



Fingerprint for the future

The research revolution that marries technology and mathematics with biology to make personalised medicine a reality.

Imagine if you could remove any element of guesswork in medical treatment. If, instead of doctors having to experiment with different drugs and dosages to determine the best course of action, there could be a guarantee of the right medicine for each individual patient.

That is just one application of a major new research initiative at the University, bringing together experts in Biosciences, Mathematics, Computer Science and Medicine to improve disease diagnosis and treatment worldwide.

Systems Science for Health (SSFH) uses technologies known as 'omics' to measure concentrations of molecules in blood and tissues. The pattern, or 'fingerprint', of these molecules can then be used to learn about cells' health.

These techniques produce such huge amounts of data that bioscientists need mathematicians and computer scientists to help to organise and analyse it, creating information which can be used by medical professionals in real clinical situations.

'This is quite simply a revolution in terms of biosciences so it is very exciting,' says Professor Kevin Chipman, Head of the School of Biosciences. 'The diverse expertise and cutting-edge technology we have at the University is backed by a world-class clinical trials unit; a large, diverse local population, and the new super hospital opening in 2010. Having all these elements together makes us unique and we are aiming to build on this platform to become world leaders in the field.'

Some of the different elements involved in SSFH are brought together through the Centre for Systems Biology (CSB), an interdisciplinary research centre allowing colleagues to work closely together. An investment of £1 million – part of a raft of investment in areas of outstanding research at the University – will create ten new research posts this year and next, initially focused on cancer (specifically blood cancers), obesity and inflammation.

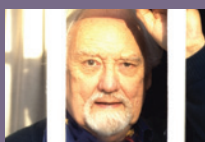
'This system gives us a much more complete understanding of cells' health which helps hugely in diagnosis and treatment,' says



Professor Paul Moss, Head of the School of Cancer Sciences. 'All patients are different, as are all diseases, and this allows us to characterise this in much more detail and precisely treat the individual.'

'There are obvious major benefits to patients but there are also serious advantages for medical professionals. Confirming the right drug combination and dosage quickly and accurately saves time and money and improves treatment outcomes, thereby benefiting the entire healthcare system.'

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The reluctant
Archer's legacy

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gathers pace

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A life less
ordinary

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The first word

Excellence will prevail in the face of cuts



As Britain became the last of the G7 nations to emerge from recession at the end of 2009, the muted celebrations took on a further pallor for the country's universities.

Higher education funding cuts of more than £500 million are casting a long shadow over the sector's immediate future, with the spectre of further cuts looming large. If government plans reach fruition, universities will lose almost £1 billion over the next three years, in the context of record increases in student applications.

But, standing sentry against the seemingly all-pervading gloom, we have an ambitious strategy to save, earn and invest – always with an unwavering focus on sustainable excellence.

Investing in areas of research where the University excels and could excel further, we will create 100 posts in projects including globally significant infectious diseases, brain injury rehabilitation and nuclear energy.

Our £60 million Circles of Influence fundraising campaign is closely linked with this investment. It will help the University make a real and lasting impact on global health and lifestyle, society, heritage and culture, and provide opportunity to the leaders of tomorrow.

To tackle our significant funding reductions, we will need to save £10 million and earn £10 million more per year. This will be achieved through increased income from postgraduate recruitment and research grants, alongside savings addressing underperformance in some areas. These decisions are not painless, but surely necessary to achieve our goal of being in the top 50 universities globally by 2015.

All our investment decisions will be intrinsically linked to our intention to attract outstanding staff and students, regardless of their personal circumstances, increase our research funding and significance, and deliver an excellent educational experience.

In the wake of the General Election results, higher education funding will undoubtedly return to the spotlight but whatever lies in store we will remain, as ever, resolute in our continuing pursuit of excellence.

Professor David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor

Socialise online with alumni groups

To help stay in touch with past students, the Alumni Office now has official groups on international networking websites LinkedIn and Facebook.

Using social media as a tool for networking is becoming a popular way for professionals to exchange information, ideas and opportunities with one another.

Dr Russell Beale, of the School of Computer Science, says: 'What used to be called networking, and in fact was someone sending you something you didn't need or want and couldn't do much with either way, is now a platform for discourse and debate, providing opportunity and value.'

To become a member of these fast-growing groups, register for free at www.linkedin.com and search for the University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends group. You can also register for free at www.facebook.com and join the University of Birmingham Alumni Office group.



Keep in touch with your University

Contact Rebecca Kilcullen or Jo Clark, Alumni Communications Officers
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 2789
Email: alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Post: Development and Alumni Relations Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, England

The views and opinions expressed in the UB Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Alumni Office or the University of Birmingham. If you have difficulties reading any part of this publication, please contact us to request a plain text version.

Magazine competition winners

Congratulations to the two winners of the 2009 Birmingham Magazine competitions. Patricia Winder (BSocSc Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1970) solved our Sudoku challenge and John Nurcombe (MSc Pure Mathematics, 1978) won the crossword competition. Both winners will receive University merchandise.





Football experts: Alumna Celina Hinchcliffe and the former France international and World Cup winner Marcel Desailly broadcasting in Germany at the last World Cup

'In my view, it's easy to criticise the commercialism involved but the World Cup provides excitement for many people around the globe.'



On the ball: (l-r) Alumnus David Gill, Birmingham Business School Director David Dickinson and Professor John Samuels

The wonder of the World Cup

Football fans all over the world are looking forward to the World Cup this summer and the competition raises many questions. What will the championship mean for its host country South Africa, has it become too commercialised and what are the England team's chances?

We selected a team of experts from our alumni and academic communities to provide some answers.

South African-born Dr Keith Shear, a lecturer in the School of History and Cultures, believes the competition provides a great opportunity for the country to position itself as a premier tourist destination and a place where people can do business.

'A lot of hope has been placed on the 2010 World Cup as a feel good moment to indicate the country is recovering from the economic downturn,' he says.

Ticket sales for the event have been affected by fans' security concerns, heightened by the attack on the Togo team during the African Cup of Nations, but Dr Shear believes they should not be too worried if they are sensible and aware of their surroundings.

'The government and FIFA are very aware of security because the reputation of the country is at stake. They're doing everything they can.'

Birmingham Business School Professor John Samuels (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1972), author of *The Globalisation of Football*, says poor ticket sales will not be a disaster for the competition as it is mainly a television event.

'The current FIFA president Sepp Blatter has been in charge for 12 years and has built the championship into a massive commercial business event with global appeal for advertisers,' he says.

'In my view, it's easy to criticise the commercialism involved but the World Cup provides excitement for many people around the globe.'

And what of the England team's chances? BBC sports broadcaster Celina Hinchcliffe (BA Drama and English, 1997) doesn't think the controversy surrounding John Terry (recently stripped of the England captaincy) will affect the team's performance on the pitch. 'Terry will play his heart out and the team has plenty of leaders on the field but I think there are weaknesses in the spine of the team. The new captain Rio Ferdinand is looking vulnerable, as is Ashley Cole, and we don't have a regular goal keeper,' she says.

