



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING AND
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Welcome to the
**EPS SOCIETIES'
AWARDS 2019**



Welcome to the EPS Societies' Awards 2019

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has a strong tradition of outstanding success among its students. We now have 34 phenomenal societies and I am proud of their triumphs throughout this academic year.

These Awards are a reminder of the dedication and ingenuity of society committees and members alike to make the University a better, more vibrant place. As we look back on the academic year, it is clear that our societies play a vital role within the student body.

Our societies are at the very heart of the College. Thanks to you, I am proud that we have a diverse mix of student groups with some of the University's most specialist teams and campaign groups. From exploring the universe to railways, programming robotics to gaming, internationally competitive automotive teams to sustainable engineering, science communication and diversity, our societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote career opportunities, outreach and, of course, social events. We're also home to some of the University's oldest and largest societies, with two even pre-dating the institution, and not forgetting our 12 subject-based societies and three College-wide sports teams.

All this and we are still growing! Since September, we have welcomed seven new societies to the EPS Community: the Energy Society, hacking club AFiniteNumberOfMonkeys, Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists BEaMS, AeroSoc, Women in Finance, Startup Soc and UBLoco.

Most of all, I would like to thank everyone involved with our student groups for their continued dedication and enthusiasm. Through the unique opportunities you are offering your members, you are enabling skills development and ultimately enhancing employability, making our students increasingly more enticing to future employers. You are also working to increase excitement of STEM subjects in the local schools you volunteer at; by working with young people across the region you are empowering the next generation of scientists and engineers. This is invaluable and I can't thank you enough for this. Thank you.

I am very pleased to report there has been a record-breaking 986 nominations submitted for the EPS Societies' Awards from students, staff, alumni, friends and even local school teachers and companies who have worked with our societies. I would like to congratulate all those nominated, and especially those shortlisted for these awards. Within this brochure, you will find an overview of all tonight's stars and their achievements.

We would not be able to celebrate such accomplishments without the commitment of those who have made tonight's event possible. Thank you to our judges for selecting tonight's winners, our organising committee for their hard work, our host and our sponsors for their support and interest in our students and also Grace Surman for her fantastic work bringing all this together. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to recognise outstanding achievements by nominating a student or society to let them know that they make a real difference at the University.

I hope you have a wonderful evening.

With best wishes,
Professor Andy Schofield
Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College, Engineering and Physical Sciences



Programme

Welcome address
Sports Personality of the Year
Sports Team of the Year 2018/19
EPS Trophy

Starter

Outstanding Event Award
Volunteer of the Year
Outreach Award
Diversity and Inclusion Award
Member of the Year

Main course

Industrial Award
EPS Community Award
Inspirational Committee Member
Role Model of the Year
Staff Member of the Year

Dessert

Head of College Idea of the Year
Great Achievement in EPS Award
Society of the Year 2018/19

Performance by
The Monkey Butlers

The EPS Community Your network for life

Your EPS Community is a network of alumni, students, staff, industrial partners and friends from the seven schools that make up the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY

When you join us as a new student, you automatically become a member of our 80,000+ strong community. We believe the relationship you have with the University should last a lifetime, from the moment you walk through our doors. We're very lucky to have a strong community in which lifelong friendships are made.

Whether you're in your first year with us, getting stuck in with your society, stepping up to lead your committee or due to graduate, you all have and continue to hold a key place in the EPS Community – a community that simply couldn't exist without you!

We'll help build your network by introducing you to alumni and industrial contacts to 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.

Get involved

As part of the EPS Community, you'll be able to access a whole host of information and resources, including the latest announcements from your societies, career and volunteering opportunities, and invitations to events across the College such as our Distinguished, Inaugural and Christmas Lectures. We could even help you find a mentor, find alumni to speak at your events, or promote your activities across the University. We are here to help you reach your full potential.

It doesn't end when you leave

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, the EPS Community is here for you long after you graduate. We will also enable you to get involved with the University in any way you can. We hope you will return to campus to speak about your time here and what you've achieved in your career, volunteer to continue your ambassadorial work on open days, offer your time to a student as a mentor, or share your Birmingham story. You could provide invaluable help to our future students.

To get involved, visit our website
www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community



Email us: eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk



Follow us on Twitter @eps_unibham



or Instagram @myepslife



Join us on LinkedIn: www.tinyurl.com/epslinkedin



Our Societies

Our active and successful student societies form an integral part of the EPS Community, providing an avenue for students to interact with one another, collaborate and compete, hold some incredible events and projects, offer study or careers support and engage with alumni and industrial contacts.



Chemistry Society



Chemical Engineering Society



Energy Society



Computer Science Society



UBLoco



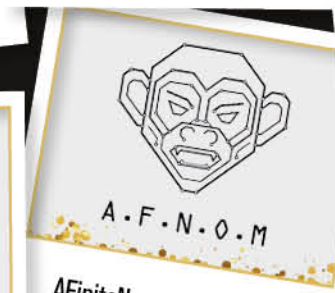
UBRobotics



UBRacing



Electrical Engineering Society



AFiniteNumberofMonkeys



Civil Engineering Society



Eagles Hockey



Nuclear Society



Women in Finance



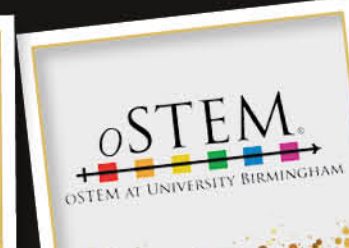
Cameroon Catalyst



Mathematics Society



Brum Eco Racing



Out in STEM



Aerospace Society



Games Development Society



Mechanical Engineering Society



Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists Group



Engineers Without Borders



Science and Technology News and Views



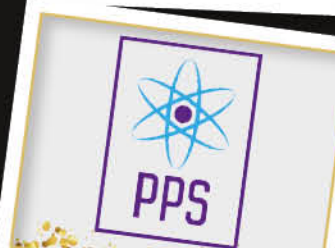
Mixed Netball



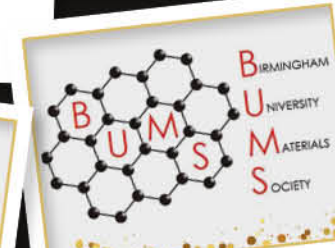
Rail Society



Theoretical Physics Society



Poynting Physical Society



Materials Society



StartUp Society



UBeRacing



Astronomical Society



School of Engineering RFC



Autonomous Robotics Club



Women in Science and Engineering

To find out more about the EPS Societies, read their latest news and to join, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-societies

Our host

Mark Hipwell

Pre-Construction Manager for the Curzon Street Area,
Laing O'Rourke and Murphy Group Joint Venture
University of Birmingham alumnus: MEng Civil Engineering, 2013

Mark is currently working for Laing O'Rourke and Murphy Group Joint Venture (LM JV) on behalf of HS2 as a Pre-Construction Manager for Curzon Street Station near Eastside Park, readying the site in advance of the new High Speed Train Station. He also manages Route-wide Archaeological works covering land access and subcontractors. Away from the office, Mark is the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Future Faces President for 2019 and a huge advocate for STEAM engagement across the city. In his spare time, he promotes the work of homelessness charities like SIFA Fireside to try and support the most vulnerable people in society.

He was a student at the University of Birmingham, studying Civil Engineering and was honoured to recently be named the Alumni Office's Volunteer of the Month for his involvement with the Vice-Chancellor's Challenge icebreaker sessions and extensive work across the College of Engineering and Physical Science to provide professional expertise and advice to our students. Mark believes it's crucial to celebrate the extracurricular activities of STEAM-gineers and is a firm believer that your degree earns you an interview, and your skill and passions (such as everything you do with your societies) will get you the job.



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Our alumni want to fund your **great idea**

ALUMNI
IMPACT
FUND

RETURNING
AUTUMN
TERM 2019

From robots and rockets to training and trips – the Alumni Impact Fund is open to all students as groups or individuals for projects which impact the student experience.

'This is the second year Brum Eco Racing have received alumni funding from the University which has proved to be invaluable in helping us to further improve our car design. With the grant we have upgraded the transmission, steering wheel and starter system; with the aim to improve the car's fuel efficiency. The Alumni Impact Fund for Students has also allowed us to take part in the Shell Eco-marathon prototype car racing events at Mallory Park in which we can test drive our car in a race-type scenario. Thank you!'

BRUM ECO RACING



'After a successful application to the Alumni Impact Fund we were able to put on our first ever conference 'STEM, LGBTQ and You'. This funding allowed us to pay for speaker travel and accommodation, oSTEM merchandise and advertising. It allowed us to bring our idea to life, bringing together LGBTQ people in STEM together from across the UK and hopefully launch a new annual event for the society, and for that we are eternally grateful.'

OSTEM

🐦 📺 📷 @birminghamalum

Apply online at www.birmingham.ac.uk/aifstudents

Our charity

Each year, we support one of the University's life-changing research projects through a raffle held on Awards night. We see this as our way of making a positive difference and to date we have raised more than £4,500. This year, we are supporting Antimicrobial Resistance Research being conducted by Dr Sophie Cox and her team in the School of Chemical Engineering.

Antibiotic resistance is predicted to kill more people than cancer annually by 2050, but no new classes of antibiotics have been discovered since the 1980s. Imagine a world where emergency surgery and even routine operations such as hip replacements and chemotherapy are too dangerous because the risk of infection is so high.

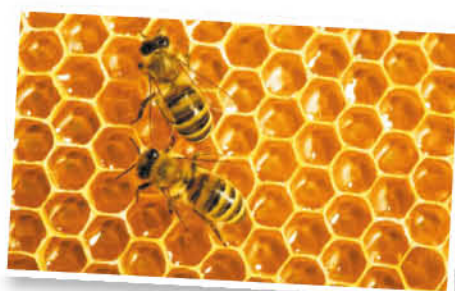
Honey may hold the answer.

Honey contains reactive oxygen species which destroy bacteria and are produced naturally by the body to fight infection. But, honey is sticky and difficult to apply in the correct dose. You can help our research change that.

Sophie and her team are working on ways to deliver bioengineered honey products to wounds, including a spray, cream and powder that can control how the drug is released for accurate dosage – making it effective in surgery, crisis situations and potentially in our homes.

When mixed with water, the powder becomes a gel and when applied to a wound will create a protective barrier. This allows it to be used on scene by paramedics, for example, at a car crash, saving time and preventing infection until the patient is transported to hospital.

The lack of new classes of antibiotics and over-use of existing formula is enabling resistance to develop at a frightening pace. Charitable gifts are essential in enabling this groundbreaking research to become a reality. If left unchecked, bacterial resistance to antibiotics could plunge medicine into the dark ages, and with it take 10 million lives every year. You could be part of the solution.



INVENT YOUR FUTURE.

CATERPILLAR

Our staff Thank you!

Many of our societies' activities would not be possible without the unending support of members of staff across the College. Their enthusiasm, organisation and dedication are set deep into the hearts of our student groups and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done throughout the year. From all of the EPS society members, thank you!

