



Buzz Bitesize: July 2014

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Why not take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

[Headlines](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Views](#)

[Information](#)

[Opportunities](#)



Knighthood conferred upon the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

The University of Birmingham is delighted that its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, has been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Sir David has been honoured in recognition of his remarkable services to higher education and the drive and commitment he has shown to enhancing the UK's reputation in this field.

Donna Willmetts, College Facilities Manager for the College of Social Sciences, received a British Empire Medal for services to higher education. Mrs Willmetts, who has worked at the University for 29 years, supports the University's core activities by managing the services, buildings and physical resources in an integrated and co-ordinated way. Her work ensures a safe and efficient working environment for staff and students. [Read more.](#)



University secures awards for its support of women in STEMM departments

The University of Birmingham has scooped four new national awards for its work to further and support the careers of women in traditionally male strongholds of academia. In May, the University celebrated new [Athena SWAN Awards](#), which recognise success in developing employment practices to advance the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) departments. The College of Medical and Dental Sciences (MDS) won silver. The School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES) and the School of Chemical Engineering each won bronze. The School of Physics and Astronomy has been awarded [Juno Champion status](#), the highest accolade awarded by the Institute of Physics, to recognise achievements in addressing gender inequities across its whole student and staff body. The School is one of only ten physics departments in the UK to have received this accolade.



University of Birmingham wins Outstanding International Strategy

The University recently won the [Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award \(THELMA\)](#) for its bold approach to securing its position in Brazil as the higher education institute partner of choice. Working with key stakeholders Birmingham has developed flourishing partnerships that have led to enhanced grant capture, increased joint publications, increased student enrolments and plans to enhance education collaboration and mobility. Over the past academic year, the University of Birmingham has collaborated with all of the top ten universities in Brazil and 17 of the top 20.

News

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New research centre opened by Olympic gold medallist

Olympic gold-winning rower Katherine Grainger has officially opened a major new research centre for arthritis, co-founded by the University of Birmingham. The £2.5 million Arthritis Research UK Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis Centre of Excellence (RACE) is a collaboration between the universities of Birmingham, Glasgow and Newcastle, which together have pledged an extra £4 million in financial support over five years.

[Read more.](#)

New e-newsletter from the Business Engagement team

The Business Engagement team recently launched a new e-version of [think Business with Birmingham](#) to more than 1,000 contacts in business and industry. Featuring case studies and other related news, *think* aims to demonstrate the different ways that businesses and the University can work together. There is a Business Engagement partner for each of the Colleges, so if you would like to find out more about working and collaborating with business please [contact us](#).

Major roadworks in Birmingham city centre this

summer

The St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be completely closed to all traffic from 10.00pm on Friday 18 July until 6.00am on Monday 1 September 2014. The closure will be preceded by two weeks of overnight closures, from 10.00pm to 6.00am, and followed by four weeks of similar overnight closures. Staff may need to consider alternative modes of travel during this period. [More information](#).

Events

Advancing Equality in Employment Conference – Achievements and Challenges

Date/time: Tuesday 16 September, 10.00am–4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre G12, Birmingham Business School

The Advancing Equality in Employment conference will explore examples of best practice in achieving equality in employment, celebrate what we have achieved at the University so far and examine the challenges that lie ahead to achieve true equality and diversity in the workplace. The conference will:

- Celebrate successes in our journey so far
- Welcome Keynote Speaker, Binna Kandola
- Embrace diversity through a variety of internal and external speakers and drama
- Explore key challenges
- Empower staff to embrace equality and diversity

The conference will be followed by a series of workshops on Wednesday 17 September. Further details, including how to register, are available [here](#).

NADFAS at Night: In the Wake of Handel – Music on the Grand Tour

Date/time: Thursday 3 July, 7.00–8.15pm (Late viewing from 5.45pm)

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The Grand Tour was de rigeur in the 18th century for well-to-do young gentlemen, who flocked to Europe's cultural centres in search of adventure and to improve their minds. The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) presents a fascinating illustrated lecture-recital, led by popular NADFAS-accredited lecturer Peter Medhurst GRSM ARCM who will take a look at 18th-century Italian music-making; including the composers, the performers, the forms and the styles, and explains what it was that drew the well-heeled, musical British traveller south. Book by telephoning 0121 414 2261 or buy a ticket on the night. [More information](#).

