

A string quartet consisting of four young adults (three women and one man) is performing on a green lawn. They are all dressed in black formal attire. The man is standing and playing the violin, while the three women are also standing and playing violins. In the foreground, a woman is seated on a red chair, playing a double bass. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background is a large, ornate red brick building with a central dome and arched windows. A blue lamppost stands to the right of the quartet.

# Musical milestone

Your support brings music  
to the heart of campus

# THANK YOU

## *you're amazing*

Impressive, isn't it? (the front cover image). Every time I walk past the new Bramall Music Building I'm taken aback. Not only by the way it looks, completing the Aston Webb semi-circle, but also because it was funded by the generosity of alumni, friends and supporters of the University.

I know a little more about giving than the average student as I've been working with the team of student callers here at Birmingham since 2008. We're the lovely people who call you to tell you about the latest news from campus and ask you to give what you can to support the University and its ground-breaking research.

This publication is called *the Difference* and it was learning about the difference Birmingham can make to people's lives that inspired me to give. Whether it's helping a bright student from a disadvantaged background study here or improving cancer survival rates, our university can make a real impact and if I can help by giving up the price of one cup of coffee a month, that's incredible.

On behalf of all the student callers I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the University, however large or small, and for all the interesting conversations we've had over the years. When you decide to support Birmingham you help change the world for future generations. That's why you're amazing.

#### **Fatima Kanji**

Donor and Call Room Supervisor,  
4th Year BSc European Politics,  
Society and Economics



## A year in giving

On campus and beyond your gifts and fundraising have made a huge impact this year, as our round-up of pictures shows. Thank you for your support.

**Top secret:** Student Emma Marks views the OMGUS files on a microfiche reader. The History department and the Main Library have acquired half the OMGUS files (Office of the Military Government, US, in Germany, 1949), in part financed with Circles of Influence funding.

Birmingham is the only place in the country to have these files. They will be an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to research into post-war Germany; the development of the Cold War; post-conflict studies; and 'nation building'.



**Medical School makeover:** Head of College Professor Lawrence Young, donor Doug Ellis and Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood share a joke at the official opening of the refurbished Barnes Library and Medical School foyer in March. Funded by Circles of Influence, the refurbishment is part of a wider project to improve teaching and research facilities in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and redevelop its library spaces in line with the changing needs of our students today and in the future.

**Pole position:** A university racing team car waits under a tent to compete in a UK Formula Student acceleration competition at Silverstone. The tent is one of several purchased with Circles of Influence funding, which have provided the team with a secure base camp at competitions.





**Living languages:** Thanks to the support of Circles of Influence, MA Teaching English as a Foreign Language students from the School of Education hosted a forum on the theme of 'Linking Lives and Classrooms for Language Teaching and Learning' on the 25 November 2011. This unique event brought together around 80 practitioners, researchers, students and alumni from more than 15 different countries with a range of experiences and insights.



## What giving means to me

*The Cultural Intern Scheme is such a fantastic opportunity for young graduates to gain full-time experience working in an arts organisation. It has been really exciting to work with Birmingham Opera Company and the Internship has offered me the flexibility to develop a range of important skills in addition to meeting and working with some really inspiring people.'*

**Jo Newman**  
(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 2010),  
Cultural Internship Scheme participant

**Splash of colour:** Staff at Birmingham wore blue to mark World Autism Awareness Day, raising more than £1,000 for the University's autism research.



**Up and away:** Thanks to you, Project Somnium, a group of Engineering and Physical Sciences students, launched a helium filled weather balloon up into the atmosphere to take readings and photographs. They now have everything they need to run the project again next year apart from the helium gas.



**Energetic fundraising:** A team of University staff and alumni completed the 13.1 mile Bupa Great Birmingham Run at the end of October to raise more than £4,200 for cancer research at the University.

A University team is running in the event again this year in support of our Circles of Influence campaign. If you would like to join us, contact Laura Clark on l.clark.1@bham.ac.uk or +44 (0)121 414 8894.



**Starter for 10:** One of the teams at the Birmingham. For Life annual Students vs Alumni Pub Quiz. Birmingham. For Life is a student society sponsored by the Development and Alumni Office and aims to connect students with alumni through events such as this. The student-run quiz raised funds for Circles of Influence.



## What giving means to me

*'My time at Birmingham was one of the most rewarding times of my life and as an alumna, it seemed to make so much sense to be giving back to the University - in my case, to help fund research into autism.'*

**Ali Groves** (BA French, 1990)



To make a donation to Circles of Influence, use your mobile phone (see *alumni news*, page 9) complete and return the enclosed form or visit our website. [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving) Alternatively, call +44 (0)121 4148894 to give or +44 (0)121 4147957 with any queries.