While there are many staff across the College who work closely with our student groups, the societies themselves would like to give particular thanks to:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Tyler Kelly | Claire Churchill | Alison Davenport |
| Sean McGee | Mark Simmons | Penelope Barber |
| Martin Freer | Carl Wheldon | Simon Goodwin |
| David Leppinen | Sally Schofield | Iain Styles |
| Anita Ghag | Paul Bowen | Ian Batten |
| Jenny Illingsworth | Rachel O'Reilly | Bob Stone |
| Andrew Howes | Paul Flavell | Phil Robbins |
| Richard Thomas | Karen Dehal | Helen Vahey |
| Alex Burrows | Mark Lee | Andy Jones |
| Mark Wager | Hui Li | Nadeen Taylor |
| Panagiotis Alevras | Adnan Zentani | Karl Dearn |
| Mark Sterling | Pietro Tricoli | Mozafar Saadat |
| Sam Cruchley | Bernard Tudor | Tom Chothia |
| Sharon Jones | Mike Jenkins | |
| Dirk Hermans | David Terry | |
| Claire Bonnet | Jon Preece | |



Staff Member of the Year

This Award recognises the member of staff who has gone above and beyond in their support to one or more society, making an outstanding contribution to the committee and its members throughout the year. Congratulations to our Staff Member of the Year nominees:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Amaury Triaud | Jon Wood |
| Joulie Axelithioti | Simon Rowan |
| Martin Herreros | Tzany Kokalova Wheldon |
| Stephen Kukureka | Ellie Mestel |
| John Snaith | David Soper |
| Jenny Steere | Nabeel Ashfaq |
| Helen Whitby | Amy Haworth |
| Peter Gardner | Grace Surman |
| Emily Prestwood | Rob Smith |

Our Members of the Year

Every one of our societies has members outside of their organising committees who truly get stuck into everything. Their proactivity and willingness to help out cannot be faulted, and they have participated in many, if not all, gatherings and activities. Their commitment throughout the academic year has been outstanding and their actions have not gone unnoticed. So we invited our committees to celebrate their most enthusiastic members and officially name them their society's 'Member of the Year'. Congratulations!



Ollie Reynolds
AeroSoc



Louis Stagg
AFNOM: AFiniteNumberofMonkeys



George Smetana
AstroSoc



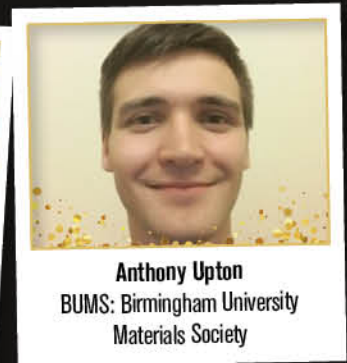
Navleen Kaur
BEaMS: Black and Ethnic
Minority Scientists



Jessica Masters
Brum Eco Racing



Daniel Elwyn
BUCES: Birmingham University
Chemical Engineering Society



Anthony Upton
BUMS: Birmingham University
Materials Society



Anabelle Kane
ChemSoc



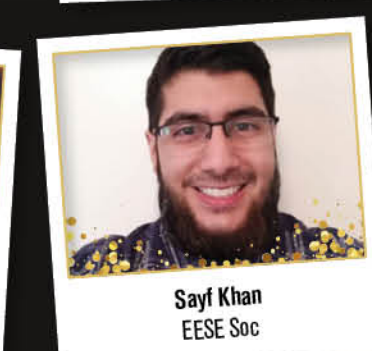
James MacDonald
CivSoc



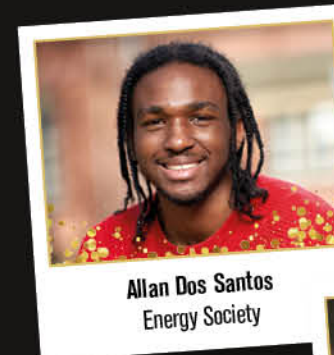
James Bartlett
CSS: Computer Science Society



Henry Allan
Eagles Hockey



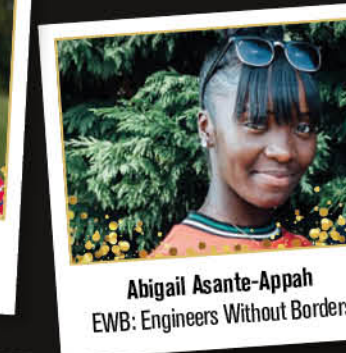
Sayf Khan
EESoc



Allan Dos Santos
Energy Society



Lucy Grimes
EPS Mixed Netball



Abigail Asante-Appah
EWB: Engineers Without Borders



Ivan Tsoninski
GDS: Games Development Society



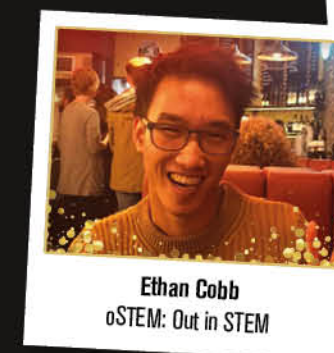
Olivia Brown
MathSoc



Sam Best
MechSoc



Henry Carpenter
NucSoc



Ethan Cobb
oSTEM: Out in STEM



Jenny Bateman
PPS: Poynting Physical Society



Marcus Milton
RailSoc



Mia Wroe
SATNAV: Science and Technology
News and Views



George Flesher
School of Engineering RFC



Sarah Bromley
StartUp Soc



Samuel Morris
UBeRacing



Peter Amor
UBLoco



Eric Yong Khang Lim
UBRacing



Iyassou Shimels
UBRobotics



Zefang Zhang
Women in Finance



Nicole Rosik
WISE: Women in Science
and Engineering

Sports Personality of the Year Award

This Award recognises sportspeople who have shown commitment and enthusiasm on and off the pitch; they are the most motivational and inspirational personalities within the team.



Bryony Scutt: Netball Team Manager, ChemSoc

Just a month after setting up ChemSoc Netball, Bryony broke her knee! But the plucky first-year Chemistry student refused to let this interfere with her determination to run the netball team. Despite only being able to hobble around after injuring herself at a rowing training session, Bryony continued to organise and attend the team's training sessions and matches, cheering them on court-side even when they were playing outside in the cold and rain. Thanks to Bryony's efforts, ChemSoc Netball quickly became extremely popular with students, giving them the opportunity to

take up the sport and form new friendships while studying an intensive degree. Not only that; they became highly successful too – storming to victory in the netball tournament of the EPS Trophy! Although Bryony wasn't able to play much in the team herself, her support and enthusiasm helped keep up the players' morale, which the rest of the team believe was crucial to them netting the big prize. Her fellow players were also greatly inspired by Bryony's ability to stay positive and motivated in spite of her broken knee.



Laura Cope: Netball Team Captain, CSS: Computer Science Society

Laura has done an incredible job as Captain of the CSS Netball Team, which was set up only this year. Despite their lack of practice playing together, she was able to nurture the players, teaching them to work more coherently as a team and encouraging them to always perform to the best of their ability. Although they didn't make it to the semi-finals of the EPS Trophy's netball tournament, her leadership and support helped the team net a game win in the

competition! Not bad after only a few months! Eager to continue her work in sports with CSS, Laura ran for, and was successfully elected to the post of Sports Rep for the coming year. There's no doubt she'll continue her excellent record of leadership, hard work, and perseverance in the coming year – building on the work of this year's rep, Smilla, and continuing to enhance and improve the sports teams in the Society.



Killu-Smilla Palk: Sports Rep, CSS: Computer Science Society

Smilla has worked tirelessly for CSS Sport this year, organising numerous events and managing to pull together three different sports teams for the EPS Trophy tournaments, and supporting the Society's first participation in the competition. This is almost unheard of in the Society's history, as in their words 'computer scientists aren't especially known for their sportiness!' Smilla has really taken time and effort to nurture the small yet growing computer science sports community,

putting on basketball, football and netball matches with great success. One of the ways Smilla has stood out in the role is her encouragement of female participation in sport, particularly in netball and volleyball, and encouraging equal opportunity for anyone wanting to take part. She is also very friendly and supportive, which is the main reason she's been able to get people on board from all walks of student life.



Harrison Fell: Sports Rep, ChemSoc

Sport has been a real success in the School of Chemistry this year – and that's in no small part down to Harry! It's the first time ChemSoc has had a Sports Rep and Harry has embraced the role with vision and enthusiasm. He set up and coached league football and netball teams as well as a social hockey team – putting a huge amount of energy into every match and motivating and congratulating the players, whether or not they won (in fact, the netball team did win their tournament in the EPS Trophy!). As well as training and supporting the players, he's always available to step in as a substitute if necessary. Harry managed to secure funding from the College for ChemSoc's sports teams, providing them with equipment and kit while

keeping costs low to ensure accessibility for all. He found a way to incorporate matches into other ChemSoc events, such as the 12 Days of Christmas, and during the year has gone to a lot of effort to organise sporting events with other societies and departments, forging new ChemSoc connections. Harry is also extremely approachable and always willing to help anyone. While flying high on his degree course, he's found the time to work indefatigably for ChemSoc – inspiring the rest of the committee with his dedication and his ability to make sure Birmingham is a great place for chemists to play sport and have fun.



Ed Quilty: Sports Officer, MathSoc

We're told that if you mention Ed's name to anyone in the EPS sports community, a light will go on. Not only will they know his name; they'll give a glowing description! That's because Ed is involved in a range of sports – both on and off the pitch (and court, and road) – and has been pivotal to the success of MathSoc Sport this year. Under Ed's leadership MathSoc won both the football tournament of the EPS Trophy and, jointly with MechSoc, the overall competition, plus the Netball Campus League for the first time. In yet another first, Ed set up the Society's touch rugby team, with great success. Ed not only ran the Coventry Half Marathon himself in February (completing it in 1 hour 28 minutes), he organised a team of 12 to run it too – even driving them there – to

raise £1,100 for St Basil's charity. As well as initiating many sporting and social events, Ed was a key organiser of MathSoc's first Alumni Day, which saw around 30 alumni return to campus after he threw down the gauntlet challenging graduates to take on students in football and netball fixtures. Unbelievably, he's also found time to be on the University's volleyball committee, representing Birmingham in BUCS volleyball and even played for PPS FC in Physics. His enthusiasm and ability to lead from the front have helped encourage more students to get involved in sport (both the netball and football trials had record attendances) and created a strong team spirit and brilliant culture.



Will Leney: Sports Rep, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

A force to be reckoned with on the pitch, Will has proved to be quite extraordinary off it too. He's been an active and keen participant in all BUMS sports teams – netball, basketball and football – throughout his four years at Birmingham, and was a vital member of their first touch rugby team which went on to win the UBSPORT Summer Touch Rugby Series in 2018. But as Sports Rep, Will has transformed sport in Metallurgy and Materials. First, he was pivotal in the rebranding of the three sports teams as 'BUMSport', which became a sort of sub-society that students could join for a small fee. With the membership money, Will was able to provide branded kit, equipment and training sessions, as well as boost the number of

students participating in sporting activities across the School. As a result, BUMSport has gone from winning nothing in the Campus League last year to coming first in basketball, fourth in netball, and sixth and seventh in football. Will also led the way in introducing social badminton which has proved a big hit, attracting up to 20 players every fortnight. He has shown his continuing commitment to BUMSport and respect of fellow members by playing in each of the teams – despite never having played netball before this year. His passion, commitment, hard work and infectious enthusiasm have boosted morale and taken BUMSport to new heights.

Sports Team of the Year 2018/19

This Award celebrates sports teams within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences that are acknowledged as both high performing and tight-knit. They work exceptionally well as a team, play to the strengths of all members, stick together whether they win or lose, promote sporting activity and encourage healthy competition.



BUMSport: BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Sport in Metallurgy and Materials has undergone a revolution! From not winning a single match last year, BUMS' basketball swept to victory in their Campus League division and smashed their way to the semi-finals of the league cup! In fact, BUMSport has excelled across the board, with the netball team coming fourth in the league, their first two touch rugby teams winning first and fourth places in the Summer Tournament, and football teams placing sixth and seventh in their league. New social badminton has

proved a big hit too, with up to 20 members playing fortnightly. Not to mention the EPS Trophy! Rebranding their sporting offering to 'BUMSport' has undoubtedly contributed to their success, unifying teams and increasing morale and camaraderie. This led to their first membership scheme, and even staff and postgrads are joining in – proof of how strong this new community is! Plus, to finish the season properly, they introduced the first BUMSport Awards!



