



Dr Shuang Zhang with the experiment to cloak a paperclip

Invisibility is physics, not magic

Birmingham scientists create a film of invisibility using a crystal that manipulates light to hide objects.

The 'invisibility cloak', created by University researchers alongside colleagues from Imperial College London, and the Technical University of Denmark, uses a natural transparent crystal called calcite to effectively hide an object as big as a paperclip.

Previous studies have demonstrated cloaking by using a metamaterial – a fabricated composite that interrupts the flow of light – which limits the size of the area being cloaked. Using calcite as an alternative has allowed the team to cloak larger areas as the size is not limited by the technology available, only by the size of the calcite crystal.

Dr Shuang Zhang, lead investigator from the School of Physics and Astronomy, says: 'This is a huge step forward as, for the first time, the cloaking area is rendered at a size that is big enough for the observer to 'see' the invisible object with the naked eye.

'By using natural crystals for the first time, rather than artificial metamaterials, we have been able to scale up the size of the cloak and can hide larger objects, thousands of times bigger than the wavelength of the light.'

Calcite has birefringent or double-refraction properties, which means that light enters, then splits into two rays of different polarisations travelling at different speeds and in different directions. It is this process that effectively 'bends' the light and renders the object invisible.

Dr Zhang continues: 'Previous cloaks have succeeded at the micron level (much smaller than the thickness of a human hair) using a nano- or micro-fabricated artificial composite material. It is a very slow process to make these structures and they also restrict the size of the cloaking area. We believe that by using calcite, we can start to develop a cloak of significant

size that will open avenues for future applications of cloaking devices.'

Watch Dr Zhang make a paperclip disappear at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKEBinz5bP0

Invisibility seen in the news

The University's research made headlines around the world including:

- Channel 4, BBC Radio 5 Live, the *Guardian*, *The Independent*, the *Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sun*, the *Daily Mirror* and the *Metro* in the UK
- CBS News and USA Today in the US
- *The Sydney Morning Herald* in Australia
- Other media in Spain, France, Switzerland, Turkey, India, Malaysia and more



New trauma centre opening

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Entrepreneur is gliding high

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Your support puts target in reach

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THE FIRST WORD

A truly inspirational experience



Our 2012 undergraduate prospectus describes Birmingham as offering 'an inspirational student experience at a leading global university'.

As you would imagine, much care was dedicated to these deceptively simple words, with one question arising consistently. Can we justify describing our student experience as inspirational?

I believe we can.

Our University offers an academic career enriched by world-leading research, with a wealth of opportunities to develop life and leadership skills that employers recognise as the hallmark of a high quality graduate. Our leafy campus provides a glorious backdrop to daily life and study; and we continue to invest heavily in our facilities and services, including the latest technologies from across the world.

I am also proud to say we are a global university. We pursue innovative research focused on society's greatest challenges and welcome students from a diverse array

of cultures, nationalities and backgrounds; while our membership of the Universitas 21 global network ensures we measure our success against international standards.

So where do you, our alumni and friends, fit in? Your role is imperative, in fact, we cannot succeed without your help. Many of you support us financially, for which we are enduringly grateful, and your gifts continue to transform lives.

But also of immense value is your capacity to act as our advocates; our champions; and our track record. The hours you give to us as volunteers, for example as mentors and offering internships, are a precious resource and I thank you all for the part you are playing as we grow and prosper.

**Professor David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor**

Read about our investment into the student experience, and 2012 tuition fees, on page 5.

Your views shape your news

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to complete the Alumni Communications Survey at the end of 2010. More than 1,300 of you responded, and the results will be used to help shape our future communications.

You asked for more stories from a range of schools and departments and in this issue, you can read about the work of teams including those in Archaeology, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, Public Health and more. You also want to see more profiles of successful alumni (see p5 and p10) and details about our events programme (see p16).

Winner of the Kindle e-book reader prize draw was Margaret Piran (LLB Law, 1975).

Magazine competition winners



Congratulations to the four winners of the 2010 *Birmingham Magazine* competitions. Larry Farquharson (Occ/Sp Music, 1989) received a copy of *The Naked Ape Trilogy* signed by author Dr Desmond Morris; and Dr Douglas Green (PhD Theology and Religion, 2008) won the five books recommended by Professor Michael Toolan.

Crossword competition winner Susan Holmes (BA Russian Language and Literature, 1995) and Sudoku puzzle winner Eric Wilson (BA German Studies, 1954) both won University merchandise.



We are making sure old age can be enjoyed not endured.

You can help. Find out how in the Difference.

Keep in touch with your University

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Post: Development and Alumni Relations Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

Update your details or share your news online at www.your.bham.ac.uk or find us on:

Facebook – search for the University of Birmingham Alumni fan page

LinkedIn – search for the University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends group

Twitter – follow @BirminghamUK_

YouTube – watch videos at www.youtube.com/user/unibirmingham

University website – www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni

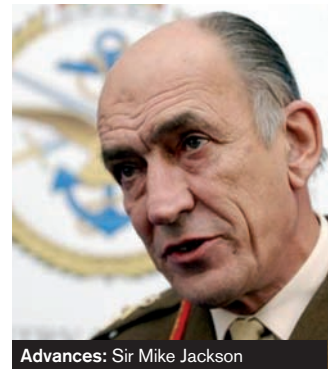
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Pioneering: The new facility will allow surgeons to share expertise in trauma care

Former Army chief hails new trauma centre opening

Decorated general and alumnus heralds groundbreaking new facility bringing together the latest civilian and military medicine.



Advances: Sir Mike Jackson

The launch of a pioneering £20 million trauma care centre that combines cutting-edge technology from across civilian and military medicine is being heralded as a 'major step forward' by the Army's former Chief of the General Staff.

General Sir Mike Jackson (BSocSc Russian Language and Literature, 1967; Hon LLD, 2000) says the National Institute Health Research Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology, housed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will enable trauma care to make significant progress in the future.

The facility will allow surgeons to share expertise in trauma care by combining their

'Soldiers who would have been killed five years ago are now surviving.'

knowledge of treating casualties who have been injured in situations ranging from car accidents to battlefield incidents.

Investment in the centre, which includes £5 million from the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT), has helped it become the only research centre of its kind in the country.

Sir Mike says: 'Whatever can be done to improve the care of servicemen and civilians is all to the good. A lot of progress has been made, in my view, over the past five years in trauma care treatment.

'This has meant that soldiers who would have been killed five years ago are now surviving – that is an ultimate testament to the progress being made. In another five years we might be able to see more lives saved as a result of these advances.'

