

# OLD JOE

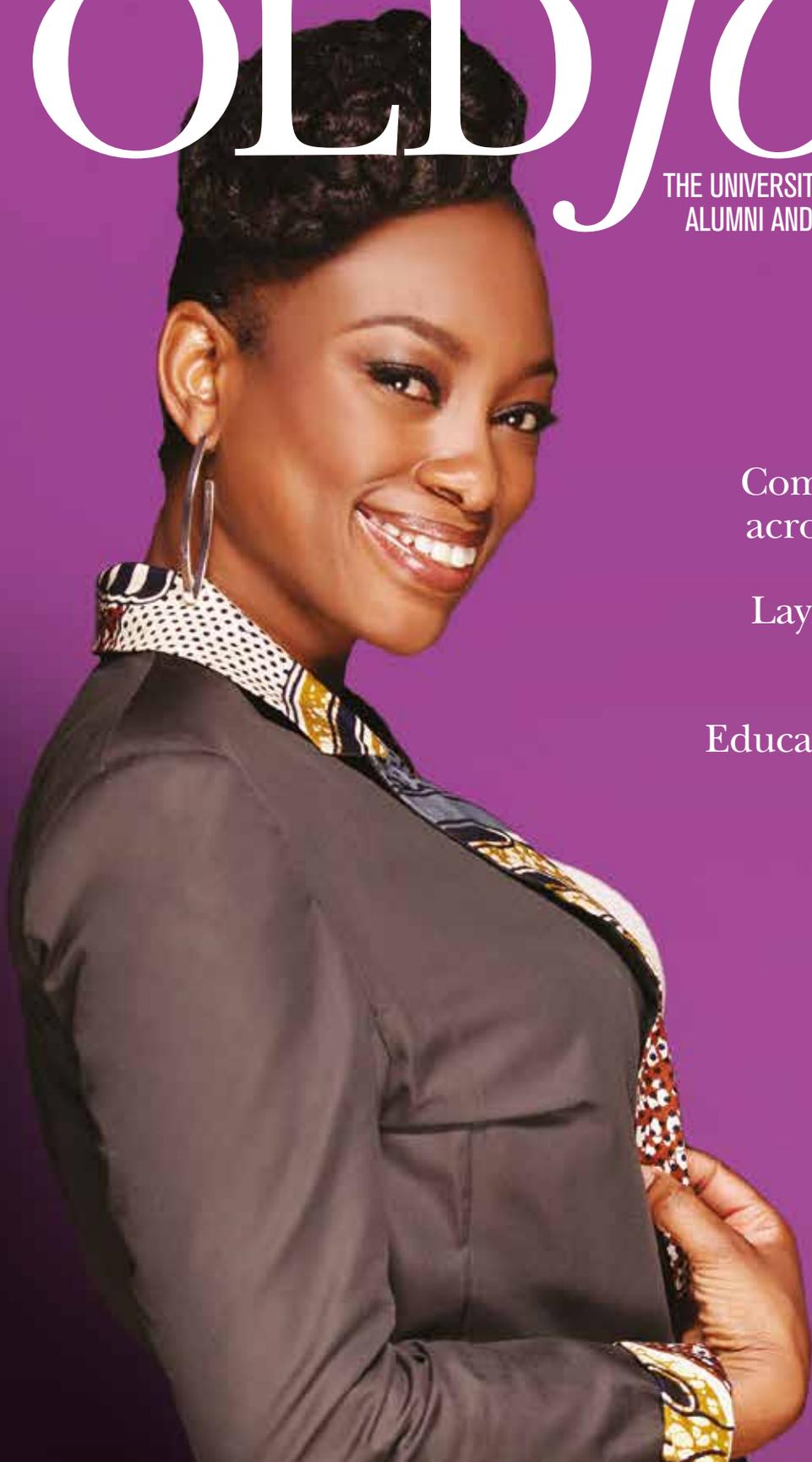
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S  
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE

Autumn 2016

Communicating  
across the globe

Laying the path  
to success

Education evolved



# The first word

**W**e hope you enjoyed the inaugural digital edition of *Old Joe*, the first solely digital magazine produced by the University. As we continue to take an innovative approach to engaging with you, our alumni and friends, we have produced an enhanced version of this issue of *Old Joe*, with additional digital content. Visit [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk) to view the extras including a video of Carl Hingley, Manager of the Formula Student Team, in his workshop, and interviews with students and researchers that have benefited from scholarships.



This edition highlights the wide breadth of research conducted at the University including the new Centre for Human Brain Health (pages 24–25), bringing together academics from different disciplines to generate a complete picture of what we consider to be a healthy brain, and some of our talented early-career researchers present their work (pages 12–13), covering the life of plants, using immunology to treat cancer, and improving radar systems.

I am delighted that earlier this year the University was commended by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) for both the quality and enhancement of its student learning opportunities, the highest rating possible and, we believe, the strongest endorsement of quality the QAA has yet published. The report fully recognises our commitment to offering outstanding teaching alongside world-class research.

This year has seen the completion of a number of capital projects including the library and sport centre (pages 32–33) at our Edgbaston campus that will benefit students, staff, visitors and the local community alike. The next phase of development is the creation of the Green Heart, outstanding new parkland in the centre of our historic campus, due in 2018.

As the University continues to digest the outcome of the EU Referendum and its consequences for the institution and for UK Higher Education more generally, I want to reassure you that as we have always done, we will continue to open our arms to staff and students from all nationalities and backgrounds. Information on how the result may affect the University community and a series of academic perspectives can be found on the website at [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk).

Alumni and friends may be situated far and wide around the globe but you are linked by your connection to Birmingham. I hope you will continue to support us as we take Birmingham out to the world.

Best wishes,

**Professor Sir David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor and donor to the University



## GUEST EDITOR

The University has many alumni around the world and I was so excited to find out that Femi Oke, currently living in the USA, is working at my ex-company, Al Jazeera Media Network (page 16). While she is currently based at Al Jazeera's Washington DC bureau, I was Head of Distribution Asia between 2011 and 2013 at the network.

Not only has the University prepared us for our future, it also has many heroes inside the institution, working on various research projects which impact every one of us (page 36).

In 2014, with the support of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, we kick-started the mentorship programme with alumni in Hong Kong offering advice to students at the University who planned to pursue a career in Hong Kong (page 28). I'm delighted that the University now plans to extend the international mentoring opportunities. Alumni are always here to support the next generation of Birmingham students, including via schemes such as the Access to Birmingham (A2B) Scholarship programme (page 18).

*Old Joe* offers me a close connection with the University and brings together alumni around the world. Enjoy reading!

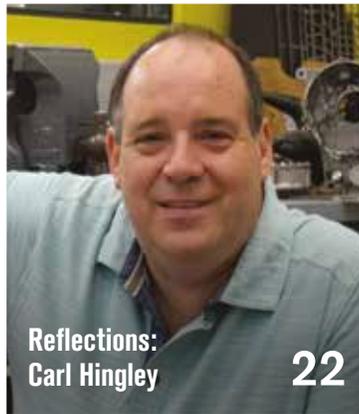
**Jonathan Wong**  
(BEng & BCom Engineering  
Production and Economics, 1990)

## Be a guest editor

Let us know if you would like to be a guest editor via [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# Contents

## Features



### Regulars

The first word	2
Your year in pictures	4
News	6
My favourite books	14
Events calendar	35
Your news	42
Why I donate	43
Across campus	44
Honorary graduates	46

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### What's on the cover?

● **Image:**  
 Femi Oke (BA English, 1988) is a broadcast journalist, and a moderator at a number of international conferences. Read more on page 16.

# YOUR YEAR IN PICTURES





**1. DRINK UP:** Professor John Bridgeman and his team of researchers at the University have developed a life saving device that scans water and quickly determines whether it is unsafe to drink. The project was aided by funding from the Diageo Foundation whose support is making a big difference to people around the world, particularly in disaster zones and areas of poor sanitation.

**2. BACK OF THE NET:** Former UoB Women's Football captain Izzy Christiansen (BSc Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science, 2014) capped a memorable season by being named the PFA Women's Players' Player of the Year 2016. The 25-year-old Manchester City midfielder not only helped her club finish second and qualify for the Champions League, but also scored on her England debut.

**3. DIGGING DEEP:** University scientists, including Dr Richard Butler, were part of a team to discover a new fossil reptile believed to be 250-million-years-old in southern Brazil. The skull of *Teyujagua paradoxa* pre-dates the dinosaurs and it is hoped the ongoing archaeological dig will provide new insights into the evolution of the giant reptiles.

**4. CIRCLES IN THE SAND:** Chancellor's Court was transformed into an outdoor photography exhibition by Dr Berny Sebe (Senior Lecturer, Colonial and Post-Colonial Studies, Department of Modern Languages) who examined how empires expand into deserts.

**5. BUZZ IN THE AIR:** A team of global experts including Dr Nick Loman, from the University's Institute of Microbiology and Infection, led a project in Brazil to combat the spread of Zika. The team used portable USB-powered genome sequencing equipment to analyse virus samples and track the spread of the virus across large towns and cities.

**6. WIND IN HER SAILS:** Alumna Jie Chen (MA International Management and Policy, 2001) sailed nearly 5,000 miles from Cape Town to Western Australia when she took part in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Jie, an amateur sailor who works for Allianz Global Assistance, spent 26 days at sea on the *Qingdao*, a 70-foot ocean racing yacht.

# OLD JOE NEWS

# proms in Chancellor's Court



This year the University hosted the first Birmingham Proms at its Edgbaston campus including a free outdoor evening concert full of Proms favourites and popular classics. The event was attended by thousands of guests and culminated in a fireworks display from the Bramall Music Building.

Classical singers Lauren Joyanne Morris (BA English Literature and Music, 2012; MA Music, 2014) and Philippa Althaus (BMus Music, 2008; MA Music, 2014) performed with the University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniele Rosina. Lauren and Philippa both received Bramall Music Scholarships for postgraduate study supported by a generous gift from an alumnus. The Symphony Orchestra is part of the University's Music Society, which consists of more than 700 members, including students, staff and the local community.

At the end of the evening Philippa commented: 'Wow – what an incredible concert to be part of! I was delighted and honoured to be invited back to the University to sing at the Proms – an evening full of beautiful music played superbly by the University Symphony

Orchestra. The atmosphere was electric, and it was wonderful to see thousands of smiling happy people in the audience enjoying their evening.'

The Proms were hosted by alumnus Michael Collie (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1985), a BBC television and radio presenter, who said: 'My time at the University was the best time of my life so it was a very special experience for me to be back on campus to host the inaugural Proms. It was exciting to see so many people on the campus and I hope events like this will encourage residents of the city to feel that the University is theirs and something to be proud of.'



## campus connections

### Forming lifelong friendships

'Sarah, Alison and I met during Welcome Week at Manor House. Sarah and I shared a room, and Alison was on the next landing. I met Liz on my first day in the English department as she was on the same course. We stay in touch and try to meet up every two to three years. This picture was taken at a reunion on campus in 2014.' **Annabelle**



#### ● Image:

Left to Right: Annabelle Beckwith (BA English, 1992), Sarah Davies (BA Russian Language and Literature, 1993), Liz Dexter (BA English, 1992) and Alison Jordan (BA Russian Language and Literature, 1993; PhD Russian Language and Literature, 1997).

### What's your campus connection?

Many people meet their lifelong friends while they are studying here at University. Does your friendship group have a story to tell? Let us know at [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# THE GAME IS NAMED

*'I'M SO DELIGHTED AND THRILLED TO HAVE THE GYM NAMED AFTER ME.'*

Chrissie Wellington OBE MBE



Chrissie Wellington OBE MBE (BA Geography, 1998; Hon DUniv, 2010) has hailed the opening of 'Chrissie's Gym' within the University's new sports centre as the start of a new era of sporting excellence at Birmingham.

The four times World Ironman Champion was voted as the public's choice to have the gym within 360 Sport & Fitness named after her following the Name of the Game competition, winning 43 per cent of the vote and finishing ahead of fellow regional sporting heroes Ellie Simmonds and Gladstone Small.

