

Positive policing

buzz



June/July 2013

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood

YOUR BUZZ

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Front cover image: PC Andy Smith,
University of Birmingham

Vice-Chancellor's view

A few years ago there was a fashion for universities to designate themselves '**business facing universities**'. For a while these universities gained significant profile and almost persuaded Government that they were entitled to a separate funding stream.

Implicit in this was that other universities were somehow 'closed' to business, introspectively 'academic'; indeed the worst kinds of 'ivory tower'. Given that a number of the universities which sought to badge themselves 'business-facing universities' were new universities, the implication was still clearer. New universities drove businesses, old universities were in almost every sense of the term unbusinesslike.

Nothing, of course, was further from the truth. The universities which have contributed most to the transformation of the surrounding economy are the world's great universities. They have economic impact not because of some fancy self-designation as 'business facing universities' but rather because of the sheer quality of what they do.

Thus Boston became a hub of new technologies and new ideas because of universities such as Harvard and MIT. Similarly, Silicon Valley is, almost literally, a spin-out from the University of Stanford. In the UK, too, the most powerful clustering of advanced new technology-focused businesses has been around the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, and the leading London institutions. 'Silicon Fen' happened in Cambridge not because the University of Cambridge sought to establish it, but because high-tech businesses and spin-outs naturally cluster around leading universities.

None of this is new, and none of it should be surprising, particularly to the University of Birmingham. This University was founded precisely because this city and our University's founders recognised the profound and powerful links between a great university and a thriving economy. We were, then, being true to our traditions when we commissioned Oxford Economics to offer an assessment of the economic

impact of the University more than a century since its foundation.

The results of this survey, which have now been widely distributed, are remarkable. The regional impact of the University of Birmingham is worth nearly £1.1 billion per annum. Nearly 12,000 jobs are directly dependent on the University of Birmingham and slightly over half of these directly employed within the University of Birmingham.

The economic impact of the University is more than double that of the region's eight principal football clubs. We recruit some 23 per cent of our students from the region and some 40 per cent stay and work in the region. Over 87 per cent of the research income earned by Birmingham's universities is earned by the University of Birmingham.

There are other, equally telling, data and examples from the Oxford Economics survey. The headline messages are inescapable. The University of Birmingham is one of the principal drivers of the economy of the region. We import skills to the region through our recruitment of students and staff, and the combination of our business activities and the exploitation of the research from the University are key drivers of prosperity in the city and region. You would think from these data that all of the city would cherish and seek to encourage our University's development at every opportunity. We will see.

This edition of Buzz develops and celebrates much that is contained in and referenced by the Oxford Economics survey. We should all take pride in our collective achievement.

We should not, however, be beguiled. Our principal purpose is to thrive as a university, and thriving as a university will mean that the economy which surrounds the University thrives too. We are, of course,



continued from page 2

a business-facing university, but we are much more than that. We are a place of serious academic enquiry, profound research, high quality education, and an institution which models and cherishes the cultural values which underpin our society. **Our success in all of this, and more, is both critical to our reputation and vital to our future success.**

Vice-Chancellor,
Professor David Eastwood

Staff achievements

Top awards for UoB academics

Congratulations to Dr Paula Mendes, of the School of Chemical Engineering, and Professor Gurdyal Besra, of the School of Biosciences, who have been awarded Fellowships by top research organisations.

Professor Besra has been elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of medical science. Dr Mendes has been awarded an Early Career Fellowship by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), and was the top ranked recipient of the honour.

Ambulance Service commendation for MDS students

Congratulations to College of Medical and Dental Sciences students Jaskaran Mavi and Jasveer Poonian who have received a West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) Chief Officer's Commendation. Whilst enjoying a night out last year, Jaskaran and Jasveer recognised that their friend and fellow student, Rajan Chaudhry, had suffered a cardiac arrest, and started resuscitation. The commendation was awarded in recognition of their prompt actions.

Improving mobile device security

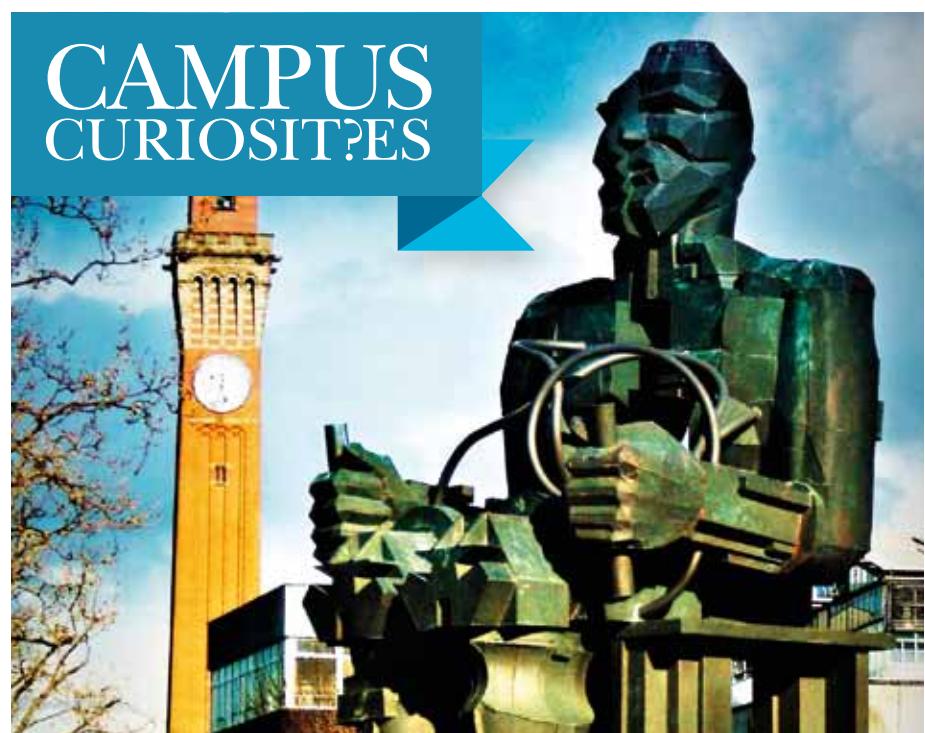
University Executive Board has approved the adoption of Good for Enterprise as the security tool for securing email on Android and iOS mobile devices such as iPhones. This is to ensure that the increasing amount of University data held on mobile devices complies with the Data Protection Act, as the Information Commissioner's Office has advised that universities will be penalised if they fail to adequately protect personal information stored on mobile devices.

