



EPS SOCIETIES' AWARDS 2021

The 42 EPS Societies are at the heart of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Community. They deserve the utmost recognition for their continued dedication to making our community engaging, lively and diverse.

During a particularly difficult year, our societies have worked tirelessly to engage the student body in a COVID-19 secure way. They have organised virtual industrial visits, outreach events, careers networking, social activities and even sports events! The ability to adapt these to virtual events and still keep them appealing and inclusive is an incredible testimony to their ingenuity. They have put in hundreds of hours of their time, to forge a sense of community during a global pandemic, alongside tackling their degrees in a tumultuous academic environment. We have even managed to welcome five new societies to the EPS Community: 93% Club, Consultancy Group, Economics Society, Investment Society and Women in Technology.

If there is anything this past year has taught us, it is the power of community, and our societies have gone above and beyond to bring our community together and provide support to those who needed it. All societies worked hard this year to make first years feel welcome and connected to their peers and to look out for those who were struggling in these unusual times. Some societies even recognised the importance of looking after their members' physical and mental health and put on events to encourage them to get out and exercise during lockdown.

Thanks to our societies, our students have had the opportunity to be part of a fantastic, supportive community. These Awards thank all those involved for their hard work, dedication and innovation, and celebrate their achievements over the academic year. Whilst we, unfortunately, still can not celebrate in person, it is even more important than ever to recognise and celebrate all of your achievements. I would like to congratulate all those nominated, with special congratulations to those shortlisted. I would also like to thank all our societies for your continued commitment and enthusiasm. This is my first year as Head of College and I have been both impressed and inspired by what you have achieved.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to recognise the incredible achievements of all those nominated, and for letting them know that they are appreciated and celebrated. This year saw 504 excellent nominations submitted by students, staff, alumni, friends, colleagues and family. We could not celebrate you all without the invaluable hard work of all those who made the EPS Societies' Awards possible. Thank you to the judges for undertaking the impossible job of selecting shortlisted nominees, and the even harder job of choosing winners. Thanks also to the Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre for their sponsorship of this event and their support of our students. Special thanks go to Avery Cunningham and his Organising Committee for making this year's Awards happen and enabling us to celebrate our wonderful community.

Congratulations to you all on your fabulous achievements.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN JARVIS,

Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Head of College, Engineering and Physical Sciences



OUR SPONSOR

Thank you to our sponsor, Rolls Royce University Research and Technology Centre, for their support in helping celebrate our student societies.





The EPS Community YOUR NETWORK FOR LIFE

Your EPS Community is a network of alumni, students, staff, industrial partners and friends from the seven schools that make up the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.



When you join us as a new student, you automatically become a member of our 80,000+ strong community. We believe the relationship you have with the University should last a lifetime, from the moment you walk through our doors. We're very lucky to have a strong community in which lifelong friendships are made.

Whether you're in your first year with us, getting stuck in with your society, stepping up to lead your committee or due to graduate, you all have and continue to hold a key place in the EPS Community – a community that simply couldn't exist without you!

We'll help build your network by introducing you to alumni and industrial contacts to share their expertise with you to help you and your society grow. We also want your friendships, relationships with staff and affection towards the University to continue long after you've donned your cap and gown.

GET INVOLVED

As part of the EPS Community, you'll be able to access a whole host of information and resources, including the latest announcements from your societies, career and volunteering opportunities, and invitations to events across the College such as our Distinguished, Inaugural and Christmas Lectures. We could even help you find a mentor, find alumni to speak at your events, or promote your activities across the University. We are here to help you reach your full potential.

IT DOESN'T END WHEN YOU LEAVE

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, the EPS Community is here for you long after you graduate. We will enable you to get involved with the University in any way you can. We hope you will return to campus to speak about your time here and what you've achieved in your career, volunteer to continue your ambassadorial work on open days, offer your time to a student as a mentor, or share your Birmingham story. You could provide invaluable help to our future students.

GET INVOLVED

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps-community



Email us: eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk



Follow us on Twitter @eps_unibham



Or Instagram @myepslife



Join us on Linkedln: www.tinyurl.com/eps-linkedin



OUR SOCIETIES

Our active and successful student societies form an integral part of the EPS Community, providing an avenue for students to interact with one another, collaborate and compete, hold some incredible events and projects, offer study or careers support and engage with alumni and industrial contacts.









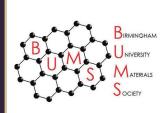












































































OUR MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Every one of our societies has members outside of their organising committees who truly get stuck into everything. Their proactivity and willingness to help out cannot be faulted, and they have participated in many, if not all, events and activities. Their commitment throughout the academic year has been outstanding and their actions have not gone unnoticed. So we invited our committees to celebrate their most enthusiastic members and officially name them their society's 'Member of the Year'. Congratulations!



KISHAN SHANE SICOTRA AeroSoc



ANDREW PEARCE
AstroSoc



JUSTIN CHADWELL
AFNOM and CSS



OMAR LAMRANI BEaMS



FINN DOYLE BES



JAMES IBBS
Brum Eco Racing



MAX CASTIGLIONE
BUCES



JOSEPH GRESLE FARTHING
BUMS



FODAY KAMARA
Cameroon Catalyst



RIA ACHARYA ChemSoc



DANIEL DAVIES

CivSoc



ALEXANDRA EVANGELOU EWB Birmingham





ALEXANDRU POPA GDS



HARRY JAMES
Investment Society



LÉA FORD MathSoc



VERITY PAGE MechSoc



ARTTU TAIPALE NucSoc



KIT USHERWOOD oSTEM



RACHEL VENN PPS



CALLUM NICOLSON RailSoc



GILES MANNING Satnav



OLLIE BROWN
School of Engineering RFC



IGNOTAS SALNA Space Society



LIAM ASHCROFT UBRacing

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

This Award recognises those sportspeople who have shown commitment and enthusiasm in their discipline. They are motivational personalities, generous with their time in supporting their teammates and encourage the continual development of their team.

AMY JOHNSON BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society



Amy has given her everything to make Birmingham University Materials Society (BUMS) Netball a success. This year has posed a challenging set of obstacles for sport, but Amy's dedication and passion did not waiver for a second. Amy consistently pushed to increase participation which, even without the pandemic, proved a difficult feat in her course. Nonetheless, Amy succeeded. Not only this, but Amy made sure that the netball team was open to absolutely every skill level. With new players, she took the time to talk them through the rules and offer them

extra coaching if they had never played the sport before. Each week she made sure that each and every team member was ready to play and was the team's personal cheerleader, radiating positivity at every single match and training session and keeping the team motivated throughout the game. She led the team to celebrate wins and grow from losses with grace and sportsmanship. Amy's bubbly personality and commitment to the BUMS netball team is more than deserving of recognition and praise.

LIZ WARD FPS Mixed Netball



Liz outdid herself as captain this year. As the beating heart of the netball family, she led the team to second place in the Sunday Netball League. Every week, when the team were able to train, she devised new drills to help new and old players develop their skill set and stay on top of their game, all while spreading positivity that motivated the players to perform during matches. Throughout this year, Liz has tirelessly worked to support the team. Her efforts came to fruition when a number of players that had never played netball before went from a beginner level to become competitive players with the accolades to prove it. The value Liz placed on teamwork was unparalleled and she always put the team above herself. Liz regularly prioritised

other players to play in matches over herself and kept a record of who played in each match to ensure that every teammate had a fair number of matches throughout the year. Liz also applied her entrepreneurial and creative skills as captain, setting up a team Instagram account which, due to the pandemic, was paramount in keeping the team up to date with key events and attracting new players to the team. To celebrate the achievements of players, Liz organised an awards ceremony at the end of the last training session. A true leader, she wanted to give her team recognition. With this nomination, many hope that Liz is given her chance to be recognised.

JAMES WILKINS Engineering Eagles



James' contribution to the Engineering Eagles hockey club this year has been outstanding. His friendly and sociable personality has been vital in welcoming new members to the club and getting everyone involved. This was especially important this year because of the challenges posed by COVID-19 which prevented the club from playing games and organising socials. Not only has James been hugely influential off the pitch but he has been the star player on the pitch too. He scored 12 goals across ten games, including two hat-tricks, which made him the team's top scorer this year. A particular highlight was James' deadly strike against the then unbeaten Kinvig to win 2-0, which put

the team one game away from being champions. His personal success on the pitch and leadership were paramount to the Eagles' B team's success this year. They won both the Campus League divisions without losing a single match! James' dedication to both hockey and the club has been commendable. He used his spare time to watch other teams play and compile reports on them for the team to read, so they could to gain a tactical advantage. He also prepared legendary match reports after each of the team's games, which helped to boost morale week in week out. James' influence on the team will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come.

SAM DAVIES MathSoc



Sam is an incredible sports personality. For the five years that he has been a dedicated member of the MathSoc football team, he has been an encouraging and supporting presence, dedicated to getting people of all abilities involved in the sport. He played for the football team at numerous fixtures and was invaluable in matches both on and off the pitch. But Sam's efforts have extended far beyond football. This year especially, Sam went above and beyond using sport to fundraise. Sam brought a group of runners from MathSoc together to support his organised running event, the Not the London Marathon for Meningitis Research Foundation, in light of the London Marathon

being cancelled. The team of 20 runners had Sam as an endless source of support throughout the process with prepping for route planning, preparing for race day and one-on-one time to help build confidence. Sam's support allowed so many runners to turn their dream of running a marathon into a reality. In April, the group ran routes from 10k to a full marathon around Birmingham and together they managed to fundraise a whopping £5,541. This commitment to sport and ability to use sport as a way of fundraising is why Sam more than deserves to be awarded the Sports Personality of the Year 2021.

TOM ROWLEY BUMS: Birmingham University Materials Society



Tom excelled in keeping the team united and being a source of leadership over the past academic year. As football captain, Tom was given the extremely challenging task of running engaging and safe football sessions for all of the Birmingham University Materials Society (BUMS) players to enjoy. Despite this, he led the ever-competitive BUMS football team through what has been a very turbulent year and was unbelievably attentive to his duties by sharing the successes of the team through social media. With match reports and player of the match nominations showcased on multiple social media channels, Tom left no stone unturned and brought some much-needed normality to a very strange campus league season.

Tom's contributions to the sporting scene were not restricted to football either as Tom also acted to pioneer the first ever BUMS Strava team to keep BUMS members active. This proved to be immensely successful with the 28 members of the team covering a stunning 2.6 million metres which is the distance from Birmingham to Barcelona and back! Standout performances were recognised with the prizes and awards that Tom was proactive about organising. Tom's performance as football captain was exemplary this year and in each of his responsibilities, he has gone above and beyond with his creativity to keep BUMS as active as possible.

SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR 2020/21

This Award celebrates sports teams within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences that are acknowledged as inclusive and tight-knit. These teams can be part of a school, society or entirely independent. They work exceptionally well as a team, play to the strengths of all members, stick together whether they win or lose, promote sporting excellence and encourage healthy competition.

BUCES FC BUCES



Birmingham University Chemical Engineering Society (BUCES) FC is one of the gems of the EPS Community. This year, the club consistently managed to bridge the gap between all years in Chemical Engineering. The club's wide network of teams was exceptionally well-managed and provided for in terms of fixtures, training and friendlies while also maintaining a brilliant standard of social activity despite the pandemic. Leaders within the team continued to be proactive to ensure players had the best experience possible. Initially, BUCES FC had two 11-aside teams but due to high numbers of new joiners, they expertly entered two additional 5-aside teams into the Wednesday league. The initiative they took meant that everyone who wanted to play football could. The club's

efforts were especially beneficial for the first years, of which there were over 25 new joiners, in ensuring they were able to get some of the university experience and make new friends during the pandemic.

The club did not only rely on football to keep its players active. They introduced weekly training sessions on the Bournbrook 3G pitches, which gave members a weekly escape from being stuck at home. Alongside this, BUCES FC also organised a Strava group. The club's year was not without social activities that helped so many players form close and long-lasting friendships. The club marked the end of the year with an awards ceremony to reflect on their successes of which there had clearly been many.

ENGINEERING EAGLES



The Engineering Eagles are a fiercely competitive hockey team that is unmatched in its friendliness. They pivoted effortlessly during the pandemic, introducing their own measures to keep everyone safe and continue their season to the best of their ability. They introduced their own track and trace system for members. They also balanced the interests of players to ensure that each and everyone got adequate game time despite the new restrictions on numbers allowed at games. The team practised agility when it came to training drills, adapting them to each new set of guidelines to ensure that social distancing could be adhered to.

Over the years, the club has built a truly amazing community that continues to perform. This year the club secured £1,000 from the Alumni Impact Fund to buy the team the goalie kits they needed. The season was not without sporting success; for the first time in the club's history, the B team won the league and finished the whole season undefeated. Celebrations certainly took place across the numerous socials that the Engineering Eagles were able to conduct both online and offline when permitted. The many that say joining the Engineering Eagles was the best thing they did this year is a testament to the club's outstanding performance both sporting and beyond.

MATHSOC SPORTS MathSoc



Sport has always been an integral part of MathSoc as it provides an amazing way to not only exercise but to also bond with other MathSoc members and further build the MathSoc community that many work hard to create and maintain. This year, MathSoc put a huge effort into keeping this community spirit alive regardless of the pandemic and massively succeeded. Throughout an incredibly difficult year, MathSoc entered both netball and football teams into the campus league. MathSoc started weekly training sessions for netball, particularly for beginners, which gained them a new wave of players that all demonstrated amazing commitment and enthusiasm for continuing the team in the coming years.

The society also ran several fitness challenges to help people during some very difficult times. One of the most memorable was the charity Run to Budapest in which the MathSoc members exhibited wonderful teamwork in order to collectively run the distance from Birmingham to Budapest in place of the usual 'on tour' visit which was cancelled. The run did an excellent job in boosting morale all whilst raising money for the Birmingham Children's Hospice Charity. It would be remiss not to note that during the EPS Running Festival, MathSoc put in an amazing effort and raised the most out of any society – an astonishing £3,454.45. MathSoc's sporting achievements this year have been remarkable.

PPS_NETBALL PPS: Poynting Physical Society



The Poynting Physical Society (PPS) Netball team operate on a no-one-left-behind policy that has made them one of the most inclusive, welcoming and high-spirited teams at the University. With members ranging from first year students to postgraduates, physics students to history students, and experienced players to beginners, there is a place for everyone on the team. There are no trials to join, and everyone is given the chance to play a match if they want – each week the team for campus league is chosen based on who played the least recently rather than ability. Their attitude to sport allowed as many beginners to join as possible which has been crucial this year, particularly for new students at the University, making them feel a bit more at home.

The PPS Netball captain pushes for the fun and social aspect of the campus league and has a rock-solid commitment to the team and their success. Not only has the captain been diligent about adhering to COVID-19 guidelines, which put many of the players' minds at ease, but they continued to keep the light-hearted spirit of the team alight. This year, the Netball team was a nexus for socialising and welcomed seven new players, all of whom were able to develop their skills in weekly games and training and meet new people. Although they do not win every game, every member of PPS Netball can be proud of the welcoming, hardworking and enjoyable environment they have created. PPS Netball continues to be a wonderful representation of the society.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING RFC



To rather tenuously paraphrase George S. Patton, you can't play rugby sitting on your sofa. Yet the School of Engineering Rugby RFC (SERFC) managed to run a rugby team with over 100 members through a pandemic. All members, new and old, were able to participate on their terms either in match fixtures or simply train and take part in the social side of the club. More senior members on the team became instant leaders and moved mountains to make sure that everyone was welcome. The club formed families so that the new – and very large – intake of freshers weren't cast astray due to not being able to meet as a whole club. SERFC created events on a Facebook page and used all the tools at their disposal to be there for their teammates. They created families which,

with pastoral care and weekly social competitions, brought everyone closer. The rugby team were inundated with praise and thanks from numerous freshers for being so inclusive, regardless of their experience with the sport. Yet, despite the diverse experience levels, team captains ensured that the rugby played was always to a high standard with various training and fitness sessions occurring throughout the week once permitted. The encouragement and training paid off, with one of the teams beating the University's Medics first team for the first time ever. With restrictions continuing to ease, there is certainly a sunny future ahead for SERFC.

OUTSTANDING EVENT AWARD

This Award recognises exceptional, inclusive and original or evolved events. They encourage attendees to learn a new skill or meet new people, are informative or inspirational, and offer unique and engaging opportunities to society members. These events are impactful, whether they empower one person or 100, are well-organised and support the student experience within the College or wider University.

EPS RUNNING FESTIVAL ChemSoc



The EPS Running Festival's huge success is owed to a subgroup of ChemSoc comprised of Isaac Burnell, Amy Locks, Billy Grey, Emily Cramp, Lucy Walker and Zoe Schnepp. The group came together to create what would be one of the high points of EPS' academic year. The aim was to create a fun and motivating target for people during the lockdown. Understanding that sport, running in particular, has benefits that stretch across mental, physical and emotional health, the subgroup landed on giving students and staff a fitness challenge in the form of a running festival. Taking place in January and February, the festival also had a philanthropic twist whereby all

money raised went to the mental health charity, Mind. Participants could run a range of distances between 3k and a half-marathon and share their training pictures and stories on the group Facebook page. The ChemSoc subgroup behind the event also managed to secure an Alumni Impact Fund that allowed them to buy EPS-themed medals for all participants as well as trophies for the society with the most participants (won by ChemSoc) and the society that raised the most money (won by MathSoc). The festival managed to raise £7,827 for charity and was a wonderful and inspiring event that brought people across the college together in what has been such a difficult year.

FUTURES IN SCICOMM SATNAV: Science and Technology News and Views



Science and Technology News and Views' (SATNAV) Futures in SciComm event series ran in collaboration with the Careers Network, was the first of its kind at the University of Birmingham. There was no advice offered by the University for students wishing to enter science communication, so SATNAV stepped up to the plate and held this innovative event. The series ran over a fortnight and featured guest speakers from different areas of the field with wide-ranging academic backgrounds. Each provided a unique insight into the industry from conservation public outreach, museum curating, science journalism and freelance science presenting. Two of the most anticipated moments from the series were an exclusive interview webinar with Mićo Tatalović from Research Fortnight and a virtual science journalism and communication workshop with

Emma McKinney from the University Press Office. SATNAV put the needs of its audience first, asking each guest questions on how students can upskill themselves whilst at university and tips on how to overcome any setbacks or rejections. Without collaboration from another society, SATNAV achieved what can only be described as a huge success, receiving 110 sign-ups from students across the University, many of whom had never heard of the society before. Feedback such as 'I was just watching the science communication panel; it was so good! I've never considered it before but it sounds so interesting! and 'I've been doing workshops all week and this was by far the best one I have been to' speak to just how outstanding the event was.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021 WISE



International Women's Day is a global event celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness about women's equality and lobbying for accelerated gender parity. This year, Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) kickstarted celebrations and ran a series of events across the WISE society, the EPS Community and the whole university. WISE brought together several societies on campus including WoMed, Women in Finance, Women in Politics, Women in Law, and Women in Tech to arrange a university-wide social media campaign to commemorate the day. People across the University of Birmingham came together for the #ChooseToChallenge campaign and pledged their commitment to calling out inequality and to helping forge more inclusive environments. In the week surrounding International Women's Day, WISE

published interviews conducted with past WISE presidents in which they shared their thoughts on the realities of being a STEM woman and their hopes for the future of diversity in STEM. WISE also aided the creation and promotion of the EPS Meet Your Alumni events, a series of networking sessions and talks promoting women across all areas of EPS. As part of this series, WISE additionally ran a workshop with leadership coach Sarah Perugia focusing on building resilience and confidence, which provided students with practical skills and strategies to implement in their remaining time at university and future careers. All these events celebrated the achievements of women in STEM and encouraged gender equality and diversity in STEM, thereby driving action towards a more inclusive society.

WORLD SPACE WEEK AstroSoc



This academic year, AstroSoc launched World Space Week, an internationally recognised event yet the first of its kind at the University of Birmingham. Spanning two weeks, eight online seminars covered the event's theme: Satellites Improve Life. The line-up was second to none with speakers from each of the collaborating societies as well as external guests who discussed applications of satellites in communication, spacedebris, quantum computing and more. One highlight came from Dr Sean Elvidge and Dr David Themens from SERENE with their talk on space weather and its impacts. AstroSoc also welcomed PhD researcher Daniel Hunt from Oxford University to give two talks on dark matter detection in space. In partnership with SATNAV, SpaceSoc and WISE, AstroSoc led the event team to success. The talks took place on Zoom

and were shared on AstroSoc's YouTube channel. Despite the difficulties that lockdown presented, AstroSoc was able to build on the success of the summer's Quarantine Talks and found ways to connect and engage with an expanded audience. Speakers were able to answer viewers' questions live and participate in interactive Q&A sessions. The efforts of AstroSoc attracted an unprecedented audience across several countries including India, Tanzania and Canada. With the YouTube channel and the event reaching over 600 views, it is safe to say that the event was a huge success in more ways than one. In the words of one attendee, 'the inclusivity and excitement of this event were greatly appreciated during the stresses of living and studying during the COVID-19 pandemic.'

