

The Difference

Donor Newsletter June 2008 Issue 4

Collaboration powers hydrogen and fuel cell research



Fuelling the future: Birmingham opened its new hydrogen fuelling station in April

Birmingham is achieving international recognition as a major contributor to a cleaner energy future, thanks in part to alumni donations.

There is already demonstrable evidence of Birmingham's hydrogen and fuel cell research on campus. The University featured heavily in the news in April when it opened the first of a new network of hydrogen gas fuelling stations, attracting national and international interest. The fuelling station – which dispenses 'green hydrogen', not produced from fossil fuels – will refill the University's 5-strong fleet of hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles, designed to test the possibilities of hydrogen for transport use.

Throughout the University, researchers are working on other pioneering projects including investigating the practicalities of using hydrogen for domestic and commercial uses, the production of hydrogen from organic materials, and the safe and efficient storage of the gas for wider use.

'One of the major strengths of our hydrogen project is our collaborative research,' explains Professor Kevin Kendall from the Department of Chemical Engineering. 'We are working with industry, business, education and public sector partners to make alternative energies possible.'

With Nottingham and Loughborough Universities, Birmingham was recently chosen to host the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI), a £1.1 billion national centre established to speed up the deployment of low-carbon

energy technologies. It is also working with the University of Warwick on energy research as part of the Birmingham Science City initiative – a project to develop and use science and technology to improve the prosperity and quality of life in Birmingham, the West Midlands and the UK.

Significant gifts from alumni will help to further Birmingham's hydrogen research. Those already received have included a donation from alumna Carol Kennedy (née Welch) (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1972), who is excited about the University's vision for a hydrogen future.

'Birmingham has a rich science and technology heritage,' says Carol. 'One of the exciting things about the hydrogen initiative is its multi-disciplinary approach to the economic and political aspects of alternative energy as well as the technological challenges of the change.'

Carol's gift will go specifically towards matching alumni funding for an academic chair in hydrogen energy. The chair will lead and co-ordinate Birmingham's hydrogen programme, pulling together the diverse research strands and further encouraging internal and external collaboration and funding.

Carol says: 'I'm pleased that my donation will help to find a leader with vision and the ability



Clean: Hydrogen energy does not produce CO₂

to attract a multi-disciplinary team around him or her, to co-ordinate this integrated, internationally-leading programme.'

With the help of all of its partners and supporters, including alumni, the University can achieve its vision of being a 'clean energy' campus by 2020.

Hydrogen on the web

Birmingham research:

The Institute for Energy Research and Policy
www.ierp.bham.ac.uk

Hydrogen and fuel cell research
www.fuelcells.bham.ac.uk/news.shtml

Collaborative projects:

Birmingham Science City
www.birminghamsciencecity.co.uk

The Energy Technologies Institute
www.midlandsenergyconsortium.org

From the Vice-Chancellor:

Welcome to The Difference

Our newsletter for supporters of the University of Birmingham

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last year. Your collective gifts transform our University ensuring we retain our position amongst the top universities in the world.

The £2.7million that you have given since August 2007 has enabled research into global issues including the obesity epidemic and the development of green fuels. You have funded scholarships to attract the very best students to Birmingham and, via the Annual Fund, you have given money to projects such as the creation of a Media suite for the Guild, which enriches the experience of our students. Put simply, none of these projects would have happened without your support and generosity.

Your gifts enable us to diversify our funding streams and free us from the many restrictions that are placed upon us. You give us the freedom to fund the added-value projects; those that will



ensure we can undertake globally beneficial research, and you also provide our students with the best teaching and learning environments.

Since last August, 1.48% of our alumni body has made a gift to the University. This figure demonstrates a tremendous level of alumni support and is crucial in garnering funding from external sources. Our ambition is that 5% of our alumni body chooses to support us by 2012 and that, with your ongoing support, we have the ability to fund further transformational projects at our University.

Thank you again for giving so generously and I hope that you will continue to support our University in the future.

