



October/November 2014

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Life and Environmental
Sciences welcomes new
Head of College

Vice-Chancellor's view

Working *together*
to build a better *future*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

YOUR BUZZ

Next edition **3 December 2014**
Copy deadline **7 November 2014**

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Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

Front cover image:

Professor Myra Nimmo, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences

A century ago students and staff arrived for the start of the 1914 academic year under the shadow of what became 'The Great War'. Fourteen years after the University was established, and only five years after the formal opening of the Great Hall and the Aston Webb buildings, the world was at war, and so much of what the University was founded to promote was overshadowed by what became a 'second thirty years war', and ended only in 1945 when Europe was a very different place.

As we start an academic year a century on, we not only live in but have a continuing responsibility to shape the world that emerged from that great conflict.

In one profound sense, all members of the University are in a vastly different position from our forebears in 1914. For us locally the spectre of war does not cast a pall over our university life. Of course we live in a world which is still riven by conflicts and needs more than ever the values of understanding, internationalisation, and enlightened tolerance which have always animated great universities and the quest for knowledge. None of us, staff and students alike, should resile from our responsibilities to build a better future.

It is often easy in university life to think and to look parochially. For very good reasons, we seek to promote our university; and we compete for the most interesting students, the most outstanding staff, and the finances that we need to underpin all of our activities. This kind of competition and a preoccupation with the success of our own institution is not ignoble. Indeed it is a prerequisite for everything that we should strive for.

That said, the success of our university is ultimately a means to an end and not an end in itself. We are here to study, to explore, to communicate, to challenge, and to be a beacon of something better in a world which is often short-sighted and self-interested.

Universities develop over decades, indeed centuries. They shape themselves through their own ambition, their own confidence, and their own integrity. The great universities since classical times have always stood for something. In a world where understanding is still fiercely contested and knowledge generated at a quite remarkable pace, standing for something and modelling that kind of institutional integrity has never been more important.

Since our predecessors arrived in that fateful autumn of 1914, this university has achieved prodigiously. The blue plaques which adorn our campus are one recognition of the great people and the great things which have happened here. Our graduates throughout the world attest to our continuing commitment to shaping the finest minds and creating citizens rich in responsibility. Those of us who are starting this academic year together have a responsibility to nurture and indeed to enhance that great tradition.

As the conflict of the Great War deepened, the Great Hall was turned over to a military field hospital. In our Great Hall the injured were healed and lives, which had been torn apart, through skill and kindness, began to recover health and hope. When the Great Hall was returned to the University in 1919, a moving inscription was etched in the marble above the main door. It reads, '*From August 1914 to April 1919 these buildings were used by the military authorities as the 1st Southern General Hospital. Within these walls men died for their country. Let those who come after live in the same service*'.

Let us together try to live up to this.

*Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Sir David Eastwood*

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL USA

Building Bridges with the USA

The UK and the USA enjoy the most productive higher education relationship in the world. Enhancing dialogue between US and UK partners offers a major opportunity to build meaningful partnerships, promote knowledge exchange, educate new audiences and support global engagement on both sides of the Atlantic. Here at the University we fully recognise the value of transatlantic partnerships and have invested significantly in growing academic engagement with the US as a key strategic international territory.

We are currently working with 30 institutions across 23 States to provide exciting transatlantic exchange opportunities. The US remains the most popular destination for our students and we're always looking for new partners. Partnerships based on academic relationships are always the most productive, so if you have academic connections that might facilitate an exchange relationship, please do get in touch.

We regularly participate in best practice exchanges with US administrators. Last year we hosted the Fulbright Administrators programme and this summer we welcomed 34 North American Fellowship Advisers during their UK study tour. The event showcased the US graduate scholarships we have established in collaboration with the Fulbright Commission, Marshall Commission, Banco Santander and our North American Alumni Foundation.

Our links with Fulbright have created new avenues for US researchers to engage with the University on a longer-term basis. We're proud to be one of only three UK universities to host the prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair award. This autumn we welcome Dr David Stoesz, Professor of Social Work, University of Illinois, as our

inaugural Chair. In addition, we will be hosting two Fulbright Scholars: Dr Sharon Mastracci, Head of College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois and Dr Angela Eikenberry, Associate Professor, Business Administration, University of Nebraska.

Given the scale of the country and self-reliance of its elite institutions, building reputation in the US and developing genuinely productive linkages is particularly challenging, the need for a more strategic institutional approach towards managing transatlantic relationships is thus widely recognised.

As you would expect, Birmingham academics enjoy wide-ranging research relationships right across the US and there is a North America Travel Fund available to support them. Yet we have also sought to strategically focus academic engagement on Birmingham's sister city Chicago and the state of Illinois.

Over the last four years we have developed an innovative platform approach involving civic, academic and cultural engagement initiatives to enhance our profile in the region and facilitate signature partnerships with world-class institutions. Most recently we have formed a unique strategic alliance with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC), one of the US's leading public research-intensive universities.

The BiRmington–Illinois Partnership for Discovery, EnGagement and Education (BRIDGE) aims to deepen wide-ranging connections that have flourished over the last four years and develop wider faculty networks to progress collaborative teaching, learning and research initiatives. A joint BRIDGE Seed Fund has just



been launched that staff at the University are encouraged to apply to; there are two deadlines a year, the next being 15 October 2014 and 28 February 2015.

Our focused approach to building meaningful international partnerships places us in a strong position to leverage external funding, such as the British Council's US–UK Global Innovation Initiative (GII). The GII aims to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) research between the UK and US with universities in Brazil, China, India and Indonesia. Following success in 2013, we are hoping for a positive outcome this year. The closing date is 31 October 2014.

Further information:

For more information on the opportunities outlined above please contact:

Dr Erica Arthur, North America Development Manager at:
e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk

or visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/external/international/relations/North-America/Collaboration-with-North-America.aspx

Barber Institute to display Picasso painting

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts will be displaying Pablo Picasso's *Woman Sleeping in a Chair*, until March 2015. Cubist Picasso is considered to be one of the most important artists of the last 100 years and the painting, which is on loan from Japan's Yokohama Museum of Art, is the first of his artworks to go on public display in the city for more than 50 years

Also coming to the Barber this autumn will be Johann Zoffany's *A Life Class at St Martin's Academy* and Paul Klee's



Photo Credit: Pablo Picasso, *Woman Sleeping in a Chair*, 1927. © Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan.

FluDbaulandschaft (River-engineering landscape).

Find out more at: www.barber.org.uk/major-loans-gallery

College of Life and Environmental Sciences News

A new dinosaur species from South America has been identified by an international team of scientists, including Dr Richard Butler from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. *Laquintasaura* walked on two hind-legs and was about the size of a small dog. It is thought to have been largely herbivorous, but long curved tips on some of its teeth suggest it might have also eaten insects or other small prey. The 200 million year old fossils are from the La Quinta Formation in Venezuela, making this the first dinosaur find in the north of South America.



