

# U B CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS

## Thank you for supporting our campus developments

You are part of an amazing group of alumni and friends helping to change the face of campus for future generations. Your support is enabling and enhancing projects ranging from the University of Birmingham School to a new library and sports centre, and we are incredibly grateful. In this report, read more about how the campus developments are progressing thanks to you...

## Sports centre reaches new heights

Construction of the University of Birmingham's new sports centre has reached its highest point and the building has been officially 'topped out'.

At a ceremony in early March the University, together with contractors Interserve, marked the milestone by filling a time capsule with a selection of sporting memorabilia to illustrate a snapshot of sport at Birmingham in 2015. The contents included a first team kit and tickets for all sports events across the year.

As a new gateway to the University's campus, the sports centre will be a multi-sport and fitness hub for students, staff and the local community. The new £55 million building, comprising a unique combination of facilities, will include Birmingham's first 50m swimming pool, large and small multi-sport halls, a range of activity and fitness studios, an extensive fitness gym, six glass-backed squash courts and a performance and wellbeing centre. It will open in early 2016.

The centre soars 18.5m above the Bristol Road now its frame is in place – but also reaches a depth of 6.3m to house the 2m deep pool, which will be divisible into two smaller pools, and has a moveable floor to alter the depth, for activities such as swimming lessons.

Donor Nigel Greenwood (BEng Chemical Engineering with Minerals Eng, 1991), who attended the topping out ceremony, says:

'As a former captain of the University water polo team, I hope the 50m pool will help put the city on the map. It can only be a positive thing. The building looks very impressive in its current state, so I can't wait to come back and see the finished centre.'

'I have good memories of my time at the University. There was an opportunity to make a donation and I thought that I could do something to make the building a reality. It's really nice to see things coming to fruition.'



In addition to students and staff, the sports centre will cater for around 3,000 community and alumni members, a range of community clubs and groups, and expanded fitness class and learn to swim programmes. Substantial effort has been made to ensure all facilities are as accessible as possible for those with disabilities, injuries or other specific access requirements including rehabilitation from injury and illness.

Zena Wooldridge, Director of Sport at the University, says: 'We can now start to imagine how this building will become a vibrant hub of activity for our students, university staff and local residents of all ages. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the sports centre. You are helping us create a truly world-class facility.'



## THE ALL NEW LAPWORTH MUSEUM: COMING SOON

# Museum's marvellous make-over

Dinosaur bones, fossilised footprints, rare minerals and more than 250,000 other geological specimens will have a new home at the University when the refurbished Lapworth Museum of Geology reopens in 2016.



Work on the £2.5 million redevelopment has already been supported by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, plus donations from supporters like you.

In March, the redevelopment took another leap forward when the project received a £100,000 grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Wolfson Foundation.

Museum Director Jon Clatworthy says 'Our redevelopment project will make the large and nationally important collections of the Lapworth Museum much more accessible to the community.



'Now work is underway on the redevelopment, it has become a reality rather than just a dream

and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the new-look museum from early 2016.'

The Lapworth's refurbishment will vastly improve access to the collections by including new galleries with innovative technologies and interpretation methods, a temporary exhibition space, accessible stores, and by providing new user facilities including a reception area, education room and improved disabled access.

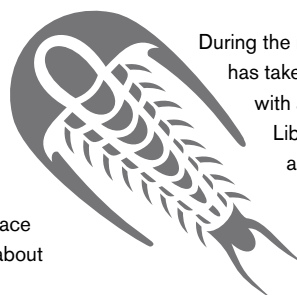
'We are very proud of the museum's heritage and are keen to maintain the Edwardian feel and features. However, we want to bring it into the 21st century and your donations have helped us offer better access, more space for school children to be able to learn about

geology, and a more interactive experience so our visitors can get as much as possible out of the museum.'

The new-look Lapworth will explore life over the past 3.4 billion years, covering mass extinctions and evolutionary changes. A host of fossils from around the West Midlands will show how the area has changed from a tropical sea to desert to ice sheets over a 450 million-year period.



During the refurbishment, the museum has taken its collections on the road, with a joint exhibition at the new Library of Birmingham. 'Stones and Bones' that runs until 17 May and entry is free.



### What giving means to us

'It was a fantastic idea to include a climbing wall above the sports centre's main reception and the foundation was delighted to make a donation towards its installation.'

'The topping out ceremony was my first visit to the site, despite going up and down the Bristol Road many times and seeing the progression of the building site from my car. I was struck by the size and scale of the facilities; it's going to be a very impressive building.'



