

New Forum for eLearning Professionals and Practitioners

One of the recommendations made in last year's Phase 1 Review of the University's IT services was that a professional forum for Learning Technologists be established, similar to that already created for IT professionals.

This forum is now being set up, with the working title 'eLearning Professionals and Practitioners (eLPP).' It will be self-organising, and will determine its own name, format and objectives to serve the needs of our community.

A temporary working group is setting up this professional body, to be superseded in due course by a committee elected by the Forum's members. The group's Convenor will have a seat on the eLearning Committee that reports to Knowledge Strategy Committee. This provides a welcome and necessary opportunity for grass roots practitioners to influence University strategy.

Open Meeting

An open meeting for all interested staff will be held at 12:30pm on **Wednesday 9th May**, in Appleton Tower Lecture Theatre 2, to air working group suggestions and receive feedback. Coffee will be available for more informal networking at the end of the meeting.

This open invitation is directed at members of staff who:

- consider themselves to be professional eLearning/ Learning Technology practitioners, or
- use network technologies in their teaching practice and want to engage with others undertaking similar activities across the Colleges, or

- are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of eLearning and want closer contact with experienced professionals and practitioners.

We hope you will be able to attend this Open Meeting and help to establish the new organisation's role and its usefulness to yourself.

Further information

There is further information in the Forum's temporary website at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/LTF/>

There is a (low-volume) Majordomo mailing list for news about the Forum, which will be used for future communications:

- To join the list, send the message 'subscribe elpp' to majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk.
- To withdraw from the list, send the message 'unsubscribe elpp' to majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk.

Until the Forum is formally established, please feel free to raise queries or comments directly with Michael Begg, for the working group (email Michael.Begg@ed.ac.uk).

Michael Begg

(MVM Learning Technology)

Learning Technologist of the Year Award

ALT – the Association for Learning Technology – has announced a new Award for the 'Learning Technologist of the Year'.

Full details of the Award, including criteria, application process and prizes, will be published in May on the Association's website at <http://www.alt.ac.uk/>

The closing date for applications will be 6pm on Monday 18th June.

Nora Moge (IS)

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IT Professionals' Forum: new convenor starts work



James Jarvis won the election to be the first Convenor of the IT Professionals' Forum, and is now recruiting a committee to organise events, activities and participation to make the Forum as useful as possible to its members and to the University.

All the news is on the Forum's website at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/ctees/itforum/>

Nick Stroud (IS)

Cascade of open-access Lab PCs to Colleges/Schools

As a result of the annual replacement programme in the open-access Computing Labs we have some four-year-old PCs available for cascading to Colleges and Schools at £75 each, and we invite bids. We have a number of 15" TFT monitors available for an additional £25, and some 17" CRT monitors which are free! They will be supplied on a first-come first-served basis and will be available from the beginning of June.

The PCs' specification is:

- Pentium 4 2.6GHz processor
- Intel 865GL chipset
- 512Mb RAM (2 x 256)
- 40Gb hard disk
- CD-RW Drive 52X24X52
- On-board Intel Extreme Graphics controller
- Keyboard and mouse
- Windows XP Home Edition licence

If you would like some of these PCs, please tell us:

1. How many computers your School would like, and your preferred type of monitor, if any.
2. When the computers would be required (we would appreciate early delivery to allow us to clear the labs ready for the upgrade).
3. The purpose for which they are intended.
4. Will the PCs be running the Windows XP managed desktop?

Priority will be given to the replacement of obsolete equipment which is not capable of running the managed desktop.

Please contact Alan Reid (email A.Reid@ed.ac.uk) with bids or requests for information about purchase and delivery; or Graham Newton (email G.Newton@ed.ac.uk) for information about the managed desktop or technical considerations.

The final deadline for requests is Thursday 31st May.

Alan Reid, Graham Newton (IS)

Energy-saving supercomputer launched in Edinburgh

The FPGA Supercomputer "Maxwell", based on technology invented in Scotland and constructed by the FPGA High Performance Computing Alliance, was launched in March. The system, built at The University of Edinburgh, uses Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA) as an alternative to conventional microprocessors. More powerful than a conventional system of a similar size and using only one tenth the power, Maxwell is delivering new levels of computational performance for real-world industrial applications.

