

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# School of Mechanical Engineering Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



## Winter 2014

### Greetings,

As you will see from this newsletter, it has been a busy start to the new academic year, particularly with the construction of the [High Temperature Research Centre](#) in Coventry. As a College we were also prominent at the very successful [British Science Festival](#) hosted at the University.

This semester has also seen us [appoint Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi from Taylor's University, Malaysia as an Honorary Professor](#) in the School and there has been [recognition of the work of PhD student Mohammad Esgandari](#), who has been nominated for the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Innovation Award and we wish him the very best of luck for the awards ceremony on 19 November.

Our student societies have enjoyed a busy few months, with eventful and varied starts to the year for both [JUGS](#) and [UBRacing](#), who are working on ambitious plans for the 2015 Formula Student season. Our students are also working with others from across the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences developing plans to [launch their own liquid fuelled rocket into the upper atmosphere](#).

The School's educational agenda continues to excel as we rank 8th amongst all UK Schools of Mechanical Engineering in the 2015 Sunday Times University Guide, a rise of 5 places compared to 2014. In addition we have achieved a National Student Survey overall satisfaction score of 89%, an increase of 10% from our scores in 2013.

As the end of the first semester in the 2014-15 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,

**Duc Pham**

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## News from the School of Mechanical Engineering

### High Temperature Research Centre reaches the top



Construction of the University of Birmingham's High Temperature Research Centre reached a significant milestone recently as the University and contractor Wates Construction celebrated the development's 'topping out'. [Read more.](#)

### Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, becomes Honorary Professor in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences



Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Dean of Engineering at Taylor's University, Malaysia, was appointed Honorary Professor of the University of Birmingham, this summer. This appointment further strengthens the important ties between the University of Birmingham and Taylor's University, Malaysia's leading private educational institution. [Read more.](#)

### James Watt Undergraduate Society (JUGS) update



It's been a busy start to the new academic year for JUGS. The committee [tell us more](#) about their events so far this semester.

### UBRacing update



The 2014/15 year looks to be a busy but promising one for UBRacing. Iestyn Stead, Director of Media and Head of the Powertrain team [tells us more.](#)

### Rocketry Society launch Project Chamberlain



The University of Birmingham Rocketry Society (UBRS) is the newest student society within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. The group are embarking on the significant task of launching their own liquid fuelled rocket into the earth's upper atmosphere in a challenge known as Project Chamberlain. Terry Moorton, President of UBRS and Director of Project Chamberlain, [tells us more.](#)

## Recognition for University of Birmingham Research at IET Innovation Awards



Talented PhD student, Mohammad Esgandari, has been nominated for the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Innovation Award for his pioneering Partitioned Brake Pad concept. Mohammad will join finalists and sponsors at the prestigious ceremony held on Wednesday 19 November at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, London. [See more.](#)

## College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the British Science Festival 2014: Highlights



The College shone at the British Science Festival in September with over 30 contributions to the Festival's main scientific events and workshops and the Young People's Programme. From new robot technology to HS2 and the big bang, our scientists and engineers addressed the big debates and offered interactive activity to engage young people in STEM futures. [See more.](#)

## Giving back



Did you know that College of Engineering and Physical Sciences graduates make up approximately 22% of the University's alumni population and are among the most generous donors to the Circles of Influence campaign? [Read more.](#)

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## New staff in 2014

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 our students to succeed?

We're currently looking for help and support from alumni with the following:

- Work experience placements are invaluable for our students, allowing them to learn about the world of work first-hand and apply their knowledge in a real-life setting. If you work in industry and think you could offer a work experience placement to our undergraduate or postgraduate students, please [email us](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back, from providing a career profile, to mentoring a student. Please [email us](#) if you would like to get involved and we'll be happy to talk to you.

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## Events taking place shortly...

### College and School events

#### EPS Inaugural Lecture Series

Thursday 27 November 2014

[Professor Jeremy Wyatt, Professor of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, School of Computer Science](#)

Robotics is reaching a tipping point. The intelligence and robustness of robots increased hugely in the past fifteen years. This has allowed them to leave the lab and carefully controlled environments like the factory floor and enter our world. In this public lecture, aimed at the non-specialist, Professor Jeremy Wyatt will explain the achievements of intelligent robotics to date. He will also highlight some of the challenges we must meet to bring robots into our everyday lives. Finally, Professor Wyatt will highlight some of the work carried out at Birmingham over the past decade, particularly breakthroughs in robot planning, robot learning and robot manipulation. The lecture should be accessible to people from age 12 up. Live robot demonstrations will be included during the evening.

**Venue:** Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School Building, followed by a drinks reception in the Wolfson Common Room, Edgbaston Campus

**For more information on other lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eps/inaugural)**

**Friday 28 – Saturday 29 November 2014**

**[The National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition](#)**

Supported by the University of Birmingham, this is the largest engineering recruitment exhibition in the UK and with top companies including Network Rail, Amey, Canary Wharf Contractors, The Royal Air Force, Carillion and many more in attendance, this is your opportunity to find job vacancies, find answers to all your career-related questions and meet employers.

**Venue:** NEC, Birmingham

**Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December 2014**

**[International Conference on High Speed Rail - 8th-10th December 2014](#)**

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Shinkansen high speed line in Japan. The University of Birmingham is marking this historic occasion by holding an international conference on High Speed Rail

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Tuesday 10 March 2015**

**[EPS Distinguished Lecture: Prof Dr PE Seeram Ramakrishna](#)**

Longer life has always been a dream of human beings. Except for the recent one hundred years, the average life span was below forty for the past 10,000 years. Noticeable aging effects kick in as early as mid-twenties! More than a million medical devices have been invented to improve the quality of human life. What promise do they hold for humans to live beyond 100 years healthily and perhaps happily?

**Venue:** EPS College, Edgbaston Campus

**Tuesday 9 June 2015**

**[EPS Societies' Awards Night](#)**

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2014/15

**Venue:** The Great Hall, Edgbaston Campus

**Saturday 20 June 2015**

**[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

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

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## **University events**

**25 November – 3 December 2014**

**[The Edward Cadbury Lectures 2014](#)**

The theme for 2014 is 'Is the New Testament Anti-Jewish?' and will consist of a series of lectures given by Professor Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University USA.

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Thursday 27 November 2014**

**[Chaplaincy lecture - A Quaker astronomer reflects on the Universe and us](#)**

This year's Chaplaincy Lecture will be given by Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a prominent astrophysicist and Quaker.

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Edgbaston Campus

**Monday 8 December 2014**

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

Organised by the University Chaplaincy and Department of Music, this is a joyful Christmas celebration for alumni, staff, students and families followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Rotunda at 7.30pm.

**Venue:** Great Hall, Aston Webb Building, Edgbaston Campus

**Thursday 19 February 2015**

**[Alumni vs Students vs Staff Quiz, 6.30-9.00pm](#)**

*Put your general knowledge to the test at an informal quiz in Joe's Bar, Guild of Students.*

**Venue:** Joe's Bar, Guild of Students, Edgbaston Campus

**Saturday 12 September 2015**

**[Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion](#)**

*Alumni who graduated in 1965 or before are welcome to join for a special reunion lunch*

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

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## Do we have the right details for you?

Please visit [your.bham](http://your.bham) or email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto: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](http://your.bham), emailing [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto: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](#)