



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING AND  
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

*Welcome to the*  
**EPS SOCIETIES'**  
**AWARDS 2016**



# Welcome to the EPS Societies' Awards 2016

I am delighted to welcome you to the third annual EPS Societies' Awards where our extraordinary student societies, and their members, are recognised and celebrated.

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has a strong tradition of outstanding educational success amongst its students. I am proud of the achievements of our 24 student societies and the continued triumphs of their members over the last academic year.

It is clear that all of our societies are a great asset to the College. These awards are a reminder of the hard work and dedication undertaken by society committees and members alike to make the University a better, more vibrant place to study and play. As we look back on the 2015/16 academic year it is more evident than ever that our societies hold a vital role within our student body.

From public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula Student cars with UBRacing, journalism with SATNAV to diversity with oSTEM, our societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote careers opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events. In the last year we have joined with the College's three sports teams (Eagles Hockey, EPS Mixed Netball and School of Engineering RFC) and welcomed five new societies to our community: Drone Society, Games Development Society (GDS), Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (oSTEM), Science and Technology News and Views (SATNAV) and UBRobotics.

I am delighted to report there have been more than 750 nominations received for the EPS Societies' Awards from students, staff and, for the first time, alumni. I would like to take this opportunity to send my warmest congratulations to all those nominated, and especially those shortlisted, for these awards. Within this programme you will find an overview of all tonight's stars and their achievements.

Of course we would not be able to celebrate such accomplishments without the hard work of a number of people who have made tonight's gala event possible. Please join me in thanking our judges for selecting tonight's winners, our committee for organising and promoting the awards, and everyone who took the time to recognise outstanding achievements by nominating a student member or society to let them know that they make a real difference here.

I wish you all a wonderful evening.

With best wishes

Professor Andy Schofield  
Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of College  
Engineering and Physical Sciences



## Our Societies

Our active and successful student societies form an integral part of our community; providing an avenue for students to interact with one another, supplement their studies and engage with alumni and industrial contacts.



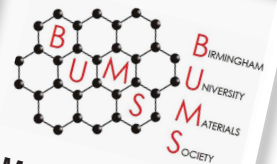
AstroSoc



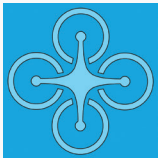
Autonomous Robotics Club



Chemical Engineering Society



Materials Society



Drone Society



Civil Engineering Society



School of Engineering RFC



EESE Soc



Mathematics Society



Games Development Society

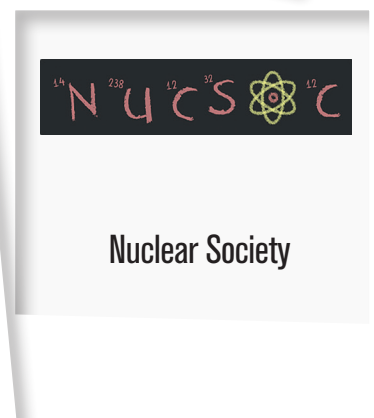
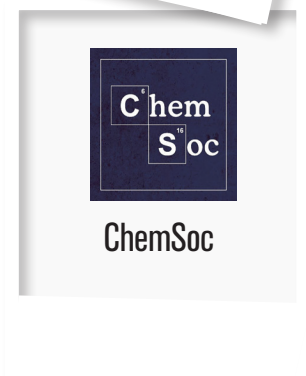
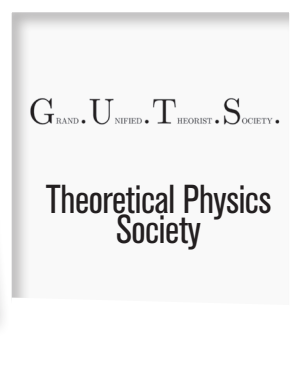
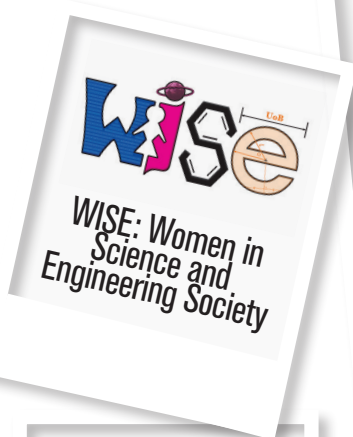


Poynting Physical Society



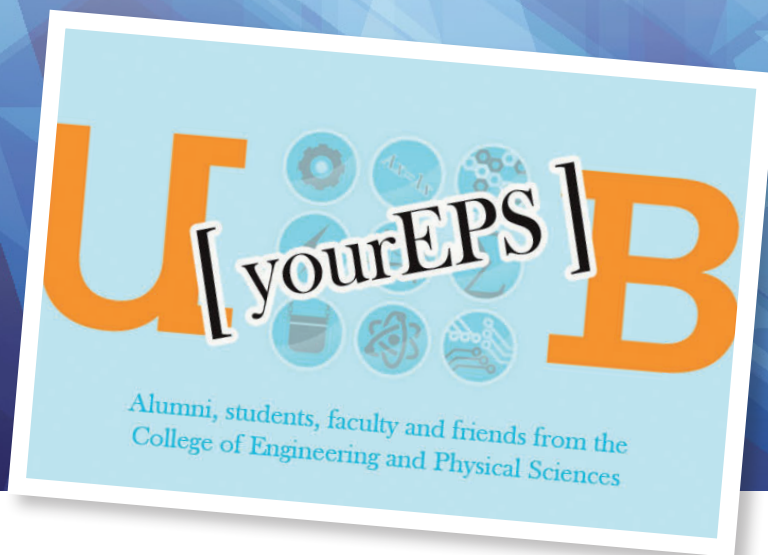
Engineering Eagles



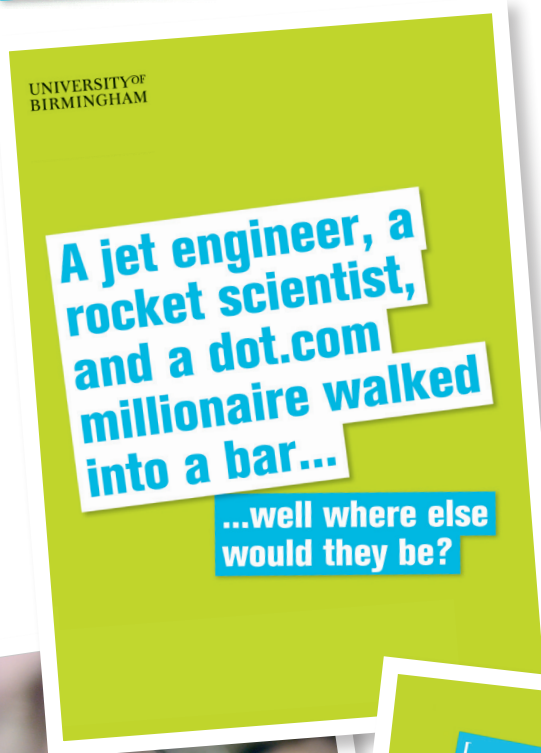


To find out more about the EPS Societies, read their latest news and join please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-societies](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-societies)

# The EPS Community: Your network for life



## Part of THE EPS COMMUNITY



It's been great working with you this year; you've done some incredible things and deserve the upmost recognition for them!

Whether you're coming to the end of your first year with us, helping to plan next year's events, stepping up to chair your society or due to graduate, you all have and continue to hold a key place in the EPS Community – a community that simply wouldn't exist without you!

In the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences we will help you build your network by introducing you to alumni and industrial contacts who will share their expertise with you to help you and your society grow. We also want your friendships, relationships with staff and affection towards the University to continue long after you've donned your cap and gown. There are many ways you can be involved with the EPS Community both as a student and an alumnus.

### Get involved

By joining our community on LinkedIn you'll be able to access a whole host of information, from the latest research and news from your school or department, internship and job opportunities from your EPS Careers Network, and invitations to events across the College such as our Distinguished, Inaugural and Christmas Lectures. We also encourage you to use the site as your own discussion forum by posting any news and information, or asking

questions and seeking advice from our former students. We could even help you find a mentor, locate alumni to speak to your society or promote your activities across the University.

But why should it end when you leave?

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, the EPS Community is your lifeline to your school – here to support you after you've graduated, as well as encouraging you to give back to the University in any way you can. By coming back to speak about your time here and what you've achieved in your career since leaving university, volunteering to continue your ambassadorial work on open days, offering your time to a student as a mentor, or providing work experience opportunities in your organisation, you could provide invaluable help to our future students.

To get involved visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community)

email us:  
[eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

join us on LinkedIn:  
[www.tinyurl.com/epslinkedin](http://www.tinyurl.com/epslinkedin)

or follow us on Twitter:  
[@eps\\_unibham](https://twitter.com/eps_unibham)

and Instagram:  
[@myepslife](https://www.instagram.com/myepslife)



**NATIONAL WOMEN  
In ENGINEERING DAY**  
**23 June 2016**

## Women Engineers and Scientists: **We need you!**

Are you a female engineer or scientist?  
Do you want to see more women enter  
the profession and fill the skills gap?

