

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# School of Mechanical Engineering Community

Part of  
**THE EPS COMMUNITY**



## Summer 2014

### Greetings

As I walked across campus in July I watched crowds of our most recent graduates walking out of the Aston Webb Building proudly holding their certificates, and posing for those memorable photos with family and friends. It is a wonderful time of year, a time to celebrate all the hard work our students have put in over the last three, or four (maybe even more) years of their respective degrees.

Our academics have also been busy - as you will see from this newsletter- not only with marking hundreds of exam papers, but with their own research, including increased industrial collaboration with [Mazak](#) and [Moog](#), and [UBRacing hosting the Chinese Formula Student Champions](#).

It has been an exciting time in the School and across the College with a number of 'firsts', including the first annual [EPS Reunion](#) which took place on 14 June with over 170 alumni in attendance. We also hosted a panel event, '[Engineering a sustainable future](#)', in addition to a number of other activities in recognition of the first ever National Women in Engineering Day, celebrating women's contribution to engineering and science professions.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our first [EPS Societies' Awards](#) was held on 6 June, celebrating the fantastic achievements of our student body in delivering an exciting programme of events, projects and challenges over the course of the year as part of their involvement in our School societies. With a live student band providing entertainment and 10 highly sought-after award categories, it really was a night to remember. 3rd year student and UBRacing Technical Director James Hatherell even won Role Model of the Year!

As the final curtain falls on the 2013-14 academic year, I'd like to wish

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you all a pleasant and restful summer and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our new students in the Autumn Term. For those of you wanting to further your qualifications and relive your time at the University, you might like to consider joining one of our advanced [MSc or PhD programmes](#) in the new academic year. We have a range of offerings to suit your interests and career stage.

With best wishes,

**Duc Pham**  
Head of School  
Mechanical Engineering

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## News from the School of Mechanical Engineering

### Congratulations Class of 2014!



On behalf of all academic and support staff in the School of Mechanical Engineering, we'd like to say a huge congratulations to all our new graduates who received their degree certifications earlier in July after lots of hard work and dedication! [Read more.](#)

### 'A great day was had by all'



On Saturday 14 June 2014 we welcomed alumni from across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences back to the University for a special day of celebrations and activities with fellow classmates and staff. Over 170 alumni and guests from as far back as 1946 up to our 2013 graduates attended this annual College Reunion, which was open to all graduating years for the very first time. Read about the day and access photographs [here.](#)

### Mechanical Engineering: Better by Design



Professor Duc Pham, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, discusses what distinguishes mechanical engineering from other engineering disciplines for CMM International. [Read more.](#)

### New machine tools from Mazak boost research collaboration and teaching in manufacturing



The School of Mechanical Engineering recently took delivery of two brand new, state-of-the-art machine tools from Yamazaki Mazak UK. The provision further strengthens the long established relationship between the University and Mazak, who already provide significant support to UBRacing. [Read more.](#)

### UBRacing at Formula Student 2014



2014 marked the 17th year of UBRacing and saw the team attend the 16th Formula Student UK competition. Out of 97 competing student teams in the Class 1 events, UBRacing

## University of Birmingham launches the Rocketry Society



The University of Birmingham Rocketry Society (UBRS) is the newest and most explosive EPS group yet! Dan Lockett, Maths student and Deputy Director-General, [tells us more](#).

## EPS Societies' Awards



On Friday 6 June 2014 the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences celebrated the achievements of our student societies with the first ever EPS Societies' Awards. We have a strong tradition of outstanding educational success; from public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula Student cars with UBRacing, the societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote careers opportunities, industrial visits and, of course, social events. Organising committee member and Mechanical Engineering student Daisy Partlow tells us about the night [here](#). Winners, nominations and photographs are also available on our [website](#).

## Formula Student Team from Hefei University of Technology, China visit UBRacing at Birmingham



The University's Formula Student racing team recently hosted the Chinese Formula Student Champions and collaboration partners Hefei University of Technology (HFUT). HFUT were crowned Champions of the Chinese competition in March and were invited to participate in the UK version of Formula Student by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. [Read more](#).

## National Women in Engineering Day celebrated at the University



In celebration of the UK's first ever National Women in Engineering Day on 23 June 2014, the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences organised a programme of events and activities, including a panel event discussing 'Engineering a sustainable future' with leading female engineers and academics. View interviews and videos from the day [here](#).

