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Launching Bridging the Gaps

The Bridging the Gaps Programme was officially launched on the 25th of June 2008.

The launch featured talks from Sarah Bell (Principal Investigator for the programme), David Price (Vice Provost for Research) and Jonathon Porritt co-founder of Forum for the Future.

UCL's Provost Malcolm Grant, opened the event, and was on hand to chair

"We are the BtG Champions"

The first Bridging the Gaps Champions Event "We are the BtG Champions" took place on the 25th of July.

Ben Croxford, Co-Investigator for the Bridging the Gaps programme arranged the meeting, which took the form of a tour of some of the facilities in the Bartlett School's Wates House.

The first stop was to see the room that houses the computer aided cutting machines. Also in the room is a 3D colour printer, which can build small objects (about 20cm on a side) from computer models. Ben Croxford is planning to produce a small tree and test it in a water tunnel (in partnership with CEGE) which, along with

the discussion after the presentations.

The talks were followed by a reception giving all the attendees an opportunity to discuss research ideas and to start building interdisciplinary links.

If you missed the Bridging the Gaps launch event, a video of the talks will soon be available on the events page of our web site:

www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/events.



Jonathon Porritt outlines the challenges for sustainable urban spaces research

some careful calculations about fluid viscosity, will aid understanding of air flow around trees in streets.

Next on the tour was the lighting simulator www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/sky, this is run by Chris Jackson and Peter Raynham who teach on the MSc Light and Lighting at the Bartlett.

The simulator recreates natural light using a dome made up of over 200 lights, with a larger light projecting a parallel beam to represent the sun. The lights are computer controlled, making it possible to simulate lighting for different times, seasons and locations. The facility enables the light levels inside models of buildings to be investigated.

The tour continued with a visit to anechoic and reverberating chambers, before ending with a visit to the environmental lab. This includes a large chamber, which is capable of being heated or cooled and providing a range of relative humidities. Hector Altamirano-Medina demonstrated its current use, investigating the effects of the latest building regulations on mould growth in homes. In the past it has been used as a test bedroom to investigate conditions for dust mite growth in beds, with subjects sleeping in an instrumented bed.

The environmental lab also has a small environmental chamber and a computer controlled oven.

Find a Champion online

Contact Details for the Bridging the Gaps Departmental Champions				
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Visit the BtG website
www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/champions
to find a Champion

MSc Competition - Deadline 22nd August

You may have seen the recent announcements advertising the Bridging the Gaps MSc Competition. The competition is offering two awards of £6,000 to support interdepartmental student projects in 2008/09. The award covers a student's course fees, with any excess being paid to them as a stipend.

To enter, a pair of UCL staff must identify an area of urban sustainability research that crosses disciplines, has the potential to produce new findings, and can be investigated in a project suitable for an MSc student. To find out more, and download an application form, visit the competition page on our web site www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/programmes_msc.html, but hurry, the deadline is August the 22nd.