

**YOUR NEW  
WEB POSTER**  
INCLUDED INSIDE.



April/May 2019



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

*Working in  
Wellbeing*

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

Next edition 6 June 2019  
Copy deadline 9 May 2019

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)



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: Nahid Saiyed and the Student Wellbeing team

**Remember Donald Rumsfeld? 'There are known knowns. There are the things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. These are the things we don't know we don't know'.**

If not for eternity, at least for a long time this will be the aphorism by which Donald Rumsfeld is known and remembered. At the time he was ridiculed, partly for political reasons and partly because his comment was easily parodied. If you stop and think, he was simply saying what we all know and, indeed, what philosophers spend much time reflecting upon.

All of this was back in 2004, and the context, of course, was the Iraq war. As we survey the world a decade and a half later, certainly in this country and certainly from the perspective of higher education, the 'known knowns' are on the decrease and the 'known unknowns' are on the increase.

By the time you read this article we may have left the European Union, but we probably won't have. By the time you read this article we may have seen the Augar review of higher education funding, but we probably will not have. We are promised a government Spending Review beginning in June and concluding in time for the autumn budget –we probably will see this, but the fiscal and financial context is still uncertain, and it is quite possible, though not probable, that a general election might intervene.

The strongest supporter of the Augar review is the Prime Minister. This is very much a Number 10 process. If the Prime Minister survives, the Augar review will probably land in one way. If the Prime Minister falls, the response to the Augar review may well be very different.

Brexit, university funding, visas, migration, a new and uncertain regulatory regime, to say nothing of the changing world of work and the advent of transformational new technologies, rarely have universities operated in more uncertain times.

It would be a rush to assume that normal political service will be resumed any time soon. The Brexit process has almost

certainly accelerated the fragmentation of our politics. The future of our two-party system, long a stabilising force in our parliamentary system, is increasingly uncertain. Moreover, the capacity of our political system to deal with complex issues and to both embrace and articulate diversity is now very obviously challenged.

Understandably, the rise of the 'known unknowns' will cause some to worry. One apparently prudent response would be to hunker down. 'Let's de-risk', 'let's cancel investment and build up our reserves', and 'let's put off difficult decisions until the times are more certain'.

Already, across the sector, you can see some universities responding in these ways. You can see some universities responding in other ways. A number of universities have substantially increased their recruitment, sacrificing their staff-student ratios and substantially lowering their entry tariffs. They are doing this in order to bulk up their reserves and to 'recruit while we can'. Other universities have or are about to cancel investment decisions. In doing this they look across at universities which are already finding themselves forced into very substantial staff redundancies. In short, there might seem good reasons to put strategies on hold.

For our university this would be the wrong response; for us to conclude that 'we have had a good run' so let's just ride out the storm and sit on the assets and reserves we have. We have had, and are having, a good run because we have taken the right decisions in the right way. We have used our financial strength to invest. The principal investment has been in people and in the very substantial increase in our staffing base. Investment, though at a more modest scale, has also been in our estate and the environment and resources that we need to deliver our outstanding teaching and research.

Of course, we must, and do, recognise the environment in which we operate. We know that our teaching income may be reduced for our home undergraduates. We know that public investment in research will be reviewed in the government's comprehensive spending review. We know

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL

DUBAI

that a combination of Brexit and the government's continuing commitment to reduce net migration makes international student recruitment more challenging. Nevertheless, our domestic and international student recruitment remains resilient and continues to grow. We are still attracting and retaining outstanding faculty. We can adjust activities to accommodate any reduction in fee income. In short, we are in a position where we can and must still look to the future, invest for growth and chart our own course with confidence.

In the summer, we will begin work on our next quinquennial strategy. This is a moment to take stock but it is not a moment dramatically to change course. We will continue to Make Important Things Happen. We will do so in ways which are appropriate to the times, and recognise that challenging times bring opportunities as well as challenges. We will, as we have for the last decade, make our autonomy work for us. Recognising the realities of the external environment, this will still be 'our' strategy. We will shape our own future, and we will continue to ensure that the University of Birmingham shines as a beacon of what a great global university should be.

I very much doubt that the 'known unknowns' will decrease in the coming years. There are also, of course, Mr Rumsfeld's 'unknown unknowns'. So while being respectful of our uncertain times, whilst recognising that a weak government will from time to time seek to deflect attention by ill-advised attacks on great institutions such as universities, and whilst recognising that we will not be able to achieve or fund everything we might wish, the next few years will, I believe, be a period of growth, excitement and confidence.

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Sir David Eastwood*

## DUBAI – PHASE 2 CAMPUS LAUNCH

The University has signed an agreement to build the second phase of our campus in Dubai in the presence of the UAE Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills.

