

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Department of Civil Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2018

Welcome to our latest Civil Engineering alumni newsletter. It's been a very exciting and eventful year across the School of Engineering with plenty of new developments on campus to tell you about. For me, the highlight of the year was the University being awarded the [Queen's Anniversary Prize](#) for Higher Education for the Birmingham Centre Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) - see later in this edition. We have the largest university-based centre for railway research and education in Europe and are proud to lead the newly-created [UK Railway Research and Innovation Network \(UKRRIN\)](#); a £92 million national research partnership between the rail supply industry and eight world-leading universities. The UKRRIN centre builds on our multi-disciplinary research strengths in railway control and simulation, data integration, cybersecurity, condition monitoring and sensing. This new venture reflects the rapidly changing nature of engineering, not only in the UK but across the world, and I'm delighted to say that we are leading the way in the field of Railway-related education and research.

This is not the only exciting new development for Engineering across the University. Earlier this year, the University formally announced its commitment to a [new research and education building](#) for the School of Engineering to be built at the heart of the western zone of the campus. This significant investment in will ensure that Engineering, as a discipline, is at the forefront of the University's long-term future and will provide students, staff and researchers in the School of Engineering state-of-the art facilities for educational and research. Please have a look at the fly-through video of the new building. It's a fantastic facility and one I'm very much looking forward to working in.

These are just two of the year's highlights and I'm sure you will agree that the future for

Civil Engineering at Birmingham (and Engineering as a whole) is very bright. Please come and join us at annual [Alumni Reunion](#) later in the year where we will be able to update you on these (and many other) exciting new developments. I look forward to seeing you all there and thank you for being part of our alumni community.

With best wishes,

Professor Nigel Cassidy

Head of Department



New Engineering Building

Work has begun on a new School of Engineering building, due for completion in 2020. It will bring together many engineering disciplines into one state-of-the-art building. The new building will provide different and more flexible ways of working that will use the space to its best advantage.

[WATCH THE FLY-THROUGH >](#)



Queen's Anniversary Prize for railways

Birmingham Centre for Railways Research and Education has been awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for its contribution to making our railways safer and more efficient.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

Understanding and reducing lodging

With climate change creating more extreme weather and a growing world population, it is vital that we develop sustainable ways of improving the resilience and productivity of staple crops such as maize and rice.

[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 leaders, you are making important things happen. Join the "We Are Birmingham" project and share your story with those following in your footsteps. You can inspire our students and offer an insight into the vast array of opportunities waiting for them; whatever you're doing, they want to hear from you. Plus, anyone who submits a profile before 1 July will be entered into a draw to win a hoard of University merchandise. Share your Birmingham story and help shape their future.

[SHARE YOUR CAREER STORY >](#)



**GIVE.
VOLUNTEER.**
**CHANGE
10,000 LIVES.**

Alumni spotlight

[Molly](#) (left) and [Joanna](#) (right) both graduated in 2015 and are both passionate about encouraging young people into engineering. They reflect on their student days and offer an insight into their careers.

To share your story simply fill complete a [career profile](#) or [email us](#). We'd love to hear from you.

[SHARE YOUR STORY >](#)

Get involved

Since the 10,000 Lives campaign launched in September, alumni and friends of the University have changed the lives of 1,062 young people. 200 of these are students in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences!

Will you step forward and change a life?

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

University Reunion 2018

The Alumni Reunion 2018 is a great opportunity to rediscover what made Birmingham "home" for you and renew your lifelong connection to this special place. Reconnect with friends and classmates and see how Birmingham has grown into the university it is today. Join us for a day of celebrations including campus tours, stress-free lectures, a chance to visit some of the latest additions to campus such as the new Library, Sports Centre and Collaborative Teaching Laboratories, and plenty of time to reminisce. In the morning you will visit us in Civil Engineering and hear how we have changed since you were last with us. You never know there may be some familiar faces there with you!



