



June/July 2016



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Impactful *Innovation*

Provost and Vice-Principal's *view*



Provost and Vice-Principal, Professor Adam Tickell

YOUR BUZZ

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Front cover image: Anne Simper is the Business Engagement Partner for the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

At the end of August, after five and a half years, I will be packing my bags and taking up the role of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sussex. Although I am thrilled to have been given such a great opportunity, my departure is tinged with real sadness at leaving the University of Birmingham, an institution that I have grown to love during my time here.

I knew relatively little about the University before I started. Largely because my brother and sister had been students here, I didn't apply to study at Birmingham, and my sense of the University came from visiting my sister in the early 1980s (a demo in the rain at the Bull Ring and a house party), presenting seminars to the politics group and the Geography department, and a period as an External Examiner in GEES. I arrived at a university with an exceptional pedigree, probably the most impressive campus in the UK, and with many brilliant and committed academic and professional staff. And yet, whilst Birmingham might have been brimming with potential, it was also the case that too many of our staff were defensive or almost apologetic: in large parts of the University, we lacked the self-confidence that is essential for greatness.

Over the last five years I have felt genuinely privileged to watch and be part of the transformation of the University of Birmingham. The University is recognised nationally and internationally as one that develops initiatives that others emulate across all of our activities. In Education, our investment in careers and employability has meant that our graduates are fourth best in the UK in obtaining graduate-level employment; our students are pleased to study here, valuing their peers and their educators; we pioneered the unconditional offers scheme to highly qualified applicants for degrees; we are one of the largest educators of postgraduate students in the UK; we should be proud of the social and ethnic diversity of our student intake; and applications to study at the University are at an all-time high. In Research, the Birmingham Fellows scheme has attracted over 75 outstanding early career scholars and has been copied in some form or other by most of the leading universities in the UK; the Institute of Advanced Studies has provided a welcome intellectual forum for interdisciplinary activities; our new and existing research institutes are producing spectacular science (and winning external recognition); our scientists and scholars are at the forefront of major discoveries (the Higgs boson, gravitational waves)

and debates (from antibiotic resistance to the politics of migration); and we have partnerships with some of the world's leading companies so that fundamental research is translated into world changing technologies.

During this time, too, the University's physical environment has continued to improve, with the new Residences, Library and Sports Centre being the most visible examples and the University has developed a renewed engagement with the life of the city – witness, for example, the University School; new and revived partnerships with local cultural institutions and the largest health trusts; the exceptional support provided for public service leaders; and the development of an unmatched local economic intelligence capacity. We have started to make impressive strides towards equality for all students and staff, irrespective of gender, sexuality, ethnicity or disability.

For all of these reasons, the University has established meaningful partnerships with other leading universities, most notably Nottingham, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Melbourne – though many others are significant and will develop further. For all of these reasons, we have had the most successful university fundraising campaign outside of the Golden Triangle. And for all of these reasons, the University has progressively risen in the league tables, most recently to 13th in *the Guardian* (not only our highest ever position, but the highest of any large civic university in the UK).

All of these achievements have rested upon exceptional contributions by academics and Professional Services colleagues and I have often been impressed and sometimes humbled by the dedication, hard work and loyalty I've encountered. There are too many people who I've worked with to name individually, but I wanted to use my final contribution to *Buzz* to salute and to thank all of you working in this exceptional university for your support for me over the past few years.

The next decade is unlikely to be as kind to universities in England as the last two – in exchange for more government intervention in our research and teaching we are likely to see substantially less money in real terms and an intensification of the marketisation of our sector. However, I am convinced that the foundations that have been laid at this great institution means that the University of Birmingham will thrive in the years to come.

Adam Tickell
Provost and Vice-Principal

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL

ENGAGEMENT WITH BRAZIL

FAPESP FUNDING – 2016 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

After two successful FAPESP (São Paulo state research funding council) funding calls in 2012 and 2013, and with a number of successful ongoing collaborative projects with Brazilian partners having been awarded funds through these calls, we are happy to announce that the next round of FAPESP funding will be launched in Summer 2016. FAPESP funding has been instrumental in aiding a number of exciting, ongoing collaborative projects around the University on areas ranging from Gravity and Gravitational Waveforms, to Fear Memory Processing. Funding from this strategic award can be sought for a range of activities including original research and workshop events, but the ultimate purpose must be to develop a collaboration that has the potential to directly lead to further research funding, supporting activity in Brazil and the UK.

The Brazil team in International Relations will provide a further update and exact details of the fund and the call dates in due course.

BRAZIL VISITING FELLOWS ARRIVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Fellows from a range of Brazilian universities have now begun to arrive at the University of Birmingham to undertake short stays as Visiting Fellows, working on collaborative research projects with colleagues from across colleges. The Brazil Visiting Fellows programme, which is now in its fifth year, supports the professional development of early career researchers from Brazilian universities, and enables visiting fellows to obtain insight into the organisation and conduct of research, training and administration at the University of Birmingham. Furthermore, the scheme acts to support partnership development with Brazil, which has been designated as a key strategic country to support the University's internationalisation strategy.

Brazil Visiting Fellow profile

Dr Rafael Montoito Teixeira arrived in Birmingham in May and currently teaches at the Instituto Federal Sul-rio-grandense, Pelotas, Brazil. Since 2006, Rafael has been studying Lewis Carroll's works in order to understand and decipher his literary-mathematical universe. As some of his books have never been published in Brazil and others are out of print, Rafael has been dedicating his time to bring Lewis Carroll back into academic discussions, as in Rafael's words, *'his stories and his mathematical works are a powerful source for the study of mathematics, language and educational systems.'* Rafael is collaborating with Professor John Holmes until the end of July, studying Carroll's diaries and letters, with their intention being to identify thoughts that could characterise him as a pedagogue; someone concerned about teaching and who used some of his own characters to discuss the issues he describes in his personal notes.

BRAZIL TRAVEL FUND

The Brazil Travel Fund is still open for applications and offers financial support for a range of collaborative projects, and also provides match funding costs related to visits to Brazil for the purpose of developing collaborations with Brazilian institutions/organisations. The fund may also support visits by individuals from Brazilian institutions to the University of Birmingham where these may help develop collaboration.