She said: 'I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me. I'm so delighted and thrilled to have the gym named after me. It's an absolute privilege and honour and I'm looking forward to celebrating with alumni and students.'

Chrissie's Gym forms part of the £55 million 360 Sport & Fitness facility and features around 200 stations suitable for everyone from casual gym goer to elite athlete.

*Find out more about the new sports centre including membership options at: [360birmingham.co.uk](http://360birmingham.co.uk)*



## Students join forces FOR LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH

The 2016 EPS Societies' Awards saw 250 students, staff, alumni and supporters of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences celebrate the achievements of its 24 student groups over the past year.

Guests were invited to participate in a charity raffle with prizes donated by many alumni and corporate contacts. All monies went towards the pioneering research of the University's Dr Frank Mussai into childhood cancer, and £1,000 was raised for the worthy cause.

The student organising committee felt strongly that the awards should be used as an opportunity to give something back to the University. It was also a great medium through which to raise awareness of the University's charitable status with their classmates.

More than 750 nominations were received and 12 awards presented to the winners on the night in categories including Inspirational Committee Member, Sports Personality of the Year and Outstanding Event.



Have you been inspired to support the University by taking part in a charity event? Our Development Office can help you to plan and organise your event – call +44 (0)121 414 8895 or email [fundraiseforus@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:fundraiseforus@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



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# CLASS OF 2015

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One year on

Last year saw the 300,000th student graduate from the University and to celebrate reaching this milestone *Old Joe* selected 12 alumni from the Class of 2015 to follow their progress as they prepared to leave university. One year on we caught up with four members of the group to find out what they had been up to since graduation.



## Joe Alderman



(MBCbB Medicine, 2015)

'I'm currently an intensive care doctor and it is hectic! An average day involves looking after some of the sickest patients in the hospital; I'm learning to place invasive lines to

monitor patients' blood and vital signs, and becoming familiar with managing people who are on life support machines. It's often stressful but never boring.

'As an academic doctor I balance my clinical work each month with research, and hope to lead a fascinating project looking at the interface between technology and wellness in 2017.

'I do miss the University grounds; nowhere at work has quite the same charm as strolling through Chancellor's Court on my familiar walk from the Guild to the Medical School.

'It's a big transition to go from healthcare student to healthcare professional. Birmingham gave me a fantastic foundation from which to build my career, and has given me the confidence I need to be successful in the future. Just as important as the educational opportunities for me were the extracurricular activities. I have no doubt that my participation with RAG, life support training and student politics contributed hugely to the person and clinician I am today.'

## Suna Yokes



(MSci Human Geography, 2015)

'As an Office and Production Runner for Studio Lambert, the award-winning company behind much-loved TV shows including *Gogglebox*, *The Secret Millionaire* and *Undercover Boss*, my job can be quite varied.

'I ensure production teams have the correct equipment and supplies, and help out on filming days. I sometimes get to meet the ordinary people with interesting stories who make these factual entertainment shows so successful. I even got to be an extra in one of Studio Lambert's new series, *Full Body Fixers*; look out for my acting debut!

'One of the most valuable things I learnt at University was that it does not necessarily matter if your degree does not directly apply to the area you aspire to work in. Much to my surprise, employers in the media industry look favourably on applications from those who did not study a media related course.'

## Matt Harrison



(BSc Physics with International Study, 2015)

'I work part-time at the moment, allowing me the time to do what I really came to Toulouse to do – to improve my French and absorb

the culture. I work for a company that provides native-English speakers to French families as nannies, babysitters, and language teachers for their children.

'Moving to a new, big city without the University as a way of meeting people and making friends can sometimes make it feel lonely; I miss the sense of community on campus. But the skills I gained during my studies at Birmingham, the confidence I developed through my extracurricular activities like the archery club, and the connections I made during a year on the Erasmus scheme in Toulouse – as well as the experience of diving into a different culture – all helped make the process of beginning working life in a new country much easier.'

## Shenaid Tapper



(BSc Planning and Economics, 2015)

'I work in project management at RBS in London, compiling briefings and analysing risks to a scheme, which has provided me with a real

insight into this area. Looking to the future I would like to explore options to work internationally. I miss having all of my friends in one place. Everything I needed was in one place on campus; we're all spread out across the country now.

'At university I developed my communication skills through societies, volunteering and my course, so I was well prepared for meeting new people. The thing that has surprised me most about the workplace was the different career paths people have followed. I've met a really varied group of people that I can learn from.'

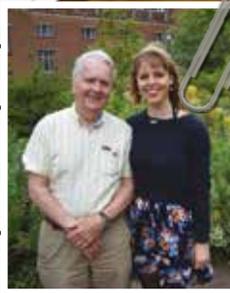
**Shenaid was selected from the Class of 2015 to symbolise the 300,000th person to join the University's alumni community.**

Class of 2015, tell us what you are up to with #wearebrumalum or email [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# EDUCATION EVOLVED

*Old Joe* talked to alumni and current students of Chemistry, Medicine and Music to find out how their degree courses have changed over the years.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	CHEMISTRY
<b>STUDENTS</b>	Dr John Higginbotham (BSc Chemistry, 1966; PhD Chemistry, 1969) and Alice Sayers (Third year, BSc Chemistry)



## OLD JOE: HOW HAS THE DEGREE COURSE CHANGED?

**John:** There was a strong emphasis on practical work in my time. We had a daily three-hour lecture, as well as four hours in the laboratory behind the Hills Building on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday morning. And we would have the entire year group in the same laboratory – so about 120 in my time.

**Alice:** There's still quite a lot of practical work – we have eight hours a week and we're split into seven groups. But we also have a workshop before our lectures, as well as 'pre-labs' completed online before the actual laboratory sessions. We're based in the dedicated chemistry buildings, and the new Collaborative Teaching Laboratory will improve the work space when it opens.

## John:

My degree set me up for my working career with Tate & Lyle, where I discovered a naturally intense sweetener in West Africa and created 12 patents in other fields. But what I didn't realise when I started at the University was that I was required to study physics and mathematics in my first year!

**Alice:** We still have mathematics lessons in our first year, but they are specialised modules for chemistry, and there is a Physical Chemistry core module that includes some physics concepts vital to chemistry.



<b>SUBJECT</b>	MUSIC
<b>STUDENTS</b>	Paul Rodmell, (BMus Music, 1988; PhD Music, 1995) Head of Music at University of Birmingham and Lee Chapman (BA Music, 2016)



**OLD JOE: PAUL, MANY ELEMENTS OF THE DEGREE HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU GRADUATED, BUT HAS ANYTHING REMAINED THE SAME?**

**Paul:** The Department still holds instrumental and vocal lessons at the Birmingham Conservatoire; students have been going there since at least 1915. We are the only university that has such an arrangement with a local music college. It remains a big recruiting influence as you get the best of both worlds: the academic training at the University and some high level professional training at the Conservatoire as a performer.

**Lee:** I went to the Conservatoire in my first year to study performance modules for my degree; it was incredible to have such a link to professional musicians.

**OLD JOE: WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES?**

**Paul:** Back then, we had an annual Department Revue; an evening in which final year students acted out sketches based on events during the year, including doing impressions of staff. It was good fun: slightly edgy, full of in-jokes and always hysterical.

**Lee:** Joining the Music Society was the best thing I did at the University. It was a great way to meet new people and escape from your degree, while still being involved in the activity you loved.

YOU CAN READ MORE ALUMNI MEMORIES OF BIRMINGHAM ONLINE AT [WWW.OLDJOE.CO.UK](http://WWW.OLDJOE.CO.UK)

<b>SUBJECT</b>	MEDICINE
<b>STUDENTS</b>	Barbara Alexander (MBChB Medicine, 1968) and Jamie Nicholson (Second year, MBChB Medicine)



**OLD JOE: HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY HELPED MEDICAL STUDENTS?**

**Jamie:** Well, we have anatomage tables for dissection lessons. They produce a virtual human body that you can take slices through, or look at individual organs. Anatomy is taught in special rooms with plastic corpses, and we have a prosection performed for us.

**Barbara:** For our anatomy lessons, the class would go into the dissection room, which had rows of tables with the cadavers ready for the first morning we arrived. We were divided up into small groups, and each day dissected a specific part. There was always a strong smell of formaldehyde but even so, only one student dropped out of my degree class.

**OLD JOE: HOW ABOUT EQUIPMENT?**

**Barbara:** It would have been considered 'state-of-the-art' for the time, but would now raise some eyebrows. We each had a dissecting kit, and then our own stethoscope. It was recommended that students had a replica skeleton and for my first year, while in residence in Winterbourne, I kept the skeleton in a box under the bed.

**Jamie:** These days we have dummies on which we can practise basic life support – that is a virtual body with technology that helps us to know how to perform the procedure properly.

Barbara Alexander is pictured at her graduation with her son, Terence. He was born four weeks earlier, in the middle of Barbara's final exams. Her viva was rearranged to give her time to recover!



# RAPID RES

From investigating meiotic cell-division in plants to biologically inspired radar, researchers at Birmingham cover a wide range of pioneering topics that have a global impact. *Old Joe* asked a few of the University's postgraduate researchers to tell us in fewer than 100 words what they are working on.



## GALEN REICH

(BSc Physics, 2015)

School of Engineering

**TITLE:** Biologically inspired radar

My work is focused on biologically inspired radar. In essence, radar is echolocation – the same process that bats use to find and track their

prey. They send out a pulse and the echoes they receive allow them to build up a perception of their environment. You may not know, however, that some humans can also echolocate; for example, by producing tongue clicks in order to echolocate. The ultimate aim for researchers is to be able to

incorporate these advanced processing techniques into our own systems, in order to improve the performance of current and future radar systems.



## MAI KHANH TRAN (MIKA)

(Msc Marketing Communications, 2013)

Birmingham Business School

**TITLE:** The interplay of art and technology in developing consumer culture

My PhD is about the interplay between arts and technology, and how this can facilitate the changes in consumer patterns. Companies

are starting to give their consumers more space for imagination and technical support to turn creativity into reality; identifying novel concepts and enhancing the collaborative experience. I'm working with the CBSO, IBM and Birmingham Project to gain an insight into this phenomenon.

I hope that my research will inspire people to be more open to new experiences and to show their creativity because I believe that each of us is an artist and we can have our own work of art.



## CHRIS MORGAN

School of Biosciences

**TITLE:** Investigating meiotic cell-division in plants

I am researching the process of 'meiosis', the special form of cell division that produces the cells required for sex, e.g. sperm and eggs in humans. My interest is in a

plant, *arabidopsis thaliana*. I am using cutting edge techniques like super-resolution fluorescent microscopy to examine how meiosis works in *arabidopsis*, and how we can manipulate meiosis to improve processes such as plant breeding, helping us to breed bigger, better, hardier plants. If we can translate our discoveries

into more important crop species like wheat or barley, it could help address some of the problems associated with feeding Earth's ever-expanding population.



# RESEARCHERS



**VANESSA TUBB**

(BMedSc Biomedical Sciences, General, 2012; MRes Biomedical Research, 2013) Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy

**TITLE:** Turning immune cells in to cancer killers

The aim of our research is to harness the immune response to treat cancer. The immune

response is very good at recognising and destroying invading pathogens, but there's also evidence that the immune system can recognise cancer cells. Cancer immunotherapy aims to enhance the patient's anti-cancer immune response, and one of the ways we can do this is by infusing a patient's own immune cells with cancer fighting receptors, which

we have genetically engineered in the lab. I hope to find T-cell receptors that can potentially destroy cancer cells and translate this into a T-cell therapy for cancer patients.



**SEB ESKAURIATZA**

Birmingham Law School  
**TITLE:** Does the *jus post bellum* as 'integrity' help to identify post-conflict law?

My research looks at the law that applies to transitions from conflict to peace. I'm interested in how a particular legal philosophy,

interpretivism, might help practitioners to identify 'post-conflict law'. Interpretivism was designed to deal with 'hard cases' but international lawyers have not received it with much enthusiasm. For the most part, this is owing to the lack of a central court in the international legal order. I hope to contribute to the broader

discussion about the relevance of interpretivism for international legal scholarship. I also hope that my research benefits practitioners involved in advising parties on how to transition from conflict to peace.



