

Kerrie Holland... in my own words



My post in DARO was new and, having worked in recruitment since my own graduation, I was also new to Higher Education when I joined the University in September 2011. The post and I are settling in nicely together and you can read about some of the ways alumni support the University with their time on page 16. The part of my job I enjoy most is identifying potential volunteers to match what we need and approaching them for their support, and wanted to tell you a bit more about the behind-the-scenes work with five of my favourites.

Ann Benzimra

LLB Law with French 1988

I came into contact with Ann's volunteering before I started work at the University, as she sat on my interview panel and I had to do a role play with her in the middle of the interview. She was no push-over. Once in post, a colleague and I went to meet Ann, where we were treated to a surprise three course lunch prepared by her firm's private chef. Ann agreed to mentor a student and will also be supporting the Law School by judging moots (mock trials) in the next academic year, giving students the opportunity to get feedback and experience. (And the lunch was delicious!)

Benjamin Zephaniah

Honorary Doctorate 2008

I spoke to Benjamin hastily as he was about to leave for an extended trip to China and North Korea, as we wanted to gain his support for our library fundraising campaign before he left. Benjamin is an honorary graduate who was born and raised in Handsworth. His sister studied Law here – unpopular with his family as they believed she would then become a police officer. None of the family of nine attended her graduation as they had no idea what the ceremony was for. To rectify this, Benjamin brought her, and their mother, to his Honorary Degree presentation and made them both take a bow. A supporter of libraries and all things Birmingham, Benjamin gave us a great quote and photo which will give interest and weight to the campaign. He also revealed to me that he was the voice of the Malibu adverts in the 1980s and was therefore responsible for my taste for coconut alcohol as a teenager.

Dr Alan Ying-Nan Lin

PhD Shakespeare Studies 1997

I sourced 12 alumni volunteers from around the world to translate and proofread text for David Hopes' Eye Shakespeare app. Alan stands out because his desire to help with the Mandarin translation was so genuine – now teaching in the English department of the National Taiwan Normal University, he had a great time studying his PhD at the Shakespeare Institute, has deep affection for the University and was delighted to be involved.

Rhea Keehn

BA Social Policy 2010

Poor Rhea made the mistake of joining a discussion on our Alumni and Friends Linked In group and then attended our Frankfurt Christmas Market alumni drinks where I cornered her. She's bright, lively and approachable and so we discussed whether she could be a mentor for a student; many students prefer to have recent alumni rather than those further on in their careers. Sometimes what they want is a role model who can show them their next steps, not an entire career.

Dr Brian Beeston

PhD Physical Metallurgy 1965

Brian now lives in San Diego, decided it was about time we had a South California alumni group and turned out to be an organisational force of nature. He co-ordinated an event in San Diego in March and is working on an LA event in June. Organising an alumni event, particularly overseas, can be much like herding cats and we rely heavily on our international alumni volunteers to do this. Brian spent hours e-mailing, writing to and ringing alumni up and created a warm and friendly event we were really proud of. Having just joined Linked In, he has recently been furiously searching for UoB alumni in South California, making contact and updating details in a way we would never have staff resource to do ourselves.

Alumni volunteers bring something really special to the University, and they gain a great deal of satisfaction from their involvement. I'm pleased to be a part of it.

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June/July 2012

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CoSS meet the team



Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood

YOUR BUZZ

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Vice-Chancellor's View

A noble way to end the year

Our university year ends with a great triptych. First there are examinations, where learning, understanding, and in some cases fitness to practice, are judged, and academic staff assiduously discharge their responsibilities to their students and to a wider public that rightly expects serious universities to make serious assessment of student achievement.

Then the University looks out. We welcome back alumni at the Alumni Reunion, we welcome in the public on our Community Day, and we reach out to future students through open days. On all these occasions you sense the esteem in which the University is held by its alumni, the respect in which the University is held by the people of Birmingham, and the aspiration that will motivate well over 40,000 outstandingly able students who aspire to study at a great university.

Then we celebrate what our current students have achieved, in the wonderful setting of the Great Hall, and through our always-memorable Degree Congregations. I can imagine no finer setting in which to graduate, and no grander campus on which to celebrate with friends and family.

Of course, while all this is happening, the University is animated by myriad other activities. Our research continues at an ever-greater intensity and quality. Conferences are hosted, graduates continue to study, and we recruit from across the globe. Work continues to improve the campus, from the dark mysteries of 'the subways' to the inspiring grandeur of the Bramall Music Building. Throughout the year the great ship that is the University of Birmingham teems with activity.

But the formal end of the academic year is a time to take stock and, in all sorts of ways, this has been a remarkable year. We will graduate an unprecedented number of students, and we have welcomed the best-qualified first year in living memory. Staff numbers continue to grow, and we invest in excellence, and develop new initiatives not just in Birmingham but globally. The careful repositioning of our University has been the precondition to this growth and success.

In research we have had the best year ever in terms of grant capture. A testimony to the quality of our leading researchers, to the vastly enhanced research support that is now in place, and to a policy of prioritising research excellence and investing in outstanding researchers. All this has been achieved against a backdrop of reduced research funding nationally and unprecedented competition for research funding. If we sustain this step-change in performance, our research standing will be transformed.

A year of great achievement by the University and its students has been tinged with sadness. Four students have died. Some of the most heartfelt letters I receive are letters of thanks from bereaved parents who want to thank our colleagues who supported them and other students through tragic times.

There is a terrible sense of loss when a young student dies, and a wonderful person and a wonderful future disappears. The University should recognise what we, the family, and others have lost, and I am proposing that we set up memorial prizes to remember those students who have died.

The University will, for ten years, fund

Continued from page 2

a named memorial prize to the value of £1,000 to support student endeavour in an area of the family's choice. This might be a travelling bursary, a sport scholarship, a cultural scholarship, an award to support student volunteering, or such award as we agree with the family.

As we enter our Great Hall we pass under an inscription. It reads:

'From August 1914 to April 1919 these buildings were used by the military authorities as the 1st Southern General Hospital. Within these walls men died for their country. Let those who come after live in the same service'.

Remembering those who will not be with us and celebrating the achievements and futures of those who are, if we universalize the sentiments of this moving inscription, it exhorts those of us privileged to work in the great university to give greatly of ourselves. **A noble way to end the year, and a fine sentiment to take into the next.**

Vice-Chancellor
Professor David Eastwood

University supports regional business growth

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood recently hosted an evening reception to celebrate the University's long history of successful business partnerships and reaffirm our role in supporting business growth in the region.

Attended by over 130 senior business executives and entrepreneurial academics, the evening provided an informal opportunity to make new introductions, build on existing partnerships and highlight the successes of working together. Guests were encouraged to view exhibits that demonstrate the University's translational research strengths including transport technologies, medicine, sustainable energy and food security.

