



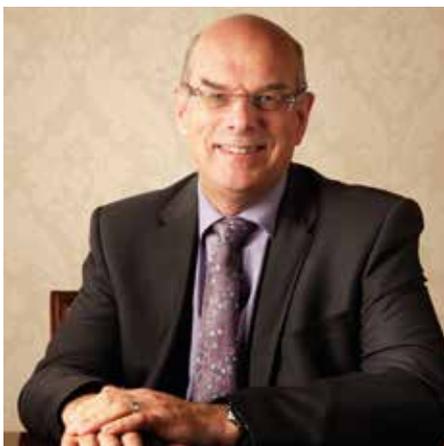
June/July 2017



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

# Gardeners' World

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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### Your details

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Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

Front cover image: University of Birmingham Grounds Maintenance Staff

In just two days in May, on 22 and 23, three remarkable things happened in the life of our University.

We announced the establishment of the University of Birmingham Dubai, we announced the collaboration between Birmingham and Jinan University, which will see us delivering Mathematics programmes in Jinan, and at 6.00am on that Monday, hardy souls were already swimming in the new University Sports Centre.

All of these developments will transform the University, all of these developments speak to our remarkable ambition and willingness to innovate, and all of these developments were brought to fruition over a long period of time by meticulous and inspired planning and execution.

The University of Birmingham Dubai is a bold adventure that will see us establishing a full campus in Dubai, which, by 2024, will be teaching some 4,500 students through a combination of locally resident and flying faculty.

This is not a 'branch campus' in the conventional sense, but an equal campus of the University of Birmingham which will share our excellence, our quality assurance, our commitment to our students, and our values. Moreover, unlike typical 'branch campuses', it will be a place of research as well as a place of teaching.

We embarked on establishing our University of Birmingham Dubai campus because we are – and aspire to thrive as – a global university. Over the next generation global universities will be defined, to a significant measure, by their global footprint. It is not the first example of our delivering programmes overseas, indeed our collaboration with the Singapore Institute of Management recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Nevertheless, University of Birmingham Dubai speaks of an enhanced international vision and our ambition to be a global leader.

This is nicely paralleled by the Jinan collaboration. Since 2011 we have been accelerating and expanding our partnerships in China. We now have deep and extensive links with a dozen Chinese universities, and beyond our partnership with the

Guangzhou Municipal Government we also have formal agreements with major companies and very extensive public health partnerships. What will be different with the Jinan partnership is that we will be delivering a University of Birmingham programme in China to undergraduates. We will have our own physical presence on the Jinan campus, and our colleagues in Mathematics will make a signature contribution to transnational education.

These global developments do not compete with but complement developments here on our Birmingham campus. The latest of these is the new University Sports Centre. We have all seen this remarkable building taking shape on the corner of the Bristol and Edgbaston Park Roads over the last couple of years. It is the largest, and we believe the best, sports centre in any UK university. It stands on the edge of our campus because it offers facilities to the community as well as to the University.

The next generation of elite athletes from our University will share the facility with fellow students, staff, colleagues, children from local schools, members of the community, and sports clubs from the city. In so doing it speaks to our unflinching commitment to provide the best possible facilities to our students and highlights the pivotal role we play in enriching lives in, and the fabric of, our city.

None of this would have been possible without the vision, professionalism and huge commitment of so many that work in the University; none of this would have been possible if we were not bold in striving to enhance still further the reputation and reach of our University; and none of this would have happened without a bold and animating confidence that the University of Birmingham can do more and can do better than other universities.

*Vice-Chancellor,  
 Professor Sir David Eastwood*

# MAKE IMPORTANT THINGS HAPPEN WITH A FULBRIGHT AWARD



**Erik Luna**, Amelia D. Lewis Professor of Constitutional & Criminal Law at Arizona State University

*'The Fulbright-University of Birmingham Distinguished Chair Award has been an ideal vehicle for my academic pursuits, given the University of Birmingham's emphasis on interdisciplinary and international research.'*

## Develop your research connections with the US

As one of the top 100 academic institutions in the world, we have a long tradition of forging deep collaborative research connections across the globe, but particularly with the United States. As two of the top higher education systems, the UK and the US are natural partners, and joint research remains incredibly important.

We work hard to develop meaningful relationships with the US through many different ways, and one of these is our participation with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

## What is the US-UK Fulbright Commission?

Created by treaty on 22 September 1948, the Fulbright Commission fosters mutual cultural understanding through educational exchange between the two nations. Since its conception, the programme now boasts eminent alumni amongst heads of state and government, members of the US Congress as well as Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners.

A range of Fulbright Awards enable US researchers to apply for a generous secondment to study and work at Birmingham, with access to all the University's research collections, facilities and staff. We offer a Fulbright Postgraduate, Scholar and Distinguished Chair Award.

## Our Fulbright Awards

Our Fulbright awards are aimed at US researchers who wish to collaborate, develop research projects and network with the University of Birmingham.

### UK Postgraduate Award

We award the Fulbright Postgraduate Award to one US graduate student to study for one year at Birmingham, either as part of a programme of study at a US institution or on a one-year programme at Birmingham. Their study may include a one-year Masters or higher research programme (or the first year of a Masters or higher research degree programme, such as a PhD) in any subject at the University of Birmingham. The closing date for applications is usually October.

