

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Metallurgy and Materials Community

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THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2013

Greetings

I am delighted to introduce our initial alumni newsletter – the first of many. It marks a period of many rapid changes to: our undergraduate courses (with Nuclear Science and Engineering courses jointly with the School of Physics emerging rapidly); our staff profile (with seven recent appointments); and our environment (following the completion of our £37M refurbishment programme, and the award of the £60M HTRC (with support from HEFCE and Rolls-Royce plc) - to open in 2015). Most important, we plan a series of events to 're-open' the School of Metallurgy and Materials around Easter 2014 to which you will all receive invitations. As ever, research activities provide the life-blood of the School – numbers of postgraduate research students and professional postdoctoral staff are both at near-record levels, and we approach the challenges of the latest of the national Research Assessment Exercises (October 2013).

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible back to our School during Easter 2014.

With best wishes,

Professor Paul Bowen
Head of School
Metallurgy and Materials

In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[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 Metallurgy & Materials, 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 Metallurgy and Materials

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](#).**

Birmingham ranks high in Guardian league tables

theguardian Metallurgy and Materials at the University of Birmingham has been ranked third in the UK - behind only Oxford and Imperial College - in the Guardian's 2012 university league table. Student satisfaction, however, is better than either at 92%. **See the full league table [here](#).**

The Race for Rare Earth Metals



In the last couple of years the rare earth elements have hit the headlines due to supply issues for these often overlooked materials. In the 1980's rare earth minerals were mined and separated primarily in the US. However in the 1990's China began to produce rare earth oxides and elements. Eventually this drove western producers out of the market and left China with a stranglehold on the industry. The Magnetic Materials Group (MMG) at the University of Birmingham has been able to tap into its considerable expertise in the application of hydrogen to the primary production of rare earth magnets to develop an effective means of extracting and reprocessing these materials from scrap electrical devices. **Read the full story [here](#).**

PhD student presents polymers and packaging in Pattaya



PhD student Shona Murphy was accepted to present her first overseas presentation at the 28th international conference of the Polymer Processing Society (PPS-28) held in Pattaya, Thailand in December 2012. Her research involved blending two biodegradable polymers in order to produce one with improved properties; a subject that is very popular and prevalent in current polymer research with applications in areas such as supermarket food packaging. **[Read more](#).**

Net Shape Manufacture of Ni Superalloy Engine Casing (Nesmonic)



The Advanced Materials and Processing laboratory (AMPLab) is aimed at improving current materials, developing new materials and simultaneously to develop their processing and the influence of processing on microstructure and properties. AMPLab has for some time been focussed on the development of the Additive Manufacturing processing, widely known as 3D printing. In January the group will start a new project funded by the EU FP7 Framework Program called AMAZE, Additive Manufacturing Aiming Towards Zero Waste and Efficient Production of High-Tech Metal Products. **[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 Metallurgy & Materials? 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 alumni_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 Metallurgy & Materials 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 Metallurgy and Materials, 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](#)