

## Matt Bridge... in my own words

Dr Matt Bridge, Senior Lecturer in Coaching and Sports Science, and the first winner of our Behind the Scenes competition, tells Buzz more about his work at the University, and experience as an Olympic torch bearer!



I was one of the academics who took part in the University's recent Behind the Scenes competition where the public voted to win the chance to come and work with us for a day in the University. My personal view is that this kind of engagement is a great opportunity for all parties. I am really looking forward to meeting the winner and giving them the same experience and input that elite players receive when we work with them on improving their golf swing.

Another great engagement initiative that I've been involved in recently is the Welcome Trust's 'I'm a scientist get me out of here' for primary school children. For two weeks, I took part in online chats, and answered questions about sport and exercise from children aged 7-11. This was another enjoyable experience. The thing that struck me, as always with young children, was the enthusiasm they have for learning and for science. It is certainly good to see Birmingham becoming involved in public engagement activities, but I feel that it is still an area in which we could do more. Looking to some of our peer institutions, it seems that they are beginning to make some of their course material openly available to the public, and I wonder if we should be doing more of this. Perhaps as we go through the process of selecting a new iVLE, we should also consider how we might engage learners in the wider world.

Equally important to engaging the public in our work is the translation of our research for practitioners; in my case sport coaches. Getting out and talking to coaches, physiotherapists and other professionals who work with athletes has helped to sharpen the applied focus of my research. Moreover, I would argue that some of my best research students have come to research as a means to understand and explore something that they have seen in their own practice. These tend to be mature, part-time students and they bring a wealth of real-world applied experience and knowledge to their learning, often seeing things from a completely novel point of view. I have often had conversations with such students where they have

informed me, bluntly 'that doesn't work in practice'. This exemplifies one of our big challenges in sport-related research; we are always trying to find the balance between mechanistic understanding and practical application. We want to control variables so we can identify causes, but in doing so we sometimes neglect the inherent unpredictability of sport.

Talking of sport, I am very excited about the sporting summer we have this year. Everywhere I look I can see and feel mounting excitement around the Olympics. I was extremely lucky and proud to take part in the Olympic Torch relay and the enthusiasm generated a simply amazing atmosphere on the day. It's something I will never forget.

As I now take the torch to local schools and events, I see this enthusiasm repeated and it is this that gives us a great opportunity to get more young people into sport and physical activity. I am disappointed that some of the legacy participation targets developed from the original bid are now set aside or watered down. The legacy from these Games, in LOCOG's words, is to 'Inspire a Generation' yet I find myself unsure whether we are ready to build on the energy and excitement the Olympic Games will create for young people. Do we have a long-term strategy in place to provide appropriate sport and physical activity experiences for this generation throughout their lifespan? To answer this question, I am looking forward to working with colleagues in the new School of Sport and Exercise Sciences where we can contribute to the challenge of shaping policy. More importantly, perhaps, we will be working to ensure that teachers and coaches have the skills and career-long professional training that will equip them to engage and inspire children in life-long sporting habits. Together with the development of the new sport centre, we in the School will be helping to place the university at the forefront of leading sport-related research, alongside encouraging participation and competition, for all of our students, staff, families and the wider community. »

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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Contact us  
[university-buzz@bham.ac.uk](mailto:university-buzz@bham.ac.uk)

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Edited by Kate Pritchard  
[k.pritchard@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.pritchard@bham.ac.uk)

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Front cover image:  
Dr Matt Bridge, Senior Lecturer in Coaching and Sports Science.

## Vice-Chancellor's View

Twelve things to do at the University of Birmingham when the sun shines.

- 1 Walk round the Vale, enjoy the lake, and ask 'is there a finer setting for a student village'?
- 2 Call in at Winterbourne, enjoy the house and marvel that the University opens this free to the public. Resolve to become a friend of the gardens.
- 3 Visit the Barber Institute; conclude that The Observer is right and this is indeed the finest small gallery in Europe. Marvel again that this is open free to the public, and ask why you and students don't visit it more often.
- 4 Pass Physics, try to describe the Higgs Boson to yourself in twenty words, relish the fact that Birmingham teams played key roles in its discovery, and resolve to ask to see the remarkable collection of physics instruments.
- 5 Grab a coffee in the Bramall Music Building and marvel at the University's newest 'old' building. Thank those who gave to make it possible.
- 6 Look into the Great Hall, remember what it looked like for graduations and the 2010 Leaders' Debate, and ask 'is there a finer ceremonial hall in any UK University'?
- 7 Visit the Lapworth, ask yourself why you haven't been here before, and resolve to bring friends and their children. Marvel again that this is free.
- 8 Visit the Medical School, see the stunning refurbishment of the Barnes Library, and reflect that we are the leading university centre for clinical trials and a world-class centre for basic clinical science.
- 9 Walk past the Faraday statue and remember the art that's scattered across the campus. Note the steam main across the canal and take satisfaction that the University has exceeded its carbon reduction target.
- 10 Walk through the Plaza by University Centre and reflect on the imaginative way in which we are refurbishing the campus. Head to the refurbished Muirhead for a coffee and a look at the special exhibition. Admire the refurbishment of Gisbert Kapp and resolve to visit Metallurgy and Materials when the refurbishment is complete.
- 11 Look down from the Muirhead across the campus from the Guild to the hospital, and from the playing fields to the Vale and ask 'is there a better place in the country to be a student'?
- 12 Reflect on locations for the new library, and the new sports centre, the ambitious capital programme, the scale of University investment in academic activities, the stunning success of the University in grant capture, and ask 'is there a better University to work in'?

Professor David Eastwood,  
Vice-Chancellor

### Have your say on buzz

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We're always keen to hear your views and feedback on buzz content, and have set up a new section on the University intranet where you can have your say on features. Wherever you see the 'comment on' logo on a page you can visit [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz) to leave your comment and read what others are saying.



## Sun shines on Jamaican open training session and welcome dinner

In the glorious July sunshine, the Jamaican Track and Field team entertained at their welcome dinner, before showing off their skills, at their only open training session ahead of the London Olympics, at the University of Birmingham Munrow Sports Centre Track.

Around 420 guests attended a gala welcome dinner on 23 July to officially welcome the team to the University. The evening's festivities included an auction with lots including a shirt signed by all of the Jamaican team and a signed pair of Usain Bolt's running spikes, which helped to raise over £30,000 to enable a student resident in Jamaica to have a scholarship at the University.

