

School of Civil Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2014

Greetings

As I write this I am currently on my way back from Aberystwyth marvelling at the beauty of the Welsh countryside. Without going into too much detail of explaining why I will have travelled a total of six hours for a 20 minute presentation, I will mention that I have been explaining structural dynamics to a group of biologists, agronomists and farmers (aka why plants fall over when the wind blows). I must confess that I really enjoy trying to explain engineering concepts to non-engineers but if someone had told me when I graduated that this was what I would have been doing then I would not have believed them. This leads me to think about our current crop of graduands (graduates no doubt by the time this goes to press) and the work they will be involved in during their career. How many of them (like you) will go on to improve society? How will their careers change throughout their lifetime and are they really equipped with the skills they need? In answer to the last question, I would argue passionately that they are equipped for the medium term and are sufficiently flexible (and intelligent) enough to respond to the changes that we cannot yet envisage. If not, then we are all in trouble.....Joking aside, I am particularly proud of a small number who have battled with personal adversity and have managed to obtain high quality degrees.

The School has had another excellent year this year. Rather than listing a whole host of metrics, I would briefly like to note that the School's employability statistics have risen again (for the third consecutive year). Six months after graduation 89% of our students are now in graduate employability. (If you are wondering what happens to the other 11%, all I would say is that not everyone completes the survey!)

I hope you enjoy this short newsletter as much as I did. I am now going to sit back and stare out of the window for a while since the chances I get to really appreciate the silence these days are few and far between.

With best wishes,

Professor Mark Sterling
Head of School
Civil Engineering

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News from the School of Civil Engineering

Congratulations Class of 2014!



On behalf of all academic and support staff in the School of Civil Engineering, we'd like to say huge congratulations to all our new graduates who received their degree certifications earlier in July after lots of hard work and dedication! [Read more.](#)

'A great day was had by all'



On Saturday 14 June 2014 we welcomed alumni from across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences back to the University for a special day of celebrations and activities with fellow classmates and staff. Over 170 alumni and guests from as far back as 1946 up to our 2013 graduates attended this annual College Reunion, which was open to all graduating years for the very first time. Read about the day and access photographs [here](#).

Birmingham shortlisted for National College for High Speed Rail



Birmingham has been shortlisted as a potential home of the National College for High Speed Rail, Skills and Enterprise. The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education played an important part of the Birmingham bid to develop the elite High Speed College. [Read more.](#)

Professor of Civil Engineering receives prestigious accolade from leading Middle East University



Congratulations to Professor Charalampos Baniotopoulos, Chair of Sustainable Energy Systems and Director of the Resilience Centre in the School of Civil Engineering, who has been awarded the title of Honorary Professor of the Jordan University of Science and Technology. [Read more.](#)

Engineers Without Boarders update



The 2013/14 academic year has been a great and busy one for Engineers Without Borders. Newly elected President David Streather [tells us more.](#)

EPS Societies' Awards



On Friday 6 June 2014 the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences celebrated the achievements of our student societies with the first ever EPS Societies' Awards. We have a strong tradition of outstanding educational success; from public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula Student cars with UBRacing, the societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote careers opportunities, industrial visits and, of course, social events. Organising committee member and Mechanical Engineering student Daisy Partlow tells us about the night [here](#). Winners, nominations and photographs are also available on our [website](#).

Birmingham engineers compete at IMechE Railway Challenge 2014



The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education entered the IMechE Railway Challenge for the third time last month. With the only hydrogen-powered engine in the competition, the pioneering approach landed them 3rd place in the competition. [Read more.](#)

National Women in Engineering Day celebrated at the University



In celebration of the UK's first ever National Women in Engineering Day on 23 June 2014, the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences organised a programme of events and activities, including a panel event discussing 'Engineering a sustainable future' with leading female engineers and academics. View interviews and videos from the day [here](#).

