

Buzz Bitesize: April 2015

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Birmingham Professional Forum – Today

Date/time: Thursday 2 April, 2.00–3.00pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all professional service staff, introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The Forum is an opportunity to hear from colleagues on a range of topics. The agenda at this term's Forum will include the new strategy for Life Sciences, a chance to hear from Chris Granger, the new Director of Finance, plus updates on the Higher Education Review, and an opportunity to take part in a Q&A with the Registrar.

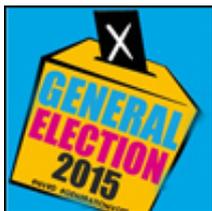
[More information.](#)



Do you know someone who has made a major contribution to academic, regional or national life?

Have you considered nominating them for an honorary doctorate of

the University? Recent honorary graduates include the actor Samuel West, the historian and archaeologist Professor Ian Morris, and the Chief Executive of mac birmingham, Dorothy Wilson. Nominations can be made by anyone who is an employee, student, alumnus, member of honorary staff or lay member of Court or Council of the University. The next deadline for nominations is 28 April 2015. [More information](#).



General Election: Voter Registration

Are you registered to vote in this year's General Election? On Thursday 7 May the UK general public will go to the polls to elect MPs for the next five years. For this election new voter registration rules have been introduced meaning you will need to register as an individual rather than as a household. To ensure you are registered you should contact the elections office of the local authority where you live. You can register [online](#); the deadline for voter registration is Monday 20 April. The Guild of Students also have more information on their [website](#).

News...

Staff Welcome Resources 2015 website updated

The website hosts a wide range of information to support staff in developing induction events and activities for new students, for example details about University non-repeated welcome events timetable, room booking information, guidance and case studies, welcome branding resources and links to other key resources. New for 2015 is information on supporting students under the age of 18 in an FAQ format. Visit the [Staff Welcome Resources 2015 website](#).

Telecommunications upgrade

The University's telecommunications system is due to be upgraded on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 April and during this time connections to landline telephones on campus may be interrupted. The upgrade is taking place on University Closed Days to limit disruption to colleagues and students but if you have any concerns please contact [Anthony Ford](#), Network Telecoms Manager.

Unseen photographs by Phyllis Nicklin discovered

Emerging local online community group Brumpic, which utilises social media to share archive images of Birmingham and the surrounds, approached the University in 2014 to seek permission to use a number of the Nicklin images for an article in *The Birmingham Post*. Following the article's release the University discovered a large number of 35mm slides in a filing cabinet on the Selly Oak campus that contained unseen Nicklin images. Brumpic have now begun the task of scanning these slides, in conjunction with the University. Some of the images can be viewed on the Brumpic interactive table within the

Birmingham History Gallery at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery from 2 to 18 April 2015. There will also be a feature containing unseen images in *The Birmingham Post* on Thursday 2 April. [Read more.](#)

Tableau: New information visualisation reporting tool

The Strategic Planning Office is currently launching [Tableau](#), an online, interactive and visual reporting tool. The service is fully available through the web and mobile devices, and follows a transitional phase during which training materials using Canvas and a fully supported live service have been established. To request access to Tableau or amend existing access, please visit the [IT Service Desk](#). So far a number of reports have been developed for student data, admissions, research and HESA (external data). The data within Tableau allows for reports to be created and made available to relevant staff, which can be drilled into and adapted or embedded into your everyday documents. To find out more visit the [Business Intelligence webpage](#).