If you would like any further information on the above schemes and for general advice on our engagement in Brazil, please contact Catherine Lemon, International Development Manager for the Americas at c.lemon@bham.ac.uk

NORTH AMERICA

BRIDGE SEED FUND AWARDS

We are delighted to have recently announced the successful awardees from the third joint Birmingham-Illinois 'BRIDGE Seed Fund'. This annual fund of \$200,000 has been jointly established to stimulate wider academic engagement between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Birmingham.

From the third call of the BRIDGE Seed Fund we have been able to support 13 projects from across all five colleges in areas including biofuels, brain injury, migration, and cross-cultural history. This now brings the total number of faculty-driven collaborations in progress between the two Universities to over 65 across a range of disciplines.

NEW PVC INTERNATIONAL APPOINTED

The University of Birmingham has appointed its first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International to lead the international agenda. Professor Robin Mason joined the University at the end of March 2016. Watch this space for more information on international engagement from Professor Mason in the next UoB Global page.



Don't miss your chance to shape the future of travel to and from the University

The 2016 Travel Survey is now live and provides you with the opportunity to tell the University how you travel to and from campus.

Running until Thursday 16 June, the survey is an effective way to gather details of the different modes of transport students and staff take to travel to campus. Whether you drive, cycle, walk or take public transport, we'd like to hear from you. The survey should only take five minutes to complete.

Results of the survey will help the Transport Team make improvements and recommendations to help make your journey more convenient, enjoyable and sustainable.

Once you've submitted your answers you will have the option to be entered into a prize draw to win a number of fantastic prizes ranging from Amazon vouchers to an iPad.

Take part at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UoBtravelsurvey2016



APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME LAUNCHED

The University has launched an apprenticeship scheme to create new opportunities for on-the-job training in a range of fields.

The first 11 apprenticeships are now being advertised, including studio production, IT support, and electrical and mechanical maintenance opportunities.

The University has partnered with Babington Apprenticeships Ltd to recruit and train the apprentices. Eventually, we hope to create 20 apprenticeships during the first year of the programme.

Specialist training given to the apprentices will allow them to gain a solid foothold in their chosen career, and will allow the University to continue to build a diverse and skilled workforce for the future. Training will also be given to University line managers to enable them to support the apprentices they manage and ensure they reach their full potential.

Details of the apprenticeships currently on offer can be found online at www.birmingham.ac.uk/apprenticeships.

ONE OF THE UK'S FIRST HYDROGEN FUEL CELL FLEET VEHICLES HAS ARRIVED ON CAMPUS

You may have spotted this car (a Hyundai ix35 Fuel Cell) on campus. It is being used for staff transport and as part of the University's chauffeur service for visitors. But did you know it's one of the first examples of hydrogen fuel cell technology being used solely as a working vehicle in the UK?

Here on campus, a hydrogen fuelling station, unveiled in 2008 to support work carried out at the University's Centre for Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Research, provides the power for the vehicle.

Stuart Richards, Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services at the University said: 'We are in a unique position here on our main campus in Edgbaston, with our own hydrogen refuelling station making it



possible to employ new technologies such as the hydrogen fuel cell cars in our day-to-day activities. The University has long been renowned for pioneering research which results in practical applications to improve people's lives and the use of this car as part of our regular fleet is a tangible example of how scientific research can be turned into reality.'

Date for the diary

Birmingham Professional Forum (EU Referendum Special)

Wednesday 22 June,

11.00am–12noon

**Elgar Concert Hall,
Bramall Music Building**

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all Professional Services staff introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The Registrar invites you to join us for this 'EU Referendum special' of the Birmingham Professional Forum, featuring a 'Question Time' style panel of academic experts.

EU REFERENDUM: IN OR OUT?

On Thursday 23 June the UK will be asked 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union?' in the EU Referendum.

The decision being made by the UK electorate will have wide-ranging and long-lasting consequences, economically and politically. The University is taking a neutral stance in the referendum campaign by acting as a facilitator of informed debate, designed to enable the whole University community: staff, students and members of the public to make a well informed choice before entering the polling booths.

The University, like many large organisations, is directly affected by the EU. For example, a significant proportion of our students and staff are EU citizens, and programmes such as Horizon 2020 and Erasmus provide a framework for international research collaboration and for student exchange and study abroad.

The University, in conjunction with the Guild of Students, is encouraging students and staff to register to vote in the EU Referendum. Registering to vote takes just a few minutes on the gov.uk website. In mid-May the Guild marked voter registration week with a programme of activities ranging from 'goats for votes' and a film festival, to a Eurovision Party and a student-led debate.

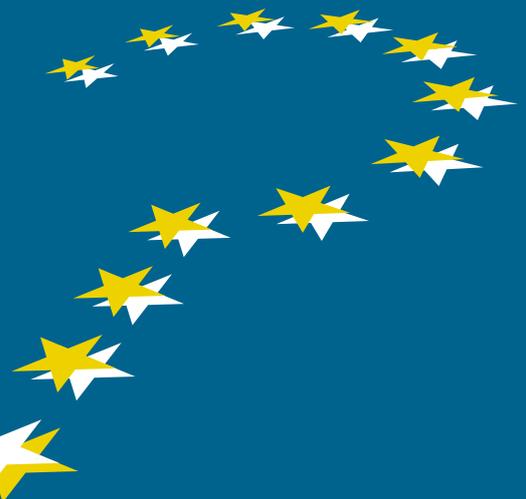
The University has facilitated, or has been host, to a number of debates and other events that have been designed to address some of the biggest issues of the debate such as migration, security, economics, and social policy. These events have ranged from a debate on the economic aspects of a potential Brexit in the Business School to a debate in the fringes of the recent BE Festival, focusing on the culture and the arts and how they may be affected by leaving the EU.

