

# OLD JOE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S  
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Autumn 2013



The value of values  
Birmingham's got talent  
Thanks for the memories  
Art and soul of a  
people's champion  
How cancer taught  
one man to live

# The first word



**O**ur wonderful campus holds a special place in the hearts of all our graduates.

Whenever I meet alumni, their most precious memories of Birmingham are threefold: the quality of the academic programmes they followed, the quality of the friendships they formed, and the quality of the campus in which they lived and studied.

We continue to treasure, expand and refresh our campus, and those of you who have returned this year will have seen the wonderful new Bramall

Music Building in all its splendour. This completes the Aston Webb semicircle and gives the University a music auditorium of stunning quality.

You will be aware of our plans for a state-of-the-art new library, which will be the finest built in any British university this century; and a brand-new sports centre which will be a fitting home for the University's participatory and elite sport.

When these projects are complete, the campus will be further enhanced. At its centre will be 'the green heart', restoring the original vision of the University and providing the focus for many aspects of university life from social gatherings to outdoor performances.

This, combined with our existing facilities such as the Barber Institute, the Lapworth Museum, and Winterbourne House and Garden, will provide our students and staff with facilities of unrivalled quality on a campus of unrivalled beauty, and we will continue to open it up to the community in new and distinctive ways.

Whenever you return to campus, and I do hope you will continue to do so, you will find something different. You will, however, always find a university which celebrates its campus and recognises it for the precious asset that it has always been. I hope you enjoy finding out more about our plans for the campus as well as our latest research news and teaching successes throughout this magazine.

Best wishes,

**Professor David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor and donor to the University



## GUEST EDITOR

I feel very proud to be an alumna from Birmingham after reading this issue of *Old Joe*. I didn't realise the University has such an impact on the city (page 11) and was really interested to read about its potential to improve quality of life through research.

University was a time for huge development, and seeing everyone's memories (page 17) was a great reminder of this.

It has been almost five years since I last visited and I think the exciting new plans for campus (page 7) will be a huge improvement. I'm also pleased that the Gun Barrels site will now be an official part of the University at last!

Having worked in teaching and local government children's services for many years, I was really interested to learn about the University's research into character and values (page 40). I have also learnt about MOOCs (page 13) and superdiversity (page 14), which I was unfamiliar with before now.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much as I have.

**Kate Yates**  
(BA English and French, 1974)  
Children's Services Consultant  
with Children and Young People's  
Social Care (CYPSC)

## Be a guest editor

Let us know if you would like to be a guest editor via  
[alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

If you have difficulties reading any part of this publication, please contact us to request a plain text version.

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As Sir Dominic Cadbury prepares to retire as Chancellor, *Old Joe* looks back over his time at Birmingham and the legacy he will leave behind

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When Stephen Barton found out his cancer treatment had failed, he decided to retire and start doing all of the things he had always wanted to do

### Charity is a doctor's healthy obsession 42

2013 Alumnus of the Year Matthew Clark was still a student when he founded a charity that has raised more than £1 million to transform an African children's hospital

## Old Joe, new look

The votes are in and the new name you chose for your magazine is... *Old Joe*, after the University's iconic clock tower, itself the namesake of University founder Joseph Chamberlain.

For news on the move, you can now read an online version of *Old Joe* on

your smartphone or tablet, with bonus content such as an exclusive video performance by student a capella group, the Sons of Pitches. What are you waiting for? Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe) to find out more.

*Old Joe* will be out in spring and autumn each year, so please keep sending in your news and feedback to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK.

# THE YEAR IN PICTURES





© Picture courtesy of Birmingham Post and Mail



**1 CARVED IN HISTORY:** The names of the newest members of the Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors (supporters who have donated more than £1 million to the University) have been engraved in the foyer of the Aston Webb building.

**2 BOXING CLEVER:** PhD student Enrico Vanino won the University's annual Images of Research competition with his photo 'Business never sleeps' taken in Guangzhou, China.

**3 SERIOUSLY FUNNY:** Award-winning comedian Jo Brand headlined the Guild's comedy gala for mental health awareness day.

**4 RACE RELATIONS:** Baroness Doreen Lawrence OBE launched the University's new Centre for Research in Race and Education (CRRE), dedicated to the study of racism and race inequality in education.

**5 ENGLISHNESS EXPLORED:** An evening of performance and presentations on St George and the modern meaning of Englishness, titled Redcrosse, was performed at St George's Church in Edgbaston, led by Professor Ewan Fernie, Shakespeare Institute.

**6 FRESH IDEAS:** Smart Antennas Technology and bugs4drugs were the winners of this year's annual Enterprising Birmingham Innovation competition which fosters innovation among early career researchers.

**7 GRADSTAGRAM:** The graduating Class of 2013 visited the free Gradstagram photo booth on their graduation day where they described their time in Birmingham in one word. Jocelyn Head (BSc Biology, 2013) chose 'Amazing!'

# B15 FACES



## What would your *Mastermind* specialist subject be?

From Eminem and *The Simpsons* to Roman Emperor Caligula and trains, 15 alumni share the subjects they know inside out.



The history of Birmingham  
**Keith Bracey**  
 (Commerce and Social Science, 1977)



Musical theatre  
**Matt Cameron**  
 (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2009)



DOH!

TV show *The Simpsons*  
**Mark Cook**  
 (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2000)



Politics and Philosophy  
**Thomas Farrar**  
 (BA Political Science and Philosophy, 2011)



CHOO  
CHOO

The history of Britain's railways  
**Ben Goodwin**  
 (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2006)



Eminem song lyrics  
**Josh Gorecki**  
 (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2012)



TV sitcom *Friends*  
**Luke Gunn**  
 (BSc Sports and Materials Science, 2006)



The music of The Shadows  
**David Hazel**  
 (BSc Physics, 1981)



UK birds  
**Sandra Jackson**  
 (BSc Geology and Geography, 2005)



1980s pop music  
**Julia Herdman** (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1985)



*Britain's Got Talent*  
**Colin Mawdsley**  
 (BSc Minerals Engineering, 1984)



Reading Football Club  
**Ross McCormack**  
 (BA Sociology and Social Policy, 2012)



The plot lines of the *Harry Potter* novels  
**Ruth Sheaves**  
 (BSc Geography, 2010)



Roman Emperor Caligula  
**Emma Southon**  
 (BA Ancient History, 2006)



TV show *The West Wing*  
**Gemma Wicks**  
 (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 2001)



## GUEST EDITOR

The movies of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

Be a B15 face

What did you want to be when you grew up? And what are you now? Tweet your answer @birminghamalum the best will be printed on this page in the next issue of *Old Joe*.





# Campus changes move forward



● Images: Clockwise from left, artist's impression of the planned new sports building, artist's impressions of the planned new library interior

**A mix of future and historic plans will shape the University's campus for the next generation.**



**GUEST ED LOVES**

The transformation of the Edgbaston campus is moving forward, with the tender process for the two largest building works almost complete. The plans will deliver the city's first 50-metre swimming pool; create a modern library with a cultural hub; and open up a new green space at the heart of campus.

The successful contractors for the sports centre and library will be announced soon, and work is expected to begin on site early in 2014 for the former, and further through the year for the latter.

**The developments include:**

**New library**

Facilities to meet the demands of a new generation of students and researchers, plus a cultural gateway with new services for the public. This will make greater use of technology to provide a library fit for the 21st century.

**New sports centre**

On the site of the now-closed Gun Barrels pub, the centre will include Birmingham's first 50-metre Olympic-length swimming pool, a performance and wellbeing centre, a sports hall, activity studios, a gym, squash courts and other facilities for students, staff, alumni, community users and community clubs based at the University.

**Chancellor's Challenge**  
 Outgoing Chancellor Sir Dominic Cadbury is launching the Chancellor's Challenge Fund in support of the University's campus developments. Turn to page 20 to read more about Sir Dominic's legacy to the University.

**Student residences**

The existing Eden tower, Hampton and Chelwood wings which form Chamberlain will be demolished, to be replaced by a new tower and three low-rise buildings providing 725 bed spaces on The Vale. This contemporary accommodation will offer facilities such as wireless infrastructure, en suite bathrooms and energy efficient hot water and heating. There will also be a social space with a bar, catering and launderette facilities.

**Student hub**

A new hub of student services including the Careers Network and Registry will be housed in the Aston Webb building at the centre of campus, including confidential consultation rooms, new learning spaces and a 250-seat lecture theatre.

**Green heart of campus**

Interpreting William Haywood's 1929 plans for a green space in the centre of campus in a modern style, this will use the contours of the site and enhance the environment for students, staff and visitors.

**Learn more**

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/community/building](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/community/building)

# OLDJOE NEWS

## Irresistible innovation attracts funding boost

A University spin-out company, Irresistible Materials (IM), has secured £290,000 of investment to further develop and commercialise technology critical to the computer chip manufacturing process.

Using a unique Fullerene material created by the University, IM has developed a solution that meets future technology needs, and is working with key industry suppliers to test samples.

The technology, called photo-resists, helps chip manufacturers make ever-smaller features for microelectronic devices. This is needed as existing photo-resist technologies will not be able to create small enough materials to meet industry needs post-2016.

The project is led by Dr David Ure (BSc Physics with Astrophysics, 1995; MSc Applied Radiation Physics, 1996), in conjunction with the University's Nanoscale Physics Research Laboratory. He says: 'We are hoping to demonstrate our technology as a superior solution for the semi-conductor industry.'

### DID YOU KNOW?

A spin-out company is a small, new business created to commercialise intellectual property or technology owned by the University.

# BIRMINGHAM CLIMBS RANKINGS

The University has moved up to 15th in the *Guardian University Guide 2014*, with the School of Computer Science ranked best in the country.

Birmingham has climbed nine places to 15th in the *Guardian University Guide 2014*, making it the West Midlands' top higher education institution.

The guide ranks 119 institutions, comparing measures such as student satisfaction, spending per student and career prospects. Birmingham's rise sees it overtake universities including York, Bristol and Nottingham.

Thirty-four of Birmingham's departments feature in the UK's top 20 for their individual subject areas, with Computer Science taking the top spot in the country.

This follows the University's ranking of 17th in the *Complete University Guide 2014* and 77th in the *QS World University Rankings* earlier this year.

Learn more

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/fact/UKleague.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/fact/UKleague.aspx)

## Shedding light on a star discovery

Asteroseismologists from Birmingham have used tiny vibrations caused by sound trapped inside a star to accurately measure its size and the three planets discovered orbiting it.

The star, named Kepler-37 after the NASA Kepler spacecraft that detected it, is 80% the size and mass of our sun, while one of its planets is smaller than Mercury.

Professor of Astrophysics, Bill Chaplin (BSc Physics with Astrophysics, 1990; PhD Physics, 1994; PG Cert, 2001) says: 'This research reveals that other stellar systems host planets smaller than anything in our solar system, helping us put our system into a wider context.'

### Find out more

Professor Chaplin will be reprising his Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Music of the Stars on campus in the autumn. Turn to page 24 for more information.





# SONS OF PITCHES GO STATESIDE



Jack Blume (BMus Music, 2013) thought all his Christmasses had come at once when he discovered his a capella group had won a place to compete in the finals of the International Championship of A Capella (ICCA) in New York.

The Sons of Pitches were the only international student group to qualify, but how could seven University of Birmingham students afford to go to New York with less than a month's notice?

'I was incredibly excited when I found out,' recalls Jack, the group's musical director who has ambitions to become a composer. 'I knew

it would be expensive, but I hadn't really thought about it.'