For Celina, the England manager Fabio Capello may be the key to England's success. 'Fabio Capello has brought back discipline to the team. He has an incredible presence and the players know who's boss,' she adds.

Manchester United Chief Executive David Gill (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1978) agrees that Capello has had a positive effect. 'I think England has a very good chance. When it comes to other countries, Sir Alex Ferguson is a much better authority on these matters and rates Brazil and Spain. However, it wouldn't surprise me if something unexpected happens and that's the great thing about the competition,' he says.

'A lot of hope has been placed on the 2010 World Cup as a feel good moment to indicate South Africa is recovering from the economic downturn.'

Continued from front cover.

The critical link that enables the initial mass of data to be transformed into meaningful information lies in Mathematics and Computer Science. 'Our role is to enable our colleagues in Biosciences to access and understand the data they are creating, making it usable for our clinical colleagues,' says Professor Steve Decent, Head of the School of Mathematics. 'SSFH only works because of this collaborative approach so it is this new way of thinking, alongside the new technologies, that has created this shift in translational biomedical research.'

SSFH also has important environmental applications and, as the only national metabolomics facility funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the University is already making a major international contribution in this area. Biosciences' Dr Mark Viant explains: 'In this instance, you remove the clinical questions and replace them with questions about the health of living organisms in the natural environment instead. This helps us understand everything from their responses to environmental pollutants to the impact of climate change.'

Professor Chipman adds: 'SSFH represents a major step forward in both biological and mathematical science, allowing us to use a truly integrative approach. The potential benefits are far-reaching and we plan on leading the way.'

To find out more about SSFH, visit www.ssfh.bham.ac.uk. To find out more about research excellence at Birmingham, turn to pages 8–9.

If you are interested in supporting SSFH at Birmingham, please contact Matt Mangan, Deputy Head of Major Gifts, via +44 (0)121 414 8640 or m.a.mangan@bham.ac.uk



Tailored: Personalised medicine could become a reality

The reluctant Archer's legacy

Original sound recordings of the long-running BBC radio serial *The Archers* have been bequeathed to the University by one of its most popular stars.

Norman Painting (BA English, 1946; DUniv 1988), who died aged 85 in October 2009, left the recordings to Special Collections, along with scripts, books, papers and letters from his unique life. Film of his very early television appearances and personal letters from the author J.R.R. Tolkien are among the extraordinary items the legacy includes.

Special Collections is now working with the BBC to find a way of making the archive accessible, as well as discussing collaborative opportunities to commemorate Norman's life and work.

Vanessa Whitburn, Editor of *The Archers*, says: 'Norman was particularly proud of his connection with the University of Birmingham, and spoke often and with enormous affection of his time there. I believe it is particularly appropriate that he chose the University to ensure his important archive is preserved for future generations. His contribution to *The Archers* and to broadcasting in general over six decades was enormous and millions of listeners will remember him with gratitude and huge affection.'

Norman first began acting as a student at Birmingham during the Second World War. The son of a railwayman, he funded his studies by working as a fire watcher in return for bed and board. After achieving a first, he won a research scholarship to Oxford, where he joined the drama society. He was eventually

persuaded to leave academia for television and write, produce and act for the BBC's light programmes department.

The world's longest-serving actor in a single role, Norman played patriarch farmer Phil Archer without a break from *The Archers'* trial run in 1950, writing more than 1,000 scripts for the series between 1966 and 1982. However, he never felt that close to Phil and once told a friend that he was a reluctant Archer (the title of his 1982 autobiography) until he realised the programme had become a national treasure. He did not let his *Archers* role define him, appearing in, and writing for, a variety of television and radio programmes. Passionate about music, he played the organ and had a large record collection. He was also a supporter of several charities including the Tree Council and Age Concern.

Norman's memorial service will be on Thursday 27 May in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London. To arrange to attend, please contact ddinahg@supanet.com

To find out more about leaving a legacy to Birmingham, call Martha Cass on +44 (0)121 414 4679.

Special Collections will be moving to its new purpose-built home in the Cadbury Research Library during summer 2010. Learn more at www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk



A memorable voice: Norman Painting

Well-travelled reads

Books from around the world have found a new home at Birmingham after the English Speaking Union donated 9,000 titles to the Department of American and Canadian Studies.

About 7,000 of the books were acquired through a transatlantic book exchange programme called 'Books Across the Sea', started during the Second World War to

counter the loss of transatlantic trade in books due to U-boat shipping losses and pressure on cargo space for more strategic goods. A key figure in developing the programme was poet and playwright T.S. Eliot.

The important collection includes novels, poetry collections and books of literary and cultural criticism, and will be housed in the Special Collections department of the University's library.



Innovative: Alumnus Andrew Teverson with the Stage Bus

Music in motion

Combining a double-decker bus with a stage sounds like the kind of hair-brained scheme more suited to a cartoon than reality. Entrepreneur Andrew Teverson (BEng Mechanical Engineering, 2006) has made a success of this unusual business idea with The Stage Bus, a former Travel West Midlands bus which can be converted into an outdoor stage for audiences of up to 3,000 people.

Since Andrew first got on board in 2007, The Stage Bus has been used at events including Glastonbury Festival and the Alchemy Festival at London's Southbank Centre, his turnover has doubled each year and he has just taken on a full-time member of staff.

'Ever since I was a child, I've always wanted to own a double-decker bus. The best thing about the job is if I'm doing my work properly, people are having a good time,' he says.

Andrew had the idea for The Stage Bus when driving back to Birmingham from his parents' house in Essex. He produced the designs and did the initial planning as part of his Mechanical Engineering degree, starting the business as soon as he graduated.

The bus had previously travelled the Birmingham to Coventry intercity route among others (Andrew jokes it has more than three million miles on the clock) and took about six months for a small workshop to renovate. He then fitted a professional sound and lighting rig himself with help from friends and family. The completed stage can be deployed or packed away in under two hours with just two crew members.

Support came from the University's Entrepreneurship and Innovation team (EI), who found him a business mentor and signed him up to the SPEED (Student Placements for Entrepreneurs in Education) programme, which

ensured he received a start-up grant and help with publicity.

Before the summer festival season begins, Andrew is finishing converting the top deck of the bus into living quarters with a kitchen and bunk beds so the crew can live above the stage. His future plans for the business include putting a stage on the back of a Bedford MJ Army lorry. 'At least it'll be able to pull the bus out of the mud if it gets stuck,' he says.

For further information about The Stage Bus, visit www.thestagebus.com
Learn more about EI at www.as.bham.ac.uk/ei/

Golf degree drives graduates' success

Birmingham has hit a hole-in-one with a unique degree course that trains the professional golf coaches of the future.

The degree in Applied Golf Management began in 2002, combining a high-level applied theoretical degree with the internationally recognised Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) professional status qualification.