New 'Click+Collect' grocery service for students and staff

Student Accommodation have worked with Tesco to open a Click+Collect grocery collection point at Pritchatts Park Village, located in the car park next to Pritchatts House. This means you can order your groceries online and collect on campus at a time to suit you. This service will be piloted for six months to serve both students and staff at the University. Collection slots are available 8.00–11.00am and 4.00–7.00pm, Monday to Sunday. Simply select the Click+Collect option when you do your grocery shop at Tesco.com. [More information.](#)

Hospitality and Accommodation Services Staff win catering award

The University Caterers Ltd (TUCO) represents all in-house caterers operating within the Higher and Further Education sectors. The annual TUCO competition took place in Blackpool, on 16–17 March, and offered the showcase for the skilled craftsmanship, creative endeavour, artistry and professional development for chefs at all levels and front of house professionals from universities across the UK. The University has had excellent results in all categories since 2005 and this year has proved no exception. Natasha Vahey won Gold in the Bar Skills category. Adam Finney came away with a Silver award in the Food Service category and Stewart Turner and Michael Kitchin won Bronze in the Chefs' Challenge.

Licensing Guidelines

If you have scanned extracts from printed books or journals, or uploaded extracts of e-books and e-journals to Canvas using the University's Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) licence, you need to report them to Library Services. Any scanning and uploading since 1 June 2014 must be reported along with any old scans and uploads that have been re-used in 2014–15. All scanning and uploading should be in line with procedures for scanning, which details what is and is not covered, with reporting via Step 3. Please ensure that all scanning and uploading activity during 2014–15 has been reported by Friday 29 May 2015 so that Library Services can report to the CLA directly. If you have any queries please contact [Library Services](#). For more information please visit the [intranet](#).

Events...

A full list of events can also be found on the [University's website](#) including performances, lectures, workshops, cultural activities and exhibitions.

Guardian Live: You talk/They listen

Date/time: Monday 27 April, 7.00pm

Venue: Birmingham Business School

The University is hosting a *Guardian* General Election event as part of their 'You talk/They listen' series. The theme for the evening's debate will be Immigration, considering questions such as: 'is immigration a burden or blessing?' 'As UKIP calls for a five-year ban on state schools for immigrants is it right to be concerned about public services and community cohesion?' 'Are we becoming a nation divided or should we celebrate multicultural Britain?' Join host Rick Edwards and a panel of experts and *Guardian* writers as we explore the issue and ask where do each of the political parties stand on immigration? Tickets are £5 and bookings can be made via [the Guardian website](#).

Home, Harmony and Hope Birmingham & Chicago

Date/time: Thursday 16 April, 5.30–7.30pm

Venue: The Dome, Bramall Music Building

Home, Harmony and Hope explores the musical prominence of sister cities Birmingham and Chicago, and how new musical forms contributed to building and creating community in both these cities. This panel discussion will explore the lives of diverse Birmingham and Chicago residents, examining how challenging urban realities impacted upon the role of music as marker of collective consciousness, identity and history. The event is free but registration is advised. [Book online](#).

Enterprising Birmingham Innovation Competition – The Final Showcase

Date/time: Wednesday 22 April, 12.30–4.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Business School

Staff are invited to this event to celebrate the culmination of the University's biennial Innovation Competition. The Showcase promises to be an exciting demonstration of some of the University's brightest commercial projects and entrepreneurial spirit as the finalists battle for a £15,000 prize in front of a panel of expert 'Dragons'. The competition is intended to help to nurture and develop innovative ideas. A wine reception will follow the event, attended by colleagues and specially invited guests from the world of business and commerce as well as the public sector. [Register online](#).

Business Club: How to keep your workforce motivated

Date/time: Thursday 23 April, 7.30–9.30am

Venue: Birmingham Research Park

Led by Phil Fellows of Activ8Change and Les Wright, Assistant Director of HR at the University, this event facilitates collaboration with academics at the University and an opportunity to hear from expert speakers. Phil co-created Activ8Change in 2012 to promote human capacity and self-sufficiency around the world. Les manages the delivery of the University's professional Workplace Wellbeing services. There will also be an opportunity to make elevator pitches to the Club, of no more than four minutes in duration, to promote new products, services or recruit partners for collaborative research and development projects. Registration is free, with further details available [here](#).