At the time of writing the University is due to host a series of debates, featuring Leave and Remain speakers, on some of the biggest issues of the campaign:

- On migration, the debate Beyond Borders: How would a Brexit impact UK immigration? is expected to include external speakers as well as leading academics working in the area from the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRIS)
- On security, the question posed was: Is the UK more secure inside or outside the European Union? The panel is expected to feature internal and external academic experts as well as other external speakers
- On Health and Social Policy, this debate is expected to cover diverse aspects of health policy and how the EU affects the NHS through initiatives such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Alongside these events, a number of the University's academic experts have been commenting on the referendum debate on issues such as the UK's role in Brussels, the role of women, economics, and foreign policy. Their commentary has been collected together on our referendum website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/BhamEU and has been featured on a wide range of print, online and broadcast media.

Referendum activities will continue right up to Referendum Day, including the Birmingham Professional Forum on Wednesday 22 June, so please watch the website for further details of events and the latest commentary.



transforming OUR campus

‘More than 3.5 billion years of history brought to life’

Green Heart consultation – have your say!

The consultation on the Green Heart project is now well underway – but there is still plenty of time for all staff to have their say on what should be included.

The researchers have already spent three days on site talking to staff, students and visitors to find out what they think should be included in the dramatic new space at the centre of our campus. These three days are now being followed with polls and online activity at the project blog www.uobgreenheart.com where everyone can leave comments and join the debate.

The consultation is also active on social media via the @uobgreenheart Twitter account.

Results from the consultation will be fed directly into the design process for the Green Heart currently underway. Work on the Green Heart will begin this autumn, after the new library opens its doors. The old library will be demolished, and work will then begin on the landscaping of the area where it currently sits, as well as what is currently the north car park. Pedestrian access around campus will be maintained at all times. The second phase of work will begin in early 2018, with work to improve the University Square area. The entire Green Heart is anticipated to be finished by autumn 2018.

Once work is underway, the consultation researchers will return to campus to demonstrate how the feedback they have received has informed the design of the project.



Artist's impression of the Green Heart, looking towards the new Library



Artist's impression of the Green Heart, looking towards Old Joe

Lapworth Museum – opening soon!

By the time you read this, the Lapworth Museum of Geology will be just days away from its reopening on 10 June. Following a £2.7 million redevelopment, the new-look museum will soon be ready to welcome people of all ages through its doors to see more than 3.5 billion years of history brought to life.

The redevelopment makes full use of the original features and display cabinets of

the museum, which dates back to 1880, making it one of the oldest specialist geological museums in the UK. Visitors will enjoy a state-of-the-art museum experience with light and airy spaces enhancing the setting of the displays, and a new range of innovative new interactive and tactile experiences – all completely free of charge.

A major Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

grant of £1.5 million and the generous support of University of Birmingham alumni, plus a number of grant awarding bodies, trusts and foundations has made the redevelopment possible, with the museum having been closed since autumn 2014.

Visit the museum's website www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth to find out more details about the reopening programme.

Library book move is underway

The move to the new library has moved a big step closer with the first books being placed on the shelves in the new building.

The book move kicked off at the beginning of May with Guild of Students President Jack Mably placing the first book on the 62km of shelving within the new facility. Jack's book was placed in the Research Reserve in the lower ground floor where some 50km of shelving is housed. The Research Reserve will be the first section of the new library to be shelved, while students are still using open access texts in the Main Library, Education, Music and Law Libraries for revision. These books will not

be moved until after the completion of the main exam period to minimise disruption to students.

The move will take over two months to complete, and the result will be a far more intuitive layout of books and journals in the new library, which will be easier to navigate.

As the book move gets underway in earnest and following the completion of exams, the Main Library will start to close gradually. By the time this edition of *Buzz* lands on desks, floors 2–5 of the Main Library, along with the Education and

Law Libraries, will be closed – and this will enable many of the open access texts to begin their journey to the new library. The Music Library will then close on 17 June.

During this period of transition, a fetching service will be available for those who need access to books which have moved, until the new library opens in August.



Guild of Students President Jack Mably places the first book in the new library

CTL decision draws closer

An application for planning permission for the Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL) has been lodged with Birmingham City Council, marking an important step forward for the project.

The Council is expected to make a decision on the application this summer, paving the way for construction to start later this year.

The new build will follow the opening of the first phase of the CTL project, which has seen space in civil and mechanical engineering transformed into an engineering lab – due to open for teaching this autumn. The new building will incorporate a wet lab, dry lab and e-lab, and will be located between the Learning Centre and the Biosciences Building. The new state-of-the-art facility, along with the heavy engineering lab, will enable us to rethink entirely the way STEM subjects are taught. It will make more effective use of staff time and resources through the efficient use of practical teaching space, innovations in teaching delivery and the reinvention of practical classes. This will allow students to benefit from transformational teaching in a space designed to encourage and facilitate collaborative and interdisciplinary working.



Artist's impression of how the CTL will look



Artist's impression of the new CTL

Your campus: *Your Wellbeing*

Picnicking in secret gardens, lazing atop ancient Roman fortresses, exploring campus culture trails, participating in blood-pumping sports, or a spot of fruit picking; what's your lunchtime pleasure?



Tweet us @BuzzUniBham your pictures of our trees of interest, campus sculpture, and your favourite picnic spots #CampusWellbeing

