



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Department of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Community

Part of
THE EPS COMMUNITY



Welcome to your 2019 EESE Alumni Newsletter



Hello,

It's been an exceptionally busy year for the Department! We successfully launched a new Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering undergraduate degree which runs alongside our existing offerings. The programme provides a solid grounding in the underlying principles of the subject, along with a thorough, connected overview of electronic, mechanical and computer technology.

[Read more from Peter Gardner](#)



First students complete Rail studies in Singapore

The first students have completed their studies as part of a unique railway education partnership between the University of Birmingham and Singapore's public transport services provider SMRT. Congratulations to each of them!

[Find out more](#)



Mainline testing of UK's first hydrogen train gets green light

Porterbrook and the University's Centre for Railway Research and Education announce the UK's first hydrogen train, HydroFLEX, will be tested on the mainline railway following a successful proof-of-concept.

[Find out more](#)



Birmingham technology could defend against blackouts

Engineers at Birmingham have developed a solution using controllable capacitors that will ensure the system would never have to be shut down – eliminating the risk of power blackouts.

[Find out more](#)



VR programme for NHS Digital Healthcare Trials

The Human Interface Technologies team donated an innovative virtual reality relaxation programme, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, to Torbay Hospital in May 2019.

[Find out more](#)



From the wider College: The problem with the plastics problem

Solving the plastics problem will not be easy. It does not have one single and simple solution. The problem is complex and often underestimated. Single use plastics, exemplified by plastic packaging will, and should, never be eliminated completely - to do so would risk other undesirable environmental consequences.

[Find out more](#)



Birmingham to support local Institute of Technology

In April, the UK Government announced funding for twelve Institutes of Technology to be developed across the UK, and the University and Department of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering are honoured to support the programme.

[Find out more](#)



EPS Societies' Awards

986 nominations were received to this year's student society awards. We're proud to announce that our own RailSoc won the *Industrial Award* in recognition of their work with rail companies across the country, a huge achievement considering the society is not yet 2 years old! Well done RailSoc!

[Discover our Award winners](#)



Launch of a brand new website

We're excited to launch to you, our alumni, the brand new EPS Community website; you're the first people to see this! EESE and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, in which we are part, has a community of over 85,000 graduates, students, staff and friends. This new site celebrates everything that brings our unique community together and explores opportunities for you to join in. Come along to one of our events, see what our 38 student groups are up to, learn about your fellow alumni, and discover how you could get involved. Let us know your feedback by emailing eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk, we'd love to hear from you.

Take a look

WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

Share your story and inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire students and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. Plus, anyone who submits a profile before 1 November will receive an Old Joe magnet.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)



Alumni perspective: Jane Simpson

MPhil Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1996 graduate Jane Simpson describes how her time at the University of Birmingham led her to a successful career as the first female Chief Engineer for Network Rail and her current role as Head of Capital Assets for Severn Trent.

[Learn more about Jane](#)

MENTORING

Could you mentor a student?

We're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise, advice and inspiration to help our students start their careers. Mentoring makes a real difference; we all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off. If you'd like to be that person, please get in touch.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)

News roundup

[Global success continues for University of Birmingham](#) in World University Rankings, climbing four places in the 2020 THE Rankings to 112th globally.

Virtual reality to inspire the [next generation of female medics](#).

'Best Overall Paper' win for students at the [International Radar Symposium Conference](#) in Germany.

Dynamic duo [break public engagement record](#) with 'Sir Paul Curran Award' for collaboration work.

A team of simulation specialists were granted unique access to Drake's Island in Plymouth Sound to undertake a whirlwind survey for the collection of data to [develop a detailed Virtual Reality model](#).

Birmingham Railway researchers [invite insights into Africa's railway system](#).

Researchers from the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education are part of a collaboration which has [won an award at the Railway Industry Innovation Awards](#).

University scientists joined their Chinese counterparts at the 2019 UK-China Future Energy System Development Forum to [explore new and innovative ways of accelerating the adoption of renewable energy](#).

Birmingham signs [strategic partnership agreement with Transport Systems Catapult](#) to begin a three-year strategic collaboration in intelligent transport solutions.

Events

[Sustainable civil nuclear power workshop](#)

17 September 2019, 9:30am-5pm
Old Gym, University of Birmingham

[Join In Hong Kong](#)

24 October 2019, 6:30-8:30pm
Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Admiralty, Hong Kong

[My Life in Maths and Shaping the Brain - London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures](#)

19 September 2019, 6:30-8pm
Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

[Careers and Coffee](#)

29 October, 6-8pm
Cherry Reds, Birmingham City Centre

[Join In New York](#)

13 November 2019, 6:30-8:30pm
Four Seasons Hotel, Barclay Street, New York

[Wetting of hydrophobic and superhydrophobic surfaces workshop](#)

20 September 2019, 10:30-11:30am
G34 Engineering Building, University of Birmingham

[Join In San Francisco](#)

14 November, 6:30-8:30pm
Waterbar, 399 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

[Book to the Future](#)

18-19 October 2019 The University's annual festival of the written and spoken word, featuring free workshops, panel discussions, performances and author talks, including:

- [The return of race science, Angela Saini](#)
18 October, 5:30-7pm
- [From Brum to bakes, Candice Brown](#)
19 October, 6-7pm

[LGBTSTEMinar](#)

10 January 2020
University of Birmingham

[House of Lords Reception](#)

24 April 2020, 6:30-8:30pm
House of Lords, London

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

10 June 2020, 7:30-11:30pm
Great Hall, University of Birmingham



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