The third annual National Women in Engineering Day (NWED) is being held on Thursday 23 June to raise the profile and celebrate the achievements of women in engineering and science.

Organised by the Women's Engineering Society, this day aims to celebrate women in engineering fields as well as recognising the stark skills gap that is looming in science and getting more women to consider science as a realistic career option.

As part of National Women in Engineering Day the EPS Community (@eps\_unibham) is celebrating the diverse experience of our students, staff and alumnae by hosting a 'Tweet Your Day' event. Join the conversation by tweeting (or instagraming) about your day using #UoBEngineer or #UoBScientist.

Our goal is to encourage conversation and engage with University of Birmingham engineers and scientists around the world – from industrialists to businesswomen, academics to students. We'd love to hear from as many of you as possible. More information about the conversation is available at:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/wie](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/wie)

If you would like to volunteer to be part of our National Women in Engineering Day activities, get involved in the conversation on Twitter, or share your experiences, please get in touch by emailing us at [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



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Tax  
Technology

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[www.birmingham.ac.uk/handsup](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/handsup)

# The Collaborative Teaching Laboratory

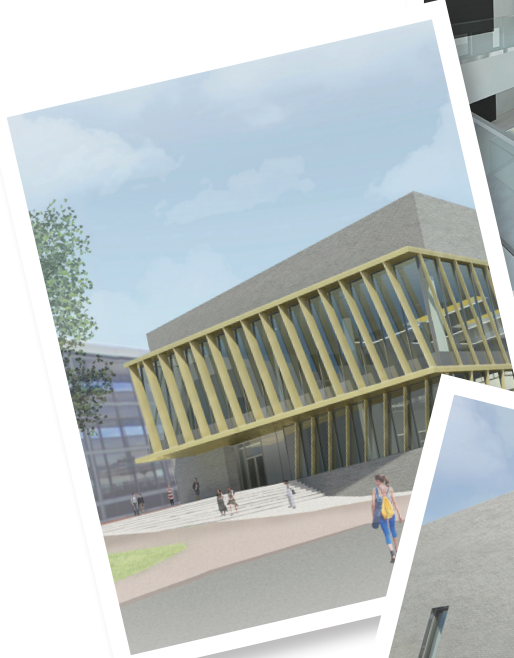
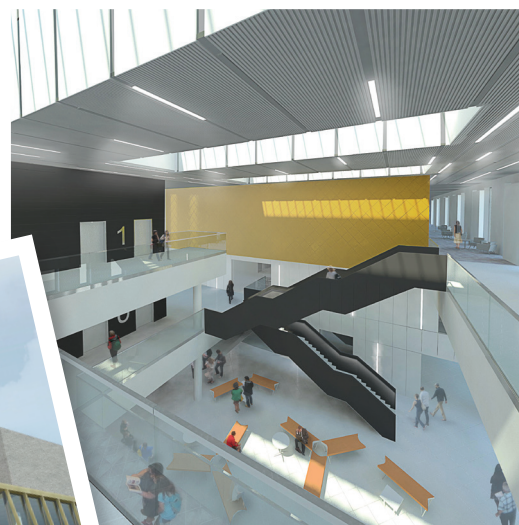
Many students will by now have heard about the Collaborative Teaching Laboratory – and indeed by September the first phase will be open for teaching.

The converted space in Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building has become an engineering lab known as phase 1 of the project – a space where students from different disciplines can work together. This is due to open after the summer break. Phase 2 of the project will be even wider in scope – with a new building being constructed between Biosciences and the Learning Centre.

The new building will incorporate a wet lab, dry lab and e-lab, and will enable us to entirely rethink the way STEM subjects are taught at the University of Birmingham. It will make better use of staff time and resources through the efficient use of practical teaching spaces, innovations in teaching delivery and the reinvention of practical classes. This will allow students to benefit from transformational teaching in a space designed to encourage and facilitate collaborative and inter-disciplinary working.

An application for planning permission for the new building has been lodged with Birmingham City Council, marking an important step forward for the project. The Council is expected to make a decision on the application in the next few weeks, paving the way for construction to start later this year.

Follow progress on the exciting new building at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/ctl](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/ctl)





# Outstanding Event Award

This Award recognises those individuals or societies who have shown creativity, initiative and innovation to deliver an exceptional new event or trip to their members.

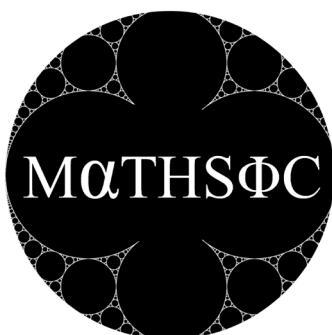


## Astronomy in the City: AstroSoc

Astronomy in the City is a series of free public events bringing both amateur astronomy and cutting edge research to the general public. Each evening includes a research-based talk from Birmingham academics, a 'What's in the Night Sky this Month' and 'Ask the Expert' session, activities or demonstrations from the Astrophysics and Space Research Group, observation sessions with telescopes from AstroSoc and Knowle Astronomical Society and trips to the University's Observatory. For AstroSoc these events provide members with the chance to work alongside researchers, develop

communication skills and confidence in dealing with the public, and indulge their interest in astronomy. This year AstroSoc celebrated 100 years of Einstein's theory of general relativity with events covering everything from massive black holes to the Universe's brightest explosions. The Gravitational Waves special was particularly triumphant. This one-off event was organised to give attendees the unique opportunity to hear about the historic achievement directly from those involved. Due to the embargo, preparation time for the event was limited (six days!). In just three days

registrations soared and the decision was made to move to the Elgar Concert Hall, and soon afterwards registration was closed as capacity for the new 400-seat auditorium was also exceeded. On the night there wasn't a single empty seat! After the formal lecture many guests continued to bombard AstroSoc with questions and the evening was only brought to a close by Bramall staff when they had to lock up. There was nothing but praise for AstroSoc who did a tremendous job under extreme pressure.



## EPS University Challenge: MathSoc

As part of Carnival Rag's Adopt a Charity Week and Fundraising February, MathSoc created the EPS University Challenge in support of their nominated charity, the Teenage Cancer Trust. This inaugural event saw 16 teams from nine separate EPS societies (MathSoc, BUCES, JUGS, EESE Soc, WISE, ChemSoc, UBRacing, CivSoc and Poynting Physical Society) compete in this well-loved quiz with an additional 50 spectators urging their teams on. After several head-to-head general knowledge rounds, a thrilling

semi-final culminated in an intense final between MathSoc A and ChemSoc B, with ChemSoc claiming overall victory. The evening raised £292 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and kick started a highly successful month of fundraising for MathSoc. The commitment and enthusiasm shown by Sarah Graves and her committee have been outstanding. Building on the success of 2015's EPS Football Tournament, this event exceeded last year's and showed real flair, organisation, collaboration, dedication and vision

from all those involved. The event was truly a cross-College initiative and brought together societies over a bit of 'friendly' competition. The interaction between the societies was great and there was a brilliant atmosphere that will hopefully lead to societies feeling confident to do more joint events in the future.



**PhD Pathways:** Alexandra Thomas, AstroSoc

Driven by her own curiosity, Alex started PhD Pathways to help inform undergraduates about PhD life. This new careers event focused purely on those undergraduate students wanting to pursue academia; an area not covered by other careers activities. However with over a fifth of graduating students going on to do a PhD each year, it was much needed! The afternoon included talks from various physics research areas on the range of opportunities available and how to apply. With help from the EPS Culture Fund and

AstroSoc, the formal talks were followed by tea and cakes, which allowed guests to mingle in a relaxed environment. Already a respected undergraduate in the School, Alex was easily able to find a number of PhD students to talk about their doctorates, with even more turning up after the talks to chat with students. The event proved to be very popular with more than 50 students attending (even though 20-25 were expected!), which equates to approximately 40% of 3rd year students (the only year

invited so as to ensure relevance). Lower years are keen to have a repeat of PhD Pathways in future; and with matched enthusiasm from the School it seems likely to become a staple event of the academic year. The event also created a direct link between undergraduates and postgraduates outside of a lecture setting and helped form new working relationships. It gave students the opportunity to hear the honest thoughts on PhD life from those going through it now.



**Women in Technology Conference:** WISE: Women in Science and Engineering and CSS: Computer Science Society

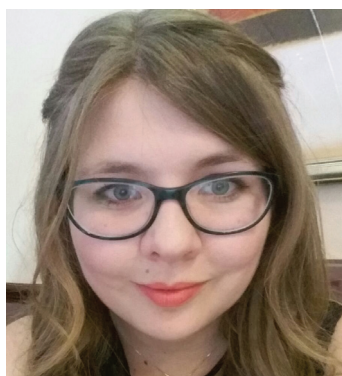
CSS and WISE joined forces to organise the University's first Women in Technology Conference in February. The whole EPS and University Community were invited and more than 180 guests registered for a day of talks, workshops and networking sessions with industrial speakers and sponsors from across the technology sector. There was a great buzz and enthusiasm throughout the day with the inspirational TED-style talks offering insight into a range of career paths in technology such as graduate schemes, becoming an

entrepreneur and climbing the ladder in academia. Attendees of all ages from around the Midlands had the chance to hear from role models about what it is like to be a woman in their male-dominated fields, and how they got to where they are today. From networking sessions and company stands to event merchandise and refreshments, every detail was thought about to make sure the event was as professional and smooth as possible. This exemplary event evidences how much WISE have achieved in a very short period of existence, and the

leadership of CSS' President who co-organised the Conference alongside hackathons and other activities. Members of both societies worked tirelessly to obtain funding and connect with new and existing contacts to make this event hugely successful. The day saw great attendance, offered a fantastic variety and quality of speakers, inspired the next generation of female scientists and engineers and showcased what is possible when different societies work together to combine their passion, knowledge and resources.