The following day 160 members of the world's media, including some from as far as Japan and Brazil, descended on campus, taking their place alongside community groups and schools to view a training session with arguably the world's best track and field team. Members of the team including Dominique Blake and Riker Hylton, also met with the huge crowd, signing autographs and taking photos with fans.

Captain of the Women's Jamaican team, Novelle Williams-Mills, payed a special tribute to the huge numbers of volunteers who had helped look after the athletes during their stay. 'I just wanted to say thanks to everyone that's been

so gracious and been there for us' she said 'the training facilities have been really great. It's a beautiful track, and everything is there that I wanted for my final preparations'.

University of Birmingham Director of Sport Zena Wooldridge said that she was extremely pleased that after years of planning, the Jamaican team were enjoying their stay at the University. 'It's been a really exciting time for us and been years in preparation. We've had 60 volunteers who've had a great time and the atmosphere in the camp has been fantastic. The camp is important for the University as we are a leading sporting university in the UK'.



## Bug hunts and bears

Over 50 pupils from Edgbaston's Hallfield School recently visited the University for a tour of the campus and to deliver a special gift to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood. The children began their visit with a bug hunt on the Vale before heading to the Aston Webb building for a tour of the Great Hall and reception with the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor gave the pupils a tour of his office and learnt more about their studies and day at the University. The children also presented him with a model they had made of his office, complete with desk, and even a University of Birmingham bear! Both the teachers and children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the campus, and finding out more about how students live at university. They were also all very excited to visit the Vice-Chancellor's office, with one eager pupil saying that it was great to 'meet the Headteacher of the university'.

## Behind the scenes with... Behind the Scenes



### What do robots, orangutans, electroacoustics, NASA, and a good golf swing have in common?

They're all examples of the exciting work carried out by academics across the University, and prizes on offer in our recent Behind the Scenes competition. Behind the Scenes offered participants the chance to spend a day with one of the University's inspirational academics and join in with their exciting work. An online poll asked the question 'Who

would you like to spend a day with?' and prizes included the opportunity to create an interactive robot demonstration, be an orangutan for the day, and listen to the sounds of the stars!

Thanks to everyone who voted in the campaign, all winners have now been notified and are looking forward to their day Behind the Scenes with our

inspirational academics Dr Matt Bridge, Professor Bill Chaplin, Dr Nick Hawes, Dr Sussanah Thorpe, and Dr Scott Wilson. Look out for more details on winners' experiences on the University intranet and turn to page 20 of this edition of Buzz to find out more about our winning academic Dr Matt Bridge.



From September, the University will have its own dedicated internal recruitment agency, 'Worklink' based at the Guild of Students. Worklink has been formed as a result of a working group, commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor and chaired by Professor Martin Stringer, to consider opportunities for students to engage in paid work at the University of Birmingham. Working alongside the Job Zone, Worklink will launch ready for the 2012/13 academic year with

an aim to increasing the accessibility and number of casual-work opportunities on campus to students.

#### Worklink will offer a full range of helpful services including:

- Registering students interested in casual-work opportunities and retaining information on when they are available
- Advertising your positions
- Screening applicants against casual-work requirements
- Interviewing, if required
- Undertaking administration, including checking eligibility to work in the UK and issuing documents
- Paying casual student workers through the completion of online timesheets

The service will also centralise casual student recruitment and payroll processes across campus in order to reduce the time spent in finding and administering payroll for casual workers, and helping to match the right student to each opportunity. Worklink will be based in the Guild of Students, and will be launched in collaboration with other University departments, in particular HR, and Finance.

#### Learn more

For further information, or to access the service, please contact Tracy Murphy, Recruitment Manager, Student Work, on 0121 414 5000, or at [t.murphy@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.murphy@bham.ac.uk)



## From SQUASH to SOPRANOS

### Bramall Music Building opens

100 years after the opening of the original Aston Webb building, the iconic, red-brick heart of the University since 1909, the Bramall Music Building finally completes Joseph Chamberlain's original architectural vision for Chancellor's Court.

Providing our outstanding Music Department with a permanent home at the heart of the University, the Bramall Music Building is also an exciting new venue for staff, students and visitors to the University. The 450-seat auditorium is the most flexible performance space at a UK university – suitable for performances from solo voice, to a full symphony orchestra. The true versatility of the building was displayed in July when the University

hosted the World Squash Championships complete with a glass squash court in the Elgar Concert Hall!

The University will be celebrating the opening of the building with the Bramall Music Festival to be held from 25 November–8 December. The festival will feature a wide range of lunchtime and evening events including a lecture by Professor David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor, titled 'Elgar: the Enigma', 30th birthday celebrations for the Birmingham ElectroAcoustic Sound Theatre (BEAST) and University Music Society Big Band. For further details on Bramall events visit [birmingham.ac.uk/bramall](http://birmingham.ac.uk/bramall).

### MUSIC MAKING AT THE BRAMALL

**Date:** Sunday 23 September

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall,

Come along for a day of fun music-making in the new Elgar Concert Hall and find out about the many University ensembles and choirs that you can join!  
**10.30am–1.30pm – Come and Play Beethoven!**

**3.00–6.00pm – Come and Sing Fauré!**

**Admission:** Free – registration required; please email [c.holmes@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.holmes@bham.ac.uk) to register.

## Health Services Management Centre celebrates 40 successful years

CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS  
HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT CENTRE

The University's Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), the leading UK centre providing research, teaching and consultancy support to health and social care, celebrates its 40th anniversary this September. HSMC have taken this opportunity to reflect on their past, consider where the NHS is now, and anticipate what the future may hold. To celebrate the anniversary the centre launched an 'HSMC 40' website with photos and memories from people who have worked or studied at the centre. They also recently held a special anniversary health policy lecture where NHS Chief Executive, Sir David Nicholson, one of HSMC's Honorary Staff, was the keynote speaker.

The centre is holding a half-day workshop in October, where HSMC director Jon Glasby will give a lecture entitled 'Equity and excellence: do you feel liberated yet?' followed by a panel debate with participants including Professor Viv Bennett, Director of Nursing, Department of Health; John Wilderspin, National Director of Health and Wellbeing Board Implementation, Department of Health; Dr Judith Smith,

Head of Policy, Nuffield Trust; and Dr Nick Harding, Interim Chair, Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group. Look out on the University intranet and HSMC website for further details of the event.

