

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Community

Part of
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 nearly 200 new undergraduate and postgraduate students to the School. We continue to excel on our research agenda, leading on a new autonomous vehicle project with Jaguar Land Rover and signing a research cooperation agreement with Beijing Jiaotong University for a joint international high-speed railway research laboratory.

Our students have also been busy with EESE Soc hosting a wide range of events for our students and continuing the ever popular careers fair, which I know some of you were at, offering your valuable advice and expertise. WISE meanwhile, continue to promote the opportunities available to female scientists and engineers.

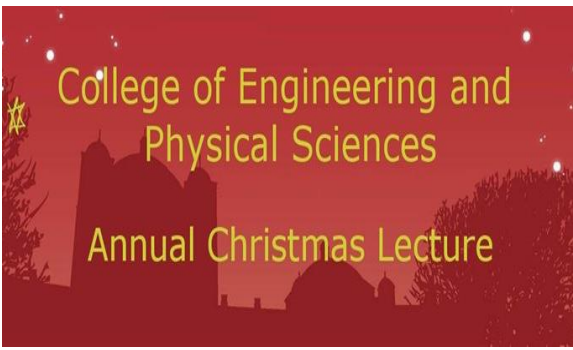
So as the end of the first semester in the 2015/16 academic year approaches, I would like to wish you all a pleasant and restful Christmas and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our students in the Spring Term.

With best wishes

Professor Peter Gardner

Head of School

Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering



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.

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University to lead on autonomous vehicle project

Birmingham is one of ten UK universities to receive funding to research autonomous vehicles. The programme was recently announced by Secretary of State for Business, Sajid Javid, during a visit to Jaguar Land Rover's facility at Gaydon, Warwickshire, and will see Dr Marina Gashinova research the performance of autonomous cars in differing weather conditions.

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"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".



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Birmingham and Beijing universities are on the right track

The University and Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU), China have signed a research cooperation agreement that announces plans for a joint international high-speed railway research laboratory. The new research lab will be run jointly by the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) and the State Key Lab of Rail Traffic Control and Safety at BJTU.

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Societies News

It's been a busy few months for our societies! We hear from [ESEE Soc](#), [BARC](#), [UBRobotics](#) and the [WISE](#) committee about their events so far and their plans for the coming months.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

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](#).

Professor Bob Stone was interviewed by BBC Midlands Today in September about his research using Virtual Reality environments to replicate the results of a 1980s study in which hospital patients recovered more quickly when exposed to green spaces. Professor Stone also appeared on BBC Radio WM to discuss the study.

Work on bringing the [GLAUCUS subsea habitat](#) back to life using virtual reality was featured on [BBC Radio 4](#). The project, led by Professor Stone and the Human Interface Technologies Team, also featured on [BBC News Online](#) and [The Plymouth Herald](#).

Also in September, a letter by Dr Jonathan Radcliffe in response to a recent opinion piece by Lord Martin Rees was published in the Financial Times. In his letter Dr Radcliffe made a case for stronger incentive for low carbon technology deployment and new business models required in the energy sector.

Researchers from the Human Interface Technologies (HIT) Team [successfully staged a demonstration of Virtual and Augmented Reality technologies](#) at the old airfield of RAF Harrowbeer in Yelverton, bringing US President Harry Truman and his famous Douglas VC-54C aircraft, nicknamed the Sacred Cow (the forerunner of Airforce One), back to Devon one last time.

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](#).



New 3D scanner brings ancient artefacts to life for digital age

Dr Tim Collins and Dr Sandra Wooley have developed an inexpensive 3D scanner to catalogue ancient artefacts in a bid to create a worldwide digital library to preserve historical items for future generations. The novel system produces models for a range of modern digital devices, reducing the need for expensive and complex laser scanning equipment.

[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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