

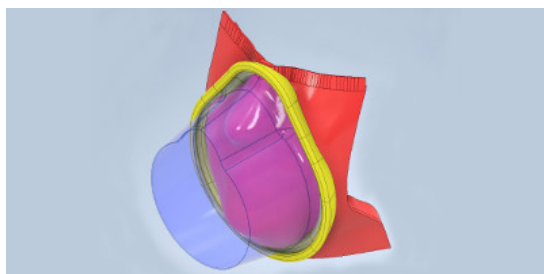
## Welcome to your 2020 Chemical Engineering Alumni Newsletter



**Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you well.**

I'm sure you, like me, have found the world to be a very different place over the last few months. We are currently starting the process of welcoming new students into the School and the academic staff are preparing for blended delivery (online and in person) of lectures, tutorials and laboratories. I have been heartened and hugely impressed with how everyone has pulled together to give the students a programme of activities which, although different, should be highly engaging and most importantly, fun.

[Read more from Mark Simmons](#)



### Improving face masks for frontline NHS workers

Researchers in our Healthcare Technologies Institute are working to improve the fit and seal of facemasks used in hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis.

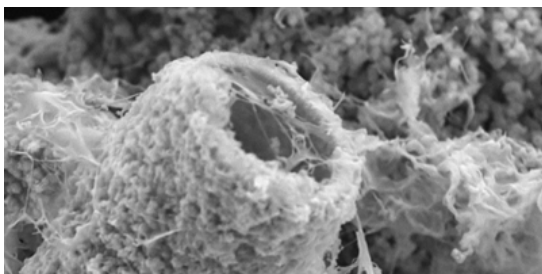
[Find out more](#)



### Sugars could be key for more accurate prostate cancer tests

A new type of test using complex sugars to detect prostate cancer earlier and with greater accuracy is being developed by Chemical Engineers.

[Find out more](#)



## 'Chemical gardens' that can be used as bone substitutes

Our engineers are developing new ways of making bone-replacement materials that allow cells to grow around and inside them. The novel approach enables self-assembly of intricate bio-inspired structures.

[Find out more](#)



## Chemical recycling makes new products from waste bioplastic

The team has shown how their recycling method not only speeds up the process, it can also be converted into a new product – a biodegradable solvent – which can be sold for use in a wide variety of industries.

[Find out more](#)



## Our response to the COVID-19 crisis

From making hand sanitiser to improving the design of face masks, our researchers are contributing to the global effort to counter the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Staff and students in the School and wider College of Engineering and Physical Sciences are also supporting the NHS by volunteering their time to fight the outbreak.

[Find out everything we're doing to support the global effort](#)



## BUCES are Society of the Year!

Following a tremendous year in which they not only brought the Frank Morton sports competition back to Birmingham but won it, BUCES claim the Society of the Year crown for a second time!

[Read what BUCES have been up to](#)



## Energy win Industrial Award!

In only their second year, the Energy Society has made more connections with industry than any other student group, developing their networking and becoming a key voice in important conversations.

[Find out more about the Energy Society](#)

# EPS SOCIETIES' AWARDS 2020

## Glory for our students at the annual Societies' Awards

Sadly we weren't able to hold the usual celebrations for our remarkable student groups, but not to be hindered by a pandemic we took the event online for a unique virtual Awards ceremony. We are ecstatic that BUCES were named Society of the Year! The Energy Society also won the Industrial Award, Allan Dos Santos won the Outreach Award, and Mariam Dabbous, Dáire Archbold and Dan Rhymer all received commendations. As well as these, eight of our students and projects were shortlisted. Congratulations to them all!

[Watch our first ever Virtual Societies' Awards](#)



## Birmingham, STEM Ambassadors and Me

Yvonne Baker, chemical engineering alumna and Chief Executive of STEM Learning, delivered the 2020 EPS Distinguished Lecture. Best known for founding the national STEM Ambassadors volunteering scheme, Yvonne is passionate about encouraging school pupils to see the every-day science around them. In her talk, she reflects on her favourite Chem Eng memories and shares her thoughts on how we can continue to make science, technology, engineering and maths attractive to the young and not so young.

[Watch Yvonne's Distinguished Lecture](#)



## Did you remember Peter Robert Wheeler?

Peter graduated in 1966 and went on to have an illustrious career in sports cars. However little is known of his early life. His biography is currently being written and his



## Alumni perspective: Maxwell Cameron-Jones

Since graduating in 2017 Max has forged a career in energy, first working with Highview Power and now at Siemens Gamesa having moved country and started

family would love to hear from you if you have any stories of his time at University.

[Find out more about Peter](#)

a new job in lockdown. Here he shares a few things he's pick up along the way.

[Read Max's story so far](#)

# WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

## Help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. Never have your stories been more important.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)

# MENTORING

## Could you be a mentor?

Mentoring makes a real difference; we all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, particularly in these current uncertain times. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, please get in touch.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)

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## News roundup

Chemical Engineering scores [top marks in the 2020 National Student Survey](#).

[New graduate Sabeeka Qureshi launches a careers blog](#) offering advice to students and graduates looking for a jobs or internships in lockdown.

UK team to [design sustainable clean cold](#) technologies.

University of Birmingham spinout company, Irresistable Materials, has been named in the [‘Silicon 100: Emerging Start-ups to Watch’](#).

Dr Sophie Cox is one of three Birmingham scientists awarded prestigious research grants through the [UK Research and Innovation’s Future Leaders Fellowships](#).

Policy report calls for national delivery to [decarbonise heat](#).

New multi-partner £6.5M grant will help scientists, engineers, and clinicians train algorithms to [solve energy, manufacturing, and healthcare problems](#).

Did you graduate in the last 5 years? You're eligible to enter the [6th China International College Students’ “Internet Plus” Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition](#).

[Small and medium businesses are being offered additional free support](#) to help them overcome some of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic via Birmingham Energy Institute.

Paula Mendes, Professor of Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, has won the Academic Award at the [Midlands Women in Tech Awards 2019](#).

New [3D printing technique](#) for biomaterials.

University of Birmingham [appoints leading computational scientist as Pro-Vice-Chancellor](#) and Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

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**Do we have the correct contact details for you?**

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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