

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2016**
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
FOR GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT

158

buzz



October/November 2015

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Enterprising Education

Chancellor's view



Chancellor, Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, CBE, DL

YOUR BUZZ

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Front cover image:

Michael Roden is Principal of the new University of Birmingham School

It is a whole academic year since I have been privileged to be appointed as Chancellor of our wonderful university.



Stepping back, I cannot believe how much has happened and how the University continues to go from strength to strength, including our Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood receiving his knighthood at the Palace. When chairing my first University Court followed by the university Annual Meeting, it became so apparent what a strong position we are in as a university – financially both in operating terms, as well as having an asset base, much of which is quite frankly priceless.

When I was elevated to the top of Old Joe, along with the Provost, Professor Adam Tickell, I was fortunate to view our 250-acre Edgbaston site in full, which brought home the sheer scale and magnitude of our inspiring institution. Over the year, I have been privileged to witness so many of the jewels that we have, such as the Barber Institute, one of the top four university museums in Britain, and Winterbourne House, with its beautiful botanical gardens. Most of all, I have been inspired by our students and our staff.

When I attended the Annual Guild Awards, the voluntary work and the varied talents of our students was awe inspiring. The Acappella group performing outshone those of Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale! And, I was so happy to see, in this year's graduation ceremonies, the Teaching Awards – which were nominated and voted

upon by students. Each award showed how our teachers connected effectively with their students by being passionate about teaching, by trying to do things innovatively and differently, and by always going the extra mile.

Talking about going the extra mile, in my speech at this year's Chancellor's Dinner I spoke about the winner of the Chancellor's Prize – the story of Emma Thornton – a story I wish every aspiring student could hear. Emma was keen on studying medicine when she was in school and, when she was unable to obtain a place to read medicine after her A levels, she did not give up on her dreams. Instead, she enrolled in Keele University for her undergraduate degree and achieved tremendous results there. Emma was then accepted as a medical student at Birmingham and excelled in her studies – graduating in the top five students at one of top medical schools in country! This is a story of perseverance, of never giving up, of going the extra mile, and of excelling in what I would love to call, 'the Birmingham way!'

I wish you all a very successful 2015–16 academic year.

*Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, CBE, DL
Chancellor*

Nicklin Unseen

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



David Oram works in the University's College of Medical and Dental Sciences yet in his spare time he operates Brumpic. Brumpic was set up initially as a Twitter account sharing photographs to raise awareness of Birmingham but has grown to be a larger project evoking passionate and nostalgic memories for many city residents and workers.

At a meeting between Brumpic and the University in December 2014 more than 700 previously unseen images taken by the late Phyllis Nicklin, an alumna and lecturer at the University, were uncovered. These images have now been digitised and a number of them can be seen at an exhibition of her work in Birmingham city centre this autumn/winter.

Phyllis Amelia Nicklin, born in 1909, was a graduate and postgraduate of the University before becoming a temporary lecturer at the University of Nottingham during World War II. She then pursued a career in teaching and teacher training before being appointed staff tutor in geography at the University's extra-mural department, where she worked until her death in 1969.

David spoke to *Buzz* about the impact of Nicklin's photography on Brumpic and the legacy that it leaves for the city:

'It's safe to say, that even 45 years after her death, Phyllis Nicklin has been integral to the success of the Brumpic project. The stunning colour photographs she took of Birmingham during the 1950s and

1960s are often the most engaged-with images that we share. They are visually stunning and of huge historical importance to the city of Birmingham.

'What resonates the most with us about this collection is its simplicity and its honesty. Taken over a 16-year period, many of the images capture the beginning of the social housing revolution and the great changes taking place in Birmingham during this period. Nicklin, though, was clearly not an amateur photographer. Many of the subjects she chose to photograph must have been seen as mundane at the time she was taking them; however the composition of many of her images is extraordinary. These images would have been used to aid Nicklin's teaching at the University and she couldn't have imagined how significant her work would become in future years.'



The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston (Medical School to the left) – 26 August 1954



University of Birmingham, Hall of Residence. View point Edgbaston Park Rd – 28 January 1968

1 October 2015–January 2016
Snow Hill Square, Birmingham



@brumpic #nicklinunseen

For further information on the exhibition or Brumpic please contact David Oram: d.i.oram@bham.ac.uk.

Sir Simon Rattle, one of the world's leading conductors, visited campus in September to rehearse the BBC Proms Youth Choir for a performance with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Approximately one third of the youth choir are current students at the University.



Date for the diary

Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum

Thursday 22 October, 12.30–1.30pm

Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for his first staff address of the new academic year as he launches the University's Strategic Framework 2015–2020: *Making Important Things Happen*. The Strategic Framework defines the University's vision as a global and civic institution, acting as a point of reference to guide decision making during the next five years. The VC encourages all staff to attend this event and there will be an opportunity to ask him your questions.

Birmingham Professional Forum

Tuesday 24 November, 11.00am–12noon

Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

This event is for all Professional Services colleagues (administrative, support and technical staff) from across the University. Introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, the forum is a great opportunity to hear from colleagues on a wide range of topical subjects for both staff and the University.

Radical Sabbatical Residency 2016

Research and Cultural Collections (RCC) are seeking expressions of interest from academics who would like to collaborate with artists in a new residency scheme called Radical Sabbatical.

RCC are interested in how artists and academics can explore each other's research and consider how it is produced and conveyed.

The aim is to pair practitioners with academics, enabling an in-depth understanding of specific fields of research and practice. The initial residencies will take place during the Spring Term 2016, although can be flexible to accommodate the commitments of both parties. The four themes for the residencies are as follows:

- Desert/forest
- Energy
- Conflict and cooperation
- Space and confinement

Radical Sabbatical

There are two events to introduce key research themes:

Wednesday 21 October, 2.00–4.00pm,

Eastside Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham City Centre

Presentations by academics researching Energy and Conflict and Cooperation

Wednesday 28 October, 2.00–4.00pm,

Eastside Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham City Centre

Presentations by academics researching Desert/Forest and Space and Confinement

If you would like to take part in this pilot scheme and feel that your research relates to one of the themes above, please contact Clare Mullett, University Curator at c.r.mullett@bham.ac.uk by Friday 9 October.

BUAFTA nominations now open!

The BUAFTAs (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) are organised every year by University staff to recognise and celebrate the achievements of professional services colleagues who have gone the extra mile and contributed significantly to the success of the institution. You can nominate any administrative, technical, academic-related, support staff or a team for an award. Nominations close on Wednesday 28 October.