Engineering Eagles Hockey

The Engineering Eagles continue to go from strength to strength – so much so that instead of two captains, they now have four! Membership has soared and for the first time in their history, they managed to recruit more than 40 members, which meant splitting players into two equally mixed teams. Success on the field is important, but what members highlight is the welcoming, all-inclusive atmosphere and sense of belonging. 'It sounds like a cliché,' says one member, 'but Eagles is an actual family. Everyone in the team is

lovely and the captains are amazing in training, in matches and for morale.' This is reflected in the fact that teams aren't put together to win (although they often do – the two teams came third and sixth in the Campus League and even had to face each other in the play-offs!), but rather to ensure everyone has a great time – even if they've never played hockey before. To top it off, a first-round win in PwC's Opportunity Challenge bagged them £1,000 to help subsidise members' kits and pay for the end-of-year dinner!



EPS Mixed Netball

For a small team, EPS Mixed Netball have taken huge strides this year. They've had a tricky couple of years with the majority of their members either graduating or starting years in industry so practically had to start from scratch. But they pulled together and nothing's stopped them since! Membership has more than doubled and they won eight out of their ten competitive games, reaching the Campus League quarter-finals and coming second in their own league (a big improvement on last year's seventh place!). They also now have a committee to ensure momentum

continues next year and beyond. Their surge in success is due to a combination of factors – a new and enthusiastic leader, well-organised taster training and pay-and-play sessions, and an array of socials to gel the team. They have become a diverse and integrated group, with three male members (more than many other University teams) and players from across the College. They've created a warm, welcoming environment for anyone who wants to join no matter their ability, and make sure everyone is an integral part of the team.



MathSoc Sport: MathSoc

MathSoc Sport has been holding aloft rather a lot of silverware this year! Thanks to success in a range of sports it has been one of their best years ever. As well as winning the top division of the Netball Campus League for the first time, the football team came second in their campus league. As for EPS Trophy sports day: the football team clinched victory, a touch rugby team was set up for the first time and promptly took third place in their competition, and MathSoc were named overall tournament winners jointly with MechSoc! The touch rugby team proved so successful that they are now competing in the Campus League during Summer Term, helping to increase the number of MathSoc members participating in sport. But victory on the field and pitch is only part of the appeal of

MathSoc Sport – the social side is valued just as much by members, as it greatly helps to enhance the university experience for mathematicians. Regular social events bring together members of all the teams, giving students from different years the chance to get to know each other and further boost the sense of community and team spirit. MathSoc also organised their first Alumni Day, fielding football and netball teams and reconnecting with (as well as beating!) graduates and former members. Social squash sessions, set up last year, continued to be popular this year, and there was record attendance at both the netball and football trials. All this and they even had time to run the Coventry Half Marathon!



PPS Football and Netball: PPS: Poynting Physical Society

It's been a fantastic year for PPS Football with their best season ever! The A Team won the double in both their League and Cup, and the B team Maxwell's also won their league for the first time and reached the cup final. Plus the launch of a social football initiative added to the opportunities to play without needing to take it too seriously. It was a great year for PPS Netball too! Following their impressive debut season, the team scaled new heights this year winning more matches, reaching the semi-finals of the EPS Trophy netball competition, and increasing participation among postgraduates as well as undergraduates. Keen to expand the available playing time, the team added training sessions to the schedule (funded by the

Society) and met up once a week to work on skills development to improve their league performance. It paid off: not only did they win many more games, they scored a lot more points in the process. This was also the year of 'PPS Football on tour': members, and even alumni, travelled to the south coast for a friendly against Southampton University's Physics Football Team, which was a roaring success. It may have been an unfortunate defeat for PPS FC but it was a great way to build links with other universities! Throughout the season, team morale has been high, and members have demonstrated great sportsmanship; they've also enjoyed the friendship and fun side of being part of a sports team.



School of Engineering RFC

The School of Engineering RFC has grown tremendously in all areas over the past year, thanks in part to the best recruitment drive the Club has ever had. Due to a huge influx of freshers, many of whom have since played for the 1st XV, membership now tops 100! For the first time the Club has been able to field two teams, leading to participation in a structured league against other universities' engineering teams and local clubs. 'This is now my fourth year as a member of this team and this academic year has by far been the best,' says one player. As well as providing a high standard of rugby, boosted by several training sessions run by RFU coaches, there were opportunities for members to join training sessions,

develop leadership and organisational skills, as well as the chance to play against 'old boys' and take part in fixtures across the country and even overseas. Plus, this year's annual tour saw a 60-strong group travel to Faro in Portugal. A major achievement was setting up a game and social with Rolls-Royce that resulted in two players being offered industrial year places. Great teamwork and inclusivity are hallmarks of the School of Engineering RFC. The Club's social side has flourished alongside the on-field achievements, providing members with weekly events and activities in a relaxed, friendly and non-cliquey atmosphere. They even finished the year in style with the first Rugby Ball.

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 for their members.



Birmingham Startup Games: Startup Soc

This amazing competition saw entrepreneurially minded students pitch their ideas for cash prizes of up to £1,400 to grow their start-ups or turn their business dreams into reality. Sponsored by Santander and the University's B-Enterprising, the competition involved two stages: an online application process where students supplied information about their registered businesses or business ideas, followed by the selection of 12 finalists, six per category, to pitch in front of a panel of professional judges from a variety of industries. The day-long event, attended by an audience of fellow students and business people, featured ambitious and inspiring presentations whose

quality impressed the judges. The entrepreneurs gained confidence and experience from their pitches, as well as from the networking session afterwards where they were able to pick the judges' brains. Along with prize money, the winners received a 'golden minute' to present their start-ups or business ideas at the B-Enterprising Startup Connections networking event held at the Business School shortly afterwards. Following the success of this first event, Startup Soc will be running the competition for a second year, with the hope of even bigger cash prizes for the winners.



Energy Insight Day: Birmingham Energy Society

It's an event that could be described as a 'lightbulb moment', for it gave students a fantastic insight into the diverse career possibilities within the energy sector. Sponsored by Birmingham Energy Institute, the Energy Insight Day invited students from all over the College and even the wider University to have a sneak peek into possible career paths into the energy sector and boasted an impressive attendance. The day-long mini conference featured inspiring speakers who shared insights into the jobs, application advice and the kinds of skills their employers look for. They also described the different roles available at their companies, and what a job in energy looks like on a

day-to-day basis. Interestingly, many of the speakers were from non-traditional backgrounds such as interior design and law, proving that not all jobs in industry are engineering-based or highly technical. Attendees also had the chance to network with representatives from a number of leading companies including National Grid, Ramboll UK, Eco2Solar and Kew Technologies. Some of the companies such as Kew and Eco2Solar are Birmingham-based, so were able to give students ideas and advice about internship and work experience opportunities in the local area, as well as making contacts in the region.



Industrial Workshop Series: Elizabeth Maidment, CivSoc

Thanks to the initiative of CivSoc's Industrial Rep, Elizabeth Maidment, the Society launched its first-ever Industrial Workshop Series aimed at giving students the best possible platform from which to secure work placements ahead of the RESPECT scheme interviews in late January or graduate jobs. The initial workshop in the Autumn Term was an interactive 'Presenting Yourself to Employers' session which included advice, best practice and role play. The second workshop focused on CVs and saw CivSoc's committee put to work reviewing students' CVs and providing support on RESPECT applications. The term's final session saw the Head of Graduate Recruitment from J. Murphy & Sons Limited share on advice on CV writing,

interview techniques and insight into the skills the company looks for in potential employees. In the Spring Term, there were mock interviews with professional engineers, with each student receiving feedback. This proved invaluable, with many students acing the real RESPECT interviews a week later! Last but not least, there was a workshop advising students who hadn't yet secured placements on their next steps: enhancing their CVs and getting more interview and networking experience. Elizabeth not only created the presentations, she used her contacts to secure professional involvement, resulting in a workshop series that gave CivSoc members skills and confidence to really help kick-start their careers.



STEM, LGBTQ and You: oSTEM: Out in STEM

It was an event that 'had it all and more', as months of hard work by the oSTEM committee culminated in Birmingham's first 'STEM, LGBTQ and You' conference dedicated to exploring LGBTQ+ experiences in STEM subjects. The day-long event, which took place in February, rounded off LGBT History Month in spectacular style, attracting more than 75 people. Funded by the Alumni Impact Fund for Students, the event featured eight speakers from universities including Birmingham, Oxford, Staffordshire and even University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the US who Skyped in to join them. Topics ranged from microbiology and algebraic geometry to computational linguistics, materials and psychology.

The conference – the biggest LGBTQ STEM event the University has ever hosted – was aimed at anyone who wanted to learn more about a diverse range of subjects and how people who identify as LGBTQ experience the world of STEM. Participants included undergraduates, postgraduates, professionals and support and academic staff, and brought together people from different disciplines and universities. A previous oSTEM chairperson summed up the success of the day by saying: 'The event showed the truly amazing capabilities of students the University, showing how professional and also how compassionate your students are... words cannot express how proud I am.'



WhatTheCTF?!? AFNOM: AFiniteNumberofMonkeys

WhatTheCTF, Birmingham's own version of the capture the flags (CTFs) cyber security challenges, required a huge range of technical, marketing, communication and organisational skills to carry it off. But carry it off AFNOM did – and with aplomb! The competition, aimed at highlighting cyber security education and breaking down preconceptions of hacking, engaged more than 50 students from across the College in a series of hand-crafted team challenges over the course of a day. Tasks consisted of finding hidden 'flags' in order to score points. AFNOM developed their own challenges and

organised the contest themselves. Not bad for their first-ever event! The fact the winning team was made up entirely of first years, with no formal training in computer security, demonstrated how successful the initiative was in conferring on participants the knowledge and understanding they needed to take part. 'The event was amazing,' said one attendee. 'I was genuinely gobsmacked. I was so impressed that a group of eight people could create such a complex event with no major issues.' Other feedback was just as enthusiastic – with many people asking for the competition to return next year!

Volunteer of the Year

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



Avery Cunningham: Careers and Outreach, NucSoc and Chair, oSTEM: Out in STEM

To be described as the 'jet-setting, trailblazing leading light at the vanguard of the LGBTQ+ STEM community' is a ringing endorsement indeed, and one that Avery more than deserves. In his three years on oSTEM's committee (two as Chair) he has worked with energy and verve to take the society to new heights and increase diversity and inclusion across the College. His many achievements this year include taking several members to the oSTEM Annual Conference in Houston, Texas; holding workshops and talks with society members and staff about LGBTQ+

issues in STEM; working with schools and local young people to inspire the next generation of scientists, and forging close links with other societies such as NucSoc, WISE and CSS. He was also a key organiser of Birmingham's first 'STEM, LGBTQ and You' conference, dedicated to exploring LGBTQ+ experiences in STEM subjects. Summed up by one nominator: 'Avery is the heart and soul of oSTEM at Birmingham, and possibly the most known LGBTQ person in the College.'



