

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Computer Science Family

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THE EPS COMMUNITY



Winter 2015

Greetings

As you will see from this newsletter it has been a busy start to the new academic year in which we have welcomed over 330 new undergraduate and postgraduate students to the School. Our researchers have been demonstrating the applications of their work across the media with the publication of Dr Flavio Garcia's work detailing the vulnerability of certain cars to "keyless theft" and Dr Nick Hawes was recently the subject of a BBC feature on the use of robots in improving human productivity in the workplace.

Our students have also been busy hosting the latest BrumHack event in October which saw over 200 students develop projects to solve industry challenges in just 24 hours. Meanwhile WISE, together with CSS, continue to promote the opportunities available to female scientists and engineers.

So as the end of the first semester in the 2015/16 academic year approaches, I would like to wish you all a pleasant and restful Christmas and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our students in the Spring Term.

With best wishes

Professor Jon Rowe

Head of School



EPS Christmas Lecture 2015: Stuff Matters

This year's EPS Christmas Lecture will be delivered on 8 December by Professor Mark Miodownik, internationally renowned materials engineer, broadcaster and resident scientist on BBC programme *Dara O Briain's Science Club*. Professor Miodownik will be revealing the changes to the material world that are coming our way from bionic people with synthetic organs to living buildings and objects that heal themselves.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Security flaw affecting more than 100 car models exposed by scientists

Dr Flavio Garcia and two colleagues from a Dutch university recently published a paper detailing how certain car models could be vulnerable to "keyless theft" by disabling the device designed to prevent them from being stolen.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

"The best place in Birmingham..."

In a new feature we'll be asking students and alumni in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences about their favourite places in Birmingham. In this edition they tell us "The best place in Birmingham to socialise after lectures".



[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



A Robot Revolution

Dr Nick Hawes was recently featured on [BBC Midlands Today](#) discussing the use of robots in a warehouse environment. Working alongside humans the robots help to increase productivity using software created in the School.



Societies News

It's been a busy few months for our societies! We hear from [BARC](#) and from the [WISE](#) committee about their events so far and their [joint event with CSS](#) early next year.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

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News Round-up...

There have been a number of appointments in the School over the past few months. Read a summary of our new staff [here](#).

A new Masters programme in Cyber Security has [received provisional certification from GCHQ](#). Birmingham joins only 11 other providers across the UK recognised by the intelligence agency as providing high quality cyber security education.

Dr Jeremy Wyatt appeared on BBC Breakfast in September as part of a series of programming dedicated to intelligent machines to discuss the Pacman Project and Deep Learning.

Student Bede Kelly is among the recipients of a new bursary from the Royal Television Society (RTS). The bursaries aim to widen participation in media and related industries and support talented students from lower income backgrounds seeking to pursue a career in television. As part of the award Bede will also receive mentoring and free membership of the RTS and The Hospital Club (a private members club for those in the creative industries) while studying and one year's free membership of the RTS after graduating.

The University recently unveiled its [five-year plan](#) to deliver real impact, tackle major challenges and transform lives through its research, education, investment and influence.

Birmingham has been named [University of the Year for Graduate Employment](#) in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015-16.

A Qur'an manuscript held by the Cadbury Research Library and thought to be among the oldest in the world, was [recently exhibited at the University](#).



BrumHack 24-hour computer challenge attracts record attendance

Over 200 students from across the country met at the University for the latest BrumHack event, in which students are challenged to develop projects to solve industry challenges in just 24 hours.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



Get involved!

There are many ways you can get involved with us:

- Send us your news for a chance to feature in our next edition
- Become a mentor and help support our students
- Offer a work experience placement
- [Hang a personalised bauble on our Christmas tree!](#)

And don't forget to let us know where your favourite place to socialise after lectures was!

[EMAIL US >](#)

Events

[EPS Inaugural Lecture Series](#)

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

Saturday 5 December 2015

[Christmas at Winterbourne](#)

Winterbourne's ever popular Christmas event returns on 5th December, bringing a traditional Christmas to Birmingham. With the house beautifully dressed in traditional decorations, carol singers providing an unforgettable atmosphere, magic lantern shows and an expanded craft stalls areas, there's plenty to keep you entertained.

Time: 11am-7pm

Venue: Winterbourne House and Garden, Edgbaston Campus

Monday 7 December 2015

[Festive Drinks at the University Carol Service](#)

Join fellow University of Birmingham alumni, staff and students for the perfect start to the Christmas season. Come back to campus for an uplifting and joyful carol service, organised by the University Chaplaincy and Department of Music and featuring carols, readings and festive poems, all in the beautiful surroundings of the Great Hall. Alumni are then invited to join us in the Rotunda (above the Aston Webb foyer) for mulled wine, fruit juice and mince pies.

Time: 6.15pm-9pm

Venue: Great Hall, Aston Webb Building, Edgbaston Campus

Tuesday 8 December 2015

EPS Christmas Lecture

[Professor Mark Miodownik: Stuff Matters](#)

Whatever people think about the rapid pace of change of technology, our most fundamental categorization of stuff on the planet has not altered: there are living things that we call life, and there is non-living stuff that we call rocks, tools, buildings and so on. As a result of our greater understanding of matter, this distinction is now becoming blurred and is likely to usher in a new materials age. Bionic people with synthetic organs, bones and even brains will be the norm. Just as we are becoming more synthetic, so our man-made environment is changing to become more lifelike: living buildings, and objects that heal-themselves are on the horizon. This lecture reviews the changes to the material world that are coming our way.

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School, Edgbaston Campus

Tuesday 19 January 2016

[Distinguished Leaders Series: Paul Szumilewicz and Lucy Williams \(HSBC\)](#)

In the latest lecture in the Distinguished Leaders Series, the Birmingham Business School (BBS) Alumni Relations team are delighted to welcome Paul Szumilewicz and Lucy Williams to discuss 'Leading Change: Challenges and opportunities of moving HSBC's Ring-fenced bank from London to Birmingham'.

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: Room G12, Main Lecture Theatre, Birmingham Business School, Edgbaston Campus

Wednesday 9 March 2016

[EPS Distinguished Lecture: Professor Dave Charlton FRS](#)

Professor Dave Charlton FRS, spokesperson of the ATLAS Collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN will be delivering the next EPS Distinguished Lecture. Please see the [website](#) for more information.

Time: 6pm-7.30pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Wednesday 8 June 2016

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2016/17.

Time: 7pm-11pm

Venue: The Great Hall, 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.

Time: 9.30am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Monday 12 September 2016

[Alumni Golf Day 2016](#)

Following on from the success of the inaugural University of Birmingham Alumni Golf Day held in 2015 at Edgbaston Golf Club, we are delighted to announce that another event is planned for 2016. Please see the [website](#) for further information.

Time: 10am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Golf Club

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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