Faculty Focus - May 2019

Spotlight on....

John Bowles
John Bowles works for the Department of Earth Sciences as Head of Laboratories. He is also the Departmental Safety Officer and Departmental Estates Manager. Read John's full spotlight.

News, Announcements and Updates

Call for Abstracts! Posters and Model Showcase
Do you use computational sciences in your research? If so, you are invited to submit an abstract for a poster presentation and short talk in the 'eResearch Domain Symposium: Computational Sciences in the 21st Century'. The deadline for submissions is 10am 24th May.

UCL Space Week: Space the Enabler
13th - 17th May 2019
UCL Space Week arranged by the Space Domain has returned for 2019. Come
along to find out about how space enables human activities through observation, telecommunications & broadcast, navigation, surveillance and exploration. See website for further information.

Lidunka Vočadlo shortlisted for student choice award
Congratulations to Lidunka Vočadlo of Earth Sciences for being shortlisted for a student choice award in the category of excellent personal tutoring! Read about the shortlisted nominees.

Global funding deadline approaching
Are you a UCL academic collaborating with partners overseas? There are now just two weeks left to apply for UCL's global funding opportunities. Read more on the UCL website.

Faculty Highlights

Tracking records of the oldest life forms on Earth
Ancient organic matter of biological origin has been tracked in multiple samples of rock spanning over 2,000 million years of Earth's history, according to UCL researchers. Read more on the faculty site.
Wonder material: individual 2D phosphorene nanoribbons made for the first time
Tiny, individual, flexible ribbons of crystalline phosphorus have been made by UCL researchers in a world first, and they could revolutionise electronics and fast-charging battery technology. Read more on the faculty news page.

Black hole images captured in world first
The first direct visual evidence of a supermassive black hole and its shadow have been unveiled by the Event Horizon Telescope collaboration involving UCL researchers. Read more on the faculty news page.

New international large galaxy survey instrument opens to sky for the first time
The Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI), the construction of which UCL has had an important role in, opened to the sky for the first time on 1st April 2019. Read more on the faculty news page.

How does news spread amongst a population?
How long does an event or a topic remain in the spotlight? Are big cities more newsworthy than small? Following the 2017 Puebla earthquake, a research team including UCL academics investigated the behaviour of the main media channels in the country. Read more on the faculty news page.
Are robo-taxis imminent?
Dr Jack Stilgoe (UCL Science & Technology Studies) points out several obstacles to the adoption of robo-taxis and fully autonomous driving. Elon Musk, Tesla’s chief executive, has predicted that both of these technologies will be available next year.

Anak Krakatau: Collapsed volcano’s tsunami simulated
A model simulating the collapse of the Anak Krakatau volcano in Indonesia and the subsequent devastating tsunami in 2018 has been developed by a team of scientists led by Professor David Tappin (UCL Earth Sciences) which could help improve disaster mitigation strategies.

No-deal Brexit is now Leavers’ preference
A UCL-YouGov survey shows that “no-deal” is now Leavers’ preferred Brexit outcome. Dr Uta Staiger (UCL European Institute), Professor Christina Pagel (UCL Mathematics) and data scientist Christabel Cooper analyse the implications.

How iron has shaped human biology and culture
Dr Andrew Pontzen (UCL Physics & Astronomy) explores iron, the most common metal in existence, looking at its ambivalent history and how it is keeping us all alive.

Events

3rd eResearch Domain Symposium - Computational Sciences for the 21st Century
20th June, 9:00am - 6:00pm
This symposium brings together UCL’s computational science research community. The aspiration to address more complex problems, combining different methodologies, new computational architectures, and changing research policy and funding landscape.

Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Workplace
8th May, 10:30am - 11:30am
The Chemistry EDI team are hosting a Mental Health & Wellbeing in the workplace event. Speaker Dr Imogen Sargent will give an overview of mental health conditions and how it can have an impact on everyday working life, before opening the floor to questions, discussion, and a look at UCL resources. More information and registration on eventbrite.
Demonstrating impact through your research
Wednesday, 15th May, 11.15am -1.45pm, it’s not always easy for academics and researchers to see the impact of their work. This interactive session will be an opportunity for Early Career Researchers to discuss with a panel of experienced publishers from Emerald Publishing how we can work together to challenge simplistic and outdated approaches to impact. Register on eventbrite.

Border Volcanoes: Complexity, Interactions and Assemblages
7th May, 5pm - 6pm
Dr Amy Donovan from University of Cambridge will discuss research results from a project on border volcanoes and her future plans. More details on the IRDR website.

Gravitational waves and spacetime fireworks
29th May 6pm -7:30pm
More information

SPINS UK - 2019
29th - 31st May
More information

Enterprise

Enterprise training for UCL academics and post-docs – Starting on 1st May
The Enterprise Fellowship Part 2 is a free programme of 6 half-day workshops for UCL academics and post-docs, aimed to help you develop the skills and mind-set needed to successfully engage with businesses or start new enterprises.
Entrepreneurship essentials for PhD students (SPERO Applied) – Courses in May and June
This free programme for UCL PhD students will help you explore new ways of using your research to develop a career outside of traditional academic pathways. Follow the link to register for May or June.

Training and Development

Bookings now open for Digital Skills Development courses at UCL IOE
The Digital Skills Development at the IOE training programme offers sessions and workshops covering a wide range of applications and web based tools. Sessions are open to all UCL students and staff. See the full Summer Term Schedule & Course Bookings.

Migration to the New Moodle
The Digital Skills Development at IOE Moodle course has now been migrated to the new Moodle. No more updates will be made to the course materials and resources posted in the Legacy Moodle course. All updates and new resources will be posted in the migrated course.

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.
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.