Ethan Thompson: Volunteering Officer, MathSoc

Ethan's sterling efforts as Volunteering Officer saw nearly £3,000 being raised for charity, including more than £1,300 for St Basil's through the 'Fundraising February' initiative. Money was raised through events including pub quizzes, bucket shakes and sponsorship of a 12-strong team to run the Coventry Half Marathon, with Ethan taking the lead in organising each activity. But it wasn't only with fundraising that Ethan made his mark – he put immense effort into the pastoral side of his role, organising MathSoc's Family Scheme which helps first-year students settle into University. The Scheme proved the most successful to date with more

than 30 'parents' from older years welcoming 200+ new students and helping build new friendships. On top of this Ethan is responsible for MathSoc's Tutoring Scheme, which sees students visit local schools to help pupils from under-represented backgrounds. To round off the year, he was chosen to represent Maths on a week-long ambassadorial trip to the Jinan Institute in China. 'Ethan has an enviable quality in that he can't refuse any opportunity presented to him, and he goes about his day-to-day business with charming wit and humour,' is how one nominator describes him; praise indeed!



Kacper Kielak: Chief Technical Officer, Startup Soc

Kacper is one of those people who does the work, but never brags about it. He has quietly but impressively gone about doing a lot of good for the University in general and for Startup Soc in particular. Making sure he stayed on top of his academic studies, he's devoted large chunks of his free time to engaging other students in entrepreneurial activities during his two years as a member of Startup Soc. He has also been instrumental in introducing StartUp Soc to the EPS

Community only a couple of months ago. Kacper is described as the go-to person when it comes to websites, slide decks, timers and technical 'stuff' in general and is always more than willing to help. He's also been described as 'a great friend and the one who is calm when everything seems to be going completely crazy around us'. Another says 'I think it is time we bring him into the sunlight and show the world what a great leader and volunteer Kacper is.'



Jacqueline Henes: International Rep and Acting Vice President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Jacqueline hasn't just done one voluntary job exceptionally well – she's done two! Her original role was International Rep and she also took over as Acting Vice President due to her predecessor stepping down. Jacqueline has not only helped to organise almost every CSS event during the year; she has also attended them all. Event highlights included a trip to Bletchley Park, which she planned and arranged funding for through the Guild of Students. She has been described as 'brilliant', 'an absolutely amazing personality', and someone who has shown 'incredible devotion to the society... and an unshakeable tenacity and drive'. Despite the huge responsibilities of fulfilling

two roles, Jacqui set a stellar example of what can be achieved with perseverance and dedication, inspiring not only the rest of the committee, but also other members of the Society to put themselves forward for committee positions. Jacqui has consistently taken initiative with her society duties, offering help to anyone who needs it and doing everything to the best of her ability. In addition, she's taken the time and effort to engage with members, helping them to get involved and make friends, both on their courses and beyond. What's more, she's done all this in an exceptionally friendly, approachable way.



Sam Davies: Vice President, MathSoc

Sam's achievements during his tenure as Vice President are manifold, but perhaps the most notable is his role in expanding MathSoc's Tutoring Scheme for local schoolchildren from under-represented backgrounds, which has grown five-fold since he took over in 2017 and continues to volunteer on the Scheme even after handing over his official role. As well as raising pupils' marks by an average of two grades, the scheme has also increased their aspirations. Sam has worked with other societies to increase the number of subjects available, as well as the number of volunteer tutors. As a result, there are now more than 100 Birmingham students tutoring about 200 pupils in six different subjects. Sam has also helped other societies

develop their 'Family Schemes', which are designed to help freshers settle into university life and forge new friendships. Since MathSoc's are so successful he's become something of a consultant! Sam helped MathSoc to raise more than £1,000 for the charity Student Minds and much more for Carnival RAG. He's also leading a team up Kilimanjaro and has been central in organising the EPS Trophy. Last but not least, he may just well have improved the career prospects of every member of MathSoc! That's because of the highly successful careers evening and subsequent CV and application workshop that he ran during the year. Sam has taken every opportunity in front of him and created even more for others!



Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

They say you can't keep a person down, and that's certainly true of Tom when it comes to volunteering! As well as his position as President of CSS – a role he's had for three years – he's served as Communications Officer on the Staff Research Student Consultative Committee in Computer Science acting as a voice for the postgraduate community, and sat on the judging panel for the College's Michael O'Rourke PGR Best Publication, helping to choose which papers to nominate for the University Level Award. Tom also sits on the committee of the Student Groups Executive at the Guild and is a member of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association. He's the organiser of HackTheMidlands, one of the largest hackathons in the

UK, and also works as Community Engagement Officer and Diversity Rep for the Birmingham branch of the BCS. As if that's not enough, Tom is an Equality and Diversity Rep on both the School and College committees, and has been working closely with our societies to build an EPS Community EDI committee. Recently, he was elected to the executive committee of the Burgon Society, which is dedicated to the study and promotion of academical dress, and is now a trustee of the charity. Little wonder, then, that in 2018 Tom was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

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.



AstroSoc

AstroSoc consistently reaches for the stars when it comes to engaging with the local community. Their dedication and unparalleled commitment is a huge credit to them and a big factor to their success. Their remarkable and extensive outreach programme features a host of free events for people of all ages with an interest in astronomy. As well as delivering the popular Astronomy in the City lecture series, each packed with astrophysics, stargazing, expert speakers, and observatory visits, the Society has grown its own series of workshops, Tea, Talk and Telescope. Usually held on a Thursday evening, the talks are followed by night-sky viewing – and, of course, tea-drinking – and are proving a big hit and have considerably swelled

AstroSoc's mailing list. Along with regular events, this year has again seen the society organise and get involved with a range of other outreach activities. They included welcoming 45 schoolchildren onto campus for a 'tour' of the solar system as part of their Exploration and Discovery in Space Event for British Science Week; a 'constellation workshop' at a school in Hall Green; observatory nights for Scout and Beavers groups; and visiting care homes for the elderly to talk about topics such as the solar system and black holes. The Society even presented a planetarium show at New Street Station as part of a Physics in the City event. Once again, AstroSoc has proved itself to be out of this world!



Jack Malcolmson: Outreach Coordinator, EWB Birmingham: Engineers Without Borders

EWB has transformed this year. They've increased their emphasis on outreach and really focused on reaching more local schools, pupils and the wider community. Jack has embraced this with enthusiasm, confidence and dedication. He's built new relationships, raised the number of schools EWB work with to 23, and doubled the number of outreach opportunities. He organised a number of activities that saw more than 175 pupils participate in interactive workshops on the importance and application of STEM in everyday life, and how engineers and scientists are solving world problems. All the schools sent glowing feedback, saying how positive the impact had been on the children and asking for return visits from EWB. Jack's hard work also resulted in a large number of EWB members helping out at The Big Bang Fair at

Birmingham's NEC, attended by more than 80,000 schoolchildren over five days, and contributed to efforts in encouraging EWB members to become STEM Ambassadors through on-campus training. Jack's creative, committed and personable approach to his role has not only helped promote STEM subjects to a younger generation and inspire them to think about pursuing engineering; it's also given EWB members the opportunity to develop skills such as public speaking. Through his hard work and perseverance in enabling these outreach activities, many local children have been positively influenced and he has been the perfect role model. Jack's efforts have helped promote STEM amongst the next generation and he's inspired many people to pursue STEM in the future.



Joshua Dias: President, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

As a student ambassador at the School of Chemical Engineering's applicant visit and open days, Josh has done an incredible job of inspiring next-generation chemical engineers. The more he's done, the more his passion for outreach has increased. So keen is he to communicate the things he cares about that 'he actually gets twitchy' when someone else stands up to speak instead! His desire to bang the drum for chemical engineering and studying at Birmingham knows no bounds: even when faced with the prospect of a live training session at The Big Bang Fair at the NEC in front of an audience of schoolchildren, Josh remained unfazed, donning a headset mic and presenting a super-sensory states-of-matter discovery show by himself after watching it just a couple of

times. He recently appeared in a video in which students discuss what they enjoy about studying chemical engineering, to be sent to applicants, and last summer he tutored a group of students struggling with maths at a high school in his home city of Manchester. What's more, he's managed to fit in his outreach work while also fulfilling his responsibilities as BUCES President, organising social and academic opportunities for members of the society. One nominator described Josh as having 'a personality that deserves a bigger stage and surely a future light in communicating his passions for not just his subject, but also his beautiful approach to ensuring the chemical engineering community is given the best opportunity to enjoy it too'.



UBRacing

Alongside building the famous Formula Student car, outreach is an integral part of UBRacing – and has been for the past 22 years! This year saw the team focus on inviting more schools to the University to show pupils what being a mechanical engineering student and UBRacing is all about, and the amazing opportunities available to graduates. Members hosted lab tours for seven schools from around the Midlands – two of whom found it so inspiring that they wanted to return straight away! The Formula Student team also provided a way of reaching out to schools that couldn't afford to send pupils to campus: members took the car

along to a primary school in a deprived area of Wolverhampton and held sessions with every year group, from Nursery to Year 6. Team members said how rewarding it was to hear 'most of the children say they now want to grow up and build amazing things'. The team also attended the Malvern Festival of Innovation, speaking to students from many schools, including younger children who wouldn't otherwise learn about engineering. UBRacing team members strive to keep outreach as an integral part of their Team ethos and have actively contributed to inspiring next generation of young engineers.



WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

This year has proved to be WISE's biggest ever with more than 100 volunteers from 34 different subjects and courses (including Masters and PhD students) signing up to take part in their 30 school outreach workshops over the Autumn and Spring Terms, with more sessions planned during the final term. These classroom activities focus on a range of STEM subjects including biology, chemistry, maths and computer science. Having successfully applied for a £3,200 Alumni Impact Fund grant, WISE were able to buy several Raspberry Pis and robotics equipment for pupils to use, as well as to fund the expansion of weekly after-school science club scheme provision for all-girls schools from one workshop to two. After helping to set up and run the KS3 Science Club at Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre, which has a high proportion of

socially and economically under-represented pupils, WISE received a letter of thanks from the head teacher and deputy Head of Science. It read: 'WISE's support has enabled our students to meet a variety of female scientists, enriching their learning experiences and heightening their aspirations... with many students commenting that they feel more empowered to continue studying science to an advanced level'. Members of the WISE committee have also undertaken individual outreach activities: President Alex Munro-Clark wrote an article for the STEM Network highlighting the importance of outreach, and also helped organise the Pint of Science astronaut tour to come to the University, which both she and committee member Beth Soanes volunteered. They truly are incredible advocates for women in STEM.

Diversity and Inclusion Award

This Award recognises individuals or societies who reach out to every member of the University community, putting in extra effort to make sure that everyone is involved, represented and treated with respect. We recognise the importance of

equality and diversity across the College and so we received so many strong nominations to this Award that the judges struggled to shortlist. Thank you for all you're doing to make the College a more inclusive environment for all.



Amy Cottier-Bedford and Georgia Start: Social Secs, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Making a material difference is not just about putting bums on seats! It's about creating a family feel in the School. Amy and Georgia have done exactly that. Engagement with new students has been a big focus and the duo organised a range of socials dedicated to their Family Scheme, including laser tag, quizzes and

bowling to build their community of first years. They also organised events to ensure international students got to know some friendly faces. They've worked to build strong relationships with staff and postgraduates; a charity bake sale definitely helped here!



BEaMS: Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists

BEaMS is an inspirational new society set up to represent and give a platform to black and ethnic minority students. They provide a great opportunity to celebrate diversity and build a new community, offering members a safe space to discuss their experiences and raise concerns via a range of activities that are open to all. BEaMS already collaborates with several

other societies, have started working with alumni, and are in regular communication with staff. In just two terms, membership has reached 70 and the society continues to grow rapidly. As one nominator observes: 'No other society has done as much for bringing about diversity and a comfortable social network for black and ethnic minorities.'



