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School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering Community

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Autumn/Winter 2013

Greetings

As the new Head of School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECE), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Autumn/Winter newsletter, which brings you news from the wide range of research and educational activities going on in EECE.

With best wishes,

Dr Peter Gardner
Head of School
Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering

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News from the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Global ranking reinforces Birmingham's position as a world-class university

The University of Birmingham has made an impressive 15 place rise to 62nd in this year's QS World University Rankings, cementing its position in the top 100 universities globally and placing it 10th in the UK, and the School has risen from 26th to 12th in the recent *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2014*. To read more [click here](#)

University of Birmingham launches new railway research institute in China



The University of Birmingham has formed a new joint research institute with Anhui province in East China to support the development of railway infrastructure. The new institute provides a substantial physical base, located in Hefei, positioned alongside one of the China High Speed Train Authorities and further strengthens the esteemed portfolio of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education, the largest academic railway group in Europe. [Read more.](#)

CogWatch



Of the estimated 150,000 people annually in the UK who have a stroke, a significant number will suffer Apraxia or Action Disorganisation Syndrome (AADS). This impairs their ability to complete simple daily tasks, like making a cup of tea, and obstructs independent living. In the EU CogWatch project, [featured in The Guardian](#), ECE staff work with psychologists to develop technology to retrain patients to overcome this problem. By attaching sensors to everyday objects, a patient's progress through a task can be monitored. If the patient makes an error this is detected by the system, and appropriate cues are provided. [Read more.](#)

Smart Antenna Technologies



On 20 August 2013 [Smart Antenna Technologies \(SAT\)](#), a spinout company from the University of Birmingham, announced the launch of its innovative single-antenna technology for mobile devices. The technology will enable smartphone and tablet device manufacturers to replace several antennas with a single multi-band antenna, the performance of which will match that of the separate antennas at their specified frequencies. The market for this highly scalable technology is the global cellular handset market. SAT's remarkable innovation has led to the creation of a significant number of patent applications, both filed and in process. [Read more about the launch here.](#)

Engineering: skills or qualifications?



Not a week seems to pass without the national media reporting a shortage of engineers. This is not a criticism; it is in fact an achievement. What was once a very much overlooked issue is now quite rightly receiving the profile and attention it deserves. A strong, sustainable supply of high-quality engineers is essential if the UK is to meet its current and future skills needs for economic growth. [Read more of the comments by Michael Grove, Director of the University's STEM Education Centre, on this debate.](#)

HIT Team Update – Outings, Surveys and Hexacopters



Staff and students from the Human Interface Technologies Team have taken to the road again, this time to test a new piece of technology designed to improve the quality of information obtained when conducting surveys of historical sites. Read about their latest developments [here.](#)

New MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) launched in collaboration with the Centre for War Studies looking at the evolution of airborne conflict

Student, staff, alumni and the general public from the UK and around the world will have free access to some of the country's top universities thanks to FutureLearn Ltd, an entirely new company being launched by The Open University. The University of Birmingham is linking up with the BBC to create an academic first – a unique distance learning course marking the centenary of the First World War next year. [Read more.](#)

Arkwright Scholarship Trust - The UK's future leaders in Engineering honoured



The Arkwright Scholarships Trust has made its largest ever award of Scholarships for aspiring leaders in engineering. 371 sixth form Scholarships and 7 Undergraduate Scholarships have just been awarded at the 2013 Awards Ceremonies. This is the first year that EPS at Birmingham has participated in the Arkwright Scholarship scheme as a sponsor. We are sponsoring two 6th form students, Alok Kumar (ECE) from King Edward's School and Andrew Featherstone (Civil Engineering) from King Edward VI Camphill School for Boys. [Read more.](#)

New staff in 2013

There have been a number of appointments in the School this term. **Read a summary of our new staff [online here](#).**

Your School needs you...

Would you be able to share some of your time, expertise or connections to help Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering to succeed? There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to speaking to students. **Details can be found [online](#) and [email us](#) if you would like to get involved.**

Events taking place shortly...

School events

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

The EPS Inaugural Lecture series celebrates the promotion of leading academics across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

For more information on other lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural

University events

09/12/2013 [University Carol Service](#)

6:15-7:30pm, on campus

This annual event, organised by University Chaplains and the Department of Music, is a joyful Christmas celebration for staff, students and families.

11/12/2013 [Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market](#)

6-9pm, Victoria Square, Birmingham City Centre

Join fellow alumni for a festive drink at the largest authentic German market outside Germany and Austria.

12/12/2013 [USA Christmas Gathering in New York](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Revival, New York, USA

You are invited to the annual alumni holiday party. This is always the busiest get together of the year and we are looking forward to another fun evening.

14/12/2013 [USA Christmas Gathering in California](#)

5:30-7:30pm, California, USA

You and your partner are invited to join fellow alumni at a winter gathering cocktail party with UK University alumni from Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield.

27/03/2013 [Leaders of Tomorrow Reception](#)

6:30-8pm, London

Meet with current student recipients of the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme and students involved with the Academic Enrichment Programme at this drinks and canapés reception.

Do we have the right details for you?

According to our records your current business details are as follows: **Position** at **Organisation Name**. If this is not correct, please visit your.bham or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

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