College of Arts and Law News

Professor Vincent Gaffney, Chair in Landscape Archaeology and Geomatics, revealed at the British Science Festival that a host of previously unknown archaeological monuments have been found around Stonehenge. The discovery was made during an unprecedented digital mapping project that will transform our knowledge of this iconic landscape. The remarkable new findings include the world's largest 'super henge', Durrington Walls. The research also formed part of a BBC Two programme *Operation Stonehenge: What Lies Beneath*, broadcast in September.



Dates for the diary

Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum
Thursday 16 October, 12.30–1.30pm
Elgar Concert Hall,
Bramall Music Building

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for his first staff address of the academic year. All staff are encouraged to attend and there will be an opportunity to ask questions on the day.

Birmingham Professional Forum
Friday 7 November, 10.30–11.30am
Elgar Concert Hall,
Bramall Music Building

This event is for all Professional Services colleagues (administrative, support and technical staff) from across the University. Introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, the forum is a great opportunity to hear from colleagues on a wide range of topical subjects for both staff and the University.

College of Engineering and Physical Sciences News

- Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Dean of Engineering at Taylor's University, Malaysia, was appointed Honorary Professor this summer. This appointment enhances the strong collaborative relationship between the University of Birmingham and Taylor's University, Malaysia's leading private educational institution and comes amid plans for the partners to further strengthen these important ties.
- The School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering will be

re-named as the School of Electronic, Electrical, and Systems Engineering from 1 October to reflect a new strategic direction.



BUAFTA nominations now open!

The BUAFTAs (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) are organised every year by University staff to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Professional Services colleagues who have gone the extra mile and contributed significantly to the success of our University. You can nominate any administrative, technical, academic-related, support staff or a team for an award.

Further information: **intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/BUAFTAS/index.aspx**



World Cup Winners

Congratulations to Laura Keates and Kat Merchant! On 17 August they were crowned champions in the women's 2014 Rugby World Cup Final as England beat Canada 21–9 at Stade Jean-Bouin, Paris.

Laura works as a Sports Assistant at the Munrow Sports Centre and graduated from the University in 2010 with a BSC Zoology. Kat is also an alumna of the University (2007 Sport and Exercise Sciences).



College of Medical and Dental Sciences News

- Professor David Adams, currently Professor of Hepatology, Dean of Medicine and Director of Birmingham Health Partners (BHP) will take up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of MDS when Professor Eric Jenkinson retires in July 2015.
- With generosity from Alumni and Friends, just over £500,000 has been raised for the Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM). The £24 million research institute will open in summer 2015 and is delivered by BHP, a joint

collaboration of University Hospitals Birmingham, the University of Birmingham, and Birmingham Children's Hospital. The ITM will deliver the very latest research findings and enable new treatments to be developed faster than ever before. Donate at www.birmingham.ac.uk/ITM.



Have you got an idea for an innovative enterprise based on your research?

Or have you been involved in a project working collaboratively with business?



The Enterprising Birmingham Innovation Competition has been designed to highlight and reward researchers who have identified a commercial opportunity based on their research and have the drive and vision to transform innovation into enterprise.

The competition is open to all research staff and doctoral students (supported by their supervisor) and has two categories: 'Best Innovative Idea for Commercial / Enterprise Development Based on Your Research'

First prize of £10,000 with Runners-Up prizes of £2,000. Initial expressions of interest should be received by 15 December 2014.

'Most Successful Collaboration with Business'

First prize of £5,000 and a closing date of Friday 9 February 2015.

For further information please visit: www.bizzinn.org/competitions.php or contact Sofia Hansrod at s.hansrod@bham.ac.uk.

College of Social Sciences News

- Academics from the College of Social Sciences are showcasing their work in this year's ESRC Festival of Social Sciences. Find out more at www.birmingham.ac.uk/festival-of-social-science.
- *Newsnight's* Evan Davis will soon visit the Department of Economics to speak on the question, 'Why London dominates and what the rest of the country should do about it?' Register at www.birmingham.ac.uk/evan-davis.
- Academics in Birmingham Business School and the School of Health and Population Sciences are working on

a new project with Health Exchange a leading health and wellbeing organisation in Birmingham. The study will undertake a review of the effects of integrating workplace wellbeing activities into organisations.



transforming OUR campus

'We are so excited to see it taking shape before our eyes.'

Back to basics at the heart of Aston Webb

If you have ever wondered what the venerable Aston Webb building looks like inside when stripped back to basics – now is the chance to see. As work to convert C Block into a student hub ready for our 2015 intake of students continues, the contractors have been documenting progress on the 100-year-old building with a series of photographs showing the phases of construction. The intriguing images show what the Grade II listed building contains when all of the fixtures and fittings are taken away, exposing Aston Webb's original ideas.

As busy campus life continues beyond the walls of C Block, the images show a building from another era. People hurrying about their business outside may not be able to visualise the work going on inside as the contractors turn the building into a truly modern, 21st century student hub.

Grand spaces are being opened up, and stunning original features exposed and renovated.

The conservation officer has given permission for windows to be taken away from the site to be repaired and restored by specialists. Elsewhere, structural steelwork has been installed to support the top floor dormer windows, which were previously supported by the top floor and has now been removed to open up the space. A wall with an original chimney flue running inside it has also been opened up and will be preserved and supported through the new design of the building.

The dramatic beams and archways will form a focal point of the hub when complete, providing an airy, pleasant space for students to ask for help with enquiries, access a variety of



services and attend lectures in the new 250-seat lecture theatre. There will be facilities including Student Services, Registry and Careers Network, as well as a reception, information zone and a suite of one-to-one consultation rooms.

CAMPUS CURIOSITIES



What is it?

Theme and Variation by Peter Randall-Page, 2014. Campus Collection of Fine and Decorative Art, Research and Cultural Collections

Where is it?

The Bramall Music Building

We are delighted to announce the installation of *Theme and Variation*, a new ceramic frieze by internationally renowned

sculptor Peter Randall-Page. The design is based on a visual representation of music and was created by the implementation of strict structural rules within which the artist improvised. The resulting pattern is both otherworldly and reassuringly familiar and the eye can trace a variety of shapes in the abstraction of the design. You can find out more about the frieze on the project blog and there is a new display of photography of the making of the frieze in the Bramall Foyer. www.thebramallfrieze.com

Library Services Director digs in to aid construction

Library Services Director Diane Job donned her hard hat and high-vis jacket recently as she helped out with a spot of piling at the site of the new library.

If you have taken a glance at the webcam recently, you'll see that the new library construction is well underway, and the piling phase is now almost complete. And if you want to take a closer look, our contractors Carillion have now established a viewing platform which will be open on selected days throughout the coming months.

Contractors Carillion began work on the library in March after being appointed as the main contractor earlier this year. Due for completion in mid-2016, the library development will provide outstanding facilities for a new generation of students and researchers,

as well as a cultural space for the University, which will be open to the people of Birmingham, across 13,000sqms of floor space over six levels.

Diane said: *'The library we are building now on campus will be transformational. The opening of the building will be the culmination of a lot of hard work behind the scenes to organise our incredible resources allowing our students and staff to take advantage of the considerable amount of materials we hold in the most straightforward way. The new library will be the most fantastic space for students and researchers to be able to interact with these resources.'*



Swim coach has a hole lot of love for the new sports centre

The head swimming coach at the University took his chances to get on site when he climbed into the hole dug for the 50 metre swimming pool this summer – despite there being quite a wait until the water goes in!