Chun Lok Chan (Keith): International Rep, CivSoc

Keith has put great energy into involving as many overseas students as possible in CivSoc activities and his efforts have helped increase awareness of the Society. As such, Keith has been nominated as the ICE Student Ambassador for international students in

Birmingham, and ICE West Midlands Student Liaison Officer (International), working with to introduce more overseas students into the UK civil engineering sector. He has also worked to introduce a new International Student Rep role to the School of Engineering.



CSS: Computer Science Society

CSS this year has attracted a record number of members from varying backgrounds, especially international students. They've worked with Silicon Canal and Vanti to hold events as part of the Diversity in Digital Festival 2019 – a new initiative to promote inclusivity in tech sectors across Birmingham. Their

events included a Women in Tech coffee morning with oSTEM, BEaMS and WISE, and a workshop on 'imposter syndrome and social anxiety'. They're also developing a new Equality and Diversity Committee so every College society has a Diversity Rep and work together to build an inclusive community.



GDS: Games Development Society

GDS has this year naturally attracted a very diverse set of people. Active female membership has more than doubled this year, a number of different religions are now represented and there are members from the LGBTQ+ and international community. Accessibility to games development was a priority this year: breaking

down technical barriers and assumptions about games development, and encouraging new members to have a go, regardless of their existing skills. Experienced members are happy to lend a hand and pass on their experience, helping to create a friendly, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.



MathSoc

From prospective and new students right through to post-grads and alumni, MathSoc has ensured there was something for everyone this year, making the Society as inclusive as possible for its 300+ membership. A highlight was the first ever Alumni Day, which saw former students return to campus, while non-drinkers had a range of 'sober socials' to choose from. Integration between the different years was

encouraged through the continued success of the Family Scheme, and the society furthered its international links by working with its partner school at the Jinan Institute in China, organising an ambassadorial trip for four members and launching a WeChat account for their Chinese members in the UK and overseas.



oSTEM: Out in STEM

oSTEM continue to champion diversity in STEM, further raising their profile across campus and beyond. In addition to the regular Speaking Out events, this year saw the first ever conference, 'STEM, LGBTQ and You', which drew 75 attendees. The eight speakers were from a variety of different STEM fields, backgrounds, countries and identities. The conference

was aimed not only at LGBTQ students, but also their supporters. In fact, oSTEM prides itself on promoting diversity, equality and inclusion wherever it can; for example, running drinking and non-drinking socials, and making events open to non-STEM students. They have built a safe and inclusive environment for their members.



UBRacing

Two years ago, the percentage of women in the team was at one of its lowest points, with just two female members. UBRacing decided to address this, launched a drive to encourage more female participation and ensure women were made to feel comfortable in the traditionally male-dominated society. Its efforts paid off: female membership has shot up to

38, with six women committed to playing vital roles at the core of the team. Another area of improved inclusion is through the disciplines studied by team members. Diversity of degree subject is also increasing with members this year from a much wider range of degrees, including business and economics and music.



WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

WISE's new committee is its most diverse ever: it includes a representative from all three STEM-based Colleges, as well as a Masters and a PhD representative, to ensure the Society's activities reach as many students as possible. WISE's highly successful outreach scheme 'Girls in STEM' now has

more than 100 volunteers from 34 different subjects and is aimed at female students of different backgrounds facing different barriers, while the society encourages women from all backgrounds to celebrate their achievements and abilities, and allow their voices to be heard.

Industrial Award

This Award recognises an individual or society whose work in creating industrial links or employment opportunities for fellow students.



Avery Cunningham and Emily Lewis: Careers and Outreach, and President, NucSoc

Avery and Emily have worked hard this year to strengthen links with industry and showcase the variety of roles available in the nuclear sector. They organised the first Nuclear Careers Fair, which saw ten companies exhibit and give talks on the roles they offer. Prominent firms exhibiting included Atkins, CCFE, Frazer-Nash, Fusion CDT, NSG, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Sellafield and Wood. Several alumni also returned to represent their employers and gave talks to NucSoc members and students from materials science, physics and even chemistry about

how they started their careers. The event attracted a great turnout and rave reviews from all those who attended. In addition to the Fair, Avery and Emily arranged for members to attend the Advanced Engineering Conference and a trip to Hinkley Point, which will be invaluable in gaining real-life experience in the workplace. Their efforts are providing a great way of introducing professional role models to NucSoc members and real insight into where a career in the nuclear industry can lead.



Elizabeth Maidment: Industrial Liaison, CivSoc

Elizabeth became CivSoc's Industrial Liaison after spending a year in industry. She not only brought her considerable workplace skills and experience to the role – she reinvented it! The outstanding success of the RESPECT scheme, which enables civil engineering undergrads to find summer and industrial year placements, was largely due to Elizabeth's efforts in preparing students for interview with a new series of employability workshops aimed at helping improve CVs, hone interview skills and make the most of careers fairs. She also set up mock interviews with professionals from Morgan Sindall and other local engineering

companies. In addition, Elizabeth organised numerous visits to engineering sites to introduce CivSoc members to real workplace scenarios. She later developed a workshop in conjunction with Careers Network to support students who hadn't so far secured an industrial placement. Her efforts not only benefited current students, but will help improve the employability of future undergraduates. One nominator said: 'She is both approachable and knowledgeable and she has definitely raised the standard of what is expected of an industrial liaison in the future.'

Birmingham Energy Society

Founded only eight months ago, the Energy Society has hit the ground running! One of its main aims is to broaden members' networking opportunities with professional and academic sector leaders, and already great progress has been made in forging ties with both. Particularly significant is the strong connection the Society has developed with the Birmingham Energy Institute, which has provided welcome funding, expertise and networks. A jointly organised Energy Insight Day featured talks and networking opportunities from Eco2Solar, Ramboll, National Grid and Kew

Technology. Several students are already pursuing internship possibilities on the back of the event! They've also organised a trip to Tyseley Energy Park, marking the start of what is hoped will be a close relationship, and arranged talks from the likes of the Head of Emerging Technologies at National Grid, who gave some fascinating insights. The plethora of professionals the Society has been working with is offering a real snapshot into careers and opportunities available in the energy sector, and a great opportunity for members to pick their brains.



RailSoc

RailSoc is a relatively new society having been set up in October 2017, and is well on track when it comes to raising the profile of the University within the industry, working closely with the likes of Western Railways and Virgin Rail. A presentation given to the society by South Western Railway led to the company developing an industrial placement year for undergraduates, with two RailSoc members securing full-time work. Throughout the year, RailSoc has provided an exceptional programme of industry-led events for members, with a range of guest speaker presentations as well as site and office visits that have

provided valuable insight into various aspects of the rail sector. These have included a trip to CrossCountry to observe its train service; a tour of Alstom's state-of-the-art train modernisation facility at Widnes, and a visit to Swindon Panel Society, which gave members the opportunity to learn about and try out signalling systems. 'RailSoc's industrial events have been both directly and indirectly responsible for our members gaining employment,' commented one student. 'The experience the society has added to members' CVs really makes them stand out.'



Seb Gibson: Industrial Rep, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

BUCES has long enjoyed close links with industry, but Seb has strengthened them further. One of the year's highlights was the annual Industrial Dinner which he organised. As well as signing up BP as a sponsor, he persuaded Shell to send a representative for the first time in five years, and was able to get an R&D Vice-President from Unilever to attend. In all, 32 reps from 15 companies were at the glittering event, allowing attendees a raft of networking opportunities, leading to many securing grad schemes and internships. Seb's sterling efforts covered a range of industry-linked initiatives throughout the year. These included starting a feedback form for industrial

placement students to write about their experiences and offer tips on how to secure places, organising industrial visits to Unilever, and setting up visiting speaker sessions with the likes of Exxon-Mobil and GSK. 'Seb has excelled in his role as industrial rep, using both his experience from undertaking a placement with Unilever and his five years as a BUCES member to truly offer the best opportunities for his fellow students'. To top it off, Seb is always looking for ways to help his fellow students in their search for employment, and also works hard so that BUCES can improve as a society.



UBRacing

UBRacing was well and truly in the industrial driving seat this year, getting an additional eight sponsors on board to bring the total to 56; thus maintaining the strong partnerships it's enjoyed its 22-year history. This year also saw the team increase its ties with title sponsor Mahle Powertrain, with team members taking the car to the company's chassis dyno (rolling road), and inviting staff to testing sessions and into the lab to assist with the new engine dyno set-up. Platinum sponsor EPM's facilities enabled the UBRacing committee to teach new members how to prepare parts for curing, experience they wouldn't have been able to gain elsewhere at the University. Two new sponsors, 3DJake and 3D FilaPrint, allowed the printing of a scale model of the car, enabling members to work with 3D printing and providing physical

validation of the aerodynamics package, which contributed to a member's final-year project. Other new sponsors also offered invaluable expertise and experience: Oerlikon performed a topology optimisation on a final-year project redesign of the car's pedal box; Newman Cams reground the cam shaft profile; Injectortune serviced the fuel injectors, and Custom Composites provided the team with carbon fibre tubing. UBRacing have a strong reputation in working with sponsors and partners, not only for the benefit of the car but also the employability of their members. The team's industrial links also helped to secure jobs and placements with the likes of Aston Martin, Mercedes HPP, Red Bull Racing, Rolls-Royce and Caterpillar.

EPS Community Award

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



EPS Trophy Team

The EPS Trophy was an outstanding celebration of sport that spanned the entire EPS community. Building on the success of 2018's inaugural event, 15 teams from across the College societies competed with more than 300 competitors and even an alumni team. Touch rugby was added to the sporting line-up alongside football and netball, and sporting professionalism was added with the introduction of independent referees. For spectators there was music, food, games, merchandise and professional photography, all thanks to an Alumni Impact Fund for Students grant and sponsorship from Red Bull and TeachFirst. The event

also raised more than £100 for the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). The Trophy's winning form was thanks to the hard work of the committee, which comprised members from a range of College societies including BUMS, MathSoc, BUCES, PPS and alumni, all of whom brought different skills to create the biggest EPS sports tournament ever. Huge congratulations must go to all deserving tournament winners: MathSoc for winning the football trophy, ChemSoc for netball, MechSoc for touch rugby, and overall glory going jointly to MechSoc and MathSoc who win the overall EPS Trophy with a points tie. Well played everyone!



MathSoc

MathSoc plays a central role in the School of Mathematics and is also focused on helping the wider community – both within and outside the University. This year, they've made significant contribution to the life of the College through a variety of initiatives. Using their experience of running the very successful Family Scheme for new students joining the University, MathSoc worked with other societies to help them build their own schemes. They also expanded the award-winning Tutoring Scheme, which supports under-represented pupils at local secondary schools, helping boost pupils' aspirations as well as their grades. As a result, there are now more than 100 University of Birmingham students from nine societies tutoring 200+ pupils in six subjects! MathSoc have

made efforts to build their alumni community too, inviting them to careers and socials, and holding the first MathSoc Alumni Day by challenging graduates to take on students on the sports pitch. They also reached out to other EPS societies to hold joint events such as a games night with PPS and AstroSoc, and organised mathematically themed guest lectures attracting students from across the College. Not to mention their involvement in (and later jointly winning!) the EPS Trophy. They're also growing their community internationally by building relationships with students studying Maths at the Jinan University-University of Birmingham Joint Institute. There's no stopping MathSoc!



oSTEM: Out in STEM

oSTEM is at the forefront of affecting change to improve the lives and academic experiences of LGBTQ+ students and staff in Birmingham's STEM community. They held many events during the year, for both members and non-members, but the highlight was undoubtedly the University's first LGBTQ STEM conference: 'STEM, LGBTQ and You'. A resounding success, it demonstrates what great collaboration and inclusion look like. Attended by more than 75 undergraduates, postgraduates, academics and support staff from across the College and beyond, it attracted eight speakers from the University, the UK and even the US who shared their experiences of

being LGBTQ in STEM. What set the conference apart from many other events was that it brought together people not only from different disciplines and institutions, but also from different careers and experiences, giving them an opportunity to interact and network in a very unique way. The conference, which welcomed people of all gender and sexual orientations, made such an impact that attendees from other universities expressed an interest in starting their own oSTEM chapters and it's hoped this will form the basis of a new national oSTEM community which would be the first of its kind outside the US.



Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Tom has worked with the EPS Community for several years, including a three-year stint on the EPS Societies' Awards committee, during which time he's striven to encourage collaboration and cohesion between the various societies. He's orchestrated joint events with the likes of oSTEM, WISE, BEaMS, GDS and AFNOM, as well as several other societies including Tabletop Gaming. Tom has also worked on setting up the EPS Community's EDI committee to encourage more cross-promotion and collaboration between EPS societies to improve equality, diversity and inclusivity across the College's student groups. He has created links with computer science societies at Aston and BCU, helping to widen the University's

reach still further, and as President of CSS he has continued the Society's efforts to ensure their events, from talks to workshops, are open to anyone, not just computer scientists. CSS's willingness to lend out its resources, including marquees and their hardware lab, to other societies has served to strengthen the community bonds. Tom's enthusiasm doesn't stop with societies; he holds several voluntary positions on staff-student committees, is a committee member of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association, and is well recognised within the Birmingham Tech Community. He works tirelessly to collaborate with others and is always keen that everyone has a chance to get involved.

Inspirational Committee Member

This Award recognises those committee members who are the heart and soul of their society. Through a positive attitude and proactivity, they ensure their society is engaging and that members have the opportunity to get involved to reach their full potential.



Alex Munro-Clark: President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Alex has been an incredible President, encouraging her committee and dedicating much of her time to the society. As one of the main organisers of WISE's 'Girls in STEM' outreach scheme providing tutoring and science workshops in local schools, Alex successfully led the application for an Alumni Impact Fund grant to enable the Scheme to evolve into the award-winning programme it's become. She designed many of the activities and effectively trained volunteers to deliver workshops. So successful and respected is she in outreach that she appeared on BBC2's *Victoria*

Derbyshire Show representing the views of young scientists, and also wrote an article for the STEM Network about 'Why outreach completes your degree'. On top of this, Alex volunteers with Pint of Science and The Big Bang Fair. After being awarded a bursary to attend the BIG STEM Communicators Network training day, Alex passed on her learnings by creating yet more training sessions. Under Alex's leadership, WISE has started its first sports team and held some great socials. Her tenure has created a strong community that will continue long into the future.



Annabel Brown: Team Principal, Brum Eco Racing

Annabel has revved up this new society with great spirit and enthusiasm, becoming an inspiring role model, particularly to female engineers. The youngest female lead of an engineering society, Annabel has impressed with her determination and dedication in designing a single-seater car to take part in the Shell Eco-marathon, an international engineering event to build a car that can travel the furthest distance on the least amount of fuel. Since becoming Team Principal in October, Annabel has welcomed so many new members that the team has doubled in size! Her

philosophy is that every member of Brum Eco is valued and has something to contribute. She has created a highly motivated and inclusive team ethos, and helped instil to younger members the knowledge and confidence they need to carry out their roles. Annabel ensures members are kept up-to-date on all aspects of the project, creating a cohesive team and working environment, and regularly meets with staff and sponsors. 'Annabel is an inspired leader,' says one member. 'She pushes us to new heights. She includes everyone and finds a position for everyone in the team.'



Claire Fletcher: Outreach Officer, oSTEM: Out in STEM

Just two weeks after being elected to the committee, Claire was thrown in at the deep end to organise the first 'Speaking Out' event of the year – and she did so with commitment and enthusiasm. She was an amazing key organiser of the hugely successful 'STEM, LGBTQ and You' conference (the University's first such event), arranging eight speakers and four panellists with the added challenge of one being based in America! Claire has proved to be a positive, courageous, ingenious and dedicated committee member, carrying out her

responsibilities with a formidable work ethic and crisp precision that ensures the entire society runs smoothly. When stress levels are high, it's Claire who keeps everyone motivated and optimistic. She's helped recruit many new members, notably from among her fellow Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences students. As Outreach Officer, her fun and friendly personality has been a huge bonus, putting everyone at ease and as such she's successfully increasing awareness of oSTEM outside the University.



Emma Willett: Chair, AstroSoc

Emma has been a shining light on the committee since joining the Society three years ago, actively contributing to the running of every event and coming up with new, out-of-this-world ideas. In her first committee role as Outreach Officer, Emma organised external speakers, helped with Astronomy in the City events, and regularly welcomed groups of youngsters for night-sky observations. She co-founded the British Science Week event that won the Outstanding Event Award at the EPS Societies' Awards 2018, and rocketed AstroSoc – and the University – into the national news with research on new constellations based on modern-day inspirational figures, aimed at getting more children interested in the universe. Emma has proved an inspiring Chair, carrying on AstroSoc traditions such as

the Mars-Rover Challenge, and creating new events including a rocket-building project that was a big hit with members. Her outgoing and vivacious personality means she is the life of every committee meeting and possesses the ability to effortlessly put across fascinating ideas with total clarity, whether it be to society members, or to people of all ages of the public. 'Emma has been a beloved member of the society for the entire duration of her degree... giving strong direction to AstroSoc and helping us to try new things while keeping everything going well,' was how one member put it. 'She is an inspiration for society members who want to get more involved, and her years of work deserve recognition.'



Harriet Morris: Co-President, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Harriet's involvement has permeated all roles of the committee, from working on the Materials Careers Fair to helping lead the BUMS basketball team to the Campus League semi-final and organising the EPS Trophy. She has been particularly brilliant at stepping up when the chips are down, such as when she took over as Social Media Rep after a committee resignation. This transformed BUMS' social media presence with the likes of 'cooking with the committee' and 'meme of the month' features. Harriet also ran numerous netball sessions and matches when the coach was unable to make it. Harriet leads by example and her dedication, determination and

sheer hard work have been an inspiration to other committee members. Not only that, Harriet has inspired BUMS members to get more involved with the Society and to throw themselves into any opportunities that arise. Her standout work includes being at the forefront of Women in STEM activities within BUMS, and co-organising the successful Women in Engineering forum, collaborating with the EPS societies and College alumnae. One fellow committee member said of her: 'Harriet has made a truly admirable contribution to all things BUMS this year, and it has been an honour to have been part of the committee.'



Lucy Harrison: President, PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Lucy works incredibly hard for PPS; she has a great presence in the School of Physics and Astronomy, and everyone knows who she is. Lucy has worked tirelessly to take PPS to new heights. After securing more sponsorship than the Society's ever had before, Lucy used her presidency platform to introduce new event ideas including a very successful residential trip to the UKSEDS National Student Space Conference in Edinburgh, which she single-handedly organised (and even offered a helping hand to the University of Warwick!). Almost 30 students went along, making Birmingham by far the biggest university group in attendance. In fact, it's been event success after event success – from the Higgs Booze-On to the Spring Ball

– thanks to Lucy's impressive organisational skills. Not only did she form new links with staff and students at Birmingham, but by linking PPS with the Institute of Physics and representing the society at a conference in London, she is building relationships between Birmingham and cities across the UK. This has paved the way for next year's committee to introduce more innovative events and activities using the Society's new-found connections. One committee member described Lucy as 'a wonderful role model to the rest of the committee', while another named her as 'the face of PPS', without whom the Society 'would not be in the position it's in today'. In the words of another nominator (quoting Alicia Keys) 'this girl is on fire'!

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 achievements and ability to get the job done.



Emily Lewis: President, NucSoc

Role models aren't always those who seek to stand out in a crowd; often they are people who prefer to lead by example in a behind-the-scenes way. Emily is such a person. Despite achieving amazing things as President, she is happy quietly helping and improving opportunities for her Society. One first-year student tells how Emily took time to help them with their course, despite having her own third-year studies to worry about. Highlights of her presidency include co-spearheading the first ever Nuclear Careers Fair (which necessitated holding meetings throughout the summer holidays) and organising Women in Materials events, a trip to Hinkley

Point and the first Masters Talks. On top of her committee responsibilities, Emily has been an excellent rep on the Metallurgy and Materials Staff-Student Committee, is an Equality and Diversity Board member for the School, and is building strong relationships with industrial contacts to better the student experience. Her enviable enthusiasm, and extraordinary organisation alone makes her a brilliant role model. Said one nominator: 'Emily is a fabulous role model to any student, showing that hard work and professionalism with a very organised outlook results in a very deserving candidate for this award.'



Holly Walker: Social Secretary, MathSoc

On top of working tirelessly to organise MathSoc's big events, Holly has secured top grades and been 'a friend to everyone'. Her approachable manner has helped members feel welcome and included, right from their very first day at University. She has made sure that everyone's opinions are heard and feedback is effectively shared in her position as a Student Rep, as well as her role on MathSoc's committee. 'She was so kind and welcoming to me in my first year and she's been an inspiration to me throughout my time as a

maths student,' said one MathSoc member. One of Holly's biggest successes is organising a joint Module Choice Event between Student Reps and MathSoc that enabled attendees to gain ideas and seek advice on which modules they might take in the future. Along with ensuring everyone has a good time socially – often sacrificing her own enjoyment in the process – Holly has provided pastoral support to many. No wonder, then, that those in younger-years are said to 'look up to her as a sister-mum hybrid'.



Navleen Kaur: President, BEaMS: Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists

When Navleen spotted a gap in ethnic minority representation in the College, she decided to do something about it. Despite being in her final year, Navleen set up BEaMS and committed to create a support network to give BME students a voice. The Society has become very successful very quickly, thanks to Navleen's drive and determination. She has staged regular informative and motivational events, formed collaborations with companies, and promoted ethnic minority excellence with the College – as well as supporting every other member of the committee and Society. One of the most important aspects of the

Society is to provide members with a safe space in which to express themselves, share their experiences, and know that their feedback will be shared anonymously. One of those who nominated Navleen for this Award said she was a role model to others, with another adding: 'Navleen has dedicated the little free time she has to act on her passion for creating a space at University where minority students feel both supported and represented. As a double minority herself, Navleen has faced and overcome many barriers to be where she is today, and that itself is inspirational.'



Nishi Panicker: Vice-President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

Nishi's ability to juggle being a dedicated student with holding down a job and enthusiastically fulfilling her role as WISE Vice-President demonstrates what you can do if you put your mind to it! Her job at Careers Network and placement at Oxford Summer Courses earned her a reputation for being hardworking and professional, while she is also known as someone who strives for excellence in her academic life. She was recently awarded a £10,000 scholarship to pursue a Masters, an important step towards her goal of gaining a PhD in computational neuroscience. Nishi has put in much time and effort to promoting WISE within the University and beyond, and was instrumental in

achieving one of the most diverse committees for the coming year. She has been key in expanding the Society's 'Girls in STEM' outreach programme, which includes running after-school science clubs in two all-girls secondary schools. On top of her work with WISE, Nishi founded and became President of the Neuroscience Society, providing a platform for students interested in this field. She has also been involved in numerous charitable activities such as a Parkinson's Disease fundraiser. 'Her continuous efforts to lead by example and make Birmingham's student environment a better place have had a significant impact' sums up Nishi's considerable influence.



