

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Computer Science Family

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Autumn/Winter 2013

Greetings

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. Autumn is always an exciting time of year in the academic calendar, with so many new students arriving and new courses to deliver - there is always a real buzz in the atmosphere after the long summer. Alumni are playing an important part in this too this year, with many of you getting involved in different ways. We have developed our careers programme and have welcomed back a number of you as representatives of your companies. Some of you have come to give guest lectures to show our new students what computing is like in the "real world". And some of you have contributed by being members of our Industrial Advisory Board, which had its annual meeting this September. It is always great to meet old and new friends, and I encourage you to get in touch if you would like to get involved.

With best wishes,

Professor Jon Rowe
Head of School
Computer Science

Connect with us on
LinkedIn

In this issue...

[News from the School](#)

[New staff](#)

[Your School needs you](#)

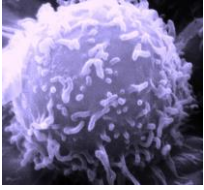
[Events taking place](#)

News from the School of Computer Science

Global ranking reinforces Birmingham's position as a world-class university

The University of Birmingham has made an impressive 15 place rise to 62nd in this year's QS World University Rankings, cementing its position in the top 100 universities globally and placing it 10th in the UK. To read more [click here](#).

Imitating Nature in Computer Science: Novel Ideas for Solving Hard Problems and Learning From Computer Simulations



Natural computing is the study of computational systems that borrow ideas from a large variety of natural systems such as Darwinian evolution, the immune systems of vertebrates, the nervous system, or the foraging behaviour of ants. Dr Christine Zarges research in this field is in particular concerned with the theoretical analysis of artificial immune systems and evolutionary algorithms used for optimisation. [Read more about her research here.](#)

Final Year Project Highly Commended for the Global Undergraduate Awards Programme



Richard Blumenthal graduated in July 2013 with a BSc Computer Science with Industrial Year. His final year project was chosen to be in the Top 8 of the Undergraduate Awards global award programme. He was "Highly Commended" for his NFT Android App and explains his project [here.](#)

My First Time...

Everyone remembers their first time. Our students and academics tell you about their first time in this [clever video.](#)

Scientists analyse global Twitter gossip around Higgs boson discovery

A model of the spread of gossip on Twitter prior to the Higgs boson discovery announcement has been developed by Birmingham computer scientists. For the first time scientists have been able to analyse the dynamics of social media on a global scale before, during and after the announcement of a major scientific discovery. [Read more.](#)

Smart Antenna Technologies



On 20 August 2013 [Smart Antenna Technologies \(SAT\)](#), a spinout company from the University of Birmingham, announced the launch of its innovative single-antenna technology for mobile devices. The technology will enable smartphone and tablet device manufacturers to replace several antennae with a single multi-band antenna, the performance of which will match that of the separate antennae at their specified frequencies. The market for this highly scalable technology is the global cellular handset market. SAT's remarkable innovation has led to the creation of a significant number of patent applications, both filed and in process. [Read more about the launch.](#)

New staff in 2013

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

We would be particularly keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in partnering with us in reaching out to primary and secondary schools, either as becoming an industry partner or by loaning us equipment for demonstrations. **Please [email us](#) if you would be interested in hearing more.**

Events taking place shortly...

School events

22/11/2013 [Theoretical Computer Science Seminar by Dr Anton Setzer, Swansea University](#)

4-5pm, UG10 Learning Centre (R28), University of Birmingham

26/11/2013 [Human Computer Interaction Seminar by Peter Roelfma](#)

4-5pm, G19 Nuffield Building (R9), University of Birmingham

04/12/2013 [Metamorphic Testing: A Simple Approach to Alleviate the Oracle Problem by Professor Tsong Chen, Faculty of Information & Communication Technologies, Swinburne University of Technology](#)

4-5pm, UG05 Learning Centre (R28), University of Birmingham

27/02/2013 [Computer Science Departmental Series Seminar by Dr Santi Phithakkitnukoon, The Open University](#)

4-5pm, UG05 Learning Centre (R28), University of Birmingham

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

The EPS Inaugural Lecture series celebrates the promotion of leading academics across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

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

University events

09/12/2013 [University Carol Service](#)

6:15-7:30pm, on campus

This annual event, organised by University Chaplains and the Department of Music, is a joyful Christmas celebration for staff, students and families.

11/12/2013 [Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market](#)

6-9pm, Victoria Square, Birmingham City Centre

Join fellow alumni for a festive drink at the largest authentic German market outside Germany and Austria.

12/12/2013 [USA Christmas Gathering in New York](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Revival, New York, USA

You are invited to the annual alumni holiday party. This is always the busiest get together of the year and we are looking forward to another fun evening.

14/12/2013 [USA Christmas Gathering in California](#)

5:30-7:30pm, California, USA

You and your partner are invited to join fellow alumni at a winter gathering cocktail party with UK University alumni from Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield.

27/03/2013 [Leaders of Tomorrow Reception](#)

6:30-8pm, London

Meet with current student recipients of the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme and students involved with the Academic Enrichment Programme at this drinks and canapés reception.

Do we have the right details for you?

According to our records your current business details are as follows: **Position** at **Organisation Name** If this is not correct, please visit your.bham or email 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, 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](#)