# We made it, thanks to you

Thanks to the generous support of alumni, friends and charitable trusts, our Circles of Influence fundraising campaign has met and exceeded its £60 million target. Below are more details of just a few of the projects your gifts have made possible.

## The Bramall Music Building

Music will be at the heart of campus when the Bramall Music Building opens its doors this autumn.

Completing the red-brick semi-circle that was the vision of the University's first Chancellor, Joseph Chamberlain, the building includes a 450-seat auditorium and will be the new home for Birmingham's Music Department.

The Bramall Music Building became a reality thanks to the amazing response of alumni, friends and charitable organisations to our Circles of Influence campaign.

From 24 November to 7 December a grand opening festival is being held to celebrate the opening and leading early music soprano Carolyn Sampson (BMus Music, 1995) has agreed to perform at the main concert.

'I'm very excited and honoured to be performing at the opening celebration,' she says. 'How lucky the present and

future music students of Birmingham are to look forward to a purpose-built department set within this historic building.

'As a singer, I'm especially excited about the concert hall. It seems to be the perfect size – intimate enough for solo and chamber works yet large enough to house a choir and orchestra. I think it will be a great gift to the students, who will be able to enjoy making music there themselves, and I believe it has the potential to become a major chamber-music venue for world-class artists visiting Birmingham.

'Those who have been generous enough to support this project can be proud to have given the music department the means to continue its long-standing position as one of the foremost places in the country to study.'

Tickets and further details of the opening festival events will be on the University website this summer.



**Centre stage:** Soprano Carolyn Sampson.  
Picture: Marco Borggreve



**Opening fanfare:** Music students outside the new building

## What giving means to me

*'Widening access to higher education is important to me personally and as a diversity champion for my firm. I also like the way that Birmingham keeps me updated on the progress of individual students on the AZB programme.'*

**Sarah Byrt** (LLB Law with French, 1985)

## Thank you video

Scan me to visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni) to watch our campaign thank you video.





## The Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme

First-year psychology student Samuel Nunney is one of 338 young people our sector-leading A2B scheme has helped succeed in higher education.

'A2B is designed to encourage talented students in the West Midlands who have little or no experience of higher education to gain access to the University of Birmingham,' he says. 'Birmingham was one of the first universities to offer an innovative access scheme for local students and this model is now much copied in the UK.'

'Every year 100 A2B students who perform particularly well in their A levels are awarded an A2B Scholarship, which are funded entirely by donors as part of the Circles of Influence campaign. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship this year.'

'A2B has been a great opportunity for me to prove my ability while knowing I have some stability during my studies. I'm really enjoying university so far and have made some amazing friends already. On behalf of myself and all the A2B Scholarship recipients, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the scheme.'



**Thank you:** Samuel (back, third from right) and fellow A2B students at a reception held to thank University Chancellor Sir Dominic Cadbury (centre) for his generous support of A2B scholarships

## Hydrogen research

Thanks to Circles of Influence, Robert Steinberger-Wilckens has been appointed as a Professor in Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Engineering.

'You have given me a fantastic opportunity to help Birmingham build an international presence in this exciting field,' he says. 'In my new post I want to ensure we expand on our existing work to position Birmingham as a major international player in hydrogen fuel cell research.'

'Vehicles are our point of focus as far as practical applications of hydrogen fuel cell research are concerned and through SWARM, a European collaboration involving universities in the Midlands, Belgium and Germany, we hope to see 100 hydrogen fuel cell cars on the motorways alongside other vehicles in two years time. The built environment is another key field and we

hope to develop systems for generating heat, cooling and electricity in one small box.'

'I also want to develop our Doctoral Training Centre as we still have 22 students to appoint. At its full scope the Centre will certainly help us achieve our ambitions.'



**Ambitious:** Professor Robert Steinberger-Wilckens in the hydrogen fuel cell laboratory



**Driven:** Dr Rik Bryan (centre) with fellow members of Grand Privé, an exclusive supper club for car enthusiasts. The club held an event on campus last summer which resulted in a significant donation to bladder cancer research at Birmingham

## Cancer research

Dr Rik Bryan works in bladder cancer research, just one area of cancer research where giving has made a difference.

'Bladder cancer is the seventh most common cancer in the UK with more than 10,000 new cases per year but it's a 'Cinderella' cancer because in comparison to other malignancies it's quite underfunded,' he says. 'We're interested in many aspects of the disease ranging from its basic cell biology to developing new tests to diagnose it more efficiently.'