Students study modules including sports science, coach education and business management and are eligible to work in the industry every summer on a PGA placement.

Andrew Reynolds from the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club has taken students for summer placements and recently employed graduate Andrew Smedley (BA Applied Golf Management Studies, 2009). He says: 'I am thrilled with all aspects of his work and he is proving to be one of the best employees I have had in more than 30 years of employing assistant professionals. The training he has had on his degree course is exactly what I require.'

With graduates working everywhere from Saudi Arabia and Germany to Switzerland, France, South Korea, the US and Spain, the school is now considering expansion into postgraduate level programmes with the PGA.



Putting advice: A student coaching at The Belfry near Birmingham, the UK headquarters of the PGA



Circles of influence campaign

News in brief

Legacy is a work of art

An 18th century pastel portrait of a young dandy is hanging among the masterpieces at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts thanks to a bequest from an alumna.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/carriera.shtml

Health on wheels

Obesity research will be taken directly into the local community through a new Health Research Bus run by the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/obesitybus.shtml

Dragon breathes fire into young entrepreneurs

Business guru and Dragons' Den star Doug Richard passed on his wisdom to graduates and students during a School for Startups at the University.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/startups.shtml

Birmingham makes a bang

Birmingham scientists are playing a vital role in discovering what happened just after the Big Bang in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) based at the CERN laboratory in Geneva.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/CERN.shtml

Bridging the health gap

Ways to address health inequalities between people of different social positions have been highlighted by a Government commission including Birmingham academic Professor Chris Ham.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/socialhealth.shtml

New living concept won't cost the Earth

Civil engineers at the University of Birmingham are evaluating the thermal performance of a new house called the 'Ergohome' which has built-in sustainable features.

Find out more: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/news/ergohome.shtml

Campaign reaches impressive total

Circles of Influence, the University's £60 million fundraising campaign, has reached a major milestone of £52.9 million.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends, companies and charitable trusts and foundations worldwide, gifts have been received towards areas as diverse as music, diabetes, obesity and young scientists.

Split into four broad themes covering Health and Lifestyle, Society, Heritage and Culture and Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow, the campaign aims to find solutions to problems that affect us all. Fundraising is now continuing with the aim of reaching, and hopefully exceeding, the £60 million goal by the end of 2011.

It was the global issue of climate change that inspired Elmhurst Energy Systems Ltd to make a gift towards the STEM Young Scientists project, which will research the best ways of teaching and encouraging young people to study science, technology, engineering and maths subjects.

The energy efficiency rating business is led by alumnus and former biology teacher Stephen O'Hara (PGCE, 1995), who says: 'Better education is needed for the general population to understand the importance of energy efficiency, in terms of the financial savings it can generate, the safeguarding of our dwindling resources and most importantly its impact on global warming.'

Other lead donors who have joined Stephen in supporting the campaign include:

- The Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust's gift to Birmingham's new music building (see page 7)

£60 million

£50 million

Circles of influence
Totaliser

- A gift from Dr Doug Ellis to support the Medical School
- £500,000 from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust for an early music suite in the new music building
- An award from the Bupa Foundation to support research into obesity and osteoarthritis
- A gift from Thames Honda to support type 1 diabetes research

Since the campaign launched in October 2009, the Annual Giving Programme, which supports projects that have an immediate impact on the University, has seen more than 170 additional alumni choose to give via telephone and direct mail than in the same period the previous year.

To find out more about the Circles of Influence campaign and how you can make a gift, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence

Matched funding

Until 2011, the University will receive £1 for every £3 donated from the UK government, so if you're thinking of giving to Birmingham...

Strike now





Important: Researchers in the Infant and Child Laboratory use modern technology to investigate the effects of autism on brain activity

Autism research gathers pace

Researchers at Birmingham are continuing to explore autism, its causes and its impact.

Major gaps have been identified in research into educational provision for children and young people on the autism spectrum, according to a report led by the University's Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER).

Published by the National Council for Special Education in Ireland, the international literature review found the most significant gaps related to interventions and provision for teenagers and adults, and research to help families and practitioners decide which kind of school would best suit a child's needs.

Dr Sarah Parsons, Senior Research Fellow in the School of Education, says: 'Children

and adults on the autism spectrum do not all have the same needs, and educational decisions should reflect that individuality. Our recommendations included maintaining a range of provision and further research to establish the effectiveness of different interventions.'

Improving intervention strategies is also the goal of a number of studies in the School of Psychology. Researchers in the Infant and Child Laboratory (ICL) use EEG technology to measure children's brain activity when they are shown either images and sounds, or images and words, that don't match (eg, a picture of a guitar with the noise of drumming or the word drum).

'Autistic children show a very normal response to the mismatched images and sounds,' explains lead researcher Dr Joe McCleery, 'but they don't register mismatching images and words in the same way, showing autistic children don't automatically think about word meaning.'

Dr McCleery has been awarded a research grant from UK-based charity Autistica to begin similar studies of toddlers who are at high risk for developing autism. He adds: 'These new studies will focus on earlier and more accurate diagnosis of autism using brain processing measures and may also improve intervention by allowing for the targeted treatment of pivotal difficulties associated with understanding gestures as social and communication cues.'

To read the full NCSE report, visit www.ncse.ie/uploads/1/Autism_Report.pdf

For more information about ICL, visit www.icl.bham.ac.uk

Children helping children

The ICL team is looking for normally developing infants and children from birth to six years old to act as a control group within their studies. Dr Joe McCleery explains: 'Control groups are crucial as we can't carry out studies without them, so our volunteers really are children helping other children.'

Initially, this simply involves a one-hour meeting. To find out more, email icl@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 7219.

Building on musical excellence

Music at Birmingham will enter a new era when a multi-million building including a 450-seat concert hall completes the Aston Webb semi-circle.

Demolition work has begun on the site to make way for the facility, which is set to open in autumn 2012 and will provide a new home for the University's world-class music department, with extensive teaching, research and rehearsal facilities.

Professor Martin Stringer, Acting Head of the College of Arts and Law, says: 'When the building is complete we will have a new space where we can enhance, celebrate



Future: An artist's impression of the new building

and develop what is happening with music at Birmingham.'

The building has been made possible through the extraordinary generosity of donors, including a transformational gift from Terry Bramall (BSc Civil Engineering, 1964) and his wife Liz through the Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust.

Further donations for the project are welcome and will go towards funding a custom-built organ for the auditorium. There are still opportunities for donors to get involved by naming a seat in the auditorium.

For further information, contact Philip Addy via +44 (0)121 414 8641 or p.w.j.addy@bham.ac.uk

Excellence on a global scale

Ensuring old age is enjoyed, not endured. Unlocking our hidden heritage. Fighting infectious diseases that cause pain and deaths around the world. Helping our cities meet the challenges of climate change and the global economic downturn.

These are just a few of the areas of research in which Birmingham is truly world class, breaking new ground and having a major impact on all our lives.

