

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Computer Science Family

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2014

Greetings

As I walked across campus in July I watched crowds of our most recent graduates walking out of the Aston Webb Building proudly holding their certificates, and posing for those memorable photos with family and friends. It is a wonderful time of year, a time to celebrate all the hard work our students have put in over the last three, or four (maybe even more) years of their respective degrees.

As you will see from this newsletter, our academics have also been busy – not only with marking hundreds of exam papers, but with their own research, including advising the UK government on issues of [privacy versus security](#) in data collection, and our [autonomous robot Bob being the first of his kind deployed in a working office environment](#).

It has been a busy time in the School and across the College with a number of 'firsts', including the first annual [EPS Reunion](#) which took place on 14 June with over 170 alumni in attendance. We also hosted a panel event, '[Engineering a sustainable future](#)', in addition to a number of other activities in recognition of the first ever National Women in Engineering Day, celebrating women's contribution to engineering and science professions.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our first [EPS Societies' Awards](#) was held on 6 June, celebrating the fantastic achievements of our student body in delivering an exciting programme of events, projects and challenges over the course of the year as part of their involvement in our School societies. With a live student band providing entertainment and 10 highly sought-after award categories, it really was a night to remember. Bella Dunovska, one of our 3rd year students, even won the EPS Community Award for her efforts in creating a cohesive, vibrant and inclusive Computer Science community.

As the final curtain falls on the 2013-14 academic year, I'd like to wish you all a pleasant and restful summer and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our new students in the Autumn Term.

With best wishes,

Professor Jon Rowe
Head of School
Computer Science

In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[New staff](#)

[Your School needs you](#)

[Events taking place](#)

Connect with us on

LinkedIn



News from the School of Computer Science

Congratulations Class of 2014!



On behalf of all academic and support staff in the School of Computer Science, we'd like to say huge congratulations to all our new graduates who received their degree certifications earlier in July after lots of hard work and dedication! [Read more.](#)

'A great day was had by all'



On Saturday 14 June 2014 we welcomed alumni from across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences back to the University for a special day of celebrations and activities with fellow classmates and staff. Over 170 alumni and guests from as far back as 1946 up to our 2013 graduates attended this annual College Reunion, which was open to all graduating years for the very first time. Read about the day and access photographs [here.](#)

Global impact in Engineering and Physical Sciences: Leading the way in computer and electrical engineering



Scientists at Birmingham have partnered with the University of Science and Technology China on a number of transformational research projects looking at tracking consumer behaviour and pioneering smartphone capability to mapping underground energy systems and healthcare technology through Computer Science and Electronic Engineering. [Read more.](#)

G4S takes on a new recruit



G4S, the security solutions group, have recruited a new trainee security officer in the form of a clever young robot from the School of Computer Science. This is the first time that an autonomous robot has been deployed in a working office environment to do a real job. [Read more.](#)

EPS Societies' Awards



On Friday 6 June 2014 the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences celebrated the achievements of our student societies with the first ever EPS Societies' Awards. We have a strong tradition of outstanding educational success; from public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula Student cars with UBRacing, the societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote careers opportunities, industrial visits and, of course, social events. Organising committee member and Mechanical Engineering student Daisy Partlow tells us about the night [here.](#) Winners, nominations and photographs are also available on our [website.](#)

National Women in Engineering Day celebrated at the University



In celebration of the UK's first ever National Women in Engineering Day on 23 June 2014, the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences organised a programme of events and activities, including a panel event discussing 'Engineering a sustainable future' with leading female engineers and academics. View interviews and videos from the day [here.](#)

Privacy versus security – how to minimize the access to our personal data



Computer scientists at Birmingham have devised a method to make governments and other agencies more accountable for the data they collect from email communications, mobile phones and travel passes. [Read more.](#)



Pepper, the world's first 'emotionally intelligent' personal robot has been designed to be a highly interactive household companion. In Nick Hawes' article for The Conversation he asks, 'is Pepper all it's cracked up to be?' [Read more.](#)

New staff in 2014

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

Your School needs you...

Would you be able to share some of your time, expertise or connections to help our students to succeed?

We're currently looking for help and support from alumni with the following:

- EPS Open Days, [13 September and 18 October 2014](#). Could you donate a couple of hours of your time to pop back to your old school and speak to our prospective students about your time at Birmingham? For more information and to get involved [email us](#)
- Work experience placements are invaluable for our students, allowing them to learn about the world of work first-hand and apply their knowledge in a real-life setting. If you work in industry and think you could offer a work experience placement to our undergraduate or postgraduate students, please [email us](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. Please [email us](#) if you would like to get involved and we'll be happy to talk to you.

Events taking place shortly...

College and School events

-

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

For more information on other lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural

Monday 22 – Saturday 27 September 2014

Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann

Trusting Atoms: The Last Trials of Ludwig Boltzmann brings to life the passion, drama and suffering of one long-forgotten scientist of the 19th Century. Join Ludwig Boltzmann in his battle to save the dying theory of atoms, his equation and so his career in a hostile scientific environment.

Venue: Cadbury Room, St Francis Hall, Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/eps/events/Trusting-Atoms.aspx>

Thursday 6 November 2014

EPS Distinguished Lecture: Professor Paul Cannon

Minor explosive eruptions of energy from the Sun that cause small solar storms on Earth are relatively common events. In contrast, extremely large events (superstorms) only occur very occasionally – perhaps once every century or two. Since the start of the space age, there has been no true solar-superstorm, but there have been a number of large storms and some of these have caused major technological damage, for example the partial collapse of the Canadian electricity grid in 1989.

Venue: EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Nov14

Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December 2014

International Conference on High Speed Rail - 8th-10th December 2014

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan. The University of Birmingham is marking this historic occasion by holding an international conference on High Speed Rail

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

highspeedrail64@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Wednesday 10 December 2014

EPS Christmas Lecture – Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE

Please join us to hear from Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Presenter of The Life Scientific on Radio 4, British scientist, author and broadcaster as he delivers the inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture

Venue: The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/christmaslecture

March 2015

EPS Distinguished Lecture: Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna

Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna is the Director of the Centre for Nanofibers & Nanotechnology at the National University of Singapore

Venue: EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/distinguished-Mar15

Tuesday 9 June 2015

EPS Societies' Awards Night

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2014/15

Venue: The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/societies-awards-2015

Saturday 20 June 2015

EPS Alumni Reunion

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences (EPS), you are invited back to campus for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

www.birmingham.ac.uk/epsreunion2015

University events

Saturday 6 – Thursday 11 September 2014

British Science Festival 2014

The British Science Festival celebrates all things scientific and will be hosted by the University of Birmingham in September 2014. Organised by the British Science Association, the event offers something for everyone

Venue: Birmingham City Centre and Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/british-science-festival/index.aspx>

Thursday 11 September 2014

Alumni Reception at the British Science Festival

Join fellow alumni for drinks and nibbles on the final day of the British Science Festival.

Venue: Marquee, Chancellors Court, University of Birmingham

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/BSF-Alumni.aspx>

Saturday 13 September 2014

GGAA 2014 Forum & AGM

Join members of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA) for their 2014 Forum and AGM. This year's speaker is the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe.

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/GGAA-2014-Forum--AGM.aspx>

Saturday 13 September 2014

Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion

Alumni who graduated in 1964 or before are welcome to join for a special reunion lunch

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events/items/Golden50th-Anniversary-Reunion---13-September-2014-.aspx>

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](#)