HSMC also launched the first of two special edition anniversary newsletters in April in which each of the former Directors of HSMC reflected on the key challenges facing the NHS during their tenure and some of the ways in which HSMC responded at the time. The second newsletter, due out in the early autumn and written mainly by current staff, will look at the way in which HSMC are working with similar issues now and what they might mean.

#### Learn more

Find out more about HSMC and anniversary celebrations at [birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc-faces-memories](http://birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc-faces-memories). To read the anniversary newsletters visit [birmingham.ac.uk/fortieth-newsletter](http://birmingham.ac.uk/fortieth-newsletter).

# Disability support

**Bryoney Johnson** meets some of the staff and students who work in, champion and gain support from the disability services provided at the University.

It is estimated that 18% of the UK population have some form of disability; this includes people with mobility, hearing and visual impairments, and also people with a wide range of 'hidden' disabilities such as mental health conditions, learning disabilities and long-term illnesses. Most of us will have heard of the University's disability services, but few of us probably realise the extent to which their support and advice impacts on and improves campus life for staff, students and visitors.

Staff and student disability groups (SDG) work in collaboration with teams and individuals from across the University to ensure that legislative and individual requirements for disability provision are met. This can be developing an accessible campus, ensuring that policies consider staff with disabilities or simply talking to a student or member of staff about their disability.

Angela Breen, Employee Disability Advisor, explains that *'the University has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments for individuals who have a disability under The Equality Act 2010. My role is to provide advice and guidance to employees and managers to find appropriate and sustainable adjustments, whilst remembering that these are individuals with different needs and requirements'*.

## Learn more

For advice and guidance on managing your disability at work and reasonable adjustments, contact Angela Breen, Employee Disability Adviser. Email [a.m.breen@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.breen@bham.ac.uk), call 0121 415 8799/extension 58799, <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/index.aspx>

To be added to the Staff Disability Group mailing list email [equality@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:equality@contacts.bham.ac.uk). If you would like to talk to a member of the Staff Disability Group about attending group meetings please contact David Cottam at [d.s.cottam@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.s.cottam@bham.ac.uk). You can also disclose a disability online by visiting [my.bham.ac.uk](http://my.bham.ac.uk) and clicking on the *my.details* tab.

For details on Student Support visit [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/studentservies/projects/support](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/studentservies/projects/support)



Chair of the SDG, David Cottam, understands only too well the difficulties that disabled staff can face. *'In 2006 I was registered as a blind person due to degeneration of both optic nerves'* says David, *'I was also periodically deaf as a child, and members of my family have lived with various disabilities including sight loss, hearing loss, autism and wheelchair use'*. David feels that *'it is important that everyone becomes more aware of the impact of disability and that it is ok to discuss issues people are having on campus'*.

One way the group achieve this is through regular meetings that are open to all staff and discuss firsthand the experiences of disabled staff. David emphasises the importance of this collaborative approach, as *'most of the good work that has been achieved has been by mutual understanding and cooperation from areas Such as HAS and Estates Management'*.

The group has also been invited to give advice on a number of campus projects. *'We have been involved in projects such as The Bramall Music Building, the Library, the Sports Centre and most recently car parking arrangements for disabled staff, students and visitors'* says David.

There are also several new initiatives planned by Wellbeing Services including a partnership with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust that will provide Mental Health First Aid Training to University staff. The Guild of Students was also commended at the NUS Awards 2012 for its commitment to improving access for students to Guild buildings, and for producing a new disability policy.

David applauds the achievements and adjustments made by staff and student groups but feels that more work is needed in the area of disclosure. He would encourage any individuals who have a disability to disclose it to the University. *'Quite often help is at hand but we have no idea who needs it'* says David, and the SDG views disclosure as an opportunity to help, not to judge, as shown by these experiences shared by colleagues and students.

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*'Working for the University has brought me from severe depression at being unable to do the job I love and feeling that any job might be beyond me, to having the best job I have ever had. I have amazing colleagues and the most support I have ever had in the work place. This has come because everyone knows about my disabilities but does not define me by them. I am a person who happens to have disabilities and that is how I am seen by my colleagues, I am incredibly grateful to them. Finding the courage to declare that I have mental health problems, that I am deaf and that I have MS openly has changed my life for the better at work and outside'*.

**Ruth Wootton,**  
Nurse in the Occupational Health Unit



*'There are many hidden disabilities; Bipolar Affective Disorder is one of them. I was diagnosed with it in 2007. To other people the person with it may look fine but can feel totally different inside. It's invisible and can't be seen like a broken arm. Angela Breen, Employee Disability Advisor, is always on hand to support me, as are my Managers. They have worked to apply reasonable adjustments to my work pattern and methods. Although it can be disabling when I'm unwell, I do also find it enabling. I'm thankful that I can function and lead a full life, and being able to work in such a lovely place as Winterbourne makes all the difference'*.

**Judith Fildes,**  
Horticultural Practitioner, Winterbourne



*'I was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome at the age of eight years old. My first impressions of the University of Birmingham were that it was a very friendly place to study, and that the disability team were well organized. I was relieved that I knew where to go to get support if I needed it. Specialist mentoring support was offered and I was extremely thankful and grateful for it. It gave me stability and helped place structure to my learning. If I were to give some advice to new students I would say when you find something difficult do not run away from it. When you are afraid of something, keep doing it until it doesn't scare you anymore. Never give up and keep going until you get where you want to be'*.

**Madeleine Levy,**  
MPhil Playwriting Studies



*'The body is a fragile casing and it sometimes lets us down. At that stage it's a case of looking at options to help maintain as much fitness as possible. The Munrow Sports Centre has played a key role in helping me recover from a knee operation and to maintain my residual fitness. Lee Costin, Health and Fitness Manager, has reviewed my needs in the gym (a free service), and arranged a free one to one session with fitness supervisor Wayne Johnson to work out the safest and best exercises for me using the gym equipment. It's not just in the gym where the University's facilities and their staff have helped with my disabilities. The swimming pool and its poolside hoist is also made available to the Alta Sports Club for the disabled, of which I am a member. That's another clear commitment from the University to those of us who benefit from adjustments and accommodation'*.