Visit [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk) to watch videos of them explaining their research in 60 seconds.



**What is radar an acronym for?**

To win University merchandise, send your answer, name and contact details to

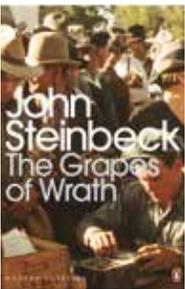
[alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) by

31 December 2016. Full terms and conditions on page 47.



# MY FAVOURITE BOOKS

Clare Morrall (BMus Music, 1974; Hon DLitt, 2004) is a novelist and music teacher. Her first novel, *Astonishing Splashes of Colour*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and her latest novel, *When the Floods Came*, was released earlier this year. She will also appear at the University's Book to the Future Festival (see page 35).



### **The Grapes of Wrath**

John Steinbeck

When I was a teenager, my general knowledge was shockingly limited – fiction was my only

route into the real world. So this book educated me about the dust bowls of America in the 1930s and the ensuing poverty. It is a powerful guide for an emerging social conscience.

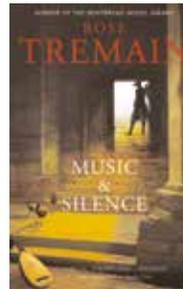


### **The English Patient**

Michael Ondaatje

This is a book that lodges in your mind – the unassuming explorers who turn up in

London to talk about their exploits in the desert, the training of bomb disposal experts in Suffolk, the murals in the churches that no one sees and the crumbling booby-trapped Italian villa. The film was good – but nothing could ever do justice to this brilliant, multi-layered book.



### **Music and Silence**

Rose Tremain

I am not sure I would willingly seek out a novel about King Christian IV of Denmark in 1630. But this is

by Rose Tremain, whose writing is so good I know I'm going to be safe in her hands. The story revolves around the King's wife having a not very secret affair. The Kingdom is rapidly disintegrating, and music is the King's only solace. This is a profound novel that resonates with sensuality, wit and complexity.

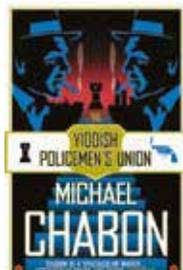


### **A Perfect Spy**

John le Carré

A novel about spies, double spies, the ability of the human mind to deceive itself. Le Carré understands

the deep connections between people and the power of love. Everything he writes, like all great literature, walks a tightrope between tragedy and humour; terrifying, exhilarating, brilliant. He knows how to move us without resorting to sentimentality, how to keep us hovering, halfway across, unable to decide whether we should weep or howl with laughter.



### **The Yiddish Policemen's Union**

Michael Chabon

An alternative future: after the Second World War, the Jews are given part of

Alaska as a homeland. But only for a limited period and their time is almost up. Hence the recurring greeting: 'These are strange times to be a Jew.' There's a mysterious murder in a seedy hotel room, a game of unfinished chess, a bitter winter.



For your chance to win these five books, answer the following question:

**What is the name of the narrator in *Astonishing Splashes of Colour*?**

Email your answer with your name, address and telephone number to [alunicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alunicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) by 31 December 2016.

# HOW DOPERS TRY TO JUSTIFY CHEATING

Dr Maria Kavussanu, Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology at the University, analyses why some professional sportsmen and women choose to cheat.



The level of scrutiny on national athletic federations surrounding the Rio Olympics once again highlighted the

difficulty facing sporting authorities to stay ahead of drug cheats.

International condemnation was swift and virtually unanimous, and many find it hard to comprehend why an athlete would choose to cheat. With the risk of being banned from pursuing your livelihood and earning notoriety, what drives an individual to try and bypass the rules or laws of their chosen sport?

One potential influence is moral disengagement, which refers to the justifications people use for unethical behaviour. Normally, our moral standards guide our behaviour so that we feel guilt when we do something 'bad'. We come to anticipate the guilty feelings and that prevents us from acting unethically. Moral disengagement eliminates or minimises these feelings of guilt, so athletes dope without feeling bad, as they find ways to justify their behaviour.

Research conducted in Denmark and Greece by me and my colleagues suggests that regardless of whether you take part in an individual or team sport, the temptation to dope is present. We asked a group of elite footballers how they would react to a hypothetical scenario: if a team-mate was to offer them a substance that would improve individual performance, with little chance of being caught, what is the likelihood they would take the substance?

Even though you would think that men or women reliant on speed, endurance or strength to compete as an individual in their chosen sport (e.g. athletics or weightlifting) would be more likely to dope, 61 per cent of our surveyed group of footballers indicated that they would consider taking the illegal drug. Importantly, those who tended to morally disengage were more likely to say that they would take the drug, and also anticipated feeling less guilt for doing so. In addition, having the perception that many of their team-mates would also take the drug led to the footballers being more likely to say they would dope.

What do these results show?

While the fear of being caught is a strong deterrent to cheating, even in sports where an individual doping may not actively make a difference to the performance of his team, the idea that your team-mates are also doping as well can weigh heavily on your decision to do the same. So a team environment that sanctions doping, together with the justifications athletes use (i.e. moral disengagement), leads to a higher likelihood that athletes will dope.

Whether stronger punishments for those who are caught would reduce the number of dopers is a matter for debate. Personally, I favour lifetime bans for drug cheats, but would also point to the need to change cultural and social attitudes towards doping in the first place – a long-term challenge for world sporting authorities.

Editor's note: This article was produced in advance of the Rio Olympics and the International Association of Athletics Federations' decision to suspend Russia's track and field athletes from the Games. It is not a comment on any specific investigation into doping.



# COMMUNICATING ACROSS

Femi Oke (BA English, 1988) is a broadcast journalist, currently presenting on Al Jazeera English, and a moderator at a number of international conferences.

Femi's interest in journalism grew from an early age and led to her becoming a junior reporter on London Broadcasting Company (LBC) radio at the age of 14. Prior to this she would perform simulated news bulletins to her family every Friday evening at the kitchen table, mimicking ITV's *News at Ten*, including the 'bongs of Big Ben' from the programme's opening credits.

During her time in Birmingham Femi continued to develop her skills in broadcasting working for local radio stations such as BBC WM and joined the BBC at graduation. However studying the classics during her time at the University also prepared her for a career as a journalist.

'Looking back, my degree didn't seem that significant at the time but I have come to realise it was a really valuable experience and I discovered a lot about myself during my time at Birmingham. The exchange of ideas and interrogation of a story are applicable to both literature and journalism. The social aspect also shaped me, discussing the meanings of texts in the pub added to my experience of university. I am not sure I could tackle *Middlemarch* on three hours sleep nowadays though!'

Femi has worked extensively in network television and radio in the UK, reported from South Africa for CNN and is currently based at Al Jazeera's Washington DC bureau. Four days a week she hosts *The Stream*, a live news show that interacts with viewers via social media. Presenting live TV does not appear to faze Femi: 'I love it! It's exciting, you cannot make a mistake and if you do you need to think quickly.'

'It can be really positive, it brings out the journalistic instinct and guests can be incredibly candid on live TV.'

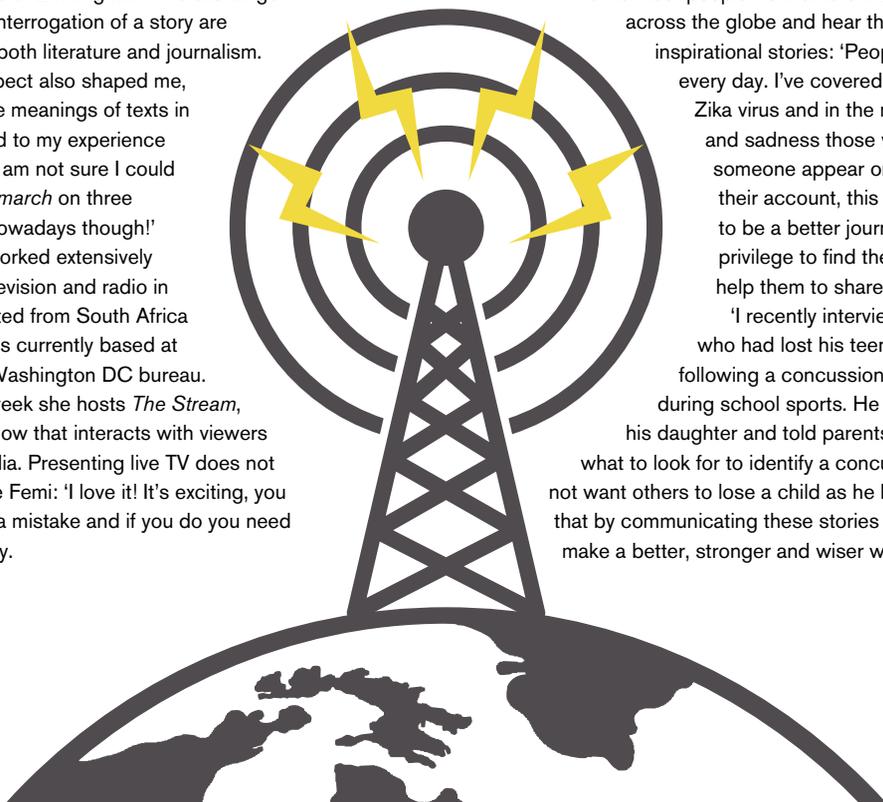
Femi is also a moderator for global causes and organisations; a role that involves a lot of international travel. In the space of a few weeks she shared the stage with the United Nations' Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, and spoke at Women Deliver, in Copenhagen, Denmark. For Femi the travel is worth it as she enjoys being involved in projects that address world issues and support human rights.

Pushed to name her favourite place to visit she said: 'Egypt. It has ancient and modern side by side. I'm fascinated by how the ancient monuments were built and I feel catapulted back in time.'

Her work in broadcasting and her time travelling have led her to meet people from different backgrounds

across the globe and hear their often inspirational stories: 'People inspire me every day. I've covered Ebola and Zika virus and in the midst of pain and sadness those who have lost someone appear on TV to give their account, this inspires me to be a better journalist. It is a privilege to find their story and help them to share it.'

'I recently interviewed a father who had lost his teenage daughter following a concussion received during school sports. He talked about his daughter and told parents and schools what to look for to identify a concussion. He did not want others to lose a child as he had. I hope that by communicating these stories I can help make a better, stronger and wiser world.'





GUEST ED LOVES

# THE GLOBE

“ I HOPE THAT BY COMMUNICATING THESE STORIES I CAN HELP MAKE A BETTER, STRONGER AND WISER WORLD. ”





GUEST ED LOVES

# LAYING THE PATH TO SUCCESS

Philanthropic support has been integral to the University of Birmingham since its foundation, and this culture of giving continues to change lives. Philanthropy provides opportunities for students from all backgrounds to access higher education and set them on the route to a successful career. Financial assistance is available to the best and brightest at all stages, whether they be undergraduates, studying for a Masters degree or PhD, or starting out as full-time academics. The University continues to be enriched as a result, and *Old Joe* spoke to alumni and staff to find out how they have benefited.

Throughout its history, the University of Birmingham's alumni community has been enriched by the brightest minds, thanks to the University's ethos of providing opportunities to all.

For example, more than 700 students have graduated thanks to the pioneering Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme, which is celebrating ten years of scholarships this year. The scheme encourages talented students from families and communities in the West Midlands with little or no experience of higher education to gain access to the University.



## OPENING UP ACCESS

The scholarship can be a genuinely life-changing experience for many, as it proved for alumna Emma James (BA Theology and Religion, 2014).

Emma learnt of the scheme through the University's Outreach team, who visited her Sixth Form College and said: 'University was something that I didn't think

was within my reach, as my parents were not in a position to support me financially. It was only when I discovered the A2B scheme that the idea of studying at university became something tangible.'

An active advocate of A2B and the University, Emma saw her career take a different path when she met Martin Slumbers (BSc Production Engineering and Economics, 1981), who was considering donating to the scheme. He went on to offer Emma a work experience opportunity at Deutsche Bank, which would become a permanent position.

