LINDEMANN TRUST

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

This newsletter opens with a heartfelt thank you to all Lindemann alumni who have so generously helped us over the last few months - not only with outreach events but with advice about our future plans and our forthcoming launch of a professional fundraising strategy. Your involvement is very much valued, and your expertise in offering guidance to colleagues in promoting the fruits of research funded by the Trust is vital.

I was fortunate to be able to attend both the Edinburgh and Cambridge school days (see below). To witness the excitement of the ten-year olds is joyful - and not a little humbling. This is surely the way to sponsor (literally) scientific interest for the next generation and we are developing plans to extend this work to different parts of the UK (including for the first time, filming of the events). We are also in conversation with the Royal Society about participation in their Summer Festival. But at the centre of our work and of our fundraising initiatives are the Lindemann Postdoctoral Fellowships. We shall reopen the competition this autumn and do so in the knowledge that it is essential for the future stability of the scheme that we supplement the existing foundation with additional sponsorships. In the coming months, we look forward to sharing our ambitious development plans and very much appreciate your ongoing support. A key element in our strategy is the continuation of the integration of the Fellowships with our outreach events. This fulfils the original aims of the Trust in financing the most exciting new scientific research while enabling that work to be explained to a general and young audience. Because of the way in which Lindemann alumni have been able to engage schoolchildren with innovative IT (as well as more familiar hands-on props!) we are contributing to broader discussions with other interested groups in developing methods of presentation. Thank you all again - and please visit our website for more updates and information. (Professor James Raven, Chair, Lindemann Trust.)

Event Reports

In February, we were delighted to host our first schools day in Scotland, in partnership with Edinburgh University, where we were joined by 200 local Primary School children. Lindemann Alumnus, Themis Prodromakis, Regius Professor of Engineering at Edinburgh, with his colleague Caterina Sbandati, spoke about AI and the current drive to use this to augment human capability. Dr Will Peveler, Senior Lecturer at Glasgow University, titled his talk 'Sense and Sensibility', exploring taste and smell, what they are and how they are linked. Finally, Laoise Casseley, Kris Holt and Lauren Young, PhD candidates at the UK Dementia Research Institute, spoke about how memory works in the brain.

Just one month later, it was a pleasure to host our annual schools' day in Cambridge. Frances Rigby, from the Institute of Astronomy, kindly returned to talk about exoplanets, their transits, and the search for extra-terrestrial life. Dr William Barrie, Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene College, helped us discover what old bones can tell us about our own evolution. And Lindemann Alumnus, Dr Alastair Sinclair, from the National Physical Laboratory, showed how to trap and cool individual atomic particles.

As part of our outreach programme, we have also made our first visit to Northern Ireland. Former Lindemann Fellow, Angkur Shaikeea, offered secondary school students some inspiring careers advice and gave an overview of his own journey into Engineering. "I also discussed some of the current challenges needing to be addressed by the next generation. And in the context of International Women's Day and the Titanic, I shared the inspiring story of Constance Tipper — one of the first female students to study the Natural Sciences Tripos at Newnham College, Cambridge — who discovered the phenomenon of steel becoming brittle at low temperatures, helping to explain the failure of ships at sea." - Angkur Shaikeea.

News from Fellows

We currently have three Fellows out in the US at various stages of their research. John Cattermull continues his work at Stanford, where he is developing halide solid electrolytes. John has also been involved in Stanford's outreach initiatives, including the Future Advancers of Science and Technology (FAST) scheme, a student-led scheme aiming to give low-income/underrepresented high school students from East San Jose exposure to inspiring science.



FAST practical making solar cells from berry juice

Ben Moss remains at CalTech, where he has devoted several months to instrument development of a Hi-OS instrument for studying electrocatalysts.

And Tomi Baikie has spent a year now at MIT, where he has made progress in

developing the next generation of Kelvin probes suitable for human skin. He tells us: "This fellowship has directly enabled me to learn many new skills, discover novel approaches to Physics problems, meet incredible people, and even get



married! I honestly don't think I've ever had more fun." - Tomi Baikie

Upcoming Events

- Introduction to Science and School events we are always looking for volunteers to take part in our outreach programme. If you would like more details and are interested in getting involved, <u>please let us know</u>.
- Alumni Lunch: Autumn 2025, York; details to follow.