



October/November 2016

*Enriching*  
**Education**



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*

I do not, willingly, listen to *The Archers*. My wife, however, is an avid *Archers* fan. So far we have managed more than 36 years of happily married life despite this incompatibility. Many years ago I discovered that there was a society,



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

Next edition 7 December 2016

Copy deadline 11 November 2016

Contact us

[university-buzz@bham.ac.uk](mailto:university-buzz@bham.ac.uk)

Buzz online

[buzz.bham.ac.uk](http://buzz.bham.ac.uk)

Follow us on Twitter

[twitter.com/buzzunibham](https://twitter.com/buzzunibham)

Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/buzzunibham](https://facebook.com/buzzunibham)



Edited by Matthew Collins

[internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Your details

Please let us know if you want extra copies of *Buzz* or if you think we need to amend your distribution details.

Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

Front cover image: Professor Kathleen Armour, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.

based as it happens in Abingdon in Oxfordshire, committed to the abolition of *The Archers*. I thought of joining, but, as I value my marriage, decided against it.

For Birmingham, *The Archers* has something of an iconic quality. It is still recorded just up the road from the University in the BBC studios in The Mailbox. Indeed, not long after I arrived at the University, I was invited to go along to a special open evening where you could meet some of the actors and watch them recording. It will not surprise you to know that I did not go, however Jan (my wife) did. As an improbable tale of everyday folk in the Midlands the fictional home of *The Archers* cannot be too far from the home of my PA, Linda Wilden.

As surely everybody in the nation knows, *The Archers* has been convulsed of late by the trial of Helen Titchener. This has, I read in the papers, boosted the audience to over five million for the radio soap opera. Such was the profile that celebrity jurors, or rather celebrity actors brought in to play jurors, were enticed to take part in an hour-long version of the show, including Nigel Havers and Dame Eileen Atkins.

You may, by now, be wondering what *The Archers* and indeed the trial of Helen Titchener have got to do with the University of Birmingham or universities more generally. Apparently, during the debate in the jury room, the character played by Eileen Atkins talked about a variety of issues, including Brexit, the challenge it would pose for universities, and the loss of European research funding to our leading universities.

Reading reports of this set me thinking. Very often, now, advocacy for universities falls almost exclusively on those of us in universities, and very often nearly exclusively on the leaders of our universities. This is a slender, and sometimes too obviously self-interested, basis for advocacy.

If the case for our universities is to be made most effectively and most powerfully, it must be made more broadly. The drop-ins such as the reference in *The Archers* are, in their way, hugely helpful.

Similarly, our MPs often say that there is very little in their post bags around the challenges facing the universities and the need to advocate for universities. If all of us working in universities could lobby effectively, and if we could find ways of communicating to our friends and

acquaintances some of the challenges that we face, and, more importantly, the contributions we can and do make to the country at large, the case for our universities, particularly in difficult times, would be all the more powerfully made.

This matters when we are facing a Higher Education Bill that will see our universities much more heavily and restrictively regulated. It matters when the Government is seeking to place requirements on universities to support a range of activities for which we are not funded and which therefore will entail us redirecting funds from our core activities to support new activities.

It matters as universities are being subjected to a Teaching Excellence Framework which, as presently conceived, could well fail to capture the nature and quality of the experience that students have at a university such as this, and could, perhaps unintentionally, lead to much more mechanistic and uninteresting approaches to teaching and learning.

It matters as we continue to work with government to ensure that the process of exiting the European Union does not place us in a position where it will be difficult to attract and retain outstanding staff from within the European Union. It matters when we need to win the argument with government that the recruitment of European and international students is critical, not simply to the financial health of our universities, but to the intellectual environment which is at the heart of a global university.

So it turns out that *The Archers* has a purpose after all! In reminding all of us who work within universities of our responsibility to explain more widely the role, purpose, and profound benefits that universities bring; in ensuring that there is a broader and more nuanced understanding of the challenges that our universities face as we compete in a global environment for talent and reputation; and in reminding our fellow citizens here in Birmingham that having a great university at the heart of our city is an asset to be prized. In these and in so many other ways those small drop-ins and the asides that some of you would have heard in *The Archers* could have a surprisingly powerful role to play.

*Vice-Chancellor*  
*Professor Sir David Eastwood*

## Internal Communications – let us know what you think?



Hi everyone,

All of the University's central internal communications are delivered by me, Matt Collins (Internal Communications Officer). My role includes producing and editing this *Buzz* magazine, its monthly e-version *Buzz Bitesize*, helping to put on events for staff such as the Vice-Chancellor's Forum and Birmingham Professional Forum, sending out all-staff emails and managing the busy internal comms inbox.

Essentially I'm here to share your news and success stories, to help communicate important messages to you, and to let you know what the University and its staff are up to. Sometimes in such a large organisation, where we have one shared vision but a hugely diverse range of people, roles, and priorities, it is difficult to ensure I am catering for everyone. The things

I send out go to all staff, from those discovering gravitational waves in outer space, to the people on the ground keeping our campus looking spectacular – so there may be occasions when things aren't directly relevant to you, but I hope on the whole you find that they are helpful or interesting.

Either way, I'm giving you the chance to tell me what you think. I am carrying out a review of our central communications and will be emailing you a short survey in the next couple of weeks to find out your views. This will help me to shape the central communications you will receive in the future and will hopefully ensure you are happy with our internal communications.

Thank you.

**Matt Collins**  
Internal Communications Officer

## Dates for the diary

### Vice-Chancellor's Forum

Tuesday 18 October 2016,  
12.30–1.30pm,

Barber Concert Hall,  
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for his first staff address of the new academic year.

This is a time of considerable change in higher education and the Vice-Chancellor will offer a personal insight into the politics and policy of the sector, covering topics such as the new Teaching Excellence Framework, the review of the REF, and the creation of the Office for Students and UK Research and Innovation. Sir David will also provide an update on the latest information in relation to the UK's exit from the EU, as well as his reflections on recent University highlights and priorities for the coming year.

All staff are warmly invited, registration is not required and there will be the usual opportunity to ask your questions.