For more information and to nominate please visit: <http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/BUAFTAS>



Monthly Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market, in the beautiful surroundings of the University's campus, offers staff the opportunity to browse a range of stalls offering locally sourced, fairly priced and environmentally friendly produce from top quality organic goods to seasonal fare. All markets take place in University Square, 10.00am–3.00pm, on the fourth Wednesday of every month, with the exception of the Christmas market in December.

Forthcoming market days:
28 October, 25 November
and 2 December 2015.



The South African rugby team

were hosted by the University in the run up to their World Cup game with Samoa at Villa Park in September. The Springboks made use of the University's sports facilities and hospitality. They were spotted training on the pitches by the Edgbaston campus' South Gate.

Geneva Summit: 30th Anniversary Conference

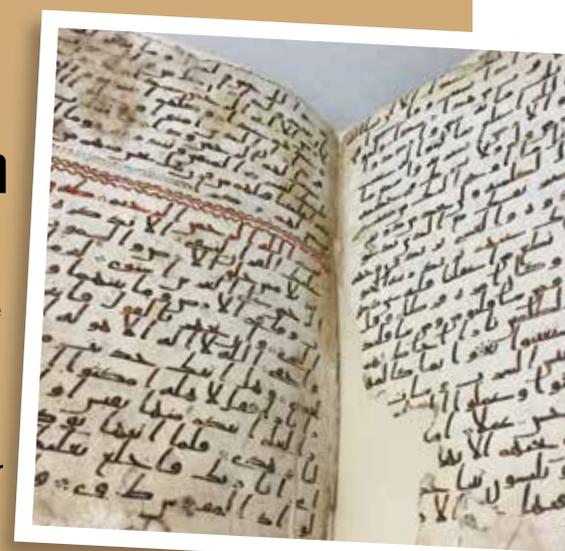
The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) will be holding a conference on 19 November 2015 at the University to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Geneva Summit between Reagan and Gorbachev. Confirmed speakers include Sir Rodric Braithwaite, former British Ambassador to the Soviet Union and Russia, and Jack Matlock, former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Details of the conference will be available on the ICCS website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/iccs

Birmingham Qur'an Exhibition

A Qur'an manuscript held by the University has been placed among the oldest in the world thanks to modern scientific methods. Radiocarbon analysis has dated the parchment on which the text is written to the period between 568 and 645 CE with 95.4 per cent accuracy.

The Qur'an manuscript is currently on public display in the Bramall Music Building until Sunday 25 October. Tickets must be ordered in advance to gain admittance.



Further information can be found at: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/quran-manuscript/index.aspx>

We are UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR for Graduate Employment!

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOOD
UNIVERSITY
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2016

UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
FOR GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT

The University was recognised in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016* for its provision of high-quality and groundbreaking employability service for its students. This comes just two years after being named University of the Year.

Contrary to the experience of many universities during the recession, graduate employability at Birmingham has seen a year-on-year rise to 86.7 per cent in 2013–14. This success is due to a number of factors but there are several initiatives that the University has undertaken that have made a significant impact.

The University's **College Employability Teams**, which are unique to the UK higher education sector, provide a bespoke, localised employability service for each of the five colleges. This approach ensures students are able to access contextualised careers advice.

The **Student Engagement Team** (SET) is part of the University's innovative solution to the delivery of employability. For more than ten years the Careers Service has employed PhD students to deliver CV clinics. This has now evolved to become

the SET, which now numbers 35 undergraduates and postgraduates, co-creating and supporting the delivery of a diverse programme, including social media enquiries, advice sessions and employer engagement.

Employers play a key role in the employability agenda, working alongside University departments to embed entrepreneurial behaviour and activities within the curriculum. **Engagement with employers** provides skills development and employability awareness to students. For example the CareersLab, a spring recruitment fair, is aimed at primarily at engineering and life science students. The University also works in partnership with graduate recruiters to develop activities for students such as the Caggemini Community Challenge, which involves first-year students

working with senior Caggemini consultants to meet tasks set by regional charities. This allows students to develop their enterprising skills and Caggemini to identify future talent.

Students are able to access a diverse range of **extra-curricular** internships and **work experience placements**, which are accompanied by a suite of financial

'I would like to thank everyone involved for their individual and combined contributions that have led to this accomplishment. This remarkable success is the result of the University's development of innovative solutions in employability services over the past eight years.'

Professor Sir David Eastwood,
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

348 UNDERGRADUATES
AND POSTGRADUATES
EMPLOYED IN THE SET

More than
5,400 VACANCIES
ADVERTISED
to undergraduates and graduates

The University of the Year for Graduate Employment logo can be used across internal and external print and digital communications and we have produced a range of tools and templates that you can download to share the good news. <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/UoY/UniversityofYear2015.aspx>

'This award is a huge honour and a wonderful recognition of both the commitment made to employability by the University itself and the efforts of so many colleagues across the University and among our many external partners. Central to this are my colleagues in Careers Network whose dedication, creativity and sheer passion for their work never fails to amaze me. It is also entirely dependent on active student engagement and the role played by Birmingham's students in the co-development and delivery of their own employability agenda must be recognised as being at the very heart of our success.'

Eluned Jones, Director of Student Employability

bursaries to make sure such opportunities are fully accessible to all. Internships are offered around the globe and have recently included roles at the British Consulate in Chicago, Museum Victoria in Melbourne and Guangzhou Municipal Council. Closer to home roles were created at Sony, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The University has also built a range of **mentoring programmes** that not only enhances the employability of students but maintains strong and sustainable relationships with alumni. The distinctive programmes contain the themes LGBT, start-up businesses and local business community. The Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme (ALMP) involves some of the University's most successful alumni mentoring final year students one-to-one. Alumni currently taking part include Cilla Snowball CBE, Group Chairman and Group Chief Executive of communications agency AMV BBDO, and Alan Davey, Controller of BBC Radio 3.

Throughout the curriculum the University aims to prepare students for entry into the workplace, self-employment or academia by enabling them to take control and motivate an entrepreneurial mind-set. The University also supports independent student-led activities outside of the curriculum and actively encourages **entrepreneurship**.

Support is provided to students at each stage of their **postgraduate journey** from undergraduate to postgraduate, during their course and into employment. This integrated approach is co-delivered by Careers Network and the Business School's Careers in Business team, with additional partners across campus.