'I am proud of the University of Birmingham's record of success in collaborating with business, which is built on our research excellence and innovation in key areas for business' said Professor Eastwood at the event. *'The University of Birmingham has a vital role to play in supporting business growth and encouraging innovation'.*

Among the breadth of research on display was the UBRacing car designed and built by a team of undergraduates



from the School of Mechanical Engineering. Sponsored by a number of industry partners that engage with the University on a variety of engineering challenges, UBRacing will shortly be entering its 15th year in the International Formula SAE event which promotes careers and excellence in engineering.

The University was the first Midlands University to be part of the Easy Access Innovation Partnership, which promotes new ways of transferring intellectual property (IP) to industry. Delegates from Alta Innovations, the University's technology transfer company, attended the event to discuss the scheme and other opportunities to enhance the University's intellectual assets.



Community Day 2012

Thank you to everyone who came onto campus on Sunday 10 June to enjoy Community Day 2012, and to those staff and students who worked so hard to make it happen.

The success of the day is a direct result of the hard work and enthusiasm of staff and students from across the University. Billy Fallows, Web Manager in the College of Arts and Law, has captured part of this for a short video highlighting the School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies' involvement in the day <http://youtu.be/qaS3IF07C-o>

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Front cover image: Kerrie Holland,
Volunteer Manager, DARO.

UNIVERSITY INTRANET LAUNCHES



Over the past few months, colleagues from across the University have been busy helping to develop a new intranet which is now live at www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk. This new intranet has been designed to improve the quality of content, and opportunities for feedback and communication, for our Birmingham community.

Why do we need a new intranet?

Feedback and consultation on the previous University intranet revealed that much of the content was difficult to find and that the search box often did not produce adequate results. Colleagues adding content to the site had to use a content management system (CMS) called UCMS which was often difficult to navigate and did not have the functionality many staff needed, such as the option to easily add video content to the site.

The new intranet has been developed with an easy-to-navigate menu and search box that will deliver better results for your searches. It is also easy to add content to the intranet, as the site uses a CMS called Contensis which is much simpler to use than the previous system.

How do I get the best search results?

If you log in when using the intranet you will get a better browsing experience and better search results. You only need to log in once per session and if you click 'save password' you will remain logged in until you log out.

If you are currently using the external website www.birmingham.ac.uk to search for internally facing content you will find you get better search results by searching the intranet. The content on the external website is for an external audience.

Is this the final version of the intranet?

The new intranet has been launched now to allow for all content to be transferred from UCMS ahead of its 'shut-off' date in September 2012. Site content and navigation is being added to, and enhanced daily, by colleagues across the University, with an appointed site editor in most departments. If there is something that you can't find on the intranet please do let us know and we can contact the relevant site editor.

Thank you to all who have already provided feedback and suggestions for the new intranet. The intranet will continue to develop with content being added every

day based on your requests. For example, as a result of feedback new options have been added to the staff directory to help you search for colleagues and departments. You can now:

- search by first and last name
- search by department
- view department in the search results list

Please do get in touch with your ideas and suggestions – it's your intranet and we want it to work for you. Email internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 414 6680. We'd love to hear your ideas.

Staff Teams Turn Green to Gold

A record number of 29 staff teams have achieved success in the Green Impact scheme this year by helping to increase recycling, support Fairtrade, bike to work, and even encourage Biodiversity with new bird boxes. Three teams were awarded Gold, with IT Services just pipping the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) and People and Organisational Development (POD) for the top score. A new LABS award, tailored at laboratories to save energy and reduce chemical waste, was also piloted. Congratulations go to the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering who attained a LABS Silver award. Donna Willmetts from the College of Social Sciences was also presented with a 'Green Spirit' award for her overall contribution to the initiative.

Green Impact also allows students to put staff to the test by being trained as auditors, gaining experience and enhancing their CVs. For further details on how you can take part in Green Impact contact Trev Shields at t.c.shields@bham.ac.uk.



University achieves Athena Award

The University's commitment to improving the recruitment, progression and retention of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects has been recognised by the Athena SWAN Charter with a Bronze university award. The Charter was established in 2005 to address the under-representation of female academics in STEM subjects. The Bronze award recognises the progress that the University's Athena Working Group has made in identifying and addressing barriers to progression. The award also means that Schools are now able to work towards their own Athena awards, with this process being

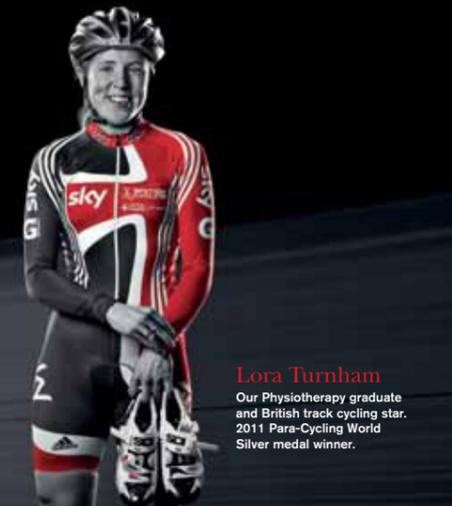
led by the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, School of Mathematics and School of Biosciences. Find out more about Athena at www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/athena.shtml



Dr Una Martin receives Athena award from Professor Dame Julia Higgins

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WE ARE TURNING SPORTING TALENT INTO BRITISH SUCCESS



Lora Turnham
Our Physiotherapy graduate and British track cycling star. 2011 Para-Cycling World Silver medal winner.

Birmingham Heroes:
Inspiring success
www.birmingham.ac.uk/heroes

CELEBRATING OLYMPIC HEROES

The University has launched a new phase of the popular Birmingham Heroes campaign, which celebrates the impact of our world-class staff and outstanding students. This stage of the campaign will focus on the achievements and dedication of our Olympic Heroes in the run up to Olympics 2012.

Our Heroes' work in sport and performance is helping to transform talented students into elite athletes, to embed sport within our culture, and to leap boundaries in cutting edge research. Heroes consist of academic staff, UBSport coaching staff, and recent graduates who are competing in the Olympic and Paralympic games this Summer. Amongst the group are Professor Joan Duda, Sport and Exercise Psychology, who is working with coaches to ensure young peoples' enjoyable and healthy participation in sport, and Lora Turnham, Physiotherapy graduate and 2011 Para-Cycling World Silver medal winner.