'I don't know where I would be now without A2B,' she added. 'I would urge any students considering university to take opportunities such as this and never underestimate themselves and their suitability to go to university.'





### BANKING ON INTERNSHIP

While individual donations drive the A2B scheme, the University also receives funding from major firms like the Lloyds Banking Group. Lloyds Scholarships are offered to students

from lower income households, who receive a complete package of financial support, paid internships and the opportunity to develop their employability skills.

For Deven Sidhpara (BSc Mathematical Economics and Statistics, 2016), the chance to experience two internships with one of the UK's biggest financial institutions was a huge attraction. He said: 'I was interested in coming to Birmingham, and the scholarship fit perfectly with what I wanted to do. Nowadays if you don't have experience, a lot of people are not willing to take a look at you. Knowing I had two internships coming my way took a lot of pressure off my shoulders and helped me put everything into my studies.'



### MASTERFUL OPPORTUNITY

For those who wish to continue their studies after graduation, opportunities are also available, with support for both postgraduate research and postgraduate taught degrees.

Trudi Rainsberry (BPhil Special Education: Autism (Children), 2010), successfully applied for a Distinguished Alumni Scholarship in 2015 and hopes that completing her Masters degree in the subject will further her career working with children and young people with autism.

As a mature student, the financial support offered by the scholarship was a considerable help to Trudi, who was able to take a year out from work for the full-time course. She said: 'The scholarship was a big help to me financially. While I was

considering studying for the Masters anyway, receiving the funding reduced the strain on my husband to support me for the year.' Trudi added that she may also consider continuing her studies with a doctorate, admitting: 'Being awarded a scholarship of this nature certainly ups your game!'



### OUR FELLOW ACADEMICS

An early career researcher can also apply to become a Birmingham Fellow, a University scheme designed to recruit and support the best and brightest academics. The sustainable long-term

funding that this allows ensures projects can be completed by researchers without the disruption that can occur when new PhD students have to be brought up to speed. This was particularly appealing to Kostas Nikolopoulos, who joined the University in 2012 after learning of the opportunities on offer through the scheme. A specialist in particle physics, he is part of the 3,000-strong scientific community whose research is based at the CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) Large Hadron Collider.

He said: 'When I met the Head of Physics, he made it clear the University wanted to invest in people, and that they wanted staff to be here for a long time, which was very inspiring for me. Particle physics also has a very strong tradition at Birmingham, and that was certainly a draw as well.'

We hope you have been inspired to help ensure every Birmingham student with the ability to succeed can experience the power of a university education. Through this year's Access to Education Appeal, we will recognise donors as part of the redevelopment of the Green Heart on campus, designed to provide an inspiring learning environment for all students. More details can be found at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/studentsupport](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/studentsupport)

Hear more from Emma, Deven, Trudi and Kostas by visiting [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk)

# Exploring the migrant journey



The social landscape of Europe has been transformed in recent decades with the arrival of migrants from many different countries, combined with longer established minority populations. This has resulted in more diverse societies with an unprecedented variety of cultures, identities, faiths, languages, and immigration statuses.

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) brings together more than 60 academics from different disciplines to grow the University's expertise in this emerging field. A number of IRiS projects are conducting research into the current refugee and migration crisis in Europe, covering the now familiar journey of migrants from Africa and the Middle East as they cross the Mediterranean en route to the French port of Calais with the aim of settling in the UK.

## MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION

In 2015 more than 4,000 people lost their lives in the Mediterranean Sea, drowning as overloaded and often unseaworthy boats sank into the sea. They were travelling to Europe in search of protection and a better life. Research by IRiS aims to map the journeys of migrants arriving at Europe's southern border, understand the decision-making processes that influence migrants to make the often hazardous journey and provide robust evidence to inform policy.

Dr Nando Sigona said: 'Refugees and migrants who travel across the Mediterranean into Europe are not a homogeneous group. They have often been on the move for long periods. They have fled conflict, persecution, poverty or other factors that make it impossible for them to remain at home, but they are also looking to build a life, rather than simply to escape. To imagine that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to discouraging migration through punitive measures will work is naïve, at best. More worryingly, it is pushing people into ever riskier routes into and within the EU.'



‘The physical and emotional damage to people is avoidable through a modest provision of food, social infrastructure and health services.’

## LIFE IN THE CALAIS CAMP

The migrant and refugee camp in Calais, France, often referred to as the ‘Jungle’, is the largest such in Europe and has approximately 6,000 inhabitants. In addition to the politics this situation has implications for the health and wellbeing of the camp’s residents. An IRiS interdisciplinary research project explores the environmental conditions in Calais and its impact upon the lives of its residents.

Dr Arshad Isakjee has observed conditions in the camp and its effects on migrants: ‘The physical and emotional damage to people is avoidable through a modest provision of food, social infrastructure and health services. Yet neither the French authorities nor their British counterparts have the political will to ensure such provisions reach Calais residents.’

## RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION

In early 2016 the UK agreed to take up to 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees including families with young children. Many refugees have arrived with significant levels of skills and qualifications but struggle to access secure housing and employment, connect socially or achieve good health. Local authorities accepting refugees may have little or no experience of working to resettle refugees and support their integration. Researchers at IRiS are working to create a training programme and toolkit to develop the capacity of institutions, including health, education and housing providers, to facilitate refugee integration.



Dr Nando Sigona: @nandosigona  
Professor Jenny Phillimore: @japhillimore  
Dr Arshad Isakjee: @Isakjee

Blog: <https://superdiversity.net/>

# Carl Hingley

An unsung hero in the School of Engineering, Carl Hingley has been managing the University of Birmingham's Formula Student racing team since it was founded 19 years ago. As Senior Automotive Technician, Carl has just started his 40th year of work at the University, and received the British Empire Medal in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours.

**The Formula Student** project was founded in 1997 by one of the University's undergraduates, Blake Siegler (MEng Mechanical Engineering with Languages, 1998). Working together, we came up with a business plan mapping out how we could design and build a Formula-style race car for the 1998 Formula SAE competition in the USA. We got together a team of 40 people and in eight months, designed, built and tested a car from scratch ready for the competition. We came 50th out of 120 cars.

**In that first year** we had to fly the team in via Toronto, New York and Chicago because there weren't enough flights available to Detroit. There were 24 of us, staying in five hotel rooms and based at the circuit in three Winnebagos.

**We were ruthless** with our marketing in the early days – any money raised went straight into the car. Cadbury gave us chocolates, so we auctioned those off. Honda wouldn't give us an engine, but offered us a brand new motorbike instead, so we took the engine out ourselves and sold the frame.

**Back then**, the car weighed about 350 kilograms, but with modern developments it has improved in all regards and mirrors the work done on Formula 1 cars. We are down to 195 kilograms now, using aircraft aluminium and carbon fibre materials.

**There's nothing like** hands-on practical experience to help students prepare for a career in engineering. The degree is critically important in giving you a fundamental grounding, but is also very theoretical. Being able to apply practically what you've learned in the lecture theatre will be the key to getting the job you want in industry.

**I've been told** many times that the team members leave Birmingham two years ahead of most graduates. Every year, I get some of my former students who are now captains of industry ringing me up to try and find the next bright young thing.

**It's tremendous** to see these undergraduates pour their energy into what is an extra-curricular activity and it's their enthusiasm that keeps me with them in the laboratory in the evenings, at weekends and even sometimes all through the night.

**Even though I helped** set up the Formula Student competition, I'm not a petrol head. I get my enjoyment from seeing the team produce a great car every year – I'm very much a 'projects' man. I love seeing students come in to the lab for the first time and eventually graduate and get a job in the industry three or four years later.

The University is celebrating the 20th year of UBRacing in 2016-17. Did you work with Carl as part of Formula SAE or Formula Student during your degree at the University? Email [alumnicomunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicomunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with your memories and let us know what you're up to now!

## DID YOU KNOW?

The UBRacing Team was one of many projects supported by the Circles of Influence fundraising campaign. Thanks to alumni donations, equipment was purchased that has helped build the team's race cars.

Find out more from Carl and see the 2016-17 Formula Student car by visiting [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk)







“THE CENTRE’S  
MISSION IS TO HAVE  
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY  
ORGANISATION UTILISING  
ADVANCED NEUROIMAGING  
TECHNIQUES TO  
CHARACTERISE BRAIN  
STRUCTURE AND  
ACTIVITY.”



# UNLOCKING COMPLEXITY

It is the most complex organ in the human body and the one which defines who we are yet the brain is still the least understood. We know that issues such as psychiatric disorders, strokes and dementia arise from brain dysfunction but how can we fully comprehend such illnesses until we define what it means to have a healthy brain?



The University's new Centre for Human Brain Health (CHBH) aims to determine what makes a brain healthy, how to maintain

it, especially during normal ageing, and how to prevent and reverse damage. The Centre will develop the next generation of treatments for conditions relating to the brain. Researchers at the CHBH will have expertise in a wide variety of disciplines, from cognitive neuroscientists using advanced imaging methods to medics investigating brain trauma, computer scientists creating new ways to view data from brain scans, sport and exercise scientists looking at the role of exercise in maintaining a healthy brain, and social scientists forming policies based on the Centre's findings. They will also be taking a translational approach, working closely with the healthcare professionals that have contact with patients and put treatments into practice. Professor Kim Shapiro, Head of the

School of Psychology, said: 'Looking at areas of the brain or diseases like Alzheimer's in isolation does not provide the whole picture needed to understand the healthy brain. Thus the Centre's mission to have an interdisciplinary organisation utilising advanced neuroimaging techniques to characterise brain structure and activity, and combining this with investigations into lifestyle factors such as exercise and nutrition, will enable it to cover the full spectrum of brain function.'

Academics and clinicians are already coming together to collaborate on projects, with a state-of-the-art physical hub currently being built at the Edgbaston campus. The building will house new scanning equipment including a magnetoencephalography (MEG) imaging machine, becoming one of only a handful of research centres in the UK to do so.

Professor Shapiro is conducting a study into the onset of dementia, with colleagues Dr Ali Mazaheri and Professor Howard Bowman, by revealing biomarkers in the brain. The biomarkers show promise to predict the onset of Alzheimer's disease

up to three years in advance in people with a mild cognitive impairment caused by, for example, sports injuries. The equipment in the Centre coupled with the better link to patients will support further investigations in this area.

Another project that will benefit from CHBH is Professor Stephen Wood's research into brain development and the increase in risk-taking in adolescents. He is seeking to find why young people aged 14–25 are more inclined to engage in risky behaviour such as speeding, unprotected sex, drug taking and binge drinking. Early indications show that the part of the brain that deals with reward does not connect with the brain's control centre in the same way that it does in an adult brain. The Centre will provide enhanced brain scanning to expand this research and connect with sociology and law researchers to suggest changes to social policy based on the outcomes.

Hear more from Professor Kim Shapiro about the plans for the CHBH in an exclusive video at [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk)

# BIFoR TAKES ROOT



Following the successful installation of unique measuring equipment at its Staffordshire woodland, the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR) has already begun gathering data that will make it one of the world's leading authorities on the effects of climate change.

A landmark experiment in Staffordshire made possible by a transformational £15 million gift is successfully underway after the completion of the complicated construction stage.

Phase One of the BIFoR Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment (FACE) facility was completed in March 2016, with three circular, 30-metre diameter areas of woodland, enclosed in a cylindrical ring structure, now ready to receive elevated levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

The experiment is assessing how mature woodland reacts to the changing CO<sub>2</sub> in the air and Professor Rob MacKenzie, Director of BIFoR, was delighted that the construction process not only avoided damaging the woodland trees, but also allowed for control readings to be taken throughout.

Rob says: 'The Estates team, led by Dan Holmes, did an outstanding job alongside the contractor Shaylor Group, which has been nominated for a significant construction award for its work, and to be honest, things have gone better than we could ever have hoped.'

'Firstly, the FACE infrastructure was installed without the need to remove any of the existing full-grown trees in the forest, and the team also avoided churning up any of the soil.'

'Just as importantly, we were able to do measurements throughout the

construction – a credit to the feat of engineering that has put us ahead of schedule in terms of scientific assessments.'