As reality hit that they might not be able to take up the opportunity, the Sons approached the University of Birmingham USA Foundation and were delighted when the alumni group pledged \$5,000 to make their dreams a reality. A 'crowdfunding' website raised the additional £4,000 they needed.

'The support was incredible and it was amazing that the USA Foundation were so willing to help us,' says Jack,

who offered signed postcards and personalised videos in front of New York landmarks as incentives for people to donate.

While the group didn't win the competition, they received acclaim from the judges and their fellow competitors. 'Everyone was really excited that there was a British group there and it was one of the best performances we have ever

done,' he recalls. 'The audience reaction was incredible.'

'We never went into it thinking we could win, we just saw it as an amazing opportunity to meet new people and find fans in the US and we

would like to thank everyone who helped us get there,' he adds.

The group, whose set included a swing version of Oasis's *Wonderwall* and a mash-up of Eminem's *Lose Yourself* and Justin Timberlake's *Cry Me a River*, will be recording an EP available on iTunes in the autumn and an exclusive performance from New York is available online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe)

**Learn more**  
[www.thesonsofpitches.co.uk](http://www.thesonsofpitches.co.uk)  
[www.bhamf.org](http://www.bhamf.org)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Take a virtual tour of campus

A new interactive website offers a virtual tour of the University's stunning campus. Visit [virtualltour.bham.ac.uk](http://virtualltour.bham.ac.uk)



### Greater diversity in the spotlight

The University has launched the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRIS), the first of its kind in the UK, to increase understanding of how this is shaping and changing societies.

Turn to page 14 for three academic views on superdiversity.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Birmingham academics are sharing their expertise and applying it to global news stories via a new commentary website [www.theconversation.com/uk](http://www.theconversation.com/uk)



# Head sought for University School



Artist's impression

**H**elping the city's young people reach their maximum potential and developing the next generation of inspirational teachers, plans for a University School and Sixth Form at Birmingham are moving forward with the position of Principal currently being advertised.

The comprehensive co-educational University School, supported by the Department of Education, will open in September 2015, taking 150 pupils per year into year 7 and up to 200 per year into the sixth form.

'Our ambition is to enable young people from across Birmingham, whatever their background, to achieve their potential,' says Head of the School of Education, Professor James Arthur. 'We will also be focused on citizenship and character, ensuring pupils

develop a keen sense of their place in and responsibility to society.'

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With strong links to the University, the School will reflect its values, including a commitment to academic excellence, raising aspirations and widening participation in higher education. It will also build on the University's status as an OFSTED-rated 'Outstanding' provider of teacher training. 'As one of the country's first university training schools, we will develop the next generation of excellent teachers through research opportunities and continuing professional development,' adds Professor Arthur.

Learn more

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/community/university-school](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/community/university-school)

## Studying the impact of drones

The way drone strikes affect conflict is the topic of new research at the University.

Currently drones are used for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as for targeted strikes against individuals. Existing data suggests more than 1,300 drone strikes have been carried out, primarily in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Yemen, killing almost 3,000 terrorists and insurgents and nearly 500 civilians. This 'collateral damage' has provoked widespread debate about the ethics and efficiency of drone strikes, with the governments in Pakistan and Afghanistan increasing their public stance against the American drone strikes policy.

The research by Dr David Dunn and Professors Nicholas Wheeler and Stefan Wolff, from the University's

Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS), will investigate whether and how the use of drones contributes to higher levels of national and international security.

This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Ministry of Defence.

Learn more

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/iccs/drones](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/iccs/drones)

For weekly commentary

<http://iccsprojects.blog.com>



## 3D vision can throw a curveball

Curvy fairground mirrors may make us giggle, but they pose a challenge for our brains to process.

Using mathematical analysis and perceptual measurements, researchers from the School of Psychology have found that people often misperceive shapes and distance in curved surfaces.

This is because the information the brain receives and combines from both eyes – a process called stereopsis – often shows dimensional depths that don't match an object's physical shape. Understanding these differences reveals how the brain judges which information should be trusted.



GUEST ED LOVES

## University boosts region by £1 billion

The University contributes more to the local economy than the region's eight football teams, according to a new report.

The University boosts the local economy by more than £1 billion annually and supports almost 12,000 jobs – that's one in every 50 in Birmingham – according to research by Oxford Economics.

The report, looking at the 2011/12 academic year, measures the institution's economic impact on Birmingham and the West Midlands, and shows a 38% increase since 2005/06.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, says: 'This report demonstrates just how important higher education is to the development of the regional and national economy.'

'The University is one of a small number of large and truly global organisations in Birmingham and plays a significant part in attracting international visitors to the region. I am extremely proud of the massive economic, social and cultural contribution that the University makes.'

To read the full report, visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/impact-report](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/impact-report)

## OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS 2011/12



**1.2%**  
of the city's workforce work at the University



Our students spend **£257 million** in the region annually



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Birmingham's got talent

Birmingham academic, Dr Ami Banerjee, has won a competition run by the *Discovery Channel* and Mandrake Films to showcase his research and presenting talent. Watch the *Heart of a Migrant* at [www.discoveryuk.com/the-loop/the-heart-of-a-migrant](http://www.discoveryuk.com/the-loop/the-heart-of-a-migrant)

### Antarctic Peninsula melt season extends

New research at the University shows the Antarctic Peninsula summer melt season has grown longer in response to summer air temperatures that have increased by almost 3°C over the past 60 years – three times more than the global average.



### Cracking fundraising

University staff held a number of fundraising activities for World Autism Awareness Day including an Easter egg tombola, which, when combined with alumni support, raised more than £1,000 for Birmingham's life-changing autism research.



## 50-CARAT COUPLE



Brian and Ann Fletcher (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1963 and BSocSc Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1963) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on campus at their Golden Reunion on Saturday 8 June 2013, marking the first time they had returned to Birmingham since graduating.

## Brain ‘snapshot’ improves stroke rehabilitation

Stroke patients will receive treatment better tailored for their individual needs, thanks to a new toolkit created at Birmingham.

The Birmingham Cognitive Screen (BCoS) assesses abilities including attention, spatial awareness and speech and language processing using tools such as auditory stimuli and test objects. Birmingham Research Fellow, Dr Wai-Ling Bickerton from the School of Psychology, coordinated the BCoS.

She says: ‘Patients’ cognitive functions are not always screened in hospitals and existing tests aren’t inclusive – some require spoken responses, but many stroke patients can lose at least part of their speech. All cognitive functions interact, so having a holistic understanding is vital in shaping effective rehabilitation.’

**Learn more**  
[www.bcos.bham.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.bcos.bham.ac.uk/index.html)



## DID YOU KNOW?

The husband and wife team responsible for creating the hepatitis B vaccine were Birmingham alumni.

Professor Sir Kenneth Murray FRS (BSc Chemistry, 1956; PhD, 1959; Hon DSc, 1995) and Professor Lady Noreen Murray CBS FRS (PhD Microbiology, 1959; Hon DSc, 1995) met at the University before marrying in 1958. Sir Kenneth worked with a team including Lady Noreen to develop gene cloning and created the first vaccine against viral hepatitis B.

Sir Kenneth died in April 2013, having been predeceased by Lady Noreen in 2011. They will be posthumously inducted into the Chancellor’s Guild of Benefactors in December 2013 in recognition of their generous support for the Allen and Elizabeth Murray Centenary Scholarships in Biosciences established by Sir Kenneth in memory of his parents.

## Redbrick breaks national news

Second year student journalist Aqib Khan landed an exclusive interview in *Redbrick* earlier this year with American veteran, Private First Class Justin Watt, discussing war crimes committed in Iraq. Two weeks later, the piece was reprinted in the *Guardian*, providing fantastic exposure for the award-winning student newspaper.

### Learn more

Outgoing editor Raphael Sheridan (BA Political Science and International Studies, 2013) shares his stories of the year via [www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oldjoe)

# MY FAVOURITE BOOKS



GUEST ED LOVES

Jo Usmar (BA English Literature, 2005) is a *Cosmopolitan* columnist, freelance writer and co-author of the *This Book Will* series of lifestyle books. Here she picks her top five reads.



### **Rachel's Holiday**

Marian Keyes

Marian Keyes gives the proverbial finger to anyone that has ever snorted derisively at

'chick lit'. She makes painful situations accessible and thigh-slappingly hilarious. Rachel isn't on holiday – she's in rehab. She's determined to believe she's not addicted to drugs.



### **After Dark**

Haruki Murakami

This couldn't be further from Marian Keyes. It's about two sisters – Eri, a model who

either won't or can't stop sleeping, and Mari, a young, isolated student. In trying to connect to her sister, Mari starts changing her life and discovers a world of diverse 'night people' who are hiding secrets.



### **Matilda**

Roald Dahl

I wrote my dissertation on the influence of fairy tales on Roald Dahl's writing and it gave me

a new appreciation for his weird and wonderful worlds. Matilda's battles with her hideous parents and the tyrannical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, are equally funny and frightening, but they're also aspirational. Dahl wrote scary stuff about real issues, which is timeless.



### **The Stand**

Stephen King

This is an epic fantasy horror novel from one of the best storytellers around. After a virulent

flu outbreak wipes out 99.4% of the world's population, a battle rages between good and evil among those left. Randall Flagg – basically the devil in denim – is one of the scariest characters ever. Fact.



### **Gone Girl**

Gillian Flynn

There was a bit of me that didn't want to love this when everyone else on the planet did,

but it's brilliant. There's tension and anxiety from the beginning as both narrators, Nick and Amy, battle for your trust. It's a genuine whodunnit and the frustration when you realise what's going on is horribly enjoyable.

**WIN**

For your chance to win Jo's top five books, answer the following question:

#### **What was the topic**

of Jo's dissertation? How to enter: email your answer to [alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or send to the postal address on page 39 by 31 December 2013.

## Online learning goes global

Global access to higher education will move a step closer to reality when the University launches Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in late 2013. Developed in partnership with FutureLearn Ltd, an Open University company, the courses will provide students around the world with free access to some of the UK's top universities.

'We have a great tradition here at Birmingham of looking to the future and MOOCs will enable us to make some of our high quality academic content available worldwide,' explains Professor Giles Perryer, the academic lead for the University's MOOCs programme.

The MOOCs will be highly activity based, requiring two to six hours a week for a six to ten week period. A thriving online community will be fostered among the students and peer-to-peer assessment will take place, with participants receiving a certificate of completion.

Birmingham is developing a wealth of courses, the first of which will be announced in the autumn, offering new ways of accessing our academic expertise. These will form part of a wider package of alternative modes of education delivery currently under development.

Learn more

<http://futurelearn.com>

*Take three:*



GUEST ED LOVES

# Superdiversity

Birmingham's Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) is the first of its kind to focus on the concept – the idea of diversity on a greater scale and with more complexity than ever known before. Three Birmingham academics give their perspectives on the reality of a superdiverse society and why its study matters.



**1** Our society is transforming faster than it has ever done. For many years, we had a situation where large groups of migrants came to the UK from a small number of countries and settled in cities. Now we're seeing small groups coming from many different countries and settling in both rural and urban areas.

'Until recently, our population has been defined in terms of multiculturalism, but this suggests that people from the same country are essentially the same. Superdiversity extends far beyond multiculturalism to look at aspects such as ethnicity, gender, religion, age and immigration status.'

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STATUS.'**

'In social policy terms, this is a far more complex reality, and one that means we have to move beyond the idea of providing a particular public service for a particular group of people.'

'It's a challenge, but it's an exciting one that local authorities such as Birmingham City Council are taking up to ensure they have the services and infrastructure in place to serve our diverse, heterogeneous society.'

