

Judges Panel - SDP Final Day

6th April 2018

University of Edinburgh, School of Informatics



Alistair Hann
Adviser @ Ctrip

Alistair works as an adviser to several technology start-ups in the travel, health, and events sectors. Alistair co-founded the start-up Zoombu which was acquired by Skyscanner in January 2011 and served as Skyscanner CTO from then until its acquisition by Ctrip for £1.4bn in late 2016. Before starting Zoombu, Alistair was a post-doc in the machine learning and signal processing group at the University of Oxford.



Andre Tamm
Software Development Engineer @ Amazon

Andre is an Edinburgh University alumnus and he has been involved with SDP as a student and mentor before. For the last two years he has been working for Amazon here at Edinburgh, doing large-scale data processing with Spark and building cool machine-learning systems.



Angus Pearson
CTO @ Robotical

CTO at Robotical, a Robotics startup in Edinburgh that makes Marty the Robot, a 'real' two-legged robot for kids, makers and educators. I graduated from Edinburgh last year in Artificial Intelligence & Computer Science. My main focuses at Robotical are web dev, systems and electronics.

Bridget Khursheed
Global Documentation Manager @ KAL



Bridget is Global Documentation Manager at KAL a fintech software company based in Edinburgh. (Currently I am also studying the Advanced Security and Digital Forensics MSc at Edinburgh Napier University.) I designed some of the earliest UK intranets for companies such as Eurostar and John Laing. And developed, managed, and tutored on the University of Oxford's first ever accredited online course in Computing. Geek and poet: I am a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award winner.



Ceri Shaw
Development Manager @ Sky

Ceri leads two development teams providing tools and monitoring services which support the majority of engineering teams across Sky's UK customer operations. She has over 15 years experience in the tech industry as a developer and manager working in a variety of languages including C, C++, Ruby and Java. With her volunteer work for Codebar and Women Who Code as well as her work with the Sky Women in Technology, Ceri strives to make the tech sector a more welcoming and inclusive place for women and other minority groups.



Chris Paton
Senior Software Engineer @ Amazon

Chris took the System Design Project 12 years ago and is now a Senior Software Engineer for Amazon here in Edinburgh. After graduating, he worked at startup doing ticketing for the Edinburgh Fringe, and to this day his code is still the foundation for all tickets printed and the collection kiosk. Chris joined Amazon in 2008 and has worked on a variety of teams both frontend, backend, and everything in between, including the Dynamic Merchandising team responsible for delivering recommendations to tens of millions of customers a day across Amazon's retail websites and apps.

Matthew Bunn
Integration Manager @ Accenture

I joined Accenture in July 2013 and work as an Integration Manager within the company's Digital Interactive Delivery practice. I am involved in delivering digital transformation projects, with a focus on eCommerce. Recently I have been involved in developing microservices solutions and the move away from monolithic application architecture. Our projects are increasingly delivered using agile development methodologies. I have gained certifications in the Scrum and Scaled Agile for Enterprise frameworks, as within Accenture we often apply these approaches in project delivery. Prior to joining Accenture I worked at the University of Edinburgh, where I also studied in the School of Informatics. I completed my MSc in Informatics in 2012, having previously gained a BA in Business Management from Newcastle University.





Mike McQuaid
Senior software engineer @ GitHub

Mike is a senior software engineer at GitHub where he works from home in Edinburgh. He is the lead maintainer of the Homebrew package manager for macOS, author of *Git in Practice* and has contributed to a wide array of other open source projects including KDE and the Linux kernel.



Nick Johnson
Software Engineer @ Google

Nick is a Software Engineer in Google's London office. He has been at Google for almost 7 years, working on a variety of different projects and teams, including AdSense, Google Calendar, and now Google Maps. Nick received his Bachelor of Science, with Honors, from the University of Edinburgh and his PhD from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. His thesis was on "The Design and Implementation of a System for the Automatic Generation of Narrative Debriefs for Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Missions". Nick did his final project at Edinburgh on robotics (with Prof. Webb as his supervisor). He was twice on the winning team at the "Student Autonomous Underwater Competition - Europe" (SAUC-E).



Paul Patras
Professor @ School of Informatics

Paul Patras is a Lecturer and Chancellor's Fellow in the School of Informatics, where he co-leads the Internet of Things (IoT) research programme. His recent research interests include network traffic analytics, IoT security and privacy, and 5G mobile systems.

Sandy Enoch
Founder of Robotical



Sandy recently completed his PhD in robotics at the University of Edinburgh, and is now the founder of a local startup - Robotical. Robotical makes Marty the Robot, a little two legged robot designed to help teach robotics from primary school right up to university level. Marty started out as a side project during Sandy's PhD, and Sandy was then supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering to commercialise the technology. Having successfully crowdfunded, Marty the Robot is in manufacture now and Robotical is growing as a company, having recently completed a seed investment round. During his PhD, Sandy was an SDP mentor three times.



Stephen Gilmore
Professor @ School of Informatics

Stephen is a Professor in the School of Informatics where he is the chair of Software Systems Modelling. He studied Computer Science at The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. After completing his PhD there he moved to The University of Edinburgh to take up a lectureship position. He is a member of the Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science. He teaches about Android app development in the third-year individual large practical courses.



Vincent Hall-Roberts
Director @ Vinceware Consulting Ltd

Vincent originally graduated as a Chemical Engineer, and worked as a Process Engineer at Procter and Gamble for two years before switching to IT Consulting. He then worked for Accenture for 16 years, dealing with clients all over the world across many different industries, and becoming Senior IT Architect in the process.

Now he runs his own company, delivering deep Architectural skills, coupled with hands-on experience, into the Retail industry.