

OLDJOE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Autumn 2014



Shaping the future by
creating history

The supermarket scientist

Reflections of an
astronaut

Keeping UoB in the family

Meet the
new Chancellor

The first word



The inscription over the entrance to the Great Hall records: 'From August 1914 to April 1919 these buildings were used by the military authorities as the 1st Southern General Hospital. Within these walls men died for their country. Let those who come after live in the same service'. By the end of the First World War, more than 64,000 wounded soldiers had been treated in campus buildings requisitioned by the War Office.

As we embark on a four-year programme of national and global events commemorating the centenary of the First World War, it is a fitting time to reflect on the many ways in which the University's alumni, staff, and students contributed to the war effort.

While academic work was suspended from 1914 to 1918, the skills of our alumni and staff were brought to bear in a variety of ways: from the design of tank radiators and engine parts to investigating the technology of poison gas and aiding in the development of wireless telegraphy. There were also more than 150 University staff and students who gave their lives during the conflict; their names inscribed on the War Memorial in the Aston Webb Building as a lasting tribute.

At the University, the war was followed by 100 years of groundbreaking research across the academic spectrum, and today we are an institution synonymous with academic excellence in the field of war studies. Our expertise has enabled us to study war, conflict, and peace in all its guises. We have launched the UK's only Centre for First World War Studies, and the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to modern security challenges.

There are many opportunities for alumni to help us mark the centenary of the Great War, from events to further study (read more on page seven). I hope you will find a way to get involved.

Best wishes,

Professor Sir David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor and donor to the University

If you have difficulties reading any part of this publication, please contact us to request a plain text version.

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GUEST EDITOR

What a testament it is to our wonderful university that many of us do keep it in the family (page 19). My amazing dad, Stephen, was awarded his PGCE by the University of Birmingham in 1993 (with two BScs already under his belt). I like to think that my youngest daughter has just added to the tradition, having graduated this summer, complete with cap and gown, from The Oaks, one of the two day nurseries owned and managed by the University!

How exciting to read about plans for the University's new sports centre (page 34) and campaign to name its gym. It is especially exciting as alumni will be eligible to make use of its impressive list of facilities. I can't help but feel a pang of nostalgia when I pass the site, former home of the Gun Barrels.

Anyone sharing my sentimentality for what was the staple starting point of a Birmingham student's night out should enter the competition on page 34, for a chance to win original signs from the pub.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Old Joe* as much as I did!

Rosie Critchlow (BA Hispanic Studies, 2002; MPhil Hispanic Studies, 2004) Disability Strategy Adviser for the Government's Minister for Disabled People

Be a guest editor

Let us know if you would like to be a guest editor via alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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On the cover

● **Image:** A photograph of alumnus Gwilym Palmer sits in the pocket of his University blazer

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Read *Old Joe* online

Your alumni magazine is also available as an online edition, with additional and interactive content. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe

STOP PRESS

Thanks to the support of alumni and friends, the University's Circles of Influence fundraising campaign is on track to exceed its £160 million target by July 2015.

With less than a year to go, don't miss your chance to support Circles of Influence and help change the face of your University for generations to come. Learn more on page 36 and throughout this edition of *Old Joe*.



YOUR YEAR IN PICTURES





1 INSPIRED BY BIRMINGHAM: David Baker (Graduate Diploma Economics, 2008; MSc Economic Competitiveness and International Business, 2010) aka DJ Accendo is a trance producer whose latest track *Jarratt* is based on his time at Birmingham in Jarratt Halls.

2 ENGINEERING STAR: Kerrine Bryan (MEng Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2005) is named as one of 35 women under 35 to help bring the UK out of recession by *Management Today* magazine and *The Times* newspaper. CB&I's youngest ever principal engineer, she is now lead electrical engineer for the living quarters of a North Sea oil platform. Read more about Kerrine in a future *Old Joe*.

3 INSIDE OLD JOE: The world's largest free standing clock tower is serviced and cleaned, giving a unique perspective of its face.

4 SCIENCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The British Science Festival launches with the help of TV presenter, and Professor of Public Engagement in Science, Alice Roberts. The festival runs in September as the spotlight event for the Birmingham Year of Science 2014.

5 SOCHI GOOD PERFORMANCE: Posy Musgrave (BA European Studies and Modern Languages, 2009) competes in the women's free cross-country sprint ski at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics.

6 TOUGH YOUNG ALUMNI: Claudenia Williams (BSc Psychology, 2012) and Oliver Beach (BSc International Business with Communications, 2011; not pictured) feature on the BBC3 programme *Tough Young Teachers*, a documentary about newly qualified teachers.

B15 FACES



What one thing would you take with you to a desert island?

15 alumni tell *Old Joe* what single thing they couldn't do without if they found themselves cast away.



'...a Bear Grylls survival guide and penknife. Enough said.'
Benjy Curzon Jones (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2010)



'...a juicer or smoothie maker in the hope there's some fruit.'
Alison Leonard (BSc Biological Sciences, 2011)



'...a private jet.'
Juncheng Zhang (BEng Electronic and Communications Engineering, 2012)



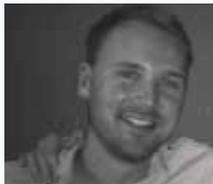
'...Ray Mears – he would be good company and you would not get hungry.'
Diane Romano-Woodward (MMedSc Occupational Health, 1996)



'...a big roll of tarpaulin or a coconut opening device!'
Sarah Murphy (BA History and Political Science, 2012)



'...my laptop (and a very big battery!)'
James Megarry (LLB Law, 2003; LLM Law, 2006)



'...a helicopter so I can leave and get supplies.'
Alan Young (BSc Physiotherapy, 2010)



'...I'd take my daughter so she could keep me company.'
Kamal Hanif (PGCE, 1993)



'...I would take my favourite book, JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.'
Keith Bracey (Commerce and Social Science, 1977)



'...a Swiss Army knife, I could make all kinds of wooden survival tools.'
René Cortin (MBA International Business, 2003)



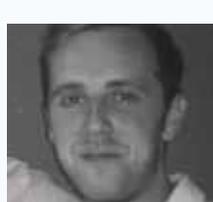
'...can we have Wi-Fi? I'd take my iPhone!'
Jung-Chen Chang (PhD Urban and Regional Studies, 2011)



'...could I take Bear Grylls?'
Calvin Abrahams (BSc Business Management, 2012)



'...a desalinator for clean water.'
Sara Treacy (MBChB Medicine, 2013)



'...Wilson, like in the movie *Cast Away*, for someone to talk to.'
Jon Price (BSc Physiotherapy, 2010)



'...a crossbow for hunting.'
Lauren Scott (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2011)



GUEST EDITOR

I would take the latest edition of *Old Joe* of course! It would stave off the boredom, and I could progress to paper aeroplanes once I'd read it cover to cover.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A B15 FACE?

Which song always gets you on the dancefloor? Tweet your answer and a photo to @birminghamalum and the best will appear in the next issue of *Old Joe*.



LEST WE FORGET

A century on from one of the deadliest conflicts in history, the University is reflecting on its role in the First World War, and embarking on a four-year programme of national and global events in commemoration.

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

Linking with the BBC has helped Birmingham to create an academic first – the UK's first distance learning course on World War One. The Aviation Comes of Age MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), which is free, will look at the deployment of air power during the First World War and the evolution of airborne conflict.

Further opportunities to study the Great War through the University's renowned Centre for War Studies include a Masters in British First World War Studies, and a free, open-to-all series of lectures by leading First World War scholars running each Tuesday evening in spring for the next five years.

Learn more: www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/warstudies/

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE PAST

Academics and community groups in Birmingham, led by the University, will collaborate as never before to mark the centenary.

The city's revitalised library is the focus for workshops, exhibitions and research looking at how the conflict has shaped the past 100 years.

This is one of only five centres across the country set up to commemorate the Great War and its legacy, in a £500,000 project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Birmingham's cultural diversity will help to make the centre distinctive, and the city's young population will enable researchers to look at what the commemorations mean to a new generation.

To find out more about how to get involved, visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/WW1

COMMEMORATIONS IN A DIGITAL AGE

As well as contributing to a British Library e-learning project on the First World War, the University is involved in a major international project to digitise precious archives relating to the War.

The Centre for War Studies is also one of the research bodies providing academic advice and support to the BBC's digital content for the centenary. This will cover a range of material designed for audiences from children to those as old as the war itself, demonstrating the University's commitment to explaining the Great War to the widest possible audience.

Special Collections has a range of materials relating to the First World War accessible online. Learn more: www.calmview.bham.ac.uk

A GLOBAL VIEW

The First World War centenary is a worldwide event, and Emma Login, Research Fellow in the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology, is exploring how attitudes towards commemoration vary between countries around the globe. She explains: 'While we might like to see this as continuation of a long history of remembrance, memorialisation is far more complex than a single national perspective might suggest.'

'By taking a wider approach, I can chart changing attitudes towards commemoration, especially as World War One begins to pass from living memory.'

'The UK's centenary events should be seen as part of a continually evolving process of commemoration and memorialisation which will be approached differently by each participating nation.'



In addition to its First World War programme, the University is seeking memories from alumni who studied here during the Second World War. Please write to the address on the back page or email alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk

LEARN MORE ABOUT MOOCS AT BIRMINGHAM

www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/index.aspx

OLD JOE NEWS



Lottery funding will help redevelop museum

Dinosaur bones, fossilised footprints, rare minerals and more than 250,000 other geological specimens are to have a new home on campus after the Lapworth Museum of Geology made a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Work on the £2.7 million redevelopment, which is also supported by donations from alumni and friends, will vastly improve access to the museum's collections, including new technologies, improved disabled access, and new facilities such as galleries and an education room.

Alumni donations were vital in securing the HLF funding for the project. So far alumni have given more

than £500,000 to help secure the investment. However, your help is still needed to close a £167,000 funding gap which will ensure the very best facilities, and allow the redeveloped museum to engage new audiences, provide inspiring educational experiences for school groups, and house the collections in innovative spaces.

The refurbished museum is set to open in late 2015, and your support can help make this project a reality.

Learn more

Call Laura Fairbanks on +44 (0)121 414 8894 or visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth



DID YOU KNOW?

While the museum is closed for refurbishment, some of the Lapworth's collections will be taken on the road, including a temporary exhibition in the new Library of Birmingham from 10 January 2015.

10 WAYS BIRMINGHAM HAS CHANGED THE WORLD

TOP TEN

Thank you to everyone who nominated their Birmingham research heroes for the '10 ways' competition

featured in the last edition of *Old Joe*. For more than 100 years, the University has had a major impact on the world, from pioneering transplant surgery to creating artificial Vitamin C.

Hundreds of academic champions

were suggested, and the names were whittled down to ten winners including Otto Frisch FRS and Sir Rudolf Peierls CBE (Hon DSc, 1967), who co-wrote the Frisch-Peierls Memorandum, which laid the foundations for the Manhattan Project. This in turn produced the first atomic bombs of the Second World War, heralding the beginning of the end of the conflict.

Revolutionising a very different field, Professor John Sinclair (formerly Professor of Modern English Language at the University) was Founding

Editor-in-Chief for the first edition of the COBUILD Dictionary. COBUILD (Collins Birmingham University International Language Database) transformed the study of English across the globe, and led to revolutionary approaches to linguistic theory and practice.

For a full list of the winners visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/10ways

Old Joe wants to hear about your major achievements of 2014. Email alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk

In memoriam

Did you know you can find obituaries of former students on the alumni pages of the University website?

Alumni Remembered features memories submitted by family or close friends to share news of their loved one's death, and commemorate their connections with Birmingham. Obituaries of long-serving or prominent staff can usually be found on the main University (or specific school or department) web pages.

