

School of Computer Science Family

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2016

Greetings

Spring term has been a transition period for Computer Science with our previous Head of School, Professor Jon Rowe, being appointed as Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer for the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Professor Andrew Howes will become our new Head of School in May and for the three months in between I am Acting Head. In addition we have welcomed two new members of staff: Dr Giorgio Orsi and Dr Kashif Rajpoot. Giorgio moved to us from the University of Cambridge and will focus on the teaching of Software Engineering. Kashif joins us from Pakistan and is an expert in the application of medical imaging.

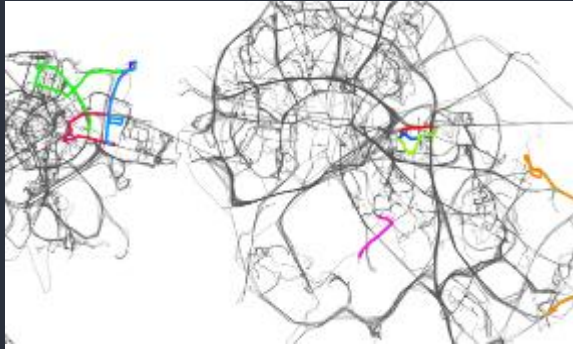
Spring is always a busy time for our students too. The Computer Science Society (CSS) has continued to run many different kinds of student activity – not least the fourth very successful BrumHack which drew over 150 students from across the country. As part of this they attracted a lot of sponsorship from tech start-ups in the local region and the growth of this competition is very impressive. The Games Development Society has also held several successful Game Jams and officially joined the EPS Community.

Easter break is quiet compared to all the activity of last term, but Summer Term is only a couple of weeks away and with that, exams – both the taking and marking of – will be on the forefront of everybody's mind. So before the stress of exam season begins 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.

With best wishes,

Dr Mark Lee

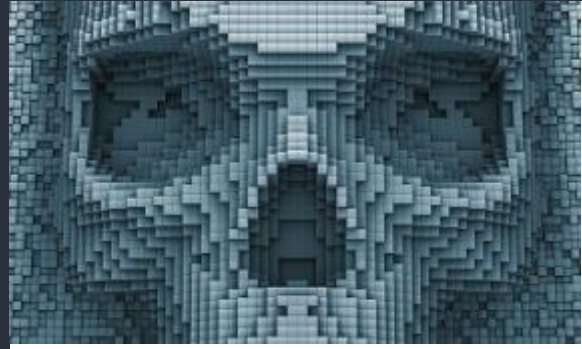
Acting Head of School



Recalculating! By not driving the optimal route, you're causing traffic jams

Doctoral Researcher Antonio Lima has joined forces with Professor Marta González, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to discuss suboptimal routing decisions made by some drivers when travelling in towns

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Higher Education Academy funds Birmingham to develop cyber security specialists

The Department for Culture, Media and Sports has partnered with the Higher Education Academy to provide universities with funding and support to train cyber security specialists. Birmingham is among those that have received the HEA grant to boost the number of students with cyber security skills.

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Your Computer Science Reunion

Join us on Saturday 18 June for our annual Computer Science 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 Computer Science 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.



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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?

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!



Societies' News

It's been a busy term for our societies! Jack Wearden, President of [CSS](#), 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, and even a University-wide conference. This term we also welcome four new societies to our community: [Drone 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.

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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](#).

A team of Birmingham students has won the annual national [Cisco University Challenge](#).

Post-doctoral student Conor McKenna from the School of Government and Society provided an academic perspective on the [UK Government's approach to Cyber Security](#).

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](#).



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.



Could you mentor a student?

The School of Computer Science is seeking mentors to work with current undergraduates and share your knowledge, skills and experiences to help guide students as they start their careers. Whether you are a new graduate or senior programmer, based in the UK or overseas, your expertise are invaluable to our students.

Mentoring is about more than giving

In Computer Science we particularly want to hear what you've been up to since you left the University and how your careers have progressed so we can share your inspirational stories with our current students.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

advice; it's about motivating, empowering and helping the other person understand themselves and their aims – and how they can get there. Get in touch to find out more, we would love to hear from you.

[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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