His Excellency Dr Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi joined HMCG Dubai & Northern Emirates, His Excellency Andrew Jackson, together with senior leaders from the University, Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) and TECOM Group who met to formalise the agreement in a special ceremony at DIAC.

University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Sir David Eastwood and CEO of TECOM Group Malek Al Malek signed the agreement, which will see a new purpose-built campus.

Located within DIAC, the facilities will open in September 2021 and provide an academic home for up to 2,900 students with the opportunity to extend the development as the University of Birmingham Dubai grows.

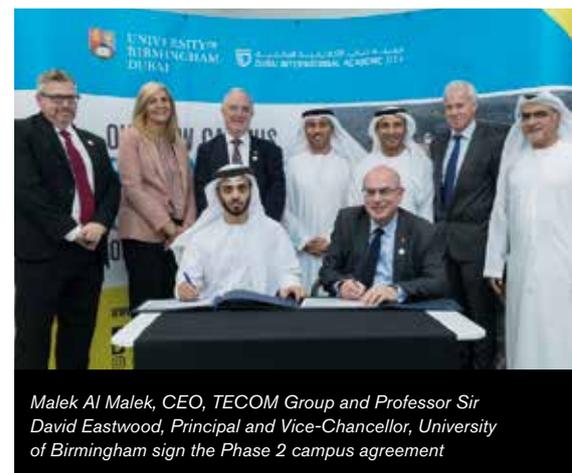
Birmingham was the first global top 100 and UK Russell Group university to establish a campus in this rapidly developing international education hub. It offers degrees taught, examined and accredited to the same high standards as those delivered at our UK campus.

Professor Sir David Eastwood said: *'We welcomed our first students to the University of Birmingham Dubai in September and, just five months later, we have begun the next exciting stage*

*of our contribution to UAE society.*

*'As a global university with a civic outlook, we are committed to playing our part in supporting the UAE as it drives economic progress through knowledge and innovation, whilst contributing to the development of a growing international education hub in Dubai.*

*'This innovative and iconic facility has been designed to echo our beautiful and historic Edgbaston campus, whilst providing a flexible, modern setting for our students in Dubai to obtain maximum benefit from our teaching and research expertise.'*



*Malek Al Malek, CEO, TECOM Group and Professor Sir David Eastwood, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham sign the Phase 2 campus agreement*

# #WeAreInternational #WeAreUoB

From 18–22 March, we celebrated our international staff and their contribution to the University.

DID YOU KNOW?



**37%** of academics are from **outside of the UK**

#WeAreInternational



The University has five strategic partnerships with Brazil, China, India, North America and Europe and three strategic partners: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Melbourne and the Universitas 21 network – a collaboration between 27 member institutions across 13 countries.

Our staff represent

**113** nationalities

#WeAreInternational



Over **50%** of our research publications **involve international collaboration**

#WeAreInternational



# A note about our brass band

(submitted by Christina Hancock)

The Music Society Brass Band, conducted by Stuart Birnie from Birmingham Music Service, has recently returned from the annual UniBrass contest, a competition for university brass bands from across the country. Our musicians came fourth overall, joint-third on points, and were the highest rated Russell Group university.

Fourth place is a huge achievement for the band, particularly so when the others that placed above them were all specialist

music colleges, where all members are training to be musicians. Our own band, like many of our ensembles, is not auditioned and is made up of students from various departments across the University. They are all incredibly passionate about what they do, work really hard and have a lot of fun in the process. Their hard work has clearly paid off and we're incredibly proud of them in the music department and wanted to share their success.

## Consultation tracker **relaunch**

Looking to boost your research impact? Sign up to receive the relaunched Consultation Tracker produced by the Public Affairs team to receive details of the latest government consultations, parliamentary inquiries and other opportunities to engage with policy-makers.

We have updated the Consultation Tracker to improve the user experience and make it easier to find opportunities relevant to your area of expertise.

The Public Affairs team is here to help researchers engage with policy-makers to influence and inform policy. We support academics across the University, of all disciplines, from PhD students to professors. We can advise you on engaging with policy-makers and preparing written briefings. We also support the University as an organisation through corporate public affairs activity.

You can sign up to receive the Consultation Tracker by clicking [mailchi.mp/56231728509c/consultation-tracker](https://mailchi.mp/56231728509c/consultation-tracker)

Want to talk about policy engagement?

Email us at [publicaffairs@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

### Date for the diary

#### Birmingham Professional Forum

Friday 24 May, 11.00am–12noon, The Bramall.

All staff are warmly invited to the forum, which is introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The agenda will follow closer to the event.

## UNIVERSITY GLOBAL EXPERTS CALL FOR NEW APPROACH TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION

University of Birmingham experts have joined forces with policy-makers and researchers in India, and beyond, to call for a new approach to help resolve health, social and economic problems associated with air pollution in Delhi and other similarly polluted regions.