Claire O'Sullivan, Head of Alumni Relations, explains: 'Unfortunately, we are unable to include obituaries in *Old Joe* due to the volume we receive. A dedicated section on our website enables us to publish the news of a former student's death, and celebrate their life with all those who remember them.'

To submit an alumni obituary for the website, please contact alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk



From selfies to school memories, alumni across the world connect with the University and fellow graduates through Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

#sillysockday

Alumni, staff, and students wore their silliest socks, 'tweeted their feet' and made a gift on World Autism Awareness Day to help raise £500 for the University's autism research.



Hiking club is summit special

Founded in the 1930s, the University Wayfarers hiking club is one of the oldest groups at the Guild of Students.

Above right is a picture of the group in 1955 on an excursion in Derbyshire sent in by Dennis Hadley (BSc Physics, 1954; PhD Physics, 1957),

while the photograph below left shows the 2014 group this year in Pembrokeshire. Can you spot yourself in either picture?

Student society memories wanted!

Whether you were a keen mountaineer, a Carnival RAG stalwart or a writer for *Redbrick*, send in your photos and memories of being part of student societies.

Email alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk or tweet @birminghamalum and the best will feature in the next *Old Joe*.



What a mug competition

For your chance to win one of five exclusive University of Birmingham mugs, post a selfie on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and tell us why you love the University using #UoBmugshot. The prize draw closes on 31 January 2015 so get snapping! For terms and conditions, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni



#UoB2School

A celebration of all things 'education', from top teachers to plans for the new University of Birmingham School (see page 42 for details).

@BindiManku: School taught me that you have something special to offer to the world

@djhoughton: Used my D&T skills from secondary school to wedge the toilet door shut without a lock #UoB2School

@tchrPaula: Sometimes no matter the subject, the teacher makes all the difference

The right tools



The first in a regular series about the equipment staff at the University simply couldn't do without...



GUEST ED LOVES

Steve Williams, University Glass Blower

The essential piece of kit I use is a lathe. It holds and turns large diameters of glass tubing, allowing me to heat them with a large flame and form requested shapes.

There have been glass blowers on campus since the 1960s. I've been in the trade for 31 years and have worked in the Chemistry department

for 21 years, fabricating various scientific apparatus.

Every now and then, I get a commission for an artistic piece such as campus awards, or sentimental gifts. The most unusual request I've had is for a variety of miniature alcohol bottles created for the Tim Burton film *Frankenweenie*, although I wasn't given a mention in the credits!

Stepping up to help leukaemia patients

let's
cureleukaemia

Are you running the Birmingham Half Marathon this October?

You could help speed up treatment times and improve prospects for leukaemia patients by fundraising with the University, which is teaming up with Birmingham-based charity Cure Leukaemia for the 2014 event.

The aim is for 1,000 runners to raise £250,000 for the Centre for Clinical Haematology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Sign up at

www.birmingham.ac.uk/letsrun



Doing business with Birmingham

Whether you are a large corporate organisation or a small business, the University can help propel your company forward.

Access to intellectual property, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), a new business club for SMEs, and free incubation space at Birmingham Research Park are just some of the mechanisms the University offers to support businesses and entrepreneurs.

Clayton Manley is Managing Director of Birmingham-based naval design and manufacturing company Truflo Marine. He explains: 'The expertise of the researchers at the University is key to

us remaining at the forefront of delivering high integrity flow control solutions to our customers.

'We believe that a long-term relationship is essential to ensure that the latest technologies are transferred into our business.'

For further details about how the University can help your business, please contact businessteam@bham.ac.uk or visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/partners

DID YOU KNOW?

Birmingham plays an integral role in the UK's economic growth. The University produces around 6,000 talented and highly employable graduates every year, generates more than £1 billion of regional economic activity annually and supports nearly 12,000 jobs.

Digital donation for new library

More than 6,000 e-books worth in excess of £1 million have been donated to the new University library currently being built on campus.

As founders of Singapore-based World Scientific Publishing, a leading international scientific publishing company, Professor KK Phua (PhD Mathematical Physics, 1970) and his wife Doreen Liu (BSocSc Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1970) were delighted to contribute to the project.

'We are glad to learn that the University is constructing an outstanding, technologically rich new library and hope our gift will inspire the next generation of Birmingham students,' says Doreen (pictured above).

A space within the new building will be named after the eminent British physicist Professor Tony Skyrme, who taught KK Physics at Birmingham.

In addition to KK and Doreen's gift, more than £83,000 has been raised for the library project to date from 1,200 donors.



To find out more about how you can support the new library, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence or text GIVE to 70111 to give £3 today.

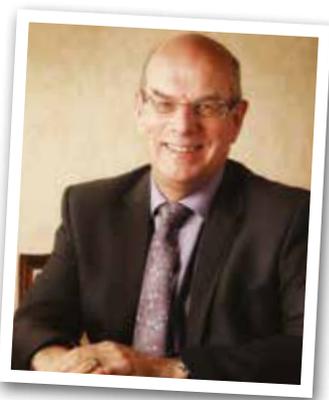
Why do we need a new library?

The old library was designed to house one million books at a time when just 4,000 students attended the University. Today, there are more than seven times as many students and almost triple the number of books. There are only 1,522 study spaces in the current building for almost 30,000 students.

Knighthood for Vice-Chancellor

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, has been awarded a knighthood in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Professor Sir David, who is also Chair of the Russell Group, was honoured in recognition of his exceptional contribution to higher education throughout his working life, and the commitment he has shown to enhancing the UK's reputation in the field. Prior to his role at Birmingham, the Vice-Chancellor held sector leadership positions including CEO of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).



Ed Smith CBE, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, says: 'I am delighted for David, his family, and the University, and on behalf of University Council I would like to offer our sincere congratulations.'

Tweet,
like,
share



#UoBwomen

Birmingham marked International Women's Day when women – and men – took to Twitter to share their days with the University and fellow alumni.

@DrVikkiBurns: Best advice I've had is don't try to be all things at all times - a career & a life happen over years #uobwomen

@srjffares: A day to pause and celebrate #UoBwomen

@lisabortolotti: I agree with other #UoBWomen - biggest issues are everyday sexism and work/life balance but we're making progress with both

@MissASofiaC: Who would I want to be? - Myself! Why make excuses? #youarebeautiful #UoBWomen

@DAIbracht:

Dear @birminghamalum & #uobwomen, thank you for sharing your day! I've been amazed and inspired by all of you!

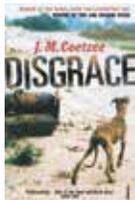


@leavesm: just stepping off the train in #Birmingham. Some of us #UoBwomen just couldn't leave the place! #Homesweethome



MY FAVOURITE BOOKS

S J Watson (BSc Physics, 1992) is author of the international bestseller *Before I Go to Sleep*, now a film starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. His new book *Second Life* is out in 2015.



Disgrace

J M Coetzee

Set in post-apartheid South Africa, *Disgrace* follows a poetry professor who is forced to resign after

seducing one of his students.

He retreats to his daughter's farm on the Eastern Cape and there confronts a country still riven with racial tension. The writing is sparse and brutal, and the resulting book devastating.



Stasiland

Anna Funder

A compelling picture of life in East Germany under the Stasi (the secret police), who at

one point had one informant for every six people. Funder recounts her experiences as she meets both the victims and enforcers of the regime, and struggles to understand an organisation that would steal people's underwear to record their smell.



Therese Raquin

Émile Zola

Set in Paris, and first published in 1867, this is the story of a woman, unhappily married to her first

cousin, who embarks on an affair.

When she and her lover kill her husband, far from freeing them, the murder sees them gradually lose everything. The novel was called 'putrid' by a critic of the time, and there can be no higher recommendation.

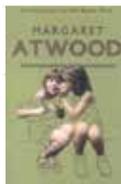


Strangers on a train

Patricia Highsmith

The first novel from the creator of Tom Ripley, and already all of Highsmith's trademarks

are here. The book is a tightly-plotted psychological thriller following architect Guy Haines as he attempts to extricate himself from the psychopathic Bruno, a stranger with whom he has inadvertently entered into a deadly pact.



Cat's Eye

Margaret Atwood

Almost any of Atwood's novels deserve a place on this list, but I've chosen her most

autobiographical novel. It follows controversial painter Elaine Risley as she returns to Toronto for a retrospective show. She finds herself reflecting on her childhood, and in particular her bullying by the charismatic and cruel Cordelia, an experience which coloured the rest of her life. If that sounds dry, don't be put off; *Cat's Eye* is beautiful and remarkable.

WIN

For your chance to win these five books, answer the following question:

What is the full name of the lead female character in *Before I Go to Sleep*?

Email your answer by 31 January 2015 to alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Jolly good fellows

Congratulations to alumni Dame Sally Davies and Professor of Particle Physics David Charlton, who were both made Fellows of the Royal Society this year.

The Fellowship is made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and Commonwealth, with Fellows elected for life on the basis of excellence in science.



Dame Sally (Hon MD, 2008) was recognised for her exceptional leadership in health research as Chief Medical Officer for England, Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and Chief Medical Advisor to the UK government.



Professor Charlton (PhD Physics, 1989) was elected for his work studying W and Y bosons, leading up to the observation of the Higgs boson particle at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. He is spokesperson of the ATLAS Collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, a global collaboration of 3,000 scientists.



● Image: (l-r) Aston Villa goalkeeper Brad Guzan, and student Mathew Wilkes

Scholarships keep students on the ball

Premier League football club Aston Villa and the University have formed a unique partnership to offer a scholarship scheme to students with little experience of higher education.

Over the next three years, the Aston Villa Scholarships (awarded on academic achievement and extra-curricular engagement rather than sporting ability) will help 28 local high achievers to study at Birmingham.

Villa goalkeeper Brad Guzan says: 'The scheme gives its students an unbelievable opportunity. When I was 17, I was given a scholarship to go to university and continue my education and play football. Without that I don't know if my career would be where it is today.'

Part of the University's sector-leading Access to Birmingham (A2B) initiative, the scholarships give students financial support to help meet the cost of their



education combined with the chance to volunteer on local community programmes through the club's charity Villa in the Community.

Aston Villa fan and scholarship recipient Mathew Wilkes (first year, BSc Chemical Engineering) says: 'I've supported Villa since the day I was born. To be one of the first scholars on this scheme is brilliant.

'Words can't describe how appreciative I am and how it is going to help me in my university career. Money is a bit tight and I don't want to financially burden my parents, I want to do it on my own. The chance that Villa has given me is phenomenal.'

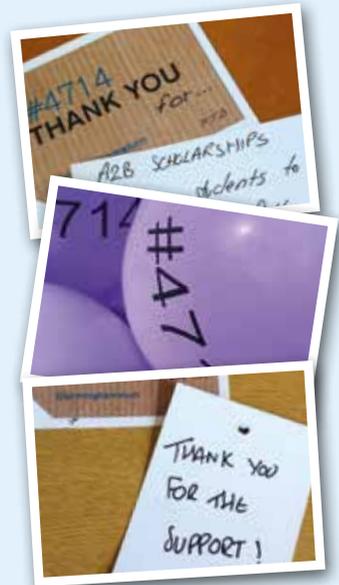
Find out how you can transform a life by supporting A2B scholarships: visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence or contact Carys Lewis at +44 (0)121 414 7829.

Tweet,
like,
share



#4714UoB

Staff and students thanked the 4,714 people who had contributed to the University as of February 2014. Their donations have supported projects including the new sports centre, and internships.



£2,000 scholarships open to all alumni

Keen to continue your relationship with Birmingham by studying for a postgraduate degree? Why not apply for a Masters Scholarship to help meet the cost of your course?

