

Question Time

and finally...

Caroline Radnor



- 1 What do you do?**
I am the University's Sustainable Travel Coordinator, responsible for implementing the Sustainable Travel Plan to help achieve our carbon reduction targets. I also help to improve the wellbeing of the workforce and future development of the campus, implementing initiatives around walking, cycling, public transport and reducing the need to travel.
- 2 What do you really do?**
Try and get people to leave their cars at home and travel sustainably!
- 3 How do you get to work?**
Train from Lichfield.
- 4 What's the best aspect of your job?**
Having the opportunity to make a difference and work with very a diverse group of people. Being an alumna of the University it's great to be working at the place I originally studied.
- 5 What's the worst aspect of your job?**
It is a challenge trying to change people's attitudes and behaviour towards travelling sustainably.
- 6 What would you like to be doing in five years' time?**
Progressing my career at the University.
- 7 What do you enjoy most about University life?**
I love the campus, it's such a great environment to work in and there is always something going on.
- 8 How do you unwind?**
Spending time with friends and family, cycling and going to concerts.
- 9 Which book is on your bedside table?**
Picking up the Pieces by Paul Britton.
- 10 What is your favourite tipple?**
Red wine.
- 11 What makes a good night out?**
Dinner and dancing with my husband, family and friends.

- 12 Which animal are you most like?**
A butterfly as I'm very social and interact with lots of different groups of people both professionally and socially.
- 13 Describe your favourite holiday.**
The Maldives; sunshine, relaxation and cocktails!
- 14 What is your favourite sport?**
Watching – probably tennis and playing – you can't beat a game of rounders!
- 15 Who are the top three people on your fantasy dinner party list?**
Jon Bon Jovi
Paul Britton
Sir Winston Churchill.
- 16 If you were a superheroine, who would you be?**
Superwoman!
- 17 What has been the highlight of your life to date?**
It has to be our wedding day in December 2008. I'd love to do it all over again!
- 18 If you could banish one thing from the world what would it be?**
Ignorance.
- 19 Describe yourself in three words**
Thoughtful, reliable and happy.
- 20 What is your personal motto?**
Keep smiling.

Have you read the feature on sustainable travel in this issue? Turn to page 8 for more.

Would you like to appear on Question Time?
or know a colleague who would?
Contact: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk

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International impact

March/April 2011



In the news



BUAFTA winners



Question Time

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

As I see it. An engaged university



Michael Sheppard, Provost and Vice-Principal

YOUR BUZZ

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Edited by Kate Pritchard

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I am often asked by colleagues (and my family!), 'Exactly what is a Provost and Vice-Principal?' Indeed, the question came up again from a Head of School over dinner at the excellent University Leadership Forum meeting recently. Well, the title Provost was originally ecclesiastical: the Provost was the immediate subordinate of the Abbot in a monastery or, of the Bishop in a cathedral. In England the title of Provost in cathedrals was completely replaced by that of Dean; how times have changed. The title later migrated into the academy and is in common usage in North America and Australasia, where it sometimes appears as Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. At this University, the Provost has specific oversight of the University's academic work and, crucially, the necessary resources required to deliver the academic strategy. This includes the annual compact process with Heads of College and Corporate Services, agreeing student numbers, research targets and staffing requirements, as well as opportunities for strategic investment. The Vice-Principal role, meanwhile, is to support directly the Vice-Chancellor and Principal in his challenging role of leading this great University and is particularly responsible for external engagement. In combining the two roles, the University is making a statement about the interconnected nature of our academic work and our external engagement as well as our international aspirations. For me, being Provost and Vice-Principal means being involved in some of the most exciting work the University does.

Engagement in action

One of the five strategic goals in the new Strategic Framework is to enhance our performance and status as an engaged University. This will involve our academic and professional staff, our students and our extensive community of alumni, enhancing the University's position as a body capable of leading local, national and international agendas. I hope you will agree that in this issue of Buzz we can see several examples of this in action. A few weeks ago I represented the University at the launch of the new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the culmination of several months of intense discussions

with the Ministry of Defence and the NHS, with the University as a key partner. This £20 million collaboration will lead to ground-breaking advances that have the potential, not only to save the lives of our soldiers in the field, but also of accident victims here at home. Microbiology research at the Centre will be supported by the University's high-throughput sequencing capability, and laboratory studies will be complemented by the University's world-leading expertise in clinical trials. The Centre is a compelling example of how translational research originating in our laboratories can lead directly to better care for patients.

Leading locally

The University is also an important leader regionally. Many of you will be aware that the Coalition Government has abolished the Regional Development Agencies, including our local Advantage West Midlands. As AWM pulls back, regional organisations such as the University become increasingly important through engagement in partnerships with other key players. A good example of this is the Science City Research Alliance, a package of collaborative research between the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick, building on three areas of complementary research strengths of regional and national relevance: energy futures, advanced materials, and translational medicine. This is a remarkable success story funded by AWM initially but now increasingly successful in leveraging research and commercial funding. We will continue to lead this initiative after AWM's closure because we are committed to its aim of building on the strong scientific base in the Birmingham region to benefit the region's economy and residents.

Our global profile

Another exciting area of development is our global profile. I chair the Strategic Review of Global Engagement Group, a diverse group of academic and non-academic staff as well as several members of our University Council. The Review has been tasked to look at three areas: the University's global engagement strategy, new international markets (including Brazil) and our overseas presence (including the proposal for a University of Birmingham Centre in Guangzhou, China). The Group

will report in the summer term and I am confident that this work and these initiatives will maximise Birmingham's global impact and profile.

Celebrating staff

But perhaps the best part of my job is engaging with people here on this campus. When I moved across to this role from Dean of Medicine the thing that struck me most was the passion, commitment and enthusiasm of staff, wanting to make the University a great environment for students and colleagues alike. In spite of some of the challenges ahead, this vibrancy still runs through the community and was exemplified to me by the recent Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTA), details of which appear in this issue. These awards, as you all know, are an opportunity to celebrate the success of administrative, technical and support staff who have made an outstanding contribution across the University. As the line goes – 'we all know people who do a great job for our students, colleagues and visitors day in day out; these awards are by staff, for staff.' It was such a privilege to be involved in that ceremony, to see the faces of the BUAFTA winners, and to hear about their pride and passion in their jobs. I was so pleased to sit at a table with the nominees for the Role Model of the Year award, and their partners. There was not only delight in being nominated but also a sense of playing a significant part through the whole ceremony. Without their work, the academic enterprise of the University could not occur. A great evening; importantly, engagement needs to be both external and internal.