### Birmingham Professional Forum

Tuesday 1 November 2016,  
11.00am–12noon

Bramall Music Building

Introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, the forum is a great opportunity to hear from colleagues on a wide range of topical subjects for both staff and the University.

## STONEWALL'S WORKPLACE EQUALITY INDEX 2017

After rising to 50th place in the 2016 Stonewall Workplace Index, the University is now preparing its application for 2017.

As part of the application process Stonewall seeks feedback directly from the staff of participating employers. All staff are invited to complete a short questionnaire to give their views about LGBT equality in their workplace.

To complete the questionnaire, all you need to do is to follow the link below and make sure that you give the University of Birmingham's unique four digit code: 1672

[www.stonewall.org.uk/get-involved/  
get-involved-workplace/workplace-  
equality-index-2017](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-workplace/workplace-equality-index-2017)

The questionnaire will close on  
Friday 4 November 2016.

*'Last year over 1,000 people completed Stonewall's survey and their feedback has been invaluable. I would encourage everyone to take part in this short survey to help us understand where we are doing well and where we can continue to improve as an LGBTQ inclusive organisation.'*

Una Martin, DPVC for Equalities



## Character Matters...

*with Rt.Hon.Baroness Estelle Morris, The Hon.Tristram Hunt MP, Rt. Hon.Nicky Morgan MP and Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP*

Thursday, 24 November,  
6.15–7.15pm, Aston Webb

### Why Character Matters in Education

Introduced by Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor. Panel discussion with Q&A session chaired by Lord James O'Shaughnessy. Vote of thanks given by Sir Anthony Seldon. Register: [www.eventbrite.com/e/character-matters-tickets-27026488956](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/character-matters-tickets-27026488956)



## BUAFTA nominations now open! 3–28 October

BUAFTA (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) is an annual scheme that celebrates exceptional individuals, teams, and projects across the University's Birmingham Professional network.

Now entering its tenth year, we are hoping that BUAFTAs 2017 will be the most successful yet in recognising colleagues' achievements, and we need your help to make this happen.

Nominations are open from 3–28 October, and you can nominate any Professional Services colleagues or teams for an award from this year's ten categories.

For further information, and to make your nominations for BUAFTAs 2017, visit [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/BUAFTAS](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/BUAFTAS).

## Password Manager Service:



The IT Service Desk receives more than 14,000 password reset requests each year.

That's 14,000 users unable to work, waiting for the busy IT Service Desk to issue a one-time passcode to get them back up and running, costing time and money in wasted productivity for each forgotten password.

You can register for our Password Manager Service at: [www.my.password.bham.ac.uk](http://www.my.password.bham.ac.uk)

- Save time!
- Cut out the middle man!
- Available 24/7!

You can also create a profile by adding a personal email address and mobile number to take control of your own password.

Learn more about password resets at the IT Service Desk's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/uob servicedesk/posts/949250201867639](https://www.facebook.com/uob servicedesk/posts/949250201867639)

## University of Birmingham welcomes our first apprentices on to campus

In September the University of Birmingham welcomed 17 apprentices to campus as part of our newly launched apprenticeship scheme.

The apprenticeship scheme provides opportunities to gain high-quality skills and experience as the apprentices take their first steps into work. They have been recruited into a variety of roles across the University's professional support services, from estates to catering, IT to nursery care.

Stuart Richards, Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services, said: *'We are delighted to be able to offer an apprenticeship programme at the University of Birmingham and create a number of opportunities for people from across the city. Our apprenticeship programme will support the University's civic responsibility to be a diverse and inclusive employer within the city and help to secure a strong future workforce on campus.'* The new 12-month scheme, developed in conjunction with Babington Apprenticeships Ltd, allows apprentices to earn while they learn, combining practical training in a

job with study for a recognised qualification. Each apprentice will have a manager and a mentor, enabling a personal service to be delivered to every apprentice in the project. As well as the formal course, they will be able to take part in networking and career development activities on campus.

Dzintars Romans, one of the 17 apprentices who is embracing the opportunity to work and develop new skills at the University in IT, said: *'So far I am finding the apprenticeship exceeds all my expectations. I learned new and useful things on the very first day in the workplace.'*

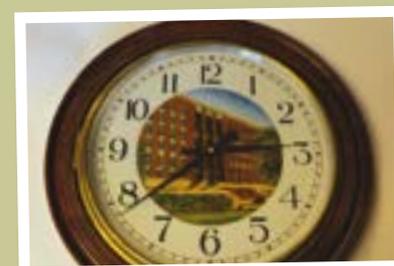


## Can you help us find the missing clocks?

In the late 1970s, Susie Aston was commissioned to illustrate clock faces for several departments within the University, like the one below.

Her daughter, Deborah Smith, would love to know if the University still has these clocks, or where they may have gone.

Please get in touch with Kerrie Holland (K.Holland@bham.ac.uk) if you know of their whereabouts!



# World-class choral team invites you to join University Staff Singers!

It might be easy to miss the hundreds of students, staff and members of the community who come together to perform in one of the 35-plus University Music ensembles, but fling open the doors to The Bramall each evening and you will hear music-making at a level unrivalled by any other UK university. *Buzz* readers might be surprised to learn just how prestigious Edward Elgar's 1905 legacy has become.

Since the Bramall opened its doors in 2012, the level of activity in the Music Department and for University Music has grown beyond recognition. The significant appointment of Professor Simon Carrington, who has joined the University of Birmingham from Yale to team up with Professor Simon Halsey CBE for the 2016/17 academic year, is testimony to the department's blossoming worldwide appeal.

Professor Carrington has arrived to conduct Birmingham University Singers and University Women's Choir. He currently holds the position of Emeritus Professor of Choral Conducting at Yale University, and prior to moving to the United States was a founding member of the internationally acclaimed British vocal ensemble, 'The King's Singers', performing and recording with the group for 25 years. He joins Professor Simon Halsey, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Birmingham, who, among numerous positions is also Choral Director of the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Chorus Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Choruses, and Director of the BBC Proms Youth Choir.