Sam Holdsworth: Co-President, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

Sam has been at the vanguard of BUMS' considerable achievements this year. Despite a hefty presidential workload, he willingly took on a BUMS 'family' and become a 'parent' mentor to four incoming first years. He is vital in welcoming and advocating BUMS to new members in September and is a shining example of the Society's inclusive, personal values. Even more inspirational has been Sam's impact on College sport. As he has done previously, he took on the roles of either leader or team player – depending on which was needed at the time – for all three of BUMS' Campus League Sports: football, netball and basketball. Working alongside the Society's Sports Rep, he also developed the unifying banner BUMSport, which sees

each team sporting the same kit and ethos. The introduction of a membership fee has resulted in regular training and equipment for all teams throughout the year. Sam's defining achievement came with the EPS Trophy for which he took on the mantle of Project Lead, securing an Alumni Impact Fund for Students grant and introducing touch rugby to the sporting line-up. Thanks largely to Sam's leadership, the EPS Trophy has expanded into an event that is now an integral part of the College calendar. Described as well-liked and selfless, Sam is widely known and greatly respected both in the School of Metallurgy and Materials, and across the entire College.



Yasmin Afia Bobie: Academic President, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

Yasmin has been the driving force behind a raft of major changes and improvements BUCES has undergone this year. These have included a complete overhaul of the School's student feedback system which resulted in students' concerns being acted on more quickly, and the production of a video giving advice to new students and those moving into the second year. Yasmin also took the lead on improving BUCES' student-run tutoring scheme, known as PASS, where first-year students are led by third and fourth years in weekly group study sessions. She rebooted the scheme by organising sessions throughout the year and expanding the subject areas available, using her own initiative to recruit students as PASS Leaders and liaising with staff to schedule

suitable timeslots and rooms for the sessions. Yasmin also trained to become a PASS Leader herself, enabling her to become an active role model to her peers. As well as her BUCES committee role, Yasmin is Vice-President of the Ghana Society, helping international students settle into university life and make the most of Birmingham. She also somehow finds time to play for the 2nd women's basketball team! One BUCES member says of her 'Throughout my time working with Yasmin, she conducted herself with professionalism and integrity, putting the interests of her peers first; she exemplifies exactly the kind of student that should receive the Role Model of the Year award.'

Head of College Idea of the Year Award

This Award recognises an individual or society who has been involved in an innovative new project or event that has had a significant impact on their school or society.



Alumni Day: MathSoc

With the Society going from strength to strength, it would be easy to forget those who went before and paved the way for present and future members. Not MathSoc! They recognised the positive impact their graduates and former members had on the Society – as well as how the Society had benefited them – and came up with the idea of an Alumni Day as a great way to reunite old friends. So the gauntlet was thrown and MathSoc challenged their members to face them on the netball court and football pitch! It proved very popular, with more than 30 past students returning to

campus for the event. First, there was some sporting rivalry, with current students challenging the 'old boys and girls' on the football and netball pitches (the young'uns won, by the way!) The teams then joined up for a meal at Joe's before going on to have a 'typical night out' at Fab. Not only were old friendships rekindled, but new ones blossomed. Former students enjoyed reliving their 'glory' days, while current ones enjoyed seeing old faces and picking up tips about life in the 'real world'. It all added up to a fantastic day!



PPS Squash: PPS: Poynting Physical Society

It's been rackets at the ready on Saturday mornings thanks to the idea to launch social squash for PPS members. It started as a simple suggestion and grew rapidly to a large group of social players! About 30 people have attended sessions so far, with ten to 15 turning up regularly. What's more, players are supplied with rackets and balls, and the sessions are free. As well as giving players the chance to enjoy playing squash, whatever their abilities, the sessions also provide a social environment where students can make

new friends from different years through the School. Alex Crossman and Sam Scivier provide coaching for beginners and, together with other University players, make an effort to play with everyone who comes along. The squash sessions are continuing during exam time as a way to help physics students unwind, get some exercise and have fun. Such is their success, PPS are already thinking how to continue the sessions, or perhaps even form a team next year.



Nuclear Careers Fair: Emily Rose Lewis and Avery Cunningham, NucSoc

The idea for the Fair came about as it was felt the breadth of nuclear career possibilities couldn't be accommodated within any of the other departmental fairs. Backed by the Schools of Metallurgy and Materials, and Physics and Astronomy, the day was a resounding success, attracting industry heavyweights such as Sellafield, Atkins, CCFE and Wood. Many graduates returned to the University representing their employers and sharing their experiences of starting out in the sector. What especially set it apart was the efficient way it was put together: the first hour featured

short presentations from the delegates outlining their daily activities and working environments. This was followed by a buffet lunch and the chance for students to browse the companies' stalls to get a clear idea of career opportunities as well as chat to delegates. The fair was six months in the planning and much of the hard work was done by Emily and Avery: they organised the representatives, timetable, venue and catering, taking care to make sure all the guest speakers' requests were met. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with every speaker agreeing to return next year!



Society founding: Birmingham Energy Society

The Birmingham Energy Society (BES) was founded in October 2018 to meet an increasing demand across the University for a platform to allow students to discuss and learn about the energy landscape in the UK and globally. Bringing together students from many disciplines across the College and the wider University community, the Society aims to explore a range of areas connected to the energy industry, including new technologies, environmental impact and social and economic factors. University students could become key players in creating innovation and change in the energy industry in the very near future, so BES gives them an opportunity to meet and network with potential employers and academics.

In just a few months the Society has developed tremendously, forging several strong links with industry, hosting talks and running a trip to Tyseley Energy Park. The year culminated in the Energy Insight Day; a mini-conference with speakers from a variety of energy roles offering a snapshot into the career opportunities available across the broad sector. Most notably, they have lined up with the Birmingham Energy Institute (BEI), leading to a new goal of making the fascinating research of the Institute more accessible to University students. Having been awarded BEI funding, that prospect already looks bright!



Chasewater Railway Experience Day: RailSoc

RailSoc organised this ambitious event with the aim to provide members hands-on railway experience that could be applied to either their studies or future work, and to make the unique experience of driving a train accessible. Not only would it prove to be a great day out but it will inevitably help with their career prospects as they gained operational experience of a working railway. The Society was given almost free run of the site, effectively operating its own two-mile railway. Twelve RailSoc members spent the day driving, guarding, coupling and uncoupling the train and operating the signals, all to a planned roster under the friendly supervision of Chasewater Railway volunteers.

By seeing safety and operating methods in action, it was possible for members to relate the experience to problems and issues faced by those running the real thing and the event gave a unique insight into what methods are used in real-world practice and applied context for the material discussed in degrees. The event required a considerable amount of coordination beforehand to ensure it ran smoothly, with the committee meeting some of the railway's directors in person. One satisfied RailSoc member said the experience would go down as one of his University highlights!



STEM, LGBTQ and You: oSTEM: Out in STEM

The University's first 'STEM, LGBTQ and You' conference, dedicated to exploring LGBTQ+ experiences in STEM subjects, certainly shot off the blocks, attracting more than 75 people! Rounding off February's LGBT History Month in spectacular style, the day-long event featured eight speakers from universities including Birmingham, Oxford, Staffordshire and even a speaker Skyped in from UMass Amherst in the US, as well as four panellists from a range of careers. Topics ranged from microbiology and algebraic geometry to computational linguistics, materials and psychology. The conference – the only LGBTQ STEM event the University has ever

hosted – was aimed at anyone who wanted to learn more about a diverse range of subjects and how people who identify as LGBTQ experience the world of STEM. Participants included undergraduates, postgraduates, support and academic staff and professionals, and brought together people from different disciplines and universities. Such is the success of this conference that some of those attendees from other universities are considering forming their own oSTEM chapters, so this could be the foundation of an annual oSTEM UK Conference; the like of which hasn't occurred outside of the US.

Great Achievement in EPS Award

This Award recognises outstanding contribution to the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, encapsulates the positive traits celebrated through all other Awards, and seeks to recognise exceptional individuals within the EPS Societies. These are our future leading alumni.



Andrew Evans: Team Leader, UBRacing

As leader of the UBRacing's delivery of STEM and outreach activities, Andrew has driven across the country to visit schools that couldn't afford to send pupils to visit the University. He's always on hand to talk about the work of UBRacing, explain the project and what it's like to study mechanical engineering, and show off the cars. He also headed up the team's participation at the Malvern Festival of Innovation, speaking to hundreds of children about engineering and studying at Birmingham. In fact, there haven't been many opportunities to promote the team and

Department that Andrew has missed: he's been at most open days, visits and events connected to the School of Engineering. Developing team integration and ensuring its future success are also important to Andrew; he's worked closely with sponsors and made himself available to first-year students who are learning to use manufacturing machines, holding twice-weekly sessions to teach the different systems of the Formula Student car and how to use CAD software. Andrew truly is a great ambassador for the team, University and Formula Student.



Avery Cunningham: Careers and Outreach, NucSoc and Chair, oSTEM: Out in STEM

Avery's been described as 'truly inspiring' and someone who has done 'almost everything they can bar sell their soul for oSTEM!' Since joining oSTEM three years ago, he has been instrumental in its rapid growth both in terms of membership and influence. His many achievements include taking members to the oSTEM Annual Conference in Chicago in 2017 – the first UK chapter to attend – and to Houston, Texas in 2018. He was key in creating the hugely successful 'STEM, LGBTQ and You' conference; the first event of its kind at Birmingham, attracting more than 75 attendees and a plethora of inspirational speakers. Avery has been

integral to many campaigns for the introduction of gender-neutral toilets, invited to give talks in the local community, and asked to advise on LGBTQ matters. He's also at the very heart of NucSoc and this year launched their first Nuclear Careers Fair. He's forged many close links with other societies and is currently working to create a more inclusive, diverse and equal community amongst students in the College. Avery's oSTEM Birmingham successes led him to be invited to join the oSTEM Incorporated committee (based in America!) as the first regional coordinator for the UK – a position that was created for him!



Charlotte Wellard: Outreach Co-ordinator, EWB Birmingham: Engineers Without Borders

Charlotte's desire to realise EWB's full potential and her passion for outreach – particularly to women and those who might not consider engineering – are the drivers behind the society's success. Her enthusiasm has encouraged many to become STEM Ambassadors and play a crucial part in EWB. Charlotte even continued her commitment to outreach while on her industrial placement year, involving herself in events with her new employers, and even leading a volunteering day for her

colleagues (including senior management) despite having only worked there for three months! She has shown huge dedication not only to EWB – where she's been President – but to the wider College: she's served on the EPS Societies' Awards committee twice and is a keen member of BUCES. She's also made her mark in the University's sports arena as Social Secretary of the Judo Club. Charlotte is someone who can be counted on to grab any opportunity and is always first to offer help.



Navleen Kaur: President, BEaMS: Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists

After identifying the lack of representation for ethnic minorities in EPS, Navleen decided to create a society to provide a platform and a support network – throwing her energy and time into the task, despite being in the final year of her Physics degree. As President of BEaMS she has worked diligently to ensure the society holds regular events that are both informative and motivational, as well as encouraging collaborations with companies and promoting ethnic minority excellence within the College. She designed the 'Dinner with BEaMS' events with the intention to introduce the society to the College and start building their community. So successful was the first Dinner in December that another was held in spring, and this

time recent graduates were invited to join the society and share their experiences of starting their career as a professional engineer or scientist from a BME background. Setting up the Society has also provided members with a safe space in which to express themselves and share their experiences, as one member explains: 'The society has helped create a space where I am able to comfortably discuss my University experience as a minority student. This would not have been possible had it not been for Navleen's passion and dedication.' BEaMS has grown quickly in only a few months – and that's thanks largely to Navleen's vision and determination.