### Scholar Award

Each year, we offer one award to a US citizen in support of research in any subject, in any of (or a combination of) the University of Birmingham's research-active departments. The appointment will be for a period of three to nine months. The closing date for applications is usually August.

### Distinguished Chair

We are proud to host a Fulbright Distinguished Chair, the most prestigious Fulbright award. This generous six-month secondment enables a prominent US professor to be based at the University of Birmingham, with access to all the University's research collections, and provides an opportunity to undertake research and build links in the UK.

## Develop your research connections with the United States

Whilst US researchers and academics apply directly to the Fulbright Commission, all awardees require a designated host at the University of Birmingham to become eligible. The scheme can be a valuable way for Birmingham staff to build on existing transatlantic research connections, or indeed develop new connections where

there are opportunities for joint research with US researchers and academics.

## Would a Fulbright Awardee support your work?

We would like to encourage staff at Birmingham to consider their US academic connections and advise International Relations of any contacts who may be interested in a Fulbright Award. We would be happy to approach them on behalf of the University to see if they might consider applying to Fulbright.

We are particularly keen to hear from US researchers who may be working in research areas of particular interest to us such as quantum technology, thermal energy storage, rare diseases, race and education and water sciences.

For further information about Fulbright opportunities, please contact our International Relations team who will be happy to advise and support potential applicants. We can facilitate discussions with faculty staff and create links to develop relationships that can support applications.

**Please contact our North America Development lead, Dr Erica Arthur:**  
[e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk](mailto:e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk)

## Bud's Run 2017



A popular charity 5K fun run at the University of Birmingham is celebrating its fourth year with a fresh course, fresh fundraising goals and a big 70th birthday to celebrate. 'Bud's Run' has already raised over £50,000 for Parkinson's UK, and hopes to smash the £70,000 barrier when it's held again on Saturday 21 October 2017.

To enter, and for more information on Bud's Run, please visit: [www.budsrn.co.uk](http://www.budsrn.co.uk)

## Barber Exhibition

The University stars in *I Know But I Don't Know* – an exciting new display at the Barber Institute of new works by recent artist in residence, Matthew Pagett. Matt was commissioned to respond to the subject of University life, inspired by the recent George Bellows exhibition. As a student, Bellows illustrated a campus calendar and yearbooks with scenes from student life, including sports teams. From October, Matt spent time on campus with student and staff communities – including student rugby and netball teams – sampling their professional, academic, sporting and social lives, documenting them with drawings and producing narratives for his own work. The result is a series of 12 calendar 'pages' for the academic year 2017/18, focusing on three imaginary characters – lecturer Karen Lodge, gardener Oliver Lodge, and un-named student X. The works mix manual with digital, text with drawing, and real life with fiction, and are on view until 17 September.

More information about the Barber's exciting summer exhibitions: [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

## ENTERPRISING BIRMINGHAM WINNER ANNOUNCED



Dr Felicity de Cogan, a researcher from the School of Inflammation and Ageing, won the first prize and a £20,000 investment from the University to commercialise an infection control technology.

The biennial Enterprising Birmingham competition, organised by Enterprise & Innovation, challenges the academic community to consider how its research can translate into commercial impact.

All entrants are provided with free training on how to build a commercial development plan and pitch their ideas to external investors and partners.

They also received guidance on additional validation activities that may be required to prove the commercial concepts further.

The Enterprising Birmingham competition culminates with the final

showcase, where the finalists pitch to external investors in front of a live audience, in a Dragons' Den style event.

Three finalists pitched at this year's final, which took place in the University's Bramall Concert Hall in front of an audience of 300 people, who were entertained by two keynote speakers with an intimate connection to the University.

Alumnus and investor Richard Bishop spoke about his experience of supporting growth in businesses through a 20-year career in fund management, and alumna and entrepreneur Dr Samantha Decombel talked about her journey from being a University PhD student to becoming the owner of the thriving business FitnessGenes Ltd.

## Birmingham e-learning is improving trainee doctors' prescribing skills

An innovative e-learning programme co-developed by the School of Pharmacy at the University of Birmingham is transforming the training of junior doctors. Since April 2017, the SCRIPT e-learning toolkit, which aims to improve prescribing competency and safety, has been adopted by all foundation training schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Health Education West Midlands commissioned the University of Birmingham and OCB Media to develop SCRIPT following the 2009 EQUIP study, which found that trainee doctors prescribe with an error rate of 8–10%. SCRIPT launched in 2010 to address this training need, with 47 modules covering a wide range of topics relating to prescribing and therapeutics.

While aimed at foundation doctors, SCRIPT is also now used by a number of universities to enhance

their teaching in undergraduate medicine and pharmacy programmes. The project's success has led to several specialist variants, including versions for nurses, dentist trainees, and paediatrics specialists.

SCRIPT has won a number of patient safety awards since its inception and is also likely to form a significant impact case for the College of Medical and Dental Sciences for the forthcoming REF2020.

To find out more about SCRIPT, contact the editorial team at: [script@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:script@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

*Script*

# Research [IN FOCUS]

## AUTONOMY IN THE WORKPLACE AND THE EFFECT ON WELLBEING

Dr Daniel Wheatley is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Business and Labour Economics. His research into workplace culture has found that employees who have higher levels of autonomy in their job, an important constituent of the quality of work, report positive effects on wellbeing and higher levels of job satisfaction. *Buzz* spoke to Dan to find out more about the research and the link between our work and our wellbeing.