Injured UK military personnel returning to the UK are all rehabilitated at the Queen Elizabeth



Progress: The trauma centre is housed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Hospital, but the changing nature of conflicts has created a demand for new types of treatments.

Sir Mike says: 'There hasn't been a dramatic change in the types of injuries being received by servicemen – we still frequently have soldiers who die from gunshot wounds.

'However, there has been a notable rise in the number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Afghanistan, which has led to more injuries to limbs and groin areas.'



NEWS IN BRIEF

Human tissue bank aids treatment breakthroughs

Advances in combating a wide range of illnesses will be made through the University's newly-opened £2.5 million Human Biomaterials Resource Centre (HBRC).

The facility at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the first of its kind in the West Midlands and will be dedicated to developing new treatments by creating a human biomaterials bank for medical research.

Dr Jane Steele, Director of HBRC, says: 'Access to human tissue collections will undoubtedly aid the development of better diagnostic and prognostic tools and new drug therapies.'

Global energy crisis under the spotlight

The future of global energy demand is the focus of the University's new Energy at Birmingham programme, bringing together strengths across research, education and knowledge transfer activities.

Energy at Birmingham combines the University's practical expertise across nuclear, hydrogen, bio-fuels and combustion engines, as well as knowledge in developing social and economic policy. The work aims to foster innovation among trained graduates across all aspects of energy and nuclear research to ensure continued national investment in the industry.

A cornerstone of the initiative is the internationally-recognised Centre for Nuclear Education and Research (CNER), drawing experience from across a range of disciplines.

Professor Martin Freer, Director of CNER, explains: 'The UK faces a major challenge over coming decades in producing electrical energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Birmingham aims to provide trained graduates and nuclear research expertise to ensure this national investment succeeds.'

Find out more: www.ierp.bham.ac.uk/



Summer schools lab work



A taste of university life



Jonathan Price (BSc Physiotherapy, 2010)



Pupils in a summer schools lecture

Bringing the best to Birmingham

Strengthening its commitment to fair access, the University is increasing the scope of its Widening Participation programme.

There has been a fair access programme at the University since 2000, comprising outreach events and programmes such as the Summer Schools, which give young people a taste of university life.

The flagship Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme has increased its intake by 59% since 2007, and more than doubled the number of alumni-funded scholarships it has awarded to become one of the most effective programmes of its kind in UK higher education. A2B encourages students from families and communities in the West Midlands with little or no experience of higher education to apply to the University, and will soon be extended outside the Midlands area.

Anne Snell, A2B Officer, explains: 'In the current economic climate it's more important than ever to ensure that talented young people from all backgrounds contribute to economic recovery. A2B continues to make access to

the University possible for able students with the talent and determination to succeed, regardless of their personal circumstances.'

Jonathan Price (BSc Physiotherapy, 2010) is one of many students who received an A2B scholarship. He says: 'Neither of my parents had experience of university, a teacher supported my application through A2B.

'While I was at university, my father was made redundant after working in the same factory for 22 years, so it was really important for me to support myself without relying on my parents. A2B really helped and having fewer money worries meant I was able to focus on my studies.'

Gail Rothnie, Head of Outreach, adds: 'Without the A2B scholarship many young people might not even consider the possibility of higher education and may struggle to meet the financial demands of that progression.'

To find out more about A2B, visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/advice/a2b/index.aspx

Widening Participation at Birmingham

- Work to ensure fair access to Birmingham currently includes Summer School residentials for Year 10 pupils; an Academic Enrichment Programme for Year 12 students; and an extensive programme of scholarships and bursaries
- From 2012/13, the University will introduce enhanced financial support for students from lower income backgrounds and increase outreach activities to promote fair access
- This will include extending the A2B scheme beyond the West Midlands for the first time
- Donors have funded 240 A2B scholarships since 2007

Major new investment in the student experience

The University has announced major new investments in activities to enhance the student experience, extend programmes that widen participation in higher education as well as providing generous financial support for students from lower income backgrounds.

Professor David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor, says: 'The University of Birmingham is a leading global university which offers an inspirational student experience. Over the past three years we have invested in excess of £200 million in our estate, including state-of-the-art learning facilities, and in addition we will invest £600 million in a wide range of transformational projects to enhance further the high quality experience that Birmingham students receive.'

'Building from our record as one of the most successful Russell Group universities in promoting fair access, we will continue to demonstrate innovation and leadership in widening participation.'

'From 2012/13 we are planning to introduce enhanced financial support for students from

lower income backgrounds and increase outreach activities to promote fair access.

'Our proposed progressive and targeted financial aid package will offer support to more than 4,000 students and will increase our investment in widening access to more than £12 million by 2015/6. We also intend to expand our flagship Access to Birmingham (A2B) widening participation scheme beyond the West Midlands.'

'In the face of government funding cuts, in order to make this investment and continue to provide the highest quality experience and enhance this further, from 2012/13 we intend to charge full-time UK and EU entrants to our undergraduate courses a fee of £9,000 per annum – subject to approval by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).'

For more information and to register for the latest funding updates, visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/undergraduate/funding-update



We are fighting the rise in childhood obesity.

You can help. Find out how in the Difference.

Gliding high

The frustrations of collecting housemates' bills money sparked a simple business idea for James Villarreal. Five years later, Glide is a multimillion pound company and James the youngest ever Birmingham Young Professional of the Year.

James and his business partner Sandeep Krishan came up with their idea in their first year of university back in 2006. Their plan was simple – to make shared living easy.

'I was frustrated with paying so much for broadband and always having to chase my flatmates for their share of the money, so we wanted to make splitting and paying bills easier,' says James, who was then just 19 years old. 'Initially I just thought about it for broadband but Sandeep thought the service would work for all utilities.'

Mentored by Mark Glatman (LLB Law, 1977), James and Sandeep received cash from the alumni-funded Honey Pot scheme to set up their business, which they named Glide, based on the idea of helping customers 'glide' through sorting out bills.

James says: 'We started trading in June 2006 and knocked doors for our first few customers. Then we met corporate financial advisor Charles Cattaneo (BCom Industrial Economics & Business Studies, 1984; MBA International Business, 1992) through an Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EI) lecture. He gave us invaluable advice and helped us raise £500,000 of investment. Things happened very quickly after that.'

Glide now has more than 15,000 customers around the UK and 25 full-time staff. The company provides its own utilities and James is ambitious about continued growth. Asked to offer advice to students or alumni with a business idea, he says: 'Don't be afraid of failure because you learn so much every time you fail. A support network of people in a similar situation is truly invaluable and that's what the



Enterprising: James Villarreal is named Birmingham Young Professional of the Year 2010

EI is so good at, so it is absolutely vital for the University.'

