

School of Physics and Astronomy

Head of School News – September 2017 Issue

Meeting dates summarised at the end.

New Appointments, Arrivals, Departures and Research Leave

We welcome:

- * Danielle Walsh, Research Fellow in Experimental Soft Matter Physics
- * Evgenia Koumpia, Research Fellow in Star Formation
- * Raoul Guiazon, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Free Space Quantum Communications
- * Daniel Paterson, Research Fellow in the Synthesis of Novel Liquid Crystals
- * Markus Wahle, Research Fellow in Liquid Crystal Physics and Devices
- * David Chapman, Cryogenics and General Support Technician
- * Paula Talbot, P.A, to the Head of School/HR
- * Anne Hayler, School Education Service Manager (UG)
- * Jessica Balme, Student Education Service Officer
- * Radwa Abou-Saleh, Research Fellow in Microfluidics and Microbubbles

Departures:

- * Christina Burge, Post-Doc, Astrophysics
- * Mansukh Patel, I.T.
- * Sophie Morley, Post-Doc, Condensed Matter

We wish them all the very best for the future.

Joining us:

- * Konstantinos Meichanetzidis, EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellow (October)
- * Luis Benito, Marie Curie Fellow (October)

Congratulations to:

- Samantha Pugh has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship.
- Oscar Cespedes, Tom Moore and Pete Hine who were all promoted to Associate Professor in the last academic year.
- John Turton has been shortlisted for the National Technicians Lifetime Service Award.
- This spring, the University was awarded Employer Champion status by the Science Council. Whilst this can relate to all scientists, the University are using it specifically to show commitment to our Science Technician population and are also signing up to the Technician Commitment which is a complimentary and collaborative initiative led by the Science Council and supported by Gatsby's [Technicians Make It Happen campaign](#), to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research. To celebrate, an event for technicians is being held on the 12th September where the Science Council will attend. I am pleased to confirm that Angela Beddows, Laboratory Technician, will be one of the registrants being presented with a certificate at this event.

News from around the School:

- The Light Scattering Conference arranged by Johan and Mamatha was a great success, attracting 75 people internationally.

- SMP does Astrophysics! Devesh Mistry and I were lucky enough to attend a conference in Oregon over the summer that meant they could view the total eclipse. Devesh took this amazing photo of the eclipse. We of course took care that everyone viewing it had proper eye protection – including Sophie the dog!



New Build

Many of you will be aware that one of the key stages in approval for our new build, planning permission, was achieved a couple of weeks ago. The new building is likely to be named after Bragg.

Update information regarding the ICEPS development can be found at:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/4092/green-light-for-engineering-and-physical-sciences>

<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/news/article/5784/green-light-for-96m-engineering-and-physical-sciences-research-development> (banner)

<https://campusdevelopments.leeds.ac.uk/news/green-light-new-96m-development/>

Admissions Update

Our Admissions Team have done remarkably well and we are expecting around 165 Undergraduates to join our 1st year later this month. Around 30% of our new intake are women.

Our MSc courses also seem to have recruited well – we are expecting between 10 and 15 MSc students to join us.

NSS Outcome – We continue to score highly, with an overall score of 90% for student satisfaction. Again, thank you all for this – obviously, we want to keep it up!

Research Grant Summary of 2016/17

The School did remarkably well last year, submitting over £25m worth of grants and being awarded £8.5m (bear in mind that some awards are from applications made prior to this year's applications). Thank you all for your continued hard work in this achievement.

Open Days: Saturday 9th September 2017 and Saturday 7th October 2017

Coming up:

- Staff Coffee mornings – Tuesday 17th October (Staff Common Room (8.70)) from 11.00am.
- The next School staff meeting will be at 10:30am on Thursday 14th September 2017.
- Post-Doc Forum – this will be held in the Staff Common Room (8.70) at 1.00pm on Monday 11th September to catch-up and welcome new PDRAs over lunch (bring your own) for more information please contact Chris Wareing.
- Head of School Open Door – has started today and thereafter will be held:

Every Wednesday, 2.00pm-4.30pm

Every Friday 10.00am-12.00pm

Thank you for your comments regarding the School Calendar which can now be found on the School's web page. Following comments received we are currently looking at developing this further using Outlook.

The information provided in this first edition Newsletter has been captured from the last two months or so. Future Newsletters will be issued every other month.

If anyone would like to send me a sentence or two for any section for the November Issue, please do so.

With all good wishes
Helen