



Welcome to your 2020 Civil Engineering Alumni Newsletter



Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you well.

There is no doubt about it, the last six months have been difficult. We've had to move our teaching and examinations online, conduct graduations virtually, close our research laboratories and have lost dear colleagues. In March the Department lost Dr Arun Kamtekar, who had devoted the last 40 years to the University. He joined in 1980 and spent the next 25 years as a lecturer in Structural Engineering.

[Read more from Karl Dearn](#)



State-of-the-art engineering building tops out

Our new building is almost complete! Bringing our many disciplines into one combined space will provide more flexible ways of working for both staff and students, training the next generation of engineers.

[Find out more](#)



Quantum gravity sensors with the British Geological Survey

The UK Quantum Technology Hub Sensors and Timing, led by Birmingham, have partnered with the British Geological Survey to further develop quantum gravity sensors.

[Find out more](#)



National College of Advanced Transport and Infrastructure

We have been identified as the preferred bidder for the National College of Advanced Transport and Infrastructure by the Further Education Commissioner's Structure and Prospects Appraisal process.

[Find out more](#)



Desalination technology starts field tests in Palestine

A new 'low energy' desalination technology will soon begin field tests in Palestine, where it is expected to help mitigate the effects of water shortages and improve the efficiency of crop production.

[Find out more](#)



Give more people the chance to build a better future

Engineers and scientists can revolutionise the world – but only if they get the right education. Every year, 69,000 jobs for engineers and skilled technicians in the UK go unfilled, while those with the potential to help create a greener, healthier world don't get the chance to attend university. We are launching a new Foundation Year in STEM (EPS Futures) degree programme, the first of its kind, to help bridge this gap.

[Find out more and get involved](#)



CivSoc: What we've been up to this year

It's been an exciting year for the Civil Engineering Society. They've organised a range of activities and industrial events to help students build their careers, and competed in a multitude of sporting events!



A very special Virtual EPS 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.

They've even forged new collaborations across other engineering groups.

[Find out more](#)

Congratulations to Karlo Olalla who was named Sports Personality of the Year!

[Watch the Awards ceremony](#)



Birmingham, STEM Ambassadors and Me

Yvonne Baker, alumna and Chief Executive of STEM Learning, delivered the 2020 EPS Distinguished Lecture in March. 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 Birmingham 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](#)

**WE ARE
BIRMINGHAM**
ALUMNI

Share your story and 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. Anyone who submits a profile will receive an Old Joe fridge magnet. Never have your stories been more valuable.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)



Alumni perspective: Mark Hipwell

Mark graduated in 2013 and is now a Pre-Construction Manager at Laing O'Rourke and Murphy Group Joint Venture, working on HS2. Mark is a huge advocate for equality and diversity in engineering, and works hard to ally with young people and under-represented groups.

[Watch Mark's profile video](#)

MENTORING

Could you mentor a student?

We're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise and advice to help our students start their careers. 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

News roundup

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of our much-loved friend and colleague Dr Arun Kamtekar, Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Civil Engineering. Arun devoted the last 40 years to the University as a researcher and lecturer in structural engineering. There is an online [Book of Condolence](#) in which people can pay their respects.

[Robot cleaners](#) used in trials to help sanitise public spaces.

[HS2 signs landmark R&D agreement](#) with the UK Rail Research and Innovation Network.

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](#).

The School of Engineering has achieved an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) for the first time, while the University as an institution, has had its 2014 Bronze Award renewed.

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

New system [uses wind turbines to defend the national grid](#) from power cuts.

The Department is extremely proud to announce [Professor John Nolan has been presented with a CBE](#) for services to structural engineering and the construction industry.

[MP Eddie Hughes visits](#) UK Quantum Technology Hub Sensors and Timing.

Birmingham [civil engineers partner with India's Government](#) to boost rural roads.

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education has been shortlisted in the category of [Business Collaboration of the Guardian University Awards 2020](#).

Join us at the online [High Speed Rail: Education Interchange Conference](#) in December

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

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](#)



Address: The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 3344 Email: alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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