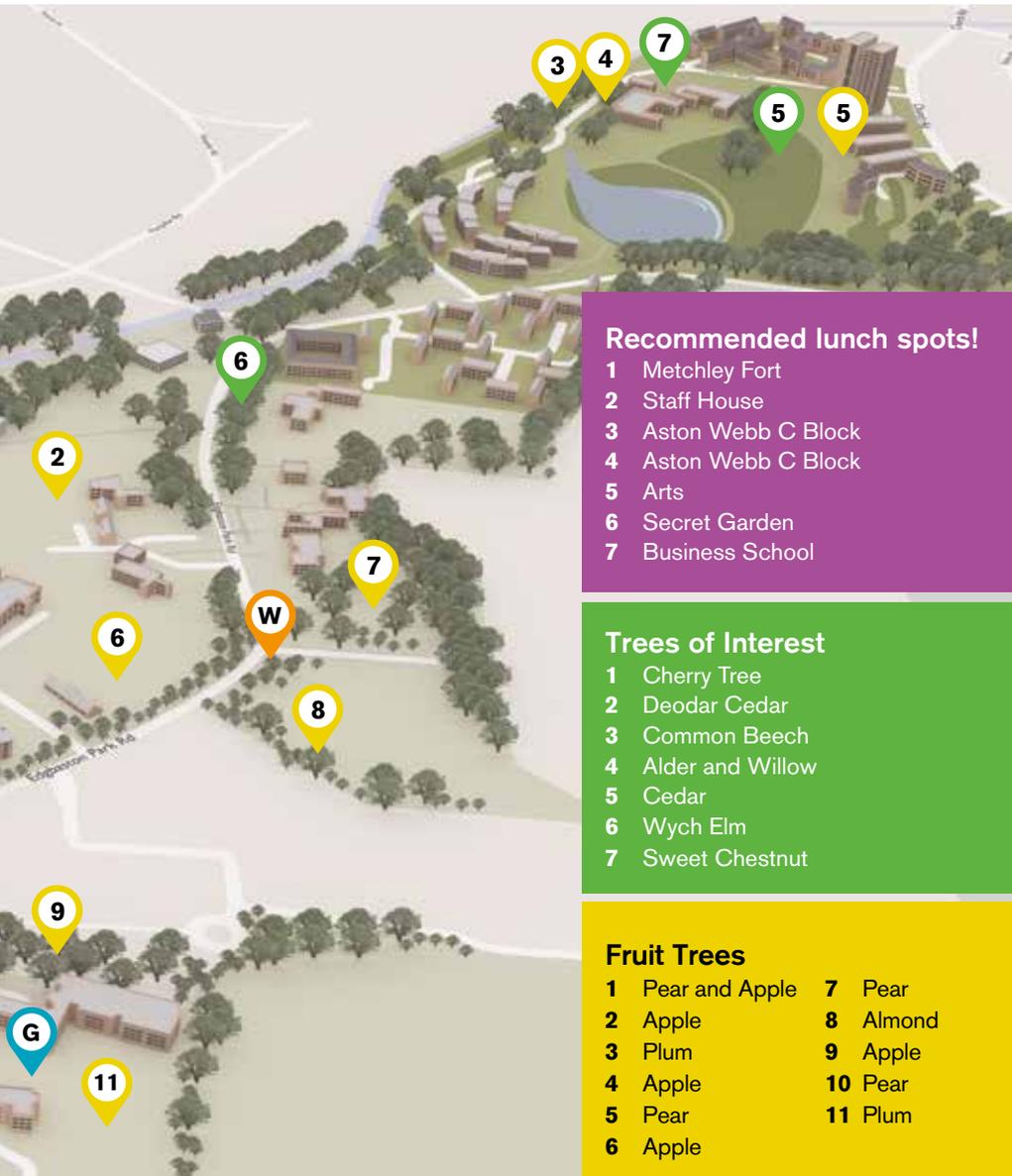
Sculpture Trail

- A Equestrian Statue of King George I, bronze
- B Mermaid Fountain
- C Beethoven, Virgil, Michelangelo, Plato, Shakespeare, Newton, Watt, Faraday and Darwin, stone frieze
- D King Edward VII, marble bust (indoors, Aston Webb)
- E Girl in a Hat, bronze
- F Heraldic Shields from Mason College, stone
- G Woman for Heidelberg, bronze
- H The Reading Girl (La Garibaldina) (indoors, Muirhead Tower)
- I Ancestor I, bronze
- J Engineering Frieze, stone
- K The Wrestlers, sculpture, bronze
- L Faraday
- M Portrait bust of Dame Hilda Lloyd (indoors, Medical School)

W

Explore Winterbourne

'Winterbourne is a beautiful garden and is not too far away from anyone working at the University to walk in and enjoy the smells and sounds of nature – a great way to spend a lunch break! And it's free for staff too! I returned to my desk invigorated and ready for the afternoon.' – Anonymous



Recommended lunch spots!

- 1 Metchley Fort
- 2 Staff House
- 3 Aston Webb C Block
- 4 Aston Webb C Block
- 5 Arts
- 6 Secret Garden
- 7 Business School

Trees of Interest

- 1 Cherry Tree
- 2 Deodar Cedar
- 3 Common Beech
- 4 Alder and Willow
- 5 Cedar
- 6 Wych Elm
- 7 Sweet Chestnut

Fruit Trees

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1 Pear and Apple | 7 Pear |
| 2 Apple | 8 Almond |
| 3 Plum | 9 Apple |
| 4 Apple | 10 Pear |
| 5 Pear | 11 Plum |
| 6 Apple | |

A little more steam to let off?

UoB Sport run 30 and 45 minute group exercise classes running midday-2.00pm. Spin, body pump, yoga and pilates (plus much more) are available during lunchtime hours. After work an outdoor Bootcamp runs on Tuesday and Friday, 5.00–6.00pm, or if you fancy a swim, you can for £3.50 at the Munrow (without the need for a membership outside of term-time). Squash and Badminton courts, and the 3G pitches are also available for hire. For more information visit: www.sport.bham.ac.uk

The evidence around diet, exercising and taking the time to relax from day-to-day pressures, and the positive effects these can all have on our health and wellbeing is well established. Our picturesque campus provides plenty of opportunities for us to indulge these determinants of health; so allow *Buzz* to share some of these and tempt you to leave your desk, get outside, get active and make the most of your lunch break.

Lunch spots

Looking for a picnic spot? Head to The Vale, a brisk 15-minute walk northeast of campus. See the dramatic Cedar and Sweet Chestnut trees and enjoy a picnic by the lake or at the seating area outside the Shackleton building. In late summer/early autumn Discovery apples and Victoria plums will be ripe for picking.

Did you know that the grounds outside the Medical School are part of the remains of the Metchley Fort, an ancient Roman fort built around 2000 years ago, shortly after the Roman invasion of Britain? Today, with its gentle grassy concaves, it provides an ideal spot to have your lunch and soak up the sun.