Awards of £2,000 are now available to 50 alumni for all postgraduate taught courses starting in 2015, and graduates from all subjects can apply.

FOR FULL DETAILS, VISIT

www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding



Get involved

There are plenty of ways that you can join the conversation with fellow alumni, share your views, and keep up to date with the latest University news and events as part of the University's online community.

Twitter: [@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum)

Facebook: [University of Birmingham Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofBirminghamAlumni)

LinkedIn: [University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UniversityofBirminghamAlumniandFriends)

Storify: storify.com/birminghamalum

AFTER THE FLOODS

With climate change causing more extreme weather, flooding is an increasingly prevalent natural phenomenon that can devastate people's lives. Researchers at Birmingham are investigating the best ways to manage future crises.

During the 2013/14 floods in Britain, it seemed to never stop raining. Many rivers reached record levels, entire villages were cut off and even abandoned, and the military were called in to help.

Now, a multi-disciplinary research project at the University is examining the ways in which communities, businesses and policymakers are recovering from the recent floods, and preparing to reduce the impacts of future flood events. Funded by a £200,000 grant from the Economic and Social Research Council, the 18-month Summer After the Floods project aims to generate policy recommendations, and identify lessons from homeowners, businesses and communities.

David Hannah, Professor of Hydrology and Head of School for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, says: 'At Birmingham we've got a broad range of expertise in water, the wider environmental area and how natural hazards affect people. That's hugely beneficial because many problems caused by flooding are not just about the physical phenomena, but how they affect communities.'

Professor Hannah describes his role as telling the story of water as it moves through a river basin. With Research Fellow Dr Megan Klaar (PhD Geography and Environmental Sciences, 2010), he is looking at what causes flooding in different environments and the hydrological characteristics of different types of flooding.

Modern flood management has focused on flood prevention measures in built-up areas, and allowing more rural areas to flood to ease the pressure. But is this fair?

Lecturer in Environment and Society Dr Steven Emery is examining social justice around the 2013/14 floods.

'Rural communities were overlooked somewhat in terms of their needs and protection. It was almost assumed that because rural flood plains were deemed natural, it was natural to allow them to flood and little attention was given to people living there.

'There was uproar from those affected and the government suddenly needed to respond.

So that guiding policy about natural flood management was sidelined as the government tried to address residents' anger.'

At Birmingham Business School, Professor Steve Brammer and Dr Layla Branicki are focusing on the recovery and future preparedness of businesses both directly and indirectly impacted by the flooding. Dr Branicki says:

'We want to understand how communities and government might work together more effectively, for example by better harnessing the capacity of volunteers and businesses to speed up recovery.'

Ultimately, the Summer After the Floods team hopes to highlight the role that local communities, businesses and government have to play in effective flood management.

'If you manage things at a local level, the solutions are more likely to be appropriate,' Dr Emery says. 'That doesn't mean you don't need some national oversight but that shouldn't come at the expense of allowing local people to contribute to the management of the environment in which they live.'

“AT BIRMINGHAM WE’VE GOT A BROAD RANGE OF EXPERTISE IN WATER, THE WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL AREA AND HOW NATURAL DISASTERS AFFECT PEOPLE.”



DID YOU KNOW?

Professor Hannah works as part of UNESCO's International Hydrology Programme, sharing data from around the world to give research a valuable global context.

Can you support our research?

If you live in the Somerset Levels, Basingstoke, Staines or Worcester, UK and are willing to share your experiences of the winter 2013/14 floods with researchers, please email alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk



CONGRATULATIONS *CLASS OF* 2014!

Cheers, celebrations and the relief of finally being able to walk under Old Joe without jinxing exam results filled campus in July as around 5,000 students celebrated their graduation.



Throwing your mortar board in the shadow of the clocktower. Walking into the Great Hall, possibly remembering the very different feeling last time you were there for finals. Sharing the joy of completing your degree with proud family and friends. Graduations mean all this and much more, as the Class of 2014 found out this summer.

The buzz on campus throughout the seven days of ceremonies was captured by two students from PhotoSoc. Favourite moments included the three generations of Birmingham graduates in Milly Taylor's family (1954, 1984 and 2014); and Lauren Butcher's then and now photos, taken in the same spot on her first day at Birmingham and her graduation day.

Graduands were challenged to come up with what they will miss the most about Birmingham in just a few words, and suggested a huge range of words and phrases including: 'Amazing campus, amazing friends'; 'Avoiding walking under Old Joe!'; 'The ducks on campus'; 'Fab!'; and 'It has been the best three years of my life... so far!'

The Class of 2014 was congratulated by everyone from comedian and actor Chris Addison (BA English, 1994) to Old Joe, the Mermaid, and the Vale ducks in a specially made short film celebrating their achievement. They could also win

a working wardrobe, and find tips and knowledge from fellow former students in *The Graduate Guide*. To find out more, visit www.bham.ac.uk/classof2014 or for all the action from graduations and other news and events throughout the year, like Birmingham Alumni on Facebook, follow @birminghamalum on Twitter, and unbirmingham on Instagram.

WANTED! YOUR GRADUATION MEMORIES

Has this taken you back to your graduation day? Whether you graduated in 1944 or 2014, please share your memories and photographs via Twitter (@birminghamalum), send them to alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk or post them to the address on the back page.

GUILD OF GRADUATES AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Once you graduate, you are automatically a member of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA), and new committee members are very welcome. Contact Norma Broadbridge MBE FSB via ggaapresident@bhamalumni.org

Meet the *new Chancellor*

The University is delighted that Lord Karan Bilimoria, Crossbench Peer and founder of Cobra Beer, has been appointed as its seventh Chancellor.



Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE, follows in the footsteps of Chancellors including the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain and the Right Honourable Anthony Eden, and succeeds Sir Dominic Cadbury, who stepped down last December after 11 years in the role.

The Chancellor acts as the University's ceremonial figurehead and helps to raise its profile on the global stage. The Chancellor is also a key figure at University events, and prior to his installation ceremony in July, Lord Bilimoria began his Chancellorship by meeting students from the Class of 2014 as he collected his own honorary degree from the University.

'Lord Bilimoria is a highly respected global businessman and Crossbench Peer with a clear passion for higher education and the value it brings to society and the economy,' said Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood.

**'I AM HONOURED AND HUMBLED TO
HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BE CHANCELLOR
OF THIS INTERNATIONALLY
RENOWNED UNIVERSITY WITH ITS
VIBRANT, GLOBAL COMMUNITY.'**

LORD BILIMORIA



Lord Bilimoria has a long association with the University of Birmingham; his mother, uncle and maternal grandfather studied here, and he has been a member of the Business School Advisory Board since 2005. He has also been acknowledged as an ambassador for Britain, India and the Parsi Community, and is a highly respected global businessman. Lord Bilimoria is also active in Parliament across a range of matters including commerce, entrepreneurship, education, diplomacy, minorities' contributions, and academia.

Having received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Osmania University in Hyderabad in 1981, Lord Bilimoria

moved to London where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He went on to read Law at the University of Cambridge. In 2004 he was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to business and entrepreneurship, and in 2006 he was created Baron Bilimoria of Chelsea in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, making him the first ever Zoroastrian Parsi to sit in the House of Lords.

For full details visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/chancellor



OLD JOE INBOX

Feedback, news and views from your alumni community...

Keeping UoB *in the family*

Family connections to Birmingham were the overriding theme of the messages *Old Joe* received following the March edition...



GUEST ED LOVES

1 John Edmonds (MPhil Continuing Studies, 2002) wondered if he and his brother Bill had set the record for the longest distance between degree qualifications. While the late Bill Edmonds (LDS Dentistry, 1942) qualified as a dental surgeon in December 1942, John was awarded his MPhil in December 2002, 60 years and a few days later. A 13-year-old Bill is pictured holding John as a baby.

2 Iain Wells (BSc Minerals Engineering, 1970; PhD, 1973) wrote to say the Wells and Pearson family had achieved 13 Birmingham degrees over a period of 80 years. This number will hopefully rise to 14 in 2015 when Kate Starr becomes the seventh member of the family to graduate from the Medical School – good luck Kate! Arthur Pearson (MBChB Medicine, 1921), the first member of the Wells family to graduate, is pictured.

3 *Old Joe* also heard from a grandmother and granddaughter who have both played lacrosse for the University. Angela Matthews (née Bromwich, BA Theology, 1959) and Lydia Matthews (first year, English Literature with American and Canadian Studies) are pictured with their very different lacrosse sticks.

4 Martin Roden (BA Modern History and Politics, 1981) also has a family closely entwined with Birmingham. His son, Tom, is currently studying Chemistry here, and his identical twin brother, Mike, is Head of the new University of Birmingham School. Martin himself is also a teacher and is Assistant Head at Birkenhead School. To find out more about Mike's vision for the school, see page 42.

5 Proud dad Stefan Wheaton (BA French, 1979) wrote to tell us that his twins Jessica (BA International Relations with Spanish, 2012) and David (BA International Relations with German, 2013) have both recently graduated. A third Wheaton may soon be added to the family's total as their brother, Michael, is showing an interest in studying here.

Send in your stories

Do you have a family or colleagues with connections to Birmingham, some news to share or a story about your student days? Tweet [@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum), post on www.facebook.com/birminghamalumni or email alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk.



TRANSFORMING THE POWER OF MEDICINE

Saving lives by accelerating medical research findings from laboratory benches to patients is the aim of a new Institute of Translational Medicine being created in Birmingham.



● Image: Hugh and Kate Gunn

Greengrocer Hugh Gunn felt numb when he was first diagnosed with malignant prostate cancer in 2005 at the age of 59. He was given between 18 and 30 months to live. 'I was told to

take nice holidays while I still could and get my affairs in order,' he remembers.

But almost a decade later, he is enjoying retirement with his wife Kate, two married daughters and three grandchildren. 'I'm still here, I'm very active and I live life to the full,' he says, 'and that's all because of new drug treatments, clinical trials, Professor Nicholas James and the Queen Elizabeth (QE) Hospital, Birmingham.'

Over the past nine years, several different treatments have helped Hugh, who was one of the first patients to try a hormone therapy called Enzalutamide, which he still takes and has since become licensed.

Hugh also has monthly doses of intravenous zoledronic acid as part of the trial, and is full of praise for staff at the QE.

'Everybody is cheerful, everybody knows you and greets you like a friend.

Little things like that make a massive difference when you're suffering from a horrible disease, and what could be a really nasty day is actually quite pleasant,' Hugh says.

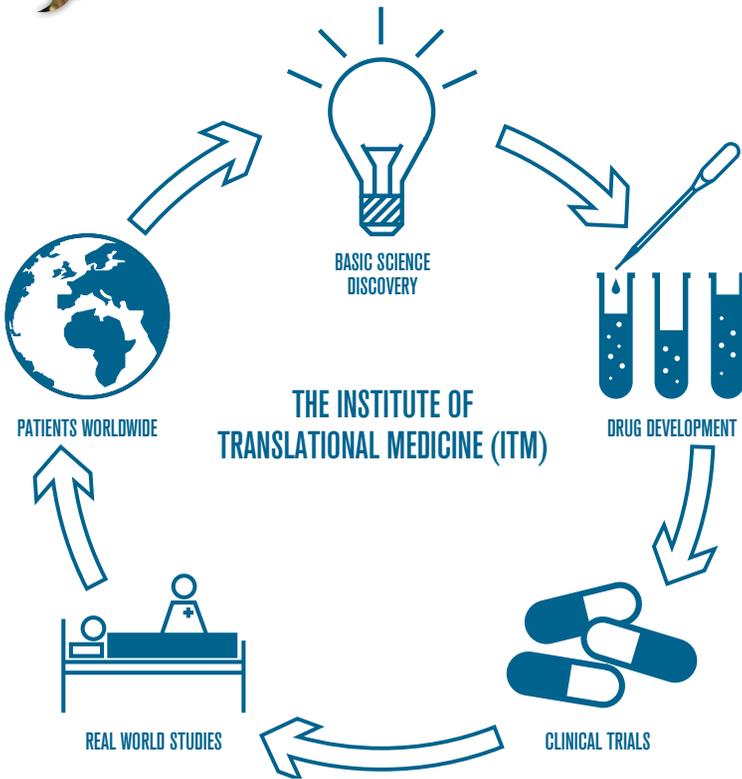
The new Institute of Translational Medicine will mean more patients like Hugh can take part in clinical trials, and be treated with new drugs to tackle killer diseases like prostate cancer.

