



Buzz Bitesize: March 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.

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The BUFTAs 2014

This year's Birmingham University Awards For Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTAs) was another stunning success. Judges at the BUAFTAs gala dinner on Friday 28 February described the number and quality of the nominations as 'outstanding'.

2013 was a very special year for the University as we were named *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year and moved up in the national and international rankings. Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood and the University's Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, said Professional Services staff were at the heart of this achievement. During the evening a considerable amount of money was raised for the charity Acorns. Names of all BUAFTAs and raffle winners will be published on our intranet page. In the meantime, please check our Twitter page [@BUAFTAs](#) for more information about the gala night.

www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buافتas

International Women's Day



Date: 7 March 2014

The University will be celebrating the diversity of experiences of our female alumni, staff and students as part of activity surrounding International Women's Day. From business women to cancer researchers to stay-at-home mothers, we will be encouraging conversation and engaging with University women around the world via #UoBwomen. University alumni, staff and students will be tweeting about their day on Friday 7 March. We will be sharing discussions and facts about #UoBwomen throughout the day and would love to hear about your thoughts and activities as well. Why not join in the conversation on 7 March by following us on Twitter [@birminghamalum](#) or via #UoBwomen?



Fellowship Programme landmark

Colleagues from the University of Birmingham and the University of Warwick gathered to celebrate the successful Science City Research Alliance (SCRA) Fellowship Programme. A celebration event, hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood and Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick, was attended by a range of staff and guests involved in SCRA and the Fellowship Programme as well as colleagues involved in Birmingham Science City. For further information, please [click here](#).



Arts & Science Festival

Brochures are available on campus for the Arts & Science Festival, which returns for its second year from Sunday 16 March to Sunday 23 March. Themed 'Life & Death', the lively programme approaches the theme from wide-ranging perspectives – from Professor Alice Roberts' exhibition and talk exploring The Art of Anatomy to Professor Carl Chinn's lecture 'Life and Death in Back-Street Birmingham'. Capacity is limited at many events so book now to avoid disappointment. Full listings are available by [clicking here](#) and a PDF of the festival brochure is [available here](#).

News

Single Parents Network

The Single Parents Network is a new initiative aimed at providing support for all single parents in the University. The network can help with single parents' fears about career progression, tips for balancing childcare and exams or other issues to help solve work or study-related issues. The network will also share thoughts to help improve experiences for single parents at the University and their children. All parents – male or female, academic or non-academic, staff or student – are welcome to the termly coffee meetings and ad-hoc child-friendly events. Parents are also encouraged to be in touch in between meetings or whenever needed. Further information is available on University website or [intranet](#). The first coffee afternoon is at 1.00pm on 24 March at the Centre for Systems Biology, Haworth Building, opposite Biosciences. Contact [Single Parents](#), or just turn up.

Security Awareness Training

Information Security Awareness Training is now available in Canvas. All staff and many students are required to take this course annually. It is a requirement imposed by outside

bodies including the NHS, Department for Education and research councils. [Register](#) for the course in Canvas.

Young people's careers ebook

Jenny Mullins-White, an experienced careers consultant at Careers Network, has written an ebook that helps young people aged 13 to 19 to make careers decisions and encourage them to think about their next steps. She approached colleagues in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EI) team about potential avenues of funding for this social enterprise. *What Rocks Your World?* is available as a paperback and ebook on Amazon and other online stores for e-readers, tablets and mobiles. Further details about Jenny and *What Rocks Your World?* can be found at the [author's website](#). For more information about Social Enterprise UnLtd award, visit the [website](#).

Parents and Carers website

A new resource has been launched to support those in the University who have caring responsibilities. The [new website](#) offers information for those who are about to become a parent, and for those who have caring responsibilities – whether for children, family members with disabilities, or elderly relatives – to help them achieve an appropriate balance between their responsibilities at home and those at work. If you're interested in being part of a wider parents and carers network, please contact [Kulvinder Hira](#).