Find out more about Glide: www.glide.uk.com/ and EI: www.as.bham.ac.uk/ei/index.shtml

Find out more about the Honey Pot: www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/workexperience/honeypot/index.shtml

Could you help a student entrepreneur?

If you could offer support or advice to a student-run company, please contact the EI team via: ei@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Your support puts £60 million target in reach

'Phenomenal' support from alumni and friends made 2010–11 a significant year for the University's Circles of Influence campaign, which is now closing in on its target.

Including projects as diverse as globally-important research, identifying and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, and investing in the University estate, Circles of Influence is the University's biggest ever fundraising effort.

Matt Mangan, Director of Fundraising, says: 'I would like to thank everyone who has supported the campaign so far. The fact that our donors have been so extraordinarily generous in the face of a global recession is a testament to their dedication. Together we are building a strong charitable foundation in support of projects that will have local, national and international impact.'

Among the campaign projects is the new Bramall Music Building at the heart of the Edgbaston campus, which will complete the landmark Aston Webb Building. The state-of-the-art £16 million building, due to be completed in 2012, will house the Department of Music in a cutting-edge environment for teaching, research and performance, and boast a 450-seat auditorium.

Cancer research at the University is also benefiting from alumni support. Areas of strength include a world-class clinical trials programme that sees research move from the laboratory bench to patients' beds as quickly as possible.

Professor Paul Moss, Head of the School of Cancer Sciences, explains: 'Charitable support for our research is vital in saving the lives of people affected by cancer. We work with a

large and diverse local population and closely with the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, giving our research even more impact.'

Other projects within the campaign include work to reduce global carbon emissions by creating a sustainable economy that uses hydrogen in place of fossil fuels; research tackling obesity; student scholarships; and the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM).

CHASM aims to address key financial issues which affect all of society, including attitudes to money, personal debt and financial education. Centre Director Professor Karen Rowlingson says: 'The UK, like other advanced economies, has seen a shift towards private individual responsibility and risk, but many people don't have the financial means or capability to manage this effectively. CHASM's role is to explore the ongoing changes to financial security and impact on policy in this area.'

'We are extremely grateful for our donors' support and every gift truly does make a difference,' says Matt. 'Many of the campaign projects are already beginning to have an impact, and we look forward to sharing more of what we have been able to achieve thanks to donors' generosity in the coming months.'

To find out more about Circles of Influence please read the Difference or visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/index.aspx



Lifesaving: Cancer research at Birmingham moves quickly from bench to bed



Sustainable: Using hydrogen in place of fossil fuels will reduce global carbon emissions

Taking shape: The Bramall Music Building as at March 2011
Watch at www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/bramall-webcam.aspx



Vital support: A2B scholarship recipient Adnan Shabir (BSc Mathematics with Business Management, 2010)





Simply gorgeous: Ironbridge by night

'The Shropshire-based site has close academic and cultural links with the University dating back more than a quarter of a century.'

Celebrating Ironbridge anniversary

The 25th anniversary of Ironbridge Gorge being made a UNESCO World Heritage Site will be marked with a full programme of events celebrating the museum's links with the Industrial Revolution and the University.

The Shropshire-based site, which dates from the 18th century, has close academic and cultural links with the University dating back more than a quarter of a century, and more than 800 alumni have completed its postgraduate qualifications in Heritage Management and Historic Environment.

Dr Roger White, Academic Director of Ironbridge Gorge and senior lecturer at the University's Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, says: 'Each institution benefits from this unique relationship, which is intrinsic to its success.'

'The strength of the partnership between the University and Ironbridge allows us to bid independently for research grants without being in direct competition, but the resources gained are shared. No other World Heritage Site in the UK shares such a productive relationship.'

Highlights of the 25th anniversary season, which begins on 1 July, include the World Heritage Site Festival in September, the unveiling of a specially-commissioned steam train, and a three-month anniversary exhibition led by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Find out more: www.ironbridge.bham.ac.uk

View the 25th anniversary calendar: www.ironbridge.org.uk/plan_your_visit/events_calendar/

Employability focus is just the job

Top-class career development for students entering the graduate market is a key aspiration for the University's work supporting employability and entrepreneurship.

Giving Birmingham students the best possible chance of a job after graduation is the aim of the University's new employability strategy.

A dedicated team already works with students and alumni to develop personal and professional skills, identify career aspirations, and give practical support and advice; but the new strategy will enhance the service even further.

'We are one of very few universities that run a career entrepreneurship programme.'

Eluned Jones, Director of Student Employability, explains: 'Several hundred careers events run on campus each year and the University has very strong engagement with major national and international employers. We are absolutely committed to giving our graduates the best possible employment prospects in a competitive jobs market, and our service extends up to a year after graduation.'

Support for students includes the alumni-funded Honey Pot scheme, providing financial support for undergraduate summer work experience placements.

For students looking to set up their own business, the University's Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EI) team runs a range of programmes offering financial support, business incubation and links with leading alumni mentors who are willing to share their



Advice: Students get career tips from alumni at an event run through the Birmingham. For Life alumni/student society

experiences with students. Eluned adds: 'We are one of very few universities that run a career entrepreneurship programme, but self-employment can be an excellent choice for students with solid business ideas of their own.'

Alumni can get involved in the employability programme in a range of ways including mentoring, internships, work experience placements and attending careers events to meet current students.

If you would like to get involved, please update your business details via www.your.bham.ac.uk and we will contact you with relevant opportunities.

Pioneering project powers forward

University epidemiologists are carrying out the first five-year follow-up of a pioneering public health project in China.

The Guangzhou Biobank Cohort Study (GBCS) is a collaborative research project between the Guangzhou Occupational Diseases Prevention and Treatment Centre in China and the Universities of Birmingham and Hong Kong monitoring 30,000 men and women aged over 50 in Guangzhou.

Its long-term aim is to examine the effects of genetic and environmental influences on health and chronic disease development, particularly circulatory disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer and dementia.

KK Cheng, Professor of Epidemiology at Birmingham and the study's British lead, explains: 'The biggest reward from GBCS is likely to be in the results from long-term follow up. The demographic transition in China with the rapidly increasing elderly population suggests the GBCS will have an important role to play for years to come.'

Find out more: www.haps.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/research/guangzhou.shtml



Pioneering: A major public health project in Guangzhou will play an important role in the future



Investment: It is hoped the new centre will grow innovation and collaboration in manufacturing

Major boost for Midlands manufacturing

The opening of a new £130 million facility has been described as a 'major investment' for manufacturing in the Midlands.