Colleges and Departments will carry out security assessments to confirm how many licences are required for each area. All staff who access sensitive data and wish to download this information to their mobile device will need to use Good for Enterprise. All other staff requiring remote access to email will still be able to access their email securely via the internet

using OWA (Outlook Web Access). This method is secure because data is not stored on the device.

Over the summer several other security initiatives will be implemented, including information management and classification which will enable staff to classify information such as documents and emails. Email encryption will ensure that items classified as 'confidential' are sent securely, and email redirection will be restricted to trusted partners only. A new system will also be implemented to ensure that all colleagues have up to date information on relevant policies and codes of practice.

Over the next few months there will be drop in sessions, demonstrations, and webinars to enable staff to learn more about these initiatives. For specific queries please contact itsecurity@contacts.bham.ac.uk.



Eduardo Paolozzi CBE, West Gate outside University Station

Michael Faraday discovered the laws of electro-magnetic rotation and electrical induction. The loops of bronze between the figure's hands are a visual manifestation of natural fields of force. Paolozzi was an important influence on Pop Art and the University's Research and Cultural Collections boasts an impressive selection of his screen-prints around campus. You can discover the works of art for yourself by following our free guide which can be picked up at Aston Webb reception, Bramall Music Building, and Arts Building foyer, or downloaded from birmingham.ac.uk/rcc



Department of African Studies and Anthropology launches

The College of Arts and Law will be launching the Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) for the start of the 2013–14 academic year. Incorporating the Centre of West African Studies (CWAS), DASA will formalise the long-established expansion of teaching, research and supervision beyond West Africa to include the entire African continent and its diasporas, and the growing place of Anthropology in staff expertise and teaching.

CWAS, which celebrates 50 years in 2013, has been distinguished by interdisciplinary work spanning the humanities and social sciences, a focus on peoples lived experience in Africa, and close and long-term engagement with African societies, perspectives, and academic institutions. CWAS will continue as a centre within DASA to promote the development and dissemination of specifically West African-focused research.

Exploring out-of-body experiences

Out-of-body experiences – the extraordinary feeling of floating outside your own body and experiencing the world from another vantage point in space – have baffled scientists for centuries, yet they are widely documented as affecting around 20 per cent of the wider population at some point during their lives.

Having recently won new funding, Dr Jason Braithwaite, of the School of Psychology, has launched an appeal for volunteers who have had these types of experiences to take part in a pioneering new study. This seeks to identify the scientific causes behind these bizarre phenomena by assessing the complex neuro-cognitive processes connected to out-of-body experiences in non-clinical cases.



With the help of the local media, Dr Braithwaite has identified over 200 volunteers from the local community to take part in a few simple laboratory-based experiments as part of the study. These include measuring brain-driven physiological reactions to visual patterns and the rubber hand illusion where, after a short period of time, observers can become absolutely convinced that a fake rubber hand is their own and belongs to their body.

Dr Braithwaite said: *'For some people, and under certain circumstances, "normal" brain processes become dysfunctional and can result in quite strange and bizarre situations like the out-of-body experience. We are exploring the neuroscience that may predispose some people to have these striking experiences and make them more vulnerable to such occurrences.'*

To see BBC Midlands Today's David Gregory-Kumar taking part in the rubber hand illusion, visit birmingham.ac.uk/schools/psychology/labs/saal/news If you have experienced an out-of-body experience and would like more information, contact Dr Braithwaite at j.j.braithwaite@bham.ac.uk

Birmingham joins *The Conversation*

The University is a founding partner in The Conversation UK, a new independent news and commentary website produced by academics and journalists.

The website's team of editors will work with academics and the University press office to unlock expertise, apply it to topical issues, and make it available to the public. The Conversation offers an excellent platform for academics to showcase their research in a safe publishing environment, where articles are only published with the academic's approval. It will also give

students and staff access to extensive additional academic resources produced by their own lecturers and colleagues.