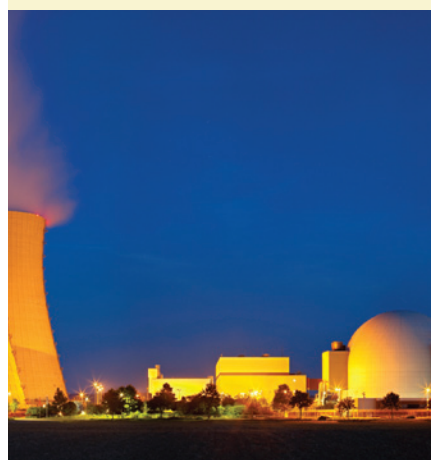
In the coming months and years, the University will invest in these and other areas of true and sustainable excellence, working towards the goal of being in the top 50 universities

in the world with an influence far beyond campus boundaries.

Read on to pages 8 and 9 to find out more about some of the research at Birmingham that is leading the world.

For more information about research excellence at Birmingham, visit www.about.bham.ac.uk/research.shtml

Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Energy



Birmingham is reacting to the renaissance of nuclear power and building on existing expertise by creating a Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Energy.

Although the University was a centre for nuclear research in the 1960s, safety concerns caused nuclear energy to become unpopular as a power source. Now the government has announced the construction of new nuclear power stations, but there is a lack of research skills in the area.

New generation reactors using sustainable sources of nuclear material and the safe disposal of radioactive material are two of the areas colleagues from Engineering and Physical Sciences, and Life and Environmental Sciences will examine.

Professor Martin Freer, Head of the Nuclear Physics Group, says: 'We've been working out what we can do to play a role in the rebirth of nuclear energy and redevelop the expertise lost from the 1960s. The link between the two eras is our Physics and Technology of Nuclear Reactors MSc course, which has been running for more than 50 years.'

For further information, contact Nick Blinco, email: n.blinco@bham.ac.uk

Resilience and Urban Living

How will people living in our cities react to global issues such as climate change and recession?

Resilience refers to the capability and capacity of social and physical systems to withstand change, and through researching how the population behaves as they respond to these challenges, the University's new research initiative in Resilience and Urban Living aims to answer this important question and predict how we will live in the future.

The School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences is leading a project in this emerging field that is being carried out across the University, and which

will fund five new academics to further develop the research area.

Professor John Bryson, leader of the initiative, says: 'This is the century of the city and of sustainability, but also of behavioural adaptation that will enhance resilience. The challenge of enhancing resilience is sharply amplified by the complex interdependencies that exist between society, economy and environment.'

For further information, contact Matt Mangan, email: m.a.mangan@bham.ac.uk



Welcome to the University of Birmingham Roll of Honour 2010

Donor Roll
of Honour
Pull out
and keep

The alumni, friends and staff listed below have all made donations to the University since March 2009; thank you for your support.

Although most of our donors are named on this list, we are also grateful to those who wish to remain anonymous. This roll of honour was prepared on 12 February 2010 and anyone who has given since this date will be included in next year's list.

Our fundraising is reaching new heights through our ambitious £60 million Circles of Influence campaign. Turn to page 6 for an update on the total we have reached so far and to see how your gifts are helping us to have an impact beyond campus boundaries.

Don't forget that your gifts are still worth more than ever before, thanks to the Government Matched Funding scheme, running until August 2011. For every £3 you give, the University will receive an additional £1. Find out more about how to make the most of your gifts to the University via www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/gift/gift.shtml Thank you again for your support – every gift really does make a difference.

We apologise for any omissions or errors to this list, which should be reported to Fiona Newell on +44 (0)121 414 8893 or emailed to f.k.newell@bham.ac.uk

Giving clubs

The University would especially like to thank members of our giving clubs for their donations this year, who are listed separately:

The Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors:

This is the highest honour the University can bestow on a donor and membership is open to those who make exceptional gifts – in excess of £1 million or the equivalent over a lifetime.

The Chamberlain Circle: Donors who give £5,000 or more in an academic year are invited to become members of the Chamberlain Circle.

The 1900 Society: Membership of this society is open to all who give £1,000 or more within an academic year.

The Rowbotham Fellowship: Named in honour of the bequest made by Sir Samuel Hanson Rowbotham, the fellowship recognises all those who choose to leave a gift in their will to the University.

Benefactors have their names and bequests recorded in the leather-bound Register of Bequests outside the Great Hall and will be invited to the new annual reception for legacy pledgers. In this issue we are listing all those who have pledged a legacy since the fellowship's inception in 2002. We have excluded all those who do not wish to be listed.

We are in the process of updating our legacy files. Please contact Legacies Officer Martha Cass on +44 (0)121 414 6679 or m.cass@bham.ac.uk if you find any errors in this listing.

The Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors

Terry and Liz Bramall
(to be inducted July 2010)
Elnora Ferguson (dec.)
Charles Gillett
Paul and
Yuanbi Ramsay

The Chamberlain Circle

Five anonymous donors
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Chris and
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The 1900 Society

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Members of Birmingham. For life donate part of their membership fee to the Annual Giving programme
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We are very grateful for the time and gifts given by the members of the DAC.

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We are very sad to report that the following donors have passed away during the past year:

Alumni 1940s	William Freeth
Ralph Aston	Eric Johnson
Miriam Bentley	Jeffrey Sanderson
Sandy Clark	1960s
Ralph Daubeney	Bryan Cooper
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Michael Weedon	George Parkes
W Stanley Wilkinson	Other donors
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1950s	John Jewell
Michael Byrne	Mary McKenzie
Graham Durant	Stanley Ray
Nigel Fortune	Victor Williams



A new age dawning

UK lifespan is estimated to be increasing at a rate of two years every decade and by 2020, one in five UK adults will be aged 65 or over. Unfortunately, there has been no matching increase in 'healthspan' and on average, men suffer poor health for the final six years of life, increasing to 11 years for women.

The Stem Cells and Ageing Research (SCAR) project will integrate and build on the University's world-leading strengths in stem cell, cancer, immunology, infection and ageing research.

This multidisciplinary approach will develop novel research to improve understanding of human ageing and related health issues, for example the link between stresses (such as the death of a spouse) and failing health; and ways to combat the profoundly negative effect of ageing on the immune system.

For further information, contact Andrew Harris, email: a.j.harris@bham.ac.uk

Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub

A digital heritage revolution that will change the way visitors experience museums, galleries, libraries and archives is being led by the University's Visual and Spatial Technology Centre (VISTA) and Department of Art History.

With funding from sponsors like IBM and a pump priming grant from the University, the team is working to transform a trip to the museum or library into a truly interactive experience, where visitors can use 3D touch tables to engage with objects that were previously encased in display cabinets or enclosed in stores. Visitors will even be able to buy models of their favourite artefacts created by 3D printers.

Dr Richard Clay, Lecturer in History of Art, says: 'Technology can liberate collections. There are almost no constraints. It can bring a landscape inside a museum or let you take a mummy's hand home with you.'