With Visiting Lecturer, Julian Wilkins, they run a distinguished choral conducting programme in what could be described as one of the world's most sought-after Masters courses; our MA in Choral Conducting accepts a maximum of four students each year! It is unquestionably the world-leading course in the field, providing students with unrivalled opportunities to work with choirs and internationally renowned tutors. Choirs are an essential component of University Music, connecting

the University with the public, and the eclectic mix on offer – ranging from the auditioned Birmingham University Singers to the un-auditioned University Chorus – enables the University to engage with around 350 people per week, of all ages and abilities, in and around the local community.

Last month the 'UoB Voices' choir travelled to London to participate in the BBC Proms Youth Choir – a central BBC initiative that brings together young people from across the UK to sing a major choral work at the BBC Proms. Preparations took place in the Bramall Music Building on campus, and the event culminated in a live televised performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at the Royal Albert Hall, which gave students unparalleled access to perform at the very highest level.

Now you too can join in and be part of this world-class setup. Open to all abilities – there is no prerequisite to be able to sing, enthusiasm outweighs singing ability – 'University Staff Singers' will launch this month at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts Concert Hall. It will be led by the select-few students studying the aforementioned Music MA: Choral Conducting, and its premise is built around having fun and participation. Workplace wellbeing is something that the University takes very seriously, and the health-related benefits, both physical and mental, of singing are well established. So why not be part of something special; grab a colleague and head over to the Barber on Thursday 13 October, 12.30–1.30pm for the choir's first taster session.

For more information on University Staff Singers, please contact Gavin Allsop (g.m.allsop@bham.ac.uk) or visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/universitymusic](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/universitymusic)



# transforming our campus

'A staggering  
62km of  
shelving'

## Our 'transformational' library opens

By the time *Buzz* lands on desks, our library will be a hive of activity, filled with students, researchers and staff relishing their new inspirational surroundings.

The state-of-the-art facility provides a new home for the thousands of books and publications that are housed on a staggering 62 kilometres of shelving. This impressive building also features the latest in design and technology, with a new vanguard audio listening room and four video editing suite booths available to reserve. Desks have been placed near windows to maximise natural light and give spectacular views across the campus.

The library has been tailor-made to suit modern users' requirements and is designed to make more of the University's extraordinary collections accessible to students and staff, with expert library staff on hand to help and advise on texts, support and resources.

To mark the opening a special exhibition, which is also open to the public, showcases works from across the University's collections that have pushed the boundaries of Western knowledge over the last 500 years. Organised by the University's Library Services with the Cadbury Research Library, the exhibition, called 'Inspiring Knowledge: works of innovation and imagination that have shaped our world,' will be staged in the new Library Lounge.

As explained by the Director of Library Services, Diane Job, '*The exhibition is a crucible of ideas; an array of groundbreaking works that have changed the way people have thought, experienced and imagined the world, like the library itself.*'

Visit the library's website [www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries) to find out more details about the building and viewing the exhibition.



## New hotel receives planning permission

This summer the University received planning permission to build a 172-bedroom hotel and new conference facility on Edgbaston Park Road.

To be known as Hornton Grange Hotel and Conference Centre, the new facility will encompass the current Conference Park, offering additional employment to around 40 individuals and increasing the overall provision to 220 beds. Conference

and meeting room capacity in the new complex will offer increased flexibility, from intimate rooms that seat four up to larger rooms that cater for up to 200.

Work on this new complex is due to start imminently with the first guests set to be welcomed into the new facility from summer 2018.



Artist's impression of Hornton Grange Hotel

## Building work on 360 Sport & Fitness approaches the finishing line

Construction work at 360 Sport & Fitness is approaching the home straight. Due to open in December 2016, you can now really get a sense of the quality and multi-use space that will be available to everyone looking to get fit and take advantage of the fantastic facilities on offer in Birmingham's newest sports club.

Inside 360 Sport & Fitness, the city's only 50-metre pool is now filled with water, after taking four and a half days and more than 2.1 million litres of water to reach its capacity. The six glass-back squash courts are also complete, along with the multi sports arena that has a floor with painted lines for badminton, netball, basketball and korfbal, along with 871 seats.

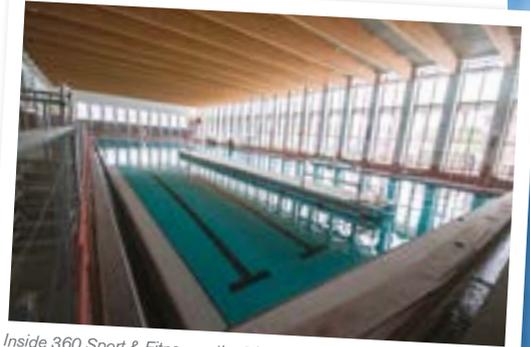
The five studios that will host more than 200 fitness classes are having the finishing touches added before the spaces can be used for activities ranging from indoor cycling to Pilates, weight training to circuits.

The ten-metre climbing wall is in position and towers above the reception area, and the Belgium-created concrete colonnade that faces Bristol Road has been installed and will provide a fully lit outdoor seating area, running the length of the sports centre.

To find out more about 360 Sport & Fitness visit the new website [www.360birmingham.co.uk](http://www.360birmingham.co.uk)

### Become a 360 Sport & Fitness member today!

Details about staff membership packages can be found on the intranet by visiting [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/benefits/offers/Sports-Centre.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/benefits/offers/Sports-Centre.aspx) or emailing the Membership Sales Team at [sales@360birmingham.co.uk](mailto:sales@360birmingham.co.uk)



Inside 360 Sport & Fitness – the 50-metre pool



Inside 360 Sport & Fitness – the well-appointed gym

## The Green Heart starts beating

Work to create the Green Heart has begun following the opening of the new library doors. Preparations have begun for demolition of the old library, with landscaping set to start on what is currently the north car park in summer 2017.

Landscape Architects, Churchman Landscape Associates, have been awarded the contract to design the open space, having previously worked on projects such as the Greenwich National Maritime Museum in London. Lighting designers, Speirs + Major Associates, who were involved with the London 2012 Olympic park, will be using the latest sustainable features to bring the area alive.