## Industrial teaching collaboration in Mechanical Engineering



Within the Mechanical Design B module offered to Year 3 Mechanical Engineering students Dr. Mozafar Saadat, Senior Lecturer and module co-ordinator, collaborated with Moog Controls Ltd, part of the global company Moog Aerospace in order to enrich the students' design learning experience by providing an industrially relevant case study and real-life engineering experience. [Read more](#).

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## New staff in 2014

There have been a number of appointments in the School this term. [Read a summary of our new staff online here](#).

## Your School needs you...

We're currently looking for help and support from alumni with the following:

- EPS Open Days, [13 September and 18 October 2014](#). Could you donate a couple of hours of your time to pop back to your old school and speak to our prospective students about your time at Birmingham? For more information and to get involved [email us](#)
- Work experience placements are invaluable for our students, allowing them to learn about the world of work first-hand and apply their knowledge in a real-life setting. If you work in industry and think you could offer a work experience placement to our undergraduate or postgraduate students, please [email us](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. Please [email us](#) if you would like to get involved and we'll be happy to talk to you.

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## Events taking place shortly...

### College and School events

#### **EPS Inaugural Lecture Series**

For more information on other lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural)

**Monday 22 – Saturday 27 September 2014**

#### ***Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann***

*Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann brings to life the passion, drama and suffering of one long-forgotten scientist of the 19th Century. Join Ludwig Boltzmann in his battle to save the dying theory of atoms, his equation and so his career in a hostile scientific environment.*

**Venue:** Cadbury Room, St Francis Hall, Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/eps/events/Trusting-Atoms.aspx>

**Thursday 6 November 2014**

#### ***EPS Distinguished Lecture: Professor Paul Cannon***

*Minor explosive eruptions of energy from the Sun that cause small solar storms on Earth are relatively common events. In contrast, extremely large events (superstorms) only occur very occasionally – perhaps once every century or two. Since the start of the space age, there has been no true solar-superstorm, but there have been a number of large storms and some of these have caused major technological damage, for example the partial collapse of the Canadian electricity grid in 1989*

**Venue:** EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Nov14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Nov14)

**Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December 2014**

#### ***International Conference on High Speed Rail - 8th-10th December 2014***

*2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan. The University of Birmingham is marking this historic occasion by holding an international conference on High Speed Rail*

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

[highspeedrail64@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:highspeedrail64@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

**Wednesday 10 December 2014**

#### ***EPS Christmas Lecture – Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE***

*Please join us to hear from Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Presenter of The Life Scientific on Radio 4, British scientist, author and broadcaster as he delivers the inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture*

**Venue:** The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

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

**March 2015**

#### ***EPS Distinguished Lecture: Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna***

*Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna is the Director of the Center for Nanofibers & Nanotechnology at the National University of Singapore*

**Venue:** EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Mar15](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Mar15)

**Tuesday 9 June 2015**

#### ***EPS Societies' Awards Night***

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/societies-awards-2015](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/societies-awards-2015)

**Saturday 20 June 2015**

**EPS Alumni Reunion**

*As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences (EPS), you are invited back to campus for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham*

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/epsreunion2015](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/epsreunion2015)

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**University events**

**Saturday 6 – Thursday 11 September 2014**

**British Science Festival 2014**

*The British Science Festival celebrates all things scientific and will be hosted by the University of Birmingham in September 2014. Organised by the British Science Association, the event offers something for everyone*

**Venue:** Birmingham City Centre and Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/british-science-festival/index.aspx>

**Thursday 11 September 2014**

**Alumni Reception at the British Science Festival**

*Join fellow alumni for drinks and nibbles on the final day of the British Science Festival.*

**Venue:** Marquee, Chancellors Court, University of Birmingham

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/BSF-Alumni.aspx>

**Saturday 13 September 2014**

**GGAA 2014 Forum & AGM**

*Join members of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA) for their 2014 Forum and AGM. This year's speaker is the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe.*

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/GGAA-2014-Forum--AGM.aspx>

**Saturday 13 September 2014**

**Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion**

*Alumni who graduated in 1964 or before are welcome to join for a special reunion lunch*

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/Golden50th-Anniversary-Reunion---13-September-2014-.aspx>

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**Do we have the right details for you?**

Please visit [your.bham](http://your.bham) or email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

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