Through the University's Circles of Influence campaign, fundraising is ongoing for a new Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub, a high-tech multimedia hall where researchers will show museums worldwide how technology can enhance their exhibitions.



Digital heritage: A 3D image of a mummy's hand

For further information, contact Hannah Eno, email: h.l.eno@bham.ac.uk

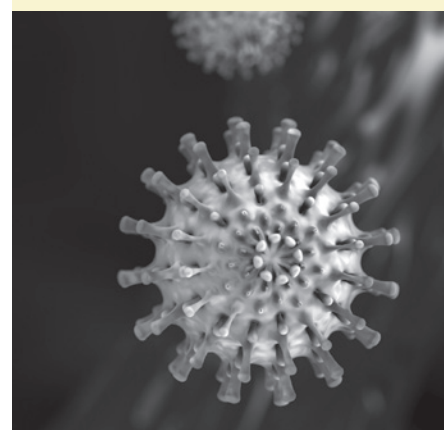
Battling global infection

Birmingham is at the forefront of research into infectious diseases that have a major impact on global health. The University is leading international efforts to find new drugs and treatments to prevent ill health and death for millions of people worldwide.

Bacterial infections such as salmonella and tuberculosis and persistent viral infections such as hepatitis C and Epstein-Barr, which are responsible for virus-associated cancers, are life threatening in people with poor immunity.

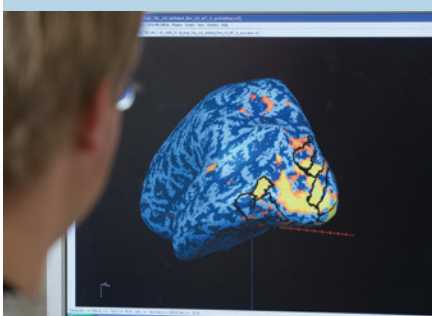
Work in the Birmingham Cancer Research UK Centre and the Birmingham MRC Centre for Immune Regulation is attempting to understand how and why these viruses evade the body's normal immune responses, providing new opportunities for therapeutic interventions.

For further information, contact Matt Mangan, email: m.a.mangan@bham.ac.uk



Hope for brain-injured patients

There are around half a million cases of brain injury (eg, stroke, head trauma) and degenerative change through conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease diagnosed in the UK every year.



Patients suffer pain, distress and a dramatically reduced quality of life, while carers and the Health Service bear an enormous burden. Despite this, the quality and availability of long-term support is variable.

The Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics (CN-CR) Centre will be unique, translating neuroscientific research into improved rehabilitation for patients with brain injury and degenerative change, and innovative treatments to improve their long-term quality of life.

For further information, contact Hannah Eno, email: h.l.eno@bham.ac.uk

From Grease to Anything Goes

Formed in 1987, the Guild Musical Theatre Group (GMTG) remains one of the most popular student societies at Birmingham. Current president Aimée Harrison (3rd year Maths) explains how the group has developed over the years.

GMTG was set up in 1987 by Deb Brook (née Jennings) (BA Music, Drama and Dance, 1988) and Mark Helyar (BA English and Music, 1988). It grew out of the Guild Opera Group, which disbanded and reformed as GMTG.

Deb is now a primary school headteacher in Birmingham, runs her own amateur youth theatre company and has continued to follow the society for the past 23 years. Theatre director, writer and musician Mark now lives in Somerset. He published *Rising from the Dust – Indian Hidden Voices*, a book about his personal experiences of India, in 2008.

The first production performed was *Grease* in 1988 and the crew carried a real car into Deb Hall to appear as *Greased Lightning* for the week. By all accounts at least half a car has been transported into the Deb Hall on a number of occasions.

Since this time, GMTG has continued to put on at least two full scale musicals each year, each one being performed in the Deb Hall and utilising Guild Technical Services to the full to impress audiences. Productions have ranged from *West Side Story*, *Chicago* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* to *A Slice of Saturday Night*, *On The Town* and *City of Angels*.

Today, budgets for main productions are around £4,500. A show is produced by the society once the members have voted on a show and production team.

In March, GMTG performed Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years*, a one-off production with only a two-man cast. This was produced in conjunction with a Showcase of Musical Theatre to give as many members as possible the chance to perform.

In early May, the group performed Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* in the Deb Hall. Alumni are welcome to join the audience for future productions, visit www.gmtg.org for details.

A number of GMTG alumni have gone on to pursue careers in professional theatre, many of whom are still in contact with the society:

Benjamin Wilson

(BA Medieval and Modern History, 2004),

James Wrighton

(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 2002)

Andrew Spiers

(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 2002),

Idiots of Ants comedy sketch group.

Visit www.idiotsofants.com

Peter White

(BA English and Music, 2001), Musical Director (currently of the *Les Misérables* touring production)



The DJ: Grease on stage

Oliver Waits

(MEng Electronic and Electrical Engineering with Management, 2003), Avolites programmer (industry leading stage lighting console developer)

Katie Lightfoot (aka Katie Underwood)

(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 2006), playing Elizabeth Bennett in a touring production of *Pride and Prejudice*

The Through the Window Theatre Company, a Birmingham-based theatre production company, was founded by former members of GMTG who had met through the society.

Send in your memories

We want your photos and memories of Birmingham, from funny stories to enduring friendships and anything else you want to share. Send them to us via email or post (contact details on p2)



Greased lightning: Michelle Lee (BA Music, Drama and Dance, 1989) dancing in GMTG's first ever production



Here's looking at you: (l-r) Actress Celia Imrie, President Bill Clinton and alumna Fidelis Morgan at a charity event



Acting up: (l-r) Fidelis on stage in a University production alongside fellow students George Irving and Jane Wymark

A life less ordinary

Stalwart of stage and screen, successful author and self-confessed work addict Fidelis Morgan has friends and fans including Rupert Everett and Paul O'Grady. Even former US President Bill Clinton couldn't keep a straight face...

Conventional. Mainstream. Ordinary.

It's a certainty that none of these adjectives have ever been used close to the name Fidelis Morgan.

From her birth in a gypsy caravan near Stonehenge to her role in cult children's TV show *Mr Majeika*; the exotically-named actress and writer has always trodden the unbeaten path.

Fidelis (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1973) grew up near Amesbury in Wiltshire, and attended several boarding schools thanks to her unfortunate habit of getting expelled. She spent much of her school holidays in Montmartre, Paris while her mother painted. 'To ensure a decent evening meal, I earned money painting clowns, playing the guitar and giving Americans guided tours in a fake French accent,' she laughs.

These early artistic inclinations led a young Fidelis to Birmingham. 'It was intense,' she remembers. 'We were in at 9.00am for a pre-study workout and the sweat would be pouring off us. Then lectures until 5.00pm, followed by voice and movement training until about 10.00pm and at weekends even if you weren't in a play. It was marvellous for anyone like me who thrives in that sort of hothouse environment.'

