

ACADEMIC NEWS

DPMMS:

David Spiegelhalter has commented on a study reported in the [Daily Mail](#), which claims that weather can impact on a baby's future salary.

DAMTP:

Stephen Kissler has received an award from the [2017 Public Engagement Starter Fund](#), for his project 'The Mathematics of: An interactive exploration into the mathematics of, well, everything!' In his project Stephen will introduce late secondary school students to mathematical modelling by creating a web portal where students can access material on how mathematics can be used to model all sorts of real-world phenomena. The content will include a series of podcasts describing the history and key mathematical theory behind particular models of physical systems, and related online materials which will allow students to get some hands-on modelling experience. He was one of 8 winners, out of 55 applications received by the Fund.

Helen Mason has just returned from a busy two weeks in India. She worked most of the time at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune with Professor Durgesh Tripathi, a former member of DAMTP, and his solar group. Durgesh is now the PI for a spectroscopic instrument to be flown on an Indian Space Research Organisation solar space mission Aditya-L1, due for launch in 2019. She also visited the Indian Institute for Astrophysics in Bangalore, where she gave a seminar and met the staff and graduate students. In addition to this she gave seminars at two other colleges in Pune and met the university students for discussions about science and careers. She also worked with colleagues at [IUCAA SciPop](#), and visited two very different schools where she spoke to 200 children at each school and had opportunities to answer their many questions. Helen has visited India many times and she is grateful to the Cambridge-Hamied Visiting Lecturers Scheme for giving her the opportunity to continue these trips.



Ulrich Sperhake has recently written an article for the University's Alumni magazine (CAM) on what is gravity, entitled '[A force to be reckoned with](#)'.

Former DAMTP PhD student *Tom Crawford* has recently published the following material on his website:

[Why is fake news spreading?](#)

[Funbers 1](#) and [Root 2](#) - the next two episodes in the new series with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.

[What do fish and aircraft have in common?](#)

The Faculty would like to extend their congratulations to following students who have recently had their PhD's approved:

- Christopher Halcrow (High Energy Physics)
- Adam Kashlak (CCA, DPMMS)
- Clare Pacini (Computational Biology)

ACADEMIC VISITORS

Dr Tomoko Kawate will be visiting Helen Mason and Giulio del Zanna (Atomic Astrophysics group) from 6th December until 12th December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCIMI Video competition

The winner of the first CCIMI video competition was Eric Hanson. You can view his video and all the other entries on the [CCIMI webpage](#).

FameLab 2018

FameLab is a science communications competition designed to engage and entertain. Contestants from around the world take part armed only with their wits and a few props. Nominations are [now open](#) for scientists, mathematicians and engineers to take part in FameLab 2018.

New Scientist Live Festival 2018

20 – 23 September 2018, ExCel London

Curated by New Scientist magazine, [New Scientist Live](#) is a festival of ideas and discovery that demonstrates the role science plays in shaping the world around us. They are always currently looking for new voices and ideas to inform, inspire and surprise audiences. If you are interested in applying please complete the [application form](#).

RCUK funding call

The RCUK funded CRUISE Network aims to bring academics from disciplines in mathematical, physical, psychological, social and other sciences together to better understand and help practitioners who are making difficult decisions. Applications for funding to undertake interesting new pilot projects are now open – the *application deadline is Wednesday 20th December*. Up to £15,000 is available for projects of up to six months duration. Details of these projects and how to apply are available via the links below:

- [Multi-stakeholder Communication in Flood Risk Management](#)
- [Resilient Infrastructure](#)
- [Public reaction to nationwide power failure](#)
- [Measuring Cyber Risk](#)

Rising Stars Public Engagement Training POST GRADUATE, POST DOCS, EARLY CAREER ACADEMICS

The Rising Stars course offers training in public engagement and educational outreach for postgraduates, post-docs and early career academics at the University of Cambridge. The course takes participants through the steps involved in planning, organising and delivering an interactive public engagement activity. Full details of this training and how to register are available on the [Rising Stars Public Engagement Training](#) website. The deadline to apply is *Friday 12th January 2018*.

Risk Assessment for students intending to work away STUDENTS

PhD and MPhil students must complete an application for leave to work away if they intend to work away from Cambridge for more than two weeks at a time. Ideally this application should be made two months in advance of the departure date.

As part of this application the student must complete an appropriate [risk assessment](#) even if they are working elsewhere in the UK or visiting an institution. Students should email or submit paper or electronic copy of the risk assessment to [Sarah Dodd, Graduate Office Manager](#) (C0.14). Applications for leave to work away will not be approved until copy of an appropriate risk assessment is received. The full University guidance on leave to work away is [online here](#).