**Dr Jenny Phillimore, Director  
of IRiS, is a Senior Lecturer in the  
field of Applied Social Studies**



**2** It's true that local authorities are starting to embrace superdiversity, but this is not the case at central government level where diversity and immigration are seen as problems.

Sometimes it feels like they are trying to deny that immigration happens and this isn't a good message to give out as it may exacerbate social conflicts and alienate those who are already here.

'Immigration controls are already very tight and I think we should be very careful about tightening them further. Immigrants and citizens are both affected by an increasingly restrictive immigration regime. The new minimum income threshold of £18,600 has separated thousands of British citizens from their non-British partners and children.'

**'IMMIGRATION  
CONTROLS ARE  
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FURTHER.'**

'We need to bear emigration in mind when we consider immigration – we all want the freedom to travel around the UK and elsewhere, and the UK wants to enjoy access to the important global labour market. A British citizen who leaves the UK is an emigrant for the UK but an immigrant for their destination country. This simple fact may help to suggest a more balanced conversation about migration and its consequences.'

**Dr Nando Sigona is  
a Birmingham Fellow  
who has spent the past  
decade researching and  
teaching in migration, refugee and  
ethnic studies**



'I take more of a geographical perspective, looking at how we should be planning for superdiversity, and how this may vary over space and time.

'Traditionally, urban and town planners took a rational and scientific approach to planning, making assumptions on how existing populations would develop, and planning accordingly.

'From the 1960s, large-scale immigration from Commonwealth countries saw ethnic groups settle in UK cities such as Birmingham, London and Leicester, creating ethnic neighbourhoods and business enclaves. During the 'multicultural' 1980s, planners had to start thinking about how ethnic and cultural diversity was being expressed in the physical form of the city, for example, cultural centres and places of worship and mapping catchment areas for community services according to ethnic and cultural criteria.

'However, it's now not enough to identify neighbourhoods based on ethnic or cultural definitions. In fact, superdiverse areas are not necessarily those that have seen historically high levels of immigration; levels of ethnic concentration do not make for superdiversity.

**'IN  
A CITY LIKE  
BIRMINGHAM,  
WHICH IS HOME  
TO MORE THAN 180  
NATIONALITIES, WE  
NEED TO TAKE A  
BROADER PLANNING  
APPROACH.'**

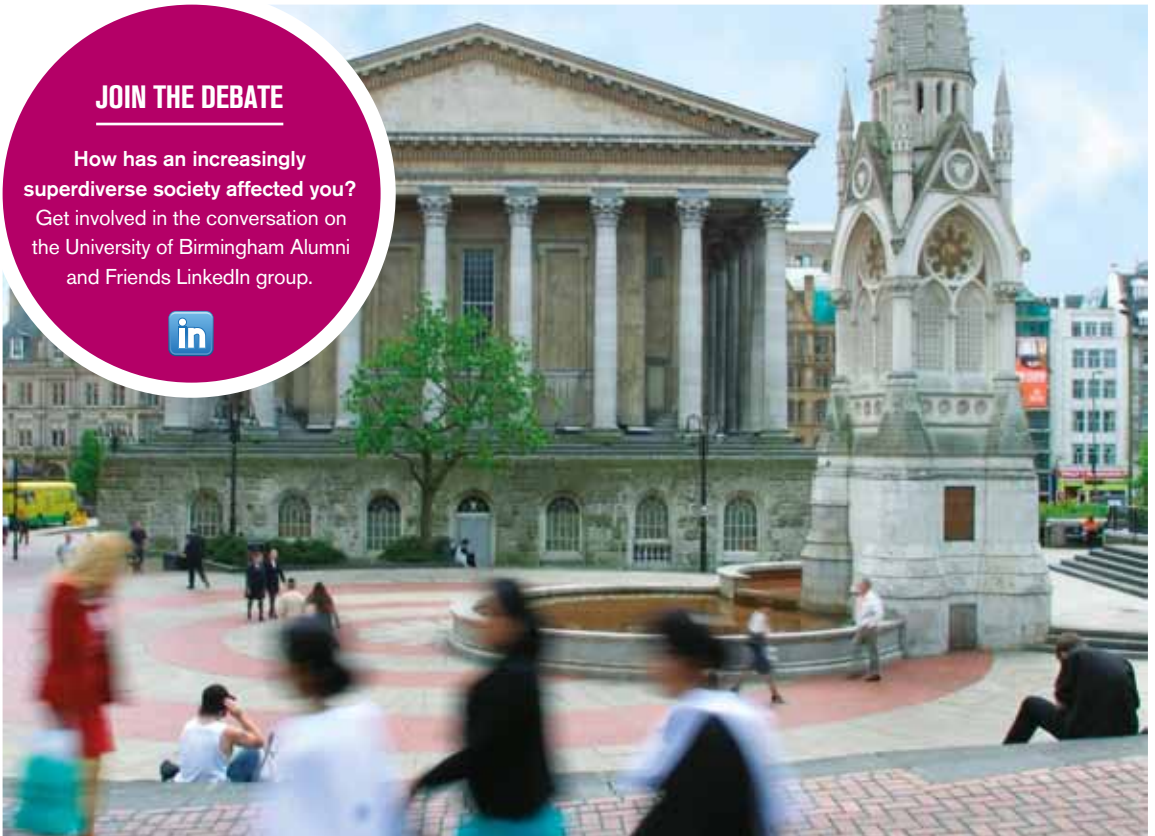
'In a city like Birmingham, which is home to more than 180 nationalities, we need to take a broader planning approach. Places of worship, public spaces, education and health resources, and housing and employment opportunities shouldn't be designed on a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis. Instead we need to ensure that our superdiverse, city-wide population can access these resources wherever they are, but at the same time acknowledging that not everyone currently has the capacity or ability to do so.'

**Dr Simon Pemberton is a Senior Lecturer in Urban Geography and Planning**



**JOIN THE DEBATE**

How has an increasingly superdiverse society affected you? Get involved in the conversation on the University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends LinkedIn group.





# Thanks for the memories



GUEST ED LOVES

Earlier this year, the Alumni Relations team was inundated after asking you to send in your memories of your time at the University. Thank you to everyone who shared their memories of Birmingham; here are just a few of the fascinating stories you had to tell...



**I REMEMBER BEING DRIVEN  
DOWN THE STEPS BEHIND THE  
ARTS FACULTY IN A VW BEETLE!**

*Helen Later (née Lea)*

*(BA French Language and Literature, 1985)*



**Send us a picture of  
you and Birmingham you**

Alumni have sent in great pictures like this one of Rosemary Bate (BSc Medical Biochemistry, 1957), remembering their time at Birmingham. You can send a picture of you and Birmingham you, by emailing your 'picture in a picture' to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)





## Life on campus

'During our first year, there were extensive renovations being done on Joe. One evening, on a dare, we decided to climb Joe, inside that is. The lift was off limits, so we climbed and climbed. Initially progress was a walk in the park, however the girth of the tower decreased with height and things on the ground began to look very, very small. And, of course, going up was the easy part!'

*Dr Rod Packman (BSc Physics, 1960; PhD, 1964)*

**FIRE WATCHING FROM JOSEPH WAS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND THERE WAS ONE BOMB NEAR CHANCELLOR'S HALL WITH LITTLE DAMAGE.**

*Thomas Telford (BSc Zoology, 1947)*

## Rag Week

'I remember my first Rag/Carnival Day 1949, leaping on a bus at Alcester Lane in a ridiculous get up and rattling my tin for contributions. Joining the engineers' float, I finally ended up at the Great Hall exhausted with some young lady I had met en route, who particularly wanted to hear the star attraction that year.'

*Ken England (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1952)*

'In Rag Week 1970, the English and Drama departments did an all-night Shakespeare reading in town. Around 3am, a couple of lads came by on their way home from a nightclub. They had drunk quite a bit and had never read any Shakespeare, but joined in for a laugh and got hooked – they stayed about two hours, and a whole world opened up for them!'

*Kate Yates (BA English and French, 1974)*



**BIRMINGHAM MEANT MAKING WONDERFUL FRIENDS AND MEETING MY HUSBAND OF 42 YEARS. IT ALSO MEANT OPPORTUNITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD – AND MY LIFE – IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.**

*Jane Piggott (BSocSc Russian and East European Studies, 1970)*



## Sporting achievements

'The hockey XI went on a three-game tour to a Netherlands hockey tournament and our loud in-tune, drink-encouraged song was 'We beat Amersfort City, we beat Hanover too, we'll beat Schaervade tomorrow, cos Birmingham... we love you'. Sadly, we lost 2-1 to Schaervade. On the way back, our team was sick on the hovercraft, except tough-stomached me who suggested a fry-up on our arrival at Folkestone. That re-polished off a few.'

*David Taylor (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1972)*

'My fond memories include being a member (long jumper) and secretary of the Birmingham Athletics Club, whose unpaid and unofficial coach was Dr Mike Hayes from the Department of Chemistry. We trained on the athletics track beside the library at lunchtime, got to tour tertiary institutions in the then West Germany (Cologne, Hanover and Berlin) and represented the University Athletics Union (UAU) in long jump.'

*David Lim (BSocSc Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1966)*

## Course and classmates

'On my first day, I asked a mature student if he was my lecturer. He was 80 and looked like Dumbledore, so easily done. He was a great guy with racy stories to tell. Then, I watched my friend Simon Le Bon take off as a musician. Duran Duran was to become the soundtrack for the '80s.'

*Pauline Kent (BA English and History, 1982)*

'I remember when we had seminars in huts and there were the black stoves in one corner that got very hot. One time, one of my fellow students left his plastic portfolio case against it. Suddenly there was a dreadful smell and smoke – all the plastic had melted.'

*Valerie Vessey (BSocSc Economics, Politics and Sociology, 1962)*

## GETINTOUCH

Send your memories of Birmingham to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk). With your permission, they'll be put online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/memorylane](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/memorylane)



## Birmingham's biggest supporter bar none

As Sir Dominic Cadbury prepares to retire as Chancellor of the University, *Old Joe* looks back over his time at Birmingham and the legacy he will leave behind.

**I AM PLEASED I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REALLY CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO BIRMINGHAM VIA AN INSTITUTION WHICH IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CITY WHERE MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS GREW.**

**D**uring the past decade, more than 75,000 Birmingham graduates have shaken hands with Sir Dominic Cadbury (Hon LLD, 2002) as they collected their degrees on graduation day. One scholarship student, whose achievements especially impressed Sir Dominic, even received a bar of chocolate with hers, which speaks volumes about the personable nature of the Chancellor whose tenure comes to an end this December.

A member of the Cadbury chocolate dynasty, Sir Dominic has been the University's lead ambassador since May 2002, a role he describes as thoroughly enjoyable and extremely varied.

'I represent the University at all big occasions and have had the opportunity to meet a huge range of people during my time. I am pleased I have been able to really contribute something to Birmingham via an institution which is such an important part of the city where my family's business grew.'

As honorary head of the University, the Chancellor chairs meetings of the University's Court, represents the University in the UK and overseas, and presides over degree congregations, the aspect of the job which he describes as his highlight.

'Graduation days are such big occasions for everyone involved, not just the students, but also their families and friends,' he explains. 'It has been a real privilege to be a part of so many special days.'

While he is reticent about claiming any personal responsibility for the University's achievements over the past ten years, he is proud of all of the changes and growth he has witnessed during his time here.

'The University has achieved a huge amount during the past decade. Research standards, student satisfaction, the campus and facilities have all been improved and I am proud that the University has so much to claim, especially against a changing higher education background and difficult financial times.'

## A lifetime of support

Sir Dominic's role at the University continues a lifelong family tradition. This timeline provides a snapshot of the Cadbury family's support during the inter-war years.