Look out for Heroes posters across campus, at city venues including Birmingham Airport and New Street Station, and at key stations across the London Underground network. For further details on all of our Olympic Heroes and how the campaign will be used to promote our outstanding staff, students and alumni visit birmingham.ac.uk/university/heroes/index.aspx

Obituary

Professor John Maxwell Irvine, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham 1996–2001, died peacefully in his sleep on 24 March 2012 at his cottage in Coniston in the Lake District. Professor David Westbury, Vice Principal 1992–2002, wrote 'Maxwell Irvine succeeded Sir Michael Thompson as Vice Chancellor in 1996, a time of considerable change in Higher Education in the UK. He



University of Birmingham partners Hay Festival

The University hosted its first series of talks at the world renowned Hay Festival this June.

Celebrating its 25th year, the festival showcases great poets and scientists, lyricists and comedians, novelists and environmentalists, to over 200,000 festival-goers. Speakers at the festival from the College of Arts and Law discussed everything from the history of cider to works inspired by homosexuality in ancient Greece.

Professor Wendy Scase also examined the Vernon Manuscript; the astonishing literary treasure of literature written in the West Midlands dialect over 600 years ago.

Modern audiences' continuing enjoyment of Shakespearean tragedies was discussed by Professor Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute, in a talk chaired by The Culture Show's Clemency Burton-Hill.

Professor Michael Whitby, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of College of Arts and Law says 'we were delighted to be able to showcase some of our most interesting research at one of the UK's premier cultural festivals.'

came to Birmingham from the University of Aberdeen where he had been Vice Chancellor and Principal for five years from 1991. He will be sadly missed for his insight, his ability to see through the fog of academic institutions, and his sense of humour.'

Read the full obituary at intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz/noticeboard/announcements.aspx

A landmark collaboration

During one of the most challenging times in UK higher education Birmingham announced a landmark collaboration with the University of Nottingham. One year on, what have we achieved? And, what does it really mean for staff at both institutions?

Kate Pritchard talks to Birmingham Registrar, Lee Sanders and Nottingham Registrar, Paul Greatrix to find out what partnership really means in practice.

'The drive behind the partnership was very much a recognition arising from the good working relationship between the two Vice-Chancellors, that there was an untapped opportunity for collaboration that should be explored.' Paul begins.

LS: *'It was also the case that we had existing collaborations amongst our academic staff in areas like Manufacturing, Energy and Physics which gave us the confidence that we could do business together. It is really important to have both of those things: the top team synergy and existing collaborations as proof of concept on which to build. Also, the universities are only one hour journey time apart, and this helps.'*

Both universities share similar characteristics. Weren't we concerned about sharing too much with a competitor?

PG: *'We were both approaching it from a sense of parity and no fear. We are both big enough not to get worried by the other partner appearing to have a temporary advantage. We feel pretty confident in doing business with the other.'*

LS: *'Because it is a partnership of equals it means that we are also self confident enough to know that there will be times when we will work with others. It's not a monogamous relationship, we both already have a network of collaborations in the UK and internationally, and sometimes we might bring those collaborations together, and other times we will just let the other get on with it. There will also be times when we will compete and we have to accept that this is part of daily life for successful HE institutions.'*

Lee and Paul both agree that as equals both institutions benefit from working more closely together. High profile research collaborations, perhaps underpinned by joint appointments, would enable us to bid for funds in a much stronger position. We were

recently awarded £2.5m in research funding by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Arthritis Research UK to jointly explore pain reduction caused by ageing.

Internationally there are huge opportunities. Both universities have strong global strategies and Nottingham's campuses in Malaysia and China complement Birmingham's relationships in Chicago and China. Together we are identifying new markets, and making the most of emerging opportunities. As an example, we have combined to develop a new strategy for Brazil; one of the world's burgeoning economies with a Government determined to invest in Higher Education. We have been at the forefront of the UK Government's initiative to link with Brazil. Our Brazilian strategy has already seen £4m invested in research projects and a scheme which will see 20 PhD scholarships for Brazilian students across the two universities.

PG: *'In certain areas it improves the potential for mutual success. We start to look like a really big player instead of two large players and that is hugely advantageous.'*

What are the key areas of collaboration and will Professional Services staff be involved too?

PG: *'The key areas are the growth into new international markets and joint research initiatives; for example musculo-skeletal work and physics. We are breaking new ground here. On the Professional Services side we are doing good work together already on procurement, IT, HR, the grade point average project, and in many other areas too.'*

LS: *'The senior teams meet often and that works incredibly well. We have an away-day in October to explore possibilities for big new projects and initiatives, and joint funding. In Professional Services we have regular meetings of the Senior Officer team, and have a combined programme on talent development and are creating opportunities for*



Lee Sanders, Birmingham Registrar



Paul Greatrix, Nottingham Registrar

staff in Professional Services to experience both institutions. At Birmingham we have launched a Graduate Trainee Scheme based on the Nottingham model. We had a fantastic innovation sandpit for Professional Services in January where a group of staff from across the institutions came up with eight interesting projects for enhancements in Professional Services. We are also looking at benchmarking and the possibility of shared services.'

The partnership has created a lot of interest both within the Russell Group and within HE in general. There are other relationships being created, ranging from mergers to low-level collaboration. The Birmingham and Nottingham partnership is something different and people are interested to follow its development. Lee and Paul are due to update at the AHUA autumn conference and are expecting a lot of interest, and as Paul notes, *'a bit of sniping as well!'*

PG: *'There will be a lot of interest and, quite frankly, people will be quite envious that we got things together because no one else has quite managed this kind of collaboration.'*

Has it been a happy marriage during the past year?

LS: *'I wouldn't characterise it quite like a marriage but it has certainly been a good relationship and we have made a good start. The Brazil partnership is a great illustration of what we are trying to achieve and between us we have been able to steal a march on the others.'*

Will we ever see a joint Birmingham and Nottingham university?

LS: *'The two Vice-Chancellors were asked this at the beginning and they both said it is not what this partnership is about.'*

PG: *'Exactly. We're not about merger.'*

Although there won't be a joint university there may be future opportunities for students to move between institutions, including the potential for Birmingham students to study at Nottingham's international campuses.

How does the partnership benefit Professional Services staff and how can they get involved?

LS: *'We've had the innovation sandpit which got together a wide range of staff and new relationships have been developed between colleagues. They are continuously talking and sharing ideas, and immediately their professional support circle has widened.'*

PG: *'It is really important to look closely at what our*

partner institution is doing and learn from them. It helps us improve the service we offer to our staff and our students. We've got very good relationships in areas such as HR, Finance and Registry and it's easy because we talk the same language and we deal with the same issues.'

A new fund is being set up that will encourage collaborative projects between the institutions, and will give colleagues an opportunity to contribute ideas. Staff are encouraged to talk to their manager about how their department is currently working with the partner institution and to share their ideas. Often the first step is identifying the right person to talk to at the other institution.

