UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF
COMPUTER
SCIENCE
COMMUNITY

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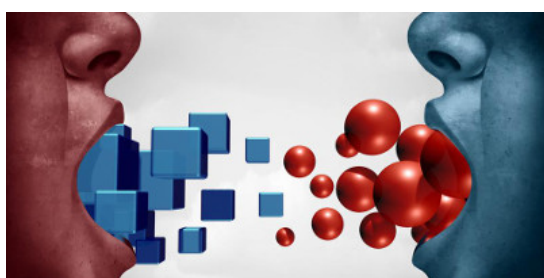001001000010001

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Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY

Welcome to your 2020 Computer Science Alumni Newsletter

Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you well.
Obviously 2020 has been a challenging year but despite our physical building closing with the rest of campus at the end of March, we have stayed active as a School via video conferencing and other collaborative tools – if anything, this crisis has demonstrated the key role of computing in all of our lives. Along with the rest of campus, our School will physically reopen in September in time for the new academic year.
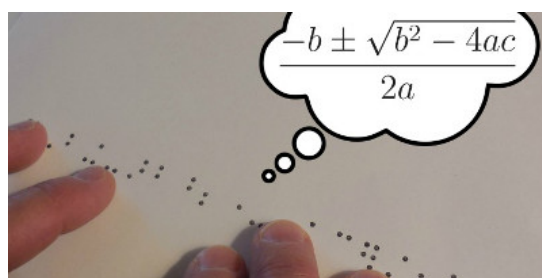
Read more from Mark Lee

Five debates that will shape Fintech in the 2020s

Karen Yeung, Interdisciplinary Professorial Fellow in Law, Ethics and Informatics across the Schools of Law and Computer Science, has been featured in Forbes discussing key consumer data debates.

Find out more

Creating learning resources for blind students

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

An international team of researchers and computer scientists has developed a method for easily creating textbooks in Braille, with an initial focus on maths textbooks.

Find out more

Students create global creative marathon to tackle COVID-19

Our students were part of the co-ordination of a huge global initiative which saw students and professionals work around the clock to combat issues caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Find out more

New Women in Tech student society launches

A new student-led network for women keen to explore the ever-growing world of tech has launched. Through webinars and hackathons they aim to empower their members to achieve their tech goals.

Find out more

Our response to the COVID-19 crisis

From improving the design of face masks to mapping the spread, 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 more about what we're doing to support the global effort

PhD researcher Tom Goodman wins Great Achievement Award

Congratulations to Tom Goodman who's been awarded the top individual accolade at the annual College student Societies' Awards! Tom is a leading figure in the School, College, University and tech community with undeniable dedication.

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. You may even recognise a few guest appearances!

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.

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.

What if I fail? What if you fly?

Graduating just weeks ago, Sabeeka Qureshi is one of our newest alumni and is already making her mark. Learning from her own experiences searching for internships, she's launched a blog full of careers advice, the importance of having a mentor and job hunting in lockdown.

Could you mentor a student?

Speaking of mentors: we're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise and advice to help our students start their careers. 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.

News roundup

Top results for Computer Science in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2020.

University of Birmingham **appoints leading computational scientist as Pro-Vice-Chancellor** and Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

PhD student Tom Goodman has become one of the youngest people to have been awarded a **Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy**.

Professor Aaron Sloman awarded the Barwise Prize by the American Philosophical Association.

Recent graduate **Mercurius Saad receives £40,000 grant** from Innovate UK towards his education start-up Tutorbloc.

Let's Push Things Forward: A Survey on Robot Pushing

HackTheMidlands 4.0, an event led by past and present students of the School of Computer Science took place recently, with over 300 attendees taking part.

In the height of panic-buying at the start of the UK coronavirus lockdown, student Ben Sassoon created a website to calculate **how long your loo roll will last**!

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**.

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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