**1918**

A series of evening lectures in town planning were funded by Cadbury Bros Ltd

**1920**

Cadbury Bros Ltd donated £5,000 to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's appeal for the University (equivalent to nearly £200,000 today)

**1922**

The Cadbury Bournville Village Trust set up an annual grant to fund lectures in town planning via the Chemical Engineering department

**1923**

A course on town planning was sponsored by Cadbury Bros Ltd

**1925**

The Cadbury brothers funded a research fellow in the Faculty of Commerce to investigate 'the history of the last 60 years of Birmingham industry'. This resulted in the publication in 1929 of CG Allen's famous book *The Industrial Development of Birmingham and the Black Country*

**1926**

The city was gifted 100 acres of land from the Cadbury Bros Ltd to build a new hospital and University Medical School

**1930**

Cadbury Bros Ltd donated £168,000 towards the public appeal for the new hospital and medical school (equivalent to £9 million today)

**1937**

Edward Cadbury and his wife funded St Francis Hall, the University chapel and endowed a chair in Theology



Even with such a modest view of his impact, his legacy cannot be overlooked. Once described by his older brother, Sir Adrian Cadbury (Hon LLD, 1989), as having 'fantastic focus', Sir Dominic has been awarded this year's CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Europe Leadership Award which recognises outstanding leaders who inspire by example in promoting and supporting education.

As President of the Circles of influence fundraising campaign, Sir Dominic has been instrumental in reintroducing philanthropy to Birmingham. 'If you are fortunate enough to be able to give something back, it is really important to do so, after all, we all have an urge to do something for others,' he says. 'I am proud to have supported a number of initiatives at the University including the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme, the Bramall Music Building and Special Collections.'

A Cambridge and Stanford University graduate, Sir Dominic is also heavily involved in his own alumni communities, providing advice to Trinity College on its alumni activities, and as a member of Stanford's Business School International Advisory Board.

In his final act as Chancellor, Sir Dominic has launched the Chancellor's Challenge Fund in support of the University's campus developments and to inspire a new generation of donors. Sir Dominic has kick-started the Fund with a pledge of £250,000 and is challenging alumni, friends and supporters to raise a combined £2 million by July 2014.



● **Image:** Sir Dominic, pictured with eight scholarship students, is a generous supporter of the Access to Birmingham scholarship scheme

'The new Sports Centre, Library, Lapworth Museum refurbishment and University School will provide outstanding facilities for both the University and local community,' he says.

'I wanted to make a special gift to help Circles of influence continue to do fantastic things and would personally like to thank everyone who joins me and contributes to the future success of the University.'

As part of his challenge, Sir Dominic is encouraging those who have never given to the University before to make this year their time to start. As an incentive, he will give £97 for each of the first 800 new donors giving £3 to the autumn library appeal, raising a further £8,000 for the new building.

Upon retiring, Sir Dominic still plans to be involved with the University and the city more widely. A member of the new Library of Birmingham Board of Trustees,

he will also become President of the Edgbaston High School for Girls. 'I have plenty to keep me busy,' he says. 'As well as trying to keep my golf handicap respectable of course.'

#### Learn more

Sir Dominic will be the guest speaker at the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association AGM. Turn to page 24 for more details.

## Thank you

At the time of going to press, alumni and friends have already donated £1 million towards the £2 million Chancellor's Challenge Fund target. Thank you. Find out more about the Challenge and how you can take part at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/chancellorchallenge](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/chancellorchallenge)

# A global community

Birmingham alumni may be spread across the world, but there are plenty of ways for you to stay in touch with the University and each other. Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events) to find out about alumni gatherings happening in your city.



THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY  
CONSISTS OF MORE THAN  
**179,000**  
GRADUATES BASED IN  
**190** COUNTRIES



**? DID YOU KNOW**  
ALL ALUMNI ARE **GGAA**  
AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF  
THE GUILD OF GRADUATES AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**SYDNEY IS THE ALUMNI GROUP  
FURTHEST AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY**  
**105867** MILES



THE ANNUAL CANADIAN ALUMNI GARDEN PARTY  
**10<sup>TH</sup>**  
IS CELEBRATING ITS  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR



**SINGAPORE**

IS THE FIRST REGION  
OUTSIDE OF BIRMINGHAM TO HOST THE  
DISTINGUISHED LEADERS  
LECTURE SERIES



**RUSSIA**

**HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ALUMNI  
WITHOUT AN ALUMNI GROUP**  
COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT GROUP LEADER?  
EMAIL: [ALUMNIOFFICE@CONTACTS.BHAM.AC.UK](mailto:ALUMNIOFFICE@CONTACTS.BHAM.AC.UK)

# Alumni events calendar

Event invitations are usually sent by email – update your details via [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to ensure you don't miss out.

## September

### **Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association Forum and AGM, Saturday 14 September, 10.00am–2.00pm**

All alumni are invited to attend an Annual Forum on campus, to include lunch and a talk by guest speaker, Chancellor Sir Dominic Cadbury.

### **Millet to Manet, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts Thursday 19 September–Sunday 12 January 2014**

Using a selection of the Barber's own prints by artists including Millet and Daubigny, this latest exhibition explores French prints of the late 19th century, a period of immense social and artistic change.

Visit [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk) for more information.

### **Canadian Alumni Chapter Annual Garden Party, Sunday 22 September, 1.00–4.00pm**

Join the Canadian Alumni Chapter for their annual Garden Party in Aurora, Ontario. Contact Barbara Alexander (MBChB Medicine, 1968) via [lxndr727@sympatico.ca](mailto:lxndr727@sympatico.ca) for more information.

### **Meteorology and Climatology Reunion, Friday 27–Saturday 28 September**

A reunion for all Meteorology and Climatology alumni organised by John Thornes (MSc Meteorology and Climatology, 1973).



## November

### **House of Lords Reception, Friday 8 November, 6.30–8.30pm**

Tickets for the tenth annual reception at the House of Lords have now sold out.

Email [alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to be added to the waiting list.

## October

### **Birmingham Business School Distinguished Leaders Series, October 2013**

High-profile leaders from across the world reflect on their personal journey and discuss the qualities of a great leader. Visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/distinguished-leaders-series](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/distinguished-leaders-series) for further details on upcoming events.

### **Medicine 30-Year Reunion, Friday 11 October**

Join your fellow class of 1983 Medicine alumni to celebrate your 30th anniversary at the Medical School.

### **Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Music of the Stars, Thursday 17 October 2013, 6.15–8.30pm**

Hear Professor Bill Chaplin (BSc Physics with Astrophysics, 1990; PhD Physics, 1994; PG Cert, 2001), Professor of Astrophysics, reprise his lecture on asteroseismology from earlier this year. To be held on campus.

### **Dentistry Class of 1983 30-Year Reunion, Friday 18 October, 7.00pm onwards**

Join your fellow class of 1983 Dentistry contemporaries to celebrate the 30th anniversary of your graduation.

### **Book to the Future, Thursday 24–Tuesday 29 October**

A literary festival featuring academic, student and local talent together with well-known alumni authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters. Sponsored by the Alumni Impact Fund. Visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/booktothefuture](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/booktothefuture) for the full programme of events.

**Birmingham Business School Distinguished Leaders Series in Singapore, Friday 8 November**  
Brigadier-General Chwee Koh Chua, Chief Operating Officer, Certis CISCO, will be launching the Distinguished Leaders Series in Singapore in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM).





## December

### London Christmas Party, December

Join fellow alumni in the capital for a festive after-work drink on us. Details to be confirmed.

### University Carol Service, Monday 9 December, The Great Hall, 6.15–7.30pm

This annual Christmas celebration with carols and mince pies is open to all. No booking or ticket required.

### Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, Wednesday 11 December, 6.00–9.00pm

Come along for a beer, Glühwein or hot chocolate at the ever-popular Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market. Free entry and your first drink is on us.

## Save the date

### Summer Reunion, Saturday 14 June 2014

Come back to campus to see what has changed since your time as a student, catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances. Activities planned include morning tea, a visit to your former school, lunch and more. There will also be plenty of time for you to explore campus with your classmates. We can help you get in touch with lost friends and classmates, and help organise lunch tables for you and your friends. Please book online via [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk) or call us. Whether you're celebrating a milestone anniversary or just want to come back to campus, all alumni are welcome to attend.

### Alumni Sports Day, Saturday 14 June 2014

Meet up with old teammates to take on current students in one of 15 sports at the 13th annual Alumni Sports Day. Tickets include a day of sport, a drink and your ticket to Fab at the Guild.



## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 2,000 alumni and friends attended more than 100 events in 30 cities last year.

## Spring 2014

### Leaders of Tomorrow Reception London, 27 March 2014

An opportunity for alumni and supporters to meet some of the students who have benefited from the University's student support programmes. All welcome.

### London Professional Network, March 2014

Network with fellow alumni from the fields of finance, insurance, property and legal-related professions with wine and canapés.

### 1964 Geology Reunion, date to be confirmed

Let's meet up sometime mid-2014 to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Contact Bryan Martin at [diamar124@btinternet.com](mailto:diamar124@btinternet.com)

### Students v Alumni Pub Quiz, spring 2014

Test your general knowledge against staff and students at our informal Guild pub quiz.

### Fab 'n' Refresh, 26 April 2014

Join fellow graduates from the past ten years for a Guild night exclusively for alumni.

### Bugs, Bees, Plants and Trees at Winterbourne House and Garden, Saturday 31 May 2014

An outdoor celebration of nature, animals and the great outdoors, including stalls from local groups and societies, activities for children and animal displays.



To find out more, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events), email [alumni@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)121 414 8904.



# Careers Network is just the job

With employability now the second highest concern (only behind curriculum content) for prospective students choosing a university, Birmingham is providing a whole host of support for graduates' career goals.



#### What is the Careers Network?

You might have known it as the Careers and Employability Centre (and the Careers Centre before that). Careers Network offers support to students, checks CVs, runs careers sessions and much more. Since a recent rebrand, student engagement has increased by 300%, peaking at 35,000 individual usages in a two-month period.



**MY COURSE WAS EXCELLENT – SO GOOD IT MADE ME WISH I’D DONE THREE YEARS AS AN UNDERGRAD. IT TAUGHT ME SKILLS I USE EVERY DAY, AND I WOULDN’T HAVE THE CAREER I HAVE NOW WITHOUT MY MASTERS FROM BIRMINGHAM.**

*Robert Young (MSc Computer Science, 2002),  
Operations Engineer for Fidessa Group*

Building on important services including CV clinics, practice interviews and access to job vacancies, the newly rebranded Careers Network is also benefiting from more alumni involvement than ever before. Former students are offering a wide range of support from work experience placements and internships to graduate schemes, funding bursaries, careers talks, mentoring and much more.

But why is a careers focus important? ‘The competition in some fields now is so great that employers have to select from thousands of applicants for every job,’ says Eluned Jones, Director of Student Employability. ‘We help students to market themselves and their skills, make strong applications, give an excellent interview performance and grow their commercial awareness; all to give them an edge over other candidates.’

Investment in careers services has had a big impact, with the latest figures showing 93% of Birmingham graduates are in work or further study six months after graduating. This places the University above other Russell Group universities including Oxford, University College London, Warwick, Durham and London School of Economics. ‘Importantly, 81% are in graduate-level employment, representing a 16% increase in the past four years,’ Eluned says.

With the advent of higher fees, these statistics are becoming even more important. ‘Prospective students rightly want to know that they will get a return on the investment of their degree,’ explains Eluned. ‘Excellent careers services not only help our graduates get those top jobs, but also give the University an added advantage in continuing to recruit the best students.’