'Conventional bladder cancer diagnosis involves an endoscope (a tiny camera inserted through the urethra to examine the lining of the bladder) which is quite an invasive investigation and if patients are subsequently diagnosed they have to have that investigation on a very regular basis for many years. This also means it is the most expensive malignancy to manage on a cost per patient basis.'

'One example of a project your support has helped to fund is the development of a more accurate diagnostic urine test so we don't need to look inside the bladder. The existing high-tech platforms around the University, such as the Wellcome NMR metabolomics facility (itself part-funded by charitable trusts), means it doesn't cost millions to run large studies. Also, the University's trials unit infrastructure means we are in a strong position to translate successful findings from bench to bedside.'

**For details of the next phase of the campaign, turn to pages 8-11 in alumni news.**

# Awards expand horizons

Two maths, science or engineering students per year will be helped to access unique travel and research opportunities thanks to an awards scheme set up in memory of an outstanding engineer.

Dr Bernard (known as Bill) Willetts (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1945) was recognised among his peers as a captain of industry. His high profile roles included chairman of Plessey Telecommunications, deputy chief executive of Plessey and managing director of Vickers. The awards will run for at least the next five years.

Bill's son David and wife Maria decided to create the awards because scholarships from the Ferguson family (one of the founding families of Massey Ferguson) helped Bill, who was from a humble financial background, with

postgraduate studies at Birmingham and Durham.

'In the short term I hope the awards will help students expand their horizons. In the longer term I hope that at least one of them will become highly successful and make substantial donations to the University of Birmingham, renewing the cycle,' David says.

To find out more about making a gift to Birmingham in a loved one's memory, contact Emma Hazlewood on +44 (0)121 414 7957 or e.j.hazlewood@bham.ac.uk



## What giving means to me

*'The tremendous generosity of alumni in giving time to help translate Eye Shakespeare, a new smartphone app for visitors to Stratford-upon-Avon, into six different languages is not only a measure of their relationship with the town and with Shakespeare but is also testimony to the international outlook of the University. Through these volunteers, Shakespeare and the town will come alive for hundreds of thousands of people annually.'*

**David Hopes**, the Shakespeare Institute

# Respected judge leaves Law School legacy

One of the UK's first female judges has left a substantial legacy to provide scholarships for Law students at Birmingham.

Her Hon Judge Ann Goddard QC (LLB Law, 1957), who died in March 2011, was the only female judge at the Old Bailey for many years of her career and was massively respected in her profession.

In January 2001 she was attacked in the court room by a defendant. She was in her sixties at the time and had to be rushed to hospital with a head wound but was back at work within 48 hours, undaunted.

Head of School Professor Andrew Sanders says: 'Many younger people don't realise that women have been treated equally only in recent years by the Bar and judiciary. And it looks like ethnic minorities are still waiting. Ann Goddard led the way and this bequest will help break down the barriers that she began to weaken.'

For further details of how to leave a legacy to Birmingham, contact Martha Cass on +44 (0)121 414 6679 or email m.cass@bham.ac.uk



**A lasting legacy:** Her Hon Judge Ann Goddard

## DID YOU KNOW?

**There is now a 10% reduction in inheritance tax for UK residents leaving 10% or more of their taxable estate to charity.**



## What giving means to me

*'On leaving Birmingham, I recognised it was a privilege to attend a major academic institution and be a recipient of a maximum state grant but it was only recently that I decided to translate that general acknowledgement into something more concrete. Giving is a practical way I can support the University and it suits my wishes for the future to reflect my gift as a legacy.'*

**Mel Guest** (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1961)



# Your university needs you

Meet our jigsaw of alumni volunteers, who have helped the University in all kinds of ways, from mentoring students to speaking at events. In the last three years you have volunteered 1,400 times, donating a total of 4,200 volunteer hours, about 600 working days, the equivalent to more than £134,000. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to give something back to Birmingham. The question is can you complete the picture?



**1. Tamsin Greig, Actress  
(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1988)**

'I'm delighted to have been invited to act as a mentor in the University's pilot Alumni Leadership Mentoring Scheme. I believe these sorts of relationships have great value in laying the ground for undergraduates to face the vagaries and unknowns of their early years of arts employment and in encouraging innate passions to be explored and voiced. I am sure that the mentoring relationship will certainly not be one-sided and look forward to the scheme unfolding for both our sakes.'

