

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Mathematics Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Autumn/Winter 2013

Greetings

It is my pleasure to welcome you to a very full Autumn/Winter Maths newsletter, which brings you news from the wide range of research and educational activities going on in the School. There are a number of interesting events taking place over the next few months and I would encourage you to come back and join us at one of them.

Best wishes for this season and the New Year.

Professor Paul Flavell
Head of School
Mathematics

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News from the School of Mathematics

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

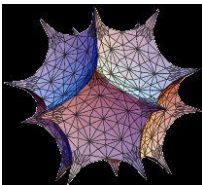
The University of Birmingham has made an impressive 15 place rise to 62nd in this year's QS World University Rankings, cementing its position in the top 100 universities globally and placing it 10th in the UK. To read more [click here](#).

...Beautiful is Useful...



Flowers are beautiful; sunsets are beautiful – but the Perron-Frobenius theory of non-negative matrices? Oh yes, enthuses Professor Peter Butkovic; beautiful – particularly when animated and set to music by Bach. Professor Peter Butkovic delivered his Inaugural Lecture in September describing the Perron-Frobenius theory. [Read more.](#)

An Introduction to Pure Mathematics



When people hear that I am a pure mathematician, the first word out of their mouths is usually “wow”, often followed by “err”, and then some pronouncement along the lines that they could never do that, or they were terrible at mathematics at school. In the more rarefied atmosphere of the College the reaction is typically more subtle, but there is still usually a lack of understanding about what modern research in mathematics is about. Birmingham Fellow Dr. David Craven provides an insight into his research. [Read more.](#)

MathSoc Update



Want to hear about what the Maths Society are up to this year so far? [Hear what MathSoc President Phoebe Facer has to say.](#)

A Day in the Life

Want to know what it's like to be a Maths Undergraduate today? Joy and Vanisa take you through a day in life of a Maths student in this [video](#).

Birmingham Popular Maths Lectures



Open to all who are interested in the mathematics and free of charge these lectures are an excellent way of expanding or re-igniting your interest in maths. The next lecture will be delivered on Wednesday 4th December by Dr Iain Styles on the subject of "Pi, interstellar dust, and single-pixel cameras: some surprising uses for random numbers". For more information please visit our [website](#).

Watson Building Refurbishment



As indicated in the last newsletter, we have undergone a bit of a makeover in the School of Mathematics. Our aim was to make the Watson Building an even more inviting and user friendly environment for our students and to update things a bit. [Read more.](#)

Careers in the School of Maths



The School of Mathematics has continued its commitment to supporting students with their careers planning in addition to providing a first class mathematics education. Careers Tutor and Senior Lecturer Dr Simon Goodwin provides an update on careers activities so far this year. [Read more.](#)

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 Mathematics to succeed? 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...

School events

Birmingham Popular Maths Lecture

04/12/2013: Pi, interstellar dust, and single-pixel cameras: some surprising uses for random numbers by Dr Iain Styles

7:30pm, Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

22/01/2014: The surprising difficulty of using mathematics in computer science by Professor Achim Jung

7:30pm, Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

12/03/2014: 100 million to 1: what can maths tell us about the Great Sperm Race by Dr David Smith

7:30pm, Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

For more information on the Birmingham Popular Maths Lecture series

visit <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/mathematics/news-and-events/birmingham-popular-maths-lecture.aspx>

Mathematics Colloquium

27/11/2013: Professor Iain Gordon, University of Edinburgh

Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

12/02/2014: Professor Leslie Goldberg, University of Oxford

Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

19/03/2014: Professor Reidun Twarock, University of York

Lecture Theatre A, Watson Building (R15), University of Birmingham

For more information on the Mathematics Colloquium visit <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mathematics/pure-maths/colloquium.aspx>

11/03/2013 [Birmingham Maths Big Quiz](#)

9:45am-2:30pm

Aimed at pupils in Year 10 pupils, schools are invited to bring a maximum of 12 contestants in teams of 4. The object of the day is to make maths fun, collaborative, competitive and with a bit of challenge as well. There will be various prizes, medals for the first three teams and a trophy for the winning team.

EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

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

26/03/2013 Professor Deryk Osthus' Inaugural Lecture

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

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.

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