## DID YOU KNOW?

Students attended Careers Network events on at least 4,300 different occasions and more than 4,000 advice desk appointments and CV clinics took place over a 12-month period.

Birmingham was alongside Oxford and Cambridge in the top ten universities most often targeted by Britain’s top graduate employers in 2012/13\*.

\*Source: The Graduate Market 2013 Annual Review by High Fliers Research



# What's on offer for you?

Whether you want further learning, a career change or useful contacts, the University offers a range of careers support for its alumni.

## Full careers support

You still have access to the Careers Network and its full support for one year after graduation and after this, there is a growing bank of resources available to help you build and develop your career. Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduatecareers](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduatecareers)

## Careers e-newsletter

You can sign up to receive a monthly careers e-newsletter packed full of helpful tips, career profiles, advice and the latest events and vacancies from fellow alumni. Email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to subscribe.



## Graduate Trainee Scheme (GTS)

If you gained a 2:1 or higher in the past three years, you could apply for the GTS at the University of Birmingham. Former graduate trainee Teresa Hunt (BA International Relations, 2012) says:

**'THE EXPERIENCES I GAINED GAVE ME A BRILLIANT UNDERSTANDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HELPED ME SECURE A PERMANENT POSITION IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MARKETING TEAM.'**

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/gts](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/gts)

## Birmingham Skills and Enterprise Network (BSEEN)

If you graduated in the past five years, live in the West Midlands and want to start a local business, BSEEN could help. Chris Bates (BA Modern History, 2012), co-founder of Selly Joke, says: 'BSEEN has been a massive help, from the grant to the training sessions covering things that would take us months to learn by ourselves.' Visit <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/ei/programmes/bseen.aspx>

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and further study

Did you know that 28% of the University's 2012 graduates went on to further study? 'If you still enjoy uni life and want to engross yourself further in a subject you enjoy, definitely consider a PhD at Birmingham,' says doctoral researcher Suleman Khan (BSc Chemistry, 2010). CPD at Birmingham includes everything from short courses (many offering an alumni discount) to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) – free, online courses with unrestricted global enrolment. Visit <http://futurelearn.com>

## Careers talks and other events

The University runs professionally-focused events each year, including the London Professional Network; the Distinguished Leaders series and the Welcome to London pub night. 'Business is about networking and being part of such a huge alumni community gives you the opportunity to communicate with people all over the world,' says Ayaan Mohamad (BA Media, Culture and Society, 2009; MSc Marketing, 2010). Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The *Graduate Guide*, packed with career tips and life advice from your fellow alumni, is available online now.

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateguide](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateguide)



# How can you help?

All alumni have something to offer to current students. What could you do?

## Want to help?

If you want to support students or new graduates in their careers in any way, please contact the Careers Network via +44 (0)121 414 6120 or [careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



## Become a mentor

Around 200 alumni now mentor students at the University. Erin-Jane Golding (BA American and Canadian Studies, 2012) was mentored by Cilla Snowball CBE (BA French Language and Literature, 1981) through the flagship Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme (ALMP). Erin-Jane says: 'With Cilla's help, I got the grades I wanted and a place on the Channel 4 communications trainee scheme. It's been a phenomenal experience.'



## Offer an internship or work experience placement

Paid internships and work experience placements offer the chance to gain invaluable experience and contacts. Simon Lee (MEng Civil Engineering, 2013) won the Discovery Networks International Factual internship at the *Discovery Channel* after his mentor Elizabeth McIntyre (BA English Literature) suggested he apply. He says: 'I'm looking at everything from developing possible new programme formats to scouting for new presenters at the Edinburgh Festival. It is a fantastic opportunity to pursue my dream career.'



## Help finance opportunities

A whole range of student internships are funded by alumni. Dr Chris Banks CBE (BA French Language and Literature, 1980; Hon DUNiv, 2012), who has funded 45 Gateway Internships, says: 'Many employers don't just want bright young people, they want evidence of being ready for the world of work. Internships represent a great way of giving our undergraduates a competitive edge, so this is a practical way that alumni can make a huge difference.'



## Advertise your graduate roles

Does your company offer a graduate scheme? Make sure the Careers Network knows and you could help bring the next generation of Birmingham talent into your business. Top employers focus on Birmingham for graduate scheme recruitment, for example Boots International exclusively promoted its new International Graduate Scheme to Business Management students in the Business School.



## Give a careers talk

Alumni can offer in-depth knowledge of their specific industry without a big time commitment. You could talk to students about emerging trends for example, or tips for breaking into your industry sector, based on your experiences. 'Obviously we don't have in-depth knowledge across every industry and that's where alumni can make a valuable contribution,' says Eluned.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Businesses from Caterpillar and Siemens to RBS and Rolls-Royce have links with the University, benefiting students, alumni and the companies themselves. Email [businessteam@bham.ac.uk](mailto:businessteam@bham.ac.uk) if your company would like to work with the University.



## Make social connections

Alumni can promote vacancies, share opportunities or offer advice and tips to current students via [@careersbham](https://twitter.com/careersbham) or [www.facebook.com/careersbham](https://www.facebook.com/careersbham). Laura Megatli (BA English Literature with Creative Writing, 2013) won an internship after spotting it on the Careers Network Twitter feed. She says: 'Undergraduates spend a great amount of time on Facebook and Twitter, so publicising opportunities on these media is very helpful and effective.'

A REFUSAL TO ACCEPT STEREOTYPES OR LIMITATIONS HAS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF PROFESSOR JUDE KELLY'S CAREER. NOW IN CREATIVE CONTROL OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ARTS CENTRES, SHE EXPLAINS HER PASSION FOR GIVING THE ARTS SOCIAL PURPOSE, AND WHY RIDING THE WAVES MATTERS AS MUCH AS TREADING THE BOARDS.



**Art** and **SOUL** of a people's champion

**I**t's an irony that Professor Jude Kelly OBE (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1975; Hon DLitt, 2012) has spent her life inspiring others when she knew clearly her own path at an age when most children's biggest decision is what to play on first – swing or slide?

The second of four daughters born in Liverpool, her passion for the arts became evident before she ever set foot on a stage. 'At seven, I was making up stories, putting them on in the back garden, insisting the neighbours' children acted in them and that all the neighbours came and watched.

At secondary school I realised there were formal plays, and knew absolutely that I wanted to be a theatre director.'

With that surety came an understanding of the means needed to reach that end, and a flanking steely determination to get there fast. 'I realised I had to get academic training and Birmingham was the only course combining practical work and academic research. The idea of studying to be a theatre director was still new, so it was an interesting era.'

At Birmingham, two more themes emerged which still shape Jude's work – female equality and arts with a social purpose. 'There were hardly any women directors at that time and the male lecturers didn't yet have a very developed sense of how to give women the support they needed. The only opportunity to direct was in the third year so, against my tutors' wishes, I went and directed in the University's Amateur Dramatics Society. I also formed a women-only drama group because I wanted to break through the stereotypes about what women could do.

'A couple of lecturers were interested in the idea of drama for community engagement and brought in some fascinating speakers including theatre director Peter Cheeseman and radio producer Charles Parker. I found them really inspiring, and knew I wanted to combine community practice with conventional theatre. I wanted to change the world.'

A year at the Leicester Phoenix after graduating gave Jude an actor's view, and she started a volunteer street theatre to enable her to direct

immediately. Then came the crucial

break. 'I applied for two director

jobs, one at the Royal Court

Young People's Theatre,

and one at this new touring

community company, the Solent People's Theatre.

At the Royal Court interview

they laughed when I said

I was 22, so at Solent, I lied that I was 24 and got the job.

It was an exciting, fascinating

and wonderful time because

I was completely in charge and my ambition could thrive.'

Jude went on to directorships

at Battersea Arts Centre, the Royal

Shakespeare Company and the West Yorkshire

Playhouse, always focused on engaging communities and

new audiences. In 2005, she became Artistic Director of the

Southbank Centre, the largest single-run arts centre in the world.

'If you have strong ideas for social change, you look for where you can get maximum focus and make a big impact.

Southbank had forgotten its identity and I wanted to revitalise

it and reassert the debate about what our large-scale,

publicly subsidised cultural organisations are for.'

**I REALISED I HAD TO GET ACADEMIC TRAINING AND BIRMINGHAM WAS THE ONLY COURSE COMBINING PRACTICAL WORK AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH. THE IDEA OF STUDYING TO BE A THEATRE DIRECTOR WAS STILL NEW, SO IT WAS AN INTERESTING ERA.**



Having been instrumental in the cultural element of London's Olympic bid, Jude was also asked to become Director of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad but received the call on the same day she was offered her role at Southbank. 'I felt in an enormous dilemma because I knew I couldn't do justice to both. I decided to commit to the Southbank Centre because this really did need a sustained, systemic change that would influence cultural institutions around the world.'

Despite Southbank's size, Jude – who was awarded an OBE in 1997 for services to theatre – believes in creativity on all scales, having established Metal in 2002 for artists to explore ideas and hunches. 'The outcomes people ask for from the arts – employment, engagement, diversity – are laudable, but to have measurement in advance of any artistic activity even being formed is too unsophisticated. I wanted to give artists time, space and permission to experiment; and show that from small amounts of resources, you can create amazing changes in communities.' There are now three Metals around the country, with activities ranging from supporting literacy among 11–14-year-olds through a partnership with Liverpool Football Club to helping artists present their business online.

In 2011, Jude launched the Women of the World (WOW) Festival at Southbank, celebrating women's achievements and examining the barriers still faced by women around the globe. 'I haven't had many obstacles in life but any I've had have been clearly to do with gender. Feminism actually means something

**“ I WANTED TO GIVE ARTISTS TIME, SPACE AND PERMISSION TO EXPERIMENT; AND SHOW THAT FROM SMALL AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES, YOU CAN CREATE AMAZING CHANGES IN COMMUNITIES. ”**

very simple – that you have an equal right to fulfil every bit of your potential. It doesn't matter where you sit in the great ecology of progress as long as you are realising your potential. I can't bear people's lack of imagination being used to keep others down.'

Jude, mum to poet Caroline Bird and dancer Robbie Bird, is currently overseeing a £125 million redevelopment of Southbank Centre's Festival Wing aimed, of course, at greater levels of public engagement. 'There will be a children's centre, local history museum and a 'floating' glass pavilion; but perhaps

the most exciting thing is the new educational spaces, which will allow anyone to get involved in informal, progressive learning. It's something I've thought about for years and will be fantastic.'

So, having achieved and then surpassed her childhood dream, what is still left for Jude to accomplish? 'I windsurf and would like to take some consistent time away to get better at it. But I don't know about another professional ambition yet. When I'm involved in something, I'm passionately in love with it. Then comes a moment when I think: "Well that was wonderful but now I'm going to do something different" and that's when something else comes to me.'

**Learn more**

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

[www.metalculture.com](http://www.metalculture.com)

[@southbankcentre](https://twitter.com/southbankcentre)

● Image: Artist's impression of the Southbank Centre's new Festival Wing





SPOTLIGHT:

# Singapore

Connect with alumni in Singapore by visiting the University of Birmingham Singapore Alumni Facebook page.



If you like your cities urban and urbane, you'll love the thriving cultural hub that is Singapore. Little wonder Birmingham alumni can't get enough of it.

'The handiest and most marvellous city I ever saw...' wrote the natural historian William Hornaday of Singapore in 1885. Were he to visit today, he would find a bustling, cosmopolitan city-state of more than five million people.

The University's ties to Singapore began 25 years ago when the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) began hosting MBA courses delivered by University staff based in Singapore.