So there we have examples of regional, national, international and internal engagement. I find being the Provost and Vice-Principal of a university as dynamic and well-placed as Birmingham is exciting, challenging, and fun. Having to explain what I do from time to time is a small price to pay!

*Michael Sheppard,
Provost and Vice-Principal*

Want to know who sits on the University Council?

A revised version of the Council organisation is online www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/resources/resources



Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, Professor David Greenaway

Major collaboration with University of Nottingham announced

The University recently announced a new framework for collaboration with the University of Nottingham. The two universities have many complementary strengths and share characteristics of scale, history, outstanding research, high quality student experience and international engagement. As UK higher education faces its most challenging time for a generation, this signature partnership will offer a distinctive approach to working together and sharing expertise – where it is in both universities' mutual interest to do so. Creative approaches to developing intellectual capital are at the heart of the partnership.

The framework for collaboration will

see us working jointly with Nottingham in six areas:

- Joint academic appointments
- Teaching, learning and student experience
- Research initiatives
- International opportunities, including emerging markets and student mobility
- Business engagement and knowledge transfer
- Management and administration

As details emerge of what opportunities this framework may bring for individuals and teams, staff will be kept informed.

Learn more www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/news/framework.

New members of University Executive Board (UEB)

Professor Adam Tickell Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Knowledge Transfer

Adam joined the University in February and was previously Vice-Principal (Research, Enterprise and Communications) at Royal Holloway, University of London. He brings a wealth of leadership experience in Higher Education, particularly in developing and implementing research strategy. He is also a leading, research active, social scientist and has extensive experience in working with inter-disciplinary research teams.

Professor Karen O'Brien Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education

Karen, currently Professor of English Literature, Chair of the University Board of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Academic Coordinator for Audit and Enhancement, and Deputy Chair of the Arts Faculty at Warwick University, will join the University during the summer as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education. Karen is an intellectual historian of the British, American and French Enlightenments and alongside her research activities teaches a range of MA and undergraduate courses.

Want to know more about the members of UEB?

View them talking about their role online at www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/resources/meet-ueb

Download the Buzz UEB special edition

which also shows the Registrars Leadership Group (RLG) www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/resources/resources



Virtual rehab technology brings the countryside to you

Researchers in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) are developing ways to bring natural beauty spots to people who can't visit them in person. For example, the team from the School of Electrical Electronic and Computer Engineering (EECE) are currently using digital terrain model assets and aerial photographs to develop an interactive 3D model of part of the South West Coastal Path near Plymouth.

These virtual technologies aim to improve location-based rehabilitation with the benefits of the environments working in real-time and forming an affordable solution. This approach builds upon mental health studies that show that exposing individuals to natural environments like rural and coastal settings, gardens and parks both reduces stress and helps people to recover from fatigue and improve their cognitive function.

The research has implications for the

rehabilitation of patients with a variety of conditions including post traumatic stress disorder, depression, attention deficit disorder and sleep deficit. This includes those in hospitals, hospices, care homes, civilian and military rehabilitation centres.

More generally, restorative environments as simple as window views onto garden-like scenes can also be influential in reducing post-operative recovery periods and the need for pain relief medication.

The research is part of a collaborative project with the European Centre for Environment and Human Health, the National Marine Aquarium and the Human Factors Integration Defence Technology Centre. The project has received interest from the National Trust and Ministry of Defence, who are looking at how virtual restorative environments such as these can be used in the future to improve the well-being of sailors and submariners on long-duration missions.



The new steam bridge by University station takes waste heat from our energy generating plant to heat the Medical School. It will save us a considerable amount of CO₂ per year. **Learn more** in a future issue of Buzz.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unleash your research online

Library Services is offering a range of means to make your research available online. The initiative is part of a growing movement to open up access to research resources created in universities for maximum impact worldwide. All active researchers are welcome to use these services to publish your research papers, doctoral theses and other materials online.

Learn more www.elibrary.bham.ac.uk, contact ubira@lists.bham.ac.uk or ring the Digital Assets Team on x43918.

Staff discounts and deals now available through the University

The University has launched a new range of discounts and deals on a website called Staff Extras. It's a one-stop online shop where you can get discounts or build up and redeem points on products from holidays and theatre tickets to clothes, electrical goods and even fast food from well-known brands. For example, current deals include:

- Save 20% when you spend £20 or more online at Domino's Pizza
- Save 10% at Interflora
- Earn 4 points per £1 spent at Burton, Miss Selfridge, Urban Outfitters, Monsoon and more

Learn more www.hr.bham.ac.uk/benefits/staffextras

Business School climbs in MBA rankings

We're one of just 15 UK Business Schools included in this year's Global FT MBA Rankings. We have risen seven places to become UK 11th and world rank of 68th.

2010 pay claim concludes

A 0.4% increase to all spine points for academic and related staff has been paid with February salaries, back-dated to 1 August 2010, as appropriate. Locally, the support staff pay claim has been settled: a one-off payment was made with December salaries, and an increase on spine points with back pay, as appropriate, to 1 August 2010 was paid last month.

Learn more www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/news/2010/2010pay



The Barber serves up Court on Canvas 27 May to 18 September

Court on Canvas is the first-ever exhibition of tennis in art and will explore how lawn tennis has been portrayed in art from the 1870s to modern times. **Learn more** in the May issue of Buzz.



CLAD now officially open in the Watson Building

The new Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD) was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor (VC), Professor David Eastwood on Friday 28 January.

CLAD works collaboratively with colleges to improve the student learning experience. Enhanced services are available including dedicated support and guidance for teaching enhancement work and an improved focus on learning and teaching technologies, as well as some valuable existing services such as accredited training, an annual teaching and learning conference and teaching reward and recognition programme.

Learn more www.as.bham.ac.uk/clad

Big Society: is it already 'below the radar'?

New research from the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) based at the University has studied the crucial role that the estimated 600,000 or more small community groups can play in delivering the 'big society'. This informal and semi formal voluntary and charitable activity is often described as 'below the radar' because groups are either not registered with the Charity Commission, do not appear in official directories or lack a regular, substantial annual income.

TSRC researcher Angus McCabe said 'Looking at the range and diversity of "below the radar" activity, it can be argued that we already have a big society. The question is whether government can engage with this activity to meet ambitious agendas that include empowered and active citizens, devolved local decision making, a restoration of public trust in politics, flexible and cost effective services. A lot will depend on whether the Big Society agenda can become a bottom up process with communities in control, rather than being seen as a top down directive linked to cuts in public services. If policies are to achieve equality and fairness, they need to be informed by a systematic analysis of power relations and the role of the state.'

