

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Mathematics Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Spring 2014

Greetings,

Another busy term has come to an end in the School of Maths as our students are finishing assignments and dissertations ahead of the Easter break. Our numbers of prospective students and applicants continue to increase thanks to our "University of the Year" accolade and of course to the School's commanding league table position.

As you will see from this newsletter our academics have also made, and contributed to, significant scientific discoveries. Daniela Kühn and Deryk Osthus' research into [Hamilton cycles in graph composition](#) to name one. Also for World Pi Day, we made the playful and fascinating discovery of the [University's acronym "UoB" within the digits of pi](#)

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of your invitation to attend the first [EPS Reunion](#). Similar to that of the previous University Annual Alumni Reunion event, we are inviting all former students of the School to return to campus on Saturday 14th June to reminisce with us. It is set to be a very good day and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

With best wishes,

Dr Paul Flavell
Head of School
Mathematics

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News from the School of Mathematics

Hurry! Only 24 hours to secure your 'early bird' place at the EPS Reunion 2014!



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 School of Mathematics, we'd love for you to join us on campus on Saturday 14 June 2014 for a Reunion. [Read more.](#)

10 ways the University of Birmingham has changed the world



Can you help us to celebrate the impact that staff, students, and alumni have had on society?

With eight Nobel Prize winners amongst former staff and students, and world-leading researchers on everything from the Big Bang to Shakespeare, Birmingham research continues to transform lives. The University needs your nominations for a new 'top ten' list of the alumni, staff, and students who have had profound impact through their research. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/10ways to cast your vote by **Friday 4 April**. Winners will be announced in May.

After 400 years, mathematicians find a new class of solid shape



The work of the Greek polymath Plato has kept millions of people busy for millennia. A few among them have been mathematicians who have obsessed about Platonic solids, a class of geometric forms that are highly regular and are commonly found in nature. Dr. David Craven comments on this new discovery. [Read more.](#)

School of Hard Sums



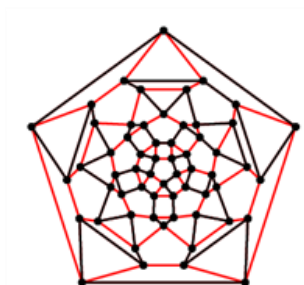
The School of Hard Sums, hosted by comedian Dara O'Brian, is a comic entertainment show about maths. Hosts, guests and mathematicians use knowledge and intuition to solve some very tasty real-world brainteasers and conundrums. Maths student Hannah Dabell is one of the expert mathematicians featured on the show and tells us all about it. [Read more.](#)

Professor Sir Martin Sweeting delivers the inaugural EPS Distinguished Lecture



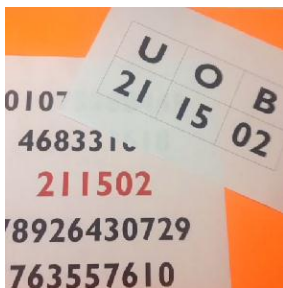
On Wednesday 5th March Professor Sir Martin Sweeting, Director of the Surrey Space Centre, delivered the first EPS Distinguished Lecture. Students Ceri Bradshaw, Rob Brennan-Craddock and Graham Kirkby summarise the event. [Read more.](#)

Decomposing a graph into Hamilton cycles



Graphs are very simple objects which can be used to model surprisingly complex structures. For example, this includes internet graphs, social networks, and biological networks such as the brain. Graphs can also be used to model timetabling and scheduling problems. A fundamental problem in the field is to decide whether a graph contains a Hamilton cycle. [Read more.](#)

127,000 digits into Pi we've found UoB



On World Pi Day (14th March) the School of Mathematics celebrated the mathematical constant pi, and found the acronym UoB for the University of Birmingham in the digits of pi. [Read more.](#)

BRIDGE alliance with the University of Illinois



The University has strengthened its links with North America by announcing the establishment of a strategic alliance with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Research links between the two institutions include such disciplines as Railway Engineering and Maths. [Read more.](#)

National Women in Engineering Day



Monday 23 June marks the first National Women in Engineering Day launched by the Women's Engineering Society. It is intended as a day dedicated to raising the profile and celebrating the achievements of women in engineering. We are looking for women with a story to tell. Do you work in science or engineering and would like to get involved? The programme is being developed as we speak so if you would like more information or want to take part please [email us](#) or keep an eye on [our website](#).

New staff in 2013/14

The School has made three new appointments over the past couple of months. [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, 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](#)
- 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](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. **Details can be found [online](#) and [email us](#) if you would like to get involved.**

Events taking place shortly...

College events

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

[Professor James Tucker – “Going beyond the Molecule: The Chemistry of Connections”](#)
10/04/2014, 5:15-7:30pm

Lecture Theatre 203, Haworth Building (Y2), University of Birmingham

The lecture will describe and focus on an area of science called supramolecular chemistry, which is often described as "chemistry beyond the molecule". Supramolecular chemistry goes beyond traditional molecular chemistry, which largely focuses on how individual molecules are made, to focus on what a molecule can do once it is made. In particular it concerns how molecules interact with one another and how an understanding of these so-called intermolecular interactions can lead to ordered assemblies, controllable functionality and the mimicry of biological systems.

For more information on other lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural

British Science Festival Event

Details to be confirmed

Keep a look-out here as for more information on how we'll be celebrating the British Science Festival at the university. More information to follow soon!

[National Women in Engineering Day](#)

23/06/2014

Details to be confirmed

On 23rd June the EPS Community will be celebrating the achievements of women in the field of engineering as part of the first National Women in Engineering Day (NWED). Keep a look-out here as for more information on our plans for the day!

[EPS reunion](#)

14/06/2014

College of Engineering & Physical Sciences, Edgbaston Campus

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the [College of Engineering & Physical Sciences](#) (EPS), you are invited back to campus on 14 June 2014 for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham.

To book your place, please follow the online registration link below or download the appropriate booking form and return by post, fax or email. <http://bhamalumni.org/eventregistration>

University events

[Hong Kong Alumni Gathering](#)

02/04/2014, 7-9pm

Shore 3rd Floor, The L Place, 137-141 Queens's Road, Central Hong Kong

[Melbourne Alumni Gathering](#)

10/04/2014, 6:30-9pm

Seasons Botanic Gardens Hotel, Orient East Bar and Restaurant, 348 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004

[Fab 'n' Refresh](#)

26/04/2014, 10pm

Joe's Bar, Guild of Students, University of Birmingham

[Sydney Alumni Gathering](#)

29/04/2014, 7-9pm

The Zeta Br, Level 4, 488 George Street, Hilton, Sydney, Australia

[Brisbane Alumni Gathering](#)

Pig 'N' Whistle Riverside, 123 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Australia

[Alumni Sports Day](#)

14/06/2014, 9am-5pm

University of Birmingham

Do we have the right details for you?

please visit your.bham or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

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