Getting cultural

If you're a culture enthusiast then you've no doubt experienced the wonderful Barber Institute of Fine Arts and the Cadbury Research Library and will be eagerly anticipating this month's re-opening of the Lapworth Museum of Geology! You may not be aware, however, that we also have 'campus culture trails' – ideal for getting some moderate exercise.

The **'Blue Plaque trail'** details the influential achievements by the many brilliant men and women who have worked at the University of Birmingham since its earliest days. The **'Eduardo Paolozzi trail'** introduces you to the prolific sculptor, printmaker, collector and teacher, whose work explores a life-long fascination with popular culture, science and technology. The **'Sculpture Trail'** (see map) allows you to discover the wealth of styles, subjects and shapes of the University's sculpture collection. For more information on the culture trails, visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/culture/collections/culture-trails.aspx

DID YOU SEE THE PTERODACTYLS IN CITIZEN KANE?



That one's on us, but usually these little gems are reserved as an 'added-extra' for the audiences of B-Film; the University's booming research centre bringing academia and film to the city of Birmingham. *Buzz* caught up with Dr Andrew Watts, Professor Rob Stone and Dr Michele Aaron, architects of B-Film to find out about its inaugural year.

'We've spent the last year building up the profile of B-Film within the University and in the city itself. B-Film is a forum for collaborative discussion around research, funding, and connecting the University with the city and its public. It brings together a wide range of scholars, postgraduate students and academics from the College of Arts and Law,' explains Professor Rob Stone.

These are its foundations, but it is clear that this is more than a high-level academic-focused film project; it's about the uniting power of film in bringing disparate audiences together to experience new things – new ideas, new perspectives, new cultures and new art. Indeed, *'the beauty of B-Film lies in its collaborative approach offering a viewpoint across multiple disciplines; from history and politics to psychology, film provides a great focal point,'* says Dr Andrew Watts.

For something that's only been in existence in its current form for a year, B-Film has built an impressive reputation, evidenced in the surge in student enquiries and applications and in the praise it receives from its partner institutions in the city of Birmingham.

SCREENING RIGHTS

It's the connection with the city's diverse communities that is at the heart of the project. Dr Michele Aaron runs the four-day flagship Screening Rights Film Festival

at the Midlands Arts Centre, which launched last summer.

Sponsored by the by the CAL Impact Fund and the AHRC project 'Voices of War and Peace', it returns this September (15th–18th) bigger and better and now city-wide at the MAC and The Electric Cinema. *'The Festival showcases some of the most exciting and important films from around the globe. Its special screenings bring together acclaimed directors and producers, activists and academics to extend the discussion of film's power to effect change. Grounded in research, the festival also provides a forum for screening films arising from B-Film related research projects, enhancing the potential for the University,'* says Dr Michele Aaron.

CINEMATIC TIME MACHINE

In 2016 a grant from the British Film Institute facilitated a partnership with the Electric Cinema, the UK's oldest working cinema, to deliver a year-long season of films spanning 12 decades. The Cinematic Time Machine collaboration, which has featured classics such as *Citizen Kane*, *King Kong*, *The Bicycle Thieves*, *The Red Shoes*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Gone with the Wind* have all sold out and done wonders for raising the profile of B-Film. The audience are treated to introductions to the films by members of B-Film which, according to Michele, helps to remove the audiences' trepidation about the bridging

of academia and film – that frightful word 'studies' – and in essence *'provides them with a very un-scary way for them to get an added extra that they are surprised to find that they love.'* Rob adds: *'When we first were asked by the Electric our initial discussions were "please don't be too dry or too academic", but the audience response has been terrific. I did Citizen Kane; I presented the facts (such as four pterodactyls flying past in a serendipitous instance of back projection) and drew a parallel between the story of Kane and that of Donald Trump. The audience are so appreciative and it serves to highlight the enduring relevance of film.'*

CUBAN EVENINGS

Another regular on the B-Film circuit, this time at the city's Mockingbird Theatre, is a monthly Cuban cinema (Cine Cubano) evening, proving hugely popular not least with the city's Cuban population. In fact B-Film's audiences are as diverse as its members' research interests and the films they exhibit – *'audience diversity is part of B-Film's greater mission in bringing people together, and what we've found is that we've got people – politically-minded people – who typically wouldn't go to the MAC or The Electric coming in from the Screening Rights Festival. I think that's been one of our big successes. Film is for - and should be enjoyed by - everyone,'* smiles Rob.

'B-FILM HAS BEEN INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CINEMATIC TIME MACHINE. THE KNOWLEDGE AND PASSION FOR THE FILMS THAT WE HAVE PROGRAMMED HAS SHONE THROUGH EVERY TIME ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS ATTENDS A SCREENING. THEY HAVE ADDED AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF VALUE TO THIS HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE.'

Jonathan Glen – The Electric Cinema

'IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE TO BE PART OF THE B-FILM EVENT RECENTLY, AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO REFLECT ON THE PROCESS OF HAVING MY WORK ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN. I AM CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF HAVING ANOTHER OF MY NOVELS, 'SPILT MILK, BLACK COFFEE', ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN. THIS TIME I'VE ADAPTED THE WORK MYSELF, FOR THE FILM COMPANY MIGHTY ATOM. I HOPE IF WE DO MANAGE TO MAKE THE MOVIE SOON, THEN I CAN TO COME BACK TO THE WONDERFUL B FILM AND DISCUSS IT.'

Helen Cross – author of 'My Summer of Love'

ADAPTATION SERIES

B-Film's focus extends beyond public engagement. Back on campus Andrew hosts the Adaptation Series, which is driving postgraduate opportunities, and inspiring plans for a cross-college MA programme on adaptation, bringing together expertise from a range of disciplines. Says Andrew: *'The Adaptation Series is different because it brings together academics and individuals involved in making the films themselves; the authors.'* So far they have hosted 'My Summer of Love' with author Helen Cross (who has now become a Creative Fellow in Arts and Law), and 'Gemma Boverly' with author Posy Simmonds, a film linked directly to final year module.