XR IN RADIOLOGY UB VR



The XR in Radiology event was one of the first of its kind at the University, exploring the revolutionising technology that is XR and its use cases in medicine and radiology. Virtual Reality (UBVR) invited an array of guest speakers including a team of renowned doctors and technology professionals from Imperial University. As experts in their field, they spoke about the developments in their project around a medical simulation using interactive holograms, which allows radiology trainees to learn new skills using augmented reality headsets. Another memorable talk from the event was given by the founder of a medical VR start-up called Realize Medical in Canada who discussed the emerging uses of VR for creating, visualising and interacting with 3D anatomical models.

XR in Radiology also featured an exciting crossuniversity collaboration between UBVR and the University of Leeds' Extended Reality VR Radiology society. It brought together students from a variety of fields, including medicine, art and engineering. It also offered students the unique opportunity to learn about the latest advances in the field and to network with and learn from some of the best professionals in the team. Most importantly the XR in Radiology highlighted the power of multidisciplinary teams in the XR industry and highlighted the importance of collaboration in the field, such as medical professionals working with engineers and computer scientists to create apps that can be used in medicine. With so much on offer, the XR in Radiology event was a highlight in the EPS calendar.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This Award recognises individuals who have committed themselves to a cause, activity or event for the greater good of their society, University or wider community. They have consistently dedicated their time and effort in a selfless manner to help others succeed in their goals, overcome challenges and undertake tasks by making valuable contributions that have positive impact.

CLAIRE FLETCHER OSTEM: Out In STEM



As Chair of oSTEM, Claire dedicated herself to making the University a more welcoming and inclusive place for LGBTQ+ individuals in, or with an interest in, STEM, during a very trying year. Despite starting her tenure as Chair whilst still miles away on her year abroad in Singapore, Claire became a leader immediately. She frequently took on extra responsibilities when her committee was overwhelmed and worked all hours to ensure activities and events ran smoothly. She applied her computer science knowledge and thorough understanding of the society to move activities online and innovate new ways of connecting oSTEM members, particularly the freshers.

Claire consistently set high expectations for herself and her committee and, through her impressive organisational skills and her sensitive and considerate support of her team, she constantly met these expectations. Claire co-created and operated the oSTEM Birmingham Discord to cultivate a safe, supportive, and (most importantly) fun space for LGBTQ+ STEM students and alumni to come together as a community during a particularly difficult time for LGBTQ+ people. Claire's strong leadership, including her willingness to always lend a hand, contributed to the huge success of this year's annual STEM, LGBTQ & You conference, held digitally for the first time. Not only was Claire Programming Lead and Technical Support for the 200-person virtual conference, but she also cultivated a diverse program of ten speakers that could engage with any attendees across both the LGBTQ+ and STEM spectra. Claire is a creative, technical and dedicated force to be reckoned with, and an individual to be admired.

FATIMA BIBI WIT: Women In Tech



Fatima has shown exemplary dedication for Women in Tech (WIT) since its launch and has become fundamental to the success of the society. She encompasses every value of the society and continues to be a driving force behind WIT's work. Never afraid to be hands-on Fatima has excelled in the expansion and promotion of the society through curating social media campaigns, posters, forms and invitations. A society cannot be great without a great social media representative and Fatima went above and beyond her initial responsibilities.

Fatima made it her personal goal to drive the growth of the society and took it upon herself to take over WIT's Instagram account and create a social media strategy both for the society and for promoting their events. Her efforts have greatly contributed to the success of WIT's Black History Month events, LGBTQ+ History month events, Women's International History Month events and more. Her creative spark, innovation and work ethic has helped transform WIT and cement its debut year as a success. Her ideas continue to help the society to evolve and grow beyond expectation and without her, WIT could not have made the impact it most certainly has.

JACK PREECE MathSoc



Without Jack Preece, MathSoc would not have had the year it has. During his time as Volunteering Officer on the MathSoc committee this year, Jack was incredibly dedicated to raising as much money as possible for MathSoc's chosen cause: the Birmingham Children's Hospice Charity. Despite it being a very difficult year for fundraising, with the typical fundraising events such as bucket shakes being unable to go ahead, Jack continued to think outside the box to create innovative events with a smile on his face. From raising £190 with the MathSoc running challenge to £105 from the MathSoc Bake Off, to £136 from the society's Charity Poker Night and raising £3,454.45 in the EPS Running Festival, Jack kept MathSoc's philanthropic ventures very much alive.

Due to his dedication, MathSoc has successfully raised over £3,885.45 for Birmingham Children's hospice. Jack also successfully ran the popular MathSoc Family Scheme, which is integral to the MathSoc community, allowing first year students to meet a range of new people. He successfully transitioned the scheme into an online format and ensured that it ran smoothly throughout the year, immensely improving first year Mathematics students' university experience. Both the MathSoc committee and its members will be forever grateful for all that Jack has achieved this year.

LAURA JOSEPH BEaMS: Black, Ethnic and Minority Scientists



Laura is endlessly passionate about equality, diversity and inclusion and this is reflected in her activities both within BEaMS and beyond. BEaMS owes so much of its success this year to Laura's efforts. One of Laura's greatest achievements has been successfully running a collaboration between BeaMS and the School of Mathematics. In the School, staff hold an annual event to support and celebrate students from ethnic minority backgrounds. This year, due to the difficulties with reaching students online, Laura became a key advisor to the School of Mathematics in how to maximise student engagement. Laura immediately jumped to the challenge and put herself and BEaMS at the School's disposal, agreeing to have BEaMS organise this on the School's behalf. She galvanised the society into action and organised a hugely successful online games

night for the School of Mathematics students. Laura welcomed being out of her comfort zone and tackled this challenge with careful planning, which included surveying the students to optimise attendance, training up the society, and seeking advice from other societies such as MathSoc. Laura was the School's games expert for the night and the event was a huge success. This comes as no surprise as Laura has always been a dependable figure within the department, from supporting events to enhance the learning community, to assisting the Admissions Team and standing as a dedicated student member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is an asset to the University community who are certain to miss her upon her graduation.

PATRISIA PASCAN WIT: Women In Tech



Patrisia has been the official Vice President of the Women in Tech (WIT) society since September, but her involvement in the society stretches well before to just after it was founded. The skillset and passion she brings to the table vastly contributed to the success that WIT has had as a society. Patrisia's organisational skills were essential in sorting out the logistics for events and in society communications such as weekly emails with staff and speakers. She built strong connections with professionals and ambassadors, going out of her way to build relationships and source

opportunities that promote Women in Tech. One primary example of this is the partnership she initiated with Siemens whereby she successfully hosted a career event with them. Patrisia's efforts have created countless industrial and partnership opportunities for WIT that many of its members have benefited from. All the while, Patrisa was a great advocate for increased diversity in STEM; she herself came from a non-tech background. Patrisia's remarkable work this year with WIT is to be commended.

OUTREACH AWARD

This Award recognises the dedication of those who work to deliver outreach activities to local schools or the general public. Those volunteering see it as part of their role as a student to inform and educate on a multi-generational level and are actively involved in sharing discovery.



ALLAN DOS SANTOS Birmingham Energy Society

This year, Allan made huge strides in educating future generations about the intricacies of energy. In collaboration with the Birmingham Energy Institute, Allan launched The Get Up: The Green Future Outreach Project. The outreach organisation is in a league of its own driven by its mission to teach about energy engineering and renewable energies to the local community. The organisation extends to the general public in the city with a focus on local primary and secondary schools. Allan single-handedly delivered several Earth Day workshops through the organisation to primary schools in the local area. Each of the three classes he delivered was to an audience of at least twenty pupils. Using the tools and resources at his disposal, Allan adapted all of the workshops to

be delivered on Zoom making them both engaging and educational despite the pandemic.

Each of Allan's classes consisted of a lecture followed by a series of activities that the pupils could do at home. Eager to give the pupils a real taste of energy engineering, Allan taught children about what energy is, including renewable energy, and how existing energies within homes and transportation can be improved to better our environment. Allan's passion for the topic was infectious and schools even independently carried out two of Allan's activities. It's safe to say that Allan has more than done his part in inspiring future generations about the possibilities of energy engineering.





AstroSoc has had resounding success this year in keeping outreach events going. The society wasted no time in changing tack during lockdown to deliver what can only be described as a stellar series of events. Building on their already large social media presence, AstroSoc launched their AstroSoc YouTube channel where they hosted content that attracted 200 subscribers and over 3,000 views from a worldwide audience. One of the most notable series was Quarantine Talks. Running for ten weeks between July and September 2020, faculty and society members delivered talks on a number of topics ranging from galaxies to infrared astronomy, particle physics, exoplanets and more. This, paired with the continuation of British Science Week events, solidified AstroSoc's reputation for excellent and cutting-edge methods of engaging with the public.

AstroSoc did not discriminate in their efforts to immerse both students and the public in the science. Their Legacy and Careers Night reflected on the society's rich hundred-year history and showcased a panel of physicists and researchers from the department as well as UoB alumni currently in Oxford University and Liverpool John Moores Astrophysics Research Institute. Astronomy in the City events brought astronomy to even more people including school children while Tea, Talk and Telescope and Sky This Month videos opened up the night sky by teaching the public how and what to observe from their gardens with no equipment. In all, AstroSoc has shown what it is to keep public involvement at the heart of a society.

LIZZIE DRISCOLL ChemSoc



Lizzie is an outreach powerhouse. The final year School of Chemistry PhD student has been incredibly proactive in delivering battery education to a range of audiences, from school students to the wider non-scientific group. She designed an effective education model, based on Jenga, to explain the operation of Li-ion batteries which has been favourably received to say the least; the model was featured by the RSC, ACerS and Discover Magazine. Lizzie has pushed for inclusivity in her work by making the resource accessible for students with visual impairment with tailored events at Birmingham's ThinkTank Museum and Touchbase Pears.

Throughout her PhD, Lizzie has remained committed to engaging with the local area and enhancing Chemistry outreach activities.