The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) at Ansty Park, Coventry, is a joint collaboration between the University of Birmingham, Loughborough University, and the University of Nottingham; with commercial partners including Rolls-Royce, Airbus UK, Jaguar Land Rover and Aero Engine Controls.

Providing world-class resources and a high quality environment to develop and demonstrate new technology on an industrial scale, the project aims to help enhance innovation and collaborative work in the

West Midlands, which has been hit hard by the decline in traditional manufacturing.

Professor Nigel Weatherill, Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, says: 'The MTC is crucial to the economic development of the Midlands and UK. The collaboration will allow scientists to try out novel ideas focused on industry needs.'

The MTC is also one of a group of seven research and technology facilities that will form a new High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre, recently announced by the Government.

Find out more: www.the-mtc.org/

Medieval battle brought to life

One of the most important battles in Middle Eastern history is being recreated thanks to cutting-edge technology being developed by two University academics.

Involving some of the same team who discovered a new wooden henge near Stonehenge last year, the Warfare on the Grid project uses advanced computing technologies based on the University's large cluster, known as BlueBear, to digitally simulate the march of the Byzantine army to its defeat by Seljuk Turks in 1071 at the battle of Manzikert.

The historical event, which has similar prominence in Turkish history to the Battle of Hastings for Britons, came to be known as 'the dreadful day' for the defeated side, which eventually lost all power in the central Anatolia region.

Historians have long debated the scale and impact of Manzikert, leading Professor Vince Gaffney and Dr Georgios Theodoropoulos to delve deeper into its significance using state-of-the-art computer technology.

Professor Gaffney explains: 'The Warfare on the Grid project is using technology to investigate the problems involved in moving medieval armies around and focuses on the march to Manzikert.'

'This is a simple way of capturing very complex information in unprecedented detail, giving us new information about the way medieval armies worked.'

Find out more: www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research/projects/mwgrid/

New research facility will benefit patients

A new SportEx facility is aiming to help patients by showing how exercise can factor into improved care and more effective treatments.

A sister to the existing Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Wellcome Trust Satellite Facility is based in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SportEx), and will build on increasing collaborations between SportEx, the Medical School and University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) NHS Research Foundation Trust.

'Our expertise is highly relevant for the prevention of chronic disease and regaining of fitness and health of many patients, for example frail elderly people or morbidly obese children,' explains Professor Anton Wagenmakers, Head of SportEx. 'The new facility gives us a dedicated space to carry out research with those patients under optimal conditions of clinical governance and support of research-trained NHS nurses, alongside access to all the laboratory and exercise facilities we have on-site.'

Already the UK's top-rated sport science department, the School will use the new facility to generate hard evidence for the importance of maintaining physical activity throughout life, and to investigate the most efficient and feasible exercise modes for patients with chronic diseases. Working alongside colleagues from the Medical School and UHB, the aim is to translate the generated knowledge quickly into patient interventions and clinical care.

Find out more about SportEx:
www.sportex.bham.ac.uk/

'Our expertise is highly relevant for the prevention of chronic disease and regaining of fitness and health of many patients.'



Alumni Benefits package

The University's new Alumni Benefits scheme is already saving shoppers thousands of pounds.

Alumni Benefits has helped more than 1,600 users save more than £7,000 through exclusive deals from hundreds of retailers including John Lewis, Apple, Sainsbury's and Expedia. To register, visit www.bham.ac.uk/alumnibenefits

Alumni Benefits is offered by a partner organisation which negotiates national and regional discounts for members.

The scheme is in addition to the newly-launched Alumni Travel Programme (see p12), offering two-week long excursions to the Galapagos Islands, Morocco and Turkey accompanied by a University academic.



New facility: A volunteer has their heart structure and function assessed with Doppler echocardiography



We are helping more people survive cancer.

You can help. Find out how in the Difference.



On track: Lora Turnham (seen back) competing with a sighted pilot

Photos © britishcycling.org.uk

Dream in reach for Paralympic hopeful

Lora Turnham might be a newcomer to para-cycling but her dedication means she's already aiming for a place at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Para-cyclist Lora Turnham is one of many Birmingham alumni athletes dreaming of competing in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

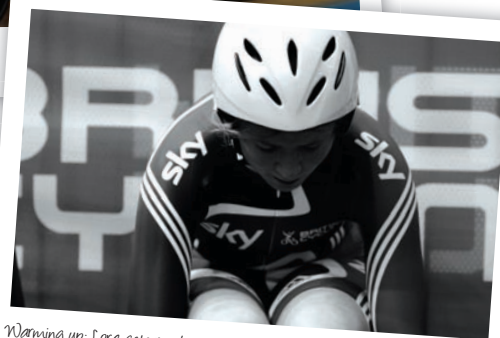
This year is pivotal for Lora's career – her chances of reaching next year's Paralympics depend on her performances this season. 'Unless I'm medalling this year it will be too late to go,' she explains. 'That's a massive incentive to do my best; I know I have to be consistent in every race now.'

Born with a hereditary sight-loss condition that means she has only light perception, Lora cycles with a sighted pilot. The 22-year-old graduated with a degree in Nursing and

Physiotherapy in 2010 and by the time she had accepted a UBSport scholarship in her final year, Lora had firmly set her heart on taking on the best in the world.

'I only started competing in my second year at uni, so I still pinch myself that I've managed to achieve what I have in the past 12 months,' she says. 'The people and facilities at Birmingham were great; they helped me prepare for international competitions.'

Citing her performance in the Para-cycling World Cup in Segovia, Spain, in June last year as her career highlight so far, Lora and her race partner Bex Rimmington



Warming up: Lora gets ready to compete

narrowly missed out on a gold medal, leaving her determined to go one better.

'I think it's really important to have self-belief,' Lora explains. 'A big thing I've learnt is whether you win or lose, it's important to control your emotions. You have to stay on top of what you're doing – that's when you do your best.'

If you are aiming to compete in the 2012 Olympics or Paralympics let us know via alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Find out more about Lora competing at www.britishcycling.org.uk/ For more information about UBSport scholarships, visit: www.sport.bham.ac.uk/scholarships

From the Guild of Students

Exciting times in a new-look Guild

From Bhangra to building, and cutting crime to fighting fees, it's been a busy few months for the Guild of Students, explains President Dora Meredith (BA History and Political Science, 2010).

'The past eight months have been an exciting time for the Guild. In September 2010, we celebrated the official opening of Guild Build, our £4 million development project which has updated retail and support services to a high standard. The Guild was also presented with a bronze Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI) award in recognition of our positive impact on students, and we're now working towards gold.

