

Professor Colm-cille Caulfield looks back at his time as Head of Department

After five and a half years, Professor Colm-cille Caulfield will step down as Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP) at the end of this month.

He took up the role in January 2020, just months before the country was plunged into lockdown during the COVID pandemic. But as well as steering DAMTP during international crisis, his time in post has seen a huge range of innovation, growth and development, with the introduction of new taught courses and recruitment of outstanding colleagues at all career stages, working on exciting and diverse fields.

He talks to us to share more about major challenges, proud moments, and what advice he would give his successor.

[Maths in action: read Colm-cille's interview](#)

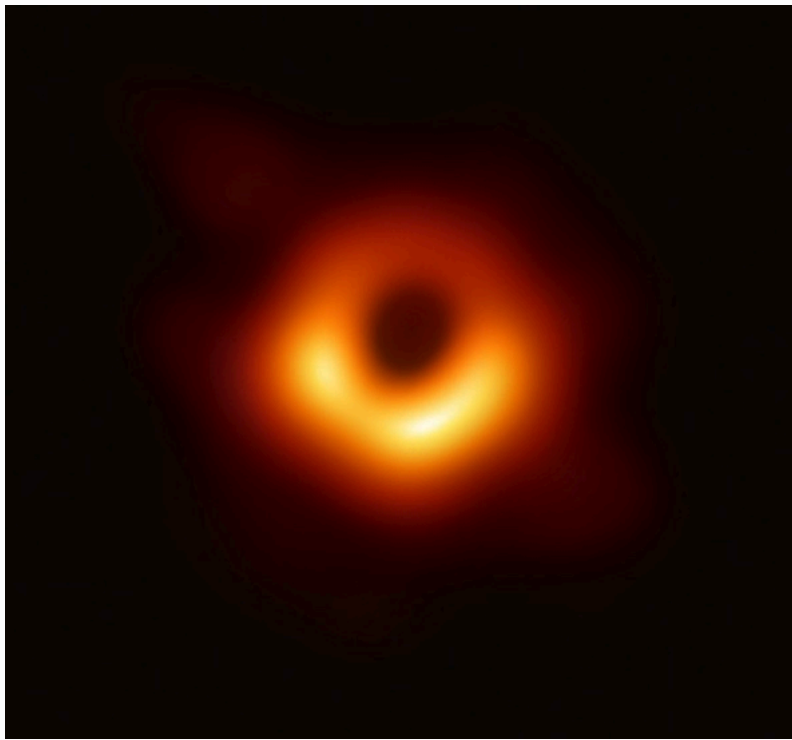


Professor Jason Miller elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society

Professor Jason Miller of the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS) has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. The honour recognises his work on probability, in particular the study of random geometry.

Some of Jason's most celebrated contributions to mathematics involve random surfaces. Random surfaces are fascinating in their own right, from a purely mathematical point of view. But there's also another motivation for studying them, coming from a surprising direction: they arise in physicists' quest to find a 'theory of everything'.

[Exploring random geometry](#)