Professor Michael Sterling
Vice-Chancellor

A direct route to Birmingham with A2B

The Access to Birmingham (A2B) scholarship scheme exists to encourage application to the University from students whose families or communities have little or no experience of higher education.

Generous donations from alumni will mean that around 45 high-achieving students will receive scholarships when they start their studies in autumn 2008.

'I'm delighted to support Birmingham in this way and I am pleased that my donation will enable greater accessibility for students who may not otherwise consider higher education,' says Sarah Byrt (LLB Law, 1985) who is funding four scholarships.

'The A2B scheme encourages promising students from a wide range of backgrounds who have performed excellently in their A-levels,' adds Mike Henebery (BCom(Acc) Accounting and Finance, 1986), whose gift will fund five scholarships. 'I hope that my gift will help to give them a fulfilling university experience.'

'Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to become the first in my family to go to university,' says Psychology undergraduate Sarah Stanwell, one of last year's A2B recipients. 'The generosity of alumni means that my life at university has been greatly enhanced, for which I extend my deepest thanks.'

A once in a lifetime opportunity for your gift to make an even greater impact!

The government has set aside £200m for higher education as a philanthropic 'challenge fund'. From 1 August 2008 and for the next three years, all donations to the University will be matched by government.

'This is an excellent opportunity to encourage more giving to universities and for each gift to have an even greater impact,' says Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Sterling. 'It will help us to embed philanthropy in the University, create an even better environment for research and teaching and make us better able to address the needs of our students and staff, together with meeting the challenges ahead.'

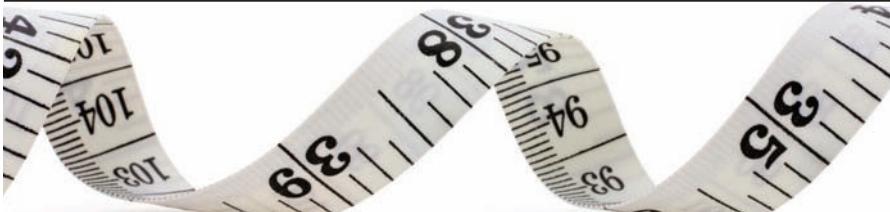
'We hope many alumni, friends, parents, companies and trusts will take-up this 'challenge' so that the University can benefit to the greatest extent.'

Final details of the challenge, including the matching ratio and the total amount available will be on the alumni website shortly. Please visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk or contact Andrew Harris on a.j.harris@bham.ac.uk

Contact us

For more information about making a gift to the University please contact Fiona Newell in the Development and Alumni Office on 0121 414 8136 or f.k.newell@bham.ac.uk.

To find out more about our fundraising projects and what your gifts have achieved visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund



Getting the measure of obesity: Funding will help establish the UK's first Centre for Obesity Research

Obesity: a growing problem

Obesity is now globally the second highest cause of preventable death after smoking. With over 20% of the UK population now being classified as obese, research into the problem is becoming increasingly important. Obesity is a particular problem in Birmingham where over 25% of the population is obese, the third highest rate in the UK. A recent study by the University found that almost half of 11-year olds in Edgbaston were either overweight or obese.

The University is aiming to tackle this important international, national and regional issue with the establishment of the UK's first Centre for Obesity Research (COR), which will look into the prevention and treatment of obesity and its related diseases. 'The reasons why people become obese are complex,' says Dr Jeremy Tomlinson, clinical lecturer and fellow at the University Medical School. 'There are a variety of medical, genetic, psychological and lifestyle factors involved.'

Researchers from the colleges of Medical and Dental Sciences, and Life and Environmental Sciences will work collaboratively on six key obesity research themes: exercise; motivating healthy lifestyles; obesity in the community;

dietetics and nutrition; childhood obesity; and mechanisms of disease.

Michael Welton (BSc Civil Engineering, 1968) is one alumnus who has made a contribution to the Centre: 'Obesity is society's main health problem in the 21st century,' says Michael. 'I am pleased to be supporting Birmingham's work in a variety of areas to see what can be done to fight it.'