'Off campus, our Community Wardens helped to achieve a 70% drop in reported burglaries during October compared to the previous four years. Traditionally, the student-dominated Selly Oak has its highest burglary levels in October, so the Wardens

teamed up with local police and the City Council for Operation Balloon, in which balloons were posted through open doors and windows to highlight how easily crime can occur.

'During the higher education cuts and fees debate, we ensured the voices of our students were heard by transporting hundreds of them up and down the country to attend peaceful student-led protests. More than 3,000 students signed our petition and hundreds contacted local MPs. We also sent students to the National Union of Students (NUS) and Trades Union Congress (TUC) March for the Alternative Demonstration opposing public sector cuts.



Updated: The £4 million Guild Build is now complete

'To make sure students' voices are heard on a day-to-day basis, we launched Open Forums for students to raise issues, discuss ideas or make suggestions they have to shape their experience at Birmingham.

'On a lighter note, our societies have also been busy. The Bhangra Society was named Best Bhangra Team in the UK and the newly-formed KnitSOCK group covered the Guild in knitted items to raise money for Age UK.'

If you want to see more about what's happening at the Guild – from business to social – visit www.guildofstudents.com/

Building a buzz about culture at Birmingham

A new team is working to grow awareness and excitement about culture at the University.

The three-strong Cultural Engagement team of Alison Darby, Professor Ian Grosvenor and Clare Mullett, aims to give focus to the cultural offering at Birmingham, maximising its use and value, and is already having an impact.

A Committee for Cultural Engagement and a second for Cultural Programming have been introduced, and a new website (www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/events) aims to help visitors find the University's cultural events more easily. It is hoped more staff and student events will be commissioned, some tied into ideas supplied by alumni for Birmingham's 2010 City of Culture bid; and this year for the first time, a week of cultural events will be run to coincide with the Alumni Anniversary Reunions and the University's Community Day on 18–19 June; encouraging students, alumni, staff and local residents to get involved.

'We have real riches here that people simply don't know about.'

'We have real riches here that people simply don't know about,' says Professor Grosvenor, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement, who heads the team. 'I would like to see lots more students using and engaging with the Collections and I hope our work will begin to make culture part of everyday life at the University.'

As well as investigating new partnerships with the city, including joint programming with the Symphony and the Town Hall when the Bramall Music Building opens in 2012, the team is hoping to launch an elite student internship programme later this year.

A Blue Plaque Trail has also been revealed on campus to celebrate the achievements of notable individuals associated with the University, including Sir Norman Haworth, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, for his work on carbohydrates in vitamin C; and Sir Edward Elgar, our first Professor of Music. 'The scheme is a way of highlighting those who helped to shape our heritage as a research university,' explains Clare Mullett, Deputy University Curator. 'There will be a map to guide people around the trail, but we hope the plaques will inspire everyone who passes by.'



Riches: The Barber has been described as one of the finest small art galleries in Europe



Important: The Lapworth Museum of Geology

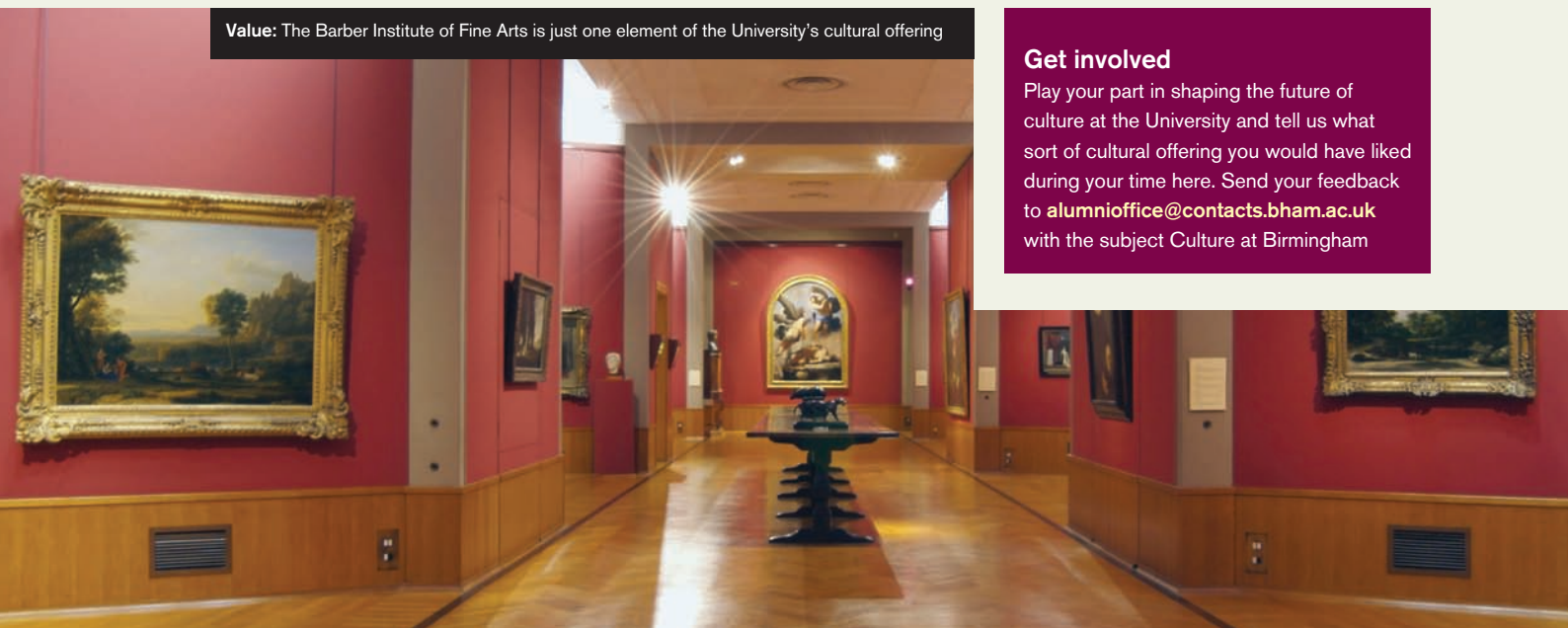


Resource: The Lapworth dates back to 1880

Value: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts is just one element of the University's cultural offering

Get involved

Play your part in shaping the future of culture at the University and tell us what sort of cultural offering you would have liked during your time here. Send your feedback to alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk with the subject Culture at Birmingham



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association

Saturday 10 September 2011 –
GGAA Annual General Meeting

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA), of which you are all members, will hold its Annual General Meeting on a University 'Open Day' for intending students, so the campus will be open for you to visit. Come and see your department/school and then join old friends for the AGM and a convivial lunch. An after lunch speaker will be arranged. Put the date in your diary.