In addition to Birmingham, twelve UK universities have committed their support as founding partners to the pilot phase of The Conversation, along with The Wellcome Trust, The Nuffield Foundation, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and the Scottish Funding Council.

For further information, contact pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk or visit theconversation.com/uk



Birmingham Cancer Showcase – *behind the scenes*

The first Birmingham Cancer Showcase event took place in April, with over 300 visitors heading to the Medical School to find out more about how researchers in Birmingham are fighting cancer.

'It was great to feel a real buzz around the building, both from the crowds of visitors, and the researchers and clinicians involved,' said event organiser Debbie Ringham. Representatives of Cancer Research UK, Doctors, Genetic Councillors, and members of the lab teams were available to describe how their work is helping in the battle against cancer.

In the labs, scientists exploited ingenious methods of explaining their research, including jelly sweet DNA models, velcro

ball chemotherapy, and using 68km of nylon wire as a scale model of DNA. When not exploring the labs, visitors could explore a multitude of activities available from all departments of the School. Guests could play games that demonstrated the research or build their family tree out of 'celebrities' with the Genetic Councillors. Visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but underlying all the fun was a serious message of the importance of the research taking place and the amazing work done by all professionals within the field. For the latest news and events from CRUK follow them on Twitter @crukBirmingham.



UoB staff turn green to gold

A record 39 staff teams achieved success in the Green Impact scheme this year by helping to increase recycling, support Fairtrade, bike to work, and even raise awareness of global sanitation issues through toilet twinning! Green Impact is an environmental accreditation and awards scheme – now in its fourth year – run in collaboration with the National Union of Students, bringing staff and students together to enable positive changes in environmental practice.

Colleagues from across the University form Green Impact teams and work together to complete their online workbook, supported by Lucie Chuchmakova, Sustainable Behaviour Assistant. Six teams were awarded Gold at this year's Green Impact awards ceremony, with Development and Alumni Relations, and People and Organisational Development picking up Gold Plus awards. Congratulations to all teams involved in the scheme, to student auditors and to the colleagues who picked up special awards.

Learn more

Further details are on the environment website www.environment.bham.ac.uk or contact Trev Shields if you are interested in taking part: t.c.shields@bham.ac.uk.





A global university

In the first of a new series on the University's engagement with, and impact on, international recruitment and research, Buzz learns more about collaborations between Birmingham and India.

With a population of 1.22 billion, India is a huge market for higher education, and a key strategic region for academic engagement and student recruitment. India offers prominent and established institutions looking for partners with whom to develop cutting-edge research, and sends the second-largest number of international students to the UK for higher education, after China.

The University collaborates with over 30 institutions across India, and over 130 Indian students are currently studying a range of subjects, from English to Engineering, at Birmingham. The University has also had a Delhi office since 2009, enabling us to strengthen and develop links with universities, businesses, and government, and providing a base for staff from across the University who regularly visit India to take forward research and teaching collaborations. The India recruitment team also work closely with students interested in study at Birmingham, providing advice on everything from programmes of study, to accommodation and visas.

Birmingham has over 1,300 Indian alumni, including Dr U R Ananthamurthy, recently shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, and Ajit Kumar Seth, the current Indian Cabinet Secretary. Kerrie Holland, of the Development, Alumni and Business Engagement team, recently visited India to meet alumni; you can read her visit blog at birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/getinvolved/Out-and-about-with-our-alumni.aspx.

How can you get involved?

The Academic Collaboration Fund supports the development of links between the University and Indian institutions; providing up to 50 per cent of travel costs for staff visiting India to develop academic collaborations, or for Indian staff visiting the University. Over the last three years the fund supported over 40 staff from across all Colleges to travel to India. This included Dr Keith Brain, of the School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, who was hoping to collaborate with Professor Rohit Manchanda, of the Indian Institute of Technology, on research into creating computational models of bladder activity. Travel Funding enabled visits between Birmingham and Mumbai, where Keith and Rohit were able to inspect available facilities and satisfy themselves the work was viable. Since those initial projects, the project has gone from strength to strength and has attracted funding from the Indian Department of Biotechnology Research and Development Project, and UK-India Education and Research Initiative to support postgraduate work, and help fund further travel. For further information on the Fund contact Allan McKinley, Travel Fund Co-ordinator at a.s.mckinley.1@bham.ac.uk

Institutional Partnerships

The University's strategy in India is centred on developing key institutional partnerships at School and College level, and building links with universities and research centres to promote collaborative research. Subject-based symposia provide an ideal opportunity to bring academic staff together and to highlight common research interests, supported by the India Travel Fund. For example the University has built a strong relationship with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), India's premier scientific institution. An introductory symposium in Biosciences revealed that both UoB and IISc had academics with complementary skills and research areas that could work together to develop novel approaches to combating tuberculosis. This project, led at Birmingham by Dr Peter Lund and Dr Apoorva Bhatt, has obtained UKIERI funding and is producing very promising results in understanding the cellular structure of tuberculosis. Two symposia, held in Delhi and Birmingham have also allowed many staff to meet and develop a range of joint projects around clean air, water standards and responsible entrepreneurship with TERI University in Delhi, which has a particular research focus on environmental issues.

Marilyn Miles, Head of International Development, works with Colleges to develop opportunities for strategic engagement with India in line with the University's international strategy. To find out more please contact Marilyn at m.a.miles@bham.ac.uk.

