



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING AND  
PHYSICAL SCIENCES



*Welcome to the*  
**EPS SOCIETIES'**  
**AWARDS 2017**

# Welcome to the EPS Societies' Awards 2017

I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth EPS Societies' Awards where our fantastic student societies and their members are recognised and celebrated.

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has a strong tradition of outstanding educational success among its students. I am proud of the achievements of our 25 student societies and the continued triumphs of their members during this academic year.

All of our societies are a great asset to the College. These awards are a reminder of the hard work and dedication of society committees and members alike to make the University a better, more vibrant place to study and play. As we look back on the 2016/17 academic year it is more evident than ever that our societies have a vital role within our student body.

From public astronomy events to designing cars, journalism to diversity, our societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote career opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers, outreach and, of course, social events. This year we have welcomed a new society: Mozilla Campus Club joined our community in February and now run activities that teach members how to build and protect the web.

I am very pleased to report there have been more than 600 nominations received for the EPS Societies' Awards from students, staff, alumni and friends. I would like to congratulate all those nominated, and especially those shortlisted for these awards. Within this brochure you will find an overview of all tonight's stars and their achievements.

We would not be able to celebrate such accomplishments without the hard work of those who have made tonight's event possible. Please join me in thanking our judges for selecting tonight's winners, our organising committee for their hard work, and our sponsors for their support and interest in our students. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to recognise outstanding achievements by nominating a student or society to let them know that they make a real difference here.

I hope you have a wonderful evening.

With best wishes

**Professor Andy Schofield**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College,  
Engineering and Physical Sciences



## Programme

Welcome address  
Outstanding Event Award  
Outreach Award  
Volunteer of the Year  
Diversity and Inclusion Award

### Starter

Sports Personality of the Year  
Sports Team of the Year 2016/17  
Industrial Award

### Main course and entertainment from Trebleution

EPS Community Award  
Inspirational Committee Member  
Role Model of the Year

### Dessert

Head of College Idea of the Year  
Great Achievement in EPS Award  
Society of the Year 2016/17

Performance by IsaacO  
and The Midnight Collective

# The EPS Community

## Your network for life

Your EPS Community is a network of alumni, students, faculty, industrial partners and friends from the seven schools that make up the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

When you join us as a new student, you automatically become a member of our 75,000+ strong community. We believe the relationship you have with the University should last a lifetime, from the moment you walk through our doors.

Whether you're coming to the end of your first year with us, helping to plan next year's events, stepping up to chair your society or due to graduate, you all have and continue to hold a key place in the EPS Community – a community that simply wouldn't exist without you!

In the College we will help you build your network by introducing you to alumni and industrial contacts who will share their expertise to help you and your society grow. We also want your friendships, relationships with staff and affection towards the University to continue long after you've donned your cap and gown.

### Get involved

As part of the Community you'll be able to access a whole host of information, including the latest announcements from your College societies, internship and job opportunities, and invitations to events across the College such as our Distinguished, Inaugural and Christmas Lectures. We can help you find a mentor, locate alumni to speak to your society, or promote your activities across the University.

### It doesn't end when you leave

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, the EPS Community is here to support you through your student days and long after you graduate, as well as encouraging you to give back to the University in any way you can. We hope you will return to campus to speak about your time here and what you've achieved in your career, volunteer to continue your ambassadorial work on open days, offer your time to a student as a mentor, or share your Birmingham story. You could provide invaluable help to our future students.

To get involved visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community)



Email us: [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @eps\_unibham



or Instagram @myepslife

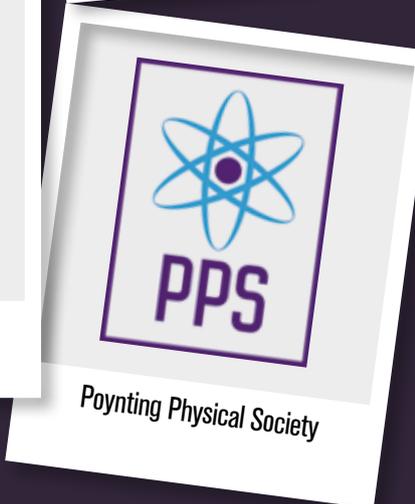
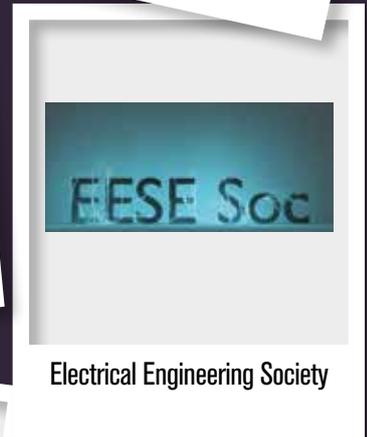
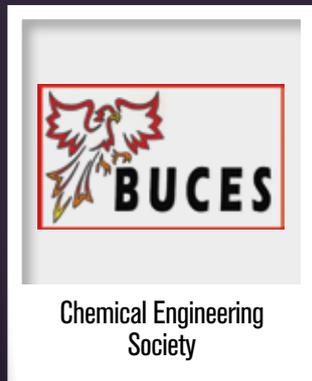


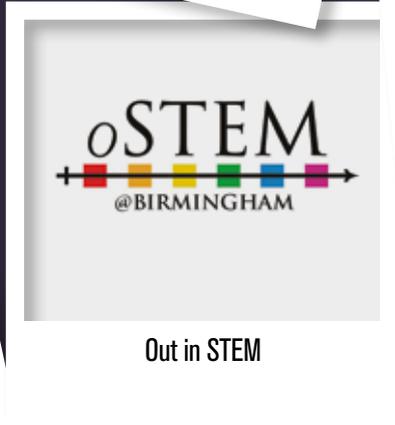
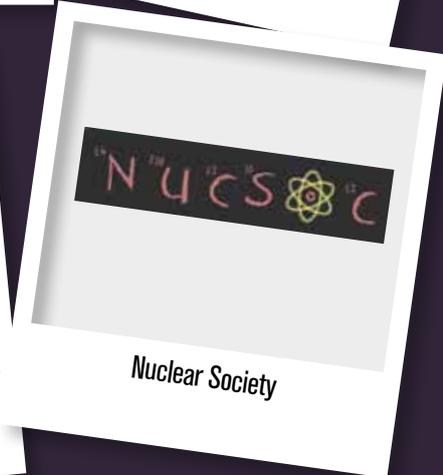
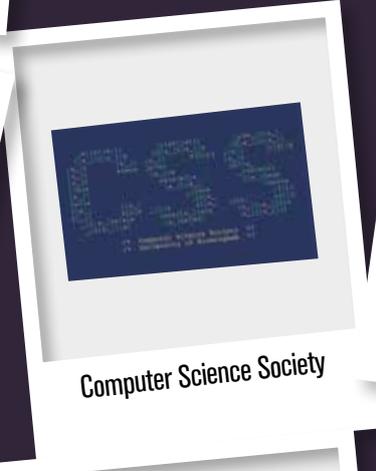
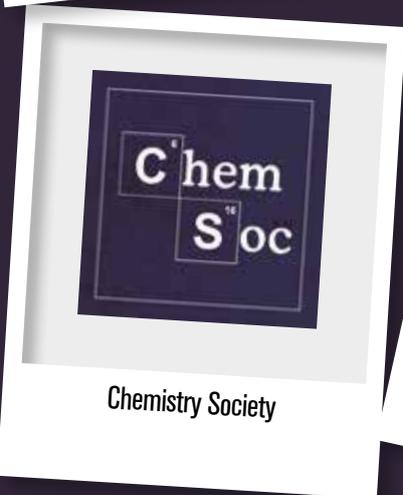
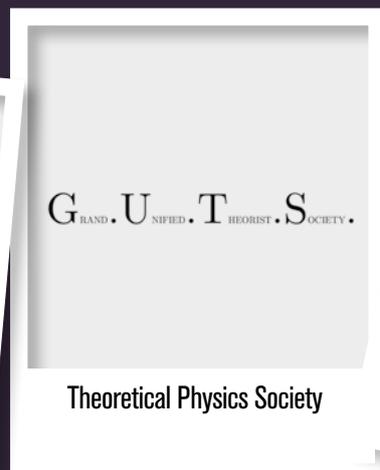
Join us on LinkedIn: [www.tinyurl.com/epslinkedin](http://www.tinyurl.com/epslinkedin)



# Our Societies

Our active and successful student societies form an integral part of our community; providing an avenue for students to interact with one another, supplement their studies and engage with alumni and industrial contacts.





To find out more about the EPS Societies, read their latest news and join please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-societies](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-societies)

# Need cash to develop your idea?

**Bid for up to £2,000 from funds donated by UoB graduates and make your idea a reality!**



**Returning September 2017**

'After a successful application to Hands Up, MathSoc received funding to take over 50 EPS society members and alumni to London in order to experience the London Science Museum... at night! This 'Lates' event allowed us to experience the many interactive and hands-on exhibits with like-minded people.'

MATHSOC, Hands Up recipient 2016



'The Hands-Up fund has been incredibly beneficial to UBRobotics, allowing us to create a series of stimulating workshops for our members, introducing them to the basics of electronics, programming, and robotics. We have also used the funding to purchase a lot of new equipment for our new lab, getting us ready to compete and represent the University at international EuroBot competitions (and we even made the finals!).'

UBROBOTICS, Hands Up recipients 2015 and 2016



@birminghamalum

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/handsup](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/handsup)

# Our staff Thank you!

Many of our societies' activities would not be possible without the hard work and unending support of members of staff across the College. Their enthusiasm, organisation and dedication are set deep into the hearts of our student groups and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done throughout the year. From all of the EPS society members, thank you!

While there are many staff across the College who work closely with our student groups, the societies themselves would like to give particular thanks to:

Phil Robbins	Simon Goodwin
Christopher Berry	Stephen Kukureka
Karl Dean	Jon Preece
Hui Li	Alison Davenport
Tzany Wheldon	Jon Watkins
Mark Sterling	Luke Rochford
Mozafar Saadat	Rob Smith
Duc Pham	Ian Stevens
Carolyn Toney	Sakdirat Kaewunruen
Mark Simmons	Andrew Howes
Zoe Pikramenou	Sharon Jones
Vashti Bejai	Tim Jackson
Andy Ingram	Mark Lee
Richard Hood	Haider Butt
Ian Kenny	Carl Anthony
Mark Laver	Martin Freer
Peggy Vazoura	Ruth Yapp
Nicola Wilkin	Iain styles
Bob Stone	Sally Schofield
Shakria Begum	Alessandro Mottura
Carol Kong	Sein Leung Soo
Ilya Mandel	Paul Flavell
Richard Greenwood	Patricia Herterich
Duncan Shepherd	Ray Jones
Carl Hingley	David Leppinen
Bill Chaplin	Jenny Illingsworth
Peter Gardner	



## Special mention: Carl Hingley

This summer will see the retirement of UBRacing's central cog Carl Hingley. An unsung hero in the School of Engineering, Carl's career spans four decades and he has been managing the Formula Student team since it was founded 20 years ago. He spends countless hours in the lab getting the cars ready for competition and his perpetual support is what makes UBRacing the passionate and tight-knit team it is today. In honour of his huge impact on the University and our students, Carl received the British Empire Medal for services to Mechanical Engineering in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours. Happy retirement Carl and thank you!



# Outstanding Event Award

This Award recognises those individuals or societies who have shown creativity, initiative and innovation to deliver an exceptional new event or trip to their members.



## 1Up Jam: Games Development Society

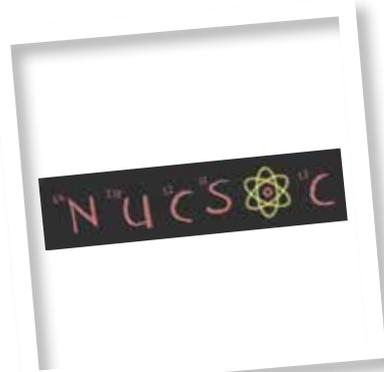
At the end of the last academic year the Games Development Society held their first ever 1Up Jam with the purpose of promoting games development within the School of Computer Science while also raising money for Cancer Research UK. Individuals or teams of up to eight people designed every aspect of a brand new game, including programming, coding, art and sound, all in just 48 hours. The finished games were then bundled together and sold for charity. While many attendees had some coding experience, only a few had created a game before. The 1Up Jam team made everyone feel very welcome and actively supported the development of all games by answering many, many queries throughout the event. GDS worked tirelessly to secure sponsorship

and funding to provide free food, merchandise, extra competitions and some great prizes for the event. This was a great way for attendees to destress after exams, forget about the intensive weeks that had just passed and offered the perfect opportunity to themselves in doing something they are passionate about. As well as providing a fantastic new event, 1Up Jam also kick-started GDS's charitable activity and they are already looking for other opportunities to continue their fundraising and become a society that has an impact on the general community. It is now hoped that this event will become an annual occurrence; in fact 1Up Jam 2017 is being held on 9–11 June!