Clark Lecture 2014 – Highlights



The fifth instalment of the School of Civil Engineering's annual Clark Lecture was this year delivered by Steve Yianni, Chief Executive at Transport Systems Catapult Ltd. Watch our interview with Steve and access the presentation [slides here](#).

New staff in 2014

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 our students to succeed?

We're currently looking for help and support from alumni with the following:

- EPS Open Days, [13 September and 18 October 2014](#). Could you donate a couple of hours of your time to pop back to your old school and speak to our prospective students about your time at Birmingham? For more information and to get involved [email us](#)
- Work experience placements are invaluable for our students, allowing them to learn about the world of work first-hand and apply their knowledge in a real-life setting. If you work in industry and think you could offer a work experience placement to our undergraduate or postgraduate students, please [email us](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. Please [email us](#) if you would like to get involved and we'll be happy to talk to you.

Events taking place shortly...

College and School events

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

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

Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann

Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann brings to life the passion, drama and suffering of one long-forgotten scientist of the 19th Century. Join Ludwig Boltzmann in his battle to save the dying theory of atoms, his equation and so his career in a hostile scientific environment.

Venue: Cadbury Room, St Francis Hall, Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/eps/events/Trusting-Atoms.aspx>

Thursday 6 November 2014

EPS Distinguished Lecture: Professor Paul Cannon

Minor explosive eruptions of energy from the Sun that cause small solar storms on Earth are relatively common events. In contrast, extremely large events (superstorms) only occur very occasionally – perhaps once every century or two. Since the start of the space age, there has been no true solar-superstorm, but there have been a number of large storms and some of these have caused major technological damage, for example the partial collapse of the Canadian electricity grid in 1989

Venue: EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Nov14

Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December 2014

International Conference on High Speed Rail - 8th-10th December 2014

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan. The University of Birmingham is marking this historic occasion by holding an international conference on High Speed Rail

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

highspeedrail64@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Wednesday 10 December 2014

EPS Christmas Lecture – Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE

Please join us to hear from Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Presenter of The Life Scientific on Radio 4, British scientist, author and broadcaster as he delivers the inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture

Venue: The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/christmaslecture

March 2015

EPS Distinguished Lecture: Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna

Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna is the Director of the Centre for Nanofibers & Nanotechnology at the National University of Singapore

Venue: EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Nov15

Tuesday 9 June 2015

EPS Societies' Awards Night

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2014/15

Venue: The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/societies-awards-2015

Saturday 20 June 2015

EPS Alumni Reunion

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences (EPS), 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

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/epsreunion2015

University events

Saturday 6 – Thursday 11 September 2014

British Science Festival 2014

The British Science Festival celebrates all things scientific and will be hosted by the University of Birmingham in September 2014. Organised by the British Science Association, the event offers something for everyone

Venue: Birmingham City Centre and Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/british-science-festival/index.aspx>

Thursday 11 September 2014

Alumni Reception at the British Science Festival

Join fellow alumni for drinks and nibbles on the final day of the British Science Festival.

Venue: Marquee, Chancellors Court, University of Birmingham

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/BSF-Alumni.aspx>

Saturday 13 September 2014

GGAA 2014 Forum & AGM

Join members of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA) for their 2014 Forum and AGM. This year's speaker is the Rt Hon Ann Widdicombe

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/GGAA-2014-Forum--AGM.aspx>

Saturday 13 September 2014

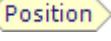
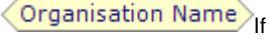
Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion

Alumni who graduated in 1964 or before are welcome to join for a special reunion lunch

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/Golden50th-Anniversary-Reunion---13-September-2014.aspx>

Do we have the right details for you?

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

You have received this email from the University of Birmingham because we believe that it is relevant and of interest to you. If you would like to opt-out of receiving information from your College, School or Department by email, please opt-out by visiting your.bham, emailing alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk, or telephoning +44 (0)121 414 2773 / 2744 / 4724. In order to further tailor the communication we send, all emails are tracked and processed; further information regarding our use of data, is available by looking at our [data protection statement](#)