*Robin Daniels (BSocSc Money Banking and Finance, 1987),  
Trustee of the JABBS Foundation*

### What giving means to me

'I visited the Lapworth Museum of Geology many times during my studies and always appreciated its potential. When myself and my wife, Lorna (BSc Psychology, 1977), came back for a visit more than 30 years later, we committed to support its refurbishment. With its outstanding specimens and fascinating history, the Lapworth is a great resource for both students and the city; this project will give it the prominence it deserves.'



*John Powell, donor  
(BSc Biological Sciences and Geography, 1977)*



# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL

Opening this September, the University of Birmingham School will offer pupils unique access to high quality teaching and learning by a well qualified, talented teaching staff.

The school's capital build is mainly funded by the Government, but an additional £3.1 million of support from the University and donors will allow the building to include bigger classrooms, wider corridors, state of the art IT equipment, and specialist facilities for both initial and ongoing teacher education.

Principal Mike Roden says: 'We're creating a school that the city of Birmingham can be proud of and your support is helping us make certain that we provide the best learning environment possible for our pupils. I can't thank you enough. Our school will be a model for others around the UK; one that focuses on the personal development of its pupils by delivering a bespoke programme of Character Education in an enriched, extended school day.'



Free to attend, the school will take pupils from four areas of the city, ensuring that regardless of background, ability or circumstances, students have access to an extraordinary education. The University will also benefit as students undertaking post-graduate teacher training will get access to state of the art facilities on site.

After it opens in September, the school will grow to a full capacity of 1,150 pupils across Years 7 to 12 by 2020, providing much needed school places for children from around the city.



## What giving means to me

'I love the idea of an all-inclusive school serving the local community and orientated to University needs, which better prepares children for their future qualifications and career.'

Francis Budge (BSc Civil Engineering, 1970)

## We're also fundraising for...

### Collaborative Teaching Laboratory

Plans are currently in development for a Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL) facility, bringing together teaching activities across a broad range of science and engineering disciplines. Work on the CTL will begin shortly as a space within the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Building is transformed into an engineering science laboratory.

This first phase of the project will then be followed by a new purpose-built facility, anticipated to be ready for teaching in the academic year 2017-18. The new build will incorporate a wet lab, dry lab, e-lab and discovery lab.

Professor Jon Binner, Deputy Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, says: 'This state-of-the-art facility will enable us to rethink the way science, technology, maths and engineering (STEM) subjects are taught. It will make more effective use of staff time and resources through the efficient use of practical teaching space, innovations in teaching delivery and the reinvention of practical classes.'







## What giving means to me

'The opening of the building will be the culmination of a lot of hard work behind the scenes to organise our incredible resources in ways which will allow our students and staff to take advantage of new ways of working and access the considerable amount of materials we hold in the most straightforward way. The new library will be the most fantastic space for students and researchers to be able to interact with these resources and we are so excited to see it taking shape before our eyes.'

*Diane Job, Director of Library Services*

## A new chapter for the University Library

Students and staff will have a modern, attractive space in which to work and think when the new £60 million main University library opens in 2016.

Providing outstanding facilities for students and researchers, the library will improve access to the University's

extensive collections of e-books and journals and create a variety of learning spaces for different modes of study.

Civil Engineering student Sam Griffiths, who is completing a year-long work experience placement on the library site with the developers Carillion, will be one of the first undergraduates to use the new library: 'Thanks to your support, future students will benefit from the

library through the improved study spaces and state-of-the-art facilities that the building will be able to provide.

'This placement on the library site will help me massively because it will give me a year's experience before I've graduated. It will help me in my final two years of study because I'll have knowledge of what happens on site and how buildings are constructed.'

## Did you know that we're also fundraising for...

### Birmingham Business School Postgraduate Centre

A new £10 million Postgraduate Centre will open in 2016, providing tailor-made facilities for Birmingham Business School's global community of MSc and MBA students.

The design of the Postgraduate Centre will reflect the interactive nature of postgraduate business courses at Birmingham with a 100-seat 'Harvard Style' lecture theatre and breakout rooms where students can work flexibly in groups and exchange ideas, advancing and deepening their understanding of business.

Professor Simon Collinson, Dean of Birmingham Business School, says: 'The school is thriving. We now hold the triple-crown accreditation and our MBA programme is ranked in the Financial Times global top 100. As our global reputation for world-class research and teaching grows, this fantastic new Postgraduate Centre will capitalise on this momentum and build on our recent achievements.'

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