

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Department of Mechanical Engineering Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



## Spring 2018

Welcome to our latest Mechanical Engineering Alumni newsletter.

In all organisations change is part of everyday life and there are many exciting changes in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham. Last year it was announced that there will be a [new building for the School of Engineering](#), with completion due in 2020. The building will be located next door to Computer Science and the Chemistry West building will be demolished. As I write this introduction, the demolition team has begun work.

The University has [opened a campus in Dubai](#) and Mechanical Engineering will be one of the first degree programmes to be delivered in Dubai, with teaching starting in September 2018. This is an exciting development for Mechanical Engineering and we are currently recruiting a team of academic staff to be based in Dubai. As well as recruiting staff in Dubai, we are in the middle of a large recruitment campaign for Mechanical Engineering staff in Birmingham. We have appointed three academic staff recently and a further six staff are being recruited for September.

As well as saying hello to new staff we have said goodbye to two outstanding technicians in Carl Hingley and Peter Thornton, who both retired in the last year. Between them Carl and Peter worked in Mechanical Engineering for 78 years! Their expertise and knowledge is greatly missed.

The student societies in Mechanical Engineering go from strength to strength. UBRacing celebrated their 20th anniversary last year and achieved an impressive 2nd place finish at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Formula Student competition at Silverstone. UB

Eco Racing entered the Shell Eco Marathon for the first time last year, another automotive competition this time focusing on fuel efficiency. This year, with a carbon fibre vehicle, they are aiming for a great performance. UBRobotics continue to develop innovative robots for competition and MechSoc have had a stand-out year of sporting success.

In this newsletter we cover all the news and events that we hope keep you informed about the University of Birmingham. It would be great to see you back on campus for the Alumni Reunion on Saturday 29 September 2018 to reminisce with friends and find out how the University has changed since your time as a student.

With best wishes

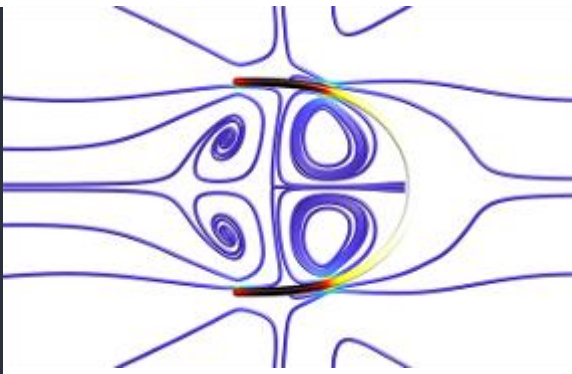
**Professor Duncan Shepherd**  
**Head of Department**



## New Engineering Building

Work has begun on a new School of Engineering building, due for completion in 2020. It will bring together many engineering disciplines into one state-of-the-art building. The new building will provide different and more flexible ways of working that will use the space to its best advantage.

[WATCH THE FLY-THROUGH >](#)



## New transformative research programme

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has enlisted the support of Birmingham mechanical engineers to help deliver an ambitious £6.6 million programme of transformative engineering research to mark the Year of Engineering.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## Doctoral student wins prestigious tech fellowship

Alumnus and PhD student Iestyn Stead is one of the UK's most promising doctoral engineers and has been awarded a prestigious Industrial Fellowship for his work on the reduction of energy losses in zero emissions.

[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 leaders, you are making important things happen. Join the "We Are Birmingham" project and share your story with those following in your footsteps. You can inspire our students and offer an insight into the vast array of opportunities waiting for them; whatever you're doing, they want to hear from you. Plus,

anyone who submits a profile before 1 July will be entered into a draw to win a hoard of University merchandise. Share your Birmingham story and help shape their future.

[SHARE YOUR CAREER STORY >](#)



## Alumni spotlight

Daisy Partlow graduated with a MEng Mechanical Engineering in 2016. She reflects on her time at University and offers an insight into how Birmingham made her the person she is today.

To share your story simply fill complete a [career profile](#) or [email us](#). We'd love to hear from you.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

**GIVE.  
VOLUNTEER.  
CHANGE  
10,000 LIVES.**

## Get involved

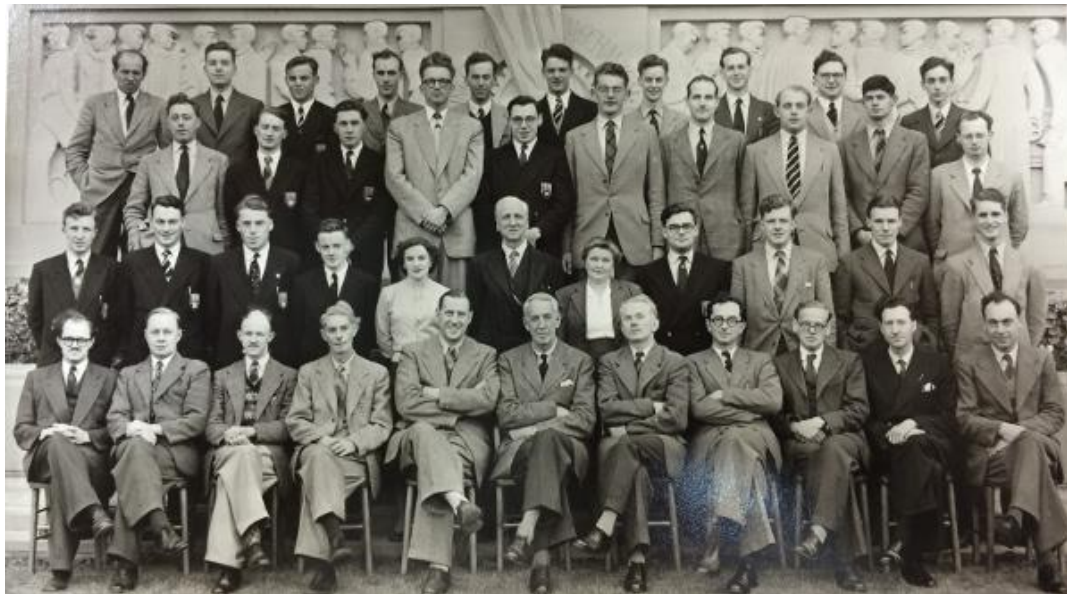
Since the 10,000 Lives campaign launched in September, alumni and friends of the University have changed the lives of 1,062 young people. 200 of these are students in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences!