The University also has a connection to Singapore's Raffles Institution, the oldest school in the republic, and Raffles Girls' School. Raffles students can participate in the University's first-year Music curriculum, spread out over two years of study, with lectures from visiting tutors.

Should you ever visit, why not take these tips from the University's Singapore-based community?



## Must eat

Jeffrey Shao Lin Lee (BSc Business Management, 2013) recommends: 'Frog leg porridge, durian and dim sum at **Gelyang**; prawning at **Punggol** or **Bishan**. You can also get cheaper but nice food from the **Wet Market**.'



## Must do

'For a unique after-hours experience, you can watch tigers, rhinos and 1,000 other species on the **Singapore Night Safari**,' says Elijah Tze How Chai (MBA International Business, 2007).



## Must see

Mohamed Muzaffar Ahmed, second year International Business student recommends: 'The 55-storey **Marina Bay Sands casino** complex, with 360° city views, rooftop restaurant and swimming pool.'



## Must visit

Dr Jack Lee's (PhD Law, 2012) highlights include: 'The **Asian Civilisations Museum**, **National Museum of Singapore** and **Singapore Art Museum**', and Toh Loo San (BEng Mechanical Engineering, 1998) recommends the **Sungei Buloh Wetland**.

### Singapore statistics

- 1,927 Birmingham alumni live in Singapore
- The University has 590 students whose nationality is listed as Singaporean
- Five university staff members hail from Singapore
- Birmingham has one of only 19 UK law schools whose degrees are recognised in Singapore

### Have you been to . . .

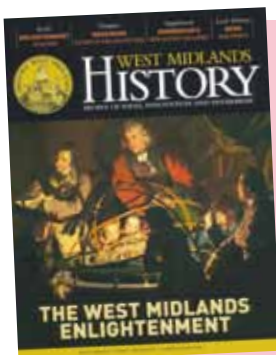
#### Chicago?

Send your tips and pics to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) and the best will be featured on this page in the next issue of *Old Joe*.



A selection of news from around the University. To find out about your school or department, visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)

**COME BACK AND VISIT YOUR SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT FOR YOUR SUMMER REUNION, SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2014**



## From the College of Arts and Law

### History

Dr Malcolm Dick of the Department of History has been appointed Editor of new regional magazine, *History West Midlands* which features much content informed by

Birmingham-led research. The publication, for members of the community with an interest in Midlands history, is a useful way to build public engagement in the University's academic expertise. The first issue on the West Midlands Enlightenment is a reflection of Malcolm's work with Professor in French History, Peter Jones; and is available to download now from [www.historywm.com](http://www.historywm.com)

## From the College of Life and Environmental Sciences

### Geology

A significant refurbishment will update the Lapworth Museum of Geology in line with 21st century teaching and learning practices and technologies, and make it more accessible to local communities. Thanks to a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a gift from Dr Keith Palmer OBE (BSc Geology, 1968; PhD, 1971; DUniv, 2013), plans are afoot to transform this facility by 2015. To find out how you can help make this project a reality, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth-museum](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth-museum)



Artist's impression



Artist's impression

## From the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences has introduced three new themes to provide a structure to all of its research activity. These are:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Resilience, Energy and Sustainability
- Science Frontiers

### The School of Computer Science

Computer Science has been made an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research by the UK government. This national scheme seeks to strengthen the collaborative work and ongoing research between academic institutes, UK government and industry to ensure resilience to cyber attacks.

Learn more

[www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research)



## From UBSport



Members of 14 different clubs returned to the University in June for the 12th annual Alumni Sports Day. The event, bringing together students past and present, gave alumni the opportunity to relive their memories and compete once again for the University. 'Alumni day is pretty special for all of the boys in the team,' explains James Martin (BA Political Economy, 2013), alumni rep for the Rugby League team. 'We all really look forward to this event as we see lots of graduates returning. Everyone has a laugh and then we head to the bar for a catch-up.' Register now for 2014's Alumni Sports Day via [www.sport.bham.ac.uk](http://www.sport.bham.ac.uk)



## From the College of Social Sciences

### HSMC

The Health Services Management Centre (HSMC) and Birmingham Business School, along with a consortium of other internationally recognised institutions, have been selected to help the NHS deliver the largest and most comprehensive programme of leadership development.

Around 25,000 NHS staff will have access to foundation, mid- and senior-level leadership programmes from September, with HSMC playing a major role in delivering them. This will aim to improve patients' experience by encouraging compassion, dignity and respect.

## From the College of Medical and Dental Sciences

The Medical and Dental School's unique Basic Life Support (BLS) course, which provides basic training to first year medical and dental students, will now be working in partnership with the British Heart Foundation to provide training for more than 3,000 year 8 and 9 students from the University's Access to Birmingham (A2B) partner schools. BLS is used to treat victims of life-threatening

illnesses or injuries until they can be given full medical care at hospital.

### Physiotherapy

The School of Physiotherapy has moved from the College of Medical and Dental Sciences to Life and Environmental Sciences to allow staff and students to work more closely with Sport and Exercise Sciences and Rehabilitation.



# How cancer taught one man *to live*



WHEN **STEPHEN BARTON** FOUND OUT HIS CANCER TREATMENT HAD FAILED, HE DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM HIS WORK AS A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN AND START DOING ALL OF THE THINGS HE HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO DO.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among UK men and for the past ten years, Stephen Barton has been knowingly living with it. After diagnosis, Stephen continued to work for three years but when doctors broke the news that the first-line treatment had been unsuccessful, he retired. 'I knew there was more to life than work,' he explains. 'Now I am living life to the full but I also leave plenty of space for just being, rather than always doing.'

'Cancer is complex and it can be extremely confusing and difficult to live with. My wife and sons have been a great help and I am pleased I have been able to do several amazing things since retiring.' Stephen is spending precious time with his first grandchild as well as enjoying many once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

## *Bill's War*

'I'd always wanted to write a book about my late father's experiences in the Second World War. It was an extremely important part of his life, but it was something he never talked about. I transcribed his diaries, and retraced his footsteps through France and Belgium, getting inside his head as a 25-year-old soldier. I'm now self-publishing the memoirs for my family.'

## *Language of love*

'I have continued learning during my retirement and completed an A Level in Bengali. This is my wife's language and something I never expected I would be able to achieve. It demanded a lot of work but I am really proud of it.'

## *Power of mind*

'During a ten-day retreat at a Buddhist Centre in Hereford, I learnt about my strength of mind and capacity to be still as the retreat was silent. We were up at 4am and spent 11 hours a day meditating. It really was a fantastic experience that taught me how strength of mind can be an incredibly powerful thing. I'm not sure I'd do it again, but I do meditate every day.'

## *Booking time for others*

'Time is even more important when yours could be limited and since retiring, I've become a volunteer at a local primary school, helping eight-year-olds practise their reading skills. This was something my mum used to do and it is something I really enjoy. The children really seem to thrive with the one-on-one attention.'

## *A mountain to climb*

'My career took me across the world from Bradford to Bangladesh, but the Jordanian desert was my destination of choice for a charity trek during the first year of my retirement. We spent five days trekking through the desert, which was just an amazing experience. We raised funds for a prostate cancer charity, which has given me so much invaluable support, as well as WoW (Wellbeing of Women).'





● **Image:** Richard Viney is following in the footsteps of his grandfather Victor Brookes (MBChB Medicine, 1943), who was a well-known surgeon in Birmingham



**DID YOU KNOW?**

 Richard answered your questions about his research in our **#AsktheExpert** live chat on Twitter which you can read here [www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer/asktheexpert](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer/asktheexpert)



**GUEST ED LOVES**

# Buying extra time

Groundbreaking research at the University will enable more patients like Stephen to live with prostate cancer instead of dying because of it. Prostate cancer affects one in nine men in the UK and Birmingham is pioneering new treatments to improve quality of life and finding novel ways to treat the disease.

An innovative clinical trial, led by alumnus Dr Richard Viney (MBChB Medicine, 1995), Senior Lecturer in Urology, School of Cancer Sciences and Consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is combining two existing therapies in a unique way.

The technique will use High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) treatment which heats and cools the prostate to destroy the tumour, coupled with a powerful immune system stimulant to protect patients from the disease in a minimally invasive procedure.

The treatment is expected to improve life expectancy of advanced sufferers like Stephen who have exhausted all other options, and is only able to happen because of the generous support of alumni and friends.

**WE HOPE THIS NEW TRIAL WILL IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF MEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

'We hope this new trial will improve the lives of thousands of men across the country,' explains Richard.

'I am overwhelmed by the level of interest and support we have already received to fund this trial.

Prostate cancer is the biggest cancer killer of men in this country and your support allows valuable and innovative work to progress. Thank you.'

**Learn more**  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer)

*Thank you*

At the time of going to press, more than 2,300 of you have given more than £225,000 to support Richard's pioneering prostate cancer research. Thank you. To make a gift, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/prostate-cancer)





# In the *Pink*

Researchers at the University are continuing to make progress in the fight against breast cancer, developing new approaches to help women most at risk.

Dr Jo Morris, Senior Lecturer in the School of Cancer Sciences, has successfully completed the first phase of her research which involves gene editing, a technique that has rarely been used before.

'We need a greater understanding of how mutations in genes cause cancer in order to inform diagnosis and treatment. Our research involves introducing mutations to cells and observing how they develop into cancer,' explains Jo.

“**WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUTATIONS IN GENES CAUSE CANCER, IN ORDER TO INFORM DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.**”

'We strongly believe this method of gene editing is the future for cancer research. The fact that the first stage has been successful is extremely exciting and we have already generated a unique cell which we can now grow in the lab and we hope will be able to develop into an alternative cancer treatment.'

This breakthrough was made possible thanks to alumni and friends who funded an incubator to store the cells used for the research. The next step for Jo and her team will be to knock out one gene and add in a new one at the same time, to enable further observations.



To help Jo and fellow cancer researchers continue to make research breakthroughs, text 'SAVE' to 70030 to give £3 or give securely online via [www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence)

## Spotting the signs

The earlier cancer is caught, the better the prognosis. Richard and Jo share the signs you should be looking for. If you notice any of these, visit your doctor immediately.



### *Prostate cancer*

- ..... A change in urinary habits
- ..... Blood in urine
- ..... Aches and pains in bones
- ..... A family history of prostate cancer

### *Breast cancer*

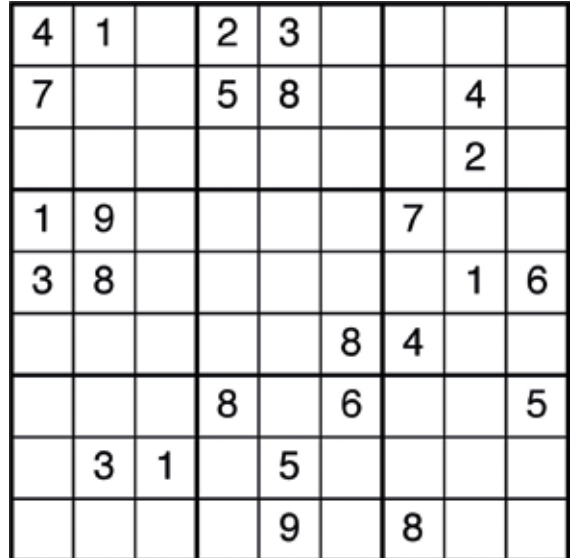
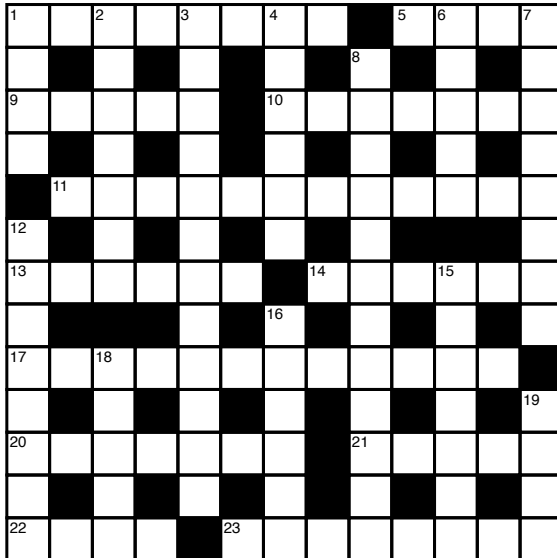
- ..... A lump or thickening in the breast or under the armpit
- ..... A change in the position of the nipple
- ..... Changes in the shape or size of the breast or nipple
- ..... Any discharge, bleeding or rashes
- ..... A pain in the breast or armpit
- ..... Puckering or dimpling of the skin
- ..... Redness of the skin



# WIN

Complete the crossword and Sudoku puzzles for your chance to win University merchandise.

