

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Metallurgy and Materials Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2014

Greetings

Once again summer is upon us and recently I was delighted to watch our most recent graduates coming 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 that 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. For instance we have taken delivery of new characterisation equipment to maintain our excellence in this field, including a new transmission electron microscope and X-ray tomography equipment.

We also held the first [School Ball](#) for several years in June which was a great success with 150 students, staff and alumni in attendance. Our Honorary Ball President, Paul Withey of Rolls Royce who is Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor in Innovation in the School, also gave the first Distinguished Alumnus Lecture on the afternoon of the same day. This was entitled 'From Physics, through Fracture to Foundries' and covered Professor Withey's career path – how he has managed to journey through a number of apparently disparate subject areas, beginning with Physics at Birmingham, then Metallurgy and Materials to his current senior role as a casting specialist for Rolls Royce.

It has also been a busy time 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

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year as part of their involvement in our societies. With a live student band providing entertainment and 10 highly sought-after award categories, it really was a night to remember.

I wish you a good summer and I look forward to updating you on our new students in the autumn term.

With best wishes,

Dr Stephen Kukureka
Deputy Head of School
Metallurgy and Materials

News from the School of Metallurgy and Materials

Congratulations Class of 2014!



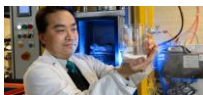
On behalf of all academic and support staff in the School of Metallurgy and Materials, we'd like to say a huge congratulations to all our new graduates who received their degree certifications earlier in July after lots of hard work and dedication! [Read more.](#)

'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.](#)

Scientists redefine production of world's third hardest material



Senior Lecturer Dr Isaac Chang has been working on a project funded by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory to reshape the production process of one of the hardest materials known to man, boron carbide. [Read more.](#)

Advanced materials research recognised by First Prize for Innovation for Product and Technology



Congratulations to Dr Moataz Attallah and the Advanced Materials and Processing Laboratory who have received recognition for their contribution to the use of Metal 3D Printing Technology for the Hot Section Parts of a Gas Turbine project in partnership with MicroTurbo and MONASH University. [Read more.](#)

Birmingham University Materials Society – BUMS!



Outgoing Presidents Geena Rait and Vicky Hatwell provide their final BUMS update of 2014 and reintroduce the Materials Ball. [Read here.](#)

University of Birmingham launches the Rocketry Society



The University of Birmingham Rocketry Society (UBRS) is the newest and most explosive EPS group yet! Dan Lockett, Maths student and Deputy Director-General, [tells us 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](#).

Highlights from the 16th reunion of Mining and Minerals Engineering alumni



The 16th reunion was held in Birmingham on 9-10 May 2014, the first gathering since May 1988. The event was a great success, with some 89 graduates, staff and partners in attendance, travelling from as far afield as Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Turkey and the USA. Organiser Iain Wells reports on the weekend's events. [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 Center 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?

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