Please register your interest and address as soon as possible with the Hon Secretary, Steve Parsons, at steveparsons@phonecoop.coop or by post to The Cottage, Druids Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 5SU so that details and a booking form can be forwarded.



Scenic: A traditional Turkish Gulet at Bodrum Castle



Tour: The Ephesus Celsus Library in Turkey



Exclusive: Destinations in this year's Alumni Travel Programme include the Galapagos Islands



Dr Gillian Shepherd

Alumni look east for new travel programme

Turkey's Byzantine history and a tour of the Aegean Sea are the high points of an exclusive Birmingham alumni holiday season.

A trio of world-class holiday destinations has been unveiled for the University's debut Alumni Travel Programme season, including an exclusive Birmingham alumni-only trip to the Middle East.

Three limited-place tour packages are being offered to alumni and their friends and families between September and December this year. These include fortnight-long excursions to Turkey, Morocco and the Galapagos Islands.

The highlight of this year's itinerary is a specially-created tour of classical Turkey, accompanied by the University's Dr Gillian Shepherd, Lecturer in Classical Archaeology. The two-week September excursion uncovers the country's Byzantine history and includes visits to Troy, Assos, Smyrna, Pergamum and an Aegean cruise.

Dr Shepherd says: 'The organisers have huge experience of arranging alumni tours and this particular trip has the added benefit of local guides and a resident lecture – something you won't get anywhere else. We will be visiting some of the most spectacular sites in the ancient world – places that came to shape the modern Western world.'

The Travel Programme donates a percentage of proceeds from Birmingham tour packages to the University, to support students through the Leaders of Tomorrow theme within Circles of Influence.

Excursions to Morocco, the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador are also being run in conjunction with the University of Oxford.

Find out more:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/benefits



We are fighting climate change.

You can help. Find out how in the Difference.

Sports news

An outstanding season of sporting success sets up UBSport athletes and University alumni for another year of triumph as they approach the 2012 Olympics.

UBSport Athletics and Cross Country Club collected eight medals (three gold, two silver and three bronze) at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Indoor Athletics Championships.

Triple Ironman World Champion Chrissie Wellington (BSc Geography, 1998) was awarded an honorary degree by the University in recognition of her work in sport and international development.

The Aviva Athletics Awards honoured alumna Hannah England (BSc Biochemistry, 2009) and UBSport athletics coach Bud Baldaro – who was named UK Athletics Coach of the Year – for their achievements in 2010.

The European Cross Country Championships resulted in Sarah Waldron (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2009) picking up gold with Team GB's under-23 women.

The International Hockey Federation has named James Fair (BSc Geology and Geography, 2003) in its All Stars team for 2010 in recognition of his outstanding performances in goal for the England men's hockey team.



Partnership: (l-r) University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood and University of Nottingham Vice-Chancellor Professor David Greenaway

New partnership with Nottingham announced

A new collaborative relationship has been announced between the University of Birmingham and the University of Nottingham.

The partnership will see the institutions working together for mutual success in a range of different areas, including research initiatives, student experience, business engagement and internationalisation.

Distinctive features of the new partnership include the potential breadth of collaborative areas, the depth of commitment and wide scope it allows staff to work together. While it is important strategically, the partnership is not a merger and does not prevent either university from working with other institutions.

Professor David Eastwood, Birmingham Vice-Chancellor, says: 'UK higher education faces increasing challenges in the coming years to enhance the provision of services and facilities to students and staff in a more constrained funding environment.

'This collaboration will enable both universities to explore opportunities to share best practice and to diversify income streams. It is about strengthening both universities' research and teaching offer and improving management and administration by working together.'

Focusing on UK youth

The future for young people in the UK is under the spotlight as part of a University-led initiative exploring the challenges facing public services.

The first Birmingham Policy Commission brings experts from across the public, private and third sectors together with University academics to investigate the impact of the public spending cuts and the renewed interest in localism and civic action for the future design and delivery of local public services.

The Commission, which was launched in October 2010, is undertaken in collaboration with the think-tank Demos and chaired by Deborah Cadman (MSocSc Urban and Regional Studies, 1991).

It is paying special attention to the impact of this new policy agenda on young people. Professor Helen Sullivan, who is leading the Commission, explains: 'Young people are an important constituency whose voice in public

policy debates may not be as strong as others. As yet, there has been no overarching assessment of how the proposals for the 'Big Society' and the programme of local public service reform will affect young people as potential volunteers, employees, entrepreneurs, service-users and citizens – a gap the Commission seeks to fill.'

Professor Sullivan adds: 'It is hoped that the Commission will make a significant impact on public understanding of key policy issues and increase the University's engagement with policy and practice in the UK and internationally.'

Find out more: www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/policy-commissions/current-commission/index.aspx

NEWS IN BRIEF

Intelligent thought from original thinkers

Covering everything from gambling laws and prisoners' rights to WikiLeaks and the crises in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Japan, the Birmingham brief is a regular email offering expert academic comment on topical issues.

If you would like to receive future Birmingham briefs by email, please contact Kirsty Mack, Head of Stakeholder Relations and Events, via k.a.mack@bham.ac.uk. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/thebirminghambrief/index.aspx to see past issues and subscribe to the RSS feed.

Class notes

Ever wondered what other former Birmingham students are doing now? Or wanted to tell your fellow alumni about your achievements? You can share your news and update your contact information online via www.your.bham.ac.uk or write to us including your name, subject and year of graduation, and a short update to Rebecca Kilcullen, Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT England. We will print as many as we can in each UB Newsletter.

1950s

John Reckless (MBChB, 1954)

I have spent the past 53 years in medical practice in Durham. I have a one man private practice where I have been sublimely happy.

Alan Endicott (BSc Biochemistry, 1955)

I am now retired and living in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

1960s

Dr Gurdev Singh (MSc Highway and Traffic Engineering, 1964; PhD 1968)

After three years stint in Australia and 28 years in England I founded, ten years ago, the UB Patient Safety Research Center at the State University of NY at Buffalo, USA. Please visit www.patientsafety.buffalo.edu

Timothy Griffith (BDS Dentistry, 1965)

For 37 years I practised in a general dental practice in Moray, which lies midway between Inverness and Aberdeen in North East Scotland. I retired in 2007, but remain living in Moray.

Dr Bill Rumball (PhD Metallurgy, 1966)

I am retired as an Anglican Parish Priest living in Bath. I'm again studying at the University for a History of Art MA at the Barber and hope to re-graduate (is there a special term for it? Retro-graduate perhaps?) this autumn when I shall have passed my 70th birthday.