Gary Humpage has been desperate to be able to get into a 50 metre pool in his home city since he started training back in the early 1980s. And when he began coaching at the University in 1996, he started to hear whispers that the longed-for pool might actually be built at his own venue.

When work finally began on the realisation of that dream earlier this year, with the construction of the University's new state-of-the-art sports centre, Gary was delighted. The sports centre, including the pool, will be open for action at the beginning of 2016.

Gary said: *'It was around the time of the 1984 LA Olympics when people started to talk about getting a 50 metre pool in Birmingham – and I'm so excited that now it's finally happening, it's here at the University of Birmingham.'*

Gary coaches the University's teams,

including several elite swimmers, and is also involved in the learn to swim classes which take place at the current sports centre, and said that the impact of a 50 metre pool on swimming could not be underestimated.

He said: *'For our elite swimmers, to be able to train in a 50 metre pool, the difference cannot be stressed enough – they will effectively be able to swim ten per cent more because of not having to turn every 25 metres. And the pool will be wider – at the moment, the lanes are narrow – we struggle to do butterfly training because of that. The new pool will enable much wider lanes.'*

The pool will have a moveable wall and floor so that the pool can split into two 25 metre pools and alter the depth for all swimmers of all abilities. Gary said the increased capacity for swimming as a result would make a huge difference to swimming in the city: *'It will change how people participate – everyone can benefit from the wider lanes and variable floor. We can also have lane swimming in one half of the pool throughout the week.'*



'Having this 50 metre pool in Birmingham will make us so much more competitive – it really will boost the things we can achieve through swimming in this city.'

MOOCs

One Year On



In September 2013 the University joined a consortium of universities to provide free online learning or Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) via the new UK-based FutureLearn platform. The first University of Birmingham MOOC was launched in December 2013 and there have since been more than 50,000 registrations.

'What a great course! This was my introduction to MOOCs and I'm hooked! Thank you all at the University of Birmingham and FutureLearn – it's rare to have such quality in a free course!'

Feedback received from a MOOC participant.

MOOCs last for two to ten weeks and contain a good mixture of guided reading, articles, videos and peer review activity. The amount of study varies but typically learners are required to participate for two to six hours per week including time to join in conversations and pursue options for deeper study.

'Courses are delivered in simple individual steps, and are accessible on numerous electronic devices, so you can fit learning around your life, rather than your life around learning.' *Liz Wragg, MOOC Operations lead at the University.*

The University has led MOOCs on a number of diverse topics from *Hamlet* to dental photography to international politics. Feedback was positive with 94 per cent of participants responding that the course had met or exceeded their expectations. Following the success of MOOCs the

MOOCs starting this autumn:

World War 1: Aviation Comes Of Age

Investigate how the white heat of innovation in World War One shaped the history of human flight. This course starts 20 October for three weeks with three hours of study recommended per week. This MOOC also launches the University's partnership with the BBC, who have provided an iWonder guide presented Dan Snow to support the course.



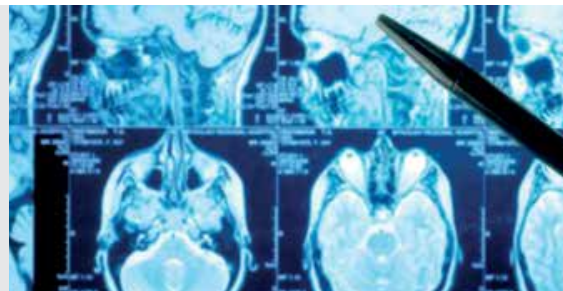
Liver Disease: Looking After Your Liver

Learn about how your liver works, ways to look after it and how liver damage is caused, studied and treated around the world. This course starts 27 October for three weeks with three hours of study recommended per week.



Good Brain, Bad Brain: Parkinson's Disease

Learn the fundamentals of Parkinson's disease; what causes it and what we can do to ameliorate the symptoms. This course starts 17 November for three weeks with three hours of study recommended per week.



University has the potential to connect with new innovations in e-learning such as Small Private Online Courses (SPOCs). SPOCs are also free and delivered online but access is restricted to a smaller number of learners with the capacity for a more customised experience.

More information:

www.futurelearn.com
www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/index.aspx

'MOOCs have enhanced the University's reputation as a leading light in academia and have demonstrated the possibilities of online learning. Our courses connect learners worldwide and aim to provide an enjoyable social experience with opportunities for discussion and debate.' *Professor Giles Perryer, Birmingham's academic lead for MOOCs.*



Celebrating Success 2014



A truly great organisation is defined by the quality of its people: at Birmingham our people are amongst the most talented and dedicated of any sector.

Whilst we

recognise and celebrate success internally through awards such as our teaching awards, the HAS OSCARS, BUFTAs, and Founders Awards, I am absolutely delighted that the outstanding contribution and dedication of so many colleagues has also been recognised

by many external organisations over the last 12 months.

This special supplement to *Buzz* highlights some of the accolades achieved during the last year spanning across the colleges and professional services. The breadth and depth of the accomplishments is impressive and covers everything from teaching, research, and student support to sustainability and promotion of equality.

The enthusiasm, energy and quality of work delivered by colleagues across the University were a key factor in our recognition as *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year. Your outstanding individual and team contributions are collectively helping us fulfil

our ambition of being recognised amongst the world's leading universities.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank colleagues for their continued commitment and look forward to another successful year and celebrating many more achievements with you over the next 12 months.

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sir David Eastwood



Focus on *Fellowships*

To be awarded a Fellowship at a national academy is the highest accolade for academics, reserved for those displaying excellence in their field. Academics are elected for life by their peers to become a Fellow and lead the way in the promotion and recognition of high-quality research.

**Professor David Charlton –
Fellow of the Royal Society**

A Professor of Particle Physics, David Charlton is Spokesperson of the ATLAS Collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

**Professor Roger Backhouse –
Fellow of the British Academy**

A Professor of the History and Philosophy of Economics, Roger Backhouse's recent research includes a book on John Maynard Keynes and the history of the social sciences since 1945. Professor Backhouse was also awarded a Best Book Prize by the European Society for the History of Economic Thought.

Research councils, societies and foundations also appoint inspirational academics as Fellows to support the strategic direction and research aims of their organisation.

- **Dr Richard Clay** – Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Commons Fellow
- **Dr Jamie Coleman** – Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society
- **Professor Arri Coomarasamy** – Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- **Dr Michael Grove** – Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship
- **Dr Karen Guldborg** – Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
- **Dr Gareth Lavery** – Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowship
- **Professor Leam Craig** – Fellow of the British Psychological Society
- **Dr Wendy Leadbeater** – Senior Fellow, Higher Education Academy
- **Professor Richard Palmer** – Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales

- **Dr Celia Taylor** – Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
- **Dr Ruth Whittle** – Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship
- **Professor Richard Williams** – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) RISE Fellow
- **Professor Hongming Xu** – Society of Automotive Engineers



Rated *Researchers*



The University's researchers are recognised as some of the finest in the world, producing original and significant research that has a major influence on society. In the past year, academics from the University have achieved exceptional impact by producing highly cited research papers that are in the top one per cent most cited for their subject in its year of publication.

