

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *Delong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

1



Welcome to the School of Computer Science Undergraduate E-newsletter. If you have received this newsletter then you will already have been offered a place at The University of Manchester, School of Computer Science. Manchester is the most popular university in the UK and competition is fierce - so congratulations on your offer!

We obviously hope you join will us in September, and this newsletter will tell you a little bit more about what is going on both at the School, University and in the City!

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *Delong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

2

Laura Howarth-Kirke *spills the beans on the realities of being a first-year undergraduate...*

“This year has been hard work but it’s unbelievable how much I’ve learnt about the different aspects of computer science! The first year modules give you a ‘taste’ of the themes offered by the second and third years of the course. This has given me a good idea of the kind of career I want and which modules I am going to choose in the second year. The first year is really all about the basics; for example, we have been taught Java to show us the fundamentals of programming languages, so when it came to the group website project I was easily able to pick up other languages such as JavaScript, HTML and PHP.

The school itself is like a community. I have gotten to know my lecturers through labs and classes and I have found a great group of friends who share similar interests to me. The social committee has put on some amazing events too - pub crawls, laser quest, quiz nights and even a treasure hunt around the city! I’ve joined the staff-student committee where I get to voice the opinions of fellow students and tell the staff about anything we want changing in the school. I’ve also helped out at Open Days - where you can even get paid!”



Industrial Placements - Byte of the Apple

Two of our second-year students will be feeling the warm glow of Californian sun this summer having successfully secured internships at Apple HQ...



Steven Slatter *BSc (Hons) Computer Systems Engineering*

“My tutor recommended me to a former Manchester student who now works for Apple Inc. in Cupertino, California. I sent my CV and then took part in 2 phone interviews with senior Apple engineers. A few weeks later I was told I had the job! I will be working in the Embedded Systems Group on operating systems for portable products like the iPhone. The job requires both hardware and low level software expertise as well as the ability to work to meet a constrained technical specification. My course at Manchester has equipped me with the skills I need to get an opportunity to work with this leading company.”

James Bedfield *BSc (Hons) Computer Science*

“I will be responsible for further development of iMovie, an application that comes preinstalled on every Apple Mac system. My role will involve studying the existing product, observing how others in the development team make improvements and learning how to do this myself. I will be putting design, team-working and programming skills developed during my course to direct use by enhancing the capabilities of iMovie, as well as fixing bugs! In preparation for my visit, I have learnt Apple’s development language - ‘Objective C’. I’m sure the extra knowledge and skills I gain will be hugely beneficial for my third year back in Manchester!”

