Faculty Focus - July 2020

Spotlight on...

Dr Elinor Jones - Senior Teaching Fellow, UCL Statistical Science

Elinor joined UCL as a Teaching Fellow in Statistics in 2014, was promoted to Senior Teaching Fellow in 2016, and was recently promoted to Principal Teaching Fellow, with the promotion taking effect in October 2020. Before this, she was a Statistician at the University of Reading. As well as teaching in the department, she is Chair of the Board of Examiners, and also runs the department undergraduate open days.

Read in full on the MAPS Website.

News, Announcements and Updates

UCL Promotions for MAPS staff

The recent 2019-20 round of promotions for UCL staff includes sixteen new professors in the MAPS faculty, alongside new associate professors, principal teaching and research fellow, and one of the first Professorial Teaching Fellows in
UCL Physics student wins Academic Rep of the Year award.

At the recent UCL Education Awards, Daniel Gold received the award for Overall Academic Rep of the Year. This follows his award for MAPS Faculty Rep of the Year earlier in June.

Read the full list of awards on the UCL Students' Union Website.

Solar Orbiter makes first close approach to the Sun

ESA’s Sun-exploring mission Solar Orbiter, which carries instruments proposed, designed and built at UCL, has made its first close approach to the Sun, getting as close as 77 million km to the star’s surface.

Read the full story on the MAPS website.

Euclid space telescope’s camera a step closer to imaging galaxies

ESA’s Euclid mission is a step closer to
launch as its two instruments are now built and fully tested, including a massive optical digital camera delivered by an international consortium led by the UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory.

Read the full story on the MAPS website.

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UCL Statistician receives Amazon Research Award

Dr Francois-Xavier Briol of UCL Statistical Science and the Alan Turing Institute is one of 51 recipients of the 2019 Amazon Research Award.

Read the full story on the MAPS website.

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Three UCL MAPS academics win prestigious RSC Awards

Professor Richard Catlow, Dr Anna Regoutz and Professor Angelos Michaelides have all received awards from the Royal Society of Chemistry for their research and contributions.

Read the full story on the MAPS Website.

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UCL PhD wins Royal Astronomical Society Thesis prize

Following on from his receipt of the MAPS Faculty Postgraduate Prize in February, and an International Astronomical Union PhD prize in June, Dr Luke Pratley has been awarded the Michael Penston Thesis Prize by the Royal Astronomical

Read the full story on the RAS website.

Research and Funding

SARS-CoV-2 transmission to animals: monitoring needed to mitigate risk

In a comment piece for The Lancet Microbe co-authored by Professor Sarah Edwards of STS, researchers write that if the virus becomes common in an animal population, there would be a risk that another outbreak could occur - even if the virus is eradicated in people in the area.

Read more on the MAPS Website.

Covid-19 research site reaches second phase

The UCL Covid-19 research site now includes a 'spotlight' section to showcase stories from around UCL. If you'd like to submit an existing story for the website, you can find details on the Covid-19 research page, or contact the MAPS Comms team.
Tabletop quantum experiment could detect gravitational waves

New research led by UCL academics suggests that tiny diamond crystals could be used as an incredibly sensitive and small gravitational detector, capable of measuring gravitational waves.

Read more on the MAPS Website.

Asteroid impact, not volcanoes, made the Earth uninhabitable for dinosaurs

Modelling of the Chicxulub asteroid impact 66 million years ago shows it created a world largely unsuitable for dinosaurs to live in, find a team involving researchers from UCL Earth Sciences.

Read more on the MAPS Website.

Innovative space weather monitoring projects receive UKRI funding

Academics and Researchers from the Mullard Space Science Laboratory are amongst those to receive funding for projects focused the hazards of space weather.

Read more on the MAPS Website.

How are our behaviours changing in lockdown?

More than half of the UK population are now exercising or meditating at least once a day, according to a new study led by staff from UCL IRDR, exploring how people are adapting their lifestyle during...
the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more on the MAPS Website.

MAPS in the Media

Primo Levi’s The Periodic Table
In a discussion on The Periodic Table, a collection of short stories by chemist Primo Levi, Professor Andrea Sella (UCL Chemistry) explains how Levi addresses colours, senses and smells in his descriptions of the elements.

Listen to the interview on Radio 4 (from 2 mins).

Bangladesh has saved thousands of lives from a devastating cyclone – here’s how
Professor Ilan Kelman and Dr Bayes Ahmed of UCL IRDR discuss how Bangladesh has saved lives through forecasting, messaging and early warning and evacuation systems.

Read on The Conversation website.

UK at risk of extra deaths unless approach changes
Independent SAGE members including Professor Christina Pagel (UCL Mathematics) warn that 30,000 more excess deaths from Covid-19 could occur by next year.

Read in The Guardian website.

Events
UCL Undergraduate Open Days

The first UCL Undergraduate Open Week was a success, with well over 1000 applicants viewing MAPS faculty talks. The events will run a second time during the week 20-24 July.

Please feel free to share the registration link to interested parties. They can find the registration form and additional details on the [Undergraduate Open Week page](#).


The UCL IRDR 10th Annual Conference will be taking place online this year, with a range of talks, panel discussions and research showcases around COVID-19. The event will run from 10am-6pm on Wednesday 15th July.

Find more details and register to attend on the [IRDR Website](#).

UCL Space Domain 1 O'Clock lectures - now available online!

The UCL Space Domain 1 O'Clock Lecture series has moved online during the lockdown, and recordings of some of the recent events are now available via the UCL MediaCentral player. Watch the recent talk on [Skylark: Britain's First Space Rocket](#), or read more about future events on the [Space Domain site](#).

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Supporting Black Staff at Work.
The UCL EDI team have created a guidance document for managers to help with supporting Black staff at work, in the context of current events. This page may also be useful as a resource for other colleagues - it can be found on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion website.

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Single parenting and Covid-19

The UCL Parents and Carers Together (PACT) Network will be holding a webinar on Monday 20 July on the lived experiences of single parenthood during times of crisis, with two colleagues from UCL talking about their experiences.

For more information and to register, visit the Eventbrite page.

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Enterprise

MAPS Enterprise, now on YouTube.

The MAPS Enterprise team have created a series of videos, now available on YouTube, showcasing some of the work of UCL Academics. The videos cover the following topics:

- The MAFuMA project, led by Prof. Asterios Gavriilidis
- UCL Quantum Science and Technology Institute (UCLQ)
- The Juiced Energy Hub, led by Prof. Jawwad Darr
- i-sense: Agile Early Warning Sensing Systems
- DATA-CENTRIC, led by Dr. Alex Diaz

You can find more information on these
Training, Development and Wellbeing

Your Wellbeing survey

The UCL “Your Wellbeing” survey has now entered its fourth week, helping UCL to understand how members of staff are coping with the crisis and the changes it has caused.

For more information, and to contribute to the survey, visit the UCL HR Page.

Submit your news: what would you like to hear about?

If you have any upcoming events that you like to be promoted to MAPS Faculty staff please let us know.

Feedback on the faculty newsletter

Thanks to those who completed the UCL MAPS Internal Communications Survey. We have tried to take your comments on board when putting this newsletter together. We are keen to make sure that this addresses your needs so please let us know how...