

## School of Computer Science Family

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



### Spring 2017

Welcome to our latest Computer Science Alumni newsletter; and the first from me. As first time writing to you, please allow me to introduce myself: my name is Andrew Howes and I was appointed Head of School in May 2016. I sit within the Human-Computer Interaction Centre where our research focuses on a people-centred perspective on interaction and technology, leading the development of our understanding on how people interact with technologies, and how one transforms the other. We are currently engaged in a range of projects: examples range from social networking to touchable interactions with cultural heritage; mobile learning to affective computing; data visualisation to children's attitudes to energy.

I am very excited to announce that we the School of Computer Science has been recognised as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research by the National Cyber Security Centre. This great achievement signifies the consistently high-quality research being conducted by our Security and Privacy group and their continued commitment to supporting world-leading research into cyber security issues affecting industry, government and society. Congratulations to all involved!

In March we were honoured to welcome alumnus Osman Kent back to campus to deliver the latest EPS Distinguished Lecture to a capacity audience of students, staff and alumni. Osman graduated in 1981 with a degree in Computer Science and Electronics and has been a serial technology entrepreneur ever since. He spoke about his improbable journey from Turkey to Birmingham to Silicon Valley, and shed light on where he believes the future lies in building technology companies. There are further details of the lecture later on in the newsletter.

Our students have had a busy year too with more Hackathons, gamejams, television appearances and technology conferences. All of our societies are currently working towards the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences' annual Societies' Awards and

would love to win a trophy or two. Please show your support by nominating them for an EPS Societies' Award!

As ever, we are always pleased to hear from you about your news and experiences. If you would like to get involved, for example through providing career profiles, mentoring students, offering work placements or contributing to outreach events, please get in touch.

If you are planning on visiting us for the EPS Societies' Awards on Wednesday 7 June or the Alumni Reunion on Saturday 30 September, I look forward to seeing you there and collecting your memories of Computer Science at Birmingham.

With best wishes

**Professor Andrew Howes**  
**Head of School**



## Robot to nudge older people to stay social and active

A robot companion for older people aims to promote activity and tackle loneliness by nudging them to take part in digital and physical activities.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## Success gives you the credibility to talk about your failings

Computer Science and Electronics alumnus and serial entrepreneur Osman Kent delivered the latest EPS Distinguished Lecture.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

# WE ARE BIRMINGHAM

Our 300,000 alumni all share one thing in common: the University of Birmingham. From recent graduates to industry experts, aspiring leaders to inspirational movers and shakers, Birmingham alumni are making important things happen. Join the "We Are Birmingham" project and share your story with our students. You can inspire our students and offer an insight into the wealth of opportunities available to them. Plus, anyone who submits a profile before 1 July will be automatically entered into a draw to win a BrumBag full of University merchandise. Share your Birmingham story and help shape their future.

[SUBMIT YOUR WE ARE BIRMINGHAM PROFILE >](#)



## Societies News

There are now seven student societies affiliated with the School of Computer Science: [CSS](#), [GDS](#), [BARC](#), [WISE](#), [oSTEM](#), [SATNAV](#) and our newest group the [Mozilla Campus Club](#). It's been a busy year with many events, careers activities, sporting competitions and new committees, so there's plenty to update you on.



## EPS Societies Awards 2017

Were you a member of a society while at Birmingham? Wish you had been? Or have you been impressed reading about the activities of our current student groups? Why not nominate them for a Societies' Award?

These Awards celebrate the lengths to which our students go to make the University a better place to work and

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 25 student societies. Each does fantastic work to promote employment opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

play. Join our celebrations by nominating your society. Maybe your former society will win the much coveted *Society of the Year* trophy.

They need your help! The deadling for nominations is 23:59 on Friday 5 May!

[NOMINATE >](#)

## University Reunion 2017

The Alumni Reunion 2017 provides a great opportunity to rediscover what made Birmingham "home" for you and to renew your lifelong connection to this special place. It's a fantastic time to reconnect with friends and classmates and see how Birmingham has grown into the university it is today. Join us for a day of reunion celebrations including campus tours, stress-free lectures, a chance to visit some of the latest additions to campus such as the new Library, and a plenty of opportunity to reminisce. There will also be time to visit us in Computer Science to find out how we have changed since you were last with us and to meet some of our current academics and students.