- **Professor Yulong Ding** – Highly Cited Researcher – Engineering
- **Professor Jane McKeating** – Highly Cited Researcher – Microbiology
- **Professor Stephen Wood** – Highly Cited Researcher – Psychology
- **Professor John Jefferys** – Century Citation Club – Journal of Physiology

Professor Gregory Y H Lip divides his time between a clinical role as a consultant

cardiologist at Birmingham City Hospital and leading multidisciplinary research through the University's Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences. His work over the last year has led him to be listed as a 'Highly Cited Researcher' in Clinical Medicine and 'Science Watch Hottest Researcher' by Thomson-Reuters, and as the world's leading expert in Atrial Fibrillation and a top ten world-leading expert in hypertension by Expertscape.

Professional Services staff were also recognised as leaders in their discipline including the University's Director of Legal Services, **Carolyn Pike**, who was listed by *The Lawyer* magazine in the 'Hot 100 Lawyers 2014'.

The University is ranked as a top 40 participant in the European Research Framework Programme; listed as 39th overall and 24th for HE organisations, in terms of number of projects, out of the thousands of organisations taking part.

Strong *leadership*

Sir Dominic Cadbury, a former Chancellor of the University (2002-2013), was given a Europe Leadership Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Sir Dominic was presented with the award in recognition of his service to Birmingham and his personal support for equal access and of fundraising activities.



An Ethos of *Equality*

When the University was founded in 1900, it provided equal access to men and women, and has continued to ensure an ethos of equality and diversity for the institution ever since. Today, the University continues to offer education and employment to people from all backgrounds and actively encourages an inclusive environment for all members of the University community.

During the last year the University has been recognised for its pledge to advance the careers of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine (STEMM) subjects, achieving Athena Swan awards for several of its schools. Athena Swan awards acknowledge a commitment to challenging the under-representation of women in STEMM subjects and supporting the career advancement of women in academia and research.

Athena Swan Silver Award

- College of Medical & Dental Sciences

Athena Swan Bronze Awards

- School of Chemical Engineering
- School of Chemistry
- School of Civil Engineering
- School of Mathematics
- School of Biosciences
- School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

The School of Physics and Astronomy

also achieved Juno Champion Status from the Institute of Physics for its dedication to addressing the under-representation of women in physics and encouraging the best practice of all colleagues.



Professional People

Professional service staff across campus contribute enormously to the prosperity of the University; whether it is keeping colleagues fuelled for the day or ensuring the campus remains clean and tidy.

- **Cleaning Services** – Customer Service Award, BACHE (British Association for Cleaning in Higher Education)
- **Catering Services** – Best Staff & Community Scheme, Birmingham Sustainability Recycling Awards
- **Go-Mex, Catering Services** – Casual Dining Concept, U-Dine Awards



Honours



Staff at the University have been recognised for their services to Higher Education or achievements in their academic discipline in the New Year and Queen's Birthday Honours listings.

- **Professor Sir David Eastwood**, Vice-Chancellor – Knighthood
- **Edward Smith**, Pro-Chancellor – CBE
- **Professor Paul Cannon**, School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering – OBE
- **Emeritus Professor David Morton**, School of Biosciences – CBE
- **Sylvia Gardiner**, Academic Services – British Empire Medal
- **Donna Willmetts**, College of Social Sciences – British Empire Medal
- **Dr Simon Cotton**, School of Chemistry – British Empire Medal

Sporting *Sensations*

Staff at UBSport work to encourage participation in sport, deliver high-quality coaching and maintain sport and exercise facilities for colleagues, students and the local community – but two staff members at UBSport are also world-class athletes.

UBSport Scholarship Manager **Luke Gunn** competed for England at the Commonwealth Games 2014 in the 3000m Steeplechase and **Laura Keates**, a Sports Assistant at the Munrow Centre, won the World Cup as part of the England Women's Rugby Team.

Bright Beginnings

The University is committed to providing a supportive environment for academics at the beginning of their careers and offering them the space to develop through the Birmingham Fellowship programme. The scheme has attracted the brightest and the best academics from around the world; emphasised by the numerous early career awards won by our Birmingham Fellows.

- **Christina Anderson** – First Time Presenter's Award at The Networking for Education in Healthcare (NET)
- **Dr Elizabeth Blackburn** – Mosley Medal, Institute of Physics
- **Dr Bharat Malkani** – 2013 Young Scholar Prize, International & Comparative Law Quarterly
- **Martin Ling** – Sir Wilfred Fish Prize, British Society of Periodontology
- **Dr Andrew Lovering** – Young Investigator Award, European Molecular Biology Organisation
- **Dr Anna Phillips** – Early Career Award for Research, Stress & Anxiety Research Society
- **Dr Angela Taylor and Vasilis Chortis** – European Network for the Studies on Adrenal Tumours-Adrenocortical Carcinoma 2013 for Best Research Paper
- **Dr Sebastian Watt** – Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists, European Geosciences Union

International Institution

As a global institution, hosting approximately 5,000 international students from more than 150 countries and working in partnerships with institutions worldwide, it is essential for the University to have a strong team of staff dedicated to facilitating international initiatives.

The University's **International Relations Team** were awarded a *Times Higher Education* Leadership and Management Award for Outstanding International Strategy.

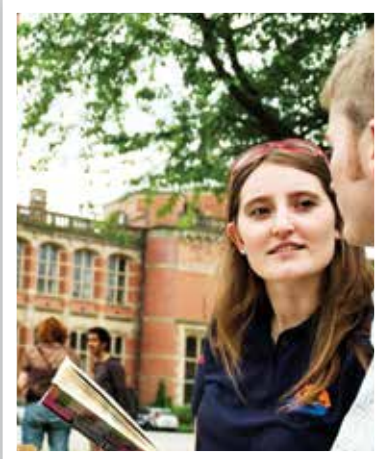


Supporting Students

Students are the heart of any university and at Birmingham staff are on-hand to provide support and guidance to students throughout their time at the University and beyond.

- **Margaret Flynn**, worked for the University for more than 22 years until her retirement in 2013 was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)
- **Careers Network**, Best Careers Support for International Students, NUS Internationalisation Awards
- **Careers Network**, Most Improved Commitment to Employability, National Placement and Internship Awards
- **Careers Network**, Bronze Award for Best Use of Visual Property, Transform Awards

- **Careers Network**, Silver Award for Best Visual Identity from the Public Sector, Transform Awards
- **Worklink**, Finalist, Best Innovation, Global Recruiter Awards



Cultural Campus

Cultural spaces at the University are also recognised as being of a high standard by the general public. **Winterbourne House & Gardens** and the **Barber Institute of Fine Arts** are both consistently listed in the top five attractions in Birmingham on the review website Tripadvisor.



A sustainable campus

Through environmental policies and sustainable travel schemes, the University's activities aim to build and maintain a sustainable campus for all. Staff in the Hospitality and Accommodation Services team have been rewarded for their sustainability initiatives and continue to work with colleagues to promote a green future for all.

