

BCS Bedford Branch Chair report to AGM 16 September 2015

The 2014-15 programme year has been another exciting year, growing the Schools Competition, assisting the launch of the University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter, starting a relationship with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub, another successful Family Fun Day at the National Museum of Computing, and many more.

1. Highlight of the year – The University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter

With a lot of effort from Sue Brandreth of the Branch Committee and Olivia Tan from BCS HQ, the Student Chapter came into being. In its first year, it won the BCS Student Chapters Most Successful Event Award, as well as the University of Bedfordshire Most Improved Student Society Award. Their successful programme of events is reported together with the Branch events. The BCS Bedford Branch Committee would like to formally acknowledge the contribution of the following students who served on the Student Chapter Committee:

Paul Kwame	Computer Networking BSc (Hons)
Laith Yaseen	Computer Security and Forensics BSc (Hons)
Chiamaka Chichebe	Computer Science and Software Engineering BSc (Hons)
Natasha Lee	Computer Science and Software Engineering BSc (Hons)
Yavuz Archeri (Vasile)	Computer Science and Software Engineering BSc (Hons)
Tammy Norman	Computer Science and Software Engineering BSc (Hons)

Thanks also go to university staff including: Raymond Brown, Jon Hitchcock and Dr Herbert Daly. We are working with them to prepare for the next programme year.

2. The second year of the BCS Bedford School Challenge built on the success of last year’s pilot. The challenge opened out to separate Year 7 and Year 8 competitions. 20 schools from our enlarged catchment area participated and the standards were very high. About 100 students, teachers and family members attended the prize giving award at Cranfield University on 19 June. In addition to the prizes from BCS Bedford, the Open University contributed prizes to the winner team teachers. Prizes were presented by Detective Superintendent Jon Gilbert, Force Strategic Lead for Cybercrime, Bedfordshire Police. Thanks go to Jacq Emkes, Lisa Ryder, Karl Rivers and Daniel Emery of Biddenham International School, Jackie Samosa of CAS Bedford Hub, and Bob Bethell who represents the Branch Committee.

3. The Bedfordshire Police launched its Cyber Hub on 25 August. The lead of the initiative, Detective Superintendent Jon Gilbert, has been keen to involve BCS as a partner to support. This falls fully in line with the BCS Council recent discussion of a motto that ‘BCS helps to make IT good for Society’. We shall be working with the Police School Liaison Officer to incorporate the theme of e-safety in the next BCS Bedford School Challenge. Superintendent Gilbert is to speak at our AGM, and other activities shall follow.

4. Sue coordinated with the Northampton Branch again to run a successful Family Fun Day in The National Museum of Computing on 19 July. The venue has a tight limit in number and it was great to be able to engage the families of members.

5. We again have another successful series of joint meetings with many other partners, sustaining high level of attendance. The work of the Student Chapter is most encouraging.

Date	Title	Partner
17 Sep 14	BCS Bedford Branch AGM2014 “Cyber Security – a McAfee Perspective”. Keith Clement-Drew, McAfee	IET
Oct 14	BCS Bedford Presentation during the University of Bedfordshire Induction Week	

14 Oct 14	"Project success or failure – what's governance got to do with it" Carol Long, Three Triangles Performance	Bedford College
26 Nov 14	Site visit to Selex, Luton	UoBeds Student Chapter
27 Nov 14	Student demonstration of Apps developed during their studies on the new Mobile Application Development Module	UoBucks
02 Dec 14	"The Future of Technology and Innovation" Christopher Snell, Industry Manager, Google.	IET, Cranfield Univ
28 Jan 15	"Risk Attenuation and Management in Software Projects" Geoffrey Darnton	IET
28 Jan 15	Distributed Control of Energy Resources Dr Spiros Skavelis-Kazakos	IET, Cranfield Univ
5 Feb 15	BCS Bedford Presentation during the University of Buckingham Induction Week	
11 Feb 15	"Women in Computing – Breaking Myths and Broadening Horizons" Invited Panel	UoBeds Student Chapter
25 Feb 15	"Computer Security and Ethical Hacking" Geraint Williams, Information Risk Consultant and Trainer, IT Governance Ltd.	UoBeds Student Chapter
26 Feb 15	BCS Bedford Branch School Challenge 2015 Launch meeting at TNMOC	CAS, Cranfield University, Open University, Bedford Borough Council, Pilgrim Learning
20 Mar 15	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at University of Buckingham	
24 Mar 15	"Stop Social Media Marketing! (Unless...)" Eric Swain, Equimedia.	
25 Mar 15	Google self-driving car: Be driven Dr Chris Urmson, Director, Self-Driving Cars, Google[x]	UoBeds Student Chapter
21 Apr 15	"Cooperative Indoors localisation between Smartphones based on onboard GNSS receivers, Wireless communication transwers and inertial sensors" Dr Ihsan Lami, Ubucks	IET, UoBucks
23 April 15	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at Open University	
9 June 15	"Top Ten Tips for Digital Incident Response" Elizabeth Sheldon, Forensic IT	IET
19 June 15	BCS Bedford Branch School Challenge 2015 Prize Presentation	CAS, Cranfield University, Open University, Bedford Borough Council, Pilgrim Learning
26 June 15	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at Cranfield University	
19 July 15	TNMOC Family Day	BCS Northampton Branch
24 July 15	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at University of Bedfordshire	

While the meeting list grows longer, we are also noting weaknesses in the communication before meeting, recording of meetings, reporting after the meeting, and various opportunities of communication. We can do with additional skills and more hands. If you can help, please make contact anytime in the year.

6. University Student Prizes

We presented prizes to all four universities in our area. It was a delight to present prizes to the worthwhile recipients. Following from the success in University of Bedfordshire, we hope to develop another successful BCS student chapter in the University of Buckinghamshire.

Date		Institution
20 Mar 15	Nasiru Ibrahim Best Performing Graduate in Applied Computing	University of Buckingham
23 April 15	James Cole Best project for The Computing and IT Project	Open University
26 June 15	Estela Balfagón Monserrate Best Performing student in Management and Information Systems	Cranfield University
24 July 15	Darlington Uzoma Chikanya Best Performing Year 1 student in Computing	University of Bedfordshire

7. Social media – While we started the BCS Bedford Branch LinkedIn group, Facebook page and Twitter account, we still do not have a rhythm of communication and the media has not gained a self sustaining momentum yet. This is an area of further work.

8. An important engagement this year was requests from a member to borrow the Branch banner to help in a local school careers fair. We are also approached by another Bedford area school to contribute to their careers fair. While the committee do not have enough manpower to do many, other members are volunteering to contribute to their local community. We hope more members are enthused and play a part.

9. Engaging members better is a recurring item in committee meetings and there are still a lot we want to do.

10. I would like to thank the committee, branch members and many other partners for their support throughout the year. Our committee members of the year are:

Position	
Chairman / Email Co-ordinator	Ip-Shing Fan (IF)
Secretary / Email Co-ordinator	Saverio Bongo (SB)
Treasurer	Richard Maddison(RM)
Webmaster	Ian Wilson (IW)
Membership Secretary / Education Liaison Officer	Sue Brandreth (SB1)
Committee Member / Social Media	Karl Rivers (KR)
Committee member / Schools Project	Bob Bethell (BB)
YPG Committee member	Sam Faulkner (SF)
Committee member / Project Management	Chris Ireland (CI)
Committee member / Shadowing Treasurer	Christopher Knight (CK)

Karl, Bob, Sam and Chris Knight would not be standing in the coming AGM, due to new job, moving out of area and other reasons. I thank them for their contribution and look forward to future opportunities to work together again.