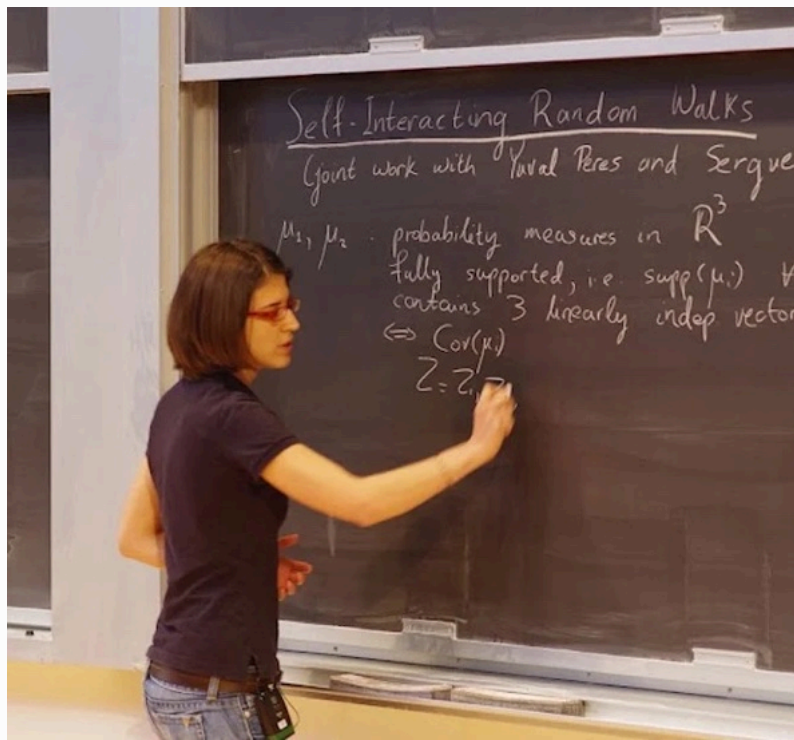


Opening windows on our Universe: Professor Gary Gibbons awarded Dirac Medal

Professor Gary Gibbons FRS, from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, has been awarded the 2025 Dirac Medal for his part in 'turning black holes into windows onto the deepest laws of nature'.

The award recognises his contributions to our understanding of gravity, and landmark contributions to the study of general relativity. Discover more about Gary's work, and his long collaboration with Stephen Hawking, in our article.

[Discover more](#)



Professor Perla Sousi wins Whitehead Prize

Perla Sousi, Professor of Probability in the Statistics Laboratory at DPMMS, has been awarded a 2025 Whitehead Prize by the London Mathematical Society.

The prize recognises her groundbreaking contributions to probability theory. As the official citation notes, her work has helped to revitalise areas of study and will make a lasting impact on the field.

[Read more about Perla's award](#)



Professor David Abrahams awarded IMA Gold Medal

David Abrahams, Professor of Applied Mathematics at DAMTP and former Director of the Isaac Newton Institute, has been awarded a Gold Medal by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA).

Presenting the medal, IMA President Hannah Fry described Abrahams as a "human whirlwind" who has been "the most generous champion of our community we have ever had." He is, she said, "applied mathematics' answer to David Attenborough". We talked to him to learn more about his wide-ranging work.

[Championing collaboration: read our interview](#)



Voices of Mathematics: exploring connections with David Tong

In the first in a new series of podcasts featuring conversations from the Mathematics Faculty, we talk to David Tong, Professor of Theoretical Physics at DAMTP.

2025 marks the 100th birthday of quantum mechanics. We ask David about the ongoing impact of the discovery a century ago, and explore his own research area of quantum field theory.

And, as he publishes a series of textbooks based on his celebrated lecture notes, David discusses the exciting connections between very different areas of physics.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

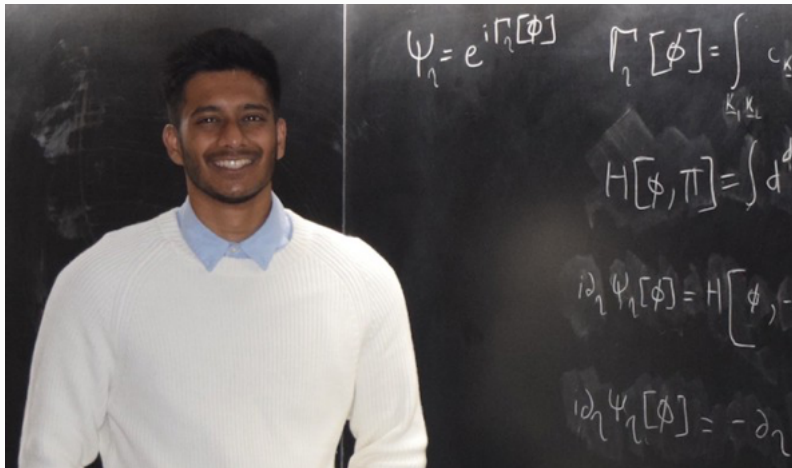


Student stories: Ayesha Bennett

Ayesha Bennett has just completed her first year as a PhD student in DPMMS, supervised by Professor Holly Krieger.

Ayesha tells us more about her research into complex dynamics, the fascination of fractals, and extracurricular life – including playing football with the Cambridge Blues.

[Read Ayesha's profile](#)



Cambridge snapshots: Ayngaran Thavanesan

Ayngaran Thavanesan recently completed his PhD in DAMTP. He was awarded a Bell Burnell Graduate Scholarship, and was also one of the young scientists selected for a 2025 Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics graduate fellowship.

He tells us about studying the very early Universe, the fascination of fundamental questions, and chasing the wonder of physics.

[Read Ayngaran's profile](#)



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