The research, which was published in the journal *Work and Occupations*, examined changes in reported wellbeing relative to levels of autonomy using two separate years of data for 20,000 employees from the Understanding Society survey. The data analysis by colleagues in the Business School found that those working in management reported the highest levels of autonomy in their work, with 90% reporting 'some' or 'a lot' of autonomy in the workplace. For other employees, 40–50% of those surveyed experienced much lower autonomy, particularly over tasks carried out and over their working hours, with 25% of employees experiencing no autonomy at all.

*'The most useful message we can give to employers is this: greater autonomy, control over tasks and flexibility in working arrangements and involvement in decision making results in greater job satisfaction and improved wellbeing for the worker. This has the potential to benefit employers as other recent research has shown that increased wellbeing at work is associated with improved workplace performance'* explains Dan.

Dan says that this is further supported by the positive effects associated with informal flexibility and working from home, which

suggests that schedule control is highly valued and important to employees 'enjoying' work.

The research also found 'compelling' evidence to suggest that men and women are affected in different ways – we know that take up of flexible working arrangements for women is much greater. For women, flexibility over the timing and location of their work appeared to be more beneficial, allowing them to balance other tasks such as family commitments, whereas the research found men to be more affected by job tasks, pace of work, and task order: *'Specific consideration needs to be given to the relative benefits that different forms of autonomy provide to different employees.'*

Interestingly, despite any modern conceptions you may have about progressive management practice, the research highlighted that in many cases managers remain unwilling to offer employees greater levels of autonomy and the associated benefits because their primary role remained one of 'control and effort extraction'. Further, according to Dan, these types of working cultures have a well-established impact on wellbeing – 'presentism', the culture of having to be seen to be present in the office, working



*'In summary, we've found that greater autonomy – that's control over work tasks and schedule – has the potential to generate significant benefits for the employee, with positive effects on wellbeing and job satisfaction.'*

Daniel Wheatley

late or not taking a break, can decrease levels of autonomy and consequently have negative effects on wellbeing.

And what about the sector in which we work? *'Historically, the university sector is a good example of where mixed levels of autonomy, operating within the physical constraints of things like having to be in the classroom to teach students, works quite well. Of course, this will differ considerably between roles and departments. Within Professional Services we know that there are clearly defined roles, and as academics we collaborate with peers across the world, so in part autonomy will be driven by the nature of the work, but restricting levels of autonomy without a clear reason doesn't seem to make a lot of sense for anyone.'*

What is evident from both research and current policy debates is that improving the quality of work is essential not only for employee wellbeing, but for potential economic benefits to organisations and the economy. As the recent 'Responsible Business Week' at the University of Birmingham has highlighted, employers can take the lead in generating positive societal impacts through their own actions. Working to improve the quality of work is one area where these impacts can and should be recognised.

★ COMMUNITY ★

# festival

**SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017**





## The University of Birmingham is delighted once again to host its Community Festival on campus on Sunday 11 June 2017, from 11.00am–4.00pm.

This free event is open to visitors of all ages and is an opportunity for the University to open its doors, showcase the work of all schools and departments and to engage with our local community.

Guests will be encouraged to travel the globe in a day – from Pangea to Antarctica – and even further, into outer space; all from our Edgbaston campus.

The campus will come alive with colourful tents and performances, a helter skelter, bouncy castle and children's soft play area, plus traditional fairground attractions such as hook-a-duck and swing boats.

Kings Heath-based company, Circus Mash will be giving outdoor performances and workshops, while stilt walkers will be competing with Old Joe for the 'tallest on campus' accolade.

There will be an eclectic mix of entertainment for all the family on our main stage (new for 2017!) including classical ensembles, theatrical performances and bands from student-run label New Street Records.

There will be many opportunities to take part in workshops and to pick up new skills throughout the day within our two activities tents. Our Health Tent will be showcasing the wide range of work we do across areas including stroke prevention and health promotion, and offering an opportunity to explore the world of metabolism.

In the Activity Tent visitors can enjoy an insight into the histories and cultures of other countries, with their first introduction to our museums and cultural collections. With the help of DARO, children and young people will have the chance to don a mortarboard for some fun graduation photos.

The grandeur of The Great Hall will provide the perfect backdrop to our science-based activities. A variety of fascinating and hands-on exhibits will highlight recent research and exciting discoveries by the University, such as black holes and gravitational waves. And centre-stage in The Great Hall will be a planetarium, to explore the beauty of the night sky in the middle of the day.

