

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: Friday 23 July 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **From games and controversy to online security**

Do video games cause violent behaviour? Are games bad for children? Are they a waste of time? Are games really controversial for their content or do controversies arise due to social reasons?

These are some of the questions set to be tackled at a series of public lectures at the University of Tasmania next week as part of National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Careers week.

Next Thursday, Dr Ian Lewis from the UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems will examine selected games that have been controversial due to matters of violence, sex, drugs and/ or religion.

"It is a chance to discuss these issues within the context of historical fears of 'new media' as well as the current Australia classification system," Dr Lewis said.

Next Tuesday night, Dr Julian Dermoudy will talk about the National Broadband Network and whether it has the potential to improve the way we connect with each other, from lifestyle and business to health and education, while Tony Gray will discuss identity theft and how to stay safe online.

"Identity theft is the appropriation of key pieces of personally-identifying information belonging to someone else and subsequent use for personal gain," Mr Gray said.

"It is not a new crime but the opportunities that we present to criminals to gain access to our private data have increased significantly as we move more of our lives into cyberspace."

Also as part of the series, Professor Christopher Leug will present a public lecture explaining the Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HITLab AU) reach and teaching facility. The HITLab is physically located at the UTAS Newnham campus.

The HITLab mission is to use advanced human-computer interface technologies to unlock the power of human intelligence and link minds as a way to empower people and improve quality of life.

Lectures will also be held at the UTAS Newnham Campus looking at topics ranging from how computers change the way we live, to where ICT can take you.

Senior Lecturer at the UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems Dr Kristy de Salas said National ICT Careers week is a chance to show opportunities for young people in ICT.

"ICT skills play an increasingly vital role in almost all occupations and contribute to productivity gains, innovation and job growth across all Australian industries," Dr de Salas said.

"People use ICT to solve problems, build connections and spark their creativity. Studying ICT is the start to a rewarding and interesting career anywhere in the world and that's why UTAS is proud to be hosting this series of free public lectures."

UTAS will also join forces with the Tasmanian Polytechnic to host a Careers and Courses in ICT expo on Thursday 29 July from 11am, to be held at the Centenary Building on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

“The expo will include local industry representatives discussing careers in ICT; course information for options on how to study ICT in Tasmania and demonstrations and opportunities to play in the areas of games development, building computer graphics, providing online technical support to companies and developing an ICT solution for a local business,” Dr de Salas said.

## **Free public lectures as part of National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Careers week**

**Where:** Centenary Lecture Theatre, UTAS

**When:**

Tuesday 27 July 2010

6pm: *National Broadband Network* presented by Dr Julian Dermoudy

7pm: *Protect Yourself: Staying Safe in an Online World* presented by Mr Tony Gray

Thursday 29 July 2010

6pm: *Games and Controversy* presented by Dr Ian Lewis

7pm: *Using Advanced Human- Computer Interface Technologies* presented by Professor Christopher Leug

**Where:** School of Computing and Information Systems, Building V, Newnham Campus.

**When:**

Thursday 29 July 2010

Session 1 – HIT lab vision space – Building V, Newnham Campus

6.30pm: Welcome & Intro – how computers change the way we live

6.40pm: The HIT Lab

7.00pm: Marine ICT

7.20pm: Algorithms: The Heart of Computing

Session 2 –Room V137 - Building V, Newnham Campus

8.00pm: The Networked Home

8.20pm: Where ICT can take you

8.40pm: Managing your online proof of identity

## **Free careers and courses in ICT expo**

**Where:** Centenary Lecture Theatre, UTAS

**When:** 11am Thursday 29 July 2010

### **Media Interviews:**

**Senior Lecturer at the UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems Dr Kristy de Salas is available for interview on (03) 6226 6220**

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