**Carol Sparke, IT Services**

These are just some of the inspirational stories and experiences provided by disabled staff and students from across the University. For more detailed profiles please visit the University intranet at [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/resources/disability-groups](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/resources/disability-groups)



## Dave Charlton... in my own words

Researchers from Birmingham played key roles in the recent announcement that the CERN ATLAS experiment has observed a new particle consistent with the long-sought Higgs boson. Professor Dave Charlton, of the School of Physics and Astronomy, and Deputy Spokesperson of the ATLAS experiment, tells Buzz more about this ground breaking research, and how it felt to be a part of the announcement that could change the face of physics.

This has been a major goal for particle physics for my whole career, culminating in the work at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). I was a PhD student at an earlier CERN collider, and my thesis work was on the search for an elementary particle called the top quark. This was super training as a scientist, because it emphasised the need to look every way you can to see how an unexpected or exciting new result might be wrong before you admit that it's likely to be right. The standard of evidence has to be very high to claim the observation of a new particle.

The Birmingham particle physics group was involved with ATLAS from the very start in the early 90's. The start-up of the LHC a couple of years ago was an extremely exciting time. A vast number of people had worked for almost two decades to get the ATLAS detector ready for collisions. We had a nail-biting time on the day of first high-energy collisions in March 2010, when we had the world's press at CERN. Despite a few false starts we did get collisions that day, and the physics programme of the LHC had begun! Move forward two years and the early July announcement is a great reward. This discovery of a new 'Higgs-like particle' is a big step forward, the biggest for the field of particle physics for more than twenty years.

The run-up to the announcement of the new particle was an intellectual and emotional yo-yo. Inside ATLAS we had discussed the results and all collaborators had chance to comment, and we took the time to check our results carefully. During this, we had to keep quiet to the outside world. As you'll have seen, rumours started to circulate that something exciting was coming, but most responsible press outlets waited for the official word.

I travelled to Melbourne before the big seminar, the atmosphere there was electric. We really felt part of the proceedings at CERN, as perhaps did everyone around the world who watched the announcement! The conference was, of course, dominated by the 'Higgs-like particle' news, and speakers even on unrelated topics had fun explaining why this was relevant to their subject. A common theme across the meeting was that the Standard Model of particle physics is still holding up very well indeed.

There have been many great times during my time as Deputy Spokesperson of ATLAS, and the biggest highlight is definitely this observation of a new particle state! On a personal level I have hugely enjoyed many intense interactions with collaborators from all across the vast ATLAS collaboration that includes over 2,500 physicists from around the world. To pick just one earlier highlight, a big milestone for us in Birmingham was the successful completion of readout circuitry for the ATLAS inner detector. Birmingham staff and students assembled and thoroughly tested over 750 of these devices in the basement of the Poynting building, and they are now installed, and working well, deep inside ATLAS! Looking forward, over the coming year we will start to study the object we have discovered, to try to uncover if it is the Standard Model Higgs boson, or something more exotic! An exciting possibility is that it will differ from the Standard Model Higgs, and indeed that there will be more Higgs-like particles to be found. These studies will take years to complete, but they will provide detailed understanding behind last week's discovery, and may lead on to provide a natural explanation for the dark matter observed in the universe.

## meet the TEAM



### College Catch-up:

## College of Life and Environmental Sciences

In the latest of our College Catch-up updates we find out more about the College's collaborative approach to co-ordinating support and operations, and learn more about the latest news and achievements from across the College.

In Life and Environmental Sciences (LES), Professional Services are coordinated through College-wide functions, with most College staff based in Schools. This great combination of efficiency and responsiveness to University and School needs helps staff to make an impact whilst also developing their careers. Every Thursday morning members of the Operations Coordination Group (OCG) meet to update each other on key projects, cascade items from College Board and the Registrar's Leadership Group, and generally exchange information to help effective cross-College coordination.

Led by Gideon White, College Director of Operations, members of the OCG are from both the College and Corporate Services. Operations Managers from each School attend with their dual College and School roles, along with the

College Research Support Partner, PA Team Manager, Finance Admin Manager, and others in key co-ordinating roles. The Corporate Services Business Partners, who attend College Board, Head of HR, College Accountant, and Planning Partner, also participate, along with the College IT Manager and the College Marketing Communications Manager.

Gideon describes the meetings as informal, giving everyone the chance to share their updates. Mutual professional respect and linking well together has combined with a strong sense of responsibility for helping the College in its success. The pooled knowledge and strength of collaboration between the team has become an excellent way to resolve issues and LES is very well served by this partnership which reflects the College's instinct for collaboration.

#### The OCG team (left to right):

- Ken Jakeman, Operations Manager (School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences)
- Mark Connop, IT Manager
- Gideon White, Director of Operations
- Jo Quarry, Operations Manager (School of Psychology)
- Lesley Ann Ford, Office Manager and PA to Head of College
- Antony Jones, Operations Manager (School of Biosciences)
- Jen Fensome, Research Support Partner
- Kumaran Navaratnarajah, College Accountant
- Deb Bayliss, Head of HR,
- Rachel Brown, Planning Partner
- Corrina Kimberley, Marketing Communications Manager
- Steve Godfrey, Finance Administration Team Manager





## meet the TEAM

*'Our College has had a fantastic year delivering cutting edge research, launching the new Institute of Microbiology and Infection with MDS, attracting high quality students and staff, as well as welcoming the Department of Sport Pedagogy into the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences. Some key projects and news from our Heads of School are included below to give you a flavour of the exciting developments happening in LES'.*

Professor Malcolm Press, Head of College,  
Life and Environmental Sciences



## School of Sport and Exercise Sciences

The new integrated School of Sport and Exercise Sciences is the result of a merger between the Department of Sport Pedagogy and the original Sportex School. The integrated School, led by new Head of School, Professor Kathy Armour, will build on the strengths of both partners to further enhance research and teaching. The academic scope of the School is broad, spanning the natural and social sciences. The School's mission centres on developing the sciences of movement and rehabilitation, facilitating sport performance, and promoting age-appropriate forms of physical activity for health and wellbeing. To deliver its mission, the School collaborates with a range of academic and professional partners including the Medical School, Schools of Biosciences, Psychology and Physiotherapy, the Professional Golfers' Association and The Football Association.

[birmingham.ac.uk/schools/sport-exercise](http://birmingham.ac.uk/schools/sport-exercise)

## School of Biosciences

Institute of Microbiology and Infection (IMI): Following several laboratory refurbishments, the Biosciences building now houses 20 research teams that make up the new IMI. These teams are led by staff from both LES and MDS Colleges, and makes up what is probably the biggest centre for bacteriological research in the UK. Professor Steve Busby, new Head of School, explains that the research of the new Institute is focused on understanding the make-up and evolution of bacteria that cause disease and how they survive in hostile environments, identifying bacterial targets that can be used as targets for new antibacterial therapies, and investigating how animal hosts respond to bacterial infection. Next year,

the IMI will be enhanced by a new isolation laboratory, co-funded by Wolfson and the University, which will extend the range of different bacteria that can be studied directly.

