

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2015

Greetings

Welcome to another alumni newsletter. The items in this edition are drawn from the wide range of activities that are thriving within the School.

The University has launched plans for the state-of-the-art [Collaborative Teaching Laboratory](#) and we are looking forward to the collaborative and interdisciplinary working it will offer our students. The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) enjoyed a very successful few days at [The Big Bang Fair](#) at the NEC promoting railway education to school groups. We recently appointed [Anson Jack](#) to Director of the Birmingham International Railway Academy and in December we held an [International Conference on High Speed Rail](#), celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan.

Our students have also been incredibly active, with [EESESoc](#) holding a careers event and [UBRacing](#) busily preparing for Formula Student 15. We also welcome the [Women in Science and Engineering Society \(WISE\)](#) and I look forward to hearing more about their future activities supporting and promoting women within Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of your invitation to attend the [EPS Alumni Reunion](#). Similar to last year, we are inviting all former students of the School to return to campus on Saturday 20 June to reminisce with us.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this newsletter and as ever, we wish you well in your own endeavours.

With best wishes,

Dr Peter Gardner
Head of School
Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering

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News from the School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering

University launches plans for Collaborative Teaching Laboratory



The University has launched ambitious new plans for a £40 million state-of-the-art Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL) to facilitate the teaching of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects. It will enable collaborative and interdisciplinary working amongst undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, providing a transformational teaching experience to enable them to develop the skills and experience required by employers. [Read more.](#)

Birmingham Heroes Lecture



In the fourth [Birmingham Heroes](#) lecture, [Professor Clive Roberts](#), Director of the BCRRE, will give an insight into the major challenges faced by railways and the world-leading work being carried out by University of Birmingham researchers. Please join us for a lecture and drinks reception at London Transport Museum on Tuesday 19 May from 6.15pm to 8.30pm.

Tickets for this event cost £20 and early booking is advised. £10 from each ticket sale will be given to the University's [Collaborative Teaching Laboratory](#) project. Your support will help us to build this new state-of-the-art facility, which will bring together practical teaching activities across a broad range of science and engineering disciplines. [Click to register here.](#)

Don't miss out! Book your place on the EPS Reunion 2015!



Do you have fond memories of your time at the University of Birmingham? Do you still keep in touch with those classmates who you pulled all-night study sessions with to get that last assignment finished? As a graduate of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, we would love for you to join us on campus on Saturday 20 June 2015 for a reunion. [Read more.](#)

EEESoc update



EEESoc has been busy with lots of activities, both social and educational! President Helen Watson [tells us more.](#)

UBRacing update



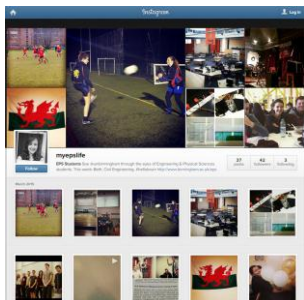
UBRacing have been incredibly busy so far this year with new design developments underway and the chassis in progress. Daisy Partlow and Iestyn Stead [tell us more.](#)

Welcome to WISE - Women in Science and Engineering Society



The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Society are the newest student group to join the EPS Community. They work to provide as many events and opportunities as possible to members across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences to integrate, form networks and to help inspire the next generation of female scientists and engineers. Annabel Fitzgerald [tells us more.](#)

Student Instagram Takeover



With the growing popularity of Instagram as a social networking service, the College has recently launched a student-led takeover account. Every two weeks a different student from across the College will be managing the 'MyEPSLife' channel, taking photos and videos of their experiences and highlighting activity across our Schools and the wider University community. Explore the current activity [here](#).

Engineering and Physical Sciences students win Engineering Challenge



A group of students from the Schools of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, Mathematics, and Mechanical Engineering were victorious in the Engineering Challenge at the last National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition in November 2014. [Read more.](#)

University of Birmingham speeds into the Big Bang Fair 2015



The University of Birmingham and the [Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education](#) attended the Big Bang Fair at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham on Wednesday 11 to Saturday 14 March 2015. The Big Bang Fair is the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people, aiming to show students a variety of exciting and rewarding opportunities for successful careers in STEM subjects. Over 75,000 people attended this year's event, thousands of which visited the University of Birmingham stand. [Read more.](#)

International High Speed Rail 1964 – 2064: Celebrating Ambition



2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan. [The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education](#) (BCRRE), and the University of Birmingham celebrated this historic occasion by holding an International Conference on High Speed Rail from Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December 2014. Over 250 delegates, travelling from England, France, Germany and Japan, attended the conference, to celebrate the last 50 years of high-speed rail, and look ahead to the next 50 years; with contributions from industry leaders and academics to tackle the challenges and solutions of high speed rail. [Read more.](#)

Appointment of RSSB Executive Director, Anson Jack to Director of the Birmingham International Railway Academy



The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) are pleased to announce the appointment of Anson Jack to Director of the Birmingham International Railway Academy (BIRA) and Professor of International Railway Benchmarking.

