

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## School of Mathematics Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



### Spring 2015

#### Greetings

The past few months have been busy ones as usual for the staff and students in the School of Mathematics. The School is very pleased to have achieved a very good outcome in the [Research Excellence Framework \(REF\) results](#) that were published in December. The School was rated 6<sup>th</sup> out of 53 Mathematics departments for world-leading and internationally excellent research outputs. These results reflect a period of sustained high-performance from the research groups within the School. The New Year brought more recognition of our research excellence with [Andrew Treglown](#) being awarded an EPSRC fellowship entitled "Independence in groups, graphs and the integers" and [Daniela Kühn](#) awarded a prestigious Royal Society Research Merit Award. Our research staff continues to grow and we are delighted to welcome Dr William Perkins (Birmingham Fellow) to the School.

We are maintaining our strong links with the national and international mathematical community by [hosting a Mathematical Weekend](#) celebrating 150 years of the London Mathematical Society and 25 years of the European Mathematical Society. The weekend will run from Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 2015. All mathematicians, from Europe and elsewhere, are warmly invited to participate in the event which will cover three themes: Algebra, Analysis and Combinatorics. We have also been delighted that [Professor Gernot Stroth has recently been visiting the School of Mathematics](#) as part of the University of Birmingham's Institute of Advanced Studies Distinguished Visiting Fellows Scheme. Professor Stroth is an internationally leading algebraist who has been hosted by Professor Parker in the School from 15 February to 29 March.

This term has been no less busy for our students who alongside their studies have organised many extracurricular and social activities. [MathSoc's new volunteering scheme](#) recently ran a College of Engineering and Physical Sciences charity football tournament, the first event of this kind, which raised £248.50 in aid of the Prince's Trust. MathSoc have rounded off a jam-packed year with the annual Spring Ball held at the Paragon Hotel, a superb evening attended by staff and students alike. Staff and students also took some time away from work with the annual trip to Coniston which took place in March. Forty members of the School visited the University's Raymond Priestley Centre for a

#### In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[New staff](#)

[Your School needs you](#)

[Events taking place](#)

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relaxing weekend of walking in the Lake District.

The School of Mathematics' [Popular Mathematics 2014/15 series](#) came to an end on 18 March with Dr Rosemary Dyson's lecture, which also formed part of the University's Arts and Science Festival. The lectures this year have been very well attended with an average of 75 members of the public visiting the School every month to learn about different areas of Mathematics. We look forward to the 2015/16 series and alumni are welcome to attend. We also continue to work in partnership with many local schools to promote the study of Mathematics. The largest mathematical outreach event of the year is the annual Maths Big Quiz, which is run with the support of the Further Maths Support Network, and was held on 23 March 2015. Over 300 local year 10 students took part in the quiz in the Great Hall with a lunch time talk on mathematical mindreading given by Dr Simon Goodwin.

As the end of the second semester in the 2014-15 academic year approaches, I would like to wish you all a pleasant Easter and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our students in the Summer Term.

With best wishes,

**Professor Paul Flavell**  
Head of School  
Mathematics

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## News from the School of Mathematics

### 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.](#)

### 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.](#)

### MathSoc Update



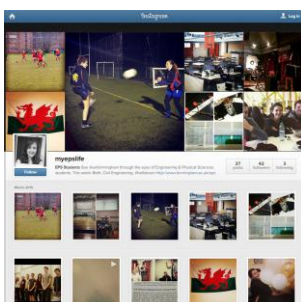
MathSoc has gone from strength to strength this academic year and the Society is providing a wide range of events for our members. Vice-President Sarah Graves [tells us more.](#)

## 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



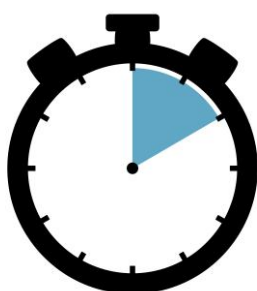
With the growing popularity of Instagram as a social networking service, the College has recently launched a student-led takeover account. Every two weeks a different student from across the College will be managing the 'MyEPSLife' channel, taking photos and videos of their experiences and highlighting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

## Alan Turing's legacy is even bigger than we realise



Alan Turing is one of the world's best-known mathematicians, and probably the best known in the past century. This is partly for his work on cracking German codes in World War II, and partly for his arrest, conviction and punishment for homosexuality in the 1950s. The mathematics that made him famous, however, rarely gets mentioned. [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](#).

In addition 224 new £10,000 scholarships available for Masters students from under-represented groups are available for 2015 entry through the Birmingham Masters Scholarship Scheme. [Read more](#).

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## 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:

- 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.

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## 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](#)

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## 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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.

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## Do we have the right details for you?

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