## Christmas Meal: NucSoc

The NucSoc Christmas Meal was the biggest yet! This year the event grew significantly from a small group to almost a full departmental outing. Over 80 nuclear students attended this year's dinner at the Selly Park Tavern; that's over 70% of their cohort! The big space they occupied shows just how much the society has grown and is fully integrated in the School of Metallurgy and Materials. Both students and lecturers alike joined the festivities for the perfect opportunity to relax, catch up after a busy few weeks, look back at first semester and celebrate the festive season. The meal was also a

great example of how inter-year relationships are developing across the nuclear programmes with lots of seat-swapping and table-visiting between courses. The laid back atmosphere of the pub certainly helped too! The food itself was very good, the committee's organisation was great and all-in-all it has been deemed NucSoc's most successful event of the year. Even the NucSoc elves made an appearance! This was a great end to the first term and a much-needed chance to get together before the Christmas break.





### Engineering Spring Ball: CivSoc, EESE Soc and MechSoc

On Monday 20 March the three departmental societies in the School of Engineering held the inaugural Engineering Spring Ball at the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston. This is the first time a ball has been organised between the societies and it was a complete collaboration between CivSoc, EESE Soc and MechSoc, as well as being the first formal occasion for the new School of Engineering. Featuring a prosecco reception, string quartet, dinner and a DJ into the early hours, this is hopefully the first of many Engineering Balls to come. Such was the demand

for tickets that they sold out in just three days! With over 150 students and staff attending, the evening was a great opportunity to bring all three disciplines together to celebrate the first anniversary of the School of Engineering. The Ball also helped build bonds across the three societies and staff to create a sense of community amongst everyone in the School. Everything was perfectly organised by the smooth and efficient committee and all who attended had high praise for the event with many calling it 'tremendous!'

### Engineers RFC Tour 2016: School of Engineering RFC



Over the weekend of 25–27 November 2016 the School of Engineering RFC organised their first international tour to Málaga, Spain. 42 Club members were held in suspense as their destination was kept a secret until they arrived at the airport; and it did not disappoint. Flights, accommodation, internal transport and even a limited edition tour kit were all included. Not only did the team get to sample local food, drink and culture (including a visit to the city's castle, Castillo Gibralfaro, and an exhibition within the city walls), but they also held their first European fixture. Hosted by the University of Grenada, the team had their first taste of playing rugby

abroad. Although the result wasn't as they would have hoped, it was a high-intensity game and the hosts thoroughly enjoyed playing an English club. Praise must go to the Social Secretaries for their organisation and to the whole committee for providing a great team mentality. The Tour was an incredible experience for all and allowed for great bonding between players of all year groups and disciplines, from first years to Masters students. This was the first time any of the committee had organised an event like this and it was a great success (and it should be noted that the official University Rugby team haven't gone abroad for a number of years!).

### HackTheMidlands: CSS: Computer Science Society



HackTheMidlands is a 24-hour hackathon hosted at Millennium Point on 1–2 October 2016. The event was lead-organised by Tom Goodman, President of CSS, alongside his equivalents from Aston and Birmingham City Universities, and representatives from the Universities of Sheffield and Cambridge. Hackathons are 'invention marathons' where attendees are invited to learn, build and share, in a truly unique environment. In 24 hours hundreds of passionate people collaborated and competed alongside one another, worked on innovative ideas and projects, and were given a platform to demonstrate their creations. Before this event, almost all CSS's hackathons were only open to UoB students, meaning that non-students, under 18s, professionals and many others were

unable to take part. HackTheMidlands was a significant step forward, being one of the first hackathons open to all. The event promoted diversity and encouraged newcomers to technology by running beginner workshops and talks on the day. It also drew on the expertise of local professionals as mentors so help was always on hand. There was an excellent turnout of 160 attendees from the local community and dedicated hackers from across the country, some as far away as Wales and Scotland! Its success will pave the way for future events to achieve a broader reach, attract greater proportions of underrepresented demographics, and keep the true community spirit that makes HackTheMidlands special.

### London Science Museum Lates: MathSoc



On Wednesday 22 February MathSoc took two coaches of students to London for the 'Mathematics in Numbers' Lates night at the Science Museum. Having discovered the Museum's exciting events, MathSoc were determined to organise a trip and were successful in securing *Hands Up* funding from the Alumni Office. This was a truly inspirational event which clearly highlighted the notion that mathematics affects all aspects of everyday life and saw attendees get involved in interactive activities, robot racing and talks from distinguished lecturers. Aimed at over 18s, the Museum was free from the usual young

crowd and allowed for more in-depth scientific interest; perfect for MathSoc's members. The committee put a great deal of effort into organising an event that would purposely have a broad appeal. The event was particularly attractive to international students and alumni now based in London. Attendees came from ten different societies, 24% of whom were international students and they even had a handful of alumni join them. The evening was enjoyed by everyone and will hopefully be a starting point for similar activities in the future.

# Outreach Award

This Award recognises the dedication of those who work with the University to deliver outreach activities to local schools or the general public, and see it as part of their role as a student to inspire the next generation of young scientists and engineers.



**Amy David and Callum Hodgson:** Outreach Co-Ordinators, EWB: Engineers Without Borders

Amy and Callum have worked tirelessly to revitalise outreach opportunities for Engineers Without Borders Birmingham. By offering the first ever STEM Ambassador training to EWB volunteers they were able to cater for a large number of new ambassadors and encourage many more to get involved. The duo forged new relationships with nearby schools, contacting 78 in Birmingham and 16 in Solihull offering to run engineering workshops. This quadrupled the number of volunteering opportunities available to members! For example, an event at Small Heath Secondary School in November introduced the 'Water for Everyone Everywhere Workshop' to 60 Year 10 pupils and was a great success with many now showing a keen interest

in engineering. Not only did Amy and Callum create these new opportunities but they are also forming the foundation of long-lasting relationships as teachers and pupils alike are keen to have EWB back to deliver further workshops to a wider range of schools groups. Amy and Callum's enthusiasm for outreach has been passed onto many of EWB's new volunteers and school pupils, leaving students enthused, pupils inspired and teachers giving glowing reviews of the team's workshop delivery. This would not have been possible without the training workings they organised for volunteers, allowing them to confidently and effectively deliver the sessions as great ambassadors for both the University and EWB UK.

## AstroSoc

AstroSoc have been doing a fantastic job in promoting astronomy appreciation among students, children and the general public for many years and have stepped up to be more involved in the community than ever before. As well as their ever-successful co-hosting of Astronomy in the City events and continued involvement in Tea Talk and Telescopes, AstroSoc have been approached by multiple groups asking for astronomical help. During British Science Week members visited Glascote Academy, a small primary school in a deprived area of Tamworth, to host a stargazing evening. They gave a talk, demonstrated how different telescopes work, shared knowledge of the night sky and answered questions with approximately 100 children, parents and teaching staff from three schools. They also visited Bishop Challoner Catholic College to help restart their own astronomy

society by explaining how to set up their telescopes and advise teachers on future equipment purchases. AstroSoc are incredibly skilled at tailoring their outreach events to the age and ability of their audience, making difficult concepts accessible and understandable. They have inspired many parents and children to seek further activities linked to astronomy and science, and some even submitted nominations to these Awards! AstroSoc also hosted the AGM of the Federation of Astronomical Societies this year and regularly engage with the Space Research department's outreach programme, supporting at events and fairs around the country. It doesn't stay in Birmingham either; members have taken their experiences home to interact with their own local communities.





## CSS: Computer Science Society

This year has seen a new influx of outreach activities for the Computer Science Society. First up was HackTheMidlands, a 24-hour hackathon open hosted at Millennium Point in Birmingham City Centre. Hackathons are amazing places for people to learn, build and share technological expertise, and the attendees certainly managed to do that! While CSS has run hackathons before they were solely open to students, HackTheMidlands broke this mould and was a significant step forward by opening up such a large event to everyone, including University applicants, pupils from local schools, technology experts and the general public. The organising team made sure everyone was welcome and the event promoted diversity and

encouraged newcomers to technology by running beginner workshops and talks throughout the weekend. As well as this CSS ran a second Women in Technology Conference with WISE and oSTEM to inspire not only Birmingham students but also pupils from local schools by showcasing career opportunities available in the sector and introducing them to technology experts. The Society plans to develop their Hardware Lab with cutting-edge technology such as VR headsets and gesture control armbands with the hope to not only provide excellent experiences for their members, but also potentially sponsoring events in-kind so that the equipment and their expertise can be shared with other organisations and schools.



## Helena Dodd: President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society

Helena's contributions to outreach are extensive and she works tirelessly to communicate science to young people. This year alone she has spearheaded a new WISE initiative to mentor girls from disadvantaged backgrounds in Birmingham. Not only has she funded this through sponsorship, she has enrolled over 100 volunteers to visit partner schools and run weekly workshops. In doing this she has fostered stronger links with outreach groups such as STEM Ambassadors and the Royal Society of Chemistry to help enrol Birmingham students onto their programmes. Helena has a long history with outreach including involvement with The Big Bang Fair for the past six years and volunteering with various companies including the BBC, Ministry of Defence and Exxon Mobil. She is a CREST (the British

Science Association's enrichment programme) mentor at the Aston University Engineering Academy, a programme she benefited from and is now giving back to. Other activities include demonstrating experiments to Brownies at the Infirmary Museum in Worcester and giving talks at schools careers' fairs. As a previous progress mentor for the University's Outreach Office, she was recently invited to be the School of Chemistry's Undergraduate Outreach Rep. Helena is always on the lookout for new ways to inspire the younger generation and goes beyond her studies to do an amazing job of communicating her love of science to the wider world. Her efforts to make learning more inclusive translate in her desire to make the world a better place.



## MathSoc

MathSoc have really stepped up their game in helping inspire the next generation of mathematicians by setting up their very first Tutoring Scheme, overseen by Volunteering Officer Lucy Morris. The Scheme saw a group of 14 volunteers head to Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College, a local school where 62% of its students receive pupil premium funding. MathSoc members either tutored children who were not on target to receive a C grade at GCSE, or acted as teaching assistants in GCSE classes. The volunteers became mentors showing pupils that university is a possibility for everyone regardless of their background. This has had a great impact on the pupils' confidence and abilities in Maths, and has given them the opportunity to speak to someone who has gone on to study the subject in higher

education. Many of the volunteers are aspiring teachers and this gave them great experience in the classroom and working with young people. Feedback from pupils involved with the scheme has been overwhelmingly positive. Leon Aikman, a member of staff at the school says: 'The scheme's 1 to 2 tuition gives pupils access to a provision which they would not ordinarily have. Furthermore, the opportunity to work with young people who are educated to degree level enhances the social capital of pupils partaking in the scheme, many of whom do not have family members or friends who have been to university and so for them to work with the Mathematics Society gives them access to people they may not otherwise encounter.'

# Volunteer of the Year

This Award recognises those society members who have volunteered their time and expertise to help others, and have had a positive impact on their local community, society, school, or University.