Maxwell was built using world-leading FPGA technology designed and manufactured by Scottish companies Nallatech and Alpha Data. It uses next-generation FPGAs provided by Xilinx, the world's leading FPGA company. Maxwell's power has already been demonstrated by porting three numerically intensive applications from the oil and gas, financial and medical imaging sectors. The system provides unprecedented computing power in relation to energy costs and it is anticipated that Maxwell could usher in a new generation of compact and energy-saving computers over the coming decade.

The FHPCA (FPGA High Performance Computing Alliance) has spent the past two years and £3.6 million, including funding from Scottish Enterprise, developing Maxwell. The Alliance builds on Scotland's world-class reputation and expertise in the field of high performance reconfigurable computing.

Maxwell will prove to be a valuable resource for industries with massive processing requirements such as drug design, military defence, seismology, medical imaging, mobile telecoms, computer modelling and financial engineering.

Tracy Peet (EPCC)

Website Development Project update

The pace of activity in the Project continues to increase as we work towards a Summer launch of initial sections of the new University website, focusing on themes related to student recruitment.

Project Steering Group refreshed

Nigel Seaton has taken over from Helen Hayes as chair of the Project's Steering Group. The group has expanded to include formal representation from all six Colleges and Support Groups, and has agreed a new remit for its work. To reflect these changes, the Steering Group is now called the Project Board.

The list of Project Board members is shown at

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/websiteproject/aboutproject/steeringgroup.html>

Graphic design partner appointed

Following a round of specifications and tendering which began late last year, a team of designers has begun work on design concepts for the new website. Dog Digital, a leading digital communications company from Glasgow, is currently developing initial ideas for a new look and feel for the University website.

Pilot training sessions a success

The Project ran its first pilot editorial training sessions in late March. Around 25 staff involved in web publishing for the University attended, providing very positive feedback.

Such sessions will form part of the mandatory training for all users of the new web publishing system. Pilot training in the use of the web publishing system was planned to take place by the end of April.

The guidance document which forms the basis of the editorial training session is available to download from the Project website, at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/websiteproject/documentation/guidelines.html>

Upcoming presentations

Dawn Ellis and Rose Dewar will lead the Information Services Lunchtime Seminars taking place in May at various locations around the University.

Dawn leads the Website Development Project and will give an overview of achievements to date, as well as outlining what the University can expect to see in the coming months.

Rose manages the University Contacts Directory project, part of the Website Development Project. Her presentation will outline what the University Contacts Directory will deliver through the phases of the main Project, and the benefits the University can expect to see over time (see IS lunchtime seminar information on page 7).

Information about these seminars is available from <http://www.mis.ed.ac.uk/services/seminars/ISAD-LTS-May2007-agenda.shtml>

More information

For the latest news on the Website Development Project, see

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/websiteproject/>

Contact

If you'd like to discuss any issues regarding the development of the University website, or contribute your views, please contact Dawn Ellis (tel 506379, email website.project@ed.ac.uk).

Neil Allison (CAM)

SOFTWARE NEWS

Mathematica, Sigmaplot, Sigmastat

Annual renewals for Mathematica, Sigmaplot and Sigmastat are all coming up soon. We will contact current customers; please let us know if you would like any new or additional licences (email software.services@ed.ac.uk).

Apple Maintenance Programme

Please contact Joyce Anderson if you have not already done so about numbers for the Apple Maintenance Plan renewal (tel 503311, email software.services@ed.ac.uk).

Adobe

Adobe CS3 products should be available by the middle of June, though some of the Suites – the Master Collection – will be shipping in July. Orders should be placed through EUCS Purchasing as usual.

More information on the new versions can be found at <http://www.adobe.com/>

(Note: the introduction of the new Adobe e-licensing scheme has been postponed.)

SFTPdrive

We are pleased to announce that we have a two year deal for sftpdrive. Individual copies cost £10; prices for bulk purchase and School licences are available on request from Software Services (email software.services@ed.ac.uk). Find out more about the software at <http://www.sftpdrive.com/>

Requests for deals

There have been a number of requests for new software deals: please get in touch if you would be interested in deals for Matlab, Intel compiler, IDL, AVS or Red Hat Linux (email software.services@ed.ac.uk).