In the last two years alone, Lizzie has conducted demonstration lectures including the RSC Top of the Bench competition, CPD and other online outreach sessions on electrochemistry and batteries to support teachers and students. She has helped to devise and deliver 200 chemistry experiment kits as part of the virtual CoCoMAD20 festival so that disadvantaged students local to Cotteridge could still take part in the event which normally takes place annually in the community park. Eager to pass the torch, Elizabeth also developed and led a remote lab during the COVID-19 lockdowns to inspire third year Chemistry students to develop their own outreach activities. It is therefore without doubt that Lizzie has been a frontrunner in outreach within the EPS Community.

ROBERT WEBSTER ChemSoc



Robert's creativity this year has been unmatched. Without being able to tutor in schools or give demonstrations at community events, ChemSoc's calendar of outreach activities was destined to look rather different this year. But Robert didn't let that get in the way. The Outreach Representative came up with the ingenious idea for the Chemistry Christmas Countdown. It was a podcast for all twenty-four days of advent that anyone could access. From candy canes to Christmas lights, each episode dropped knowledge about the science behind different elements of the festive season.

Robert created the series from scratch entirely by himself. He sourced radio equipment and researched and scripted each episode to upload to Spotify. The podcast was a massive hit amongst Birmingham Chemistry students, alumni and members of the general public. Not only did Robert pull off one of the best outreach activities of the year, which was as insightful as it was innovative, but his efforts gave so many an upbeat end to semester one, a real gift during such a difficult period.

WISE: WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



It comes as no surprise that WISE successfully continued their award-winning outreach scheme this year. With the national closure of schools, WISE embraced virtual outreach and provided online resources to continue their Girls in STEM scheme. WISE recorded a mini-lecture series where members gave presentations on aspects of science, ranging from astrology to microbiology, which introduced students to new areas of science and interesting recent developments. Additionally, WISE created Experiment at Home virtual work booklets which guided school pupils through practical experiments using items around the house. The feedback was overwhelming with many parents sending their thanks via WISE's social media pages with selfies of their children getting stuck in with the experiments.

As well as continuing to engage school students, WISE ensured that their members were still able to gain vital outreach and communication skills through encouraging them to get involved in the creation of the online resources including the Communicating Science Workshop with SATNAV and Jon Wood. WISE also collaborated with the College of EPS, oSTEM and BEaMS to create a webpage of virtual outreach materials, which is accessible to secondary schools all over the country. The collaboration allowed WISE to launch its Diversity in STEM profiles which aimed to provide visible role models in a year where students were unable to meet new people. The scheme won funding from the Alumni Impact Fund, which is to resource next year's outreach activities including a coding club. WISE's success this year is truly one for the books.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

This Award recognises individuals or societies who reach out to every member of the University community, going above and beyond to ensure everyone is equally involved and represented. Their actions are changing the culture of the University and instilling the values of equality, diversity and inclusion in the foundations of their society.



CLAIRE DOSWELL ChemSoc

This year, Claire spearheaded the highly successful Identifying Barriers in STEM seminar series which increased awareness of barriers to inclusion and promoted positive cultural change within the School of Chemistry. She single-handedly raised RSC funding for the event and promoted the series via a powerful social media campaign. During the series, five fantastic external speakers brought to light their lived experience of being disabled, transgender, Black and female, first-generation and autistic in STEM to an international audience from within and outside of the University of Birmingham. The series had inclusivity firmly at its heart: Claire ensured the seminars were free, open to anyone, auto captioned, recorded and moderated, to provide a safe environment for speakers and participants to discuss complex, challenging and highly

sensitive issues. Audience feedback was incredibly positive. On average, understanding of seminar topics (self-defined) increased from 4 to 7 out of 10, and Claire received a flood of praise from individual comments such as 'you really inspire me', 'fantastic role model', 'I really relate to everything you've said' and 'I just wish [this seminar had] happened sooner' to note but a few. Undoubtedly, Claire's series had a profound effect on several individuals across the School. At each event, Claire gathered in-depth data to guide future Diversity and Inclusion activities in the School. Thanks to her tremendous efforts, the Identifying Barriers in STEM seminar series has set an excellent standard for inclusivity and built a new platform from which to foster an increasingly inclusive culture in the School.

FIONA CLARK ChemSoc



Fiona's performance this year as ChemSoc's Diversity and Inclusion Representative was remarkable. One of her most notable achievements was during Black History Month when Fiona curated a captivating line-up of Black chemists throughout history to showcase in an impactful social media campaign. Through thorough research, Fiona was able to feature a range of key figures from the community and their many significant contributions to the field of chemistry, from Alice Ball and her discovery of a treatment for Leprosy to St. Elmo Brady, who was the first African

American to earn a PhD in Chemistry. Fiona crafted her research into a series of eye-catching Instagram stories that reached chemistry students and members of the wider community with hundreds of views throughout October. Fiona aimed to help 'tackle the underrepresentation of Black people in STEM and celebrate their successes' which she most certainly achieved. Her diligence and hard work are to be both recognised and highly commended.

OSTEM: OUT IN STEM



Out In STEM (oSTEM) has been a cornerstone for the LGBTQ+ community at the University and a leader in diversity within the EPS Community. All too aware of the difficulties that lockdown would pose for their community, oSTEM quickly pivoted their entire society online. They built the oSTEM Discord Server which evolved into a virtual community for current students, staff and alumni to connect socially and professionally. oSTEM offered a series of online events from coffee socials to weekly virtual guizzes for members. One of the most impressive examples of this was oSTEM's success in adapting their STEM, LGBTQ & You conference conference. Not only did they move the event online, but they vastly improved its accessibility with live transcriptions and, with permission, published recordings of the events online. This Herculean effort

enabled oSTEM to attract more international speakers and audience members than ever before while also creating a safe space for members and students to be themselves. oSTEM extended its efforts to the wider EPS Community and University. They curated a range of LGBTQ+ History Month events that were made widely available and also made a conscious effort to reach out to LGBTQ+ students who might be struggling. The society went as far as to support the College of Life and Environmental Sciences in engaging and enriching the experience of its LGBTQ+ students and played an important role in the Historical Research on Sexuality Project at the University. oSTEM continues to ensure that students voices are heard and that the University moves forward with a clear understanding of LGBTQ+ people's needs.

WISE: WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Women in Science and Engineering's (WISE) ethos to support and promote women in STEM extends through everything they do. The society welcomes all regardless of their gender, background or degree type or level, and WISE keep membership, events and outreach sessions free in an effort to make themselves as accessible as possible. This year, WISE ran several exceptional events that sought to improve diversity and inclusion in STEM. Equal in Stem 2021 brought together over 100 students, academics and professionals to discuss the prevalent barriers in STEM and how these might be dismantled. WISE Inspire provided a safe space where professional women in STEM could share how their gender has impacted their career choices, while BAME and Allies in STEM strived to educate members on how to be

better allies. While the WISE outreach scheme which provides a diverse set of visible role models carried on as usual, WISE recognised the need for more during this year's unprecedented circumstances. They pioneered virtual resources such as a mini-lecture series with members and the Diversity in STEM profiles, highlighting different women in STEM, under the firm belief that 'you cannot be what you cannot see'. WISE collaborated with more societies than ever before, as well as aiding in the creation and promotion of EPS' Meet Your Alumni events for International Women's Day and leading a University-wide #ChooseToChallenge campaign to promote gender equality. The society's tireless determination and work ethic is an inspiration.

WIT: WOMEN IN TECH



Founded last April, improving diversity in the field of technology has been at Women In Tech's (WIT) core since the very beginning. The society strives to empower and support students to explore different fields in tech and improve industry representation. Throughout the year, WIT held several poignant events to fight against the prejudice that women face in technology. WIT viewed every event through the lens of improving representation, ensuring that they featured speakers who didn't have a tech degree but boasted successful careers in the industry, as well as speakers that held tech degrees but had jobs that did not require a line of code. WIT made it a priority to show the diversity within the field, with the point of reinforcing their belief that it makes a hugely positive impact on

society when women have access to resources and opportunities. WIT exemplified this belief in their event with Chayn, a volunteer network that addresses gender-based violence by offering intersectional survivor-led resources online. The founder Hera Hussain, who has been featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 and MIT Innovators Under 35 lists, was kind enough to speak at the event. Her words about how technology can be used as a force for good and improve the lives of others inspired the students who attendede and affirmed WIT's mission. WIT has already connected so many of its members, who are not exclusively women, to role models and has set the tone for the many achievements that are yet to come for the society.

INDUSTRIAL AWARD

This Award recognises individuals or societies whose success in forging industrial links has had a significant impact on their fellow students. Their activities encourage skills development and employability, offer an insight into possible career paths and support the transition from education to employment.

Birmingham Energy Society

BIRMINGHAM ENERGY SOCIETY

Birmingham Energy Society (BES) built on its work in previous years to expand its industry contacts for its members. They have continued to build positive relationships with business and industry connections and successfully organised for members to network with energy professionals from a range of companies. This year they organised an event much anticipated by its attendees where five professionals offered their time to give insight into different sectors and answer student questions. Protium Green Solutions, E.ON Energy, ITPEnergised and Schnieder Electric were represented at the virtual networking event, where they promoted exclusive opportunities that they had available throughout the year for students. BES maximised the online platforms that they used to host

the event by creating breakout rooms that allowed members to have meaningful conversations with professionals and develop connections.

BES were incredibly proactive this year, organising a networking event in collaboration with the alumni team before the year started where members could hear from recent graduates entering the energy sector. Always thinking ahead, BES made it their priority to create spaces for members to explore their options after graduating from university. It's been a challenging year for EPS Societies, but it has been a joy to see the Energy Society persevering through this to develop and grow its industry links.

RAILSOC



Despite the challenging circumstances, RailSoc had one of its best years to date. RailSoc ran no less than three industrial talks with external parties, more than any year before, covering areas from train planning to rolling stock refurbishment. RailSoc's connections with industry have always been strong but understandably they took extra effort to maintain this year. Their efforts paid off and, by using their online platforms to their advantage, RailSoc attracted a range of fascinating and engaging speakers from across the country to its events hosted on Zoom. RailSoc also took the opportunity to invite members from RailSoc's sister societies in other universities (Loughborough, Imperial, UCB and Cambridge), further strengthening their inter-university transport society network which resulted in the most attended RailSoc event ever.