Environmental Services – Junkbusters initiative

- Overall Winner Birmingham City Council Recycling Award 2013
- Best Waste Reduction Scheme in the Education Category
- Highly Commended for Best Community or Neighbourhood Project

Transport Services

- Highly Recommended – Green Van Fleet of the Year, Fleet News
- Runners Up – Fleet Hero Leadership Award, Energy Saving Trust



Famous Fiction

Dr Richard House's novel *The Kills* was long listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2013. Dr House, lecturer in creative writing, has also been shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and nominated for a Sky Arts Award.

Corporate Services

- **Human Resources Team**, HR Excellence in Research Award, European Commission
- **Human Resources Team**, Exceptional HR Achievement, Universities Human Resources
- **Human Resources Team**, Finalist in the Performance and Reward Category, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Awards
- **Postgraduate Recruitment Team**, Gold Award for the Best Use of Innovation and Creative Thinking, Heist Awards for Education Marketing
- **Buzz Magazine**, Finalist, Best Internal Publication, CIPR Awards
- **Original Magazine**, Finalist, Best External Publication, CIPR Awards
- The University's **Registry Team** and the **Birmingham Foundation Academy** were finalists at the *Times Higher Education* Leadership and Management Awards
- **Hannah Kinney**, Student Employee Award, National Association of Student Employment Services
- **Linden Thomas**, Corporate Social Responsibility and Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, Birmingham Law Society
- **Lorraine Bartram** and **Tim Owen**, Student Acquisitive Crime Team Award, West Midlands Police

College of Arts and Law

- **Professor Matthew Hilton** – Appointed to the Advisory Board of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- **Dr Leon McRae**, Best Overall Publication, Institute of Mental Health

College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

- **Professor Michael Adams**, Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to the Development of Agglomeration Science, International Granulation Workshop
- **Dr Haider Butt**, Philip Leverhulme Prize, Leverhulme Trust
- **Professor Paul Cannon**, Presidency, International Radio Science Union
- **Professor Charalampos Baniotopoulos**, Honorary Professorship, Jordan University of Science and Technology
- **Professors Daniela Kuhn** and **Deryk Osthus**, Whitehead prize, London Mathematical Society
- **Professor Richard Palmer**, John Yarwood Memorial Medal, British Vacuum Council
- **Dr Athanasios Tsolakakis**, Outstanding Paper Award, Engineering Science and Innovative Technology International Conference and Best Poster Prize, Future Powertrain Conference

College of Life and Environmental Sciences

- **Professor Gurdyal Besra**, Jeremy Knowles Award, Royal Society of Chemistry
- **Professor Steve Busby**, Chairmanship, Biochemical Society

- **Dr Lee Chapman**, Remote Sensing Letters Award, Taylor & Francis and Cuthbert Peek Award, Royal Geographical Society
- **Dr Juliet Coates**, Senior Research Fellowship, Royal Society Leverhulme Trust
- **Joan Duda**, Presidency of Division 12 (Sport & Exercise Psychology), International Association of Applied Psychology
- **Professor Timothy Dafforn**, Entrepreneur-in-residence for synthetic biology, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- **Professor David Hannah**, Tison Award, International Association of Hydrological Sciences
- **Ahmad Osailan**, Best Abstract in the area of Clinical Sciences, European League Against Rheumatism
- **Dr Rosemary Waring**, Lloyds Science of Risk Prize

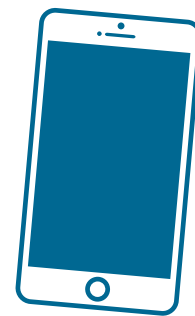
College of Medical and Dental Sciences

- **Mr Ricky Bhogal**, Syme Medal, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- **Professor Julian Bion**, President's Award, Intensive Care Society UK
- **Professor Iain Chapple**, President Elect, British Society of Periodontology
- **Myriam Chimen**, **Dr Helen McGettrick**, **Clara Yates**, **Dr Amy Kennedy**, **Dr Ashley Martin**, **Dr Francesca Barone**, **Dr Lucy Walker**, **Professor Chris Buckley**, **Professor Gerard Nash**, **Professor Ed Rainger** and **Dr Parth Narendran**, Eli Lilly Basic Science Poster Award, Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference
- **Professor Angus Dawson**, Chairmanship, Scientific Advisory Board for Interdisciplinary Research Initiative Governing Obesity, University of Copenhagen
- **Karen Doyle**, Special Commendation Research Engagement Flame of Hope Award, Cancer Research UK
- **Dr Clare Eddy**, Best Oral Presentation, European Society for the Study of Tourette Syndrome
- **Professor Pam Kearns**, Joint Winner Research Engagement Flame of Hope Award, Cancer Research UK
- **Dr Nikos Efstathiou**, Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa and the European Oncology Nursing Society Research Travel Grant
- **Professor Robin Ferner**, The Distinguished Clinical Pharmacologist and Mentor Award, South Asian Chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology
- **Chandrika Gordhan & Dr Rebecca Stack**, Clinical Prize, British Health Professionals in Rheumatology
- **Dr Vanessa Heggie**, Visiting Fellowship, Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science
- **Professor Martin Hewison**, Wolfson Merit Award, Royal Society
- **Dr Christine Hirsch** and **Dr Anthony Cox**, Pharmacy Practice Research Poster 3rd Prize, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- **Dr Laura Jones**, Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund Mobility Scholarship

- **Professor Mark Kilby**, Sims Black Professorship Award, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- **Dr Jackson C Kirkman-Brown**, Healthcare Scientist of the Year, Chief Scientific Officer's Award
- **Laura Lord**, Poster Award, Division of Health Psychology British Psychological Society
- **Professor Janet Lord**, Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging, Glenn Foundation for Medical Research
- **Professor John Marriott**, **Dr Jamie Coleman**, **Sarah Thomas**, **Dr Anthony Cox** and **Dr Christine Hirsch**, Improving Safety in Medicines Management, Patient Safety Awards
- **Dr Stuart Morgan**, International Endocrine Scholar Award, European Society of Endocrinology
- **Peter Morgan-Warren**, Colt Prize for Military Research, Royal Society of Medicine
- **Dr Faye Morris**, The Heatley Payne Prize, Society of General Microbiology and American Society of Microbiology
- **Professor Dion Morton**, Honorary Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Health Science at the University of Southern Denmark
- **Professor Laura Piddock** – part of a team awarded the Longitude Prize to undertake research into antibiotic research and Marjory Stephenson Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Microbiology, Society for General Microbiology
- **Wing Commander Professor Robert AH Scott**, Lady Cade Medal for Meritorious Research, Royal Air Force
- **Dr Abd Tahrani**, Sleep Related Breathing Disorders Investigator Award, American Academy of Sleep Medicine
- **Professor Damien Walmsley**, Presidency, Association Dental Education of Europe and Scientific Advisor, British Dental Association
- **Professor Deborah White**, Chairpersonship, British Dental Association Clinical Academics Group
- **Weight Management Team**, Heartlands Diabetes UK Primary Care Poster Award

College of Social Sciences

- **Carol Solley**, **Emily Hargreaves** and **Jade Bressington** were awarded Universitas 21 Fellowships
- **Emeritus Professor Rita Jordan**, Autism Professional Award, National Autistic Society
- **Dr Daiga Kamerade**, Campbell Adamson Memorial Prize for the Best Research Paper, National Council of Voluntary Organisations
- **Professor Mondor Ram**, Best in Education, British Indian Awards
- **Birmingham Business School** has achieved AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) Accreditation; consequently the School now joins an elite group of Business Schools holding Triple-Accreditation.
- **Birmingham Business School**, Silver Award, Small Business Charter



LEADING THE WAY ON MOBILE DEVELOPMENTS

The proliferation of mobile devices and all the capabilities that they have to offer has given a new lease of life to the creativity of University staff. It has opened new horizons in quantitative and qualitative data gathering methodologies for research projects across the University.