A donation worth almost £250,000 from BUPA Healthcare will also support the Centre, funding a translational research manager. 'As a leading health and care company, BUPA is keen to support the health of the population and, through research, help improve understanding of diseases such as obesity, for the benefit of future generations,' says Peter Mace on behalf of BUPA. 'We are therefore very pleased to be lending our support to Birmingham's Centre for Obesity Research.'

'With a world-class research team, the Centre can find ways to prevent and effectively treat obesity and related diseases', adds Dr Tomlinson. 'Our aim is to provide a healthier and fitter future for the community.'

Your community, *your.bham*

Birmingham's exclusive online community was launched last month. It gives alumni a new and interactive way to update and share their personal and professional details, find and post jobs and other opportunities, and get in touch with old friends.

'We have launched *your.bham* so that alumni have a more interactive way of communicating with each other,' explains Emily Henton, Head of Alumni Relations. 'We hope that it will make it easier for alumni to stay in touch with old friends and to make new business contacts that will support them in their careers.'

Another benefit of *your.bham* is an exclusive email forwarding address – bhamalumni.org – which will identify you as a Birmingham alumnus/alumna.

To join *your.bham* or to find out more, please visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk



Keep in touch: *your.bham* lets you share details with other alumni

A circle of giving

This year sees the introduction of the Chamberlain Circle, a new 'giving club' which will publicly thank alumni who make a transformational contribution of £5,000 or more in one academic year. The club is named in recognition of the Chamberlain family, celebrating the philanthropic zeal shown by Joseph Chamberlain – the University's first Chancellor – and his family, in establishing and supporting Birmingham throughout its history.

This year, members of the Chamberlain Circle will be invited to an inaugural dinner reception with the Vice-Chancellor and will also be listed in the Donor Roll of Honour to recognise their contribution.

'I am delighted to be a member of the Chamberlain Circle,' explains Neil Murphy, who recently gave a gift worth £30,000 towards obesity research. 'Giving clubs play an important role in encouraging alumni to make gifts that make a real difference to their University and the world within which we live.'

Additionally, membership of the 1900 Society, for donors who have made gifts of over £1,000, has continued to grow over the last 12 months and we are delighted that the club now has almost 150 members.

Nick Blinco, Director of Development and Alumni Relations says: 'This dedicated support from our

giving club members helps us to build our major gift programmes and deliver some truly fantastic projects, beneficial to the whole University.'

In addition to the 1900 Society and Chamberlain Circle, the University has two additional giving clubs:

The Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors recognises those who have made an outstanding lifetime contribution of more than £1 million.

The Rowbotham Fellowship recognises those who choose to leave a legacy to the University in their will.

Birmingham music-making continues Elgar's legacy

Memories of participating in a drama performance, attending a Barber Opera or playing in a University orchestra are at the heart of the Birmingham experience for many alumni. Now, with help from donors, the University is building performance facilities for the future and continuing the work of its first Professor of Music, Sir Edward Elgar.

The refurbishment of the Barber concert hall and the development of the Chancellor's Court Auditorium will encourage excellence in music and all types of performance across the University and the wider city community.

The concert hall within the Barber Institute of Fine Arts will undergo refurbishments this summer to restore seats, stage, floor, and ceiling, and preserve its original Art Deco style. Generous contributions from alumni and friends have been matched by the trustees of the Barber Institute to make the renovations possible.

Alumnus Dr Alan Horan OBE (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1950; PhD, 1956) gave an

individual gift worth £10,000. 'I loved going to the Barber Institute as a student,' reveals Dr Horan, 'and when I heard about the refurbishment project, I decided that it would be an excellent way to give back to the University.' A gift worth £25,000 from the 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust will also help to refurbish the concert hall.

The Chancellor's Court Auditorium will be built in the 'gap' to the left side of the Aston Webb building, completing the redbrick semi-circle at the centre of campus. It will contain a state-of-the-art 450 seat performance space for music and drama and will also provide new facilities for the Music department, reflecting its excellent 5* research rating and international standing.