Delegates at a two-day workshop in the Indian capital in March, convened by Dr William Avis and Professor Francis Pope from the University of Birmingham, and Professor Mukesh Khare from the India Institute of Technology, Delhi, called for air quality metrics to be incorporated into several of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, most notably SDG3 – Good Health and Well-being.

The conference also proposed that air pollution be treated as a disaster, in the same way as natural events such as earthquakes and forest fires, and for access to clean air to be considered as a basic human right.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





Staff from across the University came together in February to celebrate the Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTAs).

Shortlisted nominees and guests gathered in the Great Hall on Friday 15 February to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of Birmingham Professional staff and teams. The evening was hosted by comedian and television presenter Jasper Carrott, who received an honorary doctorate from the University in 2004, and guests were entertained with a

movie-themed extravaganza including performances by singer Alex Hilsenrath and the Guild Music Theatre Group.

In addition to celebrating staff success, the BUAFTAs support local charities through the BUAFTA raffle. BUAFTAs 2019 are supporting vital research fighting antibiotic resistance at the University of Birmingham. The raffle beat last year's total

and raised over £6,000 to help fund this research, led by University Chemical Engineers working with a wide variety of clinical professionals, which draws inspiration from nature and seeks to apply innovative medical engineering techniques that harness the reactive antimicrobial properties observed in honey.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...



For further details on this year's BUAFTAS visit [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buaftas](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buaftas)



### NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



**Alasdair Maclachlan**  
Finance

Alasdair is motivated, proactive, professional and personable. Since joining the University, he has become a valued member of the Business Engagement team and has played a pivotal role in the team exceeding their target.



### TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR



**Marios Hadjianastasis**  
Academic Services

Marios has worked on a number of high-profile initiatives while holding the team together during times of change. He is kind, warm-hearted, always maintains a positive attitude and embodies inclusivity.

**Commendation:**  
Leigh-Ann Cragg,  
College of Life and  
Environmental Sciences



### THE ACADEMICS' CHOICE AWARD



**Fiona Gilyead**  
College of Arts and Law

Fiona is creative, has a clear strategic vision and is a fantastic manager to her team. She sets a positive example in the workplace, and offers a great amount of support to academic and Professional Services colleagues.



### THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARD



**Eleanor Hastings**  
Hospitality and  
Accommodation Services

Eleanor has worked hard to link the Guild and University, introducing new initiatives that help students, having a positive lasting impact on their experience. She is well-known as a conscientious and extremely hard worker.



## UNsung HERO

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Emily Owen**

**Academic Services**

Emily works extensively to support vulnerable students in completing their studies. She is highly valued and often applies her extensive knowledge and can-do attitude to any task she faces.

**Commendation:**

**Trudy Smith, College of Social Sciences**



## TEAM OF THE YEAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**British Transplant Games Delivery Team**

**Hospitality and Accommodation Services**

In 2018, the team delivered the biggest and best British Transplant Games in its 40-year history. The team created a community atmosphere on campus and received great feedback for their hard work and dedication.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Jason Hutton**

**College of Life and Environmental Sciences**

Jason has provided tireless and outstanding customer service to academics in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, supporting applications of a large-scale, complex and international nature, as well as his day-to-day business as usual.



## CONTINUED EXCELLENCE AWARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Annette Evans**

**College of Life and Environmental Sciences**

Annette always goes the extra mile in whatever she does. She is extremely professional and welcoming in the way she deals with people and this gives visitors excellent first impressions of her School.

**Commendation:**

**Jennifer Bird, Academic Services**



## APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Jade Willetts**

**Hospitality and Accommodation Services**

Since joining the Environmental Services team in 2017, Jade has worked hard to achieve the best outcome in every aspect of her role. She is professional and committed to delivering exceptional promotion for both the apprenticeship scheme and the University.

**Commendation:**

**Charlie Griffiths, Estates**



## TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Adnan Zentani**

**College of Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Adnan is a superb team player who always goes above and beyond, providing exceptional service and boosting morale within the BCRRE team.

Adnan has been outstanding in his support of the hydrogen train project and has been instrumental to the project's success.



## BIRMINGHAM PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Alberto Guglielmi**

**Legal**

Alberto was a linchpin in ensuring the University's readiness for GDPR. Throughout the project he was able to draw upon his expertise, skills of persuasion, communication and personal credibility to keep the processes moving.



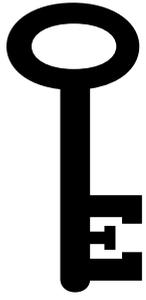
## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Dubai Project Team**

**External Relations**

The Dubai Project Team has done a tremendous job in launching the University's new campus, establishing our presence in Dubai, encountering fresh challenges every day and working collaboratively across the University.



