



*Welcome to the*

# EPS SOCIETIES' AWARDS 2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Welcome to the EPS Societies' Awards 2020

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has a strong tradition of outstanding success among its students. We now have 39 tremendous societies and I am proud of their triumphs throughout this academic year.

It is a real shame that due to the current COVID-19 crisis we cannot celebrate together as we usually would. The last few months have been extremely challenging in many ways which is why it's more important than ever to recognise the achievements of our exceptional students. We must remember that the Awards stand for more than just one evening of presentations. They are a celebration of the dedication and ingenuity of society committees and members alike to make the University a better, more vibrant place.

It is clear our societies are the heart of the College. Thanks to you, we have a diverse mix of student groups with some of the University's most specialist teams and campaign groups. We're also home to some of the University's oldest and largest societies, with two even pre-dating the institution. Not forgetting our 12 subject-based societies and three College-wide sports teams. Many have had their strongest year to date; they've offered more tutoring and outreach, raised more for charity, forged new industrial links or employment opportunities, and held more impactful events than ever before. The way they have pulled together as a community in the recent difficult months is truly outstanding.

All this and we are still growing. In the last year we have welcomed six new societies to the EPS Community: the CAD Society, SpaceSoc, Concrete Canoe, Virtual Reality, Global Engineering Brigades and Plastic-Free UoB.

I am very pleased to report there have been an amazing 1,089 nominations submitted for the EPS Societies' Awards by students, staff, alumni, friends, families and even school teachers and companies who have worked with our societies. This is testament to what our societies mean to our community. I would like to congratulate all those nominated, and especially those shortlisted for these Awards.

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 their employability, making our students increasingly more enticing to future employers. You are also working to increase the excitement of STEM subjects through the activities you volunteer at; you are empowering discovery. This is invaluable; thank you.

We would not be able to celebrate such accomplishments without the hard work of those who have made the EPS Societies' Awards possible. Thank you to our judges for selecting the shortlists and winners, and our sponsors for their continued support of our students. Special thanks go to Grace Surman and the organising committee for enabling this unexpected virtual celebration and doing something the University has never before attempted. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to recognise outstanding achievements by nominating a student or society, letting them know that they make a real difference at the University.

Congratulations to you all.

With best wishes,  
**Professor Jon Rowe**, Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
and Head of College, Engineering and Physical Sciences



## 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 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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community)



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



Follow us on Twitter @eps\_unibham



Or Instagram @myepslife



Join us on LinkedIn: [www.tinyurl.com/eps-linkedln](http://www.tinyurl.com/eps-linkedln)

### Our sponsors

We thank our sponsors for their support in helping celebrate our student societies.

**NORTHROP  
GRUMMAN**

**CATERPILLAR®**

We are also pleased to acknowledge contributions from some of our major University Industrial Partners: Rolls-Royce, Timet (UK) and Baowu China Steel through their University Research and Technology Centres.

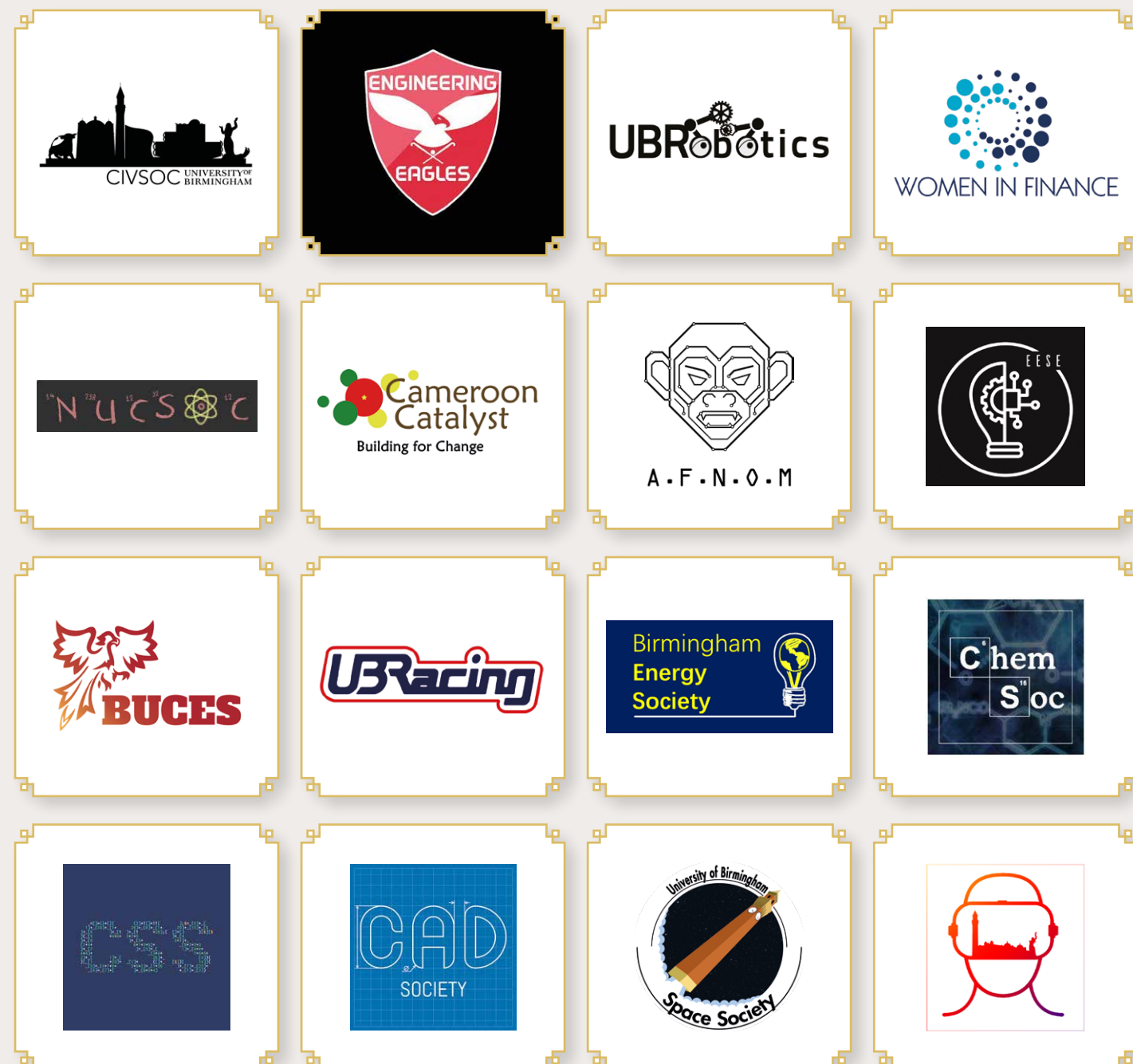




# Our societies

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.

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





# 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, events 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!



Yuean Ma  
AeroSoc



James Henderson  
AFNOM



Dan Hunt  
AstroSoc



Josh Mukura  
BEaMS



Rhys Coldrick  
Brum Eco Racing



Dan Rhymer  
BUCES



Seb Wayles  
BUMS



Joe Daniels  
CADSoc



Foday Kamara  
Cameroon Catalyst



Joe Berry  
ChemSoc



Robert Gough  
CivSoc



Rocco Casale  
Concrete Canoe



Will Russell  
CSS



Louise MacIver-Jones  
EESoc



Adrian Street  
Energy Society



Tom Paish  
Engineering Eagles Hockey



Kessigen Moorooogen  
EPS Mixed Netball



Chloe Lee  
EWB: Birmingham



Stanimir Velichkov  
Games Development Society



Karalaini Kataiwai  
Global Engineering Brigades



Kate Huxtable  
MathSoc



Ed Jones  
MechSoc



Sara Hammoud  
NucSoc



Ash Turner  
oSTEM



Katie Unnithan  
Plastics-Free UoB



Jeremy Atkinson  
PPS



Dominic Meakin  
RailSoc



Weronika Wiesiolek  
SATNAV



Bobby Normoyle  
School of Engineering RFC



Matthew Graham  
Space Society



Hamaad Seyyad  
StartUp Soc



Matthew Cook  
UBeRacing



Jen Yuan Kong  
UBRacing



Amy Collington  
UBRobotics



Preeti Mahendra  
Women in Finance



Alice Ruter-Eley  
WISE



# Sports Personality of the Year

This Award recognises those sportspeople who have shown commitment and enthusiasm in their discipline. They are motivational personalities, generous with their time in supporting their teammates, and encourage the continual development of their team.

## Alexis Cassar Sports Officer, MathSoc



As Sports Officer, Alexis has not only shown great talent but also introduced several brilliant new ideas for MathSoc. He's led the Society to their most successful sporting year to date and launched a brand new six-a-side football team to complement their existing 11-a-side team, enabling increased participation through all-inclusive playing rotation. This has tripled the number of students playing in MathSoc Football and answered the newly increased demand. He continued the success of MathSoc Squash and Netball, with Netball seeing record numbers at trials and finishing fourth in their league. Most notably, he organised three significant sporting events for MathSoc. Firstly, he launched a staff vs student football match in December, which brought together the whole School of Mathematics, saw more than

100 people turning out on the day and raised £250 for charity. Secondly, the highly successful annual MathSoc Alumni Day saw 50 current and former students get together for a football match and meal and night out. Thirdly, he organised the Nottingham Away Day 2020, where 30 Birmingham students travelled to the University of Nottingham to play their MathSoc at football and netball. This has formed a link that will continue for many years. All this and he also showed his talent by joining MathSoc and ChemSoc's team effort in the Birmingham Running Festival, which raised an incredible £5,376 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Alexis' great efforts have encouraged sports in MathSoc to become more inclusive and integral to the Society, and wider School community.

## John Hall Engineering Eagles Hockey



John has been playing hockey for many years, but is humble about his skills and always eager to help fellow Eagles progress. He's made many new members feel welcome in the team with his selfless good-humoured attitude. Over his time with the Eagles he's grown the team from a handful of members to many dozens this year. Whilst stepping down and letting a new host of members take the reins this year, John was ever-present and faultless in supporting his team. He's been the backbone of Eagles As, playing front and centre in almost every game and being in the midst of the action when he was needed most, despite being most prone to falling over in every game! More of a playmaker this season, he set up the league record top goal-scorer

with more than 25 goals in 18 games, it's now true to say that a pitch without John will feel exceptionally empty. Few have the ability to bring energy to the pitch like John, being able to zip around causing the unlucky opposition a headache as they try to find a way past him or stop him. Not only did he help Eagles to a commanding victory, but he also selflessly lent a hand to the newest team in the league EconSoc, who were regularly down a player, even bringing them their first victory. His teammates say he will be dearly missed once he graduates and he has truly left a mark on the Eagles (they also say he's always welcome back for a grudge match against Med 2s!).



## Karlo Olalla Sports Secretary, CivSoc

Karlo has been an inspiration. He's turned a team that hardly won a game last year into football Champions League finalists! He worked hard to make the football team more inclusive and successfully recruited an even spread of first, second, third and fourth years ensuring an increased, stable turnout each week, and altogether creating a real team spirit. Fate was not kind to him though; in an action emblematic of his commitment to CivSoc he put his body on the line to make a save which resulted in a fractured wrist. Karlo did not sit on the bench and fuelled by his enthusiasm for all things CivSoc he took on the role of manager, devising tactics and substitutions. Straight away he organised curry nights and socials which generated a real team bond. He arranged for CivSoc to have teams in every

sport at the EPS Trophy, organised the annual engineering football derby against MechSoc and masterminded CivSoc's victory, plus held an exhibition match with EPS Netball. What really makes Karlo stand out is his commitment to making sure everyone is included and creating real camaraderie amongst them, spurring the team on throughout the season. He also encouraged CivSoc's new Secretary and Sports Sec to run for their committee positions and built keen relationships with other EPS societies. He's earned a great deal of respect from his teammates. His efforts have forged friendships across year groups that will strengthen CivSoc for future years and inevitably produce teams that will last long after he graduates.