**2. Dr Andy Hart, Forensic Scientist  
(PhD Biological Sciences, 1997)**

'Volunteering is an opportunity to pass on my knowledge and experience to students who may benefit from such an insight while they are still studying. It gives me the chance to inspire people into following their interests and dreams, despite the challenges that they might encounter on the way.'

**3. Simon Dighton, Chief Finance Officer, First Credit (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1985)**

'I had such a great time at Birmingham and benefited so much from my degree that it is always a pleasure to give something back to the University. I was only too pleased to sit on the judging panel for the staff awards.'

**4. James Eder, Founder, The Beans Group (BCom Commerce 2005)**

'I come back on to campus every year to deliver guest lectures at the Business School, and give talks to student societies about entrepreneurship. It's great to be able to use my experience to help students, and to stay in touch with my university.'

**5. Rhea Keehn, Governance, Policy and Communication Officer  
(BA Social Policy 2010)**

'Studying at the University of Birmingham opened my eyes to opportunities that I didn't even know existed. Since graduating, I want to help other eager students find exciting and challenging opportunities and so have offered my help as a mentor; hoping to share my experiences and contacts.'

**6. Cilla Snowball, Group Chairman and Group CEO at AMVBDO (BA French Language and Literature, 1981)**

'The bonds and benefits of university life extend throughout one's career. That's why so many alumni want to loop back and support the University by giving their time, wisdom or cash to fund development projects for the next generation.'

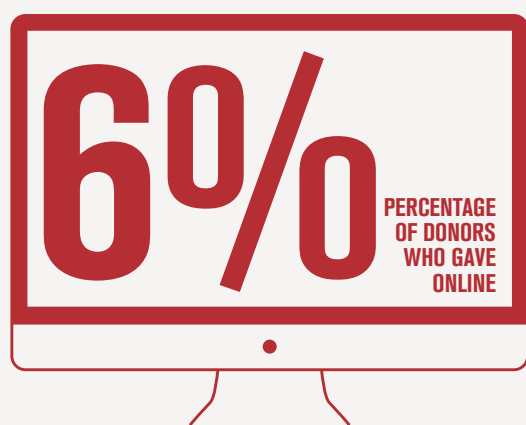
**7. Brian Beeston, retired Engineer  
(PhD Physical Metallurgy, 1965)**

'I have established an alumni group here in Southern California, where there are almost 200 former students, to bring us together and share our experiences and pride at being associated with Birmingham.'

From picking and describing an 'Object of the Month' from our online collections to becoming a student mentor, there are dozens of volunteering opportunities at Birmingham. Find out more on our volunteering webpage at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/getinvolved/volunteering.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/getinvolved/volunteering.aspx)

If you would like to discuss volunteering opportunities, please email Kerrie Holland at [k.holland@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.holland@bham.ac.uk)

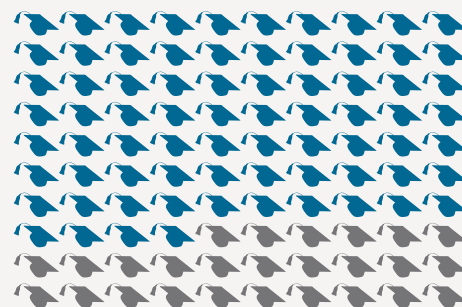
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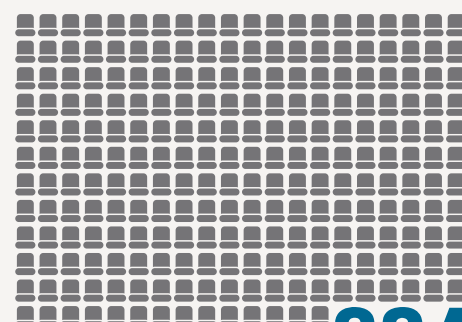
## THANK YOU

**Inspired?**

Please complete your donation form, text to give (see *alumni news*, page 9) or give online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving)



**74%** OF A2B SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS  
GRADUATED WITH A 1ST OR 2:1 IN 10/11



THE NUMBER OF SEATS SPONSORED  
IN THE BRAMALL MUSIC BUILDING

**234**



**30%** INCREASE IN BREAST CANCER  
SURVIVAL RATES THANKS TO  
OUR RESEARCH

**£160 MILLION COMBINED  
TARGET FOR PHASE TWO  
OF THE CAMPAIGN**

**£2,750,000 TOTAL RAISED  
THROUGH MATCHED FUNDING**  
**£60 MILLION PHASE ONE  
CAMPAIGN TOTAL**