



February 2015

Greetings,

It is always a pleasure to meet alumni who are able to join us for various events in Birmingham and overseas. Late last year we held a reception for alumni in Singapore and enjoyed an evening in company of many friends from both Singapore and Malaysia. Whilst I am not able to offer much good cheer about local football to former Birmingham fans at such events, I could report that the University and College has been enjoying a period of elevation in key league tables. The demand for our undergraduate programmes has grown in the College along with our highest ever entry quality, indeed the highest in the University! Here in Birmingham many alumni have been able to attend our Distinguished and [Christmas Lecture](#) series, our next being on 10 March when we hear astonishing accounts of ["How to live beyond 100 years"](#) as science and engineered devices will play a critical role as many live longer.

The College was delighted to welcome [new honorary graduates](#) at the December degree ceremonies. We heard the stories of three extraordinary lives of scientist and businessman Kevin Gell, pharmaceutical entrepreneur Nitin Sodha and structural engineer John Nolan. All three gave inspiring speeches to our graduands – encouraging them, and all of us, to be ambitious and confident in our abilities to make a real difference in the world.

Two major stories for us in recent weeks, which you may have read in the Christmas message, have been the award of very significant funding to Prof Kai Bongs (School of Physics and Astronomy) for his work in [frontier science in quantum technology](#) and its translation to new devices that measure gravity an time very accurately. We also received news of a successful bid to establish an [HS2 College for talent development](#) for the new high speed train economy, this will be located in the city centre. Meanwhile building is drawing to completion on our new industrial campus site at Ansty, near Coventry. Alongside the [Manufacturing Technology Centre](#) our [High Temperature Research Centre](#) building is gracefully located alongside the lakeside.

Finally I extend a warm invitation to you to attend our Summer 2015 Reunion on Saturday 20 June.

With best wishes

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Professor Richard A Williams
Head of College, Engineering and Physical Sciences

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Top stories from the College

Don't miss out! Book your place on the EPS Reunion 2015!



Do you have fond memories of your time at the University of Birmingham? Do you still keep in touch with those classmates who you pulled all-night study sessions with to get that last assignment finished? As a graduate of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, we would love for you to join us on campus on Saturday 20 June 2015 for a reunion. [Read more.](#)

Professor Jim Al-Khalili delivers inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture



On Wednesday 10 December the College welcomed almost 1,000 guests to hear Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Presenter of *The Life Scientific* on Radio 4, British scientist and author, deliver the inaugural EPS Christmas Lecture. In this lecture Jim selects some of his favourite scientific conundrums. From the Monty Hall problem to Olbers' paradox about why the sky gets dark at night and from Schrödinger's famous cat to those pesky demons of Maxwell and Laplace. View the full lecture [here](#).

Professor Richard Williams appointed Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering



[Professor Richard Williams](#), Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has been appointed as Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, following his election in September as a Trustee of the Academy. The Academy with its 1,400 Fellows is the premier leadership voice for engineering and offers advice to government and other policy bodies. [Read more.](#)

Birmingham Energy Institute



[The Birmingham Energy Institute \(BEI\)](#) brings together more than 140 academics across the University of Birmingham engaged in energy and energy related research and development.

The BEI is a focal point for the University and its national and international partners to create change in the way we deliver, consume and think about energy. Birmingham Energy Institute *In Focus*, BEI's bi-monthly newsletter was launched in December 2014. The [first edition](#) highlights various important new appointments to the institute, as well as developments for the next policy commission on the 'cold economy'.

For latest news and developments, subscribe to Birmingham Energy Institute *In Focus* [here](#).

Strong performance by College in recent national research assessment



The [College of Engineering and Physical Sciences](#) has collectively achieved a very strong performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) - the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. There were strong performances right across the disciplines from the fields of pure science and materials, to applied engineering. Read more [here](#).



College celebrates honorary graduates

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences was delighted to celebrate the honorary graduations of Kevin Gell, Nitin Sodha and John Nolan at the December 2014 degree congregations. [Read more](#).

Join us at the next Postgraduate Open Day on 18 March!



Attending a Postgraduate Open Day is a great way to learn more about the programmes on offer in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, meet academic staff and explore the campus. [See more](#).

The Road Less Travelled – TEDxUniversityofBirmingham



After a successful [first event last year](#), TEDx returns to the University of Birmingham! With ideas worth spreading, some of Birmingham's leading academics will grace the TEDx stage in the Aston Webb building on Saturday 21 March. [Read more](#).

Alumni in the attic



It's amazing what you can find buried amongst boxes and personal effects of a bygone era. That's just what happened to Alan Cameron when he was clearing out his parents' attic. Bound in bubble-wrap and old newspaper he discovered five immaculate photographs of his late father Robert's time with the School of Mechanical Engineering, the Engineering Society and the First XV Rugby Team between 1929 and 1932. [Read more](#).

Missed out on our last edition of the Schools' Newsletters?