Will you step forward and change a life?

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

## University Reunion 2018

The Alumni Reunion 2018 is a great opportunity to rediscover what made Birmingham "home" for you and renew your lifelong connection to this special place. Reconnect with friends and classmates and see how Birmingham has grown into the university it is today. Join us for a day of celebrations including campus tours, stress-free lectures, a chance to visit some of the latest additions to campus such as the new Library, Sports Centre and Collaborative Teaching Laboratories, and plenty of time to reminisce. In the morning you will visit us in Mechanical Engineering and hear how we have changed since you were last with us. You never know there may be some familiar faces there with you!



[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## Society news: two new student groups!

We now have eight student groups: [MechSoc](#), [Engineering Rugby](#), [UBRacing](#), [UBRobotics](#), [WISE](#), [oSTEM](#), [SATNAV](#) and the brand new [UB Eco Racing](#).

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 29 societies. It's been an amazing year of careers activities, volunteering, competitions and, of course, social events so there's plenty to tell you.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## EPS Societies' Awards 2018

Were you a member of a society? Wish you had been? Or have you been impressed reading about our [student groups](#)? Why not nominate them for an EPS Societies' Award.

These Awards celebrate the lengths our students go to make the University a better place. Join our celebrations by nominating your society; maybe they'll win the much coveted *Society of the Year* trophy.

[NOMINATE >](#)

## News Round-Up

Professor David Phillips, alumnus and Past President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, delivered the latest [EPS Distinguished Lecture entitled "Light Up Your Life"](#).

After a generous donation from a University of Birmingham alumnus we are delighted to announce the [T.E.H. Scholarship](#), a new postgraduate award for 2018 entry.

[UBRacing have their best year to date](#) and pick up three trophies at 2017 UK Formula Student Competition.

The University has signed an agreement with the University of Science and Technology Beijing to create [new education programmes for Chinese students](#).

The UK's world-class expertise in the research of biofilms has been recognised through the [launch of a new National Biofilms Innovation Centre](#).

Mechanical Engineering students are part of the team who [won the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Challenge](#) for their pioneering design of a solar pod.

The [University of Birmingham to open a campus in Dubai](#) offering Mechanical Engineering degrees in November 2018, becoming the first global top 100 and Russell Group University to establish a campus in this rapidly developing international education hub.

Broadcaster, journalist and University honorary graduate [Simon Singh delivered the 2017 EPS Christmas Lecture](#). Our scientific journalistic society SATNAV interviewed him during his visit.

From the many inspiring research projects across the University, we've selected three that have the potential to change lives. Which one is your favourite? [Vote for the project you're passionate about](#) and the University will fundraise for the winner over the next year.

## Events

A full list of alumni events, including Reunions and Global Gatherings, is available [online](#). Here are just a few events coming up in Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences:

### **Wednesday 6 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:** Great Hall, University of Birmingham

### **Wednesday 4 - Saturday 7 July**

#### **[5th UK-CN Steel Research Forum](#)**

The UK-China Steel Research Forum is a well-established biennial academic conference for steel researchers across the UK and China, with support from major steel-making companies, steel research institutions and research funding bodies from both countries. This year's conference will be held in conjunction with the 16th Conference of Chinese Materials Association in the UK on Materials Science and Engineering.

### **Wednesday 19 September**

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

We are proud to begin the 2018/19 Birmingham Popular Mathematics Lecture series with the London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures, which are suitable for all who have an interest in Mathematics, presenting exciting topics in mathematics and its applications.

This year Katie Steckles (Maths's Greatest Unsolved Puzzles) and Jennifer Rogers (Risky Business) will be speaking

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

**Venue:** Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

### **Saturday 29 September**

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

Join us for the big Anniversary Reunion on Saturday 29 September 2018. Whether you're celebrating your 50th anniversary or your 5th anniversary, come back to the Edgbaston campus and celebrate your University with staff, students and fellow alumni.

**Time:** 10am-5pm

**Venue:** University of Birmingham, 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 and volunteering programmes. Depending on [your preferences](#), you will receive communications via post, email, telephone, SMS text messages, 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, wealth screening, 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. We will never sell your personal data or share it for non-University of Birmingham programmes. If you decide to donate to the University, you can choose whether to give anonymously or be recognised on our Donor Rolle of Honour. Information on how your data is held and used is set out in our Data Protection Statement at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection). If you wish to opt-out of any contact or have any questions about your personal data, please contact Luke McGarrity on [L.McGarrity@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.McGarrity@bham.ac.uk). Our Inland Revenue Charities reference number is X7237.