# INTRODUCING: *The Exchange*



The Exchange, formerly the Old Municipal Bank, is a building on Centenary Square in Birmingham City Centre, purchased in 2017 by the University of Birmingham. The aim of the refurbishment and redevelopment of this Grade II listed building is to reinvigorate Joseph Chamberlain's civic vision for the modern day, using our role as an anchor institution to bring stakeholders across the city and region together. Through this work, the aim is to address the challenges of our time and deliver inclusive growth for the region. In creating a new home in the heart of the city, the University is creating a vibrant and collaborative space that brings research closer to people, enabling our work to inform and be informed by, our audiences.

The following core activities will have a presence in the Exchange:

**CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGAN IN LATE 2018 AND THE EXCHANGE WILL FORMALLY OPEN IN MID-2021.**



## LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Leadership Institute will bring together research, education and engagement activity to support current and future leaders in a range of fields. It will provide a springboard for a range of leadership initiatives already operating across the University and provide added value by facilitating novel inter-disciplinary approaches to leadership both in relation to research and education provision.

## THE PUBLIC PROGRAMME

The main visitor experience within The Exchange, and the focal point of the Banking Hall and Vaults, will be a new year-round, thematic public programme that showcases and explores the University's innovative contributions to research and learning. With two to three themes per year, typically lasting three months each, each season will feature an exhibition and a series of events targeted at different audiences, including seminars, discussions, cultural events and schools visits.

## RESEARCH AND POLICY INSTITUTE

Bringing our research closer to the decision making within the West Midlands, the first floor of The Exchange will create a new home for a global centre of excellence for University-led policy development. It will build skills, networks and capacity within the city to ensure good, long-term policy and intervention development, covering all areas of city policy.

## CONFERENCING AND EVENTS

The second floor of The Exchange is the primary space for hosting dinners and speaker events, although it is expected that other spaces in The Exchange may also be used for this purpose. The Banking Hall will have an independent café area that will provide an important meeting point for the building.



## STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The ground floor student incubator will be the catalyst for a University-wide programme that will build a stronger entrepreneurship culture, both within and outside of the curriculum. It will provide a hub for student start-ups and a gateway into the city for up to 30 student businesses and freelancers at one time, with a mix of resident members and hot-desking. It will act as a catalyst between the University, the City and the wider region, creating opportunities to connect with industry, take part in consultancy practices and start and grow a business.

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The upper floors of The Exchange will become the launch pad for the delivery of CPD across the University, expanding our offer of short courses and stand-alone modules, and supporting key student number growth for Birmingham 2026. It has already been agreed that The Exchange will be the home of University of Birmingham Coding Boot Camps, the first in the UK to be launched in partnership with leading global workforce accelerator Trilogy Education.



Underpinning and enabling these functions are several further workstreams:

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

The External Funding Working Group includes representatives from the academic community, Research Support Services, Business Engagement and Development and Alumni Relations. The group works in collaboration to identify and develop funding opportunities with a range of charitable trusts and foundations, businesses, research councils, philanthropists and other institutional funders in support of the overarching vision for The Exchange.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Working Group is co-ordinating internal and external communications about The Exchange. It is already working with key external stakeholders and will focus on co-ordinating the key messages of the Exchange to a variety of different audiences. A single branding approach is being confirmed for The Exchange, along with the development of a variety of communication channels to ensure that the right information is shared at the right time.

### OPERATIONS

This workstream is focused on how the building will operate on a day-to-day basis. It is working to ensure services and infrastructure are in place, catering is provided where required, and the café, which will be housed in the Banking Hall, operates smoothly and effectively.

**FIND OUT MORE  
THE EXCHANGE  
MARKET PLACE,  
BRAMALL ROTUNDA,  
FRIDAY 24 MAY,  
10.00AM-2.00PM**



# ACTIVE LUNCH: CLASS CONSULTATIONS AT *SPORT & FITNESS*

Internal Communications officer, Kim Ekste, takes a closer look at a new initiative over at Sport & Fitness, to give one of their many classes a try for free.

Our campus is often cited as one of the top reasons for coming to work at the University. We have world-class culture, history, sport and entertainment all within easy reach as well as the practical facilities for banking, a post office and an optician so you can take care of that ever-present 'life-admin' during your working day. For me, family and work commitments make it tricky to schedule time for exercise and I'm keen to find ways to build activity into my working day and to see if a little extra movement can also boost my productivity at work and overall wellbeing.

Sport & Fitness is currently offering Class Consultations to work out which classes are right for you, and will book you onto a class for free so you can try one for yourself. I decided to go along and see what it is all about, and possibly find a new hobby in the process.

I was booked in for a Thursday evening consultation and arrived at a busy time in

Costa to meet Rachel, fresh from a workout herself. Rachel is one of 40 instructors over at Sport & Fitness who lead over 180 classes a week, as well as the Try A Sport and Social Sport programmes and swimming lessons.