These initial measurements are in Rob's words, 'almost the crown jewels of the whole project', as they provide the baseline figures against which the experiment will be assessed going forwards.

With this data being so important to all of the subsequent research, the team is intent on gathering an entire year's worth of readings before beginning the fumigation phase, where CO<sub>2</sub> levels will be raised by a third above the normal expected in a woodland environment.

Fumigation will only occur when there are leaves growing on the trees, and only when those leaves are actively photosynthesising sunlight (i.e. day time).

The experiment will also take readings from equivalent control groups elsewhere in the forest, including assessing insects and birds living in the woodland in order to see how the increased CO<sub>2</sub> will affect the whole food chain and ecosystem.

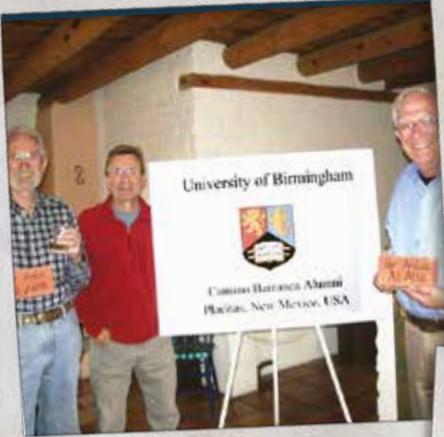
Rob adds: 'The heightened levels of CO<sub>2</sub> are in no way dangerous to the environment – in fact, a stuffy room has much higher levels than the experiment – but they do represent a much higher level than the norm outside, which is what we want to assess.'

*'We were able to do measurements throughout the construction of the facility – a credit to the feat of engineering that has put us ahead of schedule in terms of scientific assessments.'*

- The experiment is using carbon dioxide that would otherwise go into the atmosphere.
- BIFoR's establishment was made possible by a donation from the University's Professor Jo Bradwell (MBCbB Medicine, 1968; HonDSc, 2011) and his wife Dr Barbara Scott (BSc Biological Sciences, 1977; PhD Medicine, 1981), with the gift being made through the JABBS Foundation. They are passionate about the global issue of climate change and how our forests are threatened.

See more at [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk)

# GLOBAL ALUMNI GATHERING



*New Mexico*

## MAIN IMAGE:

Global Alumni Gathering in Placitas, New Mexico. The three alumni pictured, Grenville Yuill (MSc Physics & Technology of Nuclear Reactors, 1961), Dennis McCance (PhD Microbiology, 1974), and John Shomaker (MSc Hydrogeology, 1985; PhD Hydrogeology, 1995) all came to live next to each other by chance and live in adjacent houses on a street in New Mexico! Each alumnus received a brick on the day with the University motto to recognise its origin as a redbrick university.

This past April, alumni around the globe joined our first ever Global Alumni Gathering. From a café get-together with a mountainside view in Kazakhstan to a New York brunch, alumni came together in their current cities and reflected on their time at Birmingham.

Alongside the events, international alumni sent in pictures of themselves by a landmark in their current city. This really showcased the international community of alumni and how they are taking a piece of Birmingham to the world.



*Athens*



*California*



*Uruguay*



*Dubai*



*Singapore*



*South Africa*

**MORE THAN 150**  
**ALUMNI TOOK PART**

**23 EVENTS**  
**13 COUNTRIES**

# OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

THERE ARE 78,387 ALUMNI LIVING IN 178 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

## EUROPE:

LAST YEAR, ALUMNI TOOK PART IN THE LONDON TO PARIS BIKE RIDE HELPING RAISE MONEY FOR CURE LEUKAEMIA. OUR ALUMNI HAVE FURTHER REPRESENTED THE UNIVERSITY AT POSTGRADUATE

RECRUITMENT FAIRS ACROSS THE CONTINENT, INCLUDING ATHENS, BUCHAREST, ROME, MILAN, PARIS, AND THESSALONIKI.

## NORTH AMERICA:

THERE ARE 16 ACTIVE ALUMNI SOCIETIES IN USA AND CANADA WITH 40 EVENTS LAST YEAR.

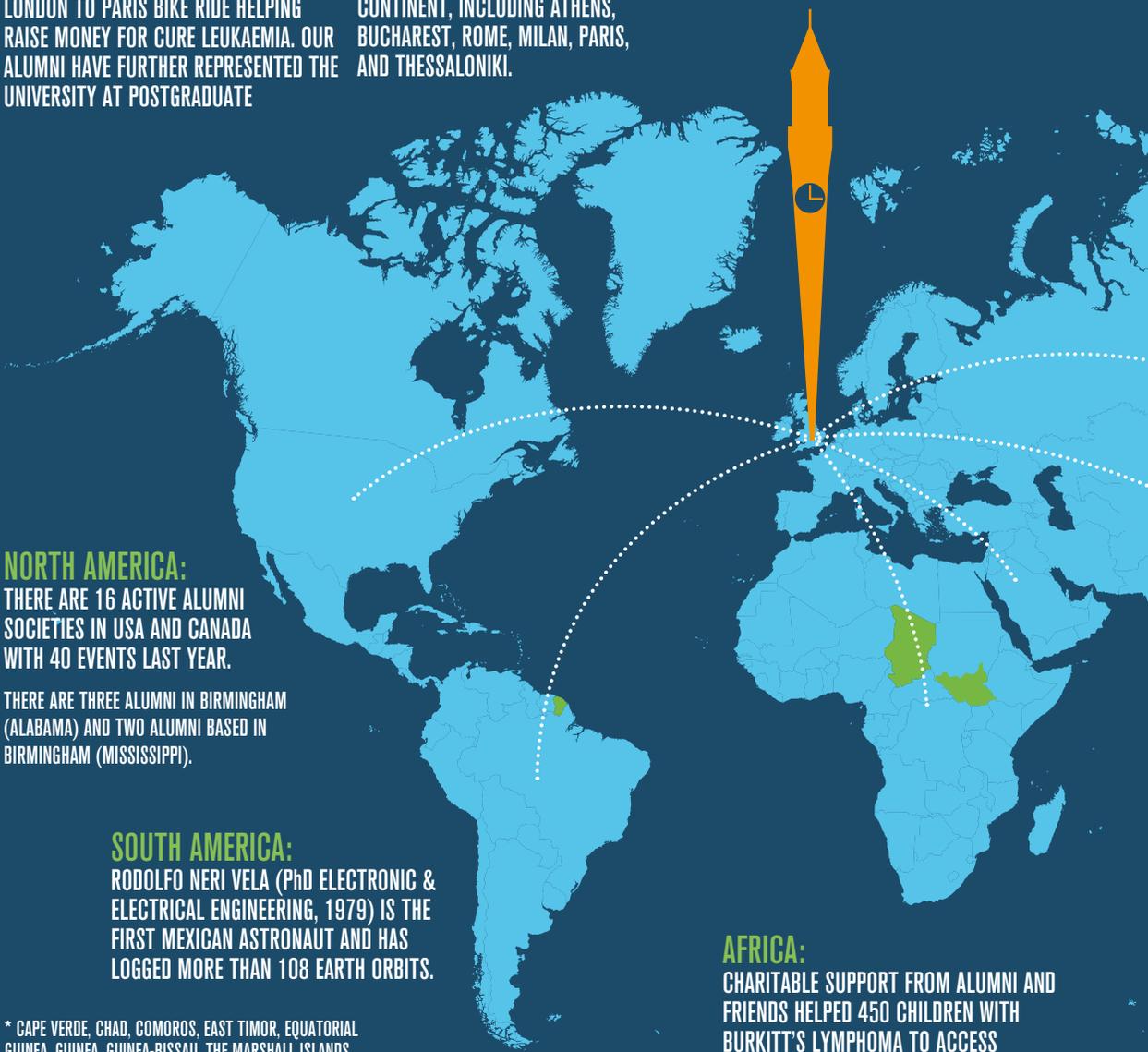
THERE ARE THREE ALUMNI IN BIRMINGHAM (ALABAMA) AND TWO ALUMNI BASED IN BIRMINGHAM (MISSISSIPPI).

## SOUTH AMERICA:

RODOLFO NERI VELA (PhD ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, 1979) IS THE FIRST MEXICAN ASTRONAUT AND HAS LOGGED MORE THAN 108 EARTH ORBITS.

\* CAPE VERDE, CHAD, COMOROS, EAST TIMOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, MICRONESIA, NAURU, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SOUTH SUDAN, AND SURINAME - AND WE CURRENTLY HAVE OUR FIRST STUDENT FROM DJIBOUTI AT THE UNIVERSITY!

FIGURES CORRECT AS OF JUNE 2016



## AFRICA:

CHARITABLE SUPPORT FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HELPED 450 CHILDREN WITH BURKITT'S LYMPHOMA TO ACCESS DR FARHAT KHANIM'S CLINICAL TRIALS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

# THERE ARE ONLY 15 COUNTRIES WITHOUT A BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI PRESENCE\*

YOU ARE HELPING US TAKE BIRMINGHAM TO THE WORLD

VISIT [WWW.OLDJOE.CO.UK](http://WWW.OLDJOE.CO.UK) TO WATCH AN ANIMATED VIDEO WITH FUN FACTS.

**ASIA:**  
THERE ARE NOW TEN ALUMNI MENTORS SUPPORTING STUDENTS AS PART OF OUR NEW HONG KONG MENTORING SCHEME.

**AUSTRALASIA:**  
TEN PER CENT OF OUR AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI ARE DONORS. WE ALSO HAVE 26 ALUMNI CURRENTLY BASED IN DUNEDIN (NEW ZEALAND), WHICH IS THE FURTHEST CITY ON THE GLOBE FROM BIRMINGHAM.

## WHAT CAN I DO?



GUEST ED LOVES

- Organise an event in your region
- Help with student recruitment
- Micro-volunteer! Small actions that make a big difference
- Mentor current students
- Tell us your story for an alumni profile or to be featured in country newsletters

Find out more about how you can get involved with your alumni community at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/internationalalumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/internationalalumni)

## GET INVOLVED!

*Old Joe* asked Bhavishya Kanjhan (BSc Computer Science with Business Management, 2008) why he chose to get involved with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Alumni Chapter.



'I received updates about the University and alumni and that encouraged me to connect with the alumni locally. When I discovered there was not a local chapter, I decided to create one. After contacting the Alumni Relations Team in Birmingham for support, I am now in the process of contacting alumni on LinkedIn to bring a group together. If you would like to join, email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

'Connecting with alumni is not just a great way to relive memories from a time gone by; it's also useful for building new social and professional relationships.

'For the Global Alumni Gathering the UAE Chapter held a lunch that lasted more than three hours as we all sat around sharing stories from our time at Birmingham; it was a fantastic experience. Not only did we have something in common, having gone to the same university, we also felt part of something larger since it was a global event. I certainly look forward to the next one.'

**WIN**

For your chance to win an Old Joe statue answer the following question:

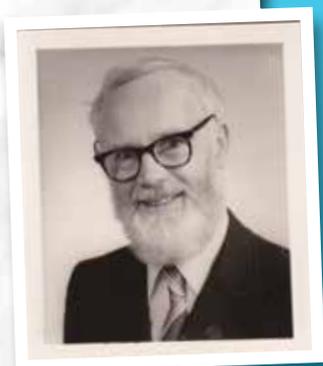
**How many events took place as a part of the Global Alumni Gathering?**

To enter send your answer and name to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) by 31 December 2016. Find full competition entry details on page 47.

ADELAIDE ISLAND

WRIGHT PENINSULA

# A cool legacy



There cannot be many of our alumni community who can match Alan Wright's legacy – having a part of the Antarctic named after them.

Alan (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1955) went on to work for the British Antarctic Survey after graduating, spending almost three years surveying a peninsula on the east coast of Adelaide Island on the continent before it was named after him in 1964. He pioneered the use of electronic measuring instruments, from the Tellurometer in the 1950s to GPS in the 1980s.

Alan will also be remembered for the substantial gift made in his will after his death in 2013, which contributed towards the building of the Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM) at the University in autumn 2015.