In an institution like the University of Birmingham that puts research at the core, the IT Innovation Centre is leading the way with initiatives such as the Mobile Apps in Research Summit (MARS Summit) that is instrumental to showcase the work of our staff in this field.

The MARS Summit, a one day mini-conference run in partnership with Ideas Lab, is the first event in the UK to bring together researchers, funders and developers from all over the country to examine the role of mobile apps in research. The MARS Summit taps into a current gap in the mobile app market by shifting the attention from commercial apps to focus specifically on the role of mobile apps in research: as data gathering tools, as tools to deliver the products of research to professionals and as tools for public engagement.

The success of last year's MARS Summit proved that there is a growing high level of demand for training, networking and discussion in the area of apps in research. The MARS Summit 2013 put the University of Birmingham at the centre of a network of academics with interest and expertise in using these new technologies in research. The demand for this type of event has led us to organise the MARS

Summit again in December. The focus of this year's Summit will be on sharing experiences on the development and exploitation of mobile apps in research, the consolidation of the network and on building collaborations leading to specific projects.

The MARS Summit 2014 will take place at the University of Birmingham on 4 December 2014.

The IT Innovation Centre also works with other universities and industrial organisations on the Student Mobile App Competition, now in its third iteration. Official sponsors of the event, like IBM and Deutsche Bank, are boosting the University's employability agenda by offering paid placements in their organisations to the competition winners. Last year's winner, Yatisa Patel, a student from the School of Dentistry has seen her app, "Dentify", which offers provisional tooth care advice, adopted by the NHS Health Library. Academic staff like Dr Tom Chothia or Professor Giles Perryer who supervised the development of the "Dentify" app, are instrumental to inspire, encourage and support students to progress with their projects from idea to commercialisation and release.

Further information:

Nandy Millan, Head of the IT Innovation Centre:
n.millan@bham.ac.uk

Mars Summit: www.appsinresearchsummit.com

Student Mobile App Competition:
<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/it/innovation/Student-Mobile-App-Competition/SMAC-Prizes.aspx>

IT Innovaton Centre: <http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/itinnovation>

Ideas Lab: <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/external/marketing-communications/Ideas-Lab.aspx>



Engaging With SCIENCE

Looking back at the British Science Festival



In September the University hosted the British Science Festival – six days full of talks, demonstrations, research, entertainment and activities. The Festival, organised in conjunction with the British Science Association, welcomed top researchers, Nobel Prize winners and fantastic entertainers to communicate the value of science and its impact on culture, our society and economy.

Greg Clark, UK Minister for Universities, Science and Cities, visited the Festival and was greeted by the University's Provost and Vice-Principal, Adam Tickell. He also joined Alice Roberts, Professor of Public Engagement in Science, on stage to discuss the government's policy on science, technology and innovation.



Alumnus and Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir Paul Nurse, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, British Science Association Chief Executive Imran Khan, Provost and Vice-Principal Adam Tickell

The University produces world-leading, distinctive and significant research that has an impact on the global society. As part of the Festival, academics from the University presented the findings from seven exciting research projects including new discoveries at Stonehenge, the identification of potential food sources, and insight into how different generations cope with loss.

The press coverage generated by these stories was worth more than £5.2 million. Birmingham's academics also led many of the talks and debates on campus covering robotics, astronomy, anatomy, palaeontology, evolution, drones and ecology.



School and college students from the Birmingham area and beyond also benefited from attending the event as part of the Festival's Young People's Programme, which aimed to inspire and encourage participation in science subjects.



The University's annual Community Day also took place on the Festival's second day offering local people the chance to explore the beautiful campus and celebrate all things science. It is estimated that 12,500 came along to join in the fun – making robots, building rockets, using a microscope, learning aerial acrobatics and riding a traditional carousel.



EXPLODING CUSTARD – *a love of food and science*

CBBC's *Gastronaut* Stefan Gates visited campus on Community Day to perform a science showcase – with everything from exploding custard and locusts to worm flavoured fudge. After the show Faye Jackson caught up with Stefan to ask him about his love of food and science.

Stefan's love of science came from a childhood curiosity about why foods tasted differently when cooked. This pushed him to delve deeper into recipes and discover what differences simple alterations made. He began to investigate further and became fascinated by the chemistry of food.

‘Why does bacon taste awful when you microwave it but sublime when you fry it? Why does an egg start off see-through then turn white?’

The University has recently published research highlighting a vast quantity of wild relatives of crops that are native to current conflict zones which could be crucial to the future of world food security. As Stefan

recently presented a documentary *Cooking in the Danger Zone* I asked him about his views on future global food security. Stefan stressed the need to look not only at new food developments and genetically modified (GM) food but to look back to old crop varieties: ‘For example Teff, which is used in Ethiopian Injera bread, is an ancient grain that grows really well in many climates. But to change people's attitudes we need to get young people interested in the chemistry of food.’ commented Stefan.

Discussing his show and the chemistry experiments he demonstrates, Stefan said: ‘You can no longer just stand in front of kids and talk about something that you find fascinating. My show takes the fun bits of chemistry that you can eat and creates a whizz-bang moment that creates the spark which gets them interested in chemistry.’

Stefan's top tip for someone who is interested in science is to ‘cook and look.’ Look at what happens to food as it cooks and ask people why – make the connection

between cooking and chemistry. He added: ‘We eat food every day so why not make that into something fun that tells you something about the world?’



Ancestral Devices

Helen Barrell spends her days working at the University's Barber Fine Arts and Music Libraries yet out of hours she is a super-sleuth, tracing her family's history back as far as the early 1600s.



Helen has been researching her family tree for over 15 years and has discovered fascinating links between her ancestors and historic events. Charles Savage, a cousin of her great-grandmother, was a crew-member on the *Titanic* and survived. Another, George Owler, was wounded at Alma the first battle of the Crimean War.

Helen's interest in genealogy began when she sat listening to her grandfather telling tales of his forefathers' escapades. She asked him to write down some of his memories and this formed the basis of her initial research. Helen said: *'The information he provided was fascinating but it wasn't joined up, I wanted to connect it all together to get the bigger picture. Memories can be a useful starting point for your family history research, but use a variety of sources, if you can. I use paper records, online sources and I've also recently utilised genetic genealogy.'*

'I know it's a cliché to compare little bits of information to puzzle-pieces, but once you've put it all together, it's only then you'll get the fullest picture you can of the lives of those who lived before us. It provides you with an awareness of your own history and it's fascinating.'