## Philip Pagani Vice Captain, Engineering Eagles Hockey



Philip Pagani is one of the Eagles' longest-serving members and has contributed a vast quantity of his time, and quality time at that, during his years at Birmingham. From picking up a hockey stick for the first time in his second year, Philip has been part of all the team's ups and downs over the last four seasons. He didn't plan on holding a committee position this year, but his leadership quickly saw him become vice-captain, and later his efforts were further recognised and he moved to joint-captain. In the team's hours of need he went above and beyond to inspire players with riveting pep-talks, steered them through tricky negotiations, oversaw a fiery transfer

window and, most importantly, led the team to many victories. He's also been known to pass on the tiny titbits of hockey he knows, despite not having the best knowledge on the team! You could say he's earned his place! On the pitch he's the backbone of the defensive line, however, despite his formidable reputation as an 'impassable brick wall', this year he found himself to be the squad's star striker, producing back-of-the net moments time and time again. With the Eagles finishing with both their teams on the Campus League podium, Philip's teammates hope he will consider this, in his final year, a highlight of his time with the club.

## Sam Holdsworth Sports Rep, BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society



Sam's unending enthusiasm has led the many BUMS teams to success thanks to his amazing organisation, team spirit and motivational skills. He has a great passion for teamwork, which has inspired a wide range of people to get involved and join the various teams regardless of their skill and has spent the year motivating everyone involved to give their best in every game and training session. Sam's proudest moment at Birmingham has to be his establishment of BUMSport, the bringing together of all the Society's sports teams into one recognisable entity and one team. He's consolidated a sustainable venture through carefully calculating finances and formulating an affordable

membership scheme, not to mention his countless spreadsheets. Without this level of organisation, the generosity of his time and seemingly effortless positivity, BUMSport would not have been as successful this year. Sam was also the driving force behind BUMS' efforts at the EPS Trophy in February, competing in multiple sports, keeping up everyone's spirits throughout the day and leading BUMSport to claim the EPS Trophy glory for the second time! Plus, BUMS As Football won their Campus League. These results are proof that Sam has consistently put his heart and soul into BUMSport.

# Sports Team of the Year 2019/20

This Award celebrates sports teams within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences that are acknowledged as inclusive and tight-knit. These teams can be part of a school, society, or entirely independent. They work exceptionally well as a team, play to the strengths of all members, stick together whether they win or lose, promote sporting excellence and encourage healthy competition.

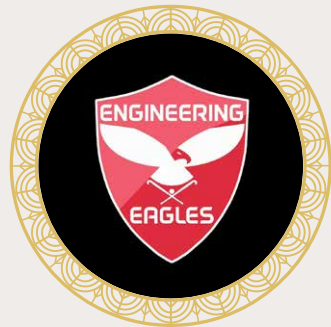
## BUMSport



BUMSport has grown into an exemplary unified team. Now firmly established as a sub-society, they proudly represent BUMS at every opportunity. As a relatively small society, it's incredible to see such a large number of people join in, demonstrating outstanding teamwork and commitment. The support from the whole society is exceptional and a great reflection of their dedication to BUMS. BUMSport now boasts a sustainable financial model with an affordable membership programme and annual kit sale, enabling increasing numbers of students to participate. They offer every member of BUMS the opportunity to try

out different sports, both socially and competitively. They even have their own BUMSport Awards. As a result of their brilliant team spirit their Football A Team has been unbeaten all season! Their mixed basketball and netball also had great results and their social badminton sessions have been well attended by staff and students. Their EPS Trophy victory was the epitome of their 2020 success. They had a fantastic turnout, entered mixed teams into all four sports, won two, placed on the podium for the other two, therefore amassing a huge points total and were crowned overall champions for the second time!

## Engineering Eagles Hockey



Engineering Eagles is an incredibly friendly team that encourages anyone of any ability to pick up a stick and try hockey! The club has continued to grow having successfully entered two teams into the Campus League for a second year and even opened discussions for a third. After a successful recruitment drive, Eagles now include members from Physics, Maths and Engineering and more first years joining the continued impressive participation from Chemical Engineering. Both Eagles teams dominated the league, finishing first and third. Thanks to a new training regime and

introducing sessions focused on specific areas for improvement, the evenness of their teams has enabled some spectacular Eagles vs Eagles games! This has led to the new role of Club Coach being introduced. Thanks to their new Social Sec position, they have created an even greater squad atmosphere with regular socials and, more recently, virtual quizzes. The team has created a great mixture of competitive all-ability hockey in a casual atmosphere without any pressure to win every match, forming what many are now calling the 'Eagles Family'.

## EPS Mixed Netball



The EPS Mixed Netball team has got bigger and better! Thanks to a great recruitment campaign and two successful taster sessions, they have more members than ever before from a great variety of year groups, even postgraduates. They're dedicated to bringing their team together and have introduced regular socials and held their first team Christmas dinner. Adding more socials to their calendar has really gelled the team and created great cohesion, plus a significant increase in participation. Due to their amazing performance in last

year's Campus League, they've moved up a league and have faced tougher competition. The skills and confidence of the team have grown and even though they didn't win as many matches, they always played their best and kept team spirits high. They claimed a close second place in the netball leg of the EPS Trophy in March with just one goal difference in the final. The team also won the best fancy dress award at the Christmas Netball League Competition, something they're very proud of and reflects their excellent enthusiasm!



## MathSoc Sport

MathSoc has held a strong sports reputation for a number of years, but 2020 has been outstanding! Not only are they achieving great results on the pitches and courts, but they are also forming new traditions in the School of Mathematics. They launched a new six-a-side team alongside the existing 11-a-side MathSoc Football and an all-inclusive rota ensuring everyone has the opportunity to play. This answered the increasing demand from students to play football, tripled the size of MathSoc's team and they ultimately won their Campus League. Their success continued with MathSoc Squash and Netball, the latter seeing record numbers at trials and finishing fourth in their tough league. Their touch rugby team also saw a spectacular win in the EPS Trophy. In February, they joined forces with ChemSoc to form a Birmingham

team that entered the Birmingham Running Festival and collectively raised £5,376 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Most notably, they organised three large sporting events to further develop their increasingly growing community. First, the staff vs student football match in December raised £250 for charity and brought the whole School together, both playing and supporting. Then came the second annual MathSoc Alumni Day, which saw 50+ students and graduates meet for a 'friendly' football match and social. Finally, they travelled to the University of Nottingham for an Away Day Derby to play their respective MathSoc at football and netball. Overall, MathSoc Sport offers a very relaxed, friendly and competitive environment for Maths students to socialise and exercise outside of study.

## PPS Netball



PPS Netball has seen tremendous success this year, made all the more impressive by the fact that the team is only a couple of years old. Not only are they on the Campus League leader board but they're improving the friendly, approachable atmosphere of the team and the tight-knit bonds of its players. The start of the season saw the most successful taster session turnout in PPS history, with 26 hopeful players enjoying drills and friendly matches. The team welcomed everyone with open arms and members are always positive and encouraging to each other. Marcus, their Captain, has had a huge impact in keeping the squad together throughout the season. Five first years now play regularly with PPS Netball compared to just two last year, and as one says 'I can confidently say

it has been a wonderful addition to my University experience'. This mix of players across the years provides a great opportunity to make friends, which another member says is 'invaluable in my social [and] degree life'. The commitment from everyone involved, including final-year and PhD students, is amazing and shows the family community of PPS and its Netball Team. This season saw PPS Netball continue with training sessions focusing on developing areas of play and putting particular emphasis on communication skills, which has resulted in them moving up five places in the league! PPS Netball is a fun, welcoming team, that doesn't take itself too seriously – they may be small, but they're perfectly formed!

## School of Engineering RFC



The School of Engineering RFC has been fantastic this year, exceeding the expectations of many a new member, sponsor and indeed, opposition. They are a force to be reckoned with, having played several thrilling games against both the University and Medics Rugby Teams. With now more than 100 members, the Club continues to grow and successfully maintains a first and second team which seemed implausible just two years ago. While their first XV is highly skilled and competitive, the second XV operates to ensure everyone gets game time so no one is left behind, regardless of whether they're an absolute beginner or seasoned pro. Their now annual tour took the majority of the team and several alumni to Barcelona. The

organising committee worked tirelessly to ensure everyone could attend, even arranging different flights to fit around work commitments and geography. They're also building an Engineering Rugby community across the UK having organised a tournament with teams from the Universities of Bristol and Exeter. So strong is their community that their alumni are still proud members, with one saying 'what the team this year have achieved makes me proud when I see my old Engineers rugby shirt tucked away in my wardrobe gathering dust, even if it does make me a little jealous'. With national and international fixtures it's clear the Engineers have aspirations far beyond Birmingham!



# Outstanding Event Award

This Award recognises exceptional, inclusive and original or evolved events. They encourage attendees to learn a new skill or meet new people, are informative or inspirational, and offer unique and engaging opportunities to society members. These events are impactful, whether they empower one person or 100, are well-organised and support the student experience within the College or wider University.

## Airineers CADSoc



Held at the end of the Autumn Term, Airineers was the first design challenge hosted by the Computer-Aided Design Society, CADSoc. The challenge aimed to apply skills taught in lectures and the Society's teaching sessions in a fun and interactive way. The idea was for attendees to design, assemble and fly a drone around a competitive obstacle course. CADSoc worked hard to ensure the challenge incorporated many key skills such as teamwork, CAD ability, 3D printing, prototyping, testing, drone flying and much more, all with the one-on-one support of CADSoc's Teaching Officers. They secured sponsorship from Autodesk to fully support the competition; a great achievement for a brand new society. They provided equipment for everyone who took part, including micro-cameras,

motors and controllers, and Autodesk professionals offered advice and network. An obstacle course was set-up in a separate room for the final flying competition. For health and safety reasons, attendees couldn't be in the flight room, so a live stream was set up so everyone could watch each team fly while waiting their turn. The all-day competition was open to all students, regardless of degree course or year of study. The winner was a history student who expressed his gratitude to CADSoc for allowing him to explore his interests in CAD and develop his skills. Other members have also been inspired to explore 3D modelling techniques and learn more about STEM careers. The challenge, therefore, created friendships amongst students who probably wouldn't have met otherwise.

## Dinner with BEaMS BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists



Dinner with BEaMS has been successfully running for two academic years and for their latest iteration, the Society wanted to evolve their already highly popular event and include a practical element to help develop the careers skills of their members. Working in conjunction with the Careers Network, the team agreed on a practice assessment centre exercise which would introduce attendees to a typical activity employers use as part of their selection process. On arrival, attendees were placed into groups and given a topic to discuss. Each group was observed by an assessor who was either a member of Careers Network or a professional from firms such as Jacobs or BBSTEM. Assessors noted attendees' behaviour and identified the skills demonstrated, such as listening or negotiation, in order to offer personal and specific

feedback to each attendee. While it was a structured activity with strict time limits, it was delivered in a relaxed and supportive environment. Once the formalities were completed, speed-networking began between guest speakers accompanied by African food with choices to cater for all. Speakers discussed some of the challenges they faced from their own experiences and how they overcame them. The event enabled students to interact and receive instrumental advice from successful professionals. Many commented that they took away practical tips on how to maximise themselves to attract employers. One said 'I came away confident and knowledgeable about assessment centre etiquette and effective networking' and another commented the event 'was an eye-opener and one of the best networking events I have attended'.



