

London Professional Network - 6 March 2013

The spectacular views from the 34th floor of the BT Tower were once again the setting for the eighth London Professional Network. Over 50 alumni from the fields of business, corporate finance, investment banking, insurance, law, property and commercial ventures came together to network whilst enjoying wine and canapés.

This year's Network was hosted by Paul King, alumnus and Vice President and CFO Strategy, Marketing and Propositions at BT. Due to Paul and BT's generosity, we were able to ask alumni to support [Birmingham Internships \(/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/internships.aspx\)](#) in lieu of a ticket price and gifts made in support of the Network raised over £800. Our internship scheme offers students the opportunity to undertake exciting summer vacation placements without having to make a choice between enhancing their skills portfolio or earning money over the vacation. To date, our students have worked in research laboratories, within top Barristers' chambers, recorded endangered butterfly species in Cuba, and educated communities in developing countries. These are life-changing experiences. Alumni support means that we will be able to fund at least one Gateway bursary next summer.

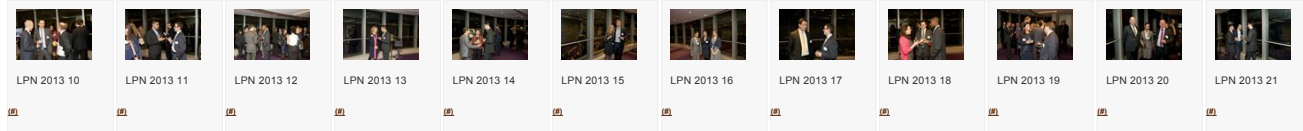
Alumni were joined by Sitara Johns, second year Law, and Omar Ismail, final year Accounting & Finance. Sitara is a Gateway bursary recipient and completed an internship in family law in Vancouver last summer. Her ambitions are high and she would like to practise in family law once she has completed an LPC. Omar is an [Alumni Leadership \(/http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/alm.aspx\)](#) mentee. He was the Student Rep for his course and the treasurer for the Pakistani Society last year. He has interned at Landsbanki, which gave him an overview of several banking departments including trading and he also interned at Bank of America last summer. His career aspirations are to work in trading. Both students enjoyed meeting professionals at the Network and gained valuable advice and connections.

Professor Edward Peck, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Social Sciences, welcomed alumni to the event and spoke of the University's commitment to producing high quality professionals. Alumni can support the employability ambitions of our students by committing a few hours each month to: mentor students; speak at a careers afternoon about your employment path; provide business advice to our talented entrepreneurially minded students; offer internships or work experience or placements; or simply write a career profile for use on our website.

If you feel that you could share your career expertise with current students at the University then please do let us know by emailing alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk (<mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk>). Your experience and ongoing contribution to University life will help our students to differentiate themselves in the workplace.

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