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## News Round-Up

Congratulations to Rajiv Ranjan Singh, winner of the [2016 Research Skills Award](#).

Our [students featured on an edition of Channel 5's The Gadget Show](#) in October. The University of Birmingham was visited by the production team from the programme including author and TV presenter, Jason Bradbury.

Our academics [discover a new wireless hack](#) that could unlock 100 million cars

Congratulations to Mark Ryan, Professor in Computer Security, who has been inaugurated as [HP Chair in Cyber Security](#).

Landmark signing provides boost to [Birmingham Life Sciences](#).

## Events

### Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 May

#### [Pint of Science](#)

Leading University of Birmingham academics will be speaking about their cutting-edge research. We aim to bring some of the most brilliant scientists to discuss their latest findings with you. You don't have to have any previous scientific knowledge or training, and this is your chance to meet the people responsible for the future of science.

**Venue:** Various locations across Birmingham City Centre

### Wednesday 17 May

#### [Birmingham - Fraunhofer Joint Research Platform Launch](#)

The University of Birmingham is set to host the Birmingham – Fraunhofer Joint Research Platform Launch to establish closer ties with cutting-edge renewable energy technology in the UK and Europe.

**Time:** 9am-7:30pm

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

### Wednesday 7 June

#### [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 17 June

#### [UBRacing 20th Anniversary](#)

Team members past and present, and motor sport enthusiasts are invited to join UBRacing in marking their 20th birthday and two decades of Formula Student at Birmingham. Join us for an afternoon of celebrations, take a peek at the 2017 car and be prepared for a few surprises.

**Time:** 1:30-6pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Saturday 17 June**

**[Geotechnical Engineering 60th Anniversary Reunion](#)**

We are delighted to announce that the Geotechnical Engineering masters degree programmes are celebrating their 60th year. To celebrate this notable achievement the University will host Geo60, a celebration and reunion of the programme to which all alumni and interested persons are invited to attend.

**Time:** 9:30am-5pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Wednesday 28 June**

**[Mathematics Taster Day](#)**

The School of Mathematics holds a Mathematics Taster Day for Year 12 pupils in the second half of the summer term. As well as information on studying mathematics at Birmingham, the day will include two sample lectures, a tour of campus and an interactive mathematics session.

**Time:** 9:30am-3:30pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Tuesday 4 July**

**[Engineering Taster Day](#)**

Our Engineering Taster Day is for Year 12 pupils who are thinking about applying to university to study an engineering degree. The day will consist of an introductory talk, a tour of campus, a subject fair and an interactive workshop.

**Time:** 9:30am-3:30pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Sunday 16 - Thursday 20 July**

**[IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics](#)**

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) is delighted to announce that the 6th conference in this series will be hosted by Birmingham, UK. Organised in partnership with the Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Warwick, the Conference will foster the participation of women in physics and increase diversity in the field.

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Wednesday 20 September**

**[London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures](#)**

We are proud to begin the 2017/18 Birmingham Popular Mathematics Lecture series with the London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures, which are suitable for all who have an interest in Mathematics, and present exciting topics in mathematics and its applications. In this first event of the new academic year, David Tong (University of Cambridge) and Jason Lotay (University College London) will be speaking.

**Time:** 6:30-9pm



**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

**Saturday 30 September**

**[University of Birmingham Alumni Reunion](#)**

Join us for the big Anniversary Reunion on Saturday 30 September 2017. Whether you're celebrating your 50th anniversary or your 1st anniversary, come back to the Edgbaston campus and celebrate your University with staff, students and fellow alumni.

**Time:** 10am-5pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus



**You are in control of your data. We want to stay in touch with you and keep your information in accordance with your wishes.** You will be kept updated with news from our campus, including research, educational activities and courses, events, alumni activities, and opportunities to support our fundraising. Depending on [your preferences](#), you will receive communications via post, email, telephone and social media. We would like to ensure that our interactions with you are appropriate and cost-effective. We will pay attention to your responses (including e-tracking) and, from time to time, may use your data for profiling, targeting, and research purposes. Your information will be [held securely](#) by the University of Birmingham and will only be made available to our academic & administrative departments, recognised alumni groups, and trusted agents acting on behalf of the University. Information on how your data is held and used is set out in our [Data Protection Statement](#). **If you wish to opt-out of any contact or have any questions about your personal data, please [contact the alumni office](#).** For reference, our Inland Revenue Charities reference number is X7237.