Academic staff returning from parental leave

As part of the Advancing Equality in Employment initiative, UEB has agreed academic staff on three-legged contracts who are returning from at least six months' maternity, adoption or additional paternity leave may be granted a term's remission from either teaching, research or administration to enable them to re-focus their research or teaching. Details are contained in the new [Guidance on Managing Pregnancy, Maternity and Adoption Leave for Academic Staff](#).

Careers rebrand shortlisted

IE Design, the external design company who carried out the Careers Network's rebrand, has been shortlisted for two awards at the 2014 Transform Awards. The awards recognise best practice in corporate, product and global rebrands, with categories that focus on strategy, execution, content and evaluation. IE Design is shortlisted for the best use of a visual property; photography/illustration/digital award and best visual identity from the public sector for its work on the rebrand. The winners will be announced on 1 April. If you would like to link to any additional information, [click here](#).

Views

Teaching and Learning Conference

Date: 4 July 2014
Venue: Muirhead Tower

This year marks the 11th annual Teaching and Learning Conference at the University, to be held on Friday 4 July. The conference, in Muirhead Tower, is an opportunity for teaching and learning at the University to take centre stage, allowing staff from all disciplines to share and discuss innovative teaching methods and ideas. Further details, including keynote speakers and call for proposals, will be available soon on the [intranet page](#).

Events

Sound cinema premiere

Date: 23 March 2014

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts Lecture Theatre

At the 1900 Paris Exposition, visitors had their first taste of sound cinema, thanks to the Phono-Cinema-Théâtre. After a century in obscurity, these startling short films – which feature performances of *Hamlet* and an original Parisian can-can – are being unveiled in the UK for the first time. These beautiful works, many in hand-tinted colour, have been restored by the Cinémathèque Française. Material without sound will be accompanied by a live trio led by pianist and arranger John Sweeney. This UK premiere is presented in partnership with the Barber Institute and the University of Birmingham's Cultural Engagement team. For more information, [click here](#). Contact The Barber Institute via [email](#) or 0121 414 2261.

Women in Science

Date: 11 March 2014

Time: 1.00–2.00pm

Venue: Bramall Music Building, Elgar Concert Hall

Professor Alice Roberts, Professor of Public Engagement in Science, introduces a talk and discussion on the subject of 'Women in Science', a subject she spoke about at the Young Woman Engineer of the Year awards 2013 and on BBC 2's *Newsnight*. Less than 20% of professors in science and engineering are women and Prof Roberts asks why scientific careers are failing to recruit and retain women. The talk is free to attend but registration is essential. Please register by sending an [email](#).

Circuit training

Date: Throughout March 2014

Venue: The Vale

Banish the winter blues and put a spring in your step with the Boot It outdoor circuits sessions. Every Tuesday (5.00–5.40pm) and Sunday (2.00–2.40pm) until 28 March, the instructor-led outdoor circuit sessions are suitable for all abilities and cost only £1. Boot It is a mixture of strength and cardio exercises tailored to your own fitness level. The sessions end with a free soft drink and refreshment. For more information, [click here](#).

Squash League finale

Date: 11 March 2014

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Munrow Sports Centre

University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport) take part in the final home game of the prestigious international Premier Squash League (PSL). UBSport, currently third in the league, take on fifth place Air-Nottingham in what promises to be an exciting match. UBSport will be looking to earn their play-off place with the ambition of heading to the final. Tickets are £8 for adults and £4 for students and under-18s. For more information, visit the [UBSport website](#) or [email](#). [Book tickets online](#).

New coin exhibition

Date: 8 March 2014

Time: 2.00–4.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

An unmissable opportunity to get up close and explore the fascinating new coin exhibition Faith & Fortune. Join the curators for an introductory talk and coin handling session then see the objects brought to life with the University's innovative interactive touch table. For more information, [click here](#).