Fidelis has played characters from monarchs to prostitutes in the theatre, and her TV appearances include the very English comedy *Jeeves and Wooster* and crime thriller *Dead Gorgeous*. She can next be seen in the Keira Knightley film *Never Let Me Go*, due out in November. 'Filming was an amazing experience. It's just a small part but the direction by Mark Romanek is fantastically stark and eerie so I'm excited to see it.'

Having acted alongside luminaries from fellow Birmingham alumnus George Irving (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1973) to Rupert Everett and Helena Bonham Carter, Fidelis was still bowled over by one particularly famous face last year. 'I met President Bill Clinton at a charity event and it was just wonderful,' she swoons. 'I told him it was like meeting Elvis... only he's not dead. He just threw his head back and laughed!'

As well as successfully adapting other authors' books for the stage, Fidelis' own *Countess Ashby de la Zouche* series of historical whodunits maintains a faithful fan base including television presenter Paul O'Grady and will shortly be reissued in the US. 'The Countess seems to have a life of her own,' she says. 'The books are still in great demand and there's a lot of interest from TV companies.'

Find out more: www.fidelismorgan.com/

Money doesn't grow on trees.



But any gift you make to the University could be worth more at no extra cost to you. Find out how at www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/fund/gift/gift.shtml

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association

**Saturday 11 September 2010 –
Annual General Meeting**

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association, of which you are all members, will hold its 103rd AGM on a University 'Open Day' for intending students – so the campus will be open for you to visit. Come and see your department/school and then join old friends for the AGM and a convivial lunch.

Afterwards, Colin Timms, Peyton and Barber Professor of Music, will talk about music on

the campus, referring particularly to the Department of Music and its origins, and highlights in its development and performances. Colin conducted his last concert with the University Symphony Orchestra and Choir in Symphony Hall in March this year.

Please register your interest (and your address!) asap with Hon. Secretary Steve Parsons, at steveparsons@phonecoop.coop or at The Cottage, Druids Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 5SV so that details and a booking form can be forwarded.

Going global

India, China and the US are among the countries with whom the University is building close relationships as part of a developing international strategy.

As Birmingham works to become one of the top 50 universities in the world, supporting international alumni and promoting partnerships with institutions worldwide are among our key priorities.

Edward Harcourt, Director of International Relations, says: 'Birmingham is now in a remarkably strong position to co-ordinate its global engagements.'

In India, where the University opened its first overseas office in New Delhi last year and the All India Alumni Association was relaunched, a joint workshop on Sustainable Megacities was held, in March, in collaboration with TERI University. This investigated how cities can cope with global change pressures, particularly climate change, rapid urbanisation, and ageing and deteriorating infrastructure systems. Several collaborative opportunities were identified during the workshop which will

be taken forward as part of the emerging research partnership.

Last month, Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood travelled to the University of Delhi to join The Annual Presidents' Meeting organised by Universitas 21, an international network of 21 leading research-intensive universities.

The Vice-Chancellor will be officially launching the University's presence in China at the end of the World Expo in October and hosting an alumni reception around the celebrations. China Officer Mingya Zong will be working from Shanghai to maintain partnerships with local providers, support alumni in China, further consolidate research collaboration and provide advice to students who want to study at the University.

Work is continuing to strengthen long-established links in Birmingham's sister city

of Chicago. In March, a dozen Birmingham academics from Sport and Exercise Sciences and Psychology visited the University of Chicago for discussions on social neuroscience and decision-making and the social biology of ageing. The Vice-Chancellor met his counterparts from institutions including Chicago, Northwestern and the University of Illinois, and an alumni reception at the University Club attracted the largest ever gathering of former students in the city. The USA Alumni Foundation has a new board, which met for the first time after the alumni reception, and a new website at www.bhamf.org

Over the past year, alumni receptions have also been organised in European countries including Greece and Belgium. For updates about what is happening in your country, visit the groups section and events pages of our online alumni community www.your.bham.ac.uk



Networking in the USA: The alumni reception in Chicago

Sporting success

Hockey

The ladies' first team finished top of their league in the BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) league and progressed through the knock-out stages to the championship final vs Durham, which they won 3-1. The men's first team finished second in their league but were unfortunately knocked out in the quarter final stages. Other notable performances have come from the men's seconds and women's fourths, who are also hoping to bring back some medals.

Triathlon

Non Stanford won the BUCS Duathlon Championships held in December and led the ladies' team to team silver. Together with an individual bronze for Joe Mason, and team gold for the men's team, these results were sufficient to see the University of Birmingham retain the Paul Weston Trophy for the top university overall.

Athletics

Five UBSPORT athletes have picked up six medals between them at the European

Cross Country Championships in Dublin. Two second year students, Nick Goolab and James Wilkinson, came in at second and third place. The athletics club now looks forward to the indoor championships.

Golf

The England and Wales Golf Individual Strokeplay Qualifiers took place in November and Birmingham came out on top for both the men's and women's competitions.

In the men's event, Daniel Beattie took top place and in the women's qualifier it was all about one player, Birmingham's very own Lucy Williams, who finished six under par and 11 shots clear of the rest of the field. Third place went to Charlotte Hope.



Medals: (l-r) James Wilkinson and Nick Goolab



Good year: UBSPORT scholar Kirsten Lafferty

Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team are looking to make this a year to remember. The team won the BUCS league, winning all their games, including a close game against rivals Loughborough, with the winning goal scored with just three seconds left on the clock. In the BUCS Championships, they overcame a nervous start to their match to beat Cambridge 9-6 in the final. The squad boasts several internationals including UBSPORT scholar and England senior squad member Kirsten Lafferty as well as a number of England and Wales U21s.

A hospital for the future

Birmingham's first new hospital in more than 70 years opens its doors to patients in June, creating teaching and research opportunities for the University and groundbreaking healthcare for the region.

Students and staff will be using Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, which will be Europe's largest hospital, on a daily basis for training and research.

The hospital, which replaces the Queen Elizabeth and Selly Oak hospitals, will be a key part of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences. University accommodation within the £545 million building includes high quality laboratories and clinical assessment space suitable for research involving patients. Provost and Vice-Principal Professor Michael Sheppard, a Non-Executive Director at the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and member of the new



Then and now: The old Queen Elizabeth hospital under construction in the 1930s (inset) and its modern replacement

hospital planning group, says: 'The new hospital will provide an outstanding opportunity for delivering clinical care, education and research of the highest quality. The co-location of a 21st Century academic medical centre, the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and the main campus of the University of Birmingham provides an unparalleled

opportunity for translating the benefits of research and education into better care for patients from Birmingham, the West Midlands and the wider UK.'

For further information about the new hospital, visit www.uhb.nhs.uk/NewHospital/

Watching those watching us

Following the terrorist attacks in New York in 2001, Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005, police and intelligence activity has increasingly focused on preventing future attacks, and not just on identifying the perpetrators of offences already committed.