**James Adey:** GDS: Games Development Society

James is a fantastic member of the Games Development Society. Not only has he devoted himself to bettering the Society, he has just been appointed GDS's new Chair. James has assisted in delivering the many tutorials hosted by the Society such as 3D-modelling, Unity and networking. He has even been lending out his own equipment so that others can develop their skills with equipment they wouldn't usually have access to. He takes a great interest in everyone's work and is the first to offer help where he can. Several of the committee have quoted him as being 'extremely helpful and knowledgeable'. James has been so impressive with new suggestions for the Society that he was very quickly added to the committee chat on Facebook, despite not

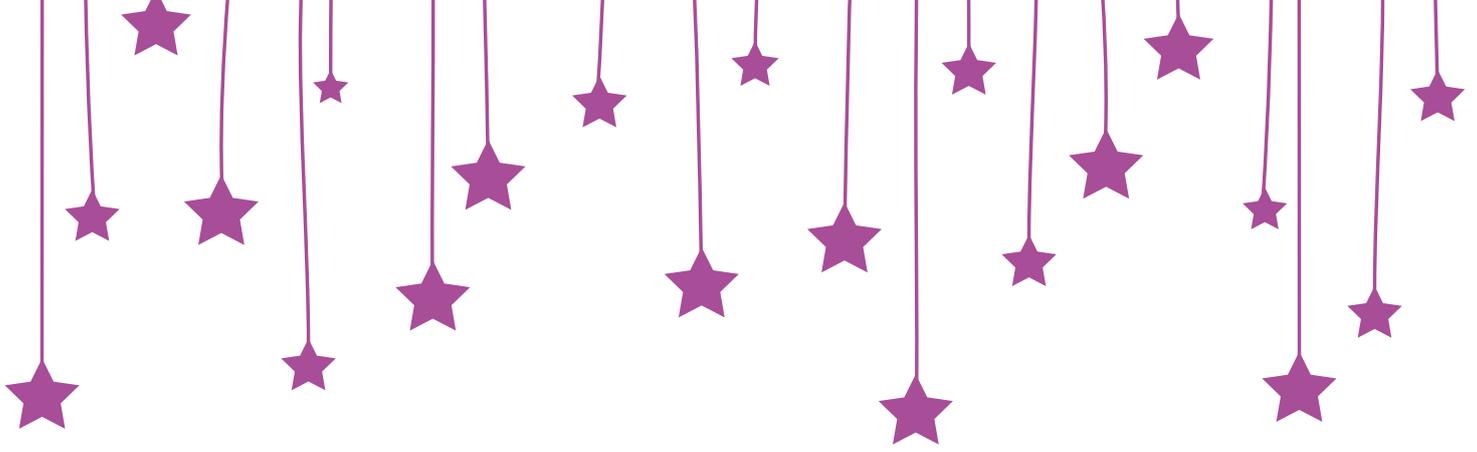
officially being a committee member. He has already thought of some great ways to improve GDS next year, for example by promoting board game development as well as video game development in order to broaden GDS' reach beyond the School of Computer Science and to the whole University. He's also discussed the idea of holding a series of demo days where members can demonstrate their games to other students outside of the Society and get their feedback, as well as gaining further promotion for GDS. He's a first-year student with humungous potential! To the point where one of James' nominees has never actually met him as he's on a year in industry but has been so impressed that he just had to nominate James for Volunteer of the Year!



**James O'Neill:** Chairman, School of Engineering RFC

You wouldn't think James is just the Engineering RFC Chairman. The amount of times he's washed the team's kit and turned up to training with everyone's equipment would make you think he's the 'kit secretary'. His efforts with the Club have been an inspiration for freshers and new members and he makes a valiant effort to ensure everyone is included and involved. He has also worked with the Rugby Football Union to secure funding for coach travel to games which has ensured that membership fees will stay at their current low prices. He is the first to throw his hat into the ring and volunteer, and actively encourages others to follow suit. He's also the first to rally the troops and get everyone to training,

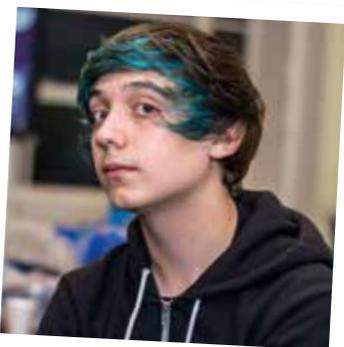
to a match or to a social. He has been an extremely active member of the Club for all four years of his University career and has taken on many roles during this time. His year as Chairman has seen the highest Club membership and a huge intake of new recruits from across the College. James has devoted much of his spare time to sourcing new contacts, be it local men's teams or university clubs, he is responsible for organising over 25 games this year alone, well above the standard amount a University BUCS side would play. He has been the backbone of the team arranging the vast majority of logistics required for the Club to be as adored and as organised as it is.



### Lucy Morris: Volunteering Officer, MathSoc

Lucy has had an amazing year as MathSoc's Volunteering Officer. She organised more events than in ever before and raised an incredible amount of money for charity. The year began with the now traditional Family Scheme where students from higher years welcome new students to the School of Mathematics, make friends and help ease the transition between sixth form and university. In Fundraising February Lucy coordinated several groups of volunteers to take on bake sales, bucket shakes and more. She organised the EPS University Challenge which saw seven of the College's societies compete against each other, and 'The Big MathSoc Charity Pub Quiz' with over 50 people taking part. In addition to this Lucy set herself the challenge of running the Coventry Half Marathon. She started from

scratch not having run before and encouraged others to join her and she and the MathSoc team raised a brilliant £1,700. In total MathSoc's Fundraising February raised £3,227.34 for their charity of the year, Mind! If that wasn't enough, Lucy has masterminded the new MathSoc Tutoring Scheme, where she single-handedly made links with a nearby secondary school in order to give opportunities for MathSoc members to volunteer to tutor and mentor pupils who didn't previously aspire to go to university. She made this a huge success for everyone involved and this is something that MathSoc have been very positive in wanting to continue into next year.



### Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

As President of CSS Tom has led the Society through an incredible year. He has orchestrated more events than ever before, more than doubling last year's offerings in fact! He has ensured everyone has the opportunity to get involved in something different, something they enjoy and something they are passionate about. Every time someone has an idea, Tom is the first to put his hand up and say he'll help. Whether that's jumping forward to join the EPS Societies' Awards organising committee, forging collaborations with WISE and oSTEM, working across the College to create better relationships in the EPS Community, or offering to bring in new professional speakers or sponsorship to the Society, Tom has done it

all. Given the array of activities he puts on, there is an increasingly regular need for more people to help. Through events such as HackTheMidlands, Women in Tech, hackathons or now the hardware lab, Tom is creating opportunities for CSS members to get involved and build on their own skills sets through volunteering. He is also about to create a new form of volunteering for CSS: in-kind sponsorship of technological events and outreach through their new Hardware Lab. While this will be achieved through sharing the Society's kit, it will require volunteers to assist at these events and create a new and different set of volunteering activities for CSS.

# Diversity and Inclusion Award

This Award recognises individuals or societies who reach out to every member of the University community, putting in extra effort to make sure that everyone is involved and represented.

## MathSoc

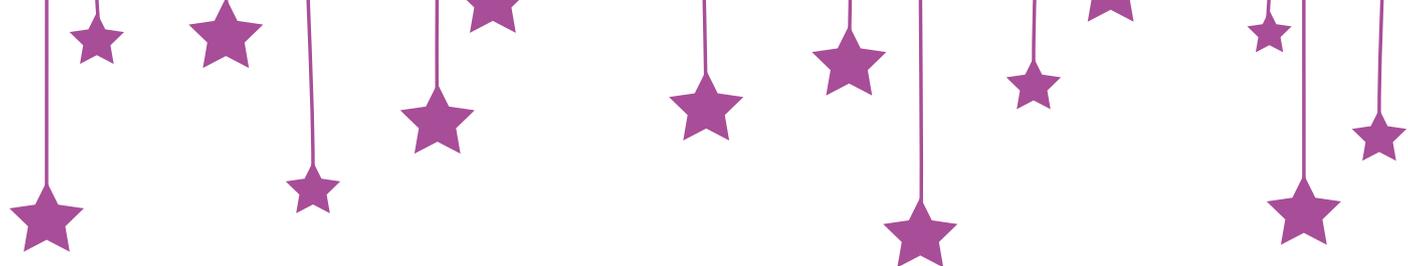
MathSoc set themselves a new objective this year to improve diversity and inclusion within the Society. They began by securing funding to provide free membership to international students as both the Society and the School believed this was the best place to start improving interactions between students. There is now a growing relationship with the School's international community and great friendships are starting to form across previously separate groups. They are also increasing their work with the Mathematics postgraduate community to bring another different set of students into the MathSoc fold. To meet the needs of their expanding and varied membership they have increased the number of opportunities available to their members and organised a huge range of new events so everyone has the chance to get involved in something different.

They have increased the number of non-alcoholic socials, put on more career-related events, arranged an extensive volunteering programme and created a new tutoring scheme. Thanks to this MathSoc has experienced a significant growth in membership from 206 to 289 (now consisting of undergraduates, postgraduates, staff and even alumni), a consistently larger turn out at socials, and a huge leap in attendance for the MathSoc Spring Ball. MathSoc's award-winning Family Scheme continues to grow and help new undergraduates transition into university life with the help of older years taking them under their wings. All of this has made MathSoc a more accommodating society than ever before and has had a significant positive impact on the sense of community within the School.

## Will Moncaster and Matt North: Football Reps, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

As joint Football Reps for BUMS, Matt and Will have seen an increased interest from a number of female Materials students wanting to participate in their football teams and play competitively. This led to the duo using their initiative and taking it upon themselves to create BUMS' first ever mixed football team, ensuring that every member of the Society had an equal opportunity to play and compete as they wanted to. This demonstrates their tireless efforts in making sure that all members of the Society feel included. They were also sure to cater for members who preferred to participate socially and in training rather than in competitive matches and leagues. Collaborating with staff at the Munrow Sports Centre, they arranged weekly sessions in which anyone within

BUMS could turn up for a friendly kick about. Not only this, but after hearing that NucSoc did not have a football team and that members of their society were interested in playing too, Will and Matt wasted no time in inviting them to join their sessions which quickly became a great way to meet new friends. Unfortunately despite their best efforts in attempting to create an EPS mixed football league it was not possible to achieve this during their tenure. However they hope the foundations have been laid for this to start next year (any volunteers please speak to BUMS!). Overall BUMS Football has had a fantastic year and both the men's and mixed teams finished highly in two of the University's intramural leagues.

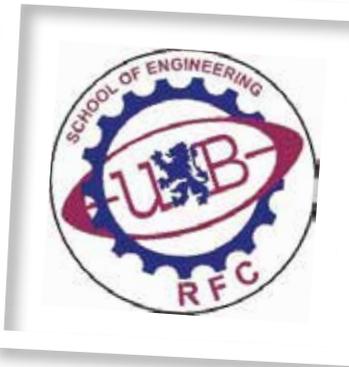




## oSTEM

oSTEM's mission is to make sure they are as inclusive a society as possible. From non-alcoholic socials held in accessible venues with an array of refreshments to cater for varying dietary requirements, to speaker events with a wide range of experts from different backgrounds. As well including guests from STEM fields and various sub-communities of the LGBTQ+ spectrum, oSTEM hold open events for non-LGBTQ students and joint events with other EPS societies such as NucSoc and MechSoc. They also partnered with WISE and CSS for this year's edition of the Women in Technology Conference ensuring that trans and nonbinary people were represented at the event. oSTEM has been at the forefront of the campaign for gender neutral toilets across the College. They consulted with both the

LGBTQ Association and DAMSA (Disabled Students Association) to ensure that any new facilities would not be re-purposed disabled toilets. Gender neutral toilets are important to provide inclusive spaces on campus and oSTEM's Jade Sadler and Amy Cunningham have gone above and beyond their duties on the campaign committee to make sure that all trans and gender-variant students have convenient places to pee and are safe and comfortable on campus. The pair were successful in their campaign to gain gender neutral facilities in the Watson and Metallurgy & Materials Buildings. Not only that, but oSTEM provides a much needed space for LGBTQ scientists to share experiences, make friends and meet mentors at their inspiring Speaking Out events.



## School of Engineering RFC

Unlike many traditional sports teams within the University, Engineering RFC does not discriminate based on ability; they do not hold trials and do not drop players out of the team if they underperform. They actively encourage beginners who have never played rugby before but have an interest in the sport to join the Club. They welcome everyone with open arms, educate all new team members in the laws of the game and train them to their full potential. Just because they are based in Engineering doesn't mean they limit their membership to the School or even the College; they take players from any discipline and occasionally see PhD students join on an ad-hoc basis when their studies allow. They also do not require

participation in rugby games to secure their membership; there is no set match quota to fill as they have many social members who go to training for fitness reasons but do not wish to play competitively either through injury or personal choice. They have also made great efforts to ensure they are financially accessible to everyone. There is a cost involved in any sport to cover kit, equipment, pitch hire, socials, tour and many other activities but the Engineers are acutely aware that many could be priced out of the team due to this. As such they make great efforts to gain sponsorship and keep costs as low as possible, even introducing payment plans to hopefully ease the financial burden.



## WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

WISE's main goal is to bring together like-minded, passionate people to inspire each other and form a truly supportive network for all female students at and affiliated with the University. Through conferences, speaker events and socials the Society creates a network to support and empower women in STEM, no matter what their background or education level. This year they launched a new website, built a mailing list of interested parties, have organised not one but two conferences and introduced a brand-new outreach scheme. They regularly work with local schools and young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to increase their aspirations and introduce them to the real-life applications of science, engineering and technology.

The Women in Technology Conference and Women in Science Forum saw a huge variety of experts deliver experience-based talks to students, applicants and school pupils. WISE have collaborated with many other EPS societies over the year to deliver joint events with oSTEM, CSS, CivSoc, BUMS and NucSoc to name a few. They were also involved in International Women's Day activities through a panel session on the importance of women's networks in the workplace led by CH2M, followed by a cinema trip to see Hidden Figures. WISE is all about increasing diversity and inclusion within STEM subjects, celebrating the diverse role models already in these fields and inspiring others through these powerful messages.

# Sports Personality of the Year

This Award recognises sportspeople who have shown commitment and enthusiasm on and off the pitch; they are the most motivational and inspirational personalities within the team.



## Adam Marsh: Poynting Physical Society FC

Adam is a very keen footballer and long-time member of the Poynting Physical Society's Football Club. While apparently not the most gifted footballer when he joined the team, Adam's commitment has proven second-to-none. He is a consistent sight at every training session, always available for matches and can reliably be called upon when needed. In his time with the team Adam has improved immensely as a footballer and has done his

part to guide other members of the team to great things as well. Adam is a huge character in the Club, not least because of his bright pink socks! His character will be sorely missed after graduating this year.



## George De Bolla: Eagles Hockey

George is a valued and committed member of the Engineering Eagles Hockey Team. Valued because he is a fantastic role model in terms of his personality, sportsmanship and hockey skill. He is also a prominent character at team socials and will rarely miss out on a Monday night visit to Urban Village. He is committed to training and never misses a match, so is someone who the team can always rely on. With great performances on the pitch over the season, George gained the most Man of the Match accreditations out of all the league games

played and has been named the team's Player of the Season. This award was well deserved and can be attributed to many successes including scoring incredible goals, setting up some fantastic shots, being a true team player and regularly volunteering to play out of position but looking like a natural in doing so (especially when at left back). All of this make him an inspiring figure who many players new to the sport look up to.

### James O'Neill: Chairman, School of Engineering RFC



James' commitment to providing regular rugby for the Team has been above and beyond this year, having effectively combined the roles of Fixtures Secretary and Team Manager into one, whilst also chairing a 13-person committee and ensuring all things to do with the Club run smoothly. His year as Chairman has seen the largest Club membership and a huge intake of new recruits from across the College. He has also sourced many new contacts with local men's teams and other University clubs and is responsible for organising over 25 games this year alone. He has also worked with the Rugby Football Union and other partners to secure funding for coach travel to matches which has ensured membership

fees remain affordable. Not only that but his commitment is phenomenal: every training session James is there, every social event James is there. Often dubbed 'the Granddad' of the team, James has always given his everything to the Engineers, regularly coaching training sessions, helping all players to improve their skills and ensuring that everyone feels welcomed and involved. As the University year draws to a close this marks the end of an era for Engineering Rugby as James graduates. True to his organised nature his parting gift to the Club will be a thoroughly detailed spreadsheet of all his knowledge ready to pass onto the next generation. James truly will be missed by all of the Engineers RFC.

### Matthew Soanes: School of Engineering RFC



Matthew joined the team with an already broken leg but such is his love of the sport he turned up to training on his crutches and gleefully cheered the team on at every match. Whether it be a surging effort from the bench or a rousing speech from the sideline he has lifted everyone's performances and morale at every game. When he returned to playing, Mathew's stand out moment was his debut game. During the Engineers' Alumni match, the Old Boys (ie, the graduates) were a player down and Matthew was the first to volunteer to play for the opposition and allow everyone to enjoy the afternoon's game. Of course he was sure to put the rest of the

Engineers firmly through their paces! No ruck is meaningless, no tackle too dangerous, Matthew puts himself through the ultimate physical challenge for the sake of the team. Matthew brings a new edge to the Club by not only being enthusiastic himself, but inspiring others to match his passion. He supports his fellow teammates, assists with training and even helps those injured recover and get back on the pitch, just as he did. Win or lose, Matthew is always encouraging the team to step up a level and he is one of the main reasons the 2016/17 season has been one of the Club's most successful yet.

### Vicci Hammond: Powerlifter and Co-Captain, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society Netball



Vicci has had quite an astonishing year. After taking up powerlifting in Spring 2016 she has already made it onto the University's Team and competed in her first championships last month. Her success at the University Powerlifting Championships, coming 18th in her class for Women's Classic Powerlifting, has led her to qualify for the British National Championships taking place in November. She has already become one of the top 20 powerlifters for her category in Britain; an outstanding

achievement considering she only started training one year ago! She remains 100% committed to her training and lifestyle, even through the stressful exam period and everything else she has going on. As well as this she is an integral part of the BUMS Netball Team, leading them to a successful third place in the University's intramural league. Her dedication is incredible and she's definitely one to watch!

### Will Moncaster and Matt North: Football Reps, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society



Both Will and Matt have been instrumental in the development and progression of BUMS football over the past academic year and as a result it would be impossible to nominate one without the other. The enthusiasm and dedication they have demonstrated towards their teams has been exceptional. BUMS football has made huge improvements this year and is now home to two competitive teams. Thanks to increased interest and hearing that NucSoc don't yet have a football team of their own, the duo have introduced a weekly 'BUMS & NucSoc kick-about' for those who want to play football but prefer the social aspect to competitive matches. They have also expanded

BUMS football and launched a mixed team as well as their existing men's team. Without the hard work of Matt and Will, BUMS football would not have gained so many new players or performed so well in their leagues with the mixed team coming second and men's teams finishing sixth in the University's intramural leagues. Even with their growing teams they made sure everyone was involved and well looked after. For example, they even personally paid the participation fees for players who didn't have the money at the time. Their eagerness to involve everyone and encourage participation is just one example of everything Will and Matt do for the benefit of BUMS Football.

# Sports Team of the Year 2016/17

This Award celebrates sports teams within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences that are acknowledged as both high performing and tight-knit. These teams can be part of a school or society, or entirely independent. They work exceptionally well as a team, play to the strengths of all members, stick together whether they win or lose, promote sporting activity and encourage healthy competition.

## BUMS Mixed Netball

The enthusiasm of the Netball Reps this year has attracted a variety of people with different abilities to play for BUMS. Several new faces have joined the team and they've even gained a few members from NucSoc. The team's ethos has been fantastic; everyone gelled quickly as a group and 'had each others' back'. Many come from different courses and year groups so wouldn't necessarily know one another if it weren't for netball. Although BUMS unfortunately didn't have the funding to hold weekly training sessions, the netballers always gave their best and strived to improve themselves at each

game. They worked on each other's techniques, strengths and weaknesses at every match, growing a stronger and tighter team. Their light-hearted nature kept matches fun with a good social aspect, even when playing against (slightly intimidating!) teams in full, matching kit, who were playing to win. Despite most people on the team not having much (or any) experience, BUMS Netball came third in the University's intramural league. This was an achievement made even more amazing by the fact that they beat teams who train regularly and tirelessly throughout the year!

## Eagles Hockey

This has been an exemplary year for 'Engineering' Eagles Hockey; although the name 'Engineering' is no longer fit as they have extended their membership to become one of the most inclusive teams across EPS and beyond, with members from physics to physiotherapy. No one is excluded and their match-day squad is so large that there are substitutes for substitutes and spectators cheering the team on. Their pre-season worries over several of the 2016 squad graduating were soon quashed with eager new members joining. The Eagles have embraced the intramural spirit and make friends with other teams, loaned out spare players and arranged numerous friendlies throughout the season. The team are always keen to increase their appeal across

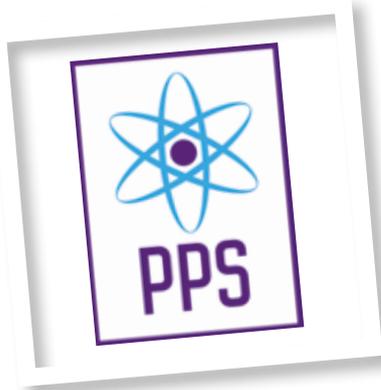
campus and have secured sponsorship from PwC for a second year running, enabling them to welcome a wider variety of students from across the EPS community to the team. It is testament to the spirit of the club that players would rather play for the Eagles than the University teams and alumni regularly return to don the shirt again. Even with such a large team they have remained inclusive of all abilities, maintained a real mix of male and female students and built a strong sense of camaraderie. The Eagles have clearly cemented their legacy by yet again winning the University intramural league and have been crowned best hockey team in the UK for the second consecutive year at the Frank Morton chemical engineering sports day competition.



### MathSoc FC

MathSoc FC have had another successful football season competing in the University's intramural sports league. By scoring a last-minute winner in their final game of the season MathSoc FC celebrated with an unbeaten record. They came perilously close to extending this to winning every game in the entire year, but devastatingly narrowly lost 3-2 in a closely contested Cup Final, despite dominating for most of the match! The team managed to achieve all of this despite their Captain getting injured in only the second game of the season and being unable to take part again until the Cup

Final. MathSoc FC changed tack this year and now play a possession-based game more akin to the Premier League than Sunday League games. It was this talented interplay across the skilled team that enabled them to be so successful. They have gone from strength to strength and have more members involved than ever before. The social side of the team has been excellent, especially concerning the integration of first years not just into the team but also into MathSoc and university life in general. They have provided a great opportunity to get maths students involved in sport.



### Poynting Physical Society FC

PPS FC prides itself on its ability to bring together many students in an active, fun and inclusive environment. The team is entirely funded by the Poynting Physical Society, so students do not need to worry about registration fees, making it accessible to everyone. This year the team intake was the largest ever, with 70 physics students ranging from first year to PhD level attending weekly training sessions and matches. PPS FC have developed tremendously over the course of the season and have transformed from a group of individuals with all different abilities into a tightly knit group of friends who have greatly improved as players. Their sheer numbers coupled with funding from the Society allowed the

team to enter two sides into the IMS leagues, encouraging a high level of involvement across the whole Club. This year PPS FC's first team topped their league by a four point margin with a 7-1-2 record; a league that has been dominated by EconSoc for the past three years! The team extends further than the pitch and social nights are frequently held with an annual awards dinner to mark the end the season where prizes are presented to players to recognise their hard work and development throughout the year. PPS FC has helped bridge the gap between different academic years and groups of people to create a good social platform for a more integrated department.



### School of Engineering RFC

During the past 12 months the Engineers have stepped up. Pre-season preparations started early and over 25 fixtures were set for the year. The creation of the Kit Secretary and more sponsorship allowed for new kit and equipment. Costs to members have been reduced through the creation of an online club shop allowing players to buy kit as and when they need it and have the funds. The Club has seen fantastic membership retention thanks to a superb recruitment campaign and now holds over 80 members. Another successful alumni game has maintained a strong relationship with Old Boys and the Malaga Tour provided a unique opportunity for the Club. In the true spirit of rugby, the team has displayed an impressive level of inclusion: anyone who wants to play

gets their chance. Performances on the pitch have been outstanding with a streak of wins against teams from BCU and Warwick, local clubs and our very own UoB squad. This success was due to an enthusiastic committee organising two to three training sessions per week throughout the year. This extra commitment meant that more elite players who wished to develop their game could do so, while those who were more interested in social participation could pick their sessions to suit them. Thus, the Club has made an exceptional effort to cater for all levels of ability and has seen outstanding commitment from every member. To top the year off they've also had a former player called up to the Danish National Rugby Team!

