Associate Professor—2004

Departures

Nigel Perry 2006

Sabbaticals

Andy Cockburn–2006
Krys Pawlikowski–part 2005/part 2006

Tim Bell - 2006
From August to October, **Tim Bell** visited about 18 places relating to computer science education in the US, China, Sweden and Canada.

"What started out as a few visits to glean ideas for a new computer music course rapidly snowballed into a major roadshow of the Computer Science Unplugged programme," Professor Bell said.

During his two months abroad he gave about 16 workshops, shows and seminars specifically on the Unplugged project with audiences from elementary school pupils and teachers to university academics and Google engineers.

By visiting schools and enrichment programmes where the Unplugged material was being used, and through discussions with computer science lecturers, school teachers and education officials, Tim Bell said he was able to come away with valuable feedback and ideas to guide the next phase of the Unplugged project.

"The result is a major new initiative, tentatively called 'Unplugged Plus Plus', which will involve about 30 direct contributors in more than 10 countries."

Following fruitful visits to Google's New York, Pittsburgh and San Francisco branches, Tim Bell was able to confirm last week that Google had agreed to sponsor the Unplugged Plus Plus project.

Tim Bell said Google was very supportive of his proposal as there was great concern in the industry about the deficit of computer science graduates coming through. Also Google executives felt the project was a great fit with their new website, Google for Educators, a platform of teaching resources and a showcase for technology to innovate in the classroom.

Unplugged Plus Plus will build on Computer Science Unplugged by expanding on topics covered, rewriting some of the activities and targeting them at different age groups, and incorporating new ideas such as competitions for schools.

Podcasts of interviews recorded while Tim Bell was on his Erskine Fellowship can be downloaded from *uccsse.libsyn.com* and more information on Computer Science Unplugged is available at: *unplugged.canterbury.ac.nz*

Visitors

Jeff Johnson, President, UI Wizards Inc, USA
July 06–November 06.
http://www.uiwizards.com/portfolio_CV.html
Jozef Wozniak, July–October. Technical University of Gdansk, Poland.
http://www.eti.pg.gda.pl/katedry/kti/pracownicy/Jozef.Wozniak/
Tracy Camp, February–April. Colorado School of Mines, USA.
http://www.eti.pg.gda.pl/katedry/kti/pracownicy/Jozef.Wozniak/
Ian McLoughlin, September 2004–October 2007) Principal Engineer, Group Research, Tait Electronics.
Wojciech Szpankowski, February–May. Purdue University, USA.
Rainer Unland, January–April. University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany.
http://dawis2.informatik.uni-ssen.de/site/staff/unlandr/

Obituary

John Penny's wife **Pat** died 10 August 2006 in Adelaide after a short illness.

Masters Theses

> **Jason Smith**—*Compiling Curried Functional Languages to .NET*
> **Braja Podder**—*Factors affecting the adoption / continued usage of internet banking services in New Zealand*

__Yu Fen (Daphne) Chao__—MDRIP: A Hybrid Approach to Parallelisation of Discrete Event Simulation
__Zhigi Tu__—Enhancements of the Non-linear Knapsack Cryptosystem
__Ryan Mallon__—The Semantics, Formal Correctness and Implementation of History Variables in an Imperative Programming Languages
__Stephen Violic__—Fusing Loopless Algorithms for Combinatorial Generation

PhD Thesis

2006

__Michael Jason Smith__—The Temporal Organisation of Documents and Versions: A User-Centred Investigation

Richard Green