These are just some of the ways that the University is engaging with India and developing mutually beneficial collaborations, to find out more visit intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/external/international/relations/India

GRAB

GREAT READ AT BIRMINGHAM

The Great Read at Birmingham (GRAB) returns for its third year in 2013 with this year's chosen book *The Incredible Human Journey*, by Professor Alice Roberts.

All incoming undergraduates will receive a copy of the book in their Welcome Packs and be asked to read it before arriving. This is to encourage them to engage with academic ideas and to create a shared experience for all new students.

This year's book traces the origins of the human race from Africa through our colonisation of the globe. Using scientific methods, from analysis of climate changes to human genetics, whilst also exploring art, culture and society, the book encourages the reader to ask some of the great questions in life: who are we, and how did we get here?

A panel of academics from each of the Colleges chose *The Incredible Human Journey* for 2013. Library Services are organising distribution of the book for all first year undergraduates, and planning an exciting array of tie-in events to welcome new students to the academic community,

and allow them to enjoy a shared experience with their peers. Many events will also be open to staff and members of the local community.

The Incredible Human Journey has been chosen as this year's book due to its cross-disciplinary appeal. Spanning areas such as geology, anthropology, genetics and archaeology, the book has been praised by the *Guardian* for providing '*an easily digestible introduction to a complex but fascinating story*'. Both home and international students will have an opportunity to relate to its coverage of evolution across different continents. Author Alice Roberts joined the University as Professor of Public Engagement in Science in 2012. She is also a familiar name due to her regular appearances as a science presenter on television shows such as *Coast* and *The Incredible Human Journey* (upon which the book is based).

Professor Roberts said: '*I am delighted that my book has been chosen for GRAB next academic year.*' She was looking forward to engaging in a range of events.

Academics who teach first-year students will be able to get a copy of this year's book, this month, and from Welcome Week onwards, a diverse programme of events will be held across campus for all to enjoy. Expect debates, screenings, and a host of exciting outdoor events and online activities. The Library Services' GRAB team will also be contacting academics to explore innovative ways of using GRAB to promote the development of academic skills. With over 6,000 attendees enjoying last year's programme, GRAB 2013 hopes to be even bigger and better than before!

GRAB 2012

Last year's GRAB title was *Chocolate Wars* by Deborah Cadbury, a wonderful account of the history of the Cadbury company, from its early days to its purchase by Kraft. Staff and students had the opportunity to attend a variety of events, from cocoa cookery classes to talks hosted by the author. There were also guided walks through Bournville, panel debates, and of course a bit of chocolate taste testing! Where appropriate, academics who taught first year students incorporated the book's themes into their teaching. Library Services delivered a range of academic skills and library workshops based on the book, which were designed to introduce students to key resources and skills to help with their studies.

For more information on GRAB and this year's programme, please visit intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/university/GRAB. If you have ideas for events, future GRAB titles, or how we might use GRAB, contact the GRAB team by emailing grab@contacts.bham.ac.uk



Images of research

The Images of Research Exhibition 2013 was the third event of its kind hosted by the University Graduate School. The exhibition asks postgraduates to represent their research in a single image and is a great opportunity for staff, students, and members of the local community to find out more about the wide range of research across the University. From war memorials to new antibiotics the exhibition included images from all Colleges with a short accompanying paragraph explaining the research context.



Business never sleeps

Enrico Vanino, College of Social Sciences

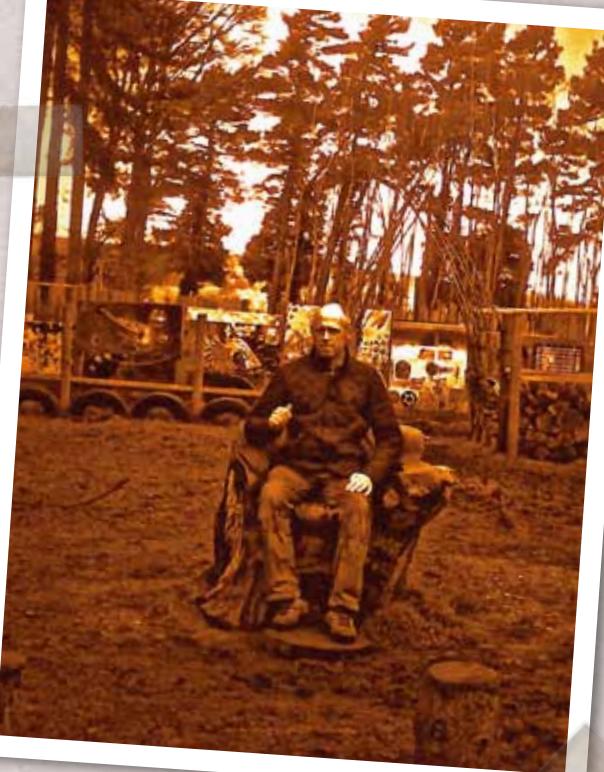
A worker in the Panyu district of Guangzhou tries to rest lying in the middle of packed goods ready to be shipped to Europe. China is more than a rising economic power; it is a leading and changing country. As the world's largest exporter and second largest economy, China has become increasingly aware of its economic and political power, and it is already clear that China's integration into the world economy will not be painless. My PhD research will ask important questions arising from the changing economic and political landscape between China and Europe. What is the impact of Chinese exports on domestic European firms? How bilateral trade flows influence employment, welfare, and the society within these so different partners? Europe should be strongly committed to working with China, to achieve a long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship; not only for us, but also for this worker in Guangzhou.