# Industrial Award

This Award recognises an individual or society whose work in creating industrial links or employment opportunities for fellow students reflects the values of the University: excellence, distinctiveness, impact, confidence, and pride.



**Chloe Connolly:** Industrial Rep, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

Chloe has been a great asset to BUCES this year, organising many events to ensure members have the best possible employment opportunities both as students and beyond. She is very approachable, always offering advice from her own experiences and giving her time to help those looking for placements. In November she organised the Industrial Dinner which saw a record number of companies attend, including the IChemE. Along with arranging logistics, she ensured all companies invited had the opportunity to mix with students, making the Dinner a resounding success. She also opened the event to students from other disciplines leading to better inter-department relations. She secured further sponsorship for the Society in order to put on more events including the Winter Ball and achieved team sponsorship for the annual Frank Morton

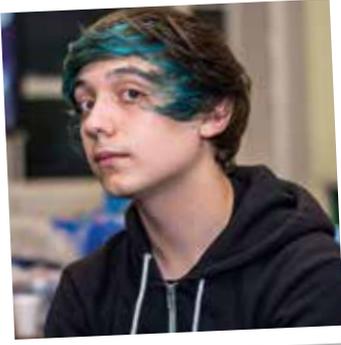
chemical engineering student sports day. New for 2017 Chloe worked with BUCES' Charity Rep to put on a dodgeball tournament with Exxon Mobil, allowing students to mix with the company on a more social basis while also raising money for charity. As well as all this Chloe has arranged a huge array of amazing talks from companies, granting greater insight into the role of a Chemical Engineer. First years had informational sessions offering an idea of the breadth of jobs available. For second, third and fourth years she invited industrial partners to present workshops on improving applications and CV writing skills. Throughout the year Chloe has worked tirelessly for the benefit of BUCES, resulting in an ever-increasing number of students securing employment.



**CSS, WISE and oSTEM**

The Women in Technology Conference returned this year for its second appearance. Organised by last year's partnership of WISE and CSS, and this time joined by oSTEM the Conference was a truly collaborative project. The day-long Conference was dedicated to showcasing women in technological fields with chosen speakers, sponsors, workshops and networking. The experience offered the chance to not only meet like-minded people but also showcased the wide range of opportunities within a previously male-dominated field. External speakers, professionals and recruitment experts were invited from all over the country to deliver talks and workshops on their respective fields and offer an insight into the day-to-day role of someone working in the technology sector. As well as this the attendees were

provided with plenty of time to interact with a wide range of companies and ultimately find out about careers they may not have previously heard of. The committee worked very hard to find sponsorship from a mix of companies. Some of their sponsors continued from the 2016 event, proving the success and progression of their relationships to a long-standing partnership, while others were brand new for 2017. The committee ensured there were plenty of opportunities for their sponsors to get involved and interact with attendees in order to both meet their own recruitment needs and also spread the word about this growing industry. It is the collaboration between the three societies and continued development of the WIT Conference's sponsorship programme that makes the Conference a huge success.



## Tom Goodman and the whole Society: CSS: Computer Science Society

Tom has significantly increased industrial ties for CSS this year to give its members many new opportunities. He holds numerous positions in the technology community allowing him to reach out to a wide range of companies and influential people. Thanks to these links CSS has received over £22,000 in sponsorship; twice as much as last year! In October Tom worked with the British Computer Society, Majestic, Codio and other tech companies to organise HackTheMidlands. The event was an amazing opportunity for attendees to network with sponsors and improve their prospects in industry. Following this Tom was invited to give a 25-minute talk at the BCS National Convention in London, which went down incredibly well and secured further sponsorship for other events including the Women in Technology Conference, BullHacks and BrumHack 6.0. Tom also

works closely with Silicon Canal, Birmingham's equivalent of Silicon Valley and Silicon Roundabout, and was recently appointed lead of their ambassadors working group where he will be looking at improving communication and interaction in the Birmingham tech community over the coming year. Industrial liaisons have now spread beyond Tom and into others in CSS. The Society has created some excellent opportunities with companies and people to create a gateway for the future careers of its members. Income and sponsorships from major companies has allowed CSS to put huge investment into new hardware like Thalmic Myo Gesture Control Armbands and VR headsets and giving their members the opportunity to experience some of the newest technology around.

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## UBRacing



UBRacing's ongoing success is testament to the strong links it has forged with its industrial partners, sponsors and supporters. These relationships provide students with the hands-on industrial and business experience much valued by future employers. UBRacing currently has more than 30 sponsors including some of the world's top engineering companies such as Aston Martin, Mazak, Autodesk and Norelem. This year the Team has added EPM Technology as a long-term sponsor. Due to UBRacing's high quality of work and professionalism, EPM have created a bespoke internship so that one of the team can go on placement with them next year. They have also forged a link between new sponsor FLIR Thermal Image Research and the wider Department of Mechanical Engineering and have arranged a drop-in session for staff and students

as part of FLIR's 'Bring the Heat' technology tour to give insight into thermal imaging products and demonstrate the many opportunities the company presents. UBRacing has also strengthened connections with Autodesk and introduced the use of their software and machining to a third year group project designing carbon fibre wheels. The Team recognises the value of industrial relationships as partnerships and gives back whenever possible. For example this year they supported Aston Martin at the Malvern Festival of Innovation and Mazak use UBRacing machined parts to demonstrate their capabilities to customers. Working in partnership with such a wide spectrum of companies, UBRacing is helping develop its members professional skills as well as their engineering capabilities and is setting everyone up for great careers after graduation.

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## WISE: Women in Science and Engineering



One of WISE's aims at the start of this year was to work with as many companies as possible to ensure representation and unique employability opportunities for students across the College of EPS. Despite never having received sponsorship for the Society before, the entire committee managed to secure the support of three of the 'Big 4' consulting firms as regular annual sponsors. As well as this, due to events such as the Women in Technology Conference, Women in Science Forum and regular Wise Inspire speaker sessions, the Society is now working with Rolls-Royce, Accenture, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Instron, the Institute of Physics, CH2M, Nationwide and FDM just to name a few! To ensure members have as many opportunities as possible to interact with sponsors, 15 individual

careers-related events were hosted over the course of six months. These included an exclusive mock assessment centre at the EY Birmingham offices, and a panel discussion hosted by CH2M in partnership with CivSoc on the importance of women's support networks and equality and diversity groups in the workplace. In addition to events, the generosity of WISE's sponsors has enabled the creation of the new 'Girls in STEM' outreach mentoring scheme. The committee's enthusiasm and professionalism has made WISE a target society for employers with a steady stream of recruitment opportunities being offered to its members. WISE's new committee is looking forward to taking these relationships further so that members can get as much out of the Society and its sponsorship links as possible.

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# EPS Community Award

This Award recognises the exemplary contributions of individual student members or entire societies to the College Community.



## Engineering Spring Ball: CivSoc, EESE Soc and MechSoc

This year saw the inauguration of the Engineering Spring Ball for the new School of Engineering. With the creation of the School encompassing the Departments of Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering, their respective societies were keen to develop a bond, encourage integration amongst all students and staff, and to build a sense of community. They also recognised the need for the three subject societies to maintain their identities while working together with the other five societies in the School. The newly formed Ball Committee worked tirelessly to plan every meticulous detail, even down to ensuring there was a mix of disciplines on each table allowing everyone to socialise and bond with peers outside of their own subject. By organising smaller events throughout the year the

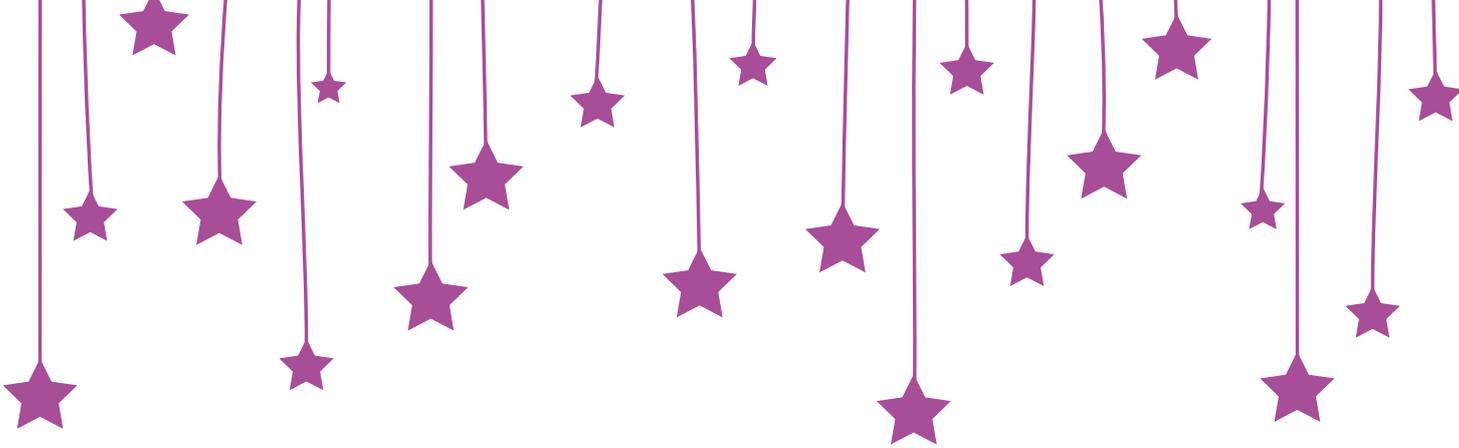
Committee not only managed to raise enough funds for the Ball, but also introduced the notion of society collaboration and some healthy competition with pub quizzes and sports tournaments. With a champagne reception, string quartet, three-course dinner and a DJ into the early hours, this was the perfect way to mark the end of the School's first year. This was the first large-scale event for Engineering, but it certainly won't be the last. It was this full collaboration between the societies and the hard work from their respective committee members that made this such a special event. The Ball is sure to be repeated next year and there are already plans for more joint events and competitions, with ideas to include more societies and increase interaction across the whole College.



## EWB: Engineers Without Borders

The EWB committee set themselves the goal this year to increase their involvement with the EPS Community and form new bonds with more of the College societies than ever before. This has been achieved through a number of activities, most notably a trip to the ThinkTank Museum with NucSoc and the live music evening PearJam. PearJam was planned as both a fundraising evening and a way to unite students from across the College. Not only was this considered to be the most successful fundraising evening in the history of the Society, raising over £200 for Engineers Without Borders UK, it also presented the opportunity to promote their work. Through the hard work and perseverance of the committee an amazing event was pulled off and new relationships between societies were formed,

paving the way for more future collaboration. Within the Society itself, membership has increased from just five non-committee members at the end of last year to 20 today, and the CAMCAT project now has 40 members. Also, as EWB's outreach projects grow, their volunteer numbers have significantly increased. They have held four speaker events to encourage interaction with industry and give students the opportunity to demonstrate their soft skills in front of employers and mix in a more informal environment. EWB have started a fresh this year and thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of their committee, they have reinvigorated the Society and have built a solid base on which to continue to grow.



### Mozilla Campus Club

Mozilla Campus Club is a new society founded this year, with the aim of bringing together people from all parts of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences with a common goal: exploring technology. After only four months they have recruited members from several schools across the College, from Computer Science to Physics. Their membership is increasing week on week as they promote collaboration between like-minded people from across the University and the local community. They have already collaborated with the Computer Science Society to run an event around virtual reality in which attendees were able to both build and explore virtual reality environments. They are also looking beyond EPS and have an exciting event planned for June

in collaboration with the University's Craft Society. This event aims to bring the two very different societies together to design something unique: wearable technology. They plan to create keyrings, badges and t-shirts that will contain Near Field Communication chips which, when brought near a compatible smartphone, can perform actions ranging from launching websites or apps to prompting the user to interact with the product on social media. By combining the creative skills and resources of the Craft Society with the technical knowledge and equipment from the Mozilla Campus Club, the event is set to deliver something completely unique.



### WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

In 2016/17 WISE collaborated with more societies than ever before to deliver a series of highly successful events. On the WISE committee alone, members range from first-year undergraduates to final-year PhD students, with representation from all EPS schools: this made for a great starting point. In October they worked with the University's branch of Enactus for an exclusive insight into Unilever. This partnership continued with an ice skating and Christmas Market social in December. In November WISE partnered with CSS and oSTEM to deliver the second Women in Technology Conference; a day of talks and workshops from guest speakers and sponsors to over 130 attendees from both within the University community and from several local schools and sixth forms. In March they held an exclusive networking

and discussion session with CH2M and other civil engineering companies on women's support networks in collaboration with CivSoc. In celebration of International Women's Day, they held a joint social with NucSoc, oSTEM and BUMS to see the film Hidden Figures. They also delivered the first Women in Science Forum and themed WISE Inspire events, both of which attracted attendees from a huge array of disciplines and interest areas. In addition to all of these events, several EPS societies are interested in collaborating with WISE's new outreach scheme. As a society whose message spreads across the entire College (and more recently into the College of Life and Environmental Sciences too), reaching out to other societies has been a priority for the committee this year.

# Inspirational Committee Member

This Award recognises those committee members who are the heart and soul of their society. Through a positive attitude and proactivity they ensure their society is engaging and that members have the opportunity to get fully involved to reach their full potential.



**Charlotte Wellard:** President, EWB: Engineers Without Borders

Charlotte took up the mantle as EWB's President when the Society only had two active members and had resigned itself to watching TED Talks for its weekly meeting. She has worked tirelessly to expand the appeal of EWB to the wider College and local community. With an entirely new committee she led a successful recruitment campaign during Freshers' Week, dramatically increasing new members. She ensures everyone is clearly briefed on what they need to achieve and that they are comfortable in their position. She helped attract two speaker visits, greatly enhancing the dynamic of the Society and giving members an insight into what they are trying to achieve in the outside world. She also assisted the Outreach Team when recruiting new STEM Ambassadors and helped arrange a training

venue close to campus. Furthermore she organised two music nights to fundraise for CAMCAT and EWB. Through organisation, effective communication and a determination to ensure the Society strives to be the best, Charlotte has been an inspiration to not only the committee but to the wider Society. Members are more interested in the positive impact they can have as part of EWB than ever before. Charlotte has also shown she is an amazing team member, embracing other people's ideas and developing them, encouraging others to perform to their best as well and dealing with difficulties in a calm and collected manner. Charlotte has well and truly turned EWB around and the next President has very big boots to fill.



**Edward Chamberlain:** Chief Engineer, UBRobotics

Edward has been the driving force behind UBRobotics, this year and his devotion has transformed them from a small interest group to a sizeable robotics club capable of international competition. As a member of UBRobotics, Edward has been a core part of everything the Club has achieved so far, playing a central role in their competition preparations and is a great inspiration to all members. As Chief Engineer he has organised the design and build of this year's competition robots and encouraged many more new members to join the Club. Largely thanks to him UBRobotics have had huge successes with 3D printing, looked into new technologies and built their workshop from scratch. He also encourages as many team members as possible to get involved in outreach to inspire

young people to get involved in robotics, and other promotional activities to grow the Club's reputation. Edward has played a significant role in teaching skills to new and existing members by running Arduino and Raspberry Pi workshops, organising coding sessions, and taking huge amounts of time to encourage and motivate his teammates. Both his knowledge and willingness to learn a vast range of topics for the benefit of the Club has made him an incredibly supportive committee member. He will dive into technical documents and hundreds of lines of code and then teach his team so they can all share these new skills. His extraordinary technical knowledge clearly motivates the team and has made UBRobotics a great place to learn, practise, compete and be inspired.



### Emily Gormall: 3rd Year Rep, PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Not only does Emily easily fulfil the responsibilities of 3rd Year Rep with great flair encouraging large numbers of students to attend each and every event, but she also volunteers herself at every opportunity to take on further responsibilities for the Society. If ideas are needed, she would come prepared to the next committee meeting with a list, pictures and plans. Emily's most valuable contribution is most definitely the role she played in organising the 2017 PPS Spring Ball. Despite never having been on the committee before, Emily took organisation into her own hands and oversaw one of the best events PPS has ever seen. Starting in the first semester Emily visited venues across Birmingham and created an extensive database of their merits, flaws and costs, allowing this and future committees to make

informed decisions. She then acted as the main contact with the Botanical Gardens and approached everything from menus to security with great enthusiasm and excitement. Emily then went one stage further by proposing homemade table centrepieces that would drastically reduce costs but still retain the Ball's grandeur. She then proceeded to slave away for days (although in her modesty she would never admit it took that much time) to craft these complex and truly spectacular decorations by hand. She deserves a huge amount of credit for what was a fantastic event. Emily's humour and wit made committee meetings lively; her commitment is truly inspirational and she has been a role model and inspiration to the rest of the committee.



### James O'Neill: Chairman, School of Engineering RFC

James has been a very committed member of the Engineering Rugby Team for his full four years at University. His most recent position of Chairman has seen him manage the current committee, ensuring everyone does their bit and frequently picks up extra duties as they come along. James really is at the centre of the Club, organising the vast majority of any logistics and growing the team with more and more new members. He has been in regular communication with representatives from the Rugby Football Union and through this has acquired kit and equipment to help the Team progress their training sessions and improve rugby skills. James has worked hard to further the Team's link with local club Dixonians RFC, organising the loan of

players and often playing himself even when his own Club has a game in order to help them out. His commitment to the Engineers is obvious when it comes down to the small but very important things such as washing kit and taking rugby balls to training which he does more than anyone else! Most notably James is very welcoming to new team members and ensures the whole team gel not only on the pitch but off it too. He has organised countless socials and created a real bond between all players. James has transformed the Club and leaves them in the best possible position for the new committee. He is the backbone of Engineering Rugby and will be greatly missed when he graduates this summer.



### Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Tom has worked incredibly hard for CSS and has gone above and beyond all requirement and expectations of a President. And he's only just begun as he has recently been re-elected to continue his reign for a second year. He's organised more events than the Society has ever seen and made sure that everyone feels included and involved. His enthusiasm, passion and excitement never falter and he is rarely seen without a smile on his face. Inevitably, as with any society there have been difficult periods but he has handled these diligently and doesn't stop until he has a solution. Tom's devotion is clearly recognised by his committee and the wider CSS as he inspires them to do more as a society. He

is strengthening links with the local and national technology community, working with more and more companies to achieve sponsorship, and is committed to firmly embedding CSS in the external world of computer science. He is also extending links to other societies in the College such as GDS, oSTEM, Mozilla Campus Club and WISE, working in collaboration with them to deliver exciting new events. Tom is the heart and soul of CSS and has created a sense of community and family within the School of Computer Science. It's clear that Tom has a real passion and drive to keep the Society running successfully, and make it bigger, better and stronger every year.

# Role Model of the Year

This Award recognises those who exemplify the best within themselves and others, and are recognised as a role model for their achievements and ability to get the job done.



**Aimee Goodall:** Secretary, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Despite being a PhD student in the final stages of her experimental work Aimee has stayed heavily involved with WISE, playing a key role in all events this year. She enthusiastically joined the WISE committee and became one of the most active members and undoubtedly, an irreplaceable one. From running her own events within the Society to helping organise others, such as the Women in Technology Conference, she actively encourages every single WISE member to do more within scientific communication and outreach. Aimee is always the first to volunteer when a new sub-committee is needed to run a specific event, and on more than one occasion has ended up carrying vast amounts of equipment and left over materials home with her. As well as her contributions to WISE, Aimee is a keen member

of BrumSciComm and is involved in outreach activities across the West Midlands, including running an impromptu one-woman show in front of thousands of school children at the Big Bang Fair! Her enthusiasm, positive attitude and determination have improved the morale and motivation of other committee members when things didn't quite go to plan, and she has been an ever-present support for those new to the Society. Her modestly and self-critical nature means that she is always keen to improve on her contributions and seeks feedback as often as possible. Aimee is the go-to person whenever anyone needs a little encouragement or optimism coming their way. From study advice, careers suggestions to personal matters, Aimee is always there.



**Arushi Madan:** EESE Soc

Within just one year Arushi has earned countless accolades for her work, both academic and extracurricular, across the University. She is winner of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's Best Undergraduate Project Poster Presentation Award for her work on child safety systems, as awarded at the University of Warwick this term. She is a keen debater and incredibly knowledgeable on global campaigns and politics. So expert is her knowledge that she won the Best Delegate Award at both the University of Birmingham's and University of Nottingham's International Model United Nations Conferences, UBIMUN and NOTTSMUN. Thanks to these esteemed prizes she has just been appointed the new Secretary General of Birmingham's United Nations Society for the 2017/18 academic year. Her leadership qualities and

eloquence extend to her also being appointed the new Sergeant at Arms of the Birmingham's Toastmasters Club. As well as all of this Arushi is the departmental Student Representative for Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, acting as the successful liaison between her fellow students and staff. Her particular focus this year has been improving the process for assignment and assessment feedback. Continuing with her departmental work, Arushi is responsible for the smooth functioning of activities in EESE Soc and also functions as the link between members and the Society's leadership. All of this in just her first year of University! Arushi is an incredible orator, fearless debater, responsible leader and above all a kind and caring person to everyone around her.



**Edna Gama Vaz de Conceição:** Vice President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering and Founder Member, Mozilla Campus Club

Edna has been an incredibly skilled leader of WISE over the past two academic years. As Publicity Officer last year she built crucial contacts from industrial leaders and recruiters in the name of the Society, thus gaining valuable sponsorship in order to support its activities and maintain the free membership status of WISE. With her tactical and professional skills, she brought some of their top leaders onto campus for networking and inspirational talks. Her contributions are invaluable in developing the Society's profile and with her ideas and great effort she established the most successful event so far for WISE; the Women in Technology Conference. Furthermore as this year's Vice-President she expanded the range of career-related events of the Society, reaching a broader

range of students and increasing membership. She attacks each and every task with great conviction and strength. This approach shines through with her studies, society and personal life. Edna is incredibly passionate about WISE and stands up for what is right and true. She is a driven and strong leader not only through her aptitude for delegation and organisational skills, but also through her ability to notice when others are struggling, even without them seeking help. She takes a genuine interest in the lives of those she works with and is a source of comfort and advice when things get tough. She is a wonderfully approachable person who sees potential in everyone, even if they can't see it themselves and actively helps them grow.



**Ed Wong:** President, MathSoc

Ed has taken MathSoc to new heights, successfully introducing a large number of new activities leading to an increased involvement with the Society. MathSoc's core aim this year was to increase inclusion; Ed has been a strong advocate for this and ensured inclusivity has been at the centre of everything the Society planned. He actively took the time to introduce himself to everyone across the School and it's his personal touch which has really made staff and students alike feel involved. Ed has grown in confidence from a shy first year to a superb role model and confident ambassador. He gives student experience talks at AVDs and both applicants and parents have stated that it would be great to be like him in three or four years time. Many of the committee have

commented on his leadership skills, attributing a lot of the Society's success this year to his encouragement and willingness to try anything that may be of benefit to MathSoc. He even learnt to drive a minibus just so that runners could get to the Coventry Half Marathon! His dedication, charisma and love of the Society are summed up by him presenting his end of year speech as a song (despite him apparently not being able to sing – at all!). Ed is easily approachable and puts others before himself, remaining unflappable in the face of high stress. His leadership has kept the committee united and focussed and enabled the atmosphere in Maths to be transformed by creating such a strong, positive community.



**Huw Wainwright:** Sports Rep, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

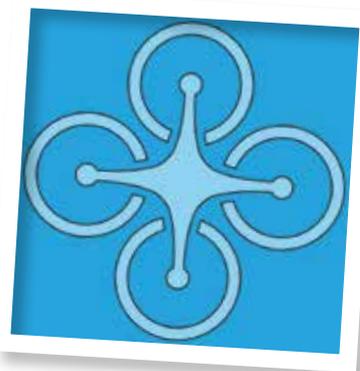
From the get go Huw went above and beyond in his role of BUCES's Sports Rep. He volunteered to arrange the annual freshers team-building trip to Coniston, and went out of his way to make all the new students feel truly welcomed and part of BUCES. Huw later took part in the Great Birmingham Run, raising money for Acorns Children's Hospice. However his greatest achievement came in the form of Frank Morton. He single-handedly organised the University's involvement in the annual national chemical engineering student sports day. This role was perfect for him as he got to work across the Society, encouraging everyone to join in and therefore ensuring there were more Birmingham students at the competition than any other University. The day went off without a hitch and was thoroughly enjoyed by all 250

Birmingham Chemical Engineers who made the journey to Loughborough. Huw made sure everyone was in the right place at the right time and well looked after, even sacrificing his own celebrations at the end of the competition to make sure everyone else enjoyed themselves. It's fair to say his efforts substantially contributed to Birmingham retaining the Frank Morton trophy for the third year running. Never fretting and always calm, Huw brings an energy to committee meetings and events which makes others feel at ease. His friendly and approachable demeanour sets an example to others, that everyone should help each other where they can in order to make the most out of the Society and therefore the course.