Patients, doctors, academics and businesses will collaborate to test new medicines and medical diagnosis equipment and bring them to market faster, yielding major health and economic benefits.

The £24 million institute is set to open in summer 2015, and its location in Birmingham is of huge benefit. The city has the youngest age profile of any UK city, and its large catchingment region encompasses population scale and ethnic diversity – both crucial



GUEST ED LOVES



to advanced and comprehensive translational research.

Coupled with this, the West Midlands hosts more small and medium-sized life sciences enterprises than any other UK region. These businesses can manufacture drugs and medical equipment and complete the full circle of translational medicine.

Professor David Adams (MBChB Medicine, 1981), Head of the College

of Medical and Dental Sciences and Director of Birmingham Health Partners, says: 'One of the real opportunities we have in Birmingham is to use the enormous potential and expertise available through the NHS in our partnership hospitals, and ally that to outstanding academic and basic science within the University, to really develop research discoveries into the clinics as quickly as possible.'

Alumnus Professor Alan Boyd (BSc Biochemistry, 1977; MBChB Medicine, 1980), runs the drug development company Boyd Consultants.

He is excited about the possibilities that the Institute will create, and explains:

'Developing a prescription drug is very expensive and takes time. Only by trialling a drug in humans will you find out if it's worth putting more resources behind it. As a very interactive, one-stop-shop for commercial organisations to work with, the ITM will definitely help in that process,' he says.

FAQs

Which research areas will the ITM focus on?

- Cancer
- Chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes and stroke
- Rare diseases such as Alström syndrome or Bardet Biedl
- Auto-immune diseases that affect a range of organ systems
- Devices and diagnostics

What facilities will the ITM include?

Clinical trials facilities, a commercial and business hub, educational resources for staff training, and high-tech IT equipment to examine data and generate statistics will all be included in the new institute.

Who is involved in the project?

The ITM is delivered by Birmingham Health Partners, which brings together the clinical, scientific and academic excellence of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, the University of Birmingham, and Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

How can I support the ITM?

Donations from alumni and friends of the University will ensure patients like Hugh can access the very best treatments, facilities and researchers more quickly. Your support will save, improve and extend the lives of many people for years to come. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/ITM to find out more and make a donation, or call Laura Fairbanks on +44 (0) 121 414 8894.



GUEST ED LOVES



Dr Rodolfo Neri-Vela

Astronaut, scientist, author; the first Mexican to travel to space (PhD Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1979)



I was aged nine when Yuri Gagarin went into space, and never dreamed I would do the same thing. I decided to be an engineer, graduated in Mexico City, and then went to Essex University to do a Masters, before completing my PhD in Applied Electromagnetics at Birmingham. I was working in Mexico City when NASA and the Mexican Government announced there would be a Mexican astronaut trained at Houston to do scientific experiments on board the Space Shuttle Atlantis. I applied, along with hundreds of others, and I won!

It was a wonderful privilege representing Mexico at NASA. In 1985 we had an earthquake that killed thousands of people. My trip happened two months later, and brought happiness, hope, and pride to millions of Mexicans. It was not only the first time a Mexican travelled to space, but also the first time a Latin American country had a citizen as part of a NASA space mission.

Watching Earth from space was an incredible experience. It gave me the opportunity to represent Mexico on a global scale. We placed the Mexican communications satellite 'Morelos II' into low Earth orbit, and I did several experiments that were proposed by Mexican scientists. I also took more than 500 photographs of the Mexican territory, an activity that was compulsory in those pioneering days. We did have some free time to relax too but it was not possible then to communicate with one's family as it is nowadays. Sometimes I listened to Mexican music on my Walkman (no iPods in those days!), and enjoyed floating around like a human balloon or Superman.

I returned to Earth determined to live as intensely as possible, to work hard, to have fun, to love, to teach others. I have travelled widely across Mexico visiting schools and universities to talk about my experiences, and written 15 books for young people on topics as varied as my space trip, the exploration of the universe, electromagnetic waves, and even how to build your own satellite dish. I am very proud that these have been published in many languages.

My time in Birmingham gave me many wonderful memories. I made friends of different nationalities, enjoyed doing my research, learnt how to publish technical papers, and often exercised in the Sports Centre.

Children should dream about their future and my series about 'El Pequeño Astronauta' (the small astronaut) provides motivation for them to study. Sometimes when I give school presentations, a parent will come up to me afterwards to show me a photograph taken of them with me 25 years ago when they attended one of my first presentations after returning from space. Although I am now happily retired from my subsequent career as a university lecturer, I still work as a consultant and speaker, and it is incredibly gratifying to feel that my work is still considered useful across different generations.

The miracle of life is a gift, and we have the responsibility of making good use of it in peace and helping each other. To recent Birmingham graduates I would say: 'Congratulations! You are about to begin a new life, with plenty of opportunities to choose from. We never know what comes next; the important thing is to fly and grasp that opportunity when you see it.'





WELCOME TO THE REPRODUCTION REVOLUTION

Limbs, Lego, gears, guns and more – the world of 3D printing is as limitless as imagination. With 3D printers increasingly used in industry and homes alike, *Old Joe* looks at how Birmingham is leading the way in the field.

From prehistoric Stonehenge to the world's tallest manmade structure, Dubai's gleaming Burj Khalifa, the human need to build and create is seemingly insatiable.

Now a new technology is allowing users to generate almost any item, even a miniature version of themselves, using equipment freely available on the high street.

Although probably familiar with the term, for many the world of 3D printing is little understood, with much press coverage polarised between fears that anyone can now 'print' their own working gun, and predictions it will change life as we know it within decades.

So how exactly does it work? In the 1980s, it was known as rapid prototyping because the technique was used primarily to produce prototypes rather than a finished product. Now known as additive manufacturing or more commonly 3D printing, the method uses an industrial robot (the 'printer') to recreate an object by laying down layer after layer of material or compacting metallic powders. These layers build to become a three-dimensional replica, exactly to size or to scale depending on requirements.

'This isn't just a future technology,' says Moataz Attallah (PhD Metallurgy and Materials, 2008), Professor in Advanced Materials Processing. 'It is readily available now and has made it possible to produce almost anything. We are already making some really high specification printed objects.'

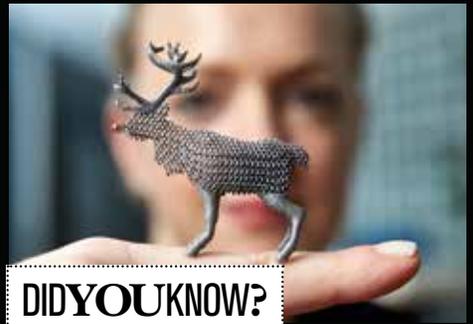
But Professor Attallah also adds a note of caution. 'Just because one can make something, doesn't mean one should. In the past researchers

would come up with a design and then look at how it could be manufactured, whereas today we have the technology to make objects without having to think about their performance requirements.

We are asking people to question the functionality of their designs, and this is where Birmingham is leading the way.'



● Image: 3D printed reindeer produced by the University



DID YOU KNOW?

3D printing is efficient and cost-effective. High value materials such as nickel and titanium are becoming more expensive and scarcer, and designers have to think of smarter ways to use them. When making components using traditional machine methods there is a lot of waste in cutting away metal from parts, but 3D printing reduces waste by using metallic powder that can be recycled and reused several times.

3D PRINTING – THE BIRMINGHAM WAY

'We are currently working on approximately £5 million worth of projects, with funding from both industry and research bodies,' says Professor Attallah. A unique aspect of 3D printing at Birmingham is that, unlike other universities, Professor Attallah and his team are able to create items at a scale on par with large manufacturers. This is thanks not only to the size and sophistication of the University's additive manufacturing labs, but also to the skills of Birmingham's staff and students.

'We have a strong combination of capacity, imagination, and understanding of 3D printing processes that allows us to scale up technology very quickly from an idea to a finished object,' says Professor Attallah. 'We are also not afraid to assess the processes and seek to understand their limitations.' This has allowed Birmingham to create innovative 3D printing solutions and make scientific breakthroughs across a range of diverse sectors.

1 MEDICINE

Professor Attallah and Liam Grover (BMedSc Biomedical Materials Science, 2001), Professor of Biomaterials Science, are using 3D printing to investigate the future for medical implants. 'One of the problems with implants is the risk of infection,' explains Professor Attallah. 'We are developing a new generation of drug delivering metallic implants using 3D printing. The implants will contain drugs within their structures. These drugs are released over time to combat risks of infection and inflammation, and increase the lifetime of an implant.'

2 DEFENCE

'The defence sector often cannot rely on conventional manufacturing technologies as they go out of date quickly and do not give the flexibility needed to react to sudden supply demands,' explains Professor Attallah. 3D printing allows researchers to react to needs and requirements much more quickly and liberates them from design constraints of traditional manufacturing. One such innovation at Birmingham is a lattice mesh (so-called auxetic) structure that is cheaper to produce than solid objects but just as strong. 'Generally if you pull a structure, it becomes thinner and weaker,' says Professor Attallah, 'but the mesh we have produced using 3D printing actually becomes bigger when stretched while keeping its strength. This could have lifesaving applications for armours against projectiles such as bullets.'

3 AEROSPACE

'Due to safety concerns regarding any new technology this will be the last sector to fully accept 3D printing,' says Professor Attallah. However, it is being used for prototyping of aerospace parts, and Birmingham is at the heart of this process as a key partner in the largest additive manufacturing collaboration in Europe. The programme, AMAZE, brings together more than 30 European partners from universities and industry to investigate the development and application of 3D printing methods within aerospace technology.

4 ARTS

The idea of using cutting-edge manufacturing techniques in the artistic process may seem strange but it shows the diversity of 3D printing. 'We serve many different disciplines across the University and beyond,' says Professor Attallah. 'This includes working with artist in residence Myfanwy Jones, who created computer models of fossils, from the Palaeontology group, that we turned into 3D objects to be incorporated into her artwork.'

THROUGH OUR RESEARCH WE ARE
LOOKING AT THE *WHY* AND *HOW*
BEHIND 3D PRINTING, NOT JUST THE
WHAT THAT CAN BE PRODUCED.

BRINGING THE EXTINCT BACK TO LIFE

Professor Attallah and his team are working with researchers in the University's Lapworth Museum to bring life into fossils by x-raying and producing them as 3D objects. This virtual palaeontology is not only a powerful technique for recreating prehistoric objects for research, but also provides objects that

can be used in the University's extensive community engagement activities. Most recently the 3D fossils have been used in practical demonstrations at the University's Community Day, and in an exhibition at London's Science Museum.