For those whose ancestors were resident in the UK it is usually possible trace your family history back to the mid-1800s. However, to go back further it is likely you would need access to parish records. As many of the records are bound books held within local archives they cannot easily be searched. Helen is currently transcribing parish registers and historical documents from

Where to begin researching your family tree...

- Genealogy magazines frequently produce guides on how to get started, and tips for advanced searching
- www.rootschat.com: an excellent place to start, a forum full of enthusiastic and experienced researchers
- www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk: two of the main subscription websites with worldwide coverage that provide access to original sources, such as

- censuses, newspapers, directories, will indices, employment records, parish registers, non-conformist registers and passenger lists
- www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk: Scottish censuses, wills, parish registers; birth, marriage and death records
- www.freebmd.org.uk: a free index for birth, marriage and death registrations in England and Wales
- www.freereg.org.uk: free transcriptions of British parish registers

Essex and Suffolk, and publishing them online, as part of the FreeREG project, to aid her research and trace her ancestry further back in time. However transcribing from the microfiche copies of centuries old documents can be problematic: *'Reading handwriting from the 1600s can be tricky and even more so when large portions are recorded in Latin'*, said Helen.

Genetic genealogy is a relatively new discipline that is done for the purpose of learning about one's heritage; it uses DNA testing but is not the same as the process used to catch criminals. Helen has utilised the mitochondrial DNA, which looks at maternal lineage, and autosomal tests, which look at all of your chromosomes, to learn more about her origins. After taking a saliva swab test Helen discovered that she has a global make-up with elements of Northern European, the Mediterranean and North Africa. Genetic genealogy is in its infancy and may not provide detailed results on its own, but can be useful in conjunction with other methods when mapping out your family tree.

Helen's Top Tips:

- Write down what you already know
- Speak to family members about their memories
- Be organised and develop a strategy for your research
- Be forever curious and prepare yourself for surprises
- Keep up-to-date as new resources become available
- Learn to read different types of old handwriting. The National Archives' tutorial is excellent: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography

Further information:

www.essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk

Follow Helen on Twitter:
[@essexsuffolk](https://twitter.com/essexsuffolk)



BOOK TO THE FUTURE IS BACK...

Book to the Future, the University's festival of the written and spoken word, is back and will take place across campus from 14–18 October.

Launched last year to celebrate the wealth of student, alumni, and staff creative talent in the spoken and written word, Book to the Future allows us to explore different research themes. This year, in the shadow of Old Joe, we will be exploring 'Time', including commemorating the WW1 centenary, marking the 450th birthday of Shakespeare, and finding out how to write a novel in a month! The festival features workshops, lectures, poetry and performances from students, staff and alumni and is funded by the College of Arts and Law and supported by venuebirmingham.

'Book to the Future motivated me to write my first novel. After attending events last October, I got to work and had written my first novel by the end of November. My novel, 'The Sheriff', is now available online, which wouldn't have happened had it not been for Book to the Future.'

Simon Fairbanks, an alumnus of the University and local author. Simon will be delivering two talks at the festival discussing his experiences of self-publishing his book.

More information on the festival can be found at:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/btff

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Working 9–5?

Hear how you can see your writing in print while still working that day job as Danann Swanton, Communications Officer in the College of Social Sciences and alumna of the University, tells you how she became part-time and published.

Artists

Join Neil Gibson, UK comic book publisher and alumnus of the University, as he tells you how comics can help you in both your studies and your career! Neil said: 'I didn't read comics when I was at Birmingham, because I perceived them as childish and frankly, beneath me. I now realise I had been ignoring an entire world of literature.'

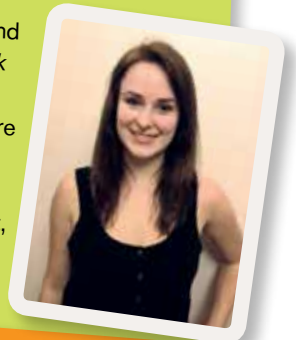


Aspiring novelists

Jan Watts, an alumna of the University and former Birmingham Poet Laureate, will show you how to write a novel in just a month!

Procrastinators

Jo Usmar, an alumna of the University, journalist, and co-author of the *This Book Will* series will teach you how to maximise your time. Jo said: 'My talk will be based on time-saving strategies from my books, *This Book Will Make You Calm/Happy/Confident* and the forthcoming *This Book Will Make You Mindful*. I spoke at Book to the Future 2013 on journalism and it was so brilliant meeting students, past and present, that I'm really excited to come back.'



Have a passion for literature?

Our creative writing student society, Writers' Bloc brings you the Birmingham Revue of Books, celebrating and appreciating literature in a light-hearted evening of comedy, poetry, theatre, and music.

Commemorating the centenary of WW1

Mike Robinson, Professor of Cultural Heritage and Director of the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, and Dr Josef Ploner, from the University of Hull, host the event: 'Spoken for the First Time: Postcard Messages from the Trenches.'



Black History Month October 2014

For the fourth consecutive year the University is hosting a diverse programme of events and activities to mark the occasion and be part of the national celebration of the contributions black people have made to British society. The programme includes film screenings, talks and exhibitions.

Black History Month Poetry Trail

6–31 October, 9.00am–5.00pm
Across Edgbaston Campus

Collect a map from Aston Webb Reception and embark on an inspirational trail of poetry and letters at the University of Birmingham. Following a competition inviting reflections on the theme 'inspirational change', a selection of poems and letters will be displayed in creative and surprising ways across campus. Open to all.

Leslie Primo and His Barber Favourites

Tuesday 21 October, 3.00–4.00pm
Barber Institute Of Fine Arts

Back by popular demand, acclaimed art historian and National Gallery lecturer Leslie Primo returns to the Barber. Join Leslie as he shares his favourite works from the Barber collection in this exclusive guided tour of the galleries. Admission is free but booking is essential. To book a ticket please contact the Barber on 0121 414 2261 or at education@barber.org.uk.

The Hip Hop Fellow [dir: Kenneth Price, 2013, 78m]

Tuesday 7 October, 6.15pm

This feature-length documentary follows Grammy Award-winning producer 9th Wonder's tenure at Harvard University as he teaches 'The Standards of Hip-Hop' course, conducts research for his thesis and explores hip-hop's history, culture and role in academia. This special screening will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr Erin Sullivan from 7.30–8.15pm. Admission is free but booking is recommended. Visit: thehiphopfellow.eventbrite.co.uk.

Danford Room of West African Art and Artefacts

Every Friday in October, 9.00am–5.00pm
Danford Room, 2nd Floor, Arts Building

This exhibition celebrates the extensive cultural traditions and artistic expression of countries in West Africa. The collection ranges from domestic and ceremonial objects to contemporary fine art and is considered one of the finest collections of its kind in Europe. Open to all.



Danford Screenings

Danford Room, 2nd Floor, Arts Building
Join the Research and Cultural Collections team for two special films. Both screenings are free to attend but booking is essential. Visit: mudandwaterman.eventbrite.co.uk and mondaysgirls.eventbrite.co.uk to book.

