

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# School of Civil Engineering Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



## Summer 2013

### Greetings

Today I donned my gown and bonnet, joined my colleagues and processed as slowly as I could down the Great Hall. Normally I am not particularly keen on pomp and ceremony but when it comes to graduation I think it is important that we embrace our traditions and celebrate this year's graduands taking the final steps to become graduates and members of a prestigious and ever growing family of Civil Engineering alumni. I recently discovered that the University's alumni are more unique than I had envisaged. Did you know that Birmingham is where the most self-made millionaires can be found? Apparently 84% of our University's 'super rich' became wealthy on their own. As I watched the smiling faces of the graduands meeting the Chancellor I could not help but think that the chances of this year's cohort adding to that particular statistic are small. However, I am very confident that many of them will go on and achieve great things and will contribute to our society in ways which we cannot yet predict (after all they are Civil Engineers). I never tire of hearing of the excellent and innovative work that our alumni have undertaken and am always pleased to receive emails from former graduates.

Many of you will be surprised to have received another newsletter so soon after the last one. The reason is relatively straightforward in that the last newsletter was produced by the School in our 'spare time' and as such deadlines slipped significantly. Meanwhile our ever efficient alumni office worked in the background to produce the current newsletter. I was tempted to delay sending this latest edition but the positive encouragement I received from many of you and the fact that almost half of you opened the last email within 24 hours (which is apparently a University record) made the decision easy. The fact that I could also forget about it over the summer never entered my thoughts!

In what follows you will see photographs relating to this year's summer graduation (all the ones with me on have been removed) and the future face of the industry (I will let you make your own mind up as to whether they are societies' saviours or not). We also have a focus on the Wind Engineering work undertaken within the School and our plans for the future. Further on you can read about the new investment the School has received into researching the underworld and learn how Civil Engineering is working with local schools to encourage pupils to enter the industry.

Finally, I would like to leave you with a few key facts which I hope you will agree shows that the School is in excellent shape for the future:

- **League tables.** We have risen from 19<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in the Guardian league table – the largest climb in the University.

## In this issue...

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**Have you joined  
the School  
LinkedIn  
Community yet?**



An online community for alumni, students, faculty and friends from the School of Civil Engineering, the LinkedIn group provides you the opportunity to engage in conversation, find former colleagues, keep up to date with changes in the School and debate with academics.

[Join this growing community today.](#)

- **Investment.** The School managed to acquire £100,000 investment from the College in order to update the laboratories. While this only scratches the surface it is welcomed and an indicator of support.
- **Employability.** The latest figures pertaining to the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) are now official and I am pleased to announce that in 2011/12 our employability was 88% compared to the previous year of 73%. However, I still believe that actual results are higher than this and the remaining 12% is due to graduates not completing the survey which is taken 6 months after graduation.
- **Student satisfaction.** The Birmingham student satisfaction survey indicated that 92% of students are happy with their teaching/experience.
- **Research.** Our research income has reached a four year high.
- **Undergraduate degrees.** 100% of our students who graduated from the MEng with industrial experience degree, graduated with first class honours and excellent jobs; 5 of the top 10 MEng performers were female; more than 50% of BEng students achieve 1st or 2:1.

Regards

**Professor Mark Sterling**  
Head of School  
Civil Engineering

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## News from the School of Civil Engineering

### Congratulations to all our recent graduates



Congratulations to everyone who graduated this summer and welcome to the alumni community! Graduations this year fell at the beginning of the heat wave and graduands enjoyed a beautiful summer's day to shake hands with Sir Dominic Cadbury and receive their degree certifications. **To read more and see photographs of the day [click here](#).**

### Success for Civil Engineering student



Manjola Caro graduated in July with a first class Masters (MEng) degree in Civil Engineering. She achieved not one but three academic awards for her outstanding performance throughout her degree. **[Read her story here](#).**

### Introducing TRAIN



The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education brings together a multidisciplinary team from across the University to tackle fundamental railway engineering problems. The team actively engage with industry, other universities through Rail Research UK-A, and international partners. The TRAIN (Transient Railway Aerodynamics Investigation) Rig is a highly versatile moving model rig that can be used for a wide variety of railway aerodynamic investigations. **[Read more](#).**

### Wind Engineering at Birmingham



Wind Engineering is becoming increasingly important because of more extreme weather events. By building what is believed to be the UK's leading research team in this subject, headed by **[Professor Baker](#)** and co-ordinated by **[Professor Sterling](#)**, the aim of this research theme is to address the complex challenges posed to engineers. **To read more go to the [Wind Engineering pages of our website](#).**

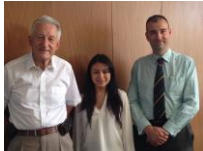
## University of Birmingham receives £5.9 million to assess the underworld



The University of Birmingham will receive one of four large grants as part of a multi-million pound investment in leading engineering research projects announced by Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts in March. The investment supports new innovative engineering projects and an international partnership between the UK and US bringing leading engineers and scientists together to address some of the major engineering challenges facing the world. [Read more.](#)

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## Alumni Giving



Alumnus and Canadian philanthropist Bill Lardner visits Civil Engineering to meet the recipient of the William E. Lardner Award, Diana Sanchez-Celiz. Diana is currently studying MSc Geotechnical Engineering and Management and is greatly benefiting from Bill's generous donation. [Read more.](#)

## New staff in 2013

There have been a number of appointments in the School this year. [Read a summary of our new staff and their research interests online here.](#)

## We would love to hear from you

Everyone has a story to tell and we would love to hear yours. What have you been up to since leaving the School of Civil Engineering? Have you had any successes or challenges that you would like to share with fellow graduates? Do you have any particular words of wisdom you would like to pass on to graduating students?

Your stories help us to promote your School, communicate with prospective students and complete the history of this institution. Please fill in the [online form](#) or email us at [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk), we would love to hear from you.

## Your School needs you...

Would you be able to share some of your time, expertise or connections to help Civil Engineering to succeed? There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. [Details can be found online and email us if you would like to get involved.](#)

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## Events taking place shortly...

**The Clark Lecture** is in honour of Emeritus Professor Leslie Clark, who joined Birmingham in 1978 as a lecturer, and retired in 2009 as Head of School, and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Estates and Infrastructure, picking up a wealth of awards and publishing a volume of papers along the way.

This year's exciting Clark lecture was delivered by David Balmforth who is an Executive Technical Director with international consultants MWH. David gave a thought-provoking lecture on the future of flooding and presented a number of challenges to the audience.

If you would like to be kept informed about the next Clark Lectures and other events in the School of Civil Engineering, please contact Ms Gaby Howell with your contact information on [g.j.howell@bham.ac.uk](mailto:g.j.howell@bham.ac.uk) or alternatively keep an eye on our [events pages](#).

## [Undergraduate Open Day](#)

14/09 and 26/10/2013

Encourage student you know to visit the School of Civil Engineering, meet our staff and students and learn about our degrees.

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## Do we have the right details for you?

According to our records your current business details are as follows: **Position** at **Organisation Name**. If this is not correct, please visit [your.bham](https://your.bham) or email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

**You have received this email from the University of Birmingham because we believe that it is relevant and of interest to you.** If you would like to opt-out of receiving information from your College, School or Department by email, please opt-out by visiting [your.bham](https://your.bham), emailing [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk), or telephoning +44 (0)121 414 2773 / 2744 / 4724. In order to further tailor the communication we send, all emails are tracked and processed; further information regarding our use of data, is available by looking at our [data protection statement](#)