Frances Provan (IS)

Podcasts and the Law

The use of podcasts in education is likely to grow in the future as a useful 'on-demand' learning tool. There are a number of legal issues which need to be considered, however, to ensure that institutions can have confidence in compliance and quality.

JISC Legal has just released a document on "Podcasts and the Law" which discusses these issues. The document is freely available at <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/publications/podcasts.htm>

Chris Adie (IS)

EDINA and the Kist o' Riches

The University of Edinburgh Information Services (IS) will play a key role in a multi-million-pound project to preserve, digitise and make available online more than 12,000 hours of recordings from the archives of BBC Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, and the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Riches was launched last October by Patricia Ferguson, MSP, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, at a ceremony at the University of Edinburgh. To help set up the digitisation process, which will employ cataloguers all over Scotland and particularly in the Highlands and Islands, IS has been contracted to produce a Production Control

Application and a Cataloguing Application (for web-based input of metadata). Once digitisation is well underway, EDINA will also develop and host the *Tobar an Dualchais* Online Service and Searchable Catalogue.

The project is based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye, and its steering group includes representatives from Edinburgh University, the National Trust for Scotland and BBC Scotland, as well as Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The collections comprise a wide variety of material, including:

- Stories recorded by John Lorne Campbell on wax cylinders in 1935;
- Folklore collected from all over Scotland by Calum MacLean in the 1950s;
- Scots songs recorded by Hamish Henderson for the School of Scottish Studies from travelling people in the 1960s;
- Conversations recorded on Radio nan Gàidheal.

The project will employ more than 20 people, with skills in administration, computing, Gaelic and Scots. Training will be provided in digitising, cataloguing and editing.

Digitising will be carried out in Edinburgh and South Uist, and people will be employed as home cataloguers in their own homes throughout Scotland. It is hoped that *Tobar an Dualchais* will stimulate the culture and economy of different parts of Scotland, including some of the areas which provided many of the original recordings.

The first phase of the project will cost around £2.9 million, just under half coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the rest from a wide range of organisations.

The wide level of interest in this very exciting project is indicated on its websites:

(Gaelic): <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/dualchas/> (English): <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/dualchas/indexbeurla.html>

Rick Loup (EDINA)

Small area statistics for Scotland

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) has launched the latest phase of an on-going programme to improve the availability, consistency and accessibility of small area statistics in Scotland.

SNS disseminates a range of small area statistics including information on health, education, poverty, unemployment, housing, population, crime and social / community issues at the data zone level and above.

The most recent indicators (updated in the last quarter) can be downloaded in ASCII or XML format, in addition to a complete copy of all indicators or boundary data and lookups. SNS also provides access to customisable reporting tools and data guide. For further information email datalib@ed.ac.uk or visit <http://www.sns.gov.uk/>

Stuart Macdonald (EDINA)



Angus MacNeill being recorded by Calum MacLean in Smearisary, Moidart, Inverness-shire in May 1959.

Front cover: Jeannie Robertson

Photographer: Ian Whitaker.