Magic lantern show

Date: 20 March 2014

Venue: Winterbourne House

Winterbourne is teaming up with the University Research and Cultural Collections team to present a traditional Victorian Magic Lantern Show with a variety of themes. The event forms part of the University's Arts and Science Festival and Birmingham's Flatpack festival. Free admission for showings, pre-booking is recommended. Showtimes are: 12.00noon and 2.00pm. To pre-book, [email](#) with your name and time of showing you wish to attend. You will receive an email confirmation nearer the time if you have been successful. For more information, [click here](#).

Great Read at Birmingham

Date: 12 March 2014

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Haworth Room 101

Great Read At Birmingham (GRAB) Conference is a series of short inspirational talks around the theme of The Incredible Human Journey – Past, Present and Future. Keynote speakers include Dr Jeremy Pritchard on Darwinism and Dr Nick Hawes on human intelligence and robotics. There will be opportunities for book-signing and interactive elements. For more information, [click here](#).

Start-up businesses

Date: 26 March 2014

Venue: BizzInn Business Incubator, Birmingham Research Park

Lunchtime seminar: 'Investment Considerations for Start-Up and Spin-Out Businesses'. This seminar will explore some of the sources of investment available to early-stage businesses and consider which types of investment are appropriate to different types of start-up and spin-out businesses. It will also highlight some of the pros and cons associated with the types of investor involved in light of their expectations and motivations. The seminar will be led by Ian Russell, of Second Mile, a firm of successful entrepreneurs who specialise in bringing commercial leadership to new technology ventures. For more information, [click here](#).

Chemical weapons in Syria

Date: 24 March 2014

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Room 417, Muirhead Tower

'Chemically Massacring Civilians: How Much Does, Should, or Can the International Community Care?' Paul Schulte examines and assesses the effectiveness of emerging international responses to chemical attacks during the Syrian Civil War. It considers historical context, attitudes towards WMD possession and use, and recurrent structural aspects of Great Power interest, affecting the choices and legitimate knowledge available to international organisations. Paul Schulte is an Honorary Professor in the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security. He is also a Non-Resident Senior Associate of the Nuclear Policy Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. He has been a Senior Fellow in the UK Defence Academy since 2007. For

more information, [click here](#).

NADFAS at Night

Date: 27 March 2014

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Rosalind Whyte, an experienced guide and lecturer at Tate Britain and Tate Modern as well as docent of the Royal Academy, explores aspects of Tracey Emin's wide-ranging and varied body of work and looks at some of the reasons behind the antagonism the artist faces. For more information, [click here](#). Contact The Barber Institute via [email](#) or 0121 414 2261.

Opportunities

Leading academics programme

Leading Academics for Doctoral Researchers Applications are now open for Leading Academics 2014, which will take place across eight sessions in June. This inspiring speakers programme is for doctoral researchers who are interested in developing their leadership potential. Confirmed speakers include the Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood. [Email](#) for an application form, which must be returned by Monday 24 March.

For more information [click here](#).

Universitas 21 funding

There are a number of funding opportunities for staff and students to apply for, supporting engagement with Universitas 21 (U21) partners and participation in events. They include:

- U21 Museums and Collections Award at the University of Melbourne, deadline 7 March (College of Arts and Law only)
- U21 SJTU Undergraduate Research Conference bursaries, 'Food Safety' theme, deadline 7 March
- U21 Staff Fellowships, deadline 14 March
- U21 Health Sciences Summer School Auckland bursary, deadline 21 March (College of Life and Environmental Sciences only)
- U21 Summer School bursaries for Fudan and Korea, deadline 21 March
- U21 PhD Scholarships, deadline 28 March
- U21 Graduate Research Conference Auckland, 'Ageing' theme, deadline 28 March

To find application forms, eligibility criteria, guidelines and other information please click here [staff](#) or [students](#).

To learn more about the Universitas 21 network, please [click here](#). For any enquiries please contact [Matt Clulee](#), International Relations.

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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