

A man and a woman are dancing in a modern, brightly lit hallway. The woman is wearing a vibrant red dress and black heels, while the man is in a purple shirt and dark trousers. They are in a close embrace, with the man's hands on the woman's waist and shoulders. The hallway has a high ceiling with a grid of lights and large windows that reflect the interior. The overall atmosphere is elegant and sophisticated.

Light fantastic

By day, Professor Martin McCall (Physics 1983) bends light around space and time, deriving equations that hide objects and events in Harry Potteresque fashion. Two nights a week however, the theoretical optical physicist shrugs off his academic mantle, dons a smooth-soled pair of shoes and sets out for the dance floor. Martin's wife Estralita first encouraged him to join a Ceroc class with her eight years ago. He confides: "when I started I had two left feet, and was at least as nervous as when I gave my recent inaugural lecture". Time spent practising this fusion of jive and salsa has clearly not been wasted, as he fluently leads and spins Estralita around campus for this photoshoot. "Dancing gives me a refreshingly different way of socialising with people," says Martin. "The only connection with physics is that I choreograph my work trips to coincide with dancing events whenever possible." One of his main collaborators works in New Zealand, where the local Ceroc teacher reserves a music track for the student who has travelled furthest to be at her class. With 12,000 miles under his belt, Martin can be confident that she will save the last dance for him.

Photo by Adrian Weinbrecht, on location under the Faculty Building looking towards the Queen's Tower.