Rachel is incredibly welcoming and puts the group at ease with her warm manner. The atmosphere is inclusive and there's no pressure during the consultation. She has an easy rapport with the group and builds in lots of time for questions throughout. She also reassures us during the consultation that every class, at every intensity level, should be approached at your own pace, *'because it's your workout'* – a phrase I hear repeated when I attend my free class.

*'Group exercise is special and really motivating'*, Rachel says, *'and the gym is great, but for that something extra, classes really do work.'* And there is something for everybody; we go through the extensive

timetable and Rachel breaks down the differences between classes that sound quite similar but have variation. She also points out activities that might suit those with limited mobility and individual needs. I'm interested in classes that are suitable after a break from exercise and rebuilding core strength so I opt for Pilates on Thursday at 1.00pm for my free class. Rachel confirms my booking by email the following day.

Before I went to my class I spoke with Peter Antonio, a registered nutritionist and also one of the personal trainers at Sport & Fitness. He told me that exercising in your lunch break is a golden opportunity to take a break from the stresses of your working day, and give you that boost you may desperately need. *'It has been shown that employees who exercise mid-day get more work done, take fewer sick days, and have lower medical expenses when compared to their non-exercising colleagues'*, he

says, 'it is also a handy way of boosting your metabolism mid-day.'

Of course, eating well goes hand in hand with moving more and setting yourself up for a lunchtime workout is important. Peter offers the following advice: 'As the workout is under an hour, nothing too heavy needs to be consumed. Some fruit before, and possibly during would be fine, and follow up with a healthy, protein-rich meal after.'

And for anyone like me, taking up a new activity, Peter advises to take things slowly and build up gradually: 'Trying too much too soon can put you out of action for months, so if you're new to running for example, increase your distance by approximately 10% each week to really see the benefits.'



The consultation with Rachel

learn that I would benefit from coming along more often; parts of the workout are really tough, particularly the side planks! But the stretching feels wonderful after a morning sat down in the office, and as the class comes to a close I realise that I really do feel refreshed and energised.

So what did I learn, and will I be back? Absolutely! I felt sore for days afterwards and certainly worked harder than I thought I could. And I honestly arrived at my next meeting feeling more switched on than I usually might, and had no need for my usual 3.00pm caffeine boost either. Fitting the class into my lunch break was straightforward, and with the option of 30- or 45-minute classes, there are convenient options for squeezing something in on busier days. As the weather (hopefully) improves, I'm also motivated to get outside and explore some of the other hidden gems on campus, so watch this space!

### Book a class!

You can book a class consultation with UoB Sport & Fitness here:

[www.sportandfitness.bham.ac.uk/timetables/classes](http://www.sportandfitness.bham.ac.uk/timetables/classes)

Your complimentary class will be booked for you at the end of the session, to take place during the following week.

Learn more about UoB Sport & Fitness and other ways to wellbeing on campus here:

[intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/strategic-framework/professional-services/birmingham-professional/Wellbeing-on-campus.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/strategic-framework/professional-services/birmingham-professional/Wellbeing-on-campus.aspx)



Me during my Pilates session

A week later and it's time to give the class ago. I leave my desk with time to get changed. I am lucky to be based in Beech House and only a short stroll away, but for others, it's around a 15-minute walk from further points on campus. It's been a while since my last attempt at Pilates so I'm feeling a little nervous! But I shouldn't have worried, because while it is a challenging hour at times, the message from the class consultation really does ring true in the class itself and our instructor, Claire, emphasises going at your own pace throughout. She also offers modifications for most movements so you really can work to your own comfort level. It is a small group on this particular day so Claire can pay close attention to everyone and offers encouragement to each of us. I certainly



# transforming our campus

## Nicholson's new look as a day nursery

The Maples Day Nursery was successfully launched in February in newly transformed facilities on the Winterbourne site.

The former Nicholson Building now houses the day nursery, which is the first in Birmingham to pledge its dedication to becoming a more sustainable environment for young children. It will be minimising the use of disposable wipes and plastics such as glitter and one-use aprons.

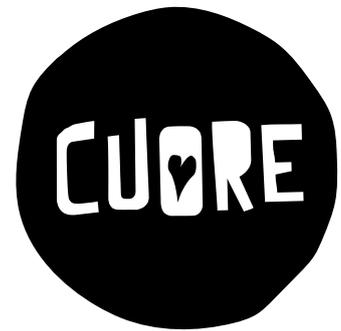
The nursery, which is being run by the University alongside the Elms and the Oaks, is working towards the Curiosity Approach, using natural play resources, fostering children's creativity and imagination, drawing on the learning styles of Reggio Emilia, Steiner, Te Whariki and Montessori.