The **Personal Skills Award (PSA)** was created more than a decade ago and is the institution's employability award. The multi-faceted programme is designed to meet different student needs including extra-curricular activities, taught modules and short online skills tests.

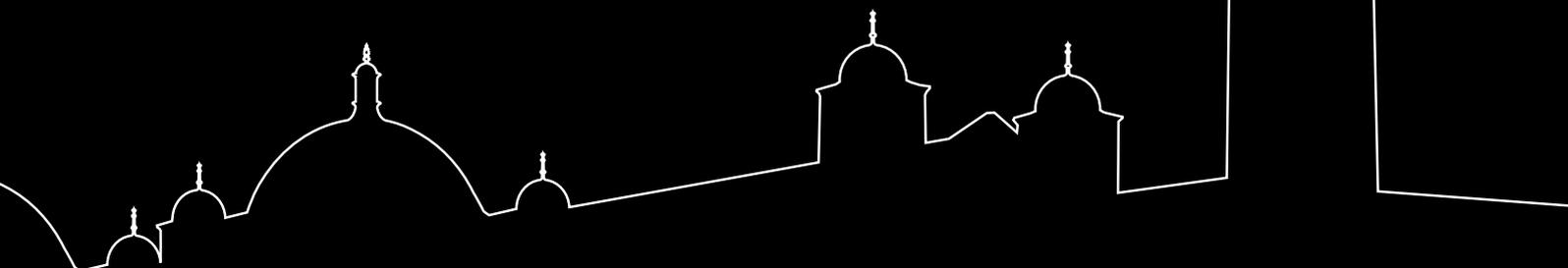
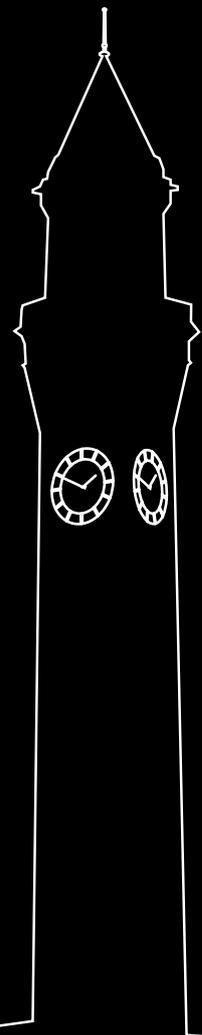
All of this provision is rigorously evaluated to assess each activity and reflect upon its impact. This ensure that employability is not seen as 'business as usual' but instead adjusts and adapts to the changes in student demographics, the labour market and evolving employer requirements.

'We are absolutely delighted to have received this award for our successful Employability Strategy, which has set the sector benchmark for innovative graduate employability provision. This award also recognises Birmingham's vision in making a multi-million pound investment in this vital area of student support.'

Professor Jeff Bale, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education

2,000
STUDENTS
A YEAR
PARTICIPATE
IN THE PSA

1,600
BESPOKE
INTERN
OPPORTUNITIES
CREATED FOR STUDENTS
IN 2014-15



A VISION FOR LIFE SCIENCES

What are life sciences?

Life sciences are broadly defined as the study of living organisms including micro-organisms, plants, animals and humans.

The University has internationally competitive research groups in all of these areas, however, consistent with the government's Life Sciences Strategy which champions research, innovation and technology to transform health care, our institutional Life Sciences Strategy focuses on areas relevant to human health, including clinical and biomedical sciences, and human biology. The University is embracing an exciting opportunity to further strengthen its global position as an outstanding, distinctive centre for life sciences research and education.

Life sciences activity at Birmingham is vast, addressing big issues such as cancer, ageing, brain function, chronic and rare diseases, trauma and antibiotic resistance, as well as helping us understand the role of the environment, exercise, and nutrition in maintaining health. The University's Life Sciences Strategy, approved by the University Executive Board earlier this year, consolidates and builds on our life sciences research and teaching across the whole campus. It will share resources, increase academic collaborations and improve education delivery. This will ensure that we react rapidly to develop solutions to global health challenges, as well as delivering world leading education to the next generation of health professionals and scientists.



'Our outstanding facilities and partnership working, combined with multi-disciplinary academic excellence across the University, and a diverse regional population of over 5 million, make Birmingham one of the few global cities equipped to deliver the full circle of translational medicine.'

Professor Myra Nimmo, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Life and Environmental Sciences



Working together to deliver excellence

The University sits at the heart of the city and region's life sciences agenda and has formed Birmingham Health Partners (BHP), a strategic alliance with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. BHP coordinates the delivery of translational research through which discoveries are taken from the laboratory to the clinic to improve patient care and well-being. BHP has led the creation of the £24 million Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM), opening later this year, funded by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with matched funding from BHP. The ITM will use pioneering science to transform the delivery of health care and drive the local economy. The University is also working with Birmingham City Council on the Life Sciences Campus development at Battery Park in nearby Selly Oak, bringing together research facilities and industry to forge strong academic-business collaboration in the region.

'Our Life Sciences Strategy will not only enable us to further strengthen our global research position, but also, through the delivery of excellence and innovation in education, equip students with the knowledge and skills to become outstanding biomedical and healthcare professionals of the future.'

Professor David Adams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Medical and Dental Sciences

A vision for the future

The UK life sciences sector represents a significant proportion of UK business with around 4,500 pharmaceutical, medical biotechnology and medical technology companies in the UK, employing 165,000 staff, with an annual turnover of over £50 billion. The University's Life Sciences Strategy is instrumental in delivering the region's vision of Birmingham as a powerhouse for the life sciences sector. This will make the city one of the leading national contributors to the successful delivery of the government's vision for UK life sciences to improve health care, contribute to economic growth, and make the UK the best place for investment in life sciences research.

Over the next 12 months, there will be a series of events and engagement activities taking place to share developments and progress towards achieving our vision for life sciences at Birmingham.



For further information on the Strategy visit:
<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/mds/life-sciences/>

Celebrating Success 2015



An organisation's success is determined by the quality of its people; at Birmingham the quality of our people has led us from strength to strength.

Colleagues here at the University are

experts in their fields, professionals of rare skills, highly dedicated, and consistently deliver above and beyond.

We celebrate the achievements of our staff through internal awards such as the Birmingham

University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTAs), HAS OSCARS, Founders' Awards and Outstanding Teaching Awards. Now, though, a remarkable number of external organisations are recognising the quality of our people and their work. This special supplement to *Buzz* seeks to highlight the external recognition received by staff during the last academic year.

