

## In the News April 2011

Some of the stories featuring University of Birmingham staff and students that are making the news in April.

If you see coverage of the University that you think should be included here, please contact the media relations team on 0121 4146681

### April's News

Birmingham sports scientists provided plenty of advice for competitors taking part in the London Marathon for the audience on **BBC WM** including nutrition and mental preparation. ([interview at 55 minutes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00fzswj/Phil_Upton_Breakfast_15_04_2011/)). ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00fzswj/Phil\\_Upton\\_Breakfast\\_15\\_04\\_2011/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00fzswj/Phil_Upton_Breakfast_15_04_2011/))

*'We advise people do everything you do in practice nothing new on the day. Rehearse the mental strategies and what your pacing will be so you don't go off too fast.'* - Eleanor Jones senior sports scientist UBS

(13 April) Professor David Eastwood's comments on widening access to top Universities was featured in a piece in the **Daily Telegraph** (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/8446796/Admit-more-poor-students-or-lose-public-cash-Oxford-is-warned.html>)

*'Those who take [university] access very seriously do tire at cheap shots at higher education when, actually, what we need to address is this problem of progression from the early years right through.'* - Prof David Eastwood

(13 April) Professor David Weaver was interviewed for the **Today** ([http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/today/newsid\\_9456000/9456344.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/today/newsid_9456000/9456344.stm)) programme on **BBC Radio 4** about the nuclear fallout from the Fukushima power plant

His comments were also featured across the BBC regional media including on **BBC WM**, and **BBC Radio Scotland**

*'Byclassifying the problems at Fukushima as a 7 the Japanese government is saying the potential amount of radiation getting into the environment is significant'* - Prof David Weaver

Professor Chris Thomas's work on developing new antibiotics from marine bacteria was covered on the front page of the **Daily Express** (<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/239207/NHS-Fears-new-killer-superbug>). Chris was also interviewed for **BBC WM** and **BBC Midlands Today**.

Read our press release [here](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/04/07Apr-New-drugs-from-mutant-bugs.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/04/07Apr-New-drugs-from-mutant-bugs.aspx>).

*'This shows how mupirocin can be modified to make it more potent and suggests that related molecules could be used against the increasingly problematic Enterobacteriaceae like Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae.'* - Prof Chris Thomas

An international team of asteroseismologists, led by the University of Birmingham, has used data from the NASA Kepler Mission to sample the 'stellar music' of 500 stars similar to the Sun. Dr Bill Chaplin was interviewed for BBC Breakfast and BBC Radio 5Live. The research was also featured in world media including **USA today** (<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/04/star-vibrations-mapped-by-nasas-kepler-mission/1>).

Read our press release [here](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/04/07Apr-Kepler-Listens-to-an-Orchestra-of-Solar-Type-Stars.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/04/07Apr-Kepler-Listens-to-an-Orchestra-of-Solar-Type-Stars.aspx>).

Listen to the sound of a star

*'The sound inside the stars makes them ring or vibrate like musical instruments. If you measure the pitch of the notes produced by an instrument it can tell you how big the instrument is'* - Dr Bill Chaplin