## Outreach Award

This Award recognises the dedication of those who work with the University to deliver outreach activities to local schools or the general public and see it as part of their role as a student to inspire the next generation of young scientists and engineers.



**Aimee Goodall:** WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Aimee has had a landmark year in her development as a science communicator. While progressing through her PhD she has shared her passion with all those she meets. She has become an active member of BrumSciComm, a community of practice for science communicators within the region who share skills, ideas and advice on translating science for public audiences. The University's Alumni Office filmed her

demonstrating the story of her research, translating it into something anyone can understand. As a 'Rapid Researcher' and early adopter, her work formed part of the first digital edition of the Old Joe alumni magazine. Not satisfied with hiding in the background, Aimee had an epiphany during the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in March. 75,000 children, parents and teachers poured through the doors and Aimee

was waiting. While initially volunteering to stage manage a show at the fair, she soon felt the itch to step up. Before long Aimee took centre-stage to flawlessly and repeatedly present an entire show in front of a live audience entirely on her own. She is a brilliant researcher who expertly reaches out to her audience and continues to grow in confidence with each performance.



**AstroSoc**

AstroSoc has been involved with three different local schools and a scout group this year, organising a trip to the University's observatory to reward high performing year 5-6 pupils, teaching components of A-level Physics, exploring constellations, telescopes and providing young people the chance to get involved with astronomy. They have organised three public lectures featuring the likes of the University of Nottingham's Professor Anne Green and our own Professor Martin Freer,

Head of the School of Physics & Astronomy. Alongside this, the monthly Astronomy in the City events are now strongly established and attract crowds of over 180 guests each time. Following the recent announcement of LIGO's success with Gravitational Waves a special Astronomy in the City was held to celebrate the result and convey its significance to the public. This was hugely successful and filled the Bramall Concert Hall with over 400 people in attendance. Members

could also be found at Birmingham Cathedral last October assisting with their 300th anniversary celebrations and providing a solar telescope for the public to test. Around the same time, they played host to the Federation of Astronomical Societies AGM. AstroSoc continues to support a large number of volunteering opportunities for students at the University and remains a strong voice for astronomy in Birmingham.



**Daisy Partlow:** JUGS: James Watt Undergraduate Society

Throughout her time at Birmingham Daisy has been an excellent Outreach Ambassador for Mechanical Engineering. Through her many extracurricular activities Daisy has engaged with countless young people, inspiring them and has been a great role model for current and prospective students. Daisy is not only a member of the JUGS and UBRacing teams but also engages with local Scouts groups. One such activity Daisy organised

with the Beaver Scouts (aged between six and eight years old) involved a treasure hunt around the University. On 30 January the Beavers learnt skills such as map reading, problem solving, communication and team work; all very useful for developing an understanding of logic and reasoning, along with building soft skills which are fundamental to STEM subjects. Over lunch the group made camp in the Department

of Mechanical Engineering where they spoke to Civil Engineering, Mathematics and Mechanical Engineering students about what they do at university and what they enjoy about their respective subjects. The day was a great success and saw newly inspired children talking about manufacturing components on cars and many wishing to become software engineers.



**Helena Dodd:** Vice-President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Helena is an active Outreach Progression Mentor for the University's Outreach Team and has recently been nominated for their 'Mentor of the Year' award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the pupils and young people she has worked with in this academic year. She is a registered STEM ambassador and has encouraged many other students to

join the programme. In this role she has volunteered for the Royal Society of Chemistry, helped out at the EPS Alumni Reunion and was also responsible for the supervision of school-aged attendees to the Women in Technology Conference in February. As someone who is keen to engage the general public with science and engineering, Helena has been actively involved in

the Big Bang Fair for the last five years. On top of all this Helena is involved with Code First: Girls, is a volunteer ambassador representing Birmingham and set up a free beginner's coding course at the University. Helena was recently elected as WISE's new President and already has grand plans to expand the outreach programme for the Society.



### UBRacing

UBRacing have spared no effort in promoting engineering and STEM subjects. In October they featured in the Malvern Festival of Innovation where their car attracted the attention of the public, giving the team the opportunity to show how the project helps shape engineers of tomorrow. They recently accompanied Aston Martin on a school visit to promote STEM subjects. The session was a great success with the team receiving

praise for their coherence, enthusiasm and approachability. Another School visit in November, this time to the former primary school of one of their members: they spent the day talking to an army of four year-olds about Formula Student and answering questions on the car. The presence of Team Principal Francesca Cardilli even encouraged some of the girls in their STEM learning. Not only did the children enjoy the visit, having a go

sitting in the car and taking shots of every component, they were genuinely inspired to create their very own cars. The team even received letters of thanks, drawings and models from the children! UBRacing go above and beyond to offer children and prospective applicants help and support in ensuring they're making a conscious decision when considering engineering.



# Volunteer of the Year Award

This Award recognises those society members who have volunteered their time and expertise to help others, and have had a positive impact on their society, school, the College, the University and/or local community.



**Amir Hajiavand:** Founder and Senior Management, UBRobotics

Amir set up UBRobotics in February 2015 and continues to play a key role in running the team. He has selflessly given up a lot of his time and brought students from different disciplines and years together. Amir injects huge amounts of energy into everything he does and drives the Club forward while being supportive of all members. His enthusiasm has

created a society that engages students and provides them with a deeper understanding of robotics and coding. Amir makes everyone feel included and makes the Club an enjoyable experience; without Amir UBRobotics would not be the success it is! On top of his own doctoral research and work with UBRobotics, he also teaches on a

wide variety of modules and does so with such intelligence and clarity that he is very popular with his students. What is truly exceptional is the way in which he makes himself available to his students and Club alike.



**Aoife Quinlivan:** Charity Representative, ChemSoc

In her second year as a Charity Rep for ChemSoc, Aoife has shown herself to be selfless, organised and devoted to her role. Not only was she crucial in organising charitable events and activities, but she has been the first to volunteer her time for running ticket and collection desks for all ChemSoc events throughout the year. This showed her commitment to the Society and to helping the whole team, not just

her sub-committee of charity reps. She also volunteered for additional roles in the organisation of the annual ChemBall and successfully secured several raffle prizes from local businesses by hitting the streets and speaking to them face-to-face, something that is taken for granted in the age of email! Aoife regularly brought ideas to committee meetings and ensured ChemSoc has a good reputation not just in the

School of Chemistry and wider University, but also within the local area. Building good relationships within our community will be invaluable to future committees – Aoife has left a very good mark on ChemSoc!





**Lucy Quantick:** Secretary, PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Lucy has been an integral part of the success of the PPS committee, going above and beyond to make sure everything runs smoothly. Within this she organised many of the Society's events and was fundamental in planning the PPS Ball. She is an irreplaceable member of the senior committee, solidly dependable, encouraging newer members to take on responsibilities and including them in discussions.

This has left PPS in the strongest possible position for next year with many newer members now taking on senior roles thanks to her encouragement. Away from PPS and her studies, Lucy dedicates much of her free time to local charities in particular the Buddy a Granny scheme and the Monday Night Club, where she cares for individuals with mental health problems. Lucy's work with these organisations is a genuine

passion and she speaks fondly about the joy she gets from helping others. She is often remarked as being the most dedicated member of these missions, taking on extra responsibilities such as planning events and standing in for committee members. All this shows Lucy's dedication, compassion and care for others; some of the most honourable traits anyone can have.



**Nathan Adams:** Outreach Officer, AstroSoc

Nathan first served as Equipment Officer from 2014-2015, and worked hard to become an expert in the use and maintenance of the Society's equipment. He re-introduced astrophotography and pioneered the use of a CCD camera. Nathan's outstanding contribution has been in his tenure as Outreach Officer during which he has been at the forefront of AstroSoc's interactions with the public. Within the last year he has organised two free lectures, arranged a trip to the

University's Observatory for gifted and talented Year 5/6 pupils as well as teaching astronomy components of A-level Physics to students from a local college. He is now one of the lead organisers and presenters of Astronomy in the City, a monthly event run in conjunction with the University's Space Research Group and local astronomical societies. This event provides volunteering opportunities to AstroSoc members and reaches out to more than 200 members of the public at a time.

Nathan was also heavily involved in the gravitational waves announcement event which sold out with over 400 people attending. Nathan has attended the National Student Space Conference three times and networked with individuals and organisations, bringing back new ideas to incorporate with AstroSoc activities. He also met with the Royal Astronomical Society at these events and is soon to become a Fellow.