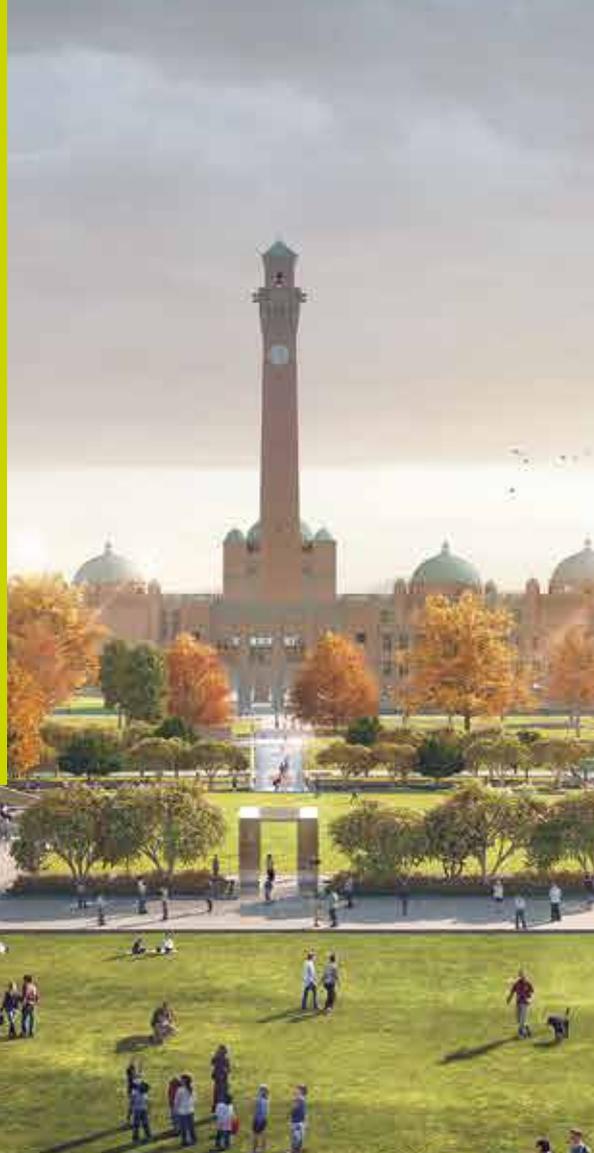
Our unique cultural heritage attraction and museums, including The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, The Lapworth Museum of Geology and Winterbourne House and Gardens, will all be staging activities during the day and providing the chance to explore their treasures.

We hope you will be able to attend the festival and experience the many activities throughout the day.

Please help to spread the word, bring your family and friends and join us on campus on Sunday 11 June.

As we expect this to be a popular event on campus, for the first time we are asking visitors to register their interest in advance. Please go to [www.birmingham.ac.uk/communityfestival](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/communityfestival) to register. Should you have any queries about the event please contact Debbie Naylor in the University's Stakeholder Relations team: [d.a.naylor@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.naylor@bham.ac.uk)

# transforming Our campus



## The Green Heart

Demolition work within the former main library is underway and staff should expect to see significant changes to the landscape over the coming months. From mid-July, the structural demolition of the building will commence with completion expected in the autumn.

Landscaping work, which includes new pathways and tree-planting will also take shape from July and over the course of the next academic year, under the direction of Wilmott Dixon.

Measuring over 12 acres, the Green Heart will open up the centre of campus for students, staff and the local community to enjoy. It will provide a unique space for performances, socialising, meeting and studying, while opening up views across the whole campus, as envisaged in the 1920s.

The space will also enhance the setting of those buildings which border the Green Heart, including the new Library which opened last year. It will open up new pedestrian and cycle routes, allowing students, staff and visitors to the campus to travel safely and with ease. Throughout the design process, the project team have also sought to create a sustainable, natural and environmentally friendly landscape; both for people and wildlife.

## Car parking

The University's ambitious capital masterplan will see one of the most exciting redevelopments since 1909 and will transform our campus between now and 2021. As a condition of planning, the number of car parking spaces will remain the same, however there will be changes to current access and parking availability as work takes place. North Car Park will permanently close in July, following graduations, to enable plans for the Green Heart and there will be temporary changes to other central car parking provision.

For further information on anticipated disruption, available car parking, and advice during periods of change, please visit: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/carparkingdisruptions](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/carparkingdisruptions)

Get a glimpse of what to expect in 2019 by taking an animated tour of the Green Heart at: [birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart](http://birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart)

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM  
**SPORT & FITNESS**



# SPORT & FITNESS NOW OPEN



University of Birmingham Sport & Fitness opened its doors to excited visitors on Monday 22 May.

The £55 million investment in a brand new, state-of-the-art building brings pioneering sporting facilities to our community and transforms sport at the University, as well as for the city of Birmingham. We are proud to now be home to the city's first 50-metre swimming pool, enhancing Birmingham's existing sporting infrastructure and contributing to the city's and region's ambitions to attract global events to the region.

Designed to provide unrivalled opportunities for everyone from beginners to elite athletes, and supported by a world-class team of trainers and sports experts, it provides a new home for our many sports clubs.

Staff, students and the community will benefit from a range of high standard facilities, including:

- The city's first 50-metre swimming pool, with a moveable floor for aqua classes and swimming lessons for all ages
- Almost 200 stations of gym equipment commissioned by Olympic supplier, Technogym

- Five state-of-the-art exercise studios that will host up to 200 fitness classes per week
- Six glass-backed squash courts
- A multi-sports arena with over 700 seats for spectators
- A ten-metre climbing wall
- Performance Centre that provides applied sport and medicine services such as physiotherapy and sports nutrition advice

For Zena Wooldridge OBE, Director of Sport at the University of Birmingham, the opening of the new facility is the culmination of ten years' planning.

