

CASL Newsletter

Issue: 2009-4

Claude Shannon Competition



The Claude Shannon Institute national primary school competition, coinciding with the birthday of Claude Shannon, closed with thousands of entries received. The competition targeted 3rd Class primary school students and its purpose was to teach the children about Claude Shannon. More info can be found at: [claudeshannon.ie](#).

NCRA Book Launch



A book launch reception took place on 22nd May '09 in the 4th floor Common Room for *Foundations in Grammatical Evolution for Dynamic Environments* by Ian Dempsey, Michael O'Neill and Anthony Brabazon. Please see [link](#) for more info about this event.

Publications

In May '09 [Sam Dolan](#) had a Letter accepted by Physical Review. The title of the paper is *Electromagnetic wave scattering by Schwarzschild black holes* and is a joint work with two collaborators in Brazil.



May-June-July 09

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- GREP Update
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Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine PhD Programme

GREP – Student Advisory Board

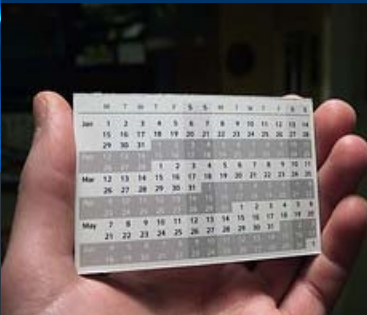
The IRCSET Graduate Education Programme in Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine gathered together its scientific advisory board on 7th May. Our instructions to find CASL weren't great so things got off to a slow start, as everyone on the main campus had a different idea of where CASL is, so the chair of the board (Andy Brass from U Manchester) experienced a lot of UCD and met some old friends in the process.

The board met with students from the 2007 and 2008 intakes. They reported that the students are benefitting from their joint computational/experimental supervision, and from the structured teaching. They recommended that the students could benefit from more direct interaction between cohorts (peer mentoring), a focus on external lab

placements, and guidance for students in choosing modules after year 1. If anyone is interested in their short report, contact denis.shields@ucd.ie.

One member of the board, Joseph Lehar from Combinatorx Inc, Cambridge MA gave a CASL seminar, "Testing the Limits of Bacterial Robustness", which more generally discussed drug synergy in new therapeutic strategies. Another member, Kevin Karplus (UCSC), gave a talk the following day in Conway on "the null hypothesis in bioinformatics."

The Board were fed and watered in Fallons and Byrne in town and we discovered that Joseph is related to Franz Lehar, the composer of "The Merry Widow", and the correct way to drink port.



Recent Events

The 20th Irish Signals and Systems Conference (ISSC) was hosted in UCD on 10th & 11th June. Co-chairs were Scott Rickard and Chris Bleakley of CASL. For more info see: [ISSC Website](#)

Tedx Talks, organised by Aaron Quigley, UCD, and hosted by Science Gallery, TCD, took place on 12th June. Speakers were Scott Rickard (CASL Director), Blaise Agueray Arcas (Microsoft) and Mark Billingham (Director HIT Lab New Zealand). More info can be found [here](#)

The Clique SRC held a workshop on Network Data Analysis on Thursday 18th June. For more information on this event please click [here](#)

Fq 9 Conference will be held in UCD on 13th – 17th July. For more info please see [claudeshannon website](#)

Version 2 of the BioMOBIUS™ Research Platform will be launched by TRIL shortly. For more info see [BioMOBIUS](#).

Recent & Upcoming Talks

Recent

Bioinformatics Collaborative Seminar Series – UCD CASL Seminar Room:
May 7 '09 Joseph Lehar, Bioinformatics Advisory Board member, "Testing the Limits of Bacterial Robustness".

May 14 '09 Denis Shields, "Networks of Protein Physical and Functional Interactions: Introduction, Challenges & Opportunities."

Other:

May 5 '09 Kevin Knudson, "Topological Data Analysis", Mathematical Sciences SR.

May 8 '09 1st Irish Platelet Symposium, Conway Institute.

May 12 '09 Jack Lennon, "Species Distributions and Degrees of Climatic Determinism", Science Centre West.

May 15 '09 Third Clairty Seminar, Health Science Building, DCU.

May 18 & 19 '09 The Claude Shannon Institute Workshop on Coding & Cryptography, UCC.

May 20 '09 Iryna Andriyanova, "Analysis of the Finite-Length Performance of Punctured LDPC Codes and its Application to Rate-Adaptable Coding Schemes", UCD CASL Seminar Room.

May 22 '09 NCRA Workshop, UCD CASL Seminar Room.

June 4 '09 Martina Nardon "Simulation techniques for generalized Gaussian densities", UCD CASL Seminar Room.

June 11 '09 Ronald Hochreiter "Multi-stage stochastic optimization - modelling techniques and solution approaches", UCD CASL Meeting Room.

Upcoming

CASL will start a PostDoc Seminar Series in July. These Seminar sessions will consist of two CASL PostDoc researchers giving a brief twenty minute talk on their current research and areas for potential future collaboration.

Job Opportunities

Please see [CASL website](#) for details of job opportunities.

Welcome to

Ciara Lockhart – TRIL Centre
Aaron McDaid – PhD Clique

Welcome to 9 ODCSSS students and 7 summer interns!

Congratulations

Congratulations to:

Tara & Made on the arrival of baby Maya!

Anthony & Angie on the arrival of baby Ryan!

Best wishes to Matt Stabeler who is getting married in July!

Summer BBQ

The CASL social committee are holding a summer bbq on Thursday 30th July 2009 to mark the end of a successful year. More details to follow!

Social Committee

CASL have established a social committee made up of students and Post Doctoral researchers. The purpose of the committee is to implement proposals aimed at improving the overall quality of life for people while in CASL.

A recommendation from our International Advisory Board is that we establish a committee aimed at improving the quality of life for members. It has been shown based on their collective experiences that the enthusiasm of researchers and their drive makes everything possible.

The Committee will have a small budget to implement proposals. It is intended that there is fair and balanced representation from groups and schools.

Every six months there will be a rotation of new members.

The current Committee members are:

- Zoran Skrba (TRIL, Ground floor)
- Keelin Murphy (TRIL, Ground floor)
- Prag Sharma (Clique, Ground floor)
- Danny Lynch (Claude Shannon Institute, 1st floor)
- Paul O'Grady (Signals Processing Group, 1st floor)
- Anthony Brew/Santi Villalba (Machine Learning, 3rd floor)
- Matt Stabeler (SRG, 3rd floor)
- Nora Khaldi (Bioinformatics, 3rd floor)
- Uwe Obermeier (IRU, 4th floor)