Beneath the surface of B-Film lies an impact-driven research catalyst. Rob explains how B-Film has helped with external funding bids and is harnessing potential for the University: *'When you apply for external funding you're often asked to describe the research context and before B-Film it was very difficult to pinpoint a research culture in film studies. Now it's easy because B-Film provides a very visual demonstration of that. Having academic interdisciplinary collaborations is revealing where we have potential to go for major funding.'*

Empirically its impact is evidenced in the considerable rise in postgraduate student numbers and in the number of applications and informal enquiries that reference B-Film.

One recent innovation, which is proving very popular and generating a lot of interest, is an audio-visual PhD where candidates can create a documentary alongside a 30,000-word thesis. Andrew also points to the centre's structure as something that really appeals to students – *'in nourishing the way we build cross-college collaboration, it works as a good structure in which to nurture mentoring and relationships between more senior members of staff and postgraduate students. Earlier this year students held a PG social evening, allowing them to build networks, and which serves as platform for them to organise their own postgraduate community-led events.'*

Exploring B-Film's potential is the next step, and they are keen to extend beyond the College of Arts and Law and draw on perspectives from across the University. A partnership between the University of Leeds' Centre for World Cinemas and Digital Cultures and Routledge publishers, developing a collaborative book series, will look at re-mapping world cinema and extend B-Film's reach outside of the city. Rob concludes: *'What's defined B-film the last year is the wonderful unpredictability of what opportunities are coming next. Now we want to understand what its potential is – we want it to become a beacon for film studies in the UK and to get it into a shape where it responds seamlessly to those opportunities and ensures B-Film continues to grow and develop.'*

The inaugural annual B-Film public lecture will be held on 14 January 2017 in The Electric Cinema.

The guest speaker will be the internationally renowned scholar Professor Linda Williams, Professor in Film and Media and Rhetoric at Berkeley. Funded thanks to a collaboration between B-Film and the Department of Film And Creative Writing at the University, the event will include a special presentation from Professor Williams, a screening of a film of her choice, and a Q&A with the audience.

This is the first of what will be an annual event, bringing world renowned scholars at the cutting edge of Film Studies to the University of Birmingham.

DO YOU LIKE HAVING A GOOD TIME?

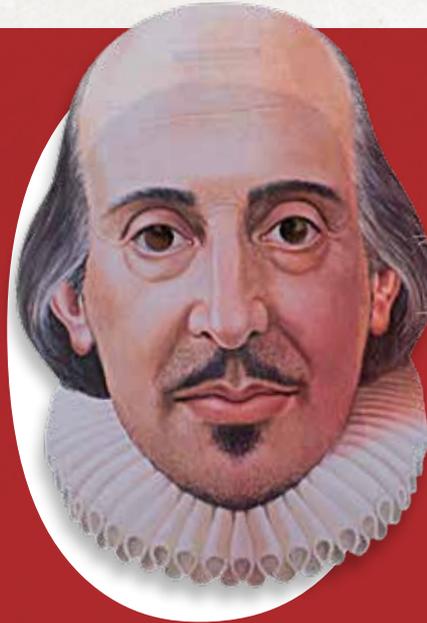
Then you need a good watch! You can catch B-Film at The Electric Cinema:

- **Sunday 19 June, midday**
Breathless, with an introduction by Kate Ince
- **Sunday 26 June, midday**
Dr Strangelove, with an introduction by James Walters
- **Sunday 3 July, midday**
Badlands, with an introduction by Rob Stone

You can book tickets at:
www.theelectric.co.uk/programme.php

Shakespeare

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at the University of Birmingham

A Shakespeare anniversary is always a big event in any Shakespearean scholar's calendar, and this year is no exception as we mark 400 years since the Bard's death. For months the University's Shakespeare Institute has been involved in planning and contributing to the anniversary weekend celebrations that took place in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Established in 1951, the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute, renowned as one of the world research leaders in Shakespearean and Renaissance drama, is tucked away in idyllic Stratford-upon-Avon, just a few steps away from the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. The Institute building, Mason Croft, was once home to novelist Marie Corelli, and since 1996 the site has housed a purpose-built library boasting a huge collection of works, including 60,000 volumes (some 3,000 early printed and rare books), archives and manuscripts, and audio-visual collections.

Professor Michael Dobson is the Institute's director, and if you were to have a cup of tea with Michael you would quickly learn from him just how much the Institute is a hive of world-class activity. As Professor Dobson says, the Institute is: *'the best place on Earth in which to explore the impact Shakespeare's work has had across four centuries of world culture.'*

The research interests of its fellows have never been so breathtakingly diverse. Whether you're interested in Shakespeare and medicine; Asia; religion; textual

editing; the wider corpus of Renaissance drama; or early modern literature in history, the Shakespeare Institute has someone who specialises in these areas.

Our Shakespeare academics are involved in a whole mix of research projects. For example, Professor Ewan Fernie collaborated on the sell-out Odes to Shakespeare concert, which took place at the Holy Trinity Church (also the resting place of William Shakespeare) during the anniversary weekend. The concert featured actor Sam West performing Garrick's 1769 *Ode to Shakespeare* with the Ex-Cathedra choir performing Arne's original music; in the second half a newly commissioned masque by the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, was performed to music by Sally Beamish.

As well as continuing their research, our Institute scholars have been making headlines globally. To get a sense of the how our Shakespeare expertise helps to further our reach and bring Birmingham to the world, an array of Shakespeare-related media coverage took place in the national and global press. During the anniversary weekend in April, Professor Michael Dobson was interviewed by the *Daily Mirror*, Sky News, the *Irish Independent*, *BBC History Magazine*, Oxford University Press and German broadcaster ARD, and posted articles for Oxford University Press, and the British Library. Professor Fernie featured on BBC Online debating why we should celebrate the Bard, while Dr Chris Laoutaris wrote articles for the *Times Higher Education*, *BBC History Magazine*, Oxford University Press and was interviewed on the BBC and Mexican News agency, Notimex. Dr Laoutaris also participated in a documentary on Shakespeare's



Our research

Professor John Jowett is editing a digital version of the New Oxford Shakespeare, while Professor Michael Dobson and Dr Abigail-Roskin Woodall are co-editing the Arden Performance Editions of Shakespeare, where texts of the plays are specifically designed for actors. Michael is also writing a book about the presence of Shakespeare in the repertoires of national theatres worldwide. Professor Ewan Fernie is publishing a co-authored book 'Macbeth Macbeth' – which is a response to Shakespeare's play and turns into its own entirely new fiction. Dr Chris Laoutaris published his book about Shakespeare and the 'self-styled Countess' Elizabeth Russell, who nearly destroyed the Bard's career when she succeeded in getting the Blackfriars Theatre in London closed down in 1596. Dr Laoutaris is now working on a project about the creation of Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623.