Biosystems and Environmental Change (BEC): BEC is a major research theme in the School of Biosciences focusing on molecule-environment interactions in living organisms that are exposed to change. The arrival of Professor John Colbourne from the University of Indiana, together with associated appointments, is enhancing this theme, and a new facility for growing *Daphnia*, an especially interesting and adaptable small aquatic crustacean, is being set up. This will enhance Birmingham's international reputation for excellence in the areas of environmental genomics, metabolomics, whole organism physiology, computational biology and evolutionary ecology, and will be the basis for many future initiatives. [birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/imicrobham](http://birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/imicrobham) [birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/biosystems-environment-change](http://birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/biosystems-environment-change)

## School of Psychology

The Schools of Psychology, led by Head of School Professor Chris Miall, and Computer Science worked together to establish the Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics (CNCR) backed by substantial University investment. Its aims are to generate mutually informative interdisciplinary research between neuroscience and robotics to make advances in rehabilitation. You may have noticed how our research has been part of the 'Heroes' campaign with banners placed around campus with the strap line 'Developing robots to retrain the ageing brain'.

After around two years of gradual development, the Centre is now fully up and running. Our recruitment of permanent academics is complete, with two new professors, a senior lecturer and three lecturers in place across the two schools, with a joint Masters

course also established. This core group is already heavily engaged in collaborations across campus, and additional technical and research support staff will be recruited this year.

We are delighted to announce that we have also secured more than €5.5m in funds coming to Birmingham as our part of five grants that total more than €16m. One of these is an ERC Starting Grant, awarded to Professor Uta Noppeney, to study information integration in the human brain, covering attention, awareness and vigilance. Other projects aim to enable robots to achieve intelligent behaviour in moving around human environments, and studying human grasping to better understand how robots should grasp. There is also a three year MRC project worth £500m to use robotic systems and smart algorithms to optimise the retraining of limb movements in stroke patients, as well as many smaller grants and projects. We are looking forwards to a flood of exciting research papers from all this work. There is already a paper published in Nature Neuroscience describing how the human brain computes depth from visual cues, and more top quality papers are beginning to flow.

[birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/cncr](http://birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/cncr)

## School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

The University has made a major investment into the innovative research area of Resilience and Urban Living (RUL) which bridges the social and physical sciences. Building on existing research strengths, Birmingham's investment in RUL has created a unique research activity that positions us at the forefront of an emerging field.

The RUL group based in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and led by new Head of School Professor Ian Fairchild, draws strongly on collaboration with the Schools of Psychology and Civil Engineering. The initiative brings together geographers, engineers and social scientists to explore the material nature of built environments

and the social, economic, and cultural factors underpinning urban living. Psychologists are also working on cognitive, affective and social processes that influence behaviour and support adaptation to and utilization of urban environments.

Research is clustered around a number of thematic priorities, including enhancing the economic resilience of cities and regions, responding to insecurity, disaster and demographic change, developing community and neighbourhood resilience, and adapting to climate change. Research has been funded by a number of Research Councils, UK Government, and EU grants, and is closely aligned to professional and practice worlds to ensure research has real impact beyond academia.

The 2012/13 academic year will also see the launch of a bespoke MSc programme to give students a grounded understanding of how urban communities can cope with rapid social, political, economic or environmental change. For further information see: [birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/resilience/index.aspx](http://birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/resilience/index.aspx)

## Education update

The college has launched a new newsletter 'Education Matters', set up by Dr Jon Green, College Director of Education and Dr Vikki Burns, Director of Teaching Quality, this is linked to more detailed information on the new intranet and to College Education workshops. Areas of good practice that will be highlighted include CLAD-funded projects to develop writing skills in undergraduates in Biosciences, the development of a virtual learning platform in Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, efforts to engage students with a research methods course in Psychology, and a new interactive induction programme called Speed BSc in Sport and Exercise Sciences. They are also using the 'Transforming the Experience of Students through Assessment' approach to introduce a new focus on programme-level assessment.

Several researchers and academics from the College of Life and Environmental Sciences also celebrated success at this year's Founders' Awards ceremony. Turn to page 13 of this edition of Buzz to find out more.



meet the  
TEAM



## Gideon White... in my own words

Gideon White, Director of Operations in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, tells Buzz about how a positive attitude and professional respect for colleagues have helped develop his career in HE administration.

I started here 17 years ago in the Planning Office at the top of the Muirhead Tower. The weather was sultry, as was my brow as I struggled to learn Foxpro to produce statistics. My boss was a model of encouragement. In 1999, he asked me to take the role of Admissions Manager on secondment to cover maternity leave – despite me having no inkling of admissions or staff management.

He recognised my willingness to do whatever was thrown at me. I also took on the role of committee secretary to Council which I did for four years at a time of great change here. The long evening meetings in the old fusty Senate Chamber paid off. I gained many lasting insights into how people negotiate over competing agenda. The way I went about that role led to other 'extra jobs' because you become useful. I was secretary to a group that put student residences on track to be in such excellent health today. It is odd writing thanks to yourself in a Council minute for a strategic report you've written with another hat on.

My admissions secondment started in June – Confirmation and Clearing had to be organised! Somehow I saw that I could only succeed by trusting the staff over the logistics. They responded brilliantly. I first saw then the value of knowing when not to interfere as a manager. The team didn't want me to leave! In January 2000, I worked on integrating registry functions between Westhill College and the University – and managed a student records team during the difficult first few years of Banner. I worked extra hard to encourage the team to overcome tensions by meeting their school counterparts rather than face-off continuously via email.

A secondment to the Business School followed until the end of 2004. This kind of move is uncommon and challenging but well worth it. The Director was hugely ambitious for the School and so we oversaw a lot of change internally. We also relocated from three sites into what is now University House – a £12m project through which I learned to give hard advice to one's leaders.