The universities are both contributing to a research collaboration fund which will respond to ideas from the academic community to develop new research projects, particularly where a seedcorn investment can provide proof of concept for externally funded research.

How will the collaboration help with efficiencies?

LS: *'We have been working on this in procurement. It makes a lot of sense, we purchase a lot of equipment so working together we can get better deals. Our IT teams were recently successful with a joint ESRPC grant. There is a lot of work going on in our HR teams for a joined up approach to supporting staff development. Efficiency can come in a number of forms: financial, in people development, and in continuous improvement.'*

This is very much a partnership in practice. What does the next 12 months hold?

PG: *'I think we will start to see some of the early work on the Professional Services side come to fruition. We will, hopefully, see big research proposals emerging, and do more work in South America and other countries. It will be greater volume, headline collaborations and continuing to push the boundaries.'*

It sounds that there is much more to come from the partnership. What is it really like collaborating on a day-to-day level?

PG: *'It is tremendous fun because it is a different way of thinking about, and talking about, the issues we face. When we get together the sense of excitement and possibility is palpable.'*

LS: *'Yes that is absolutely right and we enjoy it when some of our other colleagues say "what are you up to?" I'm also a Nottingham Forest fan so that helps!'*

PG: *'That hasn't helped Forest much. Sorry!'*

Students take centre stage

Established in 2010, the Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD) works collaboratively with colleagues across the University to enhance the Birmingham student learning experience. Some of the staff and students at the centre of recent CLAD initiatives tell Buzz more about their innovative and exciting work.

The Linguist Magazine

CLAD project funding enabled first year Modern Language student Madeleine Kilminster to start a new campus magazine The Linguist. As one of our first students to receive funds from CLAD, Madeleine has been able to provide a platform for University of Birmingham students interested in other nations and cultures.

As a Modern Languages student with a passion for writing, Madeleine put the idea of a languages magazine allowing people to read and write articles in the languages studied on campus to fellow students. The response was extremely positive; with a tangible enthusiasm to unite the language departments, and for students to have the chance to showcase their linguistic capabilities.

Madeleine assembled a keen team of editors for sections including current world affairs, sport and style, travel, recipes and reviews of foreign book and film. Seeking out fellow students with invaluable hidden talents enabled her to fulfil essential roles including proof reader, and treasurer. The Linguist has received very positive reactions from many external organisations including Thirdyearabroad.com, the Chartered Institute of Linguists and the Campaign for Languages.

Madeleine says, 'I am very proud of my team and I am determined to develop the project even further so that The Linguist can become a long-standing, prestigious University publication'. For further details visit www.thelinguistmagazine.org.

Development in Drama and Theatre Arts

Third year drama students recently performed in an event, run in partnership with Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), as part of a CLAD funded project to enable final

year students to present their work to a public audience. As part of their final year module, Contemporary Practice students not only created new work in small companies, but also produced the event, involving marketing and publicity, technical management and venue liaison. Scratch Flight featured a wide range of contemporary practice themes. Buttered Toast presented an exploration into the complexities of entering adulthood through live music, animation and storytelling; Devil's Radio (pictured) explored a world of secrets in an attempt to get the audience to expose their own; and Attitude Devant presented an ensemble piece of dance-theatre which explored the complex world of the autistic mind.

The Scratch night sold out, and was attended by members of the public and a significant number of promoters from the West Midlands area. The students were mentored in their work by China Plate, an independent production company, and staff at MAC who supported them throughout. Its success has now ensured it can become an annual, self-funding event.

Postgraduate Teaching Project

Eager to enhance teaching opportunities on offer to Doctoral Researchers, PhD student Amy Routledge, of the Shakespeare Institute, applied to CLAD with a project to enhance the practical, HE teaching skills of Birmingham's postgraduates. The project was a revision programme for undergraduates, designed and delivered by a student team from The Shakespeare Institute. 12 enthusiastic student teachers set about devising a two day revision programme, tailored to the popular undergraduate module.

Valuable guidance was received from Academic Practice lecturer Sean Russell, who, as part of the project, led an interactive teaching workshop at the Institute. Students found the opportunity to prepare lessons as a group invaluable, and experiences, insecurities and ideas from diverse teaching backgrounds were shared.

More than 150 undergraduates attended the sessions. Their feedback was extremely positive, and questionnaires revealed that 100% of participants felt that the event should be repeated in the future. The postgraduate questionnaires, in turn, reflected increased confidence in the ability to structure classes, ask and answer undergraduate questions and adapt teaching approaches to ensure engagement and participation. Amy concludes that 'it has been a positive and rewarding experience on all sides. My thanks go out to everybody who has supported and advised me throughout'.

Find out more about CLAD at intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/claddivision



meet the TEAM

College Catch-Up:

College of Social Sciences

In the second of our new College Catch-Up updates Charlotte Wellington, Director of Operations for the College of Social Sciences, tells Buzz about the College operational structure and introduces the CoSS operational team.

'The Operational Management Committee (OMC) includes key members of staff from across the College Hub and our School Operations Managers. We provide some of the key services that ensure the smooth operational management of the College of Social Sciences and our work feeds directly through me to our College Board.

Apart from providing an important opportunity to ensure all our College services are up to speed with key decisions that are being made by the College and the wider University, another important role of

the group is to provide an opportunity for effective co-ordination and communication between all activities that are delivered from the College Hub so that our operational effectiveness is maximised.

Ultimately, all our work contributes to help the College and its constituent Schools meet their strategic objectives in supporting our academic and professional colleagues. If you'd like to find out more about the work of the committee contact us via our page on the intranet: www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/social-sciences

From left:

- Facilities Manager: Donna Willmetts
- Marketing Communications Manager: Carrie Bennett
- Alumni Relations Manager: Jade Bressington
- Research and Knowledge Transfer Manager: Carol Solley
- IT Manager: Adrian Hassell
- Director of Operations: Charlotte Wellington
- Operations Manager (School of Education): John Kreeger
- Operations Manager (School of Government and Society): Julie McLynn
- Finance Partner: Dave Robertson
- E-learning Manager: Joe Berry



HR Partner (Sally Steele) and Planning Partner (Lindsey Wright)



Carrie Bennett, College Marketing and Communications Manager, tells Buzz more about the latest news and developments from Schools within the College of Social Sciences.

The College of Social Sciences brings together over 580 staff, 330 academics and over 250 support and professional staff, across the Birmingham Business School, School of Education, School of Government and Society, School of Social Policy, and a number of key research centres including the Third Sector Research Centre. We teach more than 9,000 students across the College and around 20% of our student body is international.