Difficulty level: Super tough



### ACROSS

- 1 Sweet-smelling shrub with lilac flowers whose oil is used in pharmacy and perfumes (8)
- 5 See 4 down
- 9 Popular name given to an Academy Award (5)
- 10 Term applied to anything circular; a dance in a ring, for example (7)
- 11 Instrument for indicating the level of alcohol consumed (12)
- 13 Small wolf of North America, living mainly on hares, mice and small birds (6)
- 14 Turkish word meaning fate or destiny, which was used as the title of a musical in the 1950s (6)
- 17 Male children in the same family by the fact of the marriage of one of each of their parents (12)

- 20 A tall, tapering pillar topped with a pyramid (7)
- 21 Another name for Troy (5)
- 22 A badger's burrow (4)
- 23 South coastal town, seat of the University of Sussex (8)

### DOWN

- 1 A piece of equipment for weaving cloth (4)
- 2 A governor acting in the name of the sovereign (7)
- 3 British cabinet minister who, in the 1980s, attracted comment by encouraging the unemployed to travel by bicycle to seek work (6,6)
- 4 and 5 across Singer with a distinctive voice who had a hit song with *Just An Old Fashioned Girl* (6,4)
- 6 River of Asia which rises in Tibet and flows through Kashmir and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea (5)
- 7 To endure with patience of impunity (8)
- 8 Popular spectator sport in Spain, Portugal and Latin America (12)
- 12 Cutting instrument with two blades (8)
- 15 A follower of the political creed based on the works of Karl Marx (7)
- 16 Member of a youth faction of the 1960s who were at enmity with the mods (6)
- 18 Surname of the tennis player who won the Women's Singles title at Wimbledon in 1974, 1976 and 1981 (5)
- 19 Sultanate in Arabia, famous for its dates, capital Muscat (4)

### How to enter

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Tel: .....

Graduation details: .....

Please cut out and return your completed entry (photocopies accepted) to: *Old Joe*, Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK by 31 December 2013. Terms and conditions apply [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni)



# The value of values

What links the global banking crisis, the British MPs' expenses scandal and the rioting that blighted English cities in August 2011? A 'momentous erosion of character', believes Professor James Arthur, who is championing the fight back as Head of the University's Jubilee Centre for Character and Values.



GUEST ED LOVES

**A**s riots erupted in English cities in the summer of 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron talked of Britain's 'slow-motion moral collapse'. While politicians debated the underlying causes of the unrest, a growing number voiced the belief that it highlighted a lack of traditional democratic virtues such as justice, honesty, courage and compassion.

The University's Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, which opened in May 2012, has at its heart the aim of combating this decline; and contributing to a renewal of character and values in Britain through research, outreach projects, and informing governmental policy and practice. Its goal is to 'promote, build and strengthen character in the contexts of family, school, community, (and) profession... in the interest of human

flourishing'. But a vision of this reach and complexity inevitably begs the question of where to start.

'It must begin with virtues taught and lived at home, and parents helping children to understand their importance and meaning,' explains Head of the Centre, Professor James Arthur. 'This is the first step but schools have a crucial role as the second line of defence in upholding these values.'





“IT MUST BEGIN WITH VIRTUES TAUGHT AND LIVED AT HOME, AND PARENTS HELPING CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND THEIR IMPORTANCE AND MEANING.”

Reflecting its purpose of pioneering a societal shift, the Centre's interdisciplinary team has three far-reaching flagship projects: Virtues, Values and Decision-Making in Three Professions in the UK in the 21st Century; An Attitude for Gratitude; and Character and Virtue Education in British Schools. These sit above a range of research and development projects already under way, from exploring knightly virtues such as those in Arthurian legends with primary schoolchildren to fostering community empowerment in Hodge Hill, one of Birmingham's most socio-economically deprived areas.

Kristjan Kristjansson, Professor of Character Education and Virtue Ethics and the Centre's Deputy Director (Research), explains: 'We aim to make the Centre a major international hub of interdisciplinary research with both theoretical and practical applications. Our motivations are to conduct top-quality research, and make significant differences to the way ordinary people actualise the moral aspects of their lives.'

As well as exploring the place of virtues in the professions of law, medicine and education, the Centre strongly advocates a move back towards character education – teaching in a way to help children develop socially valued traits such as honesty and courage – to ensure values are lived from early childhood.

The teaching of character and values does, however, present issues in that both terms resist a common definition. Who decides which values should form character? And doesn't this differ across religious and cultural divides?

'Our list includes courage, justice, honesty, compassion, self-discipline, gratitude and humility,' explains


Professor Arthur, who is also Head of the School of Education. 'These are human values that transcend one religion, nationality or societal structure.'

But, in 'broken Britain', can an academic or educative approach realistically work across all of society, including those most disaffected? 'There are undoubtedly questions of poverty or dysfunction, or of social or psychological deprivation, where teachers are left trying to control behaviour rather than nurture any kind of morality or shared virtues,' agrees Professor Arthur. 'But I think most people would agree that the scale of those trials do not mean we do nothing.'

Learn more

[www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk)

## Get involved

- You can sign up to receive the Centre's monthly newsletter via [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk)
- Are you a teacher, doctor or lawyer? The Centre's team would like your input. Contact [jubileecentre@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:jubileecentre@contacts.bham.ac.uk) for more information
-  Join the debate on Twitter via [@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum) using the hashtag #OldJoe

The Centre was made possible as a result of the generosity of the Templeton Foundation.

● **Image:** The exploration of human virtues is many centuries old. Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle is seen carrying his book *Ethics* in Raphael's famous painting *The School of Athens* (1509–1510)

# Charity is doctor's healthy obsession

**2013 Alumnus of the Year** Matthew Clark was still a student when he founded a charity that has raised more than £1 million to transform an African children's hospital.

When Matthew Clark (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2002) arrived at the Ola During Children's Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on an elective placement as part of his medical degree, he was unprepared for what he would find. The civil war had ended five years earlier but there was no running water, sporadic electricity and a lack of essential medical equipment.

**WE'VE ACHIEVED A LOT ALREADY AND IT'S EXCITING SITTING DOWN AND THINKING WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IN THE FUTURE.**

In a country with the worst infant mortality rate in the world (one in four children dies before the age of five) it was vital something was done. Many of the facilities needed were in place but had not been completed during a post-war refurbishment.

'What I found was terribly depressing in terms of the number of children dying every day but I also felt this overwhelming frustration that it wasn't like you had to start from scratch and build a hospital,' he says.

'There was a building and some doctors and nurses but there were a few bits of equipment missing to join up the dots. There was some training that needed to happen to get things up to date so I felt like it wasn't insurmountable.'





● Images: Clockwise from left, 2013 Alumnus of the Year Matthew Clark, the Ola During Children's Hospital, Sierra Leone

IF YOU WORK WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

Matthew and the charity's co-founder Tom Cairnes, an International Development student he met while studying Medicine at Cambridge, went to speak to several different organisations but found most were running independent projects instead of working to help the government-run hospital. They knew they had to do something and the Welbodi Partnership was born (welbodi is the Krio word for health).

When Matthew returned home to finish his medical degree and subsequently work for the NHS full-time (he is currently a paediatrician at the Royal London Hospital), he continued to run the charity, going back to Sierra Leone whenever he had the chance. Since its establishment in 2007, the partnership has raised more than £1 million to improve the hospital's facilities.

Its achievements include installing a new electricity generator, fixing the water supply, funding a new emergency and triage room, creating the hospital's first medical records database, supplying a digital X-ray machine, developing nursing training, and supporting a postgraduate training programme provided by African and UK paediatric consultants.

'It is exciting to see how we can apply technology, that other people invent for us and use it to do things like this,' Matthew says. 'Everybody talks about the "internet generation" being about becoming the next Mark Zuckerberg, about technology being something you've got to invent, but we're taking that technology to where it is needed.'

Presentation and teamwork skills learnt during his degree also proved incredibly useful for leading the partnership, and Matthew still looks back on his time at Birmingham with affection. Coincidentally he met his wife, Ellie (née Watson) (BA English and Philosophy, 2000), while studying for his graduate medical degree at Cambridge, unaware that she had also studied at Birmingham.

He admits to being a 'tedious workaholic' in the charity's early days and praises Ellie's understanding nature but says he has taken a small step back since establishing a team of staff. 'Now it's about trying to take a strategic, hands-off role and not get too involved in the minutiae every day,' he says, adding that the charity's next focus is helping the adjacent maternity hospital.

For Matthew it is the team of people around him that inspires him to continue his hard work. 'My relationship with the hospital's staff has matured since they didn't know what to make of the young upstarts who arrived six years ago and thought they could change everything.'

'Everyone has been phenomenally hardworking and talented and we've just built up this fabulous team. We've achieved a lot already and it's exciting sitting down and thinking what we are going to do in the future,' he says. 'If you work with the right people anything is possible.'

Learn more

[www.welbodipartnership.org](http://www.welbodipartnership.org)

## Alumni of the Year Awards

Matthew was named Alumnus of the Year 2013 for making an outstanding contribution to society and community life as a result of his work in Sierra Leone. Nominated by a fellow alumnus for being an inspiration, the University recognised Matthew's achievements for children in the UK and Africa.

You can nominate your Alumni of the Year 2014 and read profiles of previous winners via [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnioftheyear](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumnioftheyear)

# Queen's Honours 2013

If you are a Birmingham alumnus who was awarded an honour in 2013 but your name is not included on the list, please accept our apologies and email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to let us know.

Congratulations to the alumni listed below who were awarded Honours in 2013.