## Equal in STEM BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists, oSTEM: Out in STEM and WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society

Equal in STEM was the first event of its kind that brought together three different diversity societies and the intersecting communities of women, LGBTQ+ and black and minority ethnic people in STEM, to connect and support each other. The conference consisted of four panels discussing core barriers in STEM centring on mental health, expectations of role models, parenthood, and advocacy and allyship. Speakers provided a cross-section of industry, academia, students and professionals bringing together multiple backgrounds, perspectives and experiences. Not only did this disseminate a wide range of viewpoints but it inspired the nearly 200 attendees, including local sixth formers. Together, they explored multiple real barriers with real examples and provided real discussion on

hardships and reform. The challenges tackled by the panellists in their working lives was really eye-opening, highlighting the need for more events like this. Equal in STEM also brought together professionals and students on an unprecedented scale with attendees having frank discussions on how to support one another. Every member of the audience was involved thanks to the use of technology to anonymise questions and instil confidence in those who would not normally raise their hand. Equal in STEM was uniquely open and honest, hard-hitting and inspiring, in a comfortable and professional environment. Never before have the EPS societies brought together so many diverse people with the sole focus of making STEM better for everyone.

## Frank Morton 2020 BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society



Frank Morton is the decades-old national chemical engineering sports day (or Olympics as many are now calling it), which returned to Birmingham for the 2020 competition. It was nine months in the planning following a successful bid by Dan Rhymer, who led a sub-committee of ten students in the mammoth task of hosting the day-long competition. 2,000 students from 20 universities across the UK and Ireland descended on Birmingham in February to take part in 19 sports including climbing, dodgeball, netball, rugby, laser tag and escape rooms (who knew!) all taking place in different locations across the city. The event ran from 7.00am to 1.00am the following day and, as well as sports, comprised an opening ceremony, closing ceremony with celebrity speaker Sabrina Stocker

from *The Apprentice*, Digbeth Dining Club and a night out at The Mill with former England rugby player James Haskell DJ'ing. There were also 250 students from BUCES and the wider University involved as volunteers and referees, plus the committee had to negotiate the testing circumstances of Storm Dennis and the very early whispers of the COVID-19 outbreak! The committee did an exemplary job of liaising with venues to secure locations and organise travel arrangements making sure everything ran smoothly. Frank Morton was an amazing competition to be part of that not only strengthened friendships at Birmingham, but also forged links to other universities and showcased our brilliant University and City. And winning for the sixth year in a row on home turf was the icing on the cake for BUCES!

## National Student Space Conference 2020 PPS: Poynting Physical Society



The National Student Space Conference (NSSC) is the flagship event for the UK's student-led space society, UKSEDS and this year was hosted at Birmingham by PPS. With 500 attendees, PPS engaged with students across the country and made Birmingham a key meeting spot for the space sector. Throughout the conference two education streams ran simultaneously, allowing a jam-packed weekend of inspirational talks. This included an incredible keynote from Dr Kathy Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space, which was a powerful celebration of International Women's Day, which fell on the Sunday. PPS championed diversity and inclusivity throughout the conference. The venue was fully accessible with gender-neutral facilities, and they introduced pronoun badges and stickers displaying how comfortable attendees felt with engagement to

ensure everyone felt welcome and safe. As well as tackling gender and disability stereotypes, PPS encouraged conversation to break the misconception that space is only relevant to physics, maths and engineering students by addressing big issues such as climate monitoring, medical physics and solving the crisis of debris in low Earth orbits. They also invited local 14 to 18-year-olds as their first taste of working in the space sector. PPS clearly went the extra mile as hosts: from their ambitious bid right through to the last attendees leaving, their organisation was immaculate, especially considering they were faced with several curveballs plus the early concerns of COVID-19. Two PPS members were even elected to the UKSEDS committee during the conference, such is the testament to the new benchmark they have set for NSSC.

# Volunteer of the Year

This Award recognises individuals who have committed themselves to a cause, activity, or event for the greater good of their society, University, or wider community. They have consistently dedicated their time and effort in a selfless manner to help others succeed in their goals, overcome challenges, and undertake tasks by making valuable contributions that have positive impact.

## Adrian Street BES: Birmingham Energy Society



Adrian has gone above and beyond for the Energy Society this year, especially in having the initiative to start the UoBe SMART Campaign. This campaign encouraged students to install free smart meters in rented properties in Selly Oak, allowing them to monitor and reduce their energy usage, therefore reducing their bills. To achieve this, Adrian took the time to carry out extensive research, surveyed students, liaised with several household energy providers and compiled materials with advice for students on how to go about having their smart meters installed. Without Adrian, the incredible UoBe SMART Campaign, that has really bought the community of Selly Oak together to reduce their energy usage, would not have happened. In addition to this,

Adrian spearheaded the Society's blog with tips and led their activities in the Guild's 'Go Green Week', handing out stickers, campaigning on campus, going door-to-door in Selly Oak spreading awareness and showing his dedication to this cause. To top off all his hard work, Adrian also began talks with the Guild and University Estates who have now committed to looking into their own smart meters and considering more efficient energy usage on campus. Plus, Adrian attended as many energy events as he could and was present at all committee meetings, despite not holding an official role, to offer his opinions on ideas with his invaluable knowledge. Not to mention he did all of this whilst very busy with his final-year studies in Chemical Engineering.

## Laura Kennard Volunteering Officer, MathSoc



As Volunteering Officer, Laura has made many outstanding contributions to the MathSoc community this year. She's been dedicated, enthusiastic and hard-working all year, efforts which are clearly reflected through MathSoc's amazing achievements. She led the Society's impactful Family Scheme, which helps first-year Maths students settle into University life with the help of those from higher years and encouraging greater integration across the School. She also continued MathSoc's Tutoring Scheme, which now has more than 100 tutors across multiple subjects, and saw Psychology and History added at the start of the academic year. This Scheme not only supports the education of school pupils but also enables volunteers to give back to the community, raising the aspirations of pupils and tutors alike, and allowing everyone to

achieve their full potential. Her efforts have also resulted in MathSoc's most successful fundraising year to date! She also organised two successful bucket shakes, the staff vs student charity football match and the pinnacle of her tenure was organising the Birmingham team for the Birmingham Running Festival. She teamed up with ChemSoc to arrange for 57 Maths and Chemistry students, staff and alumni to take part, raising £5,376 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Each of these initiatives require skill, judgement, diplomacy and patience, as well as time. Laura has clearly played an active role in ensuring MathSoc members feel part of a supportive community and she has worked tirelessly to ensure the Society has made a real impact this year.



## Lucy Millins Secretary, PPS: Poynting Physical Society

Lucy has thrown herself into every aspect of PPS, volunteering for every task and consistently supporting every single event PPS holds. It's people like Lucy who allow a society like PPS to function so well; she is super-organised, switched on, kind and approachable. Lucy has been inspirational in her drive to support the LGBTQ+ community in the School. She worked tirelessly to raise awareness for LGBTQ+ History Month and was the main organiser of the LGBTQ+ Allies and Friends event, aiming to stamp out casual homophobia and make members feel completely proud and confident in themselves. She also organised the annual PPS Christmas meal, co-managed the Internships Fair and was on-hand for the duration of the National Student Space Conference. Lucy has dedicated a huge amount

of time to PPS outreach and has been instrumental in this year's organisation of the Pupil Premium Science tutoring programme at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School. She committed to this work every Wednesday and really believes in the power of communicating physics. She also launched PPS's new volunteering scheme with STEM Ambassadors to better enable students to do outreach in local schools. Volunteer tutors now register with the national Ambassadors programme and are therefore better equipped to complete outreach masterclasses representing the School of Physics and Astronomy. Her tireless dedication to secure as many tutors as possible has made an enormous impact on the confidence and progress of some of our most under-represented young people in Birmingham.

## Paige Ramsden Year Rep, PPS: Poynting Physical Society and Publicity Officer, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society



Paige Ramsden is a tour-de-force in every task she puts her mind to, with her work across multiple societies truly setting her apart and proving her dedication and commitment. A huge advocate for increased diversity in STEM, Paige's position as Publicity Officer for WISE allowed her to increase the society's presence, a feat she continues to strive for as their newly elected Chair. In the autumn, Paige organised the WISE Inspire! Event, which celebrated successes of women in STEM and allowed for communication centred around inclusivity in a positive setting. When WISE recruited another school for their Girls in STEM outreach programme she stepped up to become their main contact, providing weekly email updates so the school knew exactly what to expect from the upcoming workshops. As a tutor

herself, she was also a constant contact for everyone volunteering. With PPS, she put a huge amount of work in, particularly as a volunteer for the National Student Space Conference. She always looks to help others and when she noticed an excess of food she contacted a homeless charity and donated the food to those in great need. Her work during the Conference was very impressive and integral to her successful campaign to be elected to the UKSEDS Executive Committee. She aims to use this position to advocate for inclusivity and champion outreach and diversity. Paige is an inspiring student and great role model for women in STEM, as evidenced by her efforts and achievements within the roles she has undertaken.

## Will Russell CSS: Computer Science Society



Will's passion and drive to do awesome things are truly unbounded. He has worked hard to spark an interest in computer science and its related activities in many young people across Birmingham and his fellow students. As an active member of the CSS community, Will is a key organiser of most of their technical events, including the new Developer Student Clubs. He's held a number of workshops aimed at first-year students to enhance vital skills needed both for their degrees and a career in computer science. He's also introduced students to working with APIs by building discord bots and getting started with mobile apps by building an Android application. These workshops have given him the opportunity to hone his teaching skills, and empower a huge number of others with the skills

and abilities he himself has picked up over the years. He works tirelessly to support others in their own learnings. He recently founded the Hackathons for Schools initiative, which not only helps under-18s to get involved with technology but also gives students the chance to volunteer themselves. Not to mention the key part he played in HackQuarantine, a three-week virtual invention marathon invented at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown which turned into a global initiative calling for student tech entrepreneurs to combat challenges brought on by the pandemic. Will is an incredible volunteer and has given up hundreds of hours of his time in recent months alone for the good of the community.



# Outreach Award

This Award recognises the dedication of those who work to deliver outreach activities to local schools or the general public. Those volunteering see it as part of their role as a student to inform and educate on a multi-generational level and are actively involved in sharing discovery.

## Allan Dos Santos Outreach Officer, BES: Birmingham Energy Society



Birmingham Energy Society set themselves the aim to educate young people about the energy industry, energy crisis and climate change, to inspire them to want to tackle these challenges. Spearheaded by Allan as the Society's new Outreach Officer, he successfully motivated pupils at Bishop Challoner Catholic College through several activities over the year, trialling his outreach projects with Jenny Bateman. They gave presentations to upwards of 100 pupils exploring the current energy crisis and how they thought it could be resolved, before setting pupils a term-long project to research an energy-themed challenge and design an

innovative solution. Allan also covered topics such as presentation skills, university life and careers to inspire his audience. This was very engaging for all involved and received nothing but positive feedback from staff and pupils. The project went so well that the Society has been invited to deliver the same activity to the next cohort of sixth formers. Allan's hard work did not go unrecognised, helping to secure funding to scale up this outreach project into 20 or more schools next year. Allan has laid outreach foundations for the Society which will inspire young talent to tackle energy challenges for years to come.

## AstroSoc



AstroSoc know that astronomy is an exciting way to introduce people to science and encourage questions about the Universe. 2020 was the third successive year they've held events for British Science Week to inspire school children in years 7 and 8. For the first time they included home-educated children, allowing the Society to further share their planetarium shows that reveal the grand beauty of the cosmos. This shows great perception of the principles of inclusivity and of bringing science to under-served communities. Several AstroSoc members also volunteered at the Celebrate 2020 event for Girlguiding Midlands where

they performed planetarium shows to hundreds of teenage girls during the day. Outreach events of such amazing scale, especially aimed at girls, are invaluable to physics and wider STEM subjects. The Society also plays an essential part in Astronomy in the City, sharing their expertise on the night sky with 300 attendees at a time. Alongside this, their Tea, Talk and Telescope series continues to grow in popularity, allowing attendees to discuss cutting edge astronomy research. AstroSoc has a bursting outreach and engagement roster and there's already ambition from their incoming committee for further growth!