# Head of College Idea of the Year

This Award recognises an individual or society who has been involved in an innovative new project or event that has had a significant impact on their school or society.

## Society founding: Drone Society



Despite being in its infancy, the University's Drone Society has accomplished a lot in the past year, including the construction of several drones and increased competency of our pilots. Drones are part of the current zeitgeist and the Drone Society represents these forward-thinking ideas, seeking to provide a University-wide platform for students interested in all things drone related. The Society is just a year old but has already successfully built, flown, and programmed a set of 250-drones, and some pre-built mini drones, and is currently working on developing their skillset ready for the 2017/18 academic year. They are also most of the way there with their 450-drone as well, and are waiting

for a vibration-resistant mount to come back after 3D printing. They are already honing their aerobatic skills, reliably executing flips and rolls during controlled indoor flight sessions and getting ready for some exciting new projects coming soon. The Society has also begun preliminary programming and has started the development of an interface which will allow members to test their programs in the safety of a simulated environment before uploading them to the drone to test in the real world. As for future ideas, they are working on introducing aerial photography sessions, (semi-) autonomous flying and lots more drone excitement!

## Engineering Spring Ball: CivSoc, EESE Soc, Mech Soc



The Engineering Spring Ball in March 2017 was the first large-scale event for the new School of Engineering. The organising committee, made up of representatives from the three departmental societies of CivSoc, EESE Soc and Mech Soc, worked tirelessly not only to deliver an excellent social event with great food and entertainment, but provide an opportunity to bring everyone in the new School together. The merging of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering disciplines made each of their societies consider how they identify and distinguish themselves in this new School, and how can they communicate their differences and importance to the new combined-first-year cohort of students. The societies rose to the challenge and the Engineering Spring Ball helped answer these questions by positively

reflecting the purpose of aligning disciplines and proving that through collaboration they can provide a unique experience for students; skills which everyone can take forward into the professional world. This was a fantastic opportunity for the societies to work together and create an event that was welcoming to all staff and students. The Ball encouraged integration across the whole School and created a great environment for future joint events. A fantastic night was had by all and many attendees commented on how well everyone mixed. Thanks to the Ball, the three Societies are now set up to create more combined events with greater opportunities for students and staff in the School to network and socialise together.



### Society founding: Mozilla Campus Club

Mozilla Campus Club is the newest society in the College, having only existed since February 2017. In the past four months they have run weekly meetings with the aim of teaching members essential web skills, from how to manipulate websites and build your own, to embedding virtual reality usable with Google Cardboard. The Club also encourages its members to share their knowledge with others and provides them with the skills to teach others. So far they have worked on a number of projects including building web-controlled robots and developing methods of recording achievements using Bitcoin blockchain. They closed last term with an event in collaboration with CSS on virtual reality and allowed attendees to explore what had been created throughout the term. They already have two events planned for the

summer. The first is a wearable technology event in June in collaboration with the University's Craft Society. Here they plan to provide attendees with the opportunity to turn their favourite images into a variety of wearable items such as keyrings, badges and t-shirts, which will be embedded with Near Field Communication chips. When near a compatible smartphone these chips can perform almost anything including launching websites and apps or prompting the user to like a page on Facebook or Twitter. Their second event will invite a local school onto campus and to learn the basics of programming and creating maze-solving games. They've had an incredible year and are set to continue to do great things!

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### EPS Interviews: SATNAV: Science and Technology News and Views



SATNAV have grown immensely this year taking on new members and projects, as well as expanding their bi-annual magazine. In particular, they jumped at the opportunity to take advantage of the fantastic speakers the College has been fortunate enough to work with this year. This started in November when alumnus Professor Sir J. Fraser Stoddart, former Head of the School of Chemistry and winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry returned to the University to deliver a special lecture on his work. SATNAV arranged the University's only interview with the father of molecular machinery! Through his lecture and subsequent interview, they were able to gain insight into the life of one of the world's

leading scientific minds and worked with the Alumni Office, College Marketing Team and University Press Office to share their article. Following this success, in March they covered the latest EPS Distinguished Lecture and met computer science and electronics alumnus and serial technology entrepreneur Osman Kent. This time the interview was filmed and they brilliantly created a talking-heads style recording that looked into Osman's journey from Birmingham to Silicon Valley. These interviews both raised the profile of SATNAV, bringing it to the attention of more and more people, and offered an alternative insight to these inspirational speakers so that the whole University can benefit from their experiences.

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### Girls in STEM Outreach Scheme: WISE: Women in Science and Engineering



Inspired by previous outreach experiences from the STEM Ambassador Scheme and being University Outreach Progression Mentors, the WISE committee set out to start their own outreach programme focusing on young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their aim is to encourage more girls to consider science or engineering as a part of their future, and in November 2016 "Girls in STEM" officially launched. In just four months, 12 sessions were carried out in one school alone led by 25 student volunteers. Activities included fraction dominoes, making bath bombs, designing bridges, egg drop experiments and using UV beads to make bracelets and pompoms. All sessions were designed and carried out by the volunteers, and all

materials purchased thanks to the Society's generous sponsors. The success of the Scheme is evidenced by how far the pupils have progressed in less than an academic year. Almost 40% of the pupils have moved up at least one set in maths, with one pupil becoming the 2nd highest achieving student in her year! Over 90 EPS students have now registered their interest to volunteer, enabling the Scheme to expand in the coming academic year to further schools and more groups within each school, ensuring that up to 60 pupils are reached every week. Thanks to generous support by the Alumni Impact Fund and potential collaboration with various other EPS societies, this is set to be a sustainable programme for years to come.

# The Great Achievement in EPS Award

This Award recognises outstanding contribution to the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, encapsulates the positive traits celebrated through all other Awards, and seeks to recognise exceptional individuals within the EPS Societies. These are our future leading alumni.



**Charlotte Wellard:** President, EWB: Engineers Without Borders

Charlotte has made this a standout year for EWB with increases in membership, volunteering opportunities, money raised and greater participation. Her enthusiasm to reform the Society, combined with her positive attitude drove EWB forward – leading to new industrial connections and one of their most successful fundraising years with more than £580 raised. She worked hard to improve members' experiences, encouraged them to get involved in outreach, organised exciting new opportunities and reformed weekly meetings. Charlotte also secured a guest speaker from Severn Trent to talk about how an engineering company is improving sustainability and diversifying renewable energy, as well as giving a presentation about careers in the water industry. Under her leadership, the outreach

portion of the Society has improved immensely with a vast increase in workshops delivered to local schools. At the end of the last academic year EWB had fewer than five returning non-committee members, now there are at least 80. In addition to this, her strong leadership has allowed the CamCat Project to become established within the EPS Community to such an extent that as of next year, the project will become its own separate society. Charlotte is always willing to go out of her way to help others and has taken on a variety of new roles this year, such as being on the EPS Societies' Awards organising committee and Social Secretary for the University's Judo Club. There is no doubt that without Charlotte's enthusiasm and determination, EWB would have become stagnant but she has changed all that!



**Edna Gama Vaz de Conceição:** Vice President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering and Founder Member, Mozilla Campus Club

Edna is an integral founder member of both WISE and the new Mozilla Campus Club; it would not have been possible to do everything either society has done without her unending support. She seems to know people in every society across the University not just those in EPS, a quality that has encouraged a huge amount of collaboration. She was responsible for much of the work involved in running both the Women in Technology Conference and Women in Science Forum, both of which she chaired. She has been involved in the management of many of WISE's activities including a mock assessment centre at the EY Birmingham offices, a Coding event with PwC, liaising with Nationwide for

WISE Inspire, and assisting with a networking session with KPMG. Outside of societies this year she sat as the student representative on the EPS Alumni Impact Fund panel. During her time at Birmingham Edna has earned tremendous respect from a wide group of students and staff. She truly is a force to be reckoned with and is well known across the University for getting the job done to the highest standard. Even while being so active in the societies and outreach, Edna is still on track to obtain a first class degree this year! She is a great inspiration to many students from both at the University and in the schools she works with, and is an amazing advocate for women in science.



### Ed Wong: President, MathSoc

Ed has given an incredible amount of his free time to make MathSoc the best it can be and for the last 12 months he has eaten, slept and breathed the society. With Ed at its helm, MathSoc has increased membership, improved engagement and increased attendance at every event. He has introduced new activities while keeping focus on the goal of increasing diversity within the Society and worked with staff and the School to achieve this. As a result 24% of people attending the London Science Museum trip were international students. His strong leadership has kept the committee united and focussed, and enabled the atmosphere in the School to be further transformed by creating such a positive community. Alongside all this Ed

is Treasurer of Carnival Rag and raises money through events such as Lost, Escape & Evade, hiked up Kilimanjaro, cut off his 'man bun', skydived and even signed up to run the Bilbao Night Marathon in November. As if this wasn't enough, Ed has been donating his time to Nightline. In a year with high expectations he has shown a sensible and calm approach to his role. In spite of his huge workload Ed is easily approachable and puts others before himself remaining unflappable in the face of high stress. His commitment is impressive, he has maintained his high grades and is one of the School's most trusted and reliable ambassadors. MathSoc would not be as great as it is without Ed and he will graduate leaving the society in a fantastic position.



### Edward Chamberlain: Chief Engineer, UBRobotics

Edward has dedicated himself completely and unconditionally to UBRobotics and has been at the forefront of all new developments and ideas this year. From running new workshops for members that introduce the basics of coding, taking the lead on the design and build of advanced competition robots, and encouraging many more new members to join and get involved, Edward has become a fundamental part of the team. Not only this but he oversaw the installation of the Club's new laboratory and arranged the purchase of equipment including a 3D printer, two PC workstations, and even their own CNC milling machine, thus creating a useful and efficient space. Edward is also an avid learner and has been working to improve his already extensive knowledge of robotics so that more skills and expertise

can be learnt by the whole Club. He is enthusiastic about outreach and encourages members to get involved and help promote robotics to future generations of engineers. Thanks to his tireless efforts, Edward has been instrumental in raising the profile of the Club in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and wider College, and he has successfully secured more than £4,000 worth of sponsorship. His devotion has transformed UBRobotics from a small interest group to a sizeable robotics club that now attracts members from not just Mechanical Engineering, but also Electrical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering and Computer Science, allowing the Club to benefit from a broad range of knowledge and enabling further development and growth.



### Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Tom's passion and unending enthusiasm for CSS has made the Society bigger and stronger than ever. Not only has he organised an array of events and built a strong network within the UK technology community, he also brought the feeling of family, friendship and comradery to the School of Computer Science. His devotion is certainly recognised by CSS members who value his contribution so much they have re-elected him President for a second term. Over the course of the year he has significantly grown the Society's sponsorship relationships and gained new support from a wide range of companies in the technology field. He has taken it upon himself to suggest and organise events for new

students who will be joining the School in September in order to acclimatise them to life at University, and also to immerse them in the world of computer science to make them feel confident and at ease (as well as making sure they become members of CSS!). He launched HackTheMidlands as a weekend-long hackathon with involvement from universities across the country, has collaborated with WISE and oSTEM on the Women in Technology Conference, significantly expanded the CSS' events portfolio, and offered more opportunities and activities for Computer Science students to get involved in than ever before. It's clear that Tom has a real drive to continue growing CSS and make it even better next year.

# Society of the Year 2016/17

This Award celebrates the outstanding activities conducted by societies over the course of the year. Through events, innovative projects and activities, superb organisation, or raising awareness these societies provide an exceptional, well-rounded and inclusive experience to their members. They have pushed the boundaries and delivered more than ever before.



