



## Spring/Summer 2013

### Greetings

Welcome to the first round-up of College news and community activity. We are keen to hear your thoughts on whether we are sharing the right information with you and on what else you would like to hear about. If you have any comments, please email us at [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

With best wishes,

### Kathryn Chedzoy

Alumni Relations Manager,  
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences  
[k.a.chedzoy@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.chedzoy@bham.ac.uk)

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## Top stories from the College

### From *The Birmingham Brief*: The Race for Rare Earth Metals

In the last couple of years the rare earth elements have hit the headlines due to supply issues for these often overlooked materials. In the 1980's rare earth minerals were mined and separated primarily in the US. However in the 1990's China began to produce rare earth oxides and elements. [Read more >>](#)

### Student observations of Comet Ison herald a new era at West Hills Observatory



University of Birmingham undergraduates have made history by capturing an early glimpse of the eagerly anticipated Comet Ison during the last ever observation at the University's West Hills Observatory before a major upgrade project begins. [Read more >>](#)

[University of Birmingham receives £5.9 million to assess the underworld](#)



The University of Birmingham will receive one of four large grants as part of a multi-million pound investment in leading engineering research projects announced by Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts on 12 March 2013. [Read more >>](#)

### BP establishes initial four year £4.5million UK undergraduate scholarship fund



The University of Birmingham is one of nine universities across the UK that has been selected by BP, one of the UK's leading graduate recruiters, to be part of its new scholarship programme for talented STEM undergraduates. [Read more >>](#)

## And from the University..

### Our economic impact on the city and region

A new report has been released that looks at the University of Birmingham's contribution to the regional economy. The study shows that we generated £1.072 billion of spending in the West Midlands economy in the 2011/12 academic year, a 38% increase since the 2005/06 study. [Read more >>](#)

## Are you LinkedIn?

Created at the start of February, the LinkedIn group for alumni, staff and students from the College is already providing a great way for the 2,000 members to network, discuss relevant subjects and hear about what is happening in the College.

As well as the main college group, there are also individual groups for each of the nine schools. If you haven't joined your school group yet then please do by following the relevant link below.

- [Chemistry](#)
- [Chemical Engineering](#)
- [Civil Engineering](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Metallurgy and Materials](#)
- [Physics and Astronomy](#)

## Alumni Annual Fund projects

***The best students and staff have brilliant ideas.***

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni to the 'Influencing Innovation' theme of our *Circles of Influence* campaign, £165,000 was available this year to fund exciting and innovative projects that will have an immediate impact on staff and students.

Seven College projects were partially or fully funded. Details of the projects can be [found online](#), (listed by School).

Thank you to everyone who donated! If you are interested in funding future activities that support your School in this way, please [visit the website](#) or contact [Laura Fairbanks](#) [+44(0)121 414 8894].

## What is your story?

Everyone has a story to tell and we would love to hear yours. What have you been up to since leaving Birmingham? Have you had any experiences or challenges that you would like to share with fellow

students?

Your stories help us to promote the University, communicate with prospective students and complete the history of this institution. Please email us at [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk), we would love to hear from you.

## Are you a PhD graduate?

### You are invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PhD Careers Conference on Tuesday 18 June 2013

The event includes an employer fair, buffet lunch, networking, presentations and a number of careers advice and skills training sessions for PhD students. More information about the day can be found [online](#).

Our PhD students really value the opportunity to meet alumni and hear about the career paths you have followed since completing your doctorates. If you would be happy to attend the event and chat informally to our students, be involved in mock interview sessions or provide CV advice and checking, then please confirm your attendance and involvement by emailing Jemma Saunders [j.j.saunders@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.j.saunders@bham.ac.uk).

### Looking for PhD mentors

As an alumnus of the University, we believe your expertise is invaluable to our current postgraduate students. We recognise that the quickest way to succeed is to learn from people who have been successful themselves and research has confirmed that being mentored is linked with greater achievement. The Careers Network are launching a pilot PhD mentoring scheme and are looking for PhD graduates to mentor current PhD students. This would be a voluntary commitment of a couple of hours a month. If you are interested and would like to know more, please email Jayne Sharples [atj.s.sharples@bham.ac.uk](mailto:atj.s.sharples@bham.ac.uk).

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## Events taking place shortly...

### Introducing the Inaugural lecture series

The Inaugural Lectures showcase some of our leading scientists who are pushing the boundaries in their disciplines. The event marks an individual's promotion to Professor and also provides a rare opportunity to hear first-hand about their research. **Information on the lectures can be found [online](#).**

### Thinking the unthinkable – contemplating major changes to urban transport to create sustainable transport futures

#### Inaugural Lecture of Professor Miles Tight

Professor of Energy and Automotive Engineering

Thursday 16 May (17:15-19:30)

**[Book your place now](#) for Thursday's lecture**

#### Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Music of the Stars

Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W1B 1NT

Thursday 16 May (18:15-20:30)

**[Professor Bill Chaplin](#) will discuss the leading role that Birmingham is playing in this work.**

**For more details and to book your place, [visit the event page](#)**

#### Quantum Technology - what cold atoms can do for us

#### Inaugural Lecture of Professor Kai Bong

Professor of Cold Atom Physics

## [Book your place now](#)

### **Alumni Reunion: 8 June 2013**

It's not long now until the annual Alumni Reunion. If you graduated in [1988](#), [1978](#), [1973](#), [1968](#), [1963](#) or [before 1963](#), then why not come back to campus on Saturday 8 June 2013 to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation with your fellow classmates.

***Book your place now by following the link on your graduating year above.***

### **Community Day: 9 June 2013**

We are throwing the doors open for you to see for yourselves the great things the University is doing for people here in the Midlands and around the world. A great chance for you to bring your family and friends to see where you studied! [More details >>](#)

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## **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](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](#), 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](#)