The Chancellor's Court Auditorium: An artist's impression of the completed building

The rare early musical instruments owned by the department will also be housed permanently in the new building.

Support for the auditorium so far is coming from two trusts, which have given major gifts to the University: the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust gave a gift worth £250,000 and the Charles Henry Foyle Trust generously pledged £800,000. Roger Booth, who represents the latter, said: 'The Charles Henry Foyle Trust has supported the University for more than 60 years. We are delighted to give towards a project that will have such an impact on the cultural life at the University of Birmingham, and provide such excellent facilities for the community.'

Changes to Gift Aid

The recent changes in UK income tax mean that, by using Gift Aid, the University can increase the value of your donation by 25%. This is a change from the 28% we could previously claim.

To allow charities, including the University, to adjust to this change, the government will pay 'transitional relief' for the next three years to make up the difference.

For you and other donors to the University, this means that, until 2011, including the 'transitional relief' top-up, the University will receive the same amount in total from your donations as before the tax changes.

For all gifts made after 6 April 2008, the total gift will be calculated using the new tax rate. Transitional relief claimed will be allocated to projects in the same proportions as the original gifts, but not included as part of individual gift totals.

If you use your UK tax return to claim additional relief on your charitable donations, the cost to you of making the gift will remain the same and you can still make the University a beneficiary of your tax deductibility by quoting the code 'X7237' on your return.

For more details about Gift Aid changes and transitional relief, visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift-aid.htm



Transitional relief: Alumni gifts will continue to transform your University and support students

Outstanding lecturer remembered

Alumni, staff and friends of the English Department are commemorating the life and work of an inspirational member of staff by funding an annual lecture series.

The Sinclair Open Lecture, given each year by an outstanding scholar in Linguistics, is funded by donations from those who knew and worked with Professor John Sinclair, who sadly died last year. The 2008 lecture, *Words, War and Terror*, took place in May and was given by Professor Martin Montgomery of the University of Strathclyde.

'The lectures are a fitting tribute to John's contribution to linguistics,' explains Professor Susan Hunston, Head of English. 'We have been overwhelmed by the number of people wishing to commemorate him in this way.'

Talent-based Scholarships attract the best to Birmingham

Showing a commitment to academic ability, the University will offer Excellence Scholarships from September 2008. Students who excel in maths, engineering and the sciences will be able to apply for up to £5,000 per year in funding, making Birmingham an attractive choice for the most talented young people.

'Excellence Scholarships will help us to capture the very best students,' says Tracey Lancaster, Director of University Corporate Relations. 'We hope to excite the interests of these students and encourage them to consider the subject areas that are traditionally difficult to recruit to.

'The aim is to create a 'stream of excellence' with our scholarship programmes, where we see Excellence Scholars move through to postgraduate and postdoctoral studies, constantly reinforcing and augmenting the quality of our teaching and research.'

Don Scott (MSc Applied Geophysics, 1964) gave a gift worth £15,000 to support a scholarship in chemistry. 'I am delighted to fund this scholarship' says Don. 'I hope that my gift ensures that excellent chemistry students will make Birmingham their first choice university.' Engineering Excellence Scholars will also be funded through a donation from Chris Outram (BSc and BCom Mechanical Engineering, 1972).

Group giving will also support these scholarships. The Chemistry Class of 1965 has funded a chemistry scholarship and the US Alumni Foundation has funded an engineering place.

The University has agreed to match a scholarship in each subject area. There are 12 scholarships available for 2008.

To discover more about Excellence Scholarships, please visit www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/prospective/scholarships/excellence.shtml

Influential alumni aid University development

The Development Advisory Council (DAC) is made up of influential alumni and friends who are tasked with helping the University deliver its Second Century fundraising campaign, transforming it for the future.

One DAC member is Roger Matthews (BSocSc Mathematical Economics, 1975) former Group Finance Director of J Sainsbury PLC.



Experience: Alumnus Roger Matthews

'When I became involved with the University as a donor and member of the DAC, I found out about the huge range of fundraising and research programmes that it's involved in,' explains Roger. 'Donating to the Centre for Health and Exercise Research appealed to me as a mad-keen sportsman, but there are projects taking place across all areas of University life.'