# Sports Personality of the Year

This Award recognises sportsmen and women who have shown commitment and enthusiasm both on and off the pitch, and are leading and inspirational personalities within the team.



**Emma Neild:** Netball Captain, MathSoc

Emma's commitment and enthusiasm for sport has shone throughout this year. She has successfully captained MathSoc's intra-mural netball team, introduced friendly non-league matches for the first time in the Society's history and beaten the usual tradition of end-of-season drop-outs. She encouraged more first years than ever to join in and has built and maintained an enthusiastic team,

continuing commitment throughout the year. Most notably Emma was a big part of MathSoc's Fundraising February and despite not being a runner, she joined other mathletes in raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust by running the Coventry half marathon on 28 February. Her commitment to sport and her own development was shown when, unbeknownst to her, she broke her leg only a mile into the

half marathon but went on to complete the race in a very respectable 2 hours and 16 minutes, even if she did collapse at the end! She became something of an internet sensation featuring in The Tab and Daily Mirror to name a few. Her enthusiasm has been instrumental in the spirit of MathSoc sport this year, although we recommend she doesn't run on a broken leg again!



**Matthew Saunders:** Sports Representative, JUGS: James Watt Undergraduate Society

Matt has captained, coached and been a key player for the Mechanical Engineering football team this year. It isn't just football: Matt has had a sensational year and his efforts to get as many people of all abilities and genders onto any and all sports pitches have been evident in the many events he's organised. These include dodgeball matches, a newly

formed squash club, mixed netball matches and, of course, regular football games and training sessions. Matt led his many teams to victories on multiple occasions; both spurring them on from the side-lines and commanding from the centre of the field. He also established a regular set of matches and competitions against other societies, ensuring

everyone is organised and prepared and building a level of 'friendly' competition within the Society. Matt has been an inspiration to JUGS and Mechanical Engineering.



**Natasha Fell and Emma Howsham:**

Joint Sports Representatives, JUGS: James Watt Undergraduate Society

Natasha and Emma have had a long-lasting influence on the Mechanical Engineering Society during their time on the committee. They have worked together to increase and improve the opportunities available for students to play sports at both a friendly and competitive level. They strongly believe that all abilities and genders should be given fair opportunity in

sport, especially within the EPS Community. As a direct result they formed the JUGS Netball Team and throughout the year have completed against the likes of CivSoc, BUMS, KINVIG (Geography) and many more. Their biggest event of the year saw nearly 100 students from across EPS and other departments competing in a dodgeball tournament. The competition was so

well received there have already been many requests for re-matches and other tournaments. This was such a big hit that Natasha and Emma have set the bar high for JUGS Sports Reps of the future. Their efforts have inspired so many that their momentum and passion will live on for committees to come.



**Peter Dewey:** Captain of PPS FC, PPS: Poynting Physical Society

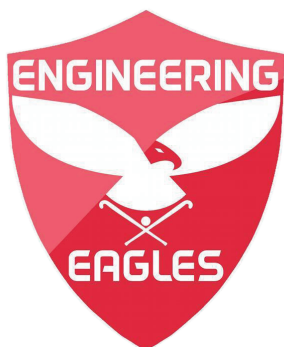
Peter has been a fundamental member of the PPS football team since his first year at University. Now coming to the end of his fourth year he has risen to the position of Captain and managed three separate squads. Pete organised and ran all weekly training session, each week coming up with a new regime to keep up enthusiasm and maximise engagement of all players.

Despite being one of the team's better players, Pete regularly volunteered himself to be in goal or substituted to allow others to get the maximum amount of time on the pitch. He is often the first to arrive at a match to set up the nets and the last to leave after helping to clear up. Of his accomplishments as Captain the victory over Economics is his greatest achievement: a team that

had not conceded a goal, let alone lost for three years was overturned in a 5-1 thrashing by a PPS side that was selected, organised and starred in by Pete himself. His selflessness and modesty as a player and coach make him a true role model. Through his leadership the Society has helped break the trend that scientists don't do sport!

# Sports Team of the Year 2015/16

This Award celebrates sports teams within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences that are acknowledged as both high performing on the pitch and tight-knit off the pitch. These teams can be part of a school or society, or entirely independent. They work exceptionally well as a team, playing to the strengths of all members, promote sporting activity and encourage healthy competition.



## Engineering Eagles

This year has seen the Engineering Eagles hockey team go from strength to strength. With the new influx of first years joining, they have been revitalised with fresh spirit, determination and energy. Eagles are often regarded as one of the most inclusive teams in the College, involving a real mix of both male and female players from all abilities. With

the highest number of potential players attending training week at the start of the Autumn Term, Eagles have had great success both on and off the field. The team came 2nd in the University intra-mural league and are officially the best chemical engineering hockey team in the UK after beating Strathclyde 5-0 in the final of the Frank Morton sports day

competition. Off the field they have successfully secured a new team sponsor in PricewaterhouseCoopers and won a Student Culture Fund bid, allowing the team to be able to continue stronger than ever into next season.



## EPS Mixed Netball

EPS Mixed Netball is an inclusive society allowing players of different abilities to enjoy netball who otherwise may not be able to participate. Each year EPS Netball continues to grow and they aim to encourage all EPS schools and departments to join in. The two captains, Lori and Tee offer excellent training sessions, meaning everyone

is able to work to improve whilst having fun. The team works incredibly hard to create as many opportunities for their players as possible, including competing in the University's intra-mural league and running fun matches for both members and non-member of EPS. Lori and Tee have done extremely well in bringing in new members to

the team and making training sessions both active and fun. The end of year tournament proved a big success with students from various departments joining in.



### MathSoc FC

Playing in one of the University's subject leagues, MathSoc FC's season began with a game against Law who had proved difficult in previous years. However, the team came out as comfortable 9-2 winners. From this first game onwards the season went from strength to strength and MathSoc won all 8 of their league games,

scoring 53 goals and only conceding 11. Particular highlights were 5-2 and 2-0 wins over the University's Development Squad; a team entirely made up of BUCS football hopefuls. The latter result sealed the title and led to MathSoc FC winning the league by 9 points over the Development Squad. As impressive as their match results, the team's

morale is unrivalled. This is evident from the strong bond amongst teammates with genuine support for each other. This is a direct result of the common MathSoc social events which have created a great relationship both on and off the pitch.

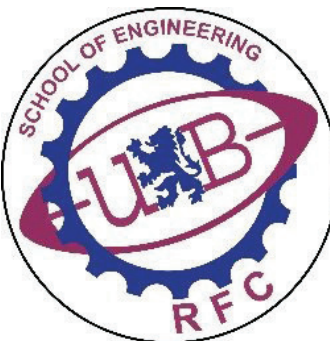


### Poynting Physical Society FC

The Physics Football Team has worked hard both on and off the field to maximise their potential this year. Not having the best base to start from after having come third from bottom of their league in 2015 and many of their core players leaving, PPS FC had big boots to fill. The team pulled together and reformed with a mix of experienced players

and an influx of freshers. The huge numbers wanting to play week in, week out allowed a third team to be created to make sure players had as much involvement as possible. Playing twice a week not only in University leagues but also on the Sunday circuit and training hard their commitment to the team has enabled them to excel, reaching the end of

season playoffs. Most important for PPS FC is team morale; players are distributed evenly so everyone has a chance of playing and winning. PPS FC now pride themselves on their mass inclusion, allowing anyone to play who wants to and giving new members, who may never have played competitively before, a fair chance at getting a result.



### School of Engineering RFC

The School of Engineering RFC has taken big steps to bring both social and competitive rugby to EPS and Birmingham students. Over a decade ago the Club started as a mechanical engineering inter-mural team but has grown, through steady development of players and quality performances, to include members from a wide range of subjects across the University. The team have seen great success this year with their

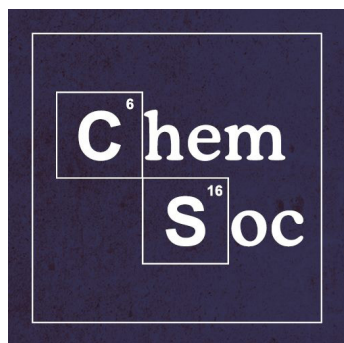
biggest intake of new members to date thanks to the enthusiasm of the committee who have a strong aptitude for recruiting players of all abilities. The committee work tirelessly to achieve sponsorship deals so they can provide regular training sessions and matches enabling players to develop their skills and play the sport they love. Recently the Club started playing in local tournaments against teams

from Birmingham, other universities and local clubs. The Club also keeps a busy social calendar including annual events such as the Club Dinner, an alumni match and even a UK tour. It is a testament to the nature of the squad that university-standard players choose to play for Engineering RFC instead of the main University teams.



# EPS Community Award

This Award recognises the exemplary contributions of individual student members or entire societies to the College Community.