Linda Roberts, née Redfern

(BSc Chemistry, 1968)

I retired in late 2006 and am now living in Australia. Retirement provides me with time to read more widely, play tennis (all year round in Australia), sing in a choir and see more of this wonderfully varied country.

Robert Steel

(BSc Chemical Engineering, 1968)

Since 2009 my time is increasingly taken up with painting and tending woodlands, 'good works' and keeping up with far-flung family.

1970s

David Parry (BA German and Russian, 1974)

Freelance technical translator since 1986, first in Japan and then in Germany. Now living and working in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Gay Barker, née Butler

(BA French Language & Literature and Music, 1974)

I retired from teaching in 2007 and work as a freelance timetabler and examiner for OCR for roughly half the year. For the remainder of the year we 'hedonise' both at home and abroad.

Adrian Nance OBE

(BSc Chemical Engineering, 1976)

La Nina continues her impact in 2010/11. The charity we founded, Wings Like Eagles, and its associates are keen to get helicopters more rapidly to disasters. At the time of writing, we have two machines standing by for floods in Mozambique, where six rivers have all been above red alert levels. See www.wingslikeeagles.net. Greetings to the Class of '76!

Anthony Besser (LLB Law, 1977)

I currently live in America but I travel a lot and even return to England now and then. Anyone who remembers me can contact me through www.your.bham.

1980s

Elaine Gould (BMus Music, 1980)

Author of a major new reference book, *Behind Bars: The Definitive Guide to Music Notation*. Elaine has been Senior New Music Editor at Faber Music since 1987 and spent nearly 20 years researching and writing her book. Designed as a comprehensive reference resource, it is the only book of its kind to be published for 30 years. Endorsed by Simon Rattle, it has been received to great critical acclaim by the musical press. (ISBN 0571-51456-1, £65 or £45 for students in full-time education). Visit www.behindbarsnotation.co.uk



Sarah Matthews, née Watson James

(BSc Biological Sciences, 1981)

I set up my own company in March 2009 providing small businesses with advice on operational management and HR. When I'm not working I can be found running or walking in the West Sussex countryside, doing practical jobs in the house or garden or travelling.

David Long (BSc Psychology, 1983)

An established author and award-winning ghostwriter, David Long's pocket-sized commuters' survival guide '*Blood, Sweat & Tyres*' was published in March 2010.

Karen Holland, née Powell

(BSc Physics, 1983)

In September 2010, I had the honour of being presented with the Woman of Innovation for Northamptonshire 2010 award by HRH Princess Anne at the opening of the University of Northampton's new Science & Technology building. And the youngest of my three children has just started her degree at Birmingham in German, Spanish and Arabic!

Sally-Anne Hunter MinstF (LLB Law, 1986)

I trained as a barrister then as a professional fundraiser. I recently founded the Commando Spirit Appeal in support of the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund, which aims to raise £1million to help Royal Marines and their families in need. At the heart of the Appeal are the Commando Spirit events, where participants train alongside their own Royal Marine buddy and test their mettle against Marine-style challenges. Visit www.commandospirit.com or www.justgiving.com/commandospirit



Pamela Mykytowych, née Reid
(BSocSc Social Policy and Social Work, 1985)

I successfully competed in the 2010 Peking to Paris Rally in a 1968 Vauxhall Viva GT. I drove with my husband, who I met on the last Rally, as my navigator and finished 14th out of 104 crews, after overcoming several serious mechanical problems.

Ujagar Jolly (Short Course, Urban Renewal Programme, 1987)

Authored a book in 2009 '*Challenges for a Mega City*', on issues faced by contemporary mega-cities, with a focus on Delhi, India. It covers important challenges like overpopulation, housing shortage, shanty townships, shortage of physical and social infrastructure and traffic conditions.

Mary Ellis-Rees (BA Italian, 1989)

I left Birmingham in 1989 and came out to Italy to teach English, provisionally only for a couple of years but I am still in Milan more than 20 years later with my husband and two boys.

1990s

Josephine Wolff Metternich
(BSc Physics, 1990)

I've been living in Bangalore, India, for the past few years. About to move to Germany, near Frankfurt. We've loved living in India, and are sad to leave.

Mark Watson

(BEng Chemical Engineering, 1991)

I worked in the converting and chemical industry for a number of years before moving into safety and environmental consultancy where my last position was Associate Director at Entec UK. Following two years at theological college, I was ordained as a Deacon within the Church of England in July 2009 and subsequently priested in June 2010.

Peter Sommer (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 1992; MPhil Ancient History and Archaeology, 1995)

I got married on 13 February 2010 to Elin, after ten years together. We have a daughter Rebecca (aged nine), and a baby boy! I'm still running Peter Sommer Travels, which offers cultural tours and gulet cruises in Turkey, Greece, and Italy – www.petersommer.com, and Elin runs her own natural skincare company, Nothing Nasty – www.nothingnasty.com

Mohammed Rehman (BSc Chemistry, 1992)

I'm now a senior lecturer in IT. I was a terrible student! It didn't stop me from getting a Masters though, and I'm about to start a PhD, so I've improved since my uni days!

Paulo Araujo

(MBA International Business, 1992)

I created a Yahoo Group for all the MBA Graduates of the Class of 1992, lecturers and professors who taught us and administrative personnel: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBA_92_Univ_Bham

Dr Elizabeth Ashton

(BSc Biological Sciences, 1994)

I managed a Masters Course in Environmental Science and Management at Cantho University in Vietnam for two years, where my first son was born. I am now at Stirling University in Scotland and working on native oysters.

Amy Spurling

(BA Russian Language and Literature, 1996)

After doing Russian at Birmingham and living for a decade in Soviet kitchens, my first novel, '*My Soviet Kitchen*', has been published (Roastbooks, 2010). Visit www.amyspurling.com or www.roastbooks.org/my-soviet-kitchen



Timothy Hughes (BSc Geography, 1996)

After five years' volunteering with Cornwall Search and Rescue Team, I have just been elected to the position of Chairman. We remain the busiest team in the South of England, and I look forward to further developing the team to continue serving our community.

Rachel Williams (BA English, 1998)

Currently living in South London with my boyfriend and working as a development producer at documentary company Century Films. Also studying psychotherapy at WPF in my 'spare time'.

Katy Lunsford, née Richardson
(BMus Music, 1999)

I left my position as Head of Music in a girls' secondary school in Manchester to start my own photography business: www.katylunsford.com. I sing in a professional standard choir, and sing and play jazz in venues around Manchester. I would love to connect with any other alumni in the area.