Birmingham Business School

Exclusive consultancy challenges for MBA and undergraduate students

The School welcomes Deloitte and Capgemini back to campus to support the intensive MBA Deloitte Consultancy Challenge and official launch of a new Undergraduate Capgemini Community Challenge. Both are week-long programmes, kicking off at the Business School during June 2012, and designed exclusively for the University of Birmingham.

The MBA Deloitte Consultancy Challenge is a favourite amongst students, and specifically designed to prepare MBA students who are taking on company assignments for their dissertation. The Capgemini Community Challenge is a new 'Apprentice' style test designed by the Business School and Careers and Employability Centre to support Community Projects. Participating students are tasked with delivering a solution for a charity. Both programmes are unique to Birmingham and a great opportunity for students to gain skills and network with leading potential employers.

School of Social Policy

Health Services Management Centre (HSMC)

This year, HSMC celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since 1972, HSMC has been actively involved in working with policy makers, managers, clinicians and patients to help develop new ideas, implement new approaches, and evaluate the impact of the NHS and health and social care systems across the UK. The Centre also trains the future leaders of the NHS by delivering the teaching component of the multi-award winning NHS Management Trainee Scheme. This year, the scheme

added another two national awards to its collection – Target Jobs 'Most Popular Graduate Recruiter' and 'Graduate Employer of Choice' in The Times Top 100 Graduate Recruitment Awards 2012.

Visionaries from HSMC's past and present have helped shape the NHS as we know it today, including the work of people like John Yates on waiting times, and the contribution of people like Chris Ham, Edward Peck, Helen Parker and Jon Glasby around putting patients at the centre and developing more integrated care.



School of Government and Society

New Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS)

Professor Nick Wheeler is heading up a new Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security to promote a multidisciplinary approach to the study of conflict and security in global politics. The Institute's work will include analysis of the changing character of war and military operations and the role of international intervention.

Much more than a degree

Undergraduate and postgraduate students from across the School of Government

and Society have been given a range of unique opportunities to broaden their experience at the University of Birmingham. Guest lecturers and speakers have included David Miliband, former Chancellor Alistair Darling, and Simon Fraser, Permanent Under-Secretary of State. Other opportunities include recreating a model United Nations on campus, trips to the UN, and postgraduate study trips to Delhi. For more details on future events and opportunities visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/govsoc



School of Education

Understanding the UK's character and values

The School has won a multi-million pound award to support the first UK centre dedicated to research into the character, values and virtues that shape UK society. Supported by the John Templeton Foundation, research projects will include British society; from character education in schools, to examining the values that motivate professionals such as teachers, lawyers and doctors, as well as those in the media, finance industries and civil service. Launched at the House of Lords in May, the Centre will initiate a national consultation on a proposed curriculum policy for character building across British schools.

The School will also launch another ground-breaking research centre in July, with Professors Karen O'Brien and Peter Davies at the Nuffield Foundation, London. The Centre for Higher Education Equity and Access will undertake externally commissioned research as well as helping to guide Birmingham's student recruitment strategies to enable us to recruit the brightest and best students from the least privileged economic backgrounds.

'In the aftermath of the August 2011 riots there have been many calls for the renewal of public and private virtues... however, there is very little definition of what these changes might be and how they might be made. The Jubilee Centre will not simply research past and present attitudes to character, but help to develop new knowledge and understanding of character that will benefit civil society.'

Professor James Arthur, Head of School and Director of the new centre.

Third Sector Research Centre

Knowledge Portal provides lifeline to the voluntary sector

The Third Sector Research Centre's Knowledge Portal provides a one-stop-shop to academic analysis, government studies, and reports from third sector organisations, in one easy to use collection of links and downloads. The Portal is a digital library and web catalogue developed in partnership with the British Library, to promote and preserve research and information on the vital work of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors across the UK and beyond. *'The Portal is proving to be a first-rate service for voluntary sector researchers. There is no comparable service for searching for source material. Its major benefit is that the contents are moderated so that only good quality material is included'* says Peter Halfpenny, Emeritus Professor University of Manchester, and Editor of the *Voluntary Sector Review*.

The team has already added over 2,000 records to the Portal's catalogue since its launch in October 2011, with University of Birmingham students devoting their free time to help build up the collection. Every catalogue entry is manually summarised and classified using a unique indexing thesaurus, designed to guide users to content they may not otherwise have found.

The Portal is free to use and can be accessed at www.tsrc.ac.uk. Follow the Portal manager Pete Lambert on Twitter @3rdSectorPortal for regular updates.

LEARN MORE about the College of Social Sciences on the University intranet at intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/social-sciences

Public Services Academy



'Academics within the University, and in particular those within the College of Social Sciences, have always taken an active role in supporting through research, consultancy and training the development and delivery of public services within the city and region; the PSA gives us an excellent opportunity to focus these contributions on areas of agreed strategic importance and also to reflect on their impact over time'

Professor Edward Peck, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College (Social Sciences)

From libraries to law enforcement, and waste management to our water supplies, public services have, as the name suggests, an importance for, and impact on us all. The University has long been known for its world leading expertise in the reform of public services, a prestige that is being further cemented with the launch of a new Public Services Academy (PSA) in the College of Social Sciences.

The range of activities that the University engages with across the field of public services is vast and involves not just the education of public service professionals through undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, but also research, consultancy and professional development across the public, private and third sectors. Academics from the University have also made significant contributions to research, policy and practice across fields such as health, social care, and education.

As part of its commitment to civic engagement, and long experience of delivering teaching, research and consultancy to the public sector, the College of Social Sciences has established the PSA to build on the University's public services expertise and provide a platform for strategic interaction with a range of national and international public service partners. Led by Dr Helen Dickinson the PSA will coordinate the College's public management and public policy activities, and play a key role in working with public service partners such as Birmingham City Council.

'Birmingham City Council prides itself on its collaboration and close working relationship with the University of

Birmingham', says Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development for Birmingham City Council. *'The PSA provides the opportunity to strengthen this relationship (and contribute to) the achievement of strategic ambitions within public services, for the citizens of the city and region'.*

At a research level the PSA will act as a focal point for research and academic activity around the fields of public policy and public management, and promote collaborations across the various disciplines and policy areas. The PSA will also be the key port of call for those interested in public services and will work to build on strategic relationships with key public service partners.

'The PSA offers an exciting opportunity to bring academics studying public policy and public management issues from a range of different disciplinary, national and policy contexts together to produce world class research that is greater than the sum of its parts' says Dr Dickinson. *'Combined with our teaching and consultancy activities and working closely with Birmingham City Council should allow us to have a more strategic focus to our joint activities. Ultimately this partnership should help to really make a difference to the city of Birmingham'.*

A series of events are being planned to launch the PSA alongside programmes of work based around the themes of localisation, cohesion, health, and well-being, and initiatives for alumni, student placements and the education and training of public servants. The PSA will also be involved in re-focusing the College's Master of Public Administration/Master of Business Administration offer.