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *DeLong Yang*

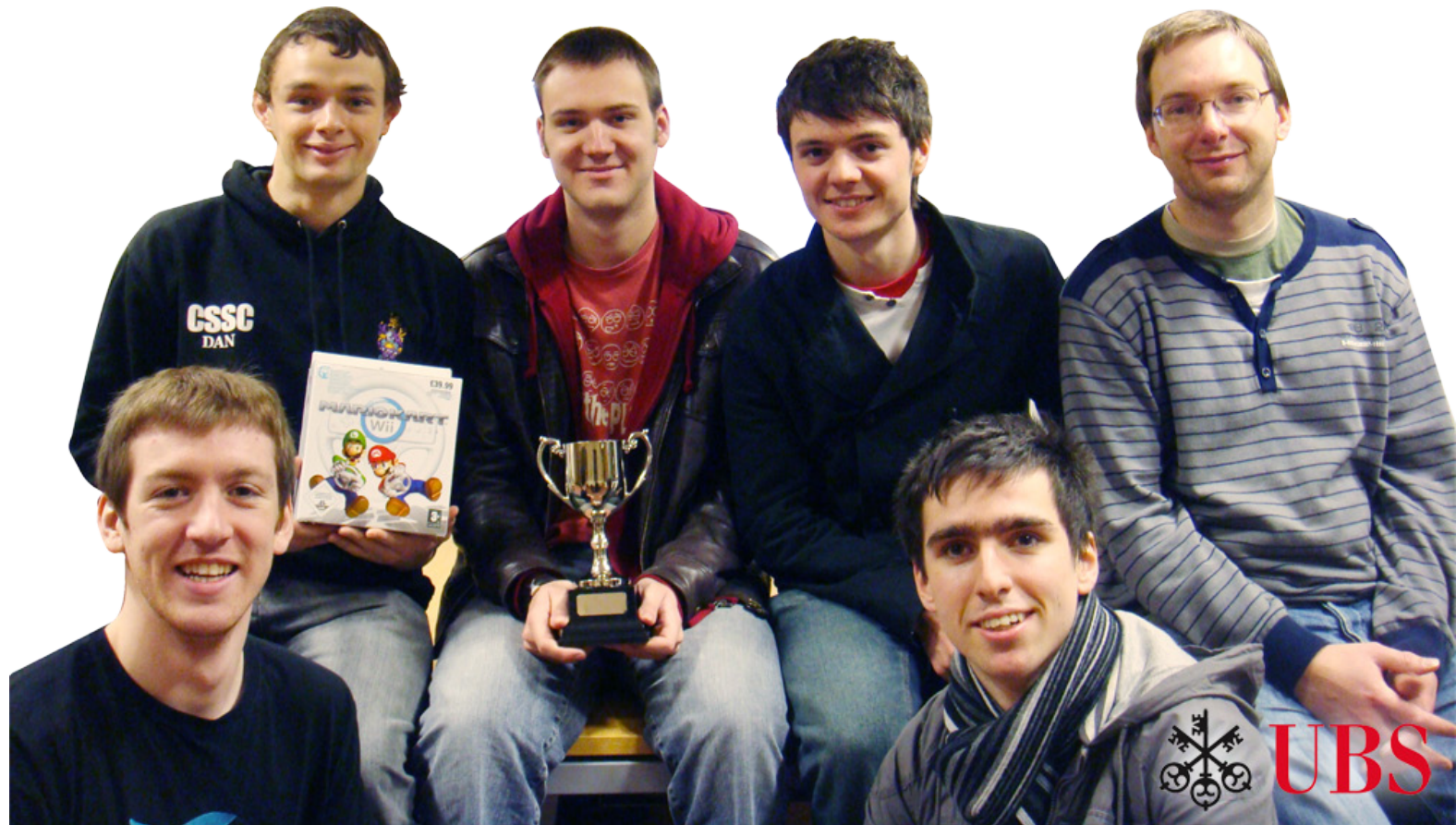
● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

UBS National IT Quiz

Forming the team 'Just Lost The Game', second-year undergraduates Luke Torjussen, Ben Cope, Lewis Tuff, Tom Cass, Dan Kerry and Gray Ham together with first-years Adam Buxton and Matt Oakes represented the School in the National IT Quiz organised by the international investment bank UBS. Comfortably taking the Manchester heat, the team was invited to compete against Imperial and UCL at the grand final in London. Steaming ahead with a 20 point lead, Luke and co were crowned winners bringing the prestigious trophy back to Manchester for the second year running. Celebrations followed as UBS provided evening entertainment, overnight accommodation and presented each team member with a shiny Nintendo Wii and game for good measure. The trophy now stands proudly on display in the School's *Byte Café*. *Congratulations to all concerned!*



Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

• Delong Yang

• Shaun Bohannon

New scholarships

Contact

Read all about IT

posts

Student Profiles

Contact

- Blogs Home
- Contact
- Samantha Bail
- Lloyd Henning
- Michael Lau
- Shaun Bohannon
- Andrew Wise



To find out what life is really like at the School of Computer Science why not lift the lid and visit our online students' blog page. Here you'll be able to read about how *Shaun* is getting on with his exams, *Michael's* love of Japanese singer 'Utada' and where's best for *Samantha* to get her veggie food fix - will the Maths Building's Pi in the Sky canteen or Computer Science's very own Byte Café get her vote?! See for yourself !

studentblog.cs.man.ac.uk



Andrew



Samantha



Lloyd



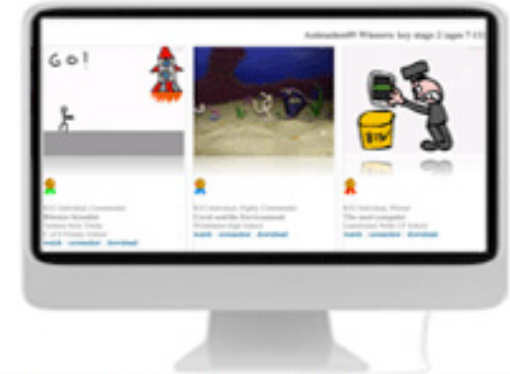
Michael



Shaun

Animation10

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2009 Winners Animation Gallery ➔