© School of Scottish Studies Archives, University of Edinburgh

IT training in May and June

The following IT courses are free to most staff and postgraduates at Edinburgh University. Course synopses and later dates are available on our website, where you can also book online: <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Date	Course	Venue*	Date	Course	Venue*
May Tue 1	Producing a Thesis	GS	May Thu 31	Database Design	GS
Tue 1	Dreamweaver	GS	Thu 31	HTML and Web Authoring	GS
Tue 1	Introduction to Mac OS X Part 2	GS	June Mon 4	SQL	GS
Wed 2	Unix 3: Shell Programming	KB	Mon 4	PhotoShop	GS
Wed 2	SPSS Commands	GS	Tue 5	Dreamweaver	GS
Mon 7	EndNote	GS	Tue 5	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	GS
Mon 7	Access Introduction (2)	GS	Wed 6	Access Introduction	GS
Tue 8	PhotoShop	GS	Thu 7	EndNote	GS
Tue 8	Using EDINA Digimap	GS	Tue 12	Minitab	GS
Tue 8	Intro to visualising data in ArcGIS 9	GS	Tue 12	Video Editing	GS
Tue 8	Creating Accessible Websites	GS	Tue 12	Introduction to Windows	GS
Wed 9	Unix 1: Introduction	KB	Thu 14	Producing a Thesis	GS
Wed 9	Word Intermediate	GS	Thu 14	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	GS
Wed 9	Scanning Tutorial	KB	Thu 14	Thunderbird	GS
Thur 10	PowerPoint	KB	Tue 19	FileMaker	GS
Thur 10	FileMaker	GS	Thu 21	Excel Introduction	GS
Mon 14	Outlook 2003 for Windows	GS	Thu 21	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	GS
Tue 15	Perl	GS	Tue 26	HTML and Web Authoring	GS
Tue 15	Access Intermediate	GS	Wed 27	PowerPoint	GS
Wed 16	Fortran 90/95	KB	Thu 28	Intermediate SPSS	GS
Wed 16	CorelDRAW Tutorial	KB	* Venues: GS, George Square area; KB, King's Buildings		
Wed 16	Word Mail Merge	GS	<i>Jenni Reeves (IS)</i>		
Thu 17	Access Advanced	GS	Do you know Reference Manager?		
Thu 17	Question and Test Authoring	GS	The Computing Skills Centre is looking for tutors and assistants for our Reference Manager course. Can you help? Before you run a course we would ensure you have a good knowledge of the materials, ask you to co-tutor, and send you on a <i>Train the Trainer</i> workshop to develop your presentation and communication skills. Please contact jenni.reeves@ed.ac.uk for further information.		
Wed 23	Unix 2	KB	<i>Jenni Reeves (IS)</i>		
Wed 23	Excel Introduction	GS			
Thu 24	S-Plus	GS			
Tue 29	Reference Manager	GS			
Tue 29	Introduction to InDesign	GS			
Wed 30	Excel Advanced	GS			
Wed 30	Introduction to SPSS	GS			

Do you know Reference Manager?

The Computing Skills Centre is looking for tutors and assistants for our Reference Manager course. Can you help? Before you run a course we would ensure you have a good knowledge of the materials, ask you to co-tutor, and send you on a *Train the Trainer* workshop to develop your presentation and communication skills. Please contact jenni.reeves@ed.ac.uk for further information.

Jenni Reeves (IS)

Edinburgh's e-Science MSc

Funded places are available for the e-Science MSc/ Diploma at the University of Edinburgh in 2007–2008. This unique degree is taught by staff from Physics, Informatics and the National e-Science Centre, and covers the principles of e-Science and Grid computing.

Funded places are still available for entry in September. Applications are invited from students with, or expecting, a good honours degree in science or computer science, with proven competence in computer programming. Further information is available at http://www.ph.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees/msc_escience.html

Alison McCall (NeSC)

DDA competence seminar

There will be a seminar on 18th May to look at competence standards and the updated DDA legislation. This will be particularly important for academic staff with responsibility for designing courses, setting standards for assessments and the conferment of awards, or making selection decisions.

This is a complex subject for which we have had legal obligations since September. You can book on the seminar using the Event Booking channel in MyEd, or by contacting me (email marnie.roadburg@ed.ac.uk).

*Marnie Roadburg
(Student Disability Service)*

eLearning

Innovating eLearning 2007 Conference

This *online* conference on 11–14 June will be of interest to practitioners, managers and e-learning coordinators, researchers, staff developers, learning technologists and key stakeholders supporting lifelong learning in HE and FE.

The programme brings together a selection of key innovators to present and discuss the current and future impact of e-learning. The two themes look at the impact of e-learning from an internal institutional perspective and from the more personalised view of the lifelong learner.

For details visit http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning_pedagogy/elp_conference07.aspx

Can mobile devices be pedagogically effective?

This meeting – on 13th June at The Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University – will explore how PDAs and mobile phones are being used in Higher and Further Education to improve student attainment and retention. It will include hands-on opportunities and discussion with specialists in the field. The details are at http://www.alt.ac.uk/workshop_detail.php?e=3D248

Emerging technologies for learning

BECTA – the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency – has just published this review as a complementary follow-up to the 2006 publication of the same name. These are not intended to give a comprehensive review of educational technologies, but offer some highlights across the broad spectrum of developments and trends.

