

School of Civil Engineering Community

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THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2016

Greetings

Welcome to our latest Civil Engineering Alumni newsletter; and the first from me.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter that the New Year saw the start of an exciting new chapter for engineering at the University, with the bringing together of Civil Engineering, Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering into one combined School of Engineering. I was delighted to be able to take on the role of Head of Civil Engineering, although I am acutely aware that I have a hard act to follow as Mark Sterling has provided excellent leadership over the past four years.

I believe that the alignment of the three engineering disciplines under one academic roof is a hugely positive step for us all. Whilst there are skills that are core to Civil Engineering, we must recognise that most practical engineering is undertaken in a multidisciplinary manner, with various disciplines collaborating to achieve an overall aim. If we think of major infrastructure initiatives that are currently underway, for example the Crossrail initiative and the Thames Tideway Tunnel, both of these require engineers of different disciplines to work in concert to deliver the final design. At Birmingham we are committed to producing employable graduates who can offer value to their employers from Day 1, and consequently we feel it is an obvious move to help prepare our students for working life by exposing them to interdisciplinary activities throughout their time with us. At the same time we will make sure they are still learning the core knowledge and skills required to be a Civil Engineer.

But it isn't just in undergraduate teaching where we will see benefits. The formation of the new School has enabled us to redefine and refine our research activities, bringing our world-leading researchers from the three disciplines closer together to deliver excellent research with greater impact.

Despite the changes to our structure, Civil Engineering at Birmingham remains a dynamic environment to learn and to work for students and staff alike. Our geotechnical engineers retain their position as pioneers in the detection of underground infrastructure and utilities, whilst our revolutionary activities in defining smart cities for the future further establish Birmingham as a centre of excellence for sustainability engineering. The enthusiasm and energy of our students continues to amaze me, with CivSoc, EWB and WISE all promoting a wide range of activities and showcasing the value and benefits of Civil Engineering.

One final note – it would be tremendous to see as many of our alumni as possible at the forthcoming Alumni Reunion. Like previous years, we are inviting all of our former students to return to campus on Saturday 18 June to reminisce with friends and find out how the University has changed since your time as a student. It would be great to see you there!

Best wishes,

Professor John Bridgeman
Head of Civil Engineering

School of Engineering

In January our new School of Engineering was launched, aligning the activities of Civil Engineering, Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Engineering is one of the key drivers for economic growth and continues to demand high quality graduates, world-leading research and multi-disciplinary knowledge in order to meet the grand challenges of modern society. This new School will create a multi-disciplinary vibrant environment for outstanding study and research.

Professor Mark Sterling has been appointed Head of the School following a successful period as Head of Civil Engineering. Mark says: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to take forward the new School of Engineering. For me, this represents a chance to build upon our existing strengths in research, teaching and student experience and to develop a more flexible and contemporary educational model based on essential engineering fundamentals."

The University continues to innovate in order to meet these challenges and builds on a strong disciplinary heritage in key areas of engineering. We are proud to have educated generations of engineers; over the past 100 years we have equipped our graduates with expertise in a wide range of fields from brewing to mining, intelligent robotics to automated technologies. Now we must look to the future and prepare our students for what's next.



Making the underworld visible

Not knowing the exact location of gas and water pipelines, electricity cables and sewage outlets can result in excavations in the wrong place and cause serious disruption to both utilities supplies and above ground transport. Our researchers are working on ways of identifying more accurately what is below the ground, saving time and money.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Smart cities better defined by new research

Our researchers have identified a handful of key elements that define 'smart cities'— cities like Singapore and Copenhagen, which are both at the top of their game in using technology to enable their citizens to enjoy a better quality of life, but in different ways.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

Your Civil Engineering Reunion

Join us on Saturday 18 June for our annual Civil Engineering Reunion. Whether you graduated five or 50 years ago we invite you to get together with old friends and former classmates to reminisce and celebrate your experiences and friendships from the University of Birmingham. While we do celebrate milestone anniversaries, all alumni are welcome to attend this special Reunion Day regardless of your graduation year.

Take a trip down memory lane with a tour of Civil Engineering and explore our beautiful campus to see what has changed, and indeed what has stayed the same, since your time at Birmingham. Why not get a group of friends together? We are happy to help contact those you have lost touch with.

50th and Golden Anniversary tickets cost £45 and include a two-course formal lunch. All other tickets are £42 and include a hot buffet lunch. All bookings made before Friday 22 April 2016 are eligible for a £5 early booking discount.