## ChemSoc

One of ChemSoc's greatest achievements this year has been the amount raised for charity. Across two semesters they have raised £1,300; more than double the amount raised in 2015! The committee had a clear goal which provided motivation throughout the year. At Christmas ChemSoc organised a series of lectures from staff members (including Dr. Mark Read dressed as an elf) which culminated with special guest

Professor Poliakoff from the University of Nottingham and star of the YouTube channel 'Periodic Videos'. Bake sales, bingo sessions, food bank donations and for the first time the end-of-year ChemBall were all held in the name of charity. They raised hundreds of pounds for worthy causes including Water Aid, Antibiotic Action, the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research. ChemSoc have significantly increased participation in charitable

activities for the School of Chemistry. Many raffle prizes for ChemBall and bingo evenings were generously donated by students, staff and local businesses. Special thanks must go to the Charity Team: Aoife Quinlivan and Emily Doyle. Their proactivity throughout the year has made ChemSoc beneficial to the wider community.



## JUGS: James Watt Undergraduate Society

This year one of the goals set out by JUGS was to partner with as many other EPS societies as possible in social and sporting events. JUGS have participated in football and netball matches with CivSoc, a bar crawl with ChemSoc, the highly successful EPS University Challenge with MathSoc, bowling with PPS, and many more. Their reach has extended further still and beyond EPS where they have become

involved in regular sporting fixtures with KINVIG (Geography) and even a joint summer ball with Psychology. Planning is already underway to continue this trend next academic year and JUGS are getting an early start. With the recent alignment of Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering, JUGS, CivSoc and EESE Soc have teamed up to create a House Cup, in which students will be able to represent their discipline

and compete against their rivals in friendly sporting and social events. To mark the start of the cup and celebrate the end of the academic year a BBQ is being held for all students in the new School of Engineering. JUGS have been the social butterflies of the EPS Community this year and plan to continue their mission across more societies.



### MathSoc

The EPS University Challenge was the first quiz of its kind to be run in the College, bringing together societies within the EPS Community. As part of Fundraising February and Carnival Rag's Adopt a Charity Week, MathSoc raised almost £300 for the Teenage Cancer Trust by organising a College-wide quiz based on the much-loved television programme, University Challenge. 16 teams from nine societies across

the College competed for glory with more than 50 spectators cheering on. After several rounds of general knowledge questions, a tense semi-final and very close final with MathSoc A vs ChemSoc B, ChemSoc reigned victorious. The evening pulled the EPS societies together in a way that has not been done before. Through friendly competition, a few strange answers, an interesting sports round and a

huge amount of support for all competitors, MathSoc delivered an unforgettable challenge. They have created a new level of interaction between societies that is already leading to a greater level of confidence in holding more joint and collaborative events and competitions.



### WISE: Women in Science and Engineering and CSS: Computer Science Society

WISE and CSS joined forces to organise the University's first Women in Technology Conference on 6 February for undergraduate students interested in hearing about the career paths and experiences of leading women in the technology sector. The Conference was attended by students from the College, wider University, and similar colleges from Birmingham City and Aston Universities, along with a

good number of GCSE science and computing students from local schools. The event's organisation was a full collaboration between WISE and CSS and included students from across all EPS disciplines. Other departments and student groups from around the University were also involved such as the Careers Network, Guild TV and Redbrick. The Conference was a key industrial opportunity with

sponsorship from companies such as Instron and Goldman Sachs providing not only funding but also vital expertise and experience for attendees. The event successfully brought together the whole of the EPS Community and feedback has been so positive that the organising committee has already decided to put together not just one, but two similar events next academic year!

# Industrial Award

This Award recognises an individual or society whose work in creating industrial links for their school and members reflects the values of the University: excellence, distinctiveness, impact, confidence and pride.

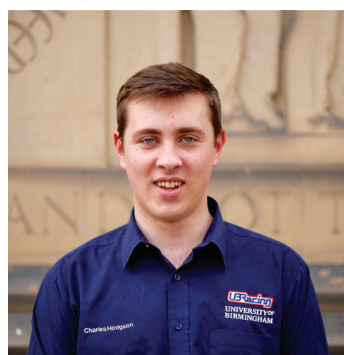


**Amber Wall:** Careers Representative, ChemSoc

After returning from an industrial placement year Amber was an ideal candidate for ChemSoc Careers Rep. She had first-hand experience of the application process and a good idea of the type of activities chemists would find both informative and valuable. Amber has developed an excellent relationship with the EPS Careers Network and was central to organising an afternoon of

careers talks that were extremely well-attended by ChemSoc members and chemistry students. She has also collaborated with the local Royal Society of Chemistry chapter to put on a networking event for future teachers and a sell-out industrial visit. The visit took 15 students to Unilever to tour their facilities and also contained talks from their current placement

students and those on graduate schemes. Amber made sure that all ChemSoc careers events were hosted by real chemists working in chemistry-specific roles, therefore providing students with a great insight into potential career options.



**Charles Hodgson:** Head of Sponsorship, UBRacing

Charlie Hodgson has been the most successful Head of Sponsorship for UBRacing for many years. He has successfully secured large amounts of sponsorship for the project from companies not previously involved with UBRacing. He is enthusiastic and professional in his approach in asking for support, always understanding the potential

problems companies face and taking the time to explain possible ways the project can enhance their company name. He has a strong reputation for diplomacy and respect when asking industrial contacts and alumni for support. Charlie is a strong team player and involves everyone in the hunt for funds and goods-in-kind. He also ensures sponsors are aware of

team members who are looking for graduate employment, summer placements or year in industry internships. Charlie is thorough and modern in his thinking, using effective communications to convey his mission to support the team and University.



**James Girling:** Industrial Representative, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

James Girling is a key member of the BUCES committee and has done a fantastic job this year. He successfully organised the Chemical Engineering Industry Dinner and in doing so maintained existing sponsor relationships and expanded the network of new contacts for BUCES and the School. New for this year James organised for chemical

engineering students currently on placement years to return to campus to talk to second and third years about their experiences on taking a year out in industry. This proved a very successful event beneficial to both students at the University and for those returning. James has also arranged for a wide variety of companies, with both chemical

engineering and commercial backgrounds, to share their experiences and expertise with students. James has been instrumental in helping students build their career prospects and continues a long tradition of excellent industrial liaison for BUCES.



**James O'Neill:** Industrial Liaison, CivSoc

James has transformed the role of Industrial Liaison for CivSoc, working tirelessly to provide a host of industrial activities. In October he helped co-ordinate 'An Evening with Carillion' where representatives of Carillion's core business areas met with over 50 civil engineering students in a speed-dating-style networking session offering real

insight into the role of a civil engineer. This was the first event of this model for the College and a huge success which will no doubt lead to similar events in the future. James was also influential in encouraging students to join the RESPECT scheme. James reflected on his own experiences to deliver a presentation on interview techniques

and application processes to his peers. Later in the year James ran a civil engineering Careers Fair where he personally invited companies to the University to promote employment opportunities. The success of James' programme has created a solid foundation from which CivSoc can build their relationships with industry.

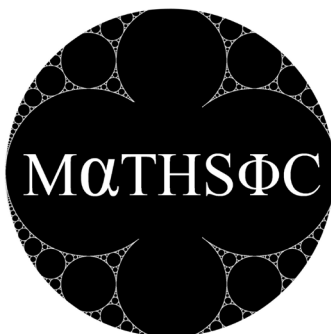


**Josh Miller:** Careers Secretary, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Josh has dedicated a large amount of time from the first year of his PhD to helping undergraduates kick start their careers in the materials science sector. He has been instrumental in managing industrial links and advertising opportunities to members of both BUMS and NucSoc. Central to organising the Materials Careers Fair in November,

he introduced a number of relevant, big-name companies to eager Materials and Nuclear students. New for this year is Josh's summer placement scheme where students who are keen to pursue a research-based internship now have the chance to work alongside a University academic. The programme provides a fantastic opportunity for

those interested in academia to dip their toes and see if they enjoy the challenge. Not only does the scheme help students decide on their potential career path but also offers invaluable laboratory experience which in turn increases their chances of gaining future placements.



**MathSoc**

For the first time in the Society's history MathSoc has gained industrial sponsorship. While other groups may have more traditional links with industry, MathSoc found there aren't many obvious connections between their subject and companies. They worked hard to identify and create links with potential corporate partners and

successfully secured the prestigious Ernst & Young Consultancy Group as their first sponsor. MathSoc have worked in partnership with EY over the course of the year, providing opportunities for members to understand the roles available to them and meet with recruiters. MathSoc also organised a networking evening where around

40 members enjoyed presentations from a variety of companies such as L'Oreal, HMRC, the King Edwards Consortium and NFU Mutual. Formal presentations were followed by the chance for students to network with representatives and continue discussions in private.

# Inspirational Committee Member

This Award recognises those who, through excellent organisational skills and a proactive attitude, have offered outstanding opportunities to their members, gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the society is engaging and exciting, and ensured that members are happy and involved with activities provided.



**Alex Dickinson-Lomas:** Treasurer and 1st Year Representative, NucSoc

Alex is very new to NucSoc having only joined the University in September. She quickly became a vital part of the Society, so much so that she was invited to take up a role on the committee. She warmed to the idea very quickly and flourished as Treasurer, getting NucSoc in a strong position ready for next year

after securing regular income for the Society. She has been influential in event organisation, making profit and allowing bigger and better events to be budgeted and subsidised. Thanks to Alex's great personality and enthusiasm, 1st year students are the most receptive NucSoc has ever had! She is respected by every

member of the Society, across year groups and by members of staff. Above all else Alex is incredibly modest. Everything she does for NucSoc is entirely for the benefit of nuclear students and her selfless love of the Society shines through.