## MathSoc



MathSoc's Tutoring Scheme continues to go from strength to strength. The Scheme now includes more than 100 student volunteers across multiple subjects who go into local schools to support pupils studying for their GCSEs. A notable achievement this year is MathSoc's work in adding Psychology and History. The value that programmes like this have on the local community cannot be overestimated and this is a fantastic example of student-led activity having a major impact. A special mention must go to Laura Kennard

and her tremendous contribution to MathSoc as Volunteering Officer. Maths is vital to all STEM subjects and many school pupils lack confidence in their skills. The time and commitment shown by Laura and her team have helped pupils to unlock their potential by realising there are many steps along the road to understanding maths. Laura has demonstrated her abilities to not only encourage school pupils to enjoy the study of STEM subjects but enable her fellow students to act as ambassadors and role models.



## RailSoc

RailSoc has been the driving force behind a completely new series of inter-university events with all the major transport and railway societies at universities across the country. In November, RailSoc travelled to London to meet Cambridge University Railway Club, Imperial Transport Society and Loughborough Velocity for the first-ever inter-university meet-up of this current generation of railway societies. Each society delivered a short presentation before taking part in an evening of socialising and a quiz. Many ideas and experiences in running the societies were exchanged, and the event was such a success that three further inter-society events were organised over the year! Loughborough and Birmingham collaborated for a tour behind the scenes of Birmingham New Street station, while another society meetup was held at the Great

Central Railway in February. Most impressive was the talk by Birmingham graduate Andrew Pennington, Head of Planning for South Western Railway, which was attended by students from Birmingham, Loughborough and Aston universities. As an example of the power of networking, one Loughborough student was helped in gaining a Year in Industry placement as a result of this. It was not only a great opportunity to network with other universities in and out of Birmingham, but the best-attended RailSoc event to date with 25 people attending! RailSoc spearheaded this collaboration, which has spawned unique connections, new friendships, pooled their collective resources, educated a wider audience and is a fantastic initiative that reached out across universities.

## Will Russell CSS: Computer Science Society



Will is dedicated to improving access to tech opportunities for young people both in Birmingham and across the world. Working as an Organiser for HackTheMidlands, he launched the event's School Outreach Initiative to encourage more under-18s to get involved with invention marathons and discover the potential opportunity and skills development they bring. Will recently founded an amazing project to reach the local community: Hackathons for Schools is an initiative to engage school-aged children in hackathons which are essentially coding competitions where participants build a project, engage in workshops and gain hands-on tech experience. Hackathons for Schools will specifically help schools run their own events and thus increase technological

opportunities for under-18s. The scheme will also have an active mentoring system where volunteer professionals and students can sign up to conduct workshops and visits to local schools. Will is also in the process of organising a digital work experience event to engage sixth formers amidst the COVID-19 crisis. He was also a key leader of HackQuarantine, an emergency global virtual hackathon to build solutions to problems surrounding COVID-19 at the start of lockdown. This saw more than 3,500 participants worldwide, delivered more than 70 workshops and 250 projects enabling the sharing of knowledge across everyone involved. He is an enthusiastic, dedicated and giving person who goes above and beyond to give back to his community.

## WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society



Effectively reaching out to young people, inspiring and empowering them without being perceived as disingenuous or as having a hidden agenda can be extremely challenging. WISE have not only accomplished this but model their Girls in STEM Scheme on these core principals. They now involve more than 60 volunteers, have weekly science clubs in three schools and successfully reach 90+ STEM pupils from under-represented backgrounds every week. They have expanded into a third school and now enable girls to access subjects such as robotics, computing, coding, engineering, physics and biochemistry, all areas that are sadly resource limited and all under-represent women. Part of what makes their engagement so powerful is how self-critical and reflective WISE are; they know

how important it is to be a good role model and mentor, how this varies in different situations and, most importantly, they always keep the spotlight on the students that they are working with. They have gone above and beyond to source and provide ongoing training to volunteers, constantly evaluate the work they do and seek feedback to make the Scheme the best it can be. Inclusion is at the core of what they do, which is evident by the number of pupils who return session after session and from the glowing reviews sent by the teachers they work with. WISE has also successfully integrated outreach into their work as a society by engaging the wider University community in conversations about equality and diversity through events such as Equal in STEM and appropriately involving their partner schools.

# Diversity and Inclusion Award

This Award recognises individuals or societies who reach out to every member of the University community, going above and beyond to ensure everyone is equally involved and represented. Their actions are changing the culture of the University and instilling the values of equality, diversity and inclusion in the foundations of their society.

## BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists



BEaMS have been fantastic in engaging with under-represented students. For many, BEaMS has become a second home with several commenting that 'they found a family with them'. They are proactively taking measures to reduce the attainment gap across STEM subjects, and have held meetings with lecturers, students and local teachers to shape their important work. They recognise strength in unity by collaborating with other societies such as BEMA, oSTEM and WISE, who all share similar principles, and have also teamed up with the University's BAME Officers. Their special edition of Dinner with BEaMS in collaboration

with the Careers Network provided attendees with the skills to navigate a typical job application process. They're not afraid to combat pressing issues like racism, classism and discrimination against sexual orientations and they passionately co-organised Equal in STEM. Furthermore, BEaMS have expanded their activities outside the University and into schools with two Girls in STEM workshops. Their newest members have described BEaMS as 'a warm community led by relatable students who genuinely care about the success and wellbeing of its members'.

## Mariam Dabbous International Rep, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society



Mariam has placed huge effort into encouraging international students to engage with BUCES, attend events and is a friendly face for everyone. She's worked hard to make BUCES and Chemical Engineering more inclusive, and her biggest achievement is the International Food Carnival. BUCES have held this event for many years and usually see ten to 30 people turn up. Not this year! Mariam was determined to make it more welcoming for everyone, more inclusive and more engaging. She encouraged everyone in the

School, international and home students to cook food from their country and even managed to source food and donations from local takeaways. The results were obvious and about 100 students turned up to share good food, good company and a great atmosphere. It was brilliant to see so many different types of people mixing and one nominator commented 'I loved seeing the students who had cooked proud to share their food with everyone'.

## oSTEM: Out in STEM



oSTEM never fail to put on fantastically organised events and share resources. Their events are always inclusive and they take great efforts to acknowledge and celebrate many national and international recognition events such as LGBTQ and Black History Months, Intersex Awareness Week and National Coming Out Day. The STEM, LGBTQ & You conference in February included speakers who were white, BAME, trans, cis and from many different academic and professional backgrounds and disciplines. The inclusion of BAME speakers is

especially important as the Society actively addresses the lack of inclusion and representation of BAME people in STEM and LGBTQ+ communities. This created an atmosphere where everyone felt they could understand and relate to at least one thing on the day. They are also exceptionally astute in negotiating potentially tricky situations such as strike action and high-stress periods of the academic year. Their collaborations with other societies such as WISE and BEaMS, especially with Equal in STEM, shows they are succeeding in exploring intersections of marginality.



## PPS: Poynting Physical Society

PPS made it their goal to become a more inclusive society and foster a culture of inclusivity in the School of Physics and Astronomy. They recognised they represent many different types of people and set out to lay a new foundation for the Society. This began with introducing a zero-tolerance hate speech policy to their constitution, an ethos they will carry forevermore. They acknowledged university can be a daunting prospect and launched a new Family Scheme to welcome students joining in September. They wrote letters to everyone, personally welcoming them to the University and included personality surveys to aid the Family Scheme and ensure everyone was assigned an appropriate student buddy, or 'parent' and diverse families. Their parent not only acted as a mentor but a guaranteed person who would attend events with

them. PPS then went on to organise 22 different events in 20 weeks, answering as many interests as they possibly could to make sure no one was left out. Their first LGBTQ+ Allies and Friends event inspired and empowered people who identify as LGBTQ+, educated on how to be a good ally, stamped out casual homophobia and encouraged everyone to feel confident in themselves. PPS also built inclusivity as a core theme into the National Student Space Conference, providing gender pronoun badges and stickers indicating how comfortable each attendee was with being approached. The entire committee made it their mission to make PPS more inclusive, but special mention must go to Lucy Millins for ensuring these important principles are at the forefront of the Society.

## Rumaanah Hoosen BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists



Rumaanah is currently the Equality and Diversity Student Ambassador for the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. She is also the College Rep this year, leading important conversations to enhance the student experience and ensure student voices are heard in the management of education and the University. She has made pivotal steps in promoting movement and change in the College to redefine what equality, diversity and inclusion mean, not just here but for STEM more broadly. She has made great strides and continues to build platforms for women of colour

in science and engineering. Currently, women of colour studying STEM are one of the most under-represented groups at Birmingham and she is working hard to ensure they are recognised. These voices are and will be heard in the future because of the work Rumaanah has done and continues to do. She is a truly inspirational leader, community member and ambassador for her fellow students and the University. Her work paves the way for a future of equality, diversity and inclusion for not only the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences but the University as a whole.

## WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society



A key aim of WISE is the support and empowerment of women in STEM. They work hard to give women a platform on which they can talk openly about their experiences. This year's WISE Inspire! event allowed a variety of women to celebrate their achievements, voice their opinions and network with students. Furthermore, in collaboration with oSTEM and BEaMS, WISE brought Equal in STEM to life and saw the three societies work together for the first time. This event allowed for important conversations on barriers to STEM and how they can be overcome by working in unity. It brought together a hugely diverse set of speakers, 200 attendees and allies, and enabled frank discussion in a safe environment. All WISE's events are organised to be accessible and inclusive to all. Where possible, travel expenses are covered and no membership or event fee is ever required.

All opportunities that WISE provide are free of charge to allow as many interested people to attend as possible, enabling an incredible number of people to get involved. The Girls in STEM outreach scheme now has more than 60 volunteer tutors who receive training and perform outreach activities in the local community, providing role models to almost 100 girls from different backgrounds, and opening the doors for them to discover the everyday science around them. Finally, this year's WISE committee included dedicated representatives from the Colleges of Medical and Dental Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Physical Sciences, which allowed the Society to engage with students across campus and has furthered the reach and impact of WISE.



# Industrial Award

This Award recognises individuals or societies whose success in forging industrial links has had a significant impact on their fellow students. Their activities encourage skills development and employability, offer an insight into possible career paths and support the transition from education to employment.

## BES: Birmingham Energy Society



The committee has recognised a real interest from students to gain insight into energy and green technologies, and have made it their mission to form strong links with employers. They hosted four huge talks with influential people in energy, providing insight into key global challenges. They've launched a LinkedIn page to further connect with local SMEs and consequently were invited to attend three conferences. Most notably, BES were special guests at the 'Ofgem Smart Futures Conference' and offered their opinion on how the government should reform initiatives to encourage renewable technologies. Their relationship

with Birmingham Energy Institute is flourishing and has resulted in three summer placements, and Eon have partnered with them on their UoBe SMART Campaign. Their headline event should have been the Energy Insight Day but sadly this had to be cancelled due to COVID19. However, they were not dismayed for long and are now working with a start-up to help design energy systems for use in making affordable ventilators for developing countries. They are part of important conversations and provide a holistic home for students interested in the sector at a time when it has never been more pivotal to our future.

## Dáire Archbold Industrial Rep, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society



Dáire has done everything she could to help students secure a placement or graduate job. She took the initiative to create a Canvas page with more than 100 company contact details and resources to support with job applications such as CV and interview tips. She did a sterling job organising the annual Industrial Dinner, raising more than £4,500 in sponsorship enabling a truly impactful event. The evening introduced both new and familiar companies and received favourable feedback from everyone who attended. She also introduced an EngD table supported by the School to

discuss opportunities in academia as well as industry. The event was the perfect opportunity for students to gain insights into the companies and ask questions about their hiring processes. She's created a BUCES Alumni Network and delivered on her election promise of organising a LinkedIn Headshot event which both provided professional photographs for career profiles and raised money for charity. All the hard work Dáire put in this year has really paid off and more than 50 students have gained Year in Industry placements for the coming academic year.