Measuring 365m x 135m, the Green Heart will provide space for students, staff and the local community to enjoy. Expected to be completed at by autumn 2018, the Green Heart will be used for performances, socialising, meeting and working.

To keep up to date on the latest Green Heart developments, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/building/green-heart.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/building/green-heart.aspx)



Artist's impression of the Green Heart

## The Alan Walters Building opens its doors

Work is now complete on our brand new Postgraduate Teaching Centre, devoted to the teaching of postgraduate courses in the Business School, including MBAs.

The building has been called the Alan Walters Building after a noted economist whose widow gave a generous gift in his memory.

The new £10 million building contains several distinctive features for students of the Business School's postgraduate programmes, including a Harvard-style lecture theatre. The new facilities will provide a dedicated space for the Business School's postgraduate students, and includes communal areas for studying and group work.



Artist's impression of the Alan Walters Building

# Educational Enterprise

Actively working to identify new market opportunities and extend the global reach of the University through online learning, Educational Enterprise has been a champion of using innovative technology in engaging ways to enhance the learning experience for students on campus and around the world.

Under the leadership of Ian Myatt, Director of Educational Enterprise and Professor Glyn Watson, University Director of Alternative Modes of Delivery (AMD), Educational Enterprise is playing a key role in realising the University's ambition to extend the reach beyond the Birmingham campus through the development of innovative online learning experiences.

In leading the University's pioneering collaboration with Wiley Global Education Services, Educational Enterprise has overseen the development of three wholly online courses. Launching a year ago, the Online MBA, Online MSc International Business and Online Masters of Public Administration (MPA) already have over 150 students studying in 45 countries and this is increasing with each intake. This success has provided a strong foundation for future expansion of the portfolio across an increasingly diverse range of disciplines.

New opportunities for programme development at all levels, CPD opportunities and chances for online innovation are continually being assessed and evaluated, with suggestions always welcome.

For more information on how Educational Enterprise could support you, contact us via [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/educationalenterprise](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/educationalenterprise)



## Spotlight – Setting new standards in design and delivery

The Birmingham Business School's Online MBA, wholly delivered online and whose development was supported by the Educational Enterprise team, this year became the first in the world to receive formal accreditation from one of the leading authorities on postgraduate business education, The Association of MBAs (AMBA).

This groundbreaking AMBA accreditation validates our ambition to

set new standards in design and delivery. Since launching in September 2015 the programme has attracted students from over 20 countries with more joining across the three intakes each year. Ceridwen Scerri, MBA student and Research Analyst from Malta offers a student perspective, highlighting that *'the online MBA provides you with the thrilling experience of connecting globally through your computer.'*

## Our Mission

'To collaborate in the development of distinctive, high-quality and innovative learning experiences, that anticipate the changing needs of learners across the globe.'

*Ian Myatt, Director of Educational Enterprise*



'I really value the contribution that Educational Enterprise makes to the development and marketing of our on-line MPA and MSc in Public Management. They provide expert advice, support and have also helped us to establish very close working relationships with our partner, Wiley.'

*Professor Catherine Staite,  
Director of INLOGOV*

# 86

## DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES

# 63%

## OF STUDENTS ARE INTERNATIONAL



## INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY AND FLEXIBLE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ONLINE

## TEL hub

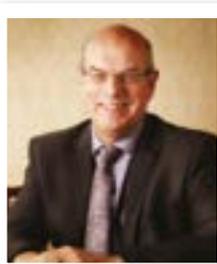
Educational Enterprise works closely with the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) hub which provides support to academics in their use of innovative teaching through greater utilisation of new learning environments.

Find out more about the TEL hub and how they can help you at [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/telhub](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/telhub)

'A real strength has been the ability to establish and deliver both meaningful internal and strategic external partnerships for maximum impact and mutual benefit.'

*Dr Alaric Campbell Rae  
Director of Student Recruitment,  
External Relations*

# Celebrating Success 2016



It is easy to write about the achievements of the University using well-recognised facts and figures – the impact of our research,

the employability of our students, the completion of each new building, and so on. But, of course, we should always remember that each of these achievements is only possible because of the extraordinary efforts of our people.

I am pleased that within the University we have awards such as the Outstanding Teaching Awards and the Professional

Services' BUAFAs to celebrate these efforts and I would strongly encourage you all to put forward nominations for these awards.

I am also pleased, and indeed exceptionally proud, that the successes of academic and Professional Services colleagues are increasingly being recognised outside the University. The breadth and depth of the accomplishments is impressive and emphasises the quality of people we have here in Birmingham.

This special feature has been created to showcase just some of the recognition that colleagues have received during the past 12 months. I hope that in reading about these successes, you also share the same sense of pride.

I offer my warmest congratulations to all those that have been recognised for their work. Our successes are the culmination of the time, efforts, creativity and ingenuity of all colleagues at the University. Let me offer my thanks to each of you for your contribution to the University. I hope that you are each able to recognise and take credit for your part in the University's achievements.

**Professor Sir David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor



## Honours

The Queen's Birthday and New Year Honours saw colleagues recognised for their services to higher education, or achievements within their academic discipline.



### Professor Sir Stanley Wells

received a knighthood for his services to the study and appreciation of Shakespeare.

Sir Stanley's contribution to the Shakespeare Institute has been life-long: he studied for his PhD here, served for many years as a Fellow, and later – after a secondment to Oxford to prepare the groundbreaking Oxford edition of Shakespeare – became Director. It was under Sir Stanley's leadership that the Shakespeare Institute acquired its superb Johnson Library at Mason Croft, and re-established itself permanently in Stratford-Upon-Avon.



Birmingham. He is also Director of the Centre for Clinical Haematology at QEHB.

### Mrs Carolyn Pike,

Director of Legal Services, has been awarded the OBE for services to higher education and the legal profession. Carolyn was pivotal in the setting up of the Association of University Legal Practitioners 16 years ago, and in 2014 she was named one of the UK's 'Top 100' in-house lawyers by the leading legal journal *The Lawyer*, the only university lawyer ever to feature on the list, and was also named one of *The Times'* top 100 female lawyers.