London for the British Council's 'Shakespeare Lives' initiative, as part of the BBC Shakespeare Festival.

The 400 anniversary celebrations in Stratford-upon-Avon over the weekend of 22 April also featured University of Birmingham Shakespeare Institute students. Since 2014 the University has been working with BBC Radio 3 around plans to mark the anniversary and played an important role in securing coverage for the entire celebrations including the Ode to Shakespeare concert at Holy Trinity Church. BBC Radio 3 were in residence over the whole weekend with a pop-up studio at The Other Place Theatre, and students took part in a special edition of 'Words and Music', where they were asked to perform some of Shakespeare's poetry on the subject of youth and age.

And it does not stop there, as Professor Michael Dobson told us: *'Professor Ewan Fernie and I were interviewed on BBC Radio 3 during the interval of the sell-out Garrick Ode concert. Actor Sam West and I also discussed The Winter's Tale on BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking programme.'*

'Dr Abigail Rokison-Woodall judged the BBC's Eurovision Shakespeare event, and arranged the Shakespeare Institute's BBC touch-table project at BBC Birmingham in the Mailbox. She also appeared on the National Theatre's pre-show broadcast for NT Live, As You Like It, in cinemas worldwide talking about Shakespeare at the National Theatre.'

'Our Shakespeare Institute scholars have been travelling this term giving lectures, doing interviews and writing various articles for media at home and abroad. Professor John Jowett has been speaking in New Zealand; I gave interviews and lectures in Zagreb,

Bucharest, and Craiova, and Professor Ewan Fernie conducted seminars in Belgrade and gave a sell-out public lecture from which 200 people had to be turned away.'

The University of Birmingham is still developing its relationship with all things Shakespeare, as 2016 also marks the opening of the iconic studio theatre The Other Place in Stratford-upon-Avon. The opening of the theatre is a key milestone in a five-year collaboration between the RSC and the University. As a founding partner and funder of the theatre, the University and its students will benefit from using the space to perform, undertake classes with RSC artists and practitioners, and stage performances. Some of these activities kick off in June with a three-day 'page, stage, and screen' festival of performance and workshops for students from the College of Arts and Law.

But activities around the Shakespeare 400 celebrations are not over yet. In July our scholars will be taking part in the World Shakespeare Congress, an international conference for academics and students of Shakespeare from across the globe. It will be hosted partly in Stratford-upon-Avon and partly in London at the Globe Theatre, with world-renowned scholars, playwrights and actors performing and hosting seminars. It is events like this that put Shakespeare and the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute firmly on the map. Now we only have to wait another 50 years until the next anniversary of the Bard's death and just 48 years to commemorate 500 years since the birth of William Shakespeare. *The First Folio*, of which the University is now guardian of one priceless copy, will turn 400 in only seven years' time...

CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

Chancellor's column

In April this year I chaired the Westminster Higher Education Forum on enterprise and entrepreneurship in higher education.

This highlighted to me how the University of Birmingham has been ahead of the game since its foundation in 1900, as the first university in the United Kingdom to offer a degree in Commerce. In fact my own grandfather, Squadron Leader J. D. Italia, graduated in Commerce in 1931 from the University of Birmingham.

Today the Birmingham Business School is one of the few institutions in the world that has a triple accreditation, a rare achievement. I am proud to say that Professor Simon Collinson has recently been appointed Chair of the Chartered Association of Business Schools.

At our University Annual Meeting in March, it gave me enormous pride that two of the scientists who recently discovered gravitational waves, proving Einstein's theory of relativity, were Andreas Freise and Professor Alberto Vecchio of the University of Birmingham School of Physics and Astronomy. They were the stars of the annual meeting!

It is no wonder that the University of Birmingham is central to the newly launched government initiative, the Midlands Engine.



What is it?

Mermaid Fountain by William Bloye (1890–1975), 1960, Campus Collection of Fine and Decorative Art

Where is it?

Guild of Students

This exuberant bronze fountain is a sculptural interpretation of the mermaid from the University of Birmingham's coat of arms. The mermaid was chosen because it featured on the crest of the precursor of the University, Mason Science College. The College borrowed her from the crest of its founder, Sir Josiah Mason.

The joyful figure offers a welcoming reception to all. Her face is smiling, her arms outstretched and her body curves up to the sky. She is riding stylised waves on top of a layered bowl, shaped like a scallop shell with lily flowers.

William Bloye studied at the Birmingham School of Art and was a member of the Birmingham Civic Society. As Birmingham's unofficial civic sculptor he worked on many commissions for the city and the University. Other commissions for the University include the Medical Faculty's coat of arms sculpture and the School of Engineering frieze.

Please see <http://rcc-redmarely.tumblr.com> to find out more about the Mermaid Fountain. You can also visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/rcc to find out more about the Research and Cultural Collections.

Want to explore campus sculpture?

See pages 8 and 9 to follow the Sculpture Trail!



news+views

Our regular feature gives *Buzz* readers a quick tour of the latest University news hitting the headlines and activity among our online community.

If you would like to work with the press office, or find out more about how they can help you promote your research, email pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 6029

in the news...

Many articles about Birmingham research and expertise appear in local, national and international press every day. Here are just a few examples of our recent highlights.