One key speaker at the event included Andrew Pennington, Head of Planning for South Western Railway, who gave a talk on operating a railway in times of uncertainty. RailSoc also hosted an engaging talk on the new trains for the Isle of Wight, jointly presented by representatives from SWR and VivaRail. John Robson, Director of West Midlands & North West at CrossCountry, gave a fascinating talk on his exciting and varied career in the railway industry, including the operational challenges of running a railway during COVID-19, and an automated mining railway in a South American volcano. Several RailSoc members gained placements and jobs as a result which speaks to the outstanding efforts of the society despite the difficulties of this year.

SATNAV: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS AND VIEWS



When SATNAV noticed the gap in the career paths promoted by the University, they didn't hesitate to be proactive. It had been brought to their attention that so many students were unaware of the employment opportunities available to them within science communication. SATNAV quickly addressed this with their Futures in SciComm event series. The events were a mixture of virtual formats, seeking to provide both information, exposure to industry and an introduction to industry leaders. SATNAV did not disappoint. The event consisted of two subject-specific webinar panels, each boasting three guest speakers from a variety of roles within the industry including an interactive virtual science journalism and communication workshop led by Emma McKinney and

an exclusive interview with Mićo Tatalović, one of Europe's leading science journalists who currently works at Research Fortnight. The students in attendance were left both inspired and with a tangible experience to put on their CVs, fulfilling SATNAV's goals for the event. Students walked away with concrete guidance on how to move forward, and the resources to do so. SATNAV organised for their collaborator, the Careers Network, to offer information on how to apply for work experience bursaries, and compiled the contacts of the guest panelists in booklets distributed after the event. The event was a huge success, surpassing student expectations, proving SATNAV to be an integral part of the EPS Community.

UBVR: VIRTUAL REALITY



Virtual Reality's (UBVR) outstanding work has helped to connect students to the VR industry and put the University on the map for the technology. Having recognised the lack of VR/AR application within the University, UBVR began actively promoting the technology and its usage to students inside and outside of the EPS Community. Throughout the year, they have successfully run a variety of events and workshops with a star-studded line-up of guest speakers including The Power of Virtual Heritage talk led by society mentor and the UK's foremost immersive tech specialist, Professor Bob Stone. UBVR has continued to build connections outside of the University including their collaboration with the University of Leeds to facilitate the VR and Digital Therapeutics talk delivered by none other than Noah

Falstein, chief designer at Google with a long history in the gaming industry.

UBVR continue to put their members first by offering workshops and sessions for all levels of experience. In just a year, the society developed great relationships with various industry connections through their LinkedIn page and attracted outstanding engagement from professionals with their sharp and consistent online strategy. UBVR capitalised on this work to create priceless opportunities for students to participate in two research projects. UBVR has not only inspired its members to explore VR/AR but have built a platform from which members can pursue a career in the industry. They are a remarkable member of the EPS Community.

WIT: WOMEN IN TECH



Throughout the year Women in Tech (WIT) has been empowering more women to pursue careers in technology. They have tirelessly showcased pathways to great careers in tech using every medium at their disposal. WIT curated an interview series that was shared via a powerful social media campaign, featuring advice from recent graduates that have undertaken internships or graduate schemes in the industry, helping WIT members forge connections. WIT also hosted a variety of talks within the society, ensuring that they showcased a range of role models to reinforce the diverse opportunities and space within the industry for students like its members. Some of the most memorable have been How to get work as a developer at Google after getting a non-tech degree, How to found a start-up in Birmingham: the world's

first 3D-printed vitamins and How finishing UoB can lead you to secure a successful PhD at Cambridge and land research internships at Google.

WIT has spent the year strengthening the relationships it was within the industry. A testament to this WIT's stellar career event, How to get into Fintech, in which industry leaders shared practical advice on how to get started in the industry including Bloomberg, Citi, Lloyds Bank and Deutsche Bank. WIT has also nurtured newer relationships with Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Bright Network and Siemens which the society shares through their active social media page and society events. WIT has truly positioned the career progression of its members as its north star and continues to move from strength to strength.

EPS COMMUNITY AWARD

This Award recognises exemplary contributions of individual student members or entire societies who make new connections across the College and encourage collaboration and inclusivity within the Community.

AVERY CUNNINGHAM NucSoc and oSTEM



Avery Cunningham transformed NucSoc into a society that cared about diversity for the first time. It was Avery that campaigned for the introduction of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) representative and has filled the role ever since. As EDI Representative, he organised and ran the first ever EDI event for NucSoc which was Experiences of Black Professionals in Nuclear. With the full support of the society, Avery gathered speakers for the event from the UK and the USA for Black History Month. Avery also founded the EPS Community's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee which strives to unify the EPS Societies to work together in solving EDI issues.

Avery not only founded this committee but continues to sit as NucSoc's representative.

Whilst Avery has been a pioneer within NucSoc and oSTEM, there are so many societies that Avery has either directly or indirectly helped out and made better within the EPS Community. Avery continued to launch conferences and even had a hand in making sure the EPS Societies' Awards took place this year. Though choosing one society to nominate him for would be a difficult task for anybody, it would be a crime not to recognise him for his work for NucSoc.

CHEMSOC



When ChemSoc were faced with the challenge of uniting the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, they knew exactly what to do: the EPS Running Festival. The event saw over 100 staff and students across the College form a team to raise money for the mental health charity, Mind. Each member completed either a 3k, 5k, 10k or halfmarathon throughout January and February virtually, in keeping with government guidelines. To maintain a sense of community despite social distancing, ChemSoc launched a collective Facebook page where participants could share their training updates and help cheer each other on. ChemSoc directed everyone to post finishing photos on the Facebook page which were later combined into one big group photo to mark the occasion. Thanks to the generosity of the Alumni

Impact Fund, ChemSoc were able to send finishing medals to everyone involved as well as a range of trophies including 'Most Money Raised by a Single Society' and 'Most Participants from a Single Society' to foster some healthy inter-society competition.

The EPS Running Festival was hugely successful in improving the morale and the mental and physical health of students who have been negatively affected by the pandemic altering their university experience. The total money raised by the event was an inspirational £7,827. Through their hard work and team spirit, ChemSoc were able to showcase both their passion for innovation and philanthropy. There is no doubt that the EPS Running Festival will be a much-anticipated event next year!

OSTEM: OUT IN STEM



Out in STEM (oSTEM) has continued to be the embodiment of inclusivity across the college. Some LGBTQ+ people, especially students stuck living at home, find themselves at risk or out of reach from their community. oSTEM made it their mission to improve this and put countless hours into the oSTEM Birmingham Discord Server, a virtual community where current students, staff and alumni, both nationally and internationally, could feel a part of their community. In the words of one fresher: 'the Discord Server has provided me with invaluable links to other students, particularly with older students, that could not have been found in other ways, especially given the circumstances.' oSTEM created a community hub from the Discord Server by launching many virtual events from coffee socials to an infamous virtual quiz

that ran almost every week without fail since March 2020. oSTEM pushed further to forge support networks throughout the intersecting marginalised communities within EPS by collaborating with WISE, BEaMS and the 93% Club. Together they organised the second year of the Equal in STEM conference as well as a photo contest with WISE and the LGBTQ+ Association. Finally, oSTEM adapted the STEM, LGBTQ & You 2021 conference to use an innovative online platform which ultimately increased attendance as the online nature of the event made it safer for closeted members of the community to attend. oSTEM has been exceedingly proactive in making inroads to support those across the college and have been a pillar within the EPS Community and the University's LGBTQ+ community.

WISE: WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Over the last twelve months, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) has worked harder than ever to offer the same outstanding opportunities to its members. From volunteering and networking events to panel discussions and chances to socialise, WISE truly outdid themselves. One notable example of this was Meet Your Community, a short interview series pioneered by WISE. Societies across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and the College of Life and Environmental Sciences were interviewed to discuss what they were planning for the upcoming year, how they were coping during lockdown and how members could get involved. Not only did this introduce students to other STEM societies, but WISE used the platform to promote the other societies'

events. WISE continued its great work by supporting other EPS societies' journey towards diversity and gender equality. To fulfil this, WISE made it a priority to collaborate with other societies and kept their door open to anyone who needed them. In the last year alone, WISE ran over twenty-three events, more than double previous years. Eighteen of these events were collaborative with other EPS societies, helping to foster an EPS Community spirit. WISE also played a key role in the creation of the EPS Meet Your Alumni events for International Women's Day, heavily cross-promoting all events to boost engagement and expand the impact of these individual talks to a larger network. WISE's passion has shone through this year and has touched the EPS Community and beyond.

WIT: WOMEN IN TECH



Having only been founded in April 2021, Women In Tech (WIT) wasted no time in making an impact. Driven by their goal to help members seize opportunities in the variety of fields that require technology, WIT hosted several events throughout the year. One of the most memorable was How to get into Fintech which WIT did in collaboration with the Women in Finance society. Speakers from HSBC, Lloyds Bank, Bloomberg and Citi offered key insight into the blend of finance and technology opportunities that are looking for fresh talent. WIT also collaborated with the Politics Society to launch the Spotlight on Chayn event. Chayn, an open-source platform that offers a diverse pool of resources to women who experience abuse, was founded by Hera Hussain who

was the main speaker at the event. Attendees were given the brilliant opportunity to chat with Hera, who is on the Forbes 30 Under 30 and MIT Innovators Under 35 lists, in the interactive Q&A session that followed the event. Throughout the year, WIT undertook several great collaborations with the Computer Science Society. The most recent was a workshop on React to help familiarise members with its work. WIT continued to put on numerous networking events spotlighting other women in technology who shared their stories and experiences to help members gain skills and knowledge that could carry them forward. Since its beginnings, WIT has been greatly involved in the EPS Community and has established itself as a trailblazer with even more in store for the future.

INSPIRATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

This Award recognises those committee members who are dedicated to the success of their society in terms of empowerment, engagement and inclusion for the benefit of all members. These people are fully committed to the running of their society, have exhibited exceptional organisational skills and enable their society to thrive.





Dan is an incredible member whose impact on the Computer Science Society (CSS) has to be commended. During his years at CSS, he has given so much of his time and technical ability to the society. He is the main driver behind CSS's server, used to host a Minecraft world for CSS members, as well as an OpenTTD server (to which the society owes many evenings of enjoyment). Dan volunteered his free time to programme bots for the CSS Discord, creating the preferential voting bot that was used in CSS's annual general meeting, as well as the Tom Sbott that keeps everyone up to date with their favourite YouTuber.