Supporting Social Workers

A trail-blazing partnership between the City Council and the Institute of Applied Social Studies has launched a new Birmingham Social work Academy (BSWA). The academy will be for all social workers; students wanting to enter the profession, those who are newly qualified, experienced practitioners and those aiming to become managers.

The development of the academy reflects the work developed nationally by the social work reform board and the recent Munro review into child protection. The aim is to increase the level of professional expertise within the city by raising standards and improving recruitment and retention of experienced staff.

The BSWA is the first of a range of initiatives to strengthen the relationship between the University of Birmingham and employers in the region to embed a learning culture in social work agencies.



Further information about the PSA, and opportunities to get involved with the Academy, are available at birmingham.ac.uk/psacademy or by contacting Liz Haydon at e.haydon@bham.ac.uk. For more information on the Policy Commission's report on the future of public services and the work of Birmingham Policy Commissions visit birmingham.ac.uk/policycommissions

Poetry IN MOTION



Doctoral Researcher, and former Birmingham Poet Laureate, Roshan Doug tells Buzz more about his research exploring the role of poetry in education today.

'So what's a poem then?' We're in The Gun Barrels and my friend has just popped that question almost out of the blue. She's a local journalist and is used to asking abrupt questions.

As a lecturer in English, who is currently doing doctoral research in schools' poetry, I have a monumental confession to make. It might appear a tad strange but actually... I don't really know what a poem is. Now that probably sounds mildly incongruous – and, professionally, disingenuous perhaps.

Without wanting to sound too poetic, yes, I can sense a poem – I can feel it, taste it and smell its very essence. I know what it is and what it might look like. But, ask me to define it and you might as well be asking me to describe the laws of aerodynamics and quantum physics, two fields I know little to nothing about.

Three years ago, as a former Birmingham Poet Laureate and freelance writer, it seemed almost natural to explore the role of poetry in our society. But being an educationalist as well, I wanted to marry the two dimensions, so I focused on poetry in education.

Initially I thought it would be interesting to evaluate the quality and standard of poetry studied in schools today. I wanted to compare and contrast them with what was taught in schools a century ago and to chart the changes that occurred. The more I read about schools' poetry as part of my literature review, the less I felt I knew about the poem as a literary form. It's strange but research is kind of an epiphany, an awakening from the slumber of 'I know it all'.

My research field has narrowed in some ways because I want to be able to grapple with the subject with a certain degree of familiarity. But, in other respects the research has widened because I want

to look at not just poetry but literature. This has also involved my encompassing the nature and politics of teaching English, which in turn has involved my applying critical discourse analysis, applied linguistics and corpus linguistics for data collection and analysis.

My friend's suppressing a yawn, but I continue enthusiastically.

My research, that will eventually entitle me to a doctorate degree, is not a tool for career progression, it never was. Perverse as it might sound; sometimes it is just satisfying to learn knowledge in your chosen field without the pressure of having to learn.

It is a daunting prospect, the idea of producing original research, but the more you discuss your work with academics and the scholarly community at large, the more you sharpen your focus. I still cringe at the thought of the first paper I gave in my first year. It was all over the place in terms of a line of argument. But now, having given a few papers, I feel confident of the issues my research field will raise and indeed, raises. I really don't think I could swap my research for anything. *'Not even a drink? It's your round'* she says.

Sound Breaking

Roshan Doug

We were all there, around his bed when he drifted off.

His silent breathing snooze, break, snooze...

His initiation into the afterlife continued for an hour or two untampered, unperturbed – snooze, break, snooze...

My mother clutched the bed railing as if his leaving was a betrayal, too complex to bear, like a puzzle unsolved – or forgiveness unrequited.

And then with a faint flicker of the eyelids – ever so slight – a lifeless smile emerged from a world

where neither our prayers nor the touch of the gods could strengthen the rhythm of his breathing – snooze, break, snooze.

Roshan's fifth collection of poetry *What Light is Light...* is now available. For further details on Roshan's work and research please contact him at enquiries@roshandoug.com.



Karen O'Brien Reviewing our curriculum

The University recently announced plans to undertake a review of the curriculum. Kate Pritchard spoke to Professor Karen O'Brien, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, about the review and the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy.

Q We are undertaking a university-wide review of our curriculum. We are asking some very fundamental questions about whether we think how we teach and what we teach is right for the 21st century. There are no preconceived outcomes and we want to draw upon the widest possible number of colleagues to ask them what they think we should do to modernise our university degrees.' Karen begins.

What has been the driving force behind the review?

'It is a culmination of a number of years of educational enhancement. We think it is timely because there is a greater focus than ever before in universities on teaching and learning. Over the last 20 years, following modularisation in the 1990s, we have developed undergraduate programmes at the module level, not always taking stock of the entire programme and where the programme fits into the programme family. We are an increasingly self-confident university, we are clear about what it is we want to achieve and I think we need to be clear about that with our graduates.'

Karen believes that, whilst the balance between research and teaching has not always been struck, all Russell Group universities understand the need to be excellent in both. The review is not a short term project. It is led by Karen and a steering and advisory group: the College Directors of Education, the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, the Director of the Registry and a group of senior academics drawn from each College. The group have been reflecting on how the curricula at Birmingham have developed.

'A great deal of change has been incremental. To get a sense of scale we have been looking at prospectuses and exam papers from a hundred years ago and asking ourselves what kind of a university we were in 1912; what we taught, how we taught, how we assessed, and where we are now. It has been quite a revelation. It was clear that in 1912 we were a very ambitious, innovative university that expected extremely high intellectual standards of its students, but balanced that with an emphasis on practical knowledge and citizenship.'

Will the curriculum review really help us prepare Birmingham graduates for a global marketplace and global citizenship?

'At Birmingham we are not about "creating products" but creating highly educated, professional, flexible, and self-confident graduates who will have the skills, capabilities, insight, and awareness for whatever they do in life, including what they do for a job.' Consultation is a key part of the review process. There have been a number of workshops with a wide range of staff and there is an advisory group that consists of leading researchers from each College. Staff who support teaching have also been consulted as part of the process, as well as students, and in June there were 'town hall' style meetings for all staff to attend. The headlines and basic direction of travel will be presented for Senate approval in November, as part of the overall Learning and Teaching strategy. Next academic year will see scoping, piloting and testing the ideas on students, employers and potential applicants. There will also be



a further phase of consultation in the autumn and Karen is happy to be contacted directly, 'all of us on the steering group are open to emails'.