## AstroSoc

AstroSoc has been at the forefront of the University for a long time and this year has stepped up once again. With Astronomy in the City growing in popularity and all four events sold out to crowds including students, staff, alumni, the general public, secondary schools and even the Vice-Chancellor, AstroSoc is more involved with the community than it ever has been. Over the year AstroSoc members have been found at the Glascoate Academy Science Week providing a stargazing evening with talks by students and telescopes on hand. Members were also at Bishop Challoner Catholic College helping to restart their astronomy society by showing them how to set up telescopes and advising staff members on future equipment purchases. Their series of Tea Talks and

Telescopes was as varied as ever with speakers from Manchester, London and a special guest from the University of Maryland in the USA. AstroSoc also played host to the AGM of the Federation of Astronomical Societies catering to amateur astronomers from all over the country and providing tours of our historic School of Physics and Astronomy. They also joined with PPS and MathSoc to put on a huge games night on the Poynting Bridge. To top it off, AstroSoc spent time observing and networking with the Exmoor StarGazers Club in Europe's first Dark Sky Reserve. Combined with their newly designed workshops, AstroSoc are giving their members and audiences more observing, more photography and a greater experience than ever before.



## BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

BUCES continues to deliver a unique experience for Chemical Engineering at Birmingham. From students' very first week they are welcomed by BUCES with a team building weekend in Coniston and are assigned second-year 'parents' to help them settle into the Society. Having such a large intake is a challenge but through excellent ice-breakers the first years quickly become a crucial part of the Society. This continues with events throughout the year with the Christmas Party and Winter Ball being particular favourites, and of course the Frank Morton national student sports competition which they have won for the last three years! Diversity within the School is strongly embraced through their vast array of events such as the International Carnival which is an opportunity for international students to share their

cultures with others in the School. The Society's immersion in industrial support is second to none, securing placements and graduate jobs for many of its members, working closely with employers to deliver careers presentations and the annual Industrial Dinner. BUCES also do amazing charity work and have raised thousands of pounds for worthy causes with £1,100 coming from participating in the Great Birmingham Run alone. BUCES are heavily involved in the academic side of their School and have regular meetings with staff to ensure the voice of students is heard and acted upon, creating fantastic interaction between the staff and student body. They have created a great sense of community and operate with the motto 'work hard, play hard'.



## CSS: Computer Science Society

CSS has undergone a significant transformation, growing rapidly, starting new initiatives and hitting many records. The Society has grown to 200+ members, organised over 40 events and raised a record £22,000 in sponsorship. Not only do they host regular social events for a wide range of interests including games nights, cinema trips and meals, they also work with high profile professionals and distinguished lectures to support academic and careers interests through presentations or workshops and accompanying networking sessions. They have put amazing efforts into ensuring the Society is fully inclusive and have even created a Diversity Officer position as part of their committee. Particularly exciting this year was the launch of HackTheMidlands, a 48-hour hackathon open to CSS members, the wider EPS Community, students from

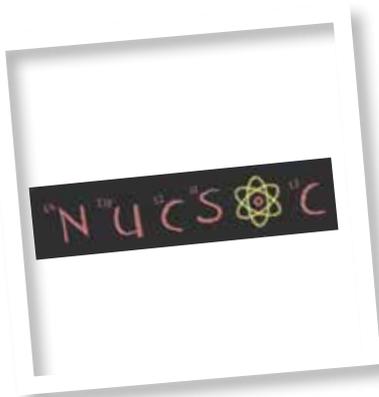
other universities, local schools and the Birmingham tech community. Through all of this CSS has focused on increasing their members' exposure to potential employers. Through their new sponsor relationships they arranged a number of careers-based events where experts are invited to talk about technologies, concepts and ideas. On top of all this CSS has opened their own office and hardware lab which will encourage more development and exploration in years to come. There is no question that CSS has put huge effort into enhancing the School as a whole, and works to improve students' experience during their time at Birmingham. All of this work and effort not only supports students time at university, but also sparks interests in previously not thought about areas and sets them up for achievement post-graduation.



## Games Development Society

Games Development Society has moved forward and grown in several ways this year. Firstly the committee have held several tutorials tailored to assist second-year computer science students with their projects to create a networked multiplayer game. The Society also gave their first 3D modelling tutorial from which several attendees have commented that it reignited their enthusiasm and creativity towards games development. Through these successful tutorials GDS has increased its engagement with the student body. They've also begun working with other societies across the University and even had music students going to them for assistance in writing scores for games. Later in the year GDS went to EGX, the UK's biggest gaming event and expo. They were fortunate enough to secure their members discounted tickets to

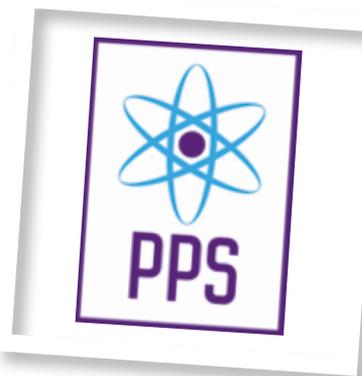
play the newest games, in some cases before they had gone on general release. Their big event of the year was the brand new 1Up Jam. Held straight after exams in June 2016, this event saw teams competing to design, programme and artwork a brand new game in just 48 hours. This provided a fantastic and unique opportunity to enhance their growing games development skills, increase their membership by opening the event to others in the School of Computer Science and beyond, and raise money for Cancer Research by selling the new games afterwards. The weekend also presented the opportunity for the committee and more experienced members to share their skills and technical knowledge with others.



## NucSoc

NucSoc has grown from a small group known for throwing house parties to a fully fledged diverse society. With their events ranging from games nights to bowling, the annual Materials Ball and widely attended Christmas meal, they really have gone from strength to strength. NucSoc are there for their members whether they want a distraction with playing Mario, let off steam with paintball or show off their 'useless' knowledge in their termly quizzes. They also do their bit for charity and the second quiz of the year was held in aid of Mind and raised over £260. NucSoc's goal this year was to improve their inter-society relationships across the EPS Community; they made friends with WISE, oSTEM and MathSoc (and of course continued their half-decade-long partnership with BUMS) to deliver some great events promoting

cohesion and competition. As well as the social side, NucSoc have delivered Summer Placement Talks and the annual careers fair to showcase the many opportunities available to nuclear students. With a growing alumni base, NucSoc is becoming more established and with their help will continue to grow their industrial relationships. Despite NucSoc being a small departmental society, the level of engagement it has with its members is very high. NucSoc like to break barriers and ensure that no one feels isolated. They did an amazing job this year getting first years into the Society, creating friendships across the year groups and making everyone feel like they're part of a family. There is certainly never a dull moment for NucSoc!



### PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Off the back of a really strong year PPS showed they are not content to sit back but instead strived to improve and put on its most impressive series of events to date. In doing so they smashed attendance records and created some unforgettable experiences. As said by their Head of School, 'the extremely positive atmosphere in Physics is set not by the staff, but the students. The School is extremely lucky to have, and is very proud of, the Poynting Physical Society'. Success is not just organising quality events, but getting the majority of students to engage creating the team spirit from which everyone benefits. Their year started with a quiz attended by 150 students, followed by a pub crawl or rather a photocrawl in which attendees were given disposable

cameras and photography challenges. On the more serious side, PPS organised a trip to the UK's fusion reactor at Culham and less seriously to the trampoline park Rush. Not forgetting that they are football league champions too! The highlight was the Spring Ball which saw 320 students and staff take a trip to Versailles for an evening fit for royalty. PPS is now a huge society with 120 freshers joining in September and approximately 75% of physics students being members. This impressive proportion of students engaged with the Society is a testament to the atmosphere the committee creates for their members. It's safe to say that PPS forms the very foundation of the Physics community and has become synonymous with the School.



### UBRobotics

UBRobotics is a young society that started in 2014, and this year has seen a burst of energy and enthusiasm. They have expanded in scope and have begun offering many more opportunities that were not previously thought possible. In November they secured Hands Up funding to put on a series of tutorials to help newcomers learn the basics of coding and provided them with the necessary equipment to allow access to students across the College. The Club now has a dedicated workshop boasting its own computers, desktop 3D printers and CNC machines alongside hundreds of pounds of electronic components, all available for its members to use. Furthermore, the Society has secured access to industrial robotic arms worth over £80,000 to offer its members the unique opportunity to have real working

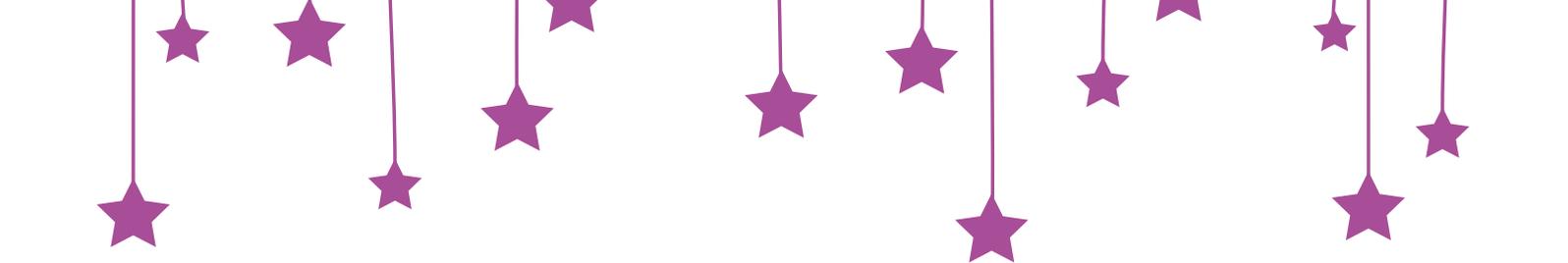
experience not currently offered on the curriculum. The Club has also collaborated with the Department of Mechanical Engineering to put on several outreach events to promote the University and engineering subjects to future generations of students. The team are currently working towards the Eurobot competition and have more people involved in the design, manufacture and coding of their robots than ever before; proof that their enthusiasm is infectious. The Club has also secured departmental funding, their membership has increased six-fold and they have recently organised a new structure and constitution to ensure their longevity. UBRobotics has built itself a platform on which it has a significantly larger scope and ambition than ever before, and have achieved an incredible amount in just one year.



### WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Now at the start of its fourth year, WISE is making a big impact. This has been the first year the Society has received sponsorship; an astounding £5,000 which has enabled them to make membership and entry to all events completely free. Diversity and inclusion is one of WISE's core principles, and to achieve this they have collaborated with many other societies, from within the College and wider University, including CSS, oSTEM, NucSoc, CivSoc and Enactus. Thanks to the relationships with their numerous new sponsors WISE have put on 15 careers related events over the past six months, some of which received attendance of 130+ people and included a mock assessment centre at the EY Birmingham offices, WISE Inspire inspirational speaker events, the second Women in Technology

Conference, the first Women in Science Forum and many more. As well as this WISE members have volunteered more than 100 hours of their time to outreach and working on school pupils' aspirations and academic performance. A highly successful outreach mentoring scheme was set up by the committee which involved carrying out 12 sessions at a local primary school and saw various underperforming and under-confident Year 6 girls become some of the highest-achieving pupils in their year. The success of this will lead to an expansion of the scheme to three other schools next academic year, with a pool of 90 volunteers. WISE is an inspiring, supportive and selfless society making a real difference in helping the next generation of female scientists and engineers reach their potential.



## Our Sponsors

We thank our award sponsors for their support in helping us stage an awards ceremony worthy of our finalists.



## DIGNITY ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF THE EPS SOCIETIES' AWARDS

Dignity is a FTSE250 company with funeral homes and crematoria throughout the UK. We also have a strong presence in the Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans market. Dignity strives to set the highest standards for the funeral profession in terms of client service and care for the deceased.

We are passionate about all aspects of IT and therefore take great pleasure in sponsoring the EPS Societies' Award. The funeral market is entering an exciting period of change, driven by digital technology such as online memorials, live video streaming of funeral services and digital mapping of memorial grounds using drone technology. Dignity aims to remain the market leader by embracing this technology and implementing new initiatives to further improve the service we provide to our clients.

Further details about our client services can be found at [www.dignityfunerals.co.uk](http://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk) and information about the company itself at [www.dignityfuneralsplc.co.uk](http://www.dignityfuneralsplc.co.uk)





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