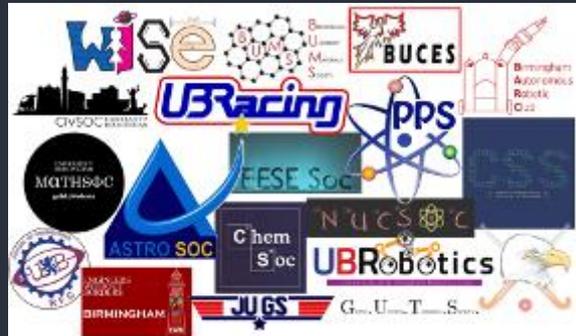
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EPS Societies' Awards 2016

Were you a member of a student society during your time at Birmingham? Or have you been impressed reading about the activities of our [current student societies](#)? Why not nominate them for this year's Societies' Awards?

These Awards celebrate the lengths our students go to make the University a better place to work and play. Join our celebrations by nominating your society for these Awards. Maybe your former society will win the much coveted *Society of the Year*.



Societies' News

It's been a busy term for our societies! Beth McGoff, newly elected President of [CivSoc](#), Alex Brierley from [EWB](#), James Twist from [Engineering Rugby RFC](#) and the [WISE](#) committee tell us about their activities over the past few months, from industrial events to sporting competitions and introducing their new committees. This term we also welcome four new societies to our community: [Drone Soc](#), [Games Development](#), [SATNAV](#) and [oSTEM](#).

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 24 student societies. Each does fantastic work to promote employment opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events.

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News Round-Up

There have been a number of appointments in the School over the past few months. Read a summary of our new staff [here](#).

In December the Centre for Railway Research and Education hosted a [21st anniversary celebration](#) for its successful MSc Railway Systems Engineering and Integration programme.

Birmingham receives [£21.7 million to build a National Buried Infrastructure Facility](#).

The University and [SMRT Institute, Singapore](#) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise a partnership in education collaboration in railway research and education.

Civil engineers and computer scientists have joined forces to discuss [suboptimal routing](#) decisions made by some drivers when travelling in towns.

Professor Dave Charlton, Spokesperson for the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN, delivered the latest [EPS Distinguished Lecture on the future of the world's largest scientific instrument](#) and the engineering involved.



Micro-Volunteering Day, 15 April

To mark international Micro-Volunteering Day on 15 April there's a whole range of opportunities to support Birmingham – all in fifteen



Could you mentor a student?

Civil Engineering is seeking mentors to work with current undergraduates and share your knowledge, skills and experiences to help guide students as

minutes or less.

These bite-sized tasks can have a big impact – from offering advice to students, to sharing your opinion on our website design or celebrating with the University's newest alumni by sending in your graduation memories. In Civil Engineering we particularly want to hear what you've been up to since you left the University and how your careers have progressed so we can share your stories with our current students.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

they start their careers. Whether you are a new graduate or senior engineer, based in the UK or overseas, your expertise are invaluable to our students.

Mentoring is about more than giving advice; it's about motivating, empowering and helping the other person understand themselves and their aims – and how they can get there. Get in touch to find out more, we would love to hear from you.

[EMAIL US >](#)

Events

[EPS Inaugural Lecture Series](#)

For information on upcoming lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit our [website](#).

Friday 6 May

[Mathematics in Railway Industry](#)

Join the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education for this free workshop on mathematics in the railway sector, including a technical visit to the newly refurbished Birmingham New Street Station.

Time: 9:30am-6pm

Venue: Gisbert Kapp Building, Edgbaston Campus

Friday 13 May

[Alumni Reception in Singapore with the Vice-Chancellor](#)

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for an alumni reception in Singapore.

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

Tuesday 17 May

[Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Unlocking the immune system](#)

In the fifth Birmingham Heroes lecture, Professor Gary Middleton, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University's Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy, will present the

research and work being undertaken by the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Centre at Birmingham, and how they are developing treatments to protect, harness and enhance the immune system's response to cancer.

Time: 6:45pm-8:45pm

Venue: 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London

Wednesday 8 June 2016

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

Celebrate with your student society as we recognise their extraordinary achievements with a gala, black-tie evening.

Time: 7pm-11pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Saturday 18 June 2016

[EPS Alumni Reunion](#)

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences, you are invited back to campus for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham.

Time: 9.30am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Thursday 23 June London

[Professional Network 2016](#)

This popular network is the perfect opportunity to enhance your portfolio of contacts and to meet alumni working in related professions, whilst enjoying wine and canapes.

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Venue: The Royal Academy of Arts, London

Global Alumni Gatherings

The University of Birmingham has alumni groups all over the world organising local events. A full listing of international events is available on our [website](#). To join a group and see details of upcoming please visit the [webpage](#) and select your location



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