### Congratulations also go to:

- Professor Deirdre Kelly, of Birmingham Children's Hospital, who is a Professor of Paediatric Hepatology at the University and has been honoured with a CBE.
- Professor Celia Moss, University of Birmingham Honorary Professor and Consultant in Paediatric Dermatology, Birmingham Children's Hospital, who received the OBE for services to Paediatric Dermatology.
- Professor Colin John Warbrick, Emeritus Professor of Law at the University, who became a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to international law.

### Professor Charles

**Craddock** was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours list for services to medicine and medical research.

Professor Craddock is Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB) and Professor of Haemato-oncology at the University of



### Mr Alan Murdoch,

Senior Technical Manager in the Institute of Biomedical Research received a British Empire Medal. The award acknowledges the 40 years he has spent being involved in both teaching and research, supporting thousands of undergraduate and postgraduate students.



## International influencers



### Professor Alberto Vecchio, Professor Andreas Freise and the Gravitational Wave Group –

Our groundbreaking scientists, who brought the eyes of the world to Birmingham, were co-recipients of the 2016 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, and the 2016 Gruber Prize in Cosmology.



**Dr Tom Clutton-Brock**, Reader in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the University and QEHB, has been named as one of the top 100 'most influential drivers of the health technology revolution, globally' by Hot Topic.



**Professor Simon Halsey** was awarded the Mendelssohn Medal for outstanding contribution to choral life in Berlin, and has also received an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

## Fine *Fellows*

Academics from the University have been conferred as Fellows and to a number of distinguished and prestigious scholarly societies.

- **Dr Kit Field** – Fellow of the International Professional Development Association
- **Professors Mark Exworthy, Russell Mannion, Jenny Phillimore, Martin Powell, and Nicholas Wheeler** – Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences
- **Dr Alex Connor** – Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology
- **Dr Keith Brain** – Fellow of the British Pharmacology Society
- **Dr Deirdre Lane** – Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology
- **Dr David Boardman** – Fellow of the Institute of Knowledge Transfer
- **Professor Shuang Zhang** – Fellow of The Optical Society (OSA) and the Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award winner



## Student *Support*

The list of impressive accolades bestowed on our Careers Network service demonstrates why we were named University of the Year for Graduate Employment.



- Best Careers/Employability Service at the National Undergraduate Employability (NUE) Awards
- Winners of the 'Best Preparation for Work Strategy' at the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) Development Awards
- Best Careers Support for International Students at the National Union of Students and the UK Council for International Student Affairs Internationalisation Awards
- Midlands University of the Year (Innovative category) at the Midlands Business Awards
- National Association of Student Employment Services' (NASES) National Student Employee of the Year Awards:
  - Jessica Fitzgibbon – Regional Winner of the Step Up to Leadership Award
  - Manu Sasidharan – Regional 'Highly Commended' for the Above & Beyond Award



## Cleaner, Smarter Campus

Throughout the University, staff work to cut our carbon footprint, and work towards developing a campus that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

- **Junkbusters**, our multi-award-winning recycle and reuse initiative, has won the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Award for the Best Recycling Scheme. The initiative has also raised more than £100,000 for the British Heart Foundation, and funded CPR training at more than 19 schools in the local area, equipping children with lifesaving skills.
- **UniGreenScheme**, a University of Birmingham supported initiative run by Michael McLeod, a PhD student at the University, has been awarded the Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Award 2016. Started in 2015, the scheme helps UK universities recoup space and meet environmental targets through the collection and resale of surplus laboratory equipment.



## Excellence in Education

Our academics and professional services staff go above and beyond to improve the student experience at the University, offering students access to the highest standards of teaching, facilities and support.

- **The Department of Civil Engineering** – overall winners in the Education category at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) West Midlands Awards.
- **Educational and Development team in CLAD and Learning Spaces** – professional award recognition by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) with Academic Practice Advisors Dr Marios Hadjianastasis, Dr Petia Petrova and Dr Chris Ribchester becoming Senior Fellows, and Dr Karen Skinazi achieving Fellow status.
- **Library Services (led by Ann-Marie James)** – winners of the Talis Insight Award for 'Excellence in Implementation and Management' 2016.
- **Dr Amelia Swift** – awarded the Educator of the Year at the 2016 Student Nursing Times Awards.
- **Professor Prem Kumar** – awarded the Otto Hutter Teaching Prize.



## Ones to watch

These awards recognise emerging talent at the University, and the significant contribution already made by academics to their chosen field of study.

- **Dr Sean Elvidge**, Department of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, was named in the Forbes' '30 Under 30 Europe' list in the Science and Healthcare category.
- **Dr Anne-Marie Krachler**, Fellow in the School of Biosciences, received the Biological Systems Early Career Award.
- **Dr Anna Peacock**, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, received the 2016 Royal Society of Chemistry's Inorganic Biochemistry Discussion Group Young Investigator Award.
- **Mr Andrew Beggs**, Clinical Lecturer in General Surgery in the Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, was awarded the Young Coloproctologist of the Year 2016.
- **Dr John S Fossey** and undergraduate student Nicholas Cundy, were both presented with Lilly Open Innovation Drug Discovery (OIDD) Awards. Dr Fossey also received the Molecular Sensors and Molecular Logic Gates (MSMLG) 2016 Czarnik Emerging Investigator Award.
- **Patrick Moynihan** was awarded a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council Future Leader Fellowship.
- **Dr Dipak Kotecha** was awarded a NIHR Career Development Fellowship.



## Strategic Influence

The quality of staff at the University can often lead to requests for their expertise to be shared and utilised by other high-profile organisations such as government departments and charities.

- **Professor Myra Nimmo**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, has been appointed Chair of England Athletics.



- **Professor Judith Smith (pictured)** and **Dr Iestyn Williams** have both been appointed to the panel for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Services Delivery and Research Programme.



- **Dr Helen Stokes-Lampard** became Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners



- **Dr Iestyn Williams** became Governor of the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.



- **Professor Jon Glasby** was elected a Board Member of the Campaign for Social Sciences



- **Professor Simon Collinson** was appointed Chair of the Chartered Association of Business Schools.