## Emily Lewis NucSoc



NucSoc has continued their campaign to improve their already strong industrial links. Emily did a brilliant job of organising a trip to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy and continued to strengthen links with the Institute of Physics (IOP) and Institute of Materials, Minerals, and Mining (IOM3). Emily's largest event was the Nuclear Careers Fair, which again included many of the sector's important players. She also advised on the creation of the NucSoc and BUMS Placement Talks, giving students across both nuclear and materials degrees a platform to learn from each

other's work experiences. Emily co-led the first IOP NucSoc Membership Event with Sara Hammoud where membership benefits and opportunities were shared. A quiz followed, with our very own Martin Freer as Quizmaster, and first prize was tickets to the annual IOP Conference UK. Most significant of all Emily's achievements is the fact that none of these events involved ethically questionable companies. All of Emily's activities and connections enable NucSoc members to be included in the sector's professional community.



## Greta Mariani and Lorenzo Luerti BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

This year, Greta and Lorenzo formed brand new relationships with a wide range of companies including Airbus, JCB, MTC, TWI and PwC to deliver amazing careers events for BUMS members and students from related degrees. The Careers Fair created opportunities for students to talk to potential employers and get an idea of what internships or graduate schemes are available to them and their specific skills. It was open to all students in the School of Metallurgy and Materials and received a very good turnout thanks to Greta and Lorenzo's excellent organisation and promotion of the event. They faced several difficulties in the planning of this event and used their initiative and connections to bring it to fruition. As well as this, Greta and Lorenzo

organised a fantastic industrial visit to the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry, which gave members the chance to see the workshop floor and observe processing and manufacturing techniques that directly relate to modules studied on the Materials course. Feedback from this visit has been incredibly positive as students got to see many things they may not have had the opportunity to observe before, such as giant robots, additive manufacturing printers and Europe's most powerful industrial laser, and allowed their modules to come to life before their eyes. These events have resulted in numerous employment offers for students, highlighting how pivotal they are in the employability of students and graduates.

## PPS: Poynting Physical Society



PPS has forged outstanding industrial links with 34 companies this year through sponsorship and careers activities. It is vital that PPS provide opportunities for members to engage with employers and offer them the best possible opportunity to shape their future careers. Industrial liaisons have improved dramatically this year with four companies now sponsoring the Society. PPS led their first joint careers event with MathSoc and WISE, inviting speakers from a variety of backgrounds from finance to the NHS who have an interest in the skills of members from all three societies. This was followed by an Internship Speednetworking Event in the Spring Term specifically aimed at lower years looking for summer opportunities. PPS also hosted an Airbus Careers Talk in collaboration with MechSoc

for students interested in the space sector and had an event scheduled with Northrop Grumman with MathSoc and Computer Science, which was sadly postponed due to COVID-19. Finally, the National Student Space Conference saw 20 sponsors and partners attend. All were present for the two-day careers fair held in the breaks of the Conference with representatives available at all times to network and promote their opportunities to all 500 attendees. Several even changed their recruitment deadlines specifically for attendees. PPS has provided an outstanding set of industrial events and allowed members to further industrial links in a huge range of careers and furthered their knowledge of careers available.

## UBRacing



UBRacing has continued to deliver world-class industrial links for students and sponsors. The team must source sponsorship to help the manufacturing and development of the car. As a huge project that is run entirely by students, UBRacing works with a large number of highly regarded businesses, enhancing the reputation of the team, the University and the Formula Student competition. This year, the team has secured ten new sponsors in technical, software and monetary support while retaining 98% of their existing sponsorship network, bringing the total number of companies they work with to 64. This year also saw increased interaction with their title sponsor, Mahle Powertrain. Team members were invited to their facility in Northampton for a three-hour presentation on electric vehicle development. Their carbon fibre sponsor Mulholland Composites Ltd provided invaluable manufacturing

facilities, which enabled first-year students to learn how to make parts for the car. A new sponsor, Central Scanning, provided 3D scanning services for the full car, tyres and chassis which enabled comparison of physical components with CAD programs. Gold sponsors MathWorks gave a group of students the opportunity to undertake a commercial two-day Simulink course at their headquarters in Cambridge to help develop the team's simulation capabilities. Team members have been given tours at several of their sponsors' sites including McLaren Racing and Racing Point Formula One teams, providing an excellent opportunity to experience what working in high-calibre automotive teams is like. The industrial relationships development by UBRacing have enabled 100% of their graduating members to go on to full-time employment – a phenomenal achievement!

# EPS Community Award

This Award recognises exemplary contributions of individual student members or entire societies who make new connections across the College and encourage collaboration and inclusivity within the Community.



## Avery Cunningham NucSoc and oSTEM: Out in STEM

Avery consistently pursues the creation of the most inclusive EPS Community as possible, regularly amazing others with his dedication and compassion in his work to ensure the University is inclusive. He organised two diversity conferences in the same week: STEM, LGBTQ and You, and Equal in STEM, both of which create an inclusive societal intersection of all the diverse people in a STEM community. His continued work with oSTEM, NucSoc, BUMS and many other societies demonstrates his commitment to the community, having organised joint events and collaborative outreach. He is Co-Founder of the EPS Community Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee which brings together the College's 39 societies to share best practice, work together to resolve any issues and ensure inclusivity is a core

principle in all societies. Alongside this, he was the first undergraduate to run a workshop at LGBTQ+ STEMinar and his dedication to supporting the LGBTQ community has been internationally recognised by receiving the Global STEM Service Award from oSTEM Inc, their most prestigious accolade. He has also created an oSTEM alumni and professional network giving the Society a platform to bring together LGBTQ+ STEM professionals from across the West Midlands. Avery is currently working to ensure the LGBTQ+ STEM community is well-supported during lockdown to keep up the sense of community that so no one feels isolated in these challenging times. Avery consistently shows his dedication to ensuring a strong, unified community.



## Ed Quilty, Ethan Thompson, Jess Benyon, Miruna Dumitrache MathSoc

Jess, Miruna, Ed and Ethan were the first student ambassadors to visit Jinan University-University of Birmingham Joint Institute (J-BJI) on Panyu Campus in Guangzhou, China. In addition to representing the School of Mathematics when meeting and working with Maths students at J-BJI, the Edgbaston students were also representing the University and to some extent the UK university sector. Their commitment during the trip, and notably since, has significantly increased awareness of J-BJI throughout the School and wider College, and made a substantial contribution to ensuring J-BJI students feel part of our community. During their visit, they lived the life of J-BJI students, each residing in a different four-bed dormitory with their hosts and attending lectures, meetings, discussions and ceremonies with time for sightseeing with Panyu-based

students at the end of the trip. They engaged with great enthusiasm, respect and patience to a packed schedule in a fluid environment. Many staff both from both universities commented on their professionalism and enthusiasm and were impressed with their efforts to build a community between MathSoc in Edgbaston and their counterparts in Jinan. The closing event of the visit was a grand celebration with detailed presentations from each student on their learnings. Jess, Miruna, Ed and Ethan were excellent ambassadors and created the concept of the global classroom which is forming the start of a strong network between our Edgbaston and Panyu campuses. Since the visit, all four have not only stayed in touch with J-BJI students, they have also made strong contributions to our first J-BJI Summer School and Study Abroad cohort.



## BES: Birmingham Energy Society

Birmingham Energy Society (BES) wanted to do something this year to further their commitment to their members, grow their community and have a real impact on the University. They've collaborated with PPS for a Coffee and Conversation on Sustainability event and delivered several professional talks with inspiring speakers. They've also formed a good link with Plastic-Free UoB and introduced them to a key influential figure from Birmingham's sustainability network who BES met at a conference – a link which became pivotal in organising Plastic-Free's canal cleans. This wasn't enough for BES so they launched the UoBe SMART Campaign, initiated by Adrian Street. This Campaign had two key objectives: to educate students on easy behavioural changes that can be implemented in student houses to save money

and reduce emissions, and to increase the uptake of smart meters in Selly Oak. BES members volunteer countless hours campaigning in the community and having discussions with students on what they thought they could do to help the environment. To complement their Campaign they launched a 15-part online blog aimed at students with top energy saving tips and educational pieces, all written by BES members. This reached thousands of students and helped households save 580kg CO<sub>2</sub> per year and up to £240 off their bills. Hearing about their brilliant work, the Guild invited them to be part of Go Green Week. They've also been in talks with the University's Housing Officers and are working on shower timers and 'Turn Me Off!' light switch stickers for the coming academic year.



## Plastic-Free UoB

Plastic-Free UoB is a brand new society set up by Sarah Granville and Harriett Noy to highlight the importance of reducing single-use plastic and taking care of our planet. Having only formed in the autumn, Plastic-Free UoB has come a long way in a very short space of time. They've amassed a huge following in just nine months, hundreds of active members are involved in Plastic-Free's volunteering activities, speaker sessions and in helping to share their important message. The Society organises regular litter-picks and holds canal cleans every few weeks partnered with the Canal & River Trust, thanks in part to a connection made via the Energy Society. They've raised publicity by appearing on Burn FM, featured in articles in Redbrick, spoken at The Indie Lounge and

have a brilliant presence on social media. Plus they've even been covered by local news when ITV heard about their canal cleans! Alongside their volunteering activities, Plastic-Free has hosted several speaker sessions and invited experts to teach attendees how to lead a more sustainable lifestyle. These are proving very popular and many attendees are actively adopting the techniques learned at these sessions and are starting to share their own advice. The team are also forming relationships with the Estates Office to discuss ways in which the University can reduce single-use plastic both across campus and at events. Plastic-Free UoB's efforts are encouraging students all over the University to consider their actions and make changes for a better world.



# Inspirational Committee Member

This Award recognises those committee members who are dedicated to the success of their society in terms of empowerment, engagement and inclusion for the benefit of all members. These people are fully committed to the running of their society, have exhibited exceptional organisational skills and enable their society to thrive.

## Alex Crossman President, PPS: Poynting Physical Society



Alex has led his society through the most phenomenal year. He is exceptionally well-organised and had PPS's calendar planned in minute detail well before the academic year started. With his little blue diary, he meticulously organised 22 different events in 20 weeks with the genuine intention to offer something for everyone. He fearlessly proposed new ideas to his committee from updating their constitution to include a zero-tolerance statement, their first trip abroad and organising a national conference. He took the initiative to bid to host the National Student Space Conference and won. PPS has never hosted a conference and they did so seamlessly, despite some tricky issues on the day. Attendees were, as Alex intended, completely oblivious and many say 'it was the most inspiring

event in our calendar'. Alex is a strong believer in everyone having a voice and while that often caused committee meetings to run over, it led to a happy and efficient team. He also made great effort to meet regularly with his committee individually to check they were comfortable and coping with their workloads. His tenure was supposed to end with the largest PPS Spring Ball ever, with 407 tickets sold and alumni invited for the first time. This sadly had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 and while Alex was deeply disappointed, he handled the situation admirably and ensured everyone received a full refund. It's safe to say Alex has completely turned PPS around and everything he does is so his members have a well-rounded university experience.