2005 saw me start another secondment – this time as a ubiquitous Project Manager with the third Registrar that I've worked for. You do lots of things in roles like that, most of which never get spoken about. But they're hugely stimulating with their own reward. After a couple of years, I was asked to cover an Assistant Directorship in the then Information Services. I learned more new things: e-learning, library collection management, academic liaison, and learning spaces. By now, I was concentrating on getting my direct reports and their staff to feel as encouraged and self-confident as my first boss had tried to do for me. After the merger with the Academic Office to create Academic Services, and before my current job, I had a stint in Hospitality and Accommodation Services to try and help them construct their capital programme, including what is now the new Sports Centre.

So, my career here – on the academic and corporate side – has come about through being willing to take on roles and yet do all of them as well as I could. Recognition will follow if you have good bosses, and that is now how I try to encourage others in my current role. »

# Founders' Awards

The University's degree congregations are the highpoint of the academic year. A large part of this celebration is the annual degree dinner and Founders' Award ceremony which recognises the very best academic work across the University. The Founders' Awards reflect the University's commitment to research excellence and development. Awards are named after some of our most influential founders and benefactors, and nominations are received from staff across the University for colleagues whose groundbreaking research has benefits locally, nationally and internationally. Congratulations to all of this year's nominees and winners.

### The Josiah Mason Award for Business Advancement

#### Dr Tim Dafforn, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biosciences

Tim has established himself as an expert in biophysical spectroscopy with a keen interest in synthetic biology. He has formed a number of commercial partnerships to aid technical and commercial developments and has become a key opinion leader in this area, being consulted by committees including the intergovernmental meeting on defence technologies. *'It was great to be nominated and beyond my expectations to win, but obviously I represent a much larger number of people in the University who are working really hard to ensure that we engage with business, and I have much to thank them for!'*



Dr Tim Dafforn

### The Joseph Chamberlain Award for Academic Advancement

#### Professor Del Besra, Professor of Microbial Physiology and Chemistry

Del Besra's research focuses primarily on the development and application of microbiological, immunobiological, and molecular biological methods, to treat disease associated with Mycobacterium tuberculosis – the causative agent of tuberculosis. *'I was surprised but delighted by the Founders' Award, which recognises the efforts of all of my research group on TB.'*



Professor Del Besra

### The Charles Beale Award for Policy Advancement

#### Professor Jon Coaffee, Chair in Spatial Planning and Urban Resilience

Jon's work focuses on the interplay of physical and socio-political aspects of resilience in urban areas. In particular it has analysed the ability of businesses, governments, and communities to anticipate shocks, and embed resilience within the built environment, the planning system, and everyday activities. *'Research I have been conducting with colleagues on security and urban design has assisted in improving the quality and long-term resilience of cities. This work has also been co-produced alongside an array of professional and practice stakeholders and has been fed back into teaching programmes at the University.'*



Dr André Broome

### Aston Webb Award for Outstanding Early-Career Academic

#### Dr André Broome, Senior Lecturer in International Political Economy

Dr Broome's research concentrates on the changing dynamics of global economic governance, and looks in particular at the problems of policy coordination, political representation, and institutional legitimacy which impact upon how the world economy is governed by different actors operating across multiple governance forums. André's current major research projects focus on two key areas; understanding the dynamics of socialization through policy training in International Organisations, and the evolution of international crisis management processes with respect to economic policy reform and financial bailouts. *'Winning the award was a great honour and a fantastic recognition of the research success that working at the University of Birmingham has enabled me to achieve. The award was especially prestigious given the first-rate research track records of all the nominees.'*



Professor Jon Coaffee

# STUDENTS RISE TO COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The Community Challenge, launched in June 2012, gives undergraduate students the opportunity to develop their business, planning and interpersonal skills, and gain first-hand experience of the Consultancy sector. Capgemini, one of the world's largest consulting firms, collaborated with the University's Careers and Employability Centre, and Business School, to create the challenge with 25 first and second year Business School and Computer Science undergraduates.

The students were allocated into five teams and had a week to work on individual projects, each of which was designed to aid a local charity or community group in a range of skills from marketing to managing budgets. In an 'Apprentice' style format, each group was allocated a mentor from Capgemini who provided guidance throughout the programme. Teams also worked closely with Capgemini staff, many of whom are

University of Birmingham alumni.

At the end of the week teams had the opportunity to deliver presentations to their 'client' on the fundraising and volunteering plans they had developed. Charities that benefitted from the enthusiasm and growing business acumen of participating students were Age Concern Wrekin, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Cruse Bereavement Care, Hilbrae Kennels and Doberman Rescue, and Severn Hospice. Each team spent time on-site at their assigned charity and worked closely with staff to produce real solutions to real problems.

Eluned Jones, Director of Student Employability at the University, supported the Challenge as a great example of the professional and personal development available to students across the University, and the commitment to helping students identify and achieve their career aspirations. This is *'an entirely new and unique*

*Bryoney Johnson learns more about a new initiative that is giving Birmingham students the opportunity to gain valuable business skills and experience through supporting and building links with local charities and community groups.*

*experience between a top flight graduate recruiter, community groups and some of our most engaged and dynamic students'* says Eluned. *'Seeing our students' personal and professional growth and their passion and joy in what they were achieving, coupled with the wonderfully poignant response from their attached charities was the highlight of the Programme for me. The fact that we also had the great pleasure of working with a number of our alumni within Capgemini simply added the icing to the cake.'*

All teams carried out their challenges exceptionally; however team Delta most impressed the judges at the end of week presentations. Delta rose to Age Concern Wrekin's challenge to propose the means to raise £10,000 for a new minibus to support its community transport service. The team negotiated a £4,000 discount off the cost of a brand new bus and even

*'I gained a lot of confidence in myself and my business abilities, as we delivered some brilliant solutions in a very short space of time. I also gained confidence in my degree programme, as I utilised so many of the new skills I have learnt this year. I would definitely recommend students apply for the Challenge next year. It gave me a real taste of consultancy work, and has been instrumental in my choice of modules for next year.'*  
Joe McKiviitt, Year 1, BSc Business with Communications student

*'Without a doubt it's been one of the best weeks of my life, most of all because of the way we've worked together as a team and the way Capgemini has worked together with us.'*

Faisal Ahmed, Year 1, BSc Business Management with Communications

*'So many of my friends at other universities just don't have this experience, this has really improved the overall value of my degree programme.'*

Kayleigh Ross, Year 1, BSc Business with Communications student

*'It's put everything I've learned from my first year at Birmingham into perspective and allowed me to apply what I've gained in knowledge. I've been applying skills in leadership, and the experience has really helped to define me and my strengths.'*

Melissa Corrigan, Year 1, BSc Business Management student

created a new brand and website for the transport service. Sue Davies, a 'Community Champion' for Age Concern Wrekin, was incredibly impressed with the students, saying that their *'enthusiasm and passion shone through from the start, and by the end of the week they had grown to polished business people that delivered everything the charity asked for'*. Mala Mistry, of Cruse Bereavement Care, was also delighted with the proposals provided by the student teams. *'The project proposal looks great'* said Mala, *'definitely lots of ideas we can work with and the contacts to get us going quickly'*.