## Our success *continues...*

**Buzz is pleased to highlight accolades received by staff across the University who have been recognised for their hard work and dedication. We recognise that we may not have captured everyone, but we hope this list demonstrates the breadth and scale of our achievements.**

- **Kathy Kenward** – Cleaning Operative of the Year 2016 Winner, BACHE (British Association of Cleaning in Higher Education)
- **Cleaning Services** – Finalists: Accredited Training Organisation (ATO) of the year 2016, British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICSc)
- **Postgraduate Recruitment** – HEIST Bronze Award for 'Best Postgraduate Student Recruitment Initiative' for the Virtual Open Day platform
- **The Legacy programme (Remembering Birmingham)** – Emerging Programmes Silver Award, Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)
- **Old Joe (Digital)** – 'Best Use of Digital', shortlisted for a Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Award
- **Dr Finnola Kerrigan** – Journal of Marketing Management Reviewer Award 2015 for 'outstanding' contribution to the peer-review process
- **Dr Jane Glover** – *Family Business Review* 'Best Article' Award
- **Rhys Crilley** – ISAICOMM 2016 Best Paper Award
- **Professor Gurdial Besra** – Microbiology Society's Colworth Prize
- **Dr Dawn Fisher** – Senior Practitioner Award from the Division of Forensic Psychology (British Psychological Society)
- **Dr Juliane Kloess** – Junior Award, the Division of Forensic Psychology (British Psychological Society)
- **Drs Hector Basevi, Hamid Dehghani, and Iain Styles** – jointly awarded the Josiah Mason Founders Award for Business Advancement
- **Professor Gideon Hirschfield** – Graham Bull Prize in clinical science and Goulstonian Lectureship from the Royal College of Physicians
- **Dr Ye Htun Oo** – 2016 Sir Francis Avery Jones Medal, the British Society of Gastroenterology
- **Professor David Gillborn** – Laureate, Kappa Delta Pi
- **Professor Fang Gao Smith (and team)** – Clinical Trials and Evaluation Innovation Award, West Midlands Academic Health Science Network
- **Dr Francesca Barone** – Arthritis Research UK Senior Research Fellowship
- **Dr Pola Goldberg Oppenheimer** – Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship
- **Professor Rosie Harding** – British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship
- **Professor Kiran Trehan** – 2016 Outstanding Reviewer Award, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research
- **Dr Susannah Thorpe** – Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship
- **Marianne Hensman** – Higher Education Academy Fellowship
- **Professor Nigel Simpkins** – Royal Society Industry Fellowship
- **Daniela Kuhn** – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Established Career Fellowship
- **Dr Alex Mazharian** – British Heart Foundation Intermediate Basic Science Research Fellowship
- **Dr Nigel Drury** – British Heart Foundation Intermediate Clinical Research Fellowship
- **Dr Konstantinos Konstantinidis and Dr Alexandros Feresidis** – IOP Science Journal of Optics, 'Highlight of 2015'
- **Dr David Grainger** – Microbiology Society's Fleming Prize. Also awarded the Biochemical Society Colworth Medal
- **Dr Robert Neely** – EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Challenge Award
- **David Smith** – EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Challenge Award
- **The Epstein-Barr virus vaccine team** – Translational Cancer Research Prize, Cancer Research UK



# Black History Month

1-31 October

Celebrating the past Promoting the present Building for the future

October is Black History Month, and the University will again be celebrating the culture and histories of black and minority ethnic communities with a comprehensive programme of events throughout the month.

Black History Month is a major annual event in the City of Birmingham's calendar, which recognises the vital and continuing contribution of Black communities to the city's past, present and future development.

The University aims to contribute to the city's programme by drawing on its research, education and cultural assets to organise a range of events for students, staff and the community that spark thought and discussion as well as celebration and enjoyment.

The programme of events taking place at the University throughout October includes

celebrations from The Guild of Students, performances from a Maori cultural group, poetry and short story competitions, exhibitions, University Challenge, as well as talks on various aspects of the culture and history of black and ethnic minority communities. Also taking place during October is the 20th Annual Ethnic Minority Business Conference, run by the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority, CREME, based in the Business School at the University. The conference will be held at Fazeley Studios in the heart of the city's creative quarter.

**Professor Una Martin, Deputy PVC for Equalities** – *'This year's Black History Month programme has been arranged by a group of student and staff volunteers who have used the University's research, education and cultural assets to produce a fantastic programme of events. Commemorating history months is one of the ways that we recognise and celebrate the contribution and histories of all members of our community and I would encourage everyone to take part in the events on offer.'*

For full details for all events please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth)  
Additional information can also be found at: [www.facebook.com/bemaonline](https://www.facebook.com/bemaonline)

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY /10 OCTOBER 2016

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
BIRMINGHAM HEROES

Dr Michael Larkin Professor Lisa Bartolotti Dr Ema Sullivan-Bissett

WE ARE CHALLENGING THE STIGMA OF  
**MENTAL ILLNESS**  
THE DIVIDE BETWEEN BEING MENTALLY ILL AND  
MENTALLY WELL IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO YOU? [www.birmingham.ac.uk/heroes](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/heroes)

On Monday 10 October, individuals, charities and organisations across the world will be raising awareness of mental health illnesses. The theme for the 2016 World Mental Health Day is 'Dignity in Mental Health-Psychological & Mental Health First Aid for All' and aims to address the stigma and discrimination experienced from those suffering mental health issues.

The University will be hosting a number of events, open to staff and students, to explore the issues surrounding mental ill health and provide advice and support to help improve mental wellbeing.

Events include an exhibition giving you the chance to chat to both University and external organisations that specialise in mental health awareness and support, a lecture from the Birmingham Heroes mental illness project titled 'Project PERFECT –

*Uncoupling Mental Illness from Irrationality*, the Barber gallery tour: art as a creative tool to mental wellbeing, and the Barber Recovery Arts exhibition. All events will take place at The Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

For full details of all events please visit [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/World-Mental-Health-Day-2016.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/World-Mental-Health-Day-2016.aspx)

Mental health and wellbeing are important parts of the life of an employee at the University. Should you feel you would like some help and support, you can contact the Workplace Wellbeing team confidentially. For more details on how to access these services, visit the employee support intranet page: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/contact/wellbeing/ess.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/contact/wellbeing/ess.aspx)

# BOOK TO THE FUTURE IS BACK!



The University's annual festival of the written and spoken word returns to campus with a wide range of free events from Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 October 2016.

