

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Mathematics Community

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THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2013

Greetings

The School of Maths was very pleased to be recognised by the Guardian league table coming fourth this year just after Oxbridge and Warwick. In the coming years, we will build further on this achievement.

This year saw the departure of two long serving members of staff: Professor John Blake, who has retired and Dr. Sharon Stephen who is moving to Australia. Events were held to celebrate their very considerable contributions to the School.

There have been three new arrivals this session: Dr. Alexey Bespalov, Dr. Rachel Nicks and Dr. Alexandra Tzella join the School as Lecturers in Applied Mathematics.

There has been quite a change in atmosphere in the School over the past year with termly staff/student social events organised by the Senior Tutor, Dr. David Leppinen and the Outreach Officer, Mrs Sally Schofield. MathSoc has also been quite active, organising a joint ball with Physics and several quiz nights.

The Watson Building is undergoing a fair amount of refurbishment. At the time of writing, the foyer is being redecorated and the corridors are being carpeted – which has made a surprising difference. You would be most welcome to come and see the changes. We are running the Birmingham Popular Maths Lectures once a month on a Wednesday evening, do come along if you are in the vicinity. To find out more about these lectures please [go to our website](#).

With best wishes,

Professor Paul Flavell
Head of School
Mathematics

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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 Mathematics, 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.](#)

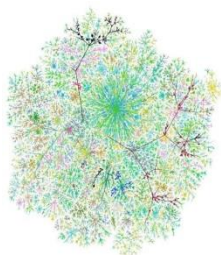
News from the School of Mathematics

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 about the day [click here](#).**

Combinatorics



The Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP) has baffled mathematicians for more than 50 years. But two of our young professors, Daniela Kühn and Deryk Osthus, have made a major step towards it: they have 'half-solved' it. In the field of Extremal Combinatorics, that is no mean feat. Their work has also led to the solution of other notorious problems. [Read more.](#)

Inaugural School of Mathematics Trip to Coniston



At the beginning of 2013, 40 staff, students, postgrads and a film crew set off for a team building weekend at the University of Birmingham owned Raymond Priestly Centre in the Lake District. [Read their story.](#)

World Academic Sports Challenge



Footballers, athletes and supporters from the School of Mathematics and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences attended the World Academic Sports Challenge in Paris on Saturday 1st June. [Read their story and see how they fared.](#)

Hugo Aravena, MSc Mathematical Finance, Class of 2012



Hugo Aravena moved to Birmingham from Chile in 2011 to begin his MSc. 2 years, 2 countries and a baby later he tells his story of his time at Birmingham. [Read here.](#)

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 Mathematics? 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, 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 Mathematics 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.**

Events taking place shortly...

[Birmingham Popular Maths Lectures](#)

Open to all who are interested in the study of mathematics. Particularly suitable at A-level and beyond. Hosted by the School of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham. All are welcome to attend. The lectures are free of charge.

- 11/09/2013 – “The Kakeya Needle Problem”, Professor Jon Bennett
- 09/10/2013 – “The Maths Juggler”, Dr. Colin Wright
- 13/11/2013 – “Maths in the making of the modern world”, Professor Chris Budd (University of Bath)
- 04/12/2013 – “Pi, interstellar dust, and single-pixel cameras: some surprising uses for random numbers”, Dr. Iain Styles
- 22/01/2014 – “The surprising difficulty of using mathematics in computer science”, Professor Achim Hung
- 05/02/2014 – “Primes and Polygons”, Dr. John Silvester (King’s College London)
- 12/03/2014 – “100 million to 1: what can maths tell us about the Great Sperm Race?”, Dr. David Smith

[Prof Peter Butkovic Inaugural Lecture](#)

25/09/2013

More details to come, keep an eye on our website

[Undergraduate Open Day](#)

14/09 and 26/10/2013

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

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 or email 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, emailing 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](#)