**Amanda Field and Carmel Greenwood:** Co-Chairs, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Affectionately known as 'CarManda', Amanda and Carmel are the definition of double-act. They are exemplary in their ability to involve and enthuse everyone in Metallurgy and Materials, consistently doing their upmost to ensure students have the best possible experience. Their efforts have resulted in BUMS membership being higher than ever thanks to their determination to

appeal to a wider audience by hosting a range activities, and forging a much stronger relationship with NucSoc. Despite both doing PhD's they still find time to help undergraduates and are always looking to the next big activity in the School calendar. They were two of the lead organisers for the annual Materials Ball as well as events such as the direct entry dinner, Christmas

party and end of exams BBQ. They are also always around on Open Days encouraging guests, particularly girls, to consider studying materials and STEM subjects. To top it off, they both act as mentors and without a doubt are two people students can turn to, whatever the issue.





**Francesca Cardilli:** Team Principal, UBRacing

Fran has been a truly professional leader as she steers UBRacing through their most ambitious project to date. Organising the team comes so naturally to her you would think she had been a project manager for years. She has found new ways to improve UBRacing's reputation and in doing so has increased membership and allowed more roles to be delegated, ensuring every member is fully utilised. Her eye for

perfection is vital in creating a new image for UBRacing which she has successfully implemented through a revised communication plan and increased social media presence. Through all this Fran is a real character in the team, oozing enthusiasm and lifting spirits to keep everyone on track. She always has time to offer support to others, whether relating to coursework, UBRacing, interview techniques or

life in general. Fran is also an ambassador for Mechanical Engineering, enthusiastically hosting prospective students and sharing her experiences. She is hard working, forward thinking, always aware of her team and is held in high regard by everyone she comes across. Fran has set the bar high for the next Team Principal!



**Jack Wearden:** President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Jack has devoted a phenomenal amount of time to CSS this year. Under his leadership CSS has broken membership, events, participation and revenue records, and in doing so has made the Society an essential part of life in Computer Science. Jack is dedicated to ensuring correct and efficient management with tenacity to power through when unfortunate setbacks occur and encouraging as many people to get involved as

possible (not many could get away with chanting Justin Bieber at freshers!). He is a master of all trades and an efficient leader inspiring his team to step outside their comfort zone to try new things and is supportive every step of the way. Not satisfied with running a society, Jack was also central to the launching two major new initiatives for CSS: the highly successful BrumHack series and the Women in Technology Conference with WISE.

Both have not only promoted computer science but provided numerous career opportunities by attracting sponsors such as Accenture, GitHub, Goldman Sachs, Nationwide and many more. Jack has had a big impact on the Society and Computer Science and is certainly graduating leaving CSS with a strong legacy and foundation to continue their rapid growth.



**Nicole Soor:** Social Secretary, NucSoc

In her first year at Birmingham Nicole took on the role of Year Rep for NucSoc, quickly earning a reputation as a friendly and supportive figure within the Society. Working her way up the ranks Nicole, was this year elected Social Secretary where she uses her fun and outgoing personality to organise a plethora of regular and varied social events, ensuring that all student interests are

covered so that everyone can get involved. Her organisation doesn't just sit with NucSoc as many activities are delivered with BUMS to build a better, more cohesive (and often competitive!) relationship between the two societies within Metallurgy and Materials. Nicole is also second year rep and she never stops asking for students' opinions and recommendations.

She ensures all views are heard and provides progress updates to everyone involved. It's safe to say Nicole has united NucSoc, integrating students from all years to be a part of something great. Next she is taking on the role of President and no doubt her strong leadership skills will be put to good use.

# Role Model of the Year

This Award recognises those who exemplify the best within themselves and others, and are recognised as a role model for their positive attitude and achievements.



**Amir Hajiavand:** Founder and Senior Management, UBRobotics

Amir has been instrumental in developing the UBRobotics Club from the ground up over the past two academic years. His dedication and natural talent with people has helped secure thousands of pounds in sponsorship to ensure UBRobotics remain on their competitive edge. Amir formed the backbone of the Club in early

February 2015 and with his great leadership and high levels of proficiency he has been able to achieve two awards in the Eurobot competitions: 3rd place at Eurobot 2015 just two months after the Club's inception, and another 3rd place at Eurobot 2016 with an invitation to the International Finals in Paris. Amir has successfully brought

students together from across different disciplines and year groups. His drive and energy has created a Club that not only engages students but provides a deeper understanding of robotics and coding. What is truly exceptional is the way in which Amir makes himself available as a teacher, mentor and friend.



**Annabel Fitzgerald:** Co-Founder, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Annabel has played a pivotal role in WISE since its very beginning. She is passionate, enthusiastic and always meets a challenge with a positive attitude and steely determination. She is involved with every initiative, event and idea in WISE and has been instrumental in welcoming new members to the

Society. The confidence and unwavering support Annabel has in her team has let them to go from strength to strength, both as a group and as individuals. Annabel has now spent 7 years at the University and during this time she has not only completed her academic studies and helped set up WISE, she has also

played on the women's football team, acted as an EPS ambassador and organised Matopology (Materials Monopoly) across the City just to name a few. Despite being in her final PhD year she has not lost her enthusiasm or determination and continues to play a significant role in WISE.



**Francesca Cardilli:** Team Principal, UBRacing

Fran is ultimately responsible for the smooth running of UBRacing, ensuring members work to their full potential. In a year with high expectations after a strong string of results, she has shown a sensible and calm approach to her responsibilities. In addition to this huge workload, Fran is easily approachable and regularly puts

others before herself, even at her own expense. This attitude has kept the team working together during a period of drastic change on the project, bringing about many unexpected challenges which Fran has led them to successfully overcome. As well as her UBRacing responsibilities Fran is a mentor for younger students and University

applicants, always willing to share her experiences and offer advice. She not only puts her heart and soul into UBRacing but maintains high grades, is a key ambassador for the Department and has secured a competitive placement at Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains.

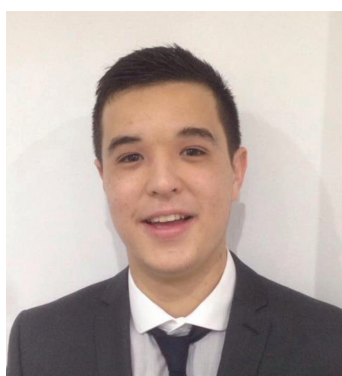


**Luke Rollings:** President, NucSoc

Since taking over the role of President in 2014, Luke has led the Society from strength to strength. He has expanded NucSoc to cater for a significantly higher set of members, all from different backgrounds. In his second presidential term Luke has again seen the Society grow. He has become a strong advocate for deeper interaction amongst students

in Metallurgy and Materials. One of NucSoc's, and Luke's, great achievements was the introduction of a mentoring programme for new students. The scheme not only brings together year groups within the School but has created a solid, tight-knit community. He also introduced coursework support and revision sessions to ensure everyone understands the many topics

covered on nuclear programmes and helped to create a constructive and studious atmosphere. From house parties to paintballing, study groups to mentoring, careers fairs and industrial visits, a Christmas meal and of course the Materials Ball, Luke has put his all into NucSoc.

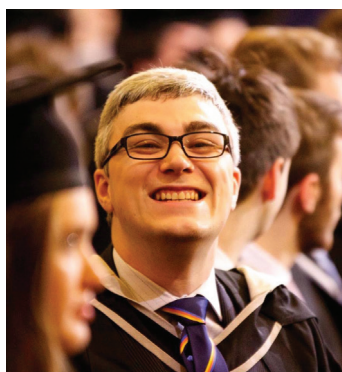


**Paul Hardman:** BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

Paul Hardman is an inspiration within the Chemical Engineering community. He always wears a smile and is happy to chat to anybody, whether they are a first or fourth year. Paul is a familiar presence at almost all BUCES social events after encouraging many friends and fellow classmates to join the festivities.

Paul is a devoted, hard working individual; often the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at night. He's always happy to help his peers with any queries and his coursework standard is second to none. His attendance at BUCES activities is ironclad and he can always be relied upon to bring

everyone in his vast network along too. Although a consummate professional during working hours, he's not afraid to become the life and soul within seconds.



**Tom Dack:** PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Tom served as PPS President in 2014-15, heading a Society on the rise as membership and attendance increased. Tom graduated in 2015 but stayed at the University to study an MSc in Computer Science and has remained an active voice within PPS. Despite not being an official committee member (or even in the same School!), Tom kept an eye on

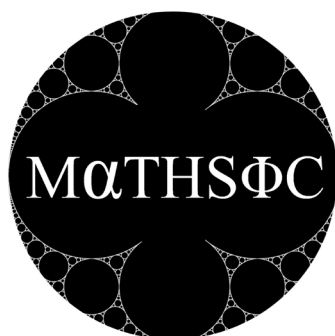
PPS as a sort of guardian angel, offering advice and ideas all year to help improve the Society. Originally only intending to stay on for a few weeks, Tom attended almost every meeting throughout the year, expressing his thoughts and offering guidance to the committee. He also assisted in running many PPS events such as stewarding bar crawls,

organising the quizzes and planning the end of year Ball. All this shows his dedication to both PPS and the School of Physics and Astronomy. Tom is truly a household name within Physics and has had an incredible impact upon the Society during his time at Birmingham.