Smith-Knight and Rayleigh-Knight Prize Essays 2018 STUDENTS

One or more Smith-Knight Prizes, and one or more Rayleigh-Knight Prizes for essays on any subject in Mathematics and its applications, are offered for competition in 2018. Students who are in the second year of their PhD on the first day of Lent term 2018 are eligible to enter. The closing date is *Tuesday 16th January 2018*. Further information is available [here](#).

Supervision Reporting PEOPLE WHO SUPERVISE

PhD supervisors are reminded that they are required to provide a supervision report on each of their PhD students on at least a termly basis. Full details of how to complete supervision reports, including registration reports, are given on the [Degree Committee website](#). If you are not a UTO you will be eligible to claim a payment of £55 per student per term for supervising. Please note that we can only authorise this payment if you have submitted a report. Forms and queries should be directed to [Sarah Dodd, Graduate Office Manager](#) (CO.14).

EVENTS

Isaac Newton Institute – Flows, Mappings and Shapes Workshops

Thursday 14th December 2017, 1.30pm – 2.20pm, at the INI

Professor John Ball (University of Oxford) will present a talk at the workshop titled, 'Nonlinear elasticity and image processing'. All are welcome to attend and more information about the workshop can be found [here](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION



Administrative Offices - Christmas Closing



On Monday 18th December, 12noon – 3.00pm the following offices will be closed:

- Head of Department's Office (DAMTP)
- Departmental Administrator's Office (DAMTP)
- Finance Office (DAMTP)
- HR Office
- Undergraduate Office
- Pavilion and Research Group Secretaries
- Computing

On Tuesday 19th December, from 12.30pm onwards the following offices will be closed:

- Head of Department's Office (DPMMS)
- Departmental Administrator's Office (DPMMS)
- Finance Office (DPMMS)
- Graduate Office
- CMS Facilities

All the administrative offices in the Faculty will close for the Christmas break at the end of the working day on Friday 22nd December, and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

CAMBens discounts

CAMBens Discounts is a shopping discounts scheme for University of Cambridge employees, which gives employees access to shopping discounts online, by telephone and in store including cash back, discounted vouchers and reloadable cards. With more than 2,000 participating stores, University employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, and also get local discounts showing their University card in selected shops in and around Cambridge. Simply access the [CAMBens Discounts website](#) and find out what you could save in the build up to Christmas.

Christmas charity funding raising

Between both the Christmas Craft & Charity event and the CMS Christmas Party we have raised the following amounts for these charities:

[Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital](#) - £68

[Magpas](#) - £463.95

The organisers of both these events would like to thank everyone who supported them.



Christmas Vacation Activity Guide STUDENTS



The Graduate Union, in partnership with CUSU and the Students' Unions' Advice Service, have created the [Christmas Vacation Activity guide](#) for students who remain in Cambridge over the holiday period. It is a live document which will be updated on a daily basis.

A highlight of events being organised will be the 'Bring and Share' lunch at St Edmund's College on Christmas Day. Details on how to sign up to this lunch can be found in the guide.

University Staff Carol Service

This year's annual University Staff Christmas Carol Service will take place on *Tuesday 12th December* at 3.30pm at *Great St Mary's Church* (the University Church) between Market Square and Kings Parade. The service will feature traditional Christmas carols and readings for the season. The service will be followed by a reception of holiday treats and mulled wine. All are welcome!



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Thermal Thursday – Woolly jumper day

Thursday 14th December

The University's Environment and Energy Team are encouraging us to think about how much energy we use at this time of year at work and at home, and how we could save energy. They are encouraging us to familiarise ourselves with the University's [Thermal Comfort Policy](#), to highlight this initiative they are hosting *Thermal Thursday* this week and encouraging us to wear a woolly jumper to work. They would like to see photos of us in our jumpers (they can be sent to EMEnvironment@admin.cam.ac.uk), and the participants in their three favourite photos will receive a bar of organic chocolate from the Environment and Energy Team.



Top 5 University energy facts

- Last year the University consumed £16 million pounds worth of energy which is £1,865 an hour.
- Just by changing our behaviour and switching off equipment when it isn't needed, the Carbon Trust estimate that we could reduce the energy we use by 10%.
- The University's energy use for one year could power all of the street lights in Cambridge for 92 years.
- One minus 80 freezer uses twice as much energy in a single day as a typical UK household.
- IT equipment, including servers, can account for up to 25% of the total amount of electricity consumed in a typical office in the University.