There is a great sense of pride in the impressive list of accolades presented to staff, covering everything from supporting students, promoting equality and improving sustainability, to outstanding research and innovation in teaching.

I would like to thank all my colleagues for your continued commitment and offer my renewed congratulations to colleagues that have been recognised for their work. I look forward to celebrating another successful year, which I am sure will bring many more triumphs.

Indeed as we start the new academic year it was announced that we are *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year for Graduate Employment 2016. This outstanding achievement is the culmination of hard work by teams across the institution to ensure we deliver employability to the highest standard.

**Vice-Chancellor
Professor Sir David Eastwood**



Twin Peak

Several staff at the University have been recognised with more than one award during the last academic year.

- **Professor Simon Halsey**, Professor and Director of Choral Activities was awarded a CBE for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honours and the Queen's Medal for Music 2014.
- **Carl Hingley**, Senior Automotive Technician in the School of Mechanical Engineering received a British Empire Medal for services to higher education, STEM education and the automotive industry. He was also awarded the Papin Prize for Facility and Equipment Management at the Higher Education Technicians Summit.
- **Dr Jackson Kirkman-Brown** is a Reader in Human Reproductive Science and Science Lead at Birmingham Women's Fertility Centre. This year he was appointed NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) Senior Clinical Scientist and Reader in Reproductive Biology. Dr Kirkman-Brown was also selected to be the Honorary Civilian Consultant Advisor in Andrology to the Army, on behalf of the Chief of the General Staff and the Army Board, with approval from her Majesty the Queen.



- **Professor Catherine Staite**, Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV), was appointed Research Facilitator for Local Government, part of a collaboration between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Local Government Association and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). She has also been recognised in the *Local Government Chronicle's* top 100 most powerful people in the world of local government.



- **Professor Kiran Trehan**, Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME) at Birmingham Business School, was awarded the 2015 Best in Education prize at the British Indian Awards. She also won Employee of the Year at the Birmingham Venus Awards, also known as the Working Women's Oscars.



- **Dr Aga Gambus**, a Birmingham Fellow in the School of Cancer Sciences, became a Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine Prize Fellows 2015 and won the British Association for Cancer Research (BACR) AstraZeneca Young Scientist Frank Rose Award for 2015.



Honours

The Queen's Birthday Honours saw a remarkable four colleagues recognised for their services to higher education or achievements within their academic discipline. In addition to Professor Simon Halsey and Carl Hingley two academics were honoured.

- **Professor David Parker**, Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology and Director of the Institute for the Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, received an OBE for services to higher education.

- **Dr Clare Taylor**, General Practitioner and NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow, has been awarded an MBE for services to general practice.



Encouraging Equality and Diversity

These awards recognise the University's commitment to promoting fairness and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed, whatever their background or identity.

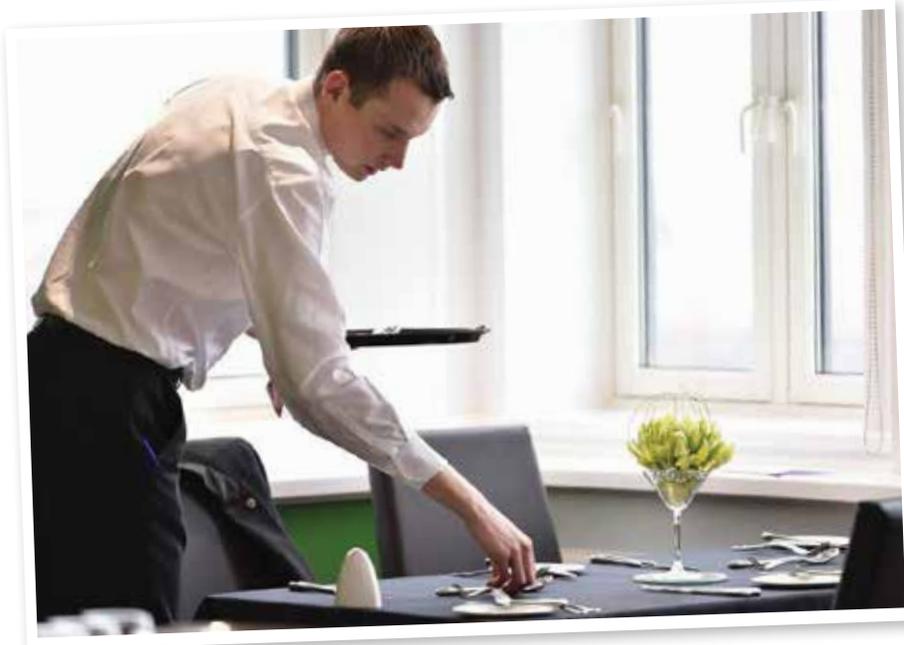
- **Human Resources** – HR Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion
- **University of Birmingham** – Top 100 Employer in the Stonewall Survey
- **School of Mechanical Engineering** – Athena Swan Bronze Award
- **School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences** – Athena Swan Bronze Award



Silver Service

Support staff play a valued role at the University and contribute enormously to its success. Colleagues in Hospitality and Accommodation Services were acknowledged at The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) Annual Skills Competition.

- **Natasha Vahey** – Gold in Bar Skills
- **Adam Finney** – Silver in Food Service
- **Stewart Turner and Michael Kitchin** – Bronze in the Chefs Challenge



Student *Support*

The student experience is at the heart of the institution; offering students access to the highest standards of teaching, careers support and facilities.