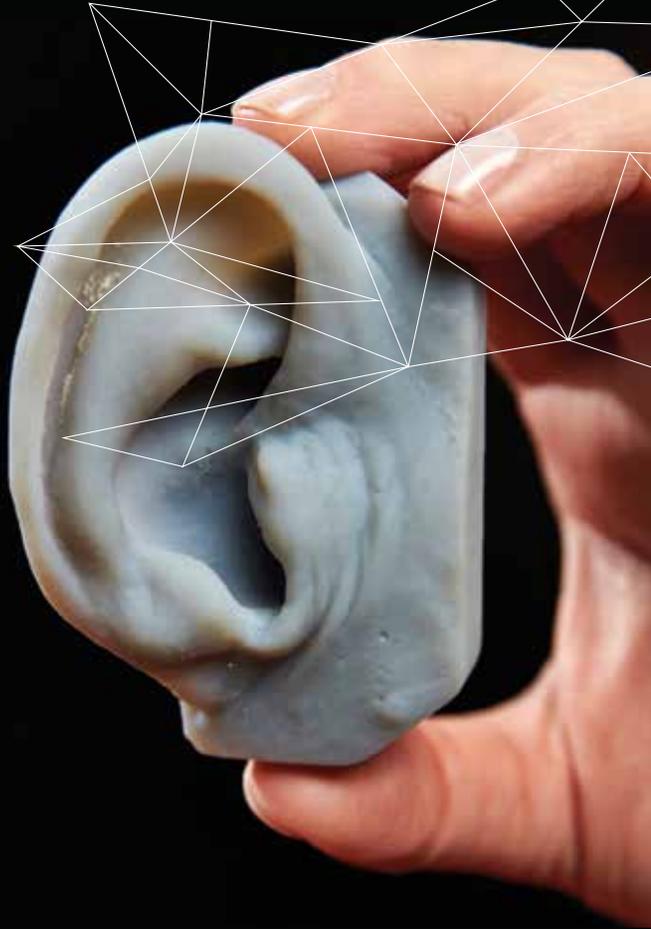
WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR 3D PRINTING?

In the past few years the technology and interest in 3D printing have grown together and now almost anything you can imagine is possible to print. There is even a free programme 'RepRap' that, if you have the time and materials, provides a printer that can print itself!

Professor Attallah says: 'Over the next ten years, 3D printing will evolve at the same pace we saw with mobile phones, and people will start buying plastics printers as household items. In the same way as photographs have moved from something that had to be developed at specialist stores to something we all have the ability to store and print at home, 3D printing will rapidly move from a specialist service to something we can all achieve.'

Although metal 3D printing such as that carried out at Birmingham requires more expensive and sophisticated equipment, Professor Attallah believes there will be centres printing metal items for the home such as replacement pipes and parts, just as there were copying services when fax machines first launched.

Professor Attallah is confident that Birmingham will remain a key player in the development of 3D printing. 'We are already on the map across Europe for our skills and knowledge in additive manufacturing, and in the past year we have had visits from companies in almost all of the G8 countries who want to learn more about our expertise. There are so many things that we can do with 3D printing, from producing quirky items such as Valentine's roses and Christmas reindeer to exploring quantum sensors and extinct species.'



3D PRINTING IS AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION THAT WILL COMPLETELY CHANGE THE WAY WE LOOK AT MANUFACTURING.

● Images: (above) Artificial ear and (left) lattice structure produced in the 3D printing lab



WIN

WIN YOUR OWN PIECE OF 3D PRINTING

For a chance to win your own unique piece of 3D printing, just answer the following question:

What is the current value of 3D printing projects at the University of Birmingham?

The winner will receive a personalised 3D printed keyring featuring the University crest. Email your answer, name, degree details, and a contact telephone number to alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk by 31 January 2015. Terms and conditions apply.

Visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnicompetitions

Prized possessions give glimpse into history

Grainy, black and white photographs, a Hicks University Outfitters blazer, and a student diary still holding its original metal-topped pencil were among the Birmingham memorabilia from the 1940s discovered by Judith Palmer in her parents' house earlier this year. Students at the University at different times, both Gwilym Palmer and June Sanders were so proud of their Birmingham connection they held on to mementoes for the rest of their lives. *Old Joe* takes a step back to campus life more than 70 years ago.



A personal diary

Gwilym (BSc Physics, 1940) kept a detailed diary of his time at university, recording everything from the weather and world events, to his studies, friends and sporting life. His entries include:

25th October 1939:

Played rugger in afternoon in a trial match. Not a bad game. Flicks in night: Four Feathers. Very good.

1st March 1940:

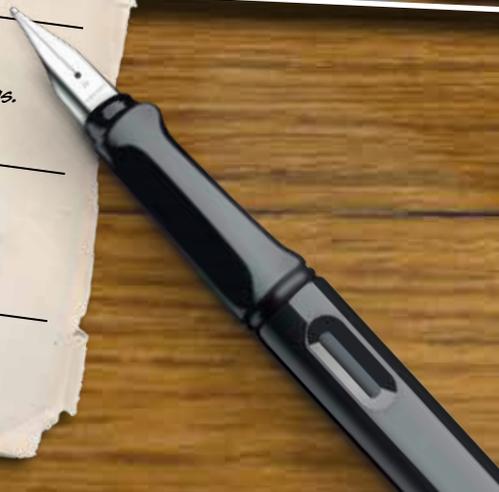
Received first pay of my life of three shillings. Money order from Dundee.

10th May 1940:

Hitler and Germany invade Belgium and Holland. War getting into full swing.

4th November 1940:

Excellent Hop tonight, not too crowded.





Beyond studies and into the Guild

June (BSc Mathematics, 1947; PGCE, 1948) was a keen seamstress and, alongside her studies, made costumes for the University Dramatic Society. During her postgraduate year, June also became Secretary of the Guild of Undergraduates, as it was then known. The Guild was of great importance and June's appointment was reported in *Redbrick* alongside photographs of Chancellor Raymond Priestley and Vice-Chancellor the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, who later became British Prime Minister. The report stated: 'She will learn very soon that it is upon the Secretary that the wellbeing of the Guild does chiefly depend.'

Wartime at Birmingham

During the war years, the Ministry of Labour allowed two years' study in a useful subject, so a degree was not usually allowed because of universities' three-year minimum period of study. However, students were later granted a degree under the 'War Degree Regulations', with only the most brilliant few awarded Honours. Gwilym was one of that small number.

Eight years later, due to post-war paper shortages, June simply received a slip confirming her postgraduate award, and a reference from her tutor stating: 'When she has learned to direct her energies to the achievement of fewer purposes, Miss Sanders will develop into a useful Grammar School Mistress.'

Love and marriage

Despite their Birmingham connection, it was not until later when they both worked at the Atomic Energy Authority in Harwell that Gwilym and June met. Judith explains: 'My mother decided she was too young to teach, as she was only a couple of years older than her A level students, so got a job at Harwell where Dad was already working. They both lived in the staff club (it was mixed, so very racy for 1950!) and married in 1951.'

What's your Birmingham history?

Do you have memorabilia from your time at the University that you could share? Special Collections Archivist Helen Fisher says: 'We are delighted to accept donations of this kind of material to add to the University archives. Papers and photographs of individual students offer an insight into student life and experience not visible in the official archives, and often provide a different perspective on aspects of the University's history.'

Learn more

www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/cadbury/index.aspx



Alumni events

There are a wide range of events and other opportunities throughout the year for you to get together with old friends, network with fellow professionals, or simply come along for a drink. Here is a selection of what's on offer:

Alumni events

Distinguished Leaders Series,

Birmingham Business School, various dates

High-profile leaders from international industries discuss the qualities of a great leader.

October

Medicine 30-Year Reunion, 10 October, 5.30–10.30pm

Dentistry 30-Year Reunion, 17 October, 7.00–11.00pm

Join fellow 1984 classmates to celebrate the 30th anniversary of your graduation. Contact Karen McNaughton k.m.mcnaughton@bham.ac.uk (Medicine) or Carinna Chilton c.chilton@bham.ac.uk (Dentistry) for details.



South Texas Gathering, 18 October, 6.00–9.00pm

Alumni in the Houston/San Antonio/Austin/College Station area are invited to a social evening in Houston. Contact Peter Schmiediche peter@schmiediche.com or Brian Beeston bepbeeston@gmail.com for details.

February



Alumni vs Students vs Staff Quiz, February 2015

Put your general knowledge to the test at an informal quiz in Joe's Bar, Guild of Students. Register your interest now via alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

To find out more about any of these events, or for help organising a reunion, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events, email alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call +44 (0)121 414 8904. Event invitations are usually sent by email – so please update your details via alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

March

London Professional Network, March 2015

Network with fellow alumni from the fields of finance, insurance, property and legal-related professions while enjoying wine and canapés. Further details will follow shortly but register your interest now via alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk

General events

Bramall Comedy Night, Elgar Concert Hall

The Bramall Music Building presents a monthly comedy night. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall/events for details on all Bramall events.

October

Book to the Future, campus-wide, 14–18 October

Celebrating the written and spoken word, and featuring academic, student, and local talent plus well-known alumni authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters.

Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series:

Lord Krebs, Edgbaston campus, 16 October, 6.00pm

The University is delighted to welcome Lord Krebs, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, to deliver a talk entitled 'Science and Policy'.

Bupa Great Birmingham Run, 19 October

The University is teaming up with local charity, Cure Leukaemia, for this year's Bupa Great Birmingham Run to raise money to help speed up treatment times for leukaemia patients in Birmingham and beyond. Details are at www.birmingham.ac.uk/letsrun

Meet the Scientist at Thinktank Science Museum, 30 October

The award-winning public engagement team from the Centre for Liver Research and Wellcome Trust CRF will be wowing children with some fantastic interactive experiments and games.

November

ESRC Festival of Social Science,

Edgbaston campus and various, 1–8 November

A festival of free events highlighting some of the leading social science research taking place, and offering an insight into how social science research impacts on our lives.

Winter Lecture: The Lapworth Museum, Unearthing a Geological Treasure, Winterbourne House and Garden, 6 November, 7.30pm

Providing historical background to the Lapworth, and explaining how the museum redevelopment project aims to provide a unique and innovative visitor experience.

Ironbridge Annual Lecture 2014: The Value of Heritage and the Heritage of Value, Thursday 13 November, 5.30pm

Featuring historian, museum and heritage crusader, Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage.

The Edward Cadbury Lectures 2014, ERI Building, 25 November–3 December

Started by an endowment from the Cadbury Family for an annual lecture series on the history, theology and culture of Christianity.

December

EPS Christmas Lecture, The Great Hall, Wednesday 10 December

Scientist, author and broadcaster Professor Jim Al-Khalili, presenter of *The Life Scientific* on BBC Radio 4, delivers the inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture.

University Carol Service, The Great Hall, 8 December, 6.15–7.30pm

Organised by the University Chaplaincy and Department of Music, this is a joyful Christmas celebration for staff, students and families. All are welcome: no booking or ticket required.

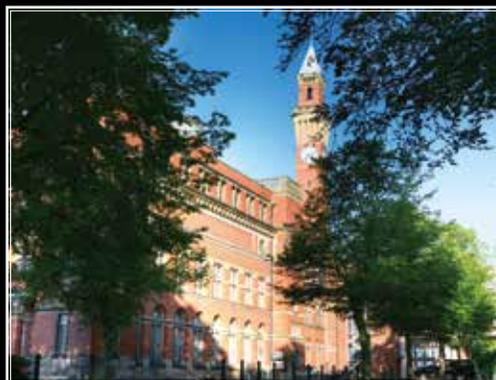
Rebel Visions: The War Art of CRW Nevinson, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, 24 October–25 January

The work of British war artist Richard Nevinson is explored in this groundbreaking exhibition. Visit www.barber.org.uk for details on all Barber events and exhibitions.