Scaffolding of a barley pollen grain

**Carlos Flores-Ortiz,
College of Life and Environmental Sciences**

This picture shows part of a vital scaffold that is present in all cells. This structure is called cytoskeleton and is constituted of a highly complex network of protein. In this case the thinnest filaments of the cytoskeleton, made of a protein called actin, were stained with a dye that allows us to visualise them. In general, every time that a plant is pollinated, the pollen grain must elongate all along the flower until it reaches the ovule to carry out the fertilization. Cytoskeleton has a major role in this process mainly because it can generate force by elongation/shrinkage allowing the actual pollen tube growth. We are interested in controlling the barley reproductive process; to visualise and monitor a key structure as the cytoskeleton represents a powerful tool, which can give us valuable information about the pollination process.



Stopping smoking in the 21st Century

**Carol J Sanders,
College of Medical and Dental Sciences**

This photograph depicts a man pondering whether or not to smoke the e-cigarette in his hand. The setting is Cannock Wood, Staffordshire 2013. The maze behind the man has been created as part of an art project to promote health, and was chosen as a metaphor to illustrate the complexity of stopping smoking. We've known for 50 years that smoking has adverse health effects; however, many people continue to smoke. Giving up smoking should be easier than ever before. In reality most smokers try to stop repeatedly, but they also fail repeatedly; explained mostly by the extremely unpleasant nature of nicotine withdrawal. My mixed methods research aims to provide a deeper understanding of adherence behaviours with SC medications. Knowledge generated will be able to contribute to the development of interventions to increase adherence with SC medications.

The Anatomy of a Scientific Gossip

**Antonio Lima, College of Engineering
and Physical Sciences**

In July 2012 the discovery of a Higgs boson-like particle at CERN was announced. We analysed the complete set of tweets that were sent during the week of the event and developed a model able to reproduce the global behaviour of about 500,000 users with remarkable accuracy. This picture shows the geographic network of re-tweets related to the Higgs boson discovery during the week of the announcement. Every arc changes colour, from yellow at the origin of the re-tweet to red towards the destination. The goal of my PhD work is to investigate models and measures that are able to characterise interactions and information dissemination happening on large-scale spatial social networks. A deeper understanding of the mechanisms that drive these phenomena can lead to potential interesting applications in diverse areas, including marketing and system design.

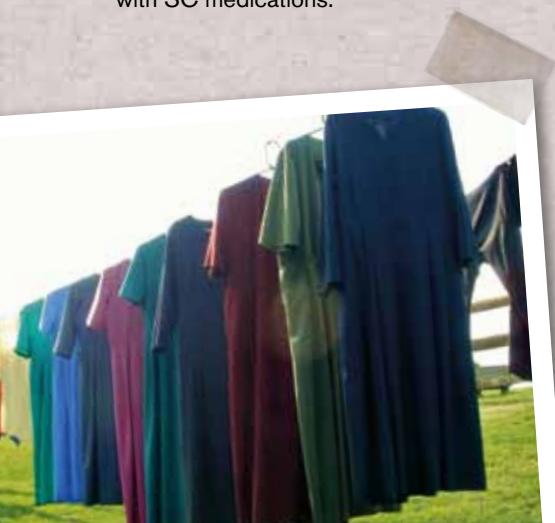


You can view all images from the exhibition
on Flickr at flic.kr/s/aHsjEoa46T

Ad-DRESS-ing the winds of change in the lives of Amish women

Fran Handrick, College of Arts and Law

These are dresses worn by Amish women in Ohio, drying in the wind after washing day. My research investigates the changes in the lives of Amish women in the last 30 years. Changes have taken place in the areas of technology, relationships with the non-Amish world, and in daily life. In the area of technology, these dresses are made from man-made materials, easy to wash and easy to dry. Previously they were dark coloured, woollen, and washed by hand. Many more Amish people now interact with non-Amish communities in their daily lives, and many more Amish families work in micro-enterprises which bring them into contact with customers and suppliers. Many women are no longer 'farmer's wives' but increasingly are the wives of Amish businessmen working in a wide range of non-traditional occupations in the Amish community.





Economic Impact:

University's billion pound boost to Birmingham's economy

Recent research has revealed that the University of Birmingham contributes more than £1 billion to the West Midlands economy annually, and supports almost 12,000 jobs across the region and beyond. The report, carried out by Oxford Economics, a leading resource for forecasting and analysis for business and government, measured the economic impact of the University on the city of Birmingham and the West Midlands region during the 2011–12 academic year.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, said: '*I am extremely proud of the massive economic, social and cultural contribution that the University makes. The £1 billion figure demonstrates just how important higher education is to the development of the regional and national economy, even more so in the challenging financial environment.*'

The report shows that the University employs 6,146 people, more than any private sector employer in Birmingham, and for every ten people the University employs it supports another nine jobs in the region. In total the University generated £1.072 billion of spending in the West Midlands economy in 2011–12, a 38 per cent increase on a similar study carried out in 2005/06.

