

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Mechanical Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2013

Greetings

We hope you enjoy this newsletter which aims to inform you of the main developments in your old department, as well as events for and news about our alumni.

The most notable alumni news this year is the award by the University of an Honorary Doctorate to Professor Pritam B Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University, who received his MSc and PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Birmingham in the mid-late 1970s. Addressing the congregation, Professor Sharma said that his five years in Birmingham were "the very best years" of his life and expressed his "profound gratitude" to his teachers at the University.

Talking of alumni events, the most important one each year is the Annual Reunion which usually takes place in June. This year, the official reunion was held on Saturday 8th June, with an informal gathering on Friday 7th June of the MEng and Manufacturing Class of 1988. We were delighted to see alumni who graduated as far back as 60 years ago among those who passed out more recently.

The alumni enjoyed visiting their old class rooms and laboratories. After meeting current staff, they were shown around by our Senior Technician Mr. Carl Hingley who was known to some of them having served in Mechanical Engineering for many years, Dr. Richard Hood, a recently-appointed Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, himself an alumnus, and Professor Freddie Bakhtar, our four-time alumnus who had obtained his BSc, MSc, PhD and DSc, all from Mechanical Engineering.

With best wishes for a relaxing summer and looking forward to seeing some of you at next year's reunion,

Yours sincerely,

Professor Duc Pham
Head of School
Mechanical Engineering

In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[Alumni honour](#)

[New staff](#)

[What is your story?](#)

[Your School needs you](#)

[Events taking place](#)

Have you joined the School LinkedIn Community yet?



An online community for alumni, students, faculty and friends from the School of Mechanical 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.](#)

News from the School of Mechanical 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 about the day [click here](#).**

Engineering the beauty and efficiency of nature



Professor Duc Truong Pham FEng, Chance Professor of Engineering and Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, unlocked nature's secrets at the Royal Academy of Engineering regional lecture at the MTC. In a talk titled Engineering Nature, Professor Pham demonstrated how engineers take inspiration from the natural world to solve problems and design new products. **Read more about Professor Pham's talk [here](#).**

The 16th UBRacing Car - Car Number 91 at Formula Student 2013



2012/13 has been another successful year for Mechanical Engineering's UBRacing with the team performing excellently in the Formula Student international competition. Senior Technician and Team Manager Carl Hingley and 2013/14 Team Leader Andrew Glencross summarise the year. **[Read more.](#)**

Students compete to become Britain's greenest driver



Alex Conway from the University of Birmingham's UBRacing team joined students across England, Scotland and Wales to compete in the Diesel Eco Driving Challenge. The Challenge saw competitors travelling in a 1,701 mile relay across the length and breadth of the country, passing through 43 universities in a bid to be crowned one of the nation's most economical drivers. **[Read more.](#)**

University of Birmingham Awards Honorary Doctorate Degree to Vice Chancellor, DTU



In recognition of extraordinary accomplishment and achievement, the University of Birmingham awarded an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree to Professor Pritam B. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University, on July 3rd 2013. The Degree was awarded by Sir Dominic Cadbury at the University's Convocation ceremony in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering Professor Duc Pham and other Deans and Heads of Departments. **[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 Mechanical 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 eng_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 Mechanical 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.**

Events taking place shortly...

[Undergraduate Open Day](#)

14/09 and 26/10/2013

Encourage students you know to visit the School of Mechanical Engineering, 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](#)