The team found that, if community groups are to be involved in delivering the 'big society', policies to engage people in community action need to be informed by a more sophisticated understanding of how and why community organisations operate. People primarily take part in community action for very personal reasons rather than from a sense of civic duty, and the research questions whether this can be co-opted to deliver particular policy objectives.

The team also found that there were major concerns among organisations involved in this activity that the Big Society agenda would create greater inequalities, by favouring strong communities with the resources, skills and knowledge to engage.

Where governments have been successful at directly motivating people to act, anger has also played a major role. This can be seen in the establishment of the Countryside Alliance, the anti-Iraq war demonstrations, anti-globalisation actions at the G8 and G20 Summits and recent demonstrations against increased tuition fees. Yet this has received very little attention in the 'Big Society' debate.

Learn more www.tsrc.ac.uk

Youth Hostels Association records move into library



Special Collections is delighted to announce the acquisition of the archives of the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) currently celebrating its 80th anniversary. The YHA has pioneered the provision of holidays for people of limited means and which played a major role in providing access to the countryside as a form of social recreation. Its historical archive – which comprises records of both the national and the regional structure, as well as papers of individuals such as wardens and youth hostellers – is a research collection of national importance.

University teams rise to Energy challenge

Each year nPower challenges teams of final and penultimate year students from across Europe to give them solutions to topical questions faced by the power industry and to present their ideas to a panel of industry experts for a cash prize. This year Birmingham has two shortlisted teams and looks set to maintain its record as the University with the most finalists overall! Fingers crossed for a win.

Andy Williams (Metallurgy and Materials) and Lawrence Coates (Civil Engineering) are the academics supporting the nPower teams and who deliver Advanced Conventional Energy the students are studying. Details of the Energy Challenge can be found on www.npower.com/energychallenge

Particle physics explained

Particle Physicists from Birmingham Cambridge will exhibit on the topic of 'Discovering Particles' to 10,000 visitors to the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition in London, 5–10 July 2011.

The exhibit will feature an introduction to the development of particle physics, including two fully functioning particle detectors. It will also explain the current research we are involved in at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva. Topics covered will include the origin of mass, the apparent dominance of matter over antimatter in the Universe, conditions in the first fraction of a second after the Big Bang, and the number of space-time dimensions.

Learn more <http://royalsociety.org/summer-science/2011/> or contact Dr Cristina Lazzeroni (cl@hep.ph.bham.ac.uk)



Creative industries mapped out for NESTA

Business School academics are calling for a Government intervention to support creative industries. Their report, funded by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) explains where these industries are currently based and how they operate within their local economies.

This is important at the moment because creative industries are growing twice as quickly as the rest of the economy. They also contribute to the vitality of cities and regions and feed into other sectors through technological breakthroughs and innovation.

The report shows that Birmingham has an above average concentration of firms in designer fashion, photography, video and film, advertising and software publishing. Birmingham has a similar profile to Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield and

Leeds. Overall, West Midlands' creative firms perform above the national average for product and process, manufacturing and knowledge-intensive business sectors. However, London emerges as Britain's creative heart.

On the NESTA web site, you can find an online tool that can be used to zoom in on any area of the UK – from a regional level down to local level – to scrutinise which types of creative businesses are located there. NESTA argues that a better understanding of an area's true creative strengths will make it easier for policymakers to create the right conditions for further growth, and to avoid wasting money on poorly considered interventions.

Learn more online: www.nesta.org.uk/events/assets/features/creative_clusters_and_innovation_report

Talking research with business on campus

Research and Commercial Services (RCS) has successfully encouraged over 70 businesses to visit the campus to engage with academics and view the facilities available here. Targeted firms included both big names such as Jaguar LandRover, Merck and BAE Systems as well as smaller local businesses like Robinson Brothers, 3C's, Indestructible Paints and Diamond Hard Surfaces.

One example of this approach is an Inorganic Materials workshop in Chemistry focused on research in biomaterials, pigments, piezoelectrics, ferroelectrics, metal phosphates and

functional ceramics. Another workshop was held to demonstrate to manufacturing companies, from food to pharmaceuticals, how they can get involved in the Advanced Materials project in general.

The workshops have led to number of enquiries from business looking to work with the University and these have been followed up by the RCS business engagement team.

The workshops were facilitated by the Advanced Materials project, part of the Science City Research Alliance programme delivered by the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick.



Transforming research into commercial enterprise

Amy Cory reflects on the inaugural Enterprising Birmingham – Business Plan Competition

The University's commitment to supporting research initiatives and entrepreneurship of staff members was showcased by Research and Commercial Services in the inaugural Enterprising Birmingham – Business Plan Competition where two researchers were awarded £15,000 each to develop their business plans into viable commercial enterprises with the support of the University.

The event was launched by Sir Dominic Cadbury, Chancellor of the University, who commented 'This event demonstrates the University's commitment, enthusiasm and support for taking research projects and ideas, which have practical opportunities, into the market.'

He continued: 'Universities are breeding grounds for ideas, with new people joining all of the time, and the fresh thinking, ethos and culture of a university all provide an excellent environment to develop these new ideas. New products and companies are the lifeblood of our economy and there couldn't be a better time to do this.'

The January showcase celebrated the wealth of business ideas emerging from research staff and doctoral researchers across the University and saw presentations of research-based business ideas from six finalists to an expert panel of 'Dragons' from the business world. **The winning projects led by Dr Rustam Stolkin, from the Department of Computer Science, and Dr Wai-Ling Bickerton, from the School of**

Psychology were each awarded £15,000 to help further development into a commercial product or service and the four runners-up were awarded £1,000, presented by Pro-Vice Chancellor Edward Peck.

Winning projects

Dr Stolkin's winning product idea, in collaboration with Professor Bob Stone and Dr Marek Kopicki, focuses on the development of a range of a new generation, tele-operated, robots that will overcome current limitations including mobility, manipulation and ease of operation benefitting both the defense and civil sectors. 'As a post-doctoral researcher funding like this is absolutely critical for me to develop my ideas and I think this competition demonstrates the forward thinking of the institution to open the competition up to people like me.'

Cognition Matters took the prize for the best service based idea, led by Dr Bickerton with Professor Glyn Humphreys for the innovation of Birmingham University Cognitive Screen (BUCS), a service to screen patients suffering from brain damage to identify the most appropriate rehabilitation strategy for patients at a much earlier stage than at present. Dr Bickerton explains: 'Half the mission for this project is getting the message out there that there is a need for a service like this, I'm really excited to have won but even if I didn't win the prize money, I would have still felt like a winner because of the

'Universities are breeding grounds for ideas, with new people joining all of the time, and the fresh thinking, ethos and culture of a university all provide an excellent environment to develop these new ideas.'