Students will benefit from the review in a number of ways as Karen describes. 'I want the way that they are assessed to be much more geared towards developmental and consolidated knowledge at the end of their degrees. We will assess them less, and in more interesting and creative ways. Birmingham offers an exceptionally wide portfolio of degrees and a vast range of research. I want our students to be more stretched, particularly those students who are ambitious and want to broaden their horizons, to have more opportunities to do so.'

There are a number of Schools that have already been looking at improving their curriculum and assessment, and the steering group are keen to learn from areas where successful projects have taken place. Further afield, there are number of universities who have gone through very thorough curriculum developments, including Melbourne and Aberdeen.

How does the review relate to the new Learning and Teaching strategy?

'The review overarches the Learning and Teaching strategy. It also folds in a number of initiatives, including consultation for a new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). We have also been talking very seriously about moving to a grade point average system for degree classification and have had Senate approval to model that. It's not just a change in the way we calculate degrees, it's got to be a whole new approach to the culture of learning and assessment. All these initiatives are to do with more active student engagement with their learning, and with different and more innovative kinds of student delivery.'

Are other universities going down a similar road?

'Southampton has recently been through a curriculum review and I belong to an International Curriculum Network, convened by them, that brings together like-minded universities who are doing this in different ways, and for a variety of reasons. Hong Kong University went through a massive curriculum change and they treated it as an opportunity to do some really exciting things. There are lots of different drivers in the international and national arena and many British universities now recognise that the time has come to think again.'

Karen has been at Birmingham for just over a year after being involved in curriculum development, UG study development, and leading institutional audit at Warwick University. She was drawn to the opportunities provided by the role. She particularly enjoys learning about how staff teach in different disciplines and how different students learn. For her the curriculum review represents a huge opportunity to further enhance the excellent teaching at Birmingham. She recognises that she cannot do it alone *'It is very much a team project.'*

It has been an interesting first year with many highlights, particularly visiting individual Schools and working with student focus groups. What does she think the Birmingham student experience embodies?

'I think the experience is grounded in common space, in common ownership of this beautiful campus and everything it symbolises. The Aston Webb building with the intellectual heroes above the door reminds you how a physical space can concentrate the continually unfolding history of human knowledge. I don't think we are an old fashioned institution but we haven't lost a sense of our roots either. The University of Birmingham was created for the city, the nation and the world. We haven't lost our sense of civic place.'

Learn more about the Curriculum Review at www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/curriculumreview/index.aspx

Alumni ASSEMBLE

The financial support given by many alumni has a highly visible impact on the University, as those who regularly walk past the Bramall Music Building or who have received projects funding via the Annual Giving Fund will know.

What may be less well known is that more than 500 alumni have supported the University by volunteering 2,000 hours of their time so far this year, meaning that we have been able to do things we simply would not have been able to do otherwise.

Alumni participate in a wide range of activities including:

- Delivering guest lectures, whether as part of an academic programme, to student societies, or as stand-alone events
- Mentoring students
- Sharing their professional expertise on a wide range of topics including commercialising our research, our fundraising campaigns, and social media, developing a book club and promoting the University internationally
- Helping the Careers and Employability Service source internships and work experience
- Delivering careers talks and providing career profiles to inspire students
- Setting up and managing alumni groups and networks, both in the UK and in more than 20 countries overseas
- Participating in recruitment panels, judging awards and projects requiring funding

The benefits to the University are clear; alumni can provide insight and expertise we otherwise would not have access to, and they can enhance projects. David Hopes, based at the Shakespeare Institute, has developed a smartphone app, Eye Shakespeare, which will bring Shakespeare's Stratford to life through an interactive tour of the town and collections. Alumni from around the world volunteered to translate 12,000 words of text into five languages, both saving translation fees and increasing awareness of the app.

David says *'the tremendous generosity of alumni in giving time to help translate Eye Shakespeare is not only a measure of their relationship with the town and with Shakespeare but is also testimony to the international outlook of the University. It was a superb undertaking and we simply couldn't have offered this level of access without the volunteers, so well done to them! Through these volunteers, Shakespeare and the town will come alive for hundreds of thousands of people annually.'*

Academic programmes can also benefit from the involvement of alumni. The MBA Leadership series of lectures are incorporated into the course schedule, with high-profile alumni speaking on different aspects of business leadership. Wendy Fox-Kirk, MBA Deputy Director, says *'MBA students benefit enormously from interacting with inspiring alumni, helping to broaden and enrich their studies. The MBA Leadership Series of lectures give our students the opportunity to hear from alumni from different fields and organisational backgrounds, sharing their thoughts and experiences of leadership. The lectures resonate particularly with students because they are given by alumni who still feel a connection with Birmingham.'*

Why do alumni give up their precious time to support the University? Kerrie Holland, Volunteer Manager in the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), says *'alumni volunteer for all kinds of reasons. It could be because they want to support students, or because they want to re-connect with the University or their area of study. There is a great deal of warmth towards the University – it's not unusual for me to hear "Birmingham made me who I am" – and if the opportunity is interesting and relevant, alumni are usually delighted to be asked to help.'*



Bramall Music Building

Some of our alumni volunteers, who have helped the University in all kinds of ways, from mentoring students, to speaking at events, provide an insight into their reasons for volunteering.



Actress Tamsin Greig

(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1988)

'I'm delighted to have been invited to act as a mentor in the University's pilot Alumni Leadership Mentoring Scheme. I believe these sorts of relationships have great value in laying the ground for undergraduates to face the vagaries and unknowns of their early years of arts employment and in encouraging innate passions to be explored and voiced. I am sure that the mentoring relationship will certainly not be one-sided and look forward to the scheme unfolding.'



James Eder

(BCom Commerce 2005)

Founder of The Beans Group, studentbeans.com

'I come back to campus every year to deliver guest lectures at the Business School, and give talks to student societies about entrepreneurship. It's great to be able to use my experience to help students, and to stay in touch with my University.'



Rhea Keehn

(BA Social Policy 2010), Governance, Policy and Communications Officer at West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

'Studying at UoB opened my eyes to opportunities that I didn't even know existed. Since graduating, I want to help other eager students find exciting and challenging opportunities and so have offered my help as a mentor; hoping to share my experiences and contacts.'



Dr Andy Hart

(PhD Biological Sciences, 1997)

'Volunteering is an opportunity to pass on my knowledge and experience to students who may benefit from such an insight while they are still studying. It gives me the chance to inspire people into following their interests and dreams, despite the challenges that they might encounter on the way.'



Cilla Snowball

(BA French Language and Literature, 1981)

'The bonds and benefits of university life extend throughout one's career. That's why so many alumni want to loop back and support the university by giving their time, wisdom or cash to fund development projects for the next generation.'