## Queen's New Year's Honours 2013

- **Sir Hossein Yassaie**  
(BSc Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1979; PhD, 1983) KB
- **Dame Christine Braddock**  
(BPhilEd Education, 1989) DBE
- **Dame Joan McVittie**  
(BSc Biological Sciences, 1974) DBE
- **Dame Vicki Paterson**  
(BEd Education, 1978) DBE
- **Dr Terence Bramall**  
(BSc Civil Engineering, 1964; Hon DUniv, 2011) CBE
- **Keith Harding**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1976) CBE
- **Caroline Shaw**  
(MSc Healthcare Policy and Management, 1999) CBE
- **Charles Barwell**  
(PG Diploma Commerce, 1992) OBE
- **Ian Bateman**  
(BSocSc Economics, 1985) OBE

- **Anthea Gair**  
(MA Manufacture and Management with Language, 1997) OBE
- **Dr Clive Grace**  
(BSocSc Political Science and International Studies, 1971) OBE
- **Julie Mudd**  
(PG Diploma Education, 2009) OBE
- **Edwina Olby**  
(Education, 1995) OBE
- **Dr Margaret Barker**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1966) MBE
- **Pamela Relph**  
(BSc Physics and Astronomy, 2011) MBE

## Queen's Birthday Honours 2013

- **Professor Sir John Hills**  
(MSocSc Economics, 1980) KB
- **Sir Stephen Houghton**  
(MSc Local Governance, 2004) KB
- **Professor Philip Gummett**  
(BSc Chemistry, 1969) CBE
- **Professor Christopher Wathes**  
(BSc Physics, 1974) OBE
- **James Mutton**  
(MEd Education, 1981) OBE
- **Monica Fletcher**  
(MSc Healthcare Policy and Management, 1997) OBE
- **Kay Alexander**  
(BA English, 1972) MBE
- **Sonia Briscoe**  
(BA History and Physical Education, 1987) MBE
- **Mark Harrison**  
(BA Geography, 1993) MBE
- **Dr Susan Horner**  
(BA English and Sociology, 1969) MBE
- **Dr Jeremy Johnson**  
(Interc BSc Anatomy, 1971; MBChB Medicine, 1974) MBE
- **Dr Rosalyn Proops**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1974) MBE
- **David Truesdale**  
(BA Geography, 1975) MBE
- **Dr Kathryn Ward**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1975) MBE

**CANCER RESEARCHERS AT BIRMINGHAM ARE SAVING LIVES.**

**YOU CAN SAVE LIVES TOO.  
TEXT 'SAVE' TO 70030**

**TO GIVE £3 TO FUND OUR CANCER RESEARCH**

Texts are charged at £3 plus one standard network rate text. Min to charity £2.97

# Honorary graduates

Eight of our outstanding alumni were awarded honorary degrees this summer.



**1 Michael Acton Smith**  
(BSc Geography, 1996)

## Doctor of the University

Michael Acton Smith is CEO, Creative Director and founder of children's entertainment company Mind Candy – the force behind global children's phenomenon Moshi Monsters.

**2 Chris Addison**  
(BA English, 1994)

## Doctor of the University

Chris is an actor and one of Britain's most popular comedians, known for his performances on the BBC's *Mock the Week* and *The Thick of It*. He also co-wrote and starred in BBC 2 sitcom *Lab Rats* and is a two-time nominee for the prestigious Perrier comedy award.

**3 Kay Alexander MBE**  
(BA English, 1972)

## Doctor of the University

Kay is a former newsreader who worked at the BBC from the early 1970s until 2012. She was Chairman of the Birmingham Assay Office until 2012, is a former Director of the Birmingham Hippodrome and a Patron of Acorns Children's Hospice.

**4 Dame Christine Braddock**  
(BPhilEd Education, 1989)

## Doctor of the University

Christine is the Principal and Chief Executive of the Birmingham Metropolitan College Group, and has nearly 30 years' experience in senior leadership of further education colleges. She became the High Sheriff of the West Midlands in March 2013.

**5 Professor John Fisher CBE**  
(BSc Physics, 1976)

## Doctor of Engineering

Professor Fisher is Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds and Director of the Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. Professor Fisher's research initiative '50 active years after 50' is investigating

tissue-regeneration technology and developing new medical devices and therapies that could allow people to be as active during their second half century as they were in their first.

**6 Dr Keith Palmer OBE**  
(BSc Geology, 1968;  
PhD, 1971)

## Doctor of the University

Keith is the founder and Chairman of Cambridge Economic Policy Associates (CEPA) and non-executive Vice-Chairman of investment bank, NMRothschild & Sons Ltd. Keith is also currently Chairman of the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund and InfraCo, both public and private partnerships in international development.

**7 Professor Pritam B Sharma**  
(MSc Thermodynamics, 1974;  
PhD Mechanical Engineering, 1978)

## Doctor of Engineering

Professor Pritam B Sharma is the Founder Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University. He is a former Director of Delhi College of Engineering and Founder Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi Technology University, Bhopal.

**8 Sir Hossein Yassaie**  
(BSc Electronic and Electrical  
Engineering, 1979; PhD, 1983)

## Doctor of the University

Sir Hossein Yassaie is the Chief Executive of Imagination Technologies, the company integral to the development of the iPhone5. Sir Hossein was knighted in the 2013 New Year's Honours List for services to technology and innovation.

Have you ever wondered what other former Birmingham graduates are doing now? Or wanted to tell your fellow alumni about your achievements? Share your news and update your contact information by contacting us (find out how on page 3). We will print as many updates as we can.



## 1940s

**Jocelyn Marshall**  
(CertSocSci, 1946)



Four members of the Duannian Association met for their annual lunch earlier this year. There was plenty of reminiscing and a date has been set for a similar reunion on Saturday 7 June 2014. For further details, please contact me via the Alumni Office, [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

**John Hornibrook**  
(BSc Chemical Engineering, 1949)

Studying in Birmingham was a long time ago as I have been enjoying retirement for the past 20 years. I am managing to travel the world so life has been interesting.

## 1950s

**Peter Smith**  
(BA English, 1954)

My 40-year career in university administration in Canada and the USA ended with eight years as Dean of the Graduate School of the Arts at Columbia University, New York City. I am now studying a PhD in the department of Theatre, Film and Television at the University of York.

**H Jonathan Tovey**  
(BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1957)

I joined Rolls-Royce as a Graduate Apprentice working my way to Chief Designer. In 1980 I moved to America as Senior Director of Research Development. Now retired, I take an interest in landscaping the community and am Vice President of the West Highland White Terrier Society of Connecticut.

**Gillian Thomas**  
(BA French and German, 1959)

After spending two years in the BBC's Paris News Office, I returned to England to get married. I use both my French and German as a freelance journalist, specialising in travel writing on [www.thetraveleditor.com](http://www.thetraveleditor.com)

## 1960s

**Trevor Lloyd**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1961)

I'm enjoying retirement in the lovely town of Bridport, Dorset. I'm busy travelling and going to the London theatre, and am soon to go to Africa for the second time. I seem to have lost contact with many of my student friends. If anybody is still out there, I would like to hear from you.

**Richard Smith**  
(BSc Civil Engineering, 1965)

It's so long since I left Birmingham, but they were extremely happy days. I joined WS Atkins in 1966 as a Graduate Engineer and worked on Drax Power Station for three years where I worked mainly on the cooling water system. I used computers for reinforced concrete

calculations and got hooked on computing and programming. I took early retirement and now spend my time working voluntarily in the local church and the local theatre.

**Bridget Shields (née Rossi)**  
(BSc Pure Mathematics, 1968; MSc Mathematics, 1969; PhD Engineering Production, 1979)

I am currently Professor of Acoustics at London South Bank University, where I have worked since 1986. Since last June, I have also been President of the Institute of Acoustics – a great honour, especially as I am the first female President.

## 1970s

**Jennifer Chapman**  
(MBChB Medicine, 1970)



I am a Consultant Community Paediatrician and designated Medical Officer for Special Educational Needs in Brighton and Hove. I have been updating my house in accordance with the Homes for Life building regulations in preparation for old age!

**Gill Dawson MBE**  
(BA French and Spanish, 1972)

I was lucky enough to receive an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2012 for services to young people (GirlguidingUK) and I had a great day out at the Palace.



### Frances Smith (née Woolfe)

(BA German Studies and Mathematics, 2009)

I got married at the end of last summer to Thomas Smith (BSc Biological Sciences (Genetics), 2008). We met whilst at University and we shared the day with, among others, 20 fellow Birmingham alumni (pictured) and Tom's grandfather, a retired professor from the University. I am now a maths teacher in London and my husband works for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## 1980s

### James Haire

(PhD Theology, 1981)

I was awarded Australia's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), in the 2013 Australia Day Honours.

### John Tomlinson

(BSc Engineering Production, 1982)

I graduated in 1982 and my wife-to-be, Helen (née Greenwood) (BA French, 1983) graduated the following year, so I had an extra year involved with university life. Without doubt, university changed my life from the very first day. For the last ten years, I have been a Director at John West Foods in Liverpool and Helen works at our local golf club. Our story came full circle when our daughter Alexa (BSc Psychology, 2013) began studying at Birmingham in 2010.

### Elizabeth Printer

(LLB Law, 1986)

After leaving Birmingham and qualifying as a barrister, I spent 25 years working on the South Coast with a successful practice as well as being a mum to two girls. In 2005 I was appointed a District Judge and worked in Portsmouth until September 2011, when I had a major subarachnoid haemorrhage and stroke. I am left partially sighted and paralysed but am working towards my recovery.

### James Dormer

(BA Medieval and Modern History, 1989)

I am Lead Writer and co-Executive Producer on the TV show *Strike Back* and am working on a feature film set in medieval China.

## 1990s

### Mark Bickerton

(MA Playwriting Studies, 1990)

I am now Series Story Producer at *Emmerdale*, having written for radio, stage and numerous soaps, principally *Coronation Street* for the past 20 years.

### Claudia (née Harrison)

(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1997) and **James Gray** (BA American Studies, 1997)

We met at Birmingham in 1994, graduated in 1997 and married in 2003. James now farms in north Essex, and I am a TV and theatre actress. We live in our self-built eco house.

### Matthew Bug

(BA Music, 1998)



I composed and wrote *Miss Nightingale: The Burlesque Musical* which toured the UK in 2013, including a week in the West End.

## 2000s

### Neil Gibson

(MEng Mechanical Engineering with Spanish, 2000)

After working around the world on drilling rigs, I completed an MBA at London Business School and became a Management Consultant. In 2012, I followed my passion to create graphic

novels and my first book topped the bestseller list on the Amazon Kindle graphic novels section.

### Kate Powers

(MA Shakespeare Studies, 2003)

I teach inside a men's maximum security prison in the US. Theatre classes and workshops help the men to improve critical thinking and reading skills, build confidence, compassion and trust.

## 2010s

### Oliver Morgan

(BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2010)

I work in professional football as a Sport Scientist. Following an internship at Coventry City FC, I am now at Liverpool FC working with the reserves to the younger players of the academy.

### Irene Oppong

(BA French Studies and Mathematics, 2010)

I am a Software Developer for an American bank, living in London. I have many fond memories of the University. After only three years away, I am already nostalgic for the green campus.

### James Sheen

(BA Political Science, 2010)

I am a proud trustee of Kids Adventure, launched in 1994 at the University by a group of students wanting to reach out to the local community. Nearly 20 years and 60 holidays later, Kids Adventure is a national charity dedicated to fun and exciting non-residential respite breaks for disadvantaged children. Find out more: [www.kidsadventure.org.uk](http://www.kidsadventure.org.uk)

# Birmingham in the blood

One family is Birmingham through and through, with three generations of graduates – grandfather, grandmother, father and daughter.

Patricia and Kenneth Stark met on the tennis courts and then at the Union hop later that evening, little knowing their family connection with the University would endure for more than five decades. The couple's son Lee Bonham gained his Masters from Birmingham 25 years later, and granddaughter Kathryn Bonham became the family's fourth Birmingham graduate in 2010.


Could your family be the next to hand the Birmingham tradition down through generations?


To find out more or register for a prospective students' Open Day, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/visit/ug-opendays](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/visit/ug-opendays) quoting 'alumni'.



● **Image:** Three generations of Birmingham alumni (l-r) Patricia Stark (BCom Social Studies, 1954), Lee Bonham (BSc Physics, 1980), Kathryn Bonham (BSc Psychology, 2010), Kenneth Stark (MSc Electrical Engineering, 1955)

✉ [alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

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