Summer is in full swing and there’s plenty for us to look, in particular celebrating our Leavers at their graduation. But as you’ll see on we’re also proud to share recent student achievement, especially recognition in national competitions, and exciting research updates, including the unveiling of a new Centre for Doctoral Training.

In addition we were thrilled for Alumni join us for numerous events including our Annual Dinner, and more recently, a reunion for classmates. Read on for more.
Third Annual Alumni Dinner...

And Class of ’06 back at UCL

Many thanks to all Alumni who joined us for our Third Annual Alumni Dinner in March. The evening included a drinks reception and a three-course meal, followed by a talk from our distinguished guest and former Head of Department Prof Peter Kirstein.

Prof Peter Kirstein, CBE, joined the Department in 1973 (then the Department of Statistics and Computer Science), and was instrumental in establishing the first connection to the precursor of the Internet outside the United States. He was also involved in the first royal email sent by Her Majesty in 1976.

Meanwhile last month we welcomed our Class of ’06 back for a reunion at UCL. Joined by Prof Philip Treleaven and Dr Licia Capra, who both taught our Alumni during their time studying with us, our guests enjoyed a tour of the Department and an exclusive champagne reception on the Wilkins Roof Garden.

On a warm summers afternoon our Class of ’06 shared old photos, reminisced about their time here and caught up with friends. They also heard about the latest news and developments at UCL Computer Science.

The Department was also deeply grateful to receive a donation from our Class of ’06. We will keep Alumni updated with news of how the gift is contributing towards the student experience for our current and future students.

Our thanks goes to our Class of ’06, and in particular Sophia Qureshi, for her efforts in bringing our group together and organising the day. Our Alumni pictured (L-R) are Patrick Sumby, Sophia Qureshi, Chris Fellows, Chandra Choudhury, David Tatarata, Fod Tzellos, Amy Willis, Remal Tailor, Arman Siddiqui.

Events such as this are a great way to reconnect former students and help our Alumni community grow. Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Steve Marchant.
UCL Hosts Imagine Cup UK National Finals

UCL Computer Science recently played host to the UK National Finals of Microsoft’s Imagine Cup competition. The world’s premier technology competition is open to students from across the country, and UCL was honoured to host the UK national final.

The twelve best teams of students came together to pitch their product ideas to a panel of experts in a bid to win a place in the World Finals in Seattle, as well as a $50,000 prize. UCL was well represented with three teams in the final twelve; hard drive developers Cloudette, wireless filesharers Nearshare, and gamers BoltPushRush.

UCL Computer Science student and Nearshare developer Kelvin Khoo, said:

“Being involved in the Imagine Cup finals proved that there is great potential in our application. More importantly it gave us the opportunity to gain professional feedback from the judges in both the technical and business side so that we can further improve our application and bring it to market.”

Manoj Vaseekharan, of Cloudette said:

“Competing in the Imagine Cup finals was a great experience. The effort we put into the project throughout the past several months certainly paid off and we were very happy to show the public our work. Cloudette was well received and we were very proud to represent UCL Computer Science. Although we did not win, the feedback was invaluable and the team will continue to refine and develop what we think is a product that everyone will want to own!”

Dr Dean Mohamedally, Senior Teaching Fellow said:

“We were delighted that three UCL Computer Science teams made it to the UK Finals – placing our students among the brightest and best engineers in the country – and it has provided an opportunity for all students that enter to kick-start their programming career, and get support and expertise from key industry members.”

Congratulations to eventual winners Team Ripple from Exeter University who now go on to the world finals in Seattle.
New CDT in Delivering Quantum Technologies

We are delighted to announce that a new centre for doctoral training in Delivering Quantum Technologies will be established with EPSRC funding from September 2014.

Quantum technologies involve the control and manipulation of quantum states to achieve results not possible with classical matter; they promise a transformation of measurement, communication and computation.

Key areas of expertise at UCL include Quantum communication, quantum computation, and quantum metrology and sensing.

Prof David Price, UCL Vice-Provost (Research) said:

“Leading UCL researchers have made pioneering contributions to quantum technologies over several decades, and helped to develop a thriving community of quantum researchers across the UK. UCLQ is our flagship commitment to the next phase of our quantum technologies, which will see these breakthroughs translated to applications in partnership with industry. This will require both large-scale investment in and expert coordination of cross-disciplinary research and development.”

UCL’s Centre for Doctoral Training in Delivering Quantum Technologies brings together a team of almost forty academic experts with key players from commerce and government and a network of international partner institutes to train those research leaders. PhD students will be recruited from September 2014.

The programme will build on the breadth of UCL’s research in this field (spanning computer science, quantum physics, and engineering), providing students with a foundation in both theory and experimental methods for quantum technologies, before they embark on their research project.

The highly-skilled researchers who will be the future leaders in this field must be equipped to function in a complex research and engineering landscape where quantum physics meets cryptography, complexity and information theory, devices, materials, software and hardware engineering.

For more news see here:
http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/quantum/
Funding boost: to track development from embryo to adult

Scientists from UCL, Manchester University and the University of Cambridge have been awarded £2.8million for a collaborative project to help us learn more about how cells develop and form particular types of body tissue.

The award is part of a £17.7million cash-injection by the BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) aimed at harnessing the power of bioscience and make significant impacts in health as well as agriculture, alternatives to fossil fuels, and using biology to produce important commercial products.

The research team will be using fruit fly embryo development as a model system to answer important questions about how much of each gene product is expressed at different time points, which versions of individual genes are expressed and define a catalogue of interacting protein partners.