Do you or someone in your family have anything unusual named after them? Let us know at [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

campus connections

## Keeping connected

We asked our Twitter community to send us photos of their friendship groups that formed at the University, and are still going strong. Here are just a few:

[#wearebrumalum](https://twitter.com/wearebrumalum)



Dominic Davis



Nicole Nymoen



@sarahcoburn89



Jordan Shingleton



Do you have a picture of your friendship group to share? Tweet us @birminghamalum

# The more things change

With the completion of a number of major development projects this year (see pages 32 and 33 for more details), the University of Birmingham campus has evolved significantly since its establishment in 1900. With assistance from the Cadbury Research Library, *Old Joe* found some old photographs of campus and set out to recreate them in the modern-day setting.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Clock Tower, built in 1909, used to be called 'Joe' by students. Feedback from alumni suggests it became 'Old Joe' in the late 1960s. If you can help us pinpoint the change, email [alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# Transforming campus



The University is in the midst of one of the most exciting and transformational campus redevelopments since the first buildings on our Edgbaston campus were completed in 1909.

During the last five years there have been a number of changes to the landscape of campus with new facilities developed for the benefit of students, staff, and the local community.

This phase of development will culminate in 2018 with the completion of the Green Heart of campus. The Green Heart has been conceived to open up the centre of campus as a space for performance, socialising, meeting and working, with views across campus as Sir Aston Webb envisaged in his

original designs. From the North Gate there will be an unobstructed view across beautiful parkland to the 'Old Joe' clock tower.

A number of the new and refurbished facilities, partially funded by generous donors to the Circles of Influence campaign, will open this year and here students and staff tell us what it means to them.



**Claire Browne (MA Classics, 2006), Library Customer Relationship Manager**



**Shona Smith (Third year BSc Business Management with Communications)**

## *What the new library means to me...*

In the new library, I am much closer to students and how the services are run, which means I get to go out more and speak to students. With the adoption of the roaming service, staff are out and about to help students at the point of need, as opposed to them coming to find us at a desk. We also have a much lighter environment with wonderful views of campus, and from the higher floors, the city as a whole. The design makes it much more environmentally sustainable.

## *What the new library will mean to me...*

The new library is going to make such a big difference to students like me. The increase in the use of technology in our degrees and the way we learn is clearly reflected in the design. I'm particularly excited by the new media suite, and having the software and equipment available that will help with my degree. I made sure I was one of the first people through the doors when it opened, finding my favourite study spaces for my final year!



**Dr Richard Butler**  
Senior Research Fellow and  
Academic Keeper, Lapworth  
Museum of Geology



**Gary Humpage**  
Swimming Head Coach,  
UBSport

***What the Lapworth Museum means to me...***

The exciting new displays support teaching activities in Earth and Biological Sciences and the purchase of new equipment such as a 3D scanner and 3D printer are providing new opportunities for innovative research-led teaching using the Museum's unique geological and palaeontological collections. It is the focal point of our department's open days, helping attract the next generation of Earth scientists to the University. Most exciting though are the amazing opportunities for engaging local schools and communities with our research. We're working to develop exciting educational resources and activities based around our research and the Museum's collections. As a palaeontologist the Museum is just a wonderful and inspiring environment in which to work!

***What the University's new sports centre, 360 Sport & Fitness means to me...***

I've been waiting 30 years for a 50 metre swimming pool in Birmingham, so it is really exciting to have a facility of that standard on campus. It means that we are able to provide for all swimmers, from beginners to elite athletes. We are creating a programme to engage with as many people as possible within the University, city and region, building upon the pathway that we already have in place from the community into the local clubs and city swimming system. It will also strengthen the University team by attracting talented swimmers thanks to bigger lanes and more time in the pool.

***High-quality teaching space for postgraduate business scholars***

The postgraduate teaching centre for the Birmingham Business School has also recently opened on campus. The Alan Walters Building is named after a former Professor of Econometrics and Social Statistics following a generous gift given in memory by his widow Lady Walters. Sir Alan was also a Chief Economic Adviser to Her Majesty's Government and Economic Adviser to the World Bank.





# LILY'S ROAD TO RIO

Hockey star Lily Owsley is just one of a group of University of Birmingham students and alumni aiming to make their mark at the Rio Olympics and Paralympics. *Old Joe* talked to the sport's official Rising Star of the Year.

It says much about the determination of Lily Owsley (Second year, BSc Sport and Exercise Science) to be one of the best hockey players in the world that the 21-year-old chose to take a year off from her degree in order to have the best possible preparation for the Rio Olympics.

Lily said: 'As soon as I made the decision to take a year off from university I felt a big weight lift off my shoulders. I was quite apprehensive about doing this initially, as I've found studying to be a good escape from hockey.'

'But training for an Olympics is so time and energy-consuming and I didn't want either my sport or my studies to suffer, as I am very passionate about getting a good degree.'

A fine all-round athlete, Lily only started playing hockey at the age of 13, having excelled as a runner and as a footballer in Bristol City's junior women's team.

But she quickly got to grips with hockey's stick skills and was playing for England's age group sides within two years, making her senior international debut at the age of 18 – only months after watching Great Britain in action as a spectator at the London Olympics in 2012. 'If someone had told me at London that I would be taking part in the next Olympics I would have laughed at them,' she adds. 'I was looking at the players in London and couldn't believe how fit and skilful they were.'

'But soon after I was called up for trials and saw up close their determination to be the best, and the advantages you get from training daily.'

'You have to buy into that culture if you want to succeed and as one of the most competitive people in the world, I wanted to be part of it.'

That commitment requires sacrifices be made and Lily is extremely grateful to the University for accommodating her playing commitments, including sending examiners to the team's hotel when matches clashed with exam time last year.

She said: 'I've got quite familiar with sitting in my hotel room doing an exam while an invigilator looks on. I think I did a couple of exams in Spain and one in London last year.'

'There was even one match where I had an exam in the morning and then had to jump straight on the team bus for the game in the afternoon – I actually did really well in both!'

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Old Joe* went to print before the conclusion of the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics. You can read about how the University's student and alumni competitors got on in Rio online at [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk)

#### STOP PRESS!

Congratulations! Lily, along with alumna Sophie Bray (BSc Psychology, 2011), helped Team GB to make history as part of the first British women's hockey team to win Olympic gold.

WIN

You could win some UBSport clothing if you can answer this question:

At what age did Lily make her senior international debut?

Send your answer to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk), with your name, address and telephone number by 31 December 2016.



# EVENTS

For full event details or help organising your own alumni event or reunion visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events), email [alumnierevents@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnierevents@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)121 414 8904

## OCTOBER

### BOOK TO THE FUTURE FESTIVAL

Join us for a range of events featuring workshops, talks and performances, by authors, poets, performers and screenwriters.

13–15 October

Edgbaston campus



### BIRMINGHAM HEROES LECTURE

Hear from one of the University's research heroes, Professor Gary Middleton, talking about harnessing the immune system to combat cancer.

Monday 17 October, 6.30pm,  
Edgbaston campus

### VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

This lecture will feature Professor Margaret Boden, former University lecturer and world authority in the field of artificial intelligence.

Wednesday 26 October, 5.30pm

Bramall Music Building, Edgbaston campus

## INTERNATIONAL

### INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS

Meet fellow alumni in the USA this October: Boston (19), Philadelphia (20), Washington (22) and New York (25). This autumn there are also a number of events in South East Asia.

Full details on these and other international events are available online.

## NOVEMBER

### ESRC FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Festival of Social Sciences offers a fascinating insight into some of the country's leading social science research, and how it influences our social, economic and political lives.

5–12 November

Various venues around Birmingham

### HOUSE OF LORDS RECEPTION

Join us for the 13th annual House of Lords reception, hosted by the University's Chancellor, Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea.

Friday 11 November, 6.45pm,  
House of Lords, London



## DECEMBER

### UNIVERSITY CAROL SERVICE

A traditional service of carols and readings led by the University Chaplaincy, and seasonal music performed by Birmingham University Singers.

Monday 5 December, 6.15pm

Great Hall, Edgbaston campus



### CHRISTMAS ICE SKATING

Join us for some festive fun with ice skating, a complimentary drink and ride on the Birmingham Observation Wheel.

Friday 9 December, 7pm

Centenary Square, Birmingham



## DONT MISS...

**Buried Treasures:  
Uncovering Hoards**  
Until 26 February 2017,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts

**Arts & Science Festival**  
13–19 March 2017  
Edgbaston campus

**Community Day**  
11 June 2017  
Edgbaston campus

**Anniversary Reunions for  
the classes of 1992, 1987,  
1977, 1972, 1967, and the  
pre-1967 'Golden' classes,  
30 September 2017**

Come back to campus to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation. Activities

planned for the day include visits to schools and departments, a reunion lunch, campus tours, the chance to visit Winterbourne House and Garden and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, and much more.



GUEST ED LOVES

*Meet the*

# BIRMINGHAM HEROES

In 2016 the University launched a campaign to highlight the work of its leading researchers and their global impact. Read more about some of the Heroes and why their research matters.

## MISCARRIAGE RESEARCH CHALLENGING THE MISCONCEPTIONS



Dr David Lissauer

Clinical lecturer in Obstetrics  
and Gynaecology



Professor Arri Coomarasamy

Director of Tommy's National  
Centre for Miscarriage



Helen Williams

Research Associate,  
Institute of Metabolism and  
Systems Research

As many as 1 in 5 pregnancies end in a miscarriage. Despite it being the most widespread complication of pregnancy, it is also the least understood. In April 2016 the University became the leading partner of Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research, the largest centre for miscarriage research in Europe.

Working with partner universities and NHS Trusts, the University is bringing doctors, scientists and patients together to understand and prevent miscarriages.

Already researchers have discovered sperm DNA damage more than doubles the risk of miscarriage. Until now,

miscarriage has generally been considered an exclusively female problem, with investigations and management targeting only women. They are also working to establish the role of the immune system in recurrent miscarriage, to enable more accurate prognosis and treatment.

DETAILS OF ALL OF THE HEROES INCLUDING VIDEOS EXPLAINING THEIR RESEARCH CAN BE FOUND ON THE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE AT [www.birmingham.ac.uk/heroes](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/heroes)

# CANCER IMMUNOLOGY HARNESSING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO COMBAT CANCER



Professor Gary Middleton

Professor of  
Medical Oncology

Professor Benjamin Willcox

Professor of  
Molecular Immunology

Dr Carmela De Santo

CRUK New  
Investigator Fellow

Cancer immunotherapy represents one of the most exciting and promising approaches to treating cancer since the discovery of chemotherapies more than 60 years ago. The University is among the leaders of this fast evolving field, which is helping to save lives. Unlike with other infections, when people develop cancer their immune systems

are unable to fight it off on their own. Until recently, it was not understood why. The exciting discovery came when scientists learned that cancer cells actually have molecules on their surface that prevent the immune cells from recognising them as a threat – a disguise of sorts. Because of this, cancer is allowed to spread. Some

years ago, researchers had the idea of using immunotherapy to block these molecules that allow cancer to hide. The immune cell can then recognise and destroy the cancer.

**Hear from Professor Gary Middleton at the Heroes lecture, details on page 35.**

# TACKLING THE ENERGY CRISIS



Professor Yulong Ding

Director of the Birmingham  
Centre for Energy Storage

Professor Martin Freer

Director of Birmingham  
Energy Institute and Head  
of Physics and Astronomy

Professor Toby Peters

Visiting Professor in  
Power and Cold Economy

Energy experts at the University are championing UK investment in clean-cold technologies amid concern that global demand for cooling and refrigeration will overtake heating by 2060. They warn that if no action is taken greenhouse gas emissions will rise by more than 1.5 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year within 15 years. Modern

luxuries such as refrigeration, data servers, modern healthcare, transport of fresh food and air conditioning are now recognised as using more energy at greater environmental cost.

A Birmingham Policy Commission report, *Doing Cold Smarter*, explains that lack of adequate cold storage causes two million preventable deaths

a year and results in the loss of 200 million tonnes of food in developing markets. It says an effective cold chain is essential to deal with food waste, water conservation and public health while communications networks could be affected as data centres require sufficient cooling.