In response, the University is at the forefront of a major project investigating how counter-terrorism measures could affect our future privacy and personal freedoms.

The three-year research project, known as DETECTER (Detection Technologies, Counter-Terrorism Ethics and Human Rights), involves partner institutions across Europe and includes monitoring developments in international law that promote or support counter-terror activity; assessing screening measures for migrants, and exploring the electronic monitoring of internet traffic.

is invasion of privacy justified by the need to safeguard life or protect democracy?'

'DETECTER is one of the few channels for promoting genuine dialogue with the people who develop and apply detection technologies,' he adds. 'We aim to sensitise both technology developers and law enforcement officials to human rights and ethics, but without antagonism. The result may be better equipment and better ways of using it.'

Find out more: www.detector.bham.ac.uk



Being watched: Closed-circuit television cameras are just one way the public is monitored.

Worldwide web

From Scotland and the Midlands to Malaysia, Greece and the US, there are groups for Birmingham alumni all over the world and they now have a new section on our website.

Visit your.bham and click on the link to view the vibrant new pages, find out about the group in your country and get details of its news and events.

Emily Rycroft, Head of Alumni Relations, says: 'Joining one of our groups is a valuable way for alumni to network and share memories of their time at Birmingham. All the information you need to get involved is now easily accessible at your.bham.' As well as geographical chapters, the University has alumni groups and societies for schools, departments and different interests. Details of these are also included on the new pages.

Forthcoming events featured on the website include the Chancellor's Hall Association's reunion on Saturday 25 July and the Canadian Alumni Chapter's garden party in Toronto on Sunday 12 September.

Any other alumni groups interested in appearing on the site should email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk

The University's involvement is led by the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics – the first centre of its kind in the UK. Professor Tom Sorell, Director of the Centre, says: 'This is a complex field in which new initiatives can have far-reaching consequences for ordinary people. Serious ethical and legal questions are raised by the increasingly sophisticated and covert nature of counter-terror activities. For example, to what extent

Class notes

Thank you very much to everyone who has visited your.bham this year and updated their class notes online. We received so many responses that we are only able to print a small selection of your news below. If you would like to tell us, and your fellow alumni, about your activities and achievements since graduating, please visit www.your.bham.ac.uk. Alternatively, send a letter including your name, subject, year of graduation and your update to Jo Clark and Rebecca Kilcullen, Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.



1940s

Professor Paul Bramley

(BDS, 1945; MBChB, 1952; HonDDS, 1987)

I have written a book about life in retirement called 'Doing anything after work'... What about retirement?', with a foreword by broadcaster Dame Joan Bakewell.

1950s

Reginald Unitt

(BSc Botany, 1953)

Favourite memories: Field trips to Dale, Lake District, Bewdley; Lecturers Dr Rees, Dr Hickman; studies in Mycology; meals at the Union; winning the Carnival Floats Competition. I moved to Switzerland in 1956 and have been here ever since.

1960s

Lutz Schelisch

(BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1968)

I'm now retired after over 40 years in the motor industry and enjoying the opportunity to travel for pleasure rather than on business.

Richard Morris

(LLB Law, 1968)

I spent two months last year on a volunteer placement teaching in a village school in Ghanpokhara, Nepal, 2120 metres high in the mountains as a retirement project. Although facilities were limited by European standards, the children were mostly keen to learn and a joy to teach!



1970s

John Freeman

(BSc Chemistry, 1972)

John was awarded a CBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours. He was recognised for his career in local government, including seven years as Director of Children's Services for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. One of the driving forces in founding the Association of Directors of Children's Services, John became Director of the React Programme in January and is working to support councils as they regain control of 16-19 education from the Learning and Skills Council.

Stella Smith

(BA German Studies and French, 1972)

In September, I received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement German Teacher Award from the German Embassy.

Geoffrey Dear

(BSc Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1973)

After taking early retirement, I now do IT for small local businesses in Kent and am also clerk to the parish council.

Dr Alastair Allen

(BSc Physics, 1974)

I'm a Senior Lecturer in Engineering, Biomedical Physics at the University of Aberdeen, where I've worked since 1984.

Nicola Davies

(LLB Law, 1974)

Nicola, who appeared in last year's alumni newsletter, has been appointed as a High Court Judge assigned to the Queen's Bench Division. During her successful career as a barrister she specialised in medical law and was involved in several high-profile cases, including appearing for the defence in the cases of Dr Harold Shipman and paediatrician Professor Sir Roy Meadow.

Terence Smith

(BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1975)

I worked in the UK chemical industry for seven years before emigrating to Canada in 1982 to work in the nuclear power industry. I retired in December 2009 and am pursuing an engineering consultancy for a while.

Professor Sir Liam Donaldson

(MSc Anatomy 1976; Hon DSc, 2005)

Sir Liam steps down this month as Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Adviser to the UK Government, a post he has held since 1998. His achievements during this time as Chief Medical Officer include introducing to the NHS the concept of clinical governance; establishing one of the world's first patient safety programmes; championing smoke-free public places, and coordinating the country's response to the swine influenza pandemic.



Stefan Wheaton

(BA French Language and Literature, 1979)

I've been living in France since 1985. My two oldest kids (twins) are at Birmingham. One started in 2009 and the other in 2008. Nobody will be surprised to learn that the latter lives in good old Selly Oak!

James Johnson

(BA Latin, 1979)

I've been married for 26 years, have two children and have been running my own company in Ware for the past seven years.

1980s

Arthur Rea

(LLB Law and Politics, 1981; MSocSc Local Government and Health Services Studies, 1983; ACE Counselling, 1998)
I work as a freelance photographer, specialising in mountaineering and mountain landscape work; being based in rural Cumbria is a real boost for that sort of stuff!

Neil Woodrow

(BCom(Acc) Accounting and Finance, 1982)
Having lived and travelled all over the world, I eventually decided to put family before money - and me a Chartered Accountant! I bought a Hotel-Restaurant-Bar in France, learnt French and spent seven years enjoying being with my kids. I'm now back in the UK working as a Management Consultant.

David Rodrigues de Miranda

(BSc Civil Engineering, 1984)
After 18 years with Shell International I joined Gassco and have responsibility for managing Norway's pipelines supplying natural gas to the UK.

Howard Bone

(LLB Law, 1984)
A qualified solicitor, I've now been at Winchester City Council for just over ten years and am married to Liz.

Pamela Mykytowych, née Reid

(BSocSc Social Policy and Social Work, 1985)
I'll be competing in the 2010 Peking to Paris Rally in a 1968 Vauxhall Viva GT in September. I'll be driving with my husband, who I met on the last rally, as my navigator.

Christopher Morgan

(BEng Mechanical Engineering, 1989)
After Mech Eng I got a job in London doing computers in the defence industry. In 1997 I got another programming job, but this time in finance in New York, so I moved over here to the US and I'm still here. Now married with one daughter, I've lost touch with almost everyone from Uni!