Left: James Wilkie – Director of Research and Commercial Services and CEO Alta Innovations Ltd.
Middle front: Winner of service based category: Dr Wai-Ling Bickerton – Research Fellow (Psychology / LES)
Middle back: Winner of product/process based category: Dr Rustam Stolkin – Research Fellow (Computer Science / EPS)
Right: Professor Edward Peck – Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Social Sciences.

opportunity to spread the message.'

The competition was organised by Catherine Mansell, Knowledge Transfer Development Group Manager. Catherine believes, 'This competition has successfully raised the profile of our researchers and innovations both internally and externally and hopefully has spread the message that the University will support and encourage this kind of endeavour. We will now be working closely with the winners to help them develop their projects further.'

More than 130 internal and external delegates attended the event, with a keynote speech delivered by Professor Terence Cosgrove, from the University of Bristol and winner of a similar competition which he described as 'life-changing'. It is hoped that the competition will become a bi-annual event to showcase the wealth of talent and innovation the University has to offer.

Runners up

Runners up of the Enterprising Birmingham – Business Plan Competition were: Dr Mark Redwood (Biosciences), Xavier Disley (Sport and Exercise Sciences), Dr Oliver Mason (English) and Dr Bushra Al-Duri (Chemical Engineering)
Event sponsors were: Central Technology Belt; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Marks & Clerk LLP; Circles of Influence Campaign; The Knowledge Transfer Development Fund; Withers & Rogers LLP and Birmingham Research Park.

Are you a Smartmover?

Sustainable travel, the story so far by Sustainable Travel Coordinator, Caroline Radnor.

Environmental sustainability is an underpinning principle for **Shaping our Future: Birmingham 2015**. The University's vision for the future highlights the increasing importance of sustainability and its impact on funding, reputation and the staff and student experience. As part of the University's continued commitment to improve environmental performance a Sustainable Travel Plan is now being implemented. The Plan will help the University to meet its targets for reducing carbon emissions. A wide range of measures are being implemented to encourage the use of more sustainable travel options, to travel to and from the University, between campuses and to internal and external meetings.

Some of the current Travel Plan initiatives include:

■ Cycling Roadshows and bike maintenance classes

Cycling Roadshows are held throughout the year providing free bike maintenance and lessons, and the selling of second hand bikes. The next Roadshow is on Thursday 31 March.

Unfortunately, bike theft is always a problem around campus, so West Midlands Police are working with the University to reduce it by selling D-locks at a heavily subsidised rate in an effort to reduce the number of bikes being locked up with locks that are not strong enough for the purpose. They also offer security coding for bikes.

We are also offering beginners bicycle maintenance classes to staff and students to give you the skills you need to fix your bike. The programme consists of five, two-hour sessions giving a complete course of beginner cycle maintenance. The next course will start on Monday 21 March.

■ Shower and changing facilities

New shower and changing facilities on the lower ground floor of the Aston Webb building have just opened for all staff to use. The Munrow Sports Centre also offers free shower and changing facilities for staff and students, you just need your University ID cards.

■ Cycle scheme

The cycle salary sacrifice scheme provides tax-free bikes as part of the Government's Cycle to Work initiative. You can save on the cost of a bike like the 450 staff who have already bought bikes through the scheme in the four years it has been running.

■ Electric bikes

The University is currently exploring the potential to have a pool of electric bikes for staff to use to travel around campus and to local University sites

for meetings. Departments are currently trialling the bikes and providing feedback on how useful they may be.

■ New cycle parking

Cycle parking facilities are available at locations across the campus and current provision is approximately 1,300 spaces. New spaces are being provided all of the time, look out for regular updates online at www.cycling.bham.ac.uk/cycling/facilities.shtml

■ Season ticket loans

The University offers interest free season ticket loans for staff who use public transport to travel to work. The University purchases a West Midlands Travel or Centro annual season ticket on your behalf, and then recovers the cost through salary deductions over ten months.

■ Free bus travel

Staff and students benefit from free bus travel on the Selly Shuttle between the Edgbaston campus and the Selly Oak campus, just show your University ID cards.

■ Electric car charging points

Three electric charging points are to be installed around campus later this year for those members of staff travelling to campus by electric car. Those travelling by electric car will qualify for free car parking.

■ Research

Transport is, of course, also one of our research strengths and you may have seen the hydrogen micro-cabs around campus which is a practical example of how our



research is making a difference to the environment. During summer 2009 Dr Phil Jones, lecturer in Human Geography recruited a series of volunteers to record their thoughts while cycling to and from the University of Birmingham. The results of this project will be very useful in assisting the travel initiatives to be targeted at making the right improvements for the future. There are also a number of research projects being developed and undertaken in the Centre of Obesity Research, particularly in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, related to active travel.

The Travel Plan needs support from all staff and students to be successful. You could change your travel behaviour for one or two days of the week and it would help to make a difference. So please think ahead...be a Smartmover.

For more information please visit www.bham.ac.uk/travel or email the University Sustainable Travel Coordinator Caroline Radnor at sustainabletravel@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Learn more about Caroline as she is featured in Question Time on the back cover of this issue of Buzz.



IN THE NEWS

The Communications team has kicked off 2011 with a bang in terms of broadcast and print media coverage seeking to demonstrate the breadth of work at Birmingham and enhance the University's reputation. Here are some of the highlights, with these five stories alone generating coverage with an Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) of more than £430,000 and a potential audience reach of almost 60 million people. Amy Cory shares the highlights.

Learn more about each story by visiting www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/index.aspx and using the search terms specified

(NOT) SEEING IS BELIEVING

Dr Shuang Zhang, School of Physics and Astronomy, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Research at the University of Birmingham with colleagues at Imperial College, London and Technical University of Denmark, has demonstrated an 'invisibility cloak' that can hide objects visible to the human eye. The cloaking uses a natural calcite crystal which splits light into two polarizations travelling at different speeds and in different directions. Two triangular pieces of calcite are glued together and placed on a mirror which can make the object placed at the join appear invisible. This is the first time a cloaking area has been big enough for the invisible object to be observed by the naked eye.