*'The stature of this new building reflects Birmingham's position as a leading global sporting university, both academically and across the range of sport and fitness opportunities for participants of all ages and*

*aspirations. It's a magnificent building and our aim is to provide a fabulous sport and fitness experience, not just via the quality of the facility, but also the huge choice and the quality of programmes and the expertise of our staff. The whole project is designed to enhance the quality of life of our community. It was a pleasure to welcome the first visitors into the building and a delight to see their genuine excitement.'*

The size and quality of the building is unrivalled in both the health and fitness, and higher education markets. The design and build have been completed to the highest standards and materials were sourced from across the world to ensure an outstanding architectural building. Furthermore, the team have achieved the highest possible specifications of environmental sustainability and accessibility, including a platform lift into the pool.

**Come and visit the team at the new building located on the corner of the Edgbaston campus, at the junction of Edgbaston Park Road and Bristol Road.**

## OPENING TIMES:

Weekdays 6.00am–10.30pm  
Weekends 7.00am–8.00pm

## FIND OUT MORE:

sportandfitness.bham.ac.uk  
0121 414 4441

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM DUBAI

## A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

OPENING IN 2018



**The University of Birmingham Dubai is a bold and exciting development in our pioneering approach to teaching and research. We will be the first top 100 global university and first Russell Group university to open a campus in the international education hub of Dubai; continuing our legacy of connecting talent from across the globe.**

The University is set to open its first international branch campus in the city of Dubai, as announced on Tuesday 23 May. This historic development signals the next step in our growing international strategy and will help secure our long-term future. It marks the latest phase in our global expansion and builds upon our existing teaching activity in Singapore and China as well as our already extensive international research collaborations.

The Dubai campus will continue our strong tradition of teaching excellence. Degrees at the University of Birmingham Dubai will be taught, examined and accredited to the same recognised high standards as those delivered in Edgbaston. And we will be in good company; we join globally renowned institutions such as the Paris-Sorbonne University and New York University, which have established campuses in the

region. Dubai itself is a globally connected city and is rapidly becoming an international education hub. Home to many thousands of students, it is a young, vibrant and global community in a cosmopolitan city. With a culture that combines both history and modernity, Dubai's thriving economy will provide many career options for talented graduates.

The first students will arrive in September 2018. An initial range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including Economics, Teacher Education, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering and Business will be offered. We have ambitious plans to grow the number of students over the next ten years across a broad range of programmes; and to establish an active programme of research – this announcement is only the beginning.

## What's happening?

- Our phase one campus will open in November 2017; a two-storey building with capacity for 1,100 students.
- Phase two, a purpose-built campus to serve up to 4,500 students within ten years, is to open in 2020.
- Both phases will be based at Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), home to 25,000 students from 149 different countries at numerous regional and international colleges and universities.
- Initial programmes will be offered in Economics, Teacher Education, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering and Business. Recruitment for these programmes will commence in September 2017 for entry in September 2018.
- Any programmes offered in Dubai will be subject to the same rigorous approval process as those delivered in Edgbaston.
- Our students will experience the many opportunities befitting a Birmingham graduate. Initiatives such as the Vice-Chancellor's Challenge and our Entrepreneurship Project will be offered; allowing students to tackle global challenges and take part in competitive processes, enhancing their skills for the global job market.
- Birmingham is also playing a central role in the UK/UAE 2017 Year of Creative Collaboration with a series of digital exhibitions of the Birmingham Qur'an manuscript taking place across the region.

## New ways of working

**Ian Myatt, Director of Educational Enterprise, explains how the Dubai campus will be an incubator for innovation:**

*'The Dubai campus provides an exciting opportunity to trial innovative methods of delivery. The core syllabus and learning objectives will be consistent with the existing Birmingham-based programmes but specific consideration will be given to how the student experience is redefined to take on board the expectations in this market and maximise the use of technology enhanced learning (TEL).'*

*'Educational Enterprise is playing a key role in achieving this ambition by pairing instructional designers with academics as part of the course development process with a focus on creating truly blended experiences that make more consistent and complementary use of the physical and virtual learning environments. The team will work across the Dubai portfolio and proactively look for synergies across different subject areas in order to champion collaboration across disciplines. They will also link into the existing TEL Hub and college-based teams in order to share best practice and maximise the reuse of content.'*

*'This is a brilliant opportunity to try out new ways of working which we believe will have a real benefit for all of our students.'*

## Living and working in Dubai

**Dr Christine Szwedi is Reader in Teacher Education and National Teaching fellow, School of Education. Christine has experience of working in Dubai, having supported the British University in Dubai in setting up their teacher training programme:**

*'As a senior academic within the University I am delighted to have been part of the team working on the developments for the new campus in Dubai. I am particularly interested in widening participation and in innovative practice in teaching and learning. The campus in Dubai will certainly provide us with opportunities to expand our provision in Teacher Education, thus sharing the excellent practice as evidenced by Ofsted on a much wider scale.'*

*'Naturally there is also much we can learn as academics working within new environs and cultures. Having previously worked in Dubai on a teacher education development programme, I am excited by the opportunities available to us to shape policy and practice.'*

If you would like to learn more about the University of Birmingham Dubai please send your questions to [dubai@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:dubai@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or visit the website [www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai) Join the conversation [@unibirmingham](https://twitter.com/unibirmingham) [#UoBDubai](https://twitter.com/UoBDubai)

