

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Chemistry Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Summer 2015

Dear First Name

This year's graduation ceremony was, as ever, a joyous occasion and it was my great privilege seeing our graduands one by one as they proudly stepped up to shake hands with the Provost and Vice-Principal in celebration of their achievements. It is a wonderful time of year on campus as we recognise our students' hard work and see them make the transition to alumni.

As you will see from this newsletter it has been a busy time in the School and across the College: [Drs Simon Cotton](#) and [Zoe Schnepf](#) have featured in The Conversation, whilst Professor Nigel Simpkins and Dr Louise Male are leading research into [safer, more effective pharmaceuticals](#). Last month we welcomed back alumni at our [reunion](#) and we also held our second [EPS Societies' Awards](#), 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 societies.

And so as the 2014/15 academic year draws to a close, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer and 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 Preece
Head of School
Chemistry

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News from the School of Chemistry

Professor Andy Schofield appointed as new Head of College



The University is delighted to announce that Professor Andy Schofield is to become Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, succeeding Professor Richard Williams, who has been appointed Vice-Chancellor at Heriot-Watt University. Professor Schofield will take up his new role in August. [Read more.](#)

Congratulations class of 2015!



Congratulations to all of our new Chemistry graduates who received their degree certifications last month. [Read more.](#)

EPS Reunion 2015 Highlights



Over 140 alumni and guests from 1944 to 2014 attended this year's annual reunion on Saturday 20 June 2015. Guests travelled from as far as Brazil and Jordan to join us and enjoyed a unique opportunity to reminisce with their classmates, revive old friendships and catch-up on all that may have changed in their School. [Read more.](#)

EPS Societies' Awards 2015



On Tuesday 9 June the College celebrated the achievements of our 17 student societies with the second annual EPS Societies' Awards. 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. A great night was had by all and over £1,000 was raised for research into childhood brain cancer conducted in the University's School of Cancer Sciences. [Read more.](#)

ChemSoc



ChemSoc recently elected their new committee and Chair Alice Sayers talks about their plans for the year ahead. [Read more.](#)

Women in Science and Engineering Society



It's been a busy year for WISE, who were recently recognised at the EPS Societies' Awards! The committee tell us what they've been up to and their plans for next year. [Read more.](#)

WISE were also recently invited to celebrate National Women in Engineering Day (NWED) with British Gas Business. Read more about the event [here.](#)

Sensor technology can improve accuracy of prostate cancer diagnosis



New research has shown how a smart sensor chip, able to pick up on subtle differences in glycoprotein molecules, can improve the accuracy and efficiency of prostate cancer diagnosis. Researchers at the University of Birmingham believe that the novel technology will help improve the process of early stage diagnosis. Glycoprotein molecules, proteins that are covalently bound to one or more carbohydrate chains, perform a wide range of functions in cell surfaces, structural tissues and blood. Because of their essential role in our immune response, they are useful clinical biomarkers for detecting prostate cancer and other diseases. [Read more.](#)

The deadly poison lurking in a frog the size of your fingernail



The unexplored regions of the world continue to shrink. Satellites are able to give us previews of places humans have never been and fewer and fewer native tribes remain uncontacted. It's not just undiscovered humans, though; seven new species of tiny frogs – the size of your fingernails – were recently discovered on seven different mountains in south-eastern Brazil. The cloud forests on each mountain are cut off from their neighbours by climatic barriers which allow species on each mountain to develop independently of their neighbours. [Read more.](#)

Birmingham chemists lead on safer, more effective pharmaceuticals



The demand for new drugs to treat a range of medical conditions has never been greater. As well as a need for safer and more effective treatments for familiar diseases and illnesses, ranging from arthritis to cancer, we face new threats from drug-resistant 'super bugs' and viral diseases like Ebola. The pharmaceutical industry has struggled to meet these challenges, and in many cases the new medicine pipelines have run dry. One of the many reasons for this, says [Professor Nigel Simpkins](#), is that industry has not always used the right kinds of compounds as candidates for medicines, which has led to late-stage attrition in clinical trials. [Read more.](#)

New lock-and-key technology promises rapid cancer testing for developing world



In a piece for The Conversation [Dr Zoe Schnepf](#) discusses how a new technology developed by chemists at the University could lead to fast and accurate cancer diagnoses. [Read more.](#)

The science of strawberries: why do they taste so good?



During tennis' recent grass court season [Dr Simon Cotton](#) wrote a piece for The Conversation aptly commenting on how the molecular basis of strawberries' aroma makes them so appealing. [Read more.](#)

Pioneering University of Birmingham campaign raises nearly £200m for ground-breaking research and life changing opportunities



The University is celebrating after raising an unprecedented £193.4 million for a diverse range of projects including life-saving research and more than 500 student scholarships. The record breaking Circles of Influence campaign has smashed its original £160 million target and has supported more than 250 projects across campus, including the creation of a new state-of-the-art library and a sports centre featuring the city's first 50 metre swimming pool, which will be accessible to staff, students and the local community when it opens next year. [Read more.](#)

We want your thoughts!



We are currently reviewing the communications we send to our alumni and would greatly value your comments on your School newsletter. As an added incentive, participants will be entered into a draw to win a University of Birmingham alumni mug. Fill out the survey [here](#).

New staff in 2014/15

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 are currently looking for help and support from alumni with the following:

- **Undergraduate Open Day, 12 September and 17 October.** 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.

College and School events taking place shortly...

[EPS Inaugural Lecture Series](#)

For information on upcoming lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please [visit our website](#)

Wednesday 8 June 2016

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2015/16.

Time: 7pm-11pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Saturday 18 June 2016

[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.

University events...

Sunday 6 September 2015

[Community Day](#)

See our research brought to life! Come along to the University's Community Day on Sunday 6 September where you can explore our beautiful, historic campus and enjoy free fun for all the family throughout the day. We are throwing the doors open for you to see for yourselves the great things that the University is doing for people here in the Midlands and around the world. This year's event will celebrate more than £160 million of donations to the University and thank all of our amazing supporters. Follow our thank you trail around campus and discover how donations have funded everything from dinosaur bones and robots to our new sports centre. To find out more about the impact of our Circles of influence campaign, please visit www.uobpartofit.com.

Time: 11am-4pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Tuesday 8 September 2015

[Hong Kong Reception with the Vice-Chancellor](#)

University of Birmingham alumni based in Hong Kong are invited to join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, at a reception on Tuesday 8 September. The evening will be a great opportunity to meet and network with fellow alumni who live and work in Hong Kong, and to find out about the latest developments taking place at the University.

Time: 7pm-9pm

Venue: The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Saturday 12 September 2015

[Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch](#)

If you graduated in 1965 or before you are invited back to campus on Saturday 12 September to a Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham.

Time: 10.45am-4pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Alumni group events...

The University of Birmingham has alumni groups all over the world that organise local events. To join a group and see details of upcoming events please visit the [webpage](#) and select your location.

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.

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