Roger's role on the DAC involves engaging other Birmingham alumni as well as drawing on his own extensive network of business contacts to raise awareness and generate interest in the University.

Roger explains: 'Using my business experience, I can advise the University on its fundraising activities and try to gather support for projects from other interested parties.'

'I have been lucky enough to be in a position to give something back in both time and money,' he adds. 'It's rewarding to engage with the University as a member of the DAC and play a part in Birmingham's future successes.'

Students supported by lasting legacy

One alumna will encourage the future study of science and medicine by leaving Birmingham a generous legacy.

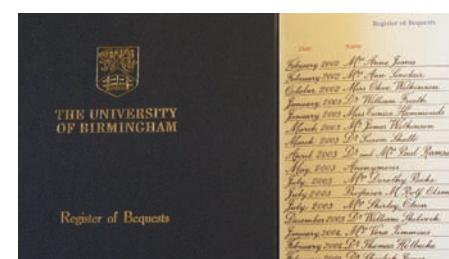
Mary Hase (BA Philosophy, 1973) has chosen to support the University by leaving a portion of her estate to the establishment of scholarships in scientific subjects.

'I would study science if I had my time again,' reveals Mary, Director of Private Client Tax Services at accounting, tax and business advisory group, Vantis. 'I think that as a society we need to increase the impetus in science research and teaching to ensure the scientific breakthroughs of the future.'

Bequests to the University like Mary's are exempt from inheritance tax. 'The old quote is that in life 'nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes,' says Mary. 'Although taxes are increasingly uncertain at present, I would prefer to benefit the University and its students, rather than the government.'

In addition to her legacy, Mary will be funding an Access to Birmingham scholarship each year, supporting bright students studying science or medicine who would not traditionally think of attending university; exactly the type of students who she hopes will benefit from her bequest in the future. 'It will be good to see some of the benefits of my giving in my own lifetime,' she says, 'and see the difference that I am making immediately. And of course, lifetime giving under Gift Aid redirects some of my income tax to the University as well.'

To learn more about leaving a legacy, visit
www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/gift/legacy.shtml



The Register of Bequests: A record of those who leave a legacy

Alumni Fund makes a difference

Alumni generosity means that the University of Birmingham Fund (UBF) will make a range of projects across the University a reality this year.

Five key areas of University life are recognised for funding: Teaching, Research and IT; Campus Environment and Facilities; University Sport Birmingham; the Guild of Students and Student Support.

A selection of projects are detailed here; to find out about all of this year's projects, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/annual/fundareas.shtml



IDEALS: An unforgettable experience

The Guild of Students

Media equipment for the Guild of Students

Up-to-date media equipment will ensure that the Guild of Students' media groups are able to continue as the voice of student opinion.

Redbrick, Guild TV, and Burn FM are active, well-recognised student-led groups, but are in need of new equipment to ensure that they can continue well into the future.

Funding from the UBF will enable the Guild to purchase new equipment and create a media suite for all three groups. And, students will be able to gain invaluable practical experience which isn't easily accessible elsewhere.

Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to turn student media into a focal point within the University. Thank you

Rhea Keehn,
Guild President

University Sport Birmingham

Alumni funding will enable members of University Sport Birmingham to deliver the IDEALS (International Development Through Excellence and Leadership in Sport) project in South Africa this summer.

In partnership with UK Sport, a team of six students will spend seven weeks living with locals, coaching in disadvantaged rural communities and delivering HIV/AIDS awareness training to young people.

Improving their coaching and leadership skills and working in a team alongside national and international organisations, the project will be an unforgettable, invaluable experience. Thank you.

Sue Briggs,
Sports Development Manager

Corporate Benefactors

Every year, local businesses donate vouchers, discounts, or merchandise as prizes and awards to thank our student callers for all their hard work throughout the UBF telephone campaign. We are very grateful to Perry Barr Greyhound Racing Stadium and Cadbury World who have generously offered their support this year. Thank you!