- **Careers Network and Birmingham Business School's Careers in Business Team** – Best Careers and Employability at the Prospects Postgraduate Awards
- National Association of Student Employment Services' (NASES) National Student Employee of the Year Awards:
 - **Rachel Grosvenor, Worklink** – Winner, Job Shop Award
 - **Andy Ferguson, Nicola Dutton and Debbie Jenkinson, IT Services (Service Desk)** – Highly Commended, Student Employer of the year



- **Richard Thomas, Alice Church and Nihar Majmudar, IT Services (Quality)** – Highly Commended, Step Up to Leadership

Sustainable *Campus*

Throughout the institution staff are striving towards developing and maintaining a green campus that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

- **Transport Services** – Highly Commended, Small Fleet, Fleet News Awards
- **Transport Services** – Public Sector Fleet of the Year for a Small to Medium Fleet, National Green Fleet Awards
- **University of Birmingham** – Birmingham Connected Sustainable Travel Award, Making Birmingham Greener and Healthier Awards
- **Monica Guise** – Highly Commended, Public Fleet Manager of the Year, Green Fleet Awards

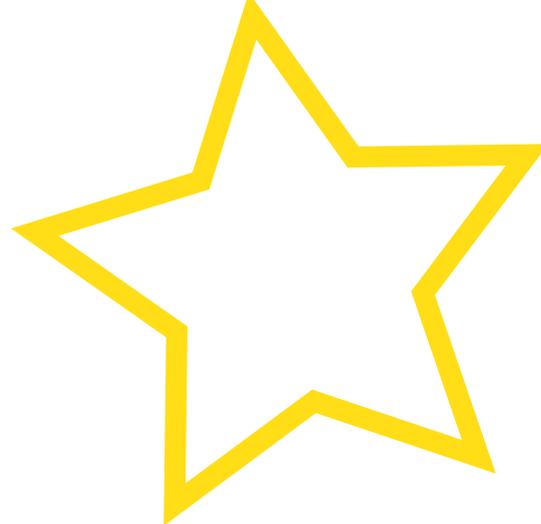
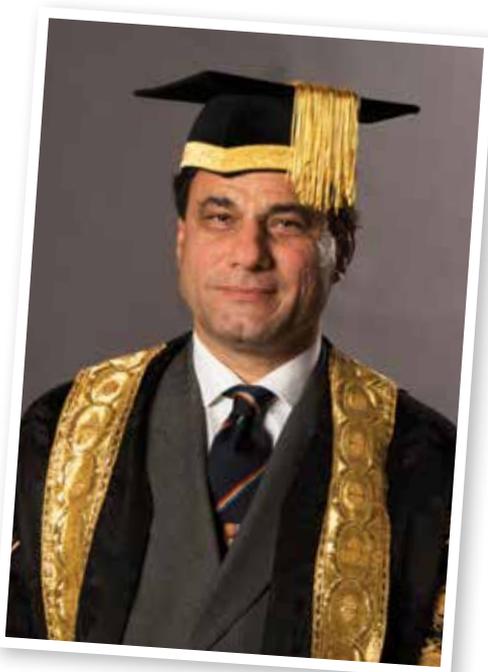


Shared *Expertise*

The quality of staff at the University can often lead to requests for their expertise to be shared and utilised by other high-profile organisations such as government departments and charities.

- **Professor Pamela Kearns**, School of Cancer Sciences, became a Senior Clinical Advisor to Cancer Research UK (CRUK).
- **Professor Timothy Dafforn**, School of Biosciences, was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).





Leading the way

The University's Chancellor, Lord Bilimoria, was announced as the International Indian of the Year and President of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA).

Fine Fellows

Academics from the University have been conferred fellowships and elected to a number of distinguished and prestigious scholarly societies.

- **Professor Yvonne Elsworth** – Elected to the Royal Society
- **Dr June Jones** – National Teaching Fellowship, from the Higher Education Academy (HEA)
- **Professor Janet Lord** – elected to the Academy of Medical Sciences
- **Professor Hilary Sommerlad** – Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences
- **Dr Christine Szwed** – National Teaching Fellowship, from the Higher Education Academy
- **Professor Bryan Turner** – Elected to the Royal Society

Our success continues...



Buzz is please to highlight accolades received by staff across the University that have been recognised for their hard work and dedication.

- **BizzInn** – Midland Business Awards, Midlands Enterprising University of the Year
- **College of Arts & Law Professional Services** – Outstanding Departmental Administration Team, Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards (THELMA)
- **School of Civil Engineering** – Project Award from the Institution of Civil Engineers
- **University of Birmingham** – Best Website 2014 for Career & Education category, MetrixLab Website of the Year
- **University of Birmingham** – Midlands Enterprise University of the Year, Midlands Business Awards
- **venuebirmingham** – Best Print Advertising, Meetings Industry Marketing awards
- **Dr Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay** – Duncan Black Prize 2014, Public Choice Society
- **Professor John Child** – Richard Whipp Lifetime Achievement Award, British Academy of Management
- **Professor Andy Clark** – Appointed to MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board
- **Dr Paul Davies** – Elected Member of Royal Society of Chemistry: Organic Division
- **Dr David Grainger** – Colworth Medal, Biochemical Society Awards
- **Professor Mike Hannon** – Elected President Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry
- **Professor Susan Hunston** – Chair of the University Council of General and Applied Linguistics
- **Professor Mark Kilby** – International Arnaldo Bruno Prize 2015 for Gynaecology, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- **Dr Anne-Marie Krachler** – Biological Systems Early Career Research Award, Biochemical Society Awards
- **Dr Maggie Kubanyiova** – Highly Commended English Language Book Award, English-Speaking Union
- **Daniela Kühn & Deryk Osthus** – Whitehead Prize by the London Mathematical Society
- **Dr Will Leggett** – Best Article 2014 Prize, Journal Policy & Politics
- **Professor Jane McKeating** – Hans Fischer Senior Fellowship
- **Dr Kostas Nikolopoulos** – Appointed UK ATLAS Physics Coordinator
- **Professor Erika Rackley** – Phillip Leverhulme Prize, The Leverhulme Trust
- **Dr Nicola Rollock** – 2015 Woman of Achievement, Women of the Year Council
- **Dr Lucie Ryzova** – Gladstone History Book Prize (joint winner), Royal Historical Society
- **Professor Janice L Thompson** – Citation Award, American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)
- **Dr Anne F Van Loon** – Editor's Choice Award, Water Resources Research



COMMUNITY DAY

is a Roaring Success!



Members of the public from the local area once again descended on campus for the sixth annual Community Day and enjoyed hundreds of free events and activities. From Shakespeare performances to exploding volcanoes, Community Day showcased the pioneering research undertaken by academics at the University in a fun and accessible way.

Highlights included a packed lecture theatre for Stefan Gates, star of CBBC's *Incredible Eats*, who returned for the second year running with *Gastronaut Live!*

a show looking at the science behind the food we eat. Narinder Dhama, author of *Bend It Like Beckham*, held an arts workshop and read from her new book, children's thriller *Thirteen Hours*.

CircusMASH were on hand to provide a spectacular display of dizzying delight with aerial performances and circus workshops. Plus, a Haka dance troupe taught visitors how to channel their inner Maori warrior.

But the star of the show was a life-sized animatronic T-Rex, which drew a crowd of young intrepid explorers wherever it appeared. The dinosaur was part of the

promotion for the ongoing redevelopment of the Lapworth Museum of Geology.

