FoC KTP OBE award
Richard Boyd, pictured, of Disability Essex – a FoC KTP partner, his wife Maureen and Dr Karim Ouazzane were invited to a dinner hosted by the Queen on November 29th in honour of Richard’s OBE. The Queen mentioned that the intelligent keyboard invention, as developed by Richard and Karim, is very impressive as it gives an opportunity for disabled people to rejoin work and have a normal life within society. For details of the KTP, see: [www.ktonline.org.uk/news-2012-03-keyboard/](http://www.ktonline.org.uk/news-2012-03-keyboard/).

Students win prize
Two of our current MSc Mobile Computing students have won a top prize at Isobar Create London (together with O2) - the UK’s first developer event of its kind to challenge people to pioneer new and innovative uses of Near Field Communications (NFC) technology on mobile devices. The competition attracted top professional mobile developers all over the UK, and was not just limited to students. Fraser, Bea and two Graphic designer students from the School of Communication Arts formed a team who came up with the idea of designing a full end-to-end experience for the user, from purchasing their ticket, queuing, and payments whilst at a theme park, by only using their mobile devices.

The team won the top prize - the BlueVia KickStarter fund to develop their idea further and to commercialise the idea. Fraser has written his experience on his blog with pictures: [frasierhandy.co.uk/post/Isobar-CreateLondon-NFC-Hackathon-with-O2.aspx](http://frasierhandy.co.uk/post/Isobar-CreateLondon-NFC-Hackathon-with-O2.aspx)

HEA teams
Institutional teams, made up of at least 50% students, are invited to submit proposals to join the ‘Students as partners change programme’, an HEA joint initiative with Birmingham City University, deadline 30 April: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/change/SAP_CONTACT_SOURCE=Academy_Update&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=academy-update-mar2013&utm_content=content6?utm_id=12ZA_F3W3_SPX0D-26785_3](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/change/SAP_CONTACT_SOURCE=Academy_Update&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=academy-update-mar2013&utm_content=content6?utm_id=12ZA_F3W3_SPX0D-26785_3). Submissions are also invited for the conference, ‘Employer engagement in a digital age’. Sponsored by the HEA, it will explore the complex interaction between HE, employers and technology in an international digital workplace. The closing date for proposals is 2 April. See: [https://showtime.grp.ac.uk/index.php/ecentre/apt2012/schedConf/cfp?dm_i=12ZAZPKW3W3X9P26785_3](https://showtime.grp.ac.uk/index.php/ecentre/apt2012/schedConf/cfp?dm_i=12ZAZPKW3W3X9P26785_3).

Next Generation Ideas
Swansea University, in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians, with funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, are delighted to invite you to Tully Meeting 2 – Next Generation Ideas. Tully Meetings bring together leading Computer Scientists and other experts, to engage with Healthcare Professionals to critically and creatively explore solutions to safety and efficiency difficulties.

Tully Meeting 2 will particularly bring together junior Doctors and Computer Scientists to explore how new technologies can, could, and should, support healthcare on 28th May. Places are limited, email Victoria Hurst at v.i.hurst@swan.ac.uk providing a sentence about your background, area of interest and what you could contribute.

Congratulation
Congratulations to FoC staff for recent achievements:
- Martin Wright, Director of GameLab, Dr Karim Ouazzane and Dr Bal Virdee for their Professorships;
- Dr Shahram Salekzamankhani, for managing the successful bid for FoC to become a CISCO Academy Support Centre, an Instructor Training Centre and, possibly, a NetAcad Resource Program provider;
- Dr Yanguo Jing, for his University Teaching Fellowship;
- Jo Gill, on her PhD, awarded with minor edits to complete.

The Faculty looks forward to the inaugural professional lectures by Karim, Bal and Martin, in the coming months.

Staff charter
There is now a form for adding staff input into the Staff Charter. All members of staff are invited to give their views. The form is anonymous, and only 2 questions: As a member of staff I am expected to..., and As a member of staff I can expect... See: [http://www.socialnet.co.uk/staff-charter-form2.html](http://www.socialnet.co.uk/staff-charter-form2.html).

The university is compiling the first draft of the charter soon, so the sooner you give your views, the better!

Research Centre seminar forum
The Intelligent Systems Research Centre has organised four research seminars in the applications of artificial intelligence. Seminar speakers were from different research backgrounds, from PhD students to the Dean of the Faculty presenting four diverse and highly informative research topics. The list in reverse chronological order is as follows:
(i) Wed. 28th March Prof. Dominic Palmer-Brown, Dean of Faculty of Computing and Samson Habe PhD student. Title: Modal learning in neural networks.
(ii) Wed. 21st March Dr. Vassil Vassilev. Title: Search phase classification through semantic disambiguation.
(iii) Wed. 14th March Cesar Peluso-Lopes - PhD student supervised by Dr. Karim Ouazzane. Title: Predictive Online User Behaviour Patterns when Interacting with a Social Media Platform.
(iv) Wed. 7th March Prof. Hassan Kazemian. Title: Applications of artificial intelligence to transmembrane protein and signal peptide prediction.

The seminars have taken place successfully attracting well over 20 in the audience at any one time providing a forum for discussion, exchange of ideas and learning.