UoB as...an educator

The University attracts students to Birmingham from across the region, the UK, and the world. 27,800 students were enrolled at the University in 2011–12 spending £257 million in the West Midlands on retail, accommodation and transport. 23 per cent of these students came from the West Midlands, and 40 per cent of 2011–12 graduates worked in the city six months after graduation, a third in roles such as lawyers, teachers and doctors. Our students also undertook 63,233 hours of voluntary activities in 2011–12, whilst the University's Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme helped 365 students from families in the region with little or no experience of higher education to progress to University.

UoB as...a research leader

The University attracts significant funding into the region for research; £145.5 million was awarded in 2011–12, which is 87 per

cent of the research income received by all Birmingham higher education institutions and 12 per cent of the region's total R&D spend. The University's research leads to new inventions, tackles social and policy challenges and fuels innovation and business growth. In 2011–12, the University's academics developed 57 inventions and, by the beginning of 2012, 19 companies had spun out from the University's research.

UoB as...an employer

The University employs more people than any private sector employer in Birmingham, and spent over £250 million on wages, salaries and other employment-related costs in 2011–12. Employment at the University has increased by 5.1 per cent over the last decade, compared to 1.2 per cent for the city. A high proportion of employment opportunities at the University are highly skilled jobs, and 70 per cent of staff hold at least a first degree.

The University also supports other jobs

in the region; in 2011–12 the University sourced £28 million of goods and services from suppliers in the West Midlands.

UoB as...a leading global university

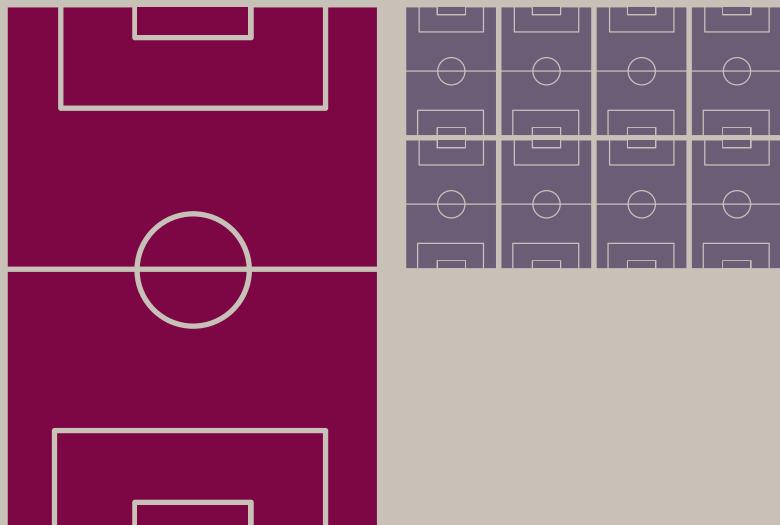
The University is an international gateway; in 2011–12 our international students comprised 48 per cent of all overseas students studying at higher education institutions in the city, and over 150 nationalities were represented. Overseas students attract international visitors to the region. The University's internationally significant cultural assets, such as the Barber Institute, Bramall Music Building, Lapworth Museum, and Winterbourne House, also attract visitors to the city. In 2011–12 they attracted 140,000 visitors who are estimated to have spent £4.4 million in the region.

Read the full report at
birmingham.ac.uk/economic-impact

THE UNIVERSITY SPENT £51 MILLION ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN 2011–12, WITH £16.4 MILLION OF SPENDING MADE WITH WEST MIDLANDS-BASED BUSINESSES. THE UNIVERSITY HAS PLANNED CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF £500 MILLION IN NEW PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

THE UNIVERSITY'S ECONOMIC IMPACT WAS ALMOST DOUBLE THE COMBINED VALUE-ADDED IMPACT OF THE EIGHT LARGEST FOOTBALL CLUBS* IN THE REGION

*Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Coventry City, Shrewsbury Town, Stoke City, Walsall, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers.



Transforming our campus

i

Investing £175 million over five years, the University plans to transform the famous Edgbaston campus with new facilities that will be for the benefit of students, staff and visitors. Following extensive public consultation, the estate development will deliver the city's first 50m swimming pool, create an outstanding academic library with a cultural hub, open a dedicated student services hub in the Aston Webb Building and open up a striking green park in the heart of campus.



'The University is committed to investing in world class facilities provision that will attract and retain the best students and staff and bolster the University's reputation as a leading global institution.'

'While the completion of the Bramall Music Building last year closed one chapter, it also marked the opening of a new one. It was finished last year and at that point we thought about the next stage and all of the buildings that are very outdated and functioning quite poorly. This fits into an evolving masterplan.'

Ian Barker, Director of Estates

The exciting development plans underpin the University's strategy to become a leading global university, reinterpreting founder Joseph Chamberlain's vision for the estate to provide 21st century educational, research and sports facilities and be an asset for the city.

Supported by the University's £160 million Circles of Influence fundraising campaign, now in its second phase, the generosity of alumni and supporters continues to make a difference by helping to provide state-of-the-art facilities to enhance the student experience.

Some of the highlights of the plans include:



The transformational campus development plans are now underway. **Samantha Williams** gives Buzz an update on the exciting changes to come.