Now in its third year, Book to the Future, organised by the College of Arts and Law, celebrates the best of Birmingham's creative talent, and there are plenty of exciting events that staff can attend as part of this year's programme.

You can sign up for free workshops, talks, and performances by University colleagues, students, and alumni, plus there will be opportunities to meet and get tips from some of the region's leading literary lights.

Just a few highlights from this year's packed programme include:

Alumnus, author and screenwriter Jed Mercurio provides insights on how he creates critically acclaimed shows including *Critical* and the award-winning BBC drama *Line of Duty*

Anatomist and broadcaster, Professor Alice Roberts, celebrates the opening of the new University Library and Inspiring Knowledge exhibition with a talk on Vesalius' influential work 'On the Fabric of the Human Body'

Man Booker Prize shortlisted author, and alumna, Clare Morrall explains why Birmingham plays a key role in her work

Birmingham academics will reprise successful talks from this year's Hay Festival on themes from Shakespeare to the Haitian Cholera crisis

Jan Watts, alumna and former Birmingham poet laureate, will debut her new play 'Holding Baby' exclusively for festival attendees

Local authors share their tips on how to publish, promote, and push through the dreaded writer's block, in your own work

An exclusive 'Instameet' at the new University Library

With almost 30 events across the festival there will be something for everyone, and events are open to University staff, students, alumni and the wider community.

Book to the Future is supported by the University's College of Arts and Law and Bramall Music Building, ensuring that all events are free to attend.

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/btff](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/btff) to find out more and register to attend.  
Follow all of the festival action on Twitter via [#UoBbtff](https://twitter.com/UoBbtff)



## Chancellor's column

As we begin the new academic year, we can reflect on Team GB's inspirational performance in the Rio Olympics this summer. I always spoke proudly about how our country, with one per cent of the world's population, came third in the Olympic medal table in 2012. This year we came second (above China, a country of 1.3 billion people) and, as I write this, we are second in the Paralympic medal table as well!

It has been amazing to see Britain perform successfully in a wide variety of sports and it was wonderful to see Birmingham students, past and present, contributing to Team GB's success.

The University of Birmingham's collaboration with a contingent of Indian sports coaches shortly after the Olympics highlights our sporting pedigree, and the new £55 million sports centre, complete with Birmingham's first 50-metre pool, will be a wonderful boost for the University and the city as a whole.

As I write this, I am preparing to row in the annual House of Lords vs House of Commons Boat Race on the Thames, raising money for three charities. I am drawing my inspiration from the successes of Team GB and the University of Birmingham, and will be praying for the finish line!

I wish you all a very enjoyable and successful time here.



### What is it?

Divination bowl, 'apoti Ifa' type, by 'George' Bamidele Areogun, collected in 1952, Research and Cultural Collections.

### Where is it?

Danford Room, Arts Building (viewable by appointment).

The Danford Collection of West African Art and Artefacts celebrates the cultural traditions and artistic expression of countries in West Africa. It includes many religious and ceremonial objects, an example being divination bowls.

This type of bowl is used to store palm nuts and is used by diviners in the Ifa religion of the Yoruba people, South-West Nigeria. Ifa is the Yoruba God of Wisdom and the divination process translates this wisdom through a system of signs.

The bowl was produced during Bamidele's time as the lead carver at the Oye-Ekiti workshop in Nigeria. The workshop was set up with the intention of starting a local tradition of Christian art. Assistant Curator, Anna Young, explains: '*Many of the carvers at Oye-Ekiti had converted to Islam, so the workshop was a place of creativity and compromise between religions and their related artistic practice: traditional Yoruba, Christian and Muslim.*'

### Learn more

This object forms part of the exhibition *Curating the Campus: Highlights of the Research and Cultural Collections* (on display in the Bramall Music Building until 20 January 2017). Through object photography, this exhibition explores the artefacts' stories and what they show us about the University. You can also visit our blog to find out more about the exhibition <http://rcc-redmarely.tumblr.com>



# 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](mailto: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.

Professor Anthony Arnull took part in a BBC Radio 5 Live broadcast on the implications of Britain exiting the EU; Dr Tereza Capelos appeared on CNN International; Jon Bloomfield talked to the *LA Times* about why ethnic communities voted for Brexit; and Professor Tony Yates wrote in *The Times* on UK trade implications.

Following the Chilcot Inquiry, Dr Jamie Gaskarth provided commentary for *The Huffington Post* and *The Financial Times*.

Research by Dr Sam Fennikin and Professor Kate Jolly, which found nursery policies on conjunctivitis cause thousands of unnecessary antibiotics prescriptions, was covered by the *Daily Mail* and *Huffington Post*.

Professor Bob Stone's innovative mixed reality 'Chinook', helping to train UK Armed Forces medics, was featured in *The Telegraph*.

Dr Blaire Morgan's work on the impact of social media on young people's character development was covered by the BBC, *Daily Mirror*, and over 40 international outlets.

Professor Julian Bion spoke to *the Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent* and BBC on the '7-day NHS'

Dr Grace Turner's work on the long-term impact of 'mini-strokes' featured in the *Daily Mail* and numerous international outlets.

Professor Damien Walmsley spoke to *The Times*, *the Guardian*, BBC, and Sky News following a study that found flossing teeth to be ineffective.