The Huxley Lecture: Man's Place in Nature

Date/time: Monday 27 April, 5.00pm

Venue: Room 101, Haworth Building

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences invite you to attend this prestigious annual lecture, followed by a wine reception. Sir Colin Blakemore, Professor of Neuroscience & Philosophy, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses, School of Advanced Study, University of London and Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience, University of Oxford will talk about human culture. He will argue that there may be no unique evolutionary or neurobiological foundations and asks, if natural selection is not responsible for the emergence of the modern mind, what could have driven cultural evolution? Please email [Helen Jones](#) to confirm your attendance.

Pint of Science Festival

Date: 18–20 May

Venue: Birmingham city centre

Pint of Science is coming to a pub near you! The Festival is all about getting amazing science stories out of the lecture theatre or laboratory to people in a familiar, relaxed environment. This year for the first time, Pint of Science is coming to Birmingham and will take over four venues across Birmingham city centre for three consecutive nights. Some of the University's leading experts in various scientific fields will present, discuss and take questions on their latest discoveries with members of the public over a beer and a packet of pork scratchings. Themes for the festival are 'Beautiful Mind', 'Our Body', 'Tech Me Out', and 'Atoms to Galaxies.' Tickets are £3 and are available on the [Pint of Science website](#). Pint of Science is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers.

Named Lecture Series – Christie Gordon Lecture 2015

Date/time: Wednesday 27 May, 5.00–6.00pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School Building

Professor Sir Nilesh J Samani is the British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology at the University of Leicester, Director of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit and Consultant in Interventional

Cardiology at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester. He is also a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and a NIHR Senior Investigator. His research is focused on understanding the genetic basis of common cardiovascular diseases. Over the last eight years, large-scale genome-wide association studies have identified multiple genetic loci that affect risk of coronary artery disease. This presentation will consider the current state of the discovery process, discuss what we have learnt and illustrate the clinical translation potential of the findings. [More information](#).

What Produces Democracy? Revolutionary Crises, Popular Politics, and Democratic Gains in Twentieth-Century Europe

Date/time: Wednesday 1 July, 6.00–7.00pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

Geoff Eley is the Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History, as well as being a faculty member of the German Department, at the University of Michigan. He is an internationally renowned scholar with broad research interests including German and British history, global history, the European Left, nations and nationalism, citizenship, social theory, and the relationship of history to theory and the social sciences. [Book online](#).

Opportunities...

Name of the Game – competition time

Name of the Game is not only giving colleagues the chance to name the gym in the University's new sports centre but also to win some top prizes. In our latest competition the Alumni Office is offering you the chance to win one of three University sweatshirts signed by Name of the Game participants; Paralympian Swimmer Ellie Simmonds, Ironman Champion Chrissie Wellington, and Test Cricketer Gladstone Small. Visit the [University website](#) for details and to enter.

Celebrating Best Practice in Technical Services

The 2015 Higher Education Technician Summit will publically celebrate the skills, talent and experience of technicians from M5 Universities through the inaugural Papin Prizes, a series of Awards to be made to individual technicians across the Midlands region who have demonstrated excellent practice. The winners will be announced and the awards will be presented at the 2015 Technicians in Higher Education Summit to be held at the University of Nottingham on 30 June. Nominations should be received by 31 May. [More information](#).

Host families required for Japanese secondary teachers

Are you available 18 July to 15 August 2015 and would like to offer a home stay for Japanese visitors? You must be able to provide:

- A bedroom with adequate space to store and hang clothes

- A desk and chair with a desk lamp
- Breakfast and dinner Monday–Friday
- Food storage space, and food preparation facilities
- Somewhere in the house to relax
- Bed linen and towels

Since home stay is an essential part of the Japanese teachers cultural experience, and should also help them in developing their conversational English, it is very important that they are invited to share the meals with your family, and are treated as a house guests rather than a lodger. Hosts will be paid £130 per week. Accommodation needs to be within reasonable commuting distance from the University. If you are interested or have any queries please contact [Saroj Watton](#), Birmingham Foundation Academy on ext 47150.

Next edition: 7 May, 2015
Copy deadline: 29 April, 2015

Email: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk
Web: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz



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