College of Arts and Law Alumni Bursary



The College of Arts and Law is offering an alumni bursary for postgraduate taught programmes starting in 2014/15. All University of Birmingham graduates – from any College – are entitled to a £750 reduction on full-time postgraduate tuition fees for Masters-level taught courses in the College of Arts and Law. The bursary is also available for part-time, applied pro-rata. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnibursary to find out more.



Study for free with a MOOC

With our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) you can study short modules for free and in your own time. Delivered by world-class academics from the University of Birmingham, MOOCs enable learners worldwide to sample high-quality academic content online. With courses ranging from *Hamlet* to how the brain works there is something for everyone, and as all of the courses have been developed by senior academic staff their content is quality-assured.

Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/moocs to find out more.

Inspired to care

Social worker and Alumna of the Year
Amanda Beaufoy (BA English/History,
2000; MA Social Work, 2010;
OccUG Social Work with Children,
Young People and Families, 2013)
is on the front line of
child protection.





GUEST ED LOVES

Imagine you're nine years old and due to tragic family circumstances you become violent. You stop going to school for two years. Teachers say you need psychiatric treatment. Everyone gives up on you. Everyone except Amanda Beaufoy.

Amanda (BA English/History, 2000; MA Social Work, 2010; OccUG Social Work with Children, Young People and Families, 2013) realises you have a social problem, not a mental health issue. She arranges for you to be removed into a children's home, where she continues to visit you, and then works with your family to explain how their actions might have made you feel.

A year later, you are able to move back home.

'The boy's mum told me I'd got their family back together. She said "I've got a different boy and he's got a different mum". That's what my job's about,' explains Amanda, who was named National Children's Social Worker of the Year 2013.

'I work with families that are in serious need where there are issues around drug abuse, sexual abuse or physical abuse; you name it, we encounter it. It's challenging but it's interesting and it's very immediate because you have to react straight away,' she adds.

Amanda initially studied English and History at Birmingham, and remembers Professor Carl Chinn bringing the past alive and nights singing karaoke at the Gun Barrels with her friends from University House.

After graduation she tried several jobs including journalism and banking, but decided to become a social worker while working for a charity that supported disabled people to take charge of their own care. She felt frustrated that she could not help more and knew she wanted to work directly with families.

'It took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do. People would always tell me I should inspire others but I

didn't want to do that. I was being a bit stubborn and had to find my own way of getting there,' she says.

Amanda came back to Birmingham to study social work in 2008 and was particularly impressed that the course was focused on users of social services and their experiences. Since graduating she has been making a difference to families in Worcestershire working for the county council.

Although she is profoundly deaf, Amanda sees this as an asset to her work. 'I can go into families and tell them I'm different; I've experienced discrimination and prejudice. I'm not coming from a perfect background.

It can be a bit of an ice-breaker as people feel they can relate to me.'

Social work often gets negative press, particularly in the wake of cases like Baby P, where a child was repeatedly abused and ultimately killed by his family despite being seen more than 50 times by professionals, but Amanda views this as unfair.

'With cases like that, there are lessons to be learned. The main thing to blame is usually lack of communication

between agencies. I don't think it's fair to give social work bad press because at the end of the day it's parents that have done that to a child,' she says.

And her advice to anyone considering a career in social work? 'It's a hard job. It's demanding. You do go home sometimes thinking "I quit, I'm never doing this again", but every day is different and I like that. It's a fantastic job, and you should go for it.'

**IT'S A FANTASTIC JOB.
IT'S A HARD JOB.
IT'S DEMANDING. YOU DO GO
HOME SOMETIMES THINKING
"I QUIT, I'M NEVER DOING
THIS AGAIN," BUT EVERY DAY
IS DIFFERENT AND
I LIKE THAT.**

Do you know any inspirational alumni like Amanda?
Nominate them for an alumnus of the year award at
www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnioftheyear



GUEST ED LOVES

WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME?

An interactive campaign is giving you the chance to name the gym in the University's new sports centre.

You can help to name the University's new state-of-the-art gym by voting for your favourite sporting hero who has pledged their support for the facility.

The £55 million sports centre will include Birmingham's first 50-metre swimming pool, and a wide range of other amenities to cater for students, staff, and the wider community. Alumni will also be able to join the sports centre and use facilities including six squash courts, a 225-station gym, a climbing wall, and fitness classes for all levels and abilities.

ELLIE SIMMONDS OBE

Four-time Paralympic Champion with ten world records to her name. Ellie received her OBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours in recognition of services to Paralympic sport. Ellie grew up near Birmingham but had to relocate to Swansea to train due to the lack of a 50-metre pool. Our sports centre will help provide training facilities for future champions.

WHOSE NAME WILL BE IN THIS BUILDING?



There will be a wide range of great competitions throughout *Name of the Game* and the University is offering one lucky winner the chance to win a piece of Birmingham history – signs from the Gun Barrels pub! For a chance to win – answer the following question:

How many stations will there be in the new gym?



Email the answer, your name, and degree details to alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk by 31 October 2014. Terms and conditions apply: www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumniconmunications.





CHRISSIE WELLINGTON MBE (BSC GEOGRAPHY, 1998)

Four-time Ironman Triathlon World Champion, and the first British athlete to hold the title. In 2009 Chrissie was voted *Sunday Times* Sportswoman of the Year, and in 2010 was awarded an MBE. As a passionate alumna and campaigner for women's sport, Chrissie is supporting the sports centre as an inspirational community facility.



GLADSTONE SMALL

Former England and Warwickshire cricketer, and one of the most popular characters in County Cricket. With close ties to the city and fond memories of training at the University's running track, Gladstone is delighted to support the *Name of the Game*.



VOTE NOW!

To find out more about why Ellie, Gladstone and Chrissie are supporting the sports centre, and to cast your vote, head to www.birmingham.ac.uk/nameofthegame. The website also offers a sneak peek at what the finished facilities will look like, some great games that reveal fascinating facts about the new sports centre, and regular competitions.



You can follow [@votenotg](https://twitter.com/votenotg) on Twitter for the latest news on the campaign and the participants.



You can also vote by texting **GLADSTONE, ELLIE** or **CHRISSIE** to 70099.

Fun fact

The distance run on treadmills in the new gym will exceed 100,000 kilometres per year – more than twice around the world.



Texts cost £1 plus standard rate text message charge. A minimum of 97p depending on your service provider will be received by the University of Birmingham, charity exemption number X7237. Helpline: +44 (0)121 414 8894.

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR MARK

Thanks to you, the Circles of Influence campaign has achieved amazing things in the past five years, saving lives, changing lives, and shaping the face of the campus for generations to come. Now in its final year, this is your chance to be a part of the biggest and most successful fundraising campaign ever by any charity outside London, Oxford and Cambridge...



Your university needs you

To make a gift, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/, or call Laura Fairbanks on +44 (0)121 414 8894.

You can also choose to raise money for the University through JustGiving. Email giving@contacts.bham.ac.uk to request a fundraising pack



£160 MILLION
THE CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE
TARGET SET TO BE EXCEEDED,
THANKS TO YOU

THE FIVE LANDMARK PROJECTS THAT STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO BE COMPLETED. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

LIBRARY

BLENDING PRINTED MATERIAL, NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR OUTSTANDING STUDY FACILITIES (P11)



INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

SAVING LIVES BY ACCELERATING RESEARCH FROM LABORATORY TO PATIENTS (P20)



SPORTS CENTRE

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND ELITE PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE SIDE BY SIDE (P34)

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL

SHAPING THE EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE IN BIRMINGHAM AND BEYOND (P42)



LAPWORTH MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND IMPROVED ACCESS WILL HELP TO ENGAGE NEW AUDIENCES (P8)



ORDINARY > EXTRAORDINARY

THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE TO WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED - TRANSFORMING THE ORDINARY TO THE EXCEPTIONAL AND OFTEN WORLD LEADING.

IT IS YOU THAT TAKES THE UNIVERSITY FROM GOOD TO GREAT



We are University of the Year – your generous support of everything from campus developments to student scholarships played a part in Birmingham being named University of the Year, and rising up the league tables.

SPOTLIGHT:

Brazil



GUEST ED LOVES



The fifth-largest country in the world, Brazil is as famous for carnivals, beaches and coffee as for its megadiverse wildlife and incredible natural environments.

Named for the Brazilwood tree that used to grow in abundance along its coastline, South America's biggest nation is home to more than 200 million people and close to four million plant and animal species. Diverse and colourful, Brazil was most recently in the world spotlight as host of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, allowing the country to showcase its cuisine, music, literature, and stunning scenery.

Recognising its position as an emerging global player, the University's links with Brazil range from research collaborations and business engagement, to doctoral training and opportunities for staff and students. This work to become

the country's higher education partner of choice saw it claim the *Times Higher Education* Outstanding International Strategy Award earlier this year.

There are currently around 100 Brazilian students studying on undergraduate, postgraduate and Study Abroad programmes at Birmingham through Science without Borders (Ciência sem Fronteiras), and a joint investment fund with the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) that offers PhD scholarships and Visiting Fellowships.

Search for Science without Borders at www.birmingham.ac.uk to learn more.

So what do alumni recommend when visiting Brazil?

Ben Goodwin (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2006) worked in Rio de Janeiro.

- Soak up the bohemian nightlife and samba performances in Lapa and enjoy Brazilian street food under the iconic Carioca Aqueduct
- Pay homage to singer and actress Carmen Miranda at the museum dedicated to her life and work in Parque Brigadeiro Eduardo Gomes
- Take a cable car to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain for breathtaking views across the city
- Enjoy a steak inside Garota de Ipanema, formerly Veloso Bar, where Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes wrote the second most recorded pop song in history – *The Girl from Ipanema*



- Scale the colourful steps of the Escadaria Selarón, the work of Chilean-born artist Jorge Selarón
- Relax on one of Rio's fantastic beaches, including Ipanema, Leblon and Copacabana
- Marvel at rail transport of yesteryear, including a carriage built to serve Emperor Dom Pedro II, at the Museu do Trem which is situated next to the Rio Olympic Stadium
- Take the Trem do Corcovado rack railway up Corcovado to one of the New Seven Wonders of the World; Christ the Redeemer



Next up it's...

Birmingham Send your tips and pictures to alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk and the best will be featured on this page in the next issue of *Old Joe*.





A selection of news from around the University. To find out about your school or department, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk

From the College of Social Sciences

New Head of College appointed

Leading professor of social policy and social work, Professor Saul Becker, has been appointed Head of the College of Social Sciences and University Pro-Vice-Chancellor. He joins Birmingham from The University of Nottingham and replaces outgoing Head of College, Professor Edward Peck.

Birmingham Business School

This summer, the school achieved accreditation from AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), making it one of just a handful of world business schools which holds a gold-standard 'triple-crown' accreditation. It has also been awarded a Small Business Charter Silver Award for its dedication to improving links with the small business community.

Learn more www.birmingham.ac.uk/business

Health Services Management Centre

What does the future hold for the NHS? That was the question debated by academics, practitioners and the media at the Health Services Management Centre annual lecture in June.

Learn more www.birmingham.ac.uk/hsmclecture



From the College of Arts and Law

Drama is the UK's best

The Drama and Theatre Arts department has been ranked first overall in the UK in the latest *Guardian University Guide*, confirming Birmingham as the best place to study Drama and Theatre Arts in the country. The recognition represents students' satisfaction with teaching standards and the course overall.

Book to the Future

Book to the Future is back for 2014. Running from 14–18 October, this celebration of the written and spoken word will feature academic and student talent as well as well-known alumni authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters. This year's festival will explore the theme of time – travelling around the world in 90 minutes, examining the century since the start of World War One, and celebrating 450 years since the birth of Shakespeare.