Anson will work closely with the [Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education](#) to promote international railway benchmarking and other research, and to develop the extensive international relationships the University has already established across the globe. [Read more.](#)

Are low carbon battery-powered trains the future?



Dr Stuart Hillmansen, Senior Lecturer in Electrical Energy Systems, comments on the recent BusinessGreen report on low carbon battery-powered trains operating on the UK rail network. [Read more.](#)

Self-driving cars moving closer as part of latest safety revolution



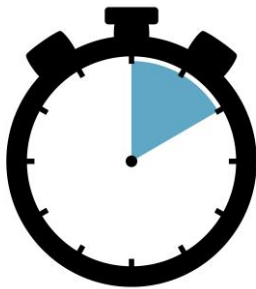
In 2013, more than four people died on the UK's roads every single day – a total of 1,713 fatalities. The official statistics for that year also showed that more than 20,000 people suffered serious injuries in road accidents. These grim facts are the biggest motivation for the ongoing development of intelligent systems to make cars safer. All major automotive manufacturers and their suppliers, in addition to Google, hi-tech firms and telecoms companies, are making strides towards the vision of autonomous – or self-driving – cars. Significant amounts of funding have been invested by national governments, the European Union and the defence sector in the past two decades, with no sign of their commitment waning. [Read more.](#)

LEGO, building the engineers of the future brick by brick



The FIRST LEGO League; a global science and technology competition, returned to the University of Birmingham, on Thursday 8 January for the 2015 West Midlands regional tournament. LEGO has been undergoing something of a renaissance of late, with the LEGO movie being the fourth top grossing film worldwide of 2014. Now being used to build robots, the plastic brick has found a new lease of life as an educational tool for the 21st century. [Read more.](#)

Mini chance to make a massive difference



You can make a difference to your University in the time it takes to make a cup of tea.

To mark Micro-Volunteering Day on 15 April there are a whole range of opportunities to support Birmingham; all possible in just ten minutes or less.

These bite-sized tasks can have a big impact: from answering questions on your shopping habits for students' dissertations, to sharing your opinion on our website design or celebrating with the University's newest alumni by sending in your graduation memories. [Email us](#) to learn more.

Scholarships available for postgraduate study



The University is pleased to announce the launch of the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship scheme. Awards of £2,000 per scholarship will be offered to outstanding alumni wishing to undertake Masters study at the University during 2015. [Read more.](#)

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:

- All women in science and engineering. As part of **National Women in Engineering Day, 23 June**, the EPS Community is hosting a number of activities, conversations and events designed to celebrate women in engineering and scientific careers. If you work in science or engineering and would like to sit on our panel, get involved in the conversation on Twitter, or come along to our evening event, please get in touch by [emailing us](#)
- **Undergraduate Open Day, 26-27 June**. 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](#)

Tuesday 9 June 2015

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

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

Time: 7pm-11pm

Venue: Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

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.

Time: 9.30am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Please visit the [website](#) for more information and to secure your place at the Reunion

Tuesday 23 June 2015

[National Women in Engineering Day Celebrations](#)

Following the success of last year's first ever National Women in Engineering Day (NWED), this year's event is being held on Tuesday 23 June to celebrate the achievements of women in engineering and science. The EPS Community will be celebrating the day with a variety of exciting activities and events on campus.

Time: Programme to be confirmed

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

For more information please [email us](#)

University events...

Saturday 25 April 2015

[Fab 'n' Refresh](#)

On Saturday 25th April 2015 the Guild of Students, in association with the Development and Alumni Office, presents Fab 'n' Refresh! Come back onto campus to party the night away with fellow alumni who graduated from 2005 onwards.

Time: 10pm-late

Venue: Joe's Bar, Guild of Students

Saturday 13 June 2015

[Alumni Sports Day](#)

Save the date for the 14th annual University of Birmingham Sport Alumni Sports Day. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before with 16 events across 14 different sports. The events will take place on campus, at the Bournbrook and Metchley pitches and the Edgbaston Priory Club, creating a multi-sport festival.

Time: 9am-5pm

Venue: Various

Monday 22 June 2015

[Baggs Memorial Happiness Lecture 2015](#)

The Baggs Memorial Lecture began in 1976 and the lecture series has seen many distinguished speakers tackle the topic of happiness from their personal viewpoint including Yehudi Menuhin, David Attenborough, Peter Ustinov, Maureen Lipman, David Lodge, Adam Hart Davies, Robert Winston and Sue Lawley. This year the University is pleased to welcome Matthew Parris who worked for the Foreign Office and the Conservative Research Department before serving as MP for West Derbyshire.

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

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?

Please visit [your.bham](#) or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

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