To find out more about the Maples and the wider nursery offer at the University of Birmingham – open to staff and the general public – visit: [www.birminghamdaynurseries.co.uk](http://www.birminghamdaynurseries.co.uk)



*A curiosity approach to learning*

## Open your heart to Cuore



Cuore, the new restaurant in the Green Heart, will bring a flavour of the Mediterranean to campus. Cuore, the Italian word for 'heart', will open at the beginning of next term, from **12.00noon–8.00pm, Monday to Friday.**

A variety of small dishes will be on offer, in the style of mezze or tapas, with something for everyone, including meat, fish, vegetarian and vegan options. The aim is to provide something for staff and students that is completely different to what is already on campus.

## Embracing student views



*Working closely with students*

Progress on the Teaching and Learning Building is good, with the core section, where two lecture theatres will be housed, beginning to take shape.

A dedicated Student Reference Group has been established, enabling Estates, Library Services and the design team to work closely with undergraduates and postgraduates on everything from interior design and furniture choices to accessibility and operating guidelines. They also have a regular opportunity to tour the site and see progress for themselves.

The building, which will provide a large and medium-sized lecture theatre, will also house ten seminar rooms and hundreds of study spaces for students, which has been well received. Each floor will be different in character, with sound reducing as students go up, allowing them to choose a space that will suit them best for their work.

A flythrough video of an impression the completed building is available at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/building/teaching-and-learning-building](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/building/teaching-and-learning-building)

## Green Heart Festival Launch Weekend

The Green Heart Festival launch is set to be the University's biggest ever community event. The Green Heart Festival Launch Weekend, taking place on 8 and 9 June 2019, will bring the campus to life with colourful tents, a main stage and performances from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra alongside the University of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

There will be diverse activities for all ages, with hands-on exhibits which will highlight the recent research of the University. This will include:

- Star Machine-vibrations of the Universe – an interactive artwork that allows you to hear the stars 'singing'
- The sound of Quantum Technology – take a walk with our physicists and learn about the Quantum Science behind the Old Joe Clock Tower, the railway station and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- Heart Beats – view heart cells with our microscope and see an echocardiogram taking place

Set in the newly completed 12-acre Green Heart, this will be a chance for staff, students and the local community to enjoy the grass amphitheatre for the first time. The space will play host to a prom-style concert on the evening of Saturday 8 June, led by student music groups, singers and orchestras. Then, on Sunday 9 June, there will be a variety of activities on offer focusing on wellbeing and sustainability.

The weekend will be brought to a close by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), conducted by its musical director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, and 3,000 singers on the main stage on Sunday afternoon. Many choirs, including the CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus, CBSO Children's Chorus and SO Vocal and many others, will celebrate together in this festival within a festival.

There will be a full range of street food and drink throughout the weekend.

Those keen to come along are encouraged to register their interest online: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/events/The-Green-Heart-Festival-Opening-Weekend.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/events/The-Green-Heart-Festival-Opening-Weekend.aspx)



JUNE 2019 – MAY 2020

The launch event will be followed by a year-long programme of cultural, research and teaching events on campus which will be open to all. All University staff are invited to get involved and can discover how to submit their proposed events at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheartfestival](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheartfestival)

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

### What is it?

Oak Dresser. From the late 19th century. Maker unknown.

### Where is it?

Research and Cultural Collections Study Centre, 32 Pritchatts Road, (viewable by appointment, please email [rcc@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:rcc@contacts.bham.ac.uk))

From sculpture to oil paintings, from pop art to fine art, Research and Cultural Collections' art collection is rich and diverse. Much of the collection is dispersed across campus for the enjoyment and pleasure of all. You may not have realised that certain pieces of furniture at the University are part of the art collection. There are around 200 significant pieces of furniture, fixtures and fittings including fireplaces, windows and chairs, one piece being this 19th-century oak dresser.

Whilst we do not know where the dresser originated, we do know that it's been at the University for many years. It was purchased along with other fixtures and fittings by Margery Fry, the first warden of University House. Opened in 1908, University House was the first purpose-built women's hall of residence in Britain. In 1964, it became the first mixed halls, and the building was converted in 2002 to accommodate the Business School.

In 1914, the students moved out of University House. The building was used as nurses' quarters for those women working in the 1st Southern General Hospital, a military hospital based on campus. Recent research undertaken at the Library of Birmingham archive unearthed a photograph showing this dresser and nurses in the drawing room.

Such archival evidence provides a glimpse into the life of objects, demonstrating how archival material helps us to piece together an object's story. As we delve further into the archives we may uncover more of the dresser's history; where it has been housed, how it has been used and what histories it has witnessed?

### Find out more

You can find out more about the history of University House by reading 'University House 1904–2002' by Isobel Jackson. You can also find out more about the furniture cared for by Research and Cultural Collections at <http://rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com>.