While Dan consistently pushes for innovation within the society, he never fails to remain cognizant of people's needs and feelings. In one student's words, 'Dan is an approachable person with a bubbly personality who is a true inspiration to me and so many other students.' He is a consistent presence on the CSS committee, voicing concerns of the postgraduate research students who are an underrepresented community in CSS. He's helped more postgraduate research students become involved in society events such as CSS Quiz Nights and in the School of Computer Science community overall by encouraging them to engage with the CSS Discord. Dan has been the people's voice in the student committee for the School of Computer Science, unafraid to challenge collective concerns about t he School's changes to the coursework structure. Recently elected as the College Postgraduate Researcher representative for EPS, Dan continues to be an outstanding representative of the Computer Science community.

JACOB WILSON CSS: Computer Science Society



Jacob has been a brilliantly keen member of the Computer Science Society (CSS) committee this year with a passion and attention to detail that shines through everything he does. As Special Events Representative, Jacob organised the biggest event of the year, the CSS Ball. With the event being held online for the first time, this was no easy feat. Single-handedly, Jacob managed the delivery of food vouchers, swag for participants and arranging the online platform that would host the event. Responsible for the sponsorship of the event, Jacob secured multiple sources of funding including contributions from the Guild, and the School of Computer Science. Without his efforts, the event would not have been able to take place. Jacob put his heart into the CSS Quiz.

Applying his eclectic knowledge of history, Jacob's difficult and obscure quiz rounds became infamous within the community and made the event one of the only to consistently attract more than thirty people. Jacob also pushed for philanthropy within CSS by hosting the Missing Mapathon. He rallied CSS members to help map out rural, underdeveloped areas struck by natural disasters. This year, members mapped out a section of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that had recently been hit by an earthquake. The work led by Jacob gave aid workers access to invaluable data including the population of specific regions and the location of people in need. Jacob's unwavering commitment and enthusiasm have been one of the keys to CSS's success this year.

LEX MILLINS PPS: Poynting Physical Society



Lex has held multiple roles on the Poynting Physical Society (PPS) committee, from Secretary to Treasurer, but this year as President Lex defined what it is to be a leader. Lex not only led the society through arguably one of the most unpredictable and challenging periods it has faced but supported both committee members and students in the School of Physics and Astronomy through these challenges. Through meetings with the Head of School, they consistently conveyed the feelings of the students to the department when it was most needed, even successfully campaigning for changes to the exam structure when students voiced their concerns and struggles. Through sheer dedication, Lex oversaw the running of eighteen society events in just twenty weeks and never once

failed to be in attendance all while balancing their studies. Putting the focus on community, Lex co-ordinated the Family Scheme which was a lifeline for so many isolated freshers. They have continued to push for better inclusivity by enrolling the committee on active bystander training and encouraging all members to attach their pronouns to their names in Zoom. They guided a relatively young committee to run virtual socials and helped organise enriching events such as Science on Tap, the BAME and Allies Event, a Virtual Careers Fair and the Conference for Astronomy and Physics Students. Every society deserves someone as dedicated, passionate and caring as Lex and PPS have been very lucky to have them.

PAIGE RAMSDEN WISE: Women In Science and Engineering



Paige is a force to be reckoned with. Over the summer Paige ensured that WISE had a no-policy clause in writing. To ensure membership and events remained free of charge, she wrote, shared and instilled WISE's constitution. Paige's preparations continued as she secured funding, planned events and commenced weekly committee meetings well before the start of the first semester. With Paige's excellent organisation, meticulous oversight and natural ability to motivate the committee, WISE was able to offer novel events every fortnight and deliver WISE's busiest year yet. Paige was heavily involved in all events, actively taking the lead for several and offering endless support for other delegated tasks. Paige has also been key in creating virtual outreach resources to aid school students through months of home-schooling.

Paige not only produced an engaging astrology presentation as part of the mini-lecture series, but she also created an Experiment at Home booklet which guided students through experiments they could perform using common materials found around the house. Paige then worked closely with the College of EPS to build an online platform to share the resources, expanding their impact to a national level. Fearful that the restrictions on physical outreach sessions were depriving school children of the diverse set of role models that would normally be promoted, Paige designed the Diversity in STEM profiles. This year, Paige consistently went above and beyond the call of duty; WISE's success this year would not have been possible without Paige's leadership and guidance.

VALERIA POPESCU WIT: Women in Tech



Valeria has been both an inspirational and integral part of the WIT committee from its founding to the present day. As the founder of the society, her commitment to the cause has not wavered as she remained passionate about bridging diversity gaps in the technology field. She worked vigorously to organise events with top-class speakers delivering some of the best line-ups the society has ever seen. Thanks to Valeria, WIT held talks with successful women in the tech industry such as Cambridge researchers, CEOs and Google engineers, delivered events with Siemens engineers and ran the How to get into Fintech event with women from Bloomberg, Citi and Lloyds.

Despite not knowing whether or not she will be president, Valeria started setting up society sponsorships with Goldman Sachs for next year. All the while Valeria continues to write about and share industry internship, graduate and scholarship opportunities for women.

Regardless of the pressures on her time, Valeria always put herself at her members' disposal. For so many, she is the first port of call for advice and help both regarding society matters and university life in general. She is a source of inspiration in her persistence and dedication to having WIT flourish as a society.



This Award recognises individuals who have gone above and beyond to represent their society by embodying its core values and instilling them in others. They exemplify the best within themselves and are recognised as a role model for their achievements.

AVERY CUNNINGHAM NucSoc and oSTEM



Avery has been a vital member of NucSoc from the moment he joined the University as a fresher and has since become a role model to all. Since coining the phrase 'NucSoc best soc', Avery has put the work behind making this true. As President, he revolutionised the society into one focused on careers rather than strictly social events. Avery has extended his impact beyond NucSoc with a series of outreach activities. Local schools and sixth forms have greatly benefited from Avery's workshops and lab demos. Avery has shared his knowledge through radio shows and podcasts on the nuclear industry, continuing to be of service to students and the wider community.

Avery has never neglected the students he represents and continues to make them a priority in everything he does. Since Avery founded the first ever NucSoc Careers Fair a few years prior, it has been a resounding success and given members both inspiration and connections to progress their careers. For Black History Month, Avery launched NucSoc's Experiences of Black Professionals in the Nuclear Industry which was the society's first EDI event. Avery's talents have led him to hold positions within IOM3, and represent the student voice in the process to appoint the new Vice-Chancellor. Avery has heavily influenced how EDI is enacted within the EPS Community and has encouraged NucSoc and BUMS to both introduce EDI Representatives. Avery is the epitome of being the change you want to see, a true inspiration.

JUSTIN CHADWELL AFNOM and CSS



Over the past three years, Justin has done more than anyone else to help make the Computer Science Society (CSS) the welcoming, fun and technologically competent society it is today. From joining the committee in his first year as the Special Events Representative and then on to becoming the Vice-President in 2019/20, he has dedicated countless hours to the society, often behind the scenes. During his time on the committee, it was his effort and technical expertise that made the CSS website more than just a single page on which CSS events could be accessed without the site collapsing.

This year, Justin decided not to stand on the committee because of his pressing workload.

Nonetheless, he still organised several of CSS' best events and put in the hard graft on a volunteer basis to ensure they run smoothly. Two of the highlights were the AFNOM Lightning Talks, which he compered, and its follow-up, the AFNOM x CSS Lightning talks. Justin has also become one of the most active members of the Discord community, often helping people in all years with problems from technical advice to how to navigate university systems. Outside of hosting events, he is an approachable and friendly figure who inspires many of the people around him with his passion and drive. As one of the first years so aptly put: 'I want to be like Justin, he does so many cool things, he's such a role model.'

MEGAN JENKINS MathSoc



Megan has been an instrumental part of MathSoc throughout her time as a student and will graduate this year leaving a great legacy. Megan's leadership is what kept the MathSoc community strong throughout the pandemic. She used her creativity to implement exciting new plans to keep Maths students engaged and socialising while working remotely. Megan also led her team to introduce a series of videos celebrating International Women's Day and launch a LinkedIn page for the society to promote careers opportunities and build their network.

Most notably, Megan was instrumental in supporting the College in establishing this year's Family Schemes. A monumental effort went into making sure these schemes ran this year. While a new programme was launching in Engineering, two others evolved existing activities and the remaining transitioned to bi-model and virtual delivery. Community leaders had to plan for multiple scenarios in order to best support new students that would be joining the university and without Megan, MathSoc would have fallen behind. Not only was Megan excellent in her support of the project but she lent her time to other societies, offering great insight and advice, particularly to those who were working on Family Schemes for the first time. Megan has and always will be a key figure in the School of Maths and will be greatly missed when she graduates this summer.

ROHAN HORNSBY CivSoc



Rohan's tenure as President of CivSoc has been exemplary. Like many presidents in the face of the pandemic, Rohan quickly realised that he would need to be more flexible, creative, and resilient than he'd envisaged to achieve the goals he had for the year. He accomplished this with ease. Rohan started work immediately to ensure that Civil Engineering students felt no less a community with the shift to a new bi-modal education. With Rohan's leadership, CivSoc were able to organise ongoing online socials, support their members' endeavours – such as charity runs – and offer industry connections wherever possible. Rohan also ensured that the relationship between the society and the academic department continued to grow. Rohan did not just strive to give members as full

of a university experience as possible, he became a source of unending support and kindness for any students who found themselves struggling. Rohan made a point of identifying individual members of his society who needed extra peer support. He took the time to speak to these students one-to-one and signposted them to where they could find the additional help and resources that they needed. Covering every base, Rohan also took the additional measure of seeking advice from staff to ensure that the information he was providing was accurate and up to date, whilst maintaining the privacy of the students concerned. Nothing is too much for Rohan and his kindness knows no bounds, making him one of the best role models the EPS Community has.

VALERIA POPESCU WIT: Women In Tech



As the President and founder of the Women in Tech Society (WIT), Valeria worked tirelessly since the very first day to make this society a success and maximise its impact. Valeria has been unapologetic about WIT's purpose to empower and support students of all backgrounds, especially women, to gain insight and get involved in tech. Her empathy and selflessness have permeated through her work. She has been incredibly encouraging to students that show interest in the industry but don't come with a technology degree or don't wish to code. Valeria has encouraged them and given them valuable insight into how to start building their careers. Valeria always delivered more than what she promised. She consistently secured great speakers for WIT events such as representatives

from Google, Microsoft, Bloomberg, Citi and Siemens to name just a few. Her efforts have meant that the society has also welcomed PhD students at Cambridge, the CEO of Nourish3d and the founder of Chayn. With Valeria in charge, no one ever left a WIT event without learning something or meeting someone new. There are few as dedicated and passionate about what they do as Valeria is. A true role model, she successfully juggled work and professional commitments, responsibilities as WIT's President and her own side hustles, all while achieving academic excellence. Valeria has been an absolutely incredible president and deserves to be recognised for the example she sets within the EPS Community and beyond.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Many of our societies' activities would not be possible without the unending support of members of staff across the College. Their enthusiasm, organisation and dedication are set deep into the hearts of our student groups and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done throughout the year. From all of the EPS society members, thank you!