Single Parents Network Meeting

Date/time: Monday 7 July, 12.30–2.00pm

Venue: Room WG6, Aston Webb Building

It would be great to get more single parents at the meetings. Please feel free to bring your lunch with you. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you would like any further information about the meeting, or would like to join the Single Parents Network, please contact [Dr Juliet Coates](#) (ext 45478), Coordinator of Single Parents Network or [Sheena Griffiths](#) (ext 42673), Staff Diversity Advisor.

University of Birmingham Business Club Breakfast Briefing: Internationalisation – Doing Business in an Imperfect World

Date/time: Tuesday 8 July, 7.30–9.30am

Venue: BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

The University of Birmingham Business Club is a network for businesses that currently collaborate with academics from the University. Club events are a great place for you to meet new businesses, who are working across all sectors and technologies. So if you're looking for partners to: jointly develop and exploit your IP; create real world impact from your research for the Research Excellence Framework (REF); access research funding through Horizon 2020 and the Technology Strategy Board; or develop new research themes with commercial relevance, then the Business Club's Breakfast Briefings are for you. If you would like to attend please contact [Huma Mumtaz](#) (ext. 45888).

Thierry Machuel Music Premiere

Date/time: Friday 11 July, 6.00pm

Venue: Dome Room, Bramall Music Building

Premiere of music inspired by the work of Yves Bonnefoy. French composer Thierry Machuel's latest work, composed especially for this recital in Birmingham, will be premiered in the Dome Room in the beautiful Bramall Music Building. The recital will be accompanied by a recording of the poet and a 'conversation' in French, during which Thierry Machuel will discuss the inspiration for his work. The event will appeal to those interested in contemporary song and improvisation, French poetry and the inspiration provided to composers by literature. This event is free but registration is essential.

[More information.](#)

Lectures on Myeloma with Professor Robert Kyle

Date/time: Tuesday 8 July, 5.00pm and Thursday 10 July, 1.00pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School Building

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences is proud to host Robert Kyle MD of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. Professor Kyle is one of the world's leading pioneers in the field of plasma cell malignancy. He is a leading authority on monoclonal gammopathy, a condition that precedes almost every case of multiple myeloma, and has played a major role in the development of the Mayo Clinic as a global centre of excellence within Haematology.

Lecture 1: Monoclonal Gammopathy and Smouldering Multiple Myeloma. This lecture will review work on the defined determinants of disease pathogenesis and clinical progression.

Lecture 2: Current Management of Multiple Myeloma. Robert Kyle MD will address some of the exciting recent developments in the treatment of multiple myeloma. These lectures are open to all; contact [Yvonne Dawson](#) (ext. 44054) for more information.

Lasting Impressions: an Exploration of Printmaking in 20th-Century Portraiture

Date/time: Wednesday 16 July, 1.10pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

To complement the National Portrait Gallery collaboration *Lasting Impressions*, Gemma Wright of the Leicester Print Workshop here follows the evolution of the portrait print in the 20th century and explores just what the medium meant to the contemporary viewer. The lecture lasts approximately 50 minutes and is free to attend. [More information.](#)

As part of a Summer of Printmaking the Barber are offering a course on Lino Print. Explore a world of printmaking this summer with the supremely talented Birmingham Printmakers. This course, run over two consecutive Saturdays (19 and 26 July), will explore the lino print process from start to finish – resulting in a completed print to take home at the end. This workshop is aimed at adults; further information can be found on the [Barber website](#).

Views

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We would like your views on equality in the workplace

As part of our submission for the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2015, we are asking all staff to fill in a questionnaire on their experiences of working for the University. Taking part in the Workplace Equality Index is an effective way to create an inclusive workplace for lesbian, gay and bisexual employees. Please complete the [short questionnaire](#); the University's unique three-digit code is 662. Responses submitted online will go directly to Stonewall; you can find more information about the staff feedback questionnaire on the [Stonewall website](#).