## Chancellor's column

In March, we held two important University events: the seventh University Annual Meeting in the Bramall auditorium, and the Guild of Students' Annual Awards in the Great Hall.

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting was Birmingham Inspires and once again the presentation by the Vice-Chancellor showcased the amazing achievements of our university throughout the past year.

We also launched our Quest initiative, highlighting how for over a century, the University of Birmingham has flourished by constantly questioning and re-evaluating the world and how we understand it; with a quest to think in original ways, to seek different paths and perspectives, and to continually ask the most pertinent questions.

In the latest annual report, the Vice-Chancellor stated right upfront: 'Our ability to transform lives and society underpins who we are and what we do.'

This was clearly demonstrated by this year's guest speaker – Birmingham alumna, Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the World Bank Group, who shared her inspirational story, outlining how the University of Birmingham had changed her life.

We really are a university that changes the lives of those who change the world.

The annual Guild Awards were as always, similarly inspirational, highlighting the breadth and depth of talent that exists amongst our students: ballroom dancing, world-class singing, and not one but two acapella groups – one of which even got the whole hall dancing to a medley of ABBA – I have never seen an acapella group get people spontaneously dancing before!

Most importantly, the awards highlighted the incredible contribution our students make to our university and to Birmingham. We have 11,000 students, who are members of over 300 different groups and societies.

I had the privilege to present the outstanding individual contribution award to Sam Davies, for his commitment and dedication to the Guild, the wider student body, the local community, and to causes both in the UK and overseas. This includes helping the MathSoc raise over £1,000 for the charity Student Minds.

He is also challenge leader for Carnival RAG's Kilimanjaro trek, and keeps hungry students happy by working in the kitchen at Joe's Bar – all on top of his studies of course!

It was also fantastic to celebrate the Guild winning the prestigious NUS 'Union of the Year' award for 2018/19.

Once again, our university ranks in the Top 100 in the QS *Global University Rankings 2019*, and our continued successes demonstrate that it is not good enough to just be the best in the world; you also have to be the best for the world.

Indeed, the University of Birmingham truly inspires and I came away utterly inspired from both the University Annual Meeting and from the Guild of Students' annual Guild Awards. *Lord Bilimoria is the founder and chairman of Cobra Beer, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and the founding Chairman of the UK India Business Council.*

## William (Bill) Slater, CBE

Bill Slater played junior football in the Lancashire and District Youth League before joining Blackpool in 1944. Bill's physical education course at Leeds meant that he could only turn out for the Tangerines occasionally, and although the seaside club were keen for him to sign professional forms with them, he insisted that he remained an amateur.

It was in 1951 that he found himself in Blackpool's cup final team, though he travelled home with a loser's medal. In December 1951, with his college course now over, Bill moved south to join Brentford. In his five months with the club he made 30 appearances. Then, in the close season of 1952, he signed for Wolves despite the reservations of a couple of directors who didn't feel it right that an amateur should play for a big First Division club.

Bill had, by now, taken up a teaching post at the University of Birmingham and his commitments at the University meant that he hardly ever made a training session at Molineux. To make matters worse for him, with players like Wright, Crook, Baxter and Flowers on the club's books, the competition for wing half places in the team was intense.

But he forced himself into the side to play Manchester United at Molineux at the beginning of October 1952, and he had a memorable debut as Wolves crushed the Reds 6-2. He made only the occasional turnout for the first team after that until, towards the latter part of the season, he played in ten of the last 12 games.

He obviously did enough in those games to impress manager Stan Cullis; the next season saw him miss only three games as Wolves collected their first ever League Championship. At the end of the term the board, fully aware of his talents, strove to secure a stronger hold on the man who had received a league winner's medal as an amateur.

They achieved some success when they came to an agreement with Bill and his bosses at the University, and the man from Lancashire signed on as a part-time professional – his signing-on fee being £10.

Bill's professional University commitments led to him missing the odd match, one of which was the FA Charity Shield game against West Bromwich Albion in September 1954. However, two months later he was awarded his first cap when he played for England against Wales at Wembley. He followed that up three weeks later at the same venue, when England overcame West Germany 3-2. He then lost his place in the national side to the late, great Duncan Edwards.

[At the time Bill was playing for England and also a lecturer at the University, he had to gain the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Aitken, to play for England].

The next two seasons on the domestic front saw Bill miss 18



games altogether, but 1957/58 found him in the reserves for the first half of the season. The second half of that campaign saw him in and out of the side as Wolves won the championship once again, and he also got back into the England side after the tragic loss of Duncan Edwards in the Munich air disaster.

He played nine times for England before the end of the year. 1958/59 saw Wolves top the league again with Bill playing in about 75% of their games. Then, the following year, as captain of Wolves he held aloft the FA Cup at Wembley after the defeat of Blackburn Rovers in the final. That same year he was named Footballer of the Year, and he also completed his Bachelor of Science.