The Lapworth redevelopment is one of the projects funded via the Circles of Influence campaign, which saw the University raise over £193 million to support campus redevelopments, student scholarships and groundbreaking research. To highlight these contributions, Community Day visitors embarked on the Circles of Influence Thank You Trail to discover how generous donations have transformed the University's campus.



transforming OUR campus

The students
are making
history as they
step through
the doors...

Historic day as classes start at pioneering school

The very first pupils to be taught at the pioneering University of Birmingham School began classes in September as term started for Year 7 and lower sixth formers.

The School, the first 11–18 university training school in the country, is housed in a purpose-built facility on the University's Selly Oak campus and draws its pupils from across the city. It is academically non-selective for pupils aged 11–16.

On a bright Thursday morning, 150 Year 7 students from Selly Oak, Hall Green, Small Heath and Ladywood entered their brand new building, alongside 200 sixth formers, to begin their secondary education.

The School's vision is to create a diverse learning community that reflects the city of Birmingham and transforms the lives of its pupils by raising aspirations. Pupils will benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including access to facilities, expertise and research at the University itself. The School will grow to its full capacity of 1,150 pupils by 2020.

As the first secondary university training school in the country, the University of Birmingham School will be a centre for initial and on-going teacher education, and training and research into improving educational practice. The curriculum will be informed by the latest research via links with the academic departments, the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and the School of Education at the University.

Principal Michael Roden said: *'After all of the hard work behind the scenes, the day we have all been waiting for is finally here. We could not be more excited to welcome our first two year groups of University of Birmingham School pupils. These students are making history as they step through the doors, and we hope they will take full advantage of the wonderful opportunities this School will provide and go on to fulfil their individual*

potential, becoming people of well-rounded character, flourishing and engaged citizens as well as attaining the highest possible outcomes. We are looking forward immensely now to getting started and seeing what the future holds for our young people.'



Hub welcomes first students through its doors

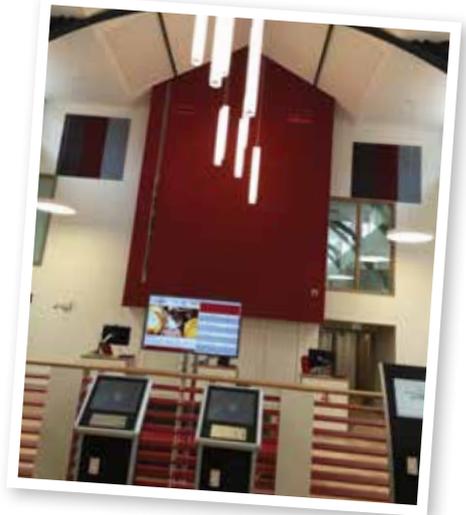
Work is now almost complete on the renovation of the interior of an entire block of the Grade II listed Aston Webb Building. The wing has been remodelled to house a number of student-facing teams that are currently scattered across campus.

Opening to students this autumn, the new Aston Webb Student Hub includes facilities for Careers Network, Student Services and Registry, as well as a reception, information zone and a suite of one-to-one consultation rooms. The renovated C Block will also include mixed social and learning spaces and a 250-seat lecture theatre.

During the renovation, the interior was stripped back to reveal some of the magnificent features of the building, which have been incorporated into this very modern 21st-century student space.

Students will be able to access modern support facilities for a wide range of services and enquiries, staffed by colleagues dedicated to promoting student success, in a stunning space renovated to meet the present and future needs of the University community.

The Student Hub opened with all services available to students on Monday 5 October.



Campus gets in a flap

The University had two very special visitors residing on campus over the summer, who proved extremely popular with students, staff and visitors. The pair of Big Hoot owls – Hootankhamun and the Bone Ranger – posed for plenty of selfies during their ten-week stay at the University.

The University sponsored the two owls that formed part of a trail to encourage people to become tourists in their own

city and raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital – one of the University's strategic partners within Birmingham Health Partners.

Hundreds of people stopped by to take a snap with the owls on Community Day and the University's Open Day, and they welcomed students back to campus before flying off to be auctioned in late September.



Green heart first look!

The first glimpse of how the striking new parkland in the centre of campus could look has been revealed.

The image, by Churchman Landscape Architects who have been chosen to design the space, depicts our historic campus from North Gate, showing the view towards Old Joe.

Measuring 365 metres x 135 metres, the Green Heart project will open up the centre of campus for students, staff and the local community to enjoy. It will provide a space for performances, socialising, meeting and working, while opening up views across the whole

campus, as Sir Aston Webb envisaged when designing the original campus.

The space will also enhance the setting of those buildings that border the Green Heart, including our new library under construction on the western edge of University Square. It will open up new pedestrian and cycle routes, allowing students, staff and visitors to the campus to move between different areas with ease.

When the new library is complete, the existing library, which was built in the late 1950s, will be demolished. Detailed studies carried out on the



existing library before a new building was decided upon showed it was not feasible to refurbish the existing library to the standards required to give students and researchers the 21st-century facility they need.

The new library is scheduled to be completed in summer 2016, with construction of the Green Heart beginning shortly afterwards.



Since its launch three years ago Book to the Future has celebrated the very best of Birmingham's creative talent and this year is no exception with a programme packed full of exciting events guaranteed to inspire would-be writers to pick up their pens.

Featuring workshops, talks, and performances by Birmingham's own staff, students, and alumni, Book to the Future is supported by the College of Arts and Law and venuebirmingham – meaning the events are free to attend!

'Book to the Future motivated me to write my first novel. I attended two talks by Birmingham authors, Andrew Killeen and Katharine D'Souza. Both were incredibly inspiring and offered me practical advice.'

Simon Fairbanks, alumnus and local author

BOOK TO THE FUTURE RETURNS!

The University's annual festival of the written and spoken word returns to campus, 15–17 October.

Book to the Future and BEDSoc Present: The Everyday Sexism Project with Laura Bates
Pre-festival: Monday 12 October, 5.30pm

Everyday Sexism campaigner, author and *Guardian* columnist Laura Bates visits campus to discuss feminist writing and issues and how one negative experience led to an international phenomenon.



