

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Chemical Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2016

Greetings

As you will see from this newsletter it has been a busy few months in the School of Chemical Engineering. Professor Paula Mendes has created a ground-breaking new blood test with 90% accuracy in detecting prostate cancer; an achievement I'm sure you will agree will change the way we tackle the disease. PhD researcher Hani El Kadri has produced research that could help to revolutionise the food industry through the use of bacteria to advance the processing of fermented food. Dr Gary Leeke has produced and raced what is believed to be the world's first kayak made of recycled carbon fibre-reinforced composite materials. There is also plenty going on in the Birmingham Energy Institute regarding energy storage and new collaborations.

Our students have also been very active with BUCES winning the Frank Morton chemical engineering student sports' day for the second year in a row! As well as this they found time to organise more social and careers activities than ever before, including our first international carnival and the much-anticipated Winter Ball. BUCES are thoroughly deserving of one of EPS Societies' Awards so please do show your support and nominate them; they've got a fantastic history of success at the Awards but others are catching up – we need your help!

Finally, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Alumni Reunion. As with previous years, we are inviting all of our former students to return to campus on Saturday 18 June to reminisce with friends and find out how the University has changed since your time as a student. It would be great to see you there.

As the end of the second semester in the 2015 academic year approaches, I would like to wish you all a pleasant Spring and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from

the School and our students in the Summer Term.

With best wishes,

Professor Mark Simmons

Head of School



New prostate cancer risk test created with 90 per cent accuracy

Paula Mendes, Professor of Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, and her team in the Nanoengineering and Surface Chemistry Group have created a simple blood test that could save thousands of lives by identifying men at high risk of prostate cancer years before it develops.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Developing methods to make fermented food healthier

PhD student Hani El Kadri has produced research that could help to revolutionise the food industry. His work paves the way to significantly improve the way bacteria can be used for advancing the processing of fermented foods and for the delivery of beneficial bacteria to our gut.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

Your Chemical Engineering Reunion

Join us on Saturday 18 June for our annual Chemical Engineering Reunion. Whether you graduated five or 50 years ago we invite you to get together with old friends and former classmates to reminisce and celebrate your experiences and friendships from the University of Birmingham. While we do celebrate milestone anniversaries, all alumni are welcome to attend this special Reunion Day regardless of your graduation year.

Take a trip down memory lane with a tour of Chemical Engineering and explore our beautiful campus to see what has changed, and indeed what has stayed the same, since your time at Birmingham. Why not get a group of friends together? We are happy to help contact those you have lost touch with.

50th and Golden Anniversary tickets cost £45 and include a two-course formal lunch. All other tickets are £42 and include a hot buffet lunch. All bookings made before Friday 22 April 2016 are eligible for a £5 early booking discount.



[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



EPS Societies' Awards 2016

Were you a member of a student society during your time at Birmingham? Or have you been impressed reading about the activities of our [current student societies](#)? Why not nominate them for this year's Societies' Awards?



Societies' News

It's been a busy term for our societies! Guy Hart, President of [BUCEs](#), [Eagles Hockey](#) Captain John Redwood, and the [Wise](#) committee tell us about their activities over the past few months, from industrial events to sporting competitions and introducing their new committees. This term we also welcome four new societies to our community: [Drone](#)

These Awards celebrate the lengths our students go to make the University a better place to work and play. Join our celebrations by nominating your society for these Awards. Maybe your former society will win the much coveted Society of the Year.

They need your help!

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

[Soc](#), [Games Development](#), [SATNAV](#) and [oSTEM](#).

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 24 student societies. Each does fantastic work to promote employment opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

News Round-Up

There have been a number of appointments in the School over the past few months. Read a summary of our new staff [here](#).

Dr. Gary Leeke is leading a team of engineers to make a [kayak out of recycled carbon fiber-reinforced composite materials](#), which is believed to be a world's first.

Nick Winsor, Chairman of the Energy Systems Catapult, discussed how the Catapult will help deliver the [UK's objectives for the transformation of energy systems](#) at the University on 11 February.

The Birmingham Energy Institute welcomed representatives from businesses and universities across Brazil to explore future partnerships that could see [Brazilian cities testing innovative technology](#).

Mark Garnier, [Conservative MP for Wyre Forest](#), visited the University on 5 February to see latest developments in energy storage research.

Professor Dave Charlton, Spokesperson for the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN, delivered the latest [EPS Distinguished Lecture on the future of the world's largest scientific instrument](#) and the engineering involved.



Micro-Volunteering Day, 15 April

To mark international Micro-Volunteering Day on 15 April there's a whole range of opportunities to support Birmingham – all in fifteen minutes or less.

These bite-sized tasks can have a big impact – from offering advice to students, to sharing your opinion on our website design or celebrating with the University's newest alumni by sending in your graduation memories. In Chemical Engineering we particularly want to hear what you've been up to since you graduated and how your careers have progressed so we can share your stories with our current students.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Get involved!

There are many ways you can get involved with us:

- Tell us about your career and what you've been up to since graduating by completing a [career profile](#)
- Become a mentor and help support our students
- Share a photograph of yourself in your workplace on [Twitter](#) with #wearebrumalum
- Offer a work experience placement or internship
- Join in [Micro-Volunteering Day](#) on Friday 15 April

[EMAIL US >](#)

Events

[EPS Inaugural Lecture Series](#)

For information on upcoming lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit our [website](#).

Friday 6 May

[Mathematics in Railway Industry](#)

Join the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education for this free workshop on

mathematics in the railway sector, including a technical visit to the newly refurbished Birmingham New Street Station.

Time: 9:30am-6pm

Venue: Gisbert Kapp Building, Edgbaston Campus

Friday 13 May

[Alumni Reception in Singapore with the Vice-Chancellor](#)

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for an alumni reception in Singapore.

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

Tuesday 17 May

[Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Unlocking the immune system](#)

In the fifth Birmingham Heroes lecture, Professor Gary Middleton, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University's Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy, will present the research and work being undertaken by the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Centre at Birmingham, and how they are developing treatments to protect, harness and enhance the immune system's response to cancer.

Time: 6:45pm-8:45pm

Venue: 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London

Wednesday 8 June 2016

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

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

Time: 7pm-11pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Saturday 18 June 2016

[EPS Alumni Reunion](#)

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences, you are invited back to campus for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham.

Time: 9.30am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Thursday 23 June

[London Professional Network 2016](#)

This popular network is the perfect opportunity to enhance your portfolio of contacts and to meet alumni working in related professions, whilst enjoying wine and canapes.

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Venue: The Royal Academy of Arts, London

Global Alumni Gatherings

The University of Birmingham has alumni groups all over the world organising local events. A full listing of international events is available on our [website](#). To join a group and see details of upcoming please visit the [webpage](#) and select your location



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