He spent a further three seasons at Wolves before he moved back to Brentford for a short spell prior to his retirement from the game. Throughout his long career, Bill always retained some sort of amateur registration and he is fondly remembered by Wolves fans of the time as a stylish and fair wing half. Not once in his football career did he receive even a caution. Bill became Deputy Director of the Crystal Palace Sports Centre and then became Director of Physical Education, first at Liverpool (for seven years) and then Birmingham from 1970 to 1984. He held a number of roles in university sport, including coach/manager of the British Universities Football squad for ten years, and he was a trustee of the British Universities Sports Association for many years.

In 1982, he was awarded the OBE for his services to sport. He became Director of National Services (Great Britain Sports Council) in 1984 until 1989, when he was elected President of the British Gymnastics Association. In 1998, Bill was awarded the CBE and, in 2003, the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) Award.

**Submitted by Zena Wooldridge OBE, Director of Sport**

## Nahid Saiyed, Assistant Director of Student Services, speaks to *Buzz* about supporting mental health and wellbeing



### **What's a good day like for you in the Health and Wellbeing Service?**

On a daily basis, we deliver a range of interventions and services from pre-booked ongoing personalised sessions to drop-ins for brief interventions, advice and guidance. We also enable students to access urgent support and manage crisis and concern.

A 'good day' is successfully making a positive difference to students, seeing students who attend treatment sessions genuinely feeling more able to effectively engage with their studies as a result of the support they've received.

### **You must work with students in some really challenging circumstances. How do you support students to improve their health and wellbeing?**

We work with internal and external partners to help keep students as safe as possible by offering an evidence-based approach to mental health and wellbeing, and actively working as part of a University-wide approach to mental health.

We offer a stepped approach to treating students with mental health symptoms, diagnosis, trauma, crisis and concern and provide wellbeing and counselling sessions and eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR) for trauma.

Our 'Understanding Relationships', 'Rape or Sexual Assault' and 'Eating Disorders' groups run across term along with workshops to enhance wellbeing, which include relaxation, stress management, psychoeducation and tailored support for PG students. We also support events and campaigns with our partners (which include the Guild of Students) such as the 'Hate Crime Awareness Week', LGBT History Month and sexual violence awareness. This year we have been working with the Institute for Mental Health on events such as 'The Big Brum Brew' and 'Brew Monday'.

We have already delivered new Mental

Health First Aid training and Suicide Awareness and Prevention training to 130 higher-level student-facing staff and have trained more than 100 staff members in recognising and supporting students who are in distress. We work with statutory and voluntary services to continue improving provision and access to specialist services for students. An example of this is the collaboration with the Children's Society, Forward Thinking Birmingham and NHS Commissioners for the 'Pause Pop-Up' on campus. This innovative and unique partnership service is available every Monday without any wait.

### **There's a lot of discussion in the media about access to university health and wellbeing services, but how do students access our services and what are the waiting lists like?**

We have increased our staffing, and since the beginning of the academic year, we have provided 2,248 hours of one-to-one support and drop-in sessions, workshops and group support. Up to 85 % of student are seen within our standard 20 working-day period – while we are not a replacement for NHS services, this is significantly shorter than NHS waiting times, which can be as long as 180 days.

We are working to simplify the routes to support by creating and developing partnerships that enhance student wellbeing. In addition to the support from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team, the University has invested in professional wellbeing staff teams in the Schools and Colleges and offer support through the Multi-faith Chaplaincy.

### **Can you give us an idea of the range of professional backgrounds in the service?**

Within Student Services we have a team of professional staff; all are accredited mental health professionals with significant experience of working with mental health

crisis and concern within higher education. Our training backgrounds include psychotherapy counselling, mental health nursing and social work.

### **A mental health crisis isn't necessarily going to happen between 9.00am and 5.00pm. How is the health and wellbeing service supporting staff to respond out of hours?**

The teams work extensively with staff across the institution such as Accommodation and Security Services to support students outside of 'core hours'. Just one example is the bespoke training sessions that we have delivered to over 100 Library Services staff on supporting students with wellbeing needs, ensuring they get access to the right services at the right time.

### **What more do you think could be done to support health and wellbeing?**

Student mental health is an ongoing institutional priority, and we are working towards an integrated approach to mental health and wellbeing. New investments, in response to the whole University approach, include the recruitment of four wellbeing practitioners (Mental Health). The additional support invested in mental health and wellbeing supports the response to an increase in service demand and access.

We work closely with wellbeing officers within schools who work exceptionally hard to support students. There are some fantastic examples of this, such as the Trans Ally schemes, PGR Hikes and various other opportunities for students across the University. This year, a new wellbeing area, 'UBWell', opened within the main library and there were significant, cross-institution events for World Kindness Day and Hate Crime Awareness Week, which really were collaborative.