Campus Environment and Facilities

Refurbishment of the Shakespeare Institute gazebo

A grant from UBF has been used to augment funds raised through the Tom Matheson Appeal, to give postgraduate students at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon a new place to study.

The gazebo will be refurbished, helping to preserve one of the Institute's most well-known and loved features, which has stood since 1750 and was reputedly once the writing room of novelist Marie Corelli.

Thank you for helping to preserve this unique building.

Professor Kate McLuskie,
Director of the Shakespeare Institute.



Gazebo: A place to study

Pop art exhibition in the Arts Building

The Arts Building will soon house a permanent exhibition of BUNK, 50 limited edition prints by artist Eduardo Paolozzi.

The prints, which were donated to the University, will be moved out of storage and innovatively displayed against a custom-designed painted backdrop thanks to a grant from the UBF.

Paolozzi was one of the founders of the pop art movement. In BUNK he uses collage and montage techniques with materials including postcards, comics and other 'pop culture' sources. The University will be the only place in the world that the collection can be viewed in one place, providing a unique resource for students in art history, English and American and Canadian studies.

Thank you and we hope to see you at the exhibition.

Richard Ellis,
Head of Canadian and American Studies

Student Support

Improving the student induction experience

Thanks to the UBF, we will be able to ensure that the welcome never stops for Birmingham students.

A relaunched Welcome to Birmingham website will provide focused support for first year students to assist them with the transition from sixth-form study to independent learning. Multi-media support on the site will include top tips from current students, advice and experience from alumni, and information about how to make the most of the Birmingham experience.

Importantly, undergraduate and postgraduate students will have a support resource that is available throughout their time at University.

Thank you for supporting our students.

Samantha Noble,

Projects Manager, Student Advice and Support Services, Student Life Division.



Warm welcome: Fund supports students

University of Birmingham Research Day

The University's wide range of research will be showcased to undergraduate and postgraduate students, encouraging them to consider a career in research.

The grant from UBF will fund a day of focused activities including presentations, hands-on displays, seminars and competitions and will bring together academics and industrial partners to display and discuss research opportunities. Prospective research students will also have the opportunity to find out about the Graduate School, which works on behalf of postgraduate students at the University to ensure the best possible research and educational environment.

Funding will help us to promote the very best opportunities to our students and celebrate the quality of research across the University. Thank you.

Steve Allmark,

Head of Postgraduate Recruitment

Teaching, Research and IT

Student representation at the Model G8 Summit

Thanks to a grant from UBF, we were able to attend this year's Model G8 Summit in Yokohama, Japan, representing the UK and the University at this international event.

The summit is a simulated diplomatic conference organised by young people from around the world. We attended as part of an 8-strong delegation debating the UK's position on important world topics including climate change, nuclear proliferation and transnational terrorism.

We also had the opportunity to speak to Japanese students and tell them about living in the UK, and the significance of the G8.

A major highlight of the trip was a luncheon at the British Embassy where we also participated in a meeting with Mission staff. The Summit gave us an insight into how the UK is represented abroad and the opportunity to experience international relations as they occur in real life. We feel that the UBF grant not only helped open the door to a new cultural experience for us, but also to new professional experiences and opportunities.

Thank you for funding this life-changing and enriching experience.

Abigail Omolewa, BA undergraduate
and Julia Graupe, MSc postgraduate

Sharing experiences and changing lives

Thirty student callers spoke to almost 8,000 alumni as part of our eight-month University of Birmingham Fund campaign. Alumni have pledged more than £246,000 to the campaign to fund a variety of exciting, innovative projects around the University. Around 40,000 alumni who could not be reached by phone were sent information by post, resulting in generous gifts from across the world.



Callers: Current students spoke to alumni

Videoconferencing to schools

The Student Recruitment and Outreach Office will use alumni funding to support sixth form students in their preparations for university.