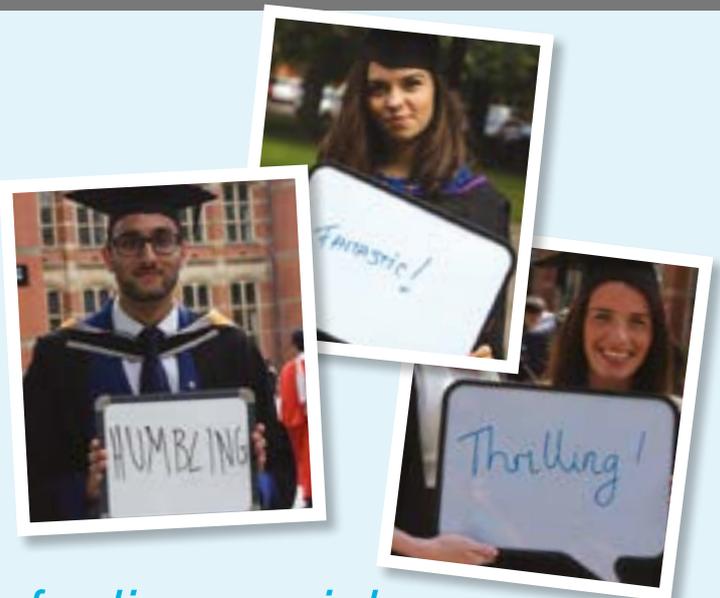
Research by Dr Flavio Garcia and Dr David Oswald on how easily keyless car locking systems can be hacked was covered by the *Daily Telegraph*, *New York Times*, *LA Times*, BBC, and *the Guardian*.

Dr Damien Cruse featured on a Radio 4 special report into 'mind reading' and communicating with patients in a vegetative state.

Professor Catherine Staite was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme on Birmingham and the Midlands Engine.

## 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](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines)



## feeling social...

During summer graduations we asked our new graduates to share one word with us that summed up their time here.

The digital team mixed with graduands during the week, encouraging them to share their experiences and inspire the next generation of students. We shared their images and comments on all our social channels, creating a buzz and excitement around the event, as well as providing information and signposting to relevant pages on the website.

Meanwhile, the alumni team used the University Instagram account to congratulate graduates, thank them for their images and inform them that they were entered into the Win a Working Wardrobe competition.

After the event, galleries of candid images from the day and the 'one word' images were shared across the social channels and added to digital storyboards, to share online and via emails to prospective students for further impact.

Image galleries on Facebook also linked back to the alumni pages, to encourage graduates to engage with the team and continue the relationship beyond graduation.

## Kathy Armour... in my own words



Professor Kathleen Armour is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.

I grew up in Hertfordshire, trained as a teacher in Kent and then taught in secondary schools in London. I took up a lecturer post at Brunel University as a teacher educator, then moved to Loughborough University in 1999 as a Senior Lecturer, and was awarded a Chair in 2006. I joined the University of Birmingham in 2010. All of my postgraduate education – a Masters degree at the London Institute of Education and a PhD at the University of Southampton – was undertaken part-time while working and bringing up three children, so I understand the need for higher education to be flexible and responsive.

I have to confess that the move into university leadership was unplanned. In 2012, taking on the role of Head of the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences led to new opportunities to learn about leadership and to gain a wider understanding of the University. I am excited about taking this next career step although I recognise that I still have much to learn. In many ways, PVC Education is an ideal job for me. My research interest is education and I was also a REF2014 panel member for pedagogy in my field. I'm certainly passionate about education and I look forward to working with colleagues to build on our strengths, lead innovation, support students and staff, and ensure our education provision is world-leading.

UKHE is in a period of considerable change. The Government's plans to introduce a national Teaching Excellence Framework or 'TEF' represent a new challenge for us all. Although we have significant concerns about the proxy measures of teaching quality that have been proposed, we are pleased that the spectre of the TEF has initiated new conversations about education. We're also confident that we'll perform well in TEF 1. We await the Government's response to its consultation regarding TEF2 and 3, and we intend to work with government and the sector to develop a workable assessment framework. The National Student Survey will continue to be an important part of all stages of TEF and we are proud of our consistently strong NSS performance, although we always aspire to do better.

There is no doubt that graduate employability will continue to be a hot topic. The University does exceptionally well on this metric but, here again, we are far from complacent. Employers' expectations change and approaches to learning will continue to evolve as knowledge becomes more open, searchable and accessible. Digital has become 'business as usual' for young people so our education delivery and communication mechanisms must match their expectations. The growing consumerist narrative around HE will likely lead to demands for greater flexibility, more personalised degree pathways and new types of programme, and competition between providers will

undoubtedly intensify with the arrival of new 'challenger' institutions. In this context, I believe we will need to be much clearer about the unique features of education provision in a research-intensive university.

At the same time, we are all acutely aware that some young people face challenges in reaching university, particularly the top ranked institutions. From its foundation in 1900, the University has been proud of its civic mission and the belief that our doors must be open to all who can benefit. We are particularly good at outreach activities and our A2B programme is highly regarded in the sector but we have more to do. Some sectors of society remain underrepresented, and some students don't progress as well as expected. We're tackling these concerns, so keep a look out for information on new initiatives coming this term, including working towards gaining the Race Equality Charter Mark.

National priorities aside, research-intensive universities are global organisations. International partnerships enhance our reputation, international students enrich our campus, and e-learning innovations allow us to break into new markets. MOOCs have been around for a while, but we are evolving new ways to use MOOCs to further our influence and generate new interest in our programmes. For example, in SportExR we developed the first FutureLearn MOOC designed specifically as CPD for Physical Education teachers. The MOOC attracted 5,000 teachers from over 150 countries, some of whom then registered on a Masters programme. In addition, the MOOC was recognised by UNESCO, forms part of a REF impact case study, and has left us with a wealth of material that can be used for other programmes. In short: Win-Win-Win!

My experience of visiting academic schools and meeting Professional Services colleagues has convinced me that sector-leading talent exists in all corners of the University. In order to thrive in the new external landscape, we will need to optimise all this talent. I look forward to engaging with students and staff in conversations about the futures we can imagine for our University. If we engage our collective brain, we can ensure we remain at the forefront of the sector.

Outside of work, I'm an enthusiastic exerciser, although my former passions for netball and Irish dancing have been replaced by visits to the gym and rather sedate jogging. I'm also a wannabe jazz singer and I even perform in public occasionally (but not in any venue that you will know!). Stephen Brookfield, a leading educator, argued that educators should keep reminding themselves of what it's like to struggle as a learner. Well, I can confirm that while it's fun, the process of learning to sing jazz is my instructive struggle!