Hoping to inspire the next generation of computer experts, our annual animation competition continues to be a roaring success. This year has seen the

most entries yet - over 1200 from more than 200 schools nationwide. The competition was launched in 2007 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the world's first stored

program computer, The Baby, which was designed and built here at the

School in 1948. Young computer scientists aged between 7 and 19 are challenged to create an animated film, of a minute or less, using any of the Alice, Scratch Adobe Flash, Greenfoot or Serif software packages. Sponsored by Electronic Arts, Google, BBC 21cc and CS4FN, the winners stand to scoop great prizes including laptops, digital cameras and MP3 players. Plus their winning films will be showcased at our Animation Awards Festival in July at Salford's Lowry Arts Centre. It promises to be a fantastic occasion.

Visit the [Animation10 website here](#).

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

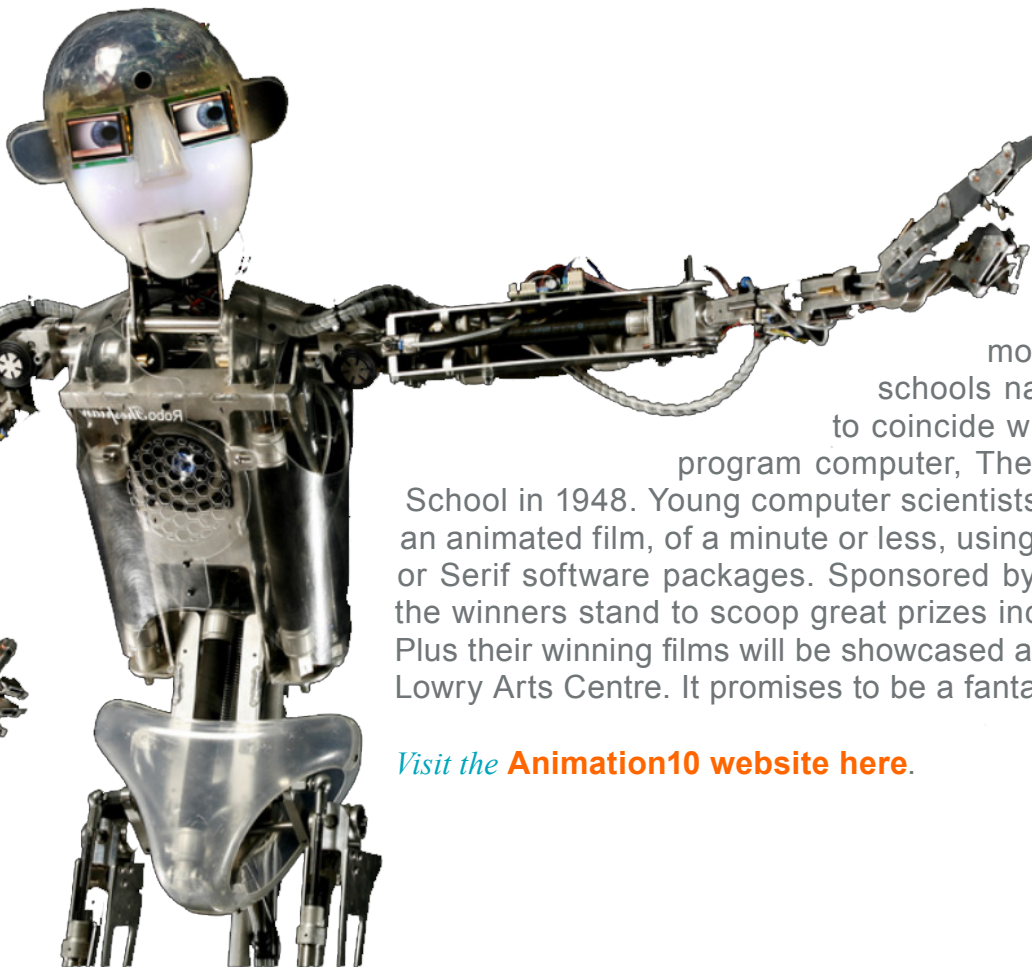
Industrial Placements

• Delong Yang

• Shaun Bohannon

New scholarships

Contact



Computer Science Social Committee CSSC

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *Delong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact



The Computer Science Social Committee (CSSC) is a student run group set-up to encourage socialising within the department and interaction with other departments. They are especially busy during induction week helping freshers get to know each other and welcoming them to Manchester.

