Hundreds of alumni reunited

Posted on Wednesday 15th September 2010

Almost 400 alumni and their guests came back to Birmingham for a day of memories, meeting old friends and exploring campus at the University's anniversary reunions.

Alumni from the classes of 1985, 1975, 1970, 1960 and the pre-1960 golden classes enjoyed a packed day of activities on Saturday 12 June including a reunion lunch, a panel discussion on childhood cancer treatments and campus tours.

The day was rounded off with a reunion dinner, with entertainment provided by a string quartet comprising two current students and two Class of 2009 alumni.

A highlight for many alumni was the opportunity to visit schools and departments to rediscover their former laboratories and lecture theatres, and meet academic staff and current students.

Languages alumni got the chance to truly relive their student days by sitting a current exam paper and taking part in a Japanese lesson, while our Chemical Engineering alumni celebrated the opening of a new laboratory and quiet room.

Alumni also took time throughout the day to explore campus at their leisure, with many people visiting the newly-refurbished Winterbourne House and Gardens, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, the Guild of Students and Muirhead Tower.

One group of 1985 French alumni ventured into Selly Oak to find their old student digs on Dawlish Road, and were lucky enough to get a guided tour of the house by the current student residents. To their surprise, the house had hardly changed in 25 years!

Alumni travelled from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, the Cayman Islands, Nigeria, the US and Canada to be with their classmates for this special celebration. Ros Jervis (BA English, 1970) and her husband Eddy even travelled to the University by narrow boat, being met at Gas Street Basin by Professor of Materials Science, Rex Harris, on the University's hydrogen boat.

Alumni from this year's reunion classes have contributed more than £36,000 towards the University's Circles of Influence campaign through their class gifts, which included an extremely generous gift of £20,000 made by alumnus Dr Ebadollah Bahari (PhD Chemical Engineering, 1955; BSc Chemical Engineering, 1952) on the day.

Did you graduate in 1986, 1976, 1971, 1961 or before? If so, save Saturday 18 June 2011 in your diary! You will receive full details of your anniversary reunion with the Birmingham Magazine later this year.

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