# ALUMNI OF THE YEAR 2016

The award is a great opportunity to recognise Birmingham alumni who have made a valuable contribution to the University, the community or their professional field and to demonstrate the extraordinary range of achievements among the University's former students.



*Charlotte Hill*

(BA International Studies  
and Philosophy, 2001)

*'I absolutely love what I do. I get to see the best of life – young people being a catalyst for good in their community and driving change.'*

## TACKLING LIFE'S BIG ISSUES

*Alumna of the Year, Charlotte Hill, was compelled to attend the University of Birmingham by the subject matter of her course. It allowed her to learn the practical and theoretical sides of answering: how do we tackle life's big issues? She's now putting her studies into practice and working hard to improve the lives of others.*

Charlotte's professional journey started while she was still at University when she met MP, Richard Burden. That led to working part-time for him and got her involved in grassroots politics. After graduation she held several jobs at Westminster, including advisor to Rt. Hon Harriet Harman, QC MP and in policy and public affairs at the NSPCC. After travelling around the world working in various roles including teaching English in an orphanage in Cambodia, Charlotte settled back into

England working as the youngest ever CEO of UK Youth.

Currently, Charlotte is the CEO of Step up to Serve, the charity coordinating the national #iwill campaign, which aims to get at least 60 percent of young people aged 10–20 taking part in social action by 2020. Social action includes volunteering, fundraising, campaigning or making a positive change in their community. Encouraging social action in youth means it is much more likely to become a habit for life.

Charlotte also embodies the ideals she promotes by being an active volunteer herself. She currently gives her time to The Football League Trust, Whole Education and a local youth club in her neighbourhood of Peckham in London.

Her keys to success are: say yes to things, cherish your network, be

confident in your own abilities and find what you're passionate about.

As for the future, she doesn't have a concrete plan after the end of the #iwill campaign (which will close in 2020). However, as long as she feels stretched, meets interesting people and does something she is passionate about Charlotte says she will be happy and will continue to make a big impact.

'It was an incredible honour to be awarded Alumna of the Year. I have such an emotional connection to the University and I feel strongly that I only got this far because of its contribution.'

If you would like to find out more about the #iwill campaign, visit [www.iwill.org.uk](http://www.iwill.org.uk).

Charlotte was presented with her award during the July 2016 degree congregations.



## Dr Yasser Abu Jamei

(MSc Clinical Neuropsychiatry, 2011)

*'I had to read twice the email telling me I had been chosen as alumnus of the year. Just graduating in 2011 was a great memory – to be honoured in front of a class of graduands will be a tremendous honour.'*

## A RAY OF LIGHT

*Life in the Gaza Strip is filled with danger, but the work of Alumnus of the Year Dr Yasser Abu Jamei is helping to ease the mental suffering for many.*

It says much for the strength of character of Dr Yasser Abu Jamei that he refused to let personal tragedy stop him working to ease the pain felt by his community in Palestine.

As Director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), Yasser and his team provide mental health services to the people living in the Gaza Strip.

Since its foundation in 1990, the non-governmental organisation has treated more than 20,000 patients from three community centres in the region with psychotherapy, rehabilitation, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

In 2014, the conflict hit Yasser's extended family, when an air strike killed 28 people as they prepared to sit down

for their evening meal. Through his grieving, he resolved to continue his work and help others affected by violence and added: 'I was very fortunate to have so many people across the globe willing to offer their help and support.'

Despite the harsh living conditions and the demanding nature of his job, he added: 'We have many good days. For example, helping a child to return to school or to stop wetting their bed are rewarding moments for us.'

'It is true that we live in hardship but I believe we must all keep working to help the community. It is crucial that we find elements of hope in people's lives and encourage them to invest in their strengths and keep on moving forwards.'

As part of its work, the GCMHP runs a school mediation programme to reduce incidents of violence among pupils, which can manifest as a result of the psychosocial effects of living in a

conflict zone. Children are taught peaceful conflict resolution techniques and school counsellors, teachers and parents trained in mediation techniques. Yasser's knowledge in the area has seen him act as a consultant on the Palestinian (Gaza) Ministry of Education's five-year strategic plan to combat the problem.

Yasser will receive his Alumnus of the Year Award in the December degree congregations later this year and is looking forward to returning to campus. He said: 'Studying in Birmingham was warm and comforting and a retreat for me from the environment of Gaza. I have never felt so at ease as during my time there.'

'I had to read twice the email telling me I had been chosen as alumnus of the year. Just graduating in 2011 was a great memory – to be honoured in front of a class of graduands will be a tremendous honour.'

# SUPER PRISONS

Dr Kate Gooch (LLB Law, 2005; LLM Criminal Law and Justice, 2006; PhD Law, 2013), Birmingham Law School, is conducting groundbreaking research with the UK Government on the successful unveiling of a new super-prison in Wrexham, Wales, which will inform and shape the way prisons are opened in the future.



Although six new prisons have opened in the last ten years, there is no research either domestically or internationally

about how to open a prison and no information available through the prison service. This is a problem, as the government is planning to build nine new prisons and the UK's largest ever prison (termed super-prison) is currently being built in Wrexham. The super-prison will house more than 2,000 inmates – three times that of an average prison.

Kate said: 'I will be charting the journey of the process of opening a new prison and doing it well, particularly a very large prison. The aim will be to successfully launch it and capture that information so that when the other nine are opened the process will be effective. It is also a real chance to increase opportunities for rehabilitation.'

In the first phase of the research, Kate will learn about the different aspects of opening a new prison from other prison projects to help develop a strategy for Wrexham. A key part of this will be conversations with prison governors, hosting a series of events bringing together senior practitioners, and site visits to other facilities.

The second phase will chart the journey of developing Wrexham. This has already started with interviews of staff periodically until the prison opens in early 2017. It will then continue with Kate conducting on-the-ground research, interviewing those living and working in prison, and observing prison life. She will use documentary analysis and a photo diary to keep track of all the major milestones and how the prison looks and feels, and how the new environment shapes the men's experience.

Kate is familiar with this style of research, as she previously examined what can be done to reduce prison victimisation, a huge issue for the prison



# ‘YOU NEED TO GET INTO PRISONS TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM. IT ISN’T SOMETHING YOU CAN READ FROM A BOOK – YOU HAVE TO SMELL IT, SEE IT, HEAR IT AND FEEL IT.’

system with the number of assaults rising dramatically in the last ten years. The findings concluded that this requires a whole prison approach in which all areas of a prison work together. It requires strong leadership, strong staff–prisoner relationships, and a busy and purposeful regime so people are out of their cells. They also found that getting the environment right is really important, finding that when it changed from an outdated environment to a newly refurbished one that did make a difference in terms of behaviour and outlook. This will be important to consider in her current work.

On doing group prison research, Kate said: ‘One thing that has surprised me about doing this type of research is how candid men in prison can be. Even though you are a complete stranger, they can be quite open about their own stories, hopes and fears. It is

a big responsibility as a researcher to translate their stories well.’

Reflecting on the importance of the research, Kate quotes Nelson Mandela, who was imprisoned for 27 years: ‘It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.’ She said: ‘How we treat people in prison really matters. It matters to the people we incarcerate, but it also matters to society as a whole because most people in prison will be released and we want to ensure they do not continue to offend. It’s incredibly important, therefore, to have an emphasis on rehabilitation, hope and opportunity, and to be thinking about how we can help support men and women in prison and give them a better journey as they transition into the community.

‘How we treat men, women and young people in custody also matters to our local communities and to those who have loved ones in prison.’

As well as her work with the Government on developing super-prisons, Kate has been listed as one of the 250 most influential people in the West Midlands for her work on prison violence and bullying.

‘I’ve always wanted to do research that made a difference and changes people’s lives. One of the things that really struck me when we started the prison victimisation project is that a prison governor said to me: “the research that you are doing could save people’s lives,” because of the obvious links between violence, self-harm and suicide. I think that really stayed with me in terms of how important the research is but also what a responsibility it is to get it right.’



Let us know what you have been doing since your time at Birmingham and celebrate your success with fellow alumni. To contact the alumni office email [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk), use the enclosed contact form or tweet us using #wearebrumalum.

## 1960s

**David Eagar (BA Geography, 1965)**

Studying geography brought together an interest in mapping, in rural landscape and 'The Countryside in 1970', a movement that led to the Countryside Act, 1968. Twenty to 30 years on using online geographical information systems (GIS), I developed the LANDMAP information system for Wales, which offers freely available, comprehensive and defensible landscape information.



## 1970s

**Professor Robin Cohen (PhD Political Science/West African Studies, 1971)**

I am currently Emeritus Professor of Development Studies at the University of Oxford. Prior to my Oxford appointment in 2007, I was Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick. I also held appointments at the Universities of Ibadan, Birmingham, Cape Town and the West Indies and short-term positions at Stanford, Toronto and Berkeley. My recent book, *Encountering Difference*, with co-author Olivia Sheringham, shows how people from various societies learn to live with social and cultural diversity.

## 1980s

**Peter Leadbetter (MEd Education, 1980)**

I worked as an educational psychologist before switching to being a management consultant specialising in change management and leadership development for a big four firm. I went solo four years ago, happily working as an executive coach

on a part-time basis. I have been described as a world-class facilitator with a penchant for training, presenting and running groups.

**Stephen Roberts (BA History, 1980; MLitt History, 1986)**

Like many of those who read history at Birmingham in the 1970s and 1980s, I had the considerable good fortune to be taught by that remarkable scholar Dorothy Thompson, who sadly passed away in 2011. I have recently edited a volume of her writing, *The Dignity of Chartism: Essays*, which was published in 2015.

## 1990s

**Peter Sommer (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 1992, MPhil Ancient History and Archaeology, 1995)**

I have founded and run my own travel company, Peter Sommer's Travels, specialising in archaeological tours. My company recently won the Association of Independent Tour Operators' (AITO) Tour Operator of the Year Award.



● Image: Peter Sommer (second from right)  
Credit: Andy Huntley

**Jagvinder Kang (BSc Computer Science and Software Engineering, 1994; Law Common Professional Examination, 1995)**

I trained with Pinsent Curtis (now known as Pinsent Masons) and then joined Wragge & Co. In 2003 I

# YOUR NEWS

co-founded the specialist law firm, Technology Law Alliance, specialising in IT and technology law. For the past five years I have been ranked as one of the Elite Technology Lawyers by Legal 500, the main UK legal directory.

## 2010s

**Angus MacCaull (MA Applied Linguistics, 2011)**

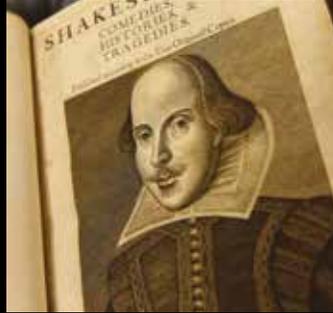
My English as a Foreign Language colleagues and students around the world might be interested to hear that my picture book, *Lawnteel at the Store*, was recently published. I also had the pleasure of working with my partner, activist and illustrator Annie Chau, to bring this story to the page.



● Image: Angus MacCaull and Annie Chau

**Adeline Man (MEd Inclusion and Special Educational Needs, 2015)**

I am glad that I fulfilled one of my childhood dreams to study abroad. After graduating, I changed my career from a secondary school teacher to a counsellor and I am now promoting a project in Hong Kong called Bring Baby Home by Dr Gottman of the USA.



## WHY I DONATE



Michael Rawlinson (BSocSc Economics, 1991) has supported student scholarships and the Lapworth Museum of Geology redevelopment. He told *Old Joe* why he donates.

### Why do you give to the University?

Institutions thrive if people support them. I had an amazing time as a student at Birmingham and want students to be proud of their university. I used to take visiting family and friends to the Barber Institute, and they were always amazed that such a fantastic gallery was on campus. I hope students will do the same in the future with the Lapworth Museum.