Simon Dighton

(BSc Chemical Engineering, 1985)

'I had such a great time at the University of Birmingham and benefitted so much from my degree that it is always a pleasure to give something back to the University. I was only too pleased to sit on the judging panel for the 2012 BUAFAs.'

Rose Iwueze

(MMedSc Occupational Health, 1996)

'I've really enjoyed helping to organise the Nigeria Alumni Group because it's so beneficial to develop networks of contacts in my home country. It's also a great opportunity to share memories of my time at Birmingham.'

If you think alumni volunteer support could benefit you please email Kerrie Holland at k.holland@bham.ac.uk.

For more events please visit
[birmingham.ac.uk/
 oncampus.index.aspx](http://birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus.index.aspx)



A pair of tickets to the Jamaican Track and Field Welcome Dinner

On Monday 23 July 2012, you and a guest could be joining the Jamaican Track and Field team at their Welcome Dinner in Birmingham by taking part in an exclusive competition only open to University staff, students and alumni.

The University will be hosting the Jamaican Track and Field team, some of the world's leading athletes, for their pre-Olympic training camp and are jointly hosting a drinks reception and Welcome Dinner with Birmingham City Council. The entire Jamaican Track and Field team are expected to attend the dinner and you could join them by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance to win this unique opportunity.

Tickets are £1 each and all proceeds from the raffle will support the development of our new, state-of-the-art Sports Centre, which will include an Olympic length swimming pool, the only one in the city, sports halls and training areas that will be used by regional amateur sports clubs and local schools, alongside our staff and students.

The competition closes on Wednesday 4 July. Visit <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/jamaicanaffle>

For more information on the exciting new sports development, please visit: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/sportscentre.aspx>

PUBLIC DEBATE

'Will London 2012 'inspire a generation' and be the first Olympics to deliver a participatory legacy?'

Date: Friday 13 July Time: 11.00am (Venue TBC)

The University is making a major contribution to the impact on the Olympics both nationally and in the region. This debate is a key component of our programme of activities and also marks the launch of our new integrated approach to academic sport that will weave together sporting threads from across the campus. The debate will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, and panel members include:

- Sir John Armit, Chair of the Olympic Delivery Authority
- Professor Kathy Armour, Head of Sport Pedagogy, University of Birmingham
- Rt Hon Richard Caborn, former Minister of Sport
- Richard Horton, Editor of The Lancet
- Lisa O'Keefe, Director of Sport, Sport England
- Louise Martin, Chair of Sport Scotland

Registration is free but essential, to attend please email govsocevents@contacts.bham.ac.uk.



Impressions of Jamaica

Dates: 31 May–31 October 2012

Venue: Main Library Foyer

To mark the visit of the Jamaican olympics track and field team in July, the Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections will be holding an exhibition of books and archives, dating from the 17th to 20th century, featuring accounts and images of those who have been captivated by the beauty, culture and natural history of Jamaica, or played a part in the island's history.

Enquiries to: special-collections@bham.ac.uk



Sketching out Pugin

Date: Monday 16 July

Time: 5.30–6.30pm

Venue: Cadbury Research Library, Muirhead Tower

To mark the bicentenary of the birth of Augustus Welby Pugin, the Cadbury Research Library will be hosting a talk from Martin Killeen, University Rare Books Librarian, which sketches out the life and works of the great British architect and designer. Following the talk there will be an opportunity to view and handle the Cadbury Research Library Pugin holdings, including 500 rare photographs of Pugin's drawings taken in 1865, and early editions of Pugin's publications.

Free admission.

For further information visit birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/exhibitions/Sketching-Out-Pugin.aspx or email special-collections@bham.ac.uk.

Culture at Birmingham needs you!

The Cultural Engagement team wants to hear from you. They would like to invite you to a focus group to talk about your interests, your thoughts on the University's collections and resources, and how future activities can be made most relevant to you. The focus group will take place on campus on Wednesday 4 July, 6–7.30pm, and all attendees will be paid £10 towards travel expenses. The group will be facilitated by a researcher independent from the University. Places are limited, so if you would like to attend please contact Nicola Saunders at n.saunders@bham.ac.uk.

Services

Is it time for your chimney to be swept? Or are you thinking about having a log-burning stove installed? If yes, please contact C&T Chimney Innovations on 07864 120483 ctchimneyinnovations.co.uk

Advanced Norwegian classes with native-speaker teacher, resume on campus weekly in September. Contact Gareth 414 6503 g.d.rainford@bham.ac.uk.

Footcare to your door! Contact Jenny (Qualified Foothealth Practitioner) on 07837 768937. Treatments include: Corns, Callus, Verrucae, Ingrowing toenails, Diabetic footcare etc.

Personal and small business tax consultancy. A personalised service. Mynette & Co est. 1976. 0121 449 7322, a.mynette@btinternet.com.

Class One Decorating: Highest quality internal and external painting and decorating. Friendly, professional service. Free, no-obligation quotes. Tel: 0121 441 3344 or 07976 678863 info@classonedecorating.co.uk www.classonedecorating.co.uk

Gardening work in all seasons undertaken: including fencing, patios, decking, garden tidying/clearances and gutter clearing. Contact Chris 0121 459 3292 or 07890 246911.

For sale Peugeot 307 cc (convertible) Black, 57 reg, FSH, 39,000 miles, excellent condition £6,000 ono. Tel: 07510 696185.

Accommodation to let

Flat for rent – One bedroom penthouse style apartment in the heart of Kings Norton with excellent access to local transport and train links to the University and City Centre. Part furnished with white goods and finished to a high standard. Allocated parking and communal gardens. £495.00 pcm. Please contact 07989 556696.

3 bedroom house – B29: Central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, 70ft garden. Part furnished. Near shops, bus routes, University. Staff/postgrads. £600pcm. Available from early July 2012. eklaar@gmail.com 07922 151 313.

House for rent or sale on Bournville Village Trust. 4 bedrooms, large living room all recently painted. Very convenient location for the University. Near Bristol road buses. Bournville schools catchment area. Garden and off-road parking. For details Email kerry.longhurst@gmail.com.

Seeking to rent (furnished or not) a small house or flat for next academic year (preferably from late August or late September). If you have somewhere to rent, or if you are going on research leave and would like a house sitter, drop me a line at e.a.lestrange@bham.ac.uk.

Events

Stage 27 Amateur Dramatics Presents 'Vintage Hitchcock' at SBC's Fusion Centre. 5–7 July 2012. 7.30pm. Tickets: £8. Details: www.stage27.co.uk 0751 212 6594.

CAKE/CRAFT/PLANT FAIR

Thursday 16 August, 10am–3pm, Beale Room, Aston Webb Building.

On behalf of Macmillan Cancer Care and Ward 19 Heartlands Hospital. To donate or for further details email asprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 414 5602.