## Beth Soanes President, WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society



Beth has worked tirelessly with WISE for three years and graciously led the team as President for 2019/20. She has made it her mission to not only inspire school pupils and her fellow students through WISE's activities, but also to bring together the many diverse groups that make up the University's STEM community. She conceived the idea of Equal in STEM but was not content with this just being a women's event and so collaborated with BEaMS and oSTEM to ensure everyone in STEM was included. Sourcing funding from Caterpillar, Beth carefully crafted a plan with her co-organisers to deliver the University's first collaborative conference to host important conversations on barriers to STEM such as mental health, the pressure of being a role model, parenthood

and allyship. She has also successfully expanded WISE's Girls in STEM outreach scheme to involve a third local school and has overseen the training of more than 60 student tutors to become better science communicators and role models for the pupils they work with. To bring all this activity to fruition, Beth secured £5,200 in funding from various sources including Caterpillar, Accenture and the University's Alumni Impact Fund for Students. Alongside her non-stop work for WISE, Beth has completed a lab-based Masters degree and secured a funded PhD position to research Molecular Biology and Bioengineering. Beth has consistently worked to bring together students across EPS, Life and Environmental Sciences and the University's wider STEM community to empower and inspire.



## Ethan Thompson President, MathSoc

Ethan has been a committed MathSoc member and leader throughout his time at Birmingham. As President, he's led by example participating in every event, offering support to fellow committee and society members and ensuring events operate smoothly and safely. Ethan's leadership style is to be collaborative and considerate. He takes clear responsibility, leads when appropriate and enables others, supporting and encouraging when needed. Several nominators have commented that this encouragement extends to staff as well as students, particularly in 'flushing out footballers and runners' for the staff vs student football match and Birmingham Running Festival! Ethan has developed a cordial, professional relationship with colleagues across

the School of Mathematics with considerable proficiency. He was selected as one of the four student ambassadors to visit the Joint Institute (J-BJI) in Guangzhou, China and used that week to achieve more than the School could have wished for. Together with the other three ambassadors, he ensured that J-BJI students became part of a global classroom in both Edgbaston and Guangzhou. He's worked tirelessly to provide MathSoc members with as many events and opportunities to raise as much for charity as possible. A lot of time and planning goes into everything Ethan does and he's helped keep every committee member motivated in their roles. He's a great example of what it takes to run the Society and of how important it is to work alongside the School.

## Jess Benyon Secretary, MathSoc



Jess is always the go-to person when something needs to get done. She always has boundless enthusiasm, making everyone feel welcome and included within society events. Her friendly nature and negotiation skills have resulted in her becoming very involved in the School of Mathematics and she's utilised this to help develop collaborative support and events. Her positive attitude and constant smile really lifts everyone who meets her. She was a great addition to MathSoc's Family Scheme and made a wonderful 'parent'; she was caring and checked up on her 'children', ensuring everyone settled into University life smoothly and supporting them with their accomplishments. Jess is also incredibly modest and has secretly been a driving force behind much of what MathSoc has achieved this year. None of

MathSoc's accomplishments would have been possible without her hard work, dedication and vision ensuring that not only do activities take place but they are delivered in an appropriate and accountable way. She has also contributed new ideas to enhance the Maths collaborative community such as establishing a MathSoc Award to recognise staff who make outstanding contributions to the student experience, and delivering essential activities to help new undergraduates successfully transition to University study. As a Student Ambassador, she has been at the forefront of showcasing all that the School has to offer, including representing it on an ambassadorial trip to the Jinan Campus in China. She is an inspiration to all students within Maths.

## Lucy Millins Secretary, PPS: Poynting Physical Society



Lucy has provided much of the driving force in increasing the awareness of diversity and inclusivity both within PPS and throughout the wider School of Physics and Astronomy. She organised the first-ever LGBTQ+ Allies event, which was extremely insightful for all who attended and opened the conversation on what people could do to make the School more inclusive. She also furthered the use of sober socials to offer more inclusive set of events. Lucy has also taken on PPS's outreach activities and promoted volunteering opportunities to members. Her endless dedication has been awe-inspiring as she developed the existing scheme with Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School where she held the responsibility of maintaining contact with the school, as well as ensuring students

were DBS checked. She also introduced a new initiative which saw all PPS outreach volunteers register as STEM Ambassadors to better enable their activities when delivering physics workshops and tutoring in local schools. She took on the role of Secretary halfway through the year at the PPS EGM and handled her responsibilities with ease, slotting into the senior committee like the role was made for her, before springboarding off her successes to be voted in as PPS's President for 2020/21. Her humble nature means she'll never sing of her achievements, but without Lucy Millins, PPS wouldn't be the same. She is truly an inspiration and PPS will continue to thrive with her at the helm.

# Role Model of the Year

This Award recognises individuals who have gone above and beyond to represent their society by embodying its core values and instilling them in others. They exemplify the best within themselves and are recognised as a role model for their achievements.

## Anna Dickinson-Lomas Co-President, BUMS: Birmingham University Material Society



Anna has continually gone above and beyond this year to ensure the success of BUMS in everything they do. She has been committed to making sure all aspects of BUMS have been well-organised and engaging for as many members as possible. Quite frankly, it would be easier to list the Metallurgy and Materials events that Anna hasn't helped with, than those she has! Not only does she sit on BUMS' committee but three others too and her overwhelming determination means that she gives her all to everything so as to positively impact as many students as possible. She contributed greatly to the organising of the Materials Ball and on the night spent much of her time selling raffle tickets and even pouring drinks to ensure an incredible

evening. Anna's determination to succeed in both her Society commitments and her degree has not wavered. Anna is an extremely conscientious student with an excellent work ethic, inspiring many by how hard she works. She has incredible attention to detail when studying or completing tasks and still finds time to run the Society and help colleagues and friends. She is completely selfless and will go out of her way to lend a hand, even if it interrupts what she is doing. She is friendly, approachable and honest, which are fantastic qualities in a leader. She encourages her colleagues to perform at their best and engage with studies and the Society alike.

## Dan Rhymer President of the Frank Morton Committee, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering



Dan has worked faultlessly to host the national chemical engineering Frank Morton sports day and made it into one of the best competitions to date. Work started in June 2019 when he created a 40-page bid document by himself to persuade the previous host to pass responsibility to Birmingham. He then formed his own sub-committee to lead the almost year-long project. He put an immense amount of time and energy into organising this huge event and in the process enabled students from across the UK, and including Northern Ireland for the first time, to come together. Almost 2,000 students from 20 universities descended on multiple locations across Birmingham. Some were seasoned sportspeople but many only play sport on this one day a year for

the good of the chemical engineering community! The event is not only the chemical engineering Olympics, but also involves many graduate employers who are keen to recruit attendees through the careers fair that runs alongside the event. Dan led his team to perfectly execute this complex event with more than 250 volunteers, a food festival and two celebrity speakers. Not even Storm Dennis or the very early whispers of COVID-19 flustered them! As organiser, Dan couldn't take part in the competition, which would no doubt have disappointed him as he's a dedicated pool player and has won the pool tournament every year for the last five years. However, he dutifully stepped aside for a new winner to take the mantle and expertly negotiated the huge event.



## Mira Shukla President, BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists

Mira is an extraordinary person who has led by example and inspired many others to make the most of their university experience. After a successful first year for BEaMS, Mira was thrust into a very demanding but fulfilling position of President to continue increasing student engagement and drive the need for diverse and inclusive events within the EPS Community. Mira has been instrumental in developing new networking initiatives to expand the Society's alumni and industrial connections. She has introduced collaborative opportunities, secured a study space for EPS BAME students and mentoring opportunities with senior employees from Rolls-Royce. She was also a lead organiser and a panellist for Equal in STEM. Her contributions at both this conference and to her society have caused a positive ripple effect in

improving diversity, inclusion and narrowing the gap in ethnic minority representation. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership and has taken BEaMS to another level. Even though in her final year, Mira has been able to balance her commitments, responsibilities and worked endlessly, even during the last few difficult months through the COVID-19 outbreak. She has reached out to members offering support, guidance and offered key advice for the new committee, all while preparing for her final-year assessments. She has been the battery fuelling the spirits of members and an excellent role model. Mira has shown tenacity, dedication and resilience to provide inclusive and diverse events that have a positive impact on BEaMS, BAME students and the wider University community.

## Molly Service Chair, oSTEM: Out in STEM



Molly is an essential member of oSTEM. Having joined in her first year of university, she ran for a committee position as soon as she could. As Publicity Officer, she helped encourage members to participate in events and have their say. She then took on the role of oSTEM Chair, led the Society's second STEM, LGBTQ & You conference and co-ran a pronouns workshop at the LGBTQ+ STEMinar. Molly has also been flown to America by oSTEM Incorporated, their umbrella organisation, three times: twice for their Annual Conference, at which oSTEM Birmingham was nominated for Chapter of the Year under Molly's leadership, and again for a Leadership Summit. She was also Co-Lead for Equal in STEM, collaborating with BEaMS and WISE to design a fully inclusive

programme and has also delivered a workshop for Girls in STEM. In recognition of this hard work and dedication, Molly has been acknowledged as a role model for equality and diversity, and as such is regularly invited to deliver talks at University and external events. Most notably she gave a talk at the UKSEDS Careers Event, which went so well that the organisation invited her to become Team Lead for Diversity and Inclusion. She has not hesitated to take on roles within the College and wider community. She shows how anyone can take what they know and educate others. Molly exemplifies the mission of oSTEM by empowering LGBTQ+ people in STEM to achieve success in a supportive environment that celebrates their diversity and contributions.

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



Nishi is an extraordinary example of the power of determination in achieving one's goals. She is quintessentially intelligent and has recently achieved a distinction in her Computational Neuroscience Masters and gained a PhD offer to continue researching Neuroscience. She has an innate ability to focus and pour her heart into anything she does, and it is because of this that she's able to manage three jobs and three society committee roles! As Vice-President of WISE, Nishi helped raise more than £5,000 for the Girls in STEM outreach programme and encourages anyone she comes across to become a volunteer tutor. She was also on the organising committee for the Equal in STEM which she passionately promoted. Outside of WISE she founded and became President of

NeuroSoc, creating a space for the growing neuroscience community. She has also maintained relations with her college back home and is always available as a mentor to girls interested in pursuing science. She is never afraid to discuss her struggles and openly talks about the difficulties of being an international student and a woman of colour in STEM, but also assures everyone that she couldn't do anything else and ensures that she remains positive. More recently, Nishi has been volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic, working as a Good Samaritans call operator and packer at a foodbank, showing that even in dark circumstances such as these, strong wills can make a difference. She empowers everyone to be the best version of themselves.



# Staff Member of the Year

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!

## Daryl Johnson Student Experience Officer, School of Engineering

Daryl has been a huge help to students in the School of Engineering and the wider College in this, her first year at the University. She has shown passion and enthusiasm to improve the overall student experience and organised numerous events throughout the year, including a Chinese New Year celebration. She actively promotes English courses and literature review assistance for international students, offering help however she can. She's also helped with the administration and promotion of the societies, often supporting their funding efforts. Daryl works attentively with the Engineering Student Reps, always listening to

feedback, promptly responding to emails and providing practical solutions to issues. She had started planning the School's first Student Rep Awards Night to show appreciation of the Reps' work this year, but sadly this had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. She's currently working hard to offer virtual support to all students and providing activities to help ease stress and the feeling of isolation many are experiencing during lockdown. Most notable of all is the fact that she has learnt Mandarin so that she can offer some familiarity and comfort to Chinese students. Both MathSoc and CADSoc would like to express their thanks to Daryl.

## David Leppinen Senior Lecturer, School of Mathematics

David will always be the first to help any Maths student without any hesitation and has been an incredible support to MathSoc this year and for many years before. He has always been keen to help promote any of their events, is always game for taking part and is, in general, a great asset to the School of Mathematics. David also very kindly made a generous donation to the staff vs student football match which he also took

part in. He also went out of his way to buy food and treats to give out to spectators. This was a very selfless and unexpected gesture that was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. David has gone above and beyond for MathSoc members and Maths students, always boosting their experience. MathSoc is confident this will continue for many years to come.