The UCL team, headed by Professors David Jones (Department of Computer Science) and Christine Orengo (Research Department of Structural and Molecular Biology), will be responsible for the computational analysis of the very large data sets that will be generated during the course of the project.

The research, known as the BBSRC Drosophila Developmental Interactome Project, is funded through BBSRC’s Strategic Longer and Larger Awards (sLoLas), which give world-leading teams the time and resources. The projects were chosen based on their scientific excellence; because they required long timescales, extensive resources and/or multidisciplinary approaches; and they involve internationally-leading research teams.

Professor Jackie Hunter, BBSRC’s Chief Executive, said:

“This public funding offers long-term support to address major research challenges, while building research capacity in important areas and maximising economic and social benefits for the UK”.

July 2014 | NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
MSc Software Systems Engineering and the Lab Of Things

A group of MSc Software Systems Engineering students have carried out their industry project working for Microsoft Research's team on the "Lab of Things" (LoT) platform.

This research platform makes it easy to deploy interconnected devices, intended for end user scenarios such as multiple homes, workplaces and public services, based on the Internet of Things theory. It allows the sharing research data with other investigators, turning each scenario into a potential large-scale study.

The students have published their software for Microsoft Research, by developing an "analytics engine" to scrutinize data collected from experiments and research applications running on the LoT.

The engine permits easy integration of data from other embedded platforms and facilitates analysis (R, Hadoop etc.) of the collected sensor data through a simple user interface.

The analytical models provided by the UCL Lab of Things Analytics Engine allow the user to evaluate usage patterns of devices, compare data sets, and find anomalies. The engine also has the capability to run custom R scripts, thereby enabling users to employ statistical models beyond those directly implemented in the engine.

The Internet of Things is a growing research area in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering communities, with a large number of companies researching ways to align and integrate their hardware and software within the world of ubiquitous sensors today. It enables us to quickly refer to, uniquely classify, access and manage identifiable objects and their virtual representations in an Internet-like structure.

The students' work has been featured on the Microsoft Research Connections blog which can be found here:

Staff win ACM Fellowships

We are delighted to announce that two UCL Computer Science colleagues have been appointed to prestigious ACM Fellowships this year:

Ingemar Cox, Professor of Telecommunications: for contributions to computer vision, image retrieval, and digital watermarking; and

Stephen Robertson, Visiting Professor: for contributions to the theory and practice of information retrieval.

ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) is the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, to advance computing as a science and a profession.

ACM recognises its members for their contributions to computing that are driving innovations across multiple domains and disciplines. The 2014 ACM Fellows, from the world’s leading universities, corporations, and research labs, have achieved advances in computing research and development that are accelerating the digital revolution and impacting every dimension of how we live, work, and play... worldwide.

ACM President Vinton G. Cerf celebrated the impact of innovations achieved by this year’s ACM Fellows:

“We recognize these scientists and engineers, creators and builders, theorists and practitioners who are making a difference in our lives,” he said. “They’re enabling us to listen, learn, calculate, and communicate in ways that underscore the benefits of the digital age. Their advances have led to opportunities for improved healthcare, enhanced security, expanded interactions, and enriched lifestyles. Some recipients have also led efforts to extend computing across continents and countries including Brazil, China, and Germany.”

ACM will formally recognize the Fellowships at its annual Awards Banquet in June 2014, in San Francisco. Additional information about the ACM 2013 Fellows, as well as previous ACM Fellows and award winners is available on the ACM Awards site which can be found here:

http://awards.acm.org/
Supporting Women in Computer Science:

London Hopper & Karen Spärck Jones Lecture

In conjunction with the BCS and IBM, we are pleased to now be the key supporter of two prestigious Women in Computer Science events – London Hopper and Karen Spärck Jones Lecture.

The London Hopper Colloquia grew out of the Scottish Hopper Colloquia, and is modelled on the American “Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing”, which is designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront.

These annual American meetings are held as a tribute to Admiral Grace Murray Hopper - pioneer of the computer business language COBOL - who inspired many young U.S. Naval computing students during her heyday and still continues to inspire computer scientists around the world many years after her death.

This year’s London Hopper Colloquium is taking place this month and will attended by up to 100 delegates from across the UK.

The Karen Spärck Jones lecture is an annual event that honours women in computing research.

The lecture series builds on the activities to celebrate, inform and support women engaged in computing. This year’s speaker, Dame Wendy Hall, will deliver a talk entitled “The Power of Networks”. More information about our events can be found here:

http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/events_listing/

UCL Computer Science has also this year been awarded with an Athena Swann Bronze Award. The Athena SWAN charter recognises and celebrates good employment practices for women working in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine (STEMM) in higher education and research. It aims to assist the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in STEMM and promote good practice. The Department is committed to the aims of Athena SWAN and is one of the first Computer Science Departments to sign up to the scheme.

We’re proud that our Women in Computer Science profile continues to grow.
Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Computer Science

Check us out on the web
http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/UCLCS.Home
Or follow us on Twitter
www.twitter.com/uclcs

Computer Science Shop – customise your own products

Our online shop has just been re-launched. Students recently organised their own competition to design a new CS logo, which is now available on a range of merchandise to buy, and the proceeds from purchases will be spent by the Staff Student Consultative Committee.

Well worth a look here:
http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/students/student_shop/

Kind regards,

John Shawe-Taylor
Head of Department
Professor of Computational Statistics and Machine Learning