



The Scottish Doctoral Training Centre
in Condensed Matter Physics

NEWSLETTER NO: 1 – NOVEMBER 2009

This is the first newsletter to keep colleagues, sponsors and associates up to date with the development and activities of the Scottish Doctoral Training Centre in Condensed Matter Physics (CM-DTC).

New Appointments We are pleased welcome Christine Edwards, recently appointed as full-time Centre manager. We are also delighted to welcome to the Centre the first cohort of ten highly talented students; eight from the UK, one from France and one from Germany; all arriving with good first class honours degrees or equivalent qualifications.



Professor P.N. Pusey



Dr Louise Richardson

CM-DTC officially opened The official opening of the centre took place on 9 October in St Andrews in an event well attended by academics and students from the three participating Universities. The full day programme comprised two inspiring and authoritative lectures from guest speakers Prof. Gil Lonzarich FRS (Cambridge) and Prof. Peter Pusey FRS (Edinburgh) followed by an opening address from St Andrews' Principal Dr. Louise Richardson. The Principal expressed her enthusiasm for inter-institutional collaboration exemplified by the Centre and the importance of graduate education. The day was rounded off with a tour of research laboratories in St Andrews led by the St Andrews' DTC students themselves.

The DTC students and their supervisors had previously met in September in Edinburgh for an induction day. This was the first of regular meetings of the entire cohort with the next such meeting to take place at Heriot Watt University.

The first CM-DTC scientific symposium. This will focus on excitations in fluid and solid helium and correlated electron oxides and take place on Saturday 28 November in St Andrews. Guest speakers are Dr Y. Kohsaka (Magnetics Materials Laboratory, RIKEN, Tokyo), Prof. J.C. Davis (Cornell University / University of St Andrews), Prof J. Saunders (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Nobel Laureate Prof. Tony Leggett (University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign). It is open to anyone from the UK community wishing to attend.

A word from the CM-DTC director

Building on a successful beginning we are aware that there is still much to do. In particular we plan to recruit an experienced learning technologist to assist with the development of courses and associated online material. Over the next year we will also move from informing our Industrial Associates of our progress to inviting them to meet the students and participate in our development. Finally, our students have already begun thinking about a CM-DTC Outreach programme, and we hope to feature an item about that in an upcoming newsletter.

Prof Andy Mackenzie

A word from the CM-DTC director of training

Student cohort: Year 1 – 2009

Top row Left to right

Iain Langley (UStA), Craig Wilson (UEdi),
Jack Barraclough (UStA), Jean-Christophe Denis (H-WU),
Thomas Scheler (UEdi), Matthew Edmonds (H-WU)

Seated left to right

Anne-Claire Pawsey (UEdi), Felicitas Beichert (UStA),
Emma McBride (UEdi), Edmund Bennett (UStA)



We are now roughly half way through their first-semester lecture courses. The DTC's flexible approach allows our students to select their courses from a broad range, including newly produced material, existing graduate-level courses, and some MPhys-level options from the partner universities. Our students are taking full advantage of this: as well as this semester's core subjects of Nanophysics, Correlated Electrons, and Advanced Statistical Mechanics, they are following a wide range of others, from Conformal Field Theory to Computational Chemistry - and all the bits in between!

But there is more to DTC training than lecture courses. Our students are also doing undergraduate teaching, taking part in discussion fora, developing their transferable skills, and working hard to put together the DTC's outreach programme. All this, of course, is on top of making an impressively rapid start on the research projects that will eventually comprise their PhDs.

It has been a real pleasure meeting and getting to know the students in this historic first cohort, and I wish them all the best for the remainder of their time with us.

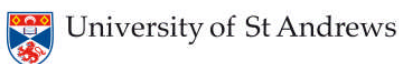
Dr Chris Hooley

For further information on the CM-DTC please contact:

Christine Edwards – Administrator / Manager at the School of Physics and Astronomy,
University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9SS.
Tel: 01334 463102 / Fax: 01334 463104 / E-Mail: cae10@st-andrews.ac.uk
Or go to our website <http://cm-dtc.supa.ac.uk>

Members of the CM-DTC Management Group are:

- Professor Andy Mackenzie – Director (University of St Andrews)
- Dr Chris Hooley - Director of Training (University of St Andrews)
- Professor Mike Cates (University of Edinburgh)
- Professor Andrew Huxley (University of Edinburgh)
- Professor Ian Galbraith (Heriot Watt University)
- Dr Patrik Öhberg (Heriot Watt University)
- Mrs Avril Manners (Director of the SUPA Graduate School)



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council