FoC PhD student publications
Following his keynote ‘The Role of Design and Technology in the Development of Augmented Learning Contexts’ for Brunel University, FoC PhD student and LTRI member Carl Smith has been invited by JISC to give a follow up keynote and workshop for their Digital Creativity conference to be held on the 23 May, entitled: ‘Space is the machine: Best practices and techniques for using mixed and augmented reality in education’. The session will exploit the web of relationships made possible through combining the physical, digital and conceptual aspects of space to increase knowledge formation. See: [www.jiscrc.ac.uk/london/events/2012/may/digital-creativity-2012.aspx](http://www.jiscrc.ac.uk/london/events/2012/may/digital-creativity-2012.aspx).

For the 4th year running he has had a full paper accepted for the Electronic Visualisation and the Arts conference to be held at the British Computer Society in London. The paper details are: Smith, C. (2012). Enhancing spatial cognition to improve pattern recognition within mixed reality environments. The conference will take place from 10-12 July. See: [http://www.eva-london.org/](http://www.eva-london.org/).

Digital Memories
A free BCS event on April 18th will discuss:
What is memory? What does it mean to remember, recollect, reminisce, and reflect? How is this changing in a digital world?
What is the relationship between memory and technology? What technologies exist to record life events and how might technology help us re-live past events or remember future ones?
How do we deal with the ever increasing amounts of personal information we are all creating? What happens to it when we die? Will it be in a format that is accessible to future generations?
What does it mean to forget, in a world where events are recorded, stored and duplicated several times over? Should people have a right to have information stored on them deleted?

The expert presenter is Richard Nanks - Principal Interaction Designer, Microsoft Research Ltd, and author of ‘The future of looking back’. Register now via [www.nlondon.bcs.org](http://www.nlondon.bcs.org). The event will be at BCS, 1st floor, 5 Southampton Street, Covent Garden, WC2E 7HA on Wednesday 18 April at 6.30.
BCS Bursary Scheme
In celebration of Alan Turing’s centenary year, the BCS has launched the BCS Education Bursary. This new scheme promotes computing within education and is open to all UK based educational institutions. Whether setting up an after school club for students or establishing entrepreneurship opportunities for university undergraduates, this scheme provides the means to help learners benefit from computing related studies. Apply online before June 1st at www.bcs.org/bcsbursary and have your project supported by the Chartered Institute for IT.

Enterprising U - £40,000 of Investment for Student Businesses
Enterprising U is the world’s largest business plan competition, taking place in universities across the UK. The competition will involve more than 200 investors looking to invest in student start-up companies and ideas. The best business ideas will be identified and their creators will be invited to workshops in the spring term to help explore their ideas and business plans. Ten finalists will be invited to pitch to a room of investors at the Enterprising U final at the end of the summer term. Prizes up to the value of £40,000 are available. The competition is open to any student or graduate from any discipline in the UK who has an idea and needs investment to help start-up in business. The deadline for submission of business plans is 15 June 2012. See: http://www.openbusiness.info/wyre/o5schemes.aspx?WCI=htmschemeview&WCJ=GRANT_PKEY=117

Turing-Tape competition
The BCS is running a Turing-Tape competition in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Turing. It is about finding the best solutions to a collection of one-person, solitaire-like games played on a Turing tape (a one-dimensional tape divided into squares). The solution of simple examples of Turing-tape games can be done by hand, but the games quickly become too complex and are best solved using machine assistance. The games in the final will be released on 26 August and the deadline for submission of entries will be 16 September. Students also eligible to compete for cash and other prizes. See: http://www.bcs.org/content/conWebDoc/4192?src=ebcs

Doctoral Consortium
The third BCS Doctoral Consortium provides an opportunity for Research Students to network with peers from other institutions, and to hear about research underway in departments this year. The event is on May 31 with deadlines of April 27 for presentations and May 18 for registration. Attendance is free and refreshments are provided throughout the day at the BCS London conference centre. The Keynote Address is by Dr Bill Mitchell, Director of the BCS Academy. Email adrianhall@bcs.org. See: www.londoncentral.bcs.org/download/Doctoral-Consortium-2011.pdf

Industry input supports change
On Monday 2nd April, Dr Romas Mikausauskas attended the event “Creating a positive and workable future for UK games and animation courses: industry and education perspectives” at Greenwich University and heard speakers from industry Martin Darby and Fraser Maclean. They spoke of the need for a focus on developing working games, mobile & internet app development, more coursework, less exams, industrial placements and liaison, OOP and maths content as well as relevant modules in design, modelling/animation, Photoshop, business/project management. Romas adds “in my view the new 30 credit structured courses address these requirements”.

Graduate speaker at SEW
On the 15th of March, the Faculty hosted the 21st SEW and welcomed back one of our graduates, Anvar Nazarov, and two of his colleagues from HSBC, Natayla Tueva and Amritj Odeda. They introduced the role of technologies in HSBC to maintain their competitiveness, and presented the graduate and internship programmes in HSBC. All three speakers shared their own application, interview, and work experience as trainees in HSBC. Over 50 students attended the event and many have decided to apply for the graduate and internship programme. Feedback from students includes “We got to know the huge opportunity available at HSBC programs”, “The University should encourage students to apply for these kinds of graduate programs”, “The speakers were all excellent in conveying the HSBC message”, “It was an excellent event”.

Students Union call for books
The Students’ Union is holding an end of year BBQ to raise money for the Lord Limerick fund. The Lord Limerick fund is a hardship fund that provides bursaries for some of our most disadvantaged students. At the event they will be holding a book giveaway. If you have any unwanted books that you would like to donate please either leave them at a student union office or contact su@londonmet.ac.uk to arrange collection.

Diary
Friday 8th June………………………………………………………………9am-5pm
Faculty wide event
All items for future newsletters by Thursday 17.00 to p_chalk@londonmet.ac.uk