Sam Davies: Vice President, MathSoc

Sam has chalked up great achievements with MathSoc, from fundraising to putting on brilliant careers events, and helping other societies to emulate some of those achievements has made him stand out even more this year. His work has had a positive impact on more than 1,000 people, not just within MathSoc. One of his main successes has been the expansion of MathSoc's Tutoring Scheme, which helps under-represented schoolchildren improve their grades and raise their aspirations for their futures. When Sam took over the reins in 2017, there were only 20 student tutors and maths was the only subject on offer. There are now more than 100 volunteer tutors, subjects available include English, Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Modern Languages, and the Scheme helps more than 200 pupils work towards their

GCSEs. Sam also decided to roll out MathSoc's successful Family Scheme, which helps new students settle into university life and make friends, by organising and hosting a workshop attended by other societies across the University. He worked closely with these societies to set up or improve their own schemes, with Modern Languages having particular success. Sam's considerable fundraising efforts include being Challenge Leader for Carnival RAG and leading a 30-strong team that raised more than £80,000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation. Sam's achievements and positive attitude have inspired many others to volunteer and get involved in organising events. His dedication and enthusiasm are faultless.



Tom Goodman: President, CSS: Computer Science Society

Tom's stellar leadership and organisational qualities became apparent in his first year as Chair of CSS – they won the EPS Society of the Year 2016/17! That he's now been President for three consecutive years attests to how much computer scientists value him. Tom's achievements are legion: he's organised more than 150 events, founded HackTheMidlands – one of the UK's largest hackathons – and worked across the College to improve the University experiences of hundreds of students; notably sitting on the Guild's Student Groups Executive Committee this year. During his time with CSS, he's raised more £71,000 in sponsorship for both the Society and other initiatives, and, in addition, brought in more than £30,000 through tickets sales for headline events. Tom has also

developed strong ties with the local and national Tech Communities, working in various capacities for Silicon Canal and the British Computer Society's Birmingham branch. He has received a fast-tracked Fellowship of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce (FRSA) – a huge honour! But his achievements don't end there: Tom has also found success as a published scientist with his work on academical dress, which earned him another fellowship, this time from the Burgon Society. Next up, he's working on the new EPS Community EDI Committee where all our societies will work together to improve equality, diversity and inclusion.

Society of the Year 2018/19

This Award celebrates the outstanding activities conducted by societies over the course of the year. Through events, innovative projects and activities, superb organisation, or raising awareness these societies provide an exceptional, well-rounded and inclusive experience to their members. These societies have pushed the boundaries and delivered more than ever before.



BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

The strength of the BUCES community was highlighted by Birmingham winning its fifth consecutive Frank Morton Sports Day, beating Chemical Engineering teams from 27 other universities to lift the trophy! The Society has continued to flourish on many levels this year; helping students of all years to get the most out of their degree course academically with new and revamped initiatives such as PASS, (peer-assisted study sessions), while ensuring they have a good time along the way. The committee hosted a wide range of 'much anticipated' social events including the annual (and biggest-ever!) Winter Ball, first international carnival, sober socials such as paintballing and go-karting, and charity events, which raised more than £2,500 for Acorns Children's Hospice and Mind.

There were also numerous networking opportunities such as the Industrial Dinner and speaker sessions, which provided a great way for members to network with potential employers. There was an increased focus on engagement with members of all years, with new events such as the third-year 'welcome back dinner' and a second-year advice video. The Society also continued to put great emphasis on helping new students to settle into university life through its Family and International Buddies Schemes. 'BUCES is the reason I chose Birmingham', said one member. 'It is such a family... I can't imagine University life without BUCES'. It's a comment echoed by many, many nominators!



BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

BUMS is 'a great society that continues to get better and better every year'. They kicked off their social calendar with a Family Scheme event that 'almost raised the roof with the amount of cheering and excitement in the room' – and hasn't stopped having a great time since. The many popular socials and charitable events, sober and non-sober, have included an open mic night, pub golf, bowling, annual Materials Ball and a bake sale (more than £1,600 was raised for good causes overall). There were also career-related activities such as summer placement talks, industrial visits and Materials Careers Fair. Perhaps the biggest highlight of the year was unifying the Society's sporting activities into a brand – BUMSport – which brings together the mixed netball, basketball and football

teams under one banner. Introducing a small joining fee helped to pay for the likes of new kit and regular training sessions and led to increased participation from undergrads, postgrads and staff. The very successful launch of social badminton on Saturday mornings also increased inclusivity and boosted the profile of sport in BUMS. Not to mention their leadership of the EPS Trophy! There was a boost, too, for the Society's social media presence, with the introduction of the 'cooking with the committee' and 'meme of the month' series, which further strengthened BUMS' sense of community and welcoming approach. In short, another 'incredible' year.



ChemSoc

ChemSoc's formula is to be an inclusive society that works hard to ensure every chemistry student has the best possible university experience and develops the necessary skills for a great career – and it works! 'ChemSoc has such great vibes and everyone is super-friendly' is how one member puts it, with another commenting: 'I made all of my friends through ChemSoc in Freshers' Week and these are the best friendships I've ever had.' There were many memorable social occasions this year, from pub quizzes and trampolining, to ice-skating and bar crawls, as well as the 'biggest and best to date' annual ChemBall, which attracted more than 300 people. There was also a host of career-orientated workshops including a lively and well-attended careers fair. They also launched an Alumni Speed Networking Event to learn more about

how recent graduates have started their careers. Volunteering and outreach continued to be an important part of ChemSoc, with students taking part in school tutoring with other societies and the STEM Ambassador scheme. The newly established ChemNet saw staff, postgraduates and undergraduates discussing a wide range of subjects including research, revision and interview techniques – all fuelled by pizza! Four charities – Birmingham Children's Hospital, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Save the Children – benefited from ChemSoc's sterling efforts to raise more than £1,500, while Foodbank Fridays collected donations for local foodbanks. Plus, their first entry to the EPS Trophy sports day resulted in them bringing home the netball trophy!



CSS: Computer Science Society

CSS has notched up a mega-successful, record-breaking year! Signing up 261 members – 40 more than ever before – running no fewer than 70 events and working with more than 15 other student societies and external organisations. No wonder it's making a name for itself not only on campus, but also in the local Tech Community. Events have all been very well-attended, with many attracting more than 100 people, and all 107 tickets for the annual CSS Ball were snapped up within 24 hours (it's never even sold out before)! Other events included hackathons, coding workshops, quizzes and board games nights, and the Society even entered teams for each sport in the EPS

Trophy. CSS has also made great strides to promote inclusivity: it supported Birmingham's Diversity in Digital Festival with events such as Women in Tech coffee mornings, and took part in the join oSTEM trip to Bletchley Park as part of LGBTQ+ History Month. It also worked hard on becoming more transparent to its members, acting on as much feedback as possible to bring about improvements and adapt the society to fit the needs of all members. Another 'first' for CSS was the number of passionate and engaged candidates at the AGM who filled a whopping 14 positions on the incoming committee – setting it up for yet more success in the years to come.



MathSoc

MathSoc has scaled new heights this year, with a number of highlights reflecting the Society's 'unstoppable efforts into helping everyone doing maths'. Membership added up to its highest number yet – 326 – a demonstration of the central role the Society plays in the School, and the effort it's made to build an inclusive, close-knit community. Stand-out occasions and initiatives include the netball team winning the league for the first time, and the football team coming second in their league, despite losing many players the previous year; lifting the EPS Trophy (jointly with MechSoc) after winning the football and coming third in touch rugby (it was the touch rugby team's first-ever tournament!), and record attendances at key events including the annual Spring Ball, which attracted more than 260 people, bar crawls and

careers evenings. There were also visits to Thinktank and Cadbury World aimed particularly at students new to Birmingham, Family Scheme events to make the transition to university life smoother and happier for freshers, and more than £1,000 raised for St Basil's charity through fundraising efforts that included running the Coventry Half Marathon. There was also the launch of a MathSoc WeChat account to increase international interaction. It led to the Society sending four students on an ambassadorial trip to the Jinan Institute in China where there is a partnership with the School of Maths. A particularly memorable event for MathSoc was its first-ever Alumni Day, which saw 30 former maths students return to their former stomping ground, reuniting with old friends and making new ones.



oSTEM: Out in STEM

oSTEM has done 'an amazing job' at creating a welcoming, inclusive space for LGBTQ+ students studying STEM subjects. Socials such as weekly coffee gatherings, pub quizzes and trips, including a visit to Bletchley Park, have helped achieve a strong sense of community, while there has also been a lot of collaboration with other societies such as NucSoc, CSS and BUMS. Still only three years old, oSTEM has grown enormously in a short space of time: for the second year running it was the only chapter outside the US and Canada to attend the annual oSTEM Inc Conference, held this year in Houston, Texas. The highest-profile occasion on this year's calendar was

the brand new, day-long conference 'STEM, LGBTQ and You', the biggest event the society has ever put on. A huge success, thanks to brilliant organisation and Alumni Impact Fund support, it attracted more than 75 people from across the University and the UK, featuring speakers drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, as well as from the US. One member described oSTEM as 'one of the most welcoming societies I have ever attended', while another summed up the society's importance by saying: 'oSTEM has been the first time in my life I've been able to totally comfortably be myself – an LGBTQ, science-loving nerd – and find other people who are the same.'



UBRacing

It's been a year to remember for UBRacing – finishing sixth at Silverstone in the Student Formula UK back in July, putting in a great performance in Germany in August, and racing against teams from all over the world. The society also achieved its biggest goal for the year, which was to get more first-year students involved with the team and improve the transfer of knowledge: ten times the number of first years than last year now regularly work on the car. What's more, the team successfully enlisted members from all corners of the University, not just those studying mechanical engineering, but others from business and economics too. Activities were organised to enhance team integration and experience, and included introductory talks from each department in the team, tutorials in manufacturing and machining, and design

projects in vehicle dynamics and powertrain. Bi-weekly 'CAD nights' allowed members to pool knowledge and teach each other new skills in a relaxed yet highly productive working environment. Particularly exciting was the team experiencing first-hand revolutionary technology in the form of 3D printing for the new diffuser aero package. In addition, a 'fountain of knowledge' document was created so that department heads can add key facts on how parts are made in order to ensure knowledge isn't lost for future years. UBRacing continues to be a big recruitment tool for the University, and this year no fewer than 36 groups – many of them schools – visited the lab, while many team members took the car into schools across the country that couldn't afford to travel onto campus.



WISE: Women in Science and Engineering

WISE's popularity has soared this year thanks to the introduction of new events and the development of its outreach programme. The two WISE Inspire networking and speaker evenings made a big impact, enabling students to hear from a number of prominent women in science including Head of Chemistry Professor Rachel O'Reilly and Chief Science and Technology Officer at the Institute of Food Technologists Dr Maria Velissariou, which even resulted in Dr Velissariou becoming a mentor to a student on the night. The Society significantly expanded its 'Girls in STEM' outreach scheme, which now provides two local all-girls schools with weekly after-school science clubs. More than 100 volunteers from 34 subjects have taken part in the Scheme,

compared to fewer than ten subjects last year – and WISE has developed relationships with numerous outreach organisations such as the Royal Society of Biology. Another new venture for WISE was the development of a netball team with ChemSoc and BioSoc. Other highlights from the year include attending sessions as Café Scientifique (discussion events around contemporary science issues), a cocktail-making masterclass for more than 40 members and the formation of a bigger and more diverse committee than ever before, with four new roles added to ensure women from every college are represented. One member summed up WISE's achievements by saying: 'From socials to sport and outreach, WISE has done it all!'

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BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk

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