Billie Major, Capgemini Vice-President, and Birmingham alumna (BSc Geography and Physical Education) agreed that the Challenge had been a great success and far exceeded her expectations. *'When the concept of this Programme was floated by Capgemini's Chris Napoli, a University of Birmingham graduate, I thought it was a great idea'* says Billie, *'however, as the months have gone by and the team has worked to make it a reality, the programme has far exceeded my expectations'*.

*'It delivers benefit on so many levels'* she continues *'for the students, for Capgemini in terms of attracting talent, and for the community. We set ourselves three objectives for the Programme; to give the students a learning experience in a 'real-world' environment, to give the outcome to the Charities that we had committed to provide, and to give the students an exposure to our Company, its people, culture and values – and us to them. We achieved all of these and I am already very excited about where*

*we take this next with the University of Birmingham'*.

The Capgemini Community Challenge ran in parallel with the Business School's MBA Deloitte Consultancy Challenge, which helps to prepare MBA students who are taking on company assignments for their dissertation, with an invaluable consultancy tool kit. The programme is delivered by Jane Lodge, Business School Advisory Board Member and previously a Deloitte Partner for over 25 years, together with a team of Deloitte auditors and consultants. The MBA students go through extensive training in project scoping, client relations, market research, benchmarking, data gathering techniques, ethics and mitigating risk, and work in teams on intensive consultancy scenarios. Aditya Inamdar, MBA Global Banking and Finance Student, feels that the programme gives students a *'real flavour for things expected of them when they re-enter their professional careers. I have already started incorporating the learning from the programme into my dissertation and will surely use it in my future endeavours'*. Both Challenges are unique, neither Capgemini or Deloitte run these programmes with any other University in the UK, and the senior level contact offered to students creates great networking opportunities, employability and professional development.

For further details on the skills and services offered by the **Careers and Employability Centre** visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/careers-and-employability.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/careers-and-employability.aspx).



# A year in stories...

## Spring of the Arab peoples

As a wave of revolution swept across North Africa and the Middle East, academics from the University were the leading commentators for the national and international media, analysing what the events meant to those regions and the international community. These experts continue to lead the agenda on global issues.

## Going global

The University has established new international partnerships in Brazil and China. In Guangzhou, China, the University is working with the municipal government on a number of collaborative agreements and has three, first-phase biomedical research projects underway. In Brazil, the University is working in partnership with the University of Nottingham to strengthen its academic links across the country.

## Can you die of a broken heart?

Immunity experts at the University have found biological evidence to suggest that bereavement lowers physical immunity, putting older people at risk of life-threatening infections. They have found that the emotional stress of bereavement is associated with a drop in the efficiency of white blood cells known as neutrophils, which combat infections such as pneumonia, a major cause of death in older adults.

## World War Two bombing raids offer new insight into the effects of aviation on climate

Climate researchers at the University have analysed the Allied bombing raids of the Second World War to study the effect that thousands of aircraft had on the English climate at a time when civilian aviation remained rare. The study reveals how civilian and military records can help to assess the impact of modern aviation on the climate today.



## HANNAH ENGLAND WINS SILVER

Birmingham Biochemistry graduate and Olympic hopeful, Hannah England, won the silver medal in the women's 1,500 metres at the IAAF World Championships in Daegu in September.

## Unlocking the West Midlands accent

The region's linguistic heritage was explored in a new research project looking at how far people in the region share the language of their predecessors, captured in the Vernon Manuscript, the biggest surviving late-medieval English manuscript.

## Queen's prize marks sweet success

The Centre for Formulation Engineering in the School of Chemical Engineering was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for its pioneering research into the microstructure of materials such as chocolate, paints and washing detergents.

## First research centre for UK's character and values

In the aftermath of the 2011 summer riots, the University established the first UK centre devoted to research into understanding the character, values and virtues that shape UK society. Supported by the John Templeton Foundation, the centre aims to contribute to the renewal of character and values in Britain through research and development activities.

## What can we learn from orang-utans?

Using a simulated arboreal habitat, scientists at the University have used parkour athletes – or 'free runners' – to mimic orang-utan movements in order to analyse how they maximize energy efficiency. The exercise, which studied common-place practices such as tree swaying and vertical climbing, will provide valuable insights for researchers into energy consumption, which can be translated into improvements in human performance.



We look back at some of the breakthroughs and achievements from University staff and students that hit the headlines in the past year.

## Alice Roberts appointed Professor of Public Engagement in Science

Clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster Alice Roberts was appointed the University's first Professor of Public Engagement in Science.



## GROUNDBREAKING CANCER RESEARCH

University of Birmingham experts have contributed to groundbreaking cancer research over the last year, with study focusing on three key areas:

■ **Breakthrough in treatment:** scientists have discovered a modified form of the drug MDMA – commonly known as Ecstasy – has 100 times more cancer-busting properties than the popular recreational drug itself and hope it may eventually be produced in a safe form to treat patients.

■ **Bladder cancer:** a major bladder cancer trial led by the University has shown that adding two commonly used chemotherapy drugs to traditional radiotherapy can reduce the chance of a tumour coming back by a third.

■ **Adrenal cancer:** endocrinologists at Birmingham have played a key role in a major international clinical trial which has found that giving a combination of chemotherapy drugs to patients suffering from advanced adrenal cancer can help them to live up to a fifth longer.



## 'Ordinary' black hole discovered 12 million light years away

Scientists from the University have led an international team of astronomers to discover evidence for the existence of an ordinary black hole in the Centaurus A galaxy, over 12 million light years away. This is the first time that a 'garden variety' black hole has been detected outside the immediate neighbourhood of our galaxy.