The 2007 review includes the following chapters:

- Emerging trends in social software for education (Lee Bryant, Headshift)
- Learning networks in practice (Stephen Downes, NRC)
- The challenge of new digital literacies and the ‘hidden curriculum’ (Jo Twist, ippr)
- How to teach with technology: keeping both teachers and students comfortable in an era of exponential change (Marc Prensky)
- Games in education (Keri Facer, Futurelab; Tim Dumbleton, BECTA)
- Ubiquitous computing (David Ley, Becta)

Both publications can be downloaded from BECTA at

<http://www.becta.org.uk/research/reports/emergingtechnologies>

Wilma Alexander (IS)

Views from the other side: listening to learner voices

This workshop, on 26th June at Glasgow Caledonian University, will explore learner views of technology-enhanced learning based on the findings of The Learner Experience of E-Learning (LEX) study. LEX researchers spent a year listening to learners in HE and FE to get their opinions of learning with technology and examining their coping strategies.

Participants will have the opportunity to listen to learners’ voices, match learner profiles to attitudes and approaches, reflect on the main themes, and discuss the wider implications. Full details and booking are available at

http://www.alt.ac.uk/workshop_detail.php?e=249

Caroline Porteous (JISC Regional Support Centres)

Some Weblets

‘What is Web 2.0?’

This newly-published TechWatch report was commissioned to investigate the substance behind the hyperbole surrounding this overused expression. It reports on the implications Web 2.0 may have for UK HE and FE, with a special focus on collection and preservation activities in libraries.

The report is available at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/techwatch/tsw0701bword.doc>

WILFING

“Wilfing” – a term derived from the phrase “what was I looking for?” – has come to mean surfing the web without any real purpose, and it has become a national pastime.

Over two-thirds of 2,400 people questioned in a recent YouGov survey admitted to at least the occasional “wilf”, and almost a quarter said they spent 30% or more of their Internet time wilfing – the equivalent of spending an entire working day every fortnight pointlessly jumping around random pages.

The survey found the tendency to wilf is more prevalent among men than women, and most common among those under 25.

Internet advertising overtakes newspapers

Spending on online advertising overtook that on national newspapers in 2006, smashing through the £2bn barrier while television revenues fell and press remained static. Google has increased its grip on the UK online ad market, claiming 43% of the £2bn, according to figures from the Internet Advertising Bureau.

Caroline Porteous

(JISC Regional Support Centres)

Lunchtime seminar from the organisation formerly known as MIS

Following the recent merger of MIS into Information Services, the MIS Lunchtime Seminars are now the *IS Applications Lunchtime Seminars*.

The theme for May is the close integration that will exist between the new University website and MyEd, with presentations from both Communications & Marketing and IS Applications staff. There will be an overview and update on the current status of the University Web Development Project from Dawn Ellis, the project Manager. The main focus of the event will be on the new dynamic content functionality such as the new University contacts directory that will deliver a “people finder” search tool that will significantly improve the end user experience when looking for University contact details.

The event will be run in Old College and repeated at The King’s Buildings and Little France.

Further details and booking information are at <http://www.mis.ed.ac.uk/services/seminars/ISAD-LTS-May2007-agenda.shtml>

Liam McDowell (IS)

BCS: Codemakers versus Codebreakers: who wins?

Professor Fred Piper, Information Security Group, Royal Holloway College will speak on this subject at 6:30pm on Wednesday 16th May in the Royal Scots Club Hepburn Suite, 29/30 Abercromby Place, EH3 6QE.

The talk is free and no reservation is required. Non members of the BCS are most welcome. Refreshments will be available from 6pm.

There is an abstract at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/070516.htm>

David Muxworthy (BCS)



The Informatics Forum taking shape, well on its way to becoming a landmark centre for innovation and interaction.
See <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/building/>

Informatics Jamboree 2007

This year’s event takes place on 28th June, with the annual Milner Lecture as its centrepiece. There will be talks and posters until 4pm, then the Lecture followed by a reception. The Computer History Conference opens the day before, and continues on the following day along with an alumni reunion and the traditional ceilidh in the Appleton Tower Concourse. It is hoped to include tours of the new Informatics Forum, due for completion this Autumn. Jamboree information is at <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/jamboree/2007/>

The 2007 Milner Lecture

The Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science presents the 2007 Milner Lecture: Ronald Fagin, IBM (Almaden) will give a talk entitled “Finite Model Theory – How It All Began”, at 4pm on 28th June 2007, in Lecture Theatre 5, Appleton Tower. This is a public lecture, open to all.