- **Featured in:** international media with an estimated total value of nearly £300,000 and a potential audience reach of nearly 45 million
- **Search for:** Zhang



Dr Shuang Zhang

RECLAIMING OUR ROOTS

Professor Ewan Fernie, Shakespeare Institute, College of Arts and Law

A new project is set to reclaim Englishness and St. George in the form of an original arts event and a groundbreaking religious service. Redcrosse will showcase a new vision of England through innovative poetry and music which will directly address the ever-changing nature of Englishness in an increasingly plural and globalised society.

- **Featured in:** national and regional print media
- **Search for:** Fernie

Who ya gonna call when it's not an emergency?

Dr Lesley Roberts, Helen Kirkby, School of Health and Population Sciences, College of Medical and Dental Sciences New research shows that less than one in three know when not to call the emergency services in a potential emergency situation and a quarter of people wouldn't call an ambulance for someone suffering from a suspected stroke.

- **Featured in:** national and regional print media
- **Search for:** Kirkby

A TRAUMA-TIC COLLABORATION

Professor Sir Keith Porter

Military and trauma surgeons and scientists will be able to share their expertise with a £20m trauma care collaboration. The groundbreaking National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology is the first and only research centre of its kind in the UK to focus on military and civilian care and treatment. See page 14–15 for more details.

- **Featured in:** national and regional broadcast and print media
- **Search for:** Porter

A progressive partnership

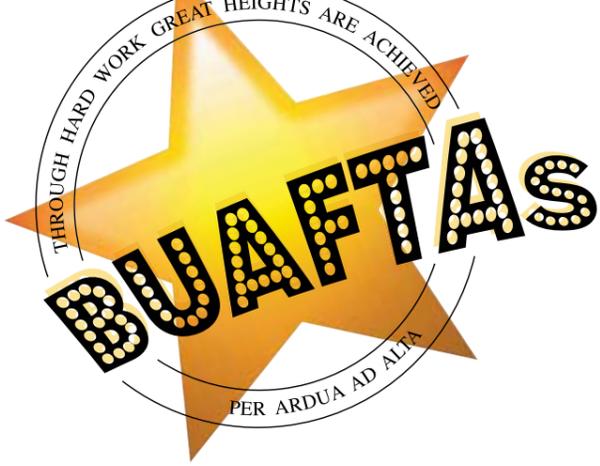
University staff and students

The University of Birmingham has formed a partnership with the University of Nottingham which will see the institutions working together for mutual success in six main areas. See page 3 for more details.

- **Featured in:** national and regional broadcast and print media
- **Search for:** Nottingham



New Queen Elizabeth Birmingham Hospital



Our 2011 award winners

On 4 February 2011, staff from across the University gathered in the Great Hall to enjoy a gala award ceremony and to hear which colleagues had won a BUAFTA (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement).

Host for the evening was actor and speaker, Nicholas Bailey, best known for his role as Dr Truman in Eastenders. The ceremony opened with a dramatic light and juggling show from performance artists, Flux and guests were also entertained by the The Michelle Hyatt Dance Troup and pianist, Nick Wiley before ending the evening dancing to the band, Lynus.

Charity raffle

This year the BUAFTA charity raffle raised over £3,200 for the Teenage Cancer Trust's Young Adult Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Learn more about the charity and see a list of the lucky winners www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/buafta/raffle

Learn more

www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/buafta



And finally... a big thank you to our sponsors, without whose generous support the BUAFTAs would not be possible.

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Our winners

1. **Team Player of the Year**
Rachel Bathers, Undergraduate Administrator, School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion
2. **Team of the Year**
Project Transfer Team within the Children's Cancer Trials Team, School of Cancer Sciences
3. **Best Customer Service**
Juliet Creese, Administrator, Admissions and Student Records, Shakespeare Institute
Also commended Trish Kelly, Receptionist, School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering
4. **Best Newcomer**
Sarah Proctor, PA to Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Quality
5. **Role Model of the Year**
Conor McGoldrick (right), Development Manager, Human Resources
6. **The Student Experience Award**
Alexander Cross, Mental Health Advisor, Academic Services
7. **Innovation of the Year**
Alison Darby, Head of Winterbourne, Hospitality and Accommodation Services
8. **Reflecting the University's Values**
Gary Walsh, Senior Technician, School of Physics and Astronomy
9. **The Vice-Chancellor's Award**
Collaboration of Marketing and Communications and International Relations, External Relations
Also commended Community Day Team
10. **The Principal's Award**
The Vice-Chancellor utilised his title of Principal to give a second award to the **Leaders Debate Team**, University wide.





Creating international impact

Carrie Bennett describes how International Development students are helping to shape positive futures for countries in conflict.



Professor Paul Jackson

Hear the words conflict, security, corruption or development in the same sentence and you'd be forgiven for thinking that you were listening to the latest report about the recent Middle East conflicts on the BBC.

Most of us are fortunate, we will never directly experience the personal tragedies that these words conjure up, but for one University department it's all in a day's work. The College of Social Science's International Development Department (IDD) has been at the forefront of this work for over 40 years.

It would be all too easy to focus on the negative and destructive, particularly as so much of IDD's work and its students are stories of success and achievement against so much adversity.

Take IDD's Director, Professor Paul Jackson. His passport reads like a who's who of conflict zones; Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Rwanda, Uganda, Bhutan and the Congo. His work (and time) reaches far further than the campus with roles such as member of the Advisory Board for the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and Co-Chair to the International Organisation of Trainers in Security Sector Reform.

Paul heads up a team of over 20 staff with research and teaching interests that span challenging problems; the deployment of aid, poverty reduction, electoral reform, peacekeeping and post genocide states and more. A significant number of the department's students are from developing countries or countries that are engaged in, or post, conflict. Their stories are inspirational and a lesson in personal achievement for us all.

A life changing experience

Dhiaa N. Al-Asadi is currently studying for his PhD with IDD. For most people that challenge would be enough but for Iraqi, Dhiaa, his time in Birmingham has provided him with the security to develop his thoughts and ideas and helped him be elected as Minister of State for the new Iraq government.

Dhiaa is a survivor. He was involved in the first revolt against Saddam Husain's regime in Basrah in the early 90's – well

before Bush or Blair were even elected. The leader of that revolt, Ayatollah AL-Sadr was executed by Saddam and Dhiaa was subsequently imprisoned as a political prisoner. His family were imprisoned

The last six years alone have seen 99 countries represented on their Postgraduate programmes. Staff act as advisors and consultants globally.

and his own brother narrowly escaped execution. Following release, Dhiaa escaped to Jordan.

