Faculty Focus - June 2019

Spotlight on....

Zak Liddell
Zak Liddell was recently appointed as the Head of Education and Student Experience for the MAPS Faculty. This pivotal new role is to provide leadership and support for developing the student experience across the Faculty. Read Zak’s full profile.

News, Announcements and Updates

Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh appointed as Editor-in-Chief
Congratulations to Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh, FRSC, FInstP, FIMMM, FRSB at the department of Physics & Astronomy (http://www.ntk-thanh.co.uk) for her appointment as the Editor-in-Chief of Royal Society of Chemistry Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Book Series.

Grand Challenges Small Grants scheme (2019/20)
UCL researchers are invited to apply for Grand Challenges funding through the latest round of Small Grants. We are
looking for teams who can use academic insights to address current societal issues. Each project can apply for up to £7500. Find out more and apply.

Planetarium shortlisted for book prize
Congratulations to Physics & Astronomy Head of Department Professor Raman Prinja, whose book Planetarium has been shortlisted for the Royal Society Young People’s Book Prize!

Festival of Culture
This five-day-long festival (3-7 June) features a packed programme of talks, panels, exclusive appearances, workshops, performances, tours, screenings and exhibitions, showcasing the world-class research being carried out by staff and students from across the arts, humanities, social sciences and education at UCL. Browse the programme and book.

Litebird
The space satellite "Litebird" led by the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) with participation from the US (Berkeley) and a EU consortium of which the UK, and UCL academics are part of has been approved for launch in the late 2020s.
Three Minute Thesis Winners
Congratulations to the winner of the Mathematical & Physical Sciences winners of the Three Minute Thesis competition, who will go forward to the UCL final, Isobel Wilson from Chemistry and Catarina Sampaio Alves from Astrophysics.

Faculty Highlights

UCL academics nominated for a Challenge-led grant from the UK National Academies
Professor Peter Sammonds and Dr Bayes Ahmed from UCL Institute for Risk & Disaster Reduction have been nominated for a challenge-led grant, which addresses resilience challenges facing developing countries. Read more on the faculty site.

Oxygen linked with the boom and bust of early animal evolution
Extreme fluctuations in atmospheric oxygen levels corresponded with evolutionary surges and extinctions in animal biodiversity during the Cambrian explosion, finds new study led by UCL and the University of Leeds. Read more on the faculty site.

Deep learning takes Saturn by storm
A ‘deep learning’ approach to detecting storms on Saturn is set to transform our understanding of planetary atmospheres, according to UCL and University of Arizona researchers. Read more on the faculty site.
UCL-built Rosalind Franklin PanCam is on its way to Mars
The Panoramic Camera (PanCam) for the Rosalind Franklin (ExoMars 2020) rover left the UCL Mullard Space Science laboratory (MSSL) in May on the first leg of its long journey to Mars. Read more on the faculty site.

Achievements in teaching and learning recognised at Education Awards
Congratulations to Alexa Marroquin (Chemistry), Martyn Towner (Chemistry), Isidoros Strouthos (Mathematics) and Lidunka Vociadlo (Earth Sciences) who featured in the Provost Education Awards. Read more on the faculty site.

New UCL Faraday Laboratory to research energy and battery technologies
Engineers and chemists will focus on researching and developing the batteries of the future, helping to accelerate the world's electric vehicle revolution in the newly opened UCL Faraday Laboratory. Read more on the faculty site.

MAPS in the Media

Why London will always be a global science ‘powerhouse’
Professor Roger Highfield (UCL Chemistry) explains London’s rich global history for ground-breaking scientific research and how academics, such as fellow Professor Peter Coveney (UCL Chemistry) are ensuring its legacy of innovation carries on and thrives in a post-Brexit future.

Lightning strike on space rocket not as ‘spectacular’ as it looked
After shocking footage emerged of a Russian Soyuz rocket being hit by lightning shortly after launch, Professor Alan Smith (UCL Space & Climate Physics) explained why lightning strikes "are not particularly threatening to a rocket launch."
When galaxies collide
Amid reports that the galaxy Messier 90 is bound on a collision course with the Milky Way, Dr Amelie Saintonge (UCL Physics & Astronomy) is quoted explaining that galactic collisions are extremely unlikely to involve stars colliding.

Events

Who Cares for the Carer?
10th June 2019, 1pm – 2.30pm
Are you a parent or carer? When you're caring for someone, it is really important to ensure that you look after yourself too. Join us for Carers Week where we welcome a Senior Lecturer from the University of East London and the Chair of UCL’s Parents and Carers Together (PACT) Network to explore ways in which to support yourself and what UCL can do to support you. Register on eventbrite.

Humanitarian Summit
18th June 2019, 9am - 5pm
The event will include panel discussions on “Gender Disaster Risk Reduction and Conflict” and “Working in challenging environments and conflict zones”. It will also include a workshop on digital public health, and a humanitarian teaching forum. Full event programme and registration details here.

Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction Ninth Annual Conference
Wednesday 19th June, 9am - 8pm
CL Darwin Lecture Theatre and South Cloisters
A day of thought-provoking talks and discussions where our in-house and guest experts will present the latest research and issues in cascading and interconnected risk. Full event details and registration link here.

i-sense Digital Health Conference
9th-10th July
The i-sense Digital Health Conference will
celebrate five years of i-sense research over a two-day series of talks, panel discussions and keynotes. The aim of the conference is to share the latest innovations in quality digital health research around infectious diseases, and offer the opportunity to build collaborations across sectors. Full event details and registration here.

UCL 3 Minute Thesis Final 2019
12th June 6pm - 8:30pm
More information

International Conference on the Rohingya Crisis in Comparative Perspective
4th-5th July 2019
More information

Enterprise

Training course: Software code IP protection and commercial exploitation
The MAPS Enterprise team are organising a lunchtime workshop, aimed at MAPS researchers who write code, and have doubts about IP protection/exploitation. If you’d like to attend the workshop, please fill this 2-min survey letting us know which type of code you develop and how it’s being published.

2020 MAPS Faculty Industry Showcase
The MAPS Enterprise team are organising a Faculty-wide event to showcase to industry our applied research capabilities. Please contact your departmental enterprise representative if you have ideas for cross-disciplinary themes, where UCL is world leading, and that you think should be represented.
UCL Knowledge Exchange funding
Knowledge Exchange funding is available through UCL Innovation and Enterprise, for projects up to £15k on a rolling deadline. Autumn deadlines for projects between £15k and £30k to be announced in the summer. Visit I&E dedicated webpage for further information.

Training and Development

Last chance to apply for global funding opportunities
UCL academics are working with counterparts from across the globe to tackle the biggest challenges facing us today. Go to the UCL funding website for a non-exhaustive list of various funding calls designed to support your efforts.

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 we can continue to improve.