*'The announcement of our first branch campus in Dubai highlights the scale of our international ambition. The strongest universities are those who are most global in their outlook. Developing our international footprint in this way will help ensure that our University has the reputation and reach to have influence on a global scale. There will be many opportunities for us all to benefit from our increasing international presence: not only our students and staff in Dubai, but also our communities elsewhere in the world where we work: Birmingham, China and Singapore. This is an exciting moment in the history of our University. I look forward to updating everyone as the campus develops.'*

**Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)**

*'We will provide a world-class portfolio of degree programmes that seamlessly blend face-to-face and online delivery to create truly compelling learning experiences.'*

**Professor Jon Green,  
Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education**

*'This represents a tremendously exciting opportunity to bring the very best of our excellent student experience from Birmingham, to students who choose to study with us in Dubai. We will be developing a University of Birmingham Dubai community that delivers that comprehensive and renowned experience and one that is tailored to the needs of our students in Dubai, to enable their success.'*

**Ben Bailey, Director of Student Services**

# Emergency alert



Helping you stay safe.

Callmy is our new way of communicating with you in an emergency. Whether you're a student or a member of staff, your safety is our priority.

Download Callmy from your app store and follow the ID: **UBsafe**

Callmy is free to download and completely anonymous.

To find out more about Callmy, visit:

[www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/callmy](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/callmy)



# Discovery of early, 'croc-like' reptile

## sheds new light on evolution of dinosaurs

A new species of ancient reptile has been described by scientists at the University, filling a critical gap in the fossil record of dinosaur cousins and suggesting that some features thought to characterise dinosaurs evolved much earlier than previously thought.

Described in a paper published in the science journal *Nature*, the carnivorous reptile was approximately 7–10 feet in length, had a long neck and tail, and walked on four crocodile-like legs.

Professor Richard Butler, from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES), worked alongside researchers from the Natural History Museum and Virginia Tech in the US to identify the new species, *Teleocrater rhadinus*, using fossil specimens collected over several decades from Tanzania.

Teleocrater roamed the Earth during the Triassic Period more than 245 million years ago – pre-dating the first true dinosaurs by around 10 million years – and appears in the fossil record just after a large group of reptiles, known as archosaurs, split into a bird branch (leading to dinosaurs and eventually birds) and a crocodile branch

(eventually leading to today's alligators and crocodiles). Teleocrater and its kin are the earliest known members of the bird branch of the archosaurs.

The discovery overturns widely-held preconceptions by palaeontologists about the morphology of early dinosaur relatives, with many scientists anticipating that such creatures would be smaller, bipedal and more 'dinosaur-like'.

*'Teleocrater fundamentally challenges our models of what the close relatives of dinosaurs would have looked like,'* says Professor Butler.

*'Dinosaurs were amazingly successful animals. It's natural to want to know where they came from, and how they became so dominant. Teleocrater is hugely exciting because it blows holes in many of our classic ideas of dinosaur origins.'*

All the specimens used to describe Teleocrater were collected from a rock unit called the Manda Beds, in the Ruhuhu Basin of southern Tanzania, Africa.

Teleocrater fossils were first discovered in the region in 1933 by palaeontologist F. Rex Parrington, and subsequently studied by Alan J. Charig, former Curator of Fossil Reptiles, Amphibians and Birds at the Natural History Museum, in the 1950s. However, due to a lack of crucial bones,

such as the ankle bones, Charig could not determine whether Teleocrater was more closely related to crocodylians or to dinosaurs. Unfortunately, he died before he was able to complete his studies.

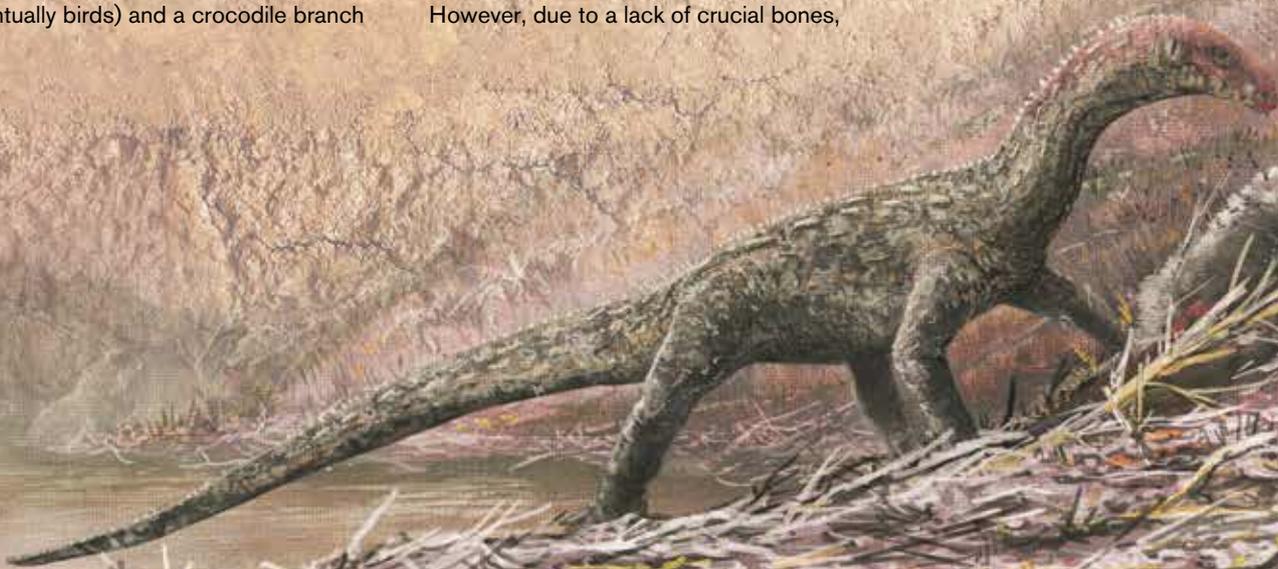
Re-examination of Charig's specimens by Butler and colleagues, combined with the discovery of additional fossils by a US-led team in Tanzania in 2015, has finally allowed the surprising relationship between Teleocrater and its dinosaur cousins to be revealed.