Most would have then tried to disappear – not Dhiaa who returned to Iraq with the aim of creating an alternative political party. It was during this time that he first visited the UK with a delegation from Basrah as a Shi'i academic and political activist. Paul met Dhiaa, and with the assistance of CARA – the Campaign for the Assistance of Refugee Academics, secured a scholarship to enable him to undertake a PhD and move his family to Birmingham.

Rather than focusing on an academic future Dhiaa has decided to go back to Iraq, to help shape its future, as a Minister in the new democratically elected Government.

The legacy

Concy Aciro who graduated with an MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management in 2007 had no choice but

to become interested in politics at an early age. Aged 10 she was abducted by Ugandan rebels to be trained as a fighter in sub-Saharan Africa. After escaping she was then faced with considerable hardship: from significant food shortages to the abuse of relatives and friends by soldiers and rebels.

Still at school, one of her first projects was to mobilise women in her community to set up small businesses. Each member of the group contributed a small amount of money from what they had made to the next person as capital for her business and to help educate her children. She then went to Makerere University to do a BA degree, graduating in 2003.

In 2005 Concy came to Birmingham to take an MSc in Poverty Reduction with IDD. She returned to Uganda to do fieldwork and came back to Birmingham having been elected as an MP to the Ugandan Parliament in opposition to the government of President Museveni. That, in Ugandan politics, is brave in itself. Her time spent in Birmingham was absolutely crucial in her decision to go into formal politics.

As an MP, Concy is involved at a national level in the peace talks between the government and the rebels to try and resolve the armed conflict in northern Uganda. Away from national politics and in her community, she has been responsible for a whole series of initiatives including the creation of a football league with the aim of building unity between refugee camps. She also believes that it helps to re-integrate former child soldiers back into their communities. With the support of Paul Jackson, Concy has secured donations of 300,000 football kits from

premier league football clubs across the UK.

Concy's immediate ambition is that in five years' time she wants to see the whole of Uganda as an effective democracy, building respect for human rights. She is clear that she wants to be a role model for others, a woman who is socially, economically and politically empowered.

The Future

Over the years, IDD's activities have broadened to cover the full range of academic research, publication and postgraduate teaching. The last six years alone have seen 99 countries represented on their Postgraduate programmes. Staff act as advisors and consultants globally.

The department has a very active Chevening Scholarship and Fellowship Programme run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The fellowships are intended for mid-career professionals from emerging democracies who have been identified by British Embassies as being important to the development of democratic institutions, practice and culture in those countries. The courses all support UK government goals including preventing and resolving conflict and countering terrorism and weapons proliferation.

Under Paul's direction, IDD will continue to help countries develop and become democratic. But, perhaps more importantly, IDD will continue to help support those brave and selfless individuals like Dhiaa and Concy whose work makes real change and democracy happen.

Learn more

www.idd.bham.ac.uk

Key role for University in £20m trauma research centre

The University's world-leading scientific expertise is fuelling the work of a groundbreaking £20 million trauma care initiative in Birmingham.

Birmingham is one of four partners in the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology at the Queen Elizabeth hospital, where all returning injured UK military personnel are treated.

The collaboration includes the NHS, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT) and the University. UHBFT and the University will contribute £5 million towards the work of the Centre over the next five years.

Officially launched last month by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley, the Centre brings together military and civilian trauma

surgeons and scientists to boost trauma care delivery at the earliest stages of injury.

At the opening ceremony, attended by key stakeholder representatives, University Provost and Vice-Principal Professor Michael Sheppard commented: 'We expect the NIHR Centre to provide an unrivalled research environment to improve the treatment of military and civilian trauma patients. This will, in part, be achieved by applying the latest microbiological and immunological techniques to improve our understanding, diagnosis and management of trauma-related infection.'

Microbiology research at the Centre is supported by the University's high-throughput sequencing capability funded via Birmingham Science City. Earlier this month, Professor Lawrence Young, Head of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, announced that the University's laboratory space at the Centre will also house a brand new Centre for Translational Inflammation, headed by Professor Janet Lord. The Centre will bring together the University's research in the areas of

rheumatology, ageing, respiratory medicine, nephrology, ophthalmology, immune senescence and trauma. Professor Young commented: 'This is an exciting opportunity to present and promote our work in this area in a more coherent manner.'

Interim Director of the Centre will be Professor Sir Keith Porter, Honorary Professor of Clinical Traumatology and a Consultant at the QE, who was knighted in the new year honours for services to the armed forces.

The work of the Centre will be complimented by the University's renowned expertise in clinical trials. The Birmingham Centre for Clinical Trials manages more than 100 clinical trials per year, generating around £15 million.

Sequencing the wound

'Hospital infections are of serious concern to the public, to policy-makers and to the press,' comments Professor Mark Pallen. 'There has even been talk of an imminent post-antibiotic apocalypse, in which we

run out of treatment options for some pathogens.'

Fundamental to the problem of infection control in trauma patients, including returning military personnel, is a lack of medical intelligence about the nature, spread and evolution of microbial pathogens. Just as a soldier needs to know who the enemy is, where he is and how he got there, healthcare professionals need not only to identify the organisms that cause infection, but to track their spread from patient to patient and in the hospital environment.

Molecular fingerprinting has been used for many years to document the spread of microbial pathogens, but has generally lacked the resolution to reveal chains of transmission within hospital outbreaks. A new technology – high-throughput sequencing – means we can now determine the entire genetic blueprint of individual bacterial isolates relatively quickly, easily and cheaply. This enables us to distinguish bacteria that differ by as little as a millionth of a genome.



'We expect the NIHR Centre to provide an unrivalled research environment to improve the treatment of military and civilian trauma patients.'

the body. Their work in adults suffering from physical trauma (hip-fracture) and emotional trauma (bereavement) has shown that the ratio of these hormones affects the immune system and influences the ability of patients to fight infections.

'We have shown recently that DHEAS acts on immune function by increasing the ability of white blood cells (neutrophils) to kill bacteria and therefore giving DHEAS to patients should help to boost their immune systems,' says Professor Lord. 'It is also known that DHEAS has effects on mood and also can prevent the loss of muscle, so there is a good case for giving this to patients after trauma as being confined to bed causes loss of muscle. In addition, the trauma and injury itself have profound effects on mood in many adults and this is known to affect their recovery from injury.'

In work relevant to the NIHR Centre, the team have analysed the cortisol: DHEAS ratio in a group of Vietnam War veterans who had regular health checks in the United States following the conflict. The results showed that a high cortisol: DHEAS ratio was associated with increased mortality, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, anxiety and depression.