Stephen Gillett

(MSocSc Industrial Heritage, 1999)

Now a Museum Manager for West Berkshire Council after several years working as freelance museum and heritage consultant.

Alexander Buencamino (MSocSc Money, Banking and Finance, 1994)

I have been working in the banking and finance industry in Hong Kong for 14 years after graduating from Birmingham. If you're interested in contacting me, you can reach me via alexander.buencamino@gmail.com

2000s

Ghazala Begum (BA English, 2001)

I'm currently living in Yorkshire and working as an Editor for Sweet & Maxwell/Reuters.

Dr Heba El-Deghaidy (PhD Education, 2001)

I have just been promoted to Associate Professor of Science Education. I am starting to write a chapter on ICT and science education for an international publisher.

Steven Gregory (BPhil Community, Play and Youth Studies, 2001)

Currently studying for an MEd in Pastoral Education, Pupil Support, Guidance and Counselling. I have worked at an International School in Berlin for the past nine years as a School Counsellor.

Jean Tomlinson (CertHE Family History, 2002)

I have done an MA in English local history and am now researching the writer Eden Phillpotts.

Edward Bradshaw and Jennifer Bradshaw, née Bluston (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2004)

We are currently working in northern Tanzania for a small charity, LivLife (www.livlife.org) that provides free education for adults in rural Maasai communities. The charity has had a huge impact in creating employment opportunities for people and the Education Centre it supports is a social hub. It relies entirely on donations but makes a little money go a long way. Edward is developing new projects at the Centre, such as a tailoring courses for disadvantaged people; Jennifer is training teachers and writing new syllabi.

Rachel Larcombe (BSc Geography, 2006)

I recently founded a company called Lady in Links that designs and sells cufflinks exclusively for women. My jewellery is aimed specifically at businesswomen and ladies in the workplace. You can find out more at www.ladyinlinks.com

Edmund Salt (MEng Civil Engineering, 2007)

This June, as part of a six-man team, I am attempting the world's longest and toughest triathlon, the Arch to Arc, to raise awareness of two charities; Alzheimer's Society and the Fire Fighters Charity. The challenge consists of running from Marble Arch in London, swimming the Channel and cycling to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and we are aiming to beat the current world record of 37 hours, 15 minutes. Find out more: uk.virginmoneygiving.com/urbanfitnessgb

James Boyd (LLB Law, 2007)

Between March and August 2010 I travelled around the world, visiting India, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. I started my training contract with K&L Gates LLP in London in September 2010.

Marion Kuhs (BSc Geology, 2009)

I am going to start a PhD project at the University of St Andrews. I am already working part-time with my future supervisor (Bill Austin) and I am really looking forward to starting my project in September.

Alumni events calendar

Get together with friends and classmates, network with fellow professionals or simply come along for a free drink. To find out more about any of our events, or for help organising your own reunion, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events, email alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call Clare Gordon on +44 (0)121 414 8904. Event invitations are usually sent by email – update your details at www.your.bham.ac.uk to ensure you don't miss out!

JUNE

History of Art reunion, Saturday 11 June
Celebrate 20 years of History of Art at Birmingham with an afternoon of activities at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts followed by an evening reception.

Alumni Sports Day, Saturday 18 June
Compete against teams of current students in 11 sports. Tickets include entry to Fab 'n' Fresh at the Guild.

Anniversary Reunions for the Classes of 1986, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961 and the pre-1961 Golden classes, Saturday 18 June
Join your classmates back on campus for a day of reunion activities, including a chance to visit your former school, take a tour of campus and catch up with friends. See the enclosed brochure for full details.



September

Guild of Graduates AGM, Saturday 10 September

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association will hold its 104th AGM on a University Open Day so the campus will be open for you to visit. Come and see your department/school and then join old friends for the AGM and a convivial lunch.

Alumni Chapter Garden Party, Sunday 11 September, 1.00-4.00pm

Join fellow alumni in Canada for the annual garden party at the home of the British Consul General in Toronto.



House of Lords Reception, Friday 14 October, 6.30-8.30pm

Tickets for the eighth annual reception at the House of Lords will be available to book online in August. All alumni in the UK will receive an email notification – update your details at www.your.bham.ac.uk to ensure we have the correct details for you.

October

Biological Sciences 35-Year Reunion, Saturday 8 October
Join alumni from the class of 1976 Biological Sciences to celebrate 35 years since your graduation at the Menzies Strathallan Hotel, Birmingham.

BUGS Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner, Saturday 8 October
Join fellow Birmingham graduates in Scotland for their annual AGM and dinner at The Royal Overseas League in Edinburgh.

Dentistry 30-Year Reunion, Friday 14 October, 7.00pm onwards
Join your 1981 Dentistry classmates for dinner on campus. This event is supported by the Sir Arthur Thomson Charitable Trust – partners are also welcome.

Medicine 30-Year Reunion, Friday 21 October, 5.30pm onwards
Join your former Medicine classmates from the Class of 1981 to celebrate your 30th reunion at the Medical School.



MAY

Dentistry Class of 1985 Reunion, Saturday 14 May
The Dentistry Class of 1985 will be holding its 25-year reunion at Menzies Welcombe Hotel Spa and Golf Club.

Sydney Alumni Reception, Tuesday 17 May, 7.00-9.00pm
Join fellow alumni at the Intercontinental Hotel on Macquarie Street to hear the latest news from your University and about our role as a global institution.

Court on Canvas: Tennis in Art, Friday 27 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Enjoy an exclusive private viewing of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts' latest exhibition, 'Court on Canvas: Tennis in Art'.

JULY

* **Happiness Lecture, 12 July**

This year's Baggs Memorial Lecture on the theme of Happiness will be delivered by Alastair Campbell, former press secretary to Tony Blair.

Ironbridge Family Days, Saturday 23 July

Join fellow Ironbridge Institute alumni to enjoy exclusive use of Blists Hill Victorian Town for an evening reception and a production of Macbeth (the comedy!).

Birmingham to London Network, Thursday 2 June, 6.00-9.00pm

Are you new to London? Then come along to the Pitcher and Piano, Holborn and network with other recent Birmingham graduates, make new contacts and enjoy a free drink on us.

Community Day, Sunday 19 June

Come back to campus for a day of family fun! Get involved with the University's research, discover our wealth of cultural collections and find out about the various ways we are involved with the local community.

December

London Christmas Party, date tbc
Join fellow alumni in the Capital for a festive after-work drink on us! Details to be confirmed.

Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, date tbc
Come along for a beer, Gluhwein or hot chocolate at the ever-popular Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market in the city centre.