[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Society news: new groups for 2017/18!

There are now eight student groups in Civil Engineering: [CivSoc](#), [EWB: Birmingham](#), [Engineering Rugby](#), [WISE](#), [oSTEM](#), [SATNAV](#), and new [Cameroon Catalyst](#) and [RailSoc](#).

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 29 societies. It's been an amazing year of careers activities, volunteering, competitions and, of course, social events so there's plenty to tell you.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



EPS Societies' Awards 2018

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

These Awards celebrate the lengths our students go to make the University a better place. Join our celebrations by nominating your society; maybe they'll win the much coveted *Society of the Year* trophy.

[NOMINATE >](#)

News Round-Up

Professor David Phillips, alumnus and Past President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, delivered the latest [EPS Distinguished Lecture entitled "Light Up Your Life"](#).

Construction work has begun on the [new National Buried Infrastructure Facility](#).

After a generous donation from a University of Birmingham alumnus we are delighted to announce the [T.E.H. Scholarship](#), a new postgraduate award for 2018 entry.

[New scholarships](#) available for Masters of Railway Systems Integration.

[Journey through the underworld](#) with Professor David Chapman's inaugural lecture.

The University has signed an agreement with the University of Science and Technology Beijing to create [new education programmes for Chinese students](#).

Civil Engineering researchers recognised for their [collaborative approach to transform how buried infrastructure is managed](#).

Research has identified new ways of [reducing noise, vibration](#) and other environmental impacts associated with railway systems.

Five PhD students from the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education spent the evening [celebrating Chinese New Year with British Prime Minister](#), Theresa May, at 10 Downing Street.

Broadcaster, journalist and University honorary graduate [Simon Singh delivered the 2017 EPS Christmas Lecture](#). Our scientific journalistic society SATNAV interviewed him during his visit.

From the many inspiring research projects across the University, we've selected three that have the potential to change lives. Which one is your favourite? [Vote for the project you're passionate about](#) and the University will fundraise for the winner over the next year.

Events

A full list of alumni events, including Reunions and Global Gatherings, is available [online](#). Here are just a few events coming up in Civil Engineering and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences:

Wednesday 6 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: Great Hall, University of Birmingham

Wednesday 4 - Saturday 7 July

[5th UK-CN Steel Research Forum](#)

The UK-China Steel Research Forum is a well-established biennial academic conference for steel researchers across the UK and China, with support from major steel-making companies, steel research institutions and research funding bodies from both countries. This year's conference will be held in conjunction with the 16th Conference of Chinese Materials Association in the UK on Materials Science and Engineering.

Wednesday 19 September

[London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures](#)

We are proud to begin the 2018/19 Birmingham Popular Mathematics Lecture series with the London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures, which are suitable for all who have an interest in Mathematics, presenting exciting topics in mathematics and its applications.

This year Katie Steckles (Maths's Greatest Unsolved Puzzles) and Jennifer Rogers (Risky Business) will be speaking

Time: 6:30-9pm

Venue: Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

Saturday 29 September

[University of Birmingham Alumni Reunion](#)

Join us for the big Anniversary Reunion on Saturday 29 September 2018. Whether you're celebrating your 50th anniversary or your 5th anniversary, come back to the Edgbaston campus and celebrate your University with staff, students and fellow alumni.

Time: 10am-5pm

Venue: University of Birmingham, 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 and volunteering programmes. Depending on [your preferences](#), you will receive communications via post, email, telephone, SMS text messages, 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, wealth screening, 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. We will never sell your personal data or share it for non-University of Birmingham programmes. If you decide to donate to the University, you can choose whether to give anonymously or be recognised on our Donor Rolle of Honour. Information on how your data is held and used is set out in our Data Protection Statement at www.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection. If you wish to opt-out of any contact or have any questions about your personal data, please contact Luke McGarrity on L.McGarrity@bham.ac.uk. Our Inland Revenue Charities reference number is X7237.