Do you have a feeling that your last School's Newsletter missed your inbox, or got lost in a heap of emails?

If you'd like to catch up on past news from your School, simply visit our PDF archive [here](#)

Your College 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:

- **EPS Open Days, 26-27 June.** Could you donate a couple of hours of your time to pop back to your old School and speak to our prospective students about your time at Birmingham? For more information and to get involved [email us](#)
- All women in science and engineering. As part of **National Women in Engineering Day, 23 June**, the EPS Community is hosting a number of activities, conversations and events designed to celebrate women in engineering and scientific careers. If you work in science or engineering and would like to sit on our panel, get involved in the conversation on Twitter, or come along to our evening event, please get in touch by [emailing us](#)

There are many ways in which you can give a little back to the university. Details can be found [online](#), and you can [email us](#)

Why did you choose to study at Birmingham? What was the best thing about your time here?

Our current and prospective students would love to hear how it was you came to study at Birmingham and how life has been since.

Would you be able to donate 30 minutes of your time to provide a [career profile](#)?

By sharing your experiences, you can provide students in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences with invaluable tips, advice and perspectives on the vastly differing career paths they can take after they have graduated, and help open up new ideas! All profiles will be displayed on the website.

EPS events taking place shortly...

Wednesday 25 February 2015

[Astronomy in the City](#)

What do we do after massive stars explode as brilliant supernovae, and then die as black holes, vanishing from traditional telescopes? With a gravitational-wave observatory, the story is just beginning... The University of Birmingham Observatory invites you to our "Astronomy in the City" event, where we will be discussing the observation of black holes. Join us for stargazing, observing with portable telescopes, observatory visits to use our half metre telescope, talks from our experts about cutting edge astronomy research, and your chance to ask them anything about astronomy!

Time: 6pm

Venue: Poynting Building, Edgbaston Campus

Tuesday 10 March 2015

[How to Live Beyond 100 Years? Science and engineering-enable ageless living](#)

[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?

Time: 6pm-7.30pm

Venue: Chemical Engineering Building, Edgbaston Campus

Tuesday 9 June 2015

[EPS Societies' Awards](#)

Come and celebrate with our student societies as we recognise their fabulous achievements in 2015/16.

Time: 7pm-11pm

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.

Time: 9.30am-6pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Please visit the [website](#) for more information and to secure your place at the Reunion

Tuesday 23 June 2015

[National Women in Engineering Day Celebrations](#)

Following the success of last year's first ever National Women in Engineering Day (NWED), this year's event is being held on Tuesday 23 June to celebrate the achievements of women in engineering and science. The EPS Community will be celebrating the day with a variety of exciting activities and events on campus.

Time: Programme to be confirmed

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

For more information please [email us](#)

University events...

Thursday 26 February 2015

[Alumni vs Students vs Staff Pub Quiz](#)

Put your general knowledge to the test and compete against teams of current students at our second annual quiz in Joe's Bar, Guild of Students. An alumni team won in 2014 so we need you to get a team together and continue the winning streak.

Time: 6.30pm-9pm

Venue: Guild of Students, Edgbaston Campus

18-21 March 2015

[Arts and Science Festival](#)

The University of Birmingham's Art & Science Festival will return for its third year in 2015. Running Monday 16 – Sunday 22 March and themed Sight & Sound, the festival will be a free programme showcasing culture, research and collaboration at the University through talks, exhibition, performances, workshops and screenings

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Saturday 21 March 2015

[The Road Less Travelled – TEDxUniversityofBirmingham](#)

After a successful [first event last year](#), TEDx returns to the University of Birmingham! With ideas worth spreading, some of Birmingham's leading academics will grace the TEDx stage in the Aston Webb building on Saturday 21 March.

Venue: Aston Webb Building, Edgbaston Campus

Saturday 25 April 2015

[Fab 'n' Refresh](#)

On Saturday 25th April 2015 the Guild of Students, in association with the Development and Alumni Office, presents Fab 'n' Refresh! Come back onto campus to party the night away with fellow alumni who graduated from 2005 onwards.

Time: 10pm-late

Venue: Joe's Bar, Guild of Students

Saturday 13 June 2015

[Alumni Sports Day](#)

Save the date for the 14th annual University of Birmingham Sport Alumni Sports Day. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before with 16 events across 14 different sports. The events will take place on campus, at the Bournbrook and Metchley pitches and the Edgbaston Priory Club, creating a multi-sport festival.

Time: 9am-5pm

Venue: Various

Saturday 12 September 2015

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

If you graduated in 1965 or before you are invited back to campus on Saturday 12 September to a Golden and 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of

Birmingham.

Time: 10.45am-4pm

Venue: Edgbaston Campus

Please visit the [website](#) for more information

Alumni group events...

The University of Birmingham has alumni groups all over the world that organise local events. To join a group and see details of upcoming events please visit the [webpage](#) and select your location.

Do we have the right business details for you?

Please visit [your.bham](#) or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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