There has been much ado about Shakespeare as part of the 400-year legacy celebrations. *The Independent*, BBC and Fox News spoke to our experts at the Shakespeare Institute, and Dr Chris Laoutaris penned an article for *BBC History Magazine* on the enduring popularity of the Bard. On the weekend itself, Professor Michael Dobson and Professor Ewan Fernie were interviewed live on BBC Radio 3.

As the EU referendum campaign gathered pace, a range of Birmingham experts were called upon by the media including; Dr Tereza Capelos who discussed stress and the referendum in the *Daily Express*, Dr Nando Sigona who wrote about the refugee crisis for *The Independent*, Professor Isabelle Szmigin who talked to BBC Radio 5 Live on the effectiveness of the much-reported government leaflet on the referendum, Professor Scott Lucas who spoke to BBC World Service on Obama's views on the referendum, and Professor Tony Yates who was interviewed in the *Daily Mail* about whether the Bank of England should be involved in the 'Brexit' debate.

With the official launch of the Birmingham-led National Centre for Miscarriage Research, Professor Arri Coomarasamy was interviewed by BBC *Breakfast*, Sky News, and a number of national newspapers.

Research led by Dr Anna Phillips and Professor Janet Lord, which found that administering flu vaccinations in the morning is more effective than in afternoon, was covered by BBC, *the Guardian* and *The New York Times*.

Dr Simon Dixon was interviewed by BBC Radio 4, *The Times* and *the Guardian* on his findings that the strategic planting of trees on floodplains could reduce flooding by up to 20%.

Professor Hisham Mehanna's innovative scanning-led surveillance, that has been found to reduce the need for invasive surgery in patients with head and neck cancer, led to an interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme*.

The work of Dr Guy Davies, who used data from the NASA Kepler space telescope to discover a class of extrasolar planets whose atmospheres have been stripped away by their host stars, was featured on the BBC and in the *Daily Mail*.

Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham. If you use social media at work and would like to increase your visibility, find out more at: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines



feeling social...

In February we launched a new photography challenge on Instagram to encourage followers to share their inspiring images of the University.

A theme is set at the start of every week, and followers are encouraged to tag their images #hellobrum to join in.

Themes have included 'Study', 'Books', 'Revision' and 'My Time at Birmingham' and have seen students, academics and even library staff all joining in and sharing their campus photos.

Every week four of the images are chosen and shared on the University's Facebook page to an ongoing gallery of images and new themes.

It is an easy way of ensuring the hashtag is always populated with great photos, showcasing what it's like to live, work and study at Birmingham.

Anne Simper... in my own words



Anne Simper is the Business Engagement Partner for the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, and was recently awarded the BUAFTA for Newcomer of the Year.

I grew up in Bolton and attended the University of Liverpool where I studied microbiology. I was awarded a Rotary Graduate Ambassadorial Scholarship to the University of Western Ontario to complete an MRes in virology. I had started a PhD in cancer research when my supervisor left, and it was around this time that I decided a career in research wasn't quite for me. For two years I worked as a genetic engineering research technician – a new field of study at the time. However, I decided that I wanted to go into the management of science, so I returned to the UK and completed an MBA at the University of Warwick, which enabled me to make the transition. I began my career as an export manager for the Binding Site, a spin-out of the University of Birmingham.

After having children, working globally was very difficult, so over a period of 18 years I set up and ran my own businesses focused on marketing consultancy and business start-up and growth. Following a short sabbatical I started at the University in August 2014 to facilitate academic and industry research collaborations for the College of Medical and Dental Sciences (MDS).

In times of reduced funding from research councils, the Business Engagement team is focused on developing and diversifying sources of income, collaborating with industry and helping translate research to provide impact. Concurrently many sectors have reduced their in-house research and development capabilities, and therefore collaborations are an excellent way of bridging this gap while allowing academia to translate research for – in MDS's case – patient benefit. In today's competitive environment it is increasingly important for academia to demonstrate the benefit of its research base to the economy and society, and BE plays a critical role in enabling these partnerships to flourish.

The mind-set around working with industry is evolving and we're increasingly turning to industry to strengthen our impact. In MDS, collaboration has exploded, with industry awards accounting for 10% of overall research awards. As well as providing a source of income, industry collaboration with multinational pharmaceuticals, diagnostic and biotech extends our influence. We're currently working on multiple research projects with AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Celgene and Novartis, and within the College we have collaborative research projects with over 60 additional companies.

My role is aided by the fantastic facilities we have

here on campus that make us really attractive to industry. The Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM) is all about bringing products to market quicker, and the big advantage that we have is the ability to deliver full-circle translational research. A key challenge for companies is getting their products accepted throughout the NHS, and in the ITM we have the Academic Health Science Network who are right at the end of the translational spectrum, focusing on getting products adopted. The West Midlands has a stable multi-ethnic population of over 5 million people, giving us access to a massive cohort of people for clinical trials. Industry are continually impressed by our unique co-location – we have clinicians and academics working in collaboration under the Birmingham Health Partners, the ITM, the Human Biomaterial Resource Centre, the Advanced Therapy Facility, and the Clinical Research Facility for early phase trials, all located in a small geographical area. These facilities are hugely attractive, but none of it holds real substance without the wealth of expertise behind them, and particular specialities such as our world-leading liver unit, novel approaches to inflammation research and rare diseases all offering something special.

I was honoured and privileged to receive the BUAFTA for Newcomer of the Year, and I felt very humbled reading the nomination. Within MDS there is a fantastic team spirit, and what is really pleasing is having confirmation that we are going the right direction; I couldn't have won the award without the academics and the rest of the professional services team within the College, as well as my colleagues in business engagement and finance. It is only by working together that we can move forward and it's encouraging to see that people in the University appreciate the difference we've made so far. The University is a very enriching environment in which to work, with many opportunities for self-development, and with the amazing and inspiring people working in both academia and across professional services who want to make a real difference.

Outside of work I love being outdoors: gardening, cycling, and participating in a variety of different sports. I play for Bromsgrove Tennis Club in the ladies and mixed doubles teams in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire tennis league; we are very competitive (though we try not to appear so) and our ladies team have just been promoted for the third consecutive season!