*'It's astonishing to think that it's taken more than 80 years for the true scientific importance of these fossils to be understood and published,'* says Professor Butler.

Professor Paul Barrett, from the Natural History Museum, one of the other main authors of the work on Teleocrater, said:

*'My colleague Alan Charig would have been thrilled to see one of "his" animals finally being named and occupying such an interesting position in the Tree of Life.'*

*'Our discovery shows the value of maintaining and re-assessing historical collections: many new discoveries, like this one, can be made by looking through museum collections with fresh eyes.'*





## Chancellor's column

In March, we held the University's Annual Meeting, and also had the release of our independently-prepared impact report.

Since then, Andy Street has been elected as Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority. I was proud to have presented him with an honorary doctorate in 2015.

And we're proud to have our Mayor a member of the University of Birmingham family. He follows in the footsteps of our Founder Joseph Chamberlain, who was himself a proud Mayor of Birmingham.

The impact report clearly shows the enormous contribution that we make as a university – £3.5 billion to the economy – with our knowledge, research and development activity worth £885 million. And the University is now proud to have 11 Nobel Prize winners.

We contribute more than £1 billion per year to the economy through the impact of the University's spending and that of our students.

We are a truly global university, with 300,000 University of Birmingham alumni around the world, and our current international students contribute more than £160 million to the economy.

In the recently-passed Higher Education and Research Bill, in which I took an active part, teaching was a major issue; our University's teaching and learning contributes £1.34 billion to the economy.

We're a university that never stands still, with non-stop investment in our estate – be it our fabulous new library or our new sports centre and 50m pool. Onwards and upwards!

*Lord Billimoria is the founder and chairman of Cobra Beer, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and the founding Chairman of the UK-India Business Council.*

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES



### What is it?

*Photograph of portrait bust of Constance Naden, Liz Hingley*

### Where is it?

*The portrait bust is on display in the Lois Garratt Microfilm Room, Cadbury Research Library, Muirhead Tower*

This bust featured in the journey of artist and anthropologist Liz Hingley as she explored the experiences of University women, past and present, for the project Making Space.

One way in which Liz decided to portray the unique history of women at the University was to photograph objects from the University's cultural collections using a field camera from 1900, similar to the University's own model. This approach helped to reveal the tremendous contributions made by women associated with the University. The featured objects include the iconic sculpture *Ancestor I* by Barbara Hepworth, a 440 million-year-old graptolite slab, and this bust of Naden.

Constance Naden – writer, poet, philosopher and scientist – was born in Edgbaston in 1858. She was a student at Mason Science College and was made its first female Associate in 1888. Eventually she settled in London, entered scientific circles and became an early campaigner for women's suffrage. Naden died, aged 31, on 24 December 1889 due to an infection following an operation.

The bust originally stood in the Mason College Library. Naden's head and shoulders rest upon three books representing her poetic and scientific writings and achievements.

### Learn more

**Making Space:** Celebrating Women at the University of Birmingham is on display in the Rotunda, Aston Webb until 21 July 2017. To find out more see [www.birmingham.ac.uk/making-space](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/making-space) and [www.rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com](http://www.rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com)



# 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.

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](mailto:pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call 0121 414 6029

## 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.

Research by the team led by Professor Neil Thomas into whether it is possible to be 'healthily obese' received widespread coverage, including the BBC's 'Victoria Derbyshire' show, *the Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Metro*.

Dr Felicity de Cogan's research into macular degeneration offers the possibility of patients using eye drops to treat the condition, rather than having to undergo injections directly into their eyeballs, was covered by the *Daily Mail* and many international outlets.

Research by Professor Wiebke Arlt and Dr Katharina Lang into a new cause of high blood pressure, which could lead to major changes in managing the disease, featured in the *Daily Express*. It was also covered internationally by *Deccan Chronicle*, *Times of India*, *Hindustan Times* and *Business Standard*.

Professor Xiao-Ping Zhang was interviewed by China's biggest news agency *Xinhua* about how the global energy internet could help to tackle climate change problems.

The Lapworth Museum's shortlisting for the prestigious Museum of the Year 2017 award was covered extensively – including the *FT*, *Telegraph*, *the Guardian*, BBC and *DotEmirates* (UAE), as well as being mentioned on BBC Radio 2.

Professor Richard Butler's work identifying the fossil of an ancient dinosaur cousin received extensive coverage across a range of media outlets, including the *Telegraph*, *the Independent*, *The Sun*, BBC World Service and *The New York Post*.

Research into the impact of weather on emergency services by Dr Francis Pope and his team was covered by *the Guardian* and the *Daily Mail*, as well as – internationally – *Big News Network* (UAE) *India Blooms* and *Science Daily* (USA).