### Why did you support the Lapworth Museum?

As a financial advisor for mining companies, my job ultimately comes from rocks – so I work with geologists every day. I also really like the idea of this project as one that benefits the wider local community. I have donated to the University's scholarship schemes to enable students from less fortunate backgrounds to study here, and would like to think my support of the Lapworth is consistent with those ideas.

## MORE MAGAZINE

The Spring 2016 edition of *Old Joe* was the University's first digital-only publication.

Going digital allowed us to share with you additional content, including videos and photo galleries, and provide a more interactive experience offering the opportunity to comment and share stories via social media.

If you missed *Old Joe* earlier this year you can catch-up at [www.oldjoe.co.uk](http://www.oldjoe.co.uk). There is also plenty of new content to accompany this edition including videos of our rapid researchers, an interview with automotive technician Carl Hingley and a look at our international alumni community.



The most read story was **Campus Romances**



It has been read in **117 countries**



The most watched video was the **University for Shakespeare in 2016**

# Across campus

## Engineering and Physical Sciences

A new prostate cancer test has been developed by a team led by academics in EPS, Professor Paula Mendes and Dr John Fossey. It is hoped that with an expected accuracy rate of 90 per cent the new test will be a massive improvement on current more invasive and sometimes painful techniques which miss around 25 per cent of cases.



## Medical and Dental Sciences

PhD Dentistry student, Carla Román (right) pictured with her co-supervisor, Programme Lead for BMedSci, Dr Rachel Sammons, recently won the Science without Borders Challenge following a year studying at the University. Science without Borders is a Brazilian Government scholarship programme, which sends 101,000 Brazilian students to study at top universities around the world.



## Social Sciences

Current students celebrated with alumni at the first MBA Annual Dinner, held at the Malmaison Hotel in Birmingham city centre in May. More than 100 alumni and students attended the event. The University's online MBA recently became the first in the world to receive formal accreditation from one of the leading authorities on postgraduate business education, Association of MBAs (AMBA).



## Life and Environmental Sciences

Undergraduate student reps celebrated another year of improving the academic experience of students at the third LES Rep Academy Awards, held in recognition of the reps' hard work and achievements. The LES Rep Academy supports the College's commitment to provide students with unique training and developmental opportunities designed to enhance their skills.



## Arts and Law

Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal, Department of Theology and Religion, was invited by the Prime Minister to attend a reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate Vaisakhi. Alongside her research into contemporary Sikhism, Jagbir is involved in many significant initiatives and has recently presented at the UK Foreign Office.



More information from the University's Colleges can be found at [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)

## Campus Romances



Zoe Cass (BMedSc Biomedical Science, 2012) and Nicholas Tansey (BSc Environmental Science, 2013)

### Zoe Cass tells *Old Joe* her story of finding love on campus.

On the first day of university, everyone was frantically unpacking and trying to meet new people while our parents left us for the first time. It was just after my parents had left that I was walking back down the stairs in Shackleton Hall to go to a Freshers' event when I first saw Nicholas walking back up to his room. Our exchange was brief (he was very shy then) and I told him that he should definitely come out with my friends and I. We then became friends and eventually started dating.

Both of us to this day remember that short but memorable passing on the stairs. He is my scientist, my best friend, my exploring partner and now my fiancé; all things we owe to our first university and we are happily engaged.

### Did you meet your 'significant other' at Birmingham?

Send us your story:  
[alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

or tweet [@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum)



## Queen's Birthday Honours 2016

Congratulations to all alumni who were awarded Honours in 2016.



- **The Rt Hon Baroness Valerie Amos** CH (MA Cultural Studies, 1977; LLD Honorary Degree, 2008)
- **Sir Stanley Wells** CBE (PhD English, 1961)
- **Sir Terence Morgan** CBE FREng FIEE (MSc Engineering Production and Management, 1978; DEng Honorary Degree, 2013)
- **Professor Charlie Jeffery** CBE (Occ UG Continuing Studies, 1999)
- **Professor Colin Lawson** CBE (MA Music, 1972)
- **Professor John Ludden** CBE (DSc Honorary Degree, 2011)
- **Professor Michael P Thorne** CBE (PhD Pure Mathematics, 1979)
- **Michael T Brown** OBE (BMus Music, 1996; MA Music, 1998)
- **Gareth E Neame** OBE (BA Drama and English, 1988)
- **Bernadette E A Rijnenberg** OBE (PG Cert Probation Service Management, 1999)
- **Professor Alan J Thorpe** OBE (DSc Honorary Degree, 2012)
- **Lt Colonel Giles M Timms** OBE MC (BA Geography, 1992)
- **Robert (Bob) J Twigger** OBE (BSocSc Mathematical Economics, 1979)
- **Pauline Watts** OBE (MSc Managing Quality in Health Care, 1998)
- **Celia L Allen** MBE (BA English, 1963)\*
- **Bernadette Dornan** MBE (Occ PG Leadership and Management, 2015)
- **Brian D Lambourn** MBE (BSc Physics, 1953)
- **Andrew P Morris** MBE (ACE Professional Studies (Education), 2000)
- **Ann Susan Noble** MBE (MEd Special Education: Speech and Language Difficulties, 2002)
- **Verita Gertrude (Cherry) Reynolds** MBE (BEd Special Education, 1980 (Polytechnic of Wolverhampton); MEd Special Education, 1995)
- **David R Tudor** MBE (Occ UG Continuing Studies, 2000)
- **Francis E Ursell** MBE (MBA Public Service, 2001)
- **Colin N Wrigley** MBE (MEd Management and Policy in Education, 1991)
- **Dr Geoffrey N Gibbons** BEM (LLB Law, 1948)
- **Rebecca E Hartshorn** BEM (MSc Construction Management, 2003)
- **Lynne M Jankowska** BEM (BEd Education, 1975 (Worcester College of Education))
- **Lionel A King** BEM (BA Spanish, 1959)

\*Celia Allen's husband **Dr Glyn Allen** (BSc Chemistry, 1961; PhD Chemistry, 1964) was awarded an OBE in 2014 for his charitable work in Guernsey and overseas. Our apologies for omitting Dr. Allen at the time.

If you are a Birmingham alumnus who was awarded a Birthday Honour and your name is not included here, please accept our apologies and email [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with your details.

# Honorary graduates

The achievements of seven outstanding individuals were celebrated during the July 2016 degree congregations when they were awarded honorary degrees by the University. They were recognised for their major contribution to academic, regional or national life.

## 1 Stephen Bridges – Doctor of the University

Stephen Bridges is Consul General in Chicago, Illinois. In his 30-year diplomatic career Stephen has served the UK Government in both Africa and Asia, including British Ambassador to Cambodia, and Acting and Deputy High Commissioner, Consul General, and Trade & Investment Director to Bangladesh.

## 2 Tamsin Greig (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1988) – Doctor of the University

Tamsin Greig is an award-winning stage, film, television and radio actor. She won an Olivier Award and Critics Circle Award for her performance as Beatrice in Marianne Elliott's RSC production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She is known for her work on television in iconic shows *Episodes* and *Green Wing*. Tamsin is also a mentor with the University's Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme.

## 3 Professor Jane Guyer – Doctor of Letters

Jane I Guyer is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University in the United States, having previously taught at Harvard, Boston and Northwestern universities. Her research in Africa focused on livelihoods, production and money, and resulted in several books, edited collections and articles. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2008.

## 4 Professor Catherine Hall (BA Medieval and Modern History, 1967) – Doctor of Letters

Catherine Hall is a Professor of Modern British Social and Cultural History at University College London (UCL). Her research focuses on re-thinking the relationship between Britain and its empire in the 19th and 20th centuries.



## 5 Professor John Hills CBE (MSocSc Economics, 1980) – Doctor of Letters

John Hills is Richard Titmuss Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. He previously worked at the House of Commons and the Institute for Fiscal Studies. He was on the Pensions Commission and chaired the National Equality Panel.

## 6 Jacqueline Minor (LLB Law, 1977) – Doctor of Laws

Jacqueline Minor has been a law lecturer at the University of Leicester and a law clerk at the European Court of Justice. Jacqueline subsequently moved to the European Commission, working on various aspects of the Single Market, and the Head of the Commission's Representation.

## 7 Professor Cedric Shackleton – Doctor of Science

Cedric Shackleton's research interest is in steroid metabolomics. Since 1983 he has undertaken steroid and protein mass spectrometric studies at Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and has collaborated with Birmingham colleagues for many years, principally Professors Wiebke Arlt and Paul Stewart.

**WIN**

For your chance to win a historic print of campus, just answer this question:

**Old Joe is said to have been inspired by this historic landmark. Where is it?**

Email your answer with your name, address and telephone number to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) by 31 December 2016.



**OLD JOE**  
**COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**  
 By entering any of the competitions within *Old Joe*, you are consenting to the University's standard terms and conditions. These can be read in full at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnicompetitions](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnicompetitions)

# Children's corner

Find the words relating to the Edgbaston campus in the grid to win University merchandise!

W	Y	H	B	T	Z	K	U	C	T	B	K	W	Q	S	Q
U	W	G	Y	X	R	B	K	N	J	J	E	Z	L	A	I
B	I	I	Y	V	M	A	S	O	N	H	A	L	L	S	C
V	U	P	N	K	P	R	E	R	L	K	C	W	A	B	S
F	W	I	U	T	X	B	L	H	U	U	C	X	H	V	H
X	J	S	A	S	E	E	D	T	N	H	H	I	T	Y	A
T	R	U	O	C	S	R	O	L	L	E	C	N	A	H	C
A	S	T	O	N	W	E	B	B	I	M	E	G	E	Z	K
V	Y	R	L	S	O	X	C	O	J	U	N	R	R	L	L
J	F	W	Q	J	U	V	O	M	U	I	G	H	G	L	E
B	S	F	D	T	O	X	E	S	T	R	J	T	L	M	T
W	I	L	S	J	B	R	N	N	G	H	N	A	M	M	O
X	O	C	E	H	M	B	Y	D	U	E	M	E	M	V	N
K	Q	F	H	A	W	O	R	T	H	A	I	Y	Z	M	L
W	S	Z	I	B	P	Z	T	A	R	D	Z	L	Y	Y	X
R	I	D	T	T	P	M	W	B	B	B	C	E	W	Q	Y

- ASTONWEBB
- BARBER
- CHANCELLORS COURT
- GREATHALL
- GREENHEART
- GUILD
- HAWORTH
- MASONHALLS
- MERMAID
- MUIRHEAD
- OLDJOE
- POYNTING
- SHACKLETON
- VALE
- WINTERBOURNE

**Competition time!**

**WIN**

There is another word connected to campus to be found which is not listed above. Can you find it? Clue: Built following a philanthropic donation, it opened in 2012.

Email your answer with your name, address and telephone number to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) by 31 December 2016.

@hannahvaughan91



@joshmillr93



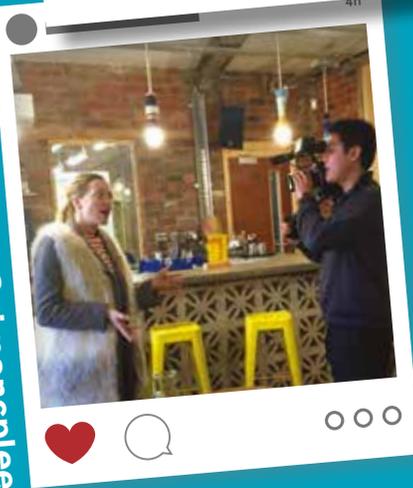
FIND OUT WHAT ALUMNI ARE UP TO NOW AND SHARE YOUR

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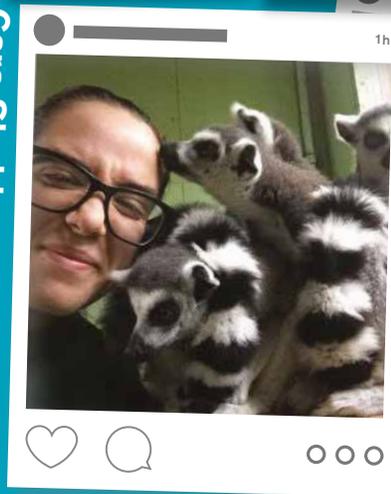


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Cara Sheldon



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