

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## School of Metallurgy and Materials Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



### Spring 2017

Greetings,

The School of Metallurgy and Materials has seen a very busy year, and it seems a long time ago that I was appointed the new Head of School back in August.

Our undergraduate courses are thriving, and last year we had more students graduating from our courses than ever before and we are continuing to increase our international interactions. A group of students attended a three week summer school in China. This is a unique opportunity for our students to meet other students from Universities of Xiamen, Michigan and Leeds to explore the field of Clean Energy from an interdisciplinary and international perspective.

Just a few months ago we welcomed government research experts from Austria who came to learn more about our engineering expertise. This was followed by a visit from government regional officials from Malaysia who came to see how our research and teaching expertise could boost the country's economy.

Our researchers in the Netshape Centre are developing equipment to explore the possibility of 3D printing metal components in space to help with space exploration. Currently on the International Space Station, if a component breaks a replacement is shipped from Earth, but on future space missions 3D printing of spare parts may be the only practical solution. We have just launched the Birmingham Centre for Strategic Elements & Critical Materials which is being set up to recycle, reuse or replace elements that are critical to technologies such as rare earth elements in magnets, or precious metals in catalysts.

Our students are busier than ever, not only with their studies but also with career and social events. In February we had the annual Materials Ball, once again organised by the

student societies (BUMS and NucSoc) and held in the Great Hall. This was truly a relaxing and enjoyable event, and we were delighted to welcome a number of alumni who also joined us for a lunch event in the School. A few weeks later, we had an evening quiz where students and staff members competed in teams; as usual the students teams won. They are currently gearing up for the EPS Societies' Awards in June and we would love them to be victorious. Please do nominate them!

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.

It will be great to see as many of you attending the forthcoming annual Alumni reunion held on Saturday 30 September. As in previous years we are inviting all our Alumni to return to the University to see for themselves the transformation the campus went through and to reminisce with friends and staff members of the University. I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes

**Professor Alison Davenport**  
**Head of School**

THIS MATTERS  
*Critical Materials*

## Critical Materials

Dr Allan Walton and colleagues in the Magnetic Materials Group are working on recycling critical materials, improving the sustainability of the supply chain.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## New theory: secret fire that sank Titanic

A much-ignored version of the events from the night of 15 April 1912, resurfaces thanks to this photo of the famous ship. Dr Martin Strangwood comments on this new theory.

[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 >](#)



## Alumni Spotlight

Yue Zhang (BEng Materials Science and Technology 2013) reflects on her time at Birmingham and tells us about her work as a Birmingham PhD student.

If you would like to share your story we would love to hear from you.

Simply fill complete our online [career profile form](#) or [email us](#) to tell us more.



## Microvolunteering

On Saturday 15 April we marked Microvolunteering Day with a range of bite-size activities that support the University in 15 minutes or less.

Thank you to those who volunteered. If you didn't but would like to, there's still time!

In Metallurgy and Materials we are particularly keen to hear how your careers have developed so we can share your stories to inspire students.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

## 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 Metallurgy and Materials to find out how we have changed since you were last with us and to meet some of our current academics and students.



[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## Societies News

There are now five student societies affiliated with the School of Metallurgy



## EPS Societies' Awards 2017

and Materials: [BUMS](#), [NucSoc](#), [WISE](#), [oSTEM](#) and [SATNAV](#). It's been a busy year with many events, careers activities, sporting competitions and new committees, so there's plenty to update you on.

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 >](#)

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 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!

[NOMINATE >](#)

## News Round-Up

Metallurgy experts welcomed [visitors from Malaysia](#) to their laboratories to demonstrate how their research and teaching expertise could help to boost the country's economy.

We are just about to launch the [Birmingham Centre for Strategic Elements & Critical Materials](#).

A group of government research experts from Austria visited the University of Birmingham today to learn more about its [hi-tech engineering expertise](#).

Students attend international [Clean Energy Science and Technology Summer School](#).

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

A cool change is coming and business needs to get ready - Professor Toby Peters provide an [Energy perspective on the UK budget](#).

Osman Kent, alumnus and serial entrepreneur, delivered the latest EPS Distinguished Lecture entitled "[Success gives you the credibility to talk about your failures](#)".

## 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.