The team is hoping to use this information to develop a therapy for trauma victims, namely giving patients DHEAS to lower the cortisol: DHEAS ratio, in the hope that this will improve recovery from trauma and may also have long-term health benefits.

'The University already has a high-throughput sequencing capability on campus, but with the arrival of the SRM Centre, we are poised to use it to make a decisive practical impact on our understanding of the spread of pathogenic bacteria. Rapid bacterial genome sequencing will help infection control staff to direct finite resources into infection control, both in individual patients and in formulating policies for detecting and containing outbreaks.'

Stress hormone hope for trauma patients

Birmingham immune cell biology expert Professor Janet Lord and collaborators (Professor Wiebke Arlt and Dr Anna Phillips) are exploring how the body's endocrine response to stress influences physical and emotional recovery from trauma.

Their research focuses on two stress hormones: cortisol and DHEAS (Dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate) and how their relative levels in the blood affect

A scientist, an MP and a week in Westminster

As part of the Royal Society Pairing Scheme, Biogeochemistry lecturer Dr Rebecca Bartlett spent a week in Westminster gaining an insight into the life of an MP. Rebecca was paired with Gisela Stuart, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston.

When scientists get together, the conversation can be intense. Academia is a competitive forum with a mix of social, promotional, and occasionally geeky discussion of the latest research data or laboratory techniques in the comfort of like-minded, corduroyed company. Our week in Westminster as part of a mutual learning partnership with MPs and civil servants was a new education in rhetoric and persuasion. Scientists from a range of disciplines that would never usually assemble, from the worlds of experimental gravity to climate change, were brought together by the Royal Society to discuss the mechanism of science policy. As the days progressed in the aftermath of the Brown Report, Comprehensive Spending Review and Statement on Tuition Fees, I realised that despite our difference in specialism, we had a common agenda to uphold and protect the importance of scientific excellence and transparency in parliament and government.

Science in politics has an interesting history – in 1664, the Royal Society published, *A Discourse of Forest-Trees and the Propagation of Timber* promoting the preservation and planting of oak which had suffered great losses during the Civil War. Considering this, I am struck by a sense of history repeating itself; how science, earth resources and the

environment are intrinsically coupled by the actions of mankind, and the importance through history of good governance for sustainable living. Sustainability is no new concept then, but our depth of understanding and approach has changed. There is now an awareness of the fragility of the environment and the power of earth systems that is influencing technology, society and of course finance and policy.

The Royal Society have a clear presence in Westminster and I was impressed by their involvement with policy makers and I am largely encouraged by the openness of the Select Committee enquiry process to hear evidence from those with an interest. This is inevitably limited by a conflict between the complexity and uncertainty of science with government's need for numbers and thresholds to inform policy. The necessary consideration of finance and public opinion may obscure the clarity of what the science shows and in the past the decision to act on scientific evidence has not always been taken.

Universities as the home of scientific research and the platform for evidence in policy are on the brink of change. Spending cuts will inevitably bite, although the cohesion of the scientific community has had some protective influence. The importance of the tangible science that can inform technology has perhaps played a

Gisela and Rebecca spent a day with members of the Water Sciences research group at Birmingham, sampling local stream and groundwater, assessing water quality, and discussing the possible impact of recent spending cuts on higher education and the environment.

part, yet this could leave blue skies science in a stormier future. Competition for research funding is tough and a grim judgement can be made in a comparison with our international competitors. There is now a pervasive requirement from research councils for impact statements and the justification of research in social and economic terms. Rightly so perhaps, but at a research project level, an immediate return on investment in science is rarely possible or appropriate.

As the UK commits to an 80% cut in CO2 emissions by 2050, the need for rapid advances in technology is essential, and investment in science must be a driver. It is not yet clear how we can manage such a dramatic change in the modern carbon cycle while there is still an imbalance of scientific education and expertise, resources and application across the world. The water crisis is looming, and we are still needlessly flushing our toilets with drinking water, while in other parts of the world, drinking water is dug out of the mud, or sold via illegal abstractions. In the UK we have an opportunity for policy to address the disconnect between scientific research, education, technology and society. I find my role as a lecturer in the development of science and education can play an important part, and by engaging with society's representatives in parliament through the Royal Society scheme, the dialogue should begin to move forward.

Read Rebecca's blog www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/week-westminster



Dr Rebecca Bartlett and Gisela Stuart (right)

By Day...By Night

LUCIA Charity Trustees

By Day

We all work in either the Main Library or the IT Services Data Centre at Elms Road.

Sylvia Gardiner and Rebecca Shales are both members of the Library Acquisitions team, who purchase new material and process reading lists. Sylvia also deals with University publications, donations and awarded University theses. Louise Gessey works for Document Supply and oversees the Reception Desk team. Her department obtain and supply a variety of material to borrowers, such as interlibrary loans and postal loan items. Jill Russell is responsible for the University's Institutional Repository, a growing digital archive of research materials produced at the University, including electronic theses, published work and other datasets. Over at the Elms Road Data Centre, Stephen Burton works in IT. His department manage the University's core IT Facilities and help keep the networks running smoothly and securely. Between us we have years of experience in providing great library and IT services!



L-R: Louise Gessey, Sylvia Gardiner, Steve Burton, Becky Shales and Jill Russell

By Night

We run an innovative local charity called Life Uplifted by Change in Africa (LUCIA) that supports women and children in Ethiopia. We raise money for various projects including the formation of women's self help groups and the provision of healthcare, food and education for orphan girls and street children. Sylvia founded the charity after visiting her son who was working in Ethiopia. She was struck by the poverty of the country and wanted to do something to help. When she returned, she asked some of her colleagues to join her and we all leapt at the chance! We regularly visit Ethiopia at our own expense to see the progress being made by our projects.

The women and children move from being timid and marginalised to a motivated and independent life. It is wonderful to see them learn to make the most of their talents and opportunities and begin to blossom. At the same time we are learning ourselves! With the varied activities we undertake it's a constant and enjoyable learning curve full of new experiences. We raise funds and awareness of the issues in Ethiopia by selling beautiful crafts from Africa, organising fundraising events, giving talks to schools and community groups



and recycling old printer cartridges, postage stamps and mobile phones. Of course, we also gladly accept cheques and standing orders! In the same way that the University aims to give students an advantage in life, LUCIA helps to educate and improve the lives of those living in Africa. Both organisations try to help people be the best they can be and live the best life they can.

Learn more

More information about our work can be found at www.luciacharity.org.uk

If you can help us in any way please get it touch. Contact us at info@luciacharity.org.uk.

Thank you to all our supporters!