■ Mud and Water Man

Tuesday 21 October, 5.00–7.30pm

Mud and Water Man traces the career of English potter Michael Cardew, from his establishment of Pottery Training Centres in Nigeria and Ghana, to the running of his pottery studio at Wenford Bridge in Cornwall.

■ Monday's Girls

Tuesday 28 October, 5.00–7.30pm

Monday's Girls is a documentary exploring the traditions associated with the initiation of women into adult society in Nigeria. Combining voice-over and interviews, the film documents tradition, modernity, and dissent in African women's lives.

Black History Month Menus Wednesday 22 October

Go Central, University Centre
(8.00am–4.00pm)

Pop in to the Go Asia counter in University Centre and sample their special Caribbean menu – all for only £4.50!

Noble Room, Staff House
(12.00noon–4.00pm)

Following a University-wide Black History Month recipe competition, in which we asked you to submit your favourite African, Caribbean and Asian influenced dishes, the Noble Room will serve up the winning dish, alongside other Black History Month dishes.





news+views

Our regular feature gives *Buzz* readers a quick tour of the latest University news hitting the headlines and activity among our online community.



in the news...

Many articles about Birmingham research and expertise appear in local, national and international press every day. Here are just a few examples of our recent highlights.

Professor Sir David Eastwood was featured in an article in *The Telegraph* and on ITV News bulletins including *News at Ten* discussing Clearing and the opportunities it presents to attract good students.

Professor Jeremy Wyatt was featured in articles in the *Financial Times*, *Daily Mail*, *The Times Online*, Mail Online UK, Yahoo! UK and Ireland, BBC News online, MSN UK, FT.com and *Birmingham Mail*, discussing the abilities of the University's robot, Boris. Professor Wyatt was also interviewed on BBC Radio 2 and several local BBC radio stations including BBC WM and BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire. Boris performed in public for the first time in front of an audience of journalists at the British Science Festival.

Dr Richard Butler featured on BBC *Midlands Today* talking about his research and the discovery of the first dinosaur to be found in Venezuela. He was also interviewed on BBC Radio Stoke, BBC Radio WM, BBC Hereford & Worcester, BBC Radio Shropshire, and BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire. Dr Butler was also interviewed in *The Sunday Times* ahead of his talk at the British Science Festival on dinosaur evolution.

Professor Vince Gaffney was featured in *The Times*, *The Times Online*, *Nature*, MSN UK, *Financial Times*, Yahoo! UK and Ireland *The Telegraph* website, Mirror.co.uk, ITV.com, theguardian.co.uk, and the *Birmingham Post*, discussing his research findings from a geophysical survey undertaken at Stonehenge.

Dr Nigel Maxted's work into areas around the globe where crop wild relatives (species closely related to our crops) could be conserved as a food source was featured on BBC News Online, *The Independent* and *The Irish Times*.

Dr Anna Phillips and Professor Janet Lord were featured in an article in *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mirror*, MSN UK, *i*, and theguardian.co.uk, describing their research outcomes, which found that age alters our immune response to bereavement.

feeling social...

Over the summer months our attention was predominantly directed towards confirmation and clearing with a campaign based around online reputation building leading up to results day.

When the day itself came our profile building paid off with a fantastic response including 2,000 tweets to the University's central Twitter feed, 1,500 uses of our officially endorsed #helloworld hashtag, which resulted in it trending nationally, and to top it off, 300 new followers to our recently launched Instagram feed.

The majority of our engagement was the result of elated firm acceptors and successful clearing applicants and we made a point of acknowledging every contact with a hugely congratulatory response. There were also a high number of enquiry based tweets and being located in the Learning Centre, along with Admissions allowed us to respond to these quickly and accurately. In addition the Living team were also very active in solving accommodation tweets through their own feed. It was an excellent feeling and extremely rewarding to know the team were successfully engaging with our core demographic through the medium they are most at ease with.

Mr Tony Belli and Dr Michael Grey featured in articles on Yahoo! UK and Ireland, *The Times Online*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph* website, and Mail Online UK, discussing the development of a pitch-side breathalyser that can show if a footballer or rugby player is suffering from concussion.

Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham. If you use social media at work and would like to increase your visibility, find out more at: <http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines>

If you would like to work with the press office, or find out more about how they can help you promote your research, email pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 6029

Myra Nimmo... in my own words



Professor Myra Nimmo, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

I arrived at the University at the start of October so there is still much for me to explore and discover across campus. I was attracted to the role because I was aware of the ambition of the University and becoming part of such a team has been hugely exciting. Living and working in Birmingham is also an appealing prospect for me, I enjoy the café culture and the accessibility to the arts that city life can bring.

I feel I have joined the College at a good time – it is in a really positive state in terms of its teaching and its research. Colleagues are highly-rated as researchers, have achieved awards for commitment to the advancement of women's careers in sciences and have been heavily involved in the recent British Science Festival hosted at the University – all demonstrating the commitment of staff. I want to work with colleagues to build on this strong base to fortify our research and increase recognition of the work that the College undertakes.

My research has involved working across disciplines collaborating with clinical colleagues, patients and elite athletes; something I hope to continue to do here at Birmingham, as the University boasts a high standard of interdisciplinary research.

My career began at the University of Glasgow with an undergraduate physiology degree and then a PhD from the Veterinary School, where my 'subjects' were Thoroughbred racehorses. I then won a Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship investigating heredity characteristics of skeletal muscle fibre composition. My first lecturing post was at The Queen's College, Glasgow where I taught physiology mainly to the Professions Allied to Medicine. I continued my research into the intervention of exercise in terms of metabolism, in particular skeletal muscle and later at the University of Strathclyde my research was applied to the thermal stress associated with extreme temperatures and the effect on muscle and whole body adaptation. In parallel to my research I was able to initiate and be a co-founder, with colleagues at Aberdeen University, of The Scottish Institute of Sports Medicine and Sports Science. This Institute's purpose was to translate the

research findings to practitioners and doctors and to this end we developed an e-learning suite of modules with The Royal Colleges.

I then moved south of the border and my seven years at Loughborough were spent firstly as the Head of the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, and then as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research. For the last two to three years I have steered the Leicester-Loughborough Diet, Lifestyle and Physical Activity Biomedical Research Unit, at Loughborough with colleagues from University Hospitals Leicester. I was fortunate to lead the wider 2012 Olympic Legacy funding of The National Centre of Sport and Exercise and its activities, which have been funded by the Department of Health and Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and are due to open on the Loughborough Campus in 2015. My other major activities as Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research was the development of six cross-disciplinary research challenges and of course leading the University's Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission – an activity which should only be undertaken once!

After many years researching the benefits of exercise to the human body, it is not surprising that I try to find the time to exercise; I specifically enjoy cycling, running and walking. My interest in sport and exercise has been lifelong – I had a short career in athletics, holding the Scottish long-jump record for a number of years and competing in the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. I went on to serve on many national and international sporting bodies including the Scottish Sports Council and UK Sport. Although I now have a more academic approach to sport, it was certainly an interesting life experience and combined my passions for science, and sport and exercise.

It is an exciting time to be part of the University as it continues to build on the successes of the last year and I am looking forward to engaging with staff, hearing about their ambitions for the future of the College and wider University, and working with them to realise such aspirations.]