How to self-publish and market your book
Friday 16 October, 6.00pm

Find out how to self-publish and market your book with local authors and alumni Katharine D'Souza and Simon Fairbanks. Simon said: *'There was a time when writers had to compete for literary agents and rare publishing deals but now, thanks to the self-publishing revolution, any writer can sell their work online for profit. It is free, simple and extremely rewarding.'*

Phenomenal Women
Thursday 15 October, 7.00pm

The Phenomenal Women collective brings you an evening of performance poetry. Join the region's top female poets, including Birmingham alumna Jan Watts, Birmingham Poet Laureate 2011/12, as they share their work. Phenomenal Women invites all female writers of any experience to join us in performing their works.

Noël Coward and Transatlantic style
Saturday 17 October, 5.00pm

In media coverage of glamorous lifestyles, the ocean liner was emblematic of modernity and cosmopolitanism, but post-war, Noël Coward – a successful playwright, composer, director, actor and singer – had a continued preference for sea rather than air travel; revealing nostalgia for a disappearing world of leisured elegance, and inspiring shipboard romance as a theme in his late works. Birmingham alumna Faye Hammill will discuss ocean travel and transatlantic exchange in Noël Coward's stage and literary career, followed by a special exhibition viewing and drinks reception.

Unravelling the story behind the Birmingham Qur'an
Friday 16 October, 1.10pm

Explore the story behind the Birmingham Qur'an with curator Josefine Frank. Find out how the manuscript, currently on exhibition in the Bramall Music Building, connects the 7th-century Muslim community in the Arabian Peninsula with Birmingham's Quaker community in the 1930s.

Making a living from writing: Narinder Dhami
Friday 16 October, 12.00pm

Best known for her books *Bollywood Babes*, *Bend it Like Beckham*, and *Bang Bang You're Dead*, Narinder Dhami – alumna and children's author – is returning to campus to give you her best tips for making a living from your passion.



Events take place on Edgbaston campus. For more information please visit:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/bttf

Book to the Future Presents: SJ Watson
Saturday 17 October, 5.00pm

Award-winning author and alumnus SJ Watson returns to campus to discuss the phenomenal international success of his first novel *Before I Go to Sleep* and sensational psychological thriller *Second Life*, with BBC Radio 4's *Women's Hour* presenter and fellow alumnus Jane Garvey.



Celebrating the past Promoting the present Building for the future

Raoul Cole (c.1934), Musicians in Procession, 1960, Oil on hardboard, University of Birmingham Research and Cultural Collections

The University will again be celebrating the culture and histories of black and minority ethnic communities with a comprehensive programme of events throughout October to mark Black History Month.

Sophia Tarr, Events Programme Manager for Hospitality and Accommodation Services, who has programmed this year's events:

'I am really excited about the diverse programme this year that has resulted from working with a wide range of organisations, artists and academics. The activities will engage staff, students and members of the community to come together on campus and enjoy the wonderful cultural assets on offer.'

Professor Una Martin, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equalities:

'I am delighted that the University has brought together such a comprehensive programme of events for Black History Month 2015. Commemorating history months is one of the ways that we recognise and celebrate the contribution and histories of all members of our community.'

Please note some events require advance booking. Throughout the month there will also be live music in the Bramall Music Building and a themed global menu available at Staff House and University Centre on selected days.

Further information:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth



Celebrating the works of Maya Angelou

October 2015
iLounge, Main Library

An exhibition of Maya Angelou's autobiographical works and poetry, culminating with a presentation on Thursday 15 October (6.30-7.45pm) of 'Maya: A Celebrated Life' by Beverly Maynard, exploring Maya's life as a singer, dancer, recording artist, political activist, poet, writer and educator.

Crossing Boundaries: video installation

Thursday 8, 15 and 22 October,
5.30-8.00pm, Watson Building

This video installation, created by Birmingham-based artist Katherine Hannaford, explores cultural diversity at the University. The looping video will be projected onto the outside of the building.

From racism to Islamophobia and beyond: the changing face of discrimination

Friday 16 October 5.30-6.30pm
Danford Room, 2nd Floor,
Arts Building

Dr Chris Allen, School of Social Policy, explores the changing face of discrimination in Britain over the past 50 years, from notions of 'race' and 'colour' in the wake of post-war mass migration, to the present day focus on 'religion' and the emergence of discourses about 'illegal immigrants' and 'British values'.

Shared Histories: The British Indian Army in World War 1 and 2

Friday 23 and 30 October 5.30-6.30pm
Danford Room, 2nd Floor,
Arts Building

An illustrated talk by Jahan Mahmood of the Balsall Heath Forum on the role of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh soldiers in the World Wars, with original artefacts and exhibits on display.

Vanley Burke: The godfather of black British photography

Thursday 29 October, 6.30-8.30pm
Lecture Theatre, Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Renowned as the 'godfather of black British photography', Birmingham-based Vanley Burke is also a dedicated archivist and collector of objects relating to black culture in Britain. In this illustrated talk Vanley and the Ikon Gallery's Head of Learning, Simon Taylor, explore his career and the Ikon's recent exhibition of Vanley's archive, the 'cabinet of wonderful curiosities' to be found in his flat in Nechells.

Paul Robeson One Man Show - World Tour

Friday 30 October, 7.30pm
Elgar Concert Hall,
Bramall Music Building

Stogie Kenyatta performs this powerful, poignant, entertaining, heartfelt and humorous one man Broadway show celebrating the life of Paul Robeson.

instameet

Have you ever wished you could explore this beautiful campus taking your time, discovering hidden details that are lost in the hustle and bustle of the working day?

That is exactly what colleagues, Annabell Lamba and Beth Astington, thought when they were introduced to the world of Instameets; a photo walk where people gather to learn about a place, take pictures, share them on the popular app Instagram and stop off for some networking at the end, becoming a part of a global community on the way.

Through collaboration with IGersBirmingham – the official Instagramers account for Birmingham – a route was planned around the University's Edgbaston campus encompassing icons such as Chancellor's Court, the Great Hall, Mermaid Square and Muirhead Tower. On a bright, sunny picturesque day in August, 75 people from all walks of life descended onto

campus, smartphones and camera kit poised and ready to go.

Annabell said: *'Instameets teach us all to appreciate the beauty of our surroundings. Having been a student here and now a professional services member of staff it was such a privilege to explore campus in a new way, and share that beauty with friends, colleagues and the community.'*



Instameet Annabell Lamba @annabell017



Fraser McGee @Mcgooogle



Fraser McGee @mcgooogle



Fraser McGee @mcgooogle

View more photographs of campus and the city at: <https://instagram.com/igersbirmingham>.