Information

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Declaration of Outside Activities

The University Executive Board (UEB) has decided that all academic staff will be asked on an annual basis to declare their outside activities undertaken during the previous year. The request will be issued in July and responses must be returned by 30 September. The first round of this exercise will start later this month, when academic staff will receive an email asking them to complete a simple form and return it to their School Operations Manager. 'Outside activities' are defined in Appendix 7 to the conditions of employment for academic staff, who may apply for permission to undertake up to 30 days outside work a year, in many cases as private consultancy work. Alta Innovations provides a consultancy service to support academic staff in carrying out their private work, including professional indemnity, contract negotiation and contract management. [More information](#).

Opportunities

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The first call for a new Birmingham/Nottingham/FAPERJ pump-priming fund is now open

Funding is available for a range of activities with HEIs and research institutes in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, including facilitating original research and workshop events. The funding is open to all disciplines and a total of £120,000 is available under the first call. This is an exciting new opportunity resulting from the recent signing of an agreement with the Rio de Janeiro State Funding Agency (FAPERJ), the first between FAPERJ and a UK higher education institute partner. The deadline for applications is 4 September. Further details can be found on the [Brazil intranet page](#).

Applications are invited for the first UBIAS

Intercontinental Academy: TIME

The University of Birmingham Institute for Advance Studies (UBIAS) Intercontinental Academy aims to bring together today's most promising researchers from across the world, from all disciplines and methodological approaches to generate and answer new questions on the growing body of knowledge on TIME. The first of its kind, this is a unique opportunity to live and work with some of the most distinguished authorities on TIME who are eager to share their passion and expertise with the next generation.

[More information.](#)

Final call for this year's Postgraduate Enterprise Summer School (PESS). Are you looking for enterprise opportunities for your doctoral students to participate in?

PESS is aimed at doctoral students who would like the opportunity to develop and practise consultancy skills with like-minded students, want to develop their enterprise and leadership skills and are looking to put themselves ahead of the competition. Over one week, 14–18 July, PESS takes doctoral researchers from a wide range of specialist areas through a series of interactive professional skills training sessions. Each day is packed full of interactive workshops, internal and external trainers, guest speakers and activities. Throughout the week, delegates will be working closely with an influential local organisation on issues that affect their business strategy. For further details, please visit our [website](#) or contact [Debbie White](#).

Looking for a new challenge? Want to get fit and raise money for life-saving leukaemia research?

Now is the time to register your interest in running this year's BUPA Great Birmingham Run on 19 October for the University of Birmingham and local charity Cure Leukaemia! Visit our [website](#) to find out more, register your interest and download a training programme developed by our experts in Sport and Exercise Sciences. For more information, contact [Laura Fairbanks](#).

Summer shake up!

Start something new this summer; shake up your routine with Active Lifestyle fitness classes. Until 13 July staff get 10% off 10, 20, 40 and 60 batches of vouchers! The Active Lifestyle summer timetable is built around the working day with a variety of early morning, lunchtime express (45 minutes) and early evening classes to make it as convenient as possible to add exercise into your daily routine. A varied exercise routine is also crucial. Mix it up over the week with a morning spin class, a lunchtime yoga session to refocus your mind and stretch your muscles which have been bent over a desk all morning and end the day feeling strong with a toning class. [Book online.](#)

Summer sports camps for kids

1. Active Kids Camps

Taking place on campus, this camp will provide active fun for 6–15 year olds and opportunities to try out new sports, improve skills and fitness, and to enjoy high-quality coached sport and fantastic fun games. Activities include trampolining, basketball, indoor cricket, rounders, table tennis, Dragons' Den workshop, badminton and much more! With such a wide range of sports and activities there is something for every active kid. Half days or full days are available between these dates of 21–25 July, 28 July–1 August and 4–8 August. Prices vary depending upon the date and duration; please see the [UBSport website](#) for more details.

2. Sports Camps near to campus

[Kings Camps](#), [Ultimate Activity Camps](#) and [Schools of Sport](#) are currently offering University staff a 10–15% discount off their kids' camps throughout the school summer holidays. Located at the King Edward VI High School for Girls and the King Edward's Boys School, which is ideally situated on Edgbaston Road, opposite the main campus, these camps are for children 4–17 years of age. The exciting range of activities will be delivered by inspiring and enthusiastic staff that will instruct and encourage children to try new activities and build self-confidence, while having lots of fun. For full details and terms and conditions, please visit the [Kids Camps staff intranet page](#).

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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