## Head of College Idea of the Year

This Award recognises an individual or society who has been involved in an innovation, project or event which has had a significant impact on their school or society.



### EPS University Challenge: MathSoc

Organised by MathSoc as part of Carnival Rag's Adopt a Charity Week and the Society's Fundraising February, the EPS University Challenge was the first non-sporting event of this kind to be run in the College. Based on the popular television programme, the event saw students pit themselves against each other in a general knowledge battle. The evening brought together societies and spectators from across the EPS Community with 16 teams

competing from nine different societies (including MathSoc, JUGS, ChemSoc, PPS, BUCES, WISE, CSS, EESE Soc and UBRacing) with over 50 others cheering them on. Competition was rife, especially between the scientists and engineers! After several head-to-head rounds, some peculiar answers, an 'interesting' sports round and a thrilling semi-final; it was down to MathSoc A vs. ChemSoc B, with ChemSoc

claiming glory. The event pulled the whole College community together in a way that has not been seen before. Societies formed close bonds as the competition continued with many teams who had been knocked out in earlier rounds cheering for their previous rivals. There is already talk of a repeat in future years; perhaps combining the efforts of the 2015 EPS Football Tournament and this year's Challenge.



### oSTEM; Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

oSTEM at Birmingham formed in October 2015 and is an organisation aiming to support LGBTQ+ students studying STEM subjects at the University. The Birmingham branch was founded following the 2015 Conference for Physics and Astronomy students where Katherine Morelli-Batters was inspired by hearing about the American oSTEM organisation. Support for LGBTQ+ students in STEM fields is much needed, as noted in recent American

Physical Society research published in Physics World. oSTEM welcomes undergraduates and postgraduates from all STEM subjects and organises a range of events including socials, careers fairs, and talks from LGBTQ+ professionals in scientific fields. It provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and offers the chance to socialise with other students. On 6 June oSTEM held their first speaker event with guests including a founding member

of LGBT CERN and a member of TransCode. Everyone involved in setting up and running the Society is passionate about creating a supportive environment for LGBTQ+ students in STEM. From their dedication and passion there is much more to come from oSTEM, and they are ones to watch in the future!





#### PhD Pathways: Alex Thomas, AstroSoc

Driven by her own curiosity, Alex created PhD Pathways to help inform undergraduates about the life of a PhD student; a topic unfortunately not previously covered by existing careers activities. With over 20% of graduating physics students going on to do a PhD each year, this event was much needed. The afternoon saw postgraduates from a range of research groups give presentations on their work,

alongside talks from members of staff on application processes, funding and assessments. Already a respected undergraduate, Alex was easily able to source PhD speakers, with even more turning up after the formal talks to chat to undergraduates. The event was very well received with approximately 40% of 3rd year students attending. Lower years are already keen to have a repeat event in their own third

years and with equal enthusiasm from the School PhD Pathways is likely to become a staple event in the calendar. The event provided a direct link between undergraduates and postgraduates and offered the opportunity to hear the honest thoughts of those currently undertaking a PhD. It also increased the profile of Physics PhD opportunities at Birmingham.

## SATNAV

#### SATNAV Art Exhibition: SATNAV: Science and Technology News and Views

In December 2015 SATNAV held an art exhibition in conjunction with the University's ArtSoc and PhotoSoc on the theme 'Science of the Future'. The purpose of the exhibition was to show how art and science can co-exist and invite different groups of students into SATNAV's fold. SATNAV began this initiative to not only broaden their members' skill sets but also to build ties with other societies and open access to students with interests in media,

marketing and art who might not otherwise interact with a science and technology magazine but share an interest in communication, journalism and innovation. To ensure the exhibition's success, committee members from all three societies co-ordinated ideas, delivered workshops on both production media and exhibition organisation, and worked together to build a coherent team. As well as the event itself, the team hosted a competition

for members of the three societies and others to contribute pieces not only for the exhibition but also for inclusion in the autumn 2015 edition of the SATNAV magazine. Two winning pieces were selected as artwork for the front and back covers. Special mentions must go to Cecilia Caffrey for the concept, and Siddharth Trivedi and Marion Cromb for their rigorous planning.



#### Women in Technology Conference: WISE: Women in Science and Engineering and CSS: Computer Science Society

The Women in Technology Conference stemmed from the idea to raise awareness of the low percentage of women studying and working in technology-based fields, and to celebrate the inspiring women who do. A strong array of speakers showcased their careers in front of an audience of more than one hundred guests on a day filled with talks, workshops and networking opportunities. The committee's passion and organisation throughout was

paramount, showing true collaboration to deliver this complex event. Almost £4,000 in sponsorship was raised from new, big-name contacts such as Goldman Sachs, Intron, KPMG and Morgan Stanley, allowing the Conference to be completely free to attendees, with refreshments and merchandise provided. Encouraging more women to enter into science and engineering is a big focus of many schools and universities nationally so invitations were extended outside

the University campus and attendees included students from Aston, Birmingham City and Warwick universities and local senior schools. This was the first female-led technology conference ever held at Birmingham. It was so successful that the 180 free tickets released were snapped up, and has led to not one, but two conferences of a similar style already in the planning for the next academic year!



# The Great Achievement in EPS Award

This Award recognises outstanding contribution to the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Whether through fundraising initiatives, raising awareness of school and College events, acting as a student ambassador, being the go-to person for help and advice, or encouraging others to get involved, these individuals regularly go above and beyond the call of duty to enhance the student experience. These are our leading future alumni.



**Alice Sayers:** Chair, ChemSoc

Alice has transformed ChemSoc into a productive and creative team. She took lessons learned in 2015 and set clear goals for her committee; qualities which make her an excellent motivator and leader. Alice is approachable and compassionate; she is admired by many and is the go-to girl in Chemistry. She's a friend to all and has built a strong network within the Chemistry community. She has managed to do all this while maintaining excellent

grades, winning the Reckitt Benckiser Challenge, being a student rep for a second year, securing an industrial placement and overcoming a few bumps in the road along the way. Alice has inspired many whilst at Birmingham and is seen as a role model amongst her peers. She always goes above and beyond to do everything to the best of her ability. Whether it be researching the enormous task of custom-embroidered lab coats for

new students, being interviewed by the Alumni Office for a 'Student then and now' feature or showing guests around Chemistry, Alice can be called upon for any task and is always the most willing, enthusiastic and lovingly-hyperactive volunteer. To top it all off she empowered ChemSoc to their most charitable year yet, raising more than £1,300 for worthy causes.



**Amir Hajiyavand:** Founder and Senior Management, UBRobotics

Amir has been instrumental over the past two academic years in forming and developing UBRobotics. His hard work and dedication as well as his natural talent to successfully liaise with third-parties has helped secure thousands of pounds in sponsorship to ensure UBRobotics remain on top of their competitive field. Amir formed the backbone of UBRobotics in February 2015 with academic advisors from the

Department of Mechanical Engineering. The Club's efforts were rewarded just two months later as they claimed 3rd place at the Eurobot 2015 competition. Throughout the following summer break Amir set up a promotional booth in Mechanical Engineering for Open Days and gathered interest from prospective students for both the Club and Department. Continuing momentum from last year

Amir secured yet more sponsorship companies and the University. With funding in place, the Club once again claimed 3rd place at Eurobot 2016, this time with an invitation to the International Finals in Paris. Not only did Amir found UBRobotics but his continued efforts and exceptional leadership has helped the Club win prizes in national-level competitions in just over a year since their inception.



**Daisy Partlow:** President 2013/14, JUGS: James Watt Undergraduate Society and Head of Sponsorship and Marketing 2014/15, UBRacing

As President of JUGS Daisy reinvigorated the Society. She increased membership and enthusiasm amongst the student body, designed a suite of new events and rebuilt relationships in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. As Head of Sponsorship and Marketing for UBRacing she collaborated with the IMechE, existing sponsors and new contacts. She successfully secured an additional £5,000 in support and more from gifts-in-kind which helped propel the team towards their best ever points score and 7th place

finish at the 2015 Formula Student competition. Daisy then spent her summer with Aston Martin improving machinability and manufacturing component costs. This was only made possible by her taking the initiative to strengthen relationships between Aston Martin Lagonda, alumnus Ian Minards (whom she met at the 2014 EPS Societies' Awards), UBRacing and the Department. She is now a fourth year rep working with staff and students to create an environment in which both groups can openly express concerns, creating greater coherence and

leading to a higher standard of education for current and future students. Daisy also volunteers at a local Scout and Beaver Group encouraging young children to partake in adventure activities, camping and life skills. In May she was honoured by the District Commissioner for her services to Scouting. Daisy is an outstanding ambassador, has inspired many young people and is an advocate for women in engineering, empowering girls to consider STEM subjects through her own enthusiasm.