Sports centre

The sports centre will include Birmingham's first 50 metre swimming pool as well a large gym, sports hall and activity and dance studios to meet the needs of students, staff, local community and community clubs. Housing one of the largest gyms in Europe, the centre will cater for wide ranging fitness needs from rehabilitation through to competitive players and elite performers. The centre will also include a purpose designed Performance centre and Performance gym providing specialist expertise and support to talented sportsmen and women in the University, city and region, and help to produce Britain's future Olympians.

Library and cultural gateway

The new library will focus on providing inspiring, multifunctional, flexible study and research space and immediate access to printed and digital materials. The building will also include a 'Cultural Gateway'; an exhibition space and café featuring a programme of exhibitions and displays providing new opportunities to engage visitors in the research of the University, transforming the traditional idea of what a library, and more specifically a university library, can offer.

'The Gateway will be a very active space where people can come after work or weekends and really see what the University does and what is going on. The idea is you could go to an exhibition, have something to eat and see a concert here so our cultural offer would be expanded.'

Clare Mullet, Deputy University Curator

New University School

Scheduled to open its doors in September 2015 to the first cohort, the University of Birmingham School will provide an excellent academic education for Birmingham's young people and serve as a centre of teacher education in the region. Located in Selly Oak, the comprehensive, co-educational 11–16 school and sixth form will take 150 per year into Year 7 and up to 200 per year into the Sixth Form. One of the first 'University Training Schools' in the country, the school and sixth form will have particularly strong ties to the University's School of Education, which was recently rated 'outstanding' in all areas by OfSTED. A public consultation on the plans for the School, including the draft admissions policy, proposed curriculum and the building and site, was launched on June 9. For more please visit www.bham.ac.uk/community



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM





news+views



in the news...

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



Dave Charlton, Professor of Particle Physics and Spokesperson for the ATLAS Collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, was featured widely in the national press following the announcement of further Higgs boson results confirming the discovery. Publications included the *Evening Standard*, *The Independent* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

Dr Jackie Blissett featured in a BBC *Horizon* documentary at the end of March called *The Truth about Taste* in which she discussed her research into why children like some foods and dislike others.

Professor Andrew Sanders, Head of the Law School, appeared on the *Sunday Politics Midlands* programme discussing the Government's plans to cut criminal legal aid funding which is likely to reduce the quality of legal services available to suspects and defendants.

Lecturer in Behavioural Science Dr Jonathan Ives' research which suggested that finding out the sex of an unborn child could help fathers bond was featured in the *Telegraph*, and the *Daily Mail*.

Following the Boston marathon bombings, Dr Cerwyn Moore spoke widely about terrorism and radical Islam in the northern Caucasus, including interviews for *Sky News*, and several BBC shows, including Radio 4's *Today* programme. He also wrote articles for the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian*, and was interviewed widely internationally by outlets including CNBC, CTV (Canada), NBC News, MSN Canada, and *The Raw Story*.

A Wealth-X study identified that University of Birmingham has the highest percentage of self-made wealthy alumni. This was featured in the local press as well as a number of articles in the national and international media including the *Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, *Reuters*, *Los Angeles Business*, and the *Pittsburgh Business Times*

feeling social...

Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed glimpses of summer weather on campus, as shown by some great images submitted via social media that showcase the University in the sunshine. We were particularly impressed by Yongquan Xie, first year Mechanical Engineering undergraduate, who took close-up images of plants and flowers filling our Edgbaston campus with colour. These stunning photographs were taken in and around the University, look out for some of the flora as you walk across campus, or view the full album at facebook.com/unibirmingham



Over on YouTube our new online series *Birmingham Fellows: Full Circle* is now available. The series sees Birmingham Fellows interviewing one another, showcasing their research and real-world impact as

they position themselves amongst the next generation of leading Birmingham academics. Covering subjects as diverse as the Higgs boson and how state socialism is remembered in Europe, the films provide an informal and engaging way to appreciate the breadth of current research across campus. You can view the interviews on our official YouTube channel, youtube.com/unibirmingham

Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham. If you use social media at work and would like to increase your visibility, get in touch with our Digital Marketing and Communications Team via k.connolly@bham.ac.uk

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

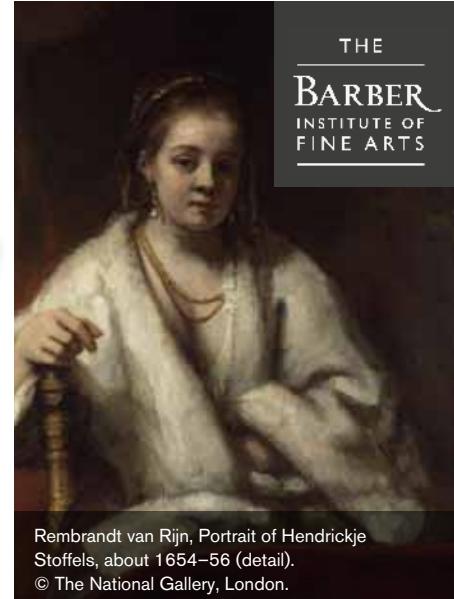
These are some highlights of the events coming up across the University, to find out more visit birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus.index.aspx



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Rembrandt van Rijn, *Portrait of Hendrickje Stoffels*, about 1654–56 (detail).
© The National Gallery, London.