March/April highlights

The events pages highlight the variety of activities taking place across campus. For a full list visit www.events.bham.ac.uk or contact Events Co-ordinator Eleanor Leftwich on 0121 414 2950 or e.g.leftwich@bham.ac.uk.

www.events.bham.ac.uk



Wednesday 20 April, 9.30am–4.30pm
BBC Antiques Roadshow

Some of Britain's leading antiques and fine arts specialists will be on hand to offer free advice and valuations to visitors, who are invited to raid their attics and bring along their family heirlooms, household treasures and car boot bargains for inspection by the experts.

Venue: Great Hall
Cost: Free of charge
Contact: antiques.roadshow@bbc.co.uk

Want to volunteer at the Antiques Roadshow?

Volunteers are required from 8.00am–5.00pm to actively marshal and coordinate the crowds. You must be available for a briefing on the previous day, 4.00–5.00pm and be able to work the whole day on the 20 April (if you are working on this day you would need to book leave). In return you will receive a free lunch, a discount at the Antiques Roadshow Shop and a free valuation of your antiques.

Contact: conferenceoffice@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8400 (press option 5) if you'd like to take part. The application form you are sent must be returned no later than 1 April.

Conferences and seminars

Wednesday 6 April, 2.00–4.00pm
Elitist, irrelevant and boring or the key to understanding the world: have traditional subject disciplines had their day?

Venue: Education Building, room 524
Cost: Free of charge
Register with: Aidan Thompson
Email: a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk
Tel: 0121 414 3602

Tuesday 19 April, 10.00am–3.00pm
Teaching and Learning Symposium

This event is open to all members of staff across the University and will showcase examples of good practice, excellence and innovation in teaching within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Registration is required as places are limited.

Venue: Muirhead lecture theatre, G15
Cost: Free of charge
Register with: Natalie Rowley
Email: n.m.rowley@bham.ac.uk

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 April College MDS Research and Enterprise Gala

All staff and students are invited to attend this event which starts with a poster session on Monday, 3.30–6.00pm followed by a full day of talks and activities on Tuesday. The keynote lecture will be given by Professor Andrew Hattersley, Professor of Molecular Medicine, Peninsula Medical School, University of Exeter. In addition to the presentations will be a session on 'my career in research' and Clive Dix (Chairman of the Bio-industry Association Board and former Research Director, Glaxo Wellcome UK) will present as part of the Commercialisation session.

Venue: Leonard Deacon lecture theatre and Wolfson Centre for Education (Medical School)
Cost: Free of charge
Contact: Karen Carter
Email: k.s.carter@bham.ac.uk
Learn more
www.mds.bham.ac.uk/researchgala

Art, heritage and music

11 February – 2 May
Carved, Cast and Modelled: Sculpture from the Barber Collection
Spanning more than 2,000 years, the Barber's collection of European sculpture encompasses everything from classical marbles to bronzes by Degas and Rodin. This special exhibition also features new research into several key works. It will be complemented by a small group of sculpture-related paintings and works on paper.
Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts
Cost: Free

For full details on Barber exhibitions, concerts and events visit www.barber.org.uk



Tuesday 12 July, 6.00pm Happiness Lecture 2011

This year's Baggs Memorial Lecture on the theme of Happiness will be delivered by **Alastair Campbell**. He is a writer, communicator and strategist best known for his role as former Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman, press secretary and director of communications and strategy. Still active in Labour politics, he now splits his time between writing, speaking, charitable fundraising, politics and campaigns. This event will also offer an opportunity for book signing. Please reserve tickets with Eleanor Leftwich

Venue: Great Hall
Cost: Free of charge
Contact: Eleanor Leftwich
Email: events@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Accommodation to let

Exquisite coach-house style **one-bedroomed flat in Moseley/Cannon Hill Park area**. Available 1 March. £600pm.
Tel: 0121 440 8514 or 414 6595.

Attractive **four bedroom townhouse, Edgbaston**. Garden and private parking. Quiet location, 10min walk from Birmingham University. £1,150pcm plus bills. **Tel:** 07505 834230.

Fully-furnished **five-bedroom family home** in King's Norton to let for up to 12 months from mid-July 2011. Please contact Nick Martin n.c.martin@bham.ac.uk **Tel:** 0121 414 6176 for further details.

Well presented second floor **two double bed-roomed flat**: en-suite bathroom to master bedroom, bathroom with shower, open plan lounge and fitted kitchen with appliances. Full furnished. Benefiting from a nice view, double glazing, parking, central gas heating and an alarm. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: B Band. No pets. Price: £720pcm (negotiable on nearest offer). Available Now. **Contact:** 07704 620136

Activities and entertainment

Fancy Fencing for fitness and fun? Want to be fitter this year? Already working on it but need some sport-related focus? www.birminghamfencingclub.org.uk has courses, kit and coaches for all ages and abilities. Whether junior, social or competitive there is something for everyone.

Drama 13 welcomes new members. We meet Tuesdays 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, Kings Heath High Street. More details at www.drama13.co.uk.

Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society are rehearsing 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', Baptist Church Hall, Kings Heath, Thursday evenings. Interested? Call 01386 793622

BURLESQUE, fundraiser for St Mary's Hospice, with a 50s glamour theme. 27 March at The Chameleon Bar, 1 Victoria Square. Nationally-renowned performers, live rock'n'roll band, DJ and raffle. 7.45pm for 8pm start. Tickets £15 from Yvonne McPhillips at events@bsmh.org.uk.

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Tax return still in the in-tray? Mynette & Co (est 1976) offers a local, personalised accountancy/tax advisory service. **Tel:** 0121 449 7322, email: a.mynette@btinternet.com

For all your proofreading needs - academic, commercial or creative, print or online. References available. **Contact** Liz Broomfield at LIBRO <http://libroediting.wordpress.com/home>

Staff groups

Your staff group can advertise here and for FREE and we'll also list on www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/useful/internal.shtml

For sale

Stompa pine bunk bed with low level desk. £150. **Tel:** Colin Thomas 0121 414 5355 (day) 0121 608 1324 (eve).

Tabletop snooker table, 6 x 3ft, with balls and accessories. **Tel:** Colin Thomas 0121 414 5355 (day) 0121 608 1324 (eve).



Sunday 19 June, 11.00am–4.00pm
Community Day 2011 – Free fun for all the family

Due to the success of last year's event, Community Day 2011 will be held on Sunday 19 June. Activities available on the day include culture trails, penalty shoot-out, golf coaching, arts and craft, fun fair and lots more. The full programme of events will be available in April.
Venue: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston campus
Cost: Free