**Joseph Moorhouse:** Technical Director 2014/15 and Head of Powertrain Development 2015/16, UBRacing

Last year was UBRacing's most successful year to date. They ranking as 2nd UK team in the Internal Combustion World Rankings, and placed 7th out of 130 teams and 3rd of the UK teams at the International Formula Student Competition in July. This was UBRacing's best result in their 18 year history! Joseph led the design of UBRacing's lightest tubular steel spaceframe chassis which became the lightest four

cylinder car at the competition. He continually improved reliability and performance, making car number 149 (lovingly known as UBR18) the team's best performing car. They placed an incredible 3rd in the endurance event which saw teams drive 22km around Silverstone's Copse Corner with a mid-point driver change. The team were also 2nd fastest in the acceleration test and fastest on the skidpad. All this

proves Joseph's hard work and dedication throughout the year thoroughly paid off. Despite the enormous amount of energy Joseph put into his job, he still made time to help others and regularly put their needs before his own. Joseph's enthusiasm has been carried to this year in his role as Head of Powertrain Development, with the aim of applying his current work to the car in the near future.



**Rob Arnold:** Secretary and 4th Year Rep, NucSoc

Rob may have the titles of NucSoc Secretary and Fourth Year Nuclear Student Rep but he does much more than that. Meetings wouldn't be the same without his articulate discussion of issues that matter to students and he makes sure everyone's voice is heard. Rob has been invaluable in his organisation of NucSoc, encouraging everyone to get involved with events thanks to his friendly nature and ability to get

along with absolutely anyone. Aside from his official commitments Rob is always a friendly face in the School. He is known across all years and is always there to lend a hand or crack a joke. He mentors first years and helps with maths problems, gets second years through tough modules and is a shoulder to lean on when group projects get too much in third year. He has been a key part in bringing the two societies in the

School together through the organisation of the Materials Ball and a bit of healthy competition. Rob is affectionately known as the School's 'secret weapon' as the go-to rep, helper and friend; always ready to support anyone in settling into University life or learning to progress through their degree programme.

# Society of the Year 2015/16

This Award celebrates the outstanding activities conducted by societies over the course of the 2015/16 academic year. Whether through launching new projects, management of activities, volunteering, events or membership numbers, these societies have pushed the boundaries and delivered more than ever before.



## AstroSoc

AstroSoc have had a phenomenal year. A particular highlight has to be their Astronomy in the City Gravitational Waves special with a packed auditorium of over 400 guests eager to hear from those directly involved with LIGO. As well as this, AstroSoc organised a huge variety of events sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge for the night sky with hundreds, if not

thousands of members of the public. These activities range from teaching small groups of A-level students, to hosting centenary celebrations for Einstein's theory of general relativity. AstroSoc never fail to impress whether entertaining small children, the Dean of Birmingham, alumni, poets or the Vice Chancellor's wife. Their members are dedicated, willing to help, well organised and great

team players. The Society works as a community of passionate and enthusiastic students aiming to inspire more people to get involved with observational astronomy and current astronomical research. They are a fantastic team perfectly helpful, full of boundlessly cheerful energy and extremely competent: they are experts.

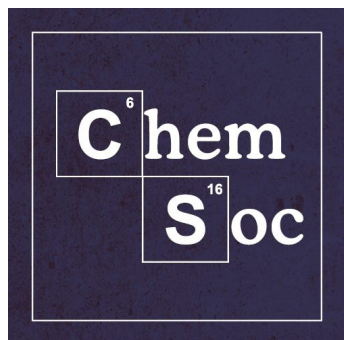


## BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

With Chemical Engineering becoming increasingly popular and a record number of first year entrants in September 2015, the BUCES has had to diversify to meet such high demand. They now have over 350 active members and their annual events (Winter Ball and the Industrial Dinner) are bigger than ever. They are officially the best chemical engineering students in the UK on the sports pitch, thanks to another

Frank Morton sports day victory. Despite their growing size they continually identify areas to develop or new pockets of students to involve. BUCES have introduced an Academic President responsible for student-staff liaisons and ensuring continued student satisfaction. With this role they evolved their year rep scheme, increasing the number of students involved and creating better cohesion within the School. They

also held an International Carnival in order to engage overseas students and offer them the opportunity to teach others about their home culture through sharing food, games and traditions. Most notably, they constantly work to ensure freshers settle into University life through not only social events but academic support and the family mentoring programme. BUCES is now a reason students apply to Birmingham.

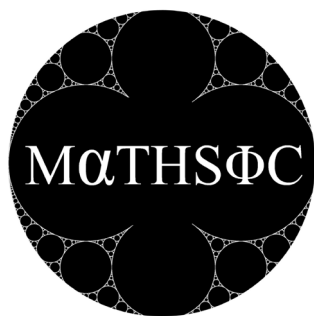


### ChemSoc

ChemSoc has undergone a major restructure following the 2015 elections with the committee being reduced from an unmanageable 26 to a much smaller nine. All committee members are now able to effectively contribute to the organisation of all activities and work to build a greater bond within the Society. The pinnacle of their success was evident at ChemBall, when the committee announced the

result of their year-long charitable efforts and revealed that ChemSoc had raised over £1,300 for local and national charities. This could not have been done without the committee's proactivity in creating innovative events and the sourcing of donations and prizes from local businesses. ChemSoc has raised both money and awareness of what these charities do. The Society has also greatly improved student-staff

relations and is now a continual presence at Open Days, Applicant Visit Days and during alumni or guest visits. The committee enthusiastically seek new opportunities to benefit undergraduates from when they first arrive to when they graduate. In doing all of this, ChemSoc now provides an important sense of belonging for Chemistry.



### MathSoc

MathSoc are continuing their upward trend and have involved more students in their activities than ever before. Their annual Barcrawl saw an increase in attendance of 33% with tickets selling out in under 6 hours and the Careers Networking evening has a growing reputation. MathSoc Spring Ball saw a 46.2% increase, including gate-crashers from other departments who had

caught wind of its reputation! The family scheme has successfully integrated freshers into the School and new events such as a trip to Bletchley Park and treasure hunt add an extra layer of activity to the Society. MathSoc have collaborated with other societies, both within EPS and beyond, not only in the highly successful EPS University Challenge but also on the sports pitch and at

social events. Fundraising February saw them raise over £1,800 for the Teenage Cancer Trust through the Challenge, bake sales and bowling, and 15 Mathletes ran the Coventry Half Marathon (even if one did break her leg!). They even went international and took 50 members to Dublin. MathSoc's many activities have developed an outstanding sense of community in the School.



### NucSoc

NucSoc is a fairly new society, having only existed since 2011. This year's committee have been the strongest yet showing dedication, professionalism and determination to grow from a small group of friends into a budding society of 150 members. Thanks to their growing size, NucSoc has diversified and now offer more academic-oriented activities such as study support groups, careers fairs, industrial visits

and even organised group attendance to the EPS Christmas Lecture. They make a huge effort to ensure all students are included and involved by catering for all different types of people and interests. They have introduced new social events such as film nights, lasertag and paintballing, the most popular of which were the two quizzes held in the School and attended by Metallurgy and Materials students

and staff. They also launched a mentoring scheme to welcome freshers to the University and provide a supportive network of students to help with coursework, offering guidance through the first year at Birmingham. NucSoc now fosters a strong sense of community, not just within their courses but also with their sister society BUMS, and have built a truly inclusive Society.

# Society of the Year 2015/16

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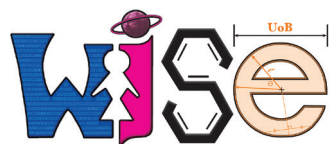


## UBRacing

After their most successful result in UBRacing's 18-year history, the team thought it only appropriate to follow their best season with their most ambitious; stepping out of their comfort zone to explore new technologies and designs, and challenging themselves to reach the top spot on the British podium. Starting the year with another successful recruitment drive and counting 72 new members from disciplines ranging from business

and law to geography and music, fuelled the team to push the extra mile. They are now working on a brand new design concept revolving around a hybrid carbon fibre chassis and aerodynamics kit. This year also sees them breaking a 4-year hiatus from international competitions and they will be representing the University both at Silverstone and in the Czech Republic. The team has also been awarded one of the highly coveted Formula Student prizes by

IMechE for the second year running. They have gained more recognition in the Formula Student community over the past year, building on their rich heritage. The sacrifice and hours team members put in to complete a car each year, whilst studying for degrees and completing final year projects is astonishing and a true testament to their dedication and team spirit.



## WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

WISE cover the whole spectrum of science and engineering (and maths). Their programme is designed to bring members and guests together through both social events such as bowling and film nights, and also through their growing suite of professional activities. Their formal events focus on showcasing strong female role models to inspire other women to consider scientific or technological careers. This year they organised the

University's Women in Technology Conference with CSS and delivered two WISE Inspire networking evenings which invited alumni, academics, entrepreneurs and businesswomen to share their experiences and expertise. Over the year WISE have brought many students and professionals from all over the country to Birmingham; putting the Society and the University on the map for inspiring future professionals. As they are still

a fairly new society they are keen to grow their reputation and strive to get involved in as many activities across the College as possible to increase their presence within the EPS Community, as well as looking for ways to improve themselves as a society.





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