Innovative Learning Week 2013 – Current Plans
M Rovatsos, Teaching Committee 28/11/2012

ILW 2013 will take place in week 6 of Semester 2 (between 18th and 22nd February). The following is a preliminary list of events planned so far, for information and comments and this stage. A provisional page with a listing and timetable of all events has been created at https://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/student-services/teaching-organisation/taught-course-information/informatics-innovative-learning-week-2013.

Confirmed events:

1. **Personal Tutor Group Meetings (all PTs)**
   Under the new PT scheme, all students are required to have at least one group meeting with their PT per year. We are planning to arrange students into groups and use these meetings mainly for them to exchange experiences across different years. ILW offers a period where these meetings should be easiest to scheduled, as neither students nor PTs have other timetabled teaching-related activities. It is proposed that these meetings are held during morning hours, to be able to keep them separate from non-compulsory events during afternoons.

2. **Games programming workshop (Game Development Society)**
   This will be a half-day event starting with a lecture from an invited speaker (from games company LuckyFrame), and then continuing with a student-led workshop where interested students can get hands-on experience at games programming using open source APIs and tools.

3. **Systems configuration workshop (Anderson)**
   This will involve an introduction to the LCFG system followed by a two-hour practical session where students can get hands-on experience with configuring large-scale systems.

4. **Programming interviews workshop (Leather)**
   These two-hours workshops will give students an opportunity to practice solving the kinds of programming tasks often used by companies such as Google and Amazon in technical interviews. They will repeated three times during ILW.

5. **Hadoop cluster Hackathon (Osborne)**
   A two-day event where students solve some application challenge on the Hadoop cluster. This is a repeat of an event that ran successfully last year.

6. **Informatics History Lessons (several)**
   The idea is for Informatics “veterans” to give lectures about the history of different fields. So far Alan Bundy has agreed to do this for AI, there are ongoing discussions with others.

7. **Research group presentations (several)**
   So far the Robotics (Ramamoorthy), Specknets (Arvind) groups have agreed to offer an event like that. It would be good if this could be extended to include more student-led events, e.g. PhD students presenting their research projects to younger students and vice versa (for SDP, Hons project etc).

Under development:

1. **Non-fiction science film competition (Non-Fi Sci Society)**
   This student society makes "Be-Kind-Rewind"-style re-enactments of well-known films while “fixing the science” inaccurately presented in the films. We are currently discussing with them whether they could help us run a competition where students produce a short film about their study or research projects. The films would be screened at the closing event of ILW and prizes awarded for the best film.

2. **Student-led Hackathons (CompSoc)**
   CompSoc have offered to run two hackathons for students, but it is not yet clear what shape these will take exactly.
3. **Equality in Informatics (Hillston)**
   This is most likely going to be a half-day workshop dealing with issues of gender bias etc and could be useful for our SWAN submission. The precise format is still to be decided.

4. **Informatics goes to the Movies (Rovatsos)**
   We propose to end the Monday-Thursday ILW days with a 5pm screening of slightly “off-beat” Informatics-related films, with pizza at half-time and discussion.

**Support structure:**
All rooms on the Informatics Forum ground floor have been block-booked for the entire week. It is expected that many of the above events will additionally require lab space for practical work. We propose to use one of them as an “ILW Hub” where a half-hour introduction to the day’s events will be given every lunchtime, and to try to get a student or two to blog/podcast about the events as they are unfolding. Catering for some of the events might be essential to attract significant student participation.

**Further plans:**
Maths have proposed a lunch for students on joint programmes with them, we will publicise this to our “& Maths” students. Various further groups across the School have been contacted to organise further events (Hoppers, CompuCast, Commercialisation, PhD Students and research staff). There will be further calls to solicit event suggestions from staff and students before and after the Christmas break.