## Ellie Galvin Student Experience Officer, School of Computer Science

Ellie has been absolutely wonderful this last year. As the new Student Experience Officer in the School of Computer Science (CSS), she only joined the University in November. She really hit the ground running and almost instantaneously began helping CSS. She offered support, resources and guidance as the Society worked to put on one of their most ambitious events calendars to date. Ellie quickly got involved in all aspects of the School and the heavily intertwined work that CSS does. She organised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion focus groups, a number of activities to help improve student

experience and worked with CSS on joint events such as the termly board games nights where staff and students really come together as a community. She has been a great conduit between staff and students in the School. Even in light of the recent COVID-19 crisis, Ellie pressed on with her mission, creating and disseminating Computer Science Newsletters. She strives to keep in touch with everyone to make sure they're doing alright. Her incredible work has really cemented the strong community aspects of the School and CSS are really looking forward to working with her for many years to come.

## Lydia Dutton Sustainability Manager, Estates Office

Plastic-Free UoB has come a long way in its first year and this couldn't have been achieved without Lydia's vital support. She's held fortnightly meetings with the Society to discuss new ideas and projects. Lydia helped finalise the idea for Bepop. The committee often discusses 'crazy ideas' with Lydia and she helps make these huge ideas come to life. She also arranges meetings with other members of staff and facilitates further relationships across the University to spread both Plastic-Free and her own sustainability messages. For example, thanks to Lydia, Plastic-Free have met with the of Head of Catering to try and make large-scale changes to food packaging both in

campus outlets and in catering services. This would never have been possible without Lydia's support. She goes above and beyond her role at the University. She always attends their events and brings along other members of staff too. Lydia is the reason they made it onto ITV for their canal clean! She told Sally Brookes in the University's central Communications Team; ITV would never have heard about the canal clean had Lydia not shared the message. The Society committee says 'it is difficult to put into words how great Lydia is. She is so kind and always makes time for our meetings, despite her hugely busy schedule.'

## Sharon Jones Undergraduate Senior Teaching Support Administrator, School of Metallurgy and Materials

Sharon is wonderful! She's an incredible asset to BUMS, NucSoc, AeroSoc and the School of Metallurgy and Materials. As busy as she is, she always has time to facilitate their needs by booking rooms, helping to plan transport, arranging and catering events. She also plays a pivotal role in moral support! She is so enthusiastic and encouraging that when things get a bit hard and stressful she is there to cheer everyone up. It's amazing how a quick chat

with Sharon can make everything look that little bit better! As long as everyone's known her she's always been the friendly face of the School and has all the time in the world for the students she works with. Everyone across the three societies, and indeed everyone in the School, has so much respect for Sharon. They all say 'we don't know what we'd do without her!'

## Tyler Kelly Lecturer, School of Mathematics

Tyler has supported oSTEM ever since joining the University in 2018, and last year oSTEM were thrilled to have him join the Society as their Staff Advisor. He has provided endless guidance throughout the year, despite being exceptionally busy. He has also been there as a supportive figure for members, as an example of somebody who is a successful LGBTQ+ professional in STEM. His dedication to supporting the LGBTQ+ STEM community extends far beyond oSTEM. His fantastic work has been inspiring for many students, the oSTEM committee and their members. This is particularly the case with his exceptional organisation of the LGBTQ+ STEMinar, which was hosted at the

University earlier this year. As the largest national event of its kind, hundreds of LGBTQ+ STEM students, academics and professionals attended from across the UK. Only a month later Tyler supported oSTEM's own conference STEM, LGBTQ & You 2020, even stepping up at the last minute to open the event. As soon as the conference was over he was immediately keen to aid the Society in working towards funding for the next year's conference. oSTEM says 'It has been wonderful to have a staff member who embodies all of oSTEM's values and has been doing so long before the Society even formed'.

# Head of College Idea of the Year

This Award recognises innovative new projects and events that have had a significant impact on the schools or societies involved.

## Bepop project and forming of the society Plastic-Free UoB

Sarah Granville and Harriet Noy had the great idea to form a plastic-free society in autumn 2019 with the aim of spreading awareness about the dangers of single-use plastic. Since then they have worked to reduce single-use plastic on campus, held several litter picks and partnered with the Canal & River Trust to clean the Edgbaston canal. They're building strong relationships with University staff and hold regular meetings discussing their long-term goals, such as reusable cups in campus eateries, bottle refill points and cost-effective eco-friendly alternatives. In January, Plastic-Free launched Bepop, an online platform to sell second-hand clothes to fellow students. The marketplace aims to reduce the societal issues of fast-fashion. Fancy dress nights unintentionally encourage fast-fashion and often students will buy

new garments to fit a particular theme. This is often done online and last minute, from sites where clothes are made cheaply and shipped across the globe. Plastic-Free wants to change this while still ensuring students can enjoy fancy dress, without supporting fast-fashion. Bepop is a way for students to purchase clothes quickly, easily and at low cost. Students add a photo of the items they want to sell to Bepop and potential buyers message their interest and arrange the purchase. It completely eliminates the plastic packaging and transport involved with other ways of buying clothes online. It's also very safe, as it is only between Birmingham students who can meet safely on campus. Within two days of launching the platform it had nearly 4,000 members and this number continues to rise.

## Equal in STEM BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists, oSTEM: Out in STEM and WISE: Women in Science and Engineering Society

Equal in STEM was the first event of its kind bringing together WISE, oSTEM and BEaMS. After successfully proposing the project to Caterpillar and receiving full funding, the idea of providing an avenue for conversation came to fruition. The day-long conference enabled the productive discussion of challenging topics, so as to dismantle barriers that many may face as students or professionals in STEM. 200 registrants from the University and partner sixth forms attended to hear from a carefully selected, diverse mix of speakers. The organisers worked hard to ensure a broad cross-section of the University and wider STEM community was represented and that several different viewpoints could be heard. The panellists were from academia, industry and students who were comfortable in sharing their experiences as persons who identify as women, LGBTQ+, BAME or are an active ally. Topics included

'Expectations of role models' where the burdens placed on minorities were discussed and ideas for supporting science communicators were brought forward; 'How to be a good advocate and ally' addressed the heightening but not overshadowing of voices and prominent allies shared ideas on how to support each other; the 'Parenthood' panel raised suggestions improving accessibility; and 'Improving mental health awareness' saw speakers bravely talk about their personal experiences and professionals shared information for students as well as institutional suggestions for better support. This truly empowering event encouraged all attendees to be a part of these important conversations and inspired by the discussions, uniting the audience through listening to real-life experiences.

## Makerspace CADSoc

CADSoc was founded in 2019 with the aim of developing a Computer-Aided Design community. In less than a year, the Society has had great success and involves students from Engineering, EPS and the wider University. Following their quick success, the idea of the Makerspace was born to answer the need for hands-on experience. The Makerspace provides CADSoc members with easy access to technologies and helps the design of virtual models to be brought into the physical world. Understanding how to design a product ready for manufacture really is essential for effective CAD design. Providing accessible machinery to students enables more effective experimentation and skills development. Since opening in January 2020, the Makerspace has been utilised not just by CADSoc, but by various students from across the

University and the team regularly share their resources to support a wide range of projects. In just seven months, CADSoc has successfully secured funding from Autodesk, Caterpillar, the Alumni Impact Fund and the School of Engineering to develop this space. The Makerspace has also been showcased at Open Days and Offer Holder Visit Days to display the types of activities prospective students can get involved with. This unique idea is only the foundation of what is to come in future years! Most recently, and thanks to CADSoc's excellent social media presence, colleagues across the University have reached out to utilise the Makerspace in support of the University's efforts to manufacture face shields for NHS staff working on the frontline during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Science on Tap PPS: Poynting Physical Society

As part of their community-building efforts to encourage inclusivity across the School of Physics and Astronomy, PPS launched a new and very different event this year: Science on Tap. Taking inspiration from the successful national Pint of Science series, they intended to create an informal atmosphere for staff and students to better understand each other. A regular comment amongst students is that they don't know what their lecturers do beyond teaching the modules they see. Science on Tap looked to change this and educate their members, and indeed themselves, on the incredible research going on around them. Since students know very little about the many research topics going on in the School, PPS wanted to correct this and encourage a greater understanding of the groundbreaking research their lecturers are involved

with. Science on Tap was designed to do just that and invited staff to discuss their research with students in an informal setting and forge better relationships between students and staff. The event has already taken place twice, once per term, the first covering nuclear research and energy with the Birmingham Energy Society and Energy Institute and the second focusing on quantum technologies and cold atoms. Both achieved an impressive turnout of students, lecturers and postgraduates, all mingling and chatting about each other's work. What really led to Science on Tap's success was the purely social environment that allowed undergraduates to really engage in the subject and ask questions in a relaxed manner without the perceived pressure or time constraints of the lecture theatre.

## UoBe SMART Campaign BES: Birmingham Energy Society

Birmingham Energy Society (BES) set about doing something truly impactful for the University community. Led by Adrian Street, the UoBe SMART Campaign was launched. With two key objectives, the Campaign educated students on simple behavioural changes at home to save money and reduce emissions and increased the uptake of smart meters in Selly Oak. BES members volunteered countless hours in and around Selly Oak sharing information and having discussions on what they could do to help reduce excess energy use. They also released a 15-part online blog with information and energy-saving tips. This reached thousands of students and helped households save up to 580 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per year and £240 off their energy bills. Adrian spent a huge amount of time

educating students on the importance of smart meters and how to get them installed for free. BES partnered with Eon so existing student customers could get a smart meter installed via the Society with a super-fast VIP service. BES is also forming links with Bulb Energy, Octopus Energy and Ovo to create similar schemes. The Campaign has been so successful that the Guild invited BES to join Go Green Week. The Society is in talks with the University's Housing Officers to extend the Campaign into the coming academic year, providing shower timers and 'Turn Me Off!' light switch stickers. They may need to adapt their plans depending on the COVID-19 lockdown situation, but it's hoped the Campaign will reach 8,000 students and help educate on the need for responsible energy usage.



# The Great Achievement in EPS Award

This Award recognises outstanding contributions 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.

## Avery Cunningham Diversity Rep, NucSoc and oSTEM: Out in STEM

Avery has always had a passion to raise awareness and support of minority communities in STEM. He is omnipresent in the College and works tirelessly to create a community in which everyone can thrive. He's spent the last year working with oSTEM Inc. to form a second Birmingham chapter for professionals and postgraduates. For this, he won oSTEM Inc.'s highest accolade the Global STEM Service Award, and Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Guild of Students. Two of his greatest events have to be STEM LGBTQ & You, and Equal in STEM, both of which opened important conversations. He was also the

first undergraduate to run a session at the LGBTQ+ STEMinar, presenting on creating networks for academics and professionals. In the last year he has co-founded the EPS EDI Committee, set up the IOM3 LGBTQ Network, sat on the College Equality and Diversity Committee, and participated in countless panels. In the recent turbulent months, he became a Science Lead for HackQuarantine and has ramped up his efforts with the oSTEM community to ensure that while they may be apart in lockdown, no one is alone. His drive and confidence in standing for what is right makes him a huge inspiration.

## Dan Rhymer President of the Frank Morton Committee, BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering

Dan took on the mammoth task to organise the Frank Morton chemical engineering sports day at Birmingham and turned it into one of the best competitions to date! He took the initiative to submit a 40-page proposal to host the national event and expertly led a sub-committee of ten BUCES members to bring the competition back to Birmingham. Their efforts saw almost 2,000 students from 20 UK universities descend on Birmingham for the day-long competition. He and his core team plus 250

Birmingham student volunteers expertly negotiated 19 sports across multiple locations. Not only did they have to face the logistical challenge of moving so many people across the city but they also had to deal with Storm Dennis and the very early whispers of COVID-19. Dan's Frank Morton created a greater sense of community and will be remembered for many years to come. The fact that Birmingham won for the sixth year is the icing on the cake!