Learn more www.birmingham.ac.uk/btff

From the College of Life and Environmental Sciences

New Head of College appointed

Following an intensive search, Professor Myra Nimmo has been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences. Professor Nimmo replaces Professor Kevin Chipman, who has retired from his role as interim Head of College.

Professor Nimmo joins Birmingham from the University of Loughborough where she was Professor of Exercise Physiology and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research). Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood says: 'Myra brings a track record of academic achievement, experience, and a clear vision for Life and Environmental Sciences. I am sure all alumni will join me in congratulating her on her appointment and welcoming her to the University.'



From the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

EPS Awards

The College celebrated the achievements of its student societies with the first ever EPS Societies' Awards. From public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula Student cars with UBRacing, the societies are involved not just in academia but also in promoting career opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and social events. The awards recognised the winners' dedication in making the University an even better place to study and play.

Learn more www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/societiesawards



Alumni Reunion

At the first EPS Alumni Reunion in June the College welcomed more than 170 alumni and guests for a day full of story swapping, school visits and activities. Reunions will be run again in 2015 for alumni from all graduating years.

Learn more www.birmingham.ac.uk/epsreunion2015

From UBSport



More than 500 students and alumni came to campus for Alumni Sports Day 2014. During the fun-packed event, a range of different year groups took on current students in 15 sports including water polo, basketball and rugby. Waterpolo alumna Rosie Wakeham (BSc Biology, 2013) says: 'It was really exciting to see everyone again and I felt quite nostalgic.' UBSport also closely followed the 21 Birmingham alumni and students selected to represent their respective countries in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Learn more www.sport.bham.ac.uk



From the College of Medical and Dental Sciences

New arthritis research centre opens its doors

Olympic gold medal-winning rower Katherine Grainger has officially opened a major new research centre for arthritis, co-founded by the University of Birmingham.

Alongside the universities of Glasgow and Warwick, researchers will investigate the underlying causes of the condition, which affects about 400,000 people in the UK.

New Head of College appointed

David Adams (MBChB Medicine, 1981) has been appointed the new Head of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences. Currently Professor of Hepatology, David will also continue to serve as Dean of Medicine for the College.





GUEST ED LOVES



The Supermarket

SCIENTIST

In an increasingly competitive retail environment, Mike Coupe (BSc Physics, 1982) believes making Sainsbury's different is essential.

Gripping a Sainsbury's chicken sandwich in one hand and a fruit juice in the other in preparation for his four-minute lunch break, the new CEO of one of the UK's biggest supermarket chains wears a name badge which, like all of his colleagues, simply states his first name.

Although Mike Coupe appears unassuming, it is clear he is as driven and ambitious for the company as his predecessor, Justin King, who was credited with transforming Sainsbury's fortunes after joining the organisation in 2004.

Mike has also worked in the company for the past ten years. As Group Commercial Director he was King's right-hand man, and took over as CEO in July 2014. He is determined to succeed in his new role and jokes that he is keen to avoid 'David Moyes syndrome', citing the fate of Sir Alex Ferguson's successor as manager of Manchester United FC who was unceremoniously sacked after just ten months.

'My priority is to maintain the continuity and balance in the organisation. Over the past ten years, Justin and I have taken it from where it was to a very successful company

with a strong set of values, great quality products, a great store environment and 160,000 motivated colleagues.

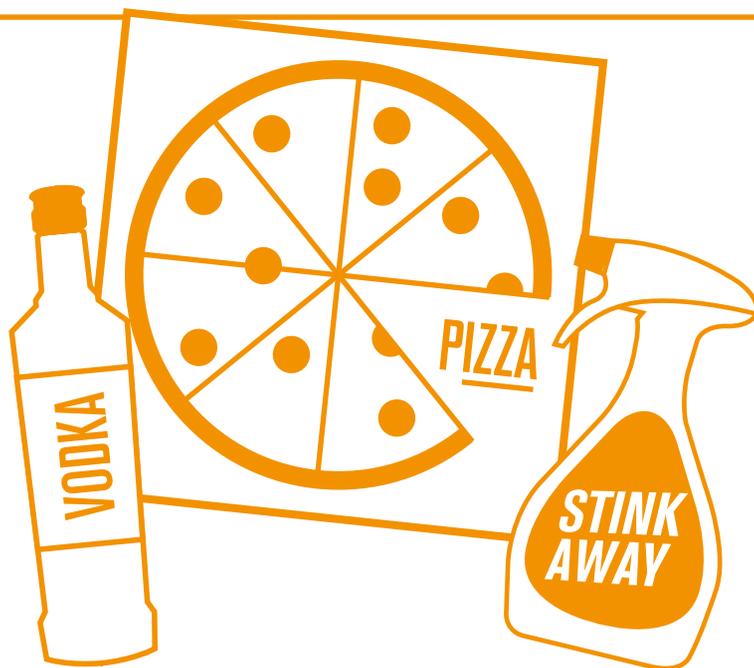
'It's also very much a story of continuing to do the good things that we're doing but it's a rapidly changing environment and it will be naïve to say that the world isn't going to be different in five years' time. Part of my challenge is to face that and make sure we make the right choices today for the challenges of the future.'

A major challenge Sainsbury's is currently facing is how to remain profitable when competing against discount chains such as Aldi and Lidl. Mike believes the key to success is differentiating the supermarket from its competitors.

'Although being competitive on price is fundamental to what we do, our investment in quality and the standards within our stores, the values that underpin the products that we sell and the sourcing of products with integrity, sit at the heart of our brand.

We know our customers value that and if we do a good job for them they will continue to shop with us. Ultimately that will lead us to being more profitable in the future,' he says.

Mike, who has held top roles at several UK retailers



The typical student shopping basket

According to Sainsbury's statistics from stores in student areas like Selly Oak, undergraduates survive on a diet of frozen pizza and basics vodka. Students don't buy many household cleaning products or much pet food, but the stores sell a massive amount of odour eliminator!

“IT'S ALSO VERY MUCH A STORY OF CONTINUING TO DO THE GOOD THINGS THAT WE'RE DOING BUT IT'S A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND IT WILL BE NAIVE TO SAY THAT THE WORLD ISN'T GOING TO BE DIFFERENT IN FIVE YEARS' TIME.”

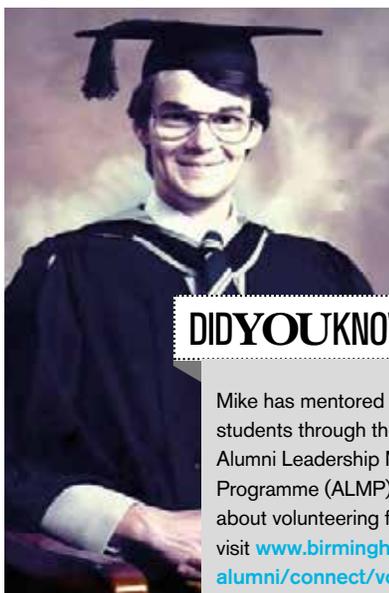
including Tesco, Asda and Iceland, remembers spending hours in the snooker room at the Guild and drinking Marston's Pedigree in the cellar bar during his student days at Birmingham.

But he says the scientific thought processes he developed studying physics have proved invaluable in his career, allowing him to be objective and analytical when being almost overwhelmed by data.

'The retail business, and a business like Sainsbury's in particular, is very data driven and data analytical and your ability to interpret, understand, and experiment with that data is actually crucial to your success,' he adds.

Sainsbury's is a brand committed to ethical values and as CEO, Mike intends to focus on several different areas that he knows customers are interested in, including treatment of employees and suppliers, sourcing of products, and reduction of household waste.

'Our customers are very discerning and they look to us to find ways to help them. There are already many fronts on which we help our customers and I'm sure I will look to develop these in the future.'



DID YOU KNOW?

Mike has mentored three final-year students through the University's Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme (ALMP). To find out more about volunteering for Birmingham, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/connect/volunteering.aspx

Shaping the future by creating *history*



'Equipping children for the tests of life, not a lifetime of tests' – that is the goal of Mike Roden, Principal of the University of Birmingham School. Set to open in September 2015, the school and its team have grand designs to shape the educational landscape in Birmingham and beyond.

This will be the UK's first university training school, a concept that unites researchers with teachers in university-run schools, educating pupils alongside cutting-edge academic enquiry. It will also be a centre for teacher training, ongoing teacher education, and research that will inform national policy and practice. Classes will be taught by experienced teachers with trainees learning their craft alongside them in a model akin to teaching hospitals.

So why was Birmingham chosen by the UK government as the first? The city has an estimated shortage of 9,000 secondary school places by 2020 which, combined with its diverse population and the University's outstanding School of Education and teacher training provision, were all critical factors. Also crucial was Birmingham's renowned tradition of widening access to higher education, which will be embodied through an inclusive admissions policy for the 11–16 school based solely on geography (the sixth form, in contrast, will be academically selective to prepare students for university entry).

'I don't believe the education system should be one size fits all,' says Mike. 'It should be about helping people discover new interests, and our school will focus on all children achieving their potential and flourishing in all walks

Just one year from opening its gates, the University of Birmingham School isn't breaking the mould. It's creating a brand new one.



GUEST ED LOVES



of adult life. The value of an education is in what impact you make on the lives of others. I really believe that. These pupils will be creating history.'

Mike is now assembling his team of staff, who will share his drive to inspire pupils and break educational boundaries. 'We are aiming to raise aspirations of higher education from an early age, and show university is for everyone who wants it,' he explains. But while its people become the school's heart, the building itself will breathe life into the institution's ethos and ambitions through an exceptional environment.

The design includes bigger classrooms (typically 50 square metres) and corridors for greater movement, and additional classrooms and breakout spaces to allow pupils to gather and think. An open plan atrium will ensure a safe, inclusive environment and foster a sense of community; while innovation classrooms and virtual learning environments will encourage creative ideas as the norm.

'This is such an exciting and unique opportunity to help shape the future of teaching and learning in our schools and beyond, and I am hugely proud that our ship is leading the fleet,' says Mike. 'But there are no second chances. We have a duty to provide these children with the best education and opportunities from day one, and this is where the University's alumni can really make a difference.'

Learn more

www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/university-school/index.aspx

The school's links with the University mean pupils will benefit from:

- The next generation of outstanding teachers working alongside experienced professionals
- New character education curriculum designed by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues
- Extended school day to allow for visits to campus, guest lectures, study time and enrichment activities led by academics and students
- Use of facilities including the Sports Centre, Bramall Music Building, and Lapworth Museum
- Links with local businesses and careers support for all students

Could you be part of the team?

Opportunities to work at the school will continue to be advertised approaching its opening. Email universitieschool@contacts.bham.ac.uk to register your interest.



Support the school

If you are inspired to support the University of Birmingham School, text '**SCHOOL**' to 70111 to give £3. For more information on how your gift will help, contact Laura Fairbanks on +44 (0)121 414 8894 or give online at www.birmingham.ac.uk/universitieschool

Have you ever wondered what other former Birmingham students are doing now? Or wanted to tell your fellow alumni about your achievements? Share your news and update your contact information by contacting us using the enclosed data form or emailing alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk. We will print as many updates as we can.



1950s

David Huggins (BDS, 1955)

Moir and I migrated to Australia in 1978, when I accepted the position of Head of Orthodontics at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. We're now retired and enjoy exploring the great Australian outdoors in our caravan.



Philip Lewis (BCom Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1952) and **Odile Lewis**

We celebrated our diamond wedding anniversary (60 years of marriage) in July. My classmates Norman Caudell (BCom Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1952) and Geoffrey Wareing (BCom Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1952) sent messages congratulating us.

1960s

Cliff Allen (BSc Electrical Engineering, 1960)

I visited the University for the first time since graduating in April. Being in the Great Hall brought back memories of exams and social occasions, and I could clearly visualize Sir Anthony Eden presenting me with my degree.