2000s

Paul Dobinson

(BSc Sport and Exercise Science, 2000)
I won my first two international caps for Bermuda in rugby, in summer tests against Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. I've been living in Bermuda now for four years with my wife Maria (née Terry), who is also a Birmingham alumna (2000).

Maxine Matsuura

(BSc Biological Sciences (Microbiology), 2005)
I'm now a Forensic Casework Examiner for Orchid Cellmark. Pretty much my dream job!

1990s

Kevin Howell

(BSc Physics, 1991)
I've been at the Royal Free Hospital in London since 1992, using infrared thermal imaging for skin temperature assessment, amongst other fun things, and am still very involved in tennis umpiring.

Dr Rob Larter

(PhD Geological Sciences, 1991)
Marine geophysicist Rob Larter was awarded the Polar Medal in this year's New Years Honours list for his work with the British Antarctic Survey. Rob's work involves using marine geological and geophysical techniques to determine the history of changes in the Antarctic ice sheets. He first became involved in Antarctic research when he joined the Antarctic Marine Group in the Department of Geological Sciences in 1983. While based in Birmingham he participated in two Antarctic research cruises before moving to a post with the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge at the end of 1987.



Lisa Rushforth

(BA French Studies/ Hispanic Studies, 2002)
In June I will be going on a voluntary expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua with the youth and education charity Raleigh. I'm fundraising for Raleigh before my departure, and anyone interested in sponsoring me can visit www.justgiving.com/LisaRushforth

Lucy Hood

(BSc Psychology, 2005)
In October I'll be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of the Samantha Dickenson Brain Tumour Trust in memory of a very dear friend of mine who died in October last year. To do this, I need to raise a minimum of £3,500 so would be very grateful for any support! Please visit www.justgiving.com/Lucy-Hood



Gregor Hunt

(BA English, 1995)
I continue to work as an actor, on stage, TV, film, radio and voiceovers. I also do role play work, some of which is at the Medical School.

Dr Veronica Melnyk

(MA English 1996; PhD English, 2002)
On 23 May 2009, I was consecrated to a life of virginity as a Benedictine nun at Turvey Abbey in Bedfordshire. My religious name is Sister Johanna Marie.

Anna Faber

(BA French Language and Literature, 1996)
My first published children's story, 'Noah and the Caterpillars', features Charlie the Caterpillar as its hero and narrator. All my personal profits from the book are going to Butterfly Conservation and the Green Belt Movement.

Susan Bentley

(BA American Studies, 1996)
Since my Elvis Vegas wedding, I have worked on public sector projects and am currently Operations Manager for Aimhigher Sussex.

Shirley Plunkett

(BPhil(Ed) Learning Difficulties, 1986; MEd Education, 1996)
I am now a writer and charity worker.

Jenny Hope

(BA Creative Writing, 2005)
'Petrolhead', Jenny's first poetry collection, was published earlier this year. She works as an administrator for the University of Worcester's Disability and Dyslexia Service.

Megan Griffiths

(BA Sociology, 2006)
I'm currently working at an independent school in Worcestershire (since 2007). I have helped set up and run the Foundation Office alongside the Foundation Director.

David Brooks

(BSc Geography, 2008)
I'm living in Devon and have been working for the Met. Office periodically whilst I fundraise and train to row across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Naomi Gornall, née Cassidy

(BA English Literature and American Studies, 2001) and
Tim Gornall
 (BA Media, Culture and Society, 2001; Redbrick editor, 2000)
We were married at St Pancras Church, Ipswich, on 25 July 2009 after first meeting 11 years ago at University House. We had a fantastic, truly memorable day and were delighted so many of our University friends were there to celebrate with us. We feel so lucky we met each other at Birmingham. It will always be a special place for us.

Alumni events calendar

Get together with friends and classmates, network with fellow professionals or simply come along for a free drink. To find out more about any of our events, or for help organising your own reunion, please visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/events, email alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call Clare Gordon on +44 (0)121 414 8904.



Alumni Sports Day 5 June 2010

Revisit campus, relive memories, meet up with old team-mates and take on current students in one of 11 sports at the ninth annual Alumni Sports Day. Tickets cost £15 each and include a day of sport, a free drink in Raising the Bar and your ticket into Fab at the Guild. Visit the website for online booking.

Class of 1985, 1975, 1970, 1960 and pre-1960 'Golden' classes Anniversary Reunions 12 June 2010

Come back to campus to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation. Planned activities include visits to departments, a reunion lunch, campus tours, the chance to visit Winterbourne Botanic Gardens and the Barber Institute of Fine Art, and an evening reunion dinner to round the day off. To book your place, please complete and return the enclosed booking form, visit the website or contact Clare Gordon. More than 350 alumni have already registered for the anniversary reunions. Visit the website to see a list of attendees, as well as activities being planned by your department.



House of Lords

5 November 2010, 6.30–8.30pm

Join more than 300 alumni and guests at the seventh annual reception at the House of Lords, hosted by Professor David Eastwood, the University's Vice-Chancellor. Enjoy wine, canapés, stunning views over the River Thames and take the opportunity to explore the Houses of Parliament on a guided tour. Tickets cost £30 each and will be available to buy online in August.

Canadian Garden Party 12 September 2010

The Canadian Chapter's annual garden party will take place on Sunday 12 September at the Boulevard Club, Toronto, in a delightful location on Lake Ontario. Further details will follow shortly.

Community Day 13 June 2010

Hydrogen car rides, sports tournaments, sculpture trails, children's play scheme, funfair and much more. Learn all about the facilities you can use, the work we do and enjoy our beautiful campus. For the latest information visit www.events.bham.ac.uk

Medicine 30-year Reunion 3 September 2010

The Class of 1980 are invited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation with a reunion dinner to be held on Friday 3 September 2010. More details to follow on the website.

Media and the Arts Network Autumn 2010

Contact Clare Gordon for details, telephone: +44 (0)121 414 8904.



London Summer Party 24 June 2010, 6.30pm onwards

Celebrate the start of summer with an after-work drink on us at the Long Acre in Covent Garden. This is a great opportunity to meet other Birmingham alumni living and working in London. Free event, please RSVP.



Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

10 December 2010, 6.30–9pm

Join fellow alumni at the Birmingham Frankfurt German Market in the city centre for a pint of authentic German beer or a warming mug of Glühwein, with our compliments. Following the success of this event in 2009, we will once again hire the heated indoor area of a traditional beer stall and hope to see you all there. Free event, please RSVP.



London Christmas Party – December 2010, 6.30pm onwards

Kick off the festive season with a celebratory drink on us. Details to be confirmed so keep an eye on the website later in the year. Free event, please RSVP.

1980 School of Dentistry Reunion – 8 October 2010, 7pm onwards

The Class of 1980 are invited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation with a reunion dinner at the main Edgbaston campus. This event is supported by the Sir Arthur Thomson Charitable Trust and is free of charge. Further details will follow.