## Ethan Thompson President, MathSoc

Ethan has been a key component of MathSoc throughout his time at university. As a first year, he was a Student Rep, progressing in his second year to MathSoc's Volunteering Officer where he was instrumental in the Society raising more than £1,300 for St Basil's. As President, Ethan has pioneered new events, built fantastic relationships and encouraged new collaborations. He led the 2020 EPS Trophy with great organisational (and megaphone!) skills and took the lead on the Spring Ball and Prague trip, all of which were great successes. He continued his fundraising efforts by teaming up with ChemSoc to

form a UoB team for the Birmingham Running Festival and raised in excess of £5,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and personally raised £1,500 for Brain Tumour Research while training for the London Marathon. Plus, his exceptional engagement with students at the Jinan University-University of Birmingham Joint Institute will no doubt lead to a strong relationship between the two campuses. His efforts have been invaluable in encouraging staff and students to work together to enhance the Mathematics community. Ethan is a prime example of someone whose enthusiasm and drive has greatly impacted his School.

## Matthew Graham Co-Founder, Brum Eco Racing and Project Lead, Space Soc

During his time at Birmingham Matthew has founded not one, but two new societies! Brum Eco Racing formed in spring 2018 with just four members. Under Matthew's leaderships they built a fully functional car capable of competing in the Shell Eco-marathon over the Easter holiday and came in the top 30% of newcomers! He gained £4,000 in sponsorship that year and £12,000 the next. Brum Eco Racing is now 60 people strong and has the third-most fuel-efficient car in the UK. With SpaceSoc, Matthew started the main rocket project, managing design and manufacture processes. He also liaised with UKSEDS, the Midlands Rocketry Club and the University on how best to approach this task. In just ten months, SpaceSoc has a great footing having trained a 15-strong team ready for next year. Matthew

also conducts high-quality research even in his spare time and has applied his advanced programming knowledge to a huge range of projects. His room is stacked with random projects such as a piano that can play itself and compose its own music. He even made his housemate a functional prosthetic little finger! Although he doesn't study physics, he took part in the PLANCKS physics competition and performed better than the average physics student! He also spent 12 weeks at CERN on their highly competitive summer school programme, working with optics-based 3D printing. Even now, he is part of an open-source COVID response group. Matthew is involved in countless activities that highlight his knowledge and passion; his enthusiasm knows no bounds!

## Matthew Teller Co-Founder and Chair, RailSoc

Matthew has transformed the undergraduate railway student experience by founding RailSoc in his first week at Birmingham and continued to chair the Society for three years. This is an unusually long tenure and a remarkable achievement. The railway degrees only have a small number of students, but engagement with RailSoc is high, which reflects the superb quality events it organises. Matthew has created a legacy of fantastic events, industry relations and an amazing community of student and alumni members. Over a remarkably short period, Matthew has led RailSoc to organise around 50 events, ranging from industrial talks and visits to model railway socials. One of RailSoc's great successes is the fact its activities cater to interests in all aspects of railways whether it be history, heritage, industrial or job

opportunities. One of Matthew's most notable contributions has been RailSoc's close relations with the Train Planning Unit of South Western Railways, where he spent his gap year. Three more RailSoc members have gone on to work there as a result of the links Matthew has put in place. Matthew has organised a variety of high-profile events for the Society, including the annual Chasewater Railway Operations Experience Day and most recently he has started building a community of student rail and transport societies. Matthew has a bottomless tank of enthusiasm and drive for developing and raising the Society to new heights and no one has come close to challenging his position as chair because they are all quite sure that they couldn't possibly do a better job!

## Tom Goodman Secretary, CSS: Computer Science Society

Over the past five years, Tom has been a leading member of the University as a student, as staff and even as an alumnus. As a student, he's shared his exceptional knowledge through tutoring and demonstrating a range of modules and continued to build and evolve his skills in teaching. He's fostered relationships with countless societies and co-founded the EPS Community EDI Committee. He has thrice been elected President CSS and twice elected Secretary, making him the longest-serving member of the committee in their history. His leadership, tenacity and ability to inspire and coordinate others means he finds himself at the heart of hundreds of initiatives. In 2016, he founded HackTheMidlands, one of the largest creative marathons in the country and has since engaged thousands of attendees. In light of

his extensive work in the local tech community and raising more than £120,000 for his events and initiatives, he was named a finalist in the 2019 Future Face of Innovation and Technology Award and was awarded the Rising Star in Technology at the 2019 Silicon Canal Awards, both recognising him as a leading light for his work in the West Midlands and beyond. Tom is now a high-profile figure at all levels of the University, chairing School and College-level committees; sitting on Senate and as a Trustee of the Guild of Students; Vice-President of the Guild of Graduates; and even working on the 2020 virtual graduations and HackQuarantine, both in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. His dedication to the EPS Community and University is undeniable.



# Society of the Year 2019/20

This Award celebrates those societies that have pushed the boundaries and delivered more than ever before. Through outstanding events, innovative projects and activities, superb organisation and raising awareness, these societies provide an exceptional, well-rounded and inclusive experience to their members. They embody the ethos of the EPS Community.



## BES: Birmingham Energy Society

Only in its second year, the Birmingham Energy Society (BES) has truly excelled itself to smash the targets they set themselves: 1) Increase member engagement; 2) Forge industrial links; 3) Improve understanding of the need for energy reduction; 4) Increase outreach to secondary schools to inspire curiosity in pupils to discover energy and green technologies. Through holding brilliant talks and offering member perks such as personalised portable chargers, BES increased its member base from 40 members to more than 100! To provide their members with useful links to industry, BES have held inspiring networking talks with influential leaders, attended

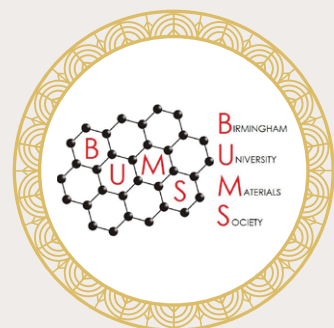
multiple conferences and set up their own careers event (Energy Insight Day) with 20 companies in search of talent. To educate about the need to reduce household energy usage and install smart meters, BES and Adrian Street successfully launched the UoBe SMART Campaign, reaching thousands of students. BES also introduced an outreach programme piloted by Allan Dos Santa in local schools. Here, he launched a renewable energy project which encourages pupils to present their own solutions to increasing the uptake of renewable energy. It has been an amazing year for BES; they have laid the foundations for an exciting future.



## BUCES: Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society

BUCES continues to gain great popularity and approval from the student body. They actively develop their community, adopting new students on their very first day and welcoming them with open arms into the BUCES Family. The Society takes great pride in ensuring they are inclusive of everyone. They offer a diverse series of activities including the Welcome Dinner and Winter Ball and are instrumental in arranging academic and career events, involving leading employers of chemical engineering students and graduates. Thanks to their strong reputation, companies are always keen to visit BUCES and are especially visible at the highly successful Industrial

Dinner. BUCES pledges to enable their members through all aspects of University life; this year's International Carnival, new alumni network and LinkedIn headshot workshop are evidence of the lengths BUCES goes to support their members. All this while also finding time to raise £2,350 for MIND and Acorns Children's Hospice, not to mention hosting one of the biggest Frank Morton competitions, growing their national reputation and winning on home turf! Most recently, they have been an effective link between students and staff, sharing resources and ensuring their members' voices are heard during the lockdown period – more proof that BUCES really does care.



## BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society

BUMS has had a hugely successful year with many great events and sporting triumphs. The Family Scheme welcomed all new students and supported their integration into student life, forming great friendships from their first day. They also held a welcome dinner for international students joining on the 2+2 Direct Entry Scheme. Events have included collaborations with oSTEM, NucSoc and the UK Magnetism Society. Their annual Careers Fair was a huge success with a variety of companies looking to recruit new talent. Spring Term

was equally as busy, with a trip to the Manufacturing Technology Centre and quiz night with the IOP. The pioneering BUMSport teams of mixed football, netball and basketball powered through their Campus Leagues and the EPS Trophy – winning both! Achievements such as these are thanks to fantastic participation with BUMSport. Their AGM moved online and gained an exceptionally high turnout, proof that no matter where BUMS members are, they still want to ensure the Society's success.



## MathSoc

Mathsoc is a vibrant, friendly, inclusive, supportive and fun Society, transforming the Maths Community. They continued their varied provision of events with notable improvements in key areas. In sport, they launched six-a-side football to increase inclusion alongside their 11-a-side team, finishing first in their league. They also attended one-day tournaments including the Christmas Netball and Men's Football tournaments. They entered three teams in the EPS Trophy football, one in the netball and won the touch rugby. The Alumni Day saw 50 graduates return for a football match and the first Away Derby with the University of Nottingham was a roaring success. The staff vs students football match brought the School together and raised hundreds of pounds for charity. Collaborative events were sought at every opportunity: two socials were held with the

Kinvig Society, a film night with BEAMS and BEMA for Black History Month and a games night with AstroSoc. MathSoc's fundraising activities were also fruitful with bucket shakes in Moseley and most significantly their collaboration with ChemSoc to form a Birmingham team for the Birmingham Running Festival, raising £5,376 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Two careers events in each term attracted several recruiters and the Spring Ball received a record 272 registrants. Plus, the Prague trip was a great success, as was the ambassadorial visit to the Jinan Joint Institute in building communities across the world. Their Family Scheme was so successful that they helped BioSoc with theirs and the Tutoring Scheme added Psychology and History to their programme. All in all, an impressive year for MathSoc!



## Plastic-Free UoB

Though they are a brand-new society, Plastic-Free UoB has made a huge impact in EPS and the University community as a whole in just a few short months. They've raised a great deal of awareness of the dangers of single-use plastic in our environment and have already amassed around 400 active members. From evening events with speakers offering great hints and tips, to clean-up activities, they've made a brilliant effort to spread their important message and garner interest from the wider student community. They already have great connections and relationships with industry and influential people, allowing them to grow further. Working with the Estates Office, they have been able to secure significant meetings with senior University staff

to discuss their aligned objectives to reduce single-use plastic on campus, increase bottle-filling points and enable cost-effective eco-friendly alternatives in catering and food outlets. They've organised two canal cleans in partnership with the Canal & River Trust, where around 40 members helped to clear more than two tonnes of waste during each session. The second clean was covered by ITV News! They also launched Bepop, a second-hand clothing platform to discourage fast fashion and offer a sustainable alternative for fancy dress costumes, gaining 4,000 members in just two days! Plastic-Free UoB's mission is to encourage students and the University to improve the environment around them. This is already proving how small changes can make a big difference.



## PPS: Poynting Physical Society

PPS has put in a phenomenal effort this year to create a well-rounded society with show-stopping events. They've managed to organise 22 events in 20 weeks with the aim of creating a programme that appealed to everyone. They've launched several new initiatives including an LGBTQ+ & Allies Talk and their first international trip to the Netherlands with 47 students including an industry visit to ESA's ESTEC facility. The new Science on Tap talks have facilitated a great opportunity for undergraduates to interact with academics and learn more about their research. PPS has entered into collaborations with many other societies with particular highlights being a charity open-mic night for the Climate Coalition with WISE and a Science on Tab with the Energy Society. Not to mention their highly successful hosting of the

2020 National Student Space Conference. As an event with over 500 attendees and 20 companies, significant relationships have been built with industry and other space students. PPS has also hosted a number of careers and internship events with national and local enterprises. Through the strength of their industry connections, PPS has gained sponsorship from four diverse companies. The popularity of PPS to the student body is clear, with an impressive AGM attendance of 92 members. They organised what would have been a record-breaking Spring Ball, selling 407 tickets and extending invitations to alumni for the first time. Sadly, this had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but the volume of registrations shows the strength of their community. PPS has made every effort to become a more inclusive and engaging society.





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