

Welcome to your 2021 Metallurgy and Materials Alumni Newsletter



Dear Alumni,

The School continues to thrive despite a very challenging year owing to the tremendous efforts of students and staff. Our teaching moved to 'bimodal' delivery with staff recording short videos for students to view prior to interactive seminars on Zoom. We held as many socially-distanced lab sessions as we could, and re-designed final year research projects to give as many students as possible the opportunity to have highly-focused experimental time in research labs. The adaptations that we made have given us many new ideas on how to improve our programmes in the future.

[Read more from Alison Davenport](#)

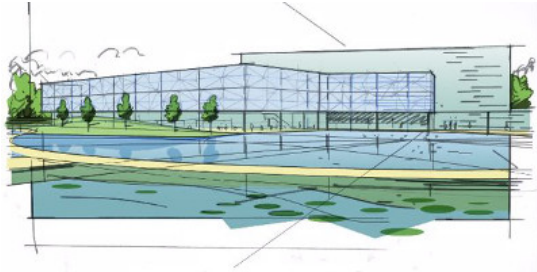


Securing Technology-Critical Metals for Britain

A new policy commission report chaired by Sir John Beddington highlights the need for the UK to develop a proactive strategy in its acquisition and management of these

materials, to keep pace with other national strategies such as those developed by the US, Japan, the EU, and China. To address this challenge the Birmingham Centre for Strategic Elements and Critical Materials and the Critical Elements and Materials Network have formed a panel of experts to help secure the future UK supply of technology-critical materials.

[Find out more about the Policy Commission](#)



Midlands firmly on the map for advanced ceramics

The Midlands Industrial Ceramics Group, which includes the University of Birmingham, has secured £18.27 million in government funding provided through the Strength in Places Fund.

[Find out more](#)



Spacecraft engineer's and the Enceladus moon discovery

In June, Dr Leah-Nani Alconcel and her colleagues were interviewed by BBC Earth's Planet Explorers discussing the different roles they played in the discovery of water on Saturn's Enceladus moon

[Find out more](#)



Engineers win prestigious awards for public engagement

Birmingham engineers have won prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering Ingenious awards for their public engagement initiatives Discover Materials and Daughters of Innovation.

[Find out more](#)



Act now to secure the UK's critical materials supply

The UK must act now to ensure a stable supply of technology-critical metals essential for its transition to clean energy and the delivery of its ten point plan for a green industrial revolution..

[Find out more](#)



Innovative 'EPS Futures Foundation Year' programme supports young people from underrepresented groups to study STEM

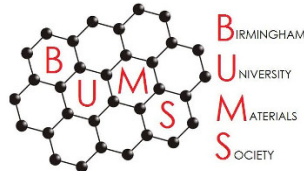
Every year, 69,000 jobs for engineers and skilled technicians in the UK go unfilled. We are seeking to address this with the 'EPS Futures' foundation year. Through the generous support of donors such as Martin-Baker Aircraft, EPS Futures will provide life-changing opportunities for young people. Alongside mentoring and professional expertise from alumni and corporate partners, we will help unearth future engineers and scientists who otherwise may not have the chance to fulfil their potential.

Find out how we're supporting young people study science and engineering



The pandemic hasn't stopped AeroSoc, they've had a great year and even introduced their first Aero Insights careers events!

[Read about AeroSoc](#)



The Materials Society have adapted well and had a busy year, jam-packed with careers events, socials and even competitions!

[Read about BUMS](#)



NucSoc are celebrating following their first ever alumni speed-networking event and a Societies' Awards win for Avery!

[Read about NucSoc](#)



Success for our students at the annual Societies' Awards

For the second year running we took the EPS Societies' Awards online to celebrate our remarkable student groups. The celebrations were not halted and watch parties were held across our societies and Schools! We are proud to announce our own Avery Cunningham won the prestigious Great Achievement in EPS Award! Congratulations also to the Women in Science and Engineering Society who were named Society of the Year, and well done to all the nominees, shortlisted students and worthy winners!

[Watch the 2021 Virtual Societies' Awards](#)



Sunchi Chen interviewed for



Alumni perspective: Dr Josh

PreparationTech

In her interview, Sunchi shares her story of defying the odds to become one of the few Black women specialising in nuclear energy technology. She offers a great insight into her role and her inspirations, and discusses the legacy she wants to create for others wishing to follow her path.

[Watch Sunchi's interview](#)

Miller

Double graduate Josh Miller began his career in patent law in 2018 while completing his PhD. If it weren't for a careers talk he wouldn't have known this was an option for him. In his alumni profile he shares an insight into his new career and how his degrees helped get him there.

[Reach Josh's alumni profile](#)

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. What will you share?

[Share your Birmingham story](#)

MENTORING

Could you be a mentor?

We all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, especially when it comes to our careers. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, we'd love to hear from you.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)



Seventy graduates take part in 'Meet your alumni' series

In March 2021, the EPS Community launched the first event series aimed at introducing students to Engineering and Physical Science alumni from a broad range of sectors. More than 70 graduates and professionals took part in 'Meet your alumni', each with a different experience to share. In Metallurgy and Materials we were fortunate enough to be joined by 14 graduates across three events; the first Aero Insights careers talks and two speed-networking events for Materials and Nuclear students.

[Find out more about the Series](#)

News roundup

University of Birmingham builds UK's [first recycling plant for high-performance rare earth magnets](#).

Researchers confirm [speed, simplicity and sensitivity for new COVID-19 test](#).

Global approach is needed on [battery regulation](#).

Professor Emma Kendrick wins the Royal Society of Chemistry's [Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division Mid-Career Award Prize](#).

Dr Leah-Nani Alconcel won HEFI's [Personal Academic Tutor of the Year 2021](#).

[Supporting students](#) into engineering and physical sciences at Birmingham.

[New hardship grants for students funded by Birmingham graduate](#), Emeritus Professor Barry P Hughes

Funding secured for [hydrogen powered HGVs](#).

Undergraduate programmes in Materials Science and Engineering have [ranked highly in the 2021 National Student Survey](#).

New project announced to deliver [recycling supply chain for luxury cars](#).

Strong results for Materials Science and Engineering in [The Times 2021 Guide](#) and [Guardian League Table](#).

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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