With the help of their sponsors UBS, they have organised a great variety of events over the past year - starting with the Freshers Week Pub Crawl. Other highlights include: *the Brewery Tour, Treasure Hunt, Curry Night, Pub Quiz, Laser Quest, Pub Golf, Halloween Fancy Dress and the Annual Summer Ball!*

Industrial Placements

Two of our current students give the lowdown on what a year out in industry can really do for you...

Delong Yang

“Industrial Experience is a fabulous option for students that prefer some time away from University between their second and third year, and want to gain an insight into a real company where the application of skills and knowledge that you have learnt is vital. For my placement, I was a Software Systems Tester with the Brawn GP F1 Racing Team. My work involved creating an automated testing environment to distribute work loads to a private network of virtual machines. With a master machine and many slave machines, I was able to use a simple algorithm to delegate work from the master to the slaves and consolidate the test results on the master. I also had the chance to develop and maintain a piece of software that is used by the simulation analysts that compare the logged sensor data from the race cars; this exposed me to the C# language and conventional programming practices.

One of the most talented and hard-working teams within the company, some of the Braun GP Software Team work close to twenty four hours to get a release out for trackside. And the hard-work really pays off! Braun driver Jensen Button won the F1 Drivers World Championship while I was on my placement!

I think it was extremely worthwhile completing a placement year as it creates more interest in your CV, and the skills and techniques you learn certainly help with your final year project. I am sure my experience has helped me secure my graduate job at Double Negative Visual Effects who create effects for many Hollywood films. After finishing my final exams I will be moving to London to start work there as a Software Technologist. I can't wait!”



Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *Delong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

Industrial Placements

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *Delong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

9

Shaun Bohannon

“I have been working for PricewaterhouseCoopers for the past year. PwC are the largest of the big 4 accountancy firms in the world. I have been working within the firms UK based IT department in the Design and Build team. My role within this team is as a developer and the bulk of my responsibilities have been centred around writing software that helps the company adhere to the strict regulations enforced upon them by the financial regulatory bodies in the UK. The larger project I have worked on is collecting and analysing data from every employee registered to work for the firm within the UK. Data collection is performed through the use of a number of customisable questionnaires which are issued to over 20,000 people - this resulted in over 80,000 ‘confirmations’ that needed to be processed automatically by the system and flagged if necessary.

Throughout this work I have picked up valuable knowledge on scaling large scale systems whilst ensuring quality and reliability. Working within a team and to a real life cycle was interesting and at times stressful but a real eye opener! Our work on the Compliance Tracking System earned us a nomination for a PwC Experience award which is in recognition of the quality of the solution provided to our client who in this case was our colleagues. I feel it has given me an edge against my fellow graduates when it comes to looking for a job after graduation. I have a better understanding of what a job in Software Development entails and the year away from study has refreshed my enthusiasm to complete my degree. I am in a much better position than I was 12 months ago.”



Scholarships up for grabs



- In addition to the **Manchester Advantage and Manchester Success Scholarships**, the School is pleased to announce that a new £1,000 scholarship will be available to first-year UK undergraduates from September.
- **40 Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships** will be awarded across the Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences and Faculty of Life Sciences in 2010-2011. These awards target low-income Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics students. The awards have been made available through a generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor and are additional to any government or other university awards students might receive. Dr Dangoor hopes that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at university.
Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships
- The School also awards ten £1,000 scholarships to international and EU students each year. The **Kilburn Scholarships** are in memory of Tom Kilburn, who designed and built the world's first stored program computer at Manchester in 1948. They are awarded on academic merit to students who we believe have the skills and aptitude to help the help the School build on Kilburn's legacy of achievement and innovation.
Kilburn Scholarships

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

● *DeLong Yang*

● *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

Home

Life in CS

Byte of the Apple

UBS National IT Quiz

Read all about IT!

Animation10

CS Social Committee

Industrial Placements

• *Delong Yang*

• *Shaun Bohannon*

New scholarships

Contact

11



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