DR ANDREEA RADU Lecturer, School of Computer Science



Andreea has supported the EPS AFNOM society since she was a PhD student at the University many years ago, and has continued to support the society, despite her many spinning plates associated with her role as a Lecturer, PERCAT Representative for the School of Computer Science and more. She has always made herself available to support students within the society to give them the best experience, even though AFNOM has not been able to formally meet since March 2020. Her devotion of time to AFNOM has seen it continue to grow and foster a collaborative and fun environment that students across the College have enjoyed. If any opportunities arise, Dr Radu works tirelessly to get School support for the society and impart her knowledge to upskill and support AFNOMers.

Dr Radu goes well above her role within the School of Computer Science to make sure that AFNOM gets the support it needs, from running excellent events, supporting students at every stage of their ethical-hacking development, and being around for a good laugh and acting as a sounding post for students. Andreea is also passionate about getting more girls to consider cybersecurity as a career and she has boosted the number of women students in the department. For these reasons, and more, she exemplifies the Birmingham professional, and is more than deserving of the EPS Societies' Awards Staff Member of the Year award for her time, commitment and devotion to the success of EPS Societies.

GRACE SURMAN Alumni Relations Manager, College of EPS



Without Grace's efforts, many of the societies in the EPS Community wouldn't be here celebrating. Across the entire community, everyone knows how hard Grace works to keep the EPS extra-curricular activities running, but this year Grace went the extra mile. Her tireless work has helped so many of the EPS Societies ride these challenging few months. Her efforts to make sure events were well publicised were priceless and enabled the societies to bring in new members. Whether it's help organising events, advice on running a society or just someone to talk to when feeling overwhelmed, Grace is always there to support. It is staff like Grace who allow societies to thrive and create a warm welcoming environment within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Every single society in the College has a story about how Grace has helped them.

For WIT, Grace was there every step of the way from the society's conception, to their International Women's Day event. As one member put it, 'Grace's help was the greatest thing to happen to WIT. Grace put MechSoc in contact with a huge list of alumni for their events, which she also did for many other societies contributing to over 35 events in two weeks. She has been a sounding board and support for oSTEM, and has helped PPS thrive this year. Grace is the glue that holds the EPS Societies together and her work has resulted in the explosion in the number of societies within the college, from 13 to 42 societies in just a few years. Her commitment to the EPS Societies and the wider EPS Community is matched by nobody else in the College.



DR RICHARD SHERIDAN Lecturer, School of Metallurgy and Materials



Despite not being directly involved with the society this year, Richard has been indispensable to so many students and committee members. He has been the rock that so many needed within BUMS and indeed the whole of the School of Metallurgy and Materials. Richard has offered his time to numerous members within BUMS to support their mental wellbeing and help them find the right resources should they need them.

That has proved more important than ever in such a challenging year for so many people. Richard did not limit his kindness and compassion to BUMS members but went above and beyond to assist all of the students that fall under the School of Metallurgy and Materials. It is Richard's presence that has helped make BUMS, the School and the entire EPS Community a safe and welcoming environment for all, for which Richard certainly deserves recognition.

DR SEAN ELVIDGE Lecturer, School of Engineering



Dr Elvidge has been incredibly supportive and active in AstroSoc's events over the past year. As a former AstroSoc Chair from over six years ago, his passion and commitment to the society are second to none. This year, he not only gave a wonderful talk on mathematical models for space weather forecast during World Space Week 2020, which focused on satellite technology, but he was exceptionally supportive of AstroSoc as they launched their first ever Careers and Legacy Night. During the Careers and Legacy Night, Dr Elvidge went out of his way to

recover and share with the attendees and society committee precious past experiences and memories of AstroSoc since the formation of the society, including a hand-written letter from the early 1900s dedicated to AstroSoc from the renowned physicist, Professor John Henry Poynting. His journey and dedication to science inspire each and every one of the members at AstroSoc. This amongst other insights he shared with AstroSoc have made many a member proud to be part of the society and forever grateful for his support and guidance.

DR ZOE SCHNEPP Senior Lecturer, School of Chemistry



Dr Schnepp has been a pillar in the School of Chemistry, particularly for ChemSoc. Dr Schnepp acted as ChemSoc's Staff Advocate for the EPS Running Festival event which was a lifeline to the committee tasked with pulling off such a large event. She offered her guidance and assistance from start to finish, from guiding the society through the application for the Alumni Impact Fund to assisting with medal postage at the end of the event. It's safe to say that without her input, the EPS Running Festival would not have been nearly as successful as it was.

Beyond the EPS Running Festival, Dr Schnepp has been heavily involved with outreach in the Chemistry department. One of the best examples of her efforts was during the first lockdown when she created and helped students to create educational resources for homeschooling. Her dedication and commitment to students set a bar that few have reached, and everyone in the School of Chemistry and ChemSoc is filled with gratitude to have such an enthusiastic member of staff so involved with ChemSoc!

HEAD OF COLLEGE IDEA OF THE YEAR

This Award recognises innovative new projects and events that have had a significant impact on the schools or societies involved.

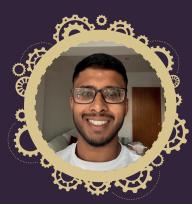
EPS RUNNING FESTIVAL ChemSoc



Following the success of their teaming up with MathSoc for the Birmingham Running Festival in 2020, ChemSoc went one stage further this year and organised their own virtual equivalent to motivate students through the pandemic and raise money for charity: the EPS Running Festival. Lucy and her team recognised that both exercise and fundraising have taken a big hit during the last year and, seeing the serious impact that being stuck inside has on mental health and well-being, they wanted to do something to try to fix these problems. The team rallied over 100 Chemistry students and staff, plus all the societies across the College, to join forces and run 3km, 5km, 10km or a half-marathon throughout January at their

own pace and comfort, all to raise money for the mental health charity, Mind. A sense of team spirit was created through a Facebook group where members of the team connected to share their training and fundraising progress. At the end of the event, everyone who took part received a medal, funded by the Alumni Impact Fund, and trophies were given out for societies/individuals that had the best performances. With their excellent organisation and exciting and engaging offerings to people across the University, together the runners raised a grand total of £7,827! It a tremendous collective achievement for everyone involved and an excellent idea to build community and do good in the world.

FORMING THE 93% CLUB Nazibur Rahman



The 93% Club Birmingham branch founded in Summer 2020 to empower students from socially mobile backgrounds and provide them with opportunities that will help level the playing field when it comes to academic and employment opportunities. Led by Nazibur Rahman, the society has gone to great lengths to enable their members to enter top professions and be confident in their abilities, regardless of their background. Over the year, they have built an extensive support network to boost the motivation and skills of their members across all disciplines at the University and offer opportunities to hear from professionals who offer an insight into their

role and careers so far. They also launched their own podcast to further share the message of the experts and professionals that they have established partnerships with and extend the reach of the advice and opportunities offered. All of this was achieved during a pandemic with no face-to-face contact with their members, yet already the 93% Club has gathered almost 700 followers on social media platforms. A fantastic idea to support the personal and professional development of students from all socio-economic backgrounds to succeed in their career aspirations, their work has been invaluable to so many.



FOUNDING OF THE WIT SOCIETY WIT



The Women in Tech (WIT) society was founded at the start of the pandemic as a way to unite students interested in the tech sector with a common aim to learn about career opportunities. The society's main aim is to inspire more women to discover tech and consider it as a possible career option, regardless of their degree discipline and empower their members to pursue their ambitions. In a few short months, they have launched their brand identity, gathered a superb number of active followers and members, and created

inspiring initiatives. They have held virtual events for Black History Month and International Women's Day, organised several speed-networking events and Lightning Talks with alumni and professionals, created a talk series for showcasing successful women in tech, collaborated with several employers and industry partners and even held a good number of virtual social events. The fact they have done this during a pandemic without ever meeting most of their members in person, as well as building a strong community in just a few short challenging months, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of their founders.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SERIES OF EVENTS BUMS



The success of BUMS' International Women's Day Series is owed to Emma and Amy on the committee. During a meeting to organise a BUMS careers event that centred around speed-networking with alumni, it came to Emma and Amy's attention that there were a great number of female alumni that could be contacted. At that moment it was decided that the speed-networking event would not be the only event to take place. Emma and Amy decided to put on two events, one that hosted a mix of alumni to inspire students, and another with a panel exclusively made up of professional women who used to attend the

University. The event was scheduled on 8 March to coincide with International Women's Day. But that was not the end. The idea quickly blossomed into a whole series over two weeks that saw multiple collaborations with other societies. Amy and Emma were the powerhouses behind the events ensuring that everything ran smoothly, and attendees got the most out of the two weeks, with Emma even hosting the BUMS and MechSoc alumni speed-networking event. With 17 events in total being held, welcoming over 70 alumni back to the college, it is impossible to underestimate what Emma and Amy accomplished.

POYNTING'S PYTHON SOCIETY PPS



The Poynting Python Society (PPS) was set up this year to help first year students with the computer programming taught in physics. It's known to many that the first year coding module for physicists is very difficult, especially for the number of students that come with no prior experience of programming. With remote learning making this even trickier, a group of second and third year students came together to create bi-weekly sessions to help the younger cohorts. The PPS committee selflessly gave up their Saturday mornings to go over key concepts in the Python language on Zoom, with an open invitation to all PPS members. So many of the attendees remarked at how expertly planned the sessions were. The committee

started by covering a concept using slides and explaining the functionality of the code. They would then do a real-time example that demonstrated the concept being covered. Finally, they would end the session by giving the attendees a coding task related to the session material and provide help as and when it was needed. This structure made the sessions informative and engaging. Each session was then recorded and sent around a mailing list so that those unable to attend would not miss out, as well as also allowing those who did attend to refer back to the material covered. The committee was inundated with thanks from struggling first years, making PPS one of the best displays of kindness and compassion within the EPS Community.

THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT IN EPS AWARD

This Award recognises outstanding contributions to the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, encapsulates the positive traits celebrated through all other Awards and seeks to recognise exceptional individuals within the EPS Societies. These are our future leading alumni.

AVERY CUNNINGHAM NucSoc and oSTEM



Avery is the very fabric of the EPS Community. In his six years, he has taken on countless responsibilities with unparalleled selflessness and expertise. He is President of Birmingham oSTEM Professionals and Postgraduates, and Director of Student Membership for oSTEM Inc. where he led oSTEM's global expansion with over 100 chapters across the USA, UK, Canada and Mexico. As the beating heart of NucSoc, Avery ran events from the International Women's Day networking event to the Experiences of Black Professionals in the Nuclear Industry to name a few, successfully giving NucSoc the career focus it lacked. As Lead Organiser for the STEM, LGBTQ & You conference, Avery secured thousands of pounds in sponsorship as well as a huge international volunteer pool. Avery was a Birmingham In Action Ambassador at the Kensington Palace launch of the University's

major fundraising and volunteering campaign. Beyond societies, Avery has excelled as Vice-Chair of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining Pride Network and as EDI lead for the Nuclear Institute Midlands Branch. Off the clock, Avery is the same. He is one of the most loved people at the University. Known affectionately as Daddy oSTEM or BGOC, Big Gay on Campus, Avery has ordered Ubers home for freshers, kept sober at social events to watch over others and cooked an oSTEM Christmas meal so that everyone had the chance to have at least one festivity in a supportive environment. He is the very reason that these awards are happening this year. Whilst nothing could repay Avery for his work and his warmth, so many hope this nomination does some part in expressing their gratitude.

JUSTIN CHADWELL AFNOM and CSS

Over the past three years, Justin has done more than anyone else to help make the Computer Science Society (CSS) the welcoming, fun and technologically competent society it is today. Justin first joined the committee as a fresher as the Special Events Representative and has since climbed to become the Vice-President for the 2019–20 academic year. In all his years with the CSS committee, he has put in the hard graft to organise and manage other members to ensure that all events went off seamlessly. Justin not only brings leadership skills to CSS but his technical abilities also. It was his effort that made the CSS website more than just a single page and crash-proof when people tried to book events which have been an invaluable contribution to the society.

His infallible commitment to CSS has been especially prevalent this year. Despite stepping down from the committee due to the workload of his degree, Justin still played a vital role in the running of the society. He organised several of the best CCS events, in particular the Lightning talks which Justin himself compered. He also stepped up as one of the most active members of the Discord community, offering his time and skills to help people across all years with problems from technical assistance to advice in navigating University systems. Justin's efforts have inspired so many, and as one first year put it: 'I want to be like Justin, he's such a role model'.



MEGAN JENKINS MathSoc



This year Megan has shown outstanding qualities in her position as President of the MathSoc committee. She has been extremely resilient and has dealt with all changes due to COVID-19 with ease and confidence. As the only committee member to be in their second year of duty, Megan gave her time to get her fellow committee members up to speed and settled in all while transitioning to remote working. The pandemic gave additional responsibility to the already mammoth task of organising MathSoc events, but Megan successfully navigated these challenges with maturity and expertise.

Throughout the year, she ensured that the MathSoc calendar was brimming with activities each week despite lockdown and was extremely innovative when coming up with new ideas for the members.

Megan worked alongside the School of Mathematics to deliver a range of events involving students, members of staff and lecturers. Though faced with many difficult decisions regarding larger events throughout the year, Megan tackled them head-on true to form.

Megan has made a tremendous difference to the experience of EPS first years by rolling out the successful MathSoc Family Scheme to other Schools in the College. She has been generous with her time and enthusiasm in supporting other societies to set up and operate similar schemes whilst ensuring the MathSoc's maintained its quality. Megan has been a wonderful role model for all members of MathSoc who will be sad to see her graduate but are certain of the bright future that Megan has ahead of her.

SOCIETY OF THE YEAR 2020/21

This Award celebrates those societies that have pushed the boundaries and delivered more than ever before. Through outstanding events, innovative projects and activities, superb organisation and raising awareness, these societies provide an exceptional, well-rounded and inclusive experience to their members. They embody the ethos of the EPS Community.

BUMS: BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY MATERIALS SOCIETY



Yet again Birmingham University Materials Society (BUMS) had an extremely successful year filled with superb events, fundraising and sports achievements. Throughout the summer, BUMS debuted one of its most popular competitions to date, the BUMS Bake-off which was a roaring success with multiple fantastic entries being sent in every fortnight. This gave BUMS members the chance to show off some amazing baking skills all while immersing themselves in the BUMS community ahead of the new academic year. The BUMS social calendar boasted several events and competitions, including a Halloween pumpkin carving contest and a fancy-dress online quiz (featuring some hilarious baby photos kindly donated by lecturers!). The Family Scheme kicked off with a much-enjoyed Family Games Night and successfully welcomed

another cohort of new students to support through the start of university life. This year BUMS expanded the scheme to include postgraduate students whereby PhD students mentored new Masters students at the university. In keeping with last year, there was another strong showing from the BUMS campus league with teams battling it out in both football and netball, in addition to the BUMS Strava competition where 2.6 million metres were covered by members. Leaving no stone unturned, the BUMS careers events - in particular, the speed networking event - were very well received. Furthermore BUMS Movember set a new record of £1,005 raised, beating last year's total by £200. Operating more as a family, this year has proved that nothing will stop BUMS from being a great society, no matter what obstacles they face.

CHEMSOC



With every Chemistry student being a member, ChemSoc has continued to give the best possible experience during the pandemic. During freshers' week, each member of the ChemSoc committee assigned themselves to a group of first years to help settle them into the Chemistry community. The society kept spirits alive with numerous online activities to help these new students get to know each other, such as Q&A sessions, pub quizzes and game nights. Weeks later, ChemSoc then hosted Speed Friending Zoom events in collaboration with other societies from EPS to keep freshers engaged.

There was not one weak link in the ChemSoc committee with every member going above and beyond in their roles. Fiona Clark (Diversity & Inclusion Representative) researched and created a powerful series of posts for the ChemSoc Instagram account to

showcase the work of Black chemists. Unable to do ChemSoc's annual twelve days of Christmas event, Outreach Representative Robert Webster singlehandedly created a Christmas Chemistry Countdown podcast which, from candy canes to Christmas lights, joyfully shared the science behind Christmas. For International Women's Day, ChemSoc hosted a 'Women in Chemistry' event where alumni gave presentations on their careers after university. But the absolute highlight of ChemSoc's year was the EPS Running Festival. Organised by a ChemSoc sub-team, the virtual running event unified over 130 staff and students to raise over £7,800 for mental health charity, Mind. ChemSoc raised £2,800 of this (Dr Yeung raising £625, the largest amount by any one runner). Without a doubt, ChemSoc has been a true standout this year.



CSS: COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

This year, the Computer Science Society (CSS) continued to flourish and remain the backbone of the extremely strong community that the School of Computer Science maintains. The society held 44 events including quiz nights, Minecraft evenings, virtual game sessions, Esports tournaments, talks from industry (both from sponsors and alumni), tech workshops and more relaxed coffee afternoons to cater to everyone's interests and needs. Two standouts of the year were the 'Missing Mapathon', where members mapped out areas affected by natural disasters, and the CSS Virtual Ball that saw over 60 attendees meet face-to-virtual-face for a celebratory evening. CSS also successfully debuted their YouTube channel to host an archive of talks and streams, including the Lightning talks with over 300 views.

The fourteen-member strong committee did everything in their power to connect people in the wake of continuous lockdowns. They sent out over 100 hand-written Christmas cards with stickers of the loved dinosaur mascot. CSS did its absolute best to gather all students on the Discord Servers to help them build friendships for which they received endless amounts of gratitude, particularly from more isolated first years. CSS has also been very proactive in engaging with academic issues. They led student surveys on the suggested School of Computer Science coursework changes to form an open letter to the department. They advocated for the EPS Societies' Awards this year and supported students in deciding the best modules for them. CSS has gone out of its way to show up for its members regardless of the circumstances.

UB VR: VIRTUAL REALITY



Virtual Reality (UBVR) have made a real name for themselves within the EPS Community. The society was first established after students recognized a lack of teaching around immersive technologies, such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, at the university. UBVR became an instant hit and has since successfully influenced students to engage with their numerous educational workshops and enhance their industry knowledge. UBVR ran several speaker events led by industry professionals such as the UK's foremost immersive tech specialist - Professor Bob Stone - delivering illustrative talks on interesting topics such as Extended Reality and Virtual Heritage. UBVR's impacts have continuously gained attention and opportunities, including hosting an event at the high-profile UoBe Festival as per the request of the University.

Operating out of their makerspace, the Emerging Technologies lab in the CTL, UBVR actively promoted the technology and its usage university-wide within and outside the EPS Community. As the committee regularly taught students of different levels from beginner to intermediate, they expanded their network to collaborate with Unity Technologies, HEFi, a medical company, and another society at Leeds University. Their makerspace also provides an open environment for students to experiment with various XR technology, such as Oculus headsets, 3D printers and more to learn about immersive technology through fun activities and projects. In the words of the society's mentor: 'I have never come across such an enthusiastic team of students, willing to expose exactly what VR can do for education, industry and academic research.'



WISE: WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) has excelled this year. The society worked tirelessly to provide a well-rounded experience for their members and run more events than ever: 23 in total with 18 being in collaboration with other societies. Popular annual events such as WISE Inspire were adapted for virtual online audiences, and WISE collaborated with the University Developer Student Club to create the Python Basics 101 workshops, which saw over 40 people attending the first session. The second annual Equal in STEM conference ran in collaboration with BEaMS; oSTEM and 93% Club and brought together over 100 students, professionals and academics to discuss prevalent barriers in STEM and how they could be overcome. WISE also threw themselves into celebrating International Women's Day and aided

in the creation and promotion of EPS' Meet Your Alumni series, as well as running a diverse array of individual events including a university-wide #ChooseToChallenge social media campaign, a resilience and confidence workshop and a series of inspirational interviews featuring past WISE alumni. WISE nurtured its connection to members with a strong social media presence, posting everything from how to cope with exam stress to pumpkin carving competitions. WISE kept its outreach programme alive by engaging with schools in Birmingham to give girls throughout the wider community access to inspirational role models and science activities during these challenging times. Whilst this only scratches the surface of all that WISE has done, it certainly proves them worthy of this award.