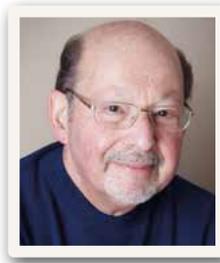
At the top of the stairs, on entering the students' union (Guild), I dramatically relived the moment I first met my wife

to be. Rather than me rambling on, for the sake of you old-timers who might read this, why don't you go and see for yourself?



Stanley Salmons (PhD Anatomy, 1968)

I left Birmingham to take up a Chair at the University of Liverpool, and am currently Emeritus Professor. I live in North Wales with wife, Paula, a physician and artist. We have three children and eight grandchildren. I maintain a parallel existence as a fiction writer and my latest novels are *NH3* (Rickshaw Publishing) and *The Man in Two Bodies* (Fingerpress).



1970s

Andy Pickering (BSc Chemistry, 1979)

I've recently published an e-book called *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to Scottish Independence*. Although

English, I've had a lifelong fascination with Scotland when the Scottish referendum was announced I resigned from my accountancy job and set off to see what all the fuss was about.

Jackie (née Wain) (BSc Biochemistry, 1974) and **Terry Clough** (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1974)

We celebrated our ruby wedding anniversary in July 2014. We met in freshers' week 1971 and married after graduating. We have three daughters, one of whom, Louise Ball (Medicine, 2004; PhD, 2008), studied at the University 30 years later.



Steven Reeves (BSc Mathematics and Computer Science, 1979)

I worked at Essex and London universities and have been in New Zealand for the last 20 years at Waikato.

1980s

Peter Lane

(BSc Chemical Engineering, 1983)

After working in bulk explosives and acids manufacture and rocket manufacture, I am now employed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. A strange career path for a committed Christian, but there you have it!

1990s

Kamal Hanif (PGCE, 1993)

I received the Silver Teaching Award for Headteacher of the Year at the Pearson Teaching Awards, which recognise the impact of inspirational teachers on the lives of young people.

David Timson (BSc Biochemistry, 1993; PhD, 1996)

I was promoted to Reader in Biochemistry at Queen's University, Belfast in February 2014.

Andy Wood (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 1999)

I co-founded my current company (Silver Bullet Entertainment) in 2009 and have produced TV shows featuring Paul McCartney, Robbie Williams, Muse and Adele in the last few years, alongside branded content videos for companies including Coca-Cola, Beats, O2 and Microsoft. I live in London with my wife, Gill.

Jon Bint (BMus Music, 1997)

Ruth and I moved back to Devon and now have four children – the oldest has just taken his GCSEs. After doing a PGCE I had a spell teaching. These last few months I have been performing at Exeter Northcott Theatre in a musical about Exeter City's place in football history, *The Day We Played Brazil*.



2000s

René Cortin (MBA International Business, 2003)

I work as a consultant in digital marketing and have founded the business travel website **innovanaut.com**. It's been a long journey of ups and downs but success is now in sight.

Fawzia Gilani-Williams (MPhil Islamic Studies, 2000)

I am a teacher and also an author of children's literature. My PhD, which I hope to be awarded this summer, is in Children's Literature and Character Education. I was invited with an international group of authors to participate in the Sharjah Children's Book Festival.

Nicola Groom (BA English, 2002)

Having managed a global corporation's marketing strategy for over a decade on either side of the Atlantic, I'm now the CEO and founder of The F Factor, a copywriting agency dedicated to helping women entrepreneurs.

Ayodele Akinbola

(MA International Studies, 2008)

I currently live in Oxfordshire and work at Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust.

2010s

Nikki Ray (BA African Studies with Development, 2011)

I am currently spending three months in the West Bank as a human rights monitor for the International Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. On my return I will be sharing my experiences by hosting a number of talks.

Rachel Walker (BA American and Canadian Studies, 2012)

I am completing a Masters in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, where I have also been working as a graduate assistant for the University's Division of Outreach.

Queen's Birthday Honours 2014

Congratulations to all alumni who were awarded Honours in 2014

- **Professor Sir Michael Owen** (BSc Anatomy, 1977) KBE
- **Dr Susan Atkins** (LLB Law, 1973) CB
- **Dr John Robinson** (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1962) CBE
- **Elizabeth Filkin** (BSocSc Sociology, 1961) CBE
- **Gillian Cartwright** (BEd Education, 1977) OBE
- **Kay Fawcett** (MHS Nursing, 1997) OBE
- **George Hosking** (PG Diploma Psychology, 1998) OBE
- **Martin Binks** (BMus Music, 1962) MBE
- **Emlyn Roberts** (ACE Education, 1990) MBE
- **Dr Andrew Treharne** (BSc Biological Sciences, 1990) MBE
- **Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen** (MBChB Medicine, 1976) MBE
- **Dr Roger Griffiths** (BSc Physics, 1993) MBE
- **Susan Beaman** (BPhil Education, 1996) MBE
- **Shaun Hughes** (LLB Law, 2000) MBE
- **Jennifer D Morris** (MSc Environmental Health and Risk Management, 2001) MBE
- **Dr Penelope Hobhouse** (DLitt Honorary Degree, 2003) MBE
- **The Reverend Charles Dobbin** (MPhil Theology, 2004) MBE
- **Emma B Woolf** (BSocSc Political Science and International Studies, 1985) MBE

If you are an alumnus awarded an honour in 2014 and your name is not included here, please accept our apologies and email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk with details.

Honorary graduates

Seventeen outstanding individuals and alumni received honorary degrees in July 2014.



7 Ms Jane Slowey, CBE – Doctor of the University
Former Birmingham City Councillor and alumna Jane is now CEO of the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council.

8 Professor Celso Lafer – Doctor of the University
Celso is Emeritus Professor of the Institute of International Relations at the University of São Paulo.

9 Professor David Haslam, CBE – Doctor of the University
Alumnus David is Chairman of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and a Fellow of the Royal College of GPs.

10 Professor Ian Morris – Doctor of Letters
Ian is Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and a Fellow of the Archaeology Center at Stanford University.

11 Professor Nick Craddock – Doctor of Medicine
Alumnus Professor Craddock is a world leader in the study of psychiatric genetics.

12 Baroness Massey of Darwen – Doctor of the University
Baroness Massey is a Labour Peer, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children, President of Brook Advisory Centres and an alumna.

13 Ian Tyler – Doctor of the University
Alumnus Ian is non-executive Chairman of Bovis Homes PLC, Cairn Energy PLC, BAE Systems PLC, and a Crown Representative for the Cabinet Office.

14 John Horseman – Doctor of the University
John formed Horseman Capital Management in 2000. Alumnus John is also trustee of several charities including the John Horseman Trust.

15 Dr Alwyn Didar Singh – Doctor of the University
Dr Singh is Secretary General of FICCI, an alumnus and a member of the Global Agenda Council on Migration of the World Economic Forum.

16 Professor Michael Clarke, CBE, DL – Doctor of the University
Former Vice-Principal of the University of Birmingham, Michael now chairs VisitWorcester.

17 Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, CBE, DL – Doctor of the University
Lord Bilimoria is founder of Cobra Beer, a Crossbench Peer, and new Chancellor of the University of Birmingham.

1 Dr Hamid Mughal, OBE – Doctor of Engineering
Hamid is an internationally acclaimed Manufacturing Leader in the Automotive and Aerospace Industries.

2 Nazir Afzal, OBE – Doctor of Laws
Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North West of England, Nazir gives considerable time to charitable work.

3 Keith Bradshaw – Doctor of the University
Alumnus Keith is non-executive Chairman of Listers Group, and Chairman of the Library of Birmingham Trustees.

4 Professor Derek Pearsall – Doctor of Letters
Derek is Gurney Professor of English at Harvard University, where he helped found the Centre for Medieval Studies.

5 John Plant – Doctor of the University
Chairman of the Board, and Chief Executive Officer of TRW Automotive, alumnus John is also on the Automotive Safety Council's board of directors.

6 Dorothy Wilson, MBE – Doctor of the University
Dorothy chaired the West Midlands regional Arts Council, and is currently Chair of the BBC Performing Arts Fund.

WIN

Have you been paying attention?

For your chance to win University merchandise, just answer this question:

What year did alumnus Rodolfo Neri Vela go into space?

Please email your answer to alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk with your name, address and telephone number.



GUEST ED LOVES

Children's corner

Rattle a Researcher!

Is your child a master of the awkward question? Could they baffle even the brightest boffin? The University has experts in everything from fossils to future technology, birds to brains, and the challenge is on to stump them with an unanswerable question.

The toughest teaser will win £25 of Amazon or iTunes vouchers, or a book token. To enter, email your child's question to alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk with the subject: Rattle a Researcher or tweet [@birminghmalum](https://twitter.com/birminghmalum) using [#rattlearesearcher](https://twitter.com/rattlearesearcher).

Please include your child's name and age (competition open to under-18s only); plus your own name, address, postcode, phone number, and your degree, year and subject of graduation (eg, BA History, 2012).

How to enter: Send your answers to: *Old Joe*, Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Birmingham Research Park, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2SQ, UK by 31 January 2015. Terms and conditions apply: www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/competitions

Competition winners

Thank you to everyone who entered last issue's competitions, including some wonderfully imaginative robots designed by children aged from four–12. Nao the robot chose two winners, one for ages six and under, and one from entries aged six–12.

The winners were Amy Carruthers, aged seven (almost eight), for Zig who 'helps old people shop and cross the road'; and five-year-old Felix Gibbons for Useful, a robot with many talents, including fishing. Both children received £25 worth of Moshi Monsters merchandise.



Peter Moss (BSc Physics, 1980) correctly identified that the painting was done from the roof of the Guild, winning University merchandise. And Rachel Poppitt (BA English, 1996) won Dr Richard House's top five books.

Remember Birmingham



From advancing innovative research to developing the beautiful campus or supporting the next generation of students, the University has benefited from people remembering the institution in their wills throughout its 100-year history. Your gift can have a transformative impact; as shown by just a few of the bequests and legacy gifts made by Birmingham alumni and friends.

1 Anatomage tables

These digital touch-screen tables have great merits for Anatomy teaching at the University. They allow students in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences to conduct life-size virtual dissections of cadavers, after the equipment was purchased using a £120,000 bequest from Kenneth Foster.

2 Baggs Happiness Lecture

Thomas Baggs (BA English, 1911; MA Combined Arts, 1912) bequeathed a substantial sum to the University to provide for an annual public lecture on the theme of 'Happiness – what it is and how it may be achieved by individuals as well as nations.' Speakers have included Yehudi Menuhin, David Attenborough, Maureen Lipman and, most recently, Chris Addison (BA English, 1994).

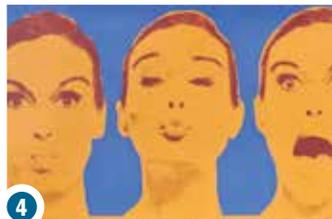
3 Gilbert Orchid House

Located at Winterbourne House and Garden, the Orchid House is named after donors Professor Geoffrey and Mrs Lilo Gilbert who worked in the then Department of Chemistry and left a gift to Winterbourne in their will to ensure future generations continue to enjoy the house and grounds.

4 Eduardo Paolozzi collection

Paolozzi was a prolific sculptor, printmaker, and collector, who bequeathed a large number of works to the University. His large-scale Faraday sculpture greets many visitors as they walk to campus from University Station. Works by many other leading artists can also be seen at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts – itself founded thanks to a legacy gift from Lady Martha Barber.

If you remember your time at Birmingham fondly, please remember us in your will. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/legacies, call +44 (0)121 414 7957, or email legacies@contacts.bham.ac.uk to find out more.



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