Full details are provided at <http://www.lfcs.informatics.ed.ac.uk/milner/>

Julian Bradfield (Informatics)

A lot can happen in 25 years Ten commonest passwords

Sir Clive Sinclair launched his ‘ZX Spectrum’ computer 25 years ago last month, on 23rd April 1982, greatly accelerating the home computer age in the UK and beyond, and galvanising computer manufacturing skill and software programming talent that is still in evidence today.

The BBC’s account is at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/6572711.stm>

Liam McDowell (IS)

PC Magazine identifies these as the ten most commonly-used passwords; if you use any of these, be worried!

1. password
2. 123456
3. qwerty
4. abc123
5. letmein
6. monkey
7. mspace1
8. password1
9. blink182
10. (your first name)

(Ed)

Morag Anderson retires from Main Library

Morag Anderson, supervisor at the Main Library Helpdesk, retires in May after 31 years of service to the University. She will leave a difficult gap for her colleagues and Library users to fill, having been involved successfully in so much for so long.

Students with disabilities will know Morag as the organiser of their study rooms, heaters, light bulbs, lost keys – and rubbish. Photocopier users benefit from the services she has worked so hard to maintain and improve within budget limitations. Many people will know her as uncomplaining provider of countless records and library cards inexplicably lost in the rigours of academic life.

For Library staff, Morag has been hugely appreciated as the patient trainer of countless library/helpdesk assistants, her no-fuss approach encouraging confidence in all. You could ask her the same question as many times as you liked and she never was known to flinch! As a supervisor, she has always been the most supportive of colleagues.

Morag is probably quite unaware of how much her contributions and presence have been valued over the years, and we all wish her a long and happy retirement with her family.

Marj MacGregor (IS)

Late news: new Taster Session dates

The next batch of the popular IS hour-long lunchtime 'tasters' has been arranged. These demonstrations focus on key IT-related topics which can make everyday work easier.

The one May session is on *Word Sections*, on the 14th. Other topics will be announced in next month's *BITs* and on the website at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Shona Matchett (IS)

Tip of the day: Printer cartridges

Over 40 million printer cartridges go into UK landfill sites each year and this is increasing annually. Refilled cartridges are a good way to prevent this waste and are often cheaper than new ones. Cartridge World supply refilled cartridges and can refill your empty ones: see

<http://www.cartridgeworld.org/>

Several charities can benefit from recycling cartridges: see <http://www.actionaidrecycling.org.uk/> or <http://www.inkagain.co.uk/>

If you're buying a new printer, opt for one that uses or can easily accept refillable or generic cartridges.

Friends of the Earth

May public holidays

The University will be observing the Victoria Day Holiday on 21st May and the May Holiday on the 22nd. The Main Library will be open on these days from 8:30am to midnight with self-services: the Reserve collection will be open from 9am to 8pm, but there will be no Helpdesk enquiry service. The Veterinary Library at Summerhall will be open as normal.

Computing labs in the Library will be open and supervised, and the Hugh Robson, High School Yards and KB Centre labs available 24 hours a day for students with card and PIN. The IS support teams will be closed.

The Semester ends on 25th May.

Jeff Haywood (IS)

Silver Surfers Day 2007

Silver Surfer Week is an annual UK-wide campaign to help older people get to grips with computers. This year's Day is on 25th May, at the end of Adult Learners' Week. There is information about holding a Silver Surfers' Day Event, or attending one, at <http://www.silversurfersday.org/>

Nick Stroud (IS)

Alex Pollard: Black Marks

Talbot Rice Gallery until 2nd June



Alex Pollard's solo exhibition at Talbot Rice Gallery takes influences from the new romantic, the fable of Pierrot the Clown – a story of temptation and guilt – and notions of the gothic. **Black Marks** shows the development of Pollard's work since his inclusion in the 2005 Venice Biennale. New bronzes made in collaboration with the Scottish Sculpture Workshop, *trompe l'oeil* reliefs, and a selection of new oil paintings form the exhibition.

Martin Minton (IS)

EDINBURGH BITS

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NB: if you fail to access a URL shown in *BITs*, please email BITs@ed.ac.uk.

Contributions to *BITs* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for June *BITs*:

Friday 18th May