Birmingham Professional Forum

Tuesday 25 June, 11.00am–12.00pm
Elgar Concert Hall,
Bramall Music Building

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all administrative, support and technical staff based across the University, led by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders.

The Forum includes presentations on topical subjects for the University and there is also an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the event. You can do this in advance by emailing internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk, or on the day by tweeting [@buzzunibham](https://twitter.com/buzzunibham) or raising your hand in the Hall. Further details and updates will be available shortly at intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/events/bpf.aspx

Summer events at Hornton Grange

Friday 5 July, 5.00–8.00pm

Hornton Grange, Edgbaston Park Road Hornton Grange is offering staff a great after work social in keeping with US Independence Day celebrations. For £9.99 you can receive a burger and a Bailey's milkshake (non-alcoholic options also available). Booking is essential; a non-refundable booking fee of £2 per person will be required. To book please call 415 8400 before noon, 4 July.

From June 3 staff can relax in the gardens with, from 5.00–7.00pm (Monday–Friday), a special 2 for 1 offer on selected drinks.

DEGREE CONGREGATIONS 2013

Congratulations to all students who will be celebrating their Degree Congregations this summer. Congregations will be held from 3–11 July in the Great Hall, and many colleagues will be attending, and helping to process for the ceremonies. Full details of congregation dates by subject are available at birmingham.ac.uk/graduation where you will also be able to watch ceremonies live.

ABOUT FACE

Until 1 September

Major paintings by artists including Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Cezanne, and Goya can be seen in this new exhibition that forms the centrepiece of the Barber's 80th anniversary. A two-day Creative Textiles course (6 and 13 July); will also give you the chance to create your own portrait inspired by About Face.

DEFINING FACES: 20TH-CENTURY PORTRAIT DRAWINGS

Until 26 August

History of Art students have been working with curators to produce this new exhibition on portraiture in a century that witnessed radical changes in artistic style. This second exhibition in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery features likenesses of sitters including Henry Moore, Ted Hughes and Stephen Hawking; complemented by original material from the University's Cadbury Research Library.

For more information visit barber.org.uk

'Campus Cop' PC Andy Smith University of Birmingham

Jenni Ameghino talks to the man who keeps law and order on one of the country's leafiest 'beats'.



When Andy Smith started his first job – selling mortgages to NatWest bank customers – he never imagined he would end up in the police force, let alone working on one of the most picturesque 'beats' in the UK.

But five years of being desk bound persuaded the Loughborough University graduate that he wanted more of a challenge in his working life. He joined West Midlands Police in 2001 and went on to spend three years on emergency response in the Birmingham area of Sparkhill, followed by five years with the CID.

Detective work suited him, he admits. But the long hours didn't, and three years ago Andy switched to a neighbourhood policing role. During an organisational restructuring of the 'force', he was diverted to the Edgbaston area, which includes the University of Birmingham. *'Then the job of campus officer came up last January and I applied for it'*. Fortunately for him – and us – he got the job.

'It's a unique role, there's nothing quite like it', says Andy, who is a familiar sight as he patrols the University grounds on his bike. *'It's certainly different from Sparkhill'*, he grins. *'It's taken me a while to get used to being in such a lovely location; this campus is like a neighbourhood in itself. It's a great place to work'*.

There are three main strands to his role here: crime prevention – *'to minimise the chance of students becoming victims of crime'*, law enforcement – to target, manage and, if necessary, arrest people breaking the law on campus; and security – *'thinking up new ways to improve safety'*.



Thanks to successful collaboration between police, campus security and the Guild, burglaries at student accommodation have fallen by 60 per cent in the year 2011–2012.

Andy is particularly proud of the success of a crime prevention initiative known as LoJack, which was adopted by the University recently. A tracking software programme is embedded into the microchip of an item such as a laptop and sends regular signals which together make up a location trail. *'Thanks to some city council funding, we have given away 400 licences free of charge to first-year students so far'*, says Andy, who works closely with his colleagues in the Edgbaston and Selly Oak Neighbourhood Police Teams.

He also employs 'tracker' bikes and laptops which are placed around campus and, if stolen, send a signal to a central control unit. *'One tracker bike was taken to an address which we then searched and found six more bikes which had been stolen.'*

The start of a new academic year presents a particular challenge. *'You get all these new young students, excited about being away from home for the first time, being bombarded with information and doing as much socialising as they can. It's essential to get personal safety advice across to them as soon as possible, not just about locking their doors and looking after their belongings but how to stay safe when doing things like walking home from the city centre'*.

Andy continues; *'I try to speak to as many first years as possible during Welcome Week to hammer home the crime prevention message. I work with the Guild of Students to achieve this. Hopefully, what the new students absorb at the start will take them safely through their entire time here.'*

Encouragingly, says Andy, apart from the occasional high-spirited lapse, he has a good rapport with Birmingham students. *'What I like is that my job is a bit like the old-fashioned way of policing. You can have a quiet word, be less formal than is possible in many areas of Birmingham. Students do listen, they are respectful; they're a good bunch'*.

Does that go for the staff too? Andy's smile turns into a laugh: 'Of course!'