Students from across the UK, and potentially the world, will be able to find out about the University at one of up to 20 videoconferences throughout the year. The videoconferences will include talks from alumni and leading academics and will focus on the critical thinking skills that students require throughout their university lives.

Birmingham will be one of the first higher education institutions to develop video conferencing in this way. It will help to raise our profile in schools and will involve our expert alumni in the development of a new generation of students.

Marcus Williams,

Deputy Director of Student Recruitment



International: Students at the Model G8 Summit

For student callers, involvement with the University of Birmingham Fund was a chance to speak to past students, sharing experiences and memories of Birmingham.

'The best part of calling for me has been the opportunity to speak to Law alumni,' says first year law undergraduate, Gemma Sword-Williams. 'They've been fascinating to talk to, offering me advice and tips and telling me all about their time at Birmingham. One alumnus that I spoke to also offered me some work experience, which was fantastic.'

Head of Annual Giving, Hannah Eno, said: 'This year's response has been excellent and has exceeded our expectations. Alumni support makes an enormous difference to our students and to the life of the University as a whole.'



Unforgettable: One of last year's Honey Pot students spent a summer working with children in Columbia

Gifts fund summer opportunities

This year, the University of Birmingham Honey Pot scheme will give 25 undergraduates unforgettable summer experiences.

Thanks to alumni donations, these students will receive an award of up to £800 each, enabling them to undertake challenging and exciting internships over their summer holidays.

Owen Watkins, a first year law student, aims to be an international human rights lawyer and applied for Honey Pot funding for an internship in Sri Lanka. He will work with the College of Psychiatrists and Government, helping to re-write the country's mental health legislation.

'I see this as a fantastic opportunity to improve the lives of others, giving me great satisfaction, and I am very thankful to the Honey Pot Scheme for helping me achieve this,' says Owen.

Alumni are also funding a range of other student experiences through the Honey Pot scheme with internships in areas as diverse as archaeology, poetry and forensic psychology.

Find out more:
www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/young

Anniversary Classes give back to Birmingham

Last summer, the Classes of 1957, 1982 and 1997 were invited back to campus to celebrate the 50th, 25th and 10th anniversaries of their graduation, giving them the chance to meet old friends, revisit their departments and find out how the University has changed.

Championed by a Class Ambassador, alumni from each reunion year group were also contacted and asked to contribute to a 'Class Gift': a donation from the whole year group which would then help to fund projects around the University.

Alumni generosity meant that a total of £30,000 was raised.

'Our reunion year groups responded fantastically,' says Hannah Eno, Head of Annual Giving. 'By getting together and giving together through their Class gifts, they will have a huge, positive influence on the lives of our students.'

After the successes of last year, we are inviting the Classes of 1958, 1973, 1983 and 1998 to contribute to their Class gifts during 2008.

For more information, please contact Hannah on h.l.eno@bham.ac.uk or 0121 414 6879, or visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/annual/reunion.shtml.



The class of 1997: Enjoying their 10th anniversary reunion

Stateside donations have healthy foundation

With almost 2,000 alumni resident in North America, support from the USA continues to be vital to Birmingham.

Donations through the University of Birmingham Foundation have exceeded \$300,000 over the past 12 months, helping to fund projects as diverse as scholarships, sport and the Guild of Students.

Dr Paul Ramsay (BSc Mathematics and Computer Science, 1975) and his wife Yuanbi have played a significant part in the success of US-giving over the past two years. Their generosity in establishing the Ramsay Challenge – where they agreed to 'match' every US donation up to a total of \$10,000 – has helped to maximise the impact of gifts made.

To say thank you to its US donors, the University held receptions on the east and west coasts in autumn 2007, hosted by the Chancellor of the University, Sir Dominic Cadbury, and attended by over 90 alumni and guests.

'We have once again been overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of our US alumni,' says Sir Dominic. 'It was wonderful to meet so many of you at our receptions in New York and San Francisco, to update you on some of the projects that your donations have funded, and to hear your memories of Birmingham.'

To find out more about the University of Birmingham Foundation visit www.bhamf.org or contact Craig Klafter: cklafter@bhamf.org