## Test identifies heart defects in babies

A simple test to measure blood oxygen in newborns has been shown to identify babies with life-threatening congenital heart defects, a major cause of infant mortality in the developed world. More than 20,000 mothers and babies took part in the PulseOx study, the largest UK investigation into screening newborns for congenital heart defects. As a direct result of the findings, PulseOx screening has now been rolled out across North America.



## Leading autism research

The University's expert research into improving support for people with autism is internationally recognised. Most recently the schools of Psychology and Education have pioneered a new community oriented early assessment and intervention research model designed to ensure effective intervention with children with autism and related developmental difficulties at an earlier age.

## Weight Watchers: the most effective weight-loss programme

Researchers at the University have shown that commercial weight management programmes are more successful and cost less than those offered by primary care facilities such as GP surgeries and pharmacies. In a study assessing the effectiveness of a variety of weight management programmes, the Weight Watchers group was the only one to demonstrate greater weight loss than the control.

## Sperm crawl and collide on way to egg

Joint research between the universities of Birmingham and Warwick has shed new light on how sperm navigate the female reproductive tract, 'crawling' along the channel walls and swimming around corners, with frequent collisions. Scientists have provided fresh insight into how sperm might find their way to the egg that will help to inform future innovation in the struggle to treat infertile couples.

## New particle at the Large Hadron Collider discovered

Working closely with colleagues at CERN to analyse data taken by the ATLAS experiment, researchers have been at the centre of what is believed to be the first clear observation of a new particle at the Large Hadron Collider. The particle, the Chi-b(3P), is a new way of combining a beauty quark and its antiquark so that they bind together.

# CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BIRMINGHAM



Long service awards



Research Poster Conference

The end of the academic year is a great opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of staff and students from across the University. **Bryoney Johnson** looks back at some of the recent events celebrating the wide range of impressive individuals, teams and departments that make up our campus community.

## Celebrating research

The Excellence in Research awards, held in June, recognise the significant contributions made by academic supervisors to the successful completion of high-class doctoral research at Birmingham. The University is committed to carrying out research that is world-leading in terms of its originality and distinctiveness, significance and rigour, and the staff who supervise and support research students are key to this success.

There were two awards categories and nominations were made by senior academics and doctoral researchers for colleagues and supervisors that had supported and encouraged them throughout the year. The Excellence in Doctoral Researcher Supervision award is for excellence in research supervision, whilst the Michael K O'Rourke Publication award is funded by an anonymous donor to recognise postgraduate researchers who have made outstanding contributions in publication of their research.

Congratulations to all nominees and to winners from each College, each of whom will receive £1,000 towards their research.

The Research Poster Conference, also held in June, is an opportunity for postgraduate researchers to promote and celebrate their research to staff, students and visitors. It was a great opportunity

for attendees to hear about some of the University's groundbreaking research by the people behind it.

Almost 170 posters were displayed and over 350 people attended the event, held in the Great Hall, to hear more about the development, public engagement, and advancement being made by researchers across the University. The posters were judged by 43 representatives from both inside and outside the University, and the five College winners will represent the University at a regional conference which will be held at the Herbert Art Gallery in Coventry.

## Celebrating students

Colleagues from the Student Funding Office, the Careers and Employability Centre and the Guild of Students recently joined forces for an event to celebrate the many challenging tasks, projects and employment opportunities carried out by students outside of their degree studies. The Student Funding Office championed those students who had been awarded a Student Development Scholarship to support exciting and worthwhile travel projects that will assist them academically as well as personally. The Guild of Students also acknowledged the outstanding achievements of many Birmingham students in volunteering and employment across the campus and local community.

The joint event also celebrated recipients

of the Personal Skills Award (PSA), the University's award-winning employability programme. The PSA enables students to recognise and articulate the skills and attributes that they have developed at Birmingham, in preparation for graduate recruitment.

Over 125 students attended the event, held in the Great Hall, with certificates presented to participants by Provost and Vice-Principal Professor Michael Sheppard.

## Celebrating staff

The Vice-Chancellor recently hosted a celebration for 39 members of staff in recognition of their achieving 25 years of long service to the University. Award recipients celebrated a combined 975 years' service to the institution with invited colleagues, friends and family.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, paid a personal tribute to the award winners, all of whom joined the University in 1986. *'Although many things have changed since 1986, two things that haven't changed are our diverse yet cohesive community of staff and the importance of those staff to our organisation'* said the Vice-Chancellor, *'I hope that the University continues to be for you and your colleagues a place where you can make a difference with all that you do.'*

For the latest events and news from across the University visit [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk)



## Environment Day

**Date:** Tuesday 2 October

**Time:** 11.00am–3.00pm

**Venue:** Great Hall

Come along to the Great Hall on 2 October and learn more about the University's environmental research and campus wide environmental projects. Find out how you can get involved and help to make the University a more sustainable place. There will be a chance to ride in a hydrogen microcab and opportunities to win great prizes. Admission is free, for further information visit [www.environment.bham.ac.uk](http://www.environment.bham.ac.uk).

## PHOTOGRAPHING THE CITY WEEKEND

**Date:** Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 September **Time:** 11am–4pm

The Barber Institute is running this great adult workshop that will give keen photographers the opportunity to take inspiration from the urban environment to create panoramic views and detailed close-ups of the city in this weekend workshop with photographer Tom Flathers. This course is suitable for mixed abilities. Bring your own camera. £65, £55 Friends of the Barber/Over 60s, £45 students.

For more information, or to book places, please call 0121 414 2261 or email [education@barber.org.uk](mailto:education@barber.org.uk).

The **BARBER**  
Institute of Fine Arts



## Olympic Stories

**Date:** Wednesday 29 August

**Time:** 1–2.00pm

**Venue:** Cadbury Research Library

An opportunity to view and handle Olympic-related memorabilia from the extensive Sports and Athletics Heritage Collections held at the University by the Cadbury Research Library. See original photographs from the controversial 1936 Berlin Olympics and read newspaper reports from the 1948 London Games.

Free event open to all staff and students. For further information please contact [special-collection@bham.ac.uk](mailto:special-collection@bham.ac.uk)



## WOUNDED

**Dates:** 29 October–10 November

**Venue:** Territorial Army Centre, Kings Heath

The History of Medicine Unit at the University of Birmingham, in collaboration with the Birmingham REP, presents Wounded by Jenny Stephens. The play follows two injured soldiers, a century apart, who are nursed in the same Birmingham hospital.

Wounded is supported by the Wellcome Trust Arts Awards Engaging Science grant. For further information call 0121 236 4455 or book online at [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)