

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Mathematics Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY

$Ax = \lambda x$

Summer 2015

Greetings

Another full and successful academic year has come to an end this month marked by the mathematics degree congregation on 15 July, which featured our honorary graduate, Dr Clifford Cocks CB, FRS, formally chief mathematician at GCHQ, who was awarded a Doctor of Science by the University. The ceremony was followed by a well-deserved celebration with staff, family and friends in Chancellor's Court. Congratulations to all those who graduated from the School of Mathematics who now join the prestigious alumni community.

We welcomed back a number of alumni to the department and wider campus on 20 June as part of the [2015 EPS Reunion](#), which saw an enjoyable day full of talks, tours, catching up and reminiscing. The reunion tour of the Watson Building was short due to major refurbishments taking place; however we look forward to sharing the brand new modern lecture theatres and seminar rooms with you all once they are completed in the autumn.

We are delighted to report that Dan Luckett from MathSoc won this year's EPS Community Award at the [EPS Societies' Awards](#) held in June. Dan initiated the MathSoc Volunteering Scheme and organised the EPS Charity Football Tournament which raised money for the Prince's Trust. Meanwhile, students Garinder Shankrowalia, Iain Sharp and John Ellis [led team UoB3 to victory in the Npower Forecasting Challenge](#), in which students had to predict, based on weather data, what the power usage of Npower would be, and Chloe Spalding has been named as the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Westmere Scholar 2015/16. One of five scholars across the University, Chloe will organise events for postgraduate researchers within the College and ensure that they have adequate working environments.

Professor Sergey Shpectorov received an Award for Excellence in Doctoral Research Supervision from the University Graduate School. This award recognises the significant contribution made by academic supervisors to the successful completion of high-class doctoral research at the University. Dr Sara Jabbari [has been awarded a £405,000 BBSRC grant](#) for her research into bacterial Adhesion Inhibitor Materials in vivo. Meanwhile, Dr Simon Goodwin was recently featured in The Independent discussing the implications of the new National Lottery rules.

In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[New staff](#)

[Your School needs you](#)

[Events taking place](#)

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On 1 July the School welcomed 70 local Year 12 students to campus for the first Maths Taster Day. The event aimed to give these students an introduction to studying Mathematics at university as well as an insight into the course at Birmingham specifically. Eighty-four percent of the students rated the day as excellent or good and we hope to run similar events in future years.

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 Paul Flavell
Head of School
Mathematics

News from the School of Mathematics

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 Willia. Professor Schofield 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 Mathematics graduates who received their degree certificates 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 opportunity to reminisce with their classmates, revive old friendships and catch-up on all that have changed in their School. [Read more.](#)

EPS Societies' Awards 2015



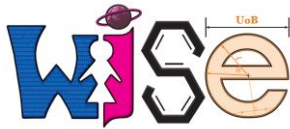
On Tuesday 9 June the College celebrated the achievements of our 17 student societies with the 5th annual EPS Societies' Awards. From public astronomy events with AstroSoc to designing Formula 1 cars with UBRacing, the societies do astonishing work not just in academia but also to promote career opportunities, industrial visits and, of course, social events. A great night was had by all and over £2000 was raised for research into childhood brain cancer conducted in the University's School of Cancer Sciences. [Read more.](#)

MathSoc Update



It's been a busy 12 months for MathSoc. New President Sarah Graves looks back on what's happened and the Society's plans for the next year. [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.](#)

Team UoB3 win Npower Forecasting Challenge



Three talented Mathematics students Garinder Shankrowalia, Iain Sharp and John Ellis from the University of Birmingham led team UoB3 to victory in the Npower Forecasting Challenge. Winners were announced on Monday 23 March 2015. The Npower Forecasting Challenge is a brand new competition, challenging students of Britain to predict what Npower customers' power usage will be, based on weather data. In order to forecast accurately, teams were encouraged to use state of the art industry weather data to create a model of the energy demand for customers. [Read more.](#)

LMS–EMS Mathematical Weekend



To celebrate the 150th year of the London Mathematical Society and the 25th year of the European Mathematical Society we are organizing a mathematical weekend, to be held in Birmingham from Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 2015. All mathematicians, from Europe and elsewhere, are warmly invited to participate. [Read more.](#)

Lotto shake-up: After the good news comes the bad



Dr Simon Goodwin was recently featured in an article in The Independent, discussing the probability of winning the national lottery following its new game rules. [Read more.](#)

Mathematics in Industry module



This is a second year group research module designed to encourage students to think more about the skills they will need for life beyond their degree and incorporates guest lectures, a large industrial group research project and a smaller science communication project.

Previously the research projects have been more effective when provided by real business contacts, as students make a stronger connection by seeing the real world applications. We are looking for people to provide project briefs (no solutions required) and give a guest lecture explaining their career as a mathematician and the company they work for. The level of involvement with the project can vary to suit your needs.

If you could like to be involved please [email us.](#)

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

- 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](#)

[Birmingham Popular Maths Lectures](#)

The Birmingham Popular Mathematics Lectures are open to all members of the public and the University who are interested in the study of Mathematics. They are particularly suitable for those studying Mathematics at A Level and we also welcome advanced GCSE students. Young people are welcome on their own, with parents or with a school group.

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

18-20 September 2015

[LMS-EMS Mathematical Weekend](#)

To celebrate the 150th year of the London Mathematical Society and the 25th year of the European Mathematical Society we are organizing a mathematical weekend, to be held in Birmingham from Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 2015. All mathematicians, from Europe and elsewhere, are warmly invited to participate.

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

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

Time: 9.30am-6pm
Venue: Edgbaston Campus

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: College Alumni Relations Manager at University of Birmingham. If this is not correct, please visit [your.bham](#) or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

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