

FACULTY NEWS BULLETIN

3 December 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PhD Approvals

Many congratulations to the following students who have recently completed their PhD's:

Matthew Colbrook	DAMTP	The Foundations of Infinite-Dimensional Spectral Computations
Matthew Conder	DPMMS	Discrete and free subgroups of SL_2

NRICH Update

NRICH has continued to run online teacher and student webinars this term. Our teacher professional development webinars focus on developing students' problem-solving, and reached over 350 primary and secondary teachers across two events in October. The large-scale interactive student webinars, led by the NRICH team in Cambridge, engage with groups and whole classes of students at multiple schools, to introduce mathematical problems which classes work on together during the live event. The events have proved enormously popular and have excellent feedback: our most recent student webinar in November for Maths Week England involved over 3,000 students aged 9-13.

Royal Astronomical Society Awards

Each year the RAS recognises the best PhD theses in astronomy and geophysics completed in the UK.

Three prizes are available: the Michael Penston prize for astronomy, the Keith Runcorn prize for geophysics, and the Patricia Tomkins prize for instrumentation science in either astronomy or geophysics. The winners receive £1000 and an invitation to present the results of their thesis at a meeting of the RAS. The Michael Penston prize and Keith Runcorn prize runners-up will receive £50 book tokens.

Nominees must have completed their PhD (viva held and all corrections completed) at a UK university during 2020. For more details and to submit a nomination, please click on the links below:

The [Michael Penston prize](#), for theses in astronomy and astrophysics, including cosmology, astrobiology, etc.

The [Keith Runcorn prize](#), for theses in geophysics, including seismology, solar physics, planetary science, etc.

[Patricia Tomkins thesis prize](#) for theses in instrumentation science for astronomy and geophysics - while the support is aimed at developing skills in scientific hardware such as electronics, detectors, and optics, the development of novel software specific to a hardware project will also be considered. The Patricia Tomkins prize is sponsored by the [Patricia Tomkins Foundation](#).

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2021.

Cambridge Centre for Physical Biology - Pump Priming Grants

Congratulations to Stephanie Höhn, DAMTP, who has been announced as one of the awardees of the first round of [CPB Pump Priming Grants](#). The awardees are:

- Somenath Bakshi (Engineering) and Diana Fusco (Physics) - Superresolution imaging of microbial biofilms using tunable synthetic genetic oscillators
- Stephanie Höhn (DAMTP) and Elia Benito-Gutierrez (Zoology) - How to get in shape - Multiscale mechanics of cell sheet folding
- Georg Krainer (Chemistry) and Jonathon Nixon-Abell (CIMR) - High-throughput phase-state mapping of biomolecular condensates isolated from live cells

The CPB Annual Meeting will take place on 16 December at 2pm. The keynote speaker is Lisa Manning (Syracuse University) and there will be talks, a poster session, a networking activity and prizes! The full programme can be seen [here](#).

EVENTS

Race Awareness Session: Whiteness and Being an Antiracist Ally

16 and 17 December, 10am-11am

Please join this session if you'd like to enhance your understanding of race and racism, increase your confidence to speak about race, and develop tools for becoming an antiracist ally.

While the session may be most helpful to white colleagues, everyone is warmly invited to attend.

The training will be split into two 1h sessions, to make space for discussion while not making the zoom meeting too long. Please only book if you can attend both sessions.

Book your place [here](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Administration Offices Opening Hours - Christmas Vacation

The administration offices will be closed over the following dates through the Christmas vacation. Teams will not respond to queries until their offices reopen.

HR Office

Monday 21, Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 December 8am-4.30pm

Thursday 24 December - Sunday 3 January inclusive: CLOSED

Reopen Monday 4 January, opening hours for W/C 4 January 8am to 4pm

Undergraduate Office

Closed Thursday 24 December - reopen Monday 4 January

Graduate Office

Closed Monday 21st December - reopen Monday 4 January

DAMTP Finance Office

Closed Wednesday 23 December - reopen Monday 4 January

Christmas Vacation Activity Guide—STUDENTS

As in every other year, the Cambridge SU has put together a Winter Activities Guide. This guide has been updated by Cambridge SU to give students who remain in Cambridge over the holidays, suggestions and ideas for COVID safe activities. It is a live document which is updated on a daily basis as the Cambridge SU receives more submissions from colleges, student groups etc. The guide can be viewed [here](#).

Expense Claims

The software supporting the existing [online expenses form FD1C-02](#), was upgraded on Wednesday 25 November. This form will no longer work with Internet Explorer. Should you use IE in error, you will find you cannot close the calendar pop up after you select the date field.

Supported browsers for this form are: Edge, Chrome, Firefox and Safari.



We would like to wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and send our best wishes to you and your families for health and happiness in the coming year.