

News on People

We are happy to welcome seven new FIRST PhD students:

Rasmus Fonseca joins the APL group at DIKU. Research interest: Conformational search and geometric algorithms within protein structure prediction. Supervisor: Pawel Winter

Nina Sofia Taslamán (Sweden) joins the Efficient Computation group at ITU. Supervisor: Thore Husfeldt.

Taus Brock-Nannestad (Denmark) joins the Programming, Logic, and Semantics group at ITU. Supervisor: Carsten Schürmann

Francesco Zanitti (Italy) joins the Programming, Logic, and Semantics group at ITU. Supervisor: Arne Glenstrup

Gian David Perrone (New Zealand) joins the Programming, Logic, and Semantics group at ITU. Supervisor: Thomas Hildebrandt

Mai Ajspur joins the PLIS group at RUC. Research interest: Logic and Artificial Intelligence. Supervisor: John Gallagher.

Fuyuan Zhang joins [MT-LAB](#) and the Language-Based Technology group at DTU. Research interest: Combined Techniques of Static Analysis and Model Checking. Supervisors: Flemming Nielson and Hanne Riis Nielson.

Rasmus, Nina, Mai, and Fuyuan are partly funded by FIRST co-financed PhD scholarships.

Mikkel Thorup, Technology Consultant at AT&T Labs-Research, USA, visited DTU from the 20th until the 30th of August, to collaborate with Philip Bille and other algorithms researchers in the Copenhagen area.

Julia Lawall, Associate Professor, DIKU, will be an invited professor at INRIA in Paris in the [Regal](#) group, for 10-12 months starting November 1st. During this time she will continue her work on the [Coccinelle](#) project.

Espen Højsgaard, ITU has his external stay as PhD student visiting S. Gilmore at University of Edinburgh, September-December 2009 and J. Krivine, Paris 7, January-April 2010.

Troels C. Damgaard defends his PhD thesis "Developing Bigraphical Languages", September 18th at 1pm, Auditorium 2, ITU.

New student assistant

Starting from the first of September, Renée Korver Michan will be replacing Darryl Woodford as the student assistant for FIRST.

Darryl finished his Masters this summer, and will be busy as a teaching assistant for both [Game Culture](#), and [Game Design](#) this semester at ITU. His future plans include putting in PhD applications for research topics at the boundary of game studies, especially focusing on the regulation of games and other online environments.

We thank Darryl for all his excellent work at FIRST, and wish him good luck in all of his future endeavors!

A bit about Renée's profile: Renée is Dutch, married to a Dane and fluent in both English and Danish. She has obtained a Doctorate in English Language and Literature at the University of Amsterdam, and is resuming her studies on "Digital Design and Communication" at IT University this semester.

We welcome Renée at FIRST and hope she will enjoy working with us.

ALGO Algorithms for everyone

From September 7 to 11th, ITU hosts [ALGO 2009](#), the largest European algorithms

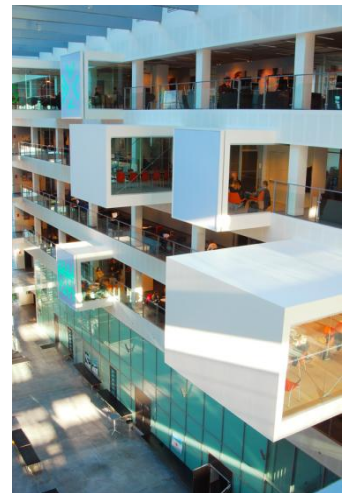
conference. The invited talks on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, from 9AM to 10AM, are open to any members of FIRST.

"Algorithms are everywhere today, not just in your car navigation system or your web search engine," says organizer Thore Husfeldt. "Algorithmic

thinking has become as important *outside* of computer science as inside. Modern biology is an example that everybody knows about, but the algorithmic lens is useful in many other areas as well.

Monday

Michael Mitzenmacher from Harvard University talks about open problems in cuckoo hashing. [Cuckoo hashing](#) is a fundamental data structure



that was discovered by ITU's Rasmus Pagh, and many ITU students have been exposed to it. Mitzenmacher is a leading expert on randomness in computation and known for his ability to apply techniques from algorithmics to make strong impact on other fields such as network communication protocols, and coding theory. Michael's blog: [My Biased Coin](#)

Tuesday

[Erik Demaine](#) from MIT talks about algorithms in arts, puzzles, and stage magic. Among his many research activities is computational origami, and his creations are on permanent exhibition at the New York Museum of Modern Art. Demaine is a [MacArthur Fellow](#), started university when he was only 12 years old, got his Ph.D. at age 16, and was the youngest ever professor in the history of MIT. Erik's webpage: erikdemaine.org



Wednesday

Noam Nisan talks about Google's auctions for TV advertising. Algorithmic thinking has transformed many areas of economics such as [game theory](#), a highly visible application is the auction-based pricing mechanism that Google uses to place advertisements on its search results page. Nisan, one of the world's leading researchers in computational complexity, is on leave from Hebrew University of Jerusalem and works at Google in Tel Aviv. Noam's blog: [Algorithmic Game Theory](#)

See the full program at algo2009.itu.dk.

Website content

FIRST members are highly encouraged to submit content for the website, including but not limited to forthcoming events, conferences and opportunities for collaboration that may interest other members of the Research School. It is impossible for the secretariat to be aware of all activities, so it is up to you to give your event focus!

Activities

On the 10th and the 11th of November the **Autumn School on Modal Logic** (a joint venture with DTU and RUC) will be held at ITU. The goal of the Autumn School on Modal Logic is to prepare PhD students and other researchers for participation in the sixth workshop Methods for Modalities (M4M-6). For more information on the Autumn School on Modal Logic, see: <http://hylocore.ruc.dk/m4m6school.html>
Note that participation is free for PhD students affiliated with FIRST.

The **Methods for Modalities (M4M-6) workshop** will take place from the 12th until the 14th of November at the IDA Conference Center in the center of Copenhagen. The workshop series Methods for Modalities (M4M) aims to bring together researchers interested in developing algorithms, verification methods and tools based on modal logic. Here the term "modal logic" is conceived broadly, including description logic, guarded fragments, conditional logic, temporal and hybrid logic, etc. For more information on Methods for Modalities (M4M), see: <http://m4m.loria.fr/M4M6/>

Description logic study group

On the 9th of September, from 10.00-12.00, a PhD study group based on The Description Logic Handbook, Cambridge University Press will start at RUC. The group meets Wednesdays from 10-12 every 14 days. Contact for more information: Jens Ulrik Hansen and Sine Zambach (sz@ruc.dk).

Network and lunch meetings

A network lunch and associated meetings are usually held on the last Friday of the month at one of the four FIRST Universities. The September network meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 25th of September at ITU.

Suggestions for Activities

Proposals for courses, workshops, guests, etc. from members will be considered for FIRST funding. Forward a short description to Thomas Hildebrandt (hilde@itu.dk) and Nhi Quyen Le (nqle@itu.dk) including a budget sketch using the template found under "FAQs" sub-page.