Professor Rob Mackenzie featured on BBC *Midlands Today*, BBC Radio 4's *Today*, BBC Online and *The Times* regarding research into the effects of rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels on forests at the launch of our innovative forestry research centre BIFoR, in Staffordshire. The facility also featured in a range of international outlets, including *Hindustan Times*, *Financial Express* and *Chandigarh Tribune*.

## 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: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines)



## feeling social...

Over the Easter period, we used our social media channels to show how campus remains a bustling hive of activity; from students revising for exams to visitors to our campus attractions.

We focused on offering useful information to those students who were revising – signposting them to study spaces, study aids and tips on how to de-stress.

We collaborated with the Guild of Students and the Library to share tips and advice and act as a useful port of call for students, both internally and externally with daily revision tips and links to our A level resources.

We also promoted the campus as a destination guide over the Easter break, promoting events and encouraging people to attend our visitor attractions.

Professor Ian Henderson's work on preventing antibiotic infections received widespread international coverage, including *Business Standard India*, *The Peninsula* (Qatar), *China National News* and *Big News Network* (UAE).

Professor Catherine Cassell was featured in the *Birmingham Mail* on her appointment as Dean of Birmingham Business School.

## UoB Grounds Maintenance Staff...



Managing everything from our stadium-standard sports pitches to our residential and grassland areas, the gardeners work tirelessly to ensure the campus looks spectacular throughout the year for staff, students and visitors. Mark Roche (Head Groundsman with a background in sports), Mike Parry (Campus Team Leader) and Richard Moth (Residencies team) are part of the 38-strong team who between them look after the University's entire garden estate.

Between them, they have given over 60 years of service to the University. *'I've seen a few buildings go up over the years. It's got a little busier on campus too'*, says Mike, the leader of the Campus team whose career started at the Vale in 1982. Listening to them offers a fascinating insight into campus life and it quickly becomes apparent how fundamental the team are to fulfilling the University's purpose, in particular the often unsung and defining role they play in the journey of our students; from attracting prospective students with their first impressions of campus, to delivering a picturesque graduation send-off.

One of the first teams on campus in the morning, it's often a 6.00am start for Mike's team who carefully work around us all to minimise disruption to our daily business. Planning around events and increased footfall on campus can be tricky, more so when you factor in the UK's unpredictable weather. Recent winters have been kinder to the team, with the snow ploughs kept at bay. But at the University, change is always in the air. Over his 35 years here, Mike can talk at length about the changes of management, the swell of the campus population, the rapid development of the physical estate, and also... *'The litter! You wouldn't believe it. We're emptying the campus's 120 bins three times per day, and on campus we've got two lads just doing litter!'*

It's no surprise that as our community grows, so does our rubbish. But if the thought of the 360 daily bin loads of rubbish generated on campus worries your environmental conscience, don't fear too much – the University is investing in an updated recycling plant at the Elms Day Nursery, and tries to recycle the waste product that it generates on site; grass and leaves are processed and put back into the land.

This recycling initiative is music to the ears of Richard, a chilli-growing aficionado for whom gardening is as much a passion as a job. Richard is part of the Residencies team, whose remit also includes the new University of Birmingham School and the Elms day nurseries. These 'sensitive' sites require careful, child-friendly planting – *'no spiky or poisonous plants; children like soft textures. Herbs like lemon balm and*

*mint are good choices'* says Richard, whose enthusiasm for growing the *'world's hottest chillies'* is best practised at home, and not *'poisoning his colleagues'* jokes Mark. Recycling is a big initiative for the University, but managing it is not always the easiest, according to Richard – *'we need to ensure people put the right things in the correct bins, otherwise it all goes to waste.'* Committed to minimising waste, the University is also investing in replanting and tree maintenance, training staff in this area – *'we're trying to do as much in-house as possible. The University has really invested in the skills of staff in these areas'*.

And what of our sporting prowess? Last month saw the opening of the new Sports & Fitness Centre. Mark, an ardent golfer and Aston Villa fan with an overly keen eye on the playing surface at Villa Park, looks after this area. He recalls his 'career highlight' of hosting the South African Rugby Team during the 2015 Rugby World Cup and the Jamaican Olympic Team before London 2012: *'It was just brilliant, the very pinnacle of what we strive to do. For us to get the pitches to stadium standard (a requirement for hosting a professional team) with the resource available is probably one of the greatest things that my team and I will achieve in our careers here.'* Occasions like these generate such positive publicity for the University and consequently play a significant role in the recruitment of outstanding sports students. With our new facilities and a new track coming soon, Mark says we can look forward to more international teams – and of course, students – choosing Birmingham in the future.

Looking to the future, what changes can we expect over the years ahead? 'Green Heart' was the chorused response. The Green Heart project will open up the centre of campus for students, staff and the local community to enjoy, and when the centre of campus reaches its crescendo over the summer, the team will move in: *'We're hoping to start planting trees after the busy summer'*, says Mike, who stresses the careful planning required to work around ongoing events like Open Days and other University functions taking place during this period. Indeed, with the Green Heart on the horizon, the gardeners will play a pivotal role in transforming our campus for future generations.

Mark, Mike and Richard are keen for staff to make the most of the gardens during the summer months (and the revamped lake at the Vale during autumn), so make sure you take that well-deserved break and make time to appreciate the world they're creating around us.