

## Department of Civil Engineering Community

Part of  
**THE EPS COMMUNITY**



### Spring 2017

Welcome to our latest Civil Engineering Alumni newsletter and a big hello from me as the new Head of Civil Engineering. It's been a very busy and eventful year with the new School of Engineering bedding in and the refurbishment of our teaching labs (please come and see them at the Geo60 event) and a £27 million joint investment by the UK government and the University in the National Buried Infrastructure Facility on campus – exciting times indeed. We are exclusively highlighting our Infrastructure Heroes to you, our alumni, as we know many of you will have fond memories of labs and classes given by them – skills which I'm sure have served you well. This is indeed breaking news we are sharing with you as we will not be showcasing their research publically until Monday 8 May.

This leads me to the Geotechnical Engineering 60th Anniversary event, 'Geo60'. We are celebrating 60 years of Geotechnical Engineering (formerly the MSc Foundation Engineering) at the University and in the morning we will hold a special Alumni Reunion where you can tour the Civil Engineering buildings and laboratories, meeting your former lecturers along the way. We have a fantastic programme of talks in the afternoon with some of the industry's most respected professionals presenting their views on the past (and future) of civil engineering. Don't miss the opportunity to tour the newly refurbished Lapworth Museum of Geology, one of Britain's most outstanding geological collections and shortlisted for the 2017 Museum of the Year.

I am delighted to take on the role of Head of Civil Engineering and look forward to meeting all of our alumni at events over the coming year. Looking back over 60 years of uninterrupted Geotechnical Engineering teaching and research at the University makes me realise how important our past University of Birmingham students are and how much influence they have had on our society – something for us to celebrate and long may it continue...

With best wishes

**Professor Nigel Cassidy**

**Professor of Geotechnical Infrastructure Engineering**

**Head of Civil Engineering**

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

# WE ARE PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE CITIES

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
TO RELIEVE THE STRESS OF URBAN LIFE



## New Birmingham Heroes

How we live in cities – from the way we heat our houses and how we travel – impacts on the environment in which we live and our quality of life: air quality, congestion, stress levels. Professor Chris Rogers discusses the impact on our everyday lives.

[\*\*FIND OUT MORE >\*\*](#)



## Smartphones and train comfort

Passengers could soon be using their mobile phones to help rail companies around the globe improve the ride quality and comfort of their train journeys, thanks to a new smartphone application researched and developed at the University.

[\*\*FIND OUT MORE >\*\*](#)

# WE ARE BIRMINGHAM

Our 300,000 alumni all share one thing in common: the University of Birmingham. From recent graduates to industry experts, aspiring leaders to inspirational movers and shakers, Birmingham alumni are making important things happen. Join the "We Are Birmingham" project and share your story with our students. Your can inspire our students and offer an insight into the wealth of opportunities available to them. Plus, anyone who submits a profile before 1 July will be automatically entered into a draw to win a BrumBag full of University merchandise. Share your Birmingham story and help shape their future.

[SUBMIT YOUR WE ARE BIRMINGHAM PROFILE >](#)



## Alumni Spotlight

Jinliang Zhu (MSc Construction Management 2007) tells us about life after graduation, including working as a Bridge Engineer for CH2M.

If you would like to share your story we would love to hear from you.

Simply fill complete our [online career profile form](#) or [email us](#) to tell us more.



## Microvolunteering

On Saturday 15 April we marked Microvolunteering Day with a range of bite-size activities that support the University in 15 minutes or less. Thank you to those who volunteered. If you didn't but would like to, there's still time!

In Civil Engineering we'd particularly like your [feedback on our academic provision for engineering students](#).

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## Celebrating 60 years of Geotechnical Engineering

We are delighted to announce that the Geotechnical Engineering Masters degree programmes (formerly the MSc Foundation Engineering) are celebrating their 60th year. For six decades years without interruption, Geotechnical Engineering has been taught at the highest level at the University of Birmingham. To mark this notable achievement, on Saturday 17 June 2017 the University will host Geo60; an alumni reunion and celebration of the programme's illustrious 60 years. All alumni of the programme, along with those working in the sector, friends of the course and other interested persons, are invited to join the festivities.



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### Societies News

There are now six student societies affiliated with the Civil Engineering: [CivSoc](#), [EWB: Birmingham](#), [Engineering Rugby](#), [WISE](#), [oSTEM](#) and [SATNAV](#). It's been a busy year with many events, careers activities, sporting competitions and new committees, so there's plenty to update you on.



### EPS Societies' Awards 2017

Were you a member of a student society? Wish you had been? Or have you been impressed reading about the activities of our [current student groups](#)? Why not nominate them for a Societies' Award?

These Awards celebrate the lengths

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 25 student societies. Each does fantastic work to promote employment opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

to which our students go to make the University a better place to work and play. Join our celebrations by nominating your society. Maybe your former society will win the much coveted *Society of the Year* trophy. They need your help!

[NOMINATE >](#)

## News Round-Up

Academic colleagues recently discussed the need for reducing the risk of undetected buried pipes and cables in order to increase safety when carrying out any ground investigations with engineering professionals.

George Tuckwell, Divisional Director for Geoscience and Engineering at RSK, has accepted an Honorary Professorship.

Ten years ago in the United Arab Emirates, a new settlement was started from scratch, with the aim of becoming "the world's most sustainable city". Masdar City was designed to be zero-carbon and zero-waste, home to a population of 40,000 people, with an additional 50,000 commuters, in an area of six square kilometres. Today, it's playing a crucial role in the development of sustainable design and technology.