CAMPUS CURIOSITIES



What is it?

Photograph of the Emir of Abuja, Suleiman Barau, 1930

Where is it?

Research and Cultural Collections Study Centre, 32 Pritchatts Road

This photograph is part of the University's Danford Collection of West African Art and Artefacts, which contains sculpture, art, tools and photographic material.

Suleiman Barau (1903–1979) went to Katsina College, Nigeria to study education and went on to teach from 1927–1931. He was made Emir of Abuja in 1944, making him

the first western-trained Emir in Nigeria. He introduced modern customs whilst putting to rest orthodox ones such as the practice that demanded subjects kneel down and pour dust on themselves to demonstrate their obedience to him.

This photograph was taken by Edward Harland Duckworth; Inspector of Education in Nigeria in 1930 and an editor of *Nigeria Magazine*. Duckworth bequeathed his collection to the University in 1972.

Learn more

<http://rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com>
www.birmingham.ac.uk/rcc



news+views

Our regular feature gives *Buzz* readers a quick tour of the latest University news hitting the headlines and activity among our online community.

in the news...

Many articles about Birmingham research and expertise appear in local, national and international press every day. Here are just a few examples of our recent highlights.

A level results day in August led to a number of mentions for the University in the media including an article in *The Times*. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, was also interviewed for the *World at One* programme on BBC Radio 4, discussing clearing, conditional offers and the removal of the student numbers cap.

Dr Margaret O'Hara and Ms Raquel Fernandez del Rio were interviewed for BBC *Midlands Today* about their new research into how limonene, a naturally occurring compound, could be a biomarker for liver disease.

Dr Zanna Clay was featured on BBC Radio 5 about her research into the similarities between the sounds made by human babies and bonobos, and how this relates to the development of language. She was also interviewed on BBC *World Service*, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio WM and by *the Guardian*, *the Daily Mail*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph* and *The Birmingham Post*, plus a number of international outlets.

Dr Arshad Isakjee, Dr Surindar Dhesi and Dr Thom Davies were featured in an article in the *Birmingham Mail* about the conditions in the refugee camps in Calais. Dr Dhesi was also interviewed by BBC Radio WM about conducting the first public health investigations of the Calais migrant camps.

During the Labour leadership election Professor Tony Yates spoke to the *Financial Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph* about Jeremy Corbyn's key economic policies. Professor Yates was also interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live's *Breakfast* discussing the fall in the UK stock market and the impact the Greek election will have on the economy both in Greece and the UK.

Ahead of the decision on whether to award the 2022 Winter Olympics to China or Kazakhstan, a new paper by Dr Martin Müller looking at the costs and legacy of last year's Games in Sochi, Russia, received coverage in the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror* and *International Business Times*.



feeling social...

There was a buzz on Twitter during confirmation and clearing this year...

On A level results day the Digital Team sent out celebratory graphics via Twitter using the hashtag #HelloBrum to students that had gained a place at the University. The graphics were widely shared and commented on, and there were even students asking to be sent theirs in anticipation!

The Digital Team also interacted with those tweeting the University and saw the #HelloBrum hashtag trend during the day. The campaign also made the local press with the article: How new University of Birmingham students celebrated on social media, published in the *Birmingham Mail*.

Professor Bob Stone was featured on BBC Radio 4's *PM Programme* on using virtual reality scenarios to help patients in intensive care and relieve pain in burns patients.

Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham.

If you use social media

at work and would like to increase your visibility, find out more at:

<http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines>

If you would like to work with the press office, or find out more about how they can help you promote your research, email pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 6029

Michael Roden... in my own words



Michael Roden is Principal of the new University of Birmingham School.

I spent my formative years in South Yorkshire, where my own extremely positive experience of school influenced my decision to become a teacher. At Swinton Comprehensive School I was fortunate to have been given many opportunities to take part in a wide variety of sports, school productions and a number of geographical and geological field trips. Looking back I had a wonderful time, supported by fantastic teachers dedicated to their profession.

I studied Geography at the University of Manchester, but teaching was always my plan and after my PGCE I moved to Birmingham in 1982 and began my career. With the exception of a brief spell in Bristol, I have spent some 26 years teaching in the city. I have been extremely fortunate to have been able to indulge my passion for geography and rugby which has seen me travel throughout the country on geography field trips and across the globe on rugby tours.

I like to keep fit so I try to attend my gym regularly so that I can continue my rugby coaching and refereeing. I also enjoy playing golf but on many occasions this is more like enjoying a gentle walk searching for balls...

Along with a small team I began work on the University of Birmingham School project in April 2014, more than a year before the School opened its doors. This time has been invaluable; allowing the talented and dedicated small team I was able to assemble to develop effective relationships across the University and the education plan for the school.

The University community in general, the senior leadership team and colleagues in the School of Education specifically, have been hugely supportive. Not only has the University invested significantly in the building but they have also provided the funding necessary to allow us to develop a distinctive approach that has made us the most popular comprehensive school in the city before we even opened. Beyond the formal connection, the exposure to world-class resources at the University from professional services to academic expertise means that we recognise how incredibly privileged we are. We will, therefore,

be doing everything we can to ensure as many pupils and teachers in the city benefit from the resources available to us.

Working with the University's Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, we have an extended school day with a bespoke programme of character education. Character education is delivered each morning through our Personal Learning and Development programme, it is integrated into all schemes of learning subjects and we hope the pupils, and the staff, will benefit enormously from the five hours each week for enrichment activities. I want all pupils, regardless of their background, to experience and benefit from life enhancing opportunities.

The new purpose-built building is well-equipped for co-curricular with facilities such as a flood-lit pitch, a sprung floor hall for dance, an activity studio and a drama studio. We also hope to be able to access the University's facilities to enhance further our educational provision.

As the only secondary university training school I am looking forward to working closely with the outstanding School of Education at the University to develop research-informed practice, host local and national conferences, and help further improve the quality of teacher education and training in the region.

As a new start-up organisation the first few weeks and months will be tough as we develop our own procedures and routines in what is an impressive working environment. We are an aspirational learning community determined to make a difference to the lives of our pupils and their families. I have been fortunate to have recruited from a huge field of applicants a well-qualified, talented and committed team, including several Birmingham alumni, who share our ethos that education can transform lives. It did mine and now I want us to do the same for the children of this great city.

The University of Birmingham School is one that aims to build upon the civic mission of Joseph Chamberlain, to advance education for all.]