Britain's railway is facing a dramatic increase in the cost of dealing with extreme weather over coming decades unless it starts taking pre-emptive action now, according to new research.

The scale of the challenge facing civil engineers is clear and has significant impact – how to develop a sustainable drainage strategy for cities of the future.

Landmark signing provides boost to Birmingham Life Sciences.

Osman Kent, alumnus and serial entrepreneur, delivered the latest EPS Distinguished Lecture entitled "Success gives you the credibility to talk about your failures".

**We'd like to hear your feedback on our academic provision for engineering students.**

The School of Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre is considering the skills that we believe should guide the development of our academic provision for students. We have developed a questionnaire for all stakeholders, including alumni, to effect the necessary curriculum change and deliver quality graduates. Against 17 questions, each describing a

specific skill, we ask you “to what level did we equip you with this skill?”. This is for us to ascertain how much emphasis we place in our programmes on developing this skill in relation to others. Please help us shape our curriculum by completing our [questionnaire](#).

## Events

### Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 May

#### Pint of Science

Leading University of Birmingham academics will be speaking about their cutting-edge research. We aim to bring some of the most brilliant scientists to discuss their latest findings with you. You don't have to have any previous scientific knowledge or training, and this is your chance to meet the people responsible for the future of science.

**Venue:** Various locations across Birmingham City Centre

### Wednesday 17 May

#### Birmingham - Fraunhofer Joint Research Platform Launch

The University of Birmingham is set to host the Birmingham – Fraunhofer Joint Research Platform Launch to establish closer ties with cutting-edge renewable energy technology in the UK and Europe.

**Time:** 9am-7:30pm

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

### Thursday 25 May

#### Clark Lecture 2017: Affordable Railway Infrastructure for the 21st Century

The Department of Civil Engineering is delighted to invite students, staff and members of the public to the annual Clark Lecture. This year, the high-profile lecture is being delivered by Professor William Powrie.

**Time:** 5:15-7pm

**Venue:** Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building, University of Birmingham

### Wednesday 7 June

#### EPS Societies' Awards

Celebrate with your student society as we recognise their extraordinary achievements with a gala, black-tie evening.

**Time:** 7pm-11pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### Saturday 17 June

#### UBRacing 20th Anniversary

Team members past and present, and motor sport enthusiasts are invited to join UBRacing in marking their 20th birthday and two decades of Formula Student at Birmingham. Join us for an afternoon of celebrations, take a peek at the 2017 car and be prepared for a few surprises.

**Time:** 1:30-6pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### **Saturday 17 June**

#### **Geotechnical Engineering 60th Anniversary Reunion**

We are delighted to announce that the Geotechnical Engineering masters degree programmes are celebrating their 60th year. To celebrate this notable achievement the University will host Geo60, a celebration and reunion of the programme to which all alumni and interested persons are invited to attend.

**Time:** 9:30am-5pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### **Wednesday 28 June**

#### **Mathematics Taster Day**

The School of Mathematics holds a Mathematics Taster Day for Year 12 pupils in the second half of the summer term. As well as information on studying mathematics at Birmingham, the day will include two sample lectures, a tour of campus and an interactive mathematics session.

**Time:** 9:30am-3:30pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### **Tuesday 4 July**

#### **Engineering Taster Day**

Our Engineering Taster Day is for Year 12 pupils who are thinking about applying to university to study an engineering degree. The day will consist of an introductory talk, a tour of campus, a subject fair and an interactive workshop.

**Time:** 9:30am-3:30pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### **Sunday 16 - Thursday 20 July**

#### **IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics**

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) is delighted to announce that the 6th conference in this series will be hosted by Birmingham, UK. Organised in partnership with the Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Warwick, the Conference will foster the participation of women in physics and increase diversity in the field.

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

### **Wednesday 20 September**

#### **London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures**

We are proud to begin the 2017/18 Birmingham Popular Mathematics Lecture series with the London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures, which are suitable for all who have an interest in Mathematics, and present exciting topics in mathematics and its applications. In this first event of the new academic year, David Tong (University of Cambridge) and Jason Lotay (University College London) will be speaking.

**Time:** 6:30-9pm

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

**Saturday 30 September**

**University of Birmingham Alumni Reunion**

Join us for the big Anniversary Reunion on Saturday 30 September 2017. Whether you're celebrating your 50th anniversary or your 1st anniversary, come back to the Edgbaston campus and celebrate your University with staff, students and fellow alumni.

**Time:** 10am-5pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus



**You are in control of your data. We want to stay in touch with you and keep your information in accordance with your wishes.** You will be kept updated with news from our campus, including research, educational activities and courses, events, alumni activities, and opportunities to support our fundraising. Depending on [your preferences](#), you will receive communications via post, email, telephone and social media. We would like to ensure that our interactions with you are appropriate and cost-effective. We will pay attention to your responses (including e-tracking) and, from time to time, may use your data for profiling, targeting, and research purposes. Your information will be [held securely](#) by the University of Birmingham and will only be made available to our academic & administrative departments, recognised alumni groups, and trusted agents acting on behalf of the University. Information on how your data is held and used is set out in our [Data Protection Statement](#